

The
Economist

POCKET
WORLD IN
FIGURES

1998

EDITION

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128 Finland	192 South Africa
130 France	194 South Korea
132 Germany	196 Spain
134 Greece	198 Sweden
136 Hong Kong	200 Switzerland
138 Hungary	202 Taiwan
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^a At the time of going to press Zaire had been renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo but had not been officially recognised by many countries.

Notes

This edition of the annual *Economist Pocket World in Figures* has been expanded to include a larger number of countries. The country profiles cover some 63 major countries, including Russia and Ukraine, and a selection of statistics for the other ex-Soviet republics. The world rankings consider 171: all those with a population of at least 1m or a GDP of at least \$1bn; they are listed on page 223. The extent and quality of the statistics available varies from country to country. Every care has been taken to specify the broad definitions on which the data are based and to indicate cases where data quality or technical difficulties are such that interpretation of the figures is likely to be seriously affected. Nevertheless, figures from individual countries will often differ from standard international statistical definitions.

Statistics do not yet fully reflect the changes that have taken place in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, ex-Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union. In ex-Yugoslavia, Serbia and Montenegro now constitute the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Macedonia is officially known as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Data for Cyprus normally refer to Greek Cyprus only. For other countries such as Morocco they exclude disputed areas. Data for the EU refer to its 15 members following the enlargement of the Union on January 1 1995.

Statistical basis

The all-important factor in a book of this kind is to be able to make reliable comparisons between countries. Although this is never quite possible for the reasons stated above, the best route, which this book takes, is to compare data for the same year or period and to use actual, not estimated, figures wherever possible. The research for this edition of *The Economist Pocket World in Figures* was carried out in 1997 using the latest available sources that present data on an internationally comparable basis. Data, therefore, unless otherwise indicated, refers to the year ending December 31 1995.

In the country profiles, population density, population under 15 and over 65, and number of men per 100 women refer to 1995; life expectancy, crude birth, death and fertility rates are based on 1995–2000 averages; human development indices are for 1993 and GDP per head in purchasing power parity to 1995; energy data refer to 1994; household data are

latest available and marriage and divorce data refer to the latest year with available figures, 1990–95. In a number of cases, data are shown for the latest year within a range.

Other definitions

Data shown on country profiles may not always be consistent with those shown on the world rankings because the definitions or years covered can differ. Data may also differ between two different rankings.

Most countries' national accounts are now compiled on a GDP basis so, for simplicity, the term GDP has been used interchangeably with GNP. GDP figures in this book come from the World Bank. It bases its rouble conversions on purchasing power parities.

Statistics for principal exports and principal imports are normally based on customs statistics. These are generally compiled on different definitions to the visible exports and imports figures shown in the balance of payments section.

Definitions of the statistics shown are given on the relevant page or in the glossary at the end of the book. Figures may not add exactly to totals, or percentages to 100, because of rounding or, in the case of GDP, statistical adjustment. Sums of money have generally been converted to US dollars at the official exchange rate ruling at the time to which the figures refer.

Energy consumption data are not always reliable, particularly for the major oil producing countries. Consumption per head data may therefore be higher than in reality. Energy exports can exceed production and imports can exceed consumption if transit operations distort trade data or oil is imported for refining and re-exported.

Abbreviations

bn	billion (one thousand million)	GNP	Gross national product
CAR	Central African Republic	GRT	Gross tonnage
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	m	million
EU	European Union	NDP	Net domestic product
kg	kilogram	NMP	Net material product
km	kilometre	PPP	Purchasing power parity
GDP	Gross domestic product	UAE	United Arab Emirates
		...	not available

== Part I ==

WORLD RANKINGS

Countries: *natural facts*

Countries: *the largest^a*

'000 sq km

1	Russia	17,078	31	Nigeria	924
2	Canada	9,922	32	Venezuela	912
3	China	9,597	33	Namibia	824
4	United States	9,363	34	Pakistan	804
5	Brazil	8,512	35	Mozambique	785
6	Australia	7,682	36	Turkey	779
7	India	3,169	37	Zambia	753
8	Kazakhstan	2,717	38	Chile	752
9	Sudan	2,506	39	Myanmar	678
10	Saudi Arabia	2,401	40	Afghanistan	652
11	Algeria	2,382	41	Somalia	630
12	Zaire	2,345	42	Central African Rep	625
13	Argentina	2,278	43	Ukraine	604
14	Mexico	1,973	44	Madagascar	594
15	Indonesia	1,919	45	Kenya	583
16	Libya	1,760	46	Botswana	575
17	Iran	1,648	47	France	544
18	Mongolia	1,565	48	Thailand	514
19	Peru	1,285	49	Spain	505
20	Chad	1,284	50	Turkmenistan	488
21	Angola	1,247	51	Yemen	477
22	Mali	1,240	52	Cameroon	476
23	Niger	1,186	53	Papua New Guinea	463
24	South Africa	1,185	54	Morocco	458
25	Colombia	1,139	55	Sweden	450
26	Bolivia	1,099	56	Uzbekistan	447
27	Mauritania	1,031	57	Iraq	438
29	Egypt	1,023	58	Paraguay	407
28	Ethiopia	1,023	59	Zimbabwe	390
30	Tanzania	940	60	Japan	370

Mountains: *the highest^b*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Height (m)</i>
1 Everest	Nepal-China	8,848
2 K2 (Godwin Austen)	Pakistan	8,611
3 Kangchenjunga	Nepal-Sikkim	8,586
4 Lhotse	Nepal-China	8,516
5 Makalu	Nepal-China	8,463
6 Cho Oyu	Nepal-China	8,201
7 Dhaulagiri	Nepal	8,167
8 Manaslu	Nepal	8,163
9 Nanga Parbat	Pakistan	8,125
10 Annapurna I	Nepal	8,091
11 Gasherbrum I	Pakistan-China	8,068
12 Broad Peak	Pakistan-China	8,047
13 Xixabangma (Gosainthan)	China	8,046
14 Gasherbrum II	Pakistan-China	8,035

^a Includes freshwater.

^b Includes separate peaks which are part of the same massif.

Rivers: the longest

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Length (km)</i>
1 Nile	Africa	6,695
2 Amazon	South America	6,516
3 Yangtze	Asia	6,380
4 Mississippi-Missouri	North America	6,019
5 Ob'-Irtysh	Asia	5,570
6 Yenisey-Angara	Asia	5,550
7 Hwang He (Yellow)	Asia	5,464
8 Congo	Africa	4,667
9 Parana	South America	4,500
10 Mekong	Asia	4,425
11 Amur	Asia	4,416
12 Lena	Asia	4,400
13 Mackenzie	North America	4,250
14 Niger	Africa	4,030
15 Missouri	North America	3,969
16 Mississippi	North America	3,779
17 Murray-Darling	Australia	3,750
18 Volga	Europe	3,688
19 Kolyma	Asia	3,513
20 Madeira	South America	3,200
21 Yukon	North America	3,185
22 Indus	Asia	3,180
23 Syrdar'ya	Asia	3,078
24 Salween	Asia	3,060
25 Sao Francisco	South America	2,900
26 Rio Grande	North America	2,870
27 Danube	Europe	2,850
28 Brahmaputra	Asia	2,840
29 Euphrates	Asia	2,815
30 Para-Tocantis	South America	2,750

Waterfalls: the highest

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Height (m)</i>
1 Angel	Venezuela	979
2 Tugela	South Africa	948
3 Utigard	Norway	800
4 Mongefossen	Norway	774
5 Yosemite	California, USA	739
6 Mardalsfossen	Norway	656
7 Tyssestrengane	Norway	646
8 Cuquenán	Venezuela	609
9 Ribbon	California, USA	491
10 Della	Canada	440

Notes: Estimates of the lengths of different rivers vary widely according to the rules adopted concerning the selection of tributaries to be followed, the path to take through a delta, where different hydrological systems begin and end etc. The Nile is normally taken as the world's longest river but some estimates put the Amazon as longer if a southerly path through its delta leading to the River Para is followed. Likewise, difficulties in waterfall measurements exist depending on which breaks in the fall are counted. The more famous waterfalls, Niagara and Victoria, are surprisingly small, 50m and 108m respectively; their notoriety evolving from their width and accessibility.

Population: *explosions revealed*

Largest populations, 1995

Millions

1	China	1,220.22	31	Argentina	34.77
2	India	929.01	32	Tanzania	29.69
3	United States	267.12	33	Canada	29.40
4	Indonesia	197.46	34	Algeria	28.11
5	Brazil	159.02	35	Kenya	27.15
6	Russia	148.46	36	Sudan	26.71
7	Pakistan	136.26	37	Morocco	26.52
8	Japan	125.07	38	Peru	23.53
9	Bangladesh	118.23	39	Uzbekistan	22.76
10	Nigeria	111.72	40	Romania	22.73
11	Mexico	91.15	41	North Korea	22.10
12	Germany	81.59	42	Venezuela	21.84
13	Vietnam	73.79	43	Nepal	21.46
14	Iran	68.37	44	Taiwan	21.30
15	Philippines	67.84	45	Malaysia	20.14
16	Egypt	62.10	46	Iraq	20.10
17	Turkey	60.84	47	Uganda	19.69
18	Thailand	58.24	48	Afghanistan	19.66
19	France	58.10	49	Saudi Arabia	18.26
20	United Kingdom	58.08	50	Sri Lanka	17.93
21	Italy	57.20	51	Australia	17.87
22	Ethiopia	56.40	52	Ghana	17.34
23	Ukraine	51.76	53	Mozambique	17.26
24	Zaire	45.45	54	Kazakhstan	16.82
25	Myanmar	45.11	55	Netherlands	15.48
26	South Korea	44.91	56	Yemen	15.03
27	South Africa	41.47	57	Madagascar	14.87
28	Spain	39.63	58	Chile	14.21
29	Poland	38.56	59	Syria	14.20
30	Colombia	35.81	60	Côte d'Ivoire	13.69

Largest populations, 2010

Millions

1	China	1,364.95	13	Vietnam	92.26
2	India	1,152.28	14	Ethiopia	89.52
3	United States	298.89	15	Philippines	88.81
4	Indonesia	239.38	16	Germany	82.48
5	Pakistan	200.62	17	Egypt	80.26
6	Brazil	189.78	18	Turkey	74.62
7	Nigeria	168.37	19	Zaire	69.78
8	Bangladesh	151.89	20	Thailand	64.57
9	Russia	141.06	21	France	59.94
10	Japan	127.04	22	United Kingdom	58.73
11	Mexico	112.89	23	Myanmar	57.46
12	Iran	98.27	24	South Africa	56.61

Fastest growing populations, 1985-95*Average annual growth, %*

1 Oman	4.5	11 Macao	3.5
Yemen	4.5	12 Iran	3.4
3 Qatar	4.3	Jordan	3.4
4 West Bank and Gaza	4.2	Madagascar	3.4
5 Gambia, The	4.1	15 Côte d'Ivoire	3.3
6 Guinea	4.0	Niger	3.3
7 Saudi Arabia	3.7	17 Ethiopia	3.2
Zaire	3.7	Kenya	3.2
9 Libya	3.6	Mali	3.2
United Arab Emirates	3.6	Syria	3.2

Slowest growing populations, 1985-95*Average annual growth, %*

1 Rwanda	-1.5	Ireland	0.0
2 Bosnia	-1.4	Romania	0.0
3 Bulgaria	-0.5	13 Croatia	0.1
Hungary	-0.5	Italy	0.1
5 Liberia	-0.4	15 Denmark	0.2
6 Estonia	-0.2	Finland	0.2
Kuwait	-0.2	Slovenia	0.2
Latvia	-0.2	Ukraine	0.2
9 Portugal	-0.1	19 Belgium	0.3
10 Czech Republic	0.0	United Kingdom	0.3

Fastest growing populations, 1995-2010*Average annual growth, %*

1 Liberia	5.0	11 Angola	3.1
2 Rwanda	4.3	Ethiopia	3.1
3 West Bank and Gaza	4.1	Jordan	3.1
4 Oman	4.0	Madagascar	3.1
5 Yemen	3.6	15 Mali	3.0
6 Afghanistan	3.5	16 Benin	2.9
7 Somalia	3.4	Laos	2.9
8 Libya	3.2	Uganda	2.9
Niger	3.2	Zaire	2.9
Saudi Arabia	3.2	20 Burkina Faso	2.8

Slowest growing populations, 1995-2010*Average annual growth, %*

1 Latvia	-0.8	7 Belarus	-0.2
2 Estonia	-0.7	Italy	-0.2
3 Hungary	-0.6	Lithuania	-0.2
4 Bulgaria	-0.4	Romania	-0.2
Ukraine	-0.4	Slovenia	-0.2
6 Russia	-0.3		

Population density

Highest population density

Population per sq km

1	Macau	23,865	21	El Salvador	269
2	Hong Kong	5,859	22	Israel	262
3	Singapore	5,384	23	Réunion	261
4	Bermuda	1,189	24	Haiti	257
5	Malta	1,160	25	Trinidad & Tobago	251
6	Bahrain	821	26	Guadeloupe	249
	Bangladesh	821	27	Netherlands Antilles	242
8	Barbados	606	28	United Kingdom	238
9	Taiwan	592	29	Germany	229
10	Mauritius	547	30	Philippines	226
11	South Korea	454	31	Jamaica	225
12	Puerto Rico	416	32	Vietnam	222
13	Netherlands	379	33	Burundi	218
14	Martinique	345	34	Rwanda	197
15	West Bank and Gaza	344	35	Italy	190
16	Belgium	332	36	North Korea	183
17	Japan	331	37	Switzerland	174
18	Lebanon	289	38	Pakistan	171
19	India	283	39	Dominican Republic	161
20	Sri Lanka	273	40	Luxembourg	158

Lowest population density

Population per sq km

Population per sq. mi.				
1	Australia	2	Papua New Guinea	9
	Botswana	2	Russia	9
	Mauritania	2	23 Oman	10
	Mongolia	2	24 Sudan	11
	Namibia	2	Zambia	11
6	Canada	3	26 Algeria	12
	Iceland	3	Paraguay	12
	Libya	3	28 Argentina	13
	Suriname	3	New Zealand	13
10	Gabon	4	Norway	13
11	Central African Rep	5	31 Finland	15
	Chad	5	Somalia	15
13	Kazakhstan	6	33 Peru	18
14	Bolivia	7	Uruguay	18
	Niger	7	35 Brazil	19
16	Congo	8	Chile	19
	Saudi Arabia	8	Zaire	19
	Turkmenistan	8	38 Bahamas	20
19	Angola	9	Sweden	20
	Mali	9	40 Mozambique	22

Note: Estimates of population density refer to the total land area of a country. In countries such as Japan and Canada, where much of the land area is virtually uninhabitable, the effective population densities of the habitable areas are much greater than the figures suggest.