

Introduction to the Regional Tables and Trends

The 2017 issue of *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific* features 98 statistical tables summarizing regional trends in social, economic, and environmental developments in member economies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Asia and the Pacific. The statistical tables and their commentaries are divided 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 is accompanied by a brief description of trends highlighting important recent developments observed in select indicators. Visualizations of data patterns are summarized through charts and figures that compare indicators for ADB member economies for the latest year available (e.g., 2016). Often, indicators for the latest year are also compared with the previous year (e.g., 2015) or with an earlier year (e.g., 2000 or 2005) in order to identify regional, subregional, and economy-level trends.

People highlights demographic trends in terms of the size and growth of the population; age dependency ratios; urbanization, employment; health and education resources; and the Human Development Index. The section also contains statistics on birth, death, and fertility rates; poverty and inequality; and international migration.

Economy and Output presents tables and charts 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 using data on GDP expressed in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. This section also discusses trends in external trade and domestic consumption.

Money, Finance, and Prices summarizes 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.

Globalization focuses on external trade, balance of payments, international reserves, capital flows, external indebtedness, and tourism. 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 features 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 across Asia and the Pacific.

Environment includes indicators related to land use, forest resources, and air and water pollution. The discussion covers greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon dioxide emissions; deforestation; and freshwater resources.

Government and Governance presents 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 economy's latest global rankings for Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. The discussion focuses on regional trends in fiscal performance, government spending priorities, and the time and cost associated with starting a business.

Part II also presents several discussion boxes covering important measurement issues such as examination of the prices paid by the poor and the use of disaggregated data on gross fixed capital formation for estimating infrastructure investments.