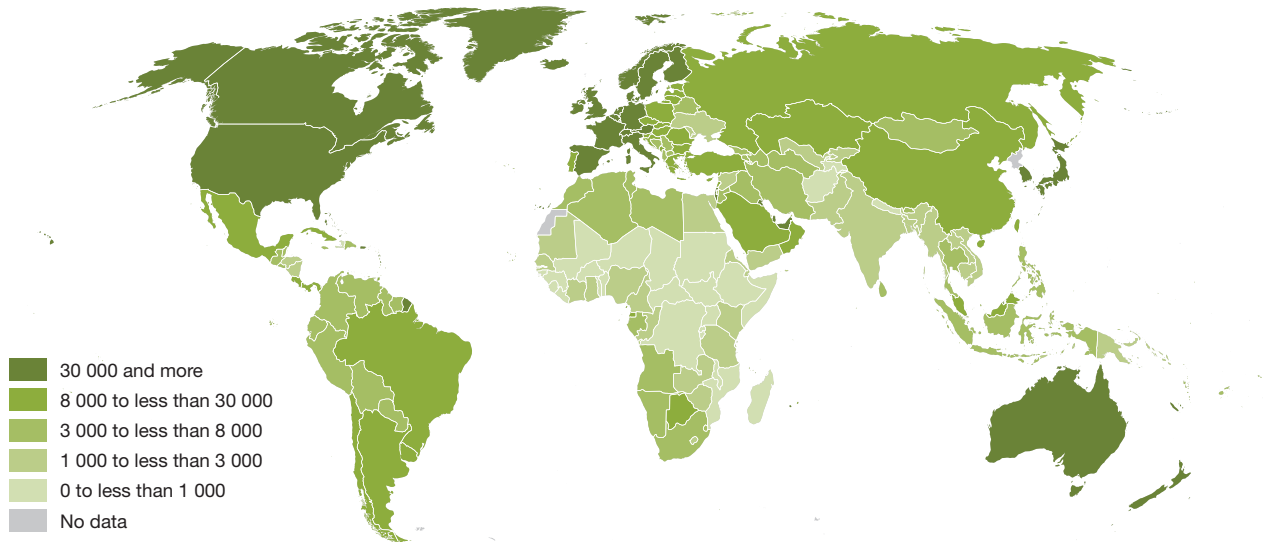




Fact sheet #7: Gross domestic product

Map 1 | Gross domestic product per capita, 2018
(United States dollars)



Concepts and definitions

GDP is an aggregate measure of production, income and expenditure of an economy. As production measure, it represents the gross value added, i.e. the output net of intermediate consumption, achieved by all resident units engaged in production, plus any taxes less subsidies on products not included in the value of output. As income measure, it represents the sum of primary incomes (gross wages and entrepreneurial income) distributed by resident producers, plus taxes and less subsidies on production and imports. As expenditure measure, it depicts the sum of expenditure on final consumption, gross capital formation (i.e. investment, changes in inventories, and acquisitions less disposals of valuables) and exports after deduction of imports (United Nations et al., 2009).

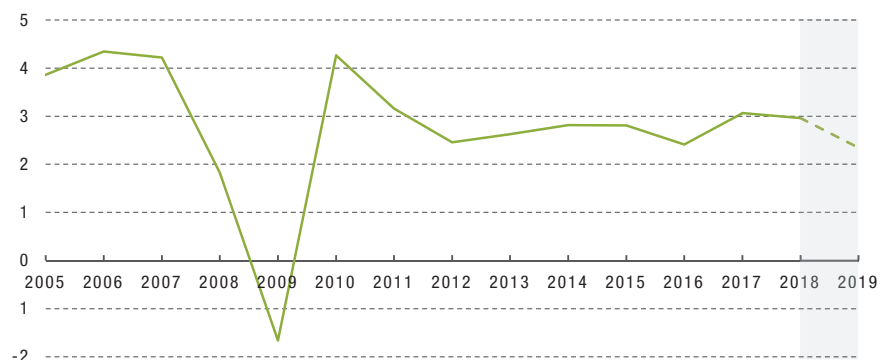
The GDP figures presented in this section are calculated from the expenditure side.

Trends in global economy

In 2018, world real GDP grew by 3.0 per cent, almost at the same pace as in 2017 (3.1 per cent). In 2019, the GDP growth rate is nowcast at 2.3 per cent. This would be the lowest annual growth rate recorded since 2009.

Large differences in GDP per capita persist throughout the world. In 2018, most developed economies produced an output per person greater than US\$30 000, with economies in Eastern Europe as the main exception. By contrast, almost half of the developing economies in Africa – all of them least developed countries (LDCs) – recorded a per capita output of less than US\$1 000. Most developing economies in America, Western, Central and Eastern Asia and in Oceania reached an output higher than US\$3 000 per person.

Figure 1 | World real gross domestic product annual growth rate (Percentage)



Note: At constant 2010 United States dollars. The shaded area indicates UNCTAD nowcasts. For the methodology, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2019, annex 6.3.

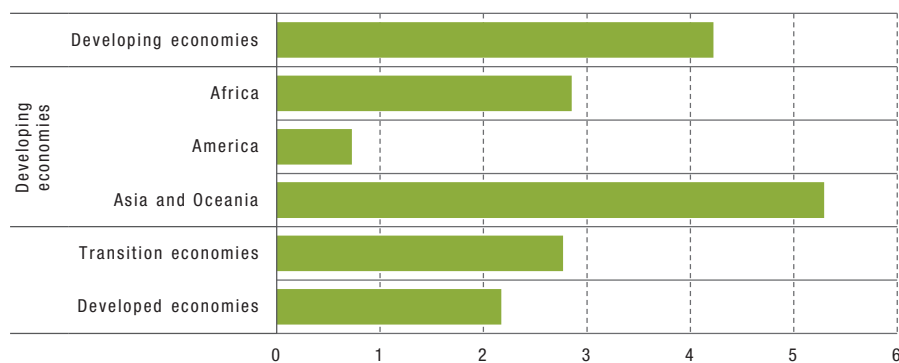


Regional trends

Not all regions of the world recorded equal economic growth in 2018. Growth remained high, at 5.3 per cent, in developing Asia and Oceania, whereas in the developing economies of America GDP increased by only 0.7 per cent. The growth rate of transition and developed economies stood at 2.8 and 2.2 per cent, respectively.

GDP in LDCs grew at a higher rate than the world average in 2018, as in the previous year, but at 4.7 per cent their growth rate remained below the 7 per cent target set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. GDP per capita increased by 2.3 per cent in LDCs.

Figure 2 | Growth of real gross domestic product by group of economies, 2018
(Percentage)

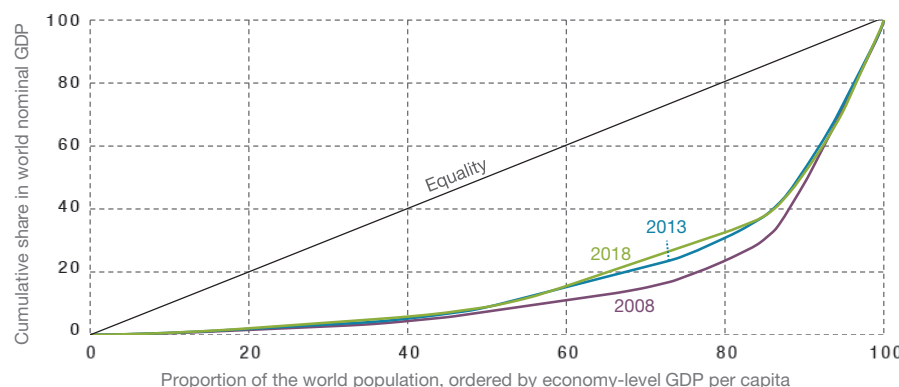


Note: At constant 2010 United States dollars.

Global economic inequality

Over the last ten years, the global distribution of nominal GDP per capita between economies has become more equal. For example, in 2008, the poorest economies, accounting for 80 per cent of the world's population, contributed 23 per cent to world GDP. By 2018, their share in GDP rose to 33 per cent. Between 2013 and 2018, however, inequalities in GDP per capita reduced mainly among economies with moderately high income. The relative distance between the richest and poorest economies in the world remained almost unchanged.

Figure 3 | Distribution of world gross domestic product
(Percentage)



Note: Lorenz curves, as in this graph, reveal the structure of inequality. Inequality is greater the further the curve runs below the diagonal line (see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2019, annex 6.3). Inequality within economies is not considered.

For references, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2019, annex 6.4.

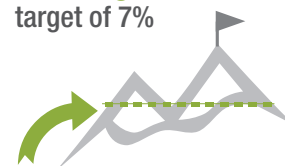
World economy grew steadily – at 3% in 2018



5.3% GDP growth in developing economies of Asia and Oceania



Growth rate of LDCs still below 2030 Agenda target of 7%



The 20% in the richest economies accounted for 66% of world GDP in 2018


Table 1 Gross domestic product and gross domestic product per capita

| Group of economies | Value | | Annual growth rate | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| | Nominal GDP | Nominal GDP per capita | Real GDP ^a | | Real GDP ^a per capita | |
| | (Billions of US\$) | (US\$) | (Percentage) | | (Percentage) | |
| | 2018 | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 |
| World | 85 304 | 11 181 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| Developing economies | 33 829 | 5 405 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 |
| Developing economies: Africa | 2 359 | 1 851 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Developing economies: America | 5 454 | 8 553 | 0.8 | 0.7 | -0.1 | -0.2 |
| Developing economies: Asia and Oceania | 26 016 | 5 985 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 4.5 | 4.3 |
| Transition economies | 2 274 | 7 332 | 2.1 | 2.8 | 1.7 | 2.4 |
| Developed economies | 49 200 | 46 378 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| Selected groups | | | | | | |
| Developing economies excluding China | 20 224 | 4 186 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| Developing economies excluding LDCs | 32 758 | 6 241 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| LDCs | 1 071 | 1 061 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 2.1 | 2.3 |
| LLDCs | 782 | 1 537 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| SIDS (UNCTAD) | 101 | 7 855 | 0.9 | 2.4 | -0.2 | 1.3 |
| HIPCs (IMF) | 680 | 944 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 2.5 | 2.2 |
| BRICS | 20 218 | 6 331 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 4.5 | 4.7 |
| G20 | 73 602 | 15 232 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.3 |

^a At constant 2010 United States dollars.

Table 2 Nominal gross domestic product by type of expenditure, 2017
(Percentage)

| Group of economies | Final consumption | | Gross capital formation | Net exports of goods and services |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Households ^a | Government ^b | | |
| World | 56.9 | 16.2 | 25.7 | 0.8 |
| Developing economies | 51.1 | 14.4 | 32.2 | 1.1 |
| Developing economies: Africa | 66.7 | 14.1 | 23.6 | -5.0 |
| Developing economies: America | 65.4 | 16.5 | 18.8 | -0.9 |
| Developing economies: Asia and Oceania | 46.3 | 13.9 | 36.2 | 2.2 |
| Transition economies | 53.7 | 17.1 | 24.9 | 3.8 |
| Developed economies | 60.9 | 17.4 | 21.3 | 0.4 |
| Selected groups | | | | |
| Developing economies excluding China | 59.1 | 14.5 | 25.1 | 0.7 |
| Developing economies excluding LDCs | 50.5 | 14.5 | 32.4 | 1.5 |
| LDCs | 68.4 | 10.4 | 27.9 | -8.6 |
| LLDCs | 60.8 | 13.4 | 28.7 | -4.1 |
| SIDS (UNCTAD) | 67.8 | 15.8 | 20.7 | -5.9 |
| HIPCs (IMF) | 69.7 | 12.9 | 26.2 | -10.3 |
| BRICS | 45.5 | 14.9 | 36.7 | 1.3 |
| G20 | 56.5 | 16.5 | 25.9 | 0.6 |

^a Including non-profit institutions serving households.

^b General government.



Table 3 | **Nominal gross value added by economic activity**
(Percentage)

| Group of economies | Agriculture | | Industry | | Services | |
|--|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2007 | 2017 | 2007 | 2017 | 2007 | 2017 |
| World | 3.5 | 4.3 | 29.5 | 28.1 | 67.0 | 67.5 |
| Developing economies | 8.9 | 8.7 | 38.9 | 35.8 | 52.2 | 55.5 |
| Developing economies: Africa | 15.0 | 16.9 | 35.0 | 29.5 | 50.0 | 53.6 |
| Developing economies: America | 5.3 | 5.5 | 33.1 | 27.9 | 61.7 | 66.7 |
| Developing economies: Asia and Oceania | 9.2 | 8.7 | 41.6 | 38.1 | 49.2 | 53.3 |
| Transition economies | 5.9 | 5.8 | 36.8 | 33.8 | 57.4 | 60.4 |
| Developed economies | 1.4 | 1.3 | 25.5 | 22.7 | 73.2 | 76.1 |
| Selected groups | | | | | | |
| Developing economies excluding China | 8.3 | 8.9 | 36.4 | 32.1 | 55.2 | 58.9 |
| Developing economies excluding LDCs | 8.4 | 8.2 | 39.2 | 36.0 | 52.4 | 55.8 |
| LDCs | 24.0 | 22.1 | 31.0 | 29.3 | 45.0 | 48.6 |
| LLDCs | 17.4 | 16.8 | 35.6 | 32.2 | 47.0 | 51.0 |
| SIDS (UNCTAD) | 4.2 | 5.0 | 32.2 | 24.6 | 63.6 | 70.4 |
| HIPCs (IMF) | 24.7 | 24.5 | 27.2 | 27.8 | 48.2 | 47.6 |
| BRICS | 9.6 | 8.8 | 39.5 | 37.0 | 50.9 | 54.3 |
| G20 | 2.9 | 3.7 | 28.4 | 27.6 | 68.7 | 68.7 |

Table 4 | **Economies with highest gross domestic product per capita**

| Economy | Nominal value | | Real annual growth rate ^a | Structure by type of expenditure | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | Final consumption | | Gross capital formation | Net exports of goods and services |
| | (US\$) | | (Percentage) | (Percentage) | (Percentage) | | |
| | 2017 | 2018 | (Percentage) | Household ^b | Government ^c | 2017 | 2017 |
| Luxembourg | 105 279 | 113 314 | 0.5 | 30.7 | 17.0 | 19.0 | 33.3 |
| Bermuda | 99 451 | 102 987 | 1.8 | 51.4 | 16.0 | 13.7 | 19.4 |
| China, Macao SAR | 80 891 | 86 914 | 4.3 | 24.2 | 9.9 | 18.5 | 47.4 |
| Switzerland, Liechtenstein | 80 676 | 82 904 | 1.7 | 53.8 | 12.0 | 23.5 | 10.7 |
| Norway | 75 424 | 81 477 | 0.6 | 44.5 | 24.1 | 28.2 | 3.2 |
| Ireland | 69 727 | 77 307 | 5.3 | 31.9 | 12.1 | 24.7 | 30.4 |
| Iceland | 73 198 | 76 809 | 3.9 | 50.3 | 23.3 | 22.3 | 4.1 |
| Qatar | 61 513 | 68 932 | -0.7 | 24.7 | 22.4 | 39.3 | 13.7 |
| Cayman Islands | 63 589 | 66 980 | 1.9 | 63.4 | 14.6 | 22.4 | 0.7 |
| United States of America | 59 660 | 62 380 | 2.3 | 68.3 | 14.0 | 20.5 | -2.8 |

^a At constant 2010 United States dollars.

^b Including non-profit institutions serving households.

^c General government.

Note: Economies are ranked by the nominal value in 2018.