

Introduction

The *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2018* contains 101 regional tables depicting trends in social, economic, and environmental developments across Asia and the Pacific. The statistical tables in Part II are grouped into eight themes, each with a short commentary highlighting important recent developments in selected indicators. Each theme concludes with a section on data issues and comparability, wherein issues surrounding the collection and presentation of indicators are detailed.

Data patterns for key indicators are summarized and/or visualized through charts and figures. These charts and figures compare indicators across Asian Development Bank (ADB) member economies for the latest year available, which is generally 2017. In some cases, indicators for the latest year available are compared with either the previous year (e.g., 2016) or an earlier year (e.g., 2000 or 2005). Such comparisons help the reader identify regional, subregional, and economy-level trends.

The eight themes are People; Economy and Output; Money, Finance, and Prices; Globalization; Transport and Communications; Energy and Electricity; Environment; and Government and Governance.

People brings together standard demographic indicators such as population size and age structure, as well as primary educational attainment levels. The regional tables in this section present data on birth, death, and fertility rates; age dependency ratios; urbanization and employment; poverty and inequality; health and education resources; international migration; and the Human Development Index.

Economy and Output presents figures comparing the relative size of economies, both within the region and across the world, using data on gross domestic product (GDP) expressed at purchasing power parity (PPP) and current United States (US) dollars. Regional members' economic growth rates and gross fixed capital formation levels and growth are also discussed. Statistical tables generated from the national accounts, include gross domestic product, value added, consumption expenditure, capital formation, exports and imports, and gross domestic saving. Other tables present production indicators and trends in external trade and domestic consumption.

Money, Finance, and Prices summarizes the latest statistics on consumer price inflation (food and nonfood), the money supply, and nonperforming loans. Other monetary and financial statistics include producer price inflation, interest rates, bank lending, official exchange rates, and stock market capitalization and growth rates.

Globalization focuses on trends in remittances, foreign direct investment, and merchandise exports. The statistical tables cover external trade, balance of payments, international reserves, capital flows, external indebtedness, and tourism. This theme also includes a box discussion on the monitoring of public and private flows to developing Asia, which comprise net private capital flows (including migrant workers remittances), net official loans and grants, and other official flows.

Transport and Communications features a discussion on air carrier departures and passenger traffic, as well as the global surge in mobile telephone subscriptions, particularly in Asia and the Pacific. Other data

topics include container port traffic; road and rail networks; motor vehicle ownership, injuries, and fatalities; fixed telephone subscriptions; and broadband internet penetration rates.

Energy and Electricity comprises statistics on energy demand, supplies and uses of primary energy, and electricity consumption and generation. The discussion focuses on trends across the region in energy productivity, total production and sources, and energy imports.

Environment includes a discussion on deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions. Indicators related to land use, forest resources, air and water pollution, and per capita freshwater resources are presented in the tables.

Government and Governance presents statistics on the tax revenues and expenditures of governments; fiscal balances; and expenditures 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, total government expenditure, and the number of days required to start a business.