

Introduction to the Regional Trends and Tables

The 2012 issue of *Key Indicators* contains 112 regional tables illustrating economic, social, and environmental developments in Asia and the Pacific region. The regional trends and tables are grouped into seven themes containing a number of subtopics. Each theme has a brief analysis of key trends of selected indicators highlighting important recent developments. The analyses are illustrated by charts and figures that compare indicators for Asian Development Bank (ADB) member economies for the latest year available, e.g., 2005 or later; and often, the latest year is compared with an earlier year such as 1990 or 2000.¹

The seven themes are as follows: People; Economy and Output; Money, Finance, and Prices; Globalization; Transport, Electricity, and Communication; Energy and Environment; and Government and Governance.

People presents (1) standard demographic indicators such as the size and growth of the population; birth, death, and fertility rates; and life expectancy; and (2) information on international migration, urbanization, employment and unemployment, and health and education resources. The section also includes statistics on the extent of poverty at \$2-a-day in the region and the human development index (HDI), which combines a range of economic and social statistics into an index number reflecting the overall level of well-being in each economy.

The theme evaluates the distribution of population across and within the region and the share of the region's urban population in that of the world. The discussion also deals with the variations of total fertility rates and achievements in the HDI report. A topic on aging population is likewise discussed in this issue.

Discussion on poverty, a relevant part of this theme, is included in the analysis of key trends for the *Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*, which aims to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1-a-day. Goal 1 also includes data on the proportion of population below \$1-a-day. Education, another important part of this theme, is discussed in the analysis of key trends for the *Millennium Development Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education*, which aims to make sure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. Goal 2 also includes data on the proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach the last grade of primary school.

Economy and Output focuses on the levels and growth of gross domestic product (GDP); 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 related indicators on production.

This theme compares the relative size of economies both within the region and in the world as a whole using data on GDP adjusted by purchasing power parity (PPP). The Economy and Output section shows how the GDP shares of agriculture, industry, and services changed since 1990, and which economies are consuming more and which are investing more in capital for future growth.

Money, Finance, and Prices contains a wide range of tables on inflation and on monetary and financial statistics. These include data on money supply, interest rates, bank lending, and stock markets, which are now established in more than 20 economies in the region. The data also include official exchange rates and PPP conversion factors.

The discussion for this theme focuses on the growth of money supply, the yield on 90-day treasury bills, the level of nonperforming bank loans, inflation, and food consumer price indices (CPIs). The discussion also includes the role of a country's monetary policy framework in the movement of the country's inflation, the impact of increasing food prices on poverty, and the relative weight of the food CPI to the general CPI in selected economies in the region.

¹ When data are not available for some economies for the earlier year (and/or for the latest year), the title of the figure indicates this as, e.g., "2000 or nearest year (and/or 2011 or latest year)." The tables cited as sources for each figure give the actual years used.

Globalization gives the latest statistics on balance of payments, external trade, international reserves, capital flows, external indebtedness, and tourism.

In general, the theme discusses the impact on Asia and the Pacific region of recent economic and political developments in other parts of the world, especially on economic trends. It tackles the importance of trade to the region, trade in services in particular, as well as the importance of migrant workers' remittances and tourism to the region's economy. On external trade, the discussion shows how the region has progressed since 1990 in comparison with other developing regions of the world and the positive growth in capital flows for most economies in developing Asia that have data available.

Transport, Electricity, and Communications covers statistics on road and rail networks and on road motor vehicles and traffic injuries and fatalities. This theme also covers electricity consumption, electrification, electricity generation—which is growing rapidly in the region to support industrialization and household electrification—and the fuel sources used in generation, such as fossil fuels that emit carbon dioxide, and cleaner nuclear and hydropower sources. Statistics on telephone and internet subscriptions are also given.

This theme shows how computer use and broadband access are growing in the region, and the width of the digital divide between high- and low-income countries. The discussion also deals with the increased use of carbon fuels in the generation of electricity.

Analysis of trends on internet usage and ownership of fixed and cellular phones is presented as part of this theme.

Energy and Environment comprises statistics on energy productivity; supply and use of primary energy; and indicators related to the environment, which includes land use, forest resources, and air and water pollution.

This theme compares the energy demand of economies within the region and in the world as a whole and discusses the improvement in energy efficiency in the region. A new topic introduced in this issue is on fossil-fuel consumption subsidy rates. The theme also discusses the region's rising greenhouse gas emissions.

Discussion of deforestation, which is also an important aspect of this theme, is included in the analysis of key trends for *Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure environmental stability*, which seeks to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources. Goal 7 also includes data on forests, protected areas, carbon dioxide emissions, and consumption of ozone-depleting substances.

Government and Governance contains statistics on tax revenues, government fiscal balances, and government expenditures on health and education services and on social security and welfare, as ratios of GDP. It also includes statistics on the cost involved and the time required to register a new business, and the corruption perception index.

The theme discusses the performance of the economies in collecting taxes and in managing their budgets as reflected in their fiscal balances. The section mentions the spending priorities of the economies in the region. The theme also discusses the improvement in cost and time required to start a business in the region, and presents the perception of corruption in the region.