



	Population below national poverty line								Poverty gap at national poverty line			
	Survey year	Rural %	Urban %	National %	Survey year	Rural %	Urban %	National %	Survey year	Rural %	Urban %	National %
Afghanistan	2007	45.0	27.0	42.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Albania	2002	29.6	19.5	25.4	2005	24.2	11.2	18.5	2005	5.3	2.3	4.0
Algeria	1988	16.6	7.3	12.2	1995	30.3	14.7	22.6	1995	4.5	1.8	3.2
Argentina	1998	..	28.8	..	2002	..	53.0	..	2002	..	28.5	..
Armenia	1998–99	50.8	58.3	55.1	2001	48.7	51.9	50.9	2001	..	..	15.1
Azerbaijan	1995	..	..	68.1	2001	42.0	55.0	49.6	2001	..	..	15.5
Bangladesh	2000	52.3	35.1	48.9	2005	43.8	28.4	40.0	2005	9.8	6.5	9.0
Belarus	2002	..	..	30.5	2004	..	..	17.4	..	..	..	..
Benin	1999	33.0	23.3	29.0	2003	46.0	29.0	39.0	2003	14.0	8.0	12.0
Bolivia	1999	80.1	51.4	62.0	2002	82.2	53.9	64.6	2002	43.4	23.8	31.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2001–02	19.9	13.8	19.5	..	..	..	..	2001–02	4.9	2.8	4.6
Brazil	1998	51.4	14.7	22.0	2002–03	41.0	17.5	21.5	2002–03	28.4	17.8	19.6
Bulgaria	1997	..	..	36.0	2001	..	..	12.8	2001	..	..	4.2
Burkina Faso	1998	61.1	22.4	54.6	2003	52.4	19.2	46.4	2003	17.6	5.1	15.3
Burundi	1998	64.6	66.5	68.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	1994	..	..	47.0	2004	38.0	18.0	35.0	2004	7.8	1.2	6.7
Cameroon	1996	59.6	41.4	53.3	2001	49.9	22.1	40.2	..	..	..	..
Chad	1995–96	48.6	..	43.4	..	..	..	..	1995–96	26.3	..	27.5
Chile	1996	..	..	19.9	1998	..	..	17.0	1998	..	..	5.7
China	1998	4.6	..	4.6	2004	..	..	2.8	..	..	..	..
Colombia	1995	79.0	48.0	60.0	1999	79.0	55.0	64.0	1999	44.0	26.0	34.0
Congo, Dem. Rep.	2004–05	75.7	61.5	71.3	..	..	..	..	2004–05	34.9	26.2	32.2
Congo, Rep.	2005	49.2	..	42.3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Costa Rica	1989	35.8	26.2	31.7	2004	28.3	20.8	23.9	2004	10.8	7.0	8.6
Croatia	2002	..	..	11.2	2004	..	..	11.1	..	..	..	..
Dominican Republic	2000	45.3	18.2	27.7	2004	55.7	34.7	42.2	2004	24.0	12.9	16.8
Ecuador	1998	69.0	30.0	46.0	2001	..	..	45.2	2001	..	..	18.0
Egypt, Arab Rep.	1995–96	23.3	22.5	22.9	1999–2000	..	..	16.7	1999–2000	..	..	3.0
El Salvador	1995	64.8	38.9	50.6	2002	49.8	28.5	37.2	2002	24.2	11.1	16.5
Eritrea	1993–94	..	..	53.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Estonia	1995	14.7	6.8	8.9	..	..	..	..	1995	6.6	1.8	3.1
Ethiopia	1995–96	47.0	33.3	45.5	1999–2000	45.0	37.0	44.2	1999–2000	12.0	10.0	12.0
Gambia, The	1998	61.0	48.0	57.6	2003	63.0	57.0	61.3	2003	..	..	25.9
Georgia	2002	55.4	48.5	52.1	2003	52.7	56.2	54.5	..	..	..	..
Ghana	1998–99	49.6	19.4	39.5	2005–06	39.2	10.8	28.5	2005–06	13.5	3.1	9.6
Guatemala	1989	71.9	33.7	57.9	2000	74.5	27.1	56.2	2000	..	..	22.6
Guinea	1994	..	..	40.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	2002	..	52.6	65.7	..	..	..	..	2000	..	17.5	25.7
Haiti	1987	..	..	65.0	1995	66.0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Honduras	1998–99	71.2	28.6	52.5	2004	70.4	29.5	50.7	2004	34.5	9.1	22.3
Hungary	1993	..	..	14.5	1997	..	..	17.3	1997	4.1	..	..
India	1993–94	37.3	32.4	36.0	1999–2000	30.2	24.7	28.6	1999–2000	5.6	6.9	..
Indonesia	1996	19.8	13.6	17.6	2005	..	..	16.0	2004	..	..	2.9
Jamaica	1995	37.0	18.7	27.5	2000	25.1	12.8	18.7	..	..	..	..
Jordan	1997	27.0	19.7	21.3	2002	18.7	12.9	14.2	2002	4.7	2.9	3.3
Kazakhstan	2001	..	..	17.6	2002	..	..	15.4	2002	4.5	2.0	3.1
Kenya	1994	47.0	29.0	40.0	1997	53.0	49.0	52.0	..	..	..	..
Kyrgyz Republic	2003	57.5	35.7	49.9	2005	50.8	29.8	43.1	2005	12.0	7.0	10.0
Lao PDR	1997–98	41.0	26.9	38.6	2002–03	..	..	33.0	2002–03	..	..	8.0
Latvia	2002	11.6	..	7.5	2004	12.7	..	5.9	2004	..	..	1.2
Lesotho	1994/95	68.9	36.7	66.6	2002/03	60.5	41.5	56.3	..	..	..	..
Macedonia, FYR	2002	25.3	..	21.4	2003	22.3	..	21.7	2003	6.5	..	6.7
Madagascar	1997	76.0	63.2	73.3	1999	76.7	52.1	71.3	1999	36.1	21.4	32.8
Malawi	1990–91	..	..	54.0	1997–98	66.5	54.9	65.3	..	..	..	..
Malaysia	1989	..	..	15.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mali	1998	75.9	30.1	63.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Poverty rates at national poverty lines

2.7

PEOPLE

	Population below national poverty line								Poverty gap at national poverty line			
	Survey year	Rural %	Urban %	National %	Survey year	Rural %	Urban %	National %	Survey year	Rural %	Urban %	National %
Mauritania	1996	65.5	30.1	50.0	2000	61.2	25.4	46.3	..	..	..	..
Mauritius	1992	..	..	10.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mexico	2002	34.8	11.4	20.3	2004	27.9	11.3	17.6	2002	12.2	2.8	6.3
Moldova	2001	64.1	58.0	62.4	2002	67.2	42.6	48.5	2002	..	..	16.5
Mongolia	1998	32.6	39.4	35.6	2002	43.4	30.3	36.1	2002	13.2	9.2	11.0
Morocco	1990–91	18.0	7.6	13.1	1998–99	27.2	12.0	19.0	1998–99	6.7	2.5	4.4
Mozambique	1996–97	71.3	62.0	69.4	2002–03	55.3	51.5	54.1	2002–03	20.9	19.7	20.5
Nepal	1995–96	43.3	21.6	41.8	2003–04	34.6	9.6	30.9	2003–04	8.5	2.2	7.5
Nicaragua	1998	68.5	30.5	47.9	2001	64.3	28.7	45.8	2001	25.9	8.7	17.0
Niger	1989–93	66.0	52.0	63.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nigeria	1985	49.5	31.7	43.0	1992–93	36.4	30.4	34.1	..	..	..	..
Pakistan	1993	33.4	17.2	28.6	1998–99	35.9	24.2	32.6	1998–99	7.9	5.0	7.0
Panama	1997	64.9	15.3	37.3	..	..	..	..	1997	32.1	3.9	16.4
Papua New Guinea	1996	41.3	16.1	37.5	..	..	..	..	1996	13.8	4.3	12.4
Paraguay ^a	1990	28.5	19.7	20.5	..	..	..	..	1990	10.5	5.6	6.0
Peru	2001	77.1	42.0	54.3	2004	72.1	42.9	53.1	2004	28.3	12.4	18.0
Philippines	1994	45.4	18.6	32.1	1997	36.9	11.9	25.1	1997	10.0	2.6	6.4
Poland	1996	..	..	14.6	2001	..	..	14.8	..	..	..	..
Romania	1995	..	..	25.4	2002	..	..	28.9	2002	..	..	7.6
Russian Federation	1998	..	..	31.4	2002	..	..	19.6	2002	..	..	5.1
Rwanda	1993	..	..	51.2	1999–2000	65.7	14.3	60.3	..	..	..	..
Senegal	1992	40.4	23.7	33.4	..	..	..	..	1992	16.4	3.1	13.9
Sierra Leone	1989	..	..	82.8	2003–04	79.0	56.4	70.2	2003–04	34.0	..	29.0
Slovak Republic	2004	..	..	16.8	..	..	..	..	2004	..	..	5.5
Sri Lanka	1995–96	27.0	15.0	25.0	2002	7.9	24.7	22.7	2002	5.6	1.7	5.1
Swaziland	2000–01	75.0	49.0	69.2	..	..	..	..	2000–01	..	..	32.9
Tajikistan	1999	..	..	74.9	2003	..	..	44.4	2003	..	..	12.7
Tanzania	1991	40.8	31.2	38.6	2000–01	38.7	29.5	35.7	..	..	..	..
Thailand	1994	..	..	9.8	1998	..	..	13.6	1998	..	..	3.0
Timor-Leste	2001	..	..	39.7	..	..	..	..	2001	..	..	11.9
Togo	1987–89	..	..	32.3	..	..	..	..	1987–89	..	..	10.0
Trinidad and Tobago	1992	20.0	24.0	21.0	..	..	..	..	1992	6.2	7.4	7.3
Tunisia	1990	13.1	3.5	7.4	1995	13.9	3.6	7.6	1990	3.3	0.9	1.7
Turkey	1994	..	..	28.3	2002	34.5	22.0	27.0	2002	..	..	0.3
Uganda	1999–2000	37.4	9.6	33.8	2002–03	41.7	12.2	37.7	2002–03	12.6	3.0	11.3
Ukraine	2000	34.9	..	31.5	2003	28.4	..	19.5	..	..	..	..
Uruguay	1994	..	20.2	..	1998	..	24.7	..	1998	..	8.6	..
Uzbekistan	2000–01	33.6	27.8	31.5	2003	29.8	22.6	27.2	..	..	..	..
Venezuela, RB	1989	..	..	31.3	1997–99	..	..	52.0	1997–99	..	..	24.0
Vietnam	1998	45.5	9.2	37.4	2002	35.6	6.6	28.9	2002	8.7	1.3	6.9
Yemen, Rep.	1998	45.0	30.8	41.8	..	..	..	..	1998	14.7	8.2	13.2
Zambia	1998	83.1	56.0	72.9	2004	78.0	53.0	68.0	2004	44.0	22.0	36.0
Zimbabwe	1990–91	35.8	3.4	25.8	1995–96	48.0	7.9	34.9	..	..	..	..

a. Covers Asunción metropolitan area only.

**About the data**

The World Bank periodically prepares poverty assessments of countries in which it has an active program, in close collaboration with national institutions, other development agencies, and civil society groups, including poor people's organizations. Poverty assessments report the extent and causes of poverty and propose strategies to reduce it. Since 1992 the World Bank has conducted about 200 poverty assessments, which are the main source of the poverty estimates presented in the table. Countries report similar assessments as part of their Poverty Reduction Strategies.

The poverty assessments are the best available source of information on poverty estimates using national poverty lines. They often include separate assessments of urban and rural poverty. Data are derived from nationally representative household surveys conducted by national statistical offices or by private agencies under the supervision of government or international agencies and obtained from government statistical offices and World Bank Group country departments.

Some poverty assessments analyze the current poverty status of a country using the latest available household survey data, while others use survey data for several years to analyze poverty trends. Thus, poverty estimates for more than one year might be derived from a single poverty assessment. A poverty assessment might not use all available household surveys, or survey data might become available at a later date even though data were collected before the poverty assessment date. Thus poverty assessments may not fully represent all household survey data.

Over the last 20 years there has been considerable expansion in the number of countries that field surveys and in the frequency of the surveys. The quality of their data has improved greatly as well.

Data availability

The number of data sets within two years of any given year rose dramatically, from 13 between 1978 and 1982 to 158 between 2001 and 2006. Data coverage is improving in all regions, but the Middle East and North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa continue to lag. The database, maintained by a team in the World Bank's Development Research Group, is updated annually as new survey data become available, and a major reassessment of progress against poverty is made about every three years. A complete overview of data availability by year and country is available at <http://iresearch.worldbank.org/povcalnet/>.

Data quality

Poverty assessments are based on surveys fielded to collect, among other things, information on income or consumption from a sample of households. To be useful for poverty estimates, surveys must be nationally representative and include sufficient information to compute a comprehensive estimate of total household consumption or income (including consumption or income from own production), from which it is possible to construct a correctly weighted distribution of consumption or income per person. There remain many potential problems with household survey data, including selective nonresponse and differences in the menu of consumption items presented and the length of the period over which respondents must recall their expenditures. These issues are discussed in *About the data* for table 2.8.

National poverty lines

National poverty lines are used to make estimates of poverty consistent with the country's specific economic and social circumstances and are not intended for international comparisons of poverty rates. The setting of national poverty lines reflects local perceptions of the level of consumption or income needed not to be poor. The perceived boundary between poor and not poor rises with the average income of a country and so does not provide a uniform measure for comparing poverty rates across countries. Nevertheless, national poverty estimates are clearly the appropriate measure for setting national policies for poverty reduction and for monitoring their results.

Almost all the national poverty lines use a food bundle based on prevailing diets that attains predetermined nutritional requirements for good health and normal activity levels, plus an allowance for non-food spending. The rise in poverty lines with average income is driven more by the gradient in the non-food component of the poverty lines than in the food component, although there is still an appreciable share attributable to the gradient in food poverty lines. While nutritional requirements tend to be fairly similar even across countries at different levels of economic development, richer countries tend to use a more expensive food bundle—more meat and vegetables, less starchy staples, and more processed foods generally—for attaining the same nutritional needs.

Definitions

- **Survey year** is the year in which the underlying data were collected.
- **Rural population below national poverty line** is the percentage of the rural population living below the national rural poverty line.
- **Urban population below national poverty line** is the percentage of the urban population living below the national urban poverty line.
- **National population below national poverty line** is the percentage of the country's population living below the national poverty line. National estimates are based on population-weighted subgroup estimates from household surveys.
- **Poverty gap at national poverty line** is the mean shortfall from the poverty line (counting the nonpoor as having zero shortfall) as a percentage of the poverty line. This measure reflects the depth of poverty as well as its incidence.

Data sources

The poverty measures are prepared by the World Bank's Development Research Group, based on data from World Bank's country poverty assessments and country Poverty Reduction Strategies. Summaries of poverty assessments are available at www.worldbank.org/poverty.net, by selecting "Poverty assessments" from the left side bar. Poverty assessment documents are available at www-wds.worldbank.org, under "By topic," "Poverty reduction," "Poverty assessment." Further discussion of how national poverty lines vary across countries can be found in Ravallion, Chen, and Sangraula's "Dollar a Day Revisited" (2008).