

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

The relative weight of **debt service** has been falling since 1990 in most economies for which data are available. There have been rapid gains in the number of **cellular telephone subscribers** throughout the region, but the digital divide as measured by **internet access** remains wide.

Introduction

Goal 8 has six targets but the first three are directed at developed donor countries and are not considered here. The other three targets that are relevant to developing economies (and developed countries too in some instances) are:

- 8.D: *Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.* This target requires action by both aid donors and recipient economies.
- 8.E: *In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.*
- 8.F: *In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.* This target may be applicable to all countries, so the relevant figures below include data for Australia, Japan, and New Zealand.

Key Trends

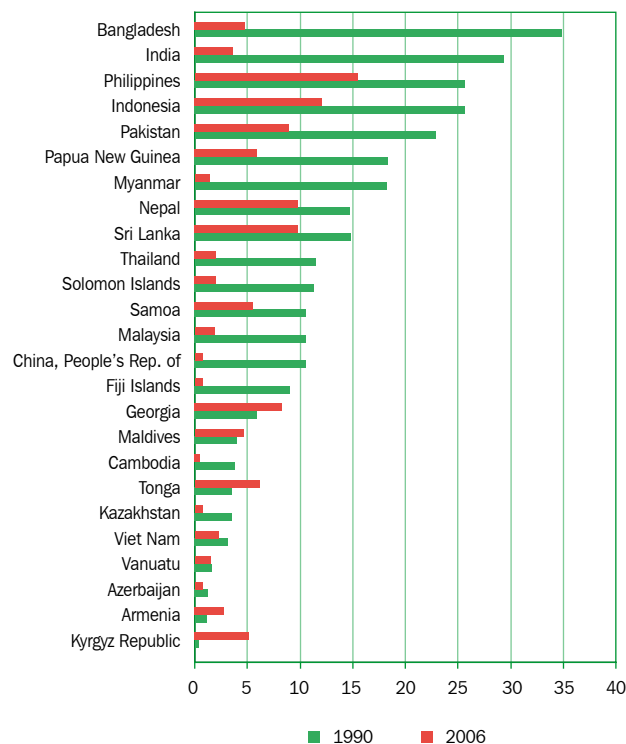
Figure 8.1 shows debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services plus net income from abroad. Together these comprise a “nationally generated” fund from which foreign debt can be serviced without incurring additional foreign liabilities. Debt service includes both interest and capital repayments due on liabilities to nonresidents.

Most economies have seen a substantial reduction in the relative size of their debt service between 1990 and 2006. They include the five most populous economies as well as several South East Asian economies. In many cases the reduction is likely due to the growth in export earnings.

Economies where ratios of debt service to earnings have increased comprise three countries of the former Soviet Union (Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic) plus Maldives and Tonga. Armenia and Kyrgyz Republic had minimal debt in the early 1990s, but by 2006, their debt service to earnings ratios had more than doubled.

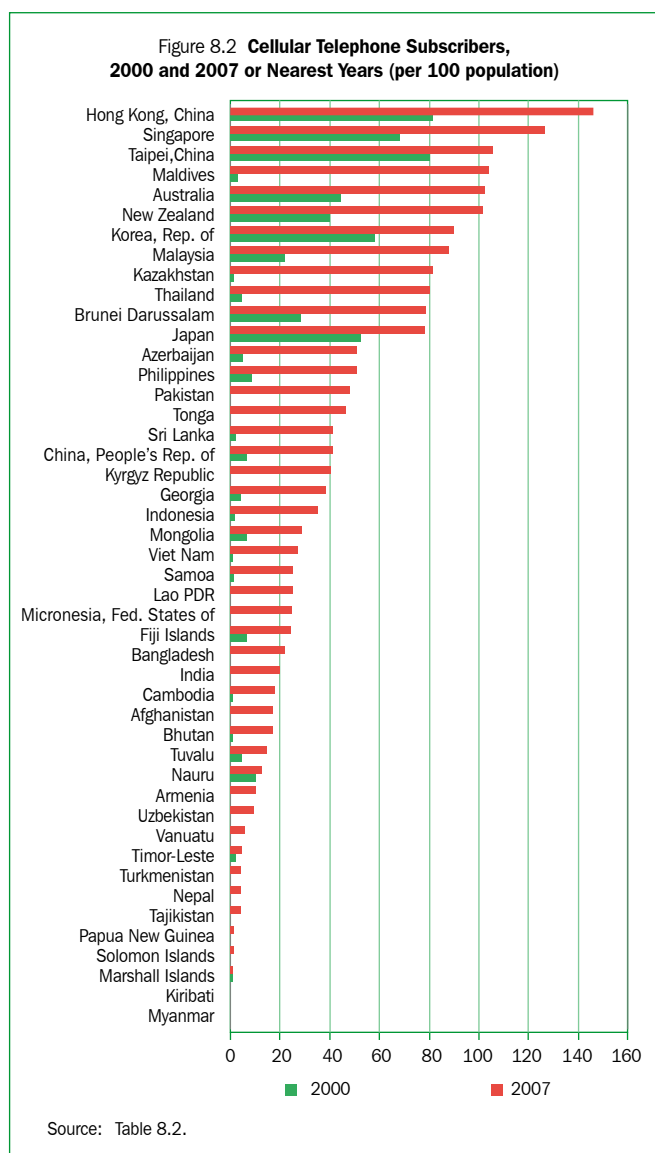
The next two figures address progress in providing access to new technologies in communications and information.

Figure 8.1 **Debt Service as a Percentage of Exports of Goods and Services plus Net Income from Abroad, 1990 and 2006 or Nearest Years**



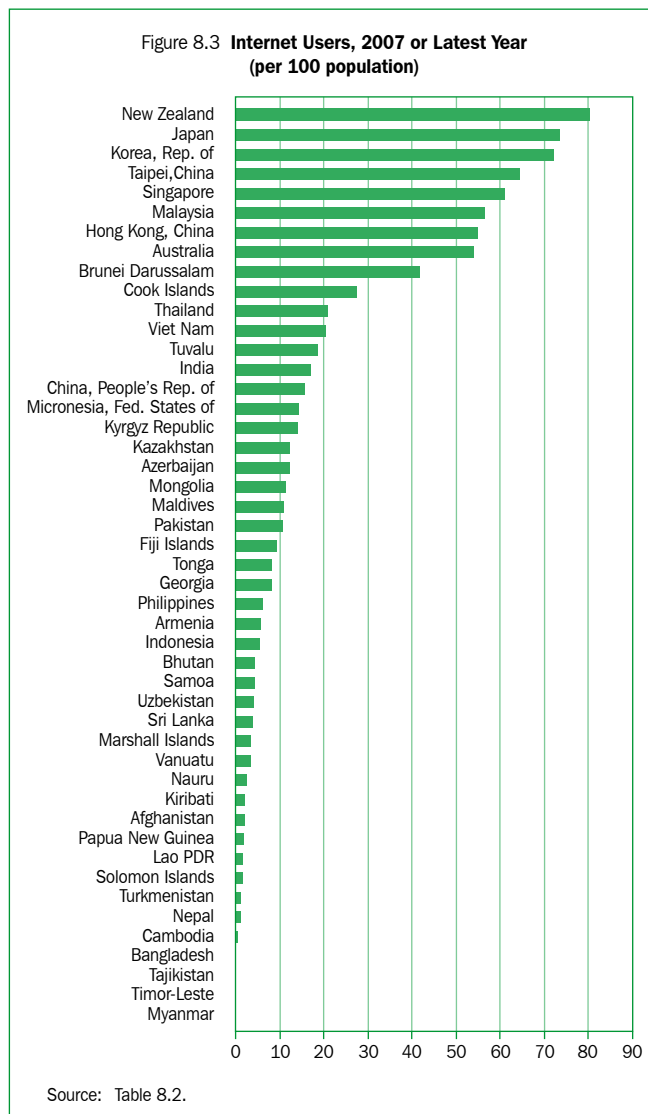
Source: Table 8.1.

The very rapid growth in cellular phone subscriptions since 2000 is seen in Figure 8.2. The economies in the lower part of the figure had virtually no subscribers in 2000, but by 2007, subscription rates had picked up in many of them. By 2007, Pakistan led the five most populous economies with 48 per 100 population, followed by People's Republic of China (PRC) (41), Indonesia (35), Bangladesh (22), and India (20). In Australia; Hong Kong, China; Maldives; New Zealand; Singapore; and Taipei,China there are more cellular phone subscribers than people.



Internet access is shown in Figure 8.3. There is a sharp divide between the top group comprising Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Singapore; and Taipei,China; and the other economies. Clearly there is some way to go before the target is reached of making the benefits of new technologies more widely available.

Among the five most populous economies, India had 17 internet users per 100 inhabitants in 2007, followed by PRC (16), Pakistan (11), Indonesia (6), and Bangladesh (less than one).



Data Issues and Comparability

Data on debt service ratios are compiled according to international standards and are broadly comparable.

Data on cellular phone subscriptions and internet access are obtained by the International Telecommunication Union through annual questionnaires sent to government telecommunication agencies. Common definitions are used and the data are considered to be reasonably accurate and comparable.

Goal 8 Targets

Table 8.1 **Target 8.D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term**

	8.12 Debt Service as a Percentage of Exports of Goods and Services and Net Income from Abroad		
	1990	2000	2006
Developing Member Countries			
Central and West Asia			
Afghanistan	...	4.0 (2003)	1.8
Armenia	1.1 (1993)	7.9	2.7
Azerbaijan	1.2 (1995)	5.2	0.8
Georgia	5.9 (1997)	13.3	8.3
Kazakhstan	3.5 (1995)	8.6	0.8
Kyrgyz Republic	0.4 (1996)	9.0	5.1
Pakistan	22.9	20.7	8.9
Tajikistan	...	9.0 (2002)	7.6
Turkmenistan	9.6 (1996)	20.3 (1997)	...
Uzbekistan	...	...	...
East Asia			
China, People's Rep. of	10.6	5.1	0.8
Hong Kong, China	...	...	...
Korea, Rep. of	...	...	...
Mongolia	-	6.0	2.3
Taipei, China	...	...	...
South Asia			
Bangladesh	34.8	10.7	4.8
Bhutan	...	...	...
India	29.3	15.7	3.6
Maldives	4.0	4.0	4.7
Nepal	14.7	7.3	9.7
Sri Lanka	14.8	10.8	9.8
Southeast Asia			
Brunei Darussalam ^a	...	...	...
Cambodia	3.8 (1992)	1.4	0.6
Indonesia	25.6	11.1	12.0
Lao PDR	8.5	7.8	9.0 (2001)
Malaysia	10.6	2.8	1.9
Myanmar	18.2	3.4	1.4
Philippines	25.6	10.2	15.5
Singapore	...	...	...
Thailand	11.4	5.8	2.1
Viet Nam	3.2 (1996)	7.2	2.3 (2005)
The Pacific			
Cook Islands	...	...	...
Fiji Islands	9.0	2.2	0.8
Kiribati	...	...	...
Marshall Islands	...	...	...
Micronesia, Fed. States of	...	...	...
Nauru	...	...	...
Palau	...	...	...
Papua New Guinea	18.4	8.0	5.9 (2005)
Samoa	10.6	5.8 (1999)	5.5
Solomon Islands	11.3	2.8	2.0
Timor-Leste	...	...	...
Tonga	3.5	7.7 (2001)	6.1
Tuvalu	...	...	...
Vanuatu	1.6	0.9	1.5
Developed Member Countries			
Australia	...	...	...
Japan	...	...	...
New Zealand	...	...	...

a Brunei Darussalam is not a developing member country but an unclassified regional member country of ADB.

Sources: Millennium Indicators Database Online (UNSD 2008), *World Development Indicators 2008* (World Bank 2008).

Goal 8 Targets

Table 8.2 **Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications**

	8.14 Telephone Lines (per 100 population)			8.15 Cellular Subscribers (per 100 population)		8.16 Internet Users (per 100 population)	
	1990	2000	2007	2000	2007	1995	2007
Developing Member Countries							
Central and West Asia							
Afghanistan	0.29	0.12	0.30	0.10 (2002)	17.20	0.07 (2003)	2.14
Armenia	15.80	17.31	19.71	0.57	10.54	0.05	5.75
Azerbaijan	8.66	9.84	14.81	5.16	50.78	0.03 (1997)	12.23
Georgia	9.89	10.78	12.47	4.13	38.43	0.01	8.19
Kazakhstan	8.16	12.20	20.99	1.31	81.62	0.01	12.32
Kyrgyz Republic	7.10	7.71	9.07	0.18	40.47	0.07 (1998)	14.11
Pakistan	0.78	2.20	3.01	0.22	48.11	0.03 (1997)	10.68
Tajikistan	4.53	3.57	4.31	0.02	4.07	0.03 (1999)	0.30
Turkmenistan	6.00	8.17	8.24	0.17	4.43	0.05 (1999)	1.41
Uzbekistan	6.84	6.71	6.74	0.22	9.27	0.01 (1997)	4.38
East Asia							
China, People's Rep. of	0.60	11.37	27.51	6.69	41.19	0.01 (1996)	15.81
Hong Kong, China	43.39	58.90	53.77	81.73	146.41	3.25	54.97
Korea, Rep. of	30.97	56.24	48.30	58.32	90.20	0.82	72.20
Mongolia	3.15	4.95	5.93	6.51	28.94	0.02 (1996)	11.57 (2006)
Taipei, China	42.96 (1995)	56.75	62.50	80.24	106.11	28.10 (2000)	64.45
South Asia							
Bangladesh	0.19	0.38	0.75	0.22	21.66	0.04 (1999)	0.32
Bhutan	0.34	2.15	3.43	1.09 (2003)	17.18	0.11 (1999)	4.60
India	0.60	3.18	3.36	0.35	19.98	0.03	17.11
Maldives	2.89	9.05	10.85	2.83	104.01	0.23 (1996)	10.80
Nepal	0.30	1.20	2.72	0.05	4.18	0.02 (1997)	1.20
Sri Lanka	0.71	4.16	14.21	2.33	41.37	0.06 (1996)	4.00
Southeast Asia							
Brunei Darussalam ^a	13.62	24.25	20.99	28.61	78.92	1.06	41.69
Cambodia	0.03	0.24	0.26	1.00	17.88	0.01 (1998)	0.48
Indonesia	0.60	3.23	7.70	1.78	35.33	0.03	5.61
Lao PDR	0.17	0.78	1.62	0.24	25.23	0.01 (1998)	1.71
Malaysia	8.76	19.92	16.37	22.01	87.86	0.15	56.45
Myanmar	0.17	0.54	0.93	0.03	0.42	0.02 (2003)	0.08
Philippines	1.00	4.00	4.30	8.44	50.75	0.03	6.03
Singapore	34.59	48.44	41.91	68.38	126.66	2.84	60.86
Thailand	2.44	9.10	11.00	4.97	80.42	0.09	21.00
Viet Nam	0.15	3.23	32.65	1.00	27.16	0.01 (1998)	20.45
The Pacific							
Cook Islands	...	...	36.49 (2005)	...	22.00 (2005)	1.16	27.47 (2006)
Fiji Islands	5.86	10.66	13.27	6.79	24.17	0.06 (1996)	9.36
Kiribati	1.66	3.96	5.11 (2002)	0.35	0.68	0.61 (1998)	2.15 (2006)
Marshall Islands	1.08	7.75	8.27	0.87	1.13	0.04 (1996)	3.51 (2004)
Micronesia, Fed. States of	2.53	9.02	7.83	0.09 (2002)	24.69	0.28 (1996)	14.39
Nauru	14.09 (1995)	15.67	16.00 (2005)	10.45	12.97 (2001)	2.59 (2001)	2.59 (2005)
Palau	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Papua New Guinea	0.73	1.26	1.08	0.17	1.27	0.11 (1997)	1.83
Samoa	2.54	4.85	10.89	1.42	25.39	0.17 (1997)	4.46
Solomon Islands	1.49	1.83	1.55	0.27	1.26	0.02	1.63
Timor-Leste	...	...	0.24	2.42 (2003)	4.88	0.10 (2005)	0.12
Tonga	4.63	9.84	20.96	0.18	46.37	0.12	8.37
Tuvalu	5.48 (1995)	6.98	10.28 (2006)	4.84 (2004)	14.95 (2006)	5.29 (2000)	18.69 (2006)
Vanuatu	1.74	3.46	3.21	0.19	5.85	0.06 (1996)	3.46
Developed Member Countries							
Australia	45.63	52.47	47.05	44.70	102.49	2.77	53.99
Japan	44.14	48.82	35.80	52.62	78.56	1.59	73.46
New Zealand	42.60	47.46	40.83	39.97	101.59	4.90	80.41

a Brunei Darussalam is not a developing member country but an unclassified regional member country of ADB.

Sources: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (ITU 2008), International Telecommunication Union through the World Development Indicators Online (World Bank 2008), Millennium Indicators Database Online (UNSD 2008).