

Readers guide

The 10 statistical tables provide an overview of key aspects of human development at the country and regional levels as well as for key country groupings. The tables include composite indices estimated by the Human Development Report Office (HDRO), using the methods detailed in *Technical notes 1–4*. Data in the tables are those available to the HDRO as of 15 May 2011, unless otherwise noted.

The tables include data for as many of the 192 UN member states as possible as well as Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Data availability determines Human Development Index (HDI) country coverage. Where reliable data are unavailable or there is significant uncertainty about the validity of the data, countries are excluded from calculations in order to ensure the statistical credibility of the *HDR*.

Countries and areas are ranked by their 2011 HDI value. The *Key to countries* on the inside back cover of the Report lists countries alphabetically with their HDI ranks.

All the indicators are available online in several formats at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics>, which includes interactive tools, maps of all the human development indices and selected animations, descriptive materials such as country factsheets, and guidance on how to calculate the indices. These materials are also available in French and Spanish.

Sources and definitions

The HDRO is primarily a user, not a producer, of statistics. It relies on international data agencies with the mandate, resources and expertise to collect and compile national data on specific indicators. Where data are not available from international data suppliers, data from other credible sources are used.

Definitions of indicators and sources for original data components are given at the end of each table, with full references in the *Statistical references*. For more detailed technical information about the indicators, the websites of the respective source agencies should be consulted; links to these sources are at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics>.

Comparisons over time and across editions of the Report

Because international data agencies continually improve their data series, the data—including the HDI values and ranks—presented in this Report are not comparable to those published in earlier editions. For the HDI, trends using consistent data—calculated at five-year intervals for 1980–2011—are presented in table 2.

Discrepancies between national and international estimates

When compiling data series, international agencies apply international standards and harmonization procedures to make national data comparable across countries. When data for a country are missing, an international agency may produce an estimate if other relevant information is available. In some cases international data series may not incorporate the most recent national data. All these factors can lead to discrepancies between national and international estimates.

When HDRO becomes aware of discrepancies, these are brought to the attention of national and international data authorities. The HDRO continues to advocate for improving international data and actively supports efforts to enhance data quality.

Country groupings and aggregates

In addition to country-level data, several population-weighted aggregates are presented. In general, an aggregate is shown for a country grouping only when the relevant data are available for at least half the countries and represent at least two-thirds of the available population in that classification. Aggregates for each classification represent only the countries for which data are available, unless otherwise noted. Occasionally aggregates are those from the original source rather than weighted averages; these values are indicated with a superscript “T”.

Human development classification

HDI classifications are relative—based on quartiles of HDI distribution across countries and denoted very high, high, medium and low HDI. Because there are 187 countries, the four groups do not have the same number of countries: the very high, high and medium HDI groups have 47 countries each, and the low HDI group has 46 countries.

Country groupings

Countries are grouped based on UNDP regional classification. Other groupings are based on UN classifications such as Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. The composition of each region is presented in *Regions*.

Country notes

Data for China do not include Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Macao Special Administrative Region of China or Taiwan Province of China, unless otherwise noted. Data for Sudan include South Sudan unless otherwise noted but are often based on information collected from the northern part of the country only.

Symbols

A dash between two years, as in 2005–2011, indicates that the data are the most recent year available in the period specified, unless otherwise noted. Growth rates are usually average annual rates of growth between the first and last years of the period shown.

A slash between years such as 2005/2011 indicates average for the years shown, unless otherwise noted.

The following symbols are used in the tables:

..	Not available
0 or 0.0	Nil or negligible
—	Not applicable
<	Less than