

Eurostat metadata		National metadata			
Reference metadata		National reference metadata			
1. Contact		National metadata produced by countries and released by Eurostat			
2. Metadata update		Belgium	Bulgaria	Germany	Estonia
3. Statistical presentation		Spain	France	Croatia	Italy
4. Unit of measure		Latvia	Lithuania	Hungary	Malta
5. Reference Period		Netherlands	Austria	Poland	Portugal
6. Institutional Mandate		Romania	Slovenia	Slovakia	Finland
7. Confidentiality		Sweden	Norway	Switzerland	United Kingdom
8. Release policy					
9. Frequency of dissemination					
10. Accessibility and clarity					
11. Quality management					
12. Relevance					
13. Accuracy					
14. Timeliness and punctuality					
15. Coherence and comparability					
16. Cost and Burden					
17. Data revision					
18. Statistical processing					
19. Comment					
Related metadata					
Annexes					
Footnotes					

For any question on data and metadata, please contact: [Eurostat user support](#)

[Download](#)

1.2. Contact organisation unit		E4: Regional statistics and geographical information																																											
1.5. Contact mail address		2920 Luxembourg LUXEMBOURG																																											
2. Metadata update			Top																																										
2.1. Metadata last certified		25/05/2022																																											
2.2. Metadata last posted		25/05/2022																																											
2.3. Metadata last update		25/05/2022																																											
3. Statistical presentation				Top																																									
3.1. Data description																																													
Data on European cities were collected in the Urban Audit and in the Large City Audit project. The projects' ultimate goal is to contribute towards the improvement of the quality of urban life: it supports the exchange of experience among European cities; it helps to identify best practices; it facilitates benchmarking at the European level and provides information on the dynamics within the cities and with their surroundings. At the city level, the Urban Audit contains more than 130 variables and more than 50 indicators. These indicators are derived from the variables collected by the European Statistical System. The data is published in 20 tables within 2 main groups, plus a perception survey table:																																													
<i>Cities and greater cities (urb_cgc)</i> Population on 1 January by age groups and sex - cities and greater cities (urb_cpopl) Population structure - cities and greater cities (urb_cpopstr) Population by citizenship and country of birth - cities and greater cities (urb_cpopecb) Fertility and mortality - cities and greater cities (urb_cfermor) Living conditions - cities and greater cities (urb_clivcon) Education - cities and greater cities (urb_educ) Culture and tourism - cities and greater cities (urb_ctour) Labour market - cities and greater cities (urb_clma) Economy and finance - cities and greater cities (urb_cecffi) Transport - cities and greater cities (urb_ctrans) Environment - cities and greater cities (urb_cenv) <i>Functional Urban Area (urb_fua)</i> Population on 1 January by age groups and sex - Functional Urban Area (urb_fpopl) Population structure - Functional Urban Area (urb_fpopstr) Population by citizenship and country of birth - Functional Urban Area (urb_fpopecb) Fertility and mortality - Functional Urban Area (urb_ffermor) Living conditions - Functional Urban Area (urb_flivcon) Education - Functional Urban Area (urb_feduc) Labour market - Functional Urban Area (urb_fllma) Transport - Functional Urban Area (urb_ftrans) Environment - Functional Urban Area (urb_fenv) <i>Perception survey results (urb_percept)</i> Data has been collected on two spatial levels in the Urban Audit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The City (C) according to the administrative definition, as the basic level,The Functional Urban Area (FUA) being an approximation of the functional urban zone centered around the city																																													
3.2. Classification system																																													
Specific classification and coding systems have been developed for the spatial units and for the variables and indicators.																																													
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Classification system for variables: A variable is the data collected by the national statistical offices of the countries. The variable data serves as the raw data for the calculation of the indicators. The variables serve as either the numerator or denominator of the indicator equation, depending on how this has been defined. Variables are labeled as follows: <table><tr><td>Variable</td><td>DE1040V - "Population on the 1st of January, 0-4 years, total"</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Domain code</td><td></td><td>DE</td></tr><tr><td>Number</td><td></td><td>DE1040</td></tr><tr><td>V (for variable)</td><td></td><td>DE1040V</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Classification system for indicators: Indicators are labeled in a similar way to variables, except that the names end with an I to identify them as indicators: <table><tr><td>Indicator</td><td>DE1040I - "Proportion of population aged 0-4 years"</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Domain code</td><td></td><td>DE</td></tr><tr><td>Number</td><td></td><td>DE1040</td></tr><tr><td>I (for indicator)</td><td></td><td>DE1040I</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Classification system for the spatial units <table><tr><td>CC</td><td>2-digit Country Code</td></tr><tr><td>xxx</td><td>3-digit city code</td></tr><tr><td>C, F</td><td>Version numbers for City (C) or FUA (F)</td></tr></table> <p>Example:</p> <table><tr><td>Spatial Unit</td><td>Code</td><td>Name</td></tr><tr><td>Country</td><td>BE</td><td>Belgium</td></tr><tr><td>FUA</td><td>BE001F</td><td>Brussels</td></tr><tr><td>City</td><td>BE001C</td><td>Brussels</td></tr></table>				Variable	DE1040V - "Population on the 1st of January, 0-4 years, total"		Domain code		DE	Number		DE1040	V (for variable)		DE1040V	Indicator	DE1040I - "Proportion of population aged 0-4 years"		Domain code		DE	Number		DE1040	I (for indicator)		DE1040I	CC	2-digit Country Code	xxx	3-digit city code	C, F	Version numbers for City (C) or FUA (F)	Spatial Unit	Code	Name	Country	BE	Belgium	FUA	BE001F	Brussels	City	BE001C	Brussels
Variable	DE1040V - "Population on the 1st of January, 0-4 years, total"																																												
Domain code		DE																																											
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C, F	Version numbers for City (C) or FUA (F)																																												
Spatial Unit	Code	Name																																											
Country	BE	Belgium																																											
FUA	BE001F	Brussels																																											
City	BE001C	Brussels																																											
3.3. Coverage - sector																																													
The indicators and variables cover several aspects of quality of life, e.g., demography, housing, health, economic activity, labour market, income disparity, educational qualifications, environment, climate, travel patterns, tourism and cultural infrastructure.																																													
3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions																																													
For most of the indicators, existing international standards have been followed as far as possible.																																													
3.5. Statistical unit																																													
Da is collected for cities. The OECD and the European Commission developed a new harmonised definition of a city and its commuting zone in 2011. This new OECD-EC definition identified almost 1000 cities with an urban centre of at least 50000 inhabitants.																																													
3.6. Statistical population																																													
For most variables the target statistical universe is the usual residents of a geographical area (city). For the detailed description of variables see the Methodological Manual on territorial typologies .																																													
3.7. Reference area																																													
EU Member States, UK, Iceland, Switzerland, Norway and Turkey are represented in the data collection.																																													
3.8. Coverage - Time																																													
Data are available starting with the reference year 1990.																																													
3.9. Base period																																													
Not applicable.																																													
4. Unit of measure				Top																																									
The unit of measurement varies from indicator to indicator; from variable to variable. In most cases the unit of measurement is included in the label.																																													
5. Reference Period				Top																																									
Not applicable.																																													
6. Institutional Mandate				Top																																									
6.1. Institutional Mandate - legal acts and other agreements																																													
All data supply of urban statistics is based on a voluntary agreement, as there is no Community legislation yet on this topic. The legal framework for the geo-spatial definitions is the TERCET Regulation .																																													
6.2. Institutional Mandate - data sharing																																													
Not applicable.																																													
7. Confidentiality				Top																																									
7.1. Confidentiality - policy																																													
Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics (recital 24 and Article 20(4)) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164), stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.																																													
7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment																																													
Not applicable.																																													
8. Release policy				Top																																									
8.1. Release calendar																																													
There is no fixed release calendar. Data are released as soon as they are received and validated.																																													
8.2. Release calendar access																																													
Not applicable.																																													
8.3. Release policy - user access																																													
In line with the Community legal framework and the European Statistics Code of Practice Eurostat disseminates European statistics on Eurostat's website respecting professional independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably. The detailed arrangements are governed by the Eurostat protocol on impartial access to Eurostat data for users .																																													
9. Frequency of dissemination				Top																																									
The database is updated continually, depending on the data availability of new and revised data.																																													
10. Accessibility and clarity				Top																																									
10.1. Dissemination format - News release																																													
There are ad-hoc news releases.																																													
10.2. Dissemination format - Publications																																													
Eurostat regional yearbook 2021 The Eighth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion Urban Europe - Statistics on cities, towns and suburbs (2016) The state of European Cities Report (2016)																																													
10.3. Dissemination format - online database																																													
Please consult free data on-line.																																													
10.4. Dissemination format - microdata access																																													
Not applicable.																																													
10.5. Dissemination format - other																																													
Please see the dedicated section on Eurostat's website:																																													
10.6. Documentation on methodology																																													
See: Methodological Manual on City statistics Methodological manual on territorial typologies																																													
10.7. Quality management - documentation																																													
Quality is assessed on a regular basis. The assessment is summarized in reports.																																													
11. Quality management				Top																																									
11.1. Quality assurance																																													
In order to assure a high data quality, existing validation procedures have been analysed and adapted to recent standards. A complete set of validation rules have been developed.																																													
11.2. Quality management - assessment																																													
Quality is assessed on a regular basis. The assessment is summarized in reports.																																													
12. Relevance				Top																																									
12.1. Relevance - User Needs																																													
User needs and stakeholder requirements are collected at several forums.																																													
12.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction																																													
User feedback is collected at several forums.																																													
12.3. Completeness																																													
Data availability differs from domain to domain.																																													
13. Accuracy				Top																																									
13.1. Accuracy - overall																																													
Not applicable.																																													
13.2. Sampling error																																													
Not applicable.																																													
13.3. Non-sampling error																																													
Not applicable.																																													
14. Timeliness and punctuality				Top																																									
14.1. Timeliness																																													
Depends on the domain and individual variable. As a general rule, timeliness is about 9 months.																																													
14.2. Punctuality																																													
In some cases a time lag between the actual delivery of the data and the target date when it should have been delivered occurs. There are no legal deadlines to deliver the data.																																													
15. Coherence and comparability				Top																																									
15.1. Comparability - geographical																																													
The legal framework (Teracet Regulation) ensures the geographical comparability (definition of spatial units). Due to the sometimes deviating definitions of variables and different data sources used the comparability of data could be limited to some extent.																																													
15.2. Comparability - over time																																													
From the 2011 data collection the comparability over time has improved due to the use of the new city definition.																																													
15.3. Coherence - cross domain																																													
Data collected at sub-national level is coherent with the data collected at national level to a limited extent due to the different data sources used.																																													
15.4. Coherence - internal																																													
Internal coherence (e.g. between spatial levels, between indicators like total, male, female population) is ensured through the application of multivariate and univariate validation controls.																																													
16. Cost and Burden				Top																																									
The data collection is based on administrative data so the main burden is on the Statistical Institutes.																																													
17. Data revision				Top																																									
17.1. Data revision - policy																																													
Not applicable.																																													
17.2. Data revision - practice																																													
In case of changes in the methodology used by the countries, data revisions might be sent to Eurostat.																																													
18. Statistical processing				Top																																									
18.1. Source data																																													
Data is collected by National (or Regional) Statistical Offices, by the cities or by other national or local authorities. In most cases, data has been obtained from censuses, different administrative and statistical registers, national and local databases in the individual cities and sample basis. In some cases, data has been obtained from a sample survey. Some variables have been estimated. Most indicators have been calculated by Eurostat. A small subset of variables are collected by other DGs and agencies (DG Regio, European Environment Agency) and are shared with Eurostat.																																													
Annexes: Variable list																																													
18.2. Frequency of data collection																																													
Data is collected annually, but many indicators are only available for census years.																																													
18.3. Data collection																																													
Data has been collected by the National Urban Audit Coordinators (NUACs), one in each country, on behalf of Eurostat. The NUACs have collected data from available sources in the national statistical office, other state agencies or ministries, from the cities concerned or from private sources. Some data has been estimated by the NUACs.																																													
18.4. Data validation																																													
For a complete description of the data validation see annex. Different data checks are done before publication: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Type check: Data fields designed for numbers can only accept numbers.Length check: Data fields contain allowed length of data, e.g. country code is 2 characters.Presence check: Controls that all data fields are present.Uniqueness checks: Controls that certain fields do not take duplicate values.Code list check: Only defined variables and geographical codes are accepted.Consistency checks: Values of related variables must be consistent.Range check: Values should be within a defined range.Balance check: Sum of values for subgroups should be equal to the total, e.g. male + female = totalSpatial level control check: Comparison of geographical aggregates at different levels, e.g. value for FUA should be higher than value for the City.Time series check: Finds unusual evolution over time.																																													
Annexes: Validation rules																																													
18.5. Data compilation																																													
National Statistical Offices compile the data (variables). The indicator calculation is done by Eurostat and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Calculation of ratios - example: Demographic dependency																																													
The list of indicators and the calculation is included in the annex.																																													
Annexes: Indicator list																																													
18.6. Adjustment																																													
Not applicable. No adjustments are implemented.																																													
19. Comment				Top																																									
To facilitate understanding of the data, the flags that are used in the metadata are shown below. Restrictions concerning the data: B Break in time series C Confidential data D Definition differs, see metadata E Estimated F Forecast P Provisional data U Low reliability																																													
Related metadata				Top																																									
</																																													