

Shrinking Cities in Western Europe: Case Studies from France and Great Britain

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Shrinking Cities in France

Two types of shrinking cities :

- 1- A few urban areas among the largest ones
(more than 150,000 inhabitants)
- 2- Many of the smallest urban areas

1- Large Shrinking Cities in France

- Among the largest urban areas, only 8 out of 52 are shrinking : Valenciennes, Lens, Saint-Etienne, Le Havre, Béthune, Douai, Montbéliard, Thionville.
- All of these are former industrial cities in old industrial regions

1- Large Shrinking Cities in France

Demographic trends 1960-2000 (Source : INSEE)

Valenciennes

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1- Large Shrinking Cities in France

Demographic trends 1960-2000 (Source : INSEE)

Thionville

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1- Large Shrinking Cities in France

Demographic trends 1960-2000 (Source : INSEE)

Saint-Etienne

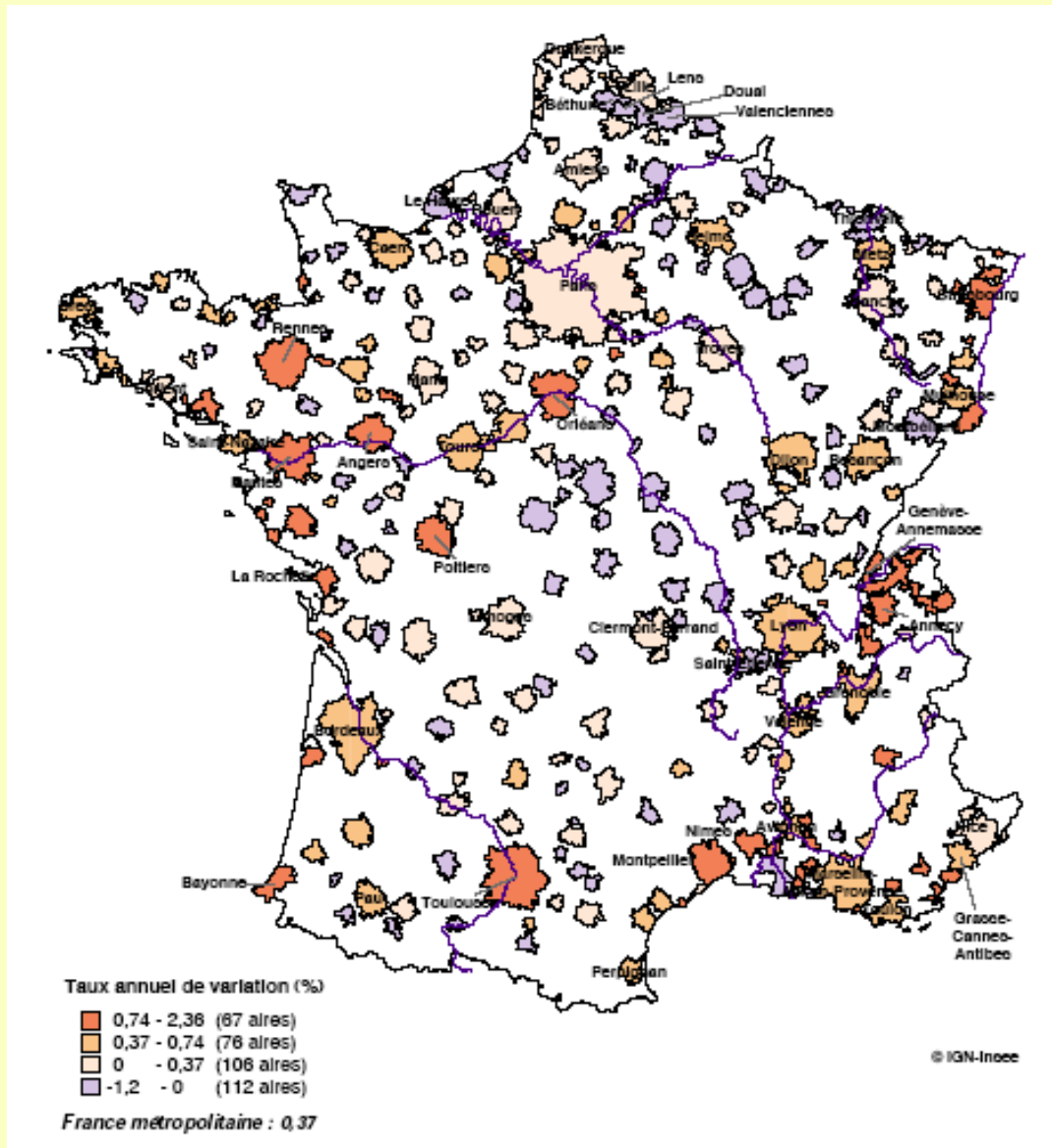
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2- Small Shrinking Cities in France

- Towns located in the middle of the country
- Towns isolated from metropolitan areas and from major transport infrastructures

2- Small Shrinking Cities in France

Demographic change for 361 Urban Areas in France : 1990-1999



Shrinking Cities in Great Britain

« The population of England is now growing more rapidly than at any time since the early 1970s, providing a demographic driver for city growth »

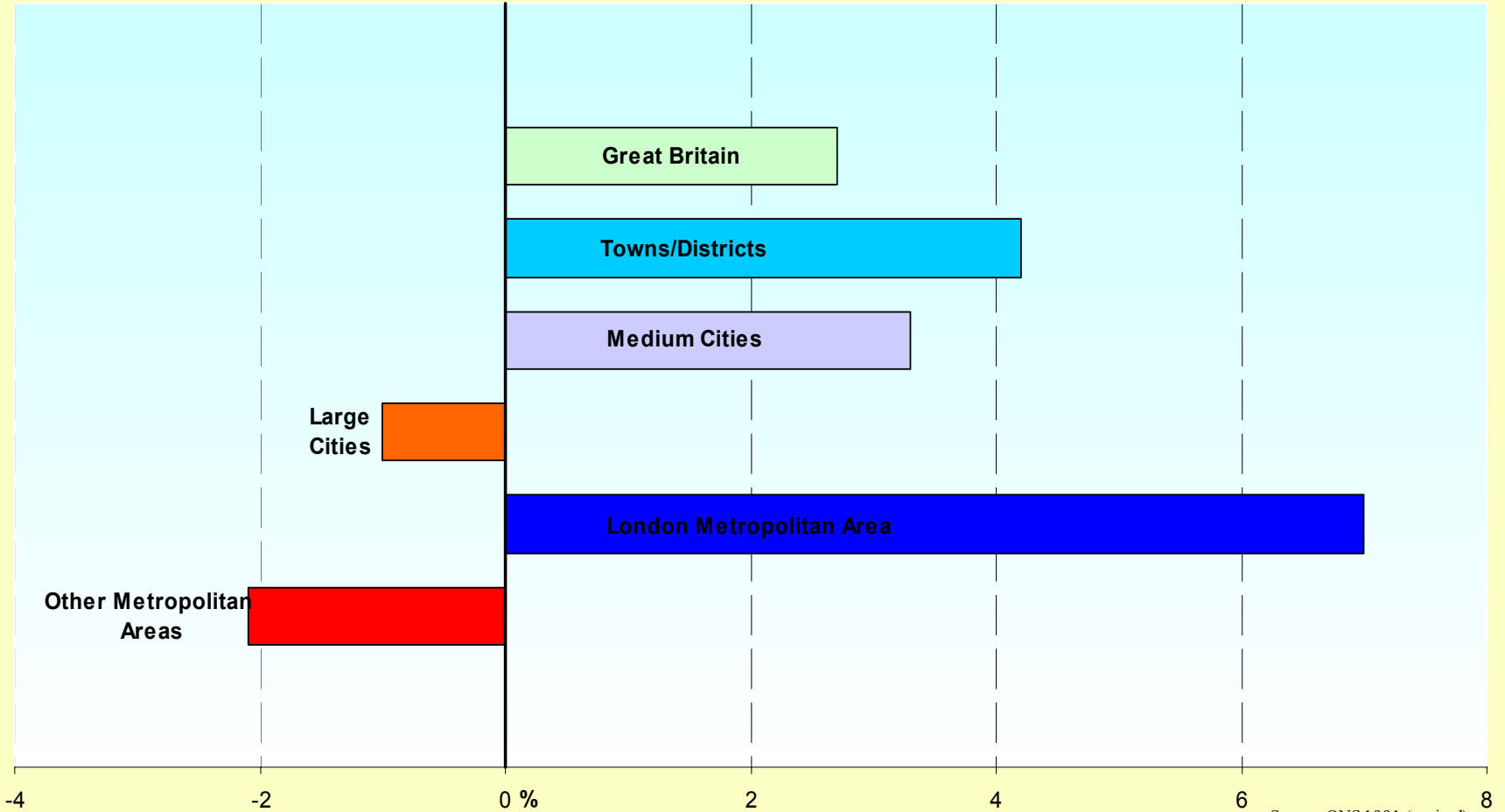
In State of the English Cities, 7 March 2006,



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

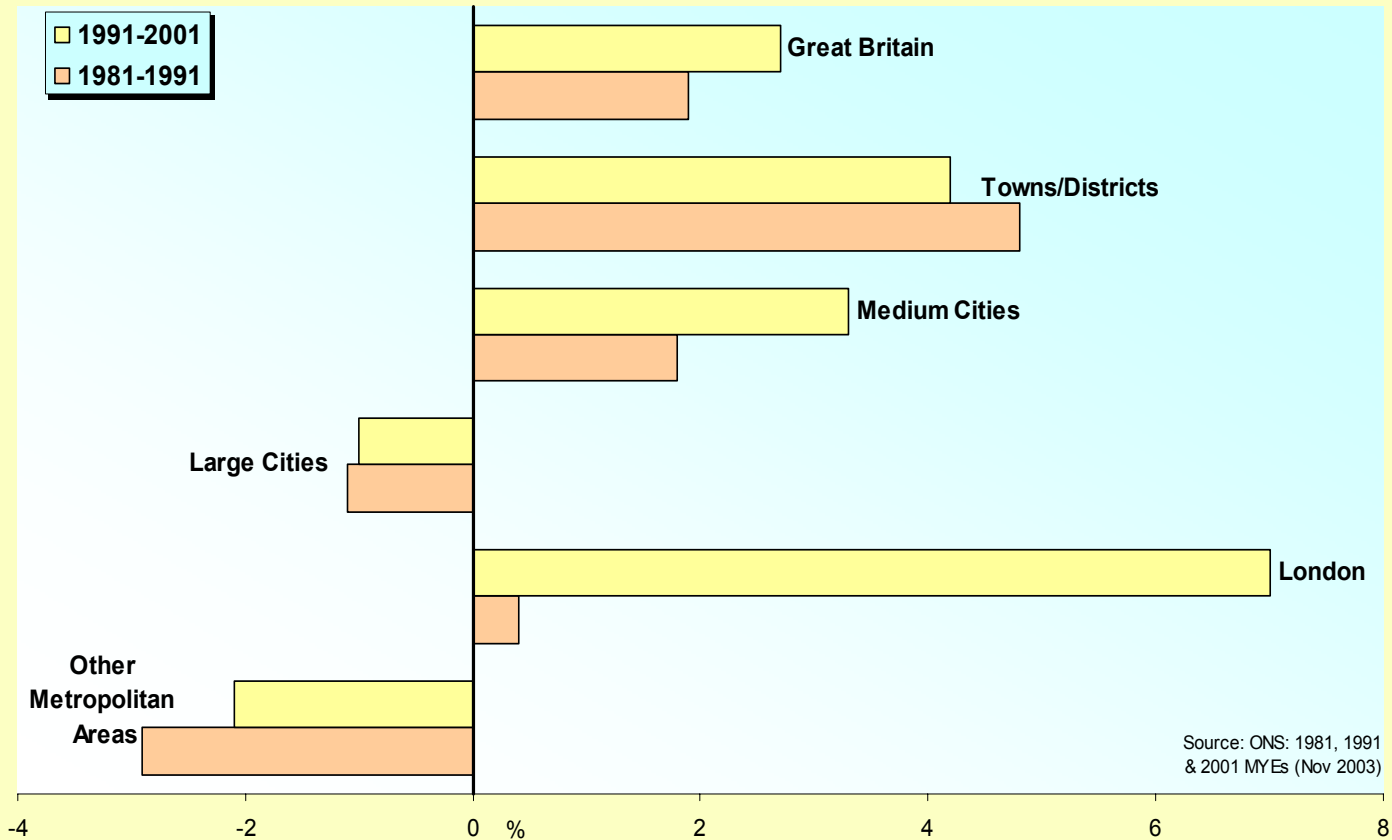
Creating sustainable communities

Evolution of population (1991-2001)

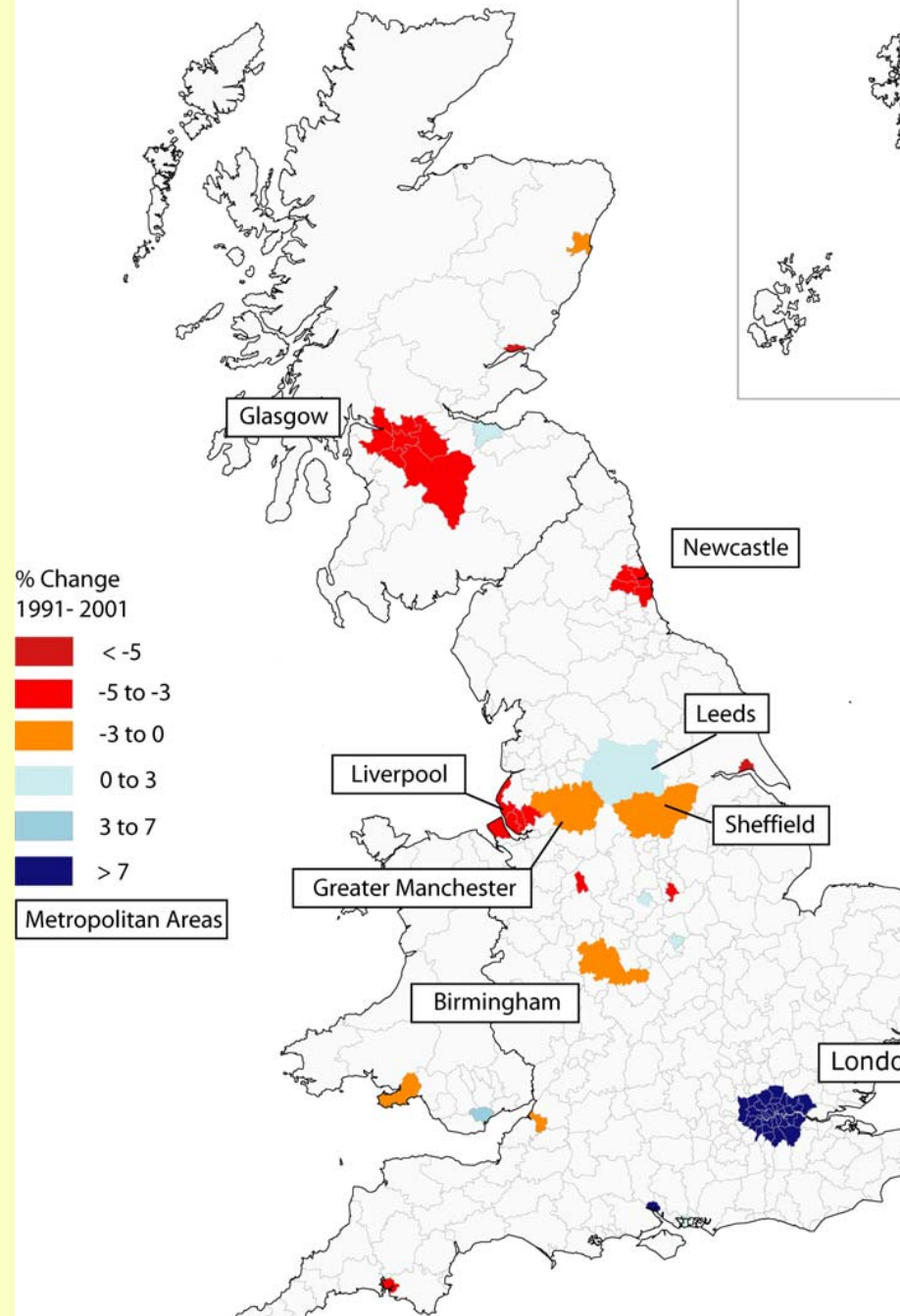


Source: ONS:1991 (revised)
& 2001 MYEs (Nov. 2003)

Evolution of Population 1981-2001



- London represents 13% of the British population
- Metropolitan Areas: 35%
- Large Cities: 6%
- The coloured areas represent 41% of the British population



Shrinking Cities in Paris' suburbs

Saint-Denis

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Montreuil

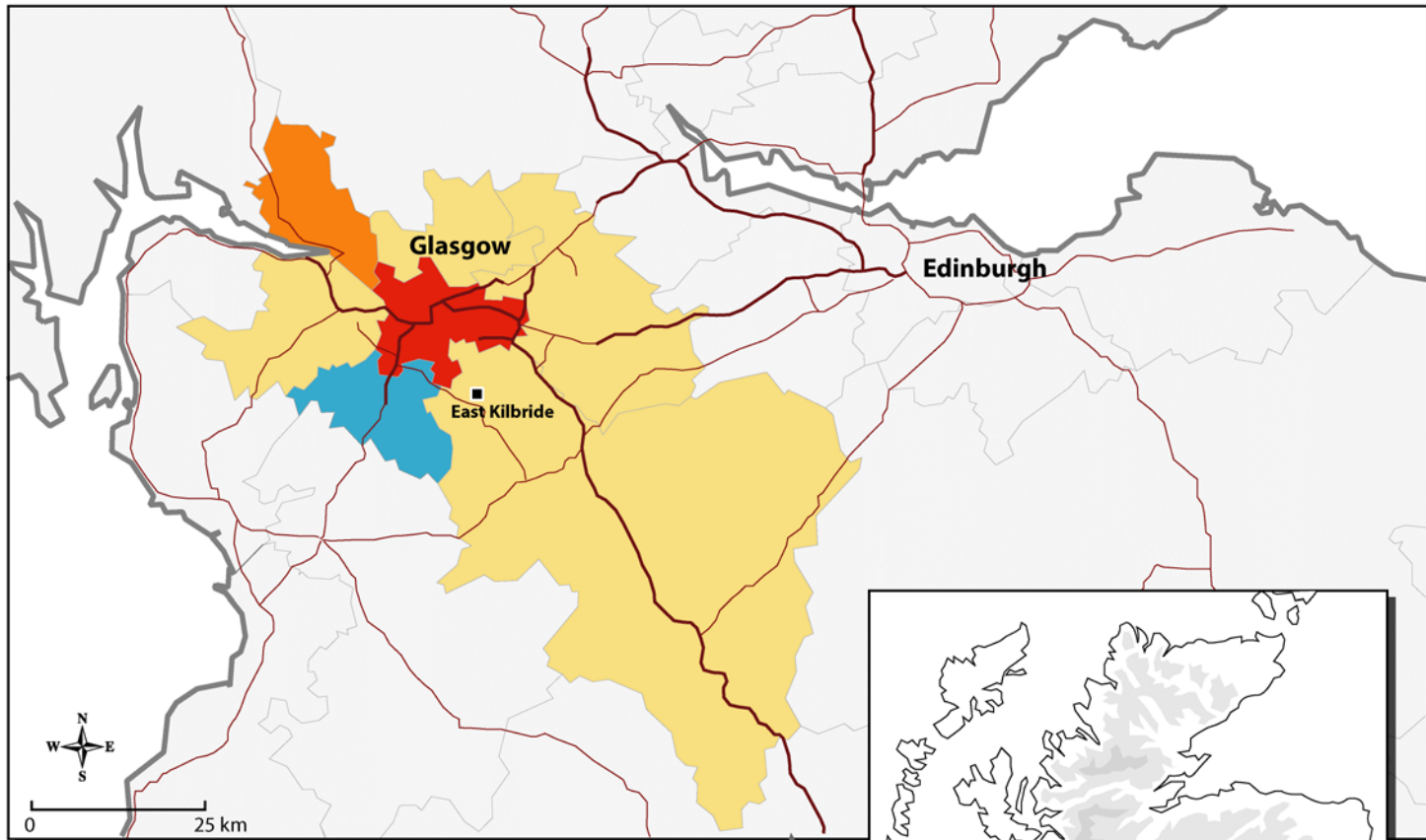
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Shrinking Cities in Paris' suburbs

Issy-les-Moulineaux

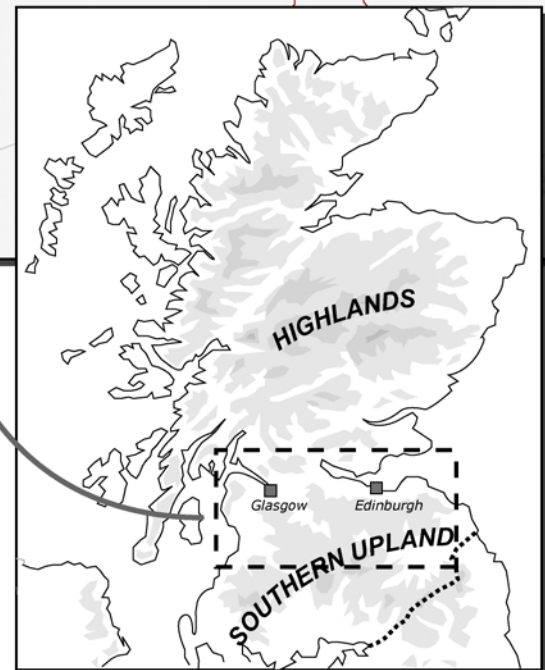
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Metropolitan Area of Glasgow Percentage change of population (1991-2001)



Population change 1991-2001

- 8 %
- 4 %
- [- 2 % ; 0 %]
- + 4 %
- Motorways
- Secondary routes



Conclusion

- In Great Britain as well as in France, city shrinkage is the result of globalisation
- However, city shrinkage can take various forms :it does not affect similar areas in the same way
- This diversity of cases calls for a diversity of strategies