



Latin America and the Caribbean: Fact Sheet on Economic and Social Indicators

Julissa Gomez-Granger
Information Research Specialist

March 2, 2009

Congressional Research Service

7-5700

www.crs.gov

RS22657

Summary

This fact sheet tracks selected economic and social development indicators for Latin American and Caribbean countries. It also classifies country economies by income. The tables (**Table 1** and **Table 2**) show the most recent data available at the time of printing from the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the U.S. Department of State. This fact sheet will be updated annually.

Contents

Tables

Table 1. Select Economic and Social Indicators.....	2
Table 2. Economic Classification by Income	4

Contacts

Author Contact Information	4
----------------------------------	---

This fact sheet tracks selected economic and social development indicators for Latin American and Caribbean countries. It also classifies country economies by income. The tables (**Table 1** and **Table 2**) show the most recent data available at the time of printing from the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the U.S. Department of State. This fact sheet will be updated annually.

Table 1. Select Economic and Social Indicators

Country	Area in Square Miles	Population	Gross National Income (GNI) US \$ millions 2007	GNI Per Capita US \$ 2007	Life Expectancy at Birth 2005	Adult Literacy Rate (% age 15 & older) 2005	Human Development Index (HDI) Rank^a 2005
Antigua and Barbuda	170	84,097 (2006)	977	11,520	73.9	85.8	57
Argentina	1,100,000	40,300,000 (2007)	238,900	6,050	74.8	97.2	38
Bahamas	5,382	307,451 (2008 est.)	6,586 ^b	^c	72.3	95.8 (2003 est.)	49
Barbados	166	279,912 (2006)	2,976 ^d	^c	76.6	99.7 (2003 est.)	31
Belize	8,867	314,300 (2007)	1,157	3,800	75.9	75.1	80
Bolivia	425,000	9,247,816 (2008)	12,000	1,260	64.7	86.7	117
Brazil	3,290,000	196,000,000 (2007 est.)	1,133,000	5,910	71.7	88.6	70
Chile	302,778	16,500,000 (2007)	138,600	8,350	78.3	95.7	40
Colombia	440,000	44,380,000 (2007)	149,900	3,250	72.3	92.8	75
Costa Rica	19,730	4,299,000 (2006)	24,800	5,560	78.5	94.9	48
Cuba	44,200	11,200,000	47,350 ^e	^f	77.7	99.8	51
Dominica	290	69,000 (2008)	310	4,250	75.6	88.0	71
Dominican Republic	18,704	9,365,000 (2007)	34,600	3,550	71.5	87.0	79
Ecuador	106,900	13,923,375 (2009)	41,200	3,080	74.7	91.0	89
El Salvador	8,008	5,700,000 (2007)	19,500	2,850	71.3	80.6 (2007)	103
Grenada	133	108,148 (2006)	505	4,670	68.2	96.0	82
Guatemala	42,042	13,600,000 (2008)	32,600	2,440	69.7	69.1	118
Guyana	83,000	760,200 (2006)	959	1,300	65.2	99.0 (2003 est.)	97
Haiti	10,714	8,500,000 (2006)	5,400	560	59.5	54.8 (2003 est.)	146
Honduras	43,278	7,300,000 (2006)	11,300	1,600	69.4	80.0	115
Jamaica	4,244	2,673,800 (2006)	9,923	3,710	72.2	79.9	101

Country	Area in Square Miles	Population	Gross National Income (GNI) US \$ millions 2007	GNI Per Capita US \$ 2007	Life Expectancy at Birth 2005	Adult Literacy Rate (% age 15 & older) 2005	Human Development Index (HDI) Rank ^a 2005
Mexico	761,600	109,955,400 (2008)	878,000	8,340	75.6	91.6	52
Nicaragua	59,998	5,400,000 (2005)	5,500	980	71.9	76.7	110
Panama	30,193	3,300,000 (2004)	18,400	5,510	75.1	91.9	62
Paraguay	157,047	6,831,306 (2008)	10,200	1,670	71.3	93.5 (2007)	95
Peru	496,225	28,700,000 (2008)	96,200	3,450	70.7	87.9	87
St. Kitts and Nevis	101	39,129 (2007)	470	9,630	70.0	97.8	54
St. Lucia	238	166,014 (2006)	929	5,530	73.1	94.8	72
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	130	118,000 (2008)	507	4,210	71.1	88.1	93
Suriname	63,037	492,829 (2004)	2,166	4,730	69.6	89.6	85
Trinidad and Tobago	1,980	1,303,188 (2007)	18,795	14,100	69.2	98.4 (2007)	59
Uruguay	68,000	3,500,000 (2008)	21,200	6,380	75.9	96.8	46
Venezuela	352,143	28,091,383 (2008 est.)	201,200	7,320	73.2	93.0	74

Sources: Area and population statistics from the U.S. Department of State, *Country Background Notes*; GNI and GNI per capita are from the World Bank, *World Development Report 2009*; life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate, and human development rank are from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Human Development Report 2007/2008*. The *Human Development Report 2009* is expected to be released in October 2009.

- HDI rank is determined by using UNDP's human development index (HDI), which measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy at birth), access to knowledge (measured by adult literacy and enrollment at the primary, secondary, and tertiary level education), and a decent standard of living (measured by gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) US dollars). It is calculated for 177 countries and areas for which data are available.
- GDP from the U.S. Department of State, *Country Background Notes* at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1857.htm>, accessed Feb. 25, 2009.
- Estimated to be high income (\$11,456 or more), *World Development Report 2009*.
- 2006 GDP from the U.S. Department of State, *Country Background Notes* at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/26507.htm>, accessed Feb. 25, 2009.
- GDP from the U.S. Department of State, *Country Background Notes* at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2886.htm>, accessed Feb. 25, 2009.
- Estimated to be upper middle income (\$3,706 to 11,455), *World Development Report 2009*.

Table 2. Economic Classification by Income

High Income	Upper Middle Income	Lower Middle Income	Low Income
Antigua and Barbuda (\$11,520)	Argentina (\$6,050)	Bolivia (\$1,260)	Haiti (\$560)
Bahamas ^(a)	Belize (\$3,800)	Colombia (\$3,250)	
Barbados ^(a)	Brazil (\$5,910)	Dominican Republic (\$3,550)	
Trinidad and Tobago (\$14,100)	Chile (\$8,350)	Ecuador (\$3,080)	
	Costa Rica (\$5,560)	El Salvador (\$2,850)	
	Cuba ^(b)	Guatemala (\$2,440)	
	Dominica (\$4,250)	Guyana (\$1,300)	
	Grenada (\$4,670)	Honduras (\$1,600)	
	Jamaica (\$3,710)	Nicaragua (\$980)	
	Mexico (\$8,340)	Paraguay (\$1,670)	
	Panama (\$5,510)	Peru (\$3,450)	
	St. Kitts and Nevis (\$9,630)		
	St. Lucia (\$5,530)		
	St. Vincent and the Grenadines (\$4,210)		
	Suriname (\$4,730)		
	Uruguay (\$6,380)		
	Venezuela (\$7,320)		

Source: World Bank, *World Development Report 2009*.

Notes: The economies are classified based on GNI per capita (2007). They include low income (LIC), \$935 or less; lower middle income (LMC), \$936-\$3,705; upper middle income (UMC), \$3,706-\$11,455; and high income, \$11,456 or more. Estimated to be high income (\$11,456 or more), *World Development Report 2009*.

a. Estimated to be high income (\$11,456 or more), *World Development Report 2009*.

b. Estimated to be upper middle income (\$3,706 to 11,455), *World Development Report 2009*.

Author Contact Information

Julissa Gomez-Granger
Information Research Specialist
jgomezgranger@crs.loc.gov, 7-8981