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Worldwide Research

DEGREE OF URBANISATION:
HARMONIZED VARIABLE FOR CROSS-COUNTRY
SURVEY RESEARCH

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Urbanicity plays an important role in shaping how people feel about their lives. Historically, cross-country analysis of survey data by urbanicity level had been limited by a lack of a universal definition of what constitutes various levels of urbanicity, such as urban vs. rural areas.

Since 2022, the Gallup World Poll, in partnership with the European Commission, has included a new measure of respondents' urbanicity, called the Degree of Urbanisation (DEGURBA). The Degree of Urbanisation, developed by a coalition of six international organizations (the EU, FAO, ILO, OECD, UN-Habitat and the World Bank), provides a harmonized definition of different levels of urbanicity across the world. The UN Statistical Commission endorsed the Degree of Urbanisation for statistical comparisons in 2020.

The Degree of Urbanisation approaches the concept of urbanicity as an urban-rural continuum and it classifies the entire territory of each country into different levels of urbanisation. To classify geographic areas, DEGURBA uses a combination of the following criteria: a minimum population density threshold applied to population grid cells of 1km² in size and a minimum population size threshold applied to contiguous grid cells above the density threshold. As a result, geographic units are classified as:

- Cities (code 3),
- Towns and semi-dense areas (code 2), or
- Rural areas (code 1).

For more information about the DEGURBA classification, please go to:

<https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/degurbaOverview.php>

In the World Poll datasets, Gallup used the DEGURBA variable to classify respondents as living in one of the three types of areas (using the same categories and codes listed above). Respondents for whom Gallup was unable to classify into a DEGURBA category were coded as 'not available' (code 9).

For countries where World Poll data were collected face-to-face, Gallup appended the Degree of Urbanisation using the GHSL (Global Human Settlement Layer) file that is associated with the geographic coordinates (latitude/longitude) captured during the interview.

For countries where World Poll data were collected over telephone or web, Gallup matched respondents' reported postal codes or LAUs (local administrative units) to information from the European Commission, which mapped these geographical units to the appropriate Degree of Urbanisation. For most European countries the DEGURBA information can be found on the European Commission website. For other countries, data has been provided directly to Gallup by the European Commission. For some countries where we merge information by LAU, other sources include: Global Degree of Urbanisation Classification of administrative units, UK Office of National Statistics¹.

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/programmesandprojects/europeancitystatistics#degree-of-urbanisation-and-functional-urban-areas>

Appendix A: Level used to match DEGURBA, by Country, 2022-25

Country/Territory	Data Collection Mode	Level Used to Match DEGURBA
Afghanistan	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Albania	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Algeria	Face-to-Face 2022; Telephone 2023-24-25	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster 2022; LAU (daira) 2023-24-25
Argentina	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Armenia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Australia	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Austria	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Azerbaijan	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Bahrain	Telephone	All respondents coded as category 3 (Cities)
Bangladesh	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Belgium	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Belize	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Benin	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Bolivia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Botswana	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Brazil	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Bulgaria	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Burkina Faso	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Cambodia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Cameroon	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Canada	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Chad	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Chile	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
China	Web 2023; Telephone 2024-2025	LAU (city district/county)
Colombia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Comoros	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Congo	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Congo (the Democratic Republic of the)	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Costa Rica	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Cote D'Ivoire	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Croatia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Cyprus	Telephone	Postal code and LAU (municipality/village)

Czech Republic	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Denmark	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Dominican Republic	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Ecuador	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Egypt	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
El Salvador	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Estonia	Telephone	Postal code and LAU (city/rural municipality)
Eswatini	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Ethiopia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Finland	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
France	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Gabon	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Gambia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Georgia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Germany	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Ghana	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Greece	Face-to-Face 2022; Telephone/Web 2023; Telephone 2024-25	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster 2022; Postal code and LAU (commune) 2023-24-25
Guatemala	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Guinea	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Honduras	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Hong Kong, S.A.R. of China	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	LAU (district)
Hungary	Telephone	Postal code
Iceland	Telephone	Postal code
India	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Indonesia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Iran	Telephone	LAU (shahrestan)
Iraq	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Ireland	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Israel	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Italy	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Jamaica	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Japan	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code and LAU (city/town/village)
Jordan	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Kazakhstan	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Kenya	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster

Kosovo	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Kuwait	Telephone	LAU (mintaqah)
Kyrgyzstan	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Latvia	Telephone	Postal code and LAU (municipalities/republican cities)
Lebanon	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Lesotho	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Liberia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Libya	Telephone	LAU (muhafazat)
Lithuania	Face-to-Face 2022-23; Telephone 2024-25	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster; Postal code and LAU (municipality)
Luxembourg	Telephone	Postal code
Madagascar	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Malawi	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Malaysia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Mali	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Malta	Telephone	Postal code and LAU (city/locale)
Mauritania	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Mauritius	Telephone	LAU (district)
Mexico	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Moldova (the Republic of)	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Mongolia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Montenegro	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Morocco	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Mozambique	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Myanmar	Telephone	LAU (township)
Namibia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Nepal	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Netherlands	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
New Zealand	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Nicaragua	Face-to-Face 2022-23; Face-to-Face/Telephone 2024	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster; LAU (municipality)
Niger	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Nigeria	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
North Macedonia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Northern Cyprus	Telephone 2022-23; Face-to-Face 2024-25	Not available
Norway	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Oman	Telephone	LAU (Wilaya)

Pakistan	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Palestinian Territories	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Panama	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Paraguay	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Peru	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Philippines	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Poland	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Portugal	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code; LAU (municipality)
Puerto Rico	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Romania	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Russian Federation	Face-to-Face 2022; Telephone 2023-24-25	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster 2022; LAU (city/district) 2023-24-25
Rwanda	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Saudi Arabia	Telephone	LAU (district)
Senegal	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Serbia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Sierra Leone	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Singapore	Telephone	All respondents coded as category 3 (Cities)
Slovakia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Slovenia	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Somalia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
South Africa	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
South Korea	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	LAU (city/city district/county)
Spain	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Sri Lanka	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Sweden	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Switzerland	Telephone 2022, 2024; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Taiwan, Province of China	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	LAU (county/district)
Tajikistan	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Tanzania	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Thailand	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Togo	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Trinidad and Tobago	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Tunisia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Türkiye	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Uganda	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Ukraine	Telephone	Not available 2022; LAU (raion) 2023-24-25
United Arab Emirates	Telephone	LAU (emirate)

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
United States of America	Telephone 2022-24-25; Telephone/Web 2023	Postal code
Uruguay	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Uzbekistan	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Venezuela	Face-to-Face 2022-23-25; Telephone 2024	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster; LAU (Parish)
Vietnam	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Yemen	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Zambia	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster
Zimbabwe	Face-to-Face	GPS location of sampled ultimate cluster