



Urban Issues and Challenges

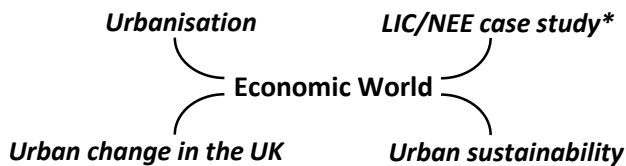
The Location and Importance of Lagos

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The Big Picture



Key Terms



Transnational Corporation – companies that operate in more than one country.



GDP – the monetary value of final goods and services — produced in a country in a given period of time.



The Location of Lagos



Nigeria is Africa's most populated country. Lagos is Nigeria's largest city, located in the southwest of the country on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, close to Nigeria's border with Benin.



Regional Importance

- Lagos is important in providing hospitals, schools and universities and provides employment, leisure and recreation opportunities
- A thriving arts and culture scene.
- The city is a transport hub with an airport and port providing raw materials for local industries.
- Home to 10% of Nigeria's population
- History of economic growth – it generates the highest money earned of all states in Nigeria.



National Importance

- Nigeria's centre of trade and commerce
- Around 80% of Nigeria's industry is based in Lagos, and the city generates about 30% of Nigeria's GDP.
- 80% of Nigeria's imports and 70% of its exports pass through the docks.
- Lagos is Nigeria's media centre, with many television channels and newspapers operating in the city.
- It is the centre of Nigeria's film industry.
- As Nigeria's financial centre, the city is home to most banks, financial institutions and the stock exchange.
- Most large corporations and Transnational Corporations (TNCs) have their Nigerian headquarters in Lagos.



International Importance

- The main financial centre of West Africa.
- A global city with a substantial and growing foreign-born population.
- 80% of flights into West Africa go into Lagos airport.
- Lagos has one of the highest standards of living in Nigeria and Africa.
- Its Apapa port is the 5th busiest in Africa.
- The city has been the venue for major sporting events such as the African Cup of Nations football tournament.
- Lagos is the ICT centre of West Africa, with the largest market on the continent.
- The Lagos International Trade Fair has become a major international business forum attracting people from across the continent.



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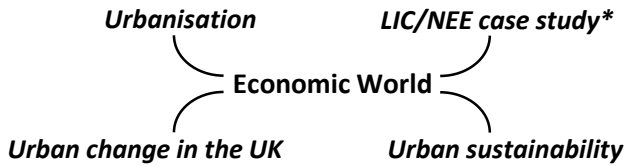
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The Growth of Lagos

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The Big Picture



Key Terms



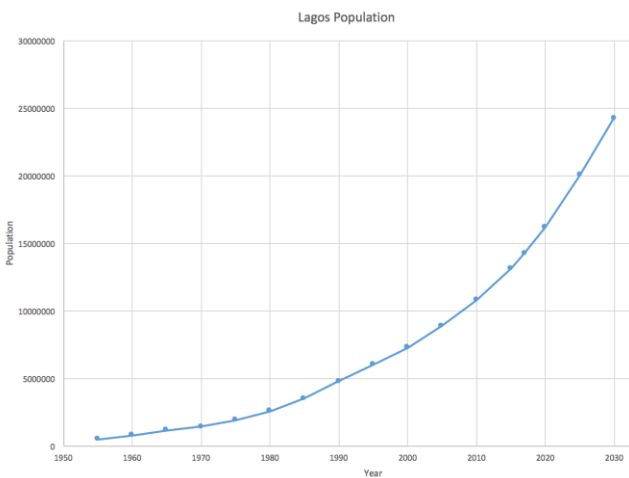
Rural to urban migration – The movement of people from the countryside to the city.



Natural Increase – The difference between live births and deaths in an area.



Population Growth



Less than a million people lived in Lagos in 1960. By 1990 it reached four million, and around fifteen million by 2015. Estimates are higher at twenty million if the population of the surrounding area is included.



Reasons for Growth



Rural to Urban Migration

The main driver of growth in Lagos over the past 50 years has been rural-urban migration. People are encouraged to leave the countryside by push factors such as the lack of job opportunities and low wages. They are brought to the city by pull factors such as the prospect of well-paid work and the attraction of an urban lifestyle.

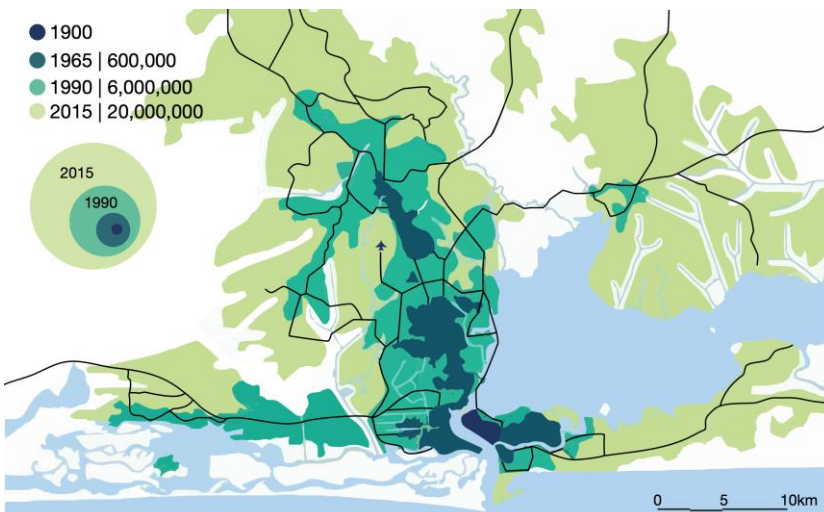


Natural Increase

Lagos has a high rate of natural increase. This is due to the city's youthful population since most migrants to the city are young. Nigeria is becoming an increasingly urbanised country. By 2015, just over half the population was still living in rural areas, but as rural-urban migration continues, the majority will be urban within the next few years.



The Physical Growth of Lagos



The physical area of Lagos has also grown as its population has. Lagos Island was the original site of the settlement. Since then the city has grown onto the mainland. Rapid urbanisation occurred during the 1970s during the oil boom. Many thousands of people migrated to the area seeking employment opportunities. The growth of Lagos continued into the 1980s and 1990s.



Urban Issues and Challenges

Opportunities of Urban Growth in Lagos

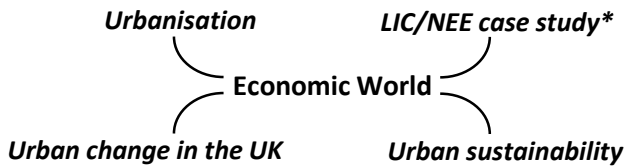


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The Big Picture



Key Terms



Social opportunities – Chances for people to improve their quality of life e.g. access to healthcare and education.



Economic opportunities – providing an equal chance for people to earn a living wage.



Social Opportunities



Health Care – Health care throughout Nigeria is generally underfunded, underequipped and understaffed. In Nigeria, there are, on average, 0.4 doctors per 1000 people, compared to 2.6 per 1000 people in the UK. However, healthcare is better in Lagos than in rural areas, with greater access to doctors, clinics and hospitals.



Education – All children are offered a basic education by the Lagos State Government for their first 9 years. Lagos is home to many universities and training colleges. There are over ten universities in Lagos. Education a significant pull factor in attracting people to Lagos, particularly from rural areas.



Water supply - Lagos offers a reasonable water supply, particularly compared to rural areas. Many people access freshwater by digging wells or from public taps. Others buy fresh water from water vendors. Wealthier residents have fresh water piped to their homes. The Lagos Water Corporation claims to supply over 12 million people with water.



Energy - Many rural areas in Nigeria have limited access to lighting and power. Despite access being better in Lagos, there are frequent power cuts which have a negative impact on industry, water supply and other services. Around 80% of the population of Lagos rely on diesel generators, though these are polluting.



Economic Development



Manufacturing – Food and beverages, pharmaceuticals and vehicles dominate the manufacturing industrial sector in Lagos. This provides employment opportunities for local people. As the city's wealth increases, the market grows, and will generate further economic growth.



Commercial and Industrial Zones – Considerable economic development has occurred due to the growth of commercial and industrial zones in the Ikeja district. Industries have been attracted to the area, as it is also home to the main international airport and is very accessible.



Infrastructure – Future improvements in transport infrastructure and electric supply will create major economic development are expected by the Lagos State Government.



Industrial Sector – Most industrial areas in Lagos are on the mainland with good access to the port or close roads and railways. The thriving industrial sector provides employment opportunities for people new to the city.



Informal Sector – Most people not formally employed work in the informal economy to get by. This includes jobs such as shoe shining, waste recycling or street vending.



Urban Issues and Challenges

Challenges of Urban Growth in Lagos

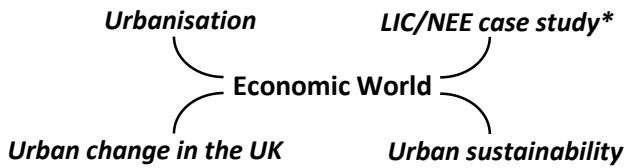


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The Big Picture



Key Terms



Sanitation – Measures designed to protect public health, including the disposal of sewage and waste.



Informal sector – Employment done without official knowledge of the government without paying taxes.



Social Challenges



Health Care – Healthcare is available but not always free. There are long waiting times to see a doctor. Vaccinations for children usually need to be paid for. Investment in healthcare is not keeping up with the growth of Lagos. Residents are at risk from infectious diseases such as typhoid and malaria.



Education – The government offers free school places for all younger children. However, in poorer families children often have to work. Secondary schools are limited and most are private. There are not enough university places for the city.



Unemployment – Unemployment is relatively low at around 10%. However, there is no unemployment benefit. People must earn money either in the formal sector where they pay taxes or illegally in the informal sector. Informal jobs such as street vending, car washing and waste recycling or typically poorly paid, unregulated and often dangerous.



Water supply – Only 10% of the population has access to safe piped water. Most people dig wells or boreholes to extract water from aquifers. Some people buy water from street vendors.



Sanitation – The majority of people do not have access to flushing toilets. Many use pit latrines which can lead to groundwater supplies being polluted. Lagos Lagoon is heavily polluted with raw sewage.



Energy – Despite Nigeria's vast oil reserves, energy is a significant issue in Lagos. Most organisations rely on backup diesel generators. New power stations are planned.



Crime – Crime rates are high, particularly those involving drugs, vandalism and theft. Rates of armed robbery, and assault are high. Violent clashes occur between gangs known as area boys.



Managing Urban Growth – The lack of affordable housing has led to millions of people building homes in temporary settlements. Most homes are constructed from waste materials such as corrugated iron and wood. 75% of occupants occupy a single room. Over 50% of households lack a kitchen, toilet or bath. Only 11% have access to safe piped water.



Environmental Issues



Waste Disposal – Only 40% of the 10000 tonnes of waste produced in Lagos is collected by city authorities. Only 13% of waste is recycled. Waste is dumped at large landfill sites such as Olusosun.



Pollution – Air pollution is five times higher than the recommended limit. This is largely due to poorly maintained vehicles and diesel electric generators. Water pollution is a significant issue.



Traffic Congestion – Lagos is one of the most congested cities in the world. The average commuter spends 3 hours in traffic each day.