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Data and report: <https://brook.gs/2xXS9NE>

## **The world's 300 largest cities concentrated and accelerated recent global growth, finds new Brookings report**

*Report provides rare local snapshot of economic dynamics across the world*

Washington, D.C. – A new report released today from the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, *Global Metro Monitor 2018*, finds that the 300 largest metropolitan areas in the world expanded faster than the global economy overall, accounting for two-thirds of global GDP growth and more than a third of global employment growth between 2014 and 2016. The concentration of economic growth and prosperity in large metro areas now defines the modern global economy, creating both opportunities and challenges in an era in which national political, economic, and societal trends are increasingly influenced by subnational dynamics.

This year's *Global Metro Monitor*, the fifth edition of the report, analyzes metropolitan areas based on a composite index combining employment and GDP per capita growth. Emerging economy metro areas continued to disproportionately drive growth, accounting for 80 percent of the 60 top-performing metro economies on the index. This urban growth story cannot be told without a deliberate focus on China, which now incredibly houses more than one-third of the world's 300 largest metropolitan areas.

"The findings in the report certainly reaffirm the vast economic power and reach of large cities within the global economy," the authors note. "Yet, while some metro areas are pulling away from their surrounding regions, others are struggling to create prosperity for their citizens. In this place age, leaders at both the local and national level must possess an understanding of metropolitan economic advantages and weaknesses, with a strong focus on policies that will improve employment and incomes."

The report also finds that between 2014 and 2016:

- Metro areas in China and Emerging Asia-Pacific experienced the fastest GDP per capita growth in the world. Middle Eastern and African metro areas displayed the fastest employment growth.
- In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, large metro areas expanded employment even as the rest of the region stagnated.
- Latin American metros experienced the slowest GDP per capita and employment growth.

- North America and Western Europe experienced moderate growth during this period, but a strong showing in the technology sector propelled two Silicon Valley anchors (San Jose and San Francisco), into the top four of the report's performance index.

*Global Metro Monitor 2018* analyzes the economic dynamics in the world's 300 largest metropolitan areas, specifically employment and GDP per capita growth. Rather than a measure of competitiveness, wealth, or livability, the *Global Metro Monitor* aims to capture how large metro areas are responding to continued changes in the world economy; and amidst concerns of rising place-based disparities, how these metro areas are growing relative to their surrounding nations and regions.

The *Global Metro Monitor* also features an interactive data explorer, tables and appendices, and a full PDF version of the report available for download here: <https://brook.gs/2xXS9NE>.

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