



2.8 World Development Indicators: Poverty rates at international poverty lines

	International poverty line in local currency		Survey year ^b	Population below international poverty lines ^a								
	\$1.25 a day 2005	\$2 a day 2005		Population below \$1.25 a day %	Poverty gap at \$1.25 a day %	Population below \$2 a day %	Poverty gap at \$2 a day %	Survey year ^b	Population below \$1.25 a day %	Poverty gap at \$1.25 a day %	Population below \$2 a day %	Poverty gap at \$2 a day %
Albania	75.5	120.8	2005	<2	<0.5	7.9	1.5	2008	<2	<0.5	4.3	0.9
Algeria	48.4 ^c	77.5 ^c	1988	7.6	1.2	24.6	6.7	1995	6.8	1.4	23.6	6.5
Angola	88.1	141.0	2000	54.3	29.9	70.2	42.4	2009	43.4	16.5	67.4	31.5
Argentina	1.7	2.7	2009 ^{d,e}	2.0	1.2	3.4	1.7	2010 ^{d,e}	<2	0.7	<2	0.9
Armenia	245.2	392.4	2008	<2	<0.5	12.4	2.3	2010	2.5	<0.5	19.9	4.0
Azerbaijan	2,170.9	3,473.5	2001	6.3	1.1	27.1	6.8	2008	<2	<0.5	2.8	0.6
Bangladesh	31.9	51.0	2005	50.5	14.2	80.3	34.3	2010	43.3	11.2	76.5	30.4
Belarus	949.5	1,519.2	2010	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2011	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Belize	1.8 ^c	2.9 ^c	1998 ^f	11.3	4.7	26.3	10.0	1999 ^f	12.2	5.5	22.0	9.9
Benin	344.0	550.4	..	..	..	..	..	2003	47.3	15.7	75.3	33.5
Bhutan	23.1	36.9	2007	10.2	1.8	29.8	8.5	2012	1.7	<0.5	12.6	2.6
Bolivia	3.2	5.1	2007 ^e	13.1	6.6	24.7	10.9	2008 ^e	15.6	8.6	24.9	13.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.1	1.7	2004	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2007	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Botswana	4.2	6.8	1986	35.6	13.8	54.7	25.8	1994	31.2	11.0	49.4	22.3
Brazil	2.0	3.1	2008 ^f	6.0	3.4	11.3	5.3	2009 ^f	6.1	3.6	10.8	5.4
Bulgaria	0.9	1.5	2003	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2007	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Burkina Faso	303.0	484.8	2003	56.5	20.3	81.2	39.3	2009	44.6	14.7	72.6	31.7
Burundi	558.8	894.1	1998	86.4	47.3	95.4	64.1	2006	81.3	36.4	93.5	56.1
Cabo Verde	97.7	156.3	..	..	..	..	..	2002	21.0	6.1	40.9	15.2
Cambodia	2,019.1	3,230.6	2008	22.8	4.9	53.3	17.4	2009	18.6	3.5	49.5	15.1
Cameroon	368.1	589.0	2001	10.8	2.3	32.5	9.5	2007	9.6	1.2	30.4	8.2
Central African Republic	384.3	614.9	2003	62.4	28.3	81.9	45.3	2008	62.8	31.3	80.1	46.8
Chad	409.5	655.1	..	..	..	..	..	2003	61.9	25.6	83.3	43.9
Chile	484.2	774.7	2006 ^f	<2	0.5	3.2	1.1	2009 ^f	<2	0.7	2.7	1.2
China	5.1 ^g	8.2 ^g	2008 ^h	13.1	3.2	29.8	10.1	2009 ^h	11.8	2.8	27.2	9.1
Colombia	1,489.7	2,383.5	2009 ^f	9.7	4.7	18.5	8.2	2010 ^f	8.2	3.8	15.8	6.8
Comoros	368.0	588.8	..	..	..	..	..	2004	46.1	20.8	65.0	34.2
Congo, Dem. Rep.	395.3	632.5	..	..	..	..	..	2006	87.7	52.8	95.2	67.6
Congo, Rep.	469.5	751.1	..	..	..	..	..	2005	54.1	22.8	74.4	38.8
Costa Rica	348.7 ^c	557.9 ^c	2008 ^f	2.4	1.5	5.0	2.3	2009 ^f	3.1	1.8	6.0	2.7
Croatia	5.6	8.9	2004	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2008	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Czech Republic	19.0	30.4	1993 ^e	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	1996 ^e	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Côte d'Ivoire	407.3	651.6	2002	23.3	6.8	46.8	17.6	2008	23.8	7.5	46.3	17.8
Djibouti	134.8	215.6	..	..	..	..	..	2002	18.8	5.3	41.2	14.6
Dominican Republic	25.5 ^c	40.8 ^c	2009 ^f	3.0	0.7	10.0	2.7	2010 ^f	2.2	<0.5	9.9	2.4
Ecuador	0.6	1.0	2009 ^f	6.4	2.9	13.5	5.5	2010 ^f	4.6	2.1	10.6	4.1
Egypt, Arab Rep.	2.5	4.0	2005	2.0	<0.5	18.5	3.5	2008	<2	<0.5	15.4	2.8
El Salvador	6.0 ^c	9.6 ^c	2008 ^f	5.4	1.9	14.0	4.8	2009 ^f	9.0	4.4	16.9	7.6
Estonia	11.0	17.7	2003	<2	<0.5	2.6	<0.5	2004	<2	<0.5	<2	0.5
Ethiopia	3.4	5.5	2005	39.0	9.6	77.6	28.9	2011	30.7	8.2	66.0	23.6
Fiji	1.9	3.1	2003	29.2	11.3	48.7	21.8	2009	5.9	1.1	22.9	6.0
Gabon	554.7	887.5	..	..	..	..	..	2005	4.8	0.9	19.6	5.0
Gambia, The	12.9	20.7	1998	65.6	33.8	81.2	49.1	2003	29.8	9.8	55.9	24.4
Georgia	1.0	1.6	2009	15.2	4.2	32.7	11.6	2010	18.0	5.8	35.6	13.7
Ghana	5,594.8	8,951.6	1998	39.1	14.4	63.3	28.5	2006	28.6	9.9	51.8	21.3
Guatemala	5.7 ^c	9.1 ^c	2004 ^f	24.4	13.2	39.2	20.2	2006 ^f	13.5	4.7	26.3	10.5
Guinea	1,849.5	2,959.1	2003	56.3	21.3	80.8	39.7	2007	43.3	15.0	69.6	31.0
Guinea-Bissau	355.3	568.6	1993	52.1	20.6	75.7	37.4	2002	48.9	16.6	78.0	34.9
Guyana	131.5 ^c	210.3 ^c	1993 ^e	6.9	1.5	17.1	5.4	1998 ^e	8.7	2.8	18.0	6.7
Haiti	24.2 ^c	38.7 ^c	..	..	..	..	..	2001	61.7	32.3	77.5	46.7
Honduras	12.1 ^c	19.3 ^c	2008 ^f	21.4	11.8	32.6	17.5	2009 ^f	17.9	9.4	29.8	14.9
Hungary	171.9	275.0	2004	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2007	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
India	19.5 ⁱ	31.2 ⁱ	2005 ^h	41.6	10.5	75.6	29.5	2010 ^h	32.7	7.5	68.7	24.5
Indonesia	5,241.0 ⁱ	8,385.7 ⁱ	2010 ^h	18.1	3.3	46.1	14.3	2011 ^h	16.2	2.7	43.3	13.0
Iran, Islamic Rep.	3,393.5	5,429.6	1998	<2	<0.5	8.3	1.8	2005	<2	<0.5	8.0	1.8
Iraq	799.8	1,279.7	..	..	..	..	..	2007	2.8	<0.5	21.4	4.4
Jamaica	54.2 ^c	86.7 ^c	2002	<2	<0.5	8.5	1.5	2004	<2	<0.5	5.4	0.8
Jordan	0.6	1.0	2008	<2	<0.5	2.1	<0.5	2010	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Kazakhstan	81.2	129.9	2008	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2009	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Kenya	40.9	65.4	1997	19.6	4.6	42.7	14.7	2005	43.4	16.9	67.2	31.8
Kyrgyz Republic	16.2	26.0	2010	6.7	1.5	22.9	6.4	2011	5.0	1.1	21.6	5.4
Lao PDR	4,677.0	7,483.2	2002	44.0	12.1	76.9	31.1	2008	33.9	9.0	66.0	24.8
Latvia	0.4	0.7	2008	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2009	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Lesotho	4.3	6.9	1994	46.2	25.6	59.7	36.1	2003	43.4	20.8	62.3	33.1
Liberia	0.6	1.0	..	..	..	..	..	2007	83.8	40.9	94.9	59.6
Lithuania	2.1	3.3	2004	<2	<0.5	<2	0.5	2008	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Macedonia, FYR	29.5	47.2	2009	<2	<0.5	5.9	0.9	2010	<2	<0.5	6.9	1.2
Madagascar	945.5	1,512.8	2005	67.8	26.5	89.6	46.9	2010	81.3	43.3	92.6	60.1



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Malawi	71.2	113.8	2004	73.9	32.3	90.5	51.8	2010	61.6	26.2	82.3	44.0
Malaysia	2.6	4.2	2007 ^e	<2	<0.5	2.9	<0.5	2009 ^e	<2	<0.5	2.3	<0.5
Maldives			1998	25.6	13.1	37.0	20.0	2004	<2	<0.5	12.2	2.5
Mali	362.1	579.4	2006	51.4	18.8	77.1	36.5	2010	50.4	16.4	78.7	35.2
Mauritania	157.1	251.3	2004	25.4	7.0	52.6	19.2	2008	23.4	6.8	47.7	17.7
Mexico	9.6	15.3	2008	<2	<0.5	5.2	1.3	2010	<2	<0.5	4.5	1.0
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	0.8 ^c	1.3 ^c		..	..	..	..	2000 ^d	31.2	16.3	44.7	24.5
Moldova	6.0	9.7	2009	<2	<0.5	7.1	1.2	2010	<2	<0.5	4.4	0.7
Montenegro	0.6	1.0	2009	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2010	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Morocco	6.9	11.0	2001	6.3	0.9	24.3	6.3	2007	2.5	0.5	14.0	3.2
Mozambique	14,532.1	23,251.4	2003	74.7	35.4	90.0	53.6	2008	59.6	25.1	81.8	42.9
Namibia	6.3	10.1	1993 ^e	49.1	24.6	62.2	36.5	2004 ^e	31.9	9.5	51.1	21.8
Nepal	33.1	52.9	2003	53.1	18.4	77.3	36.6	2010	24.8	5.6	57.3	19.0
Nicaragua	9.1 ^c	14.6 ^c	2001 ^e	14.4	3.7	34.4	11.5	2005 ^e	11.9	2.4	31.7	9.6
Niger	334.2	534.7	2005	50.2	18.3	75.3	35.6	2008	43.6	12.4	75.2	30.8
Nigeria	98.2	157.2	2004	63.1	28.7	83.1	45.9	2010	68.0	33.7	84.5	50.2
Pakistan	25.9	41.4	2006	22.6	4.1	61.0	18.8	2008	21.0	3.5	60.2	17.9
Panama	0.8 ^c	1.2 ^c	2009 ^f	5.9	1.8	14.6	4.9	2010 ^f	6.6	2.1	13.8	5.1
Papua New Guinea	2.1 ^c	3.4 ^c		..	..	..	..	1996	35.8	12.3	57.4	25.5
Paraguay	2,659.7	4,255.6	2009 ^f	7.6	3.2	14.2	6.0	2010 ^f	7.2	3.0	13.2	5.7
Peru	2.1	3.3	2009 ^f	5.5	1.6	14.0	4.6	2010 ^f	4.9	1.3	12.7	4.1
Philippines	30.2	48.4	2006	22.6	5.5	45.0	16.4	2009	18.4	3.7	41.5	13.8
Poland	2.7	4.3	2010	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2011	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Romania	2.1	3.4	2010	<2	<0.5	<2	0.5	2011	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Russian Federation	16.7	26.8	2008	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2009	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Rwanda	295.9	473.5	2006	72.1	34.8	87.4	52.2	2011	63.2	26.6	82.4	44.6
São Tomé and Príncipe	7,953.9	12,726.3		..	..	..	..	2001	28.2	7.9	54.2	20.6
Senegal	372.8	596.5	2005	33.5	10.8	60.4	24.7	2011	29.6	9.1	55.2	21.9
Serbia	42.9	68.6	2009	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2010	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Seychelles	5.6 ^c	9.0 ^c	2000	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2007	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Sierra Leone	1,745.3	2,792.4	2003	53.4	20.3	76.1	37.5	2011	51.7	16.6	79.6	35.8
Slovak Republic	23.5	37.7	2008 ^e	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2009 ^e	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Slovenia	198.2	317.2	2003	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2004	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
South Africa	5.7	9.1	2006	17.4	3.3	35.7	12.3	2009	13.8	2.3	31.3	10.2
Sri Lanka	50.0	80.1	2007	7.0	1.0	29.1	7.4	2010	4.1	0.7	23.9	5.4
St. Lucia	2.4 ^c	3.8 ^c		..	..	..	..	1995	20.9	7.2	40.6	15.5
Sudan	154.4	247.0		..	..	..	..	2009	19.8	5.5	44.1	15.4
Suriname	2.3 ^c	3.7 ^c		..	..	..	..	1999	15.5	5.9	27.2	11.7
Swaziland	4.7	7.5	2001	62.9	29.4	81.0	45.8	2010	40.6	16.0	60.4	29.3
Syrian Arab Republic	30.8	49.3		..	..	..	..	2004	<2	<0.5	16.9	3.3
Tajikistan	1.2	1.9	2007	14.7	4.4	37.0	12.2	2009	6.6	1.2	27.7	7.0
Tanzania	603.1	964.9	2000	84.6	41.6	95.3	60.3	2007	67.9	28.1	87.9	47.5
Thailand	21.8	34.9	2009 ^j	<2	<0.5	4.6	0.8	2010 ^j	<2	<0.5	4.1	0.7
Togo	352.8	564.5	2006	38.7	11.4	69.3	27.9	2011	28.2	8.8	52.7	20.9
Trinidad and Tobago	5.8 ^c	9.2 ^c	1988 ^e	<2	<0.5	8.6	1.9	1992 ^e	4.2	1.1	13.5	3.9
Tunisia	0.9	1.4	2005	<2	<0.5	8.1	1.8	2010	<2	<0.5	4.3	1.1
Turkey	1.3	2.0	2009	<2	<0.5	2.7	0.7	2010	<2	<0.5	4.7	1.4
Turkmenistan	5,961.1 ^c	9,537.7 ^c	1993 ^e	63.5	25.8	85.7	44.9	1998 ^e	24.8	7.0	49.7	18.4
Uganda	930.8	1,489.2	2006	51.5	19.1	75.6	36.4	2009	38.0	12.2	64.7	27.4
Ukraine	2.1	3.4	2009	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2010	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Uruguay	19.1	30.6	2009 ^f	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5	2010 ^f	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Venezuela, RB	1,563.9	2,502.2	2005 ^f	13.4	8.2	21.9	11.6	2006 ^f	6.6	3.7	12.9	5.9
Vietnam	7,399.9	11,839.8	2006	21.4	5.3	48.1	16.3	2008	16.9	3.8	43.4	13.5
West Bank and Gaza	2.7 ^c	4.3 ^c	2007	<2	<0.5	2.5	0.5	2009	<2	<0.5	<2	<0.5
Yemen, Rep.	113.8	182.1	1998	12.9	3.0	36.4	11.1	2005	17.5	4.2	46.6	14.8
Zambia	3,537.9	5,660.7	2006	68.5	37.0	82.6	51.8	2010	74.5	41.9	86.6	56.8

a. Based on nominal per capita consumption averages and distributions estimated parametrically from grouped household survey data, unless otherwise noted. b. Refers to the year in which the underlying household survey data was collected and, in cases for which the data collection period bridged two calendar years, the year in which most of the data was collected is reported. c. Based on Purchasing Power parity (PPP) dollars imputed using regression. d. Covers urban areas only. e. Based on per capita income averages and distribution data estimated parametrically from grouped household survey data. f. Estimated non-parametrically from nominal income per capita distributions based on unit-record household survey data. g. PPP conversion factor based on urban prices. h. Population weighted average of urban and rural estimates. i. Based on benchmark national PPP estimate re-scaled to account for cost-of-living differences in urban and rural areas. j. Estimated non-parametrically from nominal consumption per capita distributions based on unit-record household survey data.

About the Data

The World Bank produced its first global poverty estimates for developing countries for World Development Report 1990: Poverty (World Bank 1990) using household survey data



for 22 countries (Ravallion, Datt, and van de Walle 1991). Since then there has been considerable expansion in the number of countries that field household income and expenditure surveys. The World Bank's Development Research Group maintains a database that is updated annually as new survey data become available (and thus may contain more recent data or revisions that are not incorporated into the table) and conducts a major reassessment of progress against poverty about every three years. PovcalNet (<http://iresearch.worldbank.org/Povcal-Net/>) is an interactive computational tool that allows users to replicate these internationally comparable \$1.25 and \$2 a day global, regional, and country-level poverty estimates and to compute poverty measures for custom country groupings and for different poverty lines. The Poverty and Equity Data portal (<http://povertydata.worldbank.org/poverty/home/>) provides access to the database and user-friendly dashboards with graphs and interactive maps that visualize trends in key poverty and inequality indicators for different regions and countries. The country dashboards display trends in poverty measures based on the national poverty lines (see table 2.7) alongside the internationally comparable estimates in the table, produced from and consistent with PovcalNet.

Data availability

The World Bank's internationally comparable poverty monitoring database now draws on income or detailed consumption data collected from interviews with 1.23 million randomly sampled households through more than 850 household surveys collected by national statistical offices in nearly 130 countries. Despite progress in the last decade, the challenges of measuring poverty remain. The timeliness, frequency, quality, and comparability of household surveys need to increase substantially, particularly in the poorest countries. The availability and quality of poverty monitoring data remains low in small states, countries with fragile situations, and low-income countries and even some middle-income countries. The low frequency and lack of comparability of the data available in some countries create uncertainty over the magnitude of poverty reduction. The need to improve household survey programs for monitoring poverty is clearly urgent. But institutional, political, and financial obstacles continue to limit data collection, analysis, and public access.

Data quality

Besides the frequency and timeliness of survey data, other data quality issues arise in measuring household living standards. The surveys ask detailed questions on sources of income and how it was spent, which must be carefully recorded by trained personnel. Income is generally more difficult to measure accurately, and consumption comes closer to the notion of living standards. And income can vary over time even if living standards do not. But consumption data are not always available: the latest estimates reported here use consumption data for about two-thirds of countries. However, even similar surveys may not be strictly comparable because of differences in timing or in the quality and training of enumerators. Comparisons of countries at different levels of development also pose a potential problem because of differences in the relative importance of the consumption of nonmarket goods. The local market value of all consumption in kind (including own production, particularly important in underdeveloped rural economies) should be included in total consumption expenditure but may not be. Most survey data now include valuations for consumption or income from own production, but valuation methods vary. The statistics reported here are based on consumption data or, when unavailable, on income surveys. Analysis of some 20 countries for which income and consumption expenditure data were both available from the same surveys found income to yield a higher mean than consumption but also higher inequality. When poverty measures based on consumption and income were compared, the two effects roughly cancelled each other out: there was no significant statistical difference.

International poverty lines

International comparisons of poverty estimates entail both conceptual and practical problems. Countries have different definitions of poverty, and consistent comparisons across countries can be difficult. Local poverty lines tend to have higher purchasing power in rich countries, where more generous standards are used, than in poor countries. Poverty measures based on international poverty lines attempt to hold the real value of the poverty line constant across countries, as is done when making comparisons over time. Since World Development Report 1990 the World Bank has aimed to apply a common standard in measuring extreme poverty, anchored to what poverty means in the world's poorest countries. The welfare of people living in different countries can be measured on a common scale by adjusting for differences in the purchasing power of currencies. The commonly used \$1 a day standard, measured in 1985 international prices and adjusted to local currency using purchasing power parities (PPPs), was chosen for World Development Report 1990 because it was typical of the poverty lines in low-income countries at the time. Early editions of World Development Indicators used PPPs from the Penn World Tables to convert values in local currency to equivalent purchasing power measured in U.S. dollars. Later editions used 1993 consumption PPP estimates produced by the World Bank. International poverty lines were recently revised using the new data on PPPs compiled in the 2005 round of the International Comparison Program, along with data from an expanded set of household income and expenditure surveys. The new extreme poverty line is set at \$1.25 a day in 2005 PPP terms, which represents the mean of the poverty lines found in the poorest 15 countries ranked by per capita consumption. The new poverty line maintains the same standard for extreme poverty—the poverty line typical of the poorest countries in the world—but updates it using the latest information on the cost of living in developing countries.

Definitions

• International poverty line in local currency is the international poverty lines of \$1.25 and \$2.00 a day in 2005 prices, converted to local currency using the PPP conversion factors estimated by the International Comparison Program. • Survey year is the year in which the underlying data were collected or, when the data collection period bridged two calendar years, the year in which most of the data were collected. • Population below \$1.25 a day and population below \$2 a day are the percentages of the population living on less than \$1.25 a day and \$2 a day at 2005 international prices. As a result of revisions in PPP exchange rates, poverty rates for individual countries cannot be compared with poverty rates reported in earlier editions. • Poverty gap is the mean shortfall from the poverty line (counting the non-poor as having zero shortfall), expressed as a percentage of the poverty line. This measure reflects the depth of poverty as well as its incidence.

Data sources

The poverty measures are prepared by the World Bank's Development Research Group. The international poverty lines are based on nationally representative primary household surveys by national statistical offices or by private agencies under the supervision of government or international agencies and obtained from government statistical offices and World Bank Group country departments. Detailed information on the methodology adopted by the Socio-Economic Database for Latin America and the Caribbean to process the income data used for countries in this region is available at <http://sedlac.econo.unlp.edu.ar/eng/methodology.php>. The World Bank Group has prepared an annual review of its poverty work since 1993. For details on data sources and methods used in deriving the World Bank's latest estimates, see <http://iresearch.worldbank.org/povcalnet>. For further discussion of the results, see Ravallion, Chen, and Sangraula (2009) and Chen and Ravallion (2011).