

# South Asia

## South Asia: 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 <sup>a</sup>	PPP <sup>b</sup>	years	% of relevant age	%	per capita metric tones 2005	% of exports	per 100 people
		2007	2007		2007			2007 <sup>c</sup>	
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>2,532</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>
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
Latin America & Caribbean	561	5,801	9,678	73	100	91	2.5	16.0	26.9
Middle East & North Africa	313	2,820	7,402	70	90	89	3.7	5.8	17.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	800	951	1,869	51	60	58	0.8	5.0	4.4

### Selected economies:

Bangladesh	159	470	1,330	64	..	80	0.3	3.9	0.3
India	1,125	950	2,740	65	86	89	1.3	7.7	7.2
Nepal	28	350	1,060	64	78	89	0.1	4.5	1.4
Pakistan	162	860	2,540	65	62	90	0.9	8.9	10.8
Sri Lanka	20	1,540	4,200	72	106	82	0.6	6.7	3.9

**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.

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

## People

### Challenges for human development

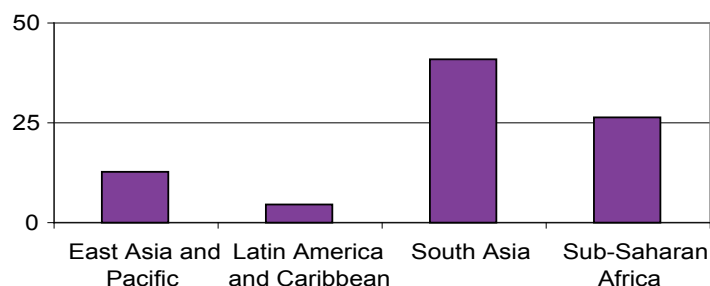
Extreme poverty declined from 52 percent in 1990 to 40 percent in 2005. In spite of this success, the number of poor people increased and the region remains home to the largest number of extremely poor people: nearly 600 million in 2005.

The region has made large improvements in education, but has not yet attained the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education. The primary completion rate rose from 62 percent in 1991 to 80 percent in 2006 and, in a region where girls have traditionally received fewer opportunities than boys, the ratio of girls to boys in secondary education improved from 59 percent to 84 percent between 1991 and 2005.

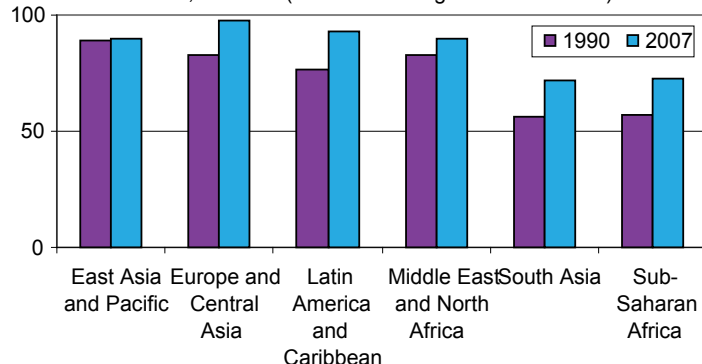
Over 40 percent of children are underweight, and despite recent improvements, the immunization rate against measles remains one of the lowest of all regions (72 percent in 2007). The slower improvement in the under five mortality rate (125 in 1990 to 78 per 1,000 in 2007) reflects the difficult task that the region faces in trying to reach the MDG target of reducing child mortality by two-thirds by 2015.

South Asia generally affords poor reproductive health conditions. Maternal mortality was the second highest (500 per 100,000 live births) among developing regions in 2005. Only 41 percent of births were assisted by skilled health staff, and the region had the lowest proportion of pregnant women receiving prenatal care.

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



Immunization, measles (% of children ages 12-23 months)



## Environment

### A largely rural population

South Asia remains the most rural region. In 1990 75 percent of its population living in rural areas. By 2007 this was down to 71 percent but its rural population continues to increase at an annual rate of 1.5 percent. More than half of its land area is used for agricultural purposes, of which 42 percent is classified as arable land used for temporary crops and market or kitchen gardens. The region has 13.8 hectares of arable land per 100 people, second lowest among developing regions.

## Economy

### Growing trade in services

South Asia's exports of services climbed to \$96 billion in 2007. Almost two-thirds was in computer, information, and communications services. As a share of GDP total trade (exports plus imports) nearly doubled between 2000 and 2006, reaching 14 percent, the highest in any region.

## States and markets

### India leads the world in ICT service exports

India leads all countries in exports of information communication technology (ICT) services—communications, computer, and information services. Exports increased from about \$5 billion in 2000 to over \$30 billion in 2006, accounting for about 42 percent of total service exports. India's software industry employs about 1.6 million people. China is the next largest ICT services trader, with about \$5.5 billion in ICT service exports.

## Global links

### Increased financing from private sources

South Asia region received \$36 billion of net portfolio equity flows in 2007, 3.5 times the receipts in 2006. Net bond issuances more than doubled from \$4.3 billion in 2006 to \$9.5 billion in 2007. Foreign direct investment net inflows also increased significantly, reaching \$30 billion in 2007. South Asia increased its borrowing from private creditors for 2006 and 2007. Net commercial bank and other private lending in 2006 and 2007 were \$16 billion and \$18 billion, respectively, compared to the \$4 billion in 2005. The region also received \$52 billion remittances in 2007, a 32 percent increase from 2006.

