

## FOREWORD

This year's issue of the *Key Indicators of Developing Asian and Pacific Countries* features a special chapter, *Labor Markets in Asia: Promoting Full, Productive, and Decent Employment*. In addition, it has eight statistical tables that compare the Millennium Development Goal indicators across the 42 developing member countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB); 30 regional tables on key economic, financial, and social indicators; and 42 country tables, each with 8-year data series on population, labor force and employment, national accounts, production, energy, price indexes, money and banking, government finance, external trade, balance of payments, international reserves, exchange rates, and external indebtedness. 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 special chapter stresses that improving labor market opportunities for Asia's workers is key to reducing poverty and improving standards of living in the region. This is because, regardless of whether they are self-employed or working for others, most of Asia's workers sustain themselves and their families by using their labor. Understanding how labor markets in Asia operate and generate the outcomes they do is, therefore, of critical importance for policymakers in the region.

While some parts of Asia have done exceedingly well in terms of employing their labor forces productively and generating many good jobs, in many other parts of Asia labor markets continue to operate with considerable unemployment and underemployment among the labor force. Out of a total labor force of around 1.7 billion, at least 500 million are conservatively estimated to be unemployed or underemployed. At the same time, Asia's labor force is a growing one. The challenge for Asia's policymakers is, therefore, not only to create productive employment for those *currently* unemployed and underemployed, but also to strengthen the economies' capacity to create productive employment to absorb a growing labor force.

A key message of this chapter is that governments across the region must accord maximum priority to promoting full, productive, and decent employment. To achieve the objective of full employment it will be necessary to ensure that the formal sector of the economy generates many more jobs than it has been doing and that the earning prospects of workers in the informal sector improve rapidly. The jobs generated must be productive. This is to avoid the temptation of using ultimately unsustainable solutions such as the creation of hundreds of unneeded jobs in, for example, state enterprises. Finally, governments will need to ensure that employment is decent: workers must be provided with basic rights and have recourse to systems of social protection. This is most critical in the informal sector where the absence of basic rights at work and inadequate protection from the many risks workers face are most pronounced.

Achieving these objectives will not be easy. A variety of growth-promoting policies will be critical if the objectives of full and productive employment are to be met. These will need to be complemented by policies to improve the quality of human capital and, in some cases, reforms to certain aspects of labor regulation. Ensuring that employment is decent will require providing basic rights to all workers and enforcing these, especially in the informal sector. It will also require that effective systems of social protection be put in place. Unless the policy agenda of the region's economies is not geared to meeting the objectives of full, productive, and decent employment, it is easy to conceive a region, say 25 years from now, which despite growth, will still harbor most of the world's 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*. We hope that the *Key Indicators* continues to be a valuable resource for monitoring the development in the region.



Haruhiko Kuroda  
President

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## STATISTICAL CONTACTS

### Developing Member Countries

- Afghanistan - Central Statistics Office  
Da Afghanistan Bank
- Azerbaijan - National Bank of Azerbaijan  
State Statistical Committee
- Bangladesh - Bangladesh Bank  
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics  
Ministry of Finance
- Bhutan - Ministry of Finance, Department of Budget and Accounts  
National Statistical Bureau  
Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan
- Cambodia - Ministry of Economy and Finance  
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  
Ministry of Finance and National Planning  
Reserve Bank of Fiji
- Hong Kong, China - Census and Statistics Department  
Hong Kong Monetary Authority
- India - Central Statistical Organization  
Ministry of Finance  
Reserve Bank of India
- Indonesia - Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia  
Bank Indonesia
- Kazakhstan - Agency on Statistics  
National Bank of Kazakhstan
- Kiribati - Statistics Office
- Korea, Republic of - Bank of Korea  
National Statistical Office
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- Kyrgyz Republic - National Bank of Kyrgyz Republic  
National Statistical Committee
- Lao PDR - Bank of the Lao PDR  
National Statistical Center
- Malaysia - Bank Negara Malaysia  
Department of Statistics  
Ministry of Finance
- Maldives - Maldives Monetary Authority  
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 - Central Bank of Myanmar  
Central Statistical Organization  
Ministry of National Planning & Economic Development
- Nauru - Bureau of Statistics
- Nepal - Central Bureau of Statistics  
Ministry of Finance  
Nepal Rastra Bank
- Pakistan - Federal Bureau of Statistics  
Ministry of Finance  
State Bank of Pakistan
- Palau - Bureau of Budget and Planning  
Ministry of Administration
- Papua New Guinea - Bank of Papua New Guinea  
National Statistical Office
- Philippines - Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas  
Bureau of the Treasury  
National Statistical Coordination Board  
National Statistics Office
- Samoa - Central Bank of Samoa  
Ministry of Finance, Statistical Services Division  
Treasury Department of Samoa
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- Singapore - Department of Statistics  
Economic Development Board  
International Enterprise Singapore  
Monetary Authority of Singapore
- Solomon Islands - Central Bank of Solomon Islands  
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 Statistical Committee
- Thailand - Bank of Thailand  
National Economic and Social Development Board  
National Statistical Office
- Timor-Leste - Banking and Payments Authority  
National Statistics Directorate of Timor-Leste
- Tonga - Ministry of Finance  
National Reserve Bank of Tonga  
Statistics Department
- Turkmenistan - National Institute of State Statistics and Information
- Tuvalu - Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Industry  
Central Statistics Division
- Uzbekistan - Central Bank of Uzbekistan  
State Committee on Statistics
- Vanuatu - Reserve Bank of Vanuatu  
Statistics Office
- Viet Nam - General Statistics Office  
Ministry of Finance  
State Bank of Viet Nam
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## 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)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- 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 (UN)
- 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)

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## 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

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The cut-off date for the data to be included in this issue was 30 May 2005.

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:

<b>Developing Member Country</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Year Caption</b>
Afghanistan	21 March 2004 to 20 March 2005	2004
Cook Islands (before 1990)	1 April 1990 to 31 March 1991	1990
Cook Islands (after 1990)	1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004	2004
Hong Kong, China	1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	2004
India		
Myanmar		
Singapore		
Indonesia (until 1999)	1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001	2000
Bangladesh	1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004	2004
Bhutan		
Pakistan		
Samoa		
Timor-Leste		
Tonga		
Taipei, China (until 1999)	1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000	2000
Nepal	16 July 2003 to 15 July 2004	2004
Lao PDR	1 October 2003 to 30 September 2004	2004
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
n.e.s.	not elsewhere stated
n.i.e.	not indicated elsewhere

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

## Measurement Units

bbl	barrel	lb	pound
bn	billion	m	meter
c	cent	mn	million
cu. m.	cubic meter	mscf	million standard cubic feet
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
kWh	kilowatt-hour	toe	ton of oil equivalent

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BOP	balance of payments
CAP	country assistance plan
CBA	collective bargaining agreement
CBN	cost of basic needs
CER	Country Economic Review
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
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
EPZ	export processing zone
ER	exchange rate
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
GNI	gross national income
GNP	gross national product
GVC	global value chain
HCR	headcount ratio
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIPC	heavily indebted poor countries
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HSC	harmonized system classification
ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research
IDA	Industrial Disputes Act
IMR	infant mortality rate
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
IS	import substitution
ISIC	international standard industrial classification
IT	information technology
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEGS	Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme
MLSS	Minimum Living Standard Scheme
MOLISA	Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs
MOLSS	Ministry of Labor and Social Security
MP	market prices
MPCE	monthly per capita expenditure
MPS	material product system
MTPDP	Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan
NAIRU	nonaccelerating inflation rate of unemployment
NAS	national accounts statistics
NBER	National Bureau of Economic Research
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSSO	National Sample Survey Organisation
NCDS	National Center for Development Studies
NCHS	National Center for Health Statistics
NMP	net material product
NRU	natural rate of unemployment
NTB	nontariff barrier
NWPC	National Wages and Productivity Commission
ODA	official development assistance
PCE	private consumption expenditure
PGI	poverty gap index
PMS	Poverty Monitoring Survey
PPP	purchasing power parity
PRC	People's Republic of China
PRISM	Pacific Regional Information System
RDA	recommended dietary allowance
RHS	Rural Household Survey

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RTWBP	Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board
SDR	special drawing rights
SDBS	Statistical Database System
SES	Socio-Economic Survey
SESC	Socio-Economic Survey of Cambodia
SEZ	special economic zone
SITC	standard international trade classification
SMERU	Social Monitoring and Early Response Unit
SNA	system of national accounts
SPG	squared poverty gap index
SOC	social overhead and capital
SOTL	Special Office in Timor-Leste
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SSF	Social Security Fund
SUSENAS	National Household Socio-Economic Survey
TFR	total fertility rate
TUA	Trade Union Act
TVE	township and village enterprises
UKC	unit capital cost
ULC	unit labor cost
UNDESA	UN-Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-HABITAT	UN Human Settlements Programme
UNTAET	UN Transitional Administration in East Timor
VA	value-added
WEP	World Employment Program
WPI	wholesale price index
WTO	World Trade Organization

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