

**Table 6 - Demographic Yearbook 2023**

Table 6 presents total population by sex for as many years as possible between 2014 and 2023, as well as urban population as available.

**Description of variables:** Data are from nation-wide population censuses or are estimates, some of which are based on sample surveys of population carried out among all segments of the population. This characteristic of the data is indicated in the column "Code". The codes used are explained at the end of the table.

Urban is defined according to the national census definition. The definitions for each country, as available, are provided as part of this technical note.

Percentage computation: Urban percentages are the number of persons residing in an area defined as "urban" per 100 total population. They are calculated by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In very few cases the data for total population have been revised whereas the data for the urban and rural population have not been revised. These data are footnoted accordingly. In these cases, particular caution should be used in interpreting the figures for the percentages urban.

**Reliability of data:** Estimates that are believed to be less reliable are set in *italics* rather than in roman type. Classification in terms of reliability is based on the method of construction of the total population estimate discussed in the technical notes for table 3.

**Limitations:** Statistics on urban population by sex are subject to the same qualifications as have been set forth for population statistics in general, as discussed in section 3 of the Technical Notes.

The basic limitations imposed by variations in the definition of the total population and in the degree of under-enumeration are perhaps more important in relation to urban/rural than to any other distributions. The classification by urban and rural is affected by variations in defining usual residence for purposes of sub-national tabulations. Likewise, the geographical differentials in the degree of under-enumeration in censuses affect the comparability of these categories throughout the table. The distinction between *de facto* and *de jure* population is also very important with respect to urban/rural distributions. The difference between the *de facto* and the *de jure* population is discussed at length in section 3.1.1 of the Technical Notes.

A most important and specific limitation, however, lies in the national differences in the definition of urban. Because the distinction between urban and rural areas is made in so many different ways, the definitions have been included at the end of this table. The definitions are necessarily brief and, where the classification of urban involves administrative civil divisions, they are often given in the terminology of the particular country or area. As a result of variations in terminology, it may appear that differences between countries or areas are greater than they actually are. On the other hand, similar or identical terms (for example, town, village, district) as used in different countries or areas may have quite different meanings.

The definition of urban/rural areas is based on both qualitative and quantitative criteria that may include any combination of the following: size of population, population density, distance between built-up areas, predominant type of economic activity, conformity to legal or administrative status and urban characteristics such as specific services and facilities<sup>1</sup>. Although statistics classified by urban/rural areas are widely available, no international standard definition appears to be possible at this time since the meaning differs from one country or area to another. The urban/rural classification of population used here is reported according to the national definition.

**Earlier data:** Urban and total population by sex have been shown in previous issues of the Demographic Yearbook. For information on specific years covered, readers should consult the Historical Index.

## DEFINITION OF "URBAN"

### AFRICA

**Algeria:** The urban/rural delimitation is performed after the census operation based on the classification of built-up areas. Groupings of 100 or more constructions, distant less than 200 metres from one another are considered urban.

**Botswana:** Agglomeration of 5 000 or more inhabitants where 75 per cent of the economic activity is non-agricultural.

**Burkina Faso:** All administrative centres of provinces (total of 45) plus 4 medium-sized towns are considered as urban areas.

**Burundi:** Commune of Bujumbura.

**Comoros:** Every locality or administrative centre of an island, region or prefecture that has the following facilities: asphalted roads, electricity, a medical centre, telephone services, etc.

**Egypt:** Governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Ismailia, Suez, frontier governorates and capitals of other governorates, as well as district capitals (Markaz). The definition of urban areas for the 2006 Census is "shihakha", a part of a district.

**Equatorial Guinea:** District centres and localities with 300 dwellings and/or 1 500 inhabitants or more.

**Ethiopia:** Localities of 2 000 or more inhabitants.

**Eswatini:** A geographical area constituting of a city or town, characterized by higher population density and vast human features in comparison to areas surrounding it.

**Guinea:** Administrative centres of prefectures and the capital city (Conakry).

**Kenya:** Areas having a population of 2 000 or more inhabitants that have transport systems, build-up areas, industrial/manufacturing structures and other developed structures.

**Lesotho:** All administrative headquarters and settlements of rapid growth.

**Liberia:** Localities of 2 000 or more inhabitants.

**Malawi:** Urban area is defined as an area with growing population due to urbanisation, and developments in social institutions and industries.

**Mauritius:** Urban areas refer to the five Municipal Council Areas which are subdivided into twenty Municipal Wards defined according to proclaimed boundaries.

**Namibia:** Proclaimed urban areas for which cadastral data is available and other unplanned squatter areas.

**Niger:** Capital city, capitals of the departments and districts.

**Reunion:** A commune or a group of communes with more than 2,000 inhabitants in a continuous building area (no more than 200 meters between two buildings).

**Rwanda:** All administrative areas recognized as urban by the law. These are all administrative centres of provinces, and the cities of Kigali, Nyanza, Ruhango and Rwamagana.

**Senegal:** Agglomerations of 10 000 or more inhabitants.

**South Africa:** Places with some form of local authority.

**Sudan:** Localities of administrative and/or commercial importance or with population of 5 000 or more inhabitants.

**Tunisia:** Population living in communes.

**Uganda:** Gazettes, cities, municipalities and towns.

**United Republic of Tanzania:** Areas legally recognized (gazetted) as urban and all areas recognized by local government authorities as urban.

**Zambia:** Localities of 5 000 or more inhabitants, the majority of whom all depend on non-agricultural activities.

## AMERICA, NORTH

**Bermuda:** The country is considered 100 per cent urban.

**Canada:** Areas with 1 000 or more inhabitants and a population density of 400 or more persons per square kilometre, based on population counts from the recent population census.

**Costa Rica:** Administrative centres of cantons or districts that satisfy some physical and functional criteria, such as clearly defined streets and sidewalks, urban services and economic activities.

**Cuba:** Localities with 2 000 or more inhabitants; or localities with more than 1 000 inhabitants having half or more of economically active population engaged in non-agricultural activities.

**Dominican Republic:** Administrative centres of municipalities and municipal districts, some of which include suburban zones of rural character.

**El Salvador:** Administrative centres of municipalities.

**Greenland:** Localities of 200 or more inhabitants.

**Guadeloupe:** A commune or a group of communes with more than 2,000 inhabitants in a continuous building area (no more than 200 meters between two buildings).

**Guatemala:** Municipality of Guatemala Department and officially recognized centres of other departments and municipalities.

**Haiti:** Administrative centres of communes.

**Honduras:** Localities of 2 000 or more inhabitants, having essentially urban characteristics.

**Jamaica:** Localities of 2 000 or more inhabitants, having urban characteristics.

**Martinique:** A commune or a group of communes with more than 2 000 inhabitants in a continuous building area (no more than 200 meters between two buildings).

**Mexico:** Geostatistical urban localities include (a) localities of 2 500 or more inhabitants according to the last official national population count; (b) municipal capitals; (c) localities that were classified as urban in previous censuses but currently have less than 2 500 inhabitants; (d) localities with less than 2 500 inhabitants that present urban continuity with an urban locality; and (e) localities that cease to be municipal capitals, regardless of their number of inhabitants.

**Nicaragua:** Administrative centres of municipalities and localities of 1 000 or more inhabitants or with more than 150 dwellings, with streets, electric light, water service, school and health centre.

**Panama:** Localities of 1 500 or more inhabitants having essentially urban characteristics. Beginning 1970, localities of 1 500 or more inhabitants with such urban characteristics as streets, water supply systems, sewerage systems and electric light.

**Puerto Rico:** Agglomerations of 2 500 or more inhabitants, generally having population densities of 1 000 persons per square mile or more. Two types of urban areas: urbanized areas of 50 000 or more inhabitants and urban clusters of at least 2 500 and less than 50 000 inhabitants.

**Saint-Barthélemy:** A commune or a group of communes with more than 2 000 inhabitants in a continuous building area (no more than 200 meters between two buildings).

**Saint-Martin (French part):** A commune or a group of communes with more than 2 000 inhabitants in a continuous building area (no more than 200 meters between two buildings).

**Saint Pierre and Miquelon:** A commune or a group of communes with more than 2 000 inhabitants in a continuous building area (no more than 200 meters between two buildings).

**United States of America:** Agglomerations of 2 500 or more inhabitants, generally having population densities of 1 000 persons per square mile or more. Two types of urban areas: urbanized areas of 50 000 or more inhabitants and urban clusters of at least 2 500 and less than 50 000 inhabitants.

**United States Virgin Islands:** Agglomerations of 2 500 or more inhabitants, generally having population densities of 1 000 persons per square mile or more. Two types of urban areas: urbanized areas of 50 000 or more inhabitants and urban clusters of at least 2 500 and less than 50 000 inhabitants. (As of the 2000 Census, no urbanized areas are identified in the United States Virgin Islands.)

## AMERICA, SOUTH

**Argentina:** Populated centres with 2 000 or more inhabitants.

**Bolivia:** Localities of 2 000 or more inhabitants.

**Brazil:** Area inside the urban perimeter of a city or town, defined by municipal law.

**Chile:** Areas of concentrated housing units with more than 2 000 inhabitants, or between 1 001 and 2 000 inhabitants having 50 per cent or more of its economically active population doing secondary or tertiary activities. As an exception, centres of tourism and recreation with more than 250 housing units that do not satisfy the population requirement are nevertheless considered urban.

**Colombia:** Urban census area, defined by Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE) for statistical purposes, corresponding to the areas delimited by the census perimeter.

**Ecuador:** Capitals of provinces and cantons.

**Falkland Islands (Malvinas):** Town of Stanley.

**French Guiana:** A commune or a group of communes with more than 2 000 inhabitants in a continuous building area (no more than 200 meters between two buildings).

**Paraguay:** Cities, towns and administrative centres of departments and districts.

**Peru:** Populated centres with more than 5 000 inhabitants, which have public services, educational institutions and health facilities.

**Suriname:** The districts of Paramaribo and Wanica.

**Uruguay:** Cities, villages, towns and other populated areas as defined by the Law of Population Centers.

**Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of):** Centres with a population of 2 500 or more inhabitants.

## ASIA

**Armenia:** Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agricultural, or number of non-agricultural workers and their families.

**Azerbaijan:** An administrative division which covers more than 15 000 population, engaging mainly in industrial and other economic and social activities and which include administrative and cultural centers.

**Bahrain:** Bahrain is only urban.

**Bhutan:** Settlements with population of more than 3 000 inhabitants and basic amenities such as health, education and recreational facilities. This definition has been in use since 2005.

**Brunei Darussalam:** Municipality areas of Bandar Seri Begawan, Kuala Belait, Seria, Pekan Tutong and Pekan Bangar; and heavily populated areas with urban characteristics.

**Cambodia:** Areas at the commune level satisfying the following three conditions: (1) Population Density exceeding 200 per square Km, (2) Percentage of male employed in agriculture below 50 per cent, (3) Total population of the commune exceeds 2 000 inhabitants.

**China:** According to the Regulation on the Classification of Urban/Rural Residence for Statistical Purposes.

**Cyprus:** As determined by the Department of Town Planning and Housing of the Ministry of Interior.

**Georgia:** Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agricultural, or number of non-agricultural workers and their families.

**India:** Towns (places with municipal corporation, municipal area committee, town committee, notified area committee or cantonment board); also, all places having 5 000 or more inhabitants, a density of not less than 1 000 persons per square mile or 400 per square kilometre, pronounced urban characteristics and at least three fourths of the adult male population employed in pursuits other than agriculture.

**Indonesia:** Area which satisfies certain criteria in terms of population density, percentage of agricultural households, access to urban facilities, existence of additional facilities, and percentage of built up area not for housing.

**Iran (Islamic Republic of):** Every district with a municipality.

**Israel:** Localities with 2 000 or more residents.

**Japan:** City (shi) having 50 000 or more inhabitants with 60 per cent or more of the houses located in the main built-up areas and 60 per cent or more of the population (including their dependants) engaged in manufacturing, trade or other urban type of business. For the 2020 census, urban areas are “Densely Inhabited Districts”, defined as areas within a municipality that is composed of a group of contiguous Basic Unit Blocks, each of which has a population density of 4,000 inhabitants or more per square kilometre and whose total population exceeds 5,000 as of 1 October 2020. The detailed methodological explanation is available at <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/chiri/did/1-1.html>

**Jordan:** Localities of 5 000 or more inhabitants.

**Kazakhstan:** Cities of Republican status (population centres of special national importance or with a population of usually more than one million), Oblast status (population centres that are major economic and cultural centres with developed industrial and social infrastructure and a population of more than 50,000, the country has 40 Oblast status cities), Raion status and settlements located under their administrative jurisdiction.

**Kuwait:** All localities in Kuwait are urban.

**Kyrgyzstan:** Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agricultural, or number of non-agricultural workers and their families.

**Lao People’s Democratic Republic:** Areas or villages that satisfy at least three of the following five conditions: located in metropolitan areas of district or province, there is access to road in dry and rainy seasons, more than 70 per cent of the population has access to piped water, more than 70 per cent of the population has access to public electricity, there is a permanent market operating every day.

**Malaysia:** Gazetted areas with their adjoining built-up areas which have a combined population of 10 000 or more. Built-up areas are defined as areas contiguous to a gazetted area and have at least 60 per cent of their population (aged 15 years and over) engaged in non-agricultural activities. The definition of urban areas also takes into account the special development area which is not gazetted and can be identified and separated from the gazetted area or built-up area of more than 5km and a population of at least 10 000 with 60 per cent of the population (aged 15 years and over) engaged in non-agricultural activities.

**Maldives:** Malé, the capital.

**Mongolia:** Capital (Ulaanbaatar), the twenty-one aimag centers (provincial centers) and villages recognized as urban by the national statistical office.

**Myanmar:** Areas classified by the General Administration Department as wards. Generally, these areas have an increased density of building structures, population and better infrastructure development.

**Nepal:** As declared by the government municipalities.

**Pakistan:** Places with metropolitan corporation, municipal corporation, municipal committee, town committee or cantonment at the time of the census.

**Philippines:** Areas (barangays) with more than 5 000 inhabitants, at least one establishment with a minimum of 100 employees, or five or more small establishments with 10 to 99 employees and five or more facilities within the two-kilometre radius from the barangay hall, as per *Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Board Resolution No. 01, Series of 2017-098 – Adoption of the Operational Definition of Urban Areas in the Philippines*. In addition, all barangays in the National Capital Region are automatically classified as urban.

**Republic of Korea:** For estimates: Localities with 50 000 or more inhabitants. For census: the figures are composed in the basis of the minor administrative divisions such as Dongs (mostly urban areas) and Eups or Myeons (rural areas).

**Saudi Arabia:** Localities with more than 5 000 inhabitants.

**Singapore:** Singapore is a city-state.

**Sri Lanka:** All areas administered by municipal and urban councils.

**State of Palestine:** Any locality where the population amounts to 10 000 persons or more. This applies to all governorates/districts regardless of their size, and to all localities whose populations vary from 4 000 to 9 999 persons provided they have at least four of the following elements: public electricity network, public water network, post office, health center with a full-time physician and a school offering a general secondary education certificate.

**Syrian Arab Republic:** Cities, Mohafaza centres and Mantika centres, and communities with 20 000 or more inhabitants.

**Tajikistan:** Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agricultural, or number of non-agricultural workers and their families.

**Thailand:** Municipal areas.

**Türkiye:** Localities with 20 000 inhabitants or more.

**Turkmenistan:** Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agricultural, or number of non-agricultural workers and their families.

**Uzbekistan:** Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agricultural, or number of non-agricultural workers and their families.

**Viet Nam:** Urban areas include inside urban districts of cities, urban quarters and towns. All other local administrative units (communes) belong to rural areas.

## EUROPE

**Åland Islands:** City of Mariehamn

**Albania:** Towns and other industrial centres of more than 400 inhabitants.

**Austria:** Urban areas are localities with 2 000 or more inhabitants. The delineation of localities goes back to 1991.

**Belarus:** Urban settlements are settlements authorized under the law as cities, consisting of (a) the city of Minsk; (b) cities of regional subordination (with not less than 50 000 inhabitants), (c) cities of district subordination (with not less than 6 000 inhabitants); and (d) settlements recognized as urban by the national statistical office, such as urban settlement, workers settlements and health resort areas.

**Belgium:** All the communes which are not part of the list of rural communes are considered as urban communes. There are 33 communes which are considered rural: Alveringem, Amblève, Bertogne, Bièvre, Bullange, Burg-Reuland, Clavier, Erezée, Fauvillers, Frasnes-lez-Anvaing, Froidchapelle, Gedinne, Gouvy, Havelange, Herstappe, Heuvelland, Houffalize, Houyet, Langemark-Poelkapelle, Léglise, Lierneux, Lo-Reninge, Manhay, Momignies, Ravels, Sainte-Ode, Sint-Laureins, Sivry-Rance, Stoumont, Tenneville, Vaux-sur-Sûre, Vleteren and Vresse-sur-Semois.

**Bulgaria:** All towns and cities according to the Territorial and Administrative-Territorial Division of the country.

**Czech Republic:** Localities with 3 000 or more inhabitants.

**Estonia:** Settlements where the majority of the population lives in areas with a population density of more than 200 people per km<sup>2</sup> and total settlement population is more than 5000 people.

**Faroe Islands:** Urban areas are areas with 2000 or more inhabitants since 2024.

**Finland:** Urban communes including those municipalities in which at least 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements or in which the population of the largest urban settlement is at least 15 000.

**France:** A commune or a group of communes with more than 2 000 inhabitants in a continuous building area (no more than 200 meters between two buildings).

**Greece:** Urban is considered every municipal or communal department of which the largest locality has 2 000 inhabitants and over.

**Hungary:** Localities recognized by the President of the Republic with the title of town, on the basis of specific (economic, commercial, institutional, cultural etc.) criteria.

**Iceland:** Localities of 200 or more inhabitants.

**Ireland:** Cities and towns including suburbs of 1 500 or more inhabitants.

**Latvia:** Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated by the Law on Administrative Territories and Populated Areas as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agricultural, or number of non-agricultural workers and their families.

**Liechtenstein:** Communes with 10 000 inhabitants or more.

**Lithuania:** Urban population refers to persons who live in cities and towns, i.e., the population areas with closely built permanent dwellings and with the resident population of more than 3 000 of which 2/3 of employees work in industry, social infrastructure and business. In a number of towns the population may be less than 3 000 since these areas had already the status of "town" before the law was enforced (July 1994).

**Malta:** Grid cells of 1 square km with a density of at least 300 inhabitants per square km and a minimum population of 5 000, and densely populated areas (i.e. areas with a density superior to 500 inhabitants per square km).

**Montenegro:** According to the current law of territorial division of Montenegro, which conveys to each local community the obligation to decide which settlements are urban and which are rural.

**Netherlands:** Urban: Municipalities with a population of 2 000 and more inhabitants. Semi-urban: Municipalities with a population of less than 2 000 but with not more than 20 per cent of their economically active male population engaged in agriculture, and specific residential municipalities of commuters.

**Norway:** A hub of buildings inhabited by at least 200 people and where the distance between the buildings does not exceed 50 metres. The boundaries are dynamic and may be changed due to developments and population changes.

**North Macedonia:** A city is a populated place that has more than 3000 inhabitants, has a developed industrial and social infrastructure, and over 51% of employees work outside the primary activities.

**Poland:** Urban areas are distinguished on the basis of the territorial division of the country using the identifiers of the National Register of Official Territorial Division of the Country (TERYT). Urban areas are areas within the administrative boundaries of cities, which include urban "gminas" and urban parts of urban-rural "gminas".

**Portugal:** Localities with 2 000 or more inhabitants.

**Republic of Moldova:** Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agricultural, or number of non-agricultural workers and their families.

**Romania:** Localities in which the majority of the resources are employed in non-agricultural activities with a diversified level of endowment, having a constant and significant socio-economic influence on the whole area.

**Russian Federation:** Cities and urban-type localities, officially designated as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agricultural, or number of non-agricultural workers and their families.

**Serbia:** Municipalities, cities and the city of Belgrade.

**Slovakia:** Urban areas are defined as areas of municipalities (LAU2) having the status of a town/city, which can be granted by the National Council of the Slovak Republic following a proposal by the government.

**Slovenia:** Urban areas are densely populated areas (cities) and intermediate density areas (towns and suburbs) as per the Degree of Urbanization (DEGURBA) classification<sup>2</sup>.

**Switzerland:** Agglomerations and isolated towns (towns not attached to a cluster with at least 10,000 inhabitants) are the urban space.

**Ukraine:** Cities and urban-type localities officially designated as such, usually according to the criteria of number of inhabitants and predominance of agricultural, or number of non-agricultural workers and their families.

**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:** For England and Wales, the built-up areas of 10 000 or more inhabitants; for Scotland, the settlements of 3 000 or more inhabitants; and for Northern Ireland, the settlements of 5 000 or more inhabitants.

## OCEANIA

**Australia:** Areas of concentrated urban development with populations of 200 people or more, primarily identified using objective dwelling and population density criteria using data from the 2016 Census.

**American Samoa:** Agglomerations of 2 500 or more inhabitants, generally having population densities of 1 000 persons per square mile or more. Two types of urban areas: urbanized areas of 50 000 or more inhabitants and urban clusters of at least 2 500 and less than 50 000 inhabitants. (As of Census 2000, no urbanized areas are identified in American Samoa.)

**Cook Islands:** Raratonga, the most populous island.

**Guam:** Agglomerations of 2 500 or more inhabitants, generally having population densities of 1 000 persons per square mile or more, referred to as "urban clusters".

**New Caledonia:** Nouméa and communes of Païta, Nouvel Dumbéa and Mont-Dore.

**New Zealand:** Urban areas are statistically defined areas with no administrative or legal basis. Urban areas are delineated using the following criteria: They (a) form a contiguous cluster of one or more Statistical Areas Level 2 as per the Statistical Standard for Geographical Areas 2019; (b) contain an estimated resident population of more than 1,000 people and usually have a population density of more than 400 residents or 200 address points per square kilometre; (c) have a high coverage of built physical structures and artificial landscapes; (d) have strong economic ties where people gather together to work, and for social, cultural, and recreational interaction; and (e) have planned development within the next 5–8 years.

**Northern Mariana Islands:** Agglomerations of 2 500 or more inhabitants, generally having population densities of 1 000 persons per square mile or more. Two types of urban areas: urbanized areas of 50 000 or more inhabitants and urban clusters of at least 2 500 and less than 50 000 inhabitants.

**Palau:** States with 2 500 inhabitants or more (the only state which satisfies this condition is Koror state).

**Samoa:** Only Apia Urban Area (AUA) region.

**Tokelau:** All of Tokelau's population is considered to be rural.

**Tonga:** Nuku'alofa.

**Vanuatu:** Luganville centre and Port Vila.

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## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For further information, see *Social and Demographic Statistics: Classifications of Size and Type of Locality and Urban/Rural Areas*. E/CN.3/551, United Nations, New York, 1980.

<sup>2</sup> For further information, see *Applying the Degree of Urbanization: a methodological manual to define cities, towns and rural areas for international comparisons 2021 edition*, prepared by the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Human Settlement Programme, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Bank, 2021