



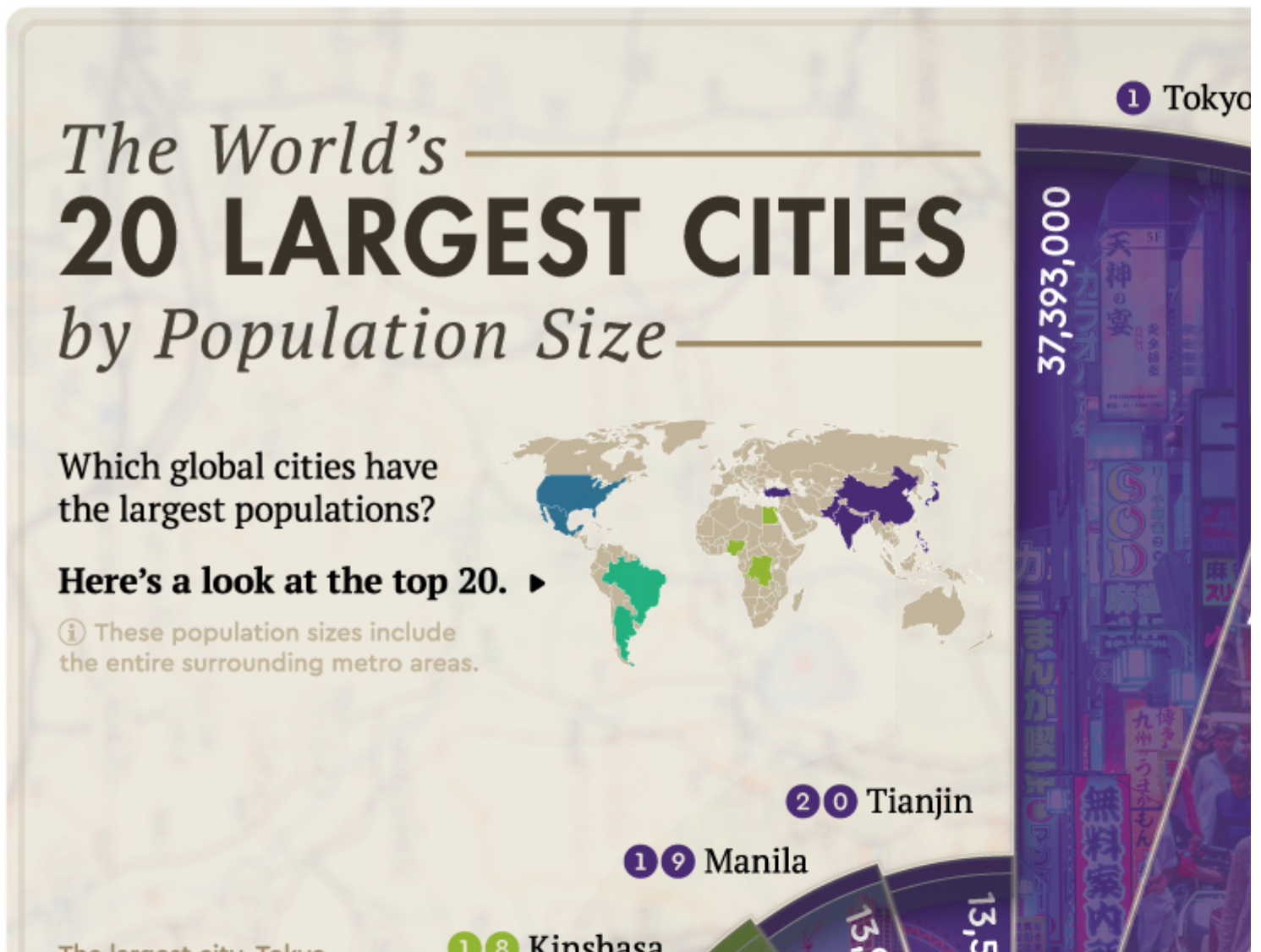
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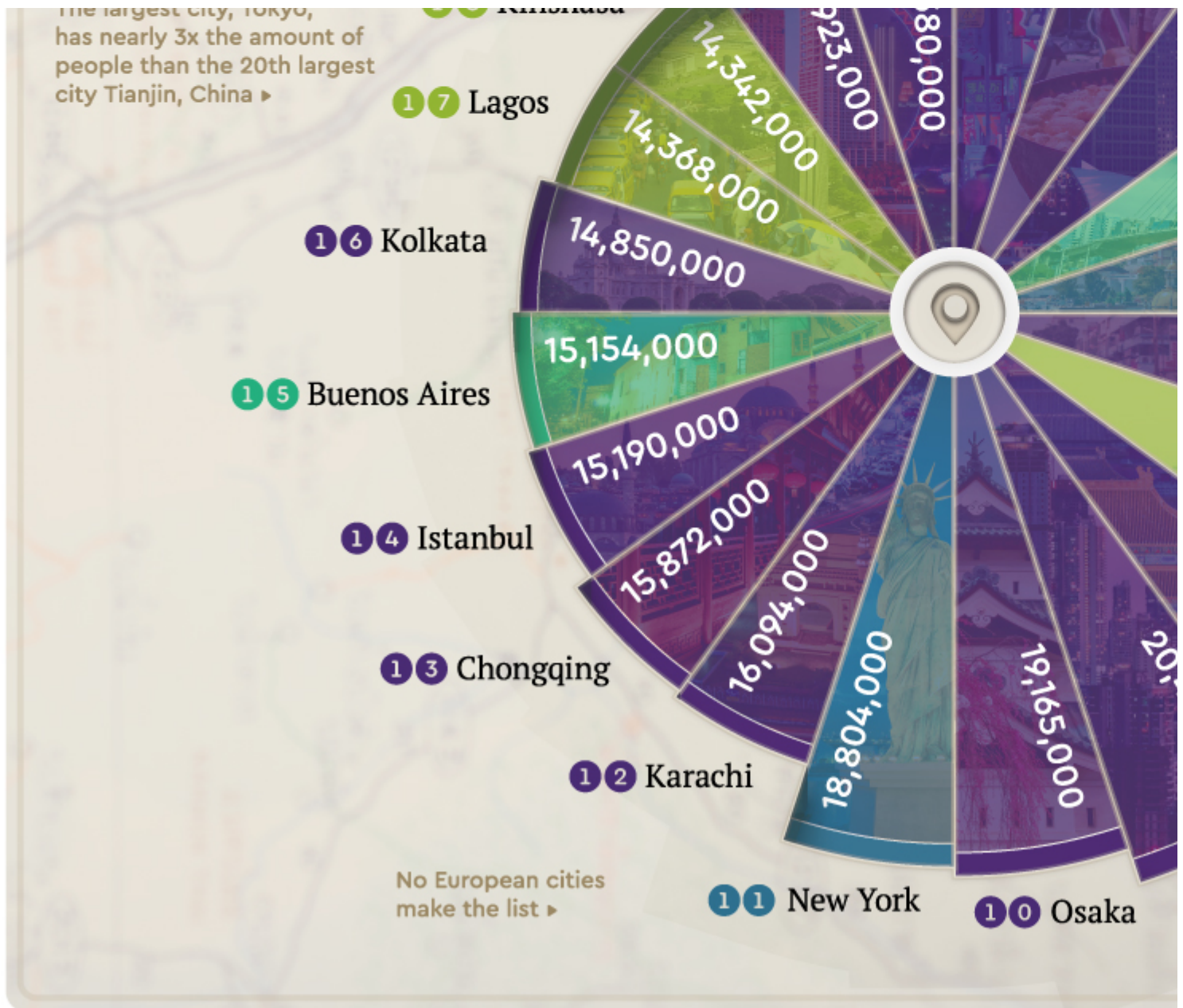
# Ranked: The Most Populous C



Published 8 months ago on January 19, 2021

By **Avery Koop**





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## Ranked: The Most Populous Cities in the World

More than half of the world's population currently lives in cities—and as time goes on, it that more urban dwellers will find themselves living in *megacities*.

Megacities are defined as urban areas with a population of more than 10 million people. means that the world's top 20 most populous cities are all megacities.






This visualization, using data from [Macrotrends](#), shows the 20 most populous cities in the

## Rapid Urbanization

Today, more than 80% of people in higher income countries find themselves living in urban areas, and in upper-middle income countries the number lies between [50-80%](#).

Rural-to-urban migration is an increasingly [relevant trend](#) in the 21st century. Prospects for job opportunities and higher wages, along with shifts from agrarian to industrial and service-based economies, are causing mass movement to cities.

How much have the world's five most populous cities grown in just the last decade?

Rank	City	2010 Population	2020 Population	Percentage Change
#1	 Tokyo	36,834,000	37,393,000	+1.5%
#2	 Delhi	21,935,000	30,291,000	+38.1%
#3	 Shanghai	19,980,000	27,058,000	+35.4%
#4	 São Paulo	19,660,000	22,043,000	+12.1%
#5	 Mexico City	20,132,000	21,782,000	+8.2%

While Tokyo only gained 559,000 people between 2010 and 2020, Delhi gained over **8 million** people in the same time frame.

Shanghai grew by over **7 million** people. Meanwhile, São Paulo grew by more than **2 million** people. Mexico City gained just over **1.6 million** people.

Interestingly, Mexico City placed third on the top largest cities list in 2010, but has since experienced slower growth compared to its competitors, Shanghai and São Paulo.

## The Most Populous Cities Today

While Tokyo is the world's most populous city with **37,393,000** people, this number is leveling off due to declining birth rates and an [aging population](#).

Indian and Chinese cities, on the other hand, will continue to grow rapidly in the coming fact, it's expected that Delhi's population could surpass Tokyo's by 2028.

Here's a closer look at the top 20 most populous cities.

Rank	City	Population
11	 New York City	18,804,000
12	 Karachi	16,094,000
13	 Chongqing	15,872,000
14	 Istanbul	15,190,000
15	 Buenos Aires	15,154,000
16	 Kolkata	14,850,000
17	 Lagos	14,368,000
18	 Kinshasa	14,342,000
19	 Manila	13,923,000
20	 Tianjin	13,580,000

Showing 11 to 20 of 20 entries

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By 2035, two new cities are expected to crack the top 20 list. Specifically, it's projected that Bangalore (India) and Lahore (Pakistan) will boot out Tianjin and Buenos Aires. In addition, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Chennai are all expected to meet the megacity definition by 2035.

Urban growth will continue mainly in Asia and Africa, as some cities in regions such as Europe actually begin to shrink in population due to aging citizens and declining birth rates. Since 2010, deaths in the EU have actually been outpacing births—and in 2019, there were 4.7 million deaths compared to 4.2 million births, though net migration kept population numbers from falling.

## Life in the City

While there are certainly downsides to mass urbanization, like pollution and overcrowding, the upsides clearly outweigh the negatives for most people. Convenience, better jobs, easier access to social services, and higher wages are among the many reasons people are likely to continue to move to cities, even in the post-COVID era.



With the emergence of smart and green cities, the quality of life for many urban dwellers likely continue to improve, and more large urban areas will morph into megacities.

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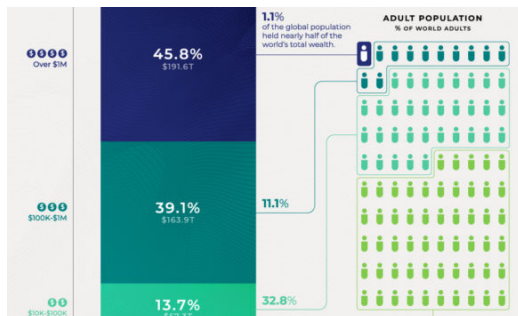
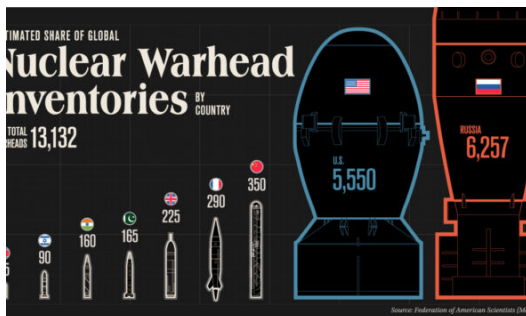
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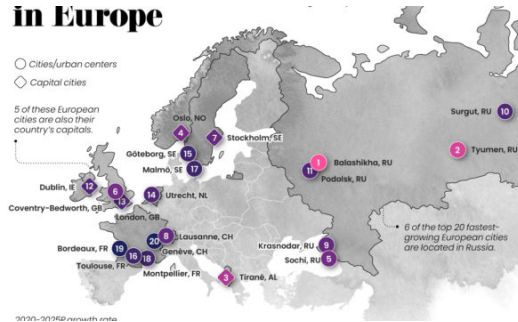
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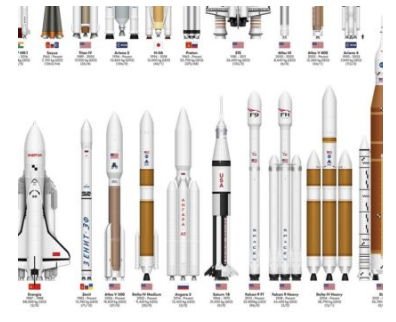
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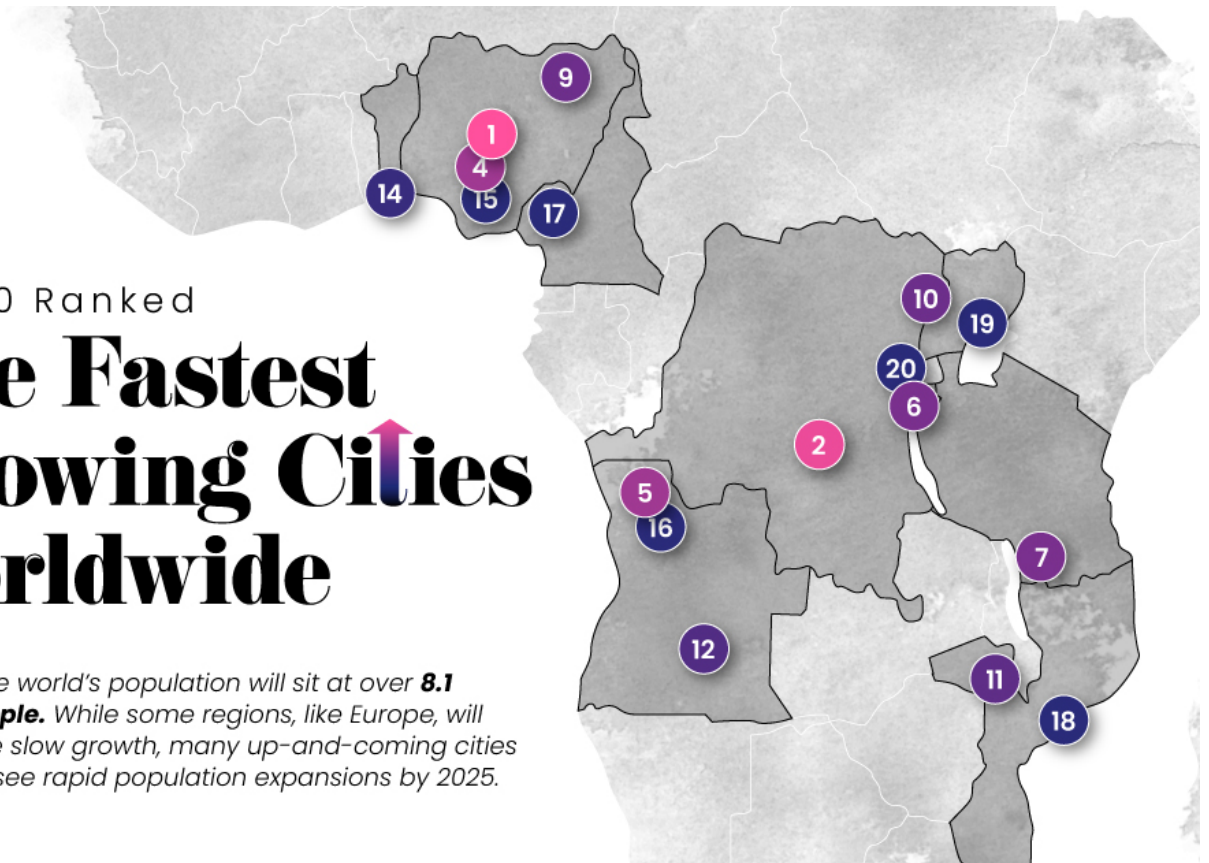
By **Avery Koop**



Top 20 Ranked

## The Fastest Growing Cities Worldwide

By 2025 the world's population will sit at over **8.1 billion people**. While some regions, like Europe, will experience slow growth, many up-and-coming cities are set to see rapid population expansions by 2025.



## Ranked: The World's Fastest Growing Cities

By 2025, the world's population will reach over **8.1 billion** people.

Most of that population growth will be concentrated in cities across Africa and Asia. To help paint a detailed picture, this map uses data from the [United Nations](#) to rank the 20 fastest growing cities in the world in terms of average annual growth rate from 2020 to 2025.

# Full Speed Ahead

The majority of the world's fastest growing cities are located in Africa—in fact, 17 of 20 are located on the continent, with four of the 20 cities being located in Nigeria specifically.

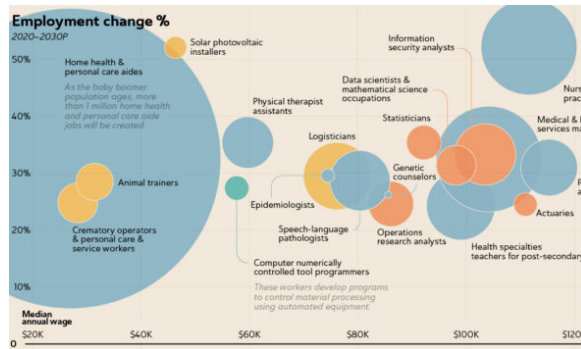
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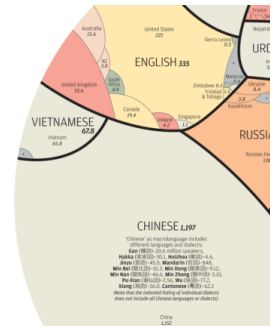
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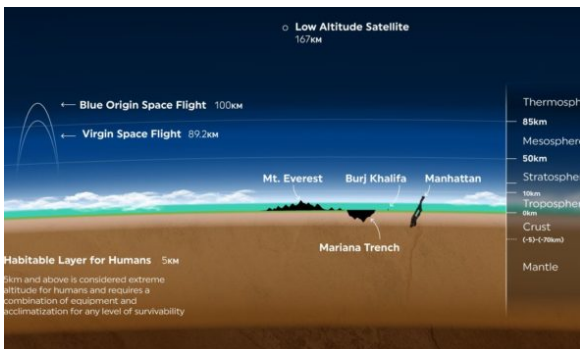
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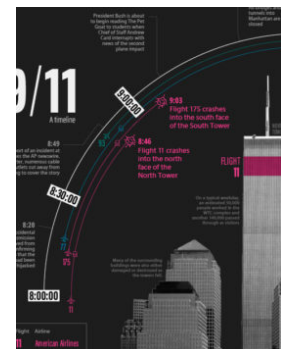
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






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