

# **2006** | **WORLD DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS**

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# 2006 | WORLD DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS



THE WORLD BANK



# FOREWORD

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The developing world has made remarkable progress. The number of people living in extreme poverty on less than \$1 a day has fallen by about 400 million in the last 25 years. Many more children, particularly girls, are completing primary school. Illiteracy rates have fallen by half in 30 years. And life expectancy is nearly 15 years longer, on average, than it was 40 years ago.

These often spectacular achievements have put many countries securely on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. But many others are being left behind, and for them progress in eradicating poverty and improving living standards remains stubbornly slow. In Sub-Saharan Africa the number of people living on less than \$1 a day has nearly doubled since 1981. Every day thousands of people, many of them children, still die from preventable diseases. AIDS, malaria, and simple dehydration ravage the developing world.

Reaching the Millennium Development Goals is a challenge that depends on having access to the best information available. In designing policies and targeting resources, we need to know how many people are poor and where they live. We need vital information about them, such as their gender, age, and the nature of their work or, indeed, if they have work. We also need to know whether they have access to health care, schools, and safe water. And because economic growth is essential to poverty reduction, we need to know more about the economy, the business environment, the expected demographic trends, the scale of environmental degradation, and the infrastructure services available, among many other statistics.

Since 1978 *World Development Indicators* has compiled statistics to provide an annual snapshot of progress in the developing world and the challenges that remain. It is the product of intensive collaboration with numerous international organizations, government agencies, and private and nongovernmental organizations. Our collective efforts have greatly improved the coverage and reliability of statistics on poverty and development. But more is needed.

Better statistics are of value to us all. They allow us to assess the scope of the problems we face and measure progress in solving them. They make politicians and policymakers more accountable. They discourage arbitrariness, corruption, and reliance on anecdotal evidence. But they are costly to produce. Improving our knowledge base will require sustained investment, backed by a sustained commitment by national governments and international agencies. To achieve the ambitious targets we have set ourselves, we must scale up our efforts to produce reliable statistics that will inform public policy, guide debate, and strengthen the effectiveness of development efforts.



Paul D. Wolfowitz  
President  
The World Bank Group

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This book and its companion volumes, *Little Data Book* and *The Little Green Data Book*, are prepared by a team led by Eric Swanson and comprising Awatif Abuzeid, Mehdi Akhlaghi, David Cieslikowski, Mahyar Eshragh-Tabary, Richard Fix, Amy Heyman, Masako Hiraga, Raymond Muhula, M. H. Saeed Ordoubadi, Sulekha Patel, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, Changqing Sun, K. M. Vijayalakshmi, and Vivienne Wang, working closely with other teams in the Development Economics Vice Presidency's Development Data Group. The CD-ROM development team included Azita Amjadi, Ramgopal Erabelly, Saurabh Gupta, Reza Farivari, and William Prince. The work was carried out under the management of Shaida Badiee.

The choice of indicators and text content was shaped through close consultation with and substantial contributions from staff in five of the World Bank's thematic networks—Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development, Human Development, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Private Sector Development, and Infrastructure—and staff of the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. Most important, the team received substantial help, guidance, and data from external partners. For individual acknowledgments of contributions to the book's content, please see *Credits*. For a listing of our key partners, see *Partners*.

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# PREFACE

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In the 10 years that we have been producing the *World Development Indicators*, the world of development statistics has grown larger and deeper. It has also become better integrated. The demand for statistics to measure progress and demonstrate the effectiveness of development programs has stimulated growing interest in the production and dissemination of statistics. And not just in the traditional domains of debt, demographics, and national accounts, but in new areas such as biodiversity, information, communications, technology, and measures of government and business performance. In response *World Development Indicators* has continued to grow and change.

In 1999 members of the statistical community, recognizing that the production of sound statistics for measuring progress is a global responsibility, established the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21) to strengthen statistical capacity at all levels. In 2000 the United Nations Millennium Summit called on all countries to work toward a quantified, time-bound set of development targets, which became the Millennium Development Goals.

In the five years since the Millennium Summit, the idea of working toward specific goals has evolved into a general strategy of managing for development results. Countries are reporting on progress toward the Millennium Development Goals and monitoring their own results using a variety of economic and social indicators. Bilateral and multilateral development agencies are incorporating results into their own management planning and evaluation systems and using new indicators to set targets for harmonizing their joint work programs. All of these efforts depend on statistics.

So, what has been done to improve the quality and availability of statistics? A lot. Supported by five donors, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building has provided \$20 million in grants for 86 projects, many to create national statistical development strategies. Several countries, recognizing the need for large-scale investments in their statistical systems, have taken out loans or credits to finance them. PARIS21 has conducted advocacy and training workshops around the world to strengthen national statistical systems. The International Comparison Program has more than 100 countries participating in the largest ever global collection of price data. The Health Metrics Network, sponsored by the World Health Organization and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is now under way. The United Nations Children's Fund launched a new round of data collection through its Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys. And the program of Demographic and Health Surveys, funded largely by the United States, continues to operate in many countries.

To accelerate global cooperation in statistical capacity building, the World Bank will provide \$7.5 million a year toward implementing the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS), a grant-funded program. In its first year MAPS will fund the International Household Survey Network to harmonize, document, and provide technical support to survey programs everywhere. It is also funding work by the United Nations Statistics Division to prepare for the 2010 round of censuses; work on education by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's Institute for Statistics; a project on migration by the International Labour Organization; and work on measuring slums by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. And through PARIS21 it is supporting a pilot program to accelerate the production of key development indicators in low-income countries.

National statistical offices and international and regional agencies now find themselves at the center of attention. The challenge is to maintain the momentum in producing more and better quality data. The fruits of today's efforts will be harvested in the years to come. When they are, you will see them here in the tables of *World Development Indicators*.

Shaïda Badiee  
Director  
Development Data Group

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# PARTNERS

Defining, gathering, and disseminating international statistics is a collective effort of many people and organizations. The indicators presented in *World Development Indicators* are the fruit of decades of work at many levels, from the field workers who administer censuses and household surveys to the committees and working parties of the national and international statistical agencies that develop the nomenclature, classifications, and standards fundamental to an international statistical system. Nongovernmental organizations and the private sector have also made important contributions, both in gathering primary data and in organizing and publishing their results. And academic researchers have played a crucial role in developing statistical methods and carrying on a continuing dialogue about the quality and interpretation of statistical indicators. All these contributors have a strong belief that available, accurate data will improve the quality of public and private decisionmaking.

The organizations listed here have made *World Development Indicators* possible by sharing their data and their expertise with us. More important, their collaboration contributes to the World Bank's efforts, and to those of many others, to improve the quality of life of the world's people. We acknowledge our debt and gratitude to all who have helped to build a base of comprehensive, quantitative information about the world and its people.

For easy reference, Web addresses are included for each listed organization. The addresses shown were active on March 1, 2006. Information about the World Bank is also provided.

## International and government agencies

### Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center

The Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC) is the primary global climate change data and information analysis center of the U.S. Department of Energy. The CDIAC's scope includes anything that would potentially be of value to those concerned with the greenhouse effect and global climate change, including concentrations of carbon dioxide and other radiatively active gases in the atmosphere; the role of the terrestrial biosphere and the oceans in the biogeochemical cycles of greenhouse gases; emissions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere; long-term climate trends; the effects of elevated carbon dioxide on vegetation; and the vulnerability of coastal areas to rising sea levels.

For more information, see <http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/>.

### Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH is a German government-owned corporation for international cooperation with worldwide operations. GTZ's aim is to positively shape political, economic, ecological, and social development in partner countries, thereby improving people's living conditions and prospects.

For more information, see [www.gtz.de/](http://www.gtz.de/).



### Food and Agriculture Organization

The Food and Agriculture Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations, was founded in October 1945 with a mandate to raise nutrition levels and living standards, to increase agricultural productivity, and to better the condition of rural populations. The organization provides direct development assistance; collects, analyzes, and disseminates information; offers policy and planning advice to governments; and serves as an international forum for debate on food and agricultural issues.

For more information, see [www.fao.org/](http://www.fao.org/).



### **International Civil Aviation Organization**

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, is responsible for establishing international standards and recommended practices and procedures for the technical, economic, and legal aspects of international civil aviation operations. ICAO's strategic objectives include enhancing global aviation safety and security and the efficiency of aviation operations, minimizing the adverse effect of global civil aviation on the environment, maintaining the continuity of aviation operations, and strengthening laws governing international civil aviation.

For more information, see [www.icao.int/](http://www.icao.int/).



### **International Labour Organization**

The International Labour Organization (ILO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labor rights. As part of its mandate, the ILO maintains an extensive statistical publication program.

For more information, see [www.ilo.org/](http://www.ilo.org/).



### **International Monetary Fund**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was established to promote international monetary cooperation, facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade, promote exchange rate stability, help establish a multilateral payments system, make the general resources of the IMF temporarily available to its members under adequate safeguards, and shorten the duration and lessen the degree of disequilibrium in the international balance of payments of members.

For more information, see [www.imf.org/](http://www.imf.org/).



### **International Telecommunication Union**

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialized agency of the United Nations, covers all aspects of telecommunication, from setting standards that facilitate seamless interworking of equipment and systems on a global basis to adopting operational procedures for the vast and growing array of wireless services and designing programs to improve telecommunication infrastructure in the developing world. The ITU is also a catalyst for forging development partnerships between government and private industry.

For more information, see [www.itu.int/](http://www.itu.int/).



### **National Science Foundation**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent U.S. government agency whose mission is to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense. It is responsible for promoting science and engineering through almost 20,000 research and education projects. In addition, the NSF fosters the exchange of scientific information among scientists and engineers in the United States and other countries, supports programs to strengthen scientific and engineering research potential, and evaluates the impact of research on industrial development and general welfare.

For more information, see [www.nsf.gov/](http://www.nsf.gov/).



### **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) includes 30 member countries sharing a commitment to democratic government and the market economy. With active relationships with some 70 other countries, nongovernmental organizations, and civil society, it has a global reach. It is best known for its publications and statistics, which cover economic and social issues from macroeconomics to trade, education, development, and science and innovation.

The Development Assistance Committee (DAC, [www.oecd.org/dac/](http://www.oecd.org/dac/)) is one of the principal bodies through which the OECD deals with issues related to cooperation with developing countries. The DAC is a key forum of major bilateral donors, who work together to increase the effectiveness of their common efforts to support sustainable development. The DAC concentrates on two key areas: the contribution of international development to the capacity of developing countries to participate in the global economy and the capacity of people to overcome poverty and participate fully in their societies.

For more information, see [www.new.oecd.org/](http://www.new.oecd.org/).



### **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute**

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) conducts research on questions of conflict and cooperation of importance for international peace and security, with the aim of contributing to an understanding of the conditions for peaceful solutions to international conflicts and for a stable peace. SIPRI's main publication, *SIPRI Yearbook*, is an authoritative and independent source on armaments and arms control and other conflict and security issues.

For more information, see [www.sipri.org/](http://www.sipri.org/).



### **Understanding Children's Work**

As part of broader efforts to develop effective and long-term solutions to child labor, the International Labor Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Bank initiated the joint interagency research program "Understanding Children's Work and Its Impact" in December 2000. The Understanding Children's Work (UCW) project was located at UNICEF's Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy, until June 2004, when it moved to the Centre for International Studies on Economic Growth in Rome.

The UCW project addresses the crucial need for more and better data on child labor. UCW's online database contains data by country on child labor and the status of children.

For more information, see [www.ucw-project.org/](http://www.ucw-project.org/).

### **United Nations**

The United Nations currently has 191 member states. The purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, are to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these ends.

For more information, see [www.un.org/](http://www.un.org/).



### **United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, Global Urban Observatory**

The Urban Indicators Programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme was established to address the urgent global need to improve the urban knowledge base by helping countries and cities design, collect, and apply policy-oriented indicators related to development at the city level.

With the Urban Indicators and Best Practices programs, the Global Urban Observatory is establishing a worldwide information, assessment, and capacity building network to help governments, local authorities, the private sector, and nongovernmental and other civil society organizations.

For more information, see [www.unhabitat.org/](http://www.unhabitat.org/).

### **United Nations Children's Fund**

The United Nations Children's Fund works with other UN bodies and with governments and nongovernmental organizations to improve children's lives in more than 140 developing countries through community-based services in primary health care, basic education, and safe water and sanitation.

For more information, see [www.unicef.org/](http://www.unicef.org/).



**unicef**

### **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly in the field of trade and development. Its mandate is to accelerate economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries. UNCTAD discharges its mandate through policy analysis; intergovernmental deliberations, consensus building, and negotiation; monitoring, implementation, and follow-up; and technical cooperation.

For more information, see [www.unctad.org/](http://www.unctad.org/).



**UNCTAD**

### **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, Institute for Statistics**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes "collaboration among nations through education, science, and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law, and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms . . . for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language, or religion."

For more information, see [www.uis.unesco.org/](http://www.uis.unesco.org/).



### **United Nations Environment Programme**

The mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

For more information, see [www.unep.org/](http://www.unep.org/).



### **United Nations Industrial Development Organization**

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization was established to act as the central coordinating body for industrial activities and to promote industrial development and cooperation at the global, regional,



national, and sectoral levels. Its mandate is to help develop scientific and technological plans and programs for industrialization in the public, cooperative, and private sectors.

For more information, see [www.unido.org/](http://www.unido.org/).

### **World Bank Group**

The World Bank Group is the world's largest source of development assistance. Its mission is to fight poverty and improve the living standards of people in the developing world. It is a development bank, providing loans, policy advice, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing services to low- and middle-income countries to reduce poverty. The Bank promotes growth to create jobs and to empower poor people to take advantage of these opportunities. It uses its financial resources, trained staff, and extensive knowledge base to help each developing country onto a path of stable, sustainable, and equitable growth in the fight against poverty. The World Bank Group has 184 member countries.

For more information, see [www.worldbank.org/data/](http://www.worldbank.org/data/).



### **World Health Organization**

The objective of the World Health Organization (WHO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, is the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health. The WHO carries out a wide range of functions, including coordinating international health work; helping governments strengthen health services; providing technical assistance and emergency aid; working for the prevention and control of disease; promoting improved nutrition, housing, sanitation, recreation, and economic and working conditions; promoting and coordinating biomedical and health services research; promoting improved standards of teaching and training in health and medical professions; establishing international standards for biological, pharmaceutical, and similar products; and standardizing diagnostic procedures.

For more information, see [www.who.int/](http://www.who.int/).



### **World Intellectual Property Organization**

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is an international organization dedicated to helping to ensure that the rights of creators and owners of intellectual property are protected worldwide and that inventors and authors are thus recognized and rewarded for their ingenuity. WIPO's main tasks include harmonizing national intellectual property legislation and procedures, providing services for international applications for industrial property rights, exchanging intellectual property information, providing legal and technical assistance to developing and other countries facilitating the resolution of private intellectual property disputes, and marshalling information technology as a tool for storing, accessing, and using valuable intellectual property information. A substantial part of its activities and resources is devoted to development cooperation with developing countries.

For more information, see [www.wipo.int/](http://www.wipo.int/).



### **World Tourism Organization**

The World Tourism Organization is an intergovernmental body entrusted by the United Nations with promoting and developing tourism. It serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and a source of tourism know-how.

For more information, see [www.world-tourism.org/](http://www.world-tourism.org/).



### **World Trade Organization**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only international organization dealing with the global rules of trade between nations. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably, and freely as possible. It does this by administering trade agreements, acting as a forum for trade negotiations, settling trade disputes, reviewing national trade policies, assisting developing countries in trade policy issues—through technical assistance and training programs—and cooperating with other international organizations. At the heart of the system—known as the multilateral trading system—are the WTO's agreements, negotiated and signed by a large majority of the world's trading nations and ratified by their parliaments.

For more information, see [www.wto.org/](http://www.wto.org/).



### **Private and nongovernmental organizations**

#### **Containerisation International**

*Containerisation International Yearbook* is one of the most authoritative reference books on the container industry. The information can be accessed on the Containerisation International Web site, which also provides a comprehensive online daily business news and information service for the container industry.

For more information, see [www.ci-online.co.uk/](http://www.ci-online.co.uk/).



#### **International Institute for Strategic Studies**

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) provides information and analysis on strategic trends and facilitates contacts between government leaders, business people, and analysts that could lead to better public policy in international security and international relations. The IISS is a primary source of accurate, objective information on international strategic issues.

For more information, see [www.iiss.org/](http://www.iiss.org/).



#### **International Road Federation**

The International Road Federation (IRF) is a nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization with a mission to encourage and promote development and maintenance of better and safer roads and road networks. It helps put in place technological solutions and management practices that provide maximum economic and social returns from national road investments.

The IRF has a major role to play in all aspects of road policy and development worldwide. For governments and financial institutions, the IRF provides a wide base of expertise for planning road development strategy and policy. For its members, the IRF is a business network, a link to external institutions and agencies and a business card of introduction to government officials and decisionmakers. For the community of road professionals, the IRF is a source of support and information for national road associations, advocacy groups, companies, and institutions dedicated to the development of road infrastructure.

For more information, see [www.irfnet.org/](http://www.irfnet.org/).



### **Netcraft**

Netcraft's work includes the provision of network security services and research data and analysis of the Internet. It is an authority on the market share of Web servers, operating systems, hosting providers, Internet service providers, encrypted transactions, electronic commerce, scripting languages, and content technologies on the Internet.

For more information, see [www.netcraft.com/](http://www.netcraft.com/).

### **PricewaterhouseCoopers**

PricewaterhouseCoopers provides industry-focused assurance, tax, and advisory services for public and private clients in corporate accountability, risk management, structuring and mergers and acquisitions, and performance and process improvement.

For more information, see [www.pwcglobal.com/](http://www.pwcglobal.com/).

### **Standard & Poor's Emerging Markets Data Base**

Standard & Poor's Emerging Markets Data Base (EMDB) is the world's leading source for information and indices on stock markets in developing countries. It currently covers 53 markets and more than 2,600 stocks. Drawing a sample of stocks in each EMD market, Standard & Poor's calculates indices to serve as benchmarks that are consistent across national boundaries. Standard & Poor's calculates one index, the S&P/IFCG (Global) index, that reflects the perspective of local investors and those interested in broad trends in emerging markets and another, the S&P/IFCI (Investable) index, that provides a broad, neutral, and historically consistent benchmark for the growing emerging market investment community.

For more information, see [www.standardandpoors.com/](http://www.standardandpoors.com/).

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### **World Conservation Monitoring Centre**

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre provides information on the conservation and sustainable use of the world's living resources and helps others to develop information systems of their own. It works in close collaboration with a wide range of people and organizations to increase access to the information needed for wise management of the world's living resources.

For more information, see [www.unep-wcmc.org/](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/).



### **World Information Technology and Services Alliance**

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is the global voice of the information technology industry. It is dedicated to advocating policies that advance the industry's growth and development; facilitating international trade and investment in information technology products and services; strengthening WITSA's national industry associations; and providing members with a broad network of contacts. WITSA also hosts the World Congress on Information Technology and other worldwide events.

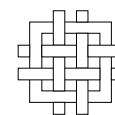
For more information, see [www.witsa.org/](http://www.witsa.org/).



**World Resources Institute**

The World Resources Institute is an independent center for policy research and technical assistance on global environmental and development issues. The institute provides—and helps other institutions provide—objective information and practical proposals for policy and institutional change that will foster environmentally sound, socially equitable development. The institute's current areas of work include trade, forests, energy, economics, technology, biodiversity, human health, climate change, sustainable agriculture, resource and environmental information, and national strategies for environmental and resource management.

For more information, see [www.wri.org/](http://www.wri.org/).



# USERS GUIDE

## Tables

The tables are numbered by section and display the identifying icon of the section. Tables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.5 are presented by World Bank region, with the economies for each region listed alphabetically within the region. For other tables countries and economies are listed alphabetically (except for Hong Kong, China, which appears after China). Data are shown for 152 economies with populations of more than 1 million, as well as for Taiwan, China, in selected tables. Table 1.6 presents selected indicators for 56 other economies—small economies with populations between 30,000 and 1 million and smaller economies if they are members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) or, as it is commonly known, the World Bank. The term *country*, used interchangeably with *economy*, does not imply political independence, but refers to any territory for which authorities report separate social or economic statistics. When available, aggregate measures for income and regional groups appear at the end of each table.

Indicators are shown for the most recent year or period for which data are available and, in most tables, for an earlier year or period (usually 1990 in this edition). Time-series data are available on the *World Development Indicators* CD-ROM and in *WDI Online*.

Known deviations from standard definitions or breaks in comparability over time or across countries are either footnoted in the tables or noted in *About the data*. When available data are deemed to be too weak to provide reliable measures of levels and trends or do not adequately adhere to international standards, the data are not shown.

## Aggregate measures for income groups

The aggregate measures for income groups include 208 economies (the economies listed in the main tables plus those in table 1.6) wherever data are available. To maintain consistency in the aggregate measures over time and between tables, missing data are imputed where possible. The aggregates

are totals (designated by a *t* if the aggregates include gap-filled estimates for missing data and by an *s*, for simple totals, where they do not), median values (*m*), weighted averages (*w*), or simple averages (*u*). Gap filling of amounts not allocated to countries may result in discrepancies between subgroup aggregates and overall totals. For further discussion of aggregation methods, see *Statistical methods*.

## Aggregate measures for regions

The aggregate measures for regions include only low- and middle-income economies (note that these measures include developing economies with populations of less than 1 million, including those listed in table 1.6).

The country composition of regions is based on the World Bank's analytical regions and may differ from common geographic usage. For regional classifications, see the map on the inside back cover and the list on the back cover flap. For further discussion of aggregation methods, see *Statistical methods*.

## Statistics

Data are shown for economies as they were constituted in 2004, and historical data are revised to reflect current political arrangements. Exceptions are noted throughout the tables.

Additional information about the data is provided in *Primary data documentation*. That section summarizes national and international efforts to improve basic data collection and gives information on primary sources, census years, fiscal years, and other background. *Statistical methods* provides technical information on some of the general calculations and formulas used throughout the book.

## Data consistency and reliability

Considerable effort has been made to standardize the data, but full comparability cannot be assured, and care must be taken in interpreting the indicators. Many factors affect data availability, comparability,

and reliability. Statistical systems in many developing economies are still weak; statistical methods, coverage, practices, and definitions differ widely; and cross-country and intertemporal comparisons involve complex technical and conceptual problems that cannot be unequivocally resolved. Data coverage may not be complete because of special circumstances or for economies experiencing problems (such as those stemming from conflicts) affecting the collection and reporting of data. For these reasons, although data are drawn from the sources thought to be most authoritative, they should be construed only as indicating trends and characterizing major differences among economies rather than offering precise quantitative measures of those differences.

Discrepancies in data presented in different editions of *World Development Indicators* reflect updates by countries as well as revisions to historical series and changes in methodology. Thus readers are advised not to compare data series between editions of *World Development Indicators* or between different World Bank publications. Consistent time-series data for 1960–2004 are available on the *World Development Indicators* CD-ROM and in *WDI Online*.

Except where otherwise noted, growth rates are in real terms. (See *Statistical methods* for information on the methods used to calculate growth rates.) Data for some economic indicators for some economies are presented in fiscal years rather than calendar years; see *Primary data documentation*. All dollar figures are current U.S. dollars unless otherwise stated. The methods used for converting national currencies are described in *Statistical methods*.

## Country notes

- Unless otherwise noted, data for China do not include data for Hong Kong, China; Macao, China; or Taiwan, China.
- Data for Indonesia include Timor-Leste through 1999 unless otherwise noted.
- External debt data presented for the Russian Federation prior to 1992 are for the former Soviet Union. See *About the data* for table 4.16 for details.

### Changes in the System of National Accounts

*World Development Indicators* uses terminology in line with the 1993 United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA). For example, in the 1993 SNA *gross national income* (GNI) replaces *gross national product* (GNP). See *About the data* for tables 1.1 and 4.8.

Most economies continue to compile their national accounts according to the 1968 SNA, but more and more are adopting the 1993 SNA. Economies that use the 1993 SNA are identified in *Primary data documentation*. A few low-income economies still use concepts from older SNA guidelines, including valuations such as factor cost, in describing major economic aggregates.

### Classification of economies

For operational and analytical purposes the World Bank's main criterion for classifying economies is GNI per capita. Each economy is classified as low income, middle income (subdivided into lower middle and upper middle), or high income. For income classifications see the map on the inside front cover and the list on the front cover flap. Low- and middle-income economies are sometimes referred to as developing economies. The use of the term is convenient; it is not intended to imply that all economies in the group are experiencing similar development or that other economies have reached a preferred or final stage of development. Note that classification by income does not necessarily reflect development status.

Because GNI per capita changes over time, the country composition of income groups may change from one edition of *World Development Indicators* to the next. Once the classification is fixed for an edition, based on GNI per capita in the most recent year for which data are available (2004 in this edition), all historical data presented are based on the same country grouping.

Low-income economies are those with a GNI per capita of \$825 or less in 2004. Middle-income economies are those with a GNI per capita of more than \$825 but less than \$10,066. Lower-middle-income and upper-middle-income economies are separated

at a GNI per capita of \$3,255. High-income economies are those with a GNI per capita of \$10,066 or more. The 12 participating member countries of the European Monetary Union (EMU) are presented as a subgroup under high-income economies.

### Symbols

.. means that data are not available or that aggregates cannot be calculated because of missing data in the years shown.

### 0 or 0.0

means zero or less than half the unit shown.

/

in dates, as in 2003/04, means that the period of time, usually 12 months, straddles two calendar years and refers to a crop year, a survey year, an academic year, or a fiscal year.

\$

means current U.S. dollars unless otherwise noted.

>

means more than.

<

means less than.

### Data presentation conventions

- A blank means not applicable or, for an aggregate, not analytically meaningful.
- A billion is 1,000 million.
- A trillion is 1,000 billion.
- Figures in italics refer to years or periods other than those specified or to growth rates calculated for less than the full period specified.
- Data for years that are more than three years from the range shown are footnoted.

The cutoff date for data is February 1, 2006.