

Explanatory note

Countries and country groups

The global analyses presented in this report are based on the data for countries which had a population of more than one million in 1990.

The 15 republics of the former USSR and the five republics of the former Yugoslavia have become independent states since 1991. However, since historical food balance sheets for these newly independent countries are not available, the analyses have had to be based on the data from the former USSR and the former Yugoslavia.

For analytical purposes, countries and territories are classified as developed or developing as well as by economic group. Developed countries comprise the industrialized countries and economies in transition. Developing countries are classified as low-income, middle-income or high-income countries. This income-based classification is used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for assistance from the International Development Association. Developing countries are also classified as least developed countries and low-income food-deficit countries. The composition of all country groups, including the regional groups, are shown in Appendix 1. The developing countries and economic groups are defined as follows:

Developing countries. According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, there is no universally accepted definition of what a developing country is. Despite the wide differences among developing countries, they share a number of characteristics. In most developing countries, primary (agricultural or extractive) production accounts for a very large proportion of national income and, not infrequently, a disproportionate share is taken up by one or two products. The level and range of secondary industrial activities tend to be very low and marked by poor technological development. Most of these countries have large quantities of surplus labour, considerable unemployment or underemployment and fairly high rates of population growth. Another common feature is inadequate infrastructure – poor road and transportation networks, a lack of sufficient irrigation, etc. Equally important are the underdevelopment of human resources in terms of skills and education and the weakness of economic and financial institutions.

Although a number of countries have made great strides in development since the United Nations (UN) classification was established in the 1940s, the list itself has remained practically unchanged (except for the addition of newly independent countries) since that time. As a result, certain countries – particularly in Asia and Latin America –

continue to be classified as developing countries, despite the fact that their economies may no longer qualify for that classification.

Low-income countries are those which had a per caput GNP of US\$695 or less in 1993.

Middle-income countries are those which had a per caput GNP of more than US\$695 but less than US\$8 626 in 1993.

High-income countries are those which had a per caput GNP of US\$8 626 or more in 1993.

Least developed countries are low-income countries suffering from long-term handicaps to growth, in particular low levels of human resource development and/or severe structural weakness (UN classification).

Low-income food-deficit countries are those which had a per caput GNP of US\$1 345 or less in 1993 and a net deficit in cereal trade averaged over the preceding five marketing years.

Symbols and units of measure

- = none or negligible

... = not available

0, 0.0 = zero or a quantity which is less than half of the unit shown

Billion = 1 000 million

Tonnes = metric tons

1969/71 = a crop, marketing or financial year running from one calendar year to the next

1969-71 = average for three calendar years

1969-71 to 1979-81 = the period from the first three-year average to the second three-year average

Figures in tables may not add up because of rounding.