

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Statistical Profiles of the Least Developed Countries



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Statistical Profiles of the Least Developed Countries

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Explanatory notes

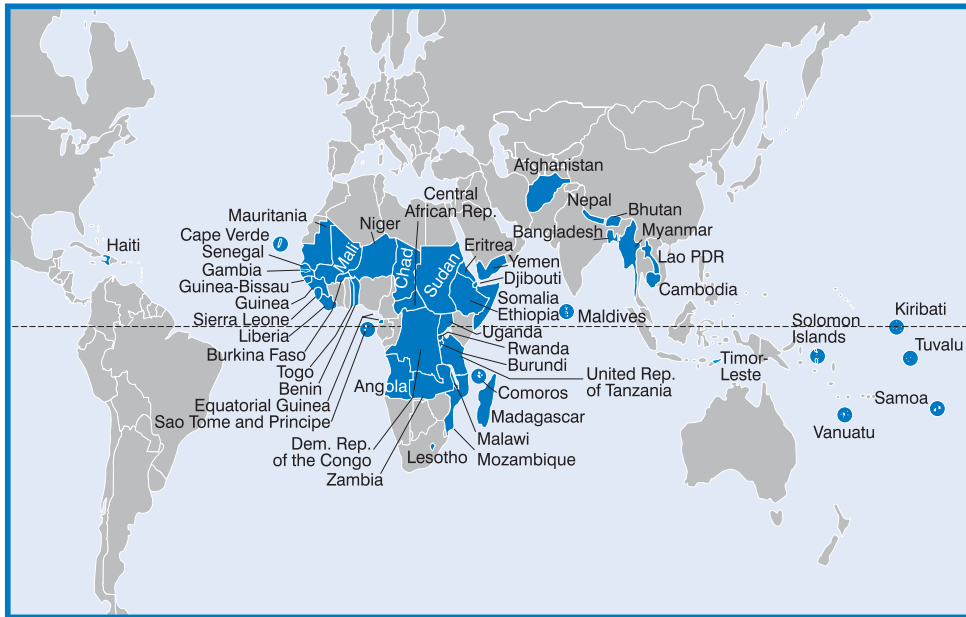
1. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
2. The data are drawn from various national and international sources.
3. All references to dollars (\$) are to United States dollars, except where stated otherwise.
4. Two dots (..) indicate that the data are not available or not separately reported.
5. The “industry” sector comprises mining, manufacturing, construction, electricity, water and gas.

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The LDCs: 50 States, 11.3% of the world population, 0.6% of the world GDP*



* 2004 data

The Least Developed Countries: regional distribution

Africa (34):

1. Angola
2. Benin
3. Burkina Faso*
4. Burundi*
5. Cape Verde**
6. Central African Republic*
7. Chad*
8. Comoros**
9. Democratic Republic of the Congo
10. Djibouti
11. Equatorial Guinea
12. Eritrea
13. Ethiopia*
14. Gambia
15. Guinea
16. Guinea-Bissau
17. Lesotho*
18. Liberia
19. Madagascar
20. Malawi*
21. Mali*
22. Mauritania
23. Mozambique
24. Niger*
25. Rwanda*
26. Sao Tome and Principe**
27. Senegal

Africa (contd.):

28. Sierra Leone
29. Somalia
30. Sudan
31. Togo
32. Uganda*
33. United Republic of Tanzania
34. Zambia*

Asia (10):

1. Afghanistan*
2. Bangladesh
3. Bhutan*
4. Cambodia
5. Lao People's Democratic Republic*
6. Maldives**
7. Myanmar
8. Nepal*
9. Timor-Leste**
10. Yemen

Caribbean (1):

1. Haiti

Pacific (5):

1. Kiribati**
2. Samoa**
3. Solomon Islands**
4. Tuvalu**
5. Vanuatu**

* Land-locked developing country ** Small island developing State

What are the Least Developed Countries?

Since 1971, the United Nations has denominated “Least Developed Countries” (LDCs) a category of low-income States that are deemed structurally disadvantaged in their development process, and facing more than other countries the risk of failing to come out of poverty. As such, LDCs are considered in need of the highest degree of attention on the part of the international community.

At the time of the 2003 review of the list of LDCs by the UN, the following three criteria were used:

- **low income**, based on a three-year average estimate of the gross national income per capita (under \$750 for cases of addition to the list, above \$900 for cases of graduation);
- **weak human assets**, in the light of a composite *Human Assets Index (HAI)* based on indicators of: (a) nutrition; (b) health; (c) school enrolment; and (d) adult literacy;
- **economic vulnerability**, in the light of a composite *Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI)* based on indicators of: (a) instability of agricultural production; (b) instability of exports of goods and services; (c) diversification from traditional economic activities; (d) merchandise export concentration; and (e) economic smallness.

A country qualified to be added to the list of LDCs if it met the above three criteria and did not have a population over 75 million. An LDC was considered as qualifying for graduation from LDC status if it met graduation thresholds under at least two of the three criteria in at least two consecutive reviews of the list.

Recognition by the UN of the particular problems faced by the LDCs brought the development partners of these countries, including UN agencies and programmes, to adopt a range of special international support measures in their favour, essentially to support the development of their physical infrastructure and human resources; reduce their competitive disadvantage in the global economy; and enhance their institutional capacities. Accordingly, there is LDC-specific treatment in the multilateral trading system (notably, through market access preferences); in the field of development financing; and in the area of technical assistance.

The Least Developed Countries in decreasing or gross national income (GNI) per capita, 2004 (in current US\$)

<i>Country</i>	<i>GNI per capita</i>	<i>Country</i>
1. Maldives	2,510	26. Mali
2. Samoa	1,860	27. United Republic of
3. Cape Verde	1,770	28. Cambodia
4. Vanuatu	1,340	29. Central African Rep
5. Angola	1,030	30. Madagascar
6. Djibouti	1,030	31. Gambia
7. Kiribati	970	32. Uganda
8. Bhutan	760	33. Chad
9. Lesotho	740	34. Nepal
10. Senegal	670	35. Mozambique
11. Yemen	570	36. Niger
12. Solomon Islands	550	37. Rwanda
13. Timor-Leste	550	38. Sierra Leone
14. Benin	530	39. Eritrea
15. Comoros	530	40. Malawi
16. Sudan	530	41. Guinea-Bissau
17. Guinea	460	42. Democratic Repub
18. Zambia	450	43. Ethiopia
19. Bangladesh	440	44. Liberia
20. Mauritania	420	45. Burundi
21. Haiti	390	46. Afghanistan
22. Lao People's Democratic Republic	390	47. Equatorial Guinea ..
23. Togo	380	48. Myanmar
24. Sao Tome and Principe	370	49. Somalia
25. Burkina Faso	360	50. Tuvalu



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