

169/2016 - 7 September 2016

Flagship publication Urban Europe

## **A statistical portrait of cities, towns and suburbs across the European Union**

Satisfaction prevails among inhabitants of EU capital cities

Home to almost three quarters of the population of the **European Union** (EU), urban areas play an important role in our lives. Cities can be viewed as both the source of and solution to many of today's economic, social and environmental challenges.

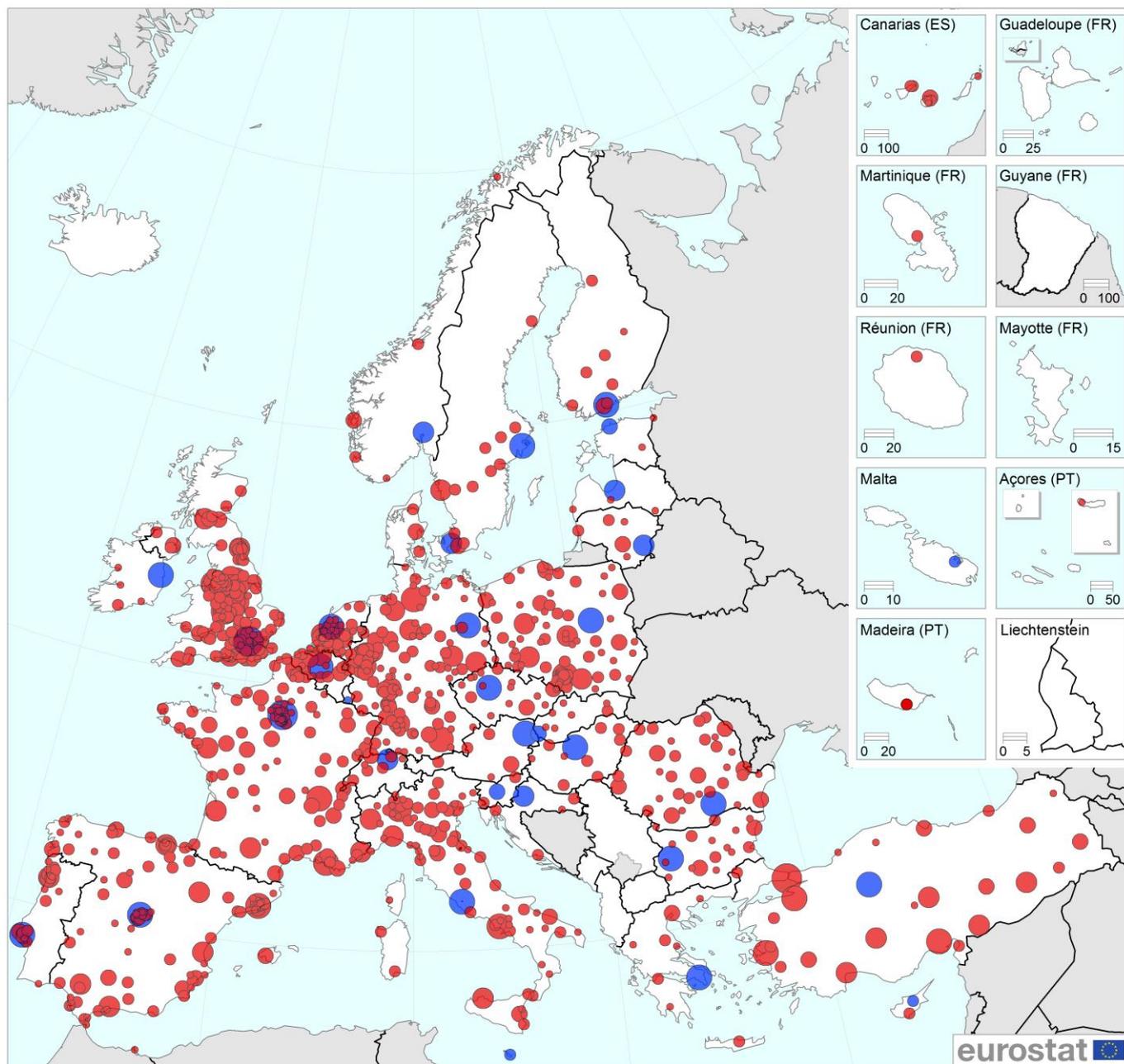
On the one hand, they are motors of the **EU** economy, providing hubs for wealth creation and attracting large numbers of people as a result of the wide range of opportunities they offer in economic, educational or social spheres. On the other hand, they face a range of social and environmental challenges, such as making available affordable housing, or tackling poverty, crime, congestion and pollution.

Today, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, issues the flagship publication "Urban Europe — statistics on cities, towns and suburbs". Its thirteen chapters present statistics on urban life in the **EU**.

The first part of the publication focuses on the opportunities and challenges cities bring, the size and spatial distribution of urban development, the dominance of capital cities, the development of smart and green cities, as well as tourism and culture in cities.

The second part of the publication concentrates on the people who are born, live and work in cities. It begins with a broad description of life in cities and subsequently focuses on working in cities, the housing situation in cities, migration, poverty and social exclusion as well as satisfaction and quality of life in cities.

**Resident population in European cities, 1 January 2014 (\*)**  
(inhabitants)

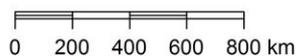


(inhabitants)

- 50 000 - 100 000
- 100 000 - 250 000
- 250 000 - 500 000
- 500 000 - 1 000 000
- 1 000 000 - 5 000 000
- > 5 000 000

■ Cities  
■ Capital cities

Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turkstat  
Cartography: Eurostat — GISCO, 03/2016



(\*) Information presented in this map relates to the most recent reference year available for each city. Data relating to the "greater city" has been used for all cities where this concept has been defined.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: urb\_cpop1)

## Inhabitants of Vilnius most satisfied with life in their city, inhabitants of Athens the least satisfied

When asked if they were satisfied to live in their city, most of the inhabitants of all 28 EU capital cities replied that they were.

In 18 EU capitals, at least 9 out of 10 inhabitants were satisfied with life in their city. The highest satisfaction levels were found in **Vilnius**, where 98% of the population was satisfied with life in their city, closely followed by **Stockholm** and **Copenhagen** (97% each), as well as **Vienna** and **Luxembourg** (96% each).

In 10 Member States satisfaction levels below 90% were reported. The lowest satisfaction levels were found in **Athens**, where 71% of the population was satisfied with life in their city, followed by **Rome** (80%), as well as **Bucharest** and **Paris** (83% each).

## Satisfaction with life in the city increased the most in Athens

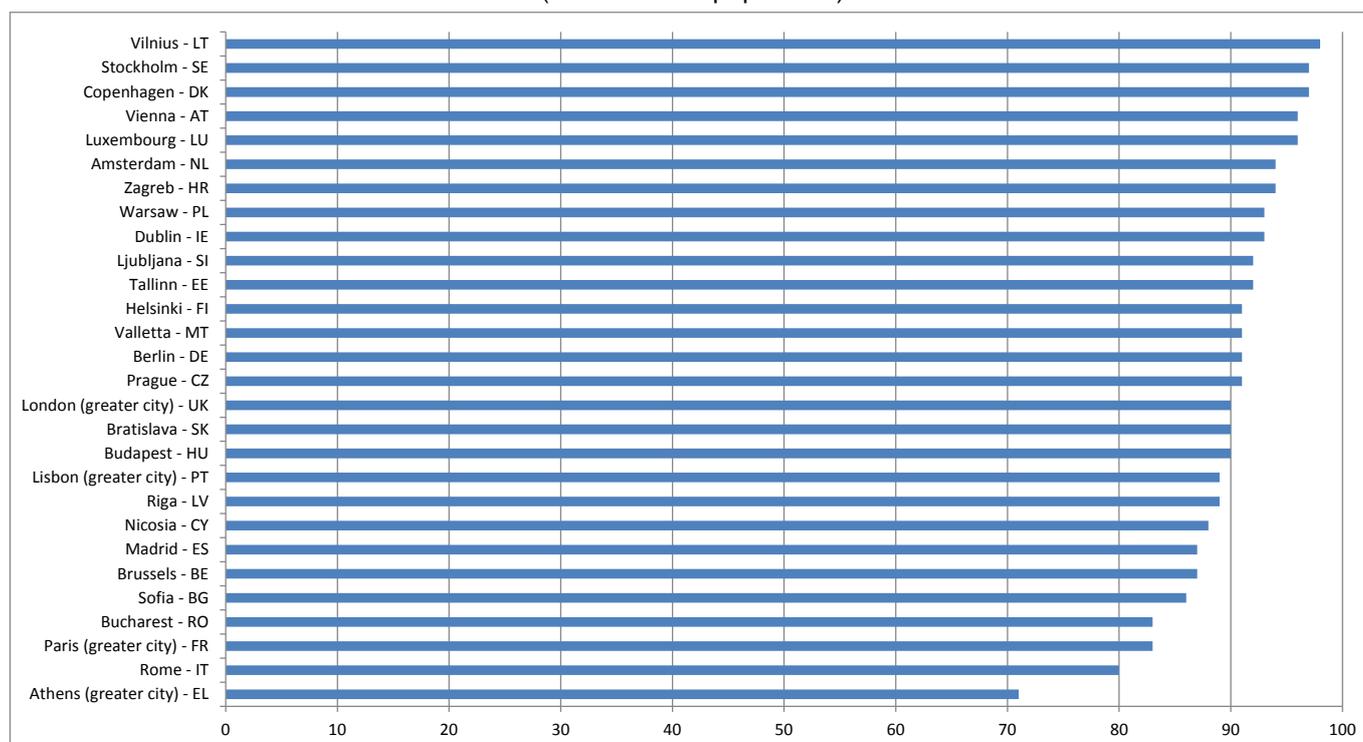
Compared with 2012, satisfaction with life in the city went up in most EU capital cities. The largest increases between 2012 and 2015 were observed for **Athens** (from a 56% satisfaction rate in 2012 to 71% in 2015, or +15 percentage point – pp), followed by **Budapest** (+6 pp) as well as **Riga** and **Vilnius** (both +5 pp), **Brussels** and **Bratislava** (both +4 pp). In contrast, satisfaction with life in the city slightly dropped in five EU capital cities: **Amsterdam**, **Berlin** and **Lisbon** (all -2 pp) as well as **Paris** and **Helsinki** (both -1 pp).

**Satisfaction with life in EU capital cities**  
(% of resident population)

	2012	2015	Change 2015/2012 (in pp)
Brussels - BE	83%	87%	+4
Sofia - BG	84%	86%	+2
Prague - CZ	90%	91%	+1
Copenhagen - DK	97%	97%	0
Berlin - DE	93%	91%	-2
Tallinn - EE	89%	92%	+3
Dublin - IE	90%	93%	+3
Athens (greater city) - EL	56%	71%	+15
Madrid - ES	86%	87%	+1
Paris (greater city) - FR	84%	83%	-1
Zagreb - HR	92%	94%	+2
Rome - IT	80%	80%	0
Nicosia - CY	86%	88%	+2
Riga - LV	84%	89%	+5
Vilnius - LT	93%	98%	+5
Luxembourg - LU	95%	96%	+1
Budapest - HU	84%	90%	+6
Valletta - MT	88%	91%	+3
Amsterdam - NL	96%	94%	-2
Vienna - AT	95%	96%	+1
Warsaw - PL	90%	93%	+3
Lisbon (greater city) - PT	91%	89%	-2
Bucharest - RO	82%	83%	+1
Ljubljana - SI	90%	92%	+2
Bratislava - SK	86%	90%	+4
Helsinki - FI	92%	91%	-1
Stockholm - SE	96%	97%	+1
London (greater city) - UK	87%	90%	+3
Reykjavík - IS	96%	96%	0
Oslo - NO	97%	99%	+2
Ankara - TR	91%	83%	-8

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

## Satisfaction with life in EU capital cities, 2015 (% of resident population)



### Geographical information

The **capital cities** of the EU Member States are: Brussels (Belgium - BE), Sofia (Bulgaria - BG), Prague (Czech Republic - CZ), Copenhagen (Denmark - DK), Berlin (Germany - DE), Tallinn (Estonia - EE), Dublin (Ireland - IE), Athens (Greece - EL), Madrid (Spain - ES), Paris (France - FR), Zagreb (Croatia - HR), Rome (Italy - IT), Nicosia (Cyprus - CY), Riga (Latvia - LV), Vilnius (Lithuania - LT), Luxembourg (Luxembourg - LU), Budapest (Hungary - HU), Valletta (Malta - MT), Amsterdam (Netherlands - NL), Vienna (Austria - AT), Warsaw (Poland - PL), Lisbon (Portugal - PT), Bucharest (Romania - RO), Ljubljana (Slovenia - SI), Bratislava (Slovakia - SK), Helsinki (Finland - FI), Stockholm (Sweden - SE) and London (United Kingdom - UK).

### Methods and definitions

The source of the data is the latest Eurobarometer survey on the "Perception of Quality of Life in European Cities" conducted by the European Commission at the request of the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy to get a snapshot of people's opinion on a range of urban issues, such as employment, environment, housing, transport, culture, city services and immigration.

The survey was conducted in a total of 83 European cities.

Respondents were asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement: "I'm satisfied to live in my city". Satisfaction levels presented in this News Release represent the sum of the categories "strongly agree" and "somewhat agree".

### Timetable

A Eurostat news release on satisfaction with cultural facilities is scheduled for 8 September 2016.

### For more information

Eurostat [flagship publication](#) "Urban Europe – statistics on cities, towns and suburbs".

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to city statistics.

Eurostat [database](#) on urban audit, including perception survey results.

[European Commission website section](#) dedicated to the perception survey on quality of life in European cities.

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