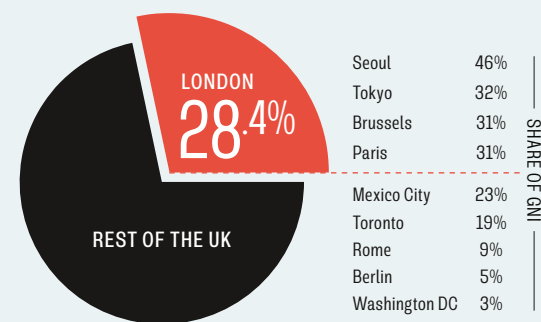


# Urban sprawl

Four billion people, 52 per cent of the global population, now live in cities, according to the United Nations agency for the built environment, known as UN-Habitat. In October, for the first time in 20 years, the UN met to discuss the challenges faced by cities. Many have changed little since the 1990s, as population growth has continued to outstrip cities' capacity to build housing and infrastructure. Added to that are worries about vulnerability to climate change, and the social problems presented by rising inequality and unemployment.

Source: UN Habitat; WHO; Asian Development Bank; World Bank



City	Share of GNI
Seoul	46%
Tokyo	32%
Brussels	31%
Paris	31%
Mexico City	23%
Toronto	19%
Rome	9%
Berlin	5%
Washington DC	3%

## CAPITAL GAINS

As the financial services sector hub, and by far the UK's largest city, London represents a disproportionate percentage of the country's economy. By comparison, the USA's financial capital, New York, makes up less than 8 per cent of the USA's total national income. However, Britain is not unique in the concentration of its economy in its capital city.

## BULGING CITIES

The population of the world's cities has surged across many regions, but particularly in fast-growing emerging markets in Latin America and Asia. In many, the percentage of people living in slums has fallen, though this does not always mean that the absolute number of people living in informal settlements has fallen dramatically.

