

Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America & Caribbean: regional data from the WDI database

	Population	GNI per capita		Life expectancy at birth	Primary completion rate	Access to improved water source	Carbon dioxide emissions	Total debt service	Internet users
	millions	Atlas ^a	PPP ^b	years	% of relevant age	%	per capita metric tons	% of exports	per 100 people
		2007	2007						
Latin America & Caribbean	561	5,801	9,678	73	100	91	2.5	16.0	26.9
East Asia & Pacific	1,912	2,182	4,969	72	98	87	3.6	4.0	14.6
Europe & Central Asia	446	6,052	11,262	70	98	95	7.0	18.7	21.4
Middle East & North Africa	313	2,820	7,402	70	90	89	3.7	5.8	17.1
South Asia	1,522	880	2,532	64	80	87	1.1	12.9	6.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	800	951	1,869	51	60	58	0.8	5.0	4.4
Selected economies:									
Argentina	40	6,040	12,970	75	97	96	3.9	13.0	25.9
Bolivia	10	1,260	4,150	66	101	86	1.0	11.9	10.5
Brazil	192	5,860	9,270	72	106	91	1.7	27.8	35.2
Chile	17	8,190	12,330	78	..	95	4.1	14.2	31.1
Colombia	44	4,100	8,260	73	107	93	1.4	22.0	27.5
Costa Rica	4	5,520	10,510	79	91	98	1.7	4.4	33.6
Cuba	11	..	d	78	93	91	2.2	..	11.6
Dominican Republic	10	3,560	6,350	72	89	95	2.0	8.6	17.2
Ecuador	13	3,110	7,110	75	106	95	2.2	18.7	13.2
El Salvador	7	2,850	5,640	72	91	84	1.0	11.0	11.1
Guatemala	13	2,450	4,520	70	77	96	0.9	5.2	10.1
Haiti	10	520	1,050	61	..	58	0.2	4.7	10.4
Honduras	7	1,590	3,610	70	88	84	1.1	3.7	6.0
Jamaica	3	3,330	5,300	73	82	93	3.8	17.3	56.1
Mexico	105	9,400	13,910	75	104	95	4.1	12.5	22.7
Nicaragua	6	990	2,510	73	73	79	0.7	11.7	2.8
Panama	3	5,500	10,610	76	99	92	1.8	5.3	22.3
Paraguay	6	1,710	4,520	72	95	77	0.7	6.2	8.7
Peru	28	3,410	7,200	71	101	84	1.4	25.0	27.4
Trinidad and Tobago	1	14,480	22,420	70	88	94	24.7	..	16.0
Uruguay	3	6,390	11,020	76	99	100	1.7	19.1	29.1
Venezuela, RB	27	7,550	12,290	74	98	..	5.6	7.4	20.8

Note: Figures in italics are for years or periods other than those specified.

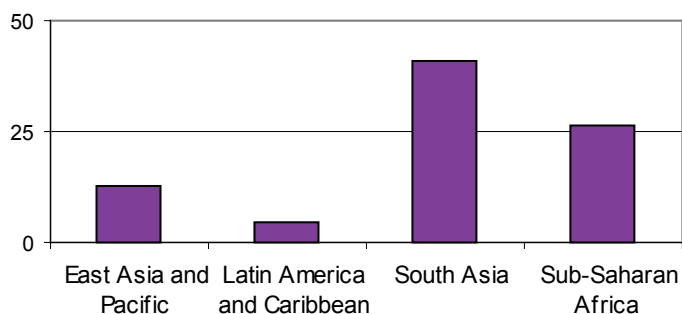
a. Atlas method; see WDI Statistical methods. b. Data are for the most recent year available. c. Provisional data. d. Estimated to be upper middle income (\$3,706-\$11,455).

Source: 2009 World Development Indicators database, World Bank. April 20, 2009.

Improving health indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean

The region has a low child malnutrition rate (4 percent around 2007) and high immunization rate against measles (93 percent in 2007). Under-five mortality rate was more than halved between 1990 and 2007 (from 55 to 26 per 1,000). The region also ranks high on indicators of reproductive health. Ninety five (95) percent of pregnant women received prenatal care, and 89 percent of the births were attended by skilled health staff. The maternal mortality ratio was the second lowest among developing regions, after Europe and Central Asia.

Prevalence of child malnutrition (% of children under five), around 2007



People

Education for all—Latin America and the Caribbean has achieved the Millennium Development Goal of providing universal access to primary education for all children. In secondary school, gross enrollment rates increased from 51 percent to 89 percent between 1991 and 2006. Enrollments in higher education improved significantly as well. In both secondary and tertiary education, more girls were enrolled than boys.

Environment

Increasing cereal yields—In the last 15 years, **Latin America and the Caribbean** has doubled its use of fertilizers (to 110 kg/ha of arable lands) and, without any increase in its use of agricultural machinery, has increased its cereal yield by 50 percent (the highest among all regions) matching the with the global average of 3.2 metric tons per hectare.

Economy

Trade – a northern exposure—Latin America and the Caribbean is the third largest exporter and importer of merchandise among all developing regions, but 46 percent of the region's merchandise exports are directed to United States. An additional 25 percent were directed to other high-income economies. Due to the financial and economic crisis, high-income economies are importing less and the region's export revenues are likely to decline. For example, in February 2009, merchandise exports from Brazil and Mexico declined by 29 percent and 25 percent, respectively, compared to February 2008.

Feeling the effects of the financial crisis—Latin America and the Caribbean benefitted from increasing private capital inflows in 2007. Commercial bank and other private lending almost doubled between 2006 and 2007, reaching \$37 billion. Net portfolio equity flows reached \$30 billion, up from \$11 billion in 2006. Foreign direct investment also increased by 50 percent, reaching \$107 billion in 2007. But, in the last quarter of 2008, following the onset of the global financial crisis, bond spreads for most countries widened, increasing the cost of borrowing. Argentina, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Venezuela were among the countries where the sovereign bond spreads exceeded the “distressed debt level” of 1,000 basis

States and markets

More Internet users per capita than other developing country regions—Rapid advances in information and communication technology have connected people, businesses, and governments around the world, enabling knowledge sharing across countries. Although Internet use in developing countries in 2007 is only about one-fifth of that in high-income countries, in **Latin America and the Caribbean** about 27 of 100 people use the Internet. Latin American and Caribbean countries with the highest rate of Internet use are Jamaica (56 per 100 people); Brazil (35 per 100 people); and Uruguay (29 per 100 people).

Global links

Migration and remittances—Latin America and the Caribbean had the highest net out-migration among all developing regions for the period 2000-2005. In return, the region received \$63 billion of workers' remittances in 2007, the second largest amount after East Asia and the Pacific. Mexico accounted for more than 58 percent of regional net migration and received 43 percent of the remittances.