

FOREWORD

This 35th edition of the *Key Indicators of Developing Asian and Pacific Countries* features a theme chapter on poverty in the Asia and Pacific region; 30 regional tables that compare the Millennium Development Goal indicators, as well as economic and social indicators across the 42 developing member countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB); and 41 country tables, each with 8-year data series on key macroeconomic and financial statistics. The theme chapter, regional tables, and country tables with 18-year data series are also published on the ADB web site (<http://www.adb.org/statistics>).

The theme chapter examines various aspects of poverty, the reduction of which is ADB's overarching goal. Since poverty estimates are critical in formulating and monitoring poverty alleviation programs, the chapter investigates key measurement issues involved in producing reliable poverty estimates. The chapter also goes beyond measurement issues by examining the relationship between poverty, growth, and distribution, and by providing a discussion of prospects for reducing poverty in the region by 2015, the target year for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Despite experiencing impressive reductions in poverty, the region remains host to unacceptably high levels of poverty. The theme chapter estimates that, in terms of the \$1-a-day poverty line, there were almost 690 million poor people in the region in 2002. On the basis of the \$2-a-day poverty line, which reflects poverty lines more commonly used in lower-middle-income countries, 1.9 billion people were poor. Clearly, poverty reduction remains the greatest development challenge in the region.

The theme chapter also highlights the considerable diversity across Asia and the Pacific in both poverty incidence and poverty reduction trends. For example, while in 2002 around 233 million fewer people lived in poverty than in 1990, a large majority of this reduction is explained by dramatic poverty reductions in the People's Republic of China, with Southeast Asia also contributing significantly. In comparison, progress was much slower in South Asia, where around 434 million people were still poor in 2002—a figure only some 14 million lower than in 1990.

Since economic growth is a key driver of rapid poverty reduction, policies for generating high and sustainable growth must be a crucial aspect of any poverty reduction strategy. However, for growth to be most effective in reducing poverty, it must be inclusive. Policy makers should focus on generating economic opportunities in rural areas, where the large majority of developing Asia's poor live. They also need to ensure that trade, industrial, and labor policies provide incentives for the private sector to intensively employ labor, the main asset of the poor.

We appreciate the cooperation of developing member country governments and international agencies in providing data to ADB and, in the process, enhancing this year's issue of *Key Indicators*.



Tadao Chino
President

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Chief Economist

STATISTICAL CONTACTS

Developing Member Countries

Afghanistan	–	Central Statistics Office
Azerbaijan	–	National Bank of Azerbaijan State Statistical Committee
Bangladesh	–	Bangladesh Bank Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
Bhutan	–	National Statistical Bureau Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan
Cambodia	–	National Bank of Cambodia National Institute of Statistics
China, People's Republic of	–	National Bureau of Statistics People's Bank of China
Cook Islands	–	Statistics Office
Fiji Islands	–	Bureau of Statistics Reserve Bank of Fiji
Hong Kong, China	–	Census and Statistics Department Hong Kong Monetary Authority
India	–	Central Statistical Organization Reserve Bank of India
Indonesia	–	Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia Bank Indonesia
Kazakhstan	–	Agency on Statistics National Bank of Kazakhstan
Kiribati	–	Ministry of Finance Statistics Office
Korea, Republic of	–	Bank of Korea National Statistical Office
Kyrgyz Republic	–	National Bank of Kyrgyz Republic National Statistical Committee
Lao People's Democratic Republic	–	Bank of the Lao PDR National Statistical Center
Malaysia	–	Bank Negara Malaysia Department of Statistics
Maldives	–	Ministry of Finance and Treasury Ministry of Planning and National Development

- Marshall Islands – Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office
- Micronesia, Federated States of – Department of Economic Affairs
- Mongolia – Bank of Mongolia
National Statistical Office
- Myanmar – Ministry of National Planning & Economic
Development
- Nepal – Central Bureau of Statistics
Nepal Rastra Bank
- Pakistan – Federal Bureau of Statistics
State Bank of Pakistan
- Palau – Ministry of Administration
Ministry of Finance
- Papua New Guinea – Bank of Papua New Guinea
National Statistical Office
- Philippines – Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Bureau of Treasury
National Statistical Coordination Board
National Statistics Office
- Samoa – Central Bank of Samoa
Department of Statistics
Treasury Department
- Singapore – Department of Statistics
Economic Development Board
International Enterprise Singapore
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Manpower
Monetary Authority of Singapore
- Solomon Islands – Central Bank of Solomon Islands
Department of National Reform and Planning
National Statistics Office
- Sri Lanka – Central Bank of Sri Lanka
Department of Census and Statistics
- Taipei, China – Central Bank of China
Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and
Statistics
Ministry of Finance
- Tajikistan – National Bank of Tajikistan
State Committee on Statistics
- Thailand – Bank of Thailand
National Economic and Social Development Board
National Statistical Office
-

- Timor-Leste – National Statistics Directorate of Timor-Leste
Banking and Payments Authority
- Tonga – Ministry of Finance
National Reserve Bank of Tonga
Statistics Department
- Turkmenistan – Ministry of Economy and Finance
National Institute of State Statistics and Information
- Tuvalu – Central Statistics Division
- Uzbekistan – State Committee on Statistics
- Vanuatu – Reserve Bank of Vanuatu
Statistics Office
- Viet Nam – General Statistics Office
State Bank of Viet Nam

International Organizations

Data were also obtained from the following international organizations:

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
 - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - International Energy Agency (IEA)
 - International Labour Organization (ILO)
 - International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - National Center for Development Studies (NCDS)
 - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
 - Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
 - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 - United Nations Population Division
 - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
 - United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
 - United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
 - World Bank (WB)
 - World Customs Organization (WCO)
 - World Health Organization (WHO)
 - World Resources Institute (WRI)
-

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

The data series are compiled from two major sources, namely, the developing member countries (DMCs) of ADB and international statistics agencies. The data obtained from the DMCs are comparable to the extent that the individual countries follow the standard statistical concepts, definitions, and estimation methods recommended by the United Nations and other applicable international agencies. However, countries invariably develop and apply their own concepts, definitions, and estimation methodology to suit their individual conditions and these may not necessarily conform with the recommended international standards. Hence, although attempts are made to present the data in comparable and uniform format, they are subject to variations in the statistical methods used by individual countries. These variations are reflected in the footnotes of the country tables.

General Guidelines

The cut-off date for the data to be included in this issue was 21 May 2004.

Nineteen countries have varying fiscal years not corresponding to the calendar year. Whenever the statistical series, e.g., national accounts or government finance, are compiled by fiscal year, these are presented under single year captions corresponding to the period in which most of the fiscal year falls, as follows:

Developing Member Country	Fiscal Year	Year Caption
Afghanistan	21 March 2003 to 20 March 2004	2003
Cook Islands (before 1990)	1 April 1990 to 31 March 1991	1990
Cook Islands (after 1990)	1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003	2003
Hong Kong, China	1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	2003
India		
Myanmar		
Singapore		
Indonesia (until 1999)	1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001	2000
Bangladesh	1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003	2003
Bhutan		
Pakistan		
Samoa		
Timor-Leste		
Tonga		
Taipei, China (until 1999)	1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000	2000
Nepal	16 July 2002 to 15 July 2003	2003
Lao PDR	1 October 2002 to 30 September 2003	2003
Marshall Islands		
Micronesia, Fed. States of		
Palau		

Key Symbols

...	Data not available at cut-off date
–	Magnitude equals zero
0 or 0.0	Magnitude is less than half of unit employed
*	Provisional/Preliminary/Estimate/Budget figure
I	Marked break in series

Unless otherwise specified, “\$” refers to US dollars.

Measurement Units

bb1	barrel	kWh	kilowatt-hour
bn	billion	lb	pound
c	cent	m	meter
cu. m.	cubic meter	mn	million
ha	hectare	m.t.	metric ton
kg	kilogram	pc	piece
kgoe	kilogram of oil equivalent	sq km	square kilometer
kl	kiloliter	sq m	square meter
km	kilometer	‘000	thousand
		toe	ton of oil equivalent

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BOP	balance of payments
CAP	country assistance plan
CBN	cost of basic needs
CER	Country Economic Review
CIF	cost, insurance, and freight
CRPRID	Centre for Research on Poverty Reduction and Income Distribution
CSPU	country strategy and program update
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCI	direct calorie intake
DMC	developing member country of ADB
EIM	energy intake method
ERBOP	Economic Review and Bank Operations
ERIOS	Economic Report and Interim Operational Strategy
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FC	factor cost
FGT	Foster-Greer-Thorbecke Index
FNRI	Food and Nutrition Research Institute
FOB	free on board
GCF	gross capital formation
GDI	gross domestic investment
GDP	gross domestic product
GDS	gross domestic saving
GIDAPC	Gender Indicators of Developing Asian and Pacific Countries
GNI	gross national income
GNP	gross national product

GSO	General Statistical Office
GVC	global value chain
HCR	headcount ratio
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HSC	harmonized system classification
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMR	infant mortality rate
ISIC	international standard industrial classification
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MLSS	Minimum Living Standard Scheme
MOLISA	Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs
MP	market prices
MPCE	monthly per capita expenditure
MPS	material product system
NAS	national accounts statistics
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NSSO	National Sample Survey Organisation
NCDS	National Center for Development Studies
NCHS	National Center for Health Statistics
NMP	net material product
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PCE	private consumption expenditure
PGI	poverty gap index
PMS	Poverty Monitoring Survey
PPP	purchasing power parity
PRC	People's Republic of China
RDA	recommended dietary allowance
RHS	Rural Household Survey
SDR	special drawing rights
SES	Socio-Economic Survey
SESC	Socio-Economic Survey of Cambodia
SITC	standard international trade classification
SNA	system of national accounts
SPG	squared poverty gap index
SOTL	Special Office in Timor-Leste
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SUSENAS	National Household Socio-Economic Survey
TFR	total fertility rate
UN	United Nations
US	United States
UNTAET	UN Transitional Administration in East Timor
WB	World Bank
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WPI	wholesale price index