

Data notes

Introduction

A number of economic and regional groupings are used in the report. Economic groupings are based on gross national income (GNI) per capita classifications used by the World Bank. Economies are classified according to their 2004 GNI per capita in the following groups:

Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of:

- Low Income USD 875 or less
- Lower middle USD 876–3'465
- Upper middle USD 3'466–10'725
- High USD 10'726 or more

See the Information Society Statistics in the Annex for the income classification of specific economies.

The classification developed and developing is also used in the report. Developed economies are classified as: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. Advanced economies include Developed, plus Hong Kong, China; Republic of Korea; Singapore and Taiwan, China; as well as Cyprus and Israel. All other economies are considered developing for the purposes of this report. The classification least developed countries (LDCs) is also employed. The LDCs are Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen, and Zambia. Emerging is also sometimes used in

the report. These are countries that are neither developed nor LDCs. The grouping Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is also used. Members include all the developed countries plus the Czech Republic, Hungary, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Poland, Slovak Republic and Turkey. A number of regional groupings are used in the report. The main regional groupings are Africa, Asia, Americas, Europe and Oceania. Note that Pacific is also used in the report to refer to the Oceania region. See List of economies in the Information Society Statistics in the Annex for the primary regional classification of specific economies. The following sub-regional groupings are also used in the report:

- Arab region—Arabic-speaking economies;
- Asia-Pacific—refers to all economies in Asia east of, and including Iran, as well as Pacific Ocean economies;
- Central and Eastern Europe—Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Commonwealth of Independent States—12 republics emerging from the former Soviet Union excluding the Baltic nations;
- Latin America and the Caribbean—Central (including Mexico) and South America and the Caribbean;
- North America—Generally, Canada and the United States, although in some charts, Bermuda and/or Mexico is also included (if so, this is noted);
- Southern Europe—Cyprus, Malta and Turkey;
- Western Europe—refers to the member states of the European Union, plus Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

Data notes

- Billion is one thousand million.
- Dollars are current United States dollars (USD) unless otherwise noted. National currency values have been converted using average annual exchange rates (unless stated otherwise in the Technical notes; two tables of current prices use most recent exchange rates). Growth rates are based on current prices, unless otherwise noted.
- Thousands are separated by an apostrophe (1'000).
- Totals may not always add up due to rounding.

Additional definitions are provided in the technical notes of the *Indicators Handbook* at www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/handbook.html. Note that data in some charts and tables referring to the same item may not be consistent and may also differ from the tables shown in the Information Society Statistics in the Annex. This can happen due to revisions to data that occurred after sections of the report were written, as well as different estimation techniques and/or exchange rates. Such variations tend to be insignificant in their impact on the analysis and conclusions drawn in the report. Finally, it should be noted that data generally refer to fiscal years as reported by countries.