

Metropolitan area of Barcelona

Country	Spain
Population	3,3 millions
World region	Europe

● Context

The Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB) is a statutory metropolitan government established in 2011, encompassing 36 municipalities and approximately 3.3 million inhabitants. It accounts for around 52% of Catalonia's GDP and operates within a multilevel governance system in which large-scale territorial planning falls primarily under the *Generalitat de Catalunya*. The AMB holds direct responsibilities in territorial planning, mobility and public transport, housing, economic development, and environmental services including water supply and waste treatment.

● Economic profile

World Bank income group: High

Major economic activities

Accounting for around 52% of Catalonia's GDP, combining a resilient industrial and logistics base with a growing concentration of knowledge-intensive activities. Its principal sectors include manufacturing and industry, trade and logistics, tourism and hospitality, technology and innovation, creative industries, and health and biotechnology.

Own source revenues

The AMB's own source revenues are structurally limited. Its sole metropolitan tax — the *tribut metropolità*, a surcharge on the municipal property tax — finances public transport services within the metropolitan area. Service fees from water supply and waste management represent the largest revenue stream, largely channelled through dependent public entities. Direct income from assets plays a secondary role. Transfers from municipal, regional, and European administrations cover a significant share of expenditure, reflecting the AMB's constrained fiscal autonomy relative to its service responsibilities.

● 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 AMB's budget relies primarily on service fees from water supply and waste management, transfers from municipal, regional, and European administrations, and the metropolitan tax— a surcharge on the municipal property tax that finances public transport and represents a share of total income. This structure reflects limited autonomous fiscal capacity and significant dependence on external transfers.

Number and type of administrative units

36 municipalities.

KEY STRATEGIC PLAN



Resilience

2030 Climate Change
Adaptation Plan



Strategic

Metropolitan Action Plan
(2024-2027)



Innovation

Metropolitan Action Plan
(2024-2027)