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REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS WORLD DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

2012

THE WORLD BANK

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Table numbers refer to The *World Development Indicators 2012* which contains source information.

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2012 | REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS WORLD DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

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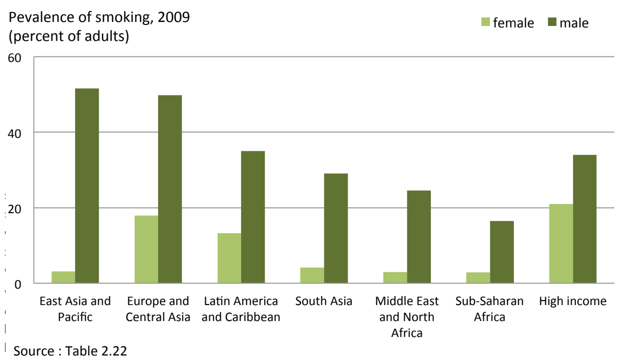
Introduction

These Regional Highlights present some of the key trends in developing countries, drawn from the data presented in *World Development Indicators 2012*—The World Bank's annual compilation of relevant, high-quality, and internationally comparable statistics about development and the quality of people's lives. Charts and short narratives highlight the state and progress of various development topics such as poverty, health, education, the environment, the economy, governance, investment, aid, trade, and capital flows. A global review of progress toward the Millennium Development Goals is presented in the introduction to the World View section of *World Development Indicators 2012*.

The full dataset used to produce *World Development Indicators* contains more than 1,000 indicators for 216 economies, with many time series extending back to 1960. Highly visual, interactive, and multilingual presentations of the data are available at the popular website *http://data.worldbank.org* and through the DataFinder application for mobile devices. And, as a major part of the World Bank's Open Data Initiative, the data are freely available for use and reuse under an open license.

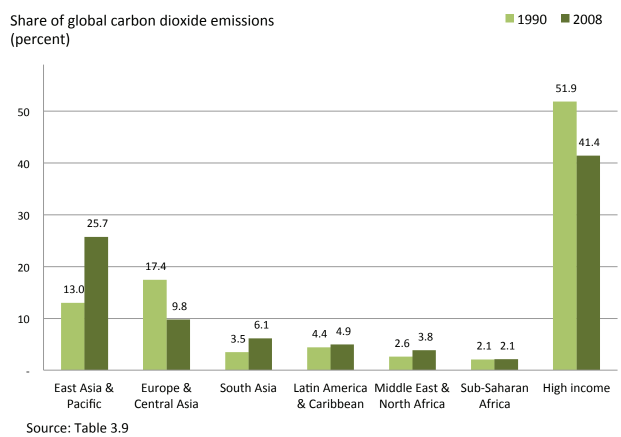
East Asia and Pacific

Every other man smokes in East Asia and Pacific



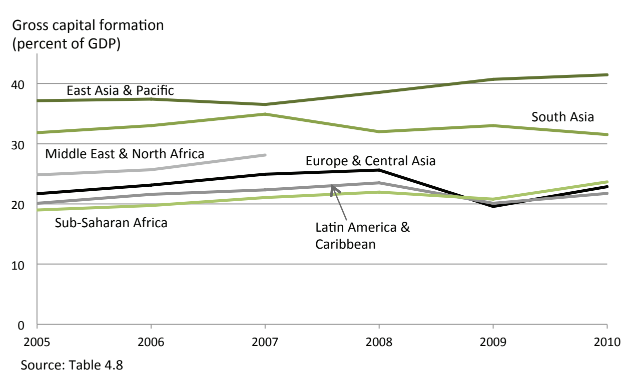
Fifty two percent of adult men smoke in East Asia and Pacific, the highest rate of smoking in the world. In contrast, only 3 percent of East Asian women smoke, one of the lowest. The highest male prevalence rates in the region are found in Kiribati (71 percent), Indonesia (61 percent) and Samoa (58 percent), while the lowest are in Fiji (18 percent). More men smoke than women in all countries, but the gap is the smallest in two Latin America and Caribbean countries, Dominican Republic (17 percent for men and 13 percent for women) and Chile (38 percent for men and 33 percent for women).

Alternative energy use doubles, but greenhouse gas emissions rise



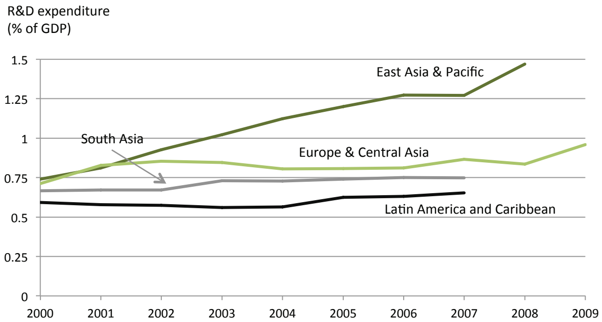
The high income economies are the largest emitters of carbon dioxide, but East Asia and the Pacific produces the largest share of global carbon dioxide emissions among developing regions—more than a quarter of total global emissions. Carbon dioxide emissions increased by 185 percent from 1990 to 2008. China was the world's largest contributor, releasing 7 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2008. However, the region has also increased the use of cleaner energy sources. The regional share of alternative and nuclear energy more than doubled between 1990 and 2009, the largest increase among developing regions and the high income economies.

East Asia invests more



Public and private investment continues to rise in East Asia and the Pacific. In many countries of the region gross capital formation (investment) exceeds 20 percent of GDP. At 48 percent of GDP, China is the leading investor, followed by Mongolia (41 percent), Vietnam (39 percent) and Indonesia (32 percent). Gross capital formation provides the basis for growth of an economy. Much of the capital formation is in the form of infrastructure, roads, railways, communication networks, and airports.

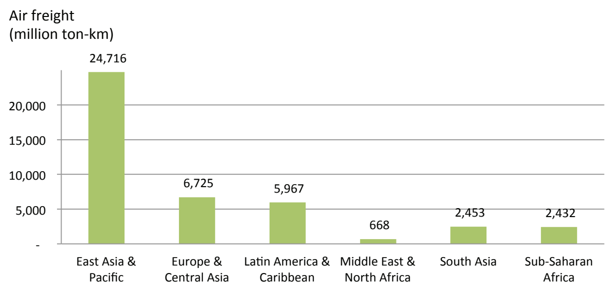
East Asia and the Pacific leads in R&D expenditures



Source: Table 5.13

Cheap and easy access to new digital technologies such as broadband, the internet, and mobile phones, combined with rapidly growing economies, has accelerated the diffusion of technologies and increased spending on training scientists and on research and development. China's computing power has risen rapidly in recent years: according to *TOP500.org*, it now possesses 41 of the fastest 500 supercomputers in the world. China leads the developing economies of East Asia and the Pacific in research and development spending, reaching about 1.75 percent of GDP in 2010.

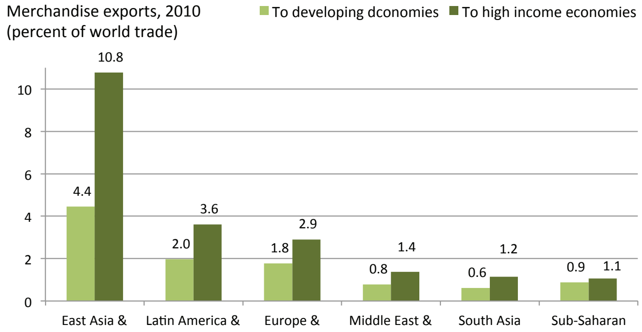
Air transport takes off in East Asia and the Pacific



Source: Table 5.10

As the global economy becomes more integrated, air transport is increasingly important for delivering not only perishable goods such as flowers, but also highly specialized component parts used in transnational production networks. Competitive companies rely on air transport to move goods quickly, reliably, and at reasonable cost. East Asia and the Pacific outpaces other developing regions in several measures of air transport: registered carrier departures worldwide, passengers carried, and air freight. China accounts for about 70 percent of air freight in East Asia and the Pacific, increasing fourfold from 2000 to 2010. Overall, East Asia and the Pacific hauls more freight by air than all other developing regions combined.

Growing trade within the region

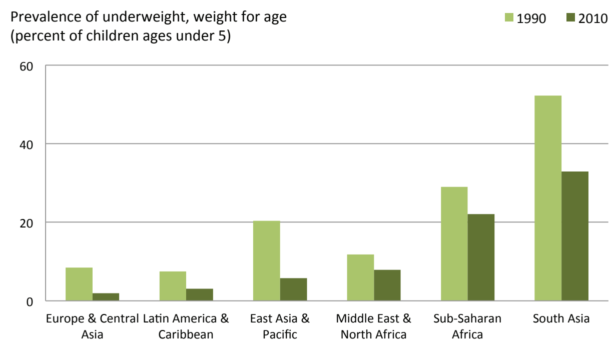


Source: Table 6.2

East Asia and the Pacific is the leading trader among developing regions. As a share of world trade in 2010, 4.4 percent of East Asia and the Pacific's merchandise exports went to developing economies and 10.8 percent went to high income economies. Latin America exported the second most with 2.0 percent to developing economies and 3.6 percent to high income economies. Nearly 43 percent of East Asia and the Pacific's merchandise exports to developing economies went to countries within the region. China was the leading exporter for the region, exporting $410 billion to developing economies and $1.2 trillion to high income economies.

Europe and Central Asia

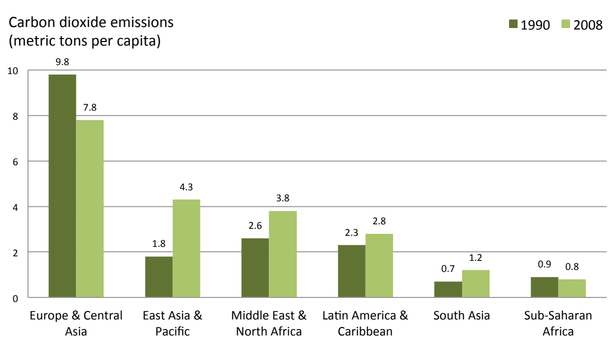
Child malnutrition low and improving



Source: Table 2.20

The prevalence of underweight children in Europe and Central Asia is the lowest of all developing regions, but there are large differences between countries. In Tajikistan 15 percent of all children under five are underweight, a strong indication of malnutrition. Other countries in the region are doing much better. Only 1 percent of the children in Belarus, Georgia, and Ukraine are underweight. There are also large disparities within some countries. In Azerbaijan and Tajikistan poor children are more than twice as likely to be underweight as rich children.

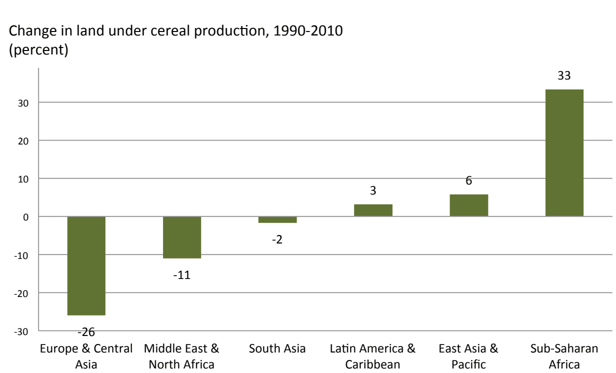
Carbon dioxide emissions decrease but output per person remains high



Source: table 3.9

Carbon dioxide emissions, largely a by-product of energy production and use, account for the largest share of greenhouse gasses and resulting environmental damage. In 2008 the world released 32 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide, an increase of 44 percent between 1990 and 2008. In Europe and Central Asia, carbon dioxide emissions per capita fell by 20 percent over the same period, but emissions per person remain highest among developing regions. Methane and nitrous oxide emissions also fell in the region. The Russian Federation was the fourth largest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world, behind China, the United States, and India, and the third largest contributor of methane emissions after China and India.

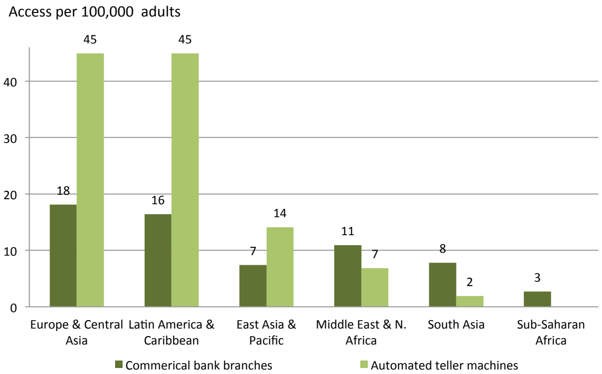
Producing more food with less land and fewer people



Source: Table 3.2

Agriculture is a declining industry in Europe and Central Asia. The share of agriculture in regional GDP fell from 19 percent to 7 percent over the last two decades. Land under cereal production decreased by 26 percent. And agricultural employment fell by 30 percent. Still, food production in the region was 7 percent higher than its 1990 level. Cereal yields rose by 9 percent. And agricultural productivity (output per worker) increased by 43 percent. For developing countries in Europe and Central Asia the challenge will be to reform and invest so that food production and exports continue to expand without encroaching on forests and protected areas.

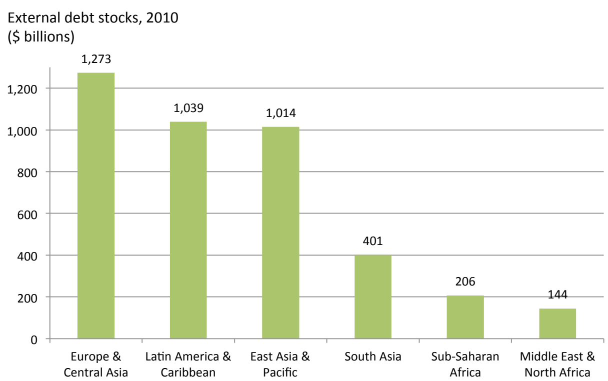
Better access to financial institutions



Source: Table 5.5

People in the developing economies of Europe and Central Asia have greater access to commercial bank branches and automated teller machines than people in other developing regions—about 18 commercial bank branches and 45 ATMs per 100,000 adults. The region also scores well on access to commercial deposit and loan accounts. Financial exclusion is a barrier to economic development. Access to basic financial services such as savings, payments, and credit can make an important difference in poor people's lives. For firms, lack of access to finance is often the main obstacle to growth. Financial access is generally greater in countries with higher incomes, better infrastructure, and a well functioning legal environment

Europe and Central Asia remains the most indebted region

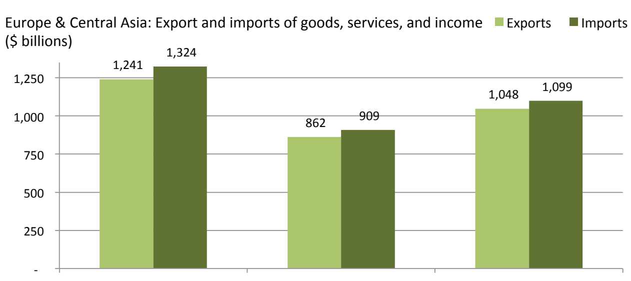


Source: Table 6.9

The external debt stock of Europe and Central Asia reached $1.27 trillion in 2010, of which 78 percent was in long-term obligations. Long-term disbursements from private creditors were 13 percent higher in 2010, while the financing from official creditors slowed by 30 percent from 2009. The primary factor was the reduction in purchases from the IMF by Romania and Ukraine which totaled $9.1 billion in 2010 compared to $15.6 billion in 2009. Gross disbursement by other multilateral creditors fell by 8 percent in 2010, although disbursements from the World Bank rose 8 percent to $5.4 billion, of which Turkey received just over half.

Although total debt increased, the ratio of external debt to gross national income fell by 4.7 percentage points from 2009. Rising export earnings helped to offset the increasing debt service. Export industries returned to close to their pre-crisis levels, lowering the ratio of debt to exports from 141 percent in 2009 to 121.5 percent in 2010.

Trade recovers after a sharp decline in 2009

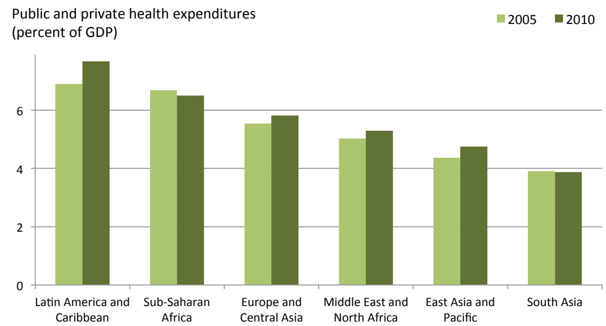


Source: Table 4.17

Exports from and imports to Europe and Central Asia were strongly affected by the global financial crisis. Total exports declined by 30.5 while imports fell by 31.4 percent between 2008 and 2009, representing the sharpest decline among all developing regions. In 2010 there was a partial recovery: exports grew by 21.5 and imports by 20.9 percent, still short of pre-crisis levels. The countries with the strongest export recoveries between 2009 and 2010 were Armenia (41.1 percent), Kazakhstan (32.1 percent), and the Russian Federation (27.5 percent). Imports recovered most in Lithuania (28.5 percent), Turkey (26.7 percent), and Ukraine (26.2 percent). The Russian Federation was the biggest exporter and importer of the region with exports reaching $482 billion and imports totaling $408 billion.

Latin America and the Caribbean

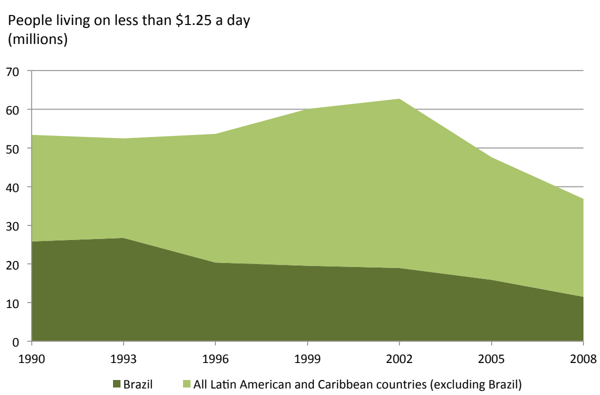
Strong health performance in Latin America and Caribbean



Source: Table 2.16

Governments and citizens in Latin America and Caribbean spend more on health care as a share of GDP than other developing regions, which is reflected in generally good health outcomes. The region has a low child malnutrition rate (3 percent), a high rate of immunization against measles (93 percent), all of which contributed to a drop in the under-five mortality rate from 54 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 23 in 2010. Ninety seven percent of pregnant women received prenatal care, 90 percent of births were attended by skilled health staff, and the maternal mortality ratio was the second lowest among developing regions.

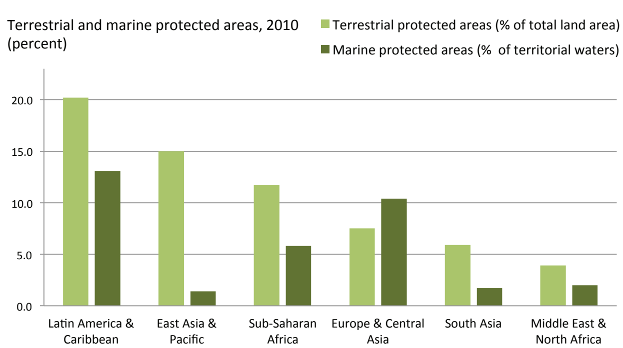
Brazil leads sharp fall in number of poor people



Source: Table 2.8 and iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet

Poverty is falling in the Latin America and Caribbean, most notably in Brazil—the most populous country in the region. Over the period 1990-2008 the number of extremely poor people in the region, living on less than $1.25 a day, fell from about 53 to 37 million. After rising slightly during the 1990s, poverty in the region fell sharply from 2002 onward. Poverty reduction in Brazil started almost a full 10 years earlier, in 1993, and has been sustained at a faster pace since 2002. Faster GDP growth, averaging 4.1 percent a year between 2002 and 2008, accelerated this trend.

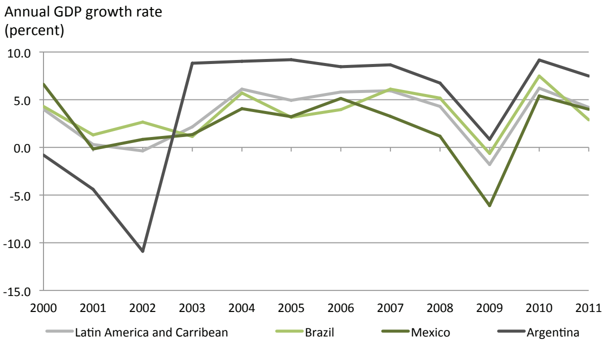
Forest coverage and protected areas



Source: Table 3.4

Many countries have designated a share of their land and marine areas as protected areas to preserve valuable habitat and the plant and animal species that live there. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 20 percent of the land and 13 percent of the territorial water area have been protected, the greatest among developing regions. But Latin America and the Caribbean, which holds about one quarter of the earth's forest resources, has lost some 93 million hectares—about 9 percent of its forest area—between 1990 and 2010. Deforestation, especially in the tropics, contributes about 20 percent of man-made global carbon emissions. The average annual deforestation rate of 0.45 percent between 1990 and 2010 was the second largest among all other regions after Sub-Saharan Africa.

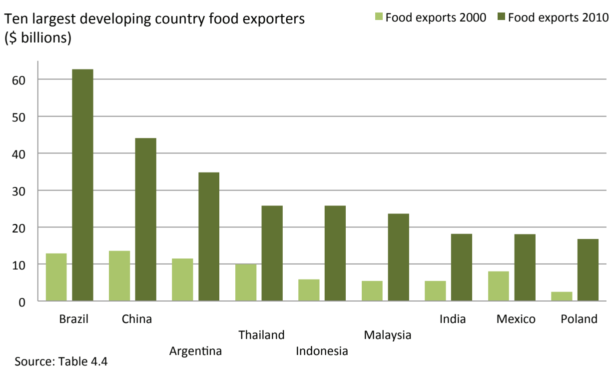
Slower growth and cautious policies



Source: Table 4.1 and 4A.

Monetary, credit and fiscal policy tightening in Latin American and Caribbean have caused domestic demand to moderate. The slowing of domestic demand growth coincided in some economies with the softening in external demand, causing a sharper than expected deceleration. After growing by 6.2 percent in 2010, regional GDP expanded by 4.2 percent in 2010. Brazil, the largest economy in the region, grew at 2.9 percent in 2011, compared to 7.5 percent in 2010. Mexico, also experienced a slow down in its 2011 growth rate to 4.0 percent, compared to 5.4 percent in 2010. Argentina's growth has moderated to 7.5 percent in 2011, from 9.2 percent in 2010.

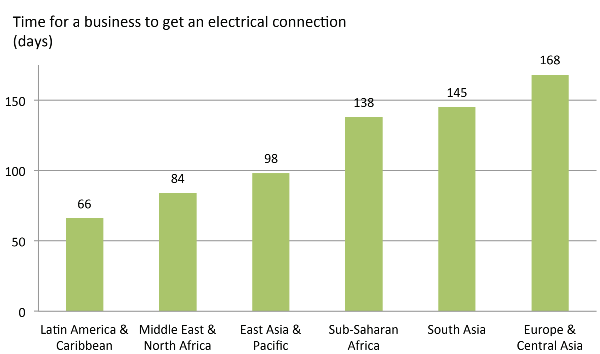
Latin America countries among world leading food exporters



Source: Table 4.4

The region's share of world food exports reached 11 percent or $141 billion in 2010—second to East Asia and Pacific among developing regions. Cutting edge farming expertise has turned some countries into leaders in food production and export. For example, in just three decades Brazil turned a largely unproductive region—the Cerrado—into one of the globe's largest food reserves. Brazil has increased its food exports by 387 percent between 2000 and 2010 to $63 billion and has been the largest exporter among the developing economies. Other countries among the top ten food exporters in 2010 were Argentina with $35 billion and Mexico with $18 billion in food exports.

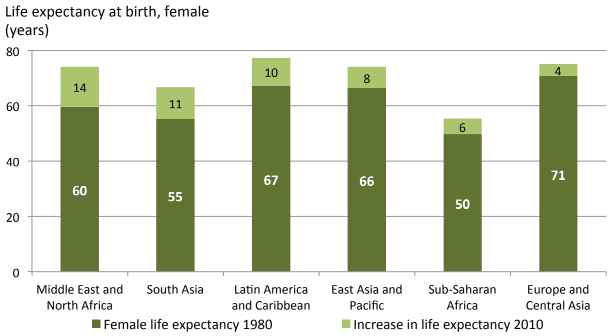
Latin American & Caribbean businesses plug in



Source: Table 5.3

Delays in getting electricity connections and disruptions in electricity supplies are not only inconvenient, they cause productivity to decline and sales to be lost. Businesses in the Latin America and Caribbean region can get electricity connections faster than in other regions, including high-income countries. Still it takes about 66 days to get an electricity connection there on average; the next best region is the Middle East and North Africa, where it takes on average 84 days for a business to get electricity. Losses in business sales due to electrical outages are also lowest in Latin America and the Caribbean, averaging about 2.8 percent of sales, compared to 9.6 percent in South Asia, 7 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 4.2 percent in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Women gain in health and education, but lag on economic participation

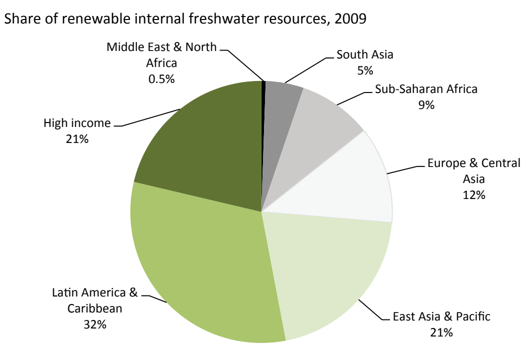


Source: Table 2.23

Women in the Middle East and North Africa have made impressive gains in health and education outcomes. Between 1980 and 2010 female life expectancy increased by 14 years. The total fertility rate fell from 4.9 births per women in 1990 to 2.7 in 2010, reflecting a large increase in contraceptive use, which rose from 42 to 62 percent of women who are married or in union. Women's secondary enrollment rate increased from 46 percent to 69 percent between 1991 and 2009, and tertiary enrollment rate tripled from 9 to 27 percent. Gender gaps at all levels of education are closing.

But these achievements are not reflected in the labor force. Women's participation remains at about 20 percent—by far the lowest among all regions. Almost half of employed women were in vulnerable jobs, which are less likely to provide social protection or safety nets to guard against economic shocks, compared with 33 percent of men. Morocco has the highest rate of vulnerable employment in the region for both women (65 percent) and men (47 percent).

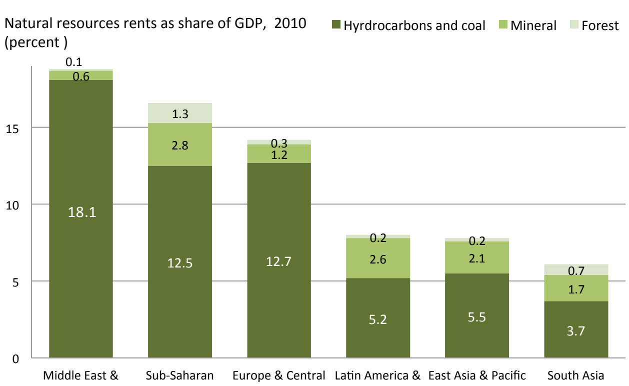
The thirstiest region of the world



Source: Table 3.5

Water is crucial to economic growth and development—and to the survival of both terrestrial and aquatic systems—but distribution of fresh water resources is drastically uneven among the regions of the world. While Middle East and North Africa has less than one percent the world's renewable freshwater resources of 42.4 trillion cubic meters, Latin America and the Caribbean has 32 percent and East Asia and Pacific has 21 percent. Total renewable freshwater resources in 2009 for Middle East and North Africa were estimated at 226 billion cubic meters or 695 cubic meters per person, the lowest amount among all developing regions.

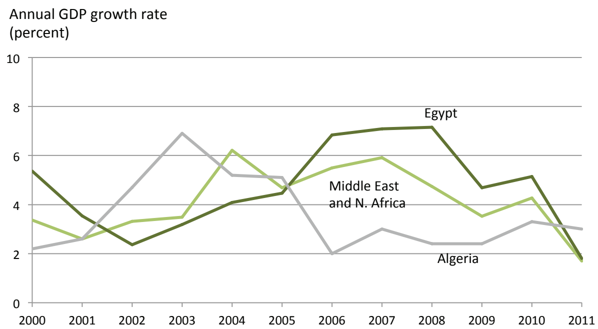
Borrowing against the future with natural resource rents



Source WDI 2012. table 3.18

In some countries earnings from natural resources, especially from fossil fuels and minerals, account for a sizable share of GDP, and much of this comes in the form of economic rents—revenues above the cost of extracting them. When countries use rents from nonrenewable resources—fossil fuels and minerals—or rents from overharvesting of forests to support current consumption rather than to invest in new capital to replace what is being used, they are, in effect, borrowing against their future. In the Middle East and North Africa nearly 20 percent of GDP is derived from natural resources rents and most of that comes from oil production. Iraq at 69 percent and Libya at 46 percent are the most dependent on natural resource rents. Saudi Arabia, classified as a high-income economy, derives 54 percent of its GDP from resource rents.

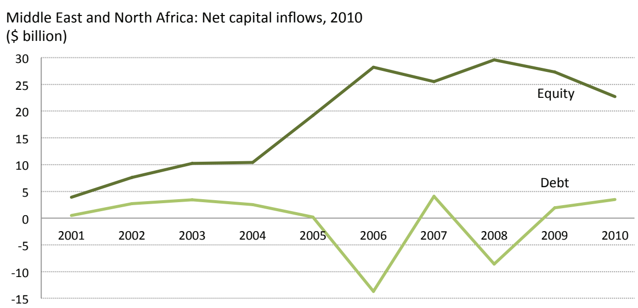
Political uncertainty and civil unrest slow growth



Source: Table 4.1 and 4A.

The dramatic changes in the Middle East and North Africa during the last year have disrupted economic activity and slowed GDP growth. GDP for the Middle East and North Africa region is estimated to have increased 1.7 percent in 2011, down from a 4.3 percent gain in 2010. In Egypt growth slowed to 1.8 percent in 2011, down from 5.1 percent in 2010. In Algeria, growth slowed marginally to 3.0 percent in 2011, compared to 3.3 percent in 2010.

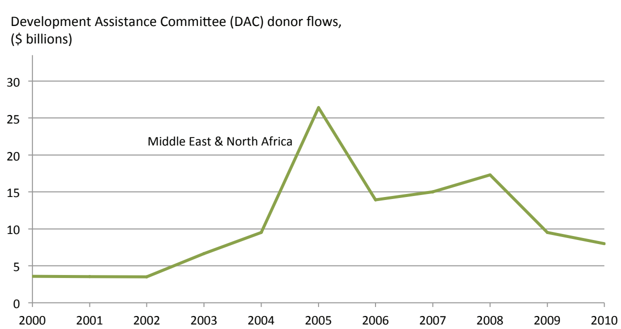
Capital inflows drop



Source: Table 6.10

Net capital inflows to the Middle East and North Africa fell to $26.2 billion in 2010, down from $29.2 billion in 2009 due mainly to a decrease in net equity flows partially offset by increasing net debt inflows. It was the only developing region to record a decline in 2010. Net equity inflows fell by 13 percent from $27.3 billion in 2009 to $22.7 billion in 2010. Portfolio equity, which was concentrated in the two largest recipients (Egypt and Lebanon), fell by 17 percent. FDI inflows were volatile. Egypt, the region's largest recipient of FDI, registered a 14 percent decline while Lebanon maintained its 2009 level. Iran saw FDI inflows increase by 20 percent, mainly to the oil and gas sector, following an 87 percent surge in 2009. FDI inflows to Morocco and Syria were down by 37 percent and 46 percent from their 2009 level.

Less aid to the Middle East and North Africa

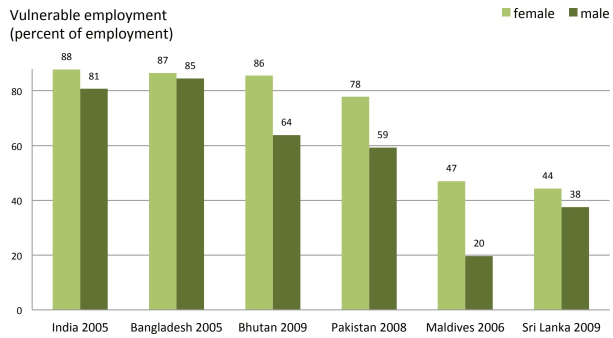


Source: Table 6.13

Although total bilateral aid from Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors increased by 7 percent in 2010, aid to countries in the Middle East and North Africa fell by 16 percent from $9.5 billion in 2009 to $8.0 billion in 2010. This came after a 45 percent drop from 2008. The top DAC donors all reduced their aid to Middle East and North Africa in 2010 with the exception of Japan, whose aid to the region more than doubled. The top recipients of Japan's aid were Iraq and Morocco ($144.4 million and $121.2 million respectively). Aid to Algeria from Japan increased also from $1.9 million to $15.5 million.

South Asia

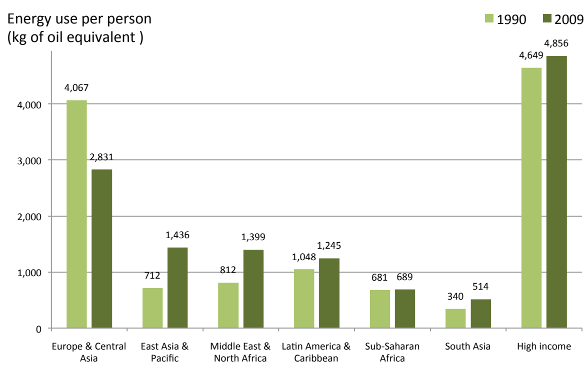
Gender gaps and vulnerable employment



Source: Table 2.4

Over 80 percent of employed people in South Asia are in vulnerable employment, lacking social protection or safety nets such as unemployment insurance or worker's compensation. The situation is worse in India, Bangladesh and Bhutan where over 80 percent of workers are engaged in vulnerable employment. In all countries with data, women are more likely to be in vulnerable employment than men.

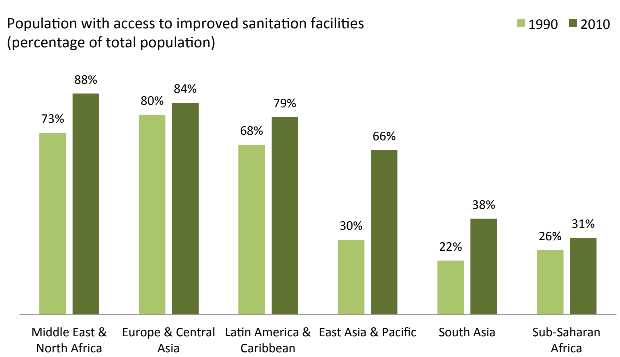
Lowest energy use among developing regions



Source: Table 3.7

Per capita energy use in South Asia remains the lowest among all developing regions even after an increase of 51 percent—from 340 to 514 kilograms of oil equivalent between 1990 and 2009. But the structure of fuel use is also changing. South Asia now relies more on fossil fuels and less on combustible renewables and waste. Economic growth and energy use move together. High-income economies use nearly four times as much energy per capita as middle-income economies and more than 13 times as much as low-income economies. With only 16 percent of the world's population, high-income economies use about half of the world's energy production each year.

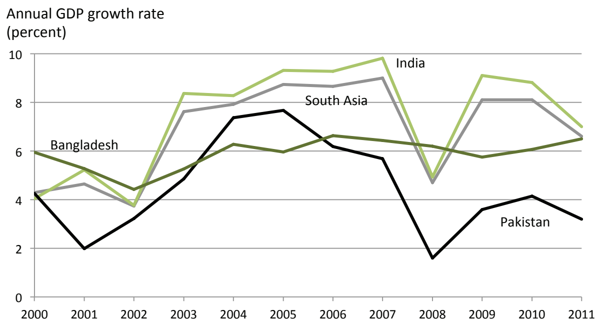
Large improvement, but sanitation facilities still lacking



Source: Table 3.13

Between 1990 and 2010 the proportion of people in South Asia with access to improved sanitation facilities increased from 54 to 60 percent in urban areas and from 11 to 28 percent in rural areas. India made the largest contribution: the number of people with access to improved facilities increased from 157 to 416 million. Nevertheless, more than 60 percent of the population in South Asia still lack access to improved sanitation facilities. Large investments will be required to reach the target of the Millennium Development Goals, which calls for reducing by half the share of the population without access to basic sanitation.

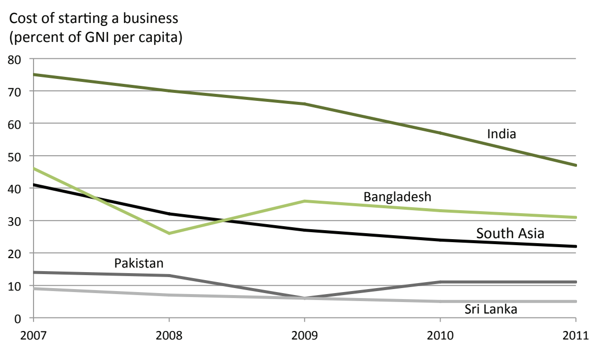
Economic headwinds



Source: Table 4.1 and 4A

Following strong growth of 8 percent a year in 2009 and 2010, South Asia's GDP growth slowed to 6.6 percent in 2011, marked by a pronounced fall-off in industrial production, well below most other developing regions. The slowdown reflects numerous headwinds, both internal and external. The deceleration of regional economic growth in 2011 to a large extent stems from slower growth in India, which accounts for about 80 percent of South Asia's GDP. India grew at 7.0 percent in 2011, compared to 8.8 percent in 2010. Bangladesh grew by 6.5 percent, compared to 6.1 percent in 2010, and Pakistan registered only 3.2 percent growth in 2011, below its 2010 growth of 4.1 percent.

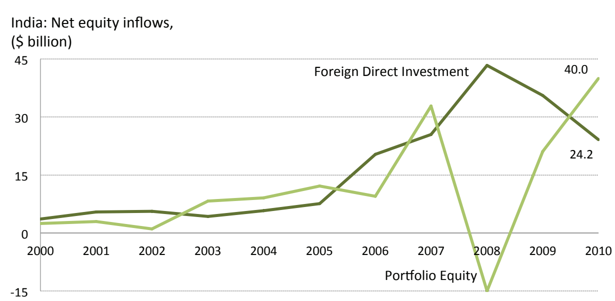
Business start-up costs are low in South Asia



Source: Table 5.3

South Asia has the second lowest business start-up costs among developing regions. In just four years, the cost of starting a business in South Asia has dropped almost in half from 41 percent of GNI per capita in 2007 to 22 percent in 2011. Countries such as Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka were already relatively low cost in 2007, but they lowered business start-up costs even farther by 2011, dropping to 11 percent of GNI per capita in Pakistan, 9 percent in Maldives, and 5 percent in Sri Lanka. And although reforms in India have lowered business start-up costs from 75 percent of GNI per capita in 2007 to 47 percent in 2011, they remain more than twice the average.

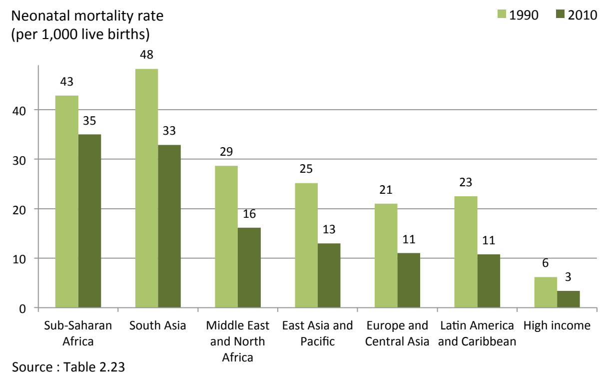
Portfolio equity recovers



Source: Table 6.10

A large increase in portfolio equity flows to India raised net equity inflows to the region for the second year in a row. The turnaround in 2009—from negative $15 billion in 2008 to positive $21 billion in 2009—was followed by a further increase to $40 billion in 2010. The Reserve Bank of India's continued efforts to develop financial markets and provide operational flexibility to participants was one of the factors behind the increase of portfolio equity inflows by 89 percent from 2009, driving not only the regional but also the global trend. In contrast India's FDI inflows which account for 87 percent of the total FDI inflows in the region fell 32 percent, from $35.6 billion in 2009 to $24.2 billion in 2010. Policy and procedural issues, delays in opening the retail and insurance sectors to foreign investors, poor infrastructure, licensing issues, and a series of widely reported corruption cases have been cited as factors behind investors' reticence to commit to new long-term investments.

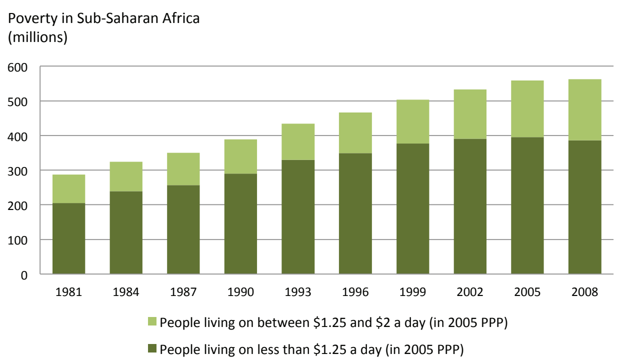
Many children die in the first month of life



Source : Table 2.23

In 2010 Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest neonatal mortality rate (35 deaths per 1,000 live births), closely followed by South Asia (33 deaths per 1,000 live births). Neonatal deaths are more likely to be due to congenital or perinatal causes; many could be avoided by good prenatal, delivery and postnatal care. Deaths of older infants and young children are more likely to be due to illness complicated by poor nutrition, bad sanitation, and, where charcoal or animal wastes are used for cooking, air pollution. About half of all deaths to children under the age of five occur in the neonatal period—the first month after birth—in all regions except Sub-Saharan Africa. The ratio of neonatal deaths to all under-five deaths has increased in all regions since 1990, because under-five deaths have declined faster than neonatal deaths.

Fewer people living in extreme poverty



Source: Table 2.8c and iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet

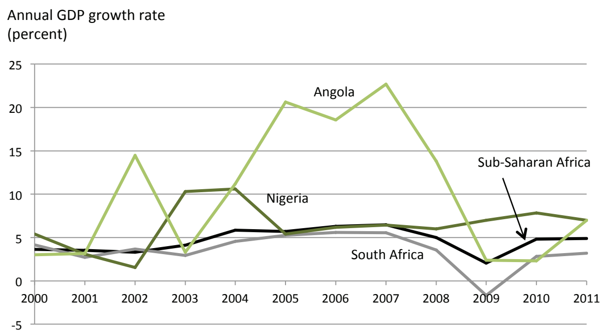
For the first time since the World Bank started measuring poverty, the number of people in Sub-Saharan Africa living on less than $1.25 a day has started to fall after reaching a peak of 395 million in 2005. And the poverty rate, which hit a high of 60 percent in 1993 fell to 48 percent in 2008. The extreme poverty line, set at $1.25 a day in 2005 purchasing power, is typical of the national poverty lines of the poorest countries, many of them in Africa. Because progress has been slower than in other regions, one-third of the world's poorest people now live in Sub-Saharan Africa. But even as the number of people living in extreme poverty falls, the number of people living on less than $2 a day continues to rise.

Africa is urbanizing rapidly

Source: Table 3.13

In 2010 only 37 percent of Sub-Saharan Africa's population lived in urban areas, but Africa is urbanizing rapidly. Between 1990 and 2010, the urban growth rate of 3.9 percent per year was the highest among developing regions. Urbanization can yield important social benefits such as improving people's access to public services. In 2010, 83 percent of the urban population in Sub-Saharan Africa but only 49 percent of the rural population had access to an improved water source. However, urbanization may also cause adverse environmental effects. For example, greater urbanization is often associated with more concentrated pollution, harming health and reducing productivity. Urban areas have greater numbers of motor vehicles and traffic congestion and higher emissions of carbon dioxide.

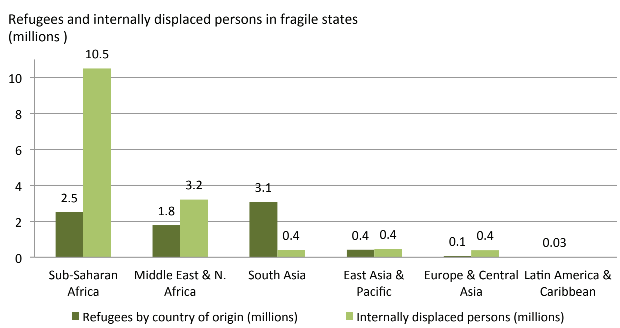
Resuming growth



Source: 4.1 and 4A.

Domestic demand was the main source of growth in Sub-Saharan Africa, with external demand—supported by higher commodity prices—also providing a strong impetus, notwithstanding the perturbations to the global economy. Gross domestic product in the region expanded by 4.9 percent in 2011, up slightly from 4.8 percent in 2010. South Africa, the region's largest economy, grew more slowly at 3.2 percent, an improvement over the previous year growth of 2.8 percent. In Nigeria, growth slowed to 7.0 percent in 2011, down from 7.9 percent in 2010. However, Angola, where growth fell abruptly after an oil boom from 2004 to 2007, had a sharp recovery rising to 7.0 percent in 2011.

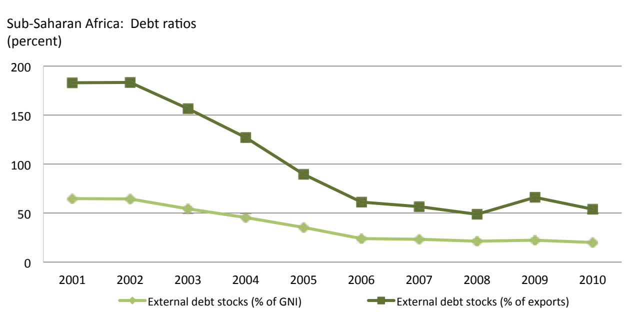
Half of all fragile states are in Sub-Saharan Africa



Source: Table 5.8 and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

Sixteen of the 33 countries designated by the World Bank as "fragile situations" are in Sub-Saharan Africa. Fragility or fragile situations are "periods when states or institutions lack the capacity, accountability, or legitimacy to mediate relations between citizen groups and between citizens and the state, making them vulnerable to violence." Some 1.5 billion people live in areas affected by fragility, conflict, or large-scale organized criminal violence. No low-income fragile or conflict-affected country has achieved a single Millennium Development Goal. People in these countries are more than twice as likely to be undernourished as people in other developing countries, more than three times as likely to be unable to send their children to school, twice as likely to see their children die before age 5, and more than twice as likely to lack access to clean water. Sub-Saharan African countries account for about 2.5 million refugees and more than 10 million internally displaced persons.

Continuing debt relief in Sub-Saharan Africa



Source: Table 6.9

Debt indicators for Sub-Saharan Africa have improved since 2000 thanks to economic reforms, a favorable external environment, increased aid, restructuring of debt, and outright debt forgiveness. In 2010 Sub-Saharan Africa's ratio of total external debt to exports decreased by 12 percentage points and the ratio of debt to GNI fell by 1.6 percentage points from the year before. This improvement came primarily as a consequence of large scale debt forgiveness under the HIPC (Highly Indebted Poor Country) and MDRI (Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative) programs. Four more countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Liberia, and Togo) reached the HIPC completion point in 2010, bringing the total to 26 out of 33 eligible African countries that have completed the HIPC process and benefitted from HIPC and MDRI debt relief. Countries in the region also restructured $13.2 billion owed to Paris Club creditors in 2010 of which $9 billion was forgiven.

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The World Development Indicators

- Includes more than 1,000 indicators for 158 economies
- Provides definitions, sources, and other information about the data
- Organizes the data into six thematic areas

The world by income

Low income

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Benin
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo, Dem. Rep.
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gambia, The
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Kenya
Korea, Dem. Rep.
Kyrgyz Republic
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Niger
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda
Zimbabwe

Lower middle income

Angola
Armenia
Belize
Bhutan
Bolivia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Congo, Rep.
Côte d'Ivoire
Djibouti
Egypt, Arab Rep.
El Salvador
Fiji
Georgia
Ghana
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Kiribati
Kosovo
Lao PDR
Lesotho
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.
Moldova
Mongolia
Morocco
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Philippines
Samoa
São Tomé and Príncipe
Senegal
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
South Sudan
Sudan
Swaziland
Syrian Arab Republic
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Ukraine
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Vietnam
West Bank and Gaza
Yemen, Rep.
Zambia

Upper middle income

Albania
Algeria
American Samoa
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Gabon
Grenada
Iran, Islamic Rep.
Jamaica
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Latvia
Lebanon
Libya
Lithuania
Macedonia, FYR
Malaysia
Maldives
Mauritius
Mayotte
Mexico
Montenegro
Namibia
Palau
Panama
Peru
Romania
Russian Federation
Serbia
Seychelles
South Africa
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent & Grenadines
Suriname
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uruguay
Venezuela, RB

High income

Andorra
Aruba
Australia
Austria
Bahamas, The
Bahrain
Barbados
Belgium
Bermuda
Brunei Darussalam
Canada
Cayman Islands
Channel Islands
Croatia
Curaçao
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Equatorial Guinea
Estonia
Faeroe Islands
Finland
France
French Polynesia
Germany
Gibraltar
Greece
Greenland
Guam
Hong Kong SAR, China
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Isle of Man
Israel
Italy
Japan
Korea, Rep.
Kuwait
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Macao SAR, China
Malta
Monaco
Netherlands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Northern Mariana Islands
Norway
Oman
Poland
Portugal
Puerto Rico
Qatar
San Marino
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Sint Maarten
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain
St. Martin
Sweden
Switzerland
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos Islands
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States
Virgin Islands (U.S.)