

Glossary: Degree of urbanisation

Statistics Explained

Common term: Degree of urbanisation, **Abbreviation:** DEGURBA

Short definition: the degree of urbanisation classifies [local administrative units \(LAUs\)](#) as [cities](#) , [towns and suburbs](#) or [rural areas](#) based on a combination of geographical contiguity and [population density](#) , measured by minimum population thresholds applied to 1 km² [population grid cells](#) ; each LAU belongs exclusively to one of these three classes.

The categories are defined as follows:

- **cities** , otherwise referred to as densely populated areas — code 1;
- **towns and suburbs** , otherwise referred to as intermediate density areas — code 2;
- **rural areas** , otherwise referred to as thinly populated areas — code 3.

[Urban areas](#) refers to an aggregate composed of information covering cities as well as towns and suburbs (in other words, densely populated areas and intermediate density areas).

Further information

- See [Chapter 2](#) of Eurostat's *Territorial typologies manual*
- [Degree of urbanisation](#)

Related concepts

- [City](#)
- [Towns and suburbs](#)
- [Rural areas](#)