

Metropolitan Area of Barcelona

Country → Spain
World Region → Europe

Population → 3.3 million
Area → 636 km²



Context

The Barcelona Metropolitan Area, encompassing 36 municipalities, oversees territorial planning, transportation, housing, economic development, and environmental management, including water supply and waste treatment.



Economic profile

GDP AS % OF NATIONAL GDP **10%**

GDP PER CAPITA **49,838 USD**

WORLD BANK INCOME GROUP **High income**

Major economic activities: Manufacturing and industry, trade and logistics, tourism and hospitality, technology and innovation, creative industries, health and biotechnology, and circular economy and sustainability.

Own source revenues: Direct taxes, service fees, income from assets.



Governance structure

YEAR OF CONSTITUTION **2011**

TYPE OF METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT **Metropolitan government**

Legal framework: Established under Catalan Parliament Law 31/2010, defining structure, competencies, and governance.

Administrative structure: The Metropolitan Council is governed by 90 members, including a President, an Executive Vice-President, Vice-Presidents, and a Governing Board. It also comprises Metropolitan Political Groups, a Council of Mayors, and a Special Audit Commission, all indirectly elected from municipal councils.

Annual revenue, expenditure and sources: The Metropolitan Area of Barcelona operates with an annual budget of around €900 million, largely dependent on external transfers. Metropolitan taxes contribute 25% of its income, with an additional 15% coming from municipal transfers and 15% from regional and European administrations. Service fees, primarily from water and waste management, account for 45% of the budget. The sole tax levied by the metropolitan institution is a surcharge on the municipal property tax, representing 15% of its total revenue.

Number and type of administrative units: 36 municipalities.



Key strategic plans



STRATEGIC

Metropolitan Action Plan
(2024–2027)



RESILIENCE

2030 Climate Change
Adaptation Plan



INNOVATION

Metropolitan Action Plan
(2024–2027)