

Table 2

Table 2 presents the number of occupied housing units by type, urban/rural location and cities for the latest available year between 1995 and 2010.

Definitions

A *conventional dwelling* is a room or suite of rooms and its accessories in a permanent building or structurally separated part thereof which, by the way it has been built, rebuilt or converted, is intended for habitation by one household and is not used wholly for other purposes. It should have a separate access to a street (direct or via a garden or grounds) or to a common space within the building (staircase, passage, gallery and so on). Therefore, there are four essential features of a conventional dwelling:

- (a) It is a room or suite of rooms;
- (b) It is located in a permanent building;
- (c) It has separate access to a street or to a common space;
- (d) It was intended to be occupied by one household.

A *conventional dwelling that has all basic facilities* refers to a unit that meets all the needs of the household within its confines, such as protection from elements, cooking, maintaining hygiene and so forth. Thus, in addition to the four essential features of a conventional dwelling described in the paragraph above, all of the following facilities must be available for a dwelling to fall in this category:

- (a) Piped water within dwelling;
- (b) Toilet within dwelling;
- (c) Fixed bath or shower within dwelling;
- (d) Kitchen or other space for cooking within dwelling.

The conventional dwellings that do not have all basic facilities are dwellings that have the essential features of a conventional dwelling and some, but not all, of the basic facilities described in the paragraph above. Thus, it is a permanent structure or a part of a permanent structure, and will be a room or a suite of rooms in a permanent building, but it is without some or all of the conventional dwelling facilities such as kitchen, fixed bath or shower, piped water or toilet. In a number of countries or areas, a certain proportion of the housing inventory comprises such dwellings, which possess some but not all the basic facilities.

The term "*semi-permanent housing unit*" refers to a structure that, by the way it has been built, is not expected to maintain its durability for as long a period of time as a conventional dwelling, but has some of the main features and facilities of a conventional dwelling. As discussed earlier, durability needs to be specifically defined on the basis of national standards and practices. The number of these units in some countries and areas may be substantial. Semi-permanent housing is not to be confused with informal housing units.

A *mobile housing unit* is any type of living accommodation that has been produced to be transported (such as a tent) or is a moving unit (such as a ship, boat, barge, vessel, railroad car, caravan, trailer, yacht and so on) occupied as living quarters. Trailers and tents used as permanent living quarters are of special interest.

The term "*informal housing unit*" refers to those units that do not have many of the features of a conventional dwelling and are generally characterized as unfit for human habitation, but that are used for that purpose. Therefore, it is neither a permanent structure nor one equipped with any of the essential facilities. Depending on national circumstances, countries should develop detailed instructions to distinguish between informal and semi-temporary housing units.