

# Technical notes

## Country nomenclature

The geographical designations and presentation of the material in this publication have been adopted solely for the purpose of providing a convenient geographical basis for the statistical series.

Because of space limitations, the country or area names used in the tables are generally the commonly employed short names in use in the United Nations, the full names being used only when a short form is not available. Countries or areas are listed in English alphabetical order.

## Notes on the indicators

Terms given below are arranged in alphabetical order and are defined in the *Data dictionary*, which begins on page 227.

*Agricultural production index* shows the relative level of the aggregate volume of agricultural production for a year in comparison with the base period 1999-2001. Data covers all crops and livestock products. The data were taken from FAOSTAT database [2] of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, available at <http://faostat.fao.org/site/612/default.aspx#ancor> (last accessed 17 November 2008).

*Balance of payments, current account.* The data were taken from the International Monetary Fund, *International Financial Statistics* [6], available at <http://www.imfststatistics.org/imf/> (last accessed 1 October 2008).

*CO<sub>2</sub> emission estimates* represent the volume of CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) produced during the combustion of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels, from gas flaring and the manufacture of cement. These estimates are from the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center [1], for the latest year available (2005), available at [http://cdiac.ornl.gov/ftp/ndp030/CSV-FILES/nation.1751\\_2005.csv](http://cdiac.ornl.gov/ftp/ndp030/CSV-FILES/nation.1751_2005.csv) (last accessed 7 November 2008). Original data were converted to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by using the conversion formula 1 gram Carbon = 3.664 grams CO<sub>2</sub> as per <http://cdiac.ornl.gov/pns/convert.html#3>.

*CO<sub>2</sub> emission estimates per capita* figures were computed by dividing the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates by the corresponding population estimates from the *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision* [15].

*Consumer price index* numbers were taken from *LABORSTA Internet* [5], an International Labour Organization database, table 7A *Consumer prices, general indices*, at <http://laborsta.ilo.org> (last accessed 20 October 2008). The index numbers are designed to show changes over time in the cost of selected goods and services that are considered as representative of the consumption habits of the population concerned. Unless otherwise noted, the indices here generally refer to "all items" and to the country as a whole.

*Contraceptive prevalence* refers to the percentage of women married or in-union aged 15 to 49 who are currently using, or whose sexual partner is using, at least one method of contraception, regardless of the method used. Data are produced

by the United Nations Population Division using data from nationally representative surveys including the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), the Fertility and Family Surveys (FFS), the CDC-assisted Reproductive Health Surveys (RHS), the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and national family planning, or health, or household, or socio-economic surveys. The data contain the most recent estimates of contraceptive prevalence available as of March 2009. Countries with no data for 1985 or earlier are not included. The data are from the World Contraceptive Use 2009 Database [12], produced by the United Nations Population Division.

*Currency* shows the national currency name and the ISO currency code. Data were taken from the United Nations website at <http://www.un.org/Depts/treasury/>.

*Employment in agricultural and in industrial sectors*, unless otherwise noted, refer to the 15 years and over age group who perform any work at all, in the reference period, for pay or profit in industry (mining, manufacturing and electricity, gas and water) and agriculture. The data were taken from the Key Indicators of the Labour Market database [4], prepared by the International Labour Organization (ILO). See also <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/kilm/>.

*Energy consumption per capita* refers to "apparent consumption", which is derived from the formula "production + imports - exports - bunkers +/- stock changes". Accordingly, the series may in some cases represent only an indication of the magnitude of actual inland availability. The data were taken from the Energy Statistics Database of the United Nations Statistics Division and refer to the year 2006. They are published in the *Energy Statistics Yearbook* [18].

*Exchange rates* are shown in units of national currency per US dollar and refer to end-of-period quotations. Unless otherwise noted, the data refer to the midpoint market rates (average of buying and selling rates). The data were taken from the International Monetary Fund, *International Financial Statistics* [6], available at <http://www.imfstatistics.org/imf/> (last accessed 1 October 2008). For those currencies for which the IMF does not publish exchange rates, non-commercial rates derived from the operational rates of exchange for United Nations programmes are shown, as published by the United Nations at <http://www.un.org/Depts/treasury/>.

*Food production index* covers commodities that are considered edible and contain nutrients. The index numbers shown may differ from those produced by countries themselves because of differences in concepts of production, coverage, weights, time reference of data, and methods of evaluation. The data include estimates made by FAO in cases where no official or semi-official figures are available from the countries. The data were taken from the FAOSTAT database [2] of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, available at <http://faostat.fao.org/site/612/default.aspx#ancor> (last accessed 17 November 2008).

*Forested area* data were taken from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005* [3], *Extent of forest and other wooded land 2005*, available at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/32032/en> (last accessed 21 November 2008).

*Government education expenditure (% of GDP)* data were taken from the website of UNESCO Institute for Statistics [9], *Table 19: Finance Indicators by ISCED level*,

available at <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=172> (last accessed 13 October 2008). They show the general trends in public expenditure on public education expressed as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product. The data shown should be considered as approximate indications of the public resources allocated to education.

*Gross domestic product (GDP)* in current United States dollars are estimates of the total production of goods and services of the countries represented in economic terms, not as a measure of the standard of living of their inhabitants. In order to have comparable coverage for as many countries as possible, these US dollar estimates are based on official GDP data in national currency, supplemented by national currency estimates prepared by the Statistics Division using additional data from national and international sources. The estimates given here are in most cases those accepted by the United Nations General Assembly's Committee on Contributions for determining United Nations members' contributions to the United Nations regular budget. The exchange rates for the conversion of GDP national currency data into United States dollars are the average market rates published by the International Monetary Fund, in *International Financial Statistics* [6]. Official exchange rates are used only when free market rates are not available. For non-members of the Fund, the conversion rates used are the average of United Nations operational rates of exchange. It should be noted that the conversion from local currency into US dollars introduces deficiencies in comparability over time and among countries which should be considered when using the data. For example, comparability over time is distorted when exchange rate fluctuations differ substantially from domestic inflation rates. The data are from the National Accounts Database (September 2008 update) compiled from national data provided to the United Nations Statistics Division and are published in the *National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates* [21]. See also <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/dnllist.asp>.

*Gross domestic product per capita (GDP per capita)* estimates are the value of all goods and services produced in the economy divided by population. The data are from the National Accounts Database (September 2008 update) compiled from national data provided to the United Nations Statistics Division and published in the *National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates* [21]. See also <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/dnllist.asp>.

*Gross fixed capital formation* data are based on the percentage distribution of GDP in current prices. The data are from the National Accounts Database (September 2008 update) compiled from national data provided to the United Nations Statistics Division and are published in the *National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates* [21]. See also <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/dnllist.asp>. Data in national currency are published in *National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables* [22].

*Gross national income per capita (GNI per capita)* estimates are the aggregate value of the gross balances of primary incomes for all sectors in the economy divided by population. The data are from the National Accounts Database (September 2008 update) compiled from national data provided to the United Nations

Statistics Division and are published in the *National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates* [21]. See also <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/dnllist.asp>.

*Growth rate of Gross Domestic Product at constant 1990 prices* is derived on the basis of constant price series in national currency. The figures are computed as geometric mean of annual rates of growth expressed in percentages for the years indicated. Data are from the National Accounts Database (September 2008 update) compiled from national data provided to the United Nations Statistics Division, published in the *National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates* [21]. See also <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/dnllist.asp>.

*Industrial production index* data shown here generally covers mining, manufacturing and electricity, gas and water. Unless otherwise noted, data do not include construction. They are from table 5 of the United Nations *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* [20], September 2008. See also <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mbs/>.

*Infant mortality (per 1 000 live births) rates* are, unless otherwise noted, the five-year projected averages for the reference period 2005-2010. Data are from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/health.htm> (December 2008 update). See also *social indicators*.

*Intentional homicide rates* are the annual number of deaths purposely inflicted by another persons by sex reported for the year per 100 000 corresponding mid-year population. The data refer to the latest available year and are from the United Nations Statistics Division's *Demographic Yearbook 2006* [17], Table 21, *Death and death rates by cause*, and classified under *External causes, assaults*. See also <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2.htm>.

*International migrant stock* generally represents the number of persons born in a country other than that in which they live. For most countries which lack information on country of birth, data on the number of persons having foreign citizenship was used instead. In absence of any empirical data, estimates were imputed. Data refer to mid-2010 and are the outcome of dividing the estimated international migrant stock by the estimated total population, expressed as a percentage. Estimates of international migrants are obtained from United Nations, *Trends in total migrant stock: The 2008 revision* [11], produced by the United Nations Population Division and available at [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org). Estimates of total population are obtained from United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 revision*, produced by the United Nations Population Division and available at <http://www.unpopulation.org>.

*Internet users per 100 inhabitants* are based on nationally reported data for users divided by the total population and then multiplied by 100. There are variations in data collection among countries: some use surveys that give a more precise figure for the number of Internet users, while others base their estimates on derivations from reported Internet Service Provider subscriber counts, calculated by multiplying the number of subscribers by a multiplier. Surveys may differ across countries in the user age and frequency of use they cover. Some figures may refer to only users above a certain age. The data are from the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database 2008 (12th Edition) of the International Telecommunication Union [8], available at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html> (last accessed 24 September 2008).

*Labour force participation rate* is calculated by expressing the number of persons in the labour force as a percentage of the working-age population. The labour force is the sum of the number of persons employed and the number of unemployed. The working-age population is the population above a certain age, prescribed for the measurement of economic characteristics. Unless otherwise noted, the data refer to the age group of 15 years and over and are from the estimates and projections published in the Key Indicators of the Labour Market database [4], prepared by the International Labour Organization. See also <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/kilm/>.

*Largest urban agglomeration* shows the population of the largest urban agglomeration (city plus contiguous built-up areas) or, if unavailable, largest city according to its administrative boundaries for each country or area. The data refer to 2007 and are from the *Urban Agglomerations, 2007, Wall Chart* [13], produced by the United Nations Population Division and available at [http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wup2007/2007urban\\_agglo.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wup2007/2007urban_agglo.htm).

*Life expectancy at birth* for men and women are, unless otherwise noted, the five-year projected averages for the reference period 2005-2010. Data are from the United Nations Statistics Division and available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/health.htm> (December 2008 update). See also *social indicators*.

*Major trading partners* display the largest three trade partners and data are expressed as percentages of total exports and of total imports of the country or area, as estimated by the United Nations Statistics Division from its Commodity Trade Statistics Database [16] (*COMTRADE*, see <http://comtrade.un.org/db/default.aspx>). These series are published in the United Nations *International Trade Statistics Yearbook* [19].

*Mean total rainfall* data are computed from average monthly measurements from the weather stations in the largest urban agglomeration or city, unless otherwise noted. The data are official weather observations, weather forecasts and climatological information for selected cities supplied by National Meteorological & Hydrological Services (NMHSs) worldwide, and were taken from the website of the World Meteorological Organization [26], available at <http://www.worldweather.org/> (last accessed 14 November 2008). See also *largest urban agglomeration*.

*Mean temperature °C (minimum and maximum)* data were computed from average monthly measurements from the weather stations in the largest urban agglomeration or city, unless otherwise noted. The data are official weather observations, weather forecasts and climatological information for selected cities supplied by National Meteorological & Hydrological Services (NMHSs) worldwide, and were taken from the website of the World Meteorological Organization [26], available at <http://www.worldweather.org/> (last accessed 14 November 2008). See also *largest urban agglomeration*.

*Newspaper circulation* data were taken from the website of UNESCO Institute for Statistics [9], *Newspapers report, Daily newspapers: Total average circulation per 1,000 inhabitants* indicator, at <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=398> (last accessed 16 October 2008).

*Parliamentary seats* refer to the number of women and men in the lower and upper chamber of parliament expressed as a percentage of total seats. The data were taken from the Inter-Parliamentary Union [7], *Women in National Parliaments, Situation as of 30 November 2008*, available at <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>.

*Population aged 0-14 years* refers to the population aged 0-14 years of both sexes as a percentage of total population. Unless otherwise noted, data refer to the reference period 2008 and are from:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/child&elderly.htm> (December 2008 update). See also *social indicators*.

*Population aged 60 years and over* refers to elderly men as a percentage of all males and elderly women as a percentage of all females. Unless otherwise noted, data refer to the reference period 2008 and are from:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/child&elderly.htm> (December 2008 update). See also *social indicators*.

*Population density* refers to population per square kilometre of surface area. Data are derived from the *population projections* for 2007 divided by the *surface area*. See also *population projections* and *surface area*.

*Population growth rate* is the average annual percentage change in total population size. Unless otherwise noted, data refer to the reference period 2005-2010 and are from:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/population.htm> (December 2008 update). See also *social indicators*.

*Population projections* for 2007 were prepared by the United Nations Population Division and published in the *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision* [15], available at <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wpp2006/wpp2006.htm>.

*Primary energy production* refers to the first stage of production of various forms of energy, converted into a common unit (metric ton of oil equivalent). The data are from the Energy Statistics Database of the United Nations Statistics Division. They are published in the *Energy Statistics Yearbook* [18].

*Primary-secondary gross enrolment ratios* are from the website of the UNESCO Institute of Statistics [9], *Table 5 Enrolment ratios by ISCED level*, available at <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=182> (last accessed 10 October 2008). The enrolment ratio generally is the total enrolment of all ages in first- and second-level education, divided by the total population in the official ages of enrolment in the country times 100. The gross enrolment ratio at the first and second level should include all pupils whatever their ages, whereas the population is limited to the range of official school ages. Therefore, for countries with almost universal education among the school-age population, the gross enrolment ratio will exceed 100 if the actual age distribution of pupils extends beyond the official school ages.

*Refugees* in this series refers to persons granted a humanitarian status and/or those granted temporary protection. Included are persons who have been granted temporary protection on a group basis. The series also includes returned refugees, asylum seekers and persons displaced internally within their own country for reasons that would make them of concern to the Office of the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) if they were outside their country of origin. The data are from *2007 Global Trends, Table 1. Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by country/territory of asylum, end-2007* [10], available at <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics.html> (2007 Annexes).

*Region* is given according to regional groupings of countries and areas based mainly on continents. These are from *Standard Country or Area Codes and Geographical Regions for Statistical Use, Revision 4* (United Nations publication), available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>.

*Rural population growth rate* data are based on the number of persons defined as urban or rural according to national definitions of this concept. In most cases these definitions are those used in the most recent population census. These series are from *Urban and Rural Areas, 2007, Wall Chart* [14], produced by the United Nations Population Division and available at [http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wup2007/2007urban\\_rural.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wup2007/2007urban_rural.htm).

*Sex ratio* is calculated as the ratio of the number of men to that of 100 women.

Unless otherwise noted, data refer to the reference period 2008 and are from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/population.htm> (December 2008 update). See also *social indicators*.

*Social indicators*: the data on seven indicators (*infant mortality rate, life expectancy, population aged 0-14, population aged 60 years and over, total fertility rate, population annual growth rate and sex ratio*) were taken from the website of the Demographic and Social Statistics branch of the United Nations Statistics Division at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/default.htm> (December 2008 update). The main data source is the Population Division's publication the *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision* [15]. The data were supplemented by official national statistics published in United Nations *Demographic Yearbook 2006* [17] and data compiled by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Demography Programme, available at <http://www.spc.int/prism/social/demog.html>.

*Surface area* (excluding polar regions and uninhabited islands) data are from table 3 in the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook 2006* [17]. See also <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2.htm>.

*Third-level students* percentages are from the website of the UNESCO Institute of Statistics [9], *table 14 Tertiary indicators*, available at <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=167> (last accessed 13 October 2008).

*Threatened species* represents the number of plants and animals that are compiled by the World Conservation Union IUCN/ Species Survival Commission (SSC). The data are from Table 5 of *The 2008 Review of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* [25], available at [http://iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/red\\_list/2008\\_red\\_list\\_summary\\_statistics/index.cfm](http://iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/red_list/2008_red_list_summary_statistics/index.cfm) (last accessed 13 October 2008).

*Total fertility rate* is, unless otherwise noted, the five-year average for the reference period 2005-2010. The data are from

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/childbearing.htm> (December 2008 update). See also *social indicators*.

*Total telephone subscribers per 100 inhabitants* refer to the sum of main telephone lines and cellular mobile subscribers divided by the population and multiplied by 100. The data are from the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database 2008 (12th Edition) of the International Telecommunication Union [8], available at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html> (last accessed 24 September 2008).

*Total trade: exports and imports* show the movement of goods out of and into a country as estimated by the United Nations Statistics Division in its Commodity Trade Statistics Database [16] (Comtrade, see <http://comtrade.un.org/db/default.aspx>). These series are published in the United Nations *International Trade Statistics Yearbook* [19]. Exports are generally valued at the frontier of the importing country (f.o.b. valuation). Imports are valued at the frontier of the importing country (c.i.f. valuation). Both imports and exports are shown in United States dollars. Conversion from national currencies is made by means of currency conversion factors based on official exchange rates (par values or weighted averages).

*Tourist arrival* data shown are compiled by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and published in the UNWTO *Yearbook of Tourism Statistics* [23]. Unless otherwise indicated, the data refer to arrivals of non-resident tourists at national borders, and include information received by UNSD as of 31 October 2008.

*Unemployment* refers to persons above a certain age who during a specified period of time were without work, currently available for work and seeking work. National definitions of unemployment often differ from the recommended international standard definitions and thereby limit international comparability. Inter-country comparisons are also complicated by the different types of data collection systems used to obtain information on unemployed persons. The data were taken from LABORSTA Internet [5], an ILO database, table 3A, *Unemployment, general level*, available at <http://laborsta.ilo.org> (last accessed 27 October 2008). Unless otherwise noted, these data refer to the 15 years and over age group and are national employment office statistics, usually labour force surveys, compiled by the ILO.

*United Nations membership dates* are from the United Nations Terminology Bulletin [24], available at <http://unterm.un.org/> and the List of Member States, available at <http://www.un.org/Overview/unmember.html>.

*Urban population* and *urban population growth rate* series are based on the number of persons defined as urban or rural according to national definitions of this concept. In most cases these definitions are those used in the most recent population census. These series are from *Urban and Rural Areas, 2007*, Wall Chart [14], produced by the United Nations Population Division and available at [http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wup2007/2007urban\\_rural.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wup2007/2007urban_rural.htm).