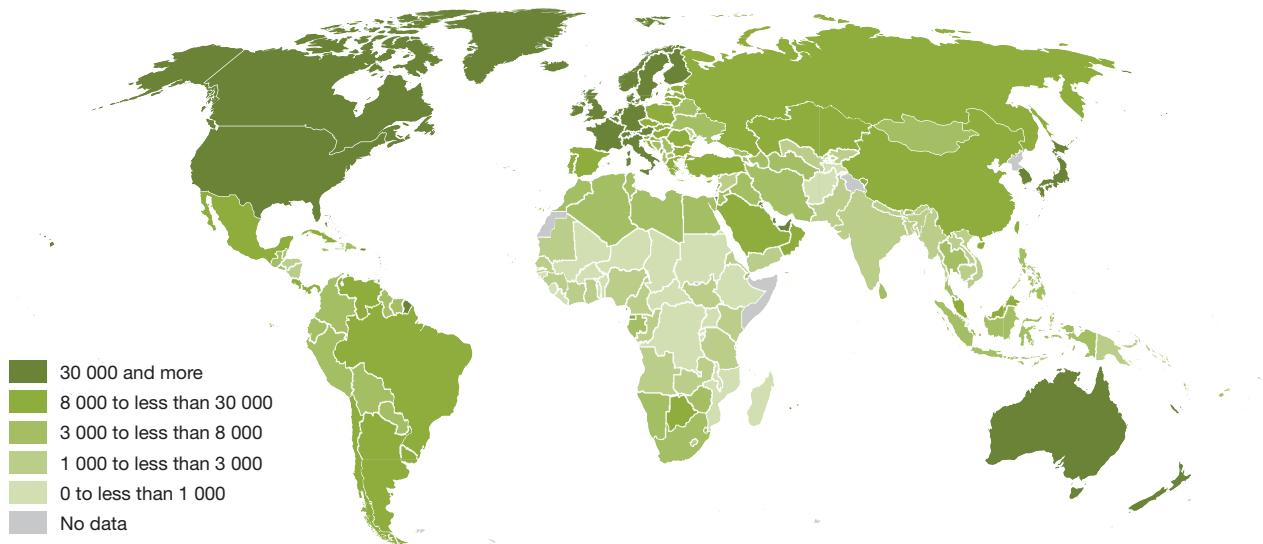




Fact sheet #7: Gross domestic product

Map 1 | Gross domestic product per capita, 2019
(United States dollars)



Concepts and definitions

GDP is an aggregate measure of production, income and expenditure of an economy. As a 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 an income measure, it represents the sum of primary incomes (gross wages and entrepreneurial income) distributed by resident producers, plus taxes less subsidies on production and imports. As an 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).

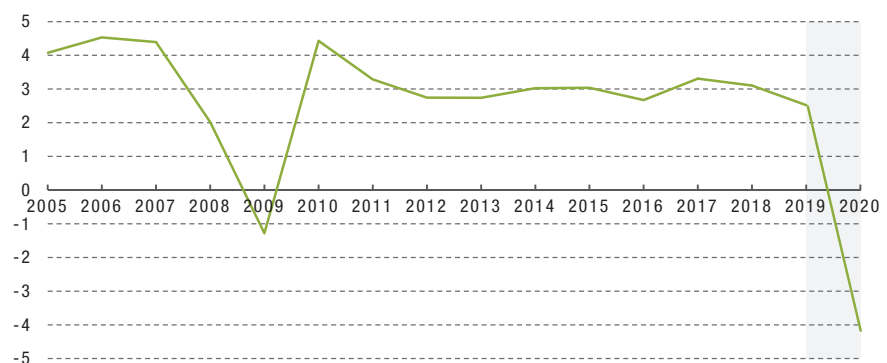
The GDP figures presented in this section are usually calculated from the expenditure side.

Trends in global economy

Global real GDP growth slipped to 2.5 per cent in 2019, the lowest level since the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009. A substantial drop of the GDP growth rate, to -4.3 per cent, is nowcast for 2020 in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

World real GDP per capita increased by 1.4 per cent in 2019. Large differences in GDP per capita persist throughout the world. In 2019, 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, 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: In constant 2015 United States dollars. The shaded area indicates UNCTAD nowcasts for the year 2020 (UNCTAD, 2020b).

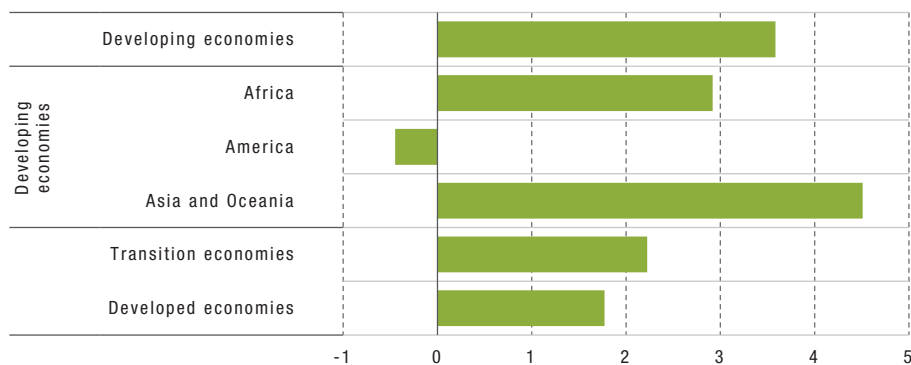


Regional trends

Annual growth decelerated in all regions of the world in 2019. It slowed considerably in developing Asia and Oceania, though, at 4.5 per cent, it remained higher than in other world regions. GDP in Africa grew by 2.9 per cent; in developing America it even slightly decreased (-0.4 per cent). The GDP growth rate of transition and developed economies declined to 2.2 and 1.8 per cent, respectively.

GDP in LDCs grew at a higher rate than the world average in 2019, as in 2018, 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, 2019
(Percentage)

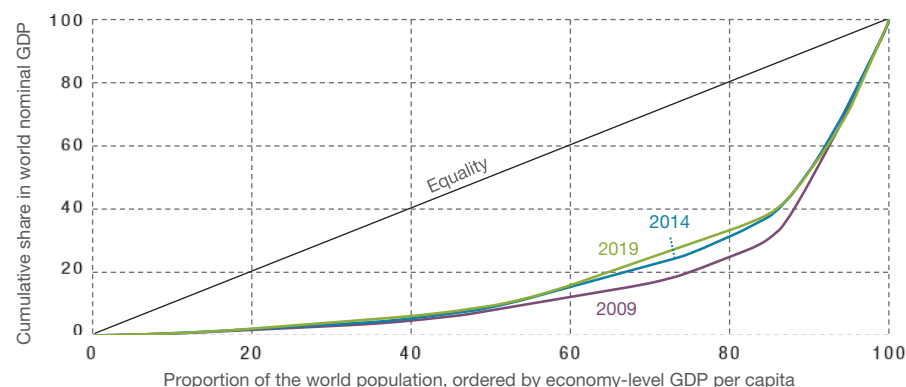


Note: In constant 2015 United States dollars.

Global economic inequality

Over the last 10 years, the global distribution of nominal GDP per capita across economies has become more equal. For example, in 2009 the poorest economies, accounting for 80 per cent of the world's population, contributed 24.6 per cent to world GDP. By 2019, their share in GDP rose to 33.9 per cent. The highest GDP per capita, in nominal terms, was recorded for Luxembourg (US\$113 642), Bermuda (US\$104 951), Macao SAR (US\$89 284), the Cayman Islands (US\$89 245), and the economy of Switzerland and Liechtenstein (US\$82 243).

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 2020, annex 6.3). Inequality within economies is not considered.

For references, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2020, annex 6.4.

World economic growth slowed

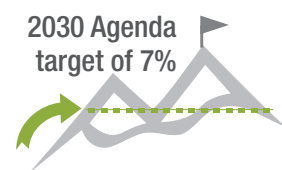
to a ten year low of 2.5% in 2019

World GDP nowcast to shrink by 4.3% in 2020



GDP growth rate of LDCs in 2019 far below the

2030 Agenda target of 7%



The richest economies, accounting for 66% of the world GDP in 2019,

had only 20% of the world's population




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)	
	2019	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
World	87 692	11 371	3.1	2.5	2.0	1.4
Developing economies	35 428	5 591	4.3	3.6	3.0	2.3
Developing economies: Africa	2 542	1 946	3.2	2.9	0.6	0.4
Developing economies: America	5 547	8 615	0.6	-0.4	-0.4	-1.4
Developing economies: Asia and Oceania	27 339	6 233	5.3	4.5	4.3	3.6
Transition economies	2 416	7 763	2.8	2.2	2.4	1.9
Developed economies	49 847	46 841	2.3	1.8	1.9	1.5
Selected groups						
Developing economies excluding China	21 200	4 324	2.9	1.9	1.3	0.4
Developing economies excluding LDCs	34 304	6 468	4.3	3.5	3.2	2.5
LDCs	1 124	1 088	4.5	4.7	2.1	2.3
LLDCs	900	1 728	4.7	4.5	2.2	2.1
SIDS (UNCTAD)	103	7 985	2.1	1.7	1.0	0.6
HIPCs (IMF)	723	977	5.2	5.0	2.3	2.1
BRICS	21 154	6 578	5.7	5.1	4.9	4.3
G20	75 289	15 479	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.0

^a In constant 2015 United States dollars.

Table 2 Nominal gross domestic product by type of expenditure, 2018
(Percentage)

Group of economies	Final consumption		Gross capital formation	Net exports of goods and services
	Households ^a	Government ^b		
World	56.5	16.2	26.1	0.7
Developing economies	50.9	14.4	32.9	0.9
Developing economies: Africa	67.8	13.3	22.7	-4.2
Developing economies: America	66.8	15.9	19.1	-1.2
Developing economies: Asia and Oceania	46.0	14.1	36.7	1.9
Transition economies	52.0	16.4	23.4	7.1
Developed economies	60.6	17.5	21.6	0.2
Selected groups				
Developing economies excluding China	59.0	14.1	25.4	1.1
Developing economies excluding LDCs	50.3	14.5	33.0	1.2
LDCs	68.1	10.5	28.9	-8.6
LLDCs	59.7	12.3	28.4	-2.9
SIDS (UNCTAD)	69.1	15.6	19.8	-6.1
HIPCs (IMF)	68.6	12.1	26.6	-9.1
BRICS	45.1	15.0	37.4	0.8
G20	56.1	16.6	26.4	0.4

^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	
	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018
World	3.7	4.1	29.9	28.4	66.4	67.5
Developing economies	8.9	8.1	39.9	36.2	51.1	55.7
Developing economies: Africa	15.4	16.1	37.5	30.8	47.1	53.1
Developing economies: America	5.4	5.4	33.3	27.7	61.4	66.9
Developing economies: Asia and Oceania	9.2	8.0	42.6	38.3	48.2	53.8
Transition economies	6.0	5.4	36.8	35.7	57.3	58.8
Developed economies	1.4	1.3	25.2	22.7	73.4	76.0
Selected groups						
Developing economies excluding China	8.4	8.6	37.4	32.9	54.2	58.5
Developing economies excluding LDCs	8.5	7.7	40.2	36.4	51.3	55.9
LDCs	23.7	20.8	32.2	29.8	44.2	49.4
LLDCs	17.1	16.0	37.1	33.5	45.8	50.5
SIDS (UNCTAD)	4.0	5.1	35.8	25.5	60.2	69.4
HIPCs (IMF)	25.1	23.3	27.8	29.0	47.1	47.7
BRICS	9.5	8.0	39.9	37.2	50.7	54.8
G20	3.1	3.5	28.6	27.8	68.3	68.8

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)		
	2018	2019	(Percentage)	Household ^b	Government ^c	2018	2018
Luxembourg	117 370	113 642	0.4	29.8	16.7	17.6	36.0
Bermuda	101 197	104 951	1.9	51.3	16.0	14.6	18.1
China, Macao SAR	86 356	89 284	0.6	24.1	9.7	15.8	50.5
Cayman Islands	85 477	89 245	1.4	63.4	14.6	22.4	0.7
Switzerland, Liechtenstein	83 136	82 243	0.2	53.3	11.8	22.7	12.2
Ireland	79 415	79 151	4.2	31.0	11.9	23.8	33.1
Norway	81 336	77 089	0.4	43.4	23.4	27.3	5.8
Iceland	76 868	70 785	1.2	50.7	23.6	22.6	3.1
Qatar	68 794	66 985	-2.0	22.1	15.9	42.9	19.2
United States of America	62 625	64 876	1.7	68.0	14.1	20.9	-3.0

Note: Economies are ranked by the nominal value in 2019.

^a In constant 2015 United States dollars.

^b Including non-profit institutions serving households.

^c General government.