Hungary

Making Cities Work

Capital: Budapest

Largest City: Budapest 1,819,000

Urban Profile

**Urban Population**
- 6,422,000 lived in urban areas in 2000.

**Urban Migration Trends**
- Urbanization has accelerated in the past few decades. In 1949, 37.5% of the population lived in 50 towns around Hungary. In 1995, 65% of Hungarians lived in 194 cities. The declining national population, a process that has been ongoing since the early 1980s, has left its marks on the urban population as well. From 1985-1995, only 75 towns have actually increased their population.

**Urban Poverty**
- 552,292 urban dwellers were below the poverty line.
  - 64% of the country's poor live in urban areas.

**Economy & Employment**
- GDP (Country) 2000:
  - Agriculture 5%
  - Industrial 35%
  - Services 60%
- GDP (Country) 1990:
  - Agriculture 15%
  - Industrial 38%
  - Services 47%
- Employment:
  - Nation (est. 2000) 9.4%
  - Budapest (1999) 6.0%

**Decentralization**

*Sample Urban Area: Budapest, pop. 1,819,000*

- Able to set * of local tax levels
- Able to set * of user charges
- Able to borrow all of funds

**Infrastructure & Basic Services**

- 0 urban dwellers lack water supply.
- 0 urban dwellers lack sanitation coverage.

**Health**

- A Budapest study showed that lead concentration in the air was up to 27 times higher than national standards. According to recent health examinations, many children have more lead in their body than is permitted for an adult industrial worker. In the last 20 years the number people suffering from asthma and lung cancer rose 12 and 3 fold respectively. Hungary now has the lowest life expectancy in Europe. Air pollution in Hungarian cities is caused mainly by motor vehicles and to a lesser extent by industry and households.

**Crime**

- Since 1989, Hungary has seen steady growth in criminal activity, and by 1997 crime rates had grown to approximately half a million criminal acts per year. The political, social and economic changes that Hungary has endured have fundamentally altered the incidents of crime from primarily burglaries to more sophisticated crimes. Hungary's cities, including Budapest, are plagued by sophisticated organized crime including drug trade, prostitution, smuggling of aliens, illegal trade of goods, armed robbery, blackmail, and counterfeit activities affecting the business sector.

**Population without Water Supply in 2000**

- Urban 0 (0.0%)
- Rural 72 (2.2%)
- Total 72 (1.0%)

**Pop. without Sanitation Coverage in 2000**

- Urban 0 (0.0%)
- Rural 72 (2.2%)
- Total 72 (1.0%)

**Note:** "*" signifies unavailable data.

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