City statistics (urb)
Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)
Compiling agency: Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union

Eurostat metadata	National metadata
Reference metadata 1. Contact 2. Metadata update 3. Statistical presentation 4. Unit of measure 5. Reference Period 6. Institutional Mandate 7. Confidentiality 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 (including footnotes)	**National reference metadata** National metadata produced by countries and released by Eurostat Belgium — Bulgaria Germany — Estonia Spain — France Croatia — Italy Latvia — Lithuania Hungary — Malta Austria — Poland Portugal — Romania Slovenia — Slovakia Finland — Sweden United Kingdom — Norway Switzerland

For any question on data and metadata, please contact: EUROPEAN STATISTICAL DATA SUPPORT   Download

1. Contact   Top

1.1. Contact organisation	Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union
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	26/03/2019
2.2. Metadata last posted	26/03/2019
2.3. Metadata last update	26/03/2019

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 170 variables and more than 60 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:

Cities and greater cities (urb_cgc)
Population on 1 January by age groups and sex - cities and greater cities (urb_cpop1)
Population structure - cities and greater cities (urb_cpopstr)
Population by citizenship and country of birth - cities and greater cities (urb_cpopcb)
Fertility and mortality - cities and greater cities (urb_cfermor)
Living conditions - cities and greater cities (urb_clivcon)
Education - cities and greater cities (urb_ceduc)
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_cecfi)
Transport - cities and greater cities (urb_ctran)
Environment - cities and greater cities (urb_cenv)
Functional Urban Area (urb_luz)
Population on 1 January by age groups and sex - Functional Urban Area (urb_lpop1)
Population structure - Functional Urban Area (urb_lpopstr)
Population by citizenship and country of birth - Functional Urban Area (urb_lpopcb)
Fertility and mortality - Functional Urban Area (urb_lfermor)
Living conditions - Functional Urban Area (urb_llivcon)
Education - Functional Urban Area (urb_leduc)
Labour market - Functional Urban Area (urb_llma)
Transport - Functional Urban Area (urb_ltran)
Environment - Functional Urban Area (urb_lenv)
Perception survey results (urb_percep)

Data has been collected on three spatial levels in the Urban Audit:

- 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, and
- In some cases, the urban centre stretches far beyond its boundaries. To better capture the entire urban centre, a 'greater city' level (K), has been created. This level was created for some capitals and several other large cities.

3.2. Classification system

Specific classification and coding systems have been developed for the spatial units and for the variables and indicators.

- **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:

Variable **DE1040V** - "Population on the 1st of January, 0-4 years, total"	
Domain code	DE
Number	DE1040
V (for variable)	DE1040V

- **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:

Indicator **DE1040I** - "Proportion of population aged 0-4 years"	
Domain code	DE
Number	DE1040

I (for indicator)	DE1040I

- **Classification system for the spatial units**

CC	2-digit Country Code
xxx	3-digit city code The Greater city and the FUA have the same number as the corresponding city.
a, b, c, d	Version numbers for FUA, Greater City or City (due to changes in the geographical boundary) These version numbers are in use since 2012 and reflect the cases where more than 1% population change occurred due to boundary change.

Example:

Spatial Unit	Code	Name
Country	**BE**	Belgium
FUA	BE**001L2**	Brussels
City	BE**001C1**	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, 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

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

Not applicable.

6. Institutional Mandate

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 2018](#) [The Seventh 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 Eurosta's website:
10.6. Documentation on methodology
See: [Methodological Manual on City statistics](#) [Mehodological 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

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

13.1. Accuracy - overall

Not applicable.

13.2. Sampling error

Not applicable.

13.3. Non-sampling error

Not applicable.

14. Timeliness and punctuality

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

15.1. Comparability - geographical

The legal framework (Tercet 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

The data collection is based on administrative data so the main burden is on the Statistical Institutes.

17. Data revision

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:

- 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 = total
- Spatial 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:

- 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 reliabilty

Related metadata

Annexes

Indicator list
Validation rules
Variable list
List of cities 2018