

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS WORLD DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

78699



2011



THE WORLD BANK

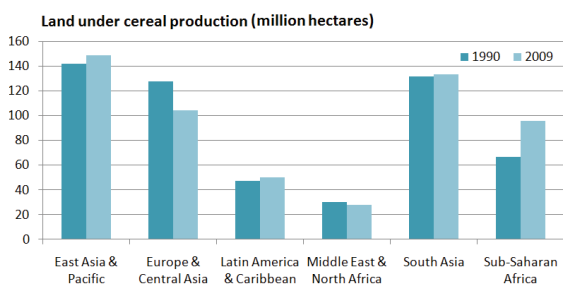
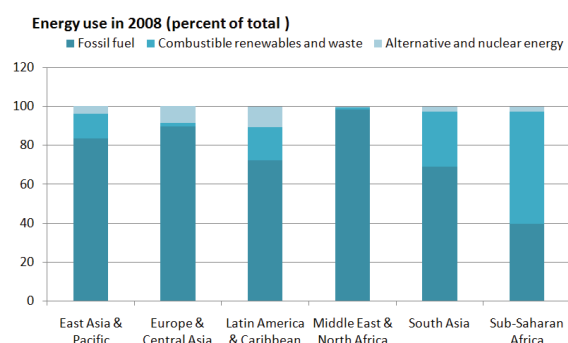
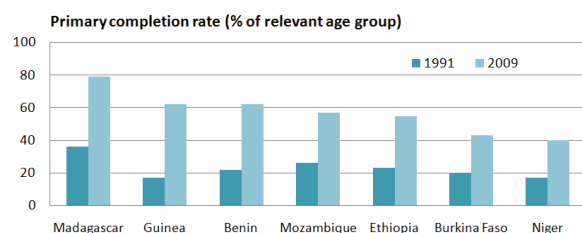
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Sub-Saharan Africa



Finishing school

The proportion of children completing primary school in Sub-Saharan Africa rose from 51 percent in 1991 to 64 percent in 2008. This still leaves the region far short of the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education. But rapid progress is possible. The primary completion rate for 7 countries—Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique and Niger—more than doubled between 1991 and 2009. Still large differences persist between rich and poor within countries. In some low-income countries, such as Benin, the completion rates for the richest quintile are 95 percent or higher, but completion rates for the poorest quintile are 35 percent or less. And there is a 9 percentage point gap in the completion rates for boys and girls.

Use of biomass energy for cooking and heating poses health risks for Sub-Saharan Africa

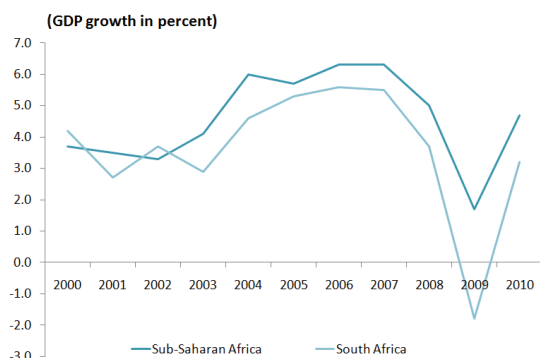
Many poor people depend on biomass energy from plant materials or animal wastes for cooking and heating. Millions of deaths are caused by air pollution. Many are children in developing countries, who die of acute respiratory infections due to indoor air pollution resulting from burning fuel wood, crop residues, or animal dung. Half the people in the world use biomass or coal for cooking. For Sub-Saharan Africa, where only 28 percent of households (excluding South Africa) have electrical service, biomass and coal are the primary cooking fuel for over 75 percent of the population and account for 58 percent of all energy use.

Agriculture output lags as African economies grow

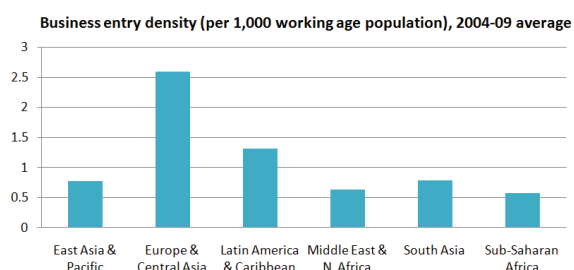
The economies of Sub-Saharan Africa are gradually shifting towards industry and services. Although agricultural output grew by 3.0 percent a year between 1990 and 2009, the share of agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa's GDP fell from 19 to 13 percent. Food production increased by more than 78 percent from 1990, slightly faster than the growth of population. To increase output more land has been brought into production, but yields have lagged. Land area under cereal production increased by 43 percent to 96 million hectares in 2009, but cereal yields (output per hectare) increased by only 26 percent over the period and agricultural productivity (value added per worker) increased by less than 5 percent, the lowest in the developing world.



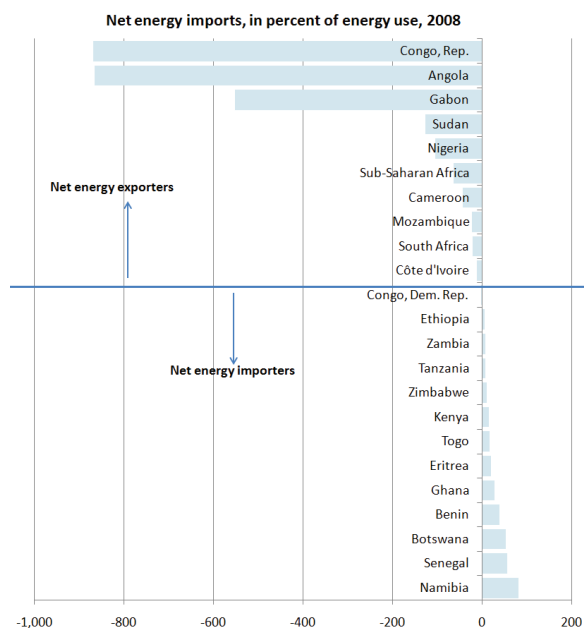
Sub-Saharan Africa



Source: World Development Indicators 2011, Table 4.1 and 4A.



Source: The Impact of the Financial Crisis on New Firm Registration, Leora Klapper and Inessa Love, October 2010



External sector lead recovery in 2010

GDP in Sub-Saharan Africa expanded by 4.7 percent in 2010, up from 1.7 percent in 2009. South Africa, the region's largest economy, grew more slowly at 2.7 percent, but that was an improvement over the previous year when output fell by 1.8 percent. While a resilient domestic demand supported growth during 2009, the recovery in 2010 was bolstered by the external sector through stronger export volumes, raising commodity prices, higher foreign direct investment, and a recovery in tourism.

Four Sub-Saharan African countries are among the top 10 business environment reformers of the past 5 years

In the last five years Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Mali, ranked in the top ten of 174 of the world's countries in making their regulatory environment more favorable to business. Rwanda implemented 22 business regulation reforms which included reducing the time it takes to register a business in 2010 to 3 days and 8.9 percent of per capita income down from 18 days at a cost of 200 percent of per capita income in 2005. During this time, Ghana created its first credit bureau, computerized its business registry, and overhauled its property registration system.

Volatile food and energy prices pose a challenge for many economies

Food imports on average account for 11 percent of Sub-Saharan Africa's total merchandise imports, and many economies are net food importers. For nearly half, the share of food in total merchandise imports exceed 15 percent. Some are particularly vulnerable. The share of food imports in total imports for the last 5 years averaged 33 percent for the Gambia, 32 percent for São Tomé and Príncipe, 29 percent for Cape Verde, 28 percent for Niger, and 25 percent for Senegal.

The region as a whole is a net exporter of energy. The main exporters include Republic of Congo, Angola, Gabon, Sudan, Nigeria, and South Africa, which stand to benefit from rising world energy prices. For these economies the challenge is to use their windfalls wisely. However, the region also has many economies that are dependent on energy imports. For example, net energy imports account for 82 percent of Namibia's total energy use, 57 percent of Senegal's, 53 percent of Botswana's, 39 percent of Benin's, 28 percent of Ghana's. Some of these economies may face acute deterioration of their balance of payments positions.

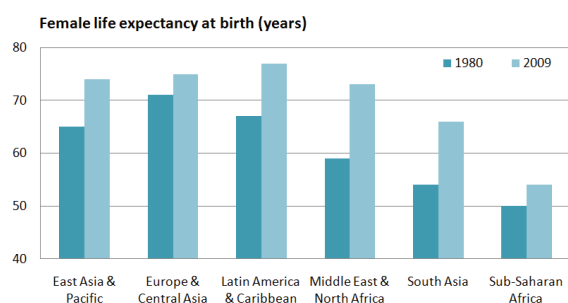


Middle East and North Africa

Opportunities and obstacles for women

Middle East and North Africa has made impressive gains in women's health and education outcomes. The total fertility rate nearly halved, from 4.9 births per woman ages 15-49 in 1990 to 2.7 in 2009, reflecting a large increase in contraceptive prevalence from 42 percent to 62 percent. In the Islamic Republic of Iran the total fertility rate fell from 4.8 in 1990 to 1.8 in 2009. Female life expectancy improved by 13 years between 1980 and 2009, the largest improvement in any region. Women's secondary enrollment rates increased from 46 percent to 70 percent between 1991 and 2008, and tertiary enrollment rates almost tripled from 9 percent to 26 percent. The gender gaps at all levels of education are closing.

But these achievements did not transfer into the work force. Women's employment remains at about 20 percent – by far the lowest among all regions. More than half of the employed women were vulnerable workers, self-employed or working for family businesses, who were less likely to have social protection and safety nets to guard against economic shocks. Morocco has the highest level of vulnerable employment for both men (46 percent) and women (65 percent).

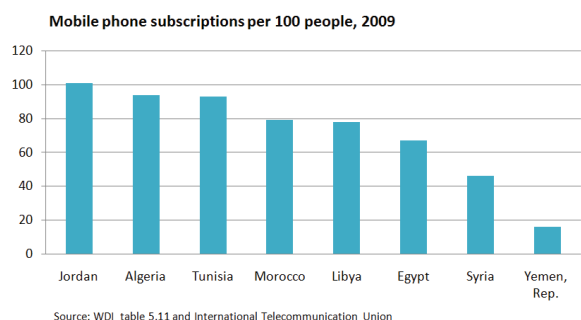


Energy use growing faster than production

Energy producers tend to be energy users. In 2008 the low- and middle-income economies of Middle East and North Africa produced 53 percent more energy compared to their 1990 level, but they consumed 133 percent more energy and energy use per capita increased by 63 percent. The average growth of energy use in the region—4.7 percent a year between 1990 and 2008—was the fastest in the world. Over the same period emission of carbon dioxide increased by 103 percent, with a 48 percent increase in per capita emissions.

Mobile phone access improving

In Jordan there are 101 mobile telephone subscriptions per 100 people, placing it in the top 15 percent of developing countries. Algeria and Tunisia are also in the top 20 percent, but some countries lag far behind. Information and communication technologies are enabling tools used in all sectors of the economy from media services, banking and finance, health, education, and electronic government services. ICT use, such as mobile cellular phones, has grown dramatically in most developing country regions. In the developing economies of the Middle East and North Africa mobile phone subscriptions have grown from 22 per 100 people in 2005 to 67 in 2009, but the region continues to trail Europe and Central Asia (119 in 2009) and Latin America and the Caribbean (90 in 2009) in mobile subscriptions.



Middle East and North Africa

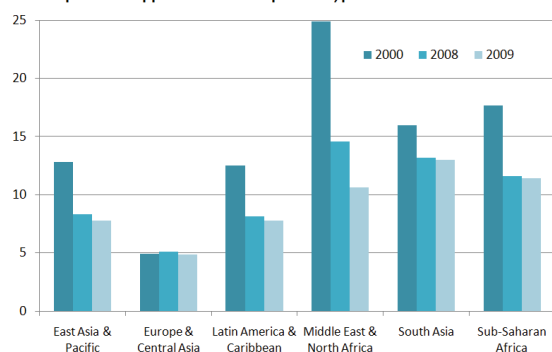
Extra costs of doing business

In some countries doing business requires informal payments to “get things done” in customs, taxes, licenses, regulations, and services. Such corruption harms the business environment by distorting policymaking, undermining government credibility and diverting public resources. The regions with the highest percentage of firms making informal payments to public officials are the Middle East & North Africa, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

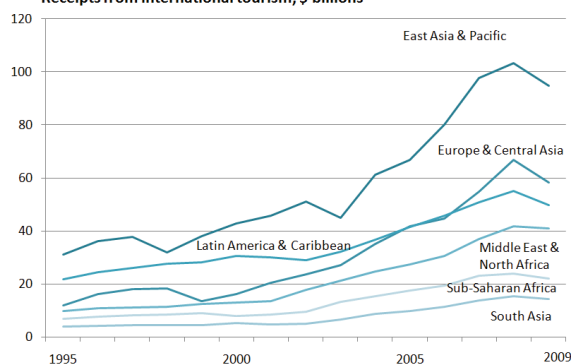
Tariffs on merchandise imports fell in 2009

At 25 percent, the average tariff imposed by economies in the Middle East and North Africa region in 2000 was the highest among all developing regions. However, economies in the region have been reducing tariffs since 2003, and the simple mean tariff on all products fell by 4 percentage points between 2008 and 2009 to 10.6 percent. Tariffs were reduced for both manufactured goods and primary products. All countries in the region, with the exception of Iran, have reduced tariffs in recent years. Between 2006 and 2009, Djibouti reduced its average applied tariff on primary products by 7 percentage points and on manufactured goods by 10 percentage points. Morocco reduced its average applied tariff on manufactured goods by 2.7 percentage points from 10.8 percent in 2008 to 8.2 percent in 2009, while Republic of Yemen lowered its average applied tariff on primary products by 2.4 percentage points from 9.6 percent in 2006 to 7.1 percent in 2009.

Simple mean applied tariff on all products, percent



Receipts from international tourism, \$ billions



International tourism showed resilience

Following the global financial crisis, receipts from international tourism declined for most developing regions between 2008 and 2009, averaging an 8 percent decline. However, Middle East and North Africa showed resilience. Receipts from international tourism in 2009 declined by only 2 percent, compared to a 13 percent decline in Europe and Central Asia and 10 percent decline in Latin America and the Caribbean. In Algeria, Djibouti, Lebanon, Libya, and Yemen, Rep. receipts from international tourism increased between 2008 and 2009. The regions' largest recipients of tourism related revenues—Egypt and Morocco—suffered 3 and 10 percent declines respectively, while the third largest recipient, Lebanon, enjoyed a 13 percent increase in revenues from international tourism, reaching \$7.2 billion in 2009. The number of international tourists visiting Lebanon also increased from 1.3 million in 2008 to 1.8 million in 2009. The effects of recent political events on tourist visits in the region have yet to be measured.

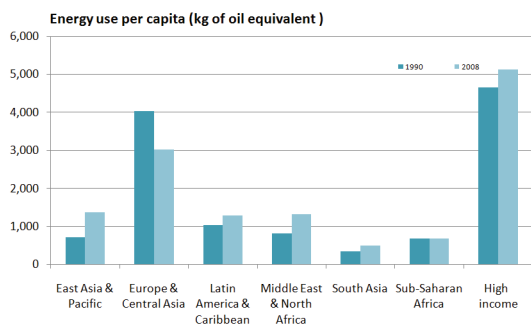
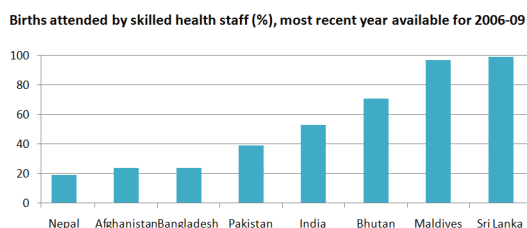
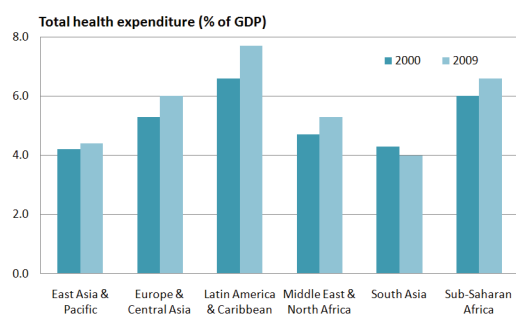
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South Asia



Faster growth but health and education outcomes lag

Economic growth and rising labor productivity has reduced poverty in South Asia, home to half the world's poor people living below \$1.25 a day. Labor productivity almost doubled between 1991 and 2008 (from \$3,600 to \$7,200 per person employed), the second largest growth after East Asia and Pacific. However, vulnerable employment remains high, especially in rural areas. In Bangladesh, 85 percent of employed people are vulnerable workers. Educational deficits remain a limitation on the region's development prospects: the adult literacy rate stands at 62 percent. Literacy rates are higher among young people, but fewer than 80 percent of eligible children completed primary school in 2009.

South Asia's spending on health care—4 percent of GDP—was the lowest among all regions, and more than half was made directly by households. Over 40 percent of children were underweight, and, despite recent improvement, the immunization rate against measles remained one of the lowest of all regions (75 percent in 2009). The slow improvement in the under-five mortality rate (125 in 1990 to 71 per 1,000 in 2009) reflects the onerous task that the region faces in trying to reach the MDG goal of reducing child mortality. Only Bangladesh, Maldives, and Pakistan are on track to achieve the target.

Many women in South Asia lack adequate reproductive health care. Maternal mortality (290 per 100,000 live births) in 2008 was second only to Sub-Saharan Africa. Only 47 percent of births were assisted by skilled health staff, and 70 percent of pregnant women received prenatal care. Exceptions are Maldives and Sri Lanka, where the prenatal care and the attended births are almost universal, and maternal mortality ratios are as low as in Europe and Central Asia, which has the lowest maternal mortality ratio of all developing regions.

Energy use in South Asia lowest among developing regions

Per capita energy use in South Asia remained the lowest among all other regions even after increasing by 42 percent—from 348 kilograms of oil equivalent in 1990 to 495 kilograms in 2008. But the structure of fuel use is also changing. South Asia now relies more on fossil fuels and less on combustible renewables and waste. Economic growth and energy use move together. High-income economies use more than four times as much energy per capita as middle-income economies and 14 times as much as low-income economies. With only 16 percent of the world's population, high income economies use about half of the world's energy production each year.



South Asia

Huge improvement, but sanitation facilities still lacking

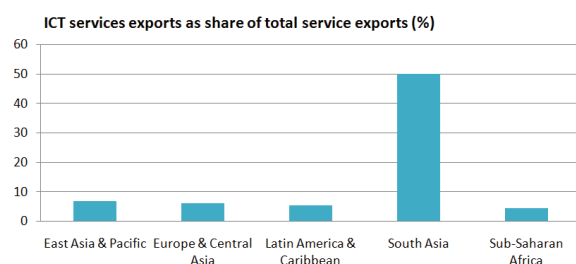
Between 1990 and 2008 the share of the population in South Asia with access to improved sanitation facilities increased from 22 to 36 percent. Improvements were greatest in rural areas, with India making the greatest contribution. Still only 27 percent of the rural population and about half of the urban population have access to improved sanitation facilities. Large investments will be required to reach the Millennium Development Goal, which calls for reducing by half the share of the population without access to basic sanitation.

India leads in ICT services exports

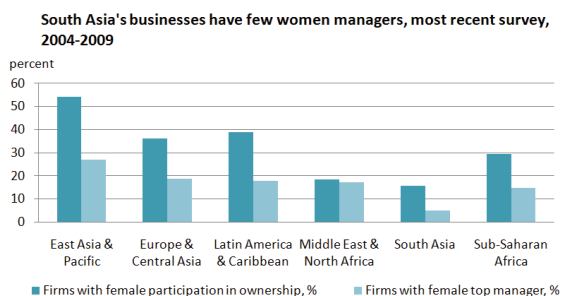
Information and communications technology services dominate the service exports of South Asia like no other region. In 2009, India's share of ICT service exports as a percent of total services exports was 53 percent—among the highest in the world. Next behind India in South Asia was Sri Lanka with 17 percent. Information and communication technology services directly or indirectly affect people's lives everywhere. Information and communication technologies are enabling tools used in all sectors, ranging from telecommunication infrastructure (voice, data, and media services) to information applications in banking and finance, land management, education, health, and electronic government services.

Fewer women in business management and ownership

Women's participation in business ownership and management in South Asia is the lowest among developing country regions. Women in South Asia, as in other regions, face barriers to participation in the economy, and often benefit from enabling business environment reforms in customs, business registration, and tax administration. The percentage of firms in South Asia with low rates of female participation in ownership include: Afghanistan (2.8 percent), Pakistan (6.7 percent), and India (9.1 percent). Women participation is better in Bangladesh, where 16.1 percent of firms have female participation in ownership.



Source: WDI table 5.12

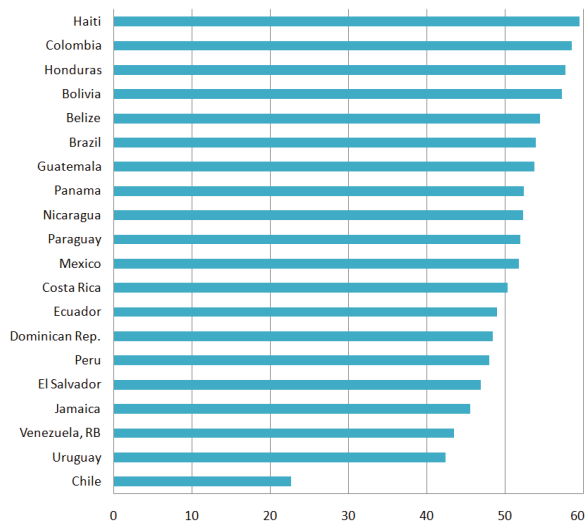


Source: WDI Table 5.2 and Enterprise Surveys



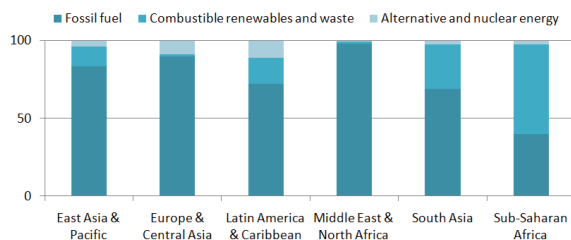
Latin America and the Caribbean

Gini index, most recent year available 1999-2009



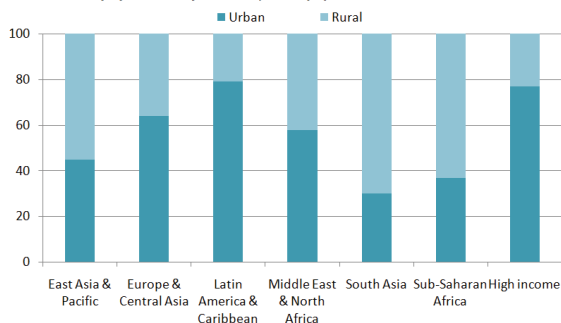
Source: World Development Indicators 2011, Table 2.9

Energy use in 2008 (percent of total)



Source: World Development Indicators 2011, Table 3.7

Share of population by location, 2009 (%)



Monitoring national poverty lines

The international definition of extreme poverty is consumption of less than \$1.25 per person a day, but in middle-income regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean, countries set national poverty lines at a higher level. In the past decade, 19 countries in the region have conducted two or more comparable surveys, allowing them to measure progress in reducing poverty. In 9 countries the reduction national poverty rates has exceeded 2 percent a year. Inequality hampers efforts to reduce poverty faster. Except for Chile, all Latin American countries with recent data have Gini coefficients greater than 40, indicating a high level of inequality.

Clean and efficient

Latin American and the Caribbean is the most efficient energy user in the world, measured by the ratio of gross domestic product (GDP) to energy use. Latin American countries produced an average of \$7.7 of output for every kilogram of oil equivalent energy used in 2008, a 12 percent improvement over 1990. Use of alternative, non-carbon energy sources – such as nuclear, geothermal, solar, and hydropower – is also on the increase. Alternative energy made up about 9 percent of world energy use in 2008 but 11 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, highest among developing regions. This slowed, but did not stop, the increase in carbon dioxide emissions. Between 1990 and 2007 emissions of the carbon dioxide in Latin America rose by more than 50 percent.

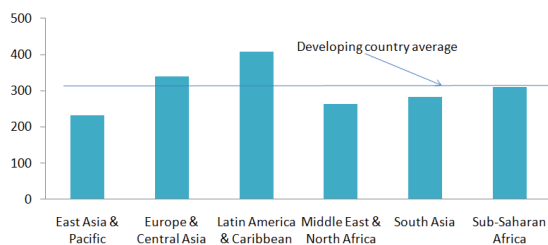
Latin America is more urban than European Union

With 79 percent of the region's population living in urban areas in 2009, Latin America was more urban than European Union. Urbanization can yield important social benefits and improve to the delivery of public services. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 86 percent of the urban population has access to improved sanitation facilities, while only 54 percent of the rural population enjoys such access. But urbanization can also be associated with adverse environmental effects. For example, greater urbanization is often associated with more concentrated pollution, harming health and reducing productivity. Urbanization is also associated with greater numbers of motor vehicles and traffic congestion and higher emissions of carbon dioxide.



Latin America and the Caribbean

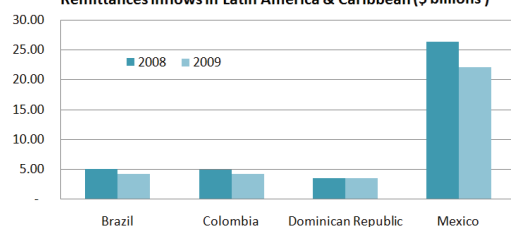
Time to prepare, file, and pay business taxes (hours per year), 2010



Time lost on taxes

In the past six years more than 60 percent of the countries covered by the Doing Business project made paying taxes easier or lowered the tax burden for local enterprises. But Latin American and Caribbean lags other regions. Countries that make paying taxes easy for domestic firms usually offer electronic systems for tax filing and payment, have one tax per tax base, and use a filing system based on self-assessment. The average firm in Latin America and the Caribbean spends about 400 hours a year preparing, filing, and paying taxes. Countries in the region that make it relatively easy for firms to pay business taxes are Costa Rica (272 hours per year) and Honduras (224 hours per year). But others, such as Bolivia (1,080 hours per year), Brazil (2,600 hours per year), and Venezuela RB (864 hours per year) have regulations and processes that make it more difficult for firms to pay business taxes.

Remittances inflows in Latin America & Caribbean (\$ billions)

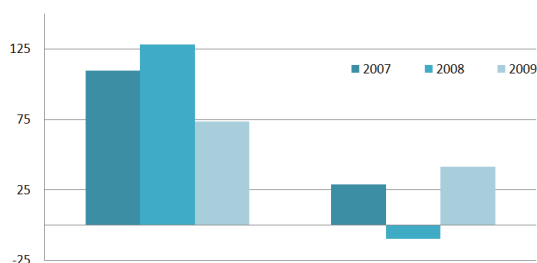


Source: Global Development Finance 2011

Remittances decline

In 2009 remittance flows to Latin America and the Caribbean declined by 12 percent, the first drop after a long period of consistent growth. The recession in the United States economy, the major remittances sending country, had a strong impact on the volume of remittances. Remittances received by Mexico dropped by 16 percent in 2009. Other countries in the region experienced decreases, such as Colombia (14 percent) and the Dominican Republic (11 percent). Brazil experienced the largest drop (17 percent), but this was partly due return of migrants encouraged by the good performance of Brazilian economy and because of the job losses in hosting economies worldwide.

Net equity inflows in Latin America & Caribbean (\$ billions)



Changing investment patterns

Net inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) to Latin America and the Caribbean fell by 42 percent in 2009, carried down by a 43 percent decrease in Brazil and a 51 percent decline in Mexico, the two largest regional recipients. Although investments in the hydrocarbon sector typically held up worldwide in 2009, this was not the case of Venezuela where appropriation of some FDI claims deterred investors and led to a \$3.1 billion net outflow of FDI in 2009, a marked turnaround from the \$10.1 billion and \$3.5 billion FDI inflows to the country in 2007 and 2008 respectively.

The decline in FDI inflows was partly offset by the surge in portfolio equity inflows, which rebounded in response to economic recovery that proceeded at a faster pace in the region than had been expected. The main driver was Brazil with inflows of \$37 billion in 2009, 90 percent of the regional total, in contrast to the \$7.6 billion outflow in 2008. Mexico, the only other significant recipient of portfolio equity inflows also recorded a net inflow (\$4.2 billion) in 2009 compared to a net outflow of \$3.5 billion in 2008.

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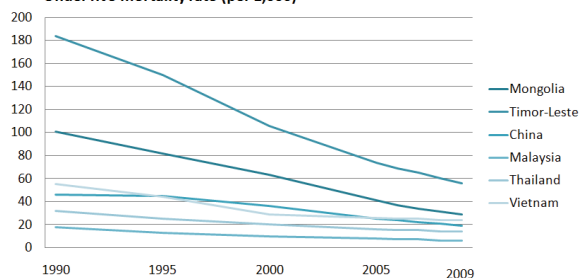
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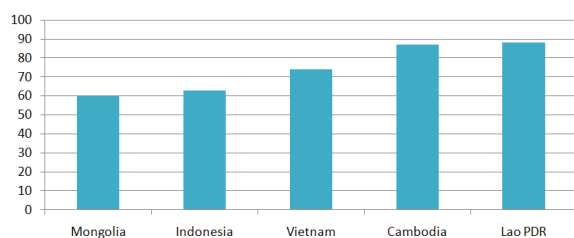


East Asia and the Pacific

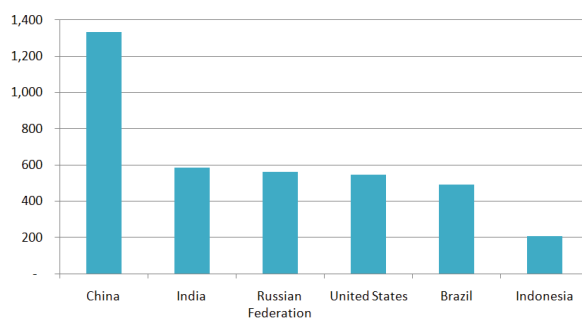
Under five mortality rate (per 1,000)



Vulnerable employment, own-account and unpaid family workers (% of employment), most recent year available in 2003-07



Methane emissions (million metric tons of CO2 equivalent), 2005



Source: World Development Indicators 2011, Table 3.9

Annual GDP growth rate (%)



Source: World Development Indicators 2011, Tables 4.1 and 4a.

Improving social indicators

Strong economic growth, rapid poverty reduction, and improving social indicators characterize many of the developing economies of East Asia and Pacific. Almost all children in the region now complete primary education (99 percent in 2008) and gender parity has been achieved in primary and secondary schools. In 2009 the under-five mortality rate fell to 26 per thousand, third lowest among developing regions. Mongolia and Timor-Leste have already exceeded the Millennium Development Goal of reducing under-five mortality rates by two-thirds, and six more countries in the region - including China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam—are on track to do so. Maternal health is also improving: the contraceptive prevalence rate was the highest of all regions (77 percent); 91 percent of pregnant women received prenatal care; and 89 percent of births were assisted by skilled health staff. Labor productivity has increased rapidly, but the vulnerable employment rate remains high—over 60 percent of the workforce in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Vietnam work are self-employed or family workers, who are less likely to have social protection and safety nets to guard against economic shocks.

Greenhouse gas emissions rise, but alternative energy use doubles

The share of fossil fuels in total energy use in East Asia and the Pacific increased from 71.5 percent to 83.7 percent between 1990 and 2008, and carbon dioxide emissions increased by 149 percent increase between 1990 to 2007. Emissions of other greenhouse gases also increased: methane was up by 25 percent) and nitrous oxide by 38 percent. Among the largest contributors to methane and nitrous oxide in the world, China and Indonesia ranked the first and the sixth. At the same time, use of non-carbon alternative energy sources and nuclear energy almost doubled—the largest increase among world's developing regions and high income economies.

Recovery firmly on track and growth surprises on the upside.

The East Asia's recovery is firmly on track, with real gross domestic product (GDP), industrial production, and exports above pre-crisis levels. Thanks to continued strong growth, China became the second largest economy in the world measured at market exchange rates in 2010. Rapid expansion also returned to Cambodia and Mongolia, whose economies contracted in 2009. The rebound among the region's resource-rich economies reflects the rapid increase in global demand for commodities. This strong demand is transforming the economies of commodity-producing regions in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

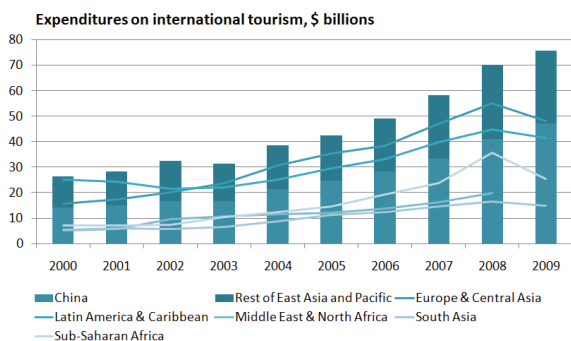
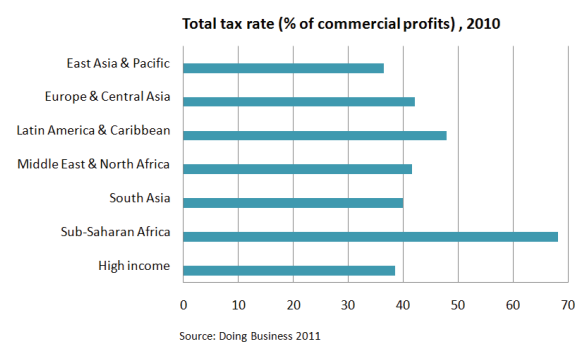
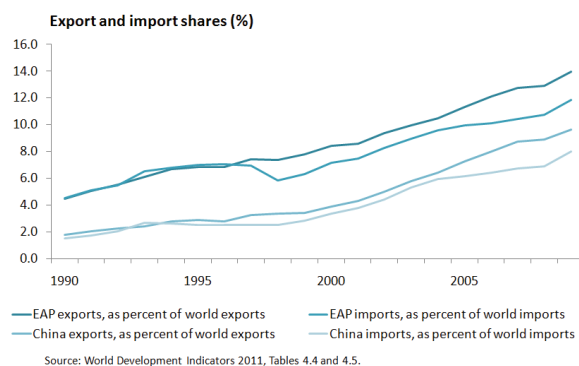
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East Asia and the Pacific



Exports are growing at a faster pace than before the crisis

The rapid emergence of East Asia as the world's export powerhouse was complemented by surging final demand within the region, notably in China. East Asia is not only selling more to the world, it is buying more. China's strong growth in output and import demand during the recovery provided crucial support to regional and global trade. The region's share of global trade today is almost three times greater than two decades ago, while China's share of global trade has increased by a factor of five.

The recovery in trade also boosted net capital inflows from private creditors (mostly trade-related financing) in 2009 to eleven times their 2008 level. Most borrowers in the region recorded inflows of short term debt but China was the principal destination. Its net short term debt inflows rose 28 percent over the 2008 level to \$241 billion. Exceptions to the regional trend were the Philippines with an outflow of short term debt of \$3 billion in 2009 and Indonesia, with a more moderate \$0.4 billion outflow.

Business tax rates lowest in East Asia and Pacific

Taxes fund a broad range of social and economic programs, national defense, and other purposes such as redistributing income to the aged and unemployed. Countries with well designed tax systems have the revenues to provide essential services and at the same time help the growth of businesses, investment, and employment. In an effort to create more jobs and growth, 8 countries in the region reduced the total business tax rate in 2009/2010. In 2010, the average total business tax rate as a percentage of commercial profits for East Asia and Pacific countries was about 36 percent, the lowest among developing country regions and developed, high-income economies. Countries with low total business tax rates as a percentage of commercial profits include: Vanuatu (8 percent), Samoa (19 percent), and Tonga (26 percent). Countries with higher rates are Palau (73 percent), Marshall Islands (65 percent), and Philippines (46 percent).

East Asia tourists on the move

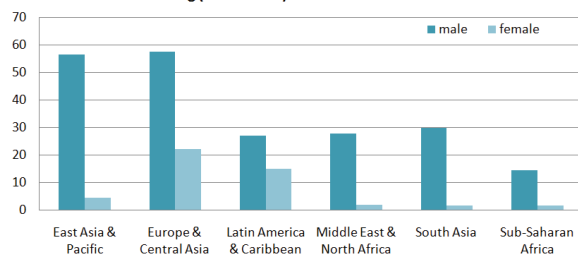
Spending on tourism by the residents of East Asia and Pacific increased by 8 percent between 2008 and 2009, while spending by residents of all other developing regions declined by 7 to 30 percent. This increase was largely due to increased spending by tourists from China (15 percent increase) and the Philippines (17 percent increase). The region now accounts for 34 percent of all tourism related spending by residents of developing economies. China alone accounts for 21 percent of the total spending on international tourism by developing economies. At \$47 billion, China's spending on international tourism in 2009 exceeded regional totals for all developing regions, except Europe and Central Asia.

Highlights World Development Indicators 2011



Europe and Central Asia

Prevalence of smoking (% of adults) 2006



Social indicators show strengths and vulnerabilities

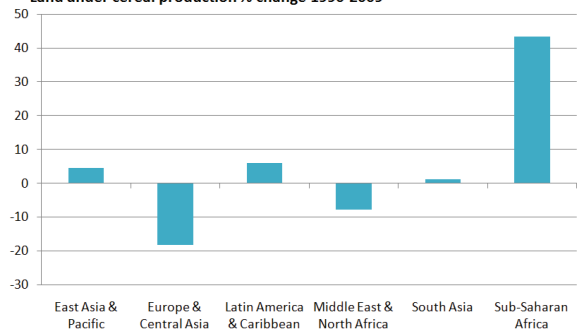
Europe and Central Asia has achieved a high level of social development. Ninety-six percent of all eligible children finish primary school and more than 80 percent enroll in secondary school. The under-five mortality rate (21 per 1,000) and the maternal mortality ratio (32 per 100,000 live births) are the lowest among developing regions. The region also has the highest rate of access to improved water and sanitation facilities.

However there are concerns. Half of all the unemployed people have a secondary education, indicating difficulty in finding a job or mismatch of the skills between education and market needs. The prevalence of HIV in 2009 (0.6 percent) was 6 times higher than in 1990. The incidence of tuberculosis also increased between 1990 (88 per 100,000 people) and 2000 (101 per 100,000 people) and only returned to the 1990 level in 2009. Adult mortality rates remain high, especially for men. Lifestyle choices may have much to do with this: the region has a highest prevalence of smoking for men (58%) and women (22%).

Carbon dioxide emissions decrease but per capita emissions remain high

Carbon dioxide emissions, largely a by-product of energy production and use, account for the largest share of greenhouse gasses and resulting environmental damage. In 2007 the world released 30,649 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide emissions per capita increased globally by 36 percent between 1990 and 2007. In Europe and Central Asia, carbon dioxide emissions per capita fell by 33 percent over the same period, but at an average of 7.2 metric tons they remain the highest in the world—almost seven times greater than South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, three times greater than Latin America or East Asia, and two times greater than the Middle East and North Africa. Methane and nitrous oxide emissions also fell in the region, while the share of alternative and nuclear energy in total energy use rose to 4 percent in 2008. The Russian Federation was the third largest emitter of carbon dioxide, behind China and the United States, and the third largest contributor to the methane emissions after China and India.

Land under cereal production % change 1990-2009



Producing more food on less land with fewer people

Agriculture is a declining industry in Europe and Central Asia. Agriculture's share of regional GDP fell by almost half, from 14 percent to 8 percent between 1995 and 2009. Land under cereal production decreased by 18 percent while cereal yield fell by 5 percent. Still food production in the region was 7 percent higher than its 1990 level. Over the same period, agricultural productivity (output per worker) increased by 45 percent while agricultural employment fell by 29 percent. For developing countries in Europe and Central Asia the challenge will be to reform and invest in their agro-food sectors so that food producers and exports can expand without encroaching on forests and protected areas.

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 Web: data.worldbank.org

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Europe and Central Asia

Business entry density (per 1,000 working age population), 2004-09 average



Source: The Impact of the Financial Crisis on New Firm Registration, Leora Klapper and Inessa Love, World Bank, October 2010

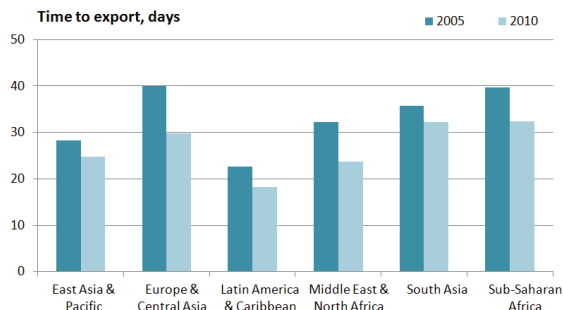
Europe and Central Asian countries continue to deepen reforms for improved competitiveness

During the past five years 5 of the top 10 reformers of the business environment (as measured by the World Bank's Doing Business Indicators) were in Europe and Central Asia: Belarus, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and the Kyrgyz Republic. Countries with fewer entry barriers to starting a new business have higher rates of new business creation as measured by business entry density—the number of new businesses per 1,000 working age people. The developing countries of Europe and Central Asia impose fewer obstacles to starting a business than other developing country regions, translating to more businesses being created. With fewer entry barriers, business entry in Europe and Central Asia countries average 2.6 per 1,000 working age population for 2004 to 2009, compared to only 0.58 for Sub-Saharan Africa.

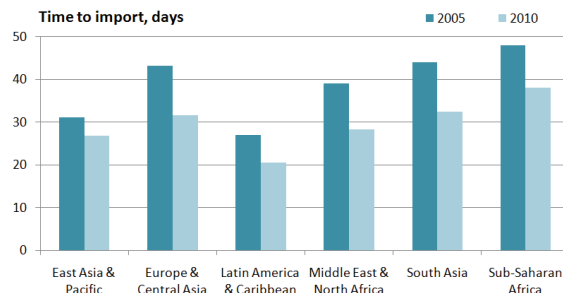
Reduced time to export and import

Economies in Europe and Central Asia reduced the average time required to export or to import a standard container of goods from 40 and 43 days in 2005 to 30 and 32 days in 2010. Doing Business surveys measure the time necessary to comply with all procedures required to export or to import goods and the time needed for inland transport to or from an ocean port. Georgia made the largest improvements, reducing the time to export from 54 days in 2005 to 10 days 2010 and the time to import from 52 days to 12 days. Armenia, Serbia, and Romania also made impressive progress, reducing the time to export by 15 to 21 days and the time to import by 15 to 30 days. But the region still lags behind the Latin America and the Caribbean and the East Asia and Pacific in average time required for exporting and importing.

Time to export, days



Time to import, days



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