

7.3. Key socio-economic indicators with focus on Lahore

7.3.1. Economic situation

Lahore[2196] is the second-largest city in Pakistan, and the capital of Punjab,[2197] the country's second largest[2198] and wealthiest province. Punjab province accounts for approximately 60 % of Pakistan's GDP[2199] and houses more than half of Pakistan's population.[2200]

Lahore had approximately 13 million inhabitants in 2023, according to the latest Population & Housing Census.[2201] The city is a centre for political, cultural and economic affairs[2202] and a leading hub for industry, commerce and banking.[2203] It is a multicentric megacity with several business centres.[2204] Textile industry represents the most important industrial branch[2205] with an estimated 1 500 to 2 000 textile and garment factories.[2206] Other important sectors include rubber factories and iron and steel mills.[2207] Lahore's industrial base has fostered its commercial and banking sectors. The city provides an advanced telecommunication infrastructure and is home to numerous corporate headquarters. However, major challenges such as poverty and income inequality persist, despite economic growth. The population of Lahore is growing fast, which, in combination with a shortage of economic opportunities for low-income residents, has led to the development of large, densely populated slums.[2208]

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  All Lahore-specific information in this chapter refers to Lahore district, which was home to a population of 13 million, according to the latest census data. Lahore district is part of the larger administrative unit Lahore division (22.8 million inhabitans) and divided into several *tehsils*. Pakistan, PBS, 7th Population & Housing Census 2023 – Dashboard, n.d., url. Set filters to Lahore District, accessed on 23 March 2026.

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