

# **World Urbanization Prospects The 2005 Revision**

Executive Summary  
Fact Sheets  
Data Tables



United Nations



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October 2006  
English only

**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**  
Population Division

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United Nations  
New York, 2006

# DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

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## PREFACE

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for providing the international community with up-to-date and scientifically objective information on population and development. The Population Division provides guidance to the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Commission on Population and Development on population and development issues and undertakes regular studies on population levels and trends, population estimates and projections, population policies, and population and development inter-relationships.

The Population Division's work encompasses the following substantive areas: the study of mortality, fertility, international and internal migration, including their levels and trends as well as their causes and consequences; estimates and projections of population size, age and sex structure, and demographic indicators for all countries of the world; estimates and projections of the distribution of the population between urban and rural areas and in cities; the documentation and analysis of population and development policies at the national and international levels; and the study of the relationship between socio-economic development and population change.

The *2005 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects* presents the official United Nations estimates and projections of urban and rural populations for major areas, regions and countries of the world, of all urban agglomerations with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 2005 and of all capital cities in the world in 2005. The data in this *Revision* are consistent with the total populations estimated and projected according to the medium variant of the *2004 Revision* of the United Nations global population estimates and projections, published in *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision*<sup>1</sup>.

The official data from *World Urbanization Prospects* are used throughout the United Nations system as the basis for activities requiring urban and rural population information. In addition, researchers, Government agencies, media representatives and the general public use the data to assess living conditions in cities or the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. *The 2005 Revision* updates estimates and projections issued in the *2003 Revision*. Incorporating the most up-to-date data has always been crucial to the revision of urban and rural population estimates and projections. For the *2005 Revision* a concerted effort was made to include the results of the 2000 round of national population censuses.

The full report of *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision*, with an expanded analysis of the data, will be published as a United Nations sales publication later in 2006. Wall charts entitled *Urban Agglomerations, 2005* and *Urban and Rural Areas, 2005* will also be issued. A CD-ROM containing major results of the *2005 Revision* can be purchased from the Population Division. A description of the databases and an order form are given on pages 25-28 of this publication and are also posted on the Population Division's web site at [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org).

Responsibility for the *2005 Revision* rests with the Population Division. Preparation of the *2005 Revision* was facilitated by the collaboration of the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and other relevant bodies of the United Nations with the Population Division. The Population Division is also grateful to the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for its continuing cooperation.

This publication may also be accessed on the website of the Population Division at [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org). For further information about the *2005 Revision*, please contact the office of Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director, Population Division, DESA, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA; tel.: (1 212) 963-3179, fax: (1 212) 963-2147.

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<sup>1</sup> *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision*, vol. I, *Comprehensive Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.5).



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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### The following symbols have been used in the tables throughout this report:

Two dots (..) indicate that the item is not applicable.

Three dots (...) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

An em dash (—) indicates that the value is zero (magnitude zero).

0 or 0.0 indicates that the magnitude is not zero, but less than half of the unit employed.

A minus sign (-) before a figure indicates a decrease.

A full stop (.) is used to indicate decimals.

Years given start on 1 July.

Use of a hyphen (-) between years, for example, 1995-2000, signifies the full period involved, from 1 July of the beginning year to 30 June of the end year.

Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

### References to countries, territories, areas and urban locations

The designations employed and the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The designations “more developed” and “less developed” regions are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. The term “country”, as used in this publication, also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

More developed regions comprise all regions of Europe plus Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan.

Less developed regions comprise all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan) and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

The group of least developed countries, as defined by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003, comprises 50 countries, of which 34 are in Africa, 10 in Asia, 1 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 5 in Oceania.

Country names and the composition of geographical areas follow those of “Standard country or area codes for statistical use” (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/49/Rev.3), available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>.

Names of cities or urban agglomerations are presented in their original language, following the names used by National Statistical Offices or the United Nations Demographic Yearbook. For cities with names in more than one language, different names are separated by a hyphen. If the country uses script with non-Latin characters, a transliteration of the original spelling into Latin script is used. If cities have established alternative names or English names, these names are added in brackets. The administrative subdivision to which a city belongs is appended to the city name to identify the city unambiguously.

For convenience, the term “growth rate” is used in this report instead of the more precise term “rate of change” which reflects that populations can grow or decline.

The following abbreviations have been used:

DESA Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
SAR Special Administrative Region  
HDI Human Development Index

**For analytical purposes, the following country groupings have been used:**

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES BY MAJOR AREA AND REGION OF THE WORLD

**Africa**

<i>Eastern Africa</i>	<i>Middle Africa</i>	<i>Northern Africa</i>	<i>Western Africa</i>
Burundi	Angola	Algeria	Benin
Comoros <sup>2</sup>	Cameroon	Egypt	Burkina Faso
Djibouti	Central African Republic	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Cape Verde
Eritrea	Chad	Morocco	Côte d'Ivoire
Ethiopia	Congo	Sudan	Gambia
Kenya	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Tunisia	Ghana
Madagascar	Equatorial Guinea	Western Sahara	Guinea
Malawi	Gabon	<i>Southern Africa</i>	Guinea-Bissau
Mauritius <sup>3</sup>	São Tomé and Príncipe	Botswana	Liberia
Mozambique		Lesotho	Mali
Réunion		Namibia	Mauritania
Rwanda		South Africa	Niger
Seychelles		Swaziland	Nigeria
Somalia			Saint Helena <sup>4</sup>
Uganda			Senegal
United Republic of Tanzania			Sierra Leone
Zambia			Togo
Zimbabwe			

**Asia**

<i>Eastern Asia</i>	<i>South-central Asia</i> <sup>5</sup>	<i>South-eastern Asia</i>	<i>Western Asia</i>
China	Afghanistan	Brunei Darussalam	Armenia
China, Hong Kong SAR	Bangladesh	Cambodia	Azerbaijan
China, Macao SAR	Bhutan	Indonesia	Bahrain
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	India	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Cyprus
Japan	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Malaysia	Georgia
Mongolia	Kazakhstan	Myanmar	Iraq
Republic of Korea	Kyrgyzstan	Philippines	Israel
	Maldives	Singapore	Jordan
	Nepal	Thailand	Kuwait
	Pakistan	Timor-Leste	Lebanon
	Sri Lanka	Viet Nam	Occupied Palestinian Territory
	Tajikistan		Oman
	Turkmenistan		Qatar
	Uzbekistan		Saudi Arabia
			Syrian Arab Republic
			Turkey
			United Arab Emirates
			Yemen

<sup>2</sup> Including the island of Mayotte.

<sup>3</sup> Including the islands of Agalega, Rodrigues, and Saint Brandon.

<sup>4</sup> Including the islands of Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

<sup>5</sup> The regions Southern Asia and Central Asia are combined into South-central Asia.

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES (*continued*)

**Europe**

<i>Eastern Europe</i>	<i>Northern Europe</i>	<i>Southern Europe</i>	<i>Western Europe</i>
Belarus	Channel Islands <sup>6</sup>	Albania	Austria
Bulgaria	Denmark	Andorra	Belgium
Czech Republic	Estonia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	France
Hungary	Faeroe Islands	Croatia	Germany
Poland	Finland <sup>7</sup>	Gibraltar	Liechtenstein
Republic of Moldova	Iceland	Greece	Luxembourg
Romania	Ireland	Holy See	Monaco
Russian Federation	Isle of Man	Italy	Netherlands
Slovakia	Latvia	Malta	Switzerland
Ukraine	Lithuania	Portugal	
	Norway <sup>8</sup>	San Marino	
	Sweden	Serbia and Montenegro <sup>9</sup>	
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <sup>10</sup>	Slovenia	
		Spain	
		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <sup>11</sup>	

**Latin America and the Caribbean**

<i>Caribbean</i>	<i>Central America</i>	<i>South America</i>
Anguilla	Belize	Argentina
Antigua and Barbuda	Costa Rica	Bolivia
Aruba	El Salvador	Brazil
Bahamas	Guatemala	Chile
Barbados	Honduras	Colombia
British Virgin Islands	Mexico	Ecuador
Cayman Islands	Nicaragua	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
Cuba	Panama	French Guiana
Dominica		Guyana
Dominican Republic		Paraguay
Grenada		Peru
Guadeloupe		Suriname
Haiti		Uruguay
Jamaica		Venezuela
Martinique		
Montserrat		
Netherlands Antilles		
Puerto Rico		
Saint Kitts and Nevis		
Saint Lucia		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		
Trinidad and Tobago		
Turks and Caicos Islands		
United States Virgin Islands		

<sup>6</sup> Including the islands of Guernsey and Jersey.

<sup>7</sup> Including Åland Islands.

<sup>8</sup> Including Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands.

<sup>9</sup> In 2006, the General Assembly admitted the Republic of Montenegro to the United Nations. The *2005 Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects* still reflects the status quo ante; that is treating Serbia and Montenegro as one state.

<sup>10</sup> Also referred to as United Kingdom.

<sup>11</sup> Also referred to as TFYR Macedonia.

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES (*continued*)

**Northern America**

Bermuda  
Canada  
Greenland  
Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon  
United States of America

**Oceania**

*Australia/New Zealand*

Australia<sup>12</sup>  
New Zealand

*Melanesia*

Fiji  
New Caledonia  
Papua New Guinea  
Solomon Islands  
Vanuatu

*Micronesia*

Guam  
Kiribati  
Marshall Islands  
Micronesia  
(Federated States of)  
Nauru  
Northern Mariana Islands  
Palau

*Polynesia*

American Samoa  
Cook Islands  
French Polynesia  
Niue  
Pitcairn  
Samoa  
Tokelau  
Tonga  
Tuvalu  
Wallis and Futuna Islands

**Sub-Saharan Africa**

Angola  
Benin  
Botswana  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
Central African  
Chad  
Comoros  
Congo

Côte d'Ivoire  
Democratic Republic  
of the Congo  
Djibouti  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Gabon  
Gambia  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau

Kenya  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Niger

Nigeria  
Réunion  
Rwanda  
Saint Helena  
São Tomé and Príncipe  
Senegal  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa  
Sudan

Swaziland  
Togo  
Uganda  
United Republic  
of Tanzania  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

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<sup>12</sup> Including Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and Norfolk Island.

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES (*continued*)

**Least developed countries**

Afghanistan	Gambia	Rwanda
Angola	Guinea	Samoa
Bangladesh	Guinea-Bissau	São Tomé and Príncipe
Benin	Haiti	Senegal
Bhutan	Kiribati	Sierra Leone
Burkina Faso	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Solomon Islands
Burundi	Lesotho	Somalia
Cambodia	Liberia	Sudan
Cape Verde	Madagascar	Timor-Leste
Central African Republic	Malawi	Togo
Chad	Maldives	Tuvalu
Comoros	Mali	Uganda
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mauritania	United Republic of Tanzania
Djibouti	Mozambique	Vanuatu
Equatorial Guinea	Myanmar	Yemen
Eritrea	Nepal	Zambia
Ethiopia	Niger	



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The twentieth century witnessed the rapid urbanization of the world's population. The global proportion of urban population increased from a mere 13 per cent in 1900 to 29 per cent in 1950 and, according to the *2005 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*, reached 49 per cent in 2005. Since the world is projected to continue to urbanize, 60 per cent of the global population is expected to live in cities by 2030. The rising numbers of urban dwellers give the best indication of the scale of these unprecedented trends: the urban population increased from 220 million in 1900 to 732 million in 1950, and is estimated to have reached 3.2 billion in 2005, thus more than quadrupling since 1950. According to the latest United Nations population projections, 4.9 billion people are expected to be urban dwellers in 2030.

These overall trends, however, obscure striking differences in urban population change between the more developed regions and the less developed regions. While a majority of the inhabitants of the less developed regions still live in rural areas, in the more developed regions the population is already highly urbanized. In 2005, 74 per cent of the population of the more developed regions was urban, compared to 43 per cent in the less developed regions. Because urbanization tends to rise as the level of development increases and socio-economic development is expected to continue in all countries, the levels of urbanization are generally projected to rise in the future. Thus, by 2030 the less developed regions are expected to have 56 per cent of their population living in urban areas, nearly triple the proportion they had in 1950 (18 per cent). In more developed regions the proportion urban is projected to reach 81 per cent by 2030.

Despite their lower levels of urbanization, less developed regions have more than double the number of urban dwellers than the more developed regions (2.3 billion vs. 0.9 billion). While in 1900 the urban population of the more developed regions was nearly double that of the less developed regions (150 million vs. 70 million), by 1968 the urban population of the less developed regions surpassed for the first time that of the more developed regions and continued to do so thereafter. Furthermore, the rapid growth of the population of the less developed regions combined with the near stagnation of the population in the more developed regions implies that the gap in the number of urban dwellers between the two will continue to increase. By 2030 the urban population in the less developed regions is projected to be nearly four times as large as that in the more developed regions (3.9 billion vs. 1 billion people).

Another important difference between the more developed regions and the less developed regions concerns trends in the growth of the rural population. Whereas the rural population of the more developed regions has been declining steadily during the second half of the twentieth century, that of the less developed regions has continued to increase. In 2000-2005, the annual growth rate of the rural population in the more developed regions was -0.4 per cent whereas that in the less developed regions was 0.5 per cent. During 2005-2030, the rural population in the more developed regions is projected to decline further. In comparison, the rural population in the less developed regions will continue to rise until 2019 when a slow decline will start. As a consequence of the contrasting trends in rural population growth in the more and the less developed regions, 91 per cent of the rural population in the world (3.3 billion) resided in the less developed regions in 2005. The nine countries with more than 50 million rural residents in 2005 (Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Viet Nam and the United States of America) are all located in the less developed regions with the sole exception of the United States.

The more developed regions differ from the less developed regions also with regard to the number of mega-cities, that is, cities with 10 million residents or more. In 2005, among the 20 mega-cities in the world, 15 were located in the less developed regions and by 2015, 17 of the 22 mega-cities projected to exist will be in today's developing countries.

During the next few decades the urban areas of the less developed regions are projected to absorb all the population growth expected worldwide. That is, global population growth is becoming a largely urban phenomenon accounted for by the less developed regions. As urbanization proceeds in developing countries, the speed and scale of urban population growth generate important challenges for planners and Governments. This is especially true in countries where urbanization has not been associated with sustained industrialization and development, such as in most of sub-Saharan Africa, where increasing urban poverty and the growth of slums are two of the most critical challenges in urban areas.

Still, the urban poor in the less developed regions often fare better than the average rural resident with respect to access to basic services, such as drinking water, sanitation, electricity or educational facilities (National Research Council, 2003).<sup>13</sup> Thus, it is simplistic to view urbanization in developing countries as a phenomenon with mainly negative consequences. In fact, the concentration of people in cities is generally a response to the concentration of the most dynamic economic activities in urban centres. Such a concentration often produces economies of scale and leads to social and economic benefits of various kinds, including the technological development that is crucial to maintain the development momentum. The health advantages of cities are another example of such benefits, with urban dwellers often enjoying higher quality and more accessible health services than rural dwellers. Cities are also at the forefront of political and cultural change. Given their concentrated political power, trade and cultural activity, cities are places where new ideas and products emerge and from which they spread. Often, the development of rural areas is inextricably tied to the dynamism of the urban centres to which they are linked. Cities are therefore engines of economic, social, political and cultural change. Urbanization can thus be viewed as an indicator of development, with higher urban levels generally associated with more industrialized and technologically advanced economies.

The challenge faced by developing countries today is to take advantage of the rapid urbanization that has resulted from unprecedented levels of natural increase in their urban populations coupled with the redistribution of population from rural to urban centres and the transformation of rural settlements into cities. This challenge is often related to issues of governance, as when cities expand beyond their administrative boundaries and thus lack the financial or jurisdictional capacity to provide the necessary services to all the city's inhabitants. Collaboration among local, regional and national authorities can go a long way in addressing these management problems. Since continued urbanization is expected in every country, a focus on improving the lives of city dwellers needs to be maintained. At the same time, one has to recognize that many countries still have large and growing rural populations whose well-being often depends on the viability and success of cities. Given that the world's future will be urban, development initiatives must address the challenges and make the best of the opportunities that growing urban centres bring.

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<sup>13</sup> National Research Council (2003). *Cities Transformed: Demographic Change and its Implications in the Developing World*. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press.



## KEY FINDINGS OF THE 2005 REVISION

1. In 2005, there were 3.2 billion urban residents in the world, nearly four times as many as in 1950. They represented 49 per cent of the global population.
2. The urban population passed the 1 billion mark in 1961. It took 25 years to add another billion urban dwellers and just 17 years more to add a third billion. Thus, the urban population reached 3 billion in 2003 and is projected to increase to 4 billion in 2018, 15 years later. By 2030, it is expected to be about 5 billion.
3. With an annual urban growth rate of 1.8 per cent, nearly double that projected for the total population (1 per cent), the world's urban population is expected to increase from 3.2 billion in 2005 to 4.9 billion in 2030, when 60 per cent of the global population is expected to live in urban areas.
4. Although the world is urbanizing rapidly, the number of rural dwellers is high and still growing. However, as of 2019 the rural population is projected to decline slowly. Consequently, the number of rural-dwellers in 2030 is expected to be slightly lower than that in 2005 (3.3 billion). In 2005, 71 per cent of all rural dwellers lived in Asia, primarily in India, China, Indonesia and Bangladesh, in order of rural population size.
5. Population growth is projected to be particularly rapid in the urban areas of the less developed regions, averaging 2.2 per cent annually during 2005-2030. As a consequence, the urban population in the less developed regions will increase from 2.3 billion to 3.9 billion over the next 25 years.
6. Migration from rural to urban areas and the transformation of rural settlements into urban places are important determinants of the high urban population growth anticipated in the less developed regions. Assuming that migration and reclassification account for 40 per cent to 50 per cent of urban population growth in the less developed regions, a total of 250 million to 310 million people in developing countries would be expected to become urban-dwellers between 2005 and 2015 either because they would migrate from rural to urban areas or because their rural settlements would become urban.
7. The urban population of the more developed regions is projected to increase very slowly, rising from 0.9 billion in 2005 to 1 billion in 2030. Between 2005 and 2030, its average annual growth rate is projected to be 0.5 per cent, about a third of the 1.4 per cent per year estimated for the period 1950-2005.
8. Urbanization is very far advanced in the more developed regions where in 2005 almost three quarters (74 per cent) of the population lived in urban settlements. The proportion urban in the more developed regions is projected to increase to 81 per cent by 2030. In the less developed regions, the equivalent proportion was 43 per cent in 2005 and is projected to rise to 56 per cent by 2030.
9. Africa and Asia were the least urbanized areas in the world in 2005 (38 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively). A combination of a large starting population and a projected rate of urban population growth that remains relatively high over the next 25 years results in a marked increase of the urban populations of both continents. By 2030, Asia will rank first and Africa second in terms of the number of urban dwellers. Indeed, in 2030, almost 7 out of every 10 urban residents in the world will be living in Africa or Asia. The proportion urban is projected to reach 54 per cent in Asia and 51 per cent in Africa by 2030.
10. The region of Latin America and the Caribbean is already highly urbanized, with 77 per cent of its population living in cities in 2005. By 2030, that proportion is projected to reach 84 per cent.

11. In Europe the proportion of the population residing in urban areas is expected to rise from 72 per cent in 2005 to 78 per cent in 2030. In Northern America, the increase in the proportion urban is projected to be from 81 per cent in 2005 to 87 per cent in 2030. In Oceania, the equivalent rise is from 71 per cent in 2005 to 74 per cent in 2030.
12. The twentieth century witnessed the emergence of mega-cities, that is, cities with 10 million inhabitants or more. Never before had such large populations been concentrated in cities. Since 1950 the number of mega-cities has risen from 2 to 20 in 2005. Two additional mega-cities are projected to emerge over the next decade, to reach 22 by 2015, among which 17 are located in developing countries. In 2005, mega-cities accounted for 9 per cent of the world's urban populations.
13. The populations of mega-cities, being large, tend to grow less rapidly than other urban centres. Among the 20 mega-cities in existence in 2005, 13 had populations that grew by less than the average annual growth rate of the world's urban population during 1975-2005 (2.4 per cent). Only seven of the 20 mega-cities grew faster. Thus, Dhaka in Bangladesh and Lagos in Nigeria each grew by 5.8 per cent annually; Delhi in India by 4.1 per cent; Karachi in Pakistan by 3.6 per cent; Jakarta in Indonesia by 3.4 per cent; Mumbai (Bombay) in India by 3.1 per cent; and Manila in the Philippines by 2.5 per cent. For the future, six of the 22 mega-cities projected to exist in 2015 are projected to grow by more than 1.9 per cent per year, the average annual growth rate projected for the global urban population during 2005-2015. These cities are: Lagos in Nigeria, Dhaka in Bangladesh, Karachi in Pakistan, Jakarta in Indonesia, Guangzhou in China and Delhi in India, in order of their annual growth rates.
14. With 35 million residents in 2005, the metropolitan area of Tokyo was by far the most populous urban agglomeration in the world. Tokyo had slightly more residents than the entire country of Kenya in 2005 (34 million). Tokyo was also the most populous capital in the world. After Tokyo, the next largest urban agglomerations are Ciudad de México (Mexico City) and the urban agglomeration of New York-Newark, with 19 million inhabitants each, followed by São Paulo and Mumbai (Bombay) with 18 million people each.
15. In 2015 Tokyo will still be the largest urban agglomeration with 35 million inhabitants, followed by Mumbai (Bombay) and Ciudad de México (Mexico City) with 22 million people each, and São Paulo with 21 million inhabitants.
16. Some cities dominate the urban system of their countries. The population of Al Kuwayt (Kuwait City), for instance, accounted for 69 per cent of all urban residents in Kuwait. In the same year, 68 per cent of all urban residents in Puerto Rico lived in San Juan and 64 per cent of the urban population of Haiti resided in Port-au-Prince.
17. Small cities, that is, those with a population of fewer than 500,000 people, were the place of residence of about 51 per cent of all urban dwellers in the world in 2005. Thus, the majority of urban dwellers lived in fairly small urban settlements.
18. The spatial distribution of population has always figured prominently on the policy agenda of Governments. The Governments of developing countries have often expressed concern about being unable to provide basic services for their rapidly growing urban populations, including safe drinking water, sanitation, affordable housing and public transportation. Measures used to shape the spatial distribution of the population have included policies to reduce migration to urban agglomerations by imposing internal migration controls; the creation of new centres of economic growth by, for instance, moving the national capital to a new location; incentives for businesses and industry to locate in medium-sized cities, and the development of infrastructure and services in smaller or medium-sized cities to attract businesses and migrants alike.

19. Today, almost half of humanity lives in cities. By 2030, three out of every five people on earth will likely reside in urban centres, and nearly half of the world's population will live in the cities of developing countries. Urbanization brings with it both opportunities and challenges. The more developed regions are highly urbanized indicating that urbanization is a natural concomitant of development. In the developing world, urbanization has been rapid, but major areas, such as Africa and Asia, still lag far behind the rest of the world in their levels of urbanization. Countries in those regions, in particular, face the double challenge of rising urbanization and continued rural population growth. If the twenty-first century is to respond creatively to the many opportunities that the growth of urban areas brings, then the economic dynamics of cities have to be nurtured.



## **FACT SHEETS**

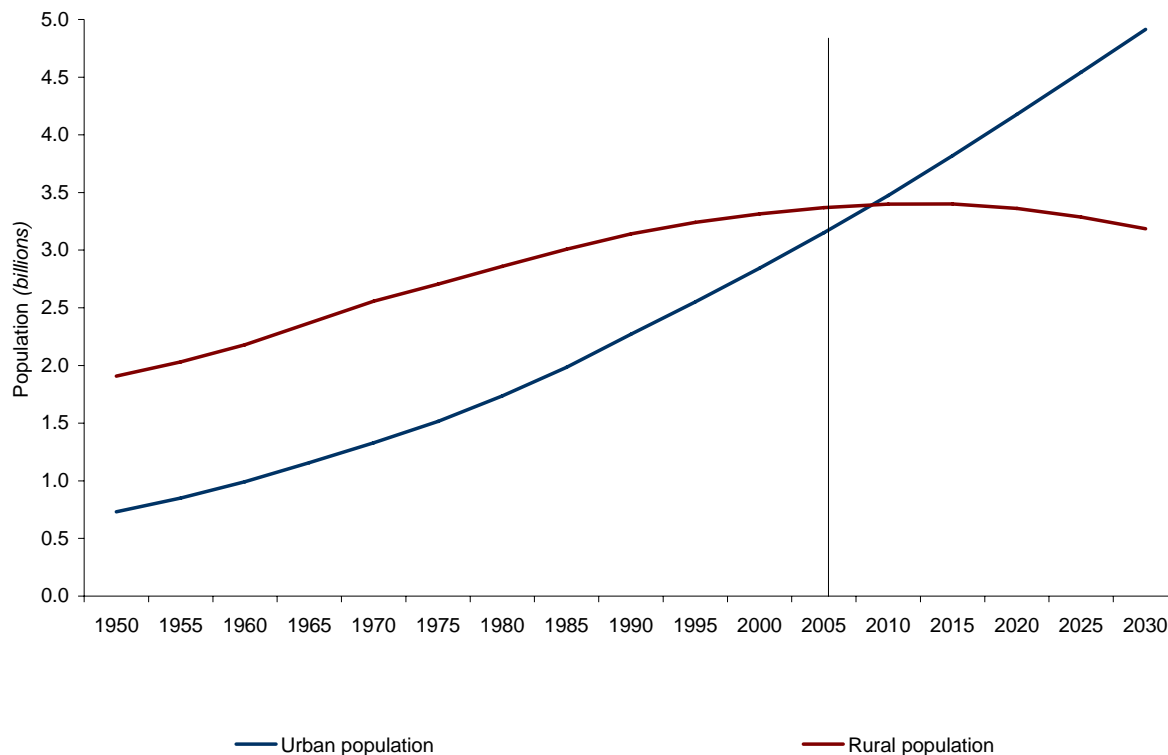


- In 2005, urban dwellers numbered 3.2 billion people, 49 per cent of humankind. By 2008, half of the world’s population is projected to be urban.
- With an annual growth rate twice as high as that projected for the total population (1.8 per cent versus almost 1 per cent) over the next 25 years, the world’s urban population is projected to increase to 4.9 billion people by 2030, roughly 60 per cent of the world’s population.
- In 2005, China, India and the United States of America had the largest numbers of urban dwellers in the world.

TABLE 1. URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION OF THE WORLD, SELECTED PERIODS, 1950-2030

World	Population (billions)					Average annual rate of change (percentage)	
	1950	1975	2000	2005	2030	1950-2005	2005-2030
Total .....	2.52	4.07	6.09	6.46	8.20	1.71	0.95
Urban.....	0.73	1.52	2.84	3.15	4.91	2.65	1.78
Rural.....	1.79	2.56	3.24	3.31	3.29	1.12	-0.03
	Percentage urban					Rate of urbanization (percentage)	
	29.0	37.2	46.7	48.7	59.9	0.94	0.83

**Figure 1. Urban and rural population of the world, 1950-2030**



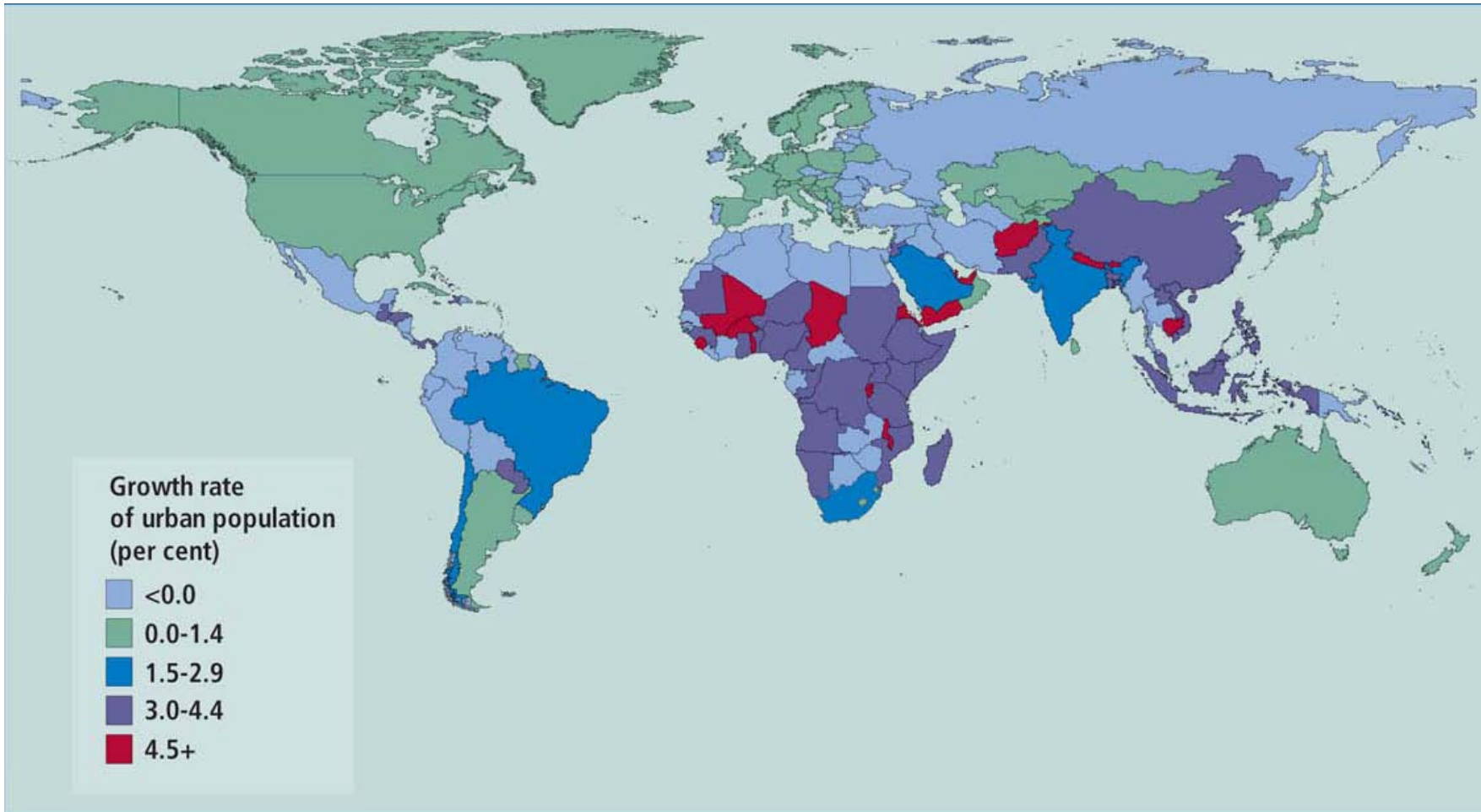
- In 2005, the majority of all urban residents in the world lived in Asia (1.6 billion), Europe (0.5 billion), Latin America and the Caribbean (0.4 billion), Africa (0.3 billion), Northern America (0.3 billion) and Oceania (0.02 billion).
- A combination of a large starting population and a projected rate of urban population growth that remains relatively high over the next 25 years results in a marked increase of the urban populations in both Asia and Africa. As a result, Asia will rank first and Africa second in terms of the number of urban dwellers in 2030.

TABLE 2. TOTAL, URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION BY MAJOR AREA, SELECTED PERIODS, 1950-2030

Major area	Population (millions)					Average annual rate of change (percentage)	
	1950	1975	2000	2005	2030	1950-2005	2005-2030
<b>Total population</b>							
Africa .....	224	416	812	906	1 463	2.54	1.92
Asia .....	1 396	2 395	3 676	3 905	4 872	1.87	0.88
Europe .....	547	676	728	728	698	0.52	-0.17
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	167	322	523	561	722	2.20	1.01
Northern America.....	172	243	315	331	400	1.19	0.76
Oceania.....	13	21	31	33	43	1.72	1.01
<b>Urban population</b>							
Africa .....	33	105	294	347	742	4.29	3.04
Asia .....	234	575	1 363	1 553	2 637	3.44	2.12
Europe .....	277	443	522	526	546	1.17	0.16
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	70	197	394	434	609	3.31	1.35
Northern America.....	110	180	249	267	347	1.62	1.05
Oceania.....	8	15	22	23	31	1.96	1.18
<b>Rural population</b>							
Africa .....	191	310	518	559	721	1.95	1.02
Asia .....	1 162	1 820	2 313	2 352	2 236	1.28	-0.20
Europe .....	271	232	206	203	152	-0.53	-1.16
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	97	125	129	127	113	0.49	-0.45
Northern America.....	62	64	66	64	53	0.05	-0.73
Oceania.....	5	6	9	10	11	1.25	0.58



Figure 2. Average annual rate of change of the urban population, 2000-2005



NOTE: The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

- In 2005, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania were highly urbanized with more than 70 per cent of their total population living in cities. Africa and Asia were the least urbanized major areas in the world. By 2030, however, 50 per cent or more of the population of Africa and Asia is projected to be living in a city.

TABLE 3. PERCENTAGE URBAN BY MAJOR AREA, SELECTED PERIODS, 1950-2030

	Percentage urban					Rate of urbanization (percentage)	
	1950	1975	2000	2005	2030	1950-2005	2005-2030
World.....	29.0	37.2	46.7	48.7	59.9	0.94	0.83
Africa.....	14.7	25.4	36.2	38.3	50.7	1.75	1.12
Asia .....	16.8	24.0	37.1	39.8	54.1	1.57	1.23
Europe .....	50.5	65.6	71.7	72.2	78.3	0.65	0.33
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	42.0	61.2	75.4	77.4	84.3	1.11	0.34
Northern America.....	63.9	73.8	79.1	80.7	86.7	0.42	0.29
Oceania.....	62.0	71.5	70.5	70.8	73.8	0.24	0.17

Figure 3. Percentage of population residing in urban areas by major area, 1950, 1975, 2005 and 2030

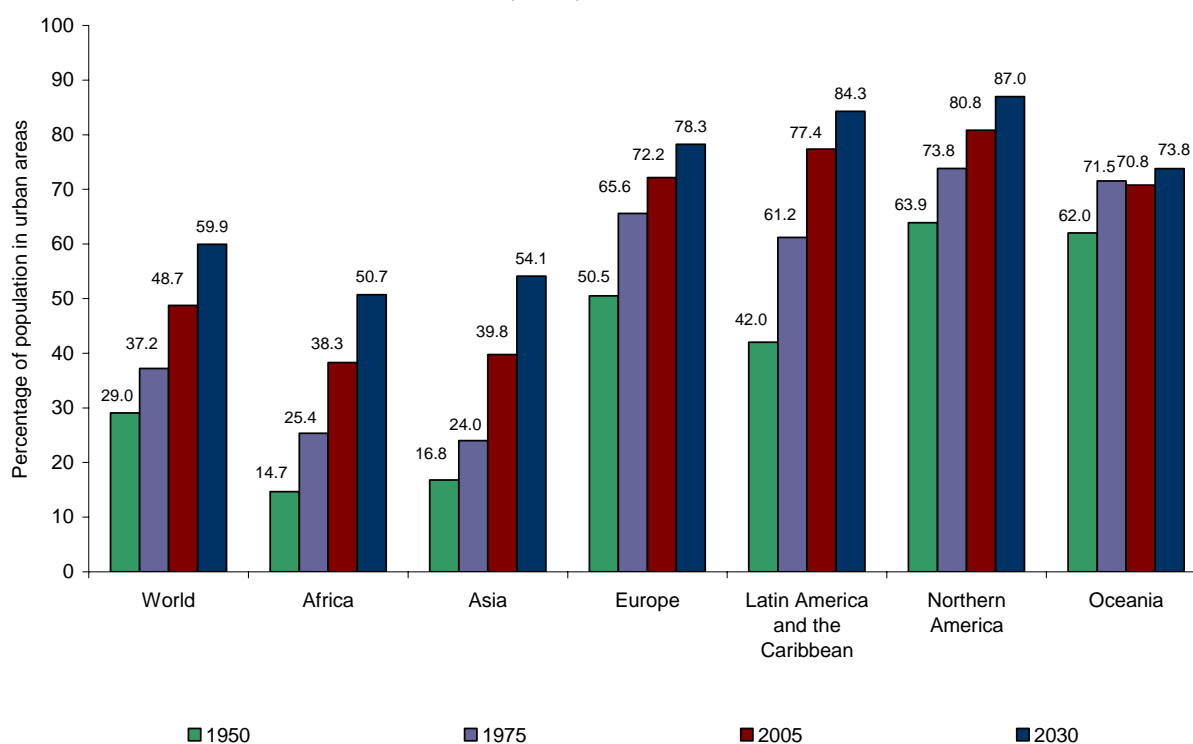
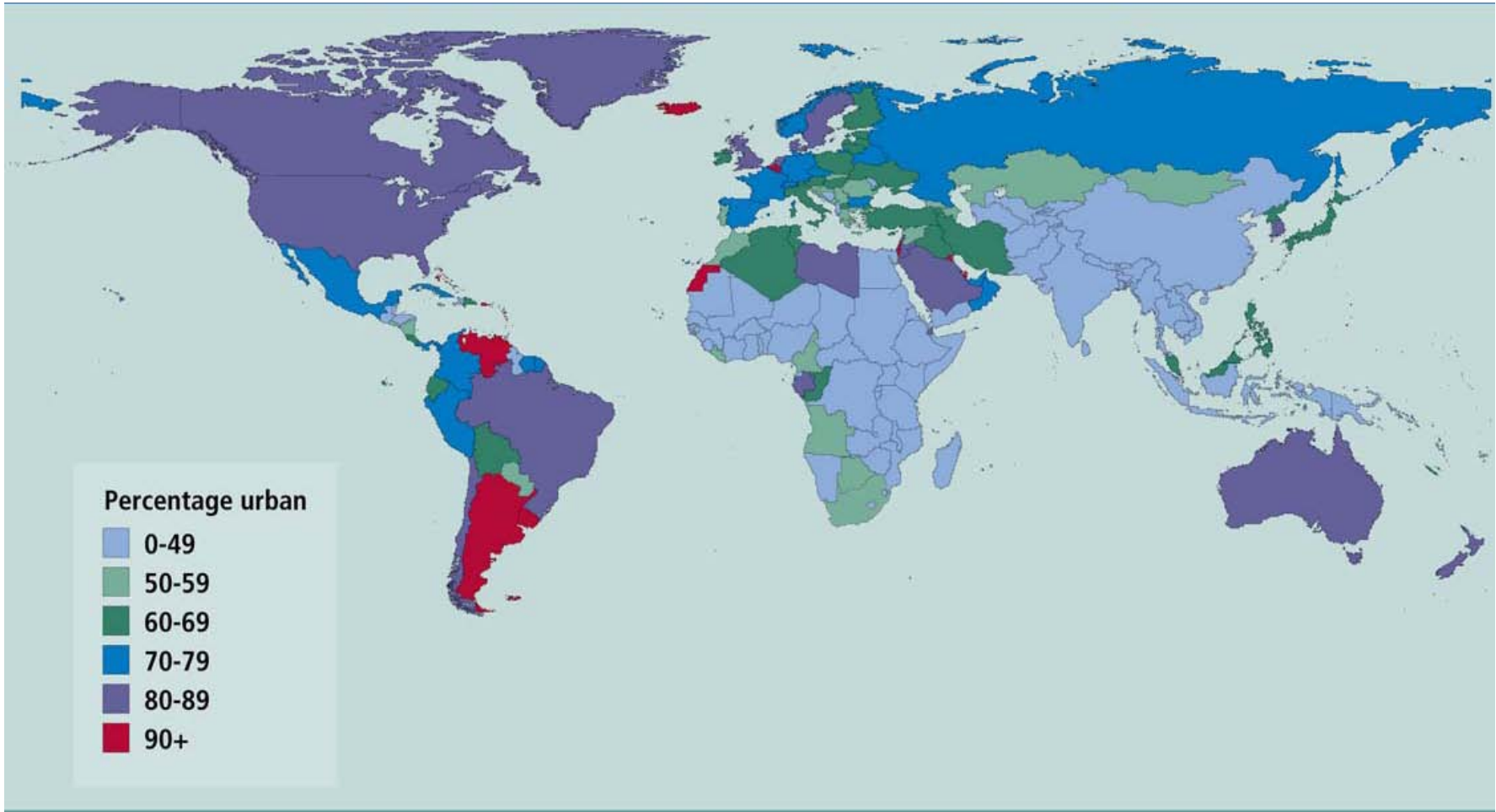


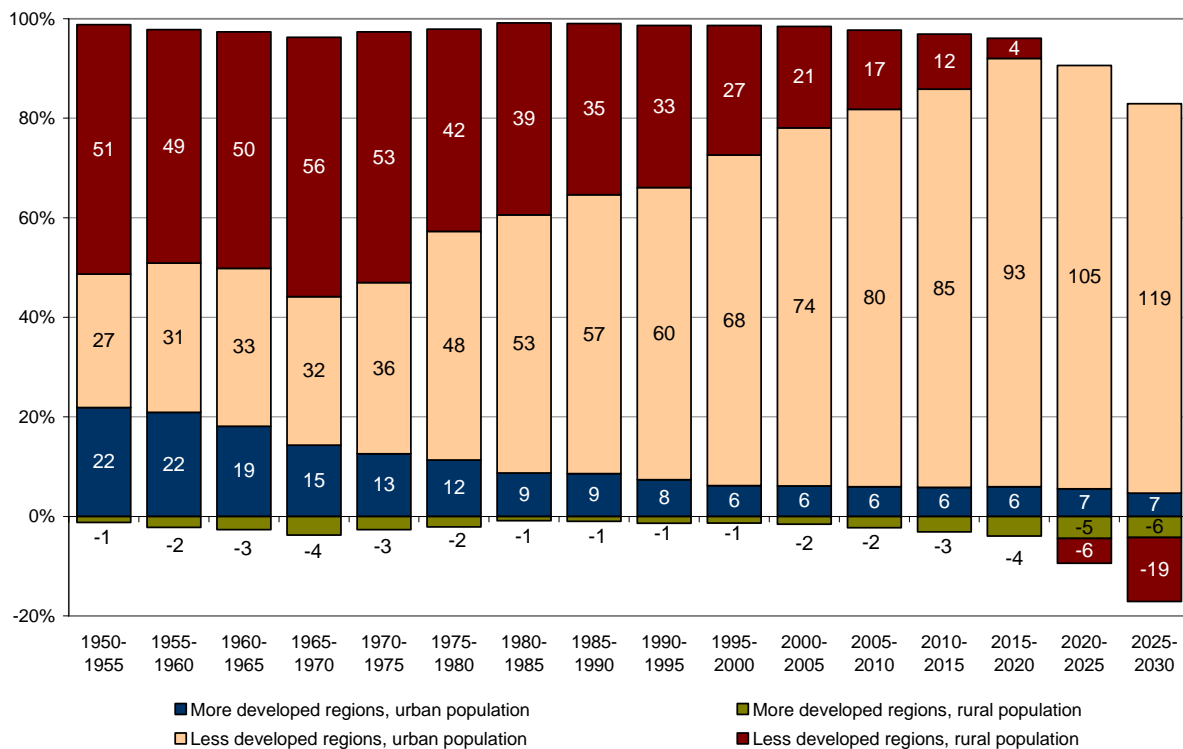
Figure 4. Percentage of the population living in urban areas, 2005



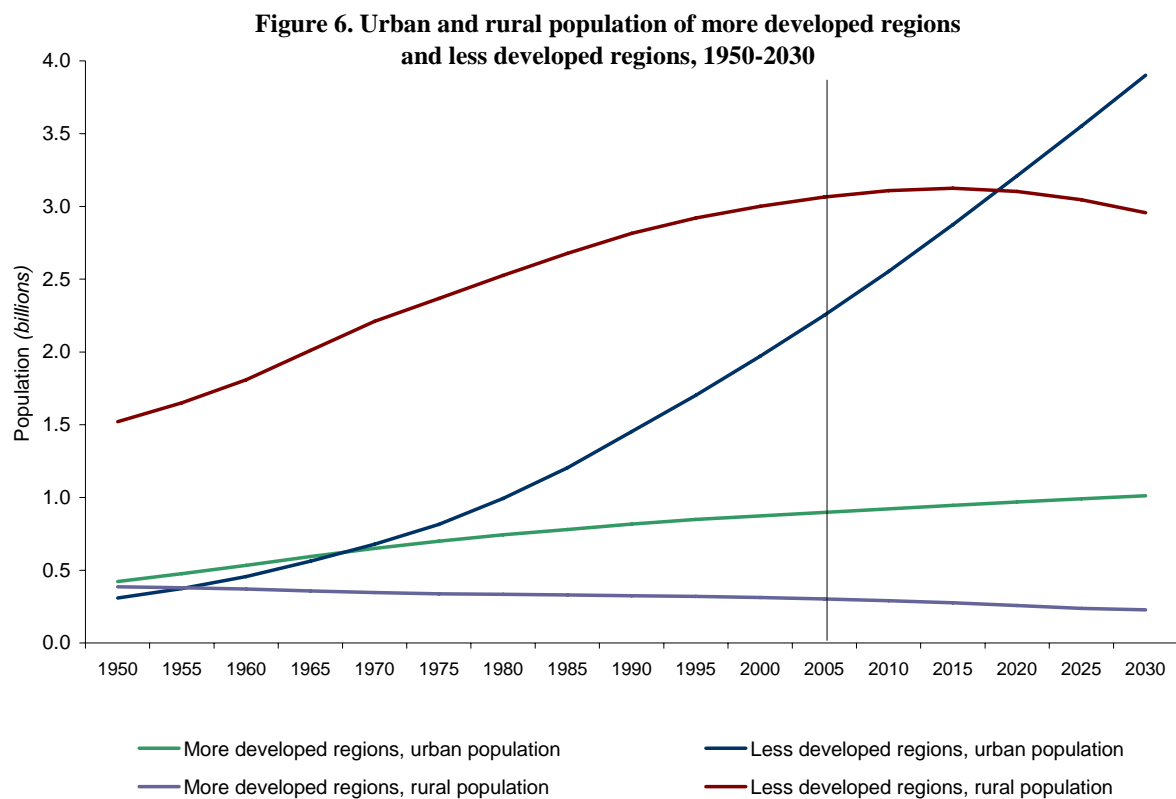
NOTE: The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

- Between 2005 and 2030, the world’s population is expected to increase by 1.7 billion people, from 6.5 billion in 2005 to 8.2 billion in 2030.
- Almost all growth of the world’s population between 2005 and 2030 is expected to occur in less developed regions.
- In particular, the projected population growth at the world level will be primarily accounted for by the growth in the urban areas of the less developed regions. That is, while the world population is projected to grow by 1.7 billion people between 2005 and 20030, the urban population is projected to increase by 1.8 billion. The absolute growth in the total population is lower than that of the urban population because of a declining rural population over the next 25 years.

Figure 5. Contribution of urban and rural population growth to total population growth, 1950-2030



- The urban population in more developed regions stood at 0.4 billion people in 1950 and increased to 0.9 billion people by 2005. Over the next 25 years, the growth will be less pronounced and the urban population in more developed regions is projected to reach one billion in 2030.
- In 2005, the urban population in less developed regions was 2.3 billion people, about 7 times larger than in 1950. Over the next 25 years, the urban population in less developed regions is projected to continue to increase fast, reaching 3.9 billion people by 2030.



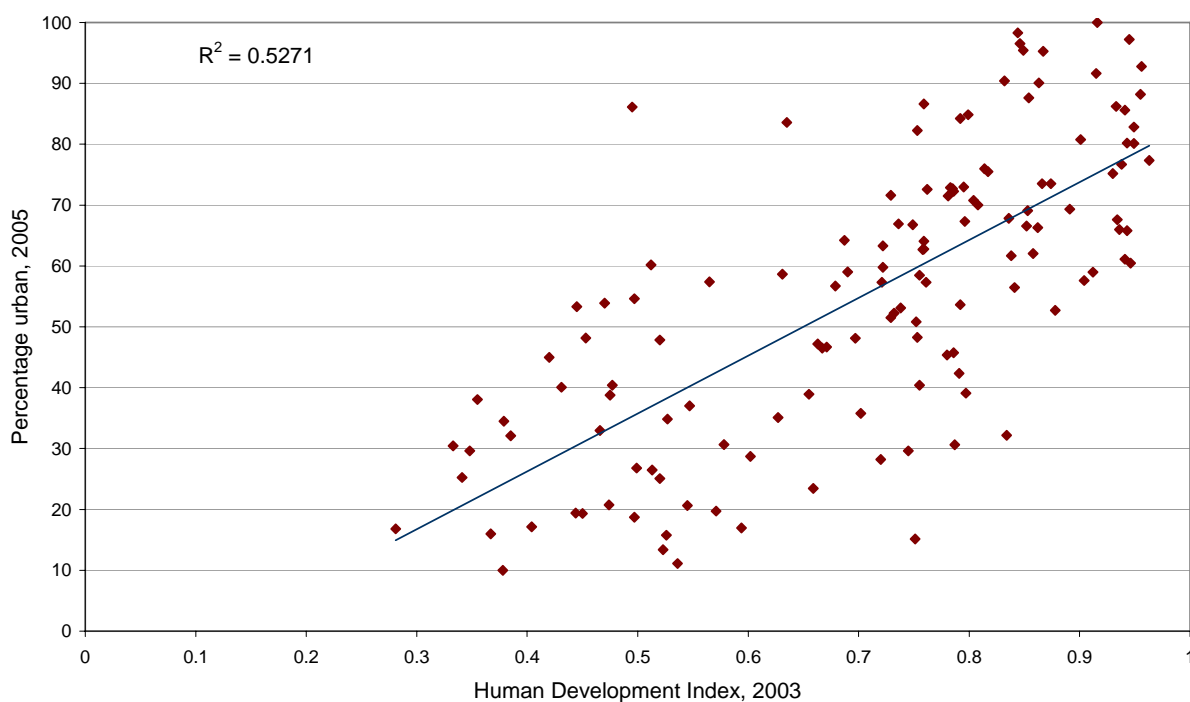
- Urbanization is well advanced in more developed regions, where in 2005 almost three-quarters (74 per cent) of the population lived in urban settlements. The proportion urban is projected to increase to 81 per cent by 2030.
- The proportion urban was lower in the less developed regions at 43 per cent in 2005, but it is anticipated to rise to 56 per cent by 2030.

TABLE 4. TOTAL, URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP, SELECTED PERIODS, 1950-2030

<i>Development group</i>	<i>Population (billions)</i>					<i>Average annual rate of change (percentage)</i>	
	<i>1950</i>	<i>1975</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2030</i>	<i>1950-2005</i>	<i>2005-2030</i>
<b>Total population</b>							
More developed regions.....	0.81	1.05	1.19	1.21	1.25	0.73	0.13
Less developed regions.....	1.71	3.03	4.89	5.25	6.95	2.04	1.12
<b>Urban population</b>							
More developed regions.....	0.42	0.70	0.87	0.90	1.01	1.37	0.47
Less developed regions.....	0.31	0.82	1.97	2.25	3.90	3.61	2.20
<b>Rural population</b>							
More developed regions.....	0.39	0.35	0.32	0.31	0.24	-0.40	-1.07
Less developed regions.....	1.40	2.21	2.92	3.00	3.05	1.39	0.06
	<i>Percentage urban</i>					<i>Rate of urbanization (percentage)</i>	
More developed regions.....	52.1	66.9	73.2	74.1	80.8	0.64	0.35
Less developed regions.....	18.1	26.9	40.3	42.9	56.1	1.57	1.08

- The Human Development Index (HDI)<sup>14</sup>, an overall measure of human development reflects both human capital and gross domestic product, is correlated with the percentage urban in a population.

**Figure 7. Relationship between the Human Development Index (2003) and the proportion urban (2005) in less developed countries**



NOTE: The values of the Human Development Index were obtained from United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2005*. New York 2005.

<sup>14</sup>The Human Development Index (HDI) includes four sub-indices based on life expectancy, adult literacy, school enrollment and GDP per capita.

- Although the world is urbanizing rapidly, the number of rural dwellers is high and still growing. In 2005, there were 3.3 billion rural dwellers, equal to the world's population in 1965. The rural population will start to decline slowly in 2019. By 2030, the rural population is projected to be 28 million people smaller than the population estimated for 2005.
- The less developed regions house most of the rural population of the world (3 billion out of the 3.3 billion globally). It is projected that the rural population of the less developed regions will reach its peak of 3.1 billion in 2020 and will then start to decline slowly.
- In 2005, the largest number of rural residents lived in India (0.8 billion), China (0.8 billion) and Indonesia (0.1 billion).

TABLE 5. TWENTY COUNTRIES WITH THE LARGEST RURAL AND URBAN POPULATIONS IN 2005

<i>Country</i>	<i>Rural population (millions)</i> 2005	<i>Country</i>	<i>Rural population (millions)</i> 2030
1 India	786	India	859
2 China	784	China	574
3 Indonesia	116	Pakistan	124
4 Bangladesh	106	Bangladesh	124
5 Pakistan	103	Ethiopia	94
6 Nigeria	68	Indonesia	84
7 Ethiopia	65	Nigeria	70
8 Viet Nam	62	Viet Nam	63
9 United States of America	57	Dem. Republic of the Congo	60
10 Japan	44	Uganda	57
11 Thailand	43	Egypt	49
12 Egypt	42	United States of America	47
13 Dem. Republic of the Congo	39	Kenya	41
14 Russian Federation	39	Afghanistan	40
15 Myanmar	35	Thailand	40
16 Philippines	31	United Republic of Tanzania	34
17 Brazil	29	Japan	32
18 United Republic of Tanzania	29	Myanmar	31
19 Kenya	27	Russian Federation	31
20 Mexico	26	Nepal	29



- In 1950, there were two mega-cities with 10 million or more inhabitants. By 2005, their number had increased to 20 and it is projected that there will be 22 mega-cities in 2015. Developing countries will have 17 of these 22 mega-cities in 2015.
- With 35 million residents in 2005, the metropolitan area of Tokyo was by far the most populous urban agglomeration in the world.
- Tokyo was followed by Ciudad de México (Mexico City) and New York-Newark, each with 19 million residents, and São Paulo, with 18 million people.
- In 2005, mega-cities accounted for about 9.3 per cent of the world's urban population. In 2015, mega-cities are expected to account for 9.4 per cent of the world's urban population.

TABLE 6. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD AND DEVELOPMENT GROUPS, BY AREA OF RESIDENCE AND SIZE OF URBAN SETTLEMENT, 1975, 2000, 2005 AND 2015

Development group	Area of residence and size of urban settlement (number of inhabitants)	Population (millions)				Percentage distribution			
		1975	2000	2005	2015	1975	2000	2005	2015
World .....	Urban area	1 516	2 845	3 150	3 819	100.	100.	100.	100.
	10 million or more	53	240	293	359	3.5	8.4	9.3	9.4
	5 million to fewer than 10 million	117	194	204	273	7.7	6.8	6.5	7.1
	1 million to fewer than 5 million	317	636	713	910	20.9	22.4	22.6	23.8
	500,000 to fewer than 1 million	170	278	318	347	11.2	9.8	10.1	9.1
	Fewer than 500,000	859	1 497	1 622	1 930	56.6	52.6	51.5	50.5
More developed regions ....	Urban area	701	874	898	945	100.	100.	100.	100.
	10 million or more	42	85	88	91	6.1	9.8	9.8	9.6
	5 million to fewer than 10 million	50	42	54	67	7.1	4.8	6.0	7.1
	1 million to fewer than 5 million	137	192	194	200	19.5	21.9	21.6	21.2
	500,000 to fewer than 1 million	73	79	82	87	10.5	9.0	9.1	9.2
	Fewer than 500,000	398	476	480	500	56.9	54.5	53.4	52.9
Less developed regions.....	Urban area	815	1 971	2 252	2 874	100.	100.	100.	100.
	10 million or more	11	154	204	268	1.3	7.8	9.1	9.3
	5 million to fewer than 10 million	68	152	150	206	8.3	7.7	6.7	7.2
	1 million to fewer than 5 million	180	444	519	710	22.1	22.5	23.0	24.7
	500,000 to fewer than 1 million	97	199	237	260	11.9	10.1	10.5	9.0
	Fewer than 500,000	460	1 021	1 142	1 430	56.5	51.8	50.7	49.8

TABLE 7. POPULATION OF CITIES WITH 10 MILLION INHABITANTS OR MORE, 1950, 1975, 2000, 2005 AND 2015

1950		1975		2000		2005		2015							
City	Population (millions)	City	Population (millions)	City	Population (millions)	City	Population (millions)	City	Population (millions)						
1	New York-Newark	12.3	1	Tokyo	26.6	1	Tokyo	34.4	1	Tokyo	35.2	1	Tokyo	35.5	
2	Tokyo	11.3	2	New York-Newark	15.9	2	Ciudad de México (Mexico City)	18.1	2	Ciudad de México (Mexico City)	19.4	2	Mumbai (Bombay)	21.9	
			3	Ciudad de México (Mexico City)	10.7	3	New York-Newark	17.8	3	New York-Newark	18.7	3	Ciudad de México (Mexico City)	21.6	
				4	São Paulo	17.1	4	São Paulo	18.3	4	São Paulo	20.5	4	São Paulo	20.5
				5	Mumbai (Bombay)	16.1	5	Mumbai (Bombay)	18.2	5	New York-Newark	19.9	5	New York-Newark	19.9
				6	Shanghai	13.2	6	Delhi	15.0	6	Delhi	18.6	6	Delhi	18.6
				7	Kolkata (Calcutta)	13.1	7	Shanghai	14.5	7	Shanghai	17.2	7	Shanghai	17.2
				8	Delhi	12.4	8	Kolkata (Calcutta)	14.3	8	Kolkata (Calcutta)	17.0	8	Kolkata (Calcutta)	17.0
				9	Buenos Aires	11.8	9	Jakarta	13.2	9	Dhaka	16.8	9	Dhaka	16.8
				10	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana	11.8	10	Buenos Aires	12.6	10	Jakarta	16.8	10	Jakarta	16.8
				11	Osaka-Kobe	11.2	11	Dhaka	12.4	11	Lagos	16.1	11	Lagos	16.1
				12	Jakarta	11.1	12	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana	12.3	12	Karachi	15.2	12	Karachi	15.2
				13	Rio de Janeiro	10.8	13	Karachi	11.6	13	Buenos Aires	13.4	13	Buenos Aires	13.4
				14	Al-Qahirah (Cairo)	10.4	14	Rio de Janeiro	11.5	14	Al-Qahirah (Cairo)	13.1	14	Al-Qahirah (Cairo)	13.1
				15	Dhaka	10.2	15	Osaka-Kobe	11.3	15	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana	13.1	15	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana	13.1
				16	Moskva (Moscow)	10.1	16	Al-Qahirah (Cairo)	11.1	16	Manila	12.9	16	Manila	12.9
				17	Karachi	10.0	17	Lagos	10.9	17	Beijing	12.9	17	Beijing	12.9
				18	Manila	10.0	18	Beijing	10.7	18	Rio de Janeiro	12.8	18	Rio de Janeiro	12.8
							19	Manila	10.7	19	Osaka-Kobe	11.3	19	Osaka-Kobe	11.3
							20	Moskva (Moscow)	10.7	20	Istanbul	11.2	20	Istanbul	11.2
										21	Moskva (Moscow)	11.0	21	Moskva (Moscow)	11.0
										22	Guangzhou, Guangdong	10.4	22	Guangzhou, Guangdong	10.4

- Mega-cities are not the fastest growing cities in the world. Of the 20 mega-cities identified in 2005, 13 had populations that grew by less than the average annual growth rate of the world's urban population during 1975-2005 (2.4 per cent).
- Between 1975-2005, only Dhaka in Bangladesh, Lagos in Nigeria, Delhi in India, Karachi in Pakistan, Jakarta in Indonesia, Mumbai (Bombay) in India and Manila in the Philippines experienced urban population growth higher than 2.4 per cent.

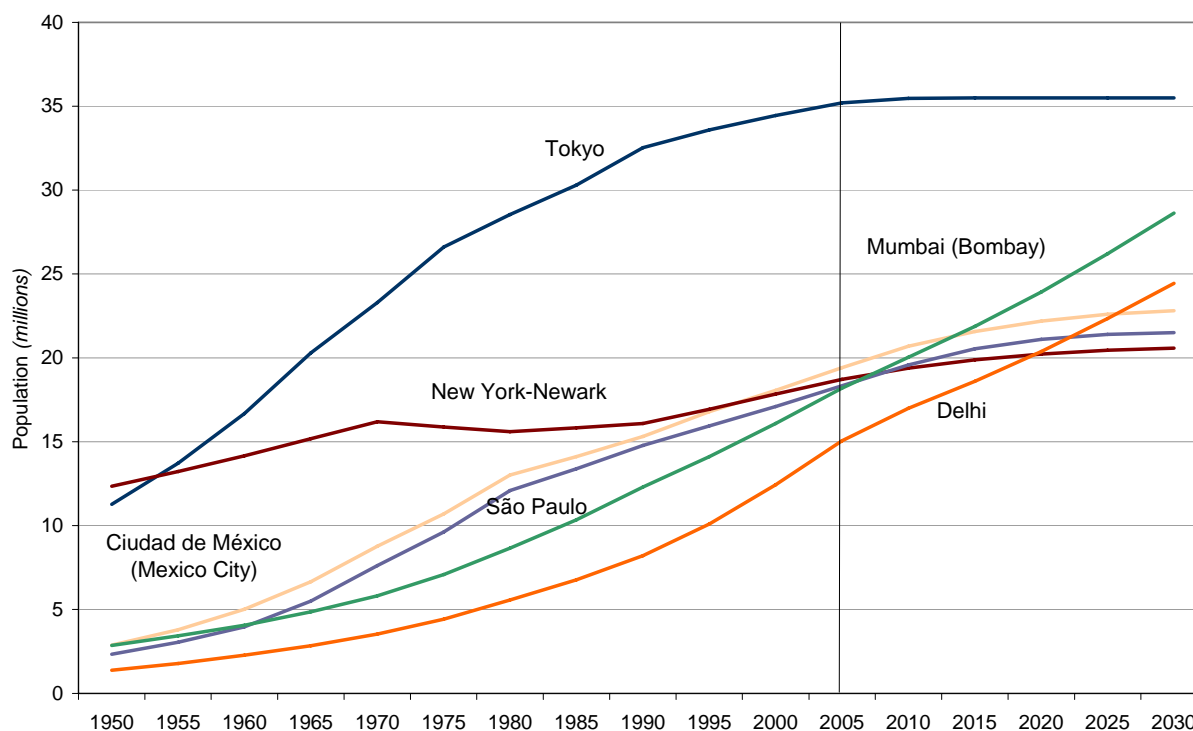
TABLE 8. POPULATION OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS WITH 10 MILLION INHABITANTS OR MORE IN 2005 AND THEIR AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH, 1975-2005 AND 2005-2015

Urban agglomeration	Population (millions)				Average annual rate of change (percentage)	
	1975	2000	2005	2015	1975-2005	2005-2015
1 Tokyo.....	26.6	34.4	35.2	35.5	0.93	0.08
2 Ciudad de México (Mexico City) .....	10.7	18.1	19.4	21.6	1.99	1.05
3 New York-Newark.....	15.9	17.8	18.7	19.9	0.55	0.60
4 São Paulo .....	9.6	17.1	18.3	20.5	2.15	1.13
5 Mumbai (Bombay).....	7.1	16.1	18.2	21.9	3.15	1.84
6 Delhi .....	4.4	12.4	15.0	18.6	4.08	2.12
7 Shanghai .....	7.3	13.2	14.5	17.2	2.28	1.72
8 Kolkata (Calcutta).....	7.9	13.1	14.3	17.0	1.98	1.73
9 Jakarta.....	4.8	11.1	13.2	16.8	3.37	2.41
10 Buenos Aires.....	8.7	11.8	12.6	13.4	1.20	0.65
11 Dhaka.....	2.2	10.2	12.4	16.8	5.81	3.04
12 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana.....	8.9	11.8	12.3	13.1	1.07	0.63
13 Karachi .....	4.0	10.0	11.6	15.2	3.56	2.67
14 Rio de Janeiro .....	7.6	10.8	11.5	12.8	1.39	1.07
15 Osaka-Kobe .....	9.8	11.2	11.3	11.3	0.45	0.04
16 Al-Qahirah (Cairo).....	6.4	10.4	11.1	13.1	1.82	1.66
17 Lagos .....	1.9	8.4	10.9	16.1	5.84	3.94
18 Beijing .....	6.0	9.8	10.7	12.9	1.91	1.82
19 Manila.....	5.0	10.0	10.7	12.9	2.53	1.90
20 Moskva (Moscow) .....	7.6	10.1	10.7	11.0	1.12	0.34

NOTE: Urban agglomerations are ordered according to their population size in 2005.

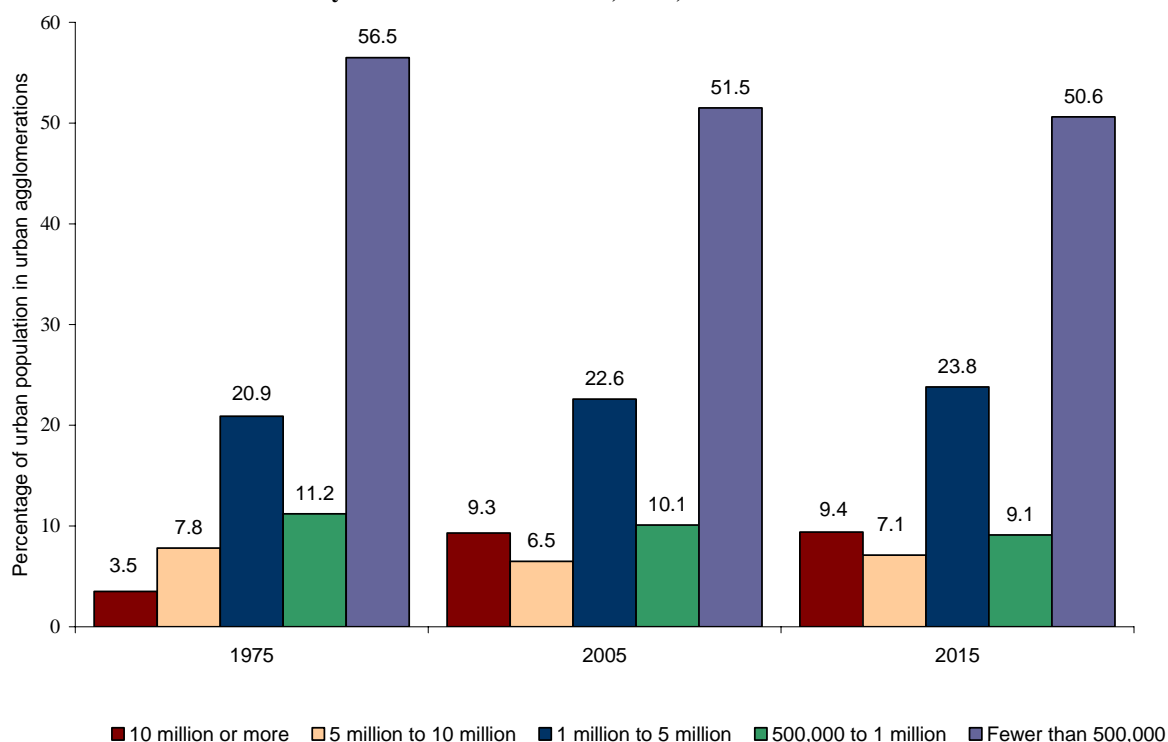
- Among the six most populous mega-cities in the world in 2005 – Tokyo, Ciudad de México (Mexico City), New York-Newark, São Paulo, Mumbai (Bombay) and Delhi – Ciudad de México (Mexico City), Mumbai (Bombay) and Delhi had annual population growth rates above 2.4 per cent.
- Compared to 1950, the population of Delhi in 2005 was about 11 times larger; that of São Paulo was 8 times larger, and that of Ciudad de México (Mexico City) was almost 7 times larger.
- In the future, the growth of the major mega-cities is projected to slow down, both in more developed regions as well as less developed regions. However, there will be more variation in growth rates in less developed regions. It is anticipated that Mumbai (Bombay) and Delhi will be growing faster than Ciudad de México (Mexico City) and São Paulo. Both Tokyo and New York-Newark will experience very low population growth, resulting in the virtual stagnation of their population size.

Figure 8. Population growth of the six most populous mega-cities, 2005



- In 2005, the majority of the urban population of almost every country lived in small and medium-sized cities.
- In 2005, 51.5 per cent of the urban population lived in cities with less than half a million residents. That proportion is projected to drop to 50.5 per cent by 2015.
- The majority of urban dwellers in both more and less developed regions resided in small and medium-sized cities in 2005: 53.4 per cent in more developed regions and 50.7 per cent in less developed regions.

**Figure 9. Percentage of urban population residing in urban agglomerations by size of urban settlement, 1975, 2005 and 2015**



- In 2005, half the Governments in the world expressed a strong desire to modify the spatial distribution of its population. This concern was especially pronounced in less developed regions where policies to lower immigration into urban agglomerations were more common than in more developed regions.

TABLE 9. GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, 2005

	<i>Number of countries</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Major change desired</i>	<i>Minor change desired</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	
World.....	97	64	33	194
More developed regions.....	17	18	13	48
Less developed regions.....	80	46	20	146
	<i>Percentage distribution</i>			
World.....	50	33	17	100
More developed regions.....	35	38	27	100
Less developed regions.....	55	32	14	100

NOTE: *World Population Policies 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.5).

- In many developing countries, policies aimed at redistributing the population try to reduce or even reverse rural-urban migration trends. Governments in less developed countries are more likely to implement policies to reduce migration to urban agglomerations than countries in more developed regions.

TABLE 10. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON INTERNAL MIGRATION INTO URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS, 2005

	<i>Number of countries</i>				<i>Total</i>
	<i>Raise</i>	<i>Maintain</i>	<i>Lower</i>	<i>No intervention</i>	
World.....	6	2	115	41	164
More developed regions .....	2	1	25	13	41
Less developed regions.....	4	1	90	28	123
	<i>Percentage distribution</i>				
World.....	4	1	70	25	100
More developed regions .....	5	2	61	32	100
Less developed regions.....	3	1	73	23	100

NOTE: *World Population Policies 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.5).



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**DATA IN DIGITAL FORM**

The *2005 Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects*, prepared by the United Nations Population Division, provides a comprehensive and consistent set of urban and rural population data for the world's countries and areas, as well as for urban agglomerations with more than 750,000 inhabitants in 2005. The data referring to urban and rural areas cover the period 1950-2030 and those referring to urban agglomerations cover the years 1950-2015. Detailed results from the *2005 Revision* are available for purchase in two sets of files, available on a single CD-ROM.

The files are prepared in Excel 2003, which is compatible with all versions since Excel 5.0/95. The CD-ROM version launches a navigation interface upon insertion that provides direct access to the files.

In the data sets, figures for 1950-2005 are estimates and those for years beyond 2005 are projections. Estimates and projections are presented only for years that are multiples of five. The urban, rural and city data presented are consistent with the medium variant of the *2004 Revision of World Population Prospects*, the official United Nations population estimates and projections at the national level. A short description of each set of files is presented below; the list of file names and their contents are presented in detail in tables A and B on the following pages.

(1) Urban and rural areas: Nine files present estimates and projections of the population in urban and rural areas as well as associated indicators. The data are presented for 228 countries and areas individually and for 33 country aggregates, including the world as a whole, the more and the less developed regions, the major areas of the world and selected additional aggregates. The projected values cover the period 2005-2030. The files present information on: (1) the total population by country; (2) the urban population by country; (3) the rural population by country; (4) the percentage of the population residing in urban areas; (5) the average annual rate of change of the total population; (6) the average annual rate of change of the urban population; (7) the average annual rate of change of the rural population; (8) the urbanization rate or average annual rate of change of the percentage urban, and (9) the average annual rate of change of the percentage rural.

(2) Urban agglomerations: Seven files present the estimates and projections of the population in urban agglomerations. The first four files contain data only for urban agglomerations with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 2005. They cover the following indicators: (1) the total population of each urban agglomeration; (2) the average annual rate of change of the population of each urban agglomeration; (3) the percentage of the urban population residing in each urban agglomeration; (4) the percentage of the total population residing in each urban agglomeration. Two more files provide data for specific sets of urban agglomerations. The first presents the 30 largest urban agglomerations of the world ranked by population size over the period 1950-2015. The second presents the population of the capital cities of each country for the year 2005. Lastly, a file gives the urban population, the number of cities and the percentage of urban population by size class of urban settlement.

The following citation should be used to indicate the source of any data derived from the data sets described above:

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2006). *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision*. CD-ROM Edition – Data in digital form (POP/DB/WUP/Rev.2005).

**World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision**  
**Table A: Schematic Contents of Dataset on Urban and Rural Areas, 1950-2030**

POP/DB/WUP/Rev.2005/1

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<i>File number</i>	<i>File name</i>	<i>Indicator presented</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Geographical coverage</i>	<i>Number of countries or areas</i>	<i>Type of indicator</i>	<i>Reference date</i>	<i>Time period covered</i>	<i>Table in World Urbanization Prospects</i>
File 1	WUP2005F1-Total_Population.xls	Total population	Thousands	All countries and areas	228	Stock indicator	1 July	1950, 1955, 1960, ..., 2025, 2030	A.5
File 2	WUP2005F2-Urban_Population.xls	Total population residing in urban areas	Thousands	All countries and areas	228	Stock indicator	1 July	1950, 1955, 1960, ..., 2025, 2030	A.3
File 3	WUP2005F3-Rural_Population.xls	Total population residing in rural areas	Thousands	All countries and areas	228	Stock indicator	1 July	1950, 1955, 1960, ..., 2025, 2030	A.4
File 4	WUP2005F4-Percentage_Urban.xls	Percentage of the population residing in urban areas	Percentage	All countries and areas	228	Stock indicator	1 July	1950, 1955, 1960, ..., 2025, 2030	A.2
File 5	WUP2005F5-Total_Growth_Rate.xls	Average annual rate of change of the total population	Per cent	All countries and areas	228	Period indicator	Average per year	1950-1955, 1955-1960, ..., 2020-2025, 2025-2030	A.8
File 6	WUP2005F6-Urban_Growth_Rate.xls	Average annual rate of change of the urban population	Per cent	All countries and areas	228	Period indicator	Average per year	1950-1955, 1955-1960, ..., 2020-2025, 2025-2030	A.6
File 7	WUP2005F7-Rural_Growth_Rate.xls	Average annual rate of change of the rural population	Per cent	All countries and areas	228	Period indicator	Average per year	1950-1955, 1955-1960, ..., 2020-2025, 2025-2030	A.7
File 8	WUP2005F8-Urbanization_Rate.xls	Average annual rate of change of the percentage urban	Per cent	All countries and areas	228	Period indicator	Average per year	1950-1955, 1955-1960, ..., 2020-2025, 2025-2030	A.9
File 9	WUP2005F9-Rate_Proportion_Rural.xls	Average annual rate of change of the percentage rural	Per cent	All countries and areas	228	Period indicator	Average per year	1950-1955, 1955-1960, ..., 2020-2025, 2025-2030	A.10



**World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision**  
**Table B: Schematic Contents of Dataset on Urban Agglomerations, 1950-2015**

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<i>File number</i>	<i>File name</i>	<i>Indicator presented</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Geographical coverage</i>	<i>Number of countries or areas</i>	<i>Type of indicator</i>	<i>Reference date</i>	<i>Time period covered</i>	<i>Table in World Urbanization Prospects</i>
File 10	WUP2005F10-Cities_Over_750K.xls	Population of each urban agglomeration	Thousands	All cities with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 2005	228	Stock indicator	1 July	1950, 1955, ....., 2010, 2015	A.12
File 11	WUP2005F11-Growth_Rate_Cities.xls	Average annual rate of change of the population of each urban agglomeration	Per cent	All cities with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 2005	228	Stock indicator	Average per year	1950-1955, 1955-1960, ....., 2005-2010, 2010-2015	A.14
File 12	WUP2005F12-Percentage_Urban_in_Cities.xls	Percentage of the urban population residing in each urban agglomeration	Percentage	All cities with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 2005	228	Stock indicator	1 July	1950, 1955, ....., 2010, 2015	A.15
File 13	WUP2005F13-Percentage_Total_in_Cities.xls	Percentage of the total population residing in each urban agglomeration	Percentage	All cities with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 2005	228	Stock indicator	1 July	1950, 1955, ....., 2010, 2015	A.16
File 14	WUP2005F14-30_Largest_Cities.xls	Population of the 30 largest urban agglomerations at each point in time	Millions	The 30 most populous cities	...	Stock indicator	1 July	1950, 1955, ....., 2010, 2015	A.11
File 15	WUP2005F15-Capital_Cities.xls	Population of capital cities in 2005	Thousands	Capital cities	228	Stock indicator	1 July	2005	A.13
File 16	WUP2005F16-City_Size_Class.xls	Urban population, number of cities and percentage of urban population by size class of urban settlement	Various	Not applicable	228	Stock indicator	1 July	1950, 1955, ....., 2010, 2015	A.17

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**World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision  
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## **ANNEX TABLES**

