Japan

Core
Commuting zone
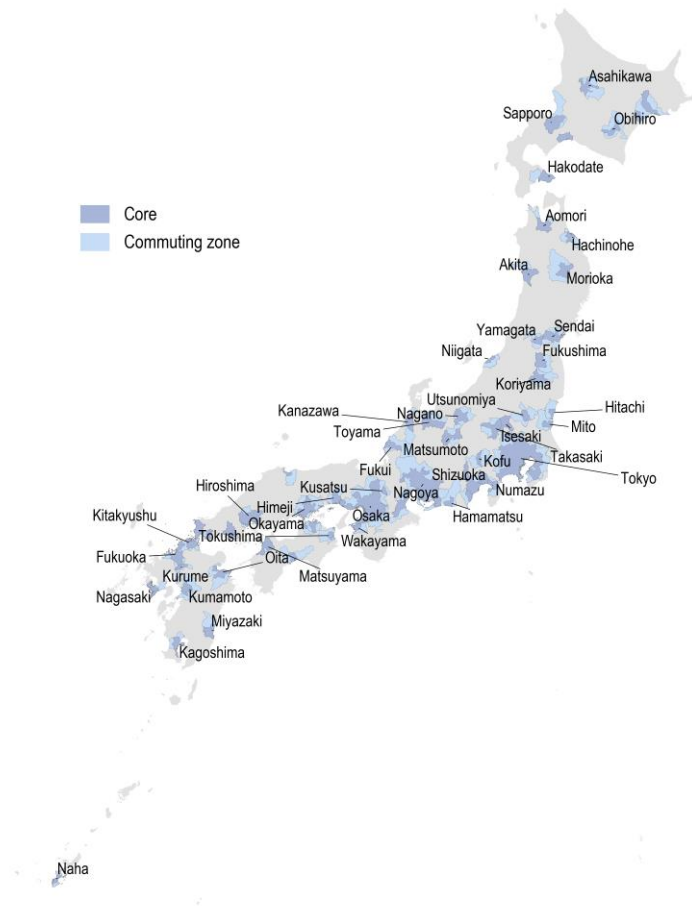
Note: This map is for illustrative purposes and is without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by these maps.

The OECD, in cooperation with the EU, has developed a harmonised definition of functional urban areas (FUAs). Being composed of a city (or core) and its commuting zone, FUAs encompass the economic and functional extent of cities based on daily people's movements (OECD, 2012); (Dijkstra, Poelman, & Veneri, 2019). The definition of FUA aims at providing a functional/economic definition of cities and their area of influence, by maximising international comparability and overcoming the limitation of using purely administrative approaches. At the same time, the concept of FUA, unlike other approaches, ensures a minimum link to the government level of the city or metropolitan area.

FUAs are listed below by size, according to four classes:
• Small FUAs, with population between 50,000 and 100,000
• Medium-sized FUAs, with population between 100,000 and 250,000
• Metropolitan FUAs, with population between 250,000 and 1.5 million
• Large metropolitan FUAs, with population above 1.5 million

A city is a group of local administrative units (i.e. LAU for European countries, such as municipality, local authorities, etc.) where at least 50% of its population live in an urban centre. An urban centre is defined as a cluster of contiguous grid cells of one square kilometer with a density of at least 1,500 inhabitants per square kilometer and a population of at least 50,000 inhabitants overall.

The commuting zone is composed of the local administrative units for which at least 15% of their workforce commute to the city. Commuting zones of the functional areas are identified based on commuting data (travel from home-to-work). Commuting data are also used to define whether more than one city share the same commuting zone in a single polycentric functional urban area.

The list of functional urban areas takes into account the results of the consultation with the European National Statistical Institutes launched by Eurostat in June 2011 on the definition of cities and by the OECD with Delegates from the Working Party on Territorial Indicators. This list of functional urban areas may be reviewed on the basis of additional comments provided by countries. The OECD Metropolitan Database provides a set of economic, environmental, social and demographic modelled indicators on around 700 OECD metropolitan areas (functional urban areas with 250 000 or more inhabitants).

Additionally, interactive maps, histograms and summary profiles of each metropolitan area are available on the OECD Regions and Cities Data Visualisation tool.

The population grid used to create the FUAs in Japan is the 2015 Global Human Settlement (GHS) grid. The geographic building blocks are the cities (Shi), towns (Machi) and villages (Mura). Commuting data comes from the 2015 Census.

Table 1. List of functional urban areas

FUA name	FUA code	Population in 2015 (GHS)	Share of population living in the city (%)
Akita	JPN43	378 000	79
Aomori	JPN51	288 000	94
Asahikawa	JPN44	383 000	87
Ashikaga	JPN57	230 000	82
Fuji	JPN46	385 000	98
Fujieda	JPN38	445 000	67
Fukui	JPN32	535 000	48
Fukuoka	JPN04	2 566 000	92
Fukushima	JPN39	437 000	64
Hachinohe	JPN49	306 000	71
Hakodate	JPN48	309 000	77
Hamamatsu	JPN14	947 000	65
Himeji	JPN20	700 000	78
Hiroshima	JPN08	1 379 000	96
Hitachi	JPN50	307 000	58
Isesaki	JPN47	372 000	100
Kagoshima	JPN19	668 000	83
Kanazawa	JPN17	722 000	78
Kitakyushu	JPN09	1 278 000	73

Kochi	JPN35	490 000	65
Kofu	JPN27	578 000	53
Koriyama	JPN34	507 000	65
Kumamoto	JPN11	1 127 000	73
Kurume	JPN42	409 000	72
Kusatsu	JPN45	379 000	71
Kushiro	JPN60	194 000	85
Marugame	JPN59	203 000	58
Matsumoto	JPN40	415 000	56
Matsuyama	JPN25	587 000	96
Mito	JPN21	701 000	59
Miyazaki	JPN36	479 000	80
Morioka	JPN37	450 000	63
Nagano	JPN29	565 000	65
Nagasaki	JPN24	572 000	77
Nagoya	JPN03	8 527 000	88
Naha	JPN10	1 126 000	73
Niigata	JPN15	778 000	42
Numazu	JPN31	539 000	84
Obihiro	JPN53	253 000	62
Oita	JPN18	697 000	81
Okayama	JPN07	1 468 000	78
Omuta	JPN58	222 000	54
Osaka	JPN02	16 624 000	93
Sapporo	JPN05	2 102 000	93
Sendai	JPN06	1 478 000	81
Shimonoseki	JPN52	238 000	100
Shizuoka	JPN22	686 000	100
Shunan	JPN54	220 000	80
Takamatsu	JPN28	546 000	72
Takasaki	JPN13	1 053 000	76
Tokushima	JPN30	548 000	54
Tokyo	JPN01	35 619 000	94
Tomakomai	JPN61	155 000	100
Toyama	JPN26	574 000	70
Toyohashi	JPN23	664 000	83
Ube	JPN55	216 000	75

Utsunomiya	JPN16	874 000	57
Wakayama	JPN33	510 000	76
Yamagata	JPN41	407 000	59
Yokkaichi	JPN12	1 025 000	76
Yonago	JPN56	217 000	65

Note: This document includes information as of 2022.

References

Dijkstra, L., H. Poelman and P. Veneri (2019), "The EU-OECD definition of a functional urban area", OECD Regional Development Working Papers, No. 2019/11, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/d58cb34d-en.

OECD (2012), Redefining "Urban": A New Way to Measure Metropolitan Areas, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264174108-en.