

City statistics – culture and recreation

Statistics Explained

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This subchapter on culture is 1 of 9 thematic subchapters that provide a comprehensive glossary of variable definitions used within city statistics. The glossary is designed to ensure a clear understanding and interpretation of data disseminated by Eurostat, thereby improving the clarity of data requirements for the providers of these statistics in national statistical offices, while supporting the standardisation of statistical concepts across Europe.

This subchapter forms part of Eurostat's [City statistics manual](#) .

Culture

Culture

Var code	Label	Measurement unit
CR1003V	Number of cinema seats	Absolute number
CR1005V	Cinema attendance	Absolute number
CR1007V	Number of museum visitors	Absolute number
CR1008V	Number of theatres	Absolute number
CR1010V	Number of public libraries (all distribution points)	Absolute number
CR1015V	Number of public swimming pools (indoor and outdoor)	Absolute number

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Table 20: Culture

A cinema, also known as a movie house, movie theatre, film theatre, film house or picture theatre, is a venue, typically a building, where motion pictures (movies or films) are shown. It's defined as a commercial establishment that serves the general public, who attend by purchasing a ticket.

- The **number of cinema seats (CR1003V)** refers to the total seating capacity across all of the cinemas within a city.
- **Cinema attendance (CR1005V)** refers to the total number of tickets sold for all films screened throughout the year within a city.

Museums can be either public or private institutions. A museum is defined by the [International Council of Museums \(2022\)](#) as 'a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing'.

- The **number of museum visitors (CR1007V)** is a count of the total number of tickets sold for all museum visits throughout the year within a city.

Theatres are public or private venues (excluding street theatres, school theatres, and so on); multi-purpose venues are also included.

- The **number of theatres (CR1008V)** is a count of the total number of locations within a city, not the number of individual halls or stages within a single theatre (for example, a theatre may have separate stages for music, opera, plays, intimate performances, and so on).

The [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions](#) defines the **number of public libraries (all distribution points) (CR1010V)** as a count of the independent access points for library services, even if multiple libraries are housed in the same building. For this purpose, libraries are defined as publicly accessible, general libraries that support learning, cultural engagement and information access for all; membership in an association or student status isn't required and specialised or subject-related research libraries are excluded.

The **number of public swimming pools (indoor and outdoor) (CR1015V)** is a count of the number of swimming pools that are accessible to the general public; excluded are swimming pools that are exclusively for a small group (such as in a health club, fitness centre, private club), and those for relaxation in hotels and spas. Public swimming pools are often part of larger leisure centres or recreational complexes, and even if such centres have multiple pools, they should be counted as a single public swimming pool. Seasonal pools are included if they are open for at least 6 months during the year.

Legislation in force and other documents

- [Guide to Eurostat culture statistics](#)
- [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions](#)

Source data for tables and graphs

- [City statistics manual 2024: tables and figures](#)

Other articles

- [City statistics manual](#)
- [Regions and cities](#)
- [Territorial typologies manual](#)
- [Urban Europe](#)

Database

- [City statistics \(urb\)](#) , see:

Cities and greater cities (urb_cgc)

Functional urban areas (urb_luz)

Perception survey results (urb_percep)

Dedicated section

- [Regions and cities](#)

Publications

- [Urban Europe – Statistics on cities, towns and suburbs](#)

Methodology

- [Applying the degree of urbanisation manual](#)
- [Territorial typologies manual](#)

Visualisations

- [Regions and Cities Illustrated \(RCI\)](#)

External links

- [City initiatives – European Commission](#)
- [Report on the quality of life in European cities – European Commission](#)
- [Urban agenda for the EU](#)
- [Urban data platform plus – European Commission, Joint Research Centre and Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy](#)