Abstract

This presentation will report on an interim dataset on the output and population of 35 European cities, which GLA Economics prepared for use within the GLA group when London is benchmarked against these cities.

The dataset is not proposed for use as an alternative standard to Urban Audit or other datasets, because it is not itself a fully consistent solution to the problem of city definition. The city boundaries used for this dataset have been determined in discussion with regional and metropolitan agencies and authorities who collaborate with each other through the agency of BAK Basle, the provider of the data. These boundaries represent, in our view, the best judgement currently available.

The dataset has some advantages, which make it useful for benchmarking and comparing cities. It covers a more restricted range of indicators than Urban Audit, but provides a continuous dataset covering all years from 1980 to the present for every city, which for the first time has made it possible for us to make some assessment of the way in which Europe's growth trends have changed both over time and space.

This dataset also offers a specific (Production-based PPP) measure of output and productivity for better comparisons between cities, which compensates for the effect of both inflation and exchange rate movements in such a way as to allow properly for the specific structure of production and specialisation in each city in the database.


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