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Canada and the Asia-Pacific Region Statistical Overview

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Canada and the Asia-Pacific Region: Statistical Overview
(In Brief)

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CANADA AND THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

1 INTRODUCTION

This paper provides a statistical representation of the demographics and economics of 21 member “economies”¹ of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economic forum: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.²

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

2.1 POPULATION SIZE AND GROWTH

In 2012, APEC members were home to 2.8 billion people, or 39.6% of the global population, down from 41.5% in 2002. This downward trend is expected to continue, reaching a projected 32.5% in 2050. However, strong population growth is expected in the United States (87 million), Indonesia (75 million) and the Philippines (60 million) between now and 2050 (see Table 1).

Table 1 – Population Statistics for APEC Members

APEC Member	Population (millions)			Average Annual Growth Rate (%)	
	2002	2012	2050 (projections)	2002–2012	2012–2050 (projections)
Australia	19.7	22.7	33.7	1.4	1.0
Brunei	0.35	0.41	0.55	1.8	0.7
Canada	31.4	34.9	45.2	1.1	0.7
Chile	15.8	17.5	20.8	1.0	0.5
China	1,280.4	1,350.7	1,385.0	0.5	0.1
Hong Kong	6.7	7.2	8.0	0.6	0.3
Indonesia	215.0	246.9	321.4	1.4	0.7
Japan	127.4	127.6	108.3	0.0	–0.4
Malaysia	24.4	29.2	42.1	1.8	1.0
Mexico	106.7	120.8	156.1	1.3	0.7
New Zealand	3.9	4.4	5.8	1.2	0.7
Papua New Guinea	5.7	7.2	13.1	2.4	1.6
Peru	26.7	30.0	41.1	1.2	0.8
Philippines	81.0	96.7	157.1	1.8	1.3
Russia	145.3	143.5	120.9	–0.1	–0.5
Singapore	4.2	5.3	7.1	2.4	0.8
South Korea	47.6	50.0	51.0	0.5	0.1
Taiwan	22.5	23.3	21.0	0.3	–0.3
Thailand	63.8	66.8	61.7	0.5	–0.2
United States	287.6	313.9	400.9	0.9	0.6
Vietnam	79.5	88.8	103.7	1.1	0.4
Total: APEC	2,595.8	2,787.7	3,104.6	0.7	0.3
% of world population	41.5	39.6	32.5	–	–

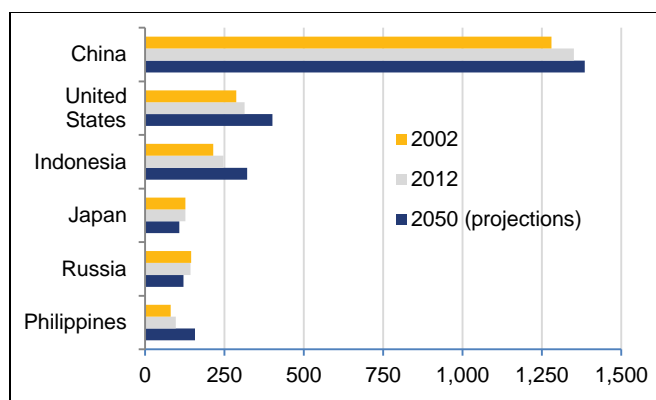
Note: The projections for 2050 are based on a medium growth scenario. Data is for mid-year population (1 July), with the exception of Taiwan (end-of-year population).

Sources: For 2002 and 2012 – Taiwan: Government of Taiwan, Interior Ministry, [Data table](#); all other members: The World Bank, [Population \(Total\)](#). For 2050 – Taiwan: Government of Taiwan, Council for Economic Planning and Development, Table A1, “Population Projections – Medium Variant,” [Population Projections for R.O.C. \(Taiwan\): 2012–2060](#); all other members: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, [World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision](#), 2013.

2.1.1 POPULATION SIZE

APEC members include one country with a very large population – China, with 1.35 billion inhabitants; several countries with large populations, such as the United States, with 314 million; some countries with medium-sized populations, such as Canada, with 35 million; and some countries with small populations, such as New Zealand, with 4.4 million. Figure 1 illustrates population size for selected APEC countries in 2002 and 2012, as well as projections for 2050.

Figure 1 – Population Size, Selected APEC Members, 2002, 2012 and 2050 (millions)

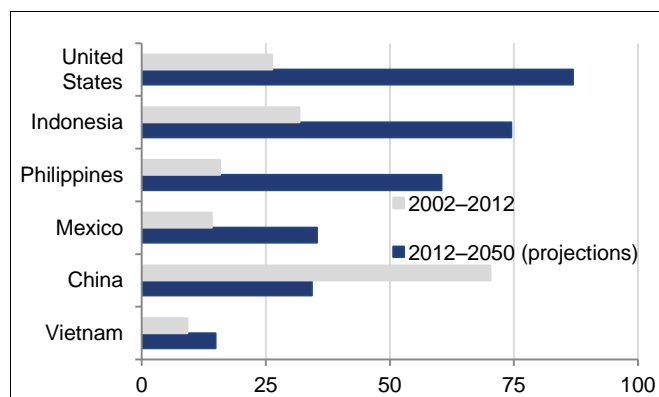


Source: Figure prepared using data from Table 1.

2.1.2 POPULATION GROWTH

From 2002 to 2012, the annual average population growth was high in a number of countries with smaller populations, such as Papua New Guinea and Singapore (2.4%). Some countries with larger populations experienced slower annual growth, as was the case in China (0.5%), Japan (0%) and Russia (-0.1%), which was the only APEC country whose population decreased over this period. Despite a modest growth rate, China's population increased by 70 million people between 2002 and 2012. Figure 2 shows past population growth, as well as projections for 2012 to 2050, for selected APEC members.

Figure 2 – Population Growth, Selected APEC Members, 2002–2050 (millions)



Source: Figure prepared using data from Table 1.

2.2 AGE AND LIFE EXPECTANCY

Table 2 shows the population distribution by age and life expectancy for all APEC members between 2008 and 2012.

Table 2 – Population Distribution by Age Group and Life Expectancy at Birth, APEC Members

APEC Member	Population Distribution by Age Group (%)				Life Expectancy at Birth, 2011 (number of years)		
	Year	0–24 years	25–64 years	65 years and over	Total	Men	Women
Australia	2012	32.4	53.4	14.2	82	80	84
Brunei	2011	43.9	52.6	3.5	78	76	80
Canada	2012	29.4	55.7	14.9	81	79	83
Chile	2013	37.8	52.4	9.8	79	76	82
China	2010	33.7	57.4	8.9	75	74	76
Hong Kong	2012	23.6	62.7	13.7	83	80	87
Indonesia	2010	46.0	48.9	5.0	70	68	72
Japan	2012	22.7	53.4	23.9	83	79	86
Malaysia	2010	47.7	47.3	5.0	75	72	77
Mexico	2010	48.2	45.6	6.3	77	75	79
New Zealand	2012	34.6	51.6	13.7	81	79	83
Papua New Guinea	2000	59.8	37.8	2.4	62	60	64
Peru	2007	49.7	43.9	6.4	74	72	77
Philippines	2010	52.9	42.7	4.3	68	65	72
Russia	2011	29.8	58.2	11.9	69	61	75
Singapore	2012	30.1	60.0	9.9	82	80	84
South Korea	2010	29.7	59.2	11.2	81	78	84
Taiwan	2012	28.5	60.4	11.2	79	76	83
Thailand	2010	33.8	57.5	8.7	74	71	77
United States	2010	34.0	53.0	13.0	79	76	81
Vietnam	2009	44.7	48.9	6.4	75	71	80
Total: APEC	–	35.8	54.5	9.7	N/A	N/A	N/A

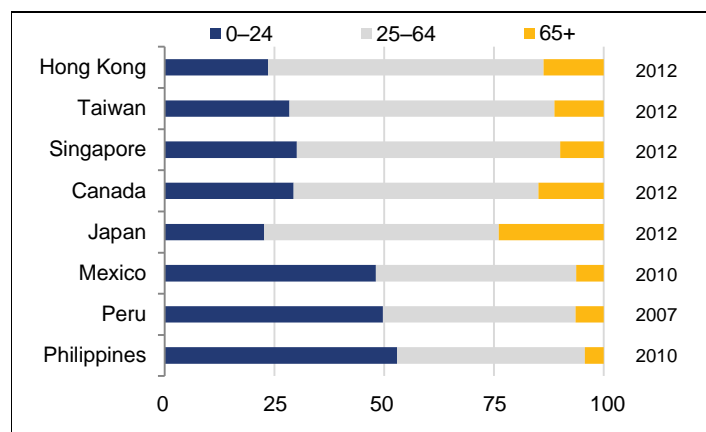
Sources: Population by age group – Taiwan: Government of Taiwan, Interior Ministry, Table 2.01, “Population by Age,” [Statistical Yearbook of Interior](#); all other members: United Nations, UN Data, [Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence](#). Life expectancy at birth – Taiwan: Government of Taiwan, Interior Ministry, Table 2.11, “Life Expectancy since 1957’s,” [Statistical Yearbook of Interior](#); all other members: The World Bank, [Life expectancy at birth, total \(years\)](#), [Life expectancy at birth, male \(years\)](#), [Life expectancy at birth, female \(years\)](#).

2.2.1 AGE

Population distribution by age group varies greatly from one APEC member to another. In Hong Kong (62.7%), Taiwan (60.4%) and Singapore (60%), the working-age population (25–64 years) is high. It is lower in the Philippines (42.7%), Peru (43.9%) and Mexico (45.6%), but these three countries have very young populations, with approximately half of their citizens under 25 years old. Papua New Guinea has the highest proportion of people in the youngest category (59.8%). Other countries have much older populations. In Japan, 23.9% of the population is 65 or older. In Canada and Australia, a significant portion of the population is 65 or older: 14.9% and 14.2% respectively.

Figure 3 shows this population distribution for selected APEC members.

Figure 3 – Population Distribution by Age Group, Selected APEC Members (%)

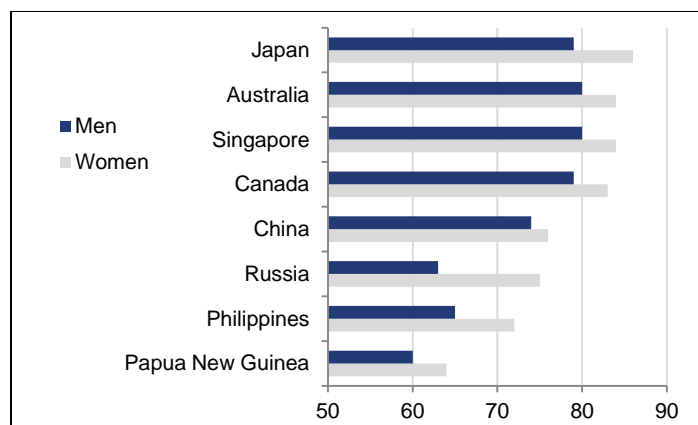


Source: Figure prepared using data from Table 2.

2.2.2 LIFE EXPECTANCY

The proportion of seniors within a given population is linked in part to life expectancy at birth. In 2011, the highest life expectancies were in Japan and Hong Kong (83 years) and in Australia and Singapore (82 years). In contrast, the lowest life expectancies were in Papua New Guinea (62 years), the Philippines (68 years) and Russia (69 years). Women have a higher life expectancy than men in all APEC member countries, but the gap is particularly wide in Russia (63 years for men, 75 years for women).

Figure 4 – Life Expectancy at Birth, by Gender, Selected APEC Members, 2011 (years)



Source: Figure prepared using data from Table 2.

2.3 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

APEC member populations have very different levels of educational attainment, as Table 3 and Figure 5 show. The members with the highest rates of higher education in the population aged 25 and older were Russia (60.1%), Canada (47.7%) and Australia (41.3%). In contrast, the members with the lowest rates were China (3.6%), Vietnam (6.7%) and Indonesia (7.9%). In some countries, such as Australia, Canada, the Philippines and Thailand, the rate is higher among women than among men.

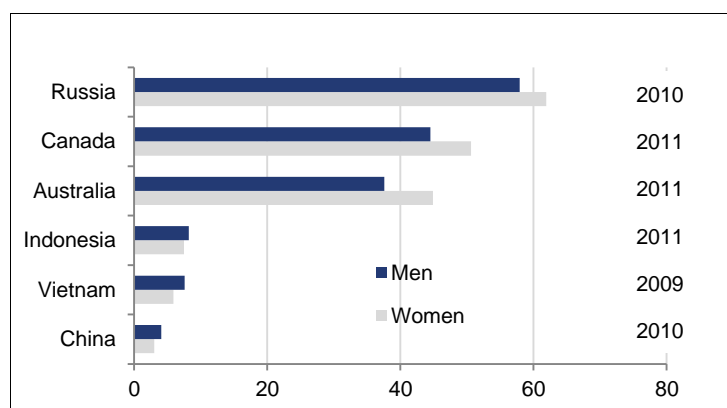
Table 3 – Proportion of the Population Aged 25 Years and Older with a Higher Education,^a APEC Members (%)

APEC Member	Year	Men	Women	Total
Australia ^b	2011	37.6	44.9	41.3
Brunei	—	—	—	—
Canada	2011	44.5	50.6	47.7
Chile	2010	18.2	17.9	18.0
China	2010	4.1	3.0	3.6
Hong Kong	2011	21.3	16.5	18.7
Indonesia	2011	8.2	7.5	7.9
Japan	2010	32.2	27.8	29.9
Malaysia	—	—	—	—
Mexico	2012	18.6	14.3	16.3
New Zealand	2011	30.7	38.5	34.8
Papua New Guinea	—	—	—	—
Peru	2012	22.6	21.7	22.1
Philippines	2008	22.4	25.9	24.2
Russia	2010	57.9	61.9	60.1
Singapore	2012	43.0	36.4	39.6
South Korea	2010	40.8	30.1	35.3
Taiwan	—	—	—	—
Thailand	2010	11.0	12.5	11.8
United States	2012	40.2	41.1	40.7
Vietnam	2009	7.6	5.9	6.7

Note: a. The term "higher education" encompasses levels 5 and 6 of the International Standard Classification of Education – that is, a university education.
b. The age range is 25 to 64 years for Australia.

Source: [UNESCO Institute for Statistics](#), "Educational attainment of the population aged 25 years and older/Latest year available," *Literacy and Educational Attainment*.

Figure 5 – Proportion of the Population Aged 25 Years and Older with a Higher Education, Selected APEC Members (%)



Source: Figure prepared using data from Table 3.

3 ECONOMIC STATISTICS

3.1 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The different APEC members experienced the effects of the 2008–2009 economic crisis in different ways and at different paces. This section summarizes the effects of this crisis based on two indicators: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the unemployment rate.

3.1.1 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Table 4 gives the real GDP growth rate for APEC members between 2008 and 2012.

**Table 4 – Real Gross Domestic Product Growth Rate,
APEC Members, 2008–2012 (%)**

APEC Member	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Australia	3.8	1.6	2.1	2.4	3.4
Brunei	-1.9	-1.8	2.6	2.2	2.2
Canada	0.7	-2.8	3.2	2.5	1.7
Chile	3.3	-1.0	5.7	5.8	5.6
China	9.6	9.2	10.4	9.3	7.8
Hong Kong	2.1	-2.5	6.8	4.9	1.5
Indonesia	6.0	4.6	6.2	6.5	6.2
Japan	-1.0	-5.5	4.7	-0.6	1.9
Malaysia	4.8	-1.5	7.2	5.1	5.6
Mexico	1.2	-6.0	5.3	3.9	3.9
New Zealand	-1.9	0.9	0.2	1.1	3.0
Papua New Guinea	6.7	5.5	8.0	9.0	8.0
Peru	9.8	0.9	8.8	6.9	6.3
Philippines	4.2	1.1	7.6	3.6	6.8
Russia	5.2	-7.8	4.5	4.3	3.4
Singapore	1.7	-0.8	14.8	5.2	1.3
South Korea	2.3	0.3	6.3	3.7	2.0
Taiwan	0.7	-1.8	10.8	4.1	1.3
Thailand	2.5	-2.3	7.8	0.1	6.5
United States	-0.4	-3.1	2.4	1.8	2.2
Vietnam	6.3	5.3	6.8	6.0	5.0

Sources: Taiwan: Author's calculations based on data from Republic of China (Taiwan), National Statistics, Table 95, "[Gross Domestic Product \(At Constant Prices\)](#)," *Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of China 2012*, ed. 2013, pp. 152 and 153; all other members: The World Bank, [GDP growth \(annual %\)](#).

APEC members can be divided into three categories, based on their annual real GDP growth rate from 2008 to 2012:

- those members that did not register any years of negative growth between 2007 and 2012 and that continued to register fairly high average annual growth rates: China (9.3%), Papua New Guinea (7.4%), Peru (6.5%), Indonesia and Vietnam (5.9%), the Philippines (4.6%), South Korea (2.9%), Australia (2.7%) and Hong Kong (2.5%);

- those members that experienced one year of negative growth, but recovered quickly afterward: Singapore (4.3%), Malaysia (4.2%), Chile (3.8%), Taiwan (2.9%) and Thailand (2.8%); and
- those members that experienced one or more years of negative growth followed by a slower recovery: Russia (1.8%), Mexico (1.6%), Canada (1%), Brunei, the United States and New Zealand (0.6%) and Japan, whose real GDP has yet to reach its 2007 level (−0.2%).

Figures 6a and 6b show the change in GDP of selected APEC members from 2007 to 2012.

Figure 6a – Change in Real Gross Domestic Product, Selected APEC Members, 2007–2012 (2007 = 100)

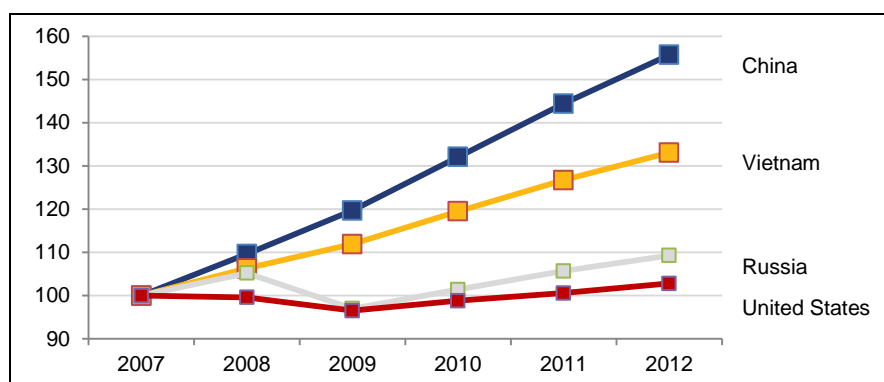
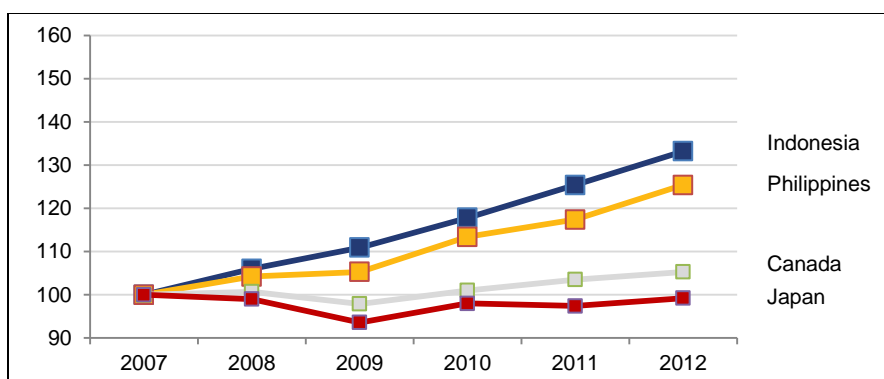


Figure 6b – Change in Real Gross Domestic Product, Selected APEC Members, 2007–2012 (2007 = 100)



Source: Figure prepared using data from Table 4.

3.1.2 UNEMPLOYMENT

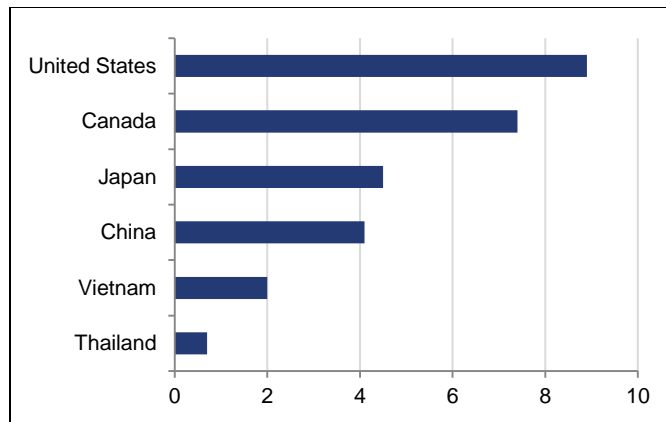
The unemployment rate for most APEC members was higher in 2011 than it had been in 2008 (see Table 5). However, some members, such as Malaysia, South Korea and Thailand, succeeded in keeping a relatively low and stable unemployment rate – of under 4% – over the period in question. China, for which data is available for 2010 and 2011 only, had a 4.1% unemployment rate for those two years.

**Table 5 – Unemployment Rate,
APEC Members, 2008–2011 (%)**

APEC Member	2008	2009	2010	2011
Australia	4.2	5.6	5.2	5.1
Brunei	–	–	–	–
Canada	6.1	8.3	8.0	7.4
Chile	7.8	9.7	8.1	7.1
China	–	–	4.1	4.1
Hong Kong	3.6	5.2	4.3	3.4
Indonesia	8.4	7.9	7.1	6.6
Japan	4.0	5.0	5.0	4.5
Malaysia	3.3	3.7	3.4	–
Mexico	3.5	5.2	5.2	5.3
New Zealand	4.2	6.1	6.5	6.5
Papua New Guinea	–	–	4.0	–
Peru	6.4	6.3	7.9	7.8
Philippines	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.0
Russia	6.3	8.4	7.5	6.6
Singapore	3.2	4.3	3.1	2.9
South Korea	3.2	3.6	3.7	3.4
Taiwan	4.1	5.9	5.2	4.4
Thailand	1.2	1.5	1.0	0.7
United States	5.8	9.3	9.6	8.9
Vietnam	2.4	–	–	2.0

Sources: Taiwan: Republic of China (Taiwan), National Statistics, Table 28, “[Unemployed persons and unemployment rate by educational attainment](#),” *Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of China 2012*, ed. 2013, pp. 50 and 51; all other members: The World Bank, [Unemployment, total \(% of total labor force\)](#).

Figure 7 shows the unemployment rate for selected APEC members in 2011.

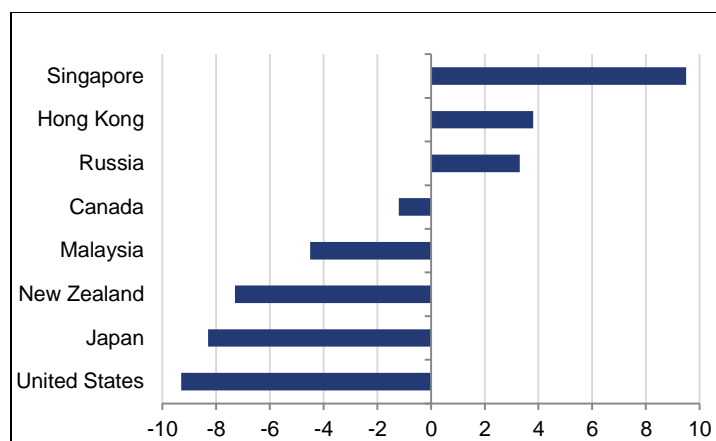
**Figure 7 – Unemployment Rate,
Selected APEC Members, 2011 (%)**

Source: Figure prepared using data from Table 5.

3.2 GOVERNMENT FINANCES

The economic slowdown also had an impact on the fiscal balance of APEC's central governments (see examples in Figure 8).³

**Figure 8 – Cash Surplus/Deficit,
Selected APEC Members, 2011 (% of GDP)**



Source: The World Bank, [Cash surplus/deficit \(% of GDP\)](#).

In 2011, some economies – for example, the United States (–9.3%) and Japan (–8.3%) – had significant deficits in proportion to their GDP. On the other end of the spectrum, some economies had large surpluses, such as Singapore (9.5%), Hong Kong (3.8%) and Russia (3.3%). Canada was in the middle of the pack, with –1.2%.

3.3 STANDARD OF LIVING

3.3.1 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT PER CAPITA

Standard of living is often measured in terms of GDP per capita, taking into account, for comparison purposes, purchasing power parity (PPP) (Figure 9 and Table 6). This is a per-capita average.

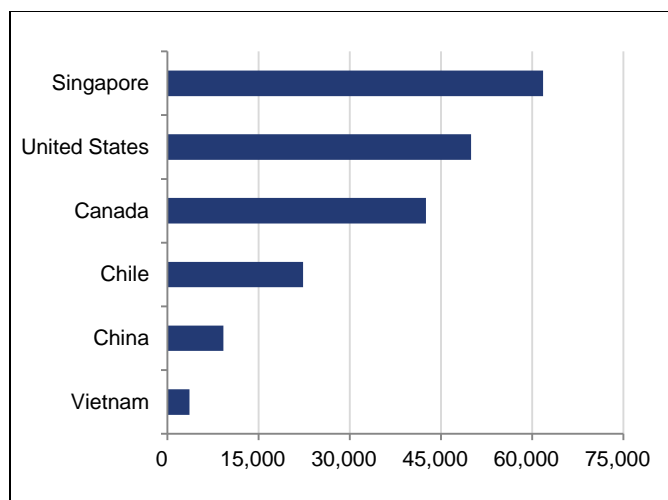
**Table 6 – Gross Domestic Product per Capita,
at Purchasing Power Parity,
APEC Members, 2012 (dollars)**

APEC Member	GDP Per Capita
Australia	44,598
Brunei	53,348
Canada	42,533
Chile	22,352
China	9,233
Hong Kong	51,946
Indonesia	4,965
Japan	35,178
Malaysia	17,143
Mexico	16,731
New Zealand	32,219
Papua New Guinea	2,898
Peru	10,932
Philippines	4,410
Russia	23,501
Singapore	61,803
South Korea	30,801
Taiwan	–
Thailand	9,820
United States	49,965
Vietnam	3,635

Note: GDP per capita is based on purchasing power parity (PPP) in 2012 dollars, which means GDP is converted into current international dollars using PPP rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GDP of a given country as the U.S. dollar has in the United States.

Source: The World Bank, [GDP per capita, PPP \(current international \\$\)](#).

**Figure 9 – Gross Domestic Product per Capita,
Purchasing Power Parity,
Selected APEC Members, 2012 (dollars)**



Source: Figure prepared using data from Table 6.

GDP per capita varies greatly among APEC members. Some members, such as Singapore (\$61,803), Brunei (\$53,348) and Hong Kong (\$51,946), have very high figures, while others, such as Papua New Guinea (\$2,898), Vietnam (\$3,635), the Philippines (\$4,410) and Indonesia (\$4,965), have very low figures.

3.3.2 INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND INEQUALITY

Since GDP per capita is an average, it is important also to take income distribution into account when assessing standard of living.

One way this distribution can be measured is using the United Nations' Human Development Index (HDI), which is a composite index measuring average achievement in terms of health and life expectancy, access to education and a decent standard of living. The Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) is calculated by reducing the value of each HDI measure in accordance with the inequality present in the country in question.⁴ The difference between the HDI and the IHDI represents the "loss" in human development potential due to inequality. It is expressed in Table 7 for most APEC members and for selected APEC members in Figure 10.

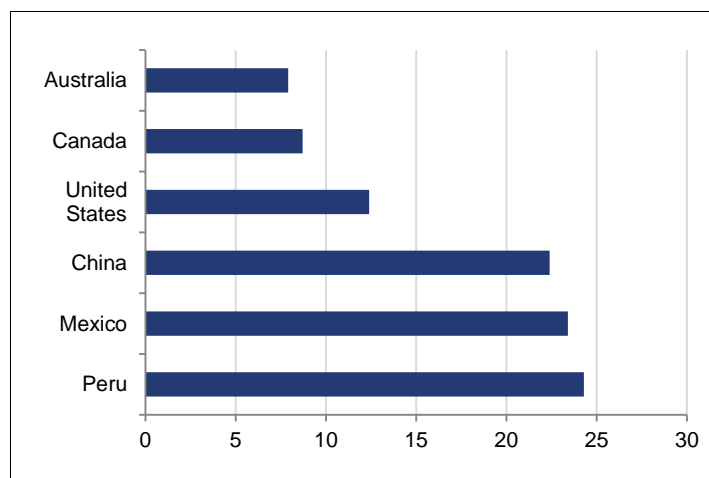
**Table 7 – Human Development Index (HDI),
Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI), and
Overall Loss Due to Inequality, APEC Members, 2012**

APEC Member	IDH	IDHI	Loss (%)
Australia	0.938	0.864	7.9
Brunei	0.855	–	–
Canada	0.911	0.832	8.7
Chile	0.819	0.664	19.0
China	0.699	0.543	22.4
Hong Kong	0.906	–	–
Indonesia	0.629	0.514	18.3
Japan	0.912	–	–
Malaysia	0.769	–	–
Mexico	0.775	0.593	23.4
New Zealand	0.919	–	–
Papua New Guinea	0.466	–	–
Peru	0.741	0.561	24.3
Philippines	0.654	0.524	19.9
Russia	0.788	–	–
Singapore	0.895	–	–
South Korea	0.909	0.758	16.5
Taiwan	–	–	–
Thailand	0.690	0.543	21.3
United States	0.937	0.821	12.4
Vietnam	0.617	0.531	14.0

Note: The IHDI is the HDI adjusted for inequality in the three areas essential to human development under the HDI (health and life expectancy, access to education and a decent standard of living).

Source: United Nations Development Programme, Table 3: "Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index," in "Statistical Annex," [Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World](#), pp. 152–155.

Figure 10 – Amount of Inequality, Represented by the Loss Due to Inequality, Selected APEC Members, 2012 (%)



Source: Figure prepared using data from Table 7.

Among APEC members, Australia and Canada are doing well, while Mexico and Peru are lagging behind.

NOTES

1. APEC, established in 1989, is in fact comprised of “economies,” not “countries,” given that not all of its members are, strictly speaking, countries (e.g., Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China) and given that it focuses primarily on trade and economic issues. See Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, [Member Economies](#). The term “APEC member” will be used in most cases in this paper, but the terms “country” and “countries” may be used depending on the context, especially where demographics is discussed.
2. This paper is the first in a series that will examine a number of aspects of the relationship between Canada and the other APEC members, such as trade, intercultural and educational exchanges, transportation and security issues.
3. As the data is incomplete for a number of APEC members, this paper does not contain tables on budgetary deficits and surpluses. Data in the text and Figure 8 are taken from The World Bank, [Cash surplus/deficit \(% of GDP\)](#).
4. United Nations Development Programme, [Human Development Report 2013 – The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World](#), Statistical annex, p. 139, and Table 3, “Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index,” pp. 152–155.