



7.3.5. Housing and living conditions

Around 96 % of housing units in Lahore district qualified as brick-built *pacca* housing units.[2239](#) Almost 2 % of households were categorised as *semi pacca* and mud and sheet-built *katcha* housing units respectively.[2240](#) Furthermore, 63.6 % of households had access to drinking water inside their homes.[2241](#) Some 1.6 million out of around 2 million (81.4 %) households had a separate washroom, while almost 84 000 households (4.2 %) had no washroom. 83.5 % of households were equipped with a ‘separate toilet’, but almost 2 % of households did not have a toilet at all.[2242](#)

City and regional planning expert Humaira Tabassum stated that Lahore’s urban structure is uneven. On the one hand, official ‘well-planned’ developments offer standard infrastructure, public utilities, a good road network, and security arrangements. On the other hand, nearby informal settlements frequently appear slum-like.[2243](#) Reportedly, Lahore has ‘significant’ slum areas.[2244](#) Rapid population growth has led to a considerable increase in property values. Average property prices in Lahore increased by more than 50 % between 2019 and 2024,[2245](#) and low-income populations depended on informal settlements.[2246](#)

Lahore faces several environmental crises, namely flooding, toxic air and water shortages.[2247](#) Due to inadequate wastewater management, untreated sewage contaminates groundwater and the Ravi River in Lahore, leading to a rise in waterborne diseases.[2248](#) As of 18 January 2026, Lahore was among the world’s top 10 most polluted cities, according to the Air Quality Index.[2249](#) In early 2024, a pneumonia outbreak with at least 5 000 children receiving medical treatment in Lahore was linked to dangerous air pollution levels.[2250](#)

- [2239](#)

Pakistan, PBS, 7th Population & Housing Census 2023 – Detailed Results, Table 20 – Punjab, District Wise, n.d., [url](#); See

- [2240](#)

For a more detailed explanation of *pacca*, *semi pacca* and *katcha*, see section 7.1.5. Housing and living conditions.

- [2241](#)

Pakistan, PBS, 7th Population & Housing Census 2023 – Detailed Results, Table 23 – Punjab, District Wise, n.d., [url](#)

- [2242](#)

Pakistan, PBS, 7th Population & Housing Census 2023 – Detailed Results, Table 24 – Punjab, District Wise, n.d., [url](#)

- [2243](#)

Tabassum, H., Analysing Lahore through the Lens of Just City, April 2025, [url](#). Humaira Tabassum is Assistant Professor at the Department of City and Regional Planning of the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore.

- [2244](#)

HBFC, National Policy on Housing in Pakistan, 27 March 2025, [url](#)

- [2245](#)

Nawaz, M. S. and Zulfiqar, M.U., Association of property values in Lahore with walkable proximity to employment subcenters, 12 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 46, 57

- [2246](#)

HRCP, State of Human Rights in 2024, 2025, [url](#), p. 54

- [2247](#)

Dawn, Lahore’s urban disaster: From colonial sprawl to capitalist chaos, 17 March 2025, [url](#)

- [2248](#)

INP, Lahore’s sewage crisis fuels health hazards and economic decline, 29 September 2025, [url](#)

- [2249](#)

IQ Air, January 18, 2026: Lahore among top 10 most polluted cities in the world, 18 January 2026, [url](#)

- [2250](#)

HRCP, State of Human Rights in 2024, 2025, [url](#), p. 53