Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Urban center Name
Attribute ID
GC_UCN_MAI_XXXX
Indicator Name
Urban center Main Name
Units
Dimensionless
Data Source
Open Street Maps GISCO WUP 2018
Indicator description
Name of the main city inside the urban center.
Methodology
The urban centres are named using an algorithm that automatically queries the GISCO, the full OpenStreetMap datasets and WUP 2018 (extended unpublished version, with point locations corrected through geocoding and reverse geocoding).
Methodology Short
Geoencoding
Temporal Coverage
2025
Uncertainties & Best practices

Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Urban center Name
Attribute ID
GC_UCN_LIS_XXXX
Indicator Name
Urban center List Name
Units
Dimensionless
Data Source
Open Street Maps GISCO WUP 2018
Indicator description
List of names of the all cities inside the urban center.
Methodology
The urban centres are named using an algorithm that automatically queries the GISCO, the full OpenStreetMap datasets and WUP 2018 (extended unpublished version, with point locations corrected through geocoding and reverse geocoding).
Methodology Short
Geoencoding
Temporal Coverage
2025
Uncertainties & Best practices

Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Country Name
Attribute ID
GC_CNT_GAD_XXXX
Indicator Name
Country Name
Units
Dimensionless
Data Source
GADM version 4.1, released on 16 July 2022 https://gadm.org/data.html
Indicator description
Country named based on GADM dataset
Methodology
Spatial join of the urban centers and the GADM country layer adapted for GHSL.
Methodology Short
Spatial Join
Temporal Coverage
2025
Uncertainties & Best practices

Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Country Name
Attribute ID
GC_CNT_UNN_XXXX
Indicator Name
Country Name
Units
Dimensionless
Data Source
World Population Prospects 2022 (WPP2022)
Indicator description
Country named based on WPP2022.
Methodology
Merging GADM countries according to WPP2022 notes.
Methodology Short
Spatial join
Temporal Coverage
2025
Uncertainties & Best practices

Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Area
Attribute ID
GC_UCA_KM2_XXXX
Indicator Name
Urban Centre Area
Units
Km^2
Data Source
Schiavina M., Melchiorri M., Pesaresi M. (2023): GHS-SMOD R2023A - GHS settlement layers, application of the Degree of Urbanisation methodology (stage I) to GHS-POP R2023A and GHS-BUILT-S R2023A, multitemporal (1975-2030). European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) PID: http://data.europa.eu/89h/a0df7a6f-49de-46ea-9bde-563437a6e2ba, doi:10.2905/A0DF7A6F-49DE-46EA-9BDE-563437A6E2BA
Indicator description
Urban Centre Area
Methodology
Calculate area (geometry) of the urban centre.
Methodology Short
Area
Temporal Coverage
2025
Uncertainties & Best practices

Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Population
Attribute ID
GC_POP_TOT_XXXX
Indicator Name
Total Population in the Urban Centre
Units
Number of inhabitants
Data Source
Schiavina M., Freire S., Carioli A., MacManus K. (2023): GHS-POP R2023A - GHS population grid multitemporal (1975-2030).European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) PID: http://data.europa.eu/89h/2ff68a52-5b5b-4a22-8f40-c41da8332cfe, doi:10.2905/2FF68A52-5B5B-4A22-8F40-C41DA8332CFE
Indicator description
Total population allocated inside of the UC in number of inhabitants.
Methodology
Zonal sum of the GHS-POP R2023A layer pixel values inside the urban centre.
Methodology Short
Zonal statistics (sum)
Temporal Coverage
2025
Uncertainties & Best practices

Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Development
Attribute ID
GC_DEV_WIG_XXXX
Indicator Name
World Bank Income Group
Units
Categorical
Data Source
The World Bank https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519
Indicator description
The World Bank income group classification provides a complete list of economies classified by income, region, and World Bank lending status. This table is updated to year 2022.
Methodology
Join by attribute (by country).
Methodology Short
Join by attribute
Temporal Coverage
2025
Uncertainties & Best practices

Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Development
Attribute ID
GC_DEV_USR_XXXX
Indicator Name
UN SDG Region
Units
Categorical
Data Source
UN https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/
Indicator description
Country grouping in geographic regions based on the 2016 Sustainable Development Goals Report and the progress reports on the Millennium Development Goals.
Methodology
Join by attribute (by country)
Methodology Short
Join by attribute
Temporal Coverage
2025
Uncertainties & Best practices

Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Plausibility
Attribute ID
GC_PLS_SCR_XXXX
Indicator Name
Plausibility
Units
Categorical
Data Source
Melchiorri Michele; Marí Rivero Inés, Florio Pietro, Uhl Johannes, Krasnodębska Katarzyna, Pesaresi Martino, Politis Pangliotis, Schiavina Marcello, Maffenini Luca, Tommasi Pierpaolo, Carioli Alessandra, Ehrlich Daniele, Crippa Monica, Guizzardi Diego, Pisoni Enrico, Bellis Claudio, Sulis Patrizia, Oom Duarte, Branco Alfredo, Kemper Thomas. Stats in the City – the GHSL Urban Centre Database 2025. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2024. ISBN 978-92-68-21609-5, doi: 10.2760/3046391, JRC139768
Indicator description
The score indicates the plausibility/quality of the modelled urban centre.
Methodology
A plausibility test model was developed using a data-driven decision ensemble methodology. This ensemble is supported by univariate linear regression, stratified by World Bank Income Group (WB Income Group) and by year. The predictors are the total sum per UC of modelled population grids and land use grids, which are independently produced with respect to the Global Human Settlement Population (GHS-POP R2023A) and the Global Human Settlement Model (GHS-SMOD R2023A)
Methodology Short
Data-driven decision
Temporal Coverage
2025
Uncertainties & Best practices

Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Urban centre birth
Attribute ID
GC_UCB_YOB _XXXX
Indicator Name
Year of Birth
Units
year
Data Source
Schiavina M., Melchiorri M., Pesaresi M. (2023): GHS-SMOD R2023A - GHS settlement layers, application of the Degree of Urbanisation methodology (stage I) to GHS-POP R2023A and GHS-BUILT-S R2023A, multitemporal (1975-2030). European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) PID: http://data.europa.eu/89h/a0df7a6f-49de-46ea-9bde-563437a6e2ba, doi:10.2905/A0DF7A6F-49DE-46EA-9BDE-563437A6E2BA European Commission, and Statistical Office of the European Union, 2021 Applying the Degree of Urbanisation — A methodological manual to define cities, towns and rural areas for international comparisons — 2021 edition. Publications Office of the European Union, 2021; ISBN 978-92-76-20306-3 10.2785/706535
Indicator description
Indicates the year in the multitemporal series GHS-SMOD R2023A, the cells reach the conditions to be classified as urban centre.
Methodology
The methodology to classify the urban centres is described in “Applying the Degree of Urbanisation — A methodological manual to define cities, towns and rural areas for international comparisons —“.
Methodology Short
Modelled
Temporal Coverage
1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030
Uncertainties & Best practices
The DEGURBA model considers data only from 1975 to 2030, cities born in 1975 should be considered as born in 1975 or earlier, and cities death in 2030 should be considered as death on 2030 or later

Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Urban centre death
Attribute ID
GC_UCB_YOD _XXXX
Indicator Name
Year of Death
Units
year
Data Source
Schiavina M., Melchiorri M., Pesaresi M. (2023): GHS-SMOD R2023A - GHS settlement layers, application of the Degree of Urbanisation methodology (stage I) to GHS-POP R2023A and GHS-BUILT-S R2023A, multitemporal (1975-2030). European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) PID: http://data.europa.eu/89h/a0df7a6f-49de-46ea-9bde-563437a6e2ba, doi:10.2905/A0DF7A6F-49DE-46EA-9BDE-563437A6E2BA European Commission, and Statistical Office of the European Union, 2021 Applying the Degree of Urbanisation — A methodological manual to define cities, towns and rural areas for international comparisons — 2021 edition. Publications Office of the European Union, 2021; ISBN 978-92-76-20306-3 10.2785/706535
Indicator description
Indicates weather an urban centre is projected to be a urban centre in 2030 or ‘dies’ (doesn’t reach the conditions to be a urban centre) in 2030.
Methodology
The methodology to classify the urban centres is described in “Applying the Degree of Urbanisation — A methodological manual to define cities, towns and rural areas for international comparisons —".
Methodology Short
Modelled
Temporal Coverage
2025, 2030
Uncertainties & Best practices
The DEGURBA model considers data only from 1975 to 2030, cities born in 1975 should be considered as born in 1975 or earlier, and cities death in 2030 should be considered as death on 2030 or later

Indicator thematic area
General Characteristics
Indicator group
Urban centre municipality
Attribute ID
GC_UCM_CAP_XXXX
Indicator Name
Capital city
Units
Boolean (yes/no)
Data Source
Wikipedia GoogleMaps
Indicator description
Indicates weather an urban centre is the capital city.
Methodology
Nation capitals are flagged by retrieving the information about name on Wikipedia.org and location with Geocoding on GoogleMaps. When information retrieved provide multiple capitals: (1) 'de jure' is preferred over 'de facto'; 'legislative' is preferred over others (e.g. 'royal', 'administrative', 'executive', etc.). Value 0 indicates no capital city and value 1 indicates Capital City)
Methodology Short
Geocoding
Temporal Coverage
2025
Uncertainties & Best practices