

Theme 1.1 Warehouses location patterns

Locational patterns of warehouses in 78 cities around the world, a comparative meta-analysis

Laetitia DABLANC, Matthieu SCHORUNG, Renata de OLIVEIRA, Laura PALACIOS-ARGÜELLO, Leise de OLIVEIRA, Paula YAGHI October 2023





Objectives of the research

- To identify relationships between the location of warehouses and urban forms
- To provide a comprehensive database related to warehouses in large metropolitan areas around the world
- To make comparative analyses regarding location factors related to warehouses
- To provide novel methodological elements in the study of locational patterns of warehouses in metropolitan areas
- To identify the status of freight in planning, land use and zoning policies

Case studies

78 case studies have been used



78 case studies

Name of studied metro area	Country
Albany MSA	USA
Atlanta metro area	USA
Austin MSA	USA
Belo Horizonte	Brazil
Berlin	Germany
Birmingham MSA	USA
Bogotá	Colombia
Bordeaux MA	France
Boston MSA	USA
Brussels	Belgium
Buffalo MSA	USA
Calgary	Canada
Cali	Colombia
Cape Town	South Africa
Charlotte MSA	USA
Chicago	USA
Chongqing	China
Cincinnati MSA	USA
Cleveland MSA	USA
Columbus MSA	USA
Dallas MSA	USA
Dayton MSA	USA
Denver MSA	USA
Detroit MSA	USA
eTahkwini (dont Durban)	South Africa
Cleveland	Netherlands
Gauteng (Pretoria and Johannesburg)	South Africa

Name of studied metro area	Country
Gothenburg (MEA)	Sweden
Gothenburg (VGC region)	Sweden
Grand Rapids MSA	USA
Greensboro MSA	USA
Greenville MSA	USA
Halifax	Canada
Houston MSA	USA
Indianapolis MSA	USA
Kansas City MSA	USA
Las Vegas MSA	USA
Los Angeles	USA
Louisville MSA	USA
Miami MSA	USA
Milwaukee MSA	USA
Montreal	Canada
Nashville MSA	USA
New Orleans MSA	USA
New York MSA	USA
Noord Holland (Amsterdam)	Netherlands
Orlando MSA	USA
Paris (all WH) 2004 - 2012	France
Paris (parcel/express)	France
Philadelphia MSA	USA
Phoenix	USA
Pittsburgh MSA	USA
Portland MSA	USA

Name of studied metro area	Country
Raleigh MSA	USA
Richmond MSA	USA
Rochester MSA	USA
Salt Lake City MSA	USA
San Antonio MSA	USA
San Diego MSA	USA
San Francisco MSA	USA
Seatle	USA
Seoul MSA	South Korea
Shenzhen	China
St. Louis MSA	USA
Tampa MSA	USA
The Randstad Region	Netherlands
Tokyo (TMA)	Japan
Toronto GGH	Canada
Toronto GTA	Canada
Tucson MSA	USA
Tulsa MSA	USA
Utrecht	Netherlands
Vancouver	Canada
Virginia Beach MSA	USA
Washington DC MSA	USA
Winnipeg	Canada
Zuid Holland (Rotterdam)	Netherlands

Indicators collected for each case study

- •Name of studied metro area
- Size of studied metro area (km2)
- Number of municipalities
- Type of metropolitan area: Polycentric or Monocentric
- Megaregion: Yes/Not
- Type of city/region: Gateway
- Type of land use control: Local/Metro/Regional
- Focused Study or general
- Surfaces area data availability: Yes/Not

- Name of warehouse data source
- Time period studied for logistics sprawl analysis
- Population (millions)
- Population density (inhabitants/km2)
- Number of warehouses
- Number of warehouses per million people
- Number of warehouses per 1000 km2
- Average size of warehouses (m2)
- Average distance of warehouses to centre of gravity (km)

- Change in population over the years (millions)
- % Change of the number of WH over the years
- Logistic sprawl: Change in average distance of WHs to centre of gravity (over the years) (km)
- Urban Rent Prices per year (EUR/m2)
- Suburban Rent Prices per year (EUR/m2)

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Organization of the dataset

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First year (t0)

Last year (t1)

Warehouse data source

Warehouse data source*



movements from Global Positioning System (GPS) traces.

Years under study



Methodology and data issues

- •Working on the previous data collection performed by the Logistics City Chair (2019-2020) concerning metropolitan areas where logistics sprawl was investigated by different research teams and published in scientific journals. This previous dataset and the meta-analysis (Dablanc et al., 2020) considered 74 case studies (metropolitan regions studied in the literature on warehouse locations).
- •Updating the dataset with 4 new case studies: 3 in South Africa [Cape Town, Gauteng, eThekwini] (Trent & Joubert, 2022) and 1 in South Korea [Seoul] (Kang, 2022) for a total of 78 metropolitan regions whose logistics sprawl measures were calculated.
- •Reviewing the scientific papers considered in this study in order to build an updated meta-analysis.
- •Performing statistical tests to investigate each hypothesis and presenting the results in this global report on this research conducted from 2019 to 2023.
- •Data issues :
 - Databases are different: Ex. NAICS vs NACE codes (Type of logistic facilities \rightarrow 3PL or warehouses insourced).
 - Periods of time analysed are different.
 - Regional areas into examination can be different.
 - Insufficient data regarding location factors (ex. land prices) \rightarrow necessity to bypass the lack of data (not existent or not available in open access).

Hypotheses linking urban forms and the spatial distribution of warehouses

	Hypotheses
H1	There are more warehouses/pop in large and medium metropolitan regions than in smaller ones.
H2	There are more warehouses in global hub metropolitan regions (or Gateways) than in regular ones.
Н3	There are more warehouses in metropolitan regions belonging to mega-regions than in « regular » ones.
H4	The increase in the number of warehouses over time is more significant in medium and large metropolitan regions than in smaller ones.
H5	The increase in the number of logistics facilities over time is positively related to the importance of the role of global logistics hub (or Gateways) played by an urban area.
Н6	Logistics sprawl is positively related to the differential in land/rent values for logistics land uses between suburban and central areas in an urban region.
H7	Logistics sprawl is negatively related to the degree of regional logistics land-use control.

Scientific studies used for the analysis

Andriankaja, D.	Le desserrement logistique, quelle responsabilite dans l'augmentation des emissions de CO2 des activites de	2014	[Phd thesis]. University of Paris-East	Paris	Heitz, A., Dablanc, L., & Tavasszy, L. A.	Logistics sprawl in monocentric and polycentric metropolitan areas: The cases of Paris, France, and the Randstad, the Netherlands.	2017	Region, 4(1), 93.	Paris, Randstad
Dablanc, L., Ogilvie, S., & Goodchild, A.	<u>messagerie?</u> Logistics Sprawl: Differential Warehousing Development Patterns	2014	Transportation Research Record, 2410(1), 105–	Los Angeles,	Kang, Sanggyun.	Exploring the contextual factors behind various phases in logistics sprawl: The case of Seoul Metropolitan Area, South Korea.	2022	Journal of Transport Geography	Seoul
	in Los Angeles, California, and Seattle, Washington		112.	Seattle	Kang, Sanggyun	Relative logistics sprawl: Measuring changes in the relative distribution from warehouses to logistics businesses and the general population.	2020	Journal of Transport Geography 83, 102636	US urban areas
Dablanc, L., & Ross, C.	Atlanta: A mega logistics center in the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion (PAM).	2012	Journal of Transport Geography, 24, 432–442.	Atlanta	Klauenberg, J., Elsner, L. A., & Knischewski, C.	Dynamics of the spatial distribution of hubs in groupage networks – The case of Berlin.	2018	Journal of Transport Geography, 102280.	Berlin
Daraviña, P. A. C., & Suescún, J. P. B.	Logistic sprawl and polarization in Colombian urban areas.	2016	Proceedings WCTR	Colombia	Li, G., Sun, W., Yuan, Q., & Liu, S.	Planning versus the market: Logistics establishments and logistics parks in Chongqing, China.	2020	Journal of Transport Geography, 82, 102599.	Chongqing
Dubie, M., Kuo, K. C., Giron-Valderrama, G.,	An evaluation of logistics sprawl in Chicago and Phoenix.	2020	Journal of Transport Geography, 88, 102298	urban areas Chicago,	Oliveira, L., Santos, O., Oliveira, R., & Nóbrega, R.	Is the Location of Warehouses Changing in the Belo Horizonte Metropolitan Area (Brazil)? A Logistics Sprawl Analysis in a Latin American Context.	2018	Urban Science, 2(2), 43	Belo Horizonte
Guerin, L., Vieira, J. G. V., de Oliveira, R., de	The geography of warehouses in the São Paulo Metropolitan Region and contributing factors to this spatial	2021	Journal of Transport Geography, 91, 102976	Phoenix Sao Paulo	Sakai, T., Kawamura, K., & Hyodo, T.	Logistics Facility Distribution in Tokyo Metropolitan Area: Experiences and Policy Lessons.	2016	Transportation research procedia, 12, 263–277.	Tokyo
E. de M., & Dablanc, L.	distribution.				Strale, M.	Logistics sprawl in the Brussels metropolitan area: Toward a socio-geographic typology.	2020	Journal of Transport Geography, 88, 102372	Brussels
Heitz, A., & Dablanc, L.	Logistics Spatial Patterns in Paris: Rise of Paris Basin as Logistics Megaregion	2015	Transportation Research Record, 2477(1), 76–84	Paris	Trent, N. M., & Joubert, J. W.	Logistics sprawl and the change in freight transport activity: A comparison of three measurement	2022	Journal of Transport Geography, 101, 103350	South African
					Woudsma, C., & Jakubicek, P.	methodologies. Logistics land use patterns in metropolitan Canada.	2020	Journal of Transport Geography, 88, 102381	urban areas Canada urban
Heitz, A., Dablanc, L., Olsson, J., Sanchez- Diaz, I., Woxenius, J.	Spatial patterns of logistics facilities in Gothenburg, Sweden.	2020	Journal of Transport Geography, 88, 102191	Gothenburg	Woudsma, C., Jakubicek, P., & Dablanc, L.	Logistics sprawl in North America: Methodological issues and a case study in toronto.	2016	Transportation Research Procedia, 12, 474–488	areas Toronto
					Xiao, Z.	Remarking urban logistics space: E-tailing and supply chain revolution in the case of Shenzhen,	2017	[Phd thesis]. The University of Hong Kong	Shenzhen
					Yuan, Q., & Zhu, J.	Logistics sprawl in Chinese metropolises: Evidence from Wuhan.	2019	Journal of Transport Geography, 74, 242–252	Wuhan

Meta-analysis : cord diagrams



- Which key terms appear in the scientific papers on logistics spatial patterns?
- By exploring key terms in the selected papers of the meta-analysis: 39 main terms.
- The terms "logistics activities", "spatial patterns", "logistics facilities", "logistics sprawl", "average distance", and "metropolitan areas" are the ones that present the most robust connections

Meta-analysis : clustering analysis



Groups	Color	Number of warehouses in the first year	Number of warehouses in the last year	Logistics sprawl
1	Pink	0.46	0.81	0.88
2	Orange	0.09	0.09	0.68
3	Light Green	0.18	0.18	0.26
4	Purple	0.73	0.66	0.43
5	Dark green	0.34	0.34	0.51

An additional attempt was made to synthesize the results of studies that measured logistics sprawl quantitatively. This section explores the data published in previous studies. As techniques considered for the meta-analysis, we used: descriptive statistics and cluster analysis (k-means).

Group 1 (pink) : metros with the highest average logistics sprawl, the highest number of warehouses in the last year and the second highest in the first year.

Group 2 (orange) : metros with the lowest score for the number of warehouses in both timeframes and the second highest for logistics sprawl.

Groupe 3 (light green) : metros with a low number of warehouses' average score and the lowest average logistics sprawl.

Groupe 4 (purple) : metros with the highest score for the number of warehouses in the first year, the second largest average score for the number of warehouses in the last one, and the second lowest average score for logistics sprawl.

Groupe 5 (dark green) : the metros with intermediary scores for all variables.

Exploration of hypotheses

Basic relationships





Logistic sprawl



Change in average distance of WHs to centre of gravity (km/year)

-1.1



H1: There are more warehouses in large and medium metropolitan regions than in smaller ones

Result: The number of warehouses in medium and large metros **is higher** than in small ones, at a significance level of 5%

Variable Name	Description
metro	The name of the metropolitan area.
size	The size of the metropolitan area (small, medium, or large).
number_ware_t0	The number of warehouses in the metropolitan area at the start of the period covered by the dataset.
_number_ware_t1	The number of warehouses in the metropolitan area at the end of the period covered by the dataset.

Average					
number of	Data	Time	The average	S	ize
warehouses,			number of	Small	Medium/L
metro			warehouses		arge
classification.	Complet	t0	374	49	407
and timeframe	е	t1	518	62	564
	Without	t0	148	49	158
– H1 number	outliers	t1	183	62	196
of warehouses					



Histograms for the number of warehouses in different categories of metros and time – H1

H1: There are more warehouses/pop in large and medium metropolitan regions than in smaller ones

Result: The number of warehouses per million inhabitants and per 1000km² in medium and large metros ishigher than in small onesNumber of warehouses per million inhabitants

Large regions have the highest number of warehouses at both t0 and t1, followed by the medium and small regions.

- The number of warehouses per million inhabitants follows the same trend as the number of warehouses presented previously, however, the highest number of warehouses per million inhabitants is located in medium size metropolitan areas followed closely by large metro areas.
- As for the number of warehouses per 1000 km², the same tendencies for the number of warehouses are observed.

Number of warehouses per million inhabitants								
Statistics	Size: Small metropolitan areas		Size: Mediun ar	n metropolitan eas	Size: Large metropolitan areas			
	TO	T1	TO	T1	то	T1		
Count	7	7	46	48	23	23		
Mean	95.3	101.6	145.6	258.9	131.9	150.2		
Std	77	77.4	326.75	776.2	227	223.3		
Min	17	23	5	5	10	6		
25%	30.5	42.5	45.5	45	30.5	47.5		
50%	65	61	60	64	63	80		
75%	162	164.5	134.75	130.5	101.5	123		
Number of warehouses per 1000 km2								
		Numb	er of wareho	uses per 1000 km2				
	Size: Small n	Numb netropolitan	er of warehou Size: Mediu	uses per 1000 km2 Im metropolitan	Size: Large m	etropolitan		
Statistics	Size: Small n area	Numb netropolitan as	er of warehou Size: Mediu ar	uses per 1000 km2 Im metropolitan reas	Size: Large m areas	etropolitan S		
Statistics	Size: Small n area TO	Numb netropolitan as T1	er of warehou Size: Mediu ar T0	uses per 1000 km2 Im metropolitan reas T1	Size: Large m areas TO	etropolitan S T1		
Statistics Count	Size: Small n area TO 7	Numb netropolitan as T1 7	er of warehou Size: Mediu ar T0 46	uses per 1000 km2 um metropolitan reas T1 48	Size: Large m areas TO 23	etropolitan 5 T1 23		
Statistics Count Mean	Size: Small n area TO 7 14.4	Numb netropolitan as T1 7 18	er of warehou Size: Mediu ar T0 46 36.5	uses per 1000 km2 im metropolitan reas T1 48 134.5	Size: Large m areas TO 23 3708.5	etropolitan 5 T1 23 12367		
Statistics Count Mean Std	Size: Small n area TO 7 14.4 17.3	Numb netropolitan as T1 7 18 21.8	er of warehou Size: Mediu ar TO 46 36.5 153.4	uses per 1000 km2 im metropolitan reas T1 48 134.5 674.1	Size: Large m areas T0 23 3708.5 17271.3	etropolitan 5 11 23 12367 58669.3		
Statistics Count Mean Std Min	Size: Small n area T0 7 14.4 17.3 1	Numb netropolitan as T1 7 18 21.8 2	er of warehou Size: Mediu ar TO 46 36.5 153.4 1	uses per 1000 km2 im metropolitan reas T1 48 134.5 674.1 2	Size: Large m areas T0 23 3708.5 17271.3 3	etropolitan 5 11 23 12367 58669.3 6		
Statistics Count Mean Std Min 25%	Size: Small n area TO 7 14.4 17.3 1 2.5	Numb netropolitan as T1 7 18 21.8 21.8 2 3.5	er of warehou Size: Mediu ar TO 46 36.5 153.4 1 1 6	uses per 1000 km2 im metropolitan reas T1 48 134.5 674.1 2 6.75	Size: Large m areas T0 23 3708.5 17271.3 3 10.5	etropolitan 5 11 23 12367 58669.3 6 16		
Statistics Count Mean Std Min 25% 50%	Size: Small n area T0 7 14.4 17.3 1 2.5 5	Numb netropolitan as T1 7 18 21.8 21.8 2 3.5 8	er of warehou Size: Mediu ar TO 46 36.5 153.4 153.4 1 6 7.5	uses per 1000 km2 im metropolitan reas T1 48 134.5 674.1 2 6.75 9.5	Size: Large m areas T0 23 3708.5 17271.3 3 10.5 29	etropolitan 5 11 23 12367 58669.3 6 16 16 42		
Statistics Count Mean Std Std Min 25% 50% 75%	Size: Small n area TO 7 14.4 17.3 1 2.5 5 24	Numb netropolitan as T1 7 18 21.8 21.8 2 3.5 8 26.5	er of warehou Size: Mediu ar TO 46 36.5 153.4 153.4 1 6 7.5 14	uses per 1000 km2 im metropolitan reas T1 48 134.5 674.1 2 6.75 9.5 18	Size: Large m areas T0 23 3708.5 17271.3 3 10.5 29 79	etropolitan 5 11 23 12367 58669.3 6 16 16 42 170		

H2: There are more warehouses in global hub metropolitan regions (or 'gateways') than in regular ones

Result: The number of warehouses in gateway metro areas **is higher** than in non-gateway ones, at a significance level of 5%

Variable Name	Description
metro	The name of the metropolitan area.
gateway	If the metropolitan region is a global hub city or gateway.
number_ware_t0	The number of warehouses in the metropolitan area at the start of the period covered by the dataset.
_number_ware_t1	The number of warehouses in the metropolitan area at the end of the period covered by the dataset.

Average	Data	Time	The average	Gate	way
number of			number of	Yes	No
warehouses,			warehouses		
metro	Complet	t0	374	347	438
alaccification	е	t1	518	541	466
clussification,	Without	t0	148	183	76
and timeframe	outliers	t1	183	228	89
– H2					



H3: There are more warehouses in metropolitan regions that belong to megaregions than in "regular" ones

Result: The number of warehouses in metros located in megaregions is higher than in the others, at a significance level of 5%

_	Variable Name		Description									
	metro			The name of the metropolitan area.								
	mega_regionIf the metropolitan region is part of a mega-region.number_ware_t0The number of warehouses in the metropolitan area				of a mega-region.							
					e metropolitan area at	the start of the period covered l	by the dataset.					
_	_number_ware_t1		The number of w	The number of warehouses in the metropolitan area at the end of the period covered by the dataset.								
- Average number of warehouses, metro classification and timefrar – H3	Data Complet e Without outliers	Time t0 t1 t0 t1	The average number of warehouses 374 518 148 183	Mega Yes 230 299 163 196	region No 832 1210 92 131	tO	t1	Mega-region no yes Measure mean median Stats - mega-region no yes	Histograms for the number of warehouses in different categories of metros and time – H3			

0

250 500 750 1000

0 250 500

Number of warehouses

H4: The increase in the number of warehouses over time is larger in medium and large metropolitan areas than in smaller ones

Result: The average % increase in the number of warehouses in small metros is **not statistically relevant** from that in medium and large ones, at a significance level of 5%

Variable Name	Description
metro	The name of the metropolitan area.
mega_region	If the metropolitan region is part of a mega-region.
number_ware_t0	The number of warehouses in the metropolitan area at the start of the period covered by the dataset.
number_ware_t1	The number of warehouses in the metropolitan area at the end of the period covered by the dataset.



H5: The increase in the number of logistics facilities over time is positively related to the importance of the role of global logistics hub (or gateways) played by an urban area

Result: The average % increase in the number of warehouses in gateway metros is **not statistically relevant** from that in non-gateway ones, at a significance level of 5%

Variable Name	Description
metro	The name of the metropolitan area.
gateway	If the metropolitan region is a global hub city or gateway.
number_ware_t0	The number of warehouses in the metropolitan area at the start of the period covered by the dataset.
number_ware_t1	The number of warehouses in the metropolitan area at the end of the period covered by the dataset.

Average

Data	Gateway		
	Yes	No	
Complete	71%	26%	
Without outliers	32%	16%	
	Data Complete Without outliers	DataGateYesComplete71%Without outliers32%	

— H5



Measure mean median

Histogram for the % increase in the number of warehouses in different categories of metros – H5

H6: Logistics sprawl is positively related to the differential in land/rent values for logistics land uses between suburban and central areas in an urban region

Result: The relationship between the differential warehouse prices and the yearly logistics sprawl is statistically **quite positive** but limited (de Oliveira, Dablanc, Schorung, 2022)

The data was obtained in structured statistics datasets and warehouse real estate websites. We proposed a typology of the urban regions for determining the differential warehouse rent prices, namely Activity Hubs and Peripheral Activity Zones. This classification was based on an Urban Activity Index.



Representation of the number of warehouses and the average rent price in each hexagon for Paris (region Ile-de-France)



Representation of warehouse average rent prices for AH and PAZ for each metropolitan region Representation of proportional rent prices differential for warehouses in each location for each metropolitan region

Focus on Tokyo Metro Area (Gout, 2023)

We can identify three areas with high rents in Tokyo Bay: downtown Tokyo, around the bay (5 km from the coast) and along the main highways \rightarrow this case study confirms the centerperiphery gradient for logistics real estate rents

On the scale of the study area, the variables with the greatest impact on rent per m² are, in order: distance-time to the nearest port, accessibility to the night-time population and accessibility to industry. Around Tokyo Bay, the variables with the greatest impact on rent per m² are, in order: accessibility to the night-time population, distance-time to the nearest port and accessibility to consumption. There is a **significant relationship** between rent per m² and night-time pop accessibility, consumer accessibility and the presence of a warehouse in the Tokyo Bay area



(i) Spatial distribution map of sample warehouses, weighted by number of storeys (dataset of 4048 warehouses)

(ii) Estimated rents for logistics real estate in the Tokyo metropolitan area (yen per sq.m per year) (Gout, 2023)

Complex analyses

H7: Logistics sprawl is negatively related to the degree of regional logistics land use control



H7: Logistics sprawl is negatively related to the degree of regional logistics land-use control

Result: There is no sufficient data to allow the exploration of the hypothesis. This will require further analysis.



Relationship between type of land use control and logistic sprawl

Key conclusions

Hypotheses	Validated	Conclusion
H1	Yes	There are more warehouses/pop in medium and large cities than in smaller cities
H2	Yes	There are more WHs in global hub cities (or 'gateways') than in "regular" cities
Н3	Yes	There are more warehouses in cities that belong to a megaregion than in "regular" cities
H4	No	The difference of increase in the number of warehouses in small metros is not statistically relevant from the medium/large ones
Н5	No	The % increase in the number of warehouses in gateway metros is not statistically relevant from the ones that are not
H6	Yes (but limited)	Logistics sprawl <u>could be</u> positively related, <u>in some cases</u> , to the differential in land/rent values for logistics land uses between suburban and central areas in an urban region
Η7	Need further study	Logistics sprawl is <u>not always</u> negatively related to the degree of regional logistics land use control

Recommendations for further studies

• Replicate the method to analyze differential location prices (Oliveira et al. (2022)) for metropolitan areas in the Global South

• Investigate Asian metropolitan areas and South America metro areas to understand if there are differences in the urban structure and other characteristics compared to the other metro areas

• Refine the analysis of logistics sprawl considering warehouse characteristics, such as size, operation, and type of WH (for example, parcel and express couriers)

• Explore clusters of metropolitan areas grouped by urban characteristics to investigate the hypotheses considering the sub-groups of metro areas

• Perform specific research on H7, exploring land use control, and regional and local policies

https://www.lvmt.fr/en/chaires/logistics-city/



