

Table 1.8. De Vries' Estimates of the Urban Population of Europe, 1000 to 1800 AD

Year	Ratio of Towns with 10 000 inhabitants or more to total population	Number of Cities with 10 000 or more inhabitants	Average Size of Towns (000s)	Total Population of De Vries "Europe" (million)	Total Population (million)
1000	0.0	(4)	n.a.	n.a.	45.0
1500	5.6	154	22	61.6	72.3
1650	8.3	197	31	74.6	90.9
1800	10.0	364	34	122.7	149.6

Source: De Vries (1984), Tables 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3.6 and Appendix 1. De Vries constructed a data base for 379 potentially urban places and made an intensive literature search to identify their population at a date near to each of his seven benchmark years of which three 1500, 1650 and 1800, are shown above. He had six city size categories. For 1500 he identified 96 cities with 10 000 population or more with a total population of 2 494 thousand. In that year he could not identify the population of 87 places, but from other evidence he inferred that 58 of these fell into one or other of his six categories, bringing his urban total to 3 441 thousand. For 1650, he identified 156 cities with a population of 10 000 or over and inferred the population of 41 of the 73 places where he lacked direct evidence of population size. For 1800 he lacked direct evidence for only three places all of which he inferred to have had 10 000 population or more. For the year 1000 he made no estimates but suggests on p. 41 that there were no cities with 10 000 or more inhabitants outside Italy and that the overall urban average was zero in that year. For the year 1000 I believe there were probably four Italian cities in the urban category. The fourth column shows the total population of the 16 countries or areas in the De Vries sample. The last column shows my estimates of total European population (excluding the 1990 area of USSR and Turkey) which I derived from the same sources as in Table 1.2.