

Metropolitan District of Quito

Country	Ecuador
Population	3 millions
World region	Latin America and The Caribbean

● Context

The Municipality of the Metropolitan District of Quito (DMQ) is an autonomous government entity that governs the Metropolitan District of Quito. The institution administers and manages citizen services concerning mobility, safety, environment, culture, habitat, among others. The metropolitan government exercises the competencies established by the current legal framework for municipal administration: the Law of Regime for the Metropolitan District of Quito.

● Economic profile

World Bank income group: Upper-Middle

Major economic activities

Quito's economy is anchored in services and manufacturing, with professional and real estate services leading, followed by manufacturing, public administration, transportation and information, and commerce. Additionally, contributions come from construction, financial activities, health, education, accommodation, agriculture, and mining.

Own source revenues

The DMQ generates own-source revenues through taxes, fees, and special contributions established by ordinance under the Constitution (Art. 264), the COOTAD (Art. 492), and the Municipal Tax Code. Own-source revenues represent approximately 40% of total income, complemented by central government transfers accounting for around 35%.

● Governance structure

Year of constitution: 1993

Type of metropolitan government: Metropolitan government – single-tier

Legal framework

Quito's special status as a Metropolitan District was legally consolidated in 1993, when the Law of Regime for the Metropolitan District of Quito replaced the standard municipal regime. This legal framework granted the DMQ greater political, administrative, and financial autonomy, raising its competencies so that it could comprehensively and exclusively manage cantonal, provincial, and metropolitan functions, including land use planning and large-scale public services.

Administrative structure

The Government of the DMQ is headed by the Metropolitan Mayor of Quito, who also presides over the Metropolitan Council, which is composed of 21 metropolitan councilors. The DMQ comprises both rural and urban parishes. Regarding the rural parishes, they are governed by the *Junta Parroquial*, composed of a President and Council Members. In contrast, the urban parishes are administrative and electoral divisions of the DMQ that report directly to the Metropolitan Government; their administrations are led by officials appointed by the Metropolitan Mayor, who serve at the Mayor's discretion. The mayor, city councilors and the members of *Junta parroquial* are elected by popular vote.

Annual revenue, expenditure and sources

The DMQ is primarily financed through local revenue collection (taxes, fees) and transfers from the Central Government of Ecuador. Its 2025 budget was allocated to Social Inclusion, Mobility, Security, Health, Education, and Productive Development.

Number and type of administrative units

65 *parroquias* (32 urban and 33 rural). The urban center is divided into 9 districts and 92 administrative circuits.

KEY STRATEGIC PLAN



Resilience

Metropolitan Climate Action Plan



Strategic

Metropolitan Development Plan



Innovation

Metropolitan Development and Territorial Plan