

Introduction to the Regional Trends and Tables

The 2016 issue of *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific* contains 100 statistical tables summarizing regional trends in social, economic, and environmental developments in Asian Development Bank (ADB) member economies in Asia and the Pacific. The statistical tables are grouped into eight themes: People, Economy, and Output; Money, Finance, and Prices; Globalization; Transport and Communications; Energy and Electricity; Environment; and Government and Governance.

Each theme has an accompanying brief analysis of key trends of selected indicators highlighting important recent developments in several subtopics. The data patterns are summarized by charts and figures that compare indicators for ADB member economies for the latest year available (e.g., 2015). Often, indicators for the latest year are also compared with the previous year (e.g., 2015 and 2014) or with an earlier year (e.g., 2015 and 2000) in order to identify regional, subregional, and economy-level trends.

People highlights demographic trends in terms of the size and growth of the population; birth, death, and fertility rates; age dependency ratios; international migration, urbanization, employment; health and education resources. The section also contains statistics on poverty and inequality, including the Gini coefficient, which measures the distribution of income in an economy, and the Human Development Index, which combines a range of economic and social statistics into an index reflecting the overall level of well-being in each economy. Important aspects of this theme are also covered in the earlier analysis of data for the Sustainable Development Goal Theme: People, which seeks to eradicate extreme poverty and other forms of socioeconomic disadvantage.

Economy and Output contains tables on gross domestic product (GDP) levels and growth; related statistics taken from the national accounts such as gross national income, value added, consumption expenditure, capital formation, exports and imports, and gross domestic saving; and production indicators. This theme compares the relative size of economies both within the region and in the world as a whole using data on GDP in purchasing power parity terms. This section also discusses how economies' GDP shares of agriculture, industry, and services have changed since 2000, and which economies are consuming more and which are investing more in capital for future growth.

Money, Finance, and Prices gives the latest statistics on inflation and other monetary and financial statistics. These include data on money supply, interest rates, bank lending, official exchange rates, and stock markets. The discussion for this theme focuses on the modest consumer price inflation in most Asia and the Pacific economies due to low international food and fuel prices, depreciation of most regional currencies against the US dollar in 2014–2015, trends in nonperforming bank loans and stock market performance.

Globalization focuses on external trade, balance of payments, international reserves, capital flows, external indebtedness, and tourism. The expansion of intraregional and interregional trade is an important aspect of globalization, as are international movements of labor and capital. This theme discusses trends in merchandise exports and imports; the increasing importance of services exports in some regional economies; remittances from migrant workers, which are significant sources of income for many economies in the region; net official loans and grants; and net private capital flows. More detailed statistical tables on global value chains are provided in Part III.

Transport and Communications covers statistics on road and rail networks, air carrier departures, container port traffic, and motor vehicle injuries and fatalities. This theme also includes statistics on mobile and fixed telephone subscriptions, and broadband internet penetration rates. The discussion covers the upgrading of road networks and expansion of rail networks across the region, increases in both vehicle ownership and road fatalities, and the surge in mobile telephone and broadband internet subscriptions.

Energy and Electricity comprises statistics on energy productivity, supplies and uses of primary energy, and electricity consumption and generation. The discussion focuses on trends in demand for energy, including a growing reliance on coal for generating electricity among the region's top producers, increasing dependence on energy imports among the region's top consumers, gains in energy efficiency in most economies and the persistence of fossil fuel subsidies in some economies, and the rapidly rising rates of electricity generation across the region that are accompanying industrialization and household electrification.

Environment includes indicators related to land use, forest resources, and air and water pollution. The discussion covers greenhouse gas emissions, particularly the contribution of agriculture to such emissions; deforestation; and freshwater resources. The earlier discussion of data for Sustainable Development Goal Theme: Planet also covers some of the indicators presented in this theme.

Government and Governance contains statistics on governments' tax revenue; fiscal balances; and expenditure on health and education services, and on social security and welfare. It also includes statistics on the time and cost required to register a new business in each economy, as well as the latest global rankings for Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. The discussion focuses on regional trends in fiscal performance, government spending priorities, and tax revenue; reductions in the time and cost associated with starting a business; and the persistence of corruption.

In celebration of ADB's 50th anniversary in 2016, the publication also provides discussion boxes to present statistics that summarize some major social and economic transformations in Asia and the Pacific over the past 50 years. For this purpose, statistical trends on selected statistical indicators that have sufficiently long data series based on a consistent methodology are discussed.