

**1979 POPULATION CENSUS REPORT**

**VOLUME 3**

**URBAN POPULATION**

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## INTRODUCTION:

The Fourth General Population Census in Kenya was taken in August 1979. The objective of the census was to collect data from which population distribution, mortality and fertility rates could be determined.

The census data have been published in three reports of the 1979 Population Census Report: Volume I which contains five tables and the Census Administration Report; Volume 2 the Analytical Report; and Population Projections for Kenya 1980 - 2000. This report, The Urban Report, is intended to service as a source of data on Urban Population in 1979.

At the time of the 1948 census, the number of urban centres defined as settlements with 2000 persons or more was 17 and the total population of such settlements was 276,240 representing about 5 per cent of the total population of Kenya. By 1962 the national census taken after 14 years showed that the number of urban settlements had doubled to 34 and the total urban population was 670,950, approximately 8 per cent of Kenya's population. About a half of these towns were inhabited by less than 5,000 people and only seven had more than 10,000 people. The inter-censal growth rate between 1948 and 1962 was recorded at 6.6 per cent per annum.

Kenya has experienced rapid urbanization since 1962. By 1969 the number of towns with 2,000 or more people had increased to 48 whereas the total population was 1,079,908 or 10 per cent of the total population of Kenya. There were only 2 towns (Nairobi and Mombasa) with over 100,000 inhabitants. During the 1962/69 period the growth rate rose to 7.1 per cent per annum.

The 1979 census figures showed that there were 91 centres with 2,000 persons or more and the total population of such centres was 2,315,696 representing 15 per cent of the total population of Kenya. Between 1969 and 1979, urban inter-censal growth rate had risen to 7.9 per cent per annum.

Not all areas in Kenya have experienced this phenomenal growth in urbanization. The urban population and number of urban centres shown on Table I shows the Rift Valley Province as the most urbanized and the Central and Western as the least. Furthermore the data underscores the influence of major towns of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru.

**TABLE 1 - DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATION OF OVER 2,000**

**BY PROVINCE: 1962, 1969 AND 1979**

PROVINCE	NUMBER OF CENTRES			1962			1969			1979		
	1962	1969	1979	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Nairobi	1	1	1	343500	46.1	100	509286	47.2	100	827775	35.7	100
Coast	5	8	11	195834	26.2	26.4	283652	26.3	30.0	406991	17.6	30.3
Eastern	7	7	15	28746	3.8	1.8	37965	3.5	2.0	233316	10.1	8.6
Central	5	6	13	35047	4.7	2.6	45955	4.3	2.7	128932	5.6	5.5
R/Valley	13	19	30	112517	15.0	6.4	148576	13.8	6.7	341696	14.8	10.5
Nyanza	2	4	7	28068	3.8	1.7	43829	4.1	2.1	207757	9.0	7.9
Western	1	2	6	3939	0.5	0.4	10645	1.0	0.8	105743	4.6	5.8
N/Eastern	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	63486	2.7	16.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>747651</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>1079908</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>2315696</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17.0</b>

NB: 1 = Total Population  
 2 = Percent of Total  
 3 = Proportion Urban

## PATTERN AND DETERMINANTS OF URBAN GROWTH IN KENYA

Urban settlements are known to have existed along the Kenyan coast for over six hundred years. Trading centres and small colonies of population of Arab origin existed along the coast long before the beginning of colonization. However, the majority of the existing urban centres of the country originated during the colonial era. In fact the past development of urban centres in Kenya reflected the colonial pattern of exploitation of the economy. The urban centres were located along the railway line which was by then the central transportation network. Towns such as Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru and Kisumu are examples of this colonial development strategy. The expansion of branch lines to open up the productive highlands led to the evolution of smaller towns such as Thika, Murang'a, Nyeri, Nanyuki and Nyahururu.

Rapid urban expansion began during the period after independence. This accelerated growth took place mainly as a result of the post-independence rush to urban areas, that had earlier been restricted, in an effort to secure wage employment. The major factors underlying rapid urbanization in Kenya, include rural to urban internal migration, rate of natural increase, boundary extensions and re-classifications of localities. The 1962 enumerated population for Nairobi which was 266,794 was adjusted to 343,500 as a result of the 1963 boundary changes that expanded the physical area of Nairobi. Since 1963 an appreciable number of urban centres, which include Machakos, Meru, Embu, Nyeri, Muranga, Thika, Nakuru, Kericho, Kisii, Kisumu, Kakamega, and others, have had their boundaries extended. As a result of natural increase and immigration some urban centres that were almost 2,000, say in 1962 or 1969 reached 2,000 and over and were re-classified as urban centres.

There is an issue, the effect of which is not yet evident. Census enumerators are instructed to enumerate all residents living within a certain delineated locality. However, boundaries shown on census maps are not always very clear and it is possible that even without boundary changes the physical area of an urban centre is not always the same from one census to the next. This phenomenon may be true in the case of Garissa, Wajir, Isiolo, Lokitaung and some other towns in Northern Kenya.

Finally, since the census count refers to where the respondent spent the census night it is possible that some towns carry more population during the day than during the night. It has been argued that in an ordinary day Karatina carries a much larger population than the 3,000 reported by the census.

The differentials noted above have contributed to a complicated pattern of growth of urban population in Kenya. Urban centres which had reported less than 2000 population in 1969 e.g. Garissa reported much larger populations in 1979. On the other hand, since 1962 or 1969 centres disappeared from the census list as urban centres. An example of this latter group is shown in Table 2 below. While lack of urban boundary in the case of Garissa town may have contributed with the two censuses not covering the same area this is not so in the case of Wundanyi. It is, therefore, recommended that a research be made of "disappearing" and "rapidly emerging" centres that will be reported in by 1989 with a view to finding out the true status.

**TABLE 2 - GROWTH OF SOME URBAN CENTRES 1962, 1969 AND 1979**

URBAN CENTRE	1962	1969	1979
Wundanyi	...	4385	389
Kinango	1599	2450	1691
Lokitaung	1566	4090	...
Sagana	2773	718	2100

**DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN POPULATION BY SIZE OF CENTRES**

Table 3 shows the distribution of urban population by size of urban centre. The growth of urban population noted above has contributed to changes in the distribution of urban population. While in 1962, 70 per cent of the urban population lived in Nairobi and Mombasa, growth and boundary extensions of other centres have contributed towards a reduction in the proportion of urban population in the 3 major towns of Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu. In 1979 about half, 57 per cent, of the urban population was resident in these 3 centres. The large population increases affecting towns in the population range from 20,000 to 99,999 were undoubtedly due to the boundary changes.

**Table 3 DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN CENTRES BY SIZE**

SIZE OF CENTRES	NO. OF TOWNS				POPULATION		
	1948	1962	1969	1979	1962	1969	1979
100,000+	1	2	2	3	523,075	756,359	1,321,566
20,000-99,999	1	2	2	13	61,707	79,582	568,099
10,000-19,999	2	3	7	11	44,005	90,685	149,756
5,000 - 9,999	3	11	11	22	69,862	71,396	154,181
2,000 - 4,999	10	16	25	42	49,002	81,886	122,094
TOTAL	17	34	47	91	747,651	1,079,908	2,315,696

NOTE: This table differs from summary derived from Table 1.3 page 13 of the Analytical Volume since the n.a. in that table have been sorted out. Also the table omitted Mandera Township in the 10-20 thousand bracket.

ESTIMATION OF RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH BY URBAN CENTRE

This is an exercise that is fraught with difficulties. The basic population growth formula ( $P_t = P_0 + B - D + M$ ), where  $P_t$  = Population at a future time  $t$ ,  $P_0$  = Base year population,  $B$  = Total births between base year and year  $t$ ,  $D$  = Total deaths between base year and year  $t$ , and  $M$  = Net migration between base year and year  $t$ , cannot be applied. Although birth and death registration is fairly reliable for most urban areas no migration data are available by urban centre by district. Furthermore even with accurate vital registration data it is not possible to distinguish which events really refer to the urban centre residents since as a result of better welfare services urban centres are used for maternity by non-urban centre residents. A phenomenon particularly prevalent in case of births occurring in Nairobi.

The alternative procedure is to use indirect estimation techniques using responses to questions on children ever born alive to women aged 13-49, date of respondent's last life birth and survivorship of parents. This approach too, is likely to produce wrong estimates since mortality experience of parents of a large proportion of urban population reflects mortalities of districts from where the urban resident migrated. These caveats suggest that any estimate of growth rate of population for an urban centre has to be done with a lot of caution.

The last alternative is to derive the rate of population growth, during the intercensal period, from a comparison of the 1962, 1969 and 1979 population. But before such an estimation is made data for 1962 and 1969 must be adjusted for any boundary changes since 1962 and 1969 censuses. If no such adjustment is possible then the rate should be derived only from the "Old town" data. An attempt to reconstruct the 1969 census for Machakos town based on 1979 census boundaries was unsuccessful. However, such an exercise was successful in the case of Busia and estimates of population growth for Busia are shown in Table 4. No attempt was made for other towns and the extent of Machakos Town type problem is not known.

**Table 4 - ESTIMATION OF RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH**

AREA	POPULATION		RATE OF GROWTH
	1969	1979	
<b>Busia</b>			
Old Town	1057	5266	17.4
Adjusted for Boundary changes	17571	24857	3.5
Whole District	200486	297841	4.0
<b>Nairobi</b>	509286	827775	7.0
<b>Total Urban</b>	<b>1,079,908</b>	<b>2,315,096</b>	<b>7.9</b>

In light of the large differences in the growth rates derived above a question arises on what is the effective rate of population growth, say for Machakos, Meru, Kakamega, Kisii etc. In making a decision on the urban centre's rate of population growth it is to be assumed that the rate will be higher than the rate of population growth for the whole district - and lower than the rate of population growth for the total urban population taken as the standard.

#### **DIFFERENTIAL URBANIZATION BY PROVINCE AND DISTRICT**

The degree of urbanization in Kenya varies by regional natural resource endowments, proximity to the central transportation network and the patterns of the past colonial development. The regional pattern of urbanization is such that the urban population is concentrated in regions which have experienced intense resource development. Those regions include the rich agricultural highland districts of Central and Rift Valley Provinces, and Coastal and the Lake Victoria regions including some districts in Western and Nyanza provinces. In the arid and semi-arid northern and north-eastern parts of the country urban centres are confined to scattered market or administrative centres.

Appendix Table 7(b) shows the distribution of urban population by district and by province. The Rift Valley Province has a relatively high level of urbanization. In 1979, it held 21% of the total population of Kenya and had about 15% of the total urban population. Within the province, the differential urbanization by district shows a dispersed pattern. Except for Elgeyo Marakwet, most districts have at least one urban centre. Nakuru district with about 39% of the provincial urban population is the most urbanized district followed by Uasin Gishu (15%) and Kericho (11%). The rest of the districts have shares of less than 10% of the total provincial urban population.

Central province has a comparatively low level of urbanization. In 1979 the province had 15% of the nation's total population and only 5% of the total urban population. The leading district in urbanization is Kiambu with about 42% of the total provincial urban population. Thika town in Kiambu district has grown very fast as it acts as a satellite to Nairobi, attracting the overspill of industries from the city. In 1979, 34% of the total urban population of the province was to be found in Thika (41,324) and 30% in Nyeri town (35,753). Kirinyaga is the least urbanized district in the province with only 6% of the total provincial population.

Coast province is the second most urbanized province in the country after Nairobi. In 1979 it had 9% of the total population of Kenya and 18% of the total urban population of the country. The distribution of urban population within the province, shows a wide gap between Mombasa and the smaller urban centres. Mombasa alone accounted for nearly 84% of the population in the province. The major reason for this is the unique location of Mombasa as a major East African port contributing immensely towards the economy of the country.

The level of urbanization in Eastern province is less substantial partly because the main transportation network only touches a few settlements on the periphery of the province. These are Meru, Embu, Kitui and Machakos. Whereas the province had 18% of the total population of the country in 1979, its urban population was only 10%. The two major towns in this province, Machakos and Meru accounted for 44% and 30% of the total provincial urban population, respectively.

In Western and Nyanza provinces the degree of urbanization is very low. While Western province accounted for 12% of the total Kenyan population in 1979, its urban population was only 5% of the total urban population in the country. The distribution of urban population in Western province shows a more or less even pattern with the three district headquarters of Kakamega, Busia and Bungoma each having just over 20 per cent of the provincial urban population. Kakamega being the provincial headquarters accounted for a little higher share of urban population (30%) compared to Bungoma and Busia each contributing 24% of the provincial urban population. Nyanza had 9% of the total urban population of Kenya despite its share of 17% of the total population of the country.

North-Eastern province is the least urbanized of all provinces. Though the land is large it is less developed being an arid and semi-arid region. In 1979, the province accounted for only 2% of the population in Kenya. The three district headquarters of Garissa (14,076), Mandera (13,126) and Wajir (6,384) are small towns accounting for 22%, 21% and 10% of the provincial urban population respectively.

Due to the effect of Nairobi and Mombasa, the national proportion of population urban was 15.0 per cent in 1979. Twenty



information on every individual. It is, therefore, not possible to publish other characteristics eg mortality, fertility etc for the urban population.

Data on Table 11 belie the true status of "Other Small Towns". While some census officers were keen to show population in any conurbation as urban others were not. In the case of Kirinyaga, Kagio is excluded while Baricho is included as urban.

# A P P E N D I X

TABLE 7(a) - POPULATION BY URBAN CENTRE, SEX AND DISTRICT

DISTRICT/ URBAN CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DENSITY PER KM2
Nairobi	4794448	348327	827775	1210
Kiambu				
Kiambu*	1982	1687	3669	2183
Thika	23804	17520	41324	157
Githunguri	1270	1247	2517	2420
Kikuyu	2145	1816	3961	5501
Total	29201	22270	51471	
Proportion Urban	8.5	6.5	7.5	
Kirinyaga				
Sagana	1115	983	2098	845
Kerugoya*	1874	1678	3552	2065
Kutus	1183	1041	2224	1502
Total	4172	3702	7874	
Proportion Urban	2.9	2.5	2.7	
Muranga				
Murang'a*	7721	7569	15290	576
Makuyu	1123	1005	2128	1564
Total	8844	8574	17418	
Proportion Urban	2.8	2.5	2.7	
Nyandarua				
Nyahururu*	6188	5089	11277	642
Proportion Urban	5.4	4.3	4.8	
Nyeri				
Karatina	1609	1371	2980	1693
Nyeri**	19247	16506	35753	497
Othaya	1210	949	2159	749
Total	22066	18826	40892	
Proportion Urban	9.4	7.5	8.4	

DISTRICT/ URBAN CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DENSITY PER KM2
<b>Kilifi</b>				
Kilifi*	3009	2857	5866	842
Watamu	1293	895	2188	1215
Malindi	12480	10795	23275	1087
Mariakani	1444	1322	2766	1257
<b>Total</b>	<b>18226</b>	<b>15869</b>	<b>34095</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.9</b>	
<b>Lamu</b>				
Witu	1196	1092	2288	-
Lamu*	4166	4228	8394	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>5362</b>	<b>5320</b>	<b>10682</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>25.3</b>	
<b>Kwale</b>				
Kwale*	1241	959	2200	277
Msambweni	3036	3081	6117	967
<b>Total</b>	<b>4277</b>	<b>4040</b>	<b>8317</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>	
<b>Mombasa</b>				
Mombasa**	189942	151206	341148	1622
<b>Taita/Taveta</b>				
Voi	3972	3425	7397	612
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>	
<b>Tana River</b>				
Hola*	2879	2473	5352	594
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	
<b>Embu</b>				
Embu	8567	7419	15986	648
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	
<b>Kitui</b>				
Kitui*	2449	1953	4402	1038
Mwingi	1316	987	2303	1421
<b>Total</b>	<b>3765</b>	<b>2940</b>	<b>6705</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	

DISTRICT/ URBAN CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DENSITY PER
<b>Machakos</b>				
Machakos*	41153	43167	84320	260
Athi River	5409	4351	9760	528
Mtito Andei	1283	784	2067	1325
Kangundo	2869	2840	5709	1274
<b>Total</b>	<b>50714</b>	<b>51142</b>	<b>101856</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>10.0</b>	
<b>Isiolo</b>				
Isiolo*	5831	5500	11331	-
Oldonyiro	1296	1405	2701	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7127</b>	<b>6905</b>	<b>14032</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>32.3</b>	
<b>Marsabit</b>				
Kargi	1017	1043	2060	-
Marsabit*	4597	4142	8739	8
Sololo	1731	1776	3507	666
Moyale	3699	3779	7478	7478
<b>Total</b>	<b>11044</b>	<b>10740</b>	<b>21784</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>22.6</b>	
<b>Meru</b>				
Meru*	35637	34802	70439	561
Nkubu	1327	1187	2514	1428
<b>Total</b>	<b>36964</b>	<b>35989</b>	<b>72953</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.8</b>	
<b>Garissa</b>				
Garissa**	7729	6347	14076	-
Mudo Gashe	3113	2914	6027	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>10842</b>	<b>9261</b>	<b>20103</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>15.6</b>	
<b>Mandera</b>				
Mandera*	6791	6335	13126	-
Elwak	4069	3975	8044	-
Rhamu	1703	1644	3347	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>12563</b>	<b>11954</b>	<b>24517</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>23.2</b>	

DISTRICT/ URBAN CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DENSITY PER KM2
Wajir				
Wajir	3491	2893	6384	-
Bute	4394	4252	8646	-
Buna	1870	1966	3836	-
Total	9755	9111	18866	
Proportion Urban	13.3	13.8	13.5	
Kisii				
Kisii*	15102	14559	29661	844
Proportion Urban	3.6	3.3	3.4	
Kisumu				
Muhoroni	3285	2167	5452	1195
Kisumu**	77722	74921	152643	565
Total	81007	77088	158095	
Proportion Urban	34.0	31.6	32.8	
Siaya				
Siaya*	1901	2121	4022	703
Proportion Urban	0.9	0.8	0.8	
South Nyanza				
Kendu Bay	1048	1206	2254	2167
Homa Bay*	3909	3580	7489	1570
Migori	3153	3083	6236	9170
Total	8110	7869	15979	
Proportion Urban	2.1	1.9	2.0	
Baringo				
Kabarnet*	1879	1742	3621	1534
Mogotio	1279	937	2216	1978
Eldama Ravine	1997	1944	3941	535
Maji Mazuri	2055	1810	3865	623
Total	7210	6433	13643	
Proportion Urban	7.1	6.3	6.7	

DISTRICT/ URBAN CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DENSITY PER KM2
<b>Kajiado</b>				
Oloitokitok	1119	952	2071	862
Ngong	2126	1878	4004	1564
Kajiado*	1995	1529	3524	161
Namanga	1041	976	2017	840
Magadi	1529	1034	2563	215
<b>Total</b>	<b>7810</b>	<b>6369</b>	<b>14179</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	
<b>Kericho</b>				
Kericho*	16415	13188	29603	436
Kipkelion	1892	1820	3712	606
Londiani	2226	2188	4414	606
<b>Total</b>	<b>20533</b>	<b>17196</b>	<b>37729</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	
<b>Laikipia</b>				
Nanyuki*	10549	8437	18986	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>14.1</b>	
<b>Nakuru</b>				
Naivasha	6750	4741	11491	1113
Gilgil	5491	3612	9103	1961
Njoro	2878	2925	5803	819
Elburgon	4607	4094	8701	4628
Nakuru**	51301	41550	92851	1184
Molo	2808	2542	5350	1502
<b>Total</b>	<b>73835</b>	<b>59464</b>	<b>133299</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>25.5</b>	
<b>Nandi</b>				
Kapsabet*	1580	1365	2945	1132
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	
<b>Narok</b>				
Narok*	3132	2558	5690	611
Nairangi Enkare	5088	4912	10000	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>8220</b>	<b>7470</b>	<b>15690</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.5</b>	

DISTRICT/ URBAN CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DENSITY PER KM2
<b>Samburu</b>				
Maralal*	5221	5009	10230	94
Wamba	1046	1210	2256	150
Baragoi	1178	1414	2592	185
<b>Total</b>	<b>7445</b>	<b>7633</b>	<b>15078</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>19.6</b>	
<b>Trans-Nzoia</b>				
Kitale*	15640	12687	28327	352
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>10.9</b>	
<b>Turkana</b>				
Lodwar*	3367	3077	6444	716
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	
<b>Uasin-Gishu</b>				
Eldoret*	28930	21573	50503	874
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>16.8</b>	
<b>West Pokot</b>				
Kapenguria*	1557	1195	2752	688
Makutano	1126	995	2121	1893
<b>Total</b>	<b>3683</b>	<b>2190</b>	<b>4872</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>	
<b>Bungoma</b>				
Bungoma*	12727	12434	25161	442
Kimilili	1069	1074	2143	1674
Webuye	9104	8859	17963	315
<b>Total</b>	<b>22900</b>	<b>22367</b>	<b>45267</b>	
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>9.0</b>	
<b>Busia</b>				
Busia*	11867	12990	24857	557
<b>Proportion Urban</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	

DISTRICT/ URBAN CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DENSITY PER KM2
Kakamega				
Kakamega**	16123	15902	32025	676
Luanda	1666	1928	3594	1403
Total	17759	17830	35619	
Proportion Urban	3.6	3.3	3.5	

FootNote:

- + Nation's capital
- \*\* Provincial and District Headquarters
- \* District Headquarters



**DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATION  
2000 AND OVER BY PROVINCE AND DISTRICT.**

TABLE 7(b)

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	URBAN CENTRES	TOTAL URBAN POPULATION	PERCENT OF PROVINCE URBAN POPULATION
NAIROBI	NAIROBI	Nairobi	827,775	100.00
CENTRAL	KIAMBU	Thika	41,324	34.14
		Kikuyu	3,961	3.27
		Kiambu	3,669	3.03
		Githunguri	2,517	2.08
		Total	51,471	42.52
	KIRINYAGA	Kerugoya	3,552	2.93
		Kutus	2,224	1.84
		Sagana	2,098	1.73
		Total	7,874	6.50
	MURANG'A	Murang'a	15,290	12.63
		Makuyu	2,128	1.76
		Total	17,418	14.39
	NYANDARUA	Nyandarua	11,277	9.32
	NYERI	Nyeri	35,753	29.53
		Karatina	2,980	2.46
		Othaya	2,159	1.78
		Total	40,892	33.77
PROVINCE TOTAL			121,058	100.00
COAST	KILIFI	Malindi	23,275	5.72
		Kilifi	5,866	1.44
		Mariakani	2,766	0.68
		Watamu	2,188	0.54
		Total	34,095	8.38
	KWALE	Msambweni	6,117	1.50
		Kwale	2,200	0.54
		Total	8,317	2.04
	LAMU	Lamu	8,394	2.06
		Witu	2,288	0.56
		Total	10,682	2.62
	MOMBASA	Mombasa	341,148	83.82

TABLE 7(b) Contd

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	URBAN CENTRES	TOTAL URBAN POPULATION	PERCENT OF PROVINCE URBAN POPULATION	
COAST	TAITA TAVETA	Voi	7,397	1.82	
	TANA RIVER	Hola	5,352	1.32	
PROVINCE TOTAL			406,993	100.00	
EASTERN	EMBU	Embu	15,986	6.85	
	ISIOLO	Isiolo	11,331	4.86	
		Oldonyiro	2,701	1.16	
		Total	14,032	6.02	
	KITUI	Kitui	4,402	1.89	
		Mwingi	2,303	0.99	
		Total	6,705	2.88	
	MACHAKOS	Machakos	84,320	36.14	
		Athi River	9,760	4.18	
		Kangundo	5,709	2.45	
		Mtito Andei	2,067	0.89	
		Total	101,856	43.66	
	MARSABIT	Marsabit	8,739	3.74	
		Moyale	7,478	3.20	
		Sololo	3,507	1.50	
		Kargi	2,060	0.88	
		Total	21,784	9.32	
	MERU	Meru	70,439	30.19	
		Nkubu	2,514	1.08	
		Total	72,953	31.27	
PROVINCE TOTAL			233,316	100.00	
NORTH EASTRN	GARISSA	Garissa	14,076	22.17	
		Mudo Gashe	6,027	9.49	
		Total	20,103	31.66	
	MANDERA	Mandera	13,126	20.68	
		El Wak	8,044	12.67	
		Rhamu	3,347	5.27	
		Total	24,517	38.62	

TABLE 7(b) Contd

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	URBAN CENTRES	TOTAL URBAN POPULATION	PERCENT OF PROVINCE URBAN POPULATION
NORTH EASTERN	WAJIR	Bute Wajir Buna Total	8,646 6,384 3,836 18,866	13.62 10.06 6.04 29.72
PROVINCE TOTAL			63,486	100.00
NYANZA	KISII	Kisii	29,661	14.28
	KISUMU	Kisumu	152,643	73.47
		Muhoroni	5,452	2.62
		Total	158,095	76.10
	SIAYA	Siaya	4,022	1.94
	SOUTH NYANZA	Homa Bay	7,489	3.60
		Migori	6,236	3.00
		Kendu Bay	2,254	1.08
		Total	15,979	7.68
	PROVINCE TOTAL			207,757
RIFT VALLEY	BARINGO	Eldama Ravine	3,941	1.15
		Maji Mazuri	3,865	1.13
		Kabarnet	3,621	1.06
		Mogotio	2,216	0.65
		Total	13,643	3.99
	KAJIADO	Ngong	4004	1.17
		Kajiado	3524	1.03
		Magadi	2563	0.75
		Oloitokitok	2071	0.61
		Namanga	2017	0.59
		Total	14179	4.15
	KERICHO	Kericho	29,603	8.66
		Londiani	4,414	1.29
		Kipkelion	3,712	1.09
		Total	37,729	11.04
	LAIKIPIA	Nanyuki	18,986	5.56

TABLE 7(b) Contd

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	URBAN CENTRES	TOTAL URBAN POPULATION	PERCENT OF PROVINCE URBAN POPULATION	
RIFT VALLEY	NAKURU	Nakuru	92,851	27.17	
		Naivasha	11,491	3.36	
		Gilgil	9,103	2.66	
		Elburgon	8,701	2.55	
		Njoro	5,803	1.70	
		Molo	5,350	1.57	
		Total	133,299	39.01	
	NANDI	Kapsabet	2,945	0.86	
	NAROK	Nairangi Enkare	10,000	2.93	
		Narok	5,690	1.66	
		Total	15,690	4.59	
	SAMBURU	Maralal	10,230	2.99	
		Baragoi	2592	0.76	
		Wamba	2,256	0.66	
		Total	15,078	4.41	
	TRANS NZOIA	Kitale	28,327	8.29	
	TURKANA	Lodwar	6444	1.89	
	UASIN GISHU	Eldoret	50,503	14.78	
	WEST POKOT	Kapenguria	2,752	0.81	
		Makutano	2,121	0.62	
		Total	4,873	1.43	
	PROVINCE TOTAL			341,696	100.00
WESTERN	BUNGOMA	Bungoma	25,161	23.79	
		Webuye	17,963	16.99	
		Kimilili	2,143	2.03	
		Total	45,267	42.81	
	BUSIA	Busia	24857	23.51	
	KAKAMEGA	Kakamega	32,025	30.29	
		Luanda	3594	3.40	
		Total	35619	33.68	
	PROVINCE TOTAL			105,743	100.00
	NATIONAL TOTAL			2,307,824	

TABLE 7(c) - URBAN POPULATION BY SIZE OF URBAN CENTRE

URBAN CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	SEX RATIO
Nairobi	479448	348327	827775	137.6
Mombasa	189942	151206	341148	125.6
Kisumu	77722	74921	152643	103.7
Nakuru	51301	41550	92851	123.5
Masaku	41153	43167	84320	95.3
Meru	35637	34802	70439	102.4
Eldoret	28930	21573	50503	134.1
Thika	23804	17520	41324	135.9
Nyeri	19247	16506	35753	116.6
Kakamega	16123	15902	32025	101.4
Kisii	15102	14559	29661	103.7
Kericho	16415	13188	29603	124.5
Kitale	15640	12687	28327	123.3
Bungoma	12727	12434	25161	102.4
Busia	11867	12990	24857	91.4
Malindi	12480	10795	23275	115.6
Nanyuki	10549	8437	18986	125.0
Webuye	9104	8859	17963	102.8
Embu	8567	7419	15986	115.5
Muranga	7721	7569	15290	102.0
Garissa	7729	6347	14076	121.8
Mandera	6791	6335	13126	107.2
Naivasha	6750	4741	11491	142.4
Isiolo	5831	5500	11331	106.0
Nyahururu	6188	5089	11277	121.6
Maralal	5221	5009	10230	104.2
Nairangi Enkare	5088	4912	10000	103.6
Athi River	5409	4351	9760	124.3
Gilgil	5491	3612	9103	152.0
Marsabit	4597	4142	8739	111.0
Elburgon	4607	4094	8701	112.5
Bute	4394	4252	8646	103.3
Lamu	4166	4228	8394	98.3
Elwak	4069	3975	8044	102.4
Homa Bay	3909	3580	7489	109.2
Moyale	3699	3779	7478	97.9
Voi	3972	3425	7397	116.0
Lodwar	3367	3077	6444	109.4
Wajir	3491	2893	6384	120.7
Migori	3153	3083	6236	102.3
Msambweni	3036	3081	6117	98.5
Mado Gashe	3113	2914	6027	106.8
Kilifi	3009	2857	5866	105.3
Njoro	2878	2925	5803	98.4
Kangundo	2869	2840	5709	101.0

TABLE 7(c) Contd

URBAN CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	SEX RATIO
Narok	3132	2558	5690	122.4
Muhoroni	3285	2167	5452	151.6
Hola	2879	2473	5352	116.4
Molo	2808	2542	5350	110.5
Londiani	2226	2188	4414	101.7
Kitui	2449	1953	4402	125.4
Siaya	1901	2121	4022	89.6
Ngong	2126	1878	4004	113.2
Kikuyu	2145	1816	3961	113.1
Eldama Ravine	1997	1944	3941	102.7
Maji Mazuri	2055	1810	3865	113.5
Buna	1870	1966	3836	95.1
Kipkelion	1892	1820	3712	104.0
Kiambu	1982	1687	3669	117.5
Kabarnet	1879	1742	3621	107.9
Luanda	1666	1928	3594	86.4
Kerugoya	1874	1678	3552	111.7
Kajiado	1995	1329	3524	130.5
Sololo	1731	1776	3507	97.5
Rhamu	1703	1644	3347	103.6
Karatina	1609	1371	2980	117.4
Kapsabet	1580	1365	2945	115.8
Mariakani	1444	1322	2766	109.2
Kapenguria	1557	1195	2752	130.3
Oldonyiro	1296	1405	2701	92.2
Baragoi	1178	1414	2592	83.3
Magadi	1529	1034	2563	147.9
Githunguri	1270	1247	2517	101.8
Nkubu	1327	1187	2514	111.8
Mwingi	1316	987	2303	133.3
Witu	1196	1092	2288	109.5
Wambu	1046	1210	2256	86.1
Kendu Bay	1048	1206	2254	86.9
Kutus	1183	1041	2224	113.6
Mogotio	1279	937	2216	136.5
Kwale	1241	959	2200	129.4
Watamu	1293	895	2188	144.5
Othaya	1210	949	2159	127.5
Kimilili	1069	1074	2143	99.5
Makuyu	1123	1005	2128	111.7
Makutano	1126	995	2121	113.1
Sagana	1115	983	2098	113.1
Oloitokitok	1119	952	2071	117.5
Mtito Andei	1283	784	2067	163.6
Kargi	1017	1043	2060	97.5
Namanga	1041	976	2017	106.7
Total	1272396	1043300	2315696	122.0

TABLE 8 - URBAN POPULATION BY SEX, BROAD AGE GROUP AND URBAN GROUP

URBAN GROUP	<15		15-49		50+		SEX RATIO		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	<15	15-49	50+
Nairobi	136184	144895	314483	189988	27694	12829	94.00	165.5	215.6
Mombasa	62001	61941	113980	79920	13244	9017	100.10	142.6	146.9
Nakuru	18582	19416	30389	20951	2230	1147	95.70	145.04	194.42
Kisumu	32186	33533	38597	35896	6134	4795	95.98	107.52	127.92
Eldoret	9102	9813	18394	11036	1304	587	92.75	166.67	222.14
Masaku	14139	20482	17183	18748	3470	3877	69.03	91.65	96.46
Meru	16598	16398	16786	15740	3225	3139	101.21	106.65	102.73
Thika	6732	6959	15900	9905	1147	636	96.73	160.52	180.34
Nyeri	6923	7254	10961	8127	1226	1099	95.43	134.87	111.55
Malindi	4547	4352	6901	5520	1011	901	104.48	125.48	112.20
Kisii	6643	6997	7545	6847	868	676	94.94	110.19	128.40
Kericho	6101	6261	9414	6242	785	584	97.44	150.81	134.41
Kitare	5786	6123	8974	6066	810	389	94.49	147.93	208.22
Bungoma	5766	6114	6223	5704	725	607	94.30	109.09	119.43
Busia	1006	1266	1364	1418	134	69	79.46	96.19	194.20
Kakamega	1889	7626	7741	8074	1113	812	24.77	95.87	137.06
Muranga	3109	3153	3871	3626	605	651	98.60	106.75	92.93
Embu	3031	3084	5007	3960	506	364	98.28	126.43	139.01
Isiolo	2401	2384	2934	2681	487	430	100.71	109.43	113.25
Garissa	2716	2654	4493	3238	506	451	102.33	138.75	112.19
Nanyuki	3691	3788	6132	4141	712	502	97.43	148.08	141.83
Naivasha	2005	2042	4098	2226	340	131	98.18	184.09	259.54
Nairage Enkare	2684	2482	1956	2031	439	394	108.13	96.30	111.42
Maralal	2351	2254	2064	2361	417	392	104.30	87.42	106.37
Webuye	4033	4431	4565	3984	487	440	91.01	114.58	110.68
Nyahururu	2149	2306	3732	2605	302	174	93.19	143.26	173.56
Total 5,000-9,999	50684	51066	66934	55349	9041	7263	99.30	120.90	124.50

**TABLE 9: - POPULATION AGED OVER 15 YEARS WHO COMPLETED**

**FORM 1 AND OVER BY SEX AND URBAN CENTRE**

URBAN CENTRE/ GROUP	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	PROPORTION OF TOTAL
Nairobi	150225	77715	227940	27.5
Mombasa	40429	17725	58154	17.0
Nakuru	13095	6139	19234	20.7
Kisumu	12653	6391	19044	12.5
Eldoret	7250	3029	10279	20.4
Masaku	5849	3855	9704	11.5
Meru	4223	3367	7590	10.5
Thika	6805	3281	10086	24.4
Nyeri	4812	2610	7422	20.8
Malindi	1874	781	2655	11.4
Kisii	2765	1757	4522	15.2
Kericho	2436	1159	3595	12.2
Kitare	2953	1421	4374	15.4
Bungoma	1933	1079	3012	10.0
Busia	557	342	899	17.1
Kakamega	2615	1715	4330	13.6
Muranga	1336	957	2293	15.2
Embu	1547	677	2224	19.7
Isiolo	2117	1372	3489	21.8
Garissa	699	273	972	8.6
Nanyuki	1223	360	1583	11.2
Naivasha	2146	965	3111	16.4
Nairangi Enkare	1161	473	1634	15.1
Maralal	225	120	345	3.5
Webuye	494	186	680	6.6
Nyahururu				
Total 5,000-9,999	19778	9109	28887	12.0

\* includes only "Old Busia"



**TABLE 10 - URBAN POPULATION BY SEX AND MARITAL STATUS**

URBAN CENTRE/ GROUP	Single		Married		Widowed		Divorced	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Nairobi	268316	217019	206212	116477	1215	6514	2851	7613
Mombasa	111623	83068	72811	55561	889	5639	2822	5565
Nakuru	31620	26830	19203	13117	130	736	266	785
Kisumu	48906	41872	26762	27471	467	3798	976	1194
Eldoret	16591	13296	11666	7380	55	346	475	411
Masaku	29904	27521	10555	13123	202	1604	450	808
Meru	25992	22726	10034	10330	242	1491	390	770
Thika	13495	10894	9964	5668	54	355	265	582
Nyeri	10557	9763	5779	4207	66	433	109	250
Malindi	7849	5645	4284	4147	72	456	205	472
Kisii	10152	9294	4771	4543	48	499	73	160
Kericho	9928	8116	6128	4291	40	379	206	296
Kitare	8598	7234	5580	3920	38	174	108	204
Bungoma	8395	7585	4143	4171	51	395	131	267
Busia	1509	1696	974	962	6	46	12	41
Kakamega	10622	9982	5166	5031	85	443	116	311
Muranga	5028	4653	2416	2210	39	317	95	250
Embu	5461	4854	2992	2144	27	210	73	201
Isiolo	3817	3091	1901	1907	41	344	66	153
Garissa	4907	3414	2696	2287	31	340	77	290
Nanyuki	6337	5311	4064	2703	40	228	87	177
Naivasha	3716	2844	2663	1328	14	92	26	114
Nairage Enkare	3634	2857	1393	1646	21	304	28	100
Maralal	3613	2849	1579	1802	8	290	17	62
Webuye	5988	5372	3003	3026	35	255	68	200
Nyahururu	3707	3332	2433	1520	12	102	32	129
Total 5,000-9,999	46208	38577	25140	20573	268	2482	569	1676

\* Includes "Old Busia"

**TABLE 11 URBAN CENTRES WITH  
POPULATION BELOW 2000 BY SEX AND DISTRICT**

DISTRICT/CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<b>Kiambu</b>			
Limuru	1061	667	1728
Kiambaa	479	521	1000
Uplands	707	549	1256
Ruiru	986	732	1718
<b>Kirinyaga</b>			
Baricho	150	143	293
<b>Muranga</b>			
Sabasaba	736	765	1501
Maragua	636	662	1298
<b>Nyandarua</b>			
Ol Kalao	977	934	1911
<b>Kilifi</b>			
Kaloleni	529	642	1171
Mazeras	494	461	955
Mambrui	710	747	1457
<b>Kwale</b>			
Kinango	839	852	1691
Mackinon	540	532	1072
Lunga Lunga	884	787	1671
<b>Lamu</b>			
Mombasa	9	6	15
Katsakakairu	125	104	229
Mao	189	139	328
Pandanguo	142	135	277
Mkuinumbi	405	416	821
Mokowe	745	653	1398
Bargoni	286	189	475
Bodhei	38	41	79
Matondoni	493	508	1001
Shwll	531	445	976
Manga	54	67	121
Kiunga	421	337	758
Mkomani	76	73	149
Mombore	28	27	55
Faza	895	937	1832
Chundwa	644	688	1332
Ndau	484	549	1033
Pate	688	732	1420
Siu	795	772	1567

DISTRICT/CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Taita/Taveta			
Taveta	1040	772	1812
Wundanyi	219	170	389
Tana River			
Garsen	508	499	1007
Embu			
Runyenjes	781	785	1566
Siakago	85	122	207
Isiolo			
Merti	654	729	1383
Kitui			
Mutito	400	354	754
Gombe	151	153	304
Ikanga	411	489	900
Mutomo	240	196	436
Kabati	390	354	744
Migwani	261	200	461
Katse	97	57	154
Nguni	446	169	615
Machakos			
Sultan Hamud	760	600	1360
Kibwezi	773	551	1324
Tala	605	459	1064
Marsabit			
Illeret	274	227	501
Dukana	263	221	484
Kalacha	234	240	474
North Horr	671	654	1325
Maikona	256	272	528
Loiyangalani	557	503	1060
Bubisa	35	33	68
Gatab	394	381	775
Logologo	418	519	937
Laisamis	538	623	1161
Korr	837	822	1659
Uran	138	128	266
Godoma	588	539	1127
Meru			
Chogoria	330	526	856
Chuka	658	564	1222
Maua	976	829	1805
Garissa			
Dadaab	929	790	1719

TABLE 11 Contd

DISTRICT/CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<b>Kisii</b>			
Nyamira	175	132	307
Keroka	560	398	958
Ogembo	116	73	189
<b>Kisumu</b>			
Maseno	757	882	1639
Ahero	905	858	1763
Koru	484	515	999
Songor	232	199	431
<b>Siaya</b>			
Bondo	333	369	702
Yala	481	374	855
Ukwala	366	370	736
<b>South Nyanza</b>			
Oyugis	566	543	1109
<b>Kericho</b>			
Sotik	763	571	1334
Sondur	276	204	480
<b>Laikipia</b>			
Rumuruti	812	675	1487
<b>Nakuru</b>			
Longonot	212	213	425
Mau Summit	381	328	709
Rongai	313	270	583
Mau Narok	95	94	189
<b>Nandi</b>			
Nandi Hills	761	658	1419
<b>Narok</b>			
Olokurto	862	848	1710
Kilgoris	862	980	1842
<b>Baringo</b>			
Tenges	233	219	452
Marigat	551	436	987
<b>Elgeyo Marakwet</b>			
Tambach	349	305	654
Iten	437	332	769

TABLE 11 Contd

DISTRICT/CENTRE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<b>Samburu</b>			
Sukuta Marmar	230	252	482
Amaya	74	66	140
Loosok	160	143	303
Poros	185	201	386
Opiroi	185	155	340
Baresoi	199	182	381
Kirimuu	94	96	190
Kasima	85	69	154
Lodokejik	23	14	37
Serolevi	209	159	368
Ngilaei	96	116	212
Archir's Post	379	428	807
Ngutuk Ongiron	108	103	211
Londuingokwe	226	184	410
Marti	78	58	136
Lisirkan	109	106	215
Tum	105	95	200
South Horr	336	332	668
<b>Uasin Gishu</b>			
Moi's Bridge	525	513	1038
Moiben	291	251	542
Turbo	510	469	979
<b>West Pokot</b>			
Sirisia	289	308	597
<b>Bungoma</b>			
Tongaren	118	106	224
<b>Busia</b>			
Butula	110	165	275
Bumala	92	71	163
<b>Kakamega</b>			
Butere	522	522	1044