

Data

How we Classify Countries

For operational and analytical purposes, the World Bank's main criterion for classifying economies is gross national income (GNI) per capita. In previous editions of our publications, this term was referred to as gross national product, or GNP. (Learn more about this [change in terminology](#).) Based on its GNI per capita, every economy is classified as low income, middle income (subdivided into lower middle and upper middle), or high income. Other analytical groups based on geographic regions are also used.

A short history

The Bank's analytical income categories (low, middle, high income) are based on the Bank's operational lending categories (civil works preferences, IDA eligibility, etc.). Learn about the [history of operational guidelines](#).

Group definitions

These tables classify all World Bank member countries (188), and all other economies with populations of more than 30,000 (214 total).

Geographic region: Classifications and data reported for geographic regions are for low-income and middle-income economies only. Low-income and middle-income economies are sometimes referred to as developing economies. The use of the term is convenient; it is not intended to imply that all economies in the group are experiencing similar development or that other economies have reached a preferred or final stage of development. Classification by income does not necessarily reflect development status.

Income group: Economies are divided according to 2011 GNI per capita, calculated using the [World Bank Atlas method](#). The groups are: low income, \$1,025 or less; lower middle income, \$1,026 - \$4,035; upper middle income, \$4,036 - \$12,475; and high income, \$12,476 or more.

Lending category: IDA countries are those that had a per capita income in 2011 of less than \$1,195 and lack the financial ability to borrow from IBRD. IDA loans are deeply concessional—interest-free loans and grants for programs

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aimed at boosting economic growth and improving living conditions. IBRD loans are nonconcessional. Blend countries are eligible for IDA loans because of their low per capita incomes but are also eligible for IBRD loans because they are financially creditworthy.

Notes: Income classifications are set each year on July 1. These official analytical classifications are fixed during the World Bank's fiscal year (ending on June 30), thus countries remain in the categories in which they are classified irrespective of any revisions to their per capita income data. Taiwan, China, is also included in high income.

A Short History

The Bank's analytical income categories (low, middle, high income) are based on the Bank's operational lending categories (civil works preferences, IDA eligibility, etc.). These operational guidelines were established based on the view that since poorer countries deserve better conditions from the Bank, comparative estimates of economic capacity needed to be established. GNI, a broad measure, was considered to be the best single indicator of economic capacity and progress; at the same time it was recognized that GNI does not, by itself, constitute or measure welfare or success in development. GNI per capita is therefore the Bank's main criterion of classifying countries.

The process of setting per capita income thresholds started with finding a stable relationship between a summary measure of well-being such as poverty incidence and infant mortality on the one hand and economic variables including per capita GNI estimated based on the Bank's Atlas method on the other. Based on such a relationship and the annual availability of Bank's resources, the original per capita income thresholds were established. Thereafter, the original thresholds have been updated every year to incorporate the effect of international inflation, which is now measured by the average inflation of Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Euro Zone. Thus, the thresholds remain constant in real terms over time.

The economies whose per capita GNI falls below the Bank's operational cutoff for "Civil Works Preference" are classified as low-income economies; economies whose per capita GNI is higher than the Bank's operational threshold for "Civil Works Preference" and lower than the threshold for 17-year

IBRD loans are classified as lower-middle income economies; and those economies whose per capita GNI is higher than the Bank's operational threshold for 17-year IBRD loans and lower than the threshold for high-income economies are classified as upper-middle income economies. [Note: In 2008, the Bank streamlined IBRD categories to eliminate the 17-year term operational threshold. The analytical threshold between lower-middle and upper-middle income remains and is updated each year as explained above.]

But as late as 1989, there were some anomalies in the countries included in the middle-income group (a holdover of earlier listings of what constituted "developing" vs. "industrial" countries). An explicit benchmark between the middle-income and high-income countries was established in 1989 at \$6,000 per capita in 1987 prices.

In general discussions in Bank reports, the term "developing economies" has been used to denote the set of low and middle income economies. Bank publications with notes on the classification of economies state that the term "developing economies... does not imply either that all the economies belonging to the group are actually in the process of developing, nor that those not in the group have necessarily reached some preferred or final stage of development."

[Download](#) historical classifications in Excel format.

Country and Lending Groups

By Region		By Income	
	<u>East Asia and Pacific</u>		<u>Low-income economies</u>
	<u>Europe and Central Asia</u>		<u>Lower-middle-income economies</u>
	<u>Latin America & the Caribbean</u>		<u>Upper-middle-income economies</u>
	<u>Middle East and North</u>		<u>High-income</u>

By Lending

	<u>IDA</u>
	<u>Blend</u>
	<u>IBRD</u>

	<u>Africa</u>		<u>economies</u>		
	<u>South Asia</u>		<u>High-income</u> <u>OECD</u> <u>members</u>		
	<u>Sub-Saharan Africa</u>				

Bold indicates a change of classification.

East Asia

developing only: 24

and Pacific

American Samoa	Malaysia	Samoa
Cambodia	Marshall Islands	Solomon Islands
China	Micronesia, Fed. Sts	Thailand
Fiji	Mongolia	Timor-Leste
Indonesia	Myanmar	Tuvalu
Kiribati	Palau	Tonga
Korea, Dem. Rep.	Papua New Guinea	Vanuatu
Lao PDR	Philippines	Vietnam

Europe and

developing only: 23

Central Asia

Albania	Kosovo	Russian Federation
Armenia	Kyrgyz Republic	Serbia
Azerbaijan	Latvia	Tajikistan
Belarus	Lithuania	Turkey
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Macedonia, FYR	Turkmenistan

Bulgaria	Moldov a	Ukraine
Georgia	Montenegro	Uzbekistan
Kazakhstan	Romania	

Latin America and the Caribbean **developing only: 29**

Antigua and Barbuda	Dominican Republic	Nicaragua
Argentina	Ecuador	Panama
Belize	El Salvador	Paraguay
Bolivia	Grenada	Peru
Brazil	Guatemala	St. Lucia
Chile	Guyana	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Colombia	Haiti	Suriname
Costa Rica	Honduras	Uruguay
Cuba	Jamaica	Venezuela, RB
Dominica	Mexico	

Middle East and North Africa **developing only: 13**

Algeria	Jordan	Tunisia
Djibouti	Lebanon	West Bank and Gaza
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Liby a	Yemen, Rep.
Iran, Islamic Rep.	Morocco	
Iraq	Syrian Arab Republic	

South Asia **all developing: 8**

Afghanistan	India	Pakistan

Bangladesh	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Bhutan	Nepal	

Sub-

developing only: 47

Saharan Africa

Angola	Gambia, The	Rwanda
Benin	Ghana	São Tomé and Príncipe
Botswana	Guinea	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles
Burundi	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Lesotho	Somalia
Cape Verde	Liberia	South Africa
Central African Republic	Madagascar	South Sudan
Chad	Malawi	Sudan
Comoros	Mali	Swaziland
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Mauritania	Tanzania
Congo, Rep	Mauritius	Togo
Côte d'Ivoire	Mozambique	Uganda
Eritrea	Namibia	Zambia
Ethiopia	Niger	Zimbabwe
Gabon	Nigeria	

Low-income economies (\$1,025 or less)

36

Afghanistan	Gambia, The	Mozambique
Bangladesh	Guinea	Myanmar
Benin	Guinea-Bisau	Nepal
Burkina Faso	Haiti	Niger

Burundi	Kenya	Rwanda
Cambodia	Korea, Dem Rep.	Sierra Leone
Central African Republic	Kyrgyz Republic	Somalia
Chad	Liberia	Tajikistan
Comoros	Madagascar	Tanzania
Congo, Dem. Rep	Malawi	Togo
Eritrea	Mali	Uganda
Ethiopia	Mauritania	Zimbabwe

Lower-middle-income economies (\$1,026 to \$4,035) 54

Albania	Indonesia	Samoa
Armenia	India	São Tomé and Príncipe
Belize	Iraq	Senegal
Bhutan	Kiribati	Solomon Islands
Bolivia	Kosovo	South Sudan
Cameroon	Lao PDR	Sri Lanka
Cape Verde	Lesotho	Sudan
Congo, Rep.	Marshall Islands	Swaziland
Côte d'Ivoire	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	Syrian Arab Republic
Djibouti	Moldova	Timor-Leste
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Mongolia	Tonga
El Salvador	Morocco	Ukraine
Fiji	Nicaragua	Uzbekistan

Georgia	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Ghana	Pakistan	Vietnam
Guatemala	Papua New Guinea	West Bank and Gaza
Guyana	Paraguay	Yemen, Rep.
Honduras	Philippines	Zambia

Upper-middle-income economies (\$4,036 to \$12,475) 54

Angola	Ecuador	Palau
Algeria	Gabon	Panama
American Samoa	Grenada	Peru
Antigua and Barbuda	Iran, Islamic Rep.	Romania
Argentina	Jamaica	Russian Federation
Azerbaijan	Jordan	Serbia
Belarus	Kazakhstan	Sey chelles
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Latvia	South Africa
Botswana	Lebanon	St. Lucia
Brazil	Libya	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Bulgaria	Lithuania	Suriname
Chile	Macedonia, FYR	Thailand
China	Malaysia	Tunisia
Colombia	Maldives	Turkey
Costa Rica	Mauritius	Turkmenistan
Cuba	Mexico	Tuvalu

Dominica	Montenegro	Uruguay
Dominican Republic	Namibia	Venezuela, RB

High-income economies (\$12,476 or more) 70

Andorra	Germany	Oman
Aruba	Greece	Poland
Australia	Greenland	Portugal
Austria	Guam	Puerto Rico
Bahamas, The	Hong Kong SAR, China	Qatar
Bahrain	Hungary	San Marino
Barbados	Iceland	Saudi Arabia
Belgium	Ireland	Singapore
Bermuda	Isle of Man	Sint Maarten
Brunei Darussalam	Israel	Slovak Republic
Canada	Italy	Slovenia
Cayman Islands	Japan	Spain
Channel Islands	Korea, Rep.	St. Kitts and Nevis
Croatia	Kuwait	St. Martin
Curaçao	Liechtenstein	Sweden
Cyprus	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Macao SAR, China	Trinidad and Tobago
Denmark	Malta	Turks and Caicos Islands
Estonia	Monaco	United Arab Emirates

Equatorial Guinea	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Faeroe Islands	New Caledonia	United States
Finland	New Zealand	Virgin Islands (U.S.)
France	Northern Mariana Islands	
French Polynesia	Norway	

High-income OECD members

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Australia	Hungary	Poland
Austria	Iceland	Portugal
Belgium	Ireland	Slovak Republic
Canada	Italy	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Israel	Spain
Denmark	Japan	Sweden
Estonia	Korea, Rep.	Switzerland
Finland	Luxembourg	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	United States
Germany	New Zealand	
Greece	Norway	

IDA

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Afghanistan	Guyana	Niger
Angola	Haiti	Nigeria
Bangladesh	Honduras	Rwanda
Benin	Kenya	Samoa
Bhutan	Kiribati	São Tomé and Príncipe

Burkina Faso	Kosov o	Senegal
Burundi	Kyrgyz Republic	Sierra Leone
Cambodia	Lao PDR	Solomon Islands
Cameroon	Lesotho	Somalia
Central African Republic	Liberia	Sudan
Chad	Madagascar	Tajikistan
Comoros	Malawi	Tanzania
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Maldives	Timor-Leste
Congo, Rep.	Mali	Togo
Côte d'Ivoire	Marshall Islands	Tonga
Djibouti	Mauritania	Tuvalu
Eritrea	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	Uganda
Ethiopia	Moldova	Vanuatu
Gambia, The	Mozambique	Yemen, Rep.
Ghana	Myanmar	Zambia
Guinea	Nepal	
Guinea-Bissau	Nicaragua	

Blend

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Armenia	Grenada	St. Lucia
Bolivia	India	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mongolia	Uzbekistan
Cape Verde	Pakistan	Vietnam
Dominica	Papua New Guinea	Zimbabwe

Georgia	Sri Lanka	
IBRD		62
Albania	Gabon	Peru
Algeria	Guatemala	Philippines
Antigua and Barbuda	Indonesia	Poland
Argentina	Iran, Islamic Rep.	Romania
Azerbaijan	Iraq	Russian Federation
Belarus	Jamaica	Serbia
Belize	Jordan	Seychelles
Botswana	Kazakhstan	South Africa
Brazil	Korea, Rep.	St. Kitts and Nevis
Bulgaria	Lebanon	Suriname
Chile	Libya	Swaziland
China	Macedonia, FYR	Syrian Arab Republic
Colombia	Malaysia	Thailand
Costa Rica	Mauritius	Trinidad and Tobago
Croatia	Mexico	Tunisia
Dominican Republic	Montenegro	Turkey
Ecuador	Morocco	Turkmenistan
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Namibia	Ukraine
El Salvador	Palau	Uruguay
Equatorial Guinea	Panama	Venezuela, RB
Fiji	Paraguay	

Click to [*download the country classification table*](#)

World Bank Atlas Method

In calculating gross national income (GNI—formerly referred to as GNP) and GNI per capita in U.S. dollars for certain operational purposes, the World Bank uses the Atlas conversion factor. The purpose of the Atlas conversion factor is to reduce the impact of exchange rate fluctuations in the cross-country comparison of national incomes.

The Atlas conversion factor for any year is the average of a country's exchange rate (or alternative conversion factor) for that year and its exchange rates for the two preceding years, adjusted for the difference between the rate of inflation in the country, and through 2000, that in the G-5 countries (France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States). For 2001 onwards, these countries include the Euro Zone, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. A country's inflation rate is measured by the change in its GDP deflator.

The inflation rate for G-5 countries (through 2000, and the Euro Zone, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States for 2001 onwards), representing international inflation, is measured by the change in the SDR deflator. (Special drawing rights, or SDRs, are the IMF's unit of account.) The SDR deflator is calculated as a weighted average of the G-5 countries' (through 2000, and the Euro Zone, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States for 2001 onwards) GDP deflators in SDR terms, the weights being the amount of each country's currency in one SDR unit. Weights vary over time because both the composition of the SDR and the relative exchange rates for each currency change. The SDR deflator is calculated in SDR terms first and then converted to U.S. dollars using the SDR to dollar Atlas conversion factor. The Atlas conversion factor is then applied to a country's GNI. The resulting GNI in U.S. dollars is divided by the midyear population to derive GNI per capita.

When official exchange rates are deemed to be unreliable or unrepresentative of the effective exchange rate during a period, an alternative estimate of the exchange rate is used in the Atlas formula (see below).

The following formulas describe the calculation of the Atlas conversion factor for year t :

$$e_t^* = \frac{1}{3} \left[e_{t-2} \left(\frac{p_t}{p_{t-2}} / \frac{p_t^{\$}}{p_{t-2}^{\$}} \right) + e_{t-1} \left(\frac{p_t}{p_{t-1}} / \frac{p_t^{\$}}{p_{t-1}^{\$}} \right) + e_t \right]$$

and the calculation of GNI per capita in U.S. dollars for year t :

$$Y_t^{\$} = (Y_t / N_t) / e_t^*$$

where e_t^* is the Atlas conversion factor (national currency to the U.S. dollar) for year t, e_t is the average annual exchange rate (national currency to the U.S. dollar) for year t, p_t is the GDP deflator for year t, $p_t^{\$}$ is the SDR deflator in U.S. dollar terms for year t, $Y_t^{\$}$ is the Atlas GNI per capita in U.S. dollars in year t, Y_t is current GNI (local currency) for year t, and N_t is the midyear population for year t.