The GLA’s Interim City dataset

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Why a standard is needed

Estimates of 10-year productivity growth rates from 23 cities and 3 suppliers

Estimates from the different suppliers would be the same if they lay on this line.
Achieving a standard

- No-one can harmonise alone
- International agencies
  - Urban Audit (UA) offspring of Eurostat
  - Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) territorial indicators group
  - METREX, urban planning network
  - World Bank survey of cities
- National agencies
  - DCLG, ONS
- Bilateral initiatives
  - Paris, through GEMACA
  - Other partners
- Academic geographers
  - Paul Cheshire, GAWC, Newcastle CURDS
- Providers eg BAK Basel
Measuring cities – a minor digression

- Unlike a nation, a city is best understood as an economic and social, not a political entity
- Try to understand what a city ‘does’
  - People live there
  - People work there
  - People consume there

- Functional Urban Region
  - The geographical region which contains those who interact economically, on a regular basis ‘in’ a single region
  - OR: the space in which the externalities of agglomeration and location are captured

- Built-up core + commuting field
  - Core defined by density (of employment, population, or built-up area)
  - Commuting field defined by in- and/or out-commuting above a certain threshold
Measuring output – an even smaller digression

- ‘Real’ output compares across time
- ‘Purchasing Power Parity’ compares across space
- What is the ‘basket’ for comparison?
- Most international statistics use consumption-based basket (e.g. Economist ‘Big Mac’ Index)
- Cities specialise differently from consumers. London does not ‘make’ hamburgers
- ICOP (International Centre on Comparison of Productivity) baskets based on production
- More appropriate for comparing output and productivity
Meanwhile

- Harmonisation is a long process
- Should at least harmonise among GLA Group
- Hence, an interim dataset
- Not a ‘perfect solution’
  - Not fully-developed FUR (eg London is GLA boundary)
  - No international standard
  - Limited subset, only 35 cities in ‘Europe’[1]

- but...
  - All parts of GLA group can use the same estimates
  - 25-year time series without gaps
  - Good and comparable estimates of ‘real output’
  - At least records how each city describes itself, even if these self-definitions do not conform to a standard.

[1] pre-2004 EU countries plus Switzerland and Norway
Density – boundaries matter

Residents per square kilometre

- Brussels
- London
- Berlin
- Birmingham
- Hamburg
- Manchester
- Copenhagen
- Milan
- Lisbon
- Athens
- Amsterdam
- Paris
- Cologne
- Stuttgart
- Zürich
- Madrid
- Barcelona
- Basle
- Lyons
- Glasgow
- Frankfurt
- The Hague
- Munich
- Marseilles
- Turin
- Geneva
- Rome
- Stockholm
- Strasbourg
- Dublin
- Helsinki
- Oslo
- Edinburgh
- Vienna

GLA database
Urban Audit II
Totals

Aggregates for all cities in the sample
In 2005 the total population of the countries containing the cities in the dataset was 398,909,000 and 181,178,000 (45%) were in workforce employment.
In 2005 the total population of the cities in the dataset was 99,237,000 and workforce employment was 50,276,000.
Cities as places to work and live

Jobs ratio = workforce employment as per cent of resident population
Hours worked per year per person in workforce employment
Output

GVA is measured in trillions of 1997 PPP Euros at constant 2000 prices.
Productivity (left scale): output per hour, 1997 PPP Euros at constant 2000 prices
Growth (right scale): annual percent growth in productivity
The Cities
Population and employment

0 2 4 6 8 10 12

Population, Millions
Workforce Employment, Millions

Paris
London
Madrid
Frankfurt
Rome
Barcelona
Athens
Milan
Lisbon
Vienna
Berlin
Munich
Stuttgart
Amsterdam
Birmingham
Manchester
Turin
Cologne
The Hague
Marseilles
Stockholm
Glasgow
Hamburg
Lyons
Dublin
Edinburgh
Helsinki
Zürich
Copenhagen
Geneva
Strasbourg
Oslo
Brussels
Basle

Population, Millions
Workforce Employment, Millions
Output

Millions of 1997 PPP Euros at constant year 2000 prices
Productivity

1997 PPP Euros per hour worked in 2005