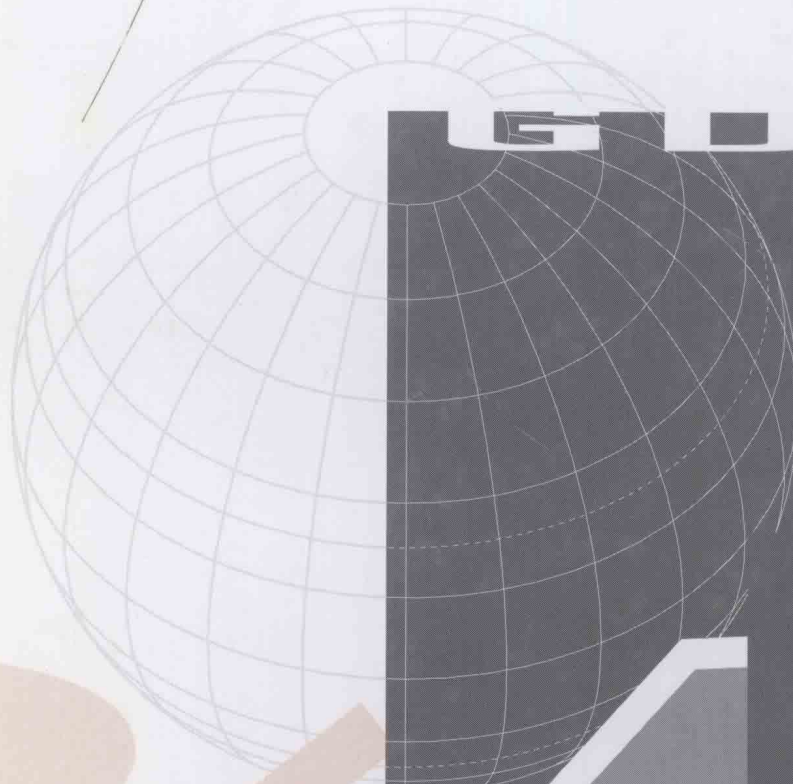
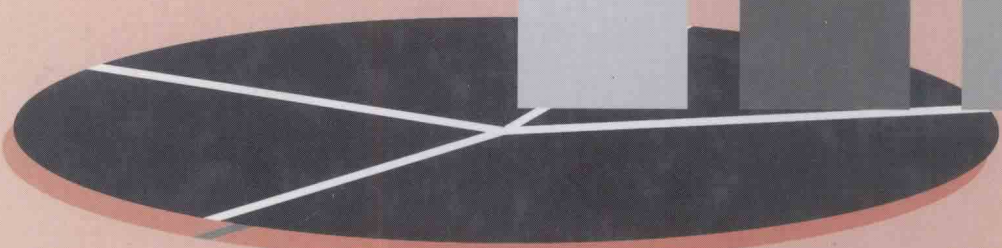
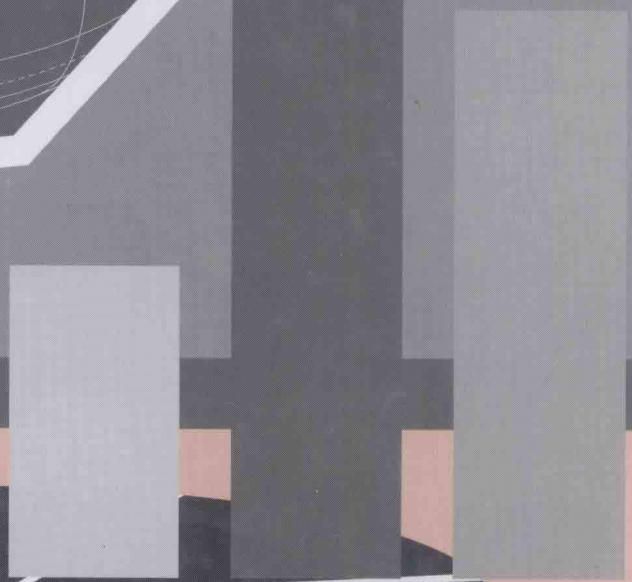
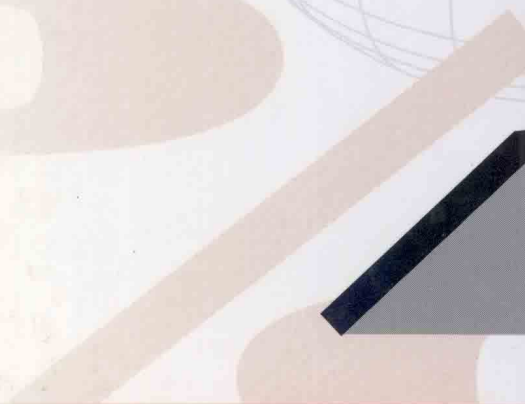


THE WORLD ECONOMIC FACTBOOK 2001/2

9th edition



GDP



**The World
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Introduction

The World Economic Factbook 2001/2002 (9th edition) represents a unique compilation of hard-to-get political and economic information on 205 countries of the world, laid out in a concise and above all completely regular format which allows not only ease of access but also the maximum degree of comparability.

Countries are arranged in alphabetical order, with each country presented as a two-page section, the first page of which is a textual summary while the second contains statistical information for the years 1998 to 2000, organised according to a regular grid.

The information is supplemented by a series of specially commissioned maps showing the different continents with the location of each country.

Rankings

The uniformity of coverage is a key feature of the book. The individual country sections have been designed in order to allow the compilation of a series of unique rankings, showing the relative position for each country measured by a variety of criteria, such as geographical area, population, inflation, GDP, and so on. Thus each country can be ranked from 1 to 204 to show its relative position according to a wide variety of different benchmarks.

In order to compile the rankings it has been necessary to standardise and convert the basic data in many cases, particularly where economic material is concerned. It is inevitable that fluctuations in exchange rates and inflation have caused a considerable amount of distortion to the basic data, and as a result the rankings may contain some anomalies, although the editors have taken every care to cross-check the listings.

Where no data was available for the ranking criteria in each case some individual countries have been omitted.

Country Coverage

The 204 countries covered in this Handbook include all of the states for which standardised data is available. Excluded are micro-states such as the Vatican or San Marino, where no significant amount of comparable data is available, and where most of the economic data is in any case subsumed within the economy of a larger state (ie Italy in both of these cases).

Sources and Methodology

This book is the result of an extensive research programme carried out during the early part of 2001, involving contact with a wide-ranging set of sources and contacts to gather together as much comprehensive material as possible.

The data have been drawn wherever possible from national sources, including official figures from national statistical agencies. This primary data has been supplemented where necessary from multilateral sources such as the International Monetary Fund, United Nations, International Labour Organisation, and so on. (See below for further details by sector). In addition information has been drawn from the national press and specialist publications, or collated from Euromonitor's extensive international statistical database.

The availability of data is inevitably somewhat uneven, since some countries are far better documented than others. In many cases figures were unavailable for the latest year from published sources, and it has therefore been necessary in these cases to include estimates based on the best available external data. It was also necessary in many cases

to undertake some degree of standardisation of the available data, since the information presented by some countries does not conform reliably with the international norms; there would, after all, be no point in attempting any international comparisons or rankings without having first established a high degree of standardisation.

Euromonitor estimates have mainly been used for 1999 economic data where official figures were unavailable. Data have been compiled using a mathematical model, which is based on data from national statistical agencies and calculated by taking into account economic and inflationary trends, current spending trends, demographic patterns, and so on. Political events and statistical material have been updated as far as July 2000 wherever possible.

Subject Coverage and Definitions

Inflation

This refers to annual average inflation, and is based mainly on figures provided by the *International Monetary Fund*.

Exchange rate

This refers to annual average official exchange rates, and is drawn mainly from figures provided by the *International Monetary Fund*.

GDP

Data for gross domestic product have been drawn wherever possible from national statistical sources, supplemented with data collected by the *International Monetary Fund* or, where necessary, Euromonitor estimates for the latest year.

GDP growth rate figures have also been included wherever they are reliably available. They refer, as one would suppose, to the rate of overall economic growth, which is recorded by a country after stripping out the distorting effects of inflation. There is, however, more to this apparently simple task than meets the eye. In some countries, notably those where no proper statistical information has been available since perhaps 1988, it was felt that the foundation for such an estimate was not available, and real growth figures have accordingly been omitted. In certain high-inflation countries, on the other hand, the distortions caused by fluctuating currencies sometimes become so extreme that even the best and most accurate information from independent sources fails to produce a satisfactory result; in these cases, Euromonitor estimates have been supplied.

Consumption

These figures, which refer to private final consumption expenditure, have also been drawn wherever possible from national statistical sources, supplemented with data collected by the *International Monetary Fund* or, where necessary, Euromonitor estimates for the latest year.

Tourism Receipts and Spending

Tourism receipts refers to revenue from foreign nationals, ie payments from visitors within the destination country and to the national carriers, while tourism expenditure refers to the reciprocal expenditure by that country's nationals in foreign countries, as collected by government agencies such as national statistical bodies and customs and excise bodies.

The main sources for this section have been national statistics, supplemented wherever necessary by data from the *World Tourism Organisation* and the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*.

Demographic Data

Population figures, drawn principally from UN data, refer to estimates at mid-year. Birth rates refer to live births per '000 inhabitants in the given year. Figures for number of households, and average household size, are generally based on the latest official census material.

Foreign Trade

Import and export data refer to trade in goods and services, and are mainly sourced from *IMF Direction of Trade Statistics*. Figures refer to imports cif (cost, insurance and freight) and exports fob (free on board). Percentages of imports and exports for major export destinations and import sources are provided for the leading four major trading partners in each case.

Per capita and dollar conversions

Data for each year have been converted to US dollars, for the sake of ranking and comparability, using the exchange rate quoted on each page. The relevant rate for back years is used for previous years' data. Similarly, per capita calculations are based on population figures for preceding years each time, to arrive at an accurate three-year trend.

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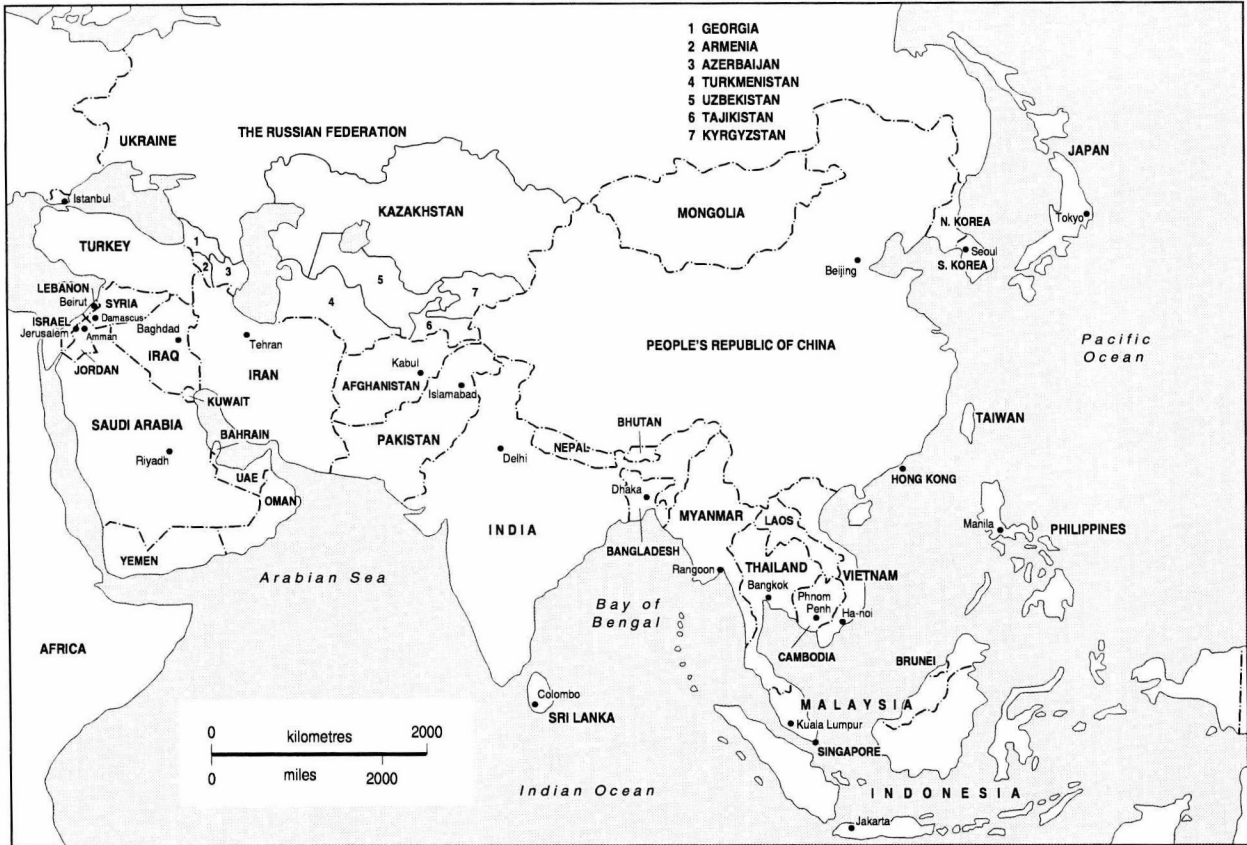
Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, and great care has been taken during the compilation of ***The World Economic Factbook 2001/2002***, but it is possible that omissions and errors may have occurred, for which Euromonitor cannot accept responsibility.

Maps

1 Europe



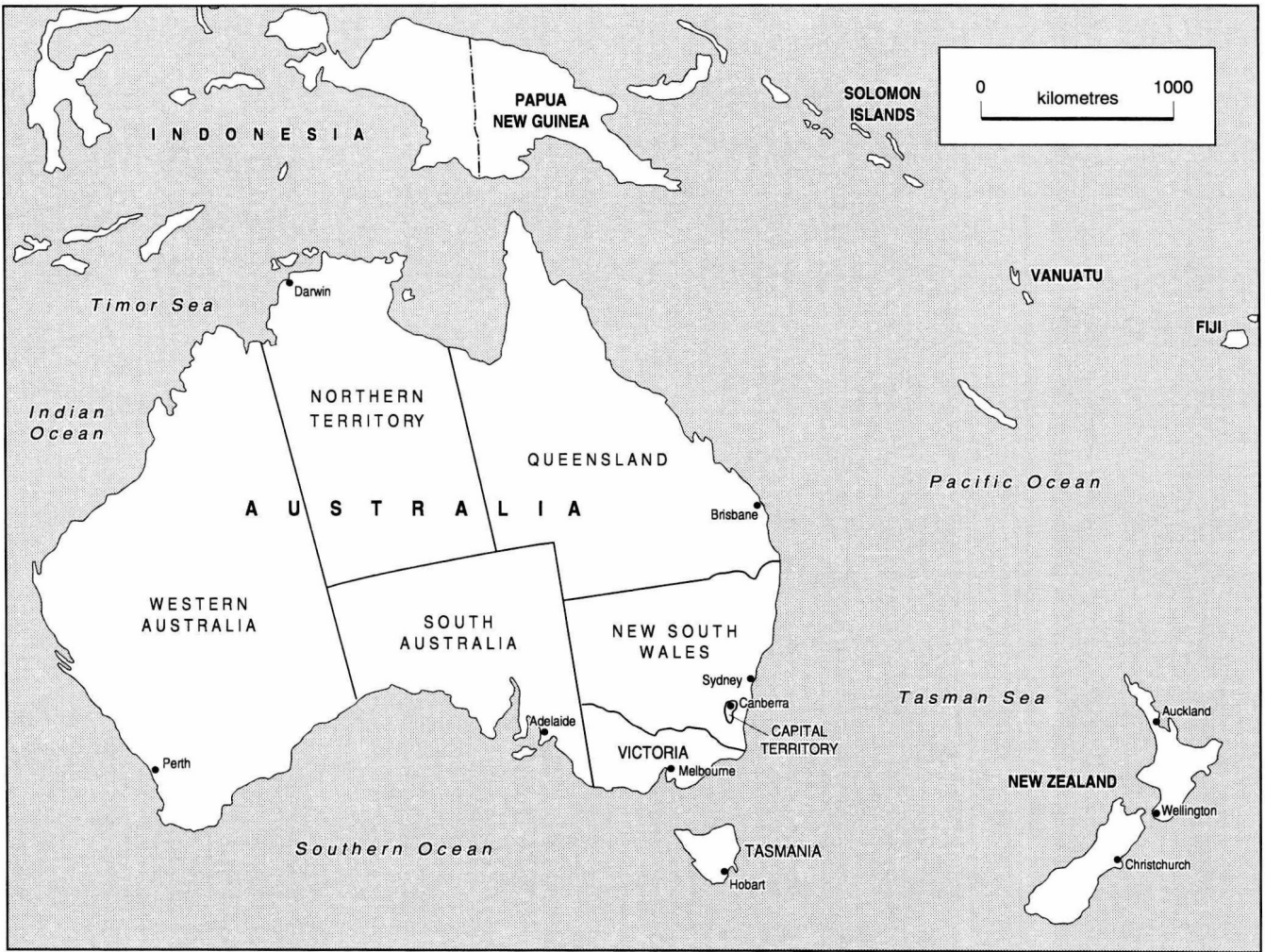
2 Middle East and Asia



3 Africa



4 Oceania



5 North and Central America



6 South America



