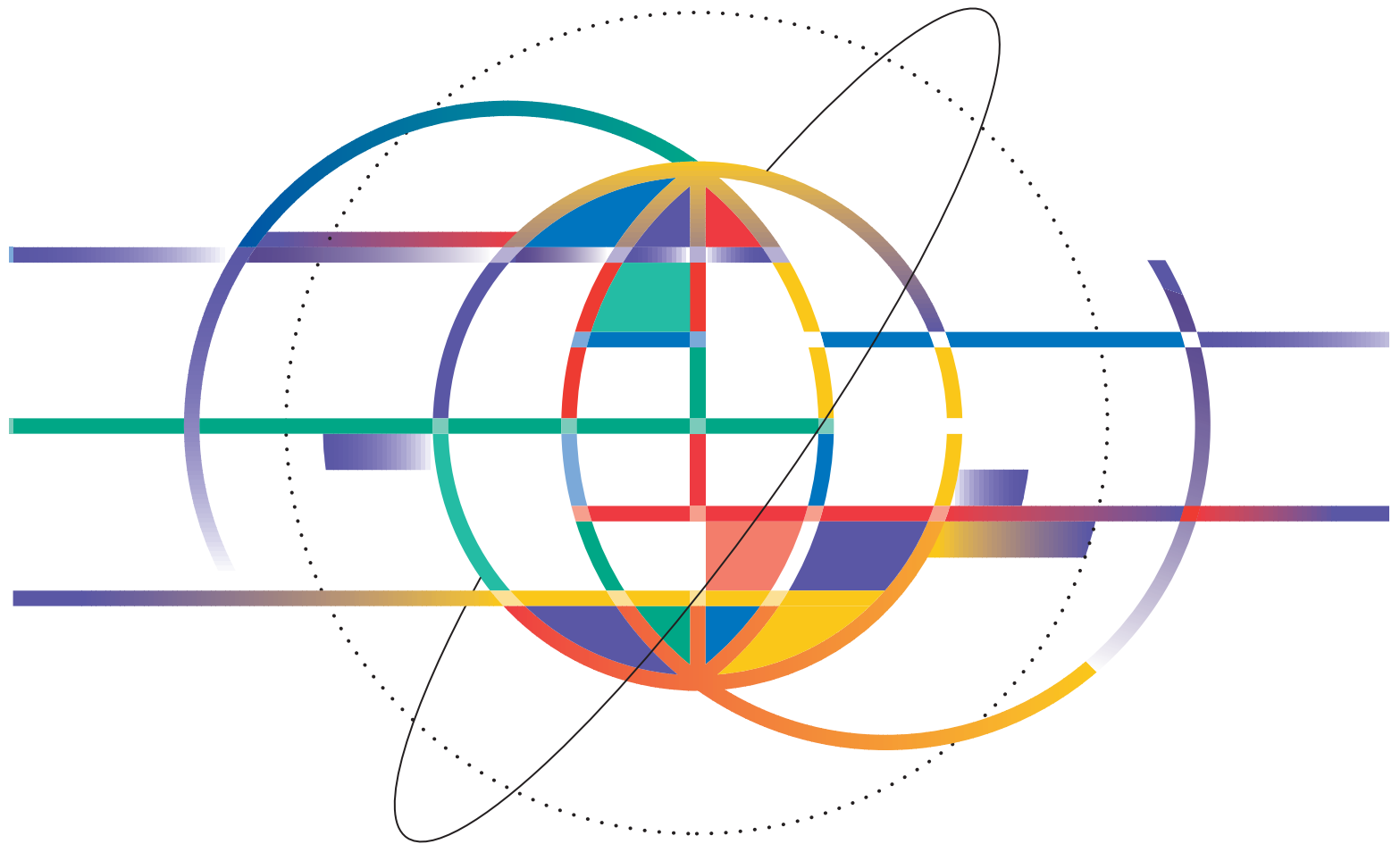


Selected World Development Indicators



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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 77 economies with sparse data or with populations of less than 1 million.

The indicators presented here are a selection from more than 500 included in the 1998 *World Development Indicators*. Published annually, *World Development Indicators* adopts an integrated approach to the measurement of development progress. Its opening chapter reports on the prospects for and record of 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 Development 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 223 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 are 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. New this year is a table on the prevalence and depth of poverty. Measures of well-being such as malnutrition and access to 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 Community 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 gross national product (GNP) per capita. Countries 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, \$785 or less in 1997; middle-income, \$786 to \$9,655; and high-income, \$9,656. A further division at GNP per capita \$3,125 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 the Report for a list of economies in each group (including those with populations of less than 1 million).

Data sources and methodology

Socioeconomic 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 list of 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 the 1998 *World Development Indicators*. 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 Bank publications. Readers are advised not to compile data series across publications. Consistent time-series data are available in the 1998 *World Development Indicators 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 totals (indicated by *t* if the aggregates include estimates for missing data and nonreporting economies, or by an *s* for simple sums), weighted averages (*w*), or median values (*m*) calculated for groups of economies. The countries excluded from the main tables (those presented in Table 1a) have been included in the summary measures where data are available or, if no data are available, 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.

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 1997, 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 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 it is 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).

Table layout

The table format of this edition conforms to that of the *World Development Indicators*: economies are listed in alphabetical order, and summary measures are placed at the bottom of the table. Economies with populations of fewer than 1 million and those with sparse data are not shown in the main tables but are included, where possible, in the aggregates. Basic indicators for these economies may be found in Table 1a. A ranking of economies by GNP per capita, a traditional feature of the Selected World Development Indicators layout, is now included as an indicator in Table 1.

Technical notes

Because data quality and intercountry comparisons are often problematic, readers are encouraged to consult the Technical Notes, the Classification of Economies table, and the footnotes to the tables. For more extensive docu-

mentation see the 1998 *World Development Indicators*. The Data Sources section following 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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