



Selected
World
Development
Indicators

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Introduction to Selected World Development Indicators



Selected World Development Indicators provides a core set of standard indicators drawn from the World Bank's development databases. The layout of the 21 tables retains the tradition of presenting comparative socioeconomic data for more than 130 economies for the most recent year for which data are available and for an earlier year. An additional table presents basic indicators for 78 economies with sparse data or with populations of less than 1.5 million.

The indicators presented here are a selection from more than 500 included in *World Development Indicators 1999*. Published annually, *World Development Indicators* reflects a comprehensive view of the development process. Its opening chapter reports on the record of and the prospects for social and economic progress in developing countries, measured against six international goals. Its five main sections recognize the contribution of a wide range of factors: human capital development, environmental sustainability, macroeconomic performance, private sector development, and the global links that influence the external environment for development. *World De-*

velopment Indicators is complemented by a separately published CD-ROM database that gives access to over 1,000 data tables and 500 time-series indicators for 227 countries and regions.

Organization of Selected World Development Indicators

Tables 1 and 2, *World View*, offer an overview of key development issues: How rich or poor are the people in each economy? What is their real level of welfare as reflected in child malnutrition and mortality rates? What is the life expectancy of newborns? What percentage of adults is illiterate?

Tables 3 to 7, *People*, show the rate of progress in social development during the past decade. Data on population growth, labor force participation, and income distribution are included. Measures of well-being such as expenditure on health care, school enrollment ratios, and gender differences in access to educational attainment are also provided.

Tables 8 to 10, *Environment*, bring together key indicators on land use and agricultural output, water resources, energy consumption, and carbon dioxide emissions.

Tables 11 to 15, *Economy*, present information on the structure and growth of the world's economies, including government finance statistics and a summary of the balance of payments.

Tables 16 to 19, *States and Markets*, look at the roles of the public and the private sector in creating the necessary infrastructure for economic growth. These tables present information on private investment, stock markets, and the economic activities of the state (including military expenditure), as well as a full table of indicators on information technology and research and development.

Tables 20 and 21, *Global Links*, contain information on trade and financial flows, including aid and lending to developing countries.

Because the World Bank's primary business is providing lending and policy advice to its low- and middle-income members, the issues covered in these tables focus mainly on these economies. Where available, information on the high-income economies is also provided for comparison. Readers may wish to refer to national statistical publications and publications of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Union for more information on the high-income economies.

Classification of economies

As in the rest of the report, the main criterion used in the Selected World Development Indicators to classify economies and broadly distinguish stages of economic development is GNP per capita. Economies are classified into three categories according to income. The classification used in this edition has been updated to reflect the World Bank's current operational guidelines. The GNP per capita cutoff levels are as follows: low-income, \$760 or less in 1998; middle-income, \$761 to \$9,360; and high-income, \$9,361 and above. A further division at GNP per capita \$3,030 is made between lower-middle-income and upper-middle-income economies. Economies are further classified by region. See the table on Classification of Economies at the end of this volume for a list of economies in each group (including those with populations of less than 1.5 million).

From time to time an economy's classification is revised because of changes in the above cutoff values or in the economy's measured level of GNP per capita. When such changes occur, aggregates based on those classifications are recalculated for the past period so that a consistent time series is maintained. Between 1998 and

1999 several large countries changed classification, resulting in significant changes in the income and regional aggregates. For example, the Republic of Korea, previously classified as a high-income economy, now falls in the upper-middle-income group; therefore data for Korea are also included in the aggregates for developing countries in East Asia and Pacific. Revisions to estimates of China's GNP per capita have caused that economy to be reclassified as low-income. The following changes are also reflected: South Africa moved from upper-middle- to lower-middle-income; Indonesia and the Solomon Islands from lower-middle- to low-income; Grenada and Panama from lower-middle- to upper-middle-income; and Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina from low-income to lower-middle-income.

Data sources and methodology

Socioeconomic and environmental data presented here are drawn from several sources: primary data collection by the World Bank, member country statistical publications, research institutes such as the World Resources Institute, and international organizations such as the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the International Monetary Fund, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (see the Data Sources following the Technical Notes for a complete listing). Although international standards of coverage, definition, and classification apply to most statistics reported by countries and international agencies, there are inevitably differences in coverage, currentness, and the capabilities and resources devoted to basic data collection and compilation. For some topics, competing sources of data require review by World Bank staff to ensure that the most reliable data available are presented. In some instances, where available data are deemed too weak to provide reliable measures of levels and trends or do not adequately adhere to international standards, the data are not shown.

The data presented are generally consistent with those in *World Development Indicators 1999*. However, data have been revised and updated wherever new information has become available. Differences may also reflect revisions to historical series and changes in methodology. Thus data of different vintages may be published in different editions of World Bank publications. Readers are advised not to compile data series from different publications or different editions of the same publication. Consistent time-series data are available on *World Development Indicators 1999 CD-ROM*.

All dollar figures are in current U.S. dollars unless otherwise stated. The various methods used to convert from national currency figures are described in the Technical Notes.

Summary measures

The summary measures at the bottom of each table are either totals (indicated by **t** if the aggregates include estimates for missing data and nonreporting countries, or by an **s** for simple sums of the data available), weighted averages (**w**), or median values (**m**) calculated for groups of economies. Data for the countries excluded from the main tables (those presented in table 1a) have been included in the summary measures, where data are available, or by assuming that they follow the trend of reporting countries. This gives a more consistent aggregated measure by standardizing country coverage for each period shown. Where missing information accounts for a third or more of the overall estimate, however, the group measure is reported as not available. The section on "Statistical methods" in the Technical Notes provides further information on aggregation methods. Weights used to construct the aggregates are listed in the technical notes for each table.

Terminology and country coverage

The term *country* does not imply political independence but may refer to any territory for which authorities report separate social or economic statistics. Data are shown for economies as they were constituted in 1998, and historical data are revised to reflect current political arrangements. Throughout the tables, exceptions are noted.

As of July 1, 1997, China resumed its exercise of sovereignty over the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong. Data for Hong Kong, China, are shown on a separate line following the entry for China and are included in the aggregates for high-income economies. Data for China do not include data for Taiwan, China, unless otherwise noted.

Data are shown separately whenever possible for the countries formed from the former Czechoslovakia: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

Data are shown separately for Eritrea whenever possible; in most cases prior to 1992, however, they are included in the data for Ethiopia.

Data for Germany refer to the unified Germany, unless otherwise noted.

Data for Jordan refer to the East Bank only, unless otherwise noted.

In 1991 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was formally dissolved into 15 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Whenever possible, data are shown for the individual countries.

Data for the Republic of Yemen refer to that country as constituted from 1990 onward; data for previous years refer to the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the former Yemen Arab Republic, unless otherwise noted.

Whenever possible, data are shown for the individual countries formed from the former Yugoslavia: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

Technical notes

Because data quality and intercountry comparisons are often problematic, readers are encouraged to consult the Technical Notes, the table on Classification of Economies by Income and Region, and the footnotes to the tables. For more extensive documentation see *World Development Indicators 1999*. The Data Sources section at the end of the Technical Notes lists sources that contain more comprehensive definitions and descriptions of the concepts used.

For more information about the Selected World Development Indicators and the World Bank's other statistical publications, please contact:

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The World by Income

This map presents economies classified according to World Bank estimates of 1998 GNP per capita. Not shown on the map due to space constraints are: American Samoa (upper middle income); Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga (lower middle income); French Polynesia (high income); Tuvalu (no data).

