

Urban Issues and Challenges - Urban growth across the world

What is a mega city?

Where are the majority of the world’s mega cities located?

Identify three push factors that result in people migrating from rural to urban areas.

Identify three pull factors that result in people migrating from rural to urban areas.

Give three reasons for the increasing trend of counter-urbanisation in HICs.

Why is there typically a high natural increase in urban areas?

Identify the three countries that are expected to account for 37 per cent of the growth in the world’s urban population between 2014 and 2050.

Identify the two factors that affect the rate of urbanisation.

Why did urbanisation first occur in HICs?

Describe patterns of urbanisation in HICs today.

Why are rates of urban growth higher in LICs than HICs.

What is urbanisation?



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The majority of the world’s megacities are located in LICs/NEEs. In 2014 there were at least 21 megacities in LICs/NEEs, particularly in Asia and Africa, compared to just 7 in MICs.

A megacity is a city with a population of at least 10 million people.

1. The increase in car ownership over the last 40 years means people are more mobile. This has led to an increase in commuting. Also, the growth in information technology (E-mail, faxes and video conferencing) means more people can work from home.
2. Urban areas are becoming increasing unpleasant place to live. This is the result of pollution, crime and traffic congestion.
3. More people tend to move when they retire.
4. New business parks on the edge of cities (on Greenfield sites) mean people no longer have to travel to the city centre. People now prefer to live on the outskirts of the city to be near where they work.

Pull factors include:

* Employment opportunities in better paid jobs
* Large market for goods and services
* Improved eduction and healthcare provision
* Better services such as fresh water and sanitation
* Family and friend may have already moved to the urban area
* Better public transport provision
* A higher standard of living due to higher wages and the provision of higher quality housing with services

Push factors include:

* Limited opportunities for well-paid employment
* Poor transport infrastructure
* Lack of sanitation
* Limited opportunities to get a good eduction
* Environmental issues such as drought, soil erosion and desertification
* Poor harvests, resulting in limited food
* Agricultural jobs being replaced by machinery
* Limited services such as fresh water, health care, electricity and healthcare

India, China and Nigeria.

As LICs develop people are pushed from the countryside as mechanisation leads to fewer jobs. People are pulled to cities due to the growth of jobs in industries in urban areas. People are also attracted by higher living standards, education and better healthcare.

Urbanisation is the increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities.

HICs, such as USA, the majority of Europe, Australia and Japan are highly urbanised with at least 75% of the population living in urban areas. North America is the most urbanised region with 82 per-cent of the population living in urban areas. The rate of urbanisation in HICs is slowing down. Counter-urbanisation is occurring in some HICs as people move from overcrowded urban areas to more attractive rural environments.

Urbanisation first occurred in high-income countries (HICs) during the industrial revolution. People were attracted to urban areas (pulled) from rural areas to work in factories. They were also pushed as developments in technology led to mechanisation on farms.

* Migration, as people more from rural to urban areas
* Natural increase, as birth rates are higher than death rates in urban areas.

Migrants are typically aged between 18-35 leading to a high birth rate and a low death rate.