



Urban audit

Compiling agency: Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union

Eurostat metadata

Reference metadata

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For any question on data and metadata, please contact: [EUROPEAN STATISTICAL DATA SUPPORT](#)

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1.1. Contact organisation	Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union
1.2. Contact organisation unit	Unit E4: Regional statistics and geographical information
1.5. Contact mail address	2920 Luxembourg LUXEMBOURG

2. Metadata update [Top](#)

2.1. Metadata last certified	09 June 2010
2.2. Metadata last posted	09 June 2010
2.3. Metadata last update	09 June 2010

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.

Due to the sometimes deviating definitions and different data sources used the comparability of data is limited to some extent. Detailed information is available from the [Urban Audit Reference Guide - Data 2003-2004](#) or upon request. See contact.

The extent of what we can learn from the European comparison of cities is limited by the lack of a fully comparable definition of cities. Although most countries have adopted a definition, these vary from one to another. In the Urban Audit the cities are defined according to the administrative and according to the functional definition.

The administrative approach is used in defining core cities. This city definition is based on the legal or administrative status of municipalities or equivalent entity.

The functional approach is used to define Larger Urban Zones. LUZs define cities on the basis of daily commuting flows between one or more core areas and the surrounding territories.

The LUZ approximate as much as possible the functional urban region taking into account the commuting of the work force into the core city. The LUZ are built as follows:

- 1. The *building blocks* for the LUZ are the Local Area Units (i.e. communes). However, not always data is available for the LAUs and in some cases NUTS level 3 regions were used as building blocks.
- 2. The *commuting rate* is calculated as the share of the out commuters of the working population. The commuting rate threshold for including or excluding areas of the hinterland in the LUZ is set between 10-20%.
- 3. Criteria of spatial contiguity helped in adjusting the definition of the LUZ although some exception was made.

The definition of the LUZ is then adjusted taking into account the requirement of spatial contiguity. Moreover, it should be underlined that the boundaries of all LUZ were developed in close cooperation with national experts of the country concerned. This approach assures that realistic choices were made, paying attention to the view of experts who know the city in question very well.

16.2. Comparability - over time

For the cities included into the data collection after 2004 no data for 1991 and 1996 were collected. For 1991 to 1996 (historical data) only a subset of the indicators are available.

17. Coherence

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17.1. 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.

17.2. Coherence - internal

Internal coherence (e.g. between spatial levels, between indicators like total, male, female population) is ensured through the application of multivariable and univariable validation controls.

18. Cost and burden

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

19. Data revision

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19.1. Data revision - policy

No preliminary data is published.

19.2. Data revision - practice

As the Urban data cover are very extensive, it can not be excluded that errors exist in the data. Detected errors will be corrected irregularly after consultation with the national coordinator.