

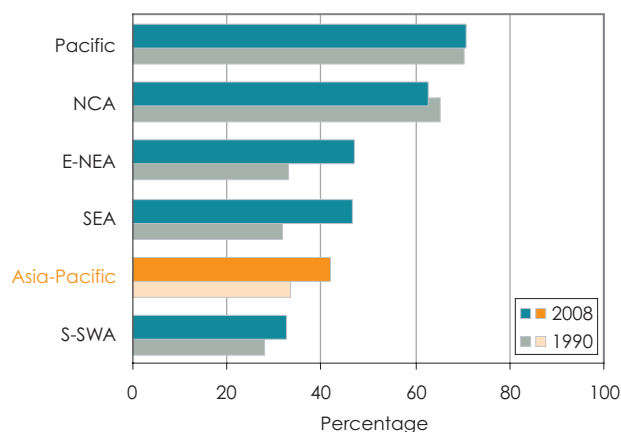
2 Urbanization

People in Asia and the Pacific continue to migrate from rural to urban areas. After Africa, the rate of urbanization is the second highest in the world. As a result, the proportion of the population in urban areas, while still well below the world average, is rising steadily.

The urban population in Asia and the Pacific has been growing at 2.3 per cent per annum – faster than the global average of 2.0 per cent. However the level of urbanization differs considerably between subregions. The most urbanized is the Pacific subregion, where over 70 per cent of the population lives in cities and towns. The Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu are exceptions, with levels below 25 per cent. The next most urbanized region is North and Central Asia. At the other end of the scale is South and South-West Asia, with only 32.7 per cent of the population living in urban areas, though the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey have levels of over 50 per cent.

Figure 2.1

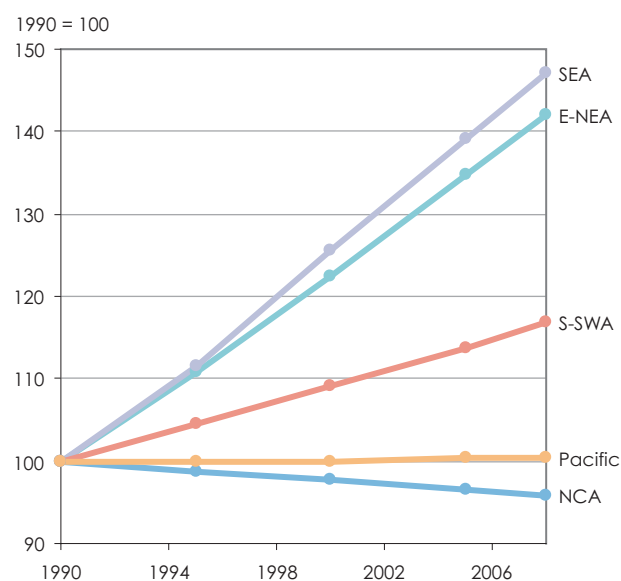
Level of urbanization, by Asia-Pacific subregion, 1990 and 2008



Urban population growth is fastest in South-East Asia at 3.1 per cent annually. By contrast in North and Central Asia the urban population is shrinking – with a negative growth rate of -0.2 per cent. This was partly because many people with

Figure 2.2

Change in the urbanization rate, by subregion, indexed to 100, 1990-2008



limited opportunities at home have been migrating to other countries.

Urbanization results from a number of factors. In the rural areas, productivity improvements in agriculture release workers for other, better-paying industries which are often located in or near urban areas. People will also move to cities to take advantage of better access to services. By and large, levels of urbanization are highest in the more developed countries.

In Asia and the Pacific natural population growth is around 1.1 per cent per year but urban growth is around 2.0 per cent, so the remaining 50-60 per cent of urban population growth must be due to rural-urban migration or to the reclassification of rural areas into urban areas. In parallel with the decline in overall population growth there has been a decline in urban growth. In 1990 urban growth rate was 3.4 per cent per year but by 2008 it was down to 2.3 per cent per year.

One distinctive outcome of urbanization in Asia and the Pacific is the growth of megacities – those more than 10 million people. The region

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has 11 of the world's 19 megacities including 6 in the top 10. Megacities may be the most visible manifestation of urbanization but they only have

about 10 per cent of the urban population: over 50 per cent of the region's urban populations live in cities with fewer than five million people.

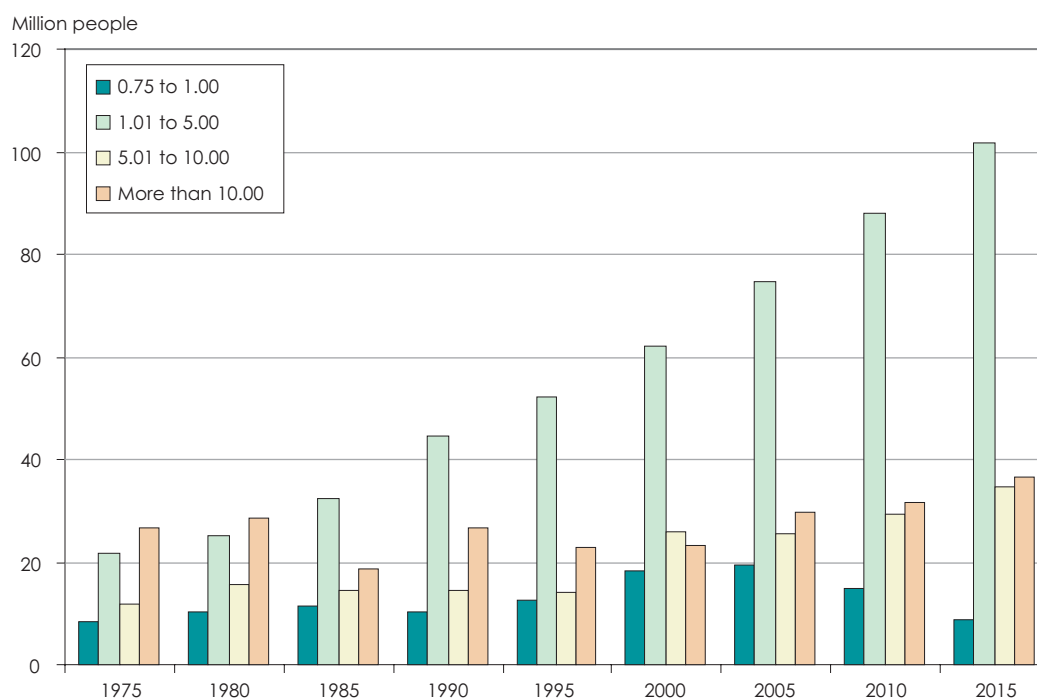
World megacities, 2007

City, country	Population (millions)			Average annual rate of change, 1975-2007
	1975	2007	2025	
1. Tokyo, Japan	26.6	35.7	36.4	0.9
2. New York-Newark, United States	15.9	19.0	20.6	0.6
3. Ciudad de México (Mexico City), Mexico	10.7	19.0	21.0	1.8
4. Mumbai, India	7.1	19.0	26.4	3.1
5. São Paulo, Brazil	9.6	18.8	21.4	2.1
6. Delhi, India	4.4	15.9	22.5	4.0
7. Shanghai, China	7.3	15.0	19.4	2.2
8. Kolkata, India	7.9	14.8	20.6	2.0
9. Dhaka, Bangladesh	2.2	13.5	22.0	5.6
10. Buenos Aires, Argentina	8.7	12.8	13.8	1.2
11. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, United States	8.9	12.5	13.7	1.1
12. Karachi, Pakistan	4.0	12.1	19.1	3.5
13. Al-Qahirah (Cairo), Egypt	6.4	11.9	15.6	1.9
14. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	7.6	11.7	13.4	1.4
15. Osaka-Kobe, Japan	9.8	11.3	11.4	0.4
16. Beijing, China	6.0	11.1	14.5	1.9
17. Manila, Philippines	5.0	11.1	14.8	2.5
18. Moskva (Moscow), Russian Federation	7.6	10.5	10.5	1.0
19. Istanbul, Turkey	3.6	10.1	12.1	3.2

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Population Division, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision.

Figure 2.3

Urban population in Asia and the Pacific, by size of settlement, 1975-2015



Cities in the region face major and inter-connected problems. They have to expand infrastructure and services to rapidly growing populations and also address the implications of mushrooming slum and squatter settlements. They also need to tackle issues related to climate change. Developing countries in particular are struggling to provide adequate housing, physical infrastructure and economic, social and environmental services.

Across the region in 2005, on average the proportion of the urban population living in slums was around about one-third. In East and North-East Asia it was 33.2 per cent, in South-East Asia it was 34.1 per cent and in South and South-West Asia it was 37.3 per cent. However in some countries the proportion is much higher – more than 50 per cent

in Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Nepal.

Urban areas account for 75 per cent of all energy use and for 80 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions. Most Asian cities are near water bodies – on the coast or along rivers and lakes – making them vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly floods, caused by extreme weather events related to climate change.

Least equipped to deal with all these issues are the smaller cities and towns. Unlike megacities and other large cities (those with more than 5 million people), smaller cities and towns lack the necessary human, institutional, financial and political capital. Policy makers at the local, national and regional levels may thus need to pay special attention to the development needs and problems of these cities and towns.

Defining urban

There is no common definition in the region of what is "urban". In fact, there is a bewildering variety. Of the 26 countries and territories surveyed by ESCAP, 15 defined urban areas based on administrative criteria, four on population size and/or density, two on economic functions or availability of certain infrastructure and services, while the rest used a mixture of administrative criteria and population size and density. Because most countries define urban based on administrative criteria, urbanization levels and urban population growth rates may be underreported. Most growth occurs in the urban periphery, which may be beyond municipal or city boundaries and therefore may not be reflected in official statistics.

Urbanization rate (% of total population)

Population living in areas classified as urban according to the administrative criteria used by each country or area, as a percentage of the total population. **Aggregates:** Averages are calculated using total population as weight. **Source:** World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision Population Database (online database, accessed in September 2007).

Urban population growth rate (% per annum)

The average annual rate of change of the urban population. Reported for a single-year period or for five-year periods starting and ending in the middle of the indicated years. **Aggregates:** Averages are calculated using urban population as weight. **Source:** Calculated by ESCAP using data from World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision Population Database (online database, accessed in September 2007).

Slum population (% of urban population)

Number of people in households living in slum dwellings. Reported as a share of the urban population. A slum

household is a group of individuals living under the same roof who lack one or more (in some cities, two or more) of the following conditions: security of tenure, structural quality and durability of dwellings, access to safe water, access to sanitation facilities or sufficient living area.

Aggregates: Averages are calculated using the urban population as weight. **Source:** United Nations Millennium Development Goals Indicators (online database, accessed in September 2007).

Population density (population per km²)

Number of people per square kilometre of the surface area. Total surface area comprises total land area and inland and tidal water areas. **Aggregates:** Averages are calculated as total population divided by total surface area. **Source:** Calculated by ESCAP using data from World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision Population Database and United Nations Common database (online database, accessed in September 2007).

Population of urban agglomerations by size of agglomerations (thousands)

Population living in urban agglomeration defined as agglomeration comprising a city or town proper and also the suburban fringe or thickly settled territory lying outside of, but adjacent to, the city boundaries. Data are presented for the following agglomerations size range: 750,000 to 1 million inhabitants; 1 to 5 million inhabitants; 5 to 10 million inhabitants; and 10 million inhabitants or more. **Aggregates:** Sum of individual country values. **Source:** World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision (online database, accessed on 8 October 2008).

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	Urbanization rate					Urban population growth rate				Slum population	
	% of total population					Per cent per annum				% of urban population	
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	90-95	95-00	00-05	2007	1990	2005
East and North-East Asia	33.0	36.6	40.4	44.5	46.1	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.3	46.0	33.2
China	27.4	31.4	35.8	40.4	42.2	3.9	3.6	3.2	2.8	43.6	32.9
DPR Korea	58.4	59.1	60.2	61.6	62.3	1.8	1.5	1.0	0.9		
Hong Kong, China	99.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.0		
Japan	63.1	64.6	65.2	65.8	66.2	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.3		
Macao, China	99.8	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.1	1.4	1.4	0.8		
Mongolia	57.0	56.8	56.6	56.7	56.9	1.4	0.6	0.9	1.2	68.5	57.9
Republic of Korea	73.8	78.2	79.6	80.8	81.3	2.2	1.1	0.8	0.6	68.5	
South-East Asia	31.6	35.3	39.7	44.0	45.7	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.2	39.4	34.1
Brunei Darussalam	65.8	68.6	71.1	73.5	74.4	3.7	3.2	3.0	2.7		
Cambodia	12.6	14.2	16.9	19.7	20.9	5.7	6.0	5.0	4.8	71.7	78.9
Indonesia	30.6	35.6	42.0	48.1	50.4	4.6	4.8	4.1	3.5	32.2	26.3
Lao PDR	15.4	17.2	18.9	20.6	21.4	5.1	4.1	3.5	3.6	66.1	79.3
Malaysia	49.8	55.6	61.8	67.3	69.3	4.9	4.7	3.7	3.2		
Myanmar	24.9	26.1	28.0	30.6	31.9	2.4	2.7	2.7	3.0	31.1	45.6
Philippines	48.8	54.0	58.5	62.7	64.2	4.4	3.8	3.5	3.2	54.9	43.7
Singapore	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.9	2.9	1.5	1.2		
Thailand	29.4	30.3	31.1	32.3	32.9	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.7	19.5	26.0
Timor-Leste	20.8	22.7	24.5	26.5	27.3	4.5	0.8	7.1	5.3		
Viet Nam	20.3	22.2	24.3	26.4	27.3	4.0	3.4	3.2	3.1	60.5	41.3
South and South-West Asia	28.0	29.2	30.5	31.8	32.4	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.5	59.9	37.3
Afghanistan	18.3	19.7	21.3	22.9	23.6	9.2	4.1	5.4	5.7	98.5	
Bangladesh	19.8	21.5	23.2	25.1	25.9	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.4	87.3	70.8
Bhutan	7.2	8.3	9.6	11.1	11.8	1.4	5.0	5.7	4.4	70.0	
India	25.5	26.6	27.7	28.7	29.2	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.4	60.8	34.8
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	56.3	60.2	64.2	66.9	68.0	3.3	2.5	1.8	2.1	51.9	30.3
Maldives	25.8	25.6	27.5	29.6	30.5	2.7	3.4	3.1	3.4		
Nepal	8.9	10.9	13.4	15.8	16.7	6.9	6.8	5.4	5.0	96.9	60.7
Pakistan	30.6	31.8	33.1	34.9	35.7	3.3	3.3	2.9	3.0	78.7	47.5
Sri Lanka	17.2	16.4	15.7	15.1	15.1	0.2	-0.2	-0.3	0.3	24.8	
Turkey	59.2	62.1	64.7	67.3	68.2	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.0	23.3	15.5
North and Central Asia	65.4	64.6	63.9	63.2	62.8	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2		
Armenia	67.5	66.3	65.1	64.1	63.8	-2.2	-1.3	-0.7	-0.4		
Azerbaijan	53.7	52.2	50.9	51.5	51.6	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.8		
Georgia	55.2	54.0	52.7	52.2	52.3	-2.1	-1.7	-1.2	-0.7		
Kazakhstan	56.3	55.9	56.3	57.3	57.8	-0.9	-1.1	0.7	1.1		
Kyrgyzstan	37.8	36.3	35.4	35.8	36.1	0.1	1.0	1.2	1.5		
Russian Federation	73.4	73.4	73.4	73.0	72.8	0.1	-0.2	-0.6	-0.7		
Tajikistan	31.5	28.0	25.9	24.7	24.4	-0.7	-0.2	0.2	0.9		
Turkmenistan	45.1	44.7	45.1	46.2	46.9	2.6	1.6	1.9	2.1		
Uzbekistan	40.1	38.4	37.3	36.7	36.7	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.5		
Pacific	70.4	70.4	70.4	70.6	70.7	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.3		
Australia	85.4	86.1	87.2	88.2	88.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3		
American Samoa											
Cook Islands											
Fiji	41.6	45.5	48.3	50.8	51.8	3.0	2.1	1.7	1.6		
French Polynesia	55.9	53.5	52.4	51.7	51.6	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.3		
Guam	90.8	92.1	93.2	94.0	94.3	2.0	1.5	1.9	1.5		
Kiribati											
Marshall Islands											
Micronesia (F.S.)	25.8	25.1	22.3	22.3	22.4	1.6	-2.3	0.5	0.7		
Nauru											
New Caledonia	59.6	60.3	61.9	63.7	64.4	2.7	2.7	2.3	2.2		
New Zealand	84.7	85.3	85.7	86.2	86.4	1.6	1.0	1.4	1.1		
Niue											
Northern Mariana Is.											
Palau											
Papua New Guinea	13.1	13.2	13.2	13.4	13.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8		
Samoa	21.2	21.5	21.9	22.4	22.7	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.7		
Solomon Islands	13.7	14.7	15.7	17.0	17.6	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2		
Tonga	22.7	22.9	23.2	24.0	24.4	0.7	0.4	0.9	1.6		
Tuvalu											
Vanuatu	18.7	20.2	21.7	23.5	24.3	4.4	3.5	4.2	4.2		
Asia and the Pacific	33.3	35.5	37.9	40.4	41.4	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.3	50.9	35.0
LLDC	34.8	33.3	32.8	33.0	33.2	1.4	1.1	1.9	2.3	88.0	79.1
LDC	19.2	20.7	22.5	24.5	25.4	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.7	72.9	67.5
ASEAN	31.6	35.3	39.7	44.0	45.7	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.2	39.4	34.1
ECO	43.4	44.4	45.8	47.1	47.7	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.4	52.5	34.2
SAARC	25.0	26.1	27.3	28.5	29.1	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.6	65.2	40.6
Central Asia	47.7	45.8	44.4	44.1	44.2	0.0	-0.1	0.7	1.1		
Pacific island dev. econ.	21.5	21.7	21.7	21.9	22.1	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.3		
Low-income	25.4	26.6	28.0	29.6	30.4					73.3	55.8
Middle-income	31.9	34.5	37.3	40.1	41.3					2.4	
High-income	69.4	71.7	72.7	73.6	74.1					0.6	
Other world regions											
Africa	32.0	34.2	36.3	38.4	39.2	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.4	62.8	51.9
Europe	70.2	71.0	71.6	72.4	72.7	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4		
Latin America & Carib.	70.9	73.2	75.4	77.4	78.1	2.4	2.2	1.8	1.7	37.0	25.4
North America	75.4	77.3	79.1	80.7	81.3	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3		
Other countries/areas	63.1	63.8	64.2	64.6	64.8	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.5	37.0	35.7
World	43.0	44.7	46.6	48.6	49.4	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	49.2	36.0

2.2 Density

	Population of urban agglomerations									
	Population density		with 750 000 to 1 million inhabitants		with 1 to 5 million inhabitants		with 5 to 10 million inhabitants		with 10 million inhabitants or more	
	Population per km ²		Thousands		Thousands		Thousands		Thousands	
	1990	2007	1990	2005	1990	2005	1990	2005	1990	2005
East and North-East Asia	114	131								
China	120	138	19 349	37 845	102 825	167 748	21 371	36 154		25 220
DPR Korea	167	197		762	2 526	4 375				
Hong Kong, China	5 282	6 551					5 677	7 057		
Japan	327	339			13 520	14 585			43 565	46 585
Macao, China	21 388	17 183								
Mongolia	1	2		856						
Republic of Korea	432	486		2 626	9 936	13 461		9 825		10 544
South-East Asia	98	127								
Brunei Darussalam	45	68								
Cambodia	54	80				1 363				
Indonesia	96	122	816	3 282	8 593	11 332	8 175	8 843		
Lao PDR	17	25								
Malaysia	55	81		1 646	1 120	1 405				
Myanmar	59	72		915	2 907	3 928				
Philippines	204	293	854	787		1 325	7 973			10 761
Singapore	4 436	6 347			3 016	4 327				
Thailand	106	125					5 888	6 582		
Timor-Leste	50	78								
Viet Nam	200	265			8 596	6 046		5 072		
South and South-West Asia	163	223								
Afghanistan	19	42			1 306	2 994				
Bangladesh	785	1 102	985	766	2 023	5 653	6 621			12 576
Bhutan	12	14								
India	262	356	7 491	14 814	32 730	55 030	13 544	24 622	23 198	47 537
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	32	41	7 056	8 613						
Maldives	719	1 019								
Nepal	130	192		815						
Pakistan	142	206	3 520		6 577	9 743	7 147	6 259		11 553
Sri Lanka	261	294								
Turkey	73	96	1 726	1 863	4 302	8 717	6 552	9 709		
North and Central Asia	10	10								
Armenia	118	101			1 175	1 103				
Azerbaijan	83	98			1 733	1 867				
Georgia	78	63			1 224	1 093				
Kazakhstan	6	6			1 080	1 190				
Kyrgyzstan	22	27		817						
Russian Federation	9	8	3 690	4 606	16 974	15 165	8 987			10 416
Tajikistan	37	47								
Turkmenistan	7	10								
Uzbekistan	46	61			2 100	2 158				
Pacific	3	4								
Australia	2	3			10 284	12 298				
American Samoa	236	334								
Cook Islands	74	56								
Fiji	40	46								
French Polynesia	49	66								
Guam	248	321								
Kiribati	89	117								
Marshall Islands	263	329								
Micronesia (F.S.)	209	159								
Nauru	458	508								
New Caledonia	9	13								
New Zealand	13	16	870			1 189				
Niue	9	6								
Northern Mariana Is.	63	182								
Palau	32	44								
Papua New Guinea	9	14								
Samoa	57	66								
Solomon Islands	11	17								
Tonga	126	134								
Tuvalu	314	351								
Vanuatu	12	19								
Asia and the Pacific	61	76	10 106	19 607	44 482	74 621	14 400	25 620	26 800	29 841
LLDC	15	20								
LDC	94	133								
ASEAN	98	128								
ECO	37	50								
SAARC	221	305								
Central Asia	16	18								
Pacific island dev. econ.	12	17								
Low-income	95	132								
Middle-income	65	80								
High-income	23	25								
Other world regions										
Africa	21	32								
Europe	97	100								
Latin America & Carib.	22	28								
North America	14	17								
Other countries/areas	21	33								
World	39	50								