



State of the World's Cities: Trends in Middle East & North Africa *Urbanization & Metropolitanization*

- The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is a relative late comer in the global urban transition – but it is now rapidly making up. The region's 25 largest cities have an average annual urban growth forecast of 2.7 per cent between 2000 and 2010. Whereas Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar were already 80 per cent urban in the 1970s, the region's lesser urbanized nations all have recently experienced sharp urban population increases – a trend that is expected to continue during the coming years.
- In 2015, Egypt, Sudan and Yemen will be the sole MENA nations less than 50 per cent urbanized. Around 2030, nine MENA countries will be more than 90 per cent urban: Bahrain (95.8 per cent), Israel (94.5 per cent), Kuwait (98.4 per cent), Lebanon (93.9 per cent), Libya (92.0 per cent), Oman (95.2 per cent), Qatar (95.9 per cent), Saudi Arabia (92.6 per cent) and the United Arab Emirates (93.3 per cent) All MENA nations face the challenges of rapid urbanization.
- In 2000, the MENA region had 16 cities of over 1 million inhabitants, with only Cairo, Istanbul and Tehran exceeding 5 million. In 2005, there will be 19 cities of over 1 million, 3 of over 5 million and 1 of over 10 million. By 2010, there will be a minimum of 24 cities of over 1 million within the region. It is forecast that by 2015, six cities will be larger than 5 million, with Cairo and Istanbul both exceeding 11 million. Tehran and Baghdad will remain the third and fourth largest cities, with 6.9 and 4.8 million
- **The 'oil urbanization processes'** of the Gulf States started during the 1950s and caused a massive transformation in the urban landscapes, especially so in Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait City, Mecca and Riyadh. Increased oil revenues during the early 1970s allowed for ambitious economic development plans and rapid urbanization. Whereas in the early 1970s about 26 per cent of the Gulf States' population lived in urban centres, it was 73 per cent by 1990.
- Mecca, Riyadh and Jeddah metropolitan areas have expanded into urban agglomerations of 1.3, 5 and 3.2 million inhabitants, respectively.
- The population of MENA's largest agglomeration, the Cairo metropolitan area, has increased from 2.4 million in 1965 to about 10 million today and is predicted to reach 11.5 million by 2015. Population densities within the city are some of the highest in the world and the urban area is now more than 400 square kilometres in extent. Cairo's development into a metropolitan region is largely the result of its location along the Nile River.
- Although Cairo and Alexandria are about 200 kilometres apart, the spread of low-density residential developments south of Alexandria and north of Cairo is well underway. The merging of both cities into a single and huge Nile Delta metropolis is a very real possibility.
- Istanbul, as Turkey's largest city and commercial capital, has for decades been the destination of a continuous national migration process. Istanbul's annual urbanization rates since 1950 have persistently exceeded 3 per cent, with a peak of 5.12 per cent annually during the 1970–1975 period, making Istanbul Europe's most rapidly growing city. Today, its population exceeds 8 million.

Migration

- The MENA region hosts about 21 million migrants or 6.1 per cent of the region's total population. However, migratory patterns are quite different in each sub-regional area. In the Gulf states, the percentage of migrants is higher (more than 50 per cent of the population), and in some countries international migrants constitute 80 to 90 per cent of the labour force.

Migration

- The advanced economies (AE) have the largest number of international migrants, about 77 million, or 9 per cent of the total population. Northern America (Canada and the US) has the largest number of migrants at 41 million, and Oceania (Australia and New Zealand) has the largest percentage (24 per cent of the total population).
- Europe stands in the middle, with 28 million international migrants, or 9 per cent of its total population. In Europe, migrants are concentrated in Germany (7 million), France (6 million) and the UK (4 million), even though the country with the highest percentage of immigrants is Switzerland (25 per cent of its total population).
- Cities receive the majority of flows of international migrants, particularly the main European capitals. For example, the proportion of foreigners in the total population is almost 27 per cent in the London area and 26 per cent in the Brussels area, 14.5 per cent in Stuttgart and almost 17 per cent in Vienna. And this percentage is at least double the national average in the Paris area (13.9 per cent) and Madrid (5.7 per cent).
- The Greater London Metropolitan Area accounts for almost half of the country's foreign population, whereas its demographic weight does not exceed 13 per cent. With the increase of international migration, major urban centres such as London, Paris, Frankfurt and Berlin have become multicultural metropolises; but ethnic diversity is also significant in some other cities.
- Northern America is a traditional destination of international migration and has the highest number of migrants in the world: about 40 million, or 15 per cent of the total population. Each year, Canada and the US receive legal as well as undocumented and illegal migrants, mainly from Central and Latin America (more than 50 per cent) and Asia, who have replaced the previous European migrants. They are primarily concentrated in large cities such as New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Toronto and Vancouver.
- About 93 per cent of the foreigners born in the US live in cities, compared with only 73 per cent of the native born. International migration often sustains cities' population growth. For example, while more than 1.2 million people left Los Angeles County during the first half of the 1990s, immigration and the high birth rate associated with migrants resulted in a net gain of more than 960,000 people.
- 40 per cent of the residents of Los Angeles County are Hispanic, primarily Mexican; Dade County in Miami is home to the majority of Cuban immigrants in the US; most Dominicans and half of the Russian immigrants have settled in New York; while Chinese immigrants are concentrated in Vancouver and San Francisco's Chinatowns, as well as in New York City's Lower East Side. In addition, some foreign migrants are settling directly in smaller towns across the heartland of the US, especially where there are better employment opportunities.
- In Japan, international migration is encouraged by the decline in fertility rates and the appearance of socio-demographic disparities, as the national population is becoming older and as local people now generally refuse low-level employment requiring unskilled labour. The percentage of foreigners is low (1.3 per cent, or 1.6 million individuals), and urban international immigration is a relatively new phenomenon, considering that until the 1960s, Tokyo was largely a destination of Japanese rural-urban migrants. It was only during the late 1980s that significant immigration from other Asian countries started.
- In Stuttgart, where 24 per cent of the 565,700 inhabitants are foreigners, priority is given to inclusive policies. The participation of migrants in municipal affairs has a long tradition, and since 1983, the Aliens Committee of the Municipal Council (an institutional body of the Municipality of Stuttgart representing aliens) has, since its creation, made important proposals to promote understanding between the various groups within the population.
- Like many other cities in Germany, Berlin faces the problems associated with a growing immigrant population. More than 500,000 out of 3.4 million people living in the capital today do not speak German as their native tongue, and in 2010 they will be over 630,000. Berlin is the largest Turkish city outside Turkey, with more than 180,000 people of Turkish origin. Since 1981, a commissioner for migration and integration has been in charge of some key functions, including formulating policies and addressing questions concerning migration and integration issues in Berlin and providing information to all residents and campaigning for and publicly promoting integration, tolerance and intercultural dialogue.

- A similar experience is occurring in Birmingham, where, since 1990, foreign communities can rely on the Standing Consultative Forum, which enables them to be consulted and engaged as recognized city actors by the municipality. In many other cities, immigrants' issues are inserted in broader policy frameworks, involving social marginality, as a whole, or international communities, in particular.
- **The importance of remittances:** The phenomenon of migrant workers sending money home is not new. What is new is the scale and importance to developing countries and their increasing visibility in higher income country (HIC) societies, particularly within cities. The effect on some smaller and poor countries is remarkable, where the impact of remittances on gross domestic product (GDP) ranges from 10 to 30 per cent.
 - **The Bangladeshi curry house bosses** Curry house owners have channelled thousands of UK pounds into building schools in needy areas. Shahid Abul Kalam, who runs the Raj Boy Restaurant on London's Commercial Road, funded the refurbishment and extension of a 900-pupil secondary school in his parent's home village of Gohorpur, in Bangladesh. He raised UKE16,000 and went back at the beginning of this year to see the works commence. 'Almost everyone in the British Bangladeshi community does this. Interestingly, it has moved on from sending money to families, to funding useful social projects', says Murad Qureishi of the British Bangladeshi Professional Association.
 - **The nanny from the Philippines** What may seem an unconventional marriage is, in fact, a relationship that provides vital aid for a community. Elli, 34, is from a rice-growing village in the Philippines. For years she had a pen-friend relationship with a London musician who earns money as a builder. They married after he flew out to meet her. In London, Elli is a live-in nanny earning around UKE300 per week, seeing her husband at weekends. The husband does not drink or smoke and they live cheaply. Some of their money is saved to buy a home; the rest is spent on 'foreign aid': 'My village suffers; they get very little from the government. Some of my family live in Canada; we all help.'
 - **The waitress from Bogota** Martina, 29, is bending the rules. She comes from Bogota, Colombia, and has been in London for two years on a student visa. Her progress is monitored by the Home Office, but what they do not know is that Martina works illegally, getting up at 4.30 am four days a week to serve breakfast in a hotel. She earns about UKE160 a week, pays no rent or bills, and sends more than UKE100 each month to her mother, who has just bought a small farm outside Bogota. Her mother borrowed from the bank and needs to pay the debt off quickly. Colombia is one of the most violent places in the world and Martina has no immediate plans to return.

Poverty & Slums

- The number of homeless people in Western Europe is at its highest level in 50 years, with homelessness levels not seen since the end of World War II. An estimated 3 million West Europeans were believed to be homeless during the winter of 2003.
- In the US, about 3.5 million people are homeless, including 0.9 to 1.4 million children. In Canada, the number of homeless people has steadily increased to a level now far beyond anything seen one generation ago. The total estimated homeless population of Western Europe and the US combined is equivalent to the entire population of Denmark.
- Poverty has escalated throughout the EU during the last three decades. This is particularly significant with respect to child poverty. In the UK, the most extreme of the reported scenarios, the number of poor children has more than tripled in less than two decades. In the US, Germany, Spain and Ireland, child poverty rates of 8 to 25 per cent were recorded during the 1990s. Today, about 15 per cent of the EU citizens are at risk of poverty.
- There has been a persistent level of unemployment in many European nations during the last decade or so, in spite of their virtually stagnant populations. However, more recently, unemployment has slightly decreased in some of the European Union countries. Meanwhile, in Northern America, unemployment increased from 4.8 per cent in 2001 to 5.6 per cent in 2002 in the US and from 7.2 per cent to 7.6 per cent over the same period in Canada.
- A new facet of homelessness is the rise of short-term homelessness, as opposed to chronic homelessness. Beside the more visible *rough sleepers*, camping in caravans, cars or *squats*, or sleeping on the spare beds or sofas of friends and relatives, are now the most common conditions of the 'new' homeless.

- According to the report *Out of Sight, Out of Mind?* domestic violence is the main cause of homelessness among women in England. A report by the charity Crisis found that 63 per cent of homeless women aged between 30 and 49 said domestic abuse was the key reason they had lost their homes. Over half of these women had slept rough, the majority on more than one occasion – despite the fact that this made them vulnerable to rape and abuse.
- One out of four people living with HIV in New York City is homeless or marginally housed. A Los Angeles study found that two-thirds of people with AIDS had been homeless. Depending upon who is counting and where, HIV infection rates in homeless communities run from 8.5 per cent to as high as 19.5 per cent in the US. People with HIV/AIDS are more likely to become homeless as their incomes are drained by the costs of healthcare.

Crime & Safety

- The 2000 International Crime Victim Survey generally suggests that crime in North America and Western Europe rose between 1988 and 1991, stabilized or fell in 1995, then decreased further in 1999 in many industrialized European countries. However, crime levels in the US and Canada are now lower than they were in 1988. Meanwhile, in England and Wales, Finland and The Netherlands, crime levels are still higher than they were in 1988.
- Changes in violent crime were variable on both sides of the Atlantic. Risk of being a victim of crime was 60 per cent higher in most urban areas, compared to the least urbanized areas. Crime rates in Northern America have generally been decreasing during recent years largely due to demographic changes in Canada and the US, including an aging population and fewer youth aged 15 to 25, who tend to be the age group most often involved in offending. Other possible explanations are more community-policing and crime-prevention initiatives reducing crime before it happens, or, alternately, more aggressive 'get tough' law enforcement that may deter offenders.
- Domestic burglary fell by 15 per cent, on average, in EU countries between 1996 and 2000, although it soared by 33 per cent in Japan during this same period. According to the 2000 ICVS, Australia (7 per cent), England and Wales (5 per cent), Canada, Denmark and Belgium (all 4 per cent) had the highest rate of burglary or attempted burglary.
- According to crimes recorded by the police, violent crime rose by 14 per cent in the EU and by 15 per cent in England and Wales between 1996 and 2000. The largest increases in violent crime were in Spain (38 per cent), France (36), The Netherlands (35), Portugal (28), Italy (20), Denmark (17) and England and Wales (15). Japan had an extremely high increase of 72 per cent in violent crime.
- The US ranks third in the incidence rate for 'very serious' crime among the 16 developed nations surveyed by the 1998 ICVS, behind England and Wales and Australia. The US is followed by Sweden, The Netherlands and Canada. The lowest incidences of very serious crime were in Portugal, Denmark, Japan and, finally, Finland.
- Contact crime was found to be highest in Australia, England and Wales, Canada, Scotland and Finland (over 3 per cent were victims in all of these countries). While Japan usually has low rates for almost all types of crime (40 per cent of all crime involved theft of bicycles, mopeds or motorbikes), Japan had an especially low rate of contact crime (0.4 per cent). Risk of assaults and threats was highest in Australia, Scotland, England and Wales (all about 6 per cent) and Canada (5 per cent).
- In considering violent crime and serious assaults, the US was one of the few countries where murder rate decreased between 1990 and 2000. However, despite the rate being less than in 1990, the US still had the highest number of rapes reported in 2000 (32 cases reported per 100,000 population) compared to the other UNECE member countries.
- New approaches to policing, such as community or problem-oriented policing, require attitudinal and institutional change on the part of the police and citizens. There has been a move towards trying to address the root causes of crime in order to stop it before it starts. Rather than trying to tackle crime and insecurity

Transparency & Governance

- The Transparency International index of perceived corruption for 2003 generally has the advanced economies in the first 25 to 30 positions, with a couple of exceptions, which are slightly lower. There are a number of reasons for this generally good performance: the presence of an effective civil society, related to the importance attached to it at all levels of society and government, and the greater availability of resources to promote transparency and target corruption. While it is not clear that there is less corruption in these countries, in absolute terms, it is evident that there is, usually, vigorous enforcement of laws against it.

TABLE 5.7 Reported homelessness in the advanced economies

| Country | Latest homeless figures | Year |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| Australia | 147,000 (homeless service users) | 1996–1997 |
| Austria | 21,000 (homeless service users) | 1998 |
| Belgium | 18,880 people | 1998–1999 |
| Canada | 35,000–40,000 | 2000 |
| Denmark | 7365 people | 2000 |
| Finland | 10,000 people | 2001 |
| France | 201,000 people | 2001 |
| Germany | 500,000 people | 2000 |
| Greece | 10,000 people | 2002 |
| Ireland | 5234 households | 1999 |
| Italy | 17,000 people | 2000 |
| Luxembourg | 362 women, 365 children | 2000 |
| Netherlands | 26,175 people? | 2002 |
| Portugal | 1300 people? in Lisbon/ 1000 people? in Porto | 2000 |
| Sweden | 8440 | 1999 |
| UK | England: 11,3590 priority need people/ Scotland: 34,640/Wales: 4171 | 2000–2001 |
| US | about 3.5 million people (1.35 million children) | 2000 |

Note: These figures should be interpreted with caution, as they are based on different national definitions. As such, they cannot be used for international comparison.

Source: Various European data assembled by the PEANTSA, 2002; Urban Institute, 2000 (US).

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