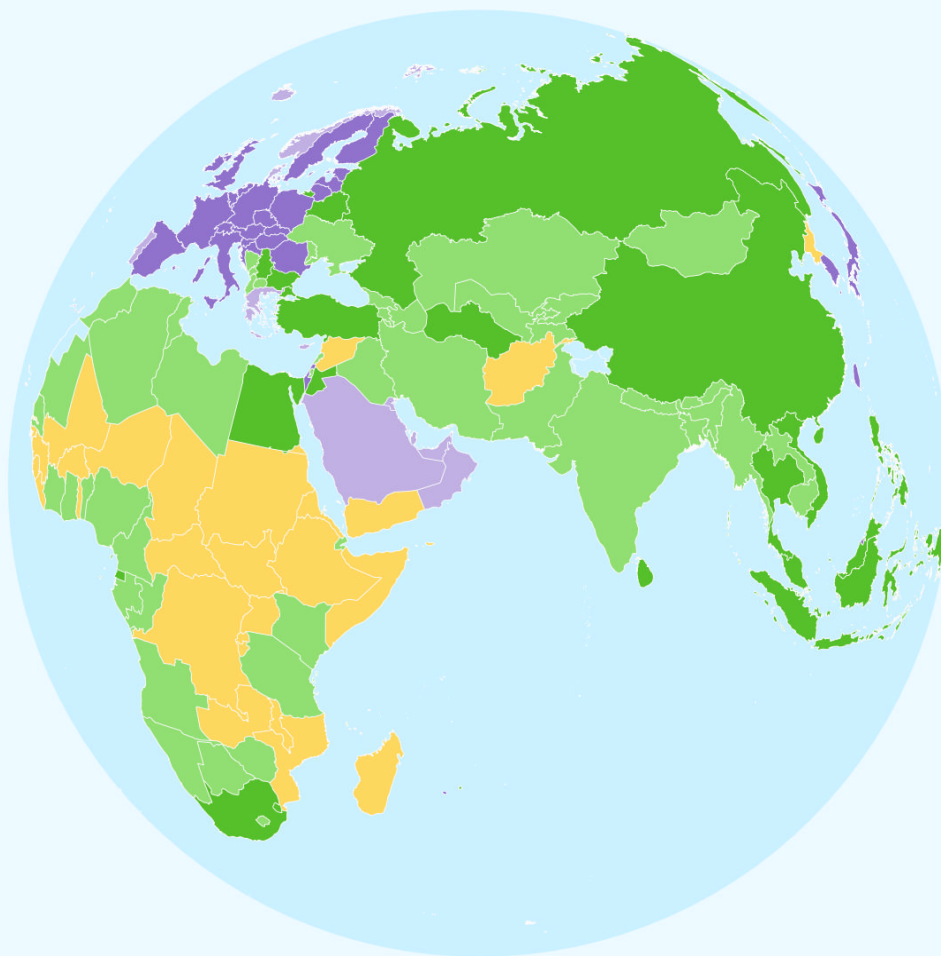




UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Methodological document

UNIDO Country Classification

Edition 2023

Progress by innovation with reliable industrial statistics

Methodological document

UNIDO Country Classification

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UNIDO Statistics



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Abbreviations

CIP competitive industrial performance

EIE emerging industrial economy

GDP gross domestic product

GNI gross national income

HDI human development index

LDC least developed country

LLDC landlocked developing country

MHT medium- and high-technology

MVA manufacturing value added

PPP purchasing power parity

SDG Sustainable Development Goal

SIDS small island developing State

UN United Nations

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization

USD United States dollar

1 Introduction

Industrialization remains one of the main development strategies for fostering sustainable economic growth, promoting employment creation and increasing overall prosperity. A historical analysis of countries that significantly increased their average income and achieved higher stages of human development in a sustainable manner reveals that structural transformation and industrialization usually played a crucial role [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]. For this reason, inclusive and sustainable industrial development has been considered an essential element of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [6], both an objective in itself, as Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9, and a catalyser of all other global Goals. In addition, industrialization is included as a key focus area in most other global development strategies; for instance, in the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2022–2031 [7].

Economies around the world are at different stages of industrial development and are following heterogeneous paths towards industrialization. Some of them reached high levels of economic development based on increasingly advanced manufacturing industries and have transitioned to services-based economies. There are also emerging economies, registering comparatively high growth in recent decades, either through rapid industrialization or other development strategies. Other countries have yet to embark on a process of structural transformation. Each economy has different priorities and needs in terms of policies for promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

While the socioeconomic situation of each country is unique, it is useful to identify common industrial trends and growth patterns. This would allow a consistent analysis of industrial development, identifying successful and lagging economies, as well as formulating general policy implications that could then be tailored to country-specific contexts and objectives. Country groups are therefore an essential tool for organizing and presenting global statistics meaningfully and systematically.

UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) with the unique objective of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development. As part of its mandate, UNIDO compiles and disseminates international statistics on industrial sectors. This entails collecting and validating industrial data from official sources and presenting them according to harmonized definitions and classifications. As a custodian agency for six industry-related indicators of SDG 9, UNIDO also contributes to the global reporting of the 2030 Agenda. The statistics produced are disseminated in the [UNIDO Statistics Portal](#) in the form of databases, analytical tools and statistical reports. In addition to country-level information, UNIDO also presents collective data for country groups according to stages of industrial development, as well as additional classifications.

This document describes the methodology followed to obtain the UNIDO country groups by stage of industrial development. It also presents the resulting country groups that are presented in all products from UNIDO Statistics during 2023, including its statistical databases and the forthcoming International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics (see [8] for last year's edition), among others. The rest of the document is organized as follows. The next chapter will first present a brief historical account of UNIDO's country classification methodology and will provide additional context by summarizing other classifications available in the literature. Section 2.2 will then introduce the classification criteria and the methodology followed by UNIDO. The resulting country groups by stage of industrial development for 2023 are presented in Section 2.3. In addition to these groups, UNIDO also relies on other geographical, economic or special country groups; these are described in detail in Chapter 3.

It must be noted that the UNIDO country classification 2023, as well as designations such as “industrial”, “industrializing” or “emerging”, are intended for statistical purposes only, with the aim of facilitating the

Table 2.1 | Criteria followed in UNIDO's 2013 country classification methodology

Country group	Criteria
Industrialized economies	MVA per capita (adjusted) $\geq$ 2500 or GDP per capita (PPP) $\geq$ 20000
Emerging industrial economies	2500 > MVA per capita (adjusted) $\geq$ 1000 or 20000 > GDP per capita (PPP) $\geq$ 10000 or Share in world MVA $\geq$ 0.5%
Other developing economies	All others (except LDCs)
Least developed countries (LDCs)	Official UN list

Source: Own elaboration based on [9]

Note: Figures are expressed in international dollars at constant 2005 prices. The international dollar is an artificial currency used to eliminate purchasing power differences when comparing national economies. The purchasing power of 1 international dollar is equivalent to the purchasing power of 1 USD in the United States.

organization and presentation of statistical information. They do not express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular economy in its development process or any association between economies. Finally, this classification bears no implication on decisions of technical assistance or any other UNIDO activity.

2 UNIDO's country classification

2.1 Historical outline

UNIDO has consistently relied on a classification of countries by stage of industrial development. This allows to identify groups of economies sharing similar development trends and policy challenges, as well as summarizing the large amount of country-level data available in UNIDO databases. The country classification system currently in place was first implemented in 2022. It has been updated on a yearly basis since then, but maintaining a stable methodology.

Previously, different country classification approaches were in place. Before 2013, the country classification was determined by historical country lists adapted to the geopolitical and economic context. In other words, the country groupings were “based more on political and economic perceptions than on statistical considerations” [9, p. 2]. This changed in 2013, when the statistical methodology described in [9] was introduced. This classification system remained in place until 2021. In that methodology, countries were assigned to four groups according to the official list of least developed countries (LDCs) and thresholds set according to a combination of manufacturing value added (MVA) per capita, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita and share in world MVA. These criteria are summarized in Table 2.1.

In this classification, both MVA and GDP were adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP). The thresholds were fixed according to empirical evidence, as recorded in [10]. The methodology produced consistent and stable country groupings that were used in all major research-based reports and statistical products published by UNIDO during this period.

However, there was a need to update the classification methodology for a number of reasons.

1. The MVA and GDP thresholds, defined in international dollars at 2005 prices, remained fixed throughout the entire period of application of this classification and needed to be updated.
2. The *or* operator used in the classification criteria created contradictions and inconsistencies in some cases.
3. In practice, economies could move upwards in the classification (e.g., from "emerging industrial economies" to "industrialized economies") but were not allowed to move downwards (i.e., once an economy "graduated" as an industrialized economy, it practically remained in that category permanently). This created increasingly heterogeneous groups at the top of the classification.
4. The use of the variable *Share in world MVA* as a criterion did not reflect the countries' stage of industrial development and benefited large economies.
5. The use of PPP-adjusted MVA and GDP provided a correction for differences in purchasing power between countries. However, PPP adjustment factors are based on economy-wide baskets and it is not clear how well they reflect price differences of manufactured goods, which would be more relevant in this case. In addition, data on PPP adjustment factors are not available for all economies.
6. The classification included a criterion not entirely based on data, namely membership in the group of LDCs.
7. Over time, the term "developing", used in one of the groups, became increasingly controversial and contested.
8. The country groupings were revised irregularly.

The methodology described in the present report was introduced in 2022 to replace the system described in Table 2.1. It bridged the shortcomings of the previous classification system and introduced a regular revision cycle. The new methodology will be described in the next section.

It is worth mentioning other classification alternatives available in the literature. There are numerous methodologies for allocating economies to groups defined by geographical location [11], income [12], human development [13] and many domain-specific factors. However, there are limited efforts to classify economies in terms of their industrial development. Other than the previous UNIDO classification described above, the only complete taxonomy is provided by [14]. The authors allocate countries to four manufacturing tiers according to a cluster analysis based on five variables: MVA per capita, MVA as a proportion of GDP, Gini index of intra-manufacturing value added, share of medium-high and high-technology industries in MVA and normalized manufacturing trade balance. One of the shortcomings of this taxonomy is that, because of the relatively high data requirements, only 50 economies are considered. In addition, the tiers reflect common country characteristics and not necessarily a progression in terms of industrial development.

Other studies refer to terms such as industrial nations, industrialized economies or newly industrialized countries (for instance, see [15; 16; 17]), but without providing an unambiguous definition or a complete taxonomy.

2.2 Current classification methodology

The main purpose of the UNIDO country classification is defining a relatively homogeneous set of country groups that have common features in terms of their stage of industrial development, determined by objective criteria derived from official indicators of industrial performance. It adheres to the basic principles of statistical classifications, as defined in [18; 19]. In particular, it follows the three essential characteristics of such classifications by allocating economies to categories that are:

- ▶ Discrete: There is a countable number of categories.
- ▶ Exhaustive: It is possible to allocate each and every economy to one category.
- ▶ Mutually exclusive: Countries can only be assigned to one category; in other words, there is no overlap between categories.

Furthermore, the UNIDO classification system follows some additional principles:

- ▶ Data-based and objective: Economies are assigned to a category based on their most recent outcomes in a pre-determined set of variables and with no inertia from previous years' groupings.
- ▶ Hierarchical: Categories follow a two-level structure, with economies assigned first to a group at the first level, and then to a subgroup at the second level.
- ▶ Sequential: An upward transition to a higher category, at the same level of the hierarchy, reflects improving outcomes in terms of industrial development.
- ▶ Determined by relative thresholds: Categories are defined by data-based thresholds that depend on the distribution of all countries, rather than on fixed quantities. This reflects the constant dynamism of the sector, as well as its globalized nature, where economies "compete" in a global arena and industrial performance is measured relative to the performance of other economies
- ▶ Adapted to industrialization patterns: The classification reflects the empirical paths followed by countries along a structural transformation process.
- ▶ Regularly updated: While the classification methodology remains stable, country groups are revised on a yearly basis, with the objective of reflecting countries' current situation.

The starting point is the UNIDO list of target economies. This is based on the UN standard list of economies for statistical use, better known as the M49 Standard [11], which includes 248 countries or areas. However, not all of these economies report official data in an independent manner. The UNIDO list of target economies only includes the 212 countries or areas that report relevant official data for building industrial indicators. The complete list of target economies is included in Annex Table A.1.

As mentioned above, the UNIDO country classification is hierarchical. In the first level of the hierarchy, economies are first classified in two groups: *industrial* or *industrializing*^{*}, depending on their combined outcome in two variables:

1. Average MVA per capita, in USD at constant 2015 prices, during the five-year period 2017–2021.
2. The historical maximum of MVA as a proportion of GDP recorded during the period 1970–2021; the shares are calculated using national accounts at current prices.

^{*} It must be noted that, from the point of view of official statistics, *industry* encompasses four sectors of economic activity: mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply; and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities. However, as it is common practice in the economics literature, in the UNIDO country classification and this report, *industry* and related terms refer only to manufacturing. See [8, Section 1.2] for more information about this distinction.

The first variable attempts to capture the current size of the manufacturing sector. It is expressed in per capita terms to allow international comparisons. The average of the last five years are preferred to avoid short-term fluctuations and outliers. The second variable also measures the magnitude of the manufacturing sector, but this time relative to total economic activity.[†] The maximum value over a longer time period (1970–2021) is considered in order to account for the non-linear process of industrial development that has been observed historically. Indeed, the share of manufacturing in the economy is expected to follow an inverted-U shape: increasing during the initial stages of structural transformation, up to the point where the economy reaches higher income levels and transitions to a services-based economy [10; 20; 21]. Even if a high-income economy has shifted away from manufacturing, industrial capabilities remain and the economy usually retains specific industries, either those with strategic importance or those characterized by high productivity and innovation. Both variables are sourced from UNIDO's National Accounts Database [22] and their values are reproduced in Annex Table A.1. The two variables consider a period up to 2021. The country classification was updated in early 2023 and, at that time, the required information for 2022 was still not universally available. 2021 is therefore taken as the last reference year.

Economies above the world median for both variables are considered as *industrial*, while the rest are included in the group of *industrializing* economies. The threshold is therefore relative to the distribution of all economies. The denomination *industrial* is preferred over *industrialized* to point to the fact that industrial development is a constant and dynamic process that is never fully accomplished. Evidence of this is the reinvigoration of industrial policy and prioritization of strategic manufacturing industries observed recently across the world, including in high-income economies [23]. Similarly, the denomination *industrializing* is preferred over terms such as *non-industrial* to highlight that economies at all income levels could benefit from a stronger industrial development, among other reasons for providing a solid productive structure and strengthening resilience amidst overlapping crises [23].

In the second level of the hierarchy, *industrial* and *industrializing* economies are further assigned to one of three income groups: *high income*, *middle income* or *low income*. The classification follows the 2023 World Bank income groups, which are determined by countries' level of gross national income (GNI) per capita [12].[‡] This serves the purpose of distinguishing countries and areas in different economic contexts and facing common challenges. This could help in further targeting data analysis based on the country groups.

After applying the two levels of the hierarchy described above, all countries and areas are assigned to one of six potential groups. However, one of the possible combinations, *low-income industrial economies*, remained empty in 2023 (in other words, no low-income economy reached the threshold to be considered an industrial economy). There are therefore five UNIDO country groups by stage of industrial development:

- *High-income industrial economies*: Countries or areas that have achieved a high national income through a development path that resulted in high industrialization levels.
- *High-income industrializing economies*: Countries or areas with a high income level but with relatively low levels of industrialization.

[†] The ratio uses GDP as the denominator instead of total value added. This because GDP is a more common term. In addition, because of its measurement through consumption, expenditure and income, it can be more easily linked to broader economic concepts.

[‡] Four UNIDO target economies are missing in the 2023 World Bank income classification and their income group is imputed. Anguilla, Montserrat and Cook Islands are classified as high-income economies because their GNI per capita is above this group's 2023 lower threshold: 13,846 USD. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is assigned to the group of middle-income economies, since its latest GNI per capita of 3,981 USD would classify it in the lower-middle bracket.

- ▶ *Medium-income industrial economies*: Countries or areas classified as medium-income economies that have already achieved significant outcomes in terms of structural change.
- ▶ *Medium-income industrializing economies*: Countries or areas classified as medium-income but that still remain at comparatively low levels of industrialization; these are some of the economies that could benefit the most from prioritizing industrial development in their policy strategies.
- ▶ *Low-income economies*: Countries or areas that remain at low income levels and also underperform in industrial development indicators; these economies would greatly gain from an accelerated structural change that could foster sustainable development.

It must be noted that additional variables could be used to further refine the classification system. Particularly, the classification criteria could include indicators on manufacturing quality, such as the share of manufacturing production and trade that originates in higher-technology, innovation-intensive industries. However, this requires official information that is not available for all economies, therefore breaching the exhaustiveness principle of a statistical classification. However, UNIDO monitors availability of industrial statistics and may incorporate new indicators in future versions of the classification methodology whenever they become available with complete coverage.

In addition to the main country groups listed above, UNIDO constructs one additional, overlapping group of great interest when studying industrial development. This is the group of *emerging industrial economies (EIEs)*, which includes low- and middle-income economies whose manufacturing sector has demonstrated significant dynamism in recent years. In addition to several industrial economies, the group also includes industrializing economies that, although still at earlier stages of industrial development, have shown strong manufacturing growth. The construction of this group follows closely the methodology for identifying “successful industrializers”, as described in [2]. For each low- and middle-income economy and each year in the period 1990–2021, a positive manufacturing growth episode is identified if the country's MVA in constant prices grew at a rate higher than the median world growth rate. Otherwise, a negative growth rate episode is assigned. EIEs are those countries and areas that recorded at least 75 per cent of positive manufacturing growth episodes in the reference period.

The methodology described above is recalculated once per year to determine the UNIDO country groups that remains fixed throughout the year. The results for 2023 are presented in the next chapter, while the changes with respect to the 2022 classification are left for Annex Table A.4.

2.3 Results for 2023

The 2023 UNIDO country classification according to stage of industrial development is listed in full in Annex Table A.2 and summarized in Table 2.2. There are in total 72 industrial economies and 140 industrializing economies. In terms of number of economies, the largest group is that of *middle-income industrializing economies*. MVA per capita increases steadily through the hierarchy, starting from an average of 70 USD at constant 2015 prices for *low-income economies*, and reaching 6,125 USD on average in *high-income industrial economies*, almost 90 times higher. The share of manufacturing in GDP follows a less clear direction. The highest share is found in *middle-income industrial economies* with 29.8 per cent of their GDP. On the other hand, the lowest proportion is observed in *high-income industrializing* and *low-income economies*, with 15.9 and 16.1 per cent, respectively.

Figure 2.1 and Table 2.3 show the geographical distribution of the UNIDO country groups. *High-income industrial economies* are concentrated in Northern America, Europe and Eastern Asia. *Middle-income industrial economies* are located mostly in Latin America, South-eastern Asia and Eastern Europe. It can

Table 2.2 | Average outcome in the classification variables by UNIDO country group

Country group	Number of economies	MVA per capita (2015 USD, average 2017–2021)	MVA share in GDP (Percentage, maximum 1970–2021)
High-income industrial economies	42	6,125	26.9
High-income industrializing economies	34	2,587	15.9
Middle-income industrial economies	30	1,899	29.8
Middle-income industrializing economies	78	297	18.9
Low-income economies	28	70	16.1

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [12; 22]

Note: The table shows weighted averages by country group, using population as weight.

Table 2.3 | Number of countries or areas by UNIDO country group and region, 2023

Country group	Africa	Asia and Oceania	Latin America and the Caribbean	Northern America and Europe
High-income industrial economies	0	10	4	28
High-income industrializing economies	1	11	13	9
Middle-income industrial economies	5	10	11	4
Middle-income industrializing economies	24	33	14	7
Low-income economies	24	4	0	0

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [12; 22]

be seen that, with only a few exceptions, Africa is mostly composed of economies at the industrializing stage, either with low- or middle-income levels. Although they are harder to observe in the map due to their small size, most island economies in the Caribbean and the Pacific are classified as *high-income* or *middle-income industrializing economies*.

Figure 2.2 presents the global distribution of the UNIDO country groups along several dimensions. The number of economies is distributed relatively uniformly among the groups, with the exception of the *middle-income industrializing economies* group, which has a higher prevalence. However, the groups' world shares in other dimensions can be significantly unbalanced.

With 14.2 per cent of the world population, *high-income industrial economies* are overrepresented in terms of their GDP (58.0 per cent of the world total), MVA (48.4 per cent) and manufacturing exports (56.5 per cent), especially in products classified as medium- and high-technology (MHT) (60.4 per cent). However, because of their high productivity and reliance of advanced production processes, they only account for 15.3 per cent of total manufacturing employment. *Middle-income industrial economies* are the largest group in terms of population and land area, with 38.0 and 37.4 per cent of the world, respectively. They are also a manufacturing powerhouse, accounting for 42.7 per cent of global MVA and 31.2 per cent of world manufacturing employment. A combination of high production levels and a reliance on relatively polluting industries and production processes means that this group produces 60.8 per cent of total CO₂ emissions from manufacturing. Together, *high-income* and *middle-income industrial economies* account for 91.1 per cent of world MVA.

High-income industrializing economies are the smallest group in several dimensions, including land area, population and manufacturing employment. They account for only 2.2 per cent of global MVA. Similarly, *middle-income industrializing economies*, despite accounting for more than one third of the globe's population and one quarter of world manufacturing employment, produce only 6.4 per cent of total MVA and 4.0 per cent of all manufacturing exports.

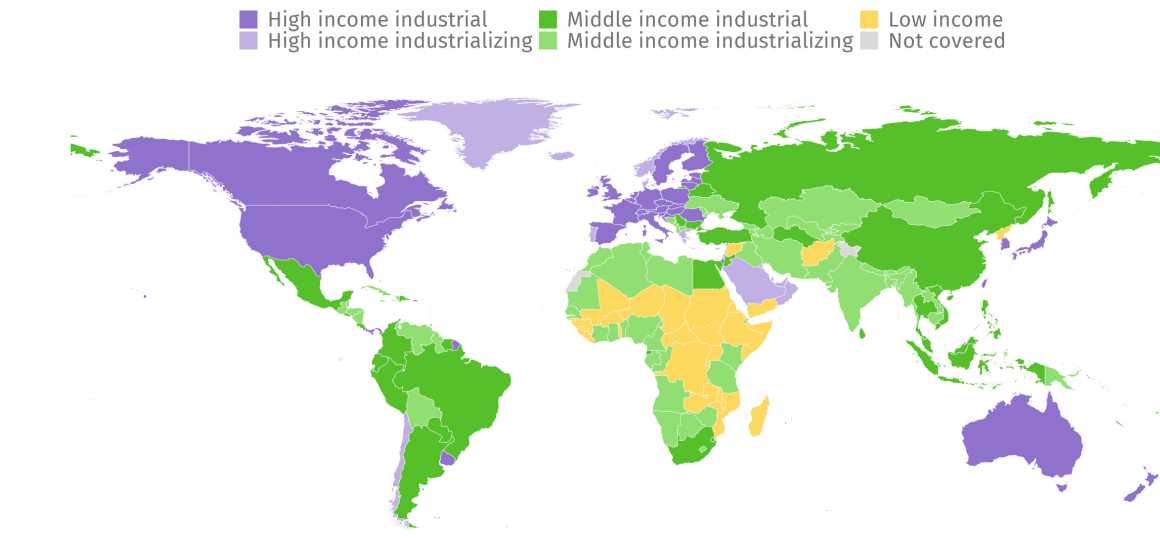


Figure 2.1 | UNIDO country groups by stage of industrial development, 2023

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [12; 22]

Finally, the group of *low-income economies* accounts for 11.8 and 9.1 per cent of world land area and population, respectively. However, they are underrepresented in terms of GDP and manufacturing activity. In fact, they are responsible for only 0.3 per cent of global MVA. In some dimensions, such as total manufacturing exports and MHT exports, they are barely visible in the graph.

The manufacturing sector is in constant evolution and it is affected by global mega-trends [8; 23], including a regional rebalancing of manufacturing activity towards middle-income economies and a prioritization of green and innovation-based industries. Because of this dynamism, it is essential to review country groups on a regular basis according to a flexible classification methodology, so that the resulting groups closely reflect reality. Figure 2.3 offers a glimpse of global manufacturing trends according to the current composition of the UNIDO country groups by stage of industrial development. The graphs show that *high-income industrial economies* maintain a high level of MVA in per capita terms, although with a declining weight in GDP, as they continue shifting towards services-based economies. On the other hand, manufacturing keeps gaining relevance in *middle-income industrial economies*, in both per capita and proportional terms. At its current configuration, the *industrializing* groups at all income levels do not seem to be making progress towards structural transformation, with both indicators remaining relatively stagnant in recent years.

An analysis of the classification presented in this report in comparison to other development indicators provides interesting insights. Table 2.4 shows the average percentile in four common indices, according to the UNIDO country groups. First, there are two metrics of overall human and sustainable development. The second column shows the human development index (HDI), calculated and maintained by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This is a long-standing indicator measuring human development, defined as the process of expanding people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being; it is a composite index of four variables: life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling and gross national income per capita [27]. The third column corresponds to the SDG Index, a composite assessment of each economy's overall performance in the 17 SDGs based on official and non-official data. It is published by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network [28]. Both

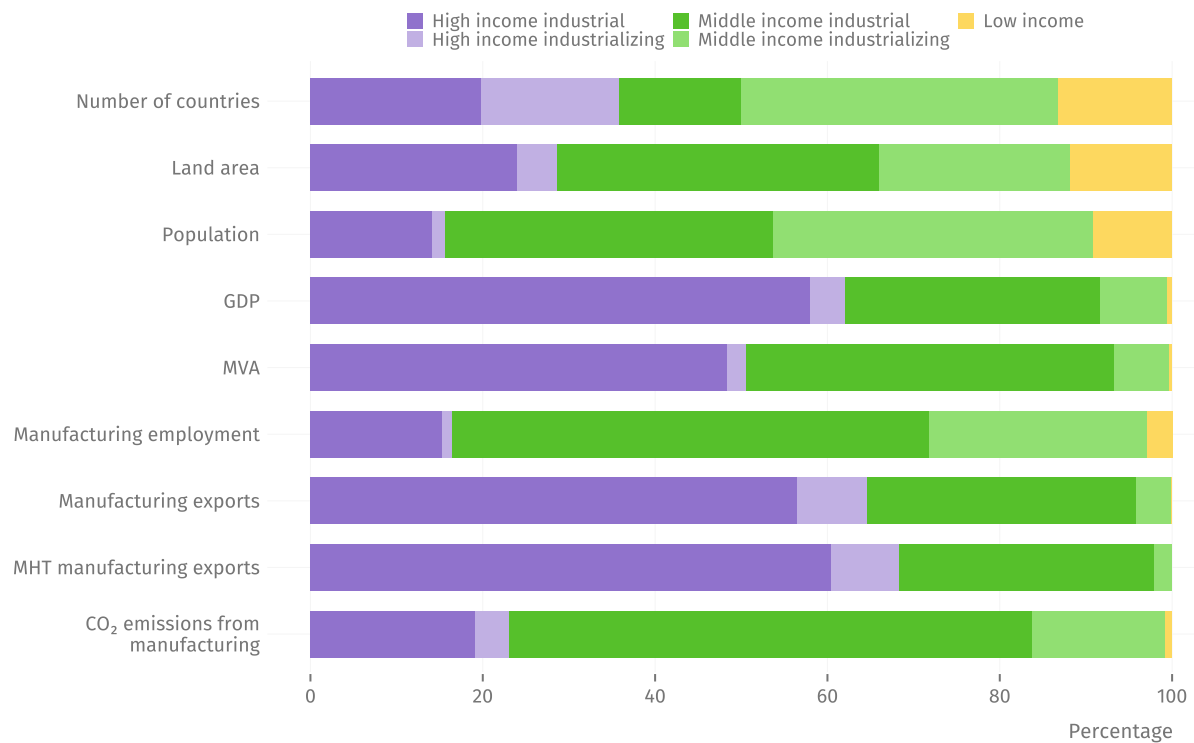


Figure 2.2 | World distribution in selected dimensions according to UNIDO country groups

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [12; 22; 24; 25; 26]

Note: Shares correspond to the latest reference year available, which is 2021 for all variables excepting CO₂ emissions (2019).

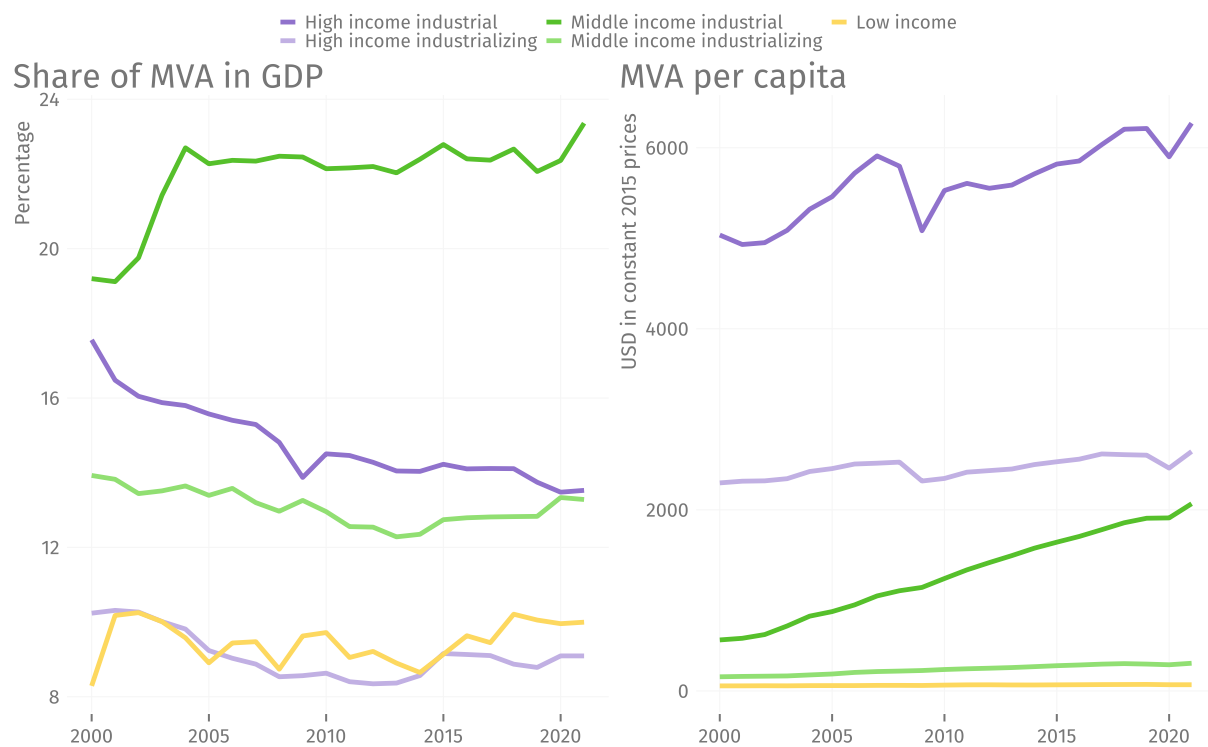


Figure 2.3 | Trends in manufacturing indicators by UNIDO country group

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [12; 22]

Table 2.4 | Average percentile in selected development indicators by UNIDO country group

Country group	HDI, 2021	SDG Index, 2022	CIP Index, 2020	SDG 9 Industry Index, 2019
High-income industrial economies	85.2	83.1	81.4	79.5
High-income industrializing economies	81.0	61.7	54.6	58.0
Middle-income industrial economies	54.3	57.2	64.1	59.8
Middle-income industrializing economies	36.8	40.3	32.2	25.8
Low-income economies	7.6	10.5	9.2	7.4

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [27–30]

Note: The table shows unweighted average percentiles by country group.

indicators show an unidirectional progression, from *low-income economies* to *high-income industrial economies*, corroborating the strong links between industrialization and overall development.

The last two columns of the table cover industry-specific indicators. First, the competitive industrial performance (CIP) Index indicates how successful a country's industries are, in relative terms, at producing and selling their goods in domestic and foreign markets while moving along the technological ladder. This Index, calculated by UNIDO since 2013, summarizes eight measures of industrial performance [29]. Second, the SDG 9 Industry Index combines the outcomes in five industry-related indicators of SDG 9. It is produced by UNIDO, as the custodian agency of these indicators [30]. As anticipated, both *high-income* and *middle-income industrial economies* excel in these metrics, recording the highest percentiles. *High-income industrializing economies* follow closely behind, while the other two groups trail at the bottom. These results show that the UNIDO country classification produces coherent results that align well with recent sustainable development outcomes.

Finally, as noted in Annex Table A.5, the group of EIEs includes 12 economies in 2023: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Lao People's DR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. These economies have indeed experienced rapid progress in their industrialization indicators. Figure 2.4 compares recent trends in MVA per capita between them and the rest of the world. It is evident that EIEs have been remarkably successful at industrializing, with an average annual growth rate in MVA per capita of 8.9 per cent in the period 2000–2021, compared to only 0.4 per cent for the rest of the world. At this pace, EIEs will reach the MVA per capita level of the rest of the world by 2026.

3 Additional country groups in UNIDO statistics

Together with the main country classification described in the preceding chapter, UNIDO relies on other taxonomies to disseminate its statistical information. This chapter will shortly describe these additional groupings. However, this is a non-exhaustive account. Other country groups may be employed in specific publications or created responding to users requests. Any reader interested in proposing additional taxonomies or country groups for inclusion in UNIDO data products is invited to [contact us](#).

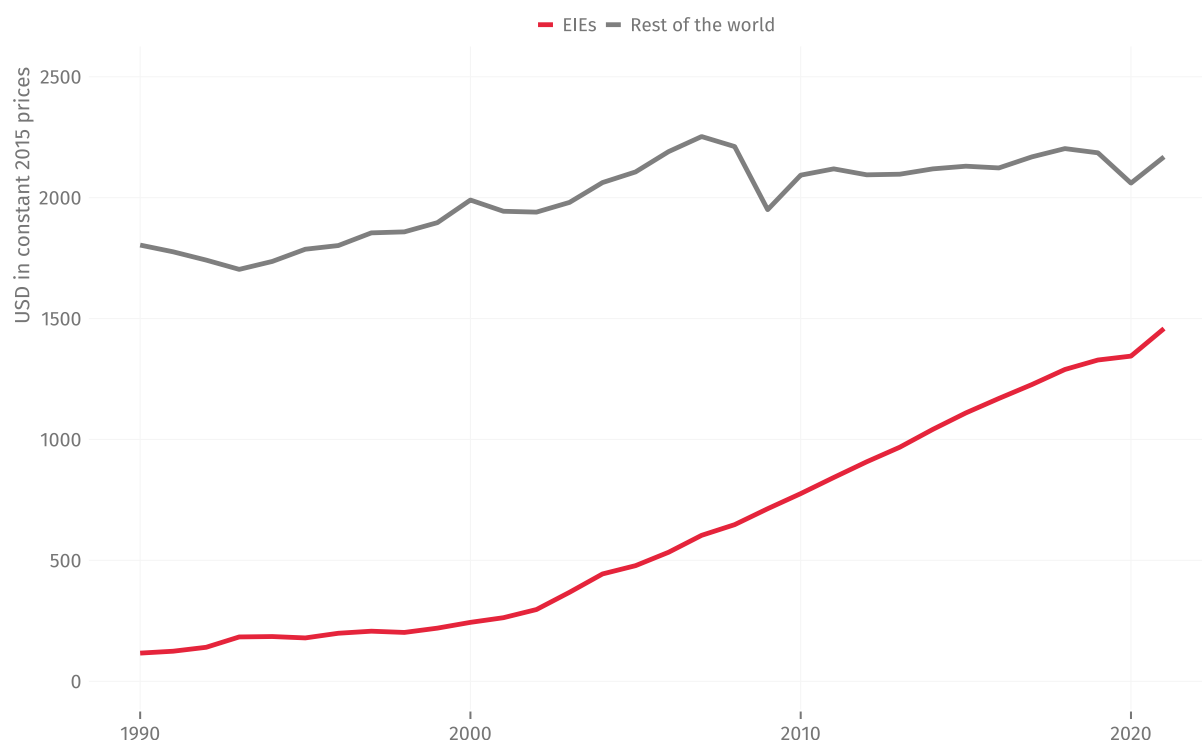


Figure 2.4 | Trends in MVA per capita in EIEs and other economies

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [12; 22]

3.1 Regional groups

Geographical regions is one of the most common taxonomies for presenting data and analysing trends. However, there are many different ways to partition the world according to regional groups. UNIDO follows the UN Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use, better known as the M49 Standard [11]. This standard includes a three-level geographical hierarchy; however, UNIDO applies a simplified version of the taxonomy. Each country or area is therefore assigned to one of the following regions and subregions:

- ▶ Africa, with five subregions: Central Africa*, Eastern Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa and Western Africa.
- ▶ Americas, with four subregions: Caribbean, Central America, Northern America and South America.
- ▶ Asia, with five subregions: Central Asia, Eastern Asia, South-eastern Asia, Southern Asia and Western Asia.
- ▶ Europe, with four subregions: Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe and Western Europe.
- ▶ Oceania, with four subregions: Australia and New Zealand, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

For statistical convenience, the geographical groups are also consolidated into four major regions:

- ▶ Africa;
- ▶ Asia and Oceania;

* This subregion is called *Middle Africa* in the M49 Standard. The name was changed in alignment with the term most commonly used in the literature and in accordance with subregional institutions.

- ▶ Latin America and the Caribbean[†];
- ▶ Northern America and Europe.

The complete list of countries and areas according to regional groups is included in Annex Table A.3.

3.2 Income groups

The income groups were already presented in Section 2.2, as the second hierarchical level of the UNIDO classification. They are also presented separately to align with other publications and statistical analysis. As described before, they follow the 2023 World Bank income groups, which divide countries into four categories according to their level of GNI per capita: high income, upper-middle income, lower-middle income and low income. The two central groups are combined into a single group of middle-income economies [12] and four missing economies are imputed, as described in Section 2.2. Low- and middle-income economies are in occasions grouped together for analytical convenience. The list of target economies in Annex Table A.1 also mentions the income groups.

Income groups are also intersected with geographical regions, especially the four major regions described before, to obtain region-specific groups of economies by income level.

3.3 Countries facing unique development challenges

In the work of the UN, there are three groups of countries in vulnerable situations. These groups were created with the objective of identifying shared development challenges, advocating for common solutions and galvanizing international support. UNIDO follows the official UN lists for these groups.

- ▶ Least developed countries (LDCs): This is a group of lower-income countries suffering from the most severe structural impediments to sustainable development. In 2023, 46 economies are classified as LDCs [31]. For a statistical profile of this country group, see [8, chapter 5]. The list of LDCs is included in Annex Table A.6.
- ▶ Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs): Countries whose development prospects could be affected by their lack of access to territorial sea, isolation from markets and high transport costs. There are 32 countries counted as LLDCs [32]. The list of LLDCs is included in Annex Table A.7.
- ▶ Small island developing States (SIDS): Economies facing unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities due to their remoteness, small size and exposure to climate risks. There are 47 economies classified as SIDS in UNIDO's list of target economies [33]. The list of SIDS is included in Annex Table A.8.

These three groups are sometimes intersected with regional groups, particularly the four major regions mentioned above, to obtain region-specific groups of economies facing unique development challenges.

[†] This group combines the subregions of Caribbean, Central America and South America.

3.4 Economic groups

Country group aggregates and averages are also prepared for specific economic groups, including regional/subregional bodies, monetary unions, trade agreements and international organizations. The 2023 groups always reflect the current country composition. The economic groups currently considered in UNIDO Statistics are the following, in alphabetical order:

- ▶ African Union
- ▶ Andean Community
- ▶ Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)
- ▶ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- ▶ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- ▶ BRICS
- ▶ Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- ▶ Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)
- ▶ Central American Common Market (CACM)
- ▶ Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA)
- ▶ Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- ▶ Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
- ▶ East African Community (EAC)
- ▶ Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL)
- ▶ Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- ▶ Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)
- ▶ European Union
- ▶ Eurozone
- ▶ G20
- ▶ G-77
- ▶ Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- ▶ Latin American Integration Association (LAIA)
- ▶ Middle East and North Africa (World Bank definition)
- ▶ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- ▶ Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)
- ▶ Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- ▶ Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- ▶ South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- ▶ Southern African Customs Union (SACU)
- ▶ Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- ▶ Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)
- ▶ United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA)
- ▶ West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

3.5 Other groups

In addition to the numerous country groups listed above, UNIDO also calculates additional groups for internal or external dissemination. These include special SDG regions, groups relevant for the five UN Regional Commissions and other groups.

A Annexes

A.1 List of UNIDO target economies

Table A.1 | List of UNIDO target economies and their values in the classification variables

Country code	ISO3 code	Country name	Income level	MVA per capita (constant 2015 USD)	Max. MVA share in GDP (%)	Year of max. MVA share in GDP	UNIDO country group	EIE
004	AFG	Afghanistan	Low	29	21.6	1985	Low-income economies	
008	ALB	Albania	Middle	289	20.0	1990	Middle-income industrializing economies	
012	DZA	Algeria	Middle	194	13.8	1986	Middle-income industrializing economies	
020	AND	Andorra	High	1,422	4.1	2021	High-income industrializing economies	
024	AGO	Angola	Middle	240	10.8	1986	Middle-income industrializing economies	
660	AIA	Anguilla	High	442	3.1	2009	High-income industrializing economies	
028	ATG	Antigua and Barbuda	High	388	6.8	1973	High-income industrializing economies	
032	ARG	Argentina	Middle	1,767	33.1	1976	Middle-income industrial economies	
051	ARM	Armenia	Middle	490	35.6	1991	Middle-income industrializing economies	
533	ABW	Aruba	High	1,022	6.7	2008	High-income industrializing economies	
036	AUS	Australia	High	3,032	20.9	1970	High-income industrial economies	
040	AUT	Austria	High	8,019	28.6	1970	High-income industrial economies	
031	AZE	Azerbaijan	Middle	307	21.9	1992	Middle-income industrializing economies	
044	BHS	Bahamas	High	392	3.0	2016	High-income industrializing economies	
048	BHR	Bahrain	High	3,900	18.5	2017	High-income industrializing economies	
050	BGD	Bangladesh	Middle	405	21.2	2021	Middle-income industrializing economies	✓
052	BRB	Barbados	High	873	17.0	1984	High-income industrializing economies	
112	BLR	Belarus	Middle	1,367	38.0	1991	Middle-income industrial economies	
056	BEL	Belgium	High	5,131	30.0	1970	High-income industrial economies	
084	BLZ	Belize	Middle	423	14.2	1987	Middle-income industrializing economies	
204	BEN	Benin	Middle	111	22.3	1994	Middle-income industrializing economies	
060	BMU	Bermuda	High	526	2.5	2000	High-income industrializing economies	
064	BTN	Bhutan	Middle	218	11.3	1996	Middle-income industrializing economies	
068	BOL	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Middle	325	17.8	1988	Middle-income industrializing economies	
070	BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Middle	660	14.4	2021	Middle-income industrializing economies	

Table A.1 | List of UNIDO target economies and their values in the classification variables (*continued*)

Country code	ISO3 code	Country name	Income level	MVA per capita (constant 2015 USD)	Max. MVA share in GDP (%)	Year of max. MVA share in GDP	UNIDO country group	EIE
072	BWA	Botswana	Middle	391	8.5	2007	Middle-income industrializing economies	
076	BRA	Brazil	Middle	862	33.1	1980	Middle-income industrial economies	
092	VGB	British Virgin Islands	High	938	3.7	1998	High-income industrializing economies	
096	BRN	Brunei Darussalam	High	5,165	23.9	1976	High-income industrial economies	
100	BGR	Bulgaria	Middle	1,031	30.2	1986	Middle-income industrial economies	
854	BFA	Burkina Faso	Low	72	21.8	1976	Low-income economies	
108	BDI	Burundi	Low	29	18.1	1989	Low-income economies	
132	CPV	Cabo Verde	Middle	206	11.4	1992	Middle-income industrializing economies	
116	KHM	Cambodia	Middle	223	18.8	2004	Middle-income industrializing economies	✓
120	CMR	Cameroon	Middle	206	17.0	1994	Middle-income industrializing economies	
124	CAN	Canada	High	4,202	20.2	1972	High-income industrial economies	
136	CYM	Cayman Islands	High	695	1.4	1984	High-income industrializing economies	
140	CAF	Central African Rep.	Low	69	23.7	2012	Low-income economies	
148	TCD	Chad	Low	87	13.4	1984	Low-income economies	
152	CHL	Chile	High	1,536	19.6	1974	High-income industrializing economies	
156	CHN	China	Middle	2,814	32.5	1993	Middle-income industrial economies	✓
344	HKG	China, Hong Kong SAR	High	460	19.8	1984	High-income industrializing economies	
446	MAC	China, Macao SAR	High	381	14.4	1990	High-income industrializing economies	
158	TWN	China, Taiwan Province	High	8,438	37.7	1986	High-income industrial economies	
170	COL	Colombia	Middle	744	22.7	1976	Middle-income industrial economies	
174	COM	Comoros	Middle	89	7.8	2007	Middle-income industrializing economies	
178	COG	Congo	Middle	141	21.7	1971	Middle-income industrializing economies	
180	COD	Congo, Dem. Rep. of	Low	81	21.2	2002	Low-income economies	
184	COK	Cook Islands	High	430	10.9	1970	High-income industrializing economies	
188	CRI	Costa Rica	Middle	1,529	23.2	1984	Middle-income industrial economies	
191	HRV	Croatia	High	1,711	28.4	1991	High-income industrial economies	
192	CUB	Cuba	Middle	945	18.3	1997	Middle-income industrializing economies	
531	CUW	Curaçao	High	1,007	9.7	2016	High-income industrializing economies	
196	CYP	Cyprus	High	1,077	14.9	1978	High-income industrializing economies	
203	CZE	Czechia	High	4,876	28.2	1991	High-income industrial economies	
384	CIV	Côte d'Ivoire	Middle	374	22.1	1997	Middle-income industrializing economies	

Table A.1 | List of UNIDO target economies and their values in the classification variables (*continued*)

Country code	ISO3 code	Country name	Income level	MVA per capita (constant 2015 USD)	Max. MVA share in GDP (%)	Year of max. MVA share in GDP	UNIDO country group	EIE
208	DNK	Denmark	High	7,925	16.9	1970	High-income industrializing economies	
262	DJI	Djibouti	Middle	88	8.2	1979	Middle-income industrializing economies	
212	DMA	Dominica	Middle	212	8.7	2002	Middle-income industrializing economies	
214	DOM	Dominican Rep.	Middle	1,103	37.9	1975	Middle-income industrial economies	
218	ECU	Ecuador	Middle	836	25.8	1992	Middle-income industrial economies	
818	EGY	Egypt	Middle	548	20.7	1997	Middle-income industrial economies	
222	SLV	El Salvador	Middle	619	20.5	1993	Middle-income industrial economies	
226	GNQ	Equatorial Guinea	Middle	1,495	25.8	2021	Middle-income industrial economies	
232	ERI	Eritrea	Low	38	10.4	2002	Low-income economies	
233	EST	Estonia	High	2,696	32.7	1990	High-income industrial economies	
748	SWZ	Eswatini	Middle	1,129	35.2	2007	Middle-income industrial economies	
231	ETH	Ethiopia	Low	41	6.2	2017	Low-income economies	✓
242	FJI	Fiji	Middle	556	15.0	2001	Middle-income industrializing economies	
246	FIN	Finland	High	6,866	25.1	1974	High-income industrial economies	
250	FRA	France	High	4,006	20.0	1971	High-income industrial economies	
258	PYF	French Polynesia	High	943	8.8	1985	High-income industrializing economies	
266	GAB	Gabon	Middle	513	8.4	1972	Middle-income industrializing economies	
270	GMB	Gambia	Low	24	14.7	1982	Low-income economies	
268	GEO	Georgia	Middle	382	27.1	1991	Middle-income industrializing economies	
276	DEU	Germany	High	8,645	31.3	1970	High-income industrial economies	
288	GHA	Ghana	Middle	228	33.8	1975	Middle-income industrializing economies	
300	GRC	Greece	High	1,720	18.9	1974	High-income industrializing economies	
304	GRL	Greenland	High	1,011	8.3	2005	High-income industrializing economies	
308	GRD	Grenada	Middle	317	5.9	1999	Middle-income industrializing economies	
320	GTM	Guatemala	Middle	586	19.0	1980	Middle-income industrializing economies	
324	GIN	Guinea	Low	103	12.7	2008	Low-income economies	
624	GNB	Guinea-Bissau	Low	64	16.1	1998	Low-income economies	
328	GUY	Guyana	Middle	294	23.5	1975	Middle-income industrializing economies	
332	HTI	Haiti	Middle	223	23.2	1995	Middle-income industrializing economies	
340	HND	Honduras	Middle	404	20.5	2000	Middle-income industrializing economies	
348	HUN	Hungary	High	2,731	26.5	1975	High-income industrial economies	

Table A.1 | List of UNIDO target economies and their values in the classification variables (*continued*)

Country code	ISO3 code	Country name	Income level	MVA per capita (constant 2015 USD)	Max. MVA share in GDP (%)	Year of max. MVA share in GDP	UNIDO country group	EIE
352	ISL	Iceland	High	5,245	18.6	1973	High-income industrializing economies	
356	IND	India	Middle	293	18.0	1995	Middle-income industrializing economies	✓
360	IDN	Indonesia	Middle	767	26.6	1997	Middle-income industrial economies	✓
364	IRN	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	Middle	740	19.5	2020	Middle-income industrializing economies	
368	IRQ	Iraq	Middle	110	14.5	1988	Middle-income industrializing economies	
372	IRL	Ireland	High	26,700	34.7	2015	High-income industrial economies	
376	ISR	Israel	High	4,854	24.2	1970	High-income industrial economies	
380	ITA	Italy	High	4,621	26.8	1976	High-income industrial economies	
388	JAM	Jamaica	Middle	417	17.1	1986	Middle-income industrializing economies	
392	JPN	Japan	High	7,424	34.9	1970	High-income industrial economies	
400	JOR	Jordan	Middle	688	21.2	2007	Middle-income industrial economies	
398	KAZ	Kazakhstan	Middle	1,207	16.5	2000	Middle-income industrializing economies	
404	KEN	Kenya	Middle	149	19.1	1974	Middle-income industrializing economies	
296	KIR	Kiribati	Middle	58	10.9	1980	Middle-income industrializing economies	
408	PRK	Korea, Dem. People's Rep. of	Low	114	31.8	1990	Low-income economies	
410	KOR	Korea, Rep. of	High	8,343	28.2	2011	High-income industrial economies	
412	XKX	Kosovo	Middle	572	14.9	2009	Middle-income industrializing economies	
414	KWT	Kuwait	High	2,106	14.0	1989	High-income industrializing economies	
417	KGZ	Kyrgyzstan	Middle	180	31.4	1992	Middle-income industrializing economies	
418	LAO	Lao People's Dem. Rep.	Middle	204	15.0	1997	Middle-income industrializing economies	✓
428	LVA	Latvia	High	1,802	33.6	1991	High-income industrial economies	
422	LBN	Lebanon	Middle	443	12.3	2020	Middle-income industrializing economies	
426	LSO	Lesotho	Middle	185	26.5	2002	Middle-income industrializing economies	
430	LBR	Liberia	Low	24	10.7	1991	Low-income economies	
434	LBY	Libya	Middle	230	8.1	1995	Middle-income industrializing economies	
438	LIE	Liechtenstein	High	63,196	39.1	2011	High-income industrial economies	
440	LTU	Lithuania	High	2,964	32.9	1991	High-income industrial economies	
442	LUX	Luxembourg	High	5,092	30.1	1970	High-income industrial economies	
450	MDG	Madagascar	Low	39	10.8	1973	Low-income economies	
454	MWI	Malawi	Low	66	22.3	1992	Low-income economies	
458	MYS	Malaysia	Middle	2,430	30.9	1999	Middle-income industrial economies	✓

Table A.1 | List of UNIDO target economies and their values in the classification variables (*continued*)

Country code	ISO3 code	Country name	Income level	MVA per capita (constant 2015 USD)	Max. MVA share in GDP (%)	Year of max. MVA share in GDP	UNIDO country group	EIE
462	MDV	Maldives	Middle	200	5.4	2001	Middle-income industrializing economies	
466	MLI	Mali	Low	128	16.8	2006	Low-income economies	
470	MLT	Malta	High	1,805	27.3	1979	High-income industrial economies	
584	MHL	Marshall Islands	Middle	99	5.7	2014	Middle-income industrializing economies	
478	MRT	Mauritania	Middle	103	11.7	2002	Middle-income industrializing economies	
480	MUS	Mauritius	Middle	1,163	23.4	1987	Middle-income industrial economies	
484	MEX	Mexico	Middle	1,670	24.8	1988	Middle-income industrial economies	
583	FSM	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	Middle	18	1.9	2001	Middle-income industrializing economies	
498	MDA	Moldova, Rep. of	Middle	325	33.1	1993	Middle-income industrializing economies	
492	MCO	Monaco	High	6,503	6.9	2006	High-income industrializing economies	
496	MNG	Mongolia	Middle	327	19.6	1990	Middle-income industrializing economies	
499	MNE	Montenegro	Middle	289	11.7	2001	Middle-income industrializing economies	
500	MSR	Montserrat	High	480	10.7	1979	High-income industrializing economies	
504	MAR	Morocco	Middle	416	19.5	1985	Middle-income industrializing economies	
508	MOZ	Mozambique	Low	47	27.1	1980	Low-income economies	
104	MMR	Myanmar	Middle	318	25.6	2020	Middle-income industrializing economies	✓
516	NAM	Namibia	Middle	541	13.7	2011	Middle-income industrializing economies	
520	NRU	Nauru	High	1,801	33.9	2012	High-income industrial economies	
524	NPL	Nepal	Middle	50	9.1	1996	Middle-income industrializing economies	
528	NLD	Netherlands	High	5,360	24.0	1974	High-income industrial economies	
540	NCL	New Caledonia	High	3,283	35.3	1972	High-income industrial economies	
554	NZL	New Zealand	High	4,362	26.4	1982	High-income industrial economies	
558	NIC	Nicaragua	Middle	299	22.3	1986	Middle-income industrializing economies	
562	NER	Niger	Low	39	10.0	1975	Low-income economies	
566	NGA	Nigeria	Middle	223	21.1	1983	Middle-income industrializing economies	
807	MKD	North Macedonia	Middle	582	16.2	1990	Middle-income industrializing economies	
578	NOR	Norway	High	4,866	18.3	1974	High-income industrializing economies	
512	OMN	Oman	High	1,642	10.5	2011	High-income industrializing economies	
586	PAK	Pakistan	Middle	186	14.6	2008	Middle-income industrializing economies	
585	PLW	Palau	Middle	151	2.0	2002	Middle-income industrializing economies	
591	PAN	Panama	High	795	19.6	1975	High-income industrial economies	

Table A.1 | List of UNIDO target economies and their values in the classification variables (*continued*)

Country code	ISO3 code	Country name	Income level	MVA per capita (constant 2015 USD)	Max. MVA share in GDP (%)	Year of max. MVA share in GDP	UNIDO country group	EIE
598	PNG	Papua New Guinea	Middle	41	4.4	1989	Middle-income industrializing economies	
600	PRY	Paraguay	Middle	1,222	33.7	1974	Middle-income industrial economies	
604	PER	Peru	Middle	816	20.4	1988	Middle-income industrial economies	
608	PHL	Philippines	Middle	664	29.3	1973	Middle-income industrial economies	
616	POL	Poland	High	2,462	32.8	1990	High-income industrial economies	
620	PRT	Portugal	High	2,581	19.3	1974	High-income industrializing economies	
630	PRI	Puerto Rico	High	13,769	48.8	2020	High-income industrial economies	
634	QAT	Qatar	High	5,375	14.3	1988	High-income industrializing economies	
642	ROU	Romania	High	2,061	42.5	1975	High-income industrial economies	
643	RUS	Russian Federation	Middle	1,318	26.4	1991	Middle-income industrial economies	
646	RWA	Rwanda	Low	62	12.5	1994	Low-income economies	
659	KNA	Saint Kitts and Nevis	High	1,121	10.4	1977	High-income industrializing economies	
662	LCA	Saint Lucia	Middle	337	7.7	1980	Middle-income industrializing economies	
882	WSM	Samoa	Middle	193	15.0	2003	Middle-income industrializing economies	
674	SMR	San Marino	High	13,306	38.0	1999	High-income industrial economies	
678	STP	Sao Tome and Principe	Middle	107	9.1	2009	Middle-income industrializing economies	
682	SAU	Saudi Arabia	High	2,343	13.1	2021	High-income industrializing economies	
686	SEN	Senegal	Middle	226	25.1	1994	Middle-income industrializing economies	
688	SRB	Serbia	Middle	873	27.6	1995	Middle-income industrial economies	
690	SYC	Seychelles	High	902	10.6	2000	High-income industrializing economies	
694	SLE	Sierra Leone	Low	10	8.3	1970	Low-income economies	
702	SGP	Singapore	High	12,060	27.1	2004	High-income industrial economies	
534	SXM	Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	High	438	1.6	2011	High-income industrializing economies	
703	SVK	Slovakia	High	3,489	26.5	1991	High-income industrial economies	
705	SVN	Slovenia	High	5,035	29.1	1991	High-income industrial economies	
090	SLB	Solomon Islands	Middle	201	10.4	2019	Middle-income industrializing economies	
706	SOM	Somalia	Low	9	6.2	1971	Low-income economies	
710	ZAF	South Africa	Middle	726	22.1	1981	Middle-income industrial economies	
728	SSD	South Sudan	Low	12	2.8	2011	Low-income economies	
724	ESP	Spain	High	2,939	24.2	1974	High-income industrial economies	
144	LKA	Sri Lanka	Middle	675	24.2	1977	Middle-income industrial economies	

Table A.1 | List of UNIDO target economies and their values in the classification variables (*continued*)

Country code	ISO3 code	Country name	Income level	MVA per capita (constant 2015 USD)	Max. MVA share in GDP (%)	Year of max. MVA share in GDP	UNIDO country group	EIE
670	VCT	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Middle	367	10.6	1984	Middle-income industrializing economies	
275	PSE	State of Palestine	Middle	341	18.8	1994	Middle-income industrializing economies	
729	SDN	Sudan	Low	143	11.0	2018	Low-income economies	
740	SUR	Suriname	Middle	1,214	25.8	2008	Middle-income industrial economies	
752	SWE	Sweden	High	6,997	24.3	1974	High-income industrial economies	
756	CHE	Switzerland	High	16,759	23.0	1980	High-income industrial economies	
760	SYR	Syrian Arab Rep.	Low	50	19.2	1970	Low-income economies	
762	TJK	Tajikistan	Middle	193	59.1	1992	Middle-income industrializing economies	
834	TZA	Tanzania, United Rep. of	Middle	87	13.7	1978	Middle-income industrializing economies	✓
764	THA	Thailand	Middle	1,637	30.9	2010	Middle-income industrial economies	
626	TLS	Timor-Leste	Middle	24	2.6	2003	Middle-income industrializing economies	
768	TGO	Togo	Low	106	19.1	2007	Low-income economies	
776	TON	Tonga	Middle	239	8.9	2000	Middle-income industrializing economies	
780	TTO	Trinidad and Tobago	High	2,364	23.4	1970	High-income industrial economies	
788	TUN	Tunisia	Middle	532	18.6	1988	Middle-income industrializing economies	
795	TKM	Turkmenistan	Middle	2,015	75.9	1992	Middle-income industrial economies	
796	TCA	Turks and Caicos Islands	High	142	5.4	1997	High-income industrializing economies	
798	TUV	Tuvalu	Middle	35	2.6	1989	Middle-income industrializing economies	
792	TUR	Türkiye	Middle	2,054	26.6	1989	Middle-income industrial economies	
800	UGA	Uganda	Low	138	20.7	2013	Low-income economies	✓
804	UKR	Ukraine	Middle	264	44.0	1991	Middle-income industrializing economies	
784	ARE	United Arab Emirates	High	4,023	11.8	2001	High-income industrializing economies	
826	GBR	United Kingdom	High	4,335	26.7	1970	High-income industrial economies	
840	USA	United States of America	High	6,821	23.3	1970	High-income industrial economies	
858	URY	Uruguay	High	1,862	23.4	1986	High-income industrial economies	
860	UZB	Uzbekistan	Middle	432	20.0	2021	Middle-income industrializing economies	
548	VUT	Vanuatu	Middle	85	5.5	1991	Middle-income industrializing economies	
862	VEN	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	Middle	396	30.9	1986	Middle-income industrializing economies	
704	VNM	Viet Nam	Middle	780	24.6	2021	Middle-income industrial economies	✓
887	YEM	Yemen	Low	62	11.8	1994	Low-income economies	
894	ZMB	Zambia	Low	98	33.4	1991	Low-income economies	

Table A.1 | List of UNIDO target economies and their values in the classification variables (*continued*)

Country code	ISO3 code	Country name	Income level	MVA per capita (constant 2015 USD)	Max. MVA share in GDP (%)	Year of max. MVA share in GDP	UNIDO country group	EIE
716	ZWE	Zimbabwe	Middle	139	23.7	1992	Middle-income industrializing economies	

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [12; 22]

Note: MVA per capita refers to the average value over the period 2017–2021. Maximum MVA share in GDP refers to the maximum observed value in the period 1970–2021; the year when the maximum was registered is also indicated. The world median MVA per capita is 529 USD and the world median MVA share in GDP is 19.6 per cent.

A.2 UNIDO country classification by stage of industrial development

Table A.2 | UNIDO country/area classification by stage of industrial development

High-income industrial economies			
Australia	Germany	Malta	Slovakia
Austria	Hungary	Nauru	Slovenia
Belgium	Ireland	Netherlands	Spain
Brunei Darussalam	Israel	New Caledonia	Sweden
Canada	Italy	New Zealand	Switzerland
China, Taiwan Province	Japan	Panama	Trinidad and Tobago
Croatia	Korea, Rep. of	Poland	United Kingdom
Czechia	Latvia	Puerto Rico	United States of America
Estonia	Liechtenstein	Romania	Uruguay
Finland	Lithuania	San Marino	
France	Luxembourg	Singapore	
High-income industrializing economies			
Andorra	Cayman Islands	Greece	Qatar
Anguilla	Chile	Greenland	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Antigua and Barbuda	China, Hong Kong SAR	Iceland	Saudi Arabia
Aruba	China, Macao SAR	Kuwait	Seychelles
Bahamas	Cook Islands	Monaco	Sint Maarten (Dutch part)
Bahrain	Curaçao	Montserrat	Turks and Caicos Islands
Barbados	Cyprus	Norway	United Arab Emirates
Bermuda	Denmark	Oman	
British Virgin Islands	French Polynesia	Portugal	
Middle-income industrial economies			
Argentina	Ecuador	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Belarus	Egypt	Mexico	Suriname
Brazil	El Salvador	Paraguay	Thailand
Bulgaria	Equatorial Guinea	Peru	Turkmenistan
China	Eswatini	Philippines	Türkiye
Colombia	Indonesia	Russian Federation	Viet Nam
Costa Rica	Jordan	Serbia	
Dominican Rep.	Malaysia	South Africa	
Middle-income industrializing economies			
Albania	Dominica	Lebanon	Saint Lucia
Algeria	Fiji	Lesotho	Samoa
Angola	Gabon	Libya	Sao Tome and Principe
Armenia	Georgia	Maldives	Senegal
Azerbaijan	Ghana	Marshall Islands	Solomon Islands
Bangladesh	Grenada	Mauritania	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Belize	Guatemala	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	State of Palestine
Benin	Guyana	Moldova, Rep. of	Tajikistan
Bhutan	Haiti	Mongolia	Tanzania, United Rep. of
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Honduras	Montenegro	Timor-Leste
Bosnia and Herzegovina	India	Morocco	Tonga
Botswana	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	Myanmar	Tunisia
Cabo Verde	Iraq	Namibia	Tuvalu
Cambodia	Jamaica	Nepal	Ukraine
Cameroon	Kazakhstan	Nicaragua	Uzbekistan
Comoros	Kenya	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Congo	Kiribati	North Macedonia	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)
Cuba	Kosovo	Pakistan	Zimbabwe
Côte d'Ivoire	Kyrgyzstan	Palau	
Djibouti	Lao People's Dem. Rep.	Papua New Guinea	
Low-income economies			
Afghanistan	Ethiopia	Malawi	South Sudan
Burkina Faso	Gambia	Mali	Sudan
Burundi	Guinea	Mozambique	Syrian Arab Rep.
Central African Rep.	Guinea-Bissau	Niger	Togo
Chad	Korea, Dem. People's Rep. of	Rwanda	Uganda
Congo, Dem. Rep. of	Liberia	Sierra Leone	Yemen
Eritrea	Madagascar	Somalia	Zambia

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [12; 22]

A.3 Country/area classification by geographical region

Table A.3 | Country/area classification by geographical region

Africa	Americas	China, Hong Kong SAR	Northern Europe
Central Africa	Caribbean	China, Macao SAR	Denmark
Angola	Anguilla	China, Taiwan Province	Estonia
Cameroon	Antigua and Barbuda	Japan	Finland
Central African Rep.	Aruba	Korea, Dem. People's Rep. of	Iceland
Chad	Bahamas	Korea, Rep. of	Ireland
Congo	Barbados	Mongolia	Latvia
Congo, Dem. Rep. of	British Virgin Islands	South-eastern Asia	Lithuania
Equatorial Guinea	Cayman Islands	Brunei Darussalam	Norway
Gabon	Cuba	Cambodia	Sweden
Sao Tome and Principe	Curaçao	Indonesia	United Kingdom
Eastern Africa	Dominica	Lao People's Dem. Rep.	Southern Europe
Burundi	Dominican Rep.	Malaysia	Albania
Comoros	Grenada	Myanmar	Andorra
Djibouti	Haiti	Philippines	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Eritrea	Jamaica	Singapore	Croatia
Ethiopia	Montserrat	Thailand	Greece
Kenya	Puerto Rico	Timor-Leste	Italy
Madagascar	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Viet Nam	Kosovo
Malawi	Saint Lucia	Southern Asia	Malta
Mauritius	Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	Afghanistan	Montenegro
Mozambique	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Bangladesh	North Macedonia
Rwanda	Trinidad and Tobago	Bhutan	Portugal
Seychelles	Turks and Caicos Islands	India	San Marino
Somalia	Central America	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	Serbia
South Sudan	Belize	Maldives	Slovenia
Tanzania, United Rep. of	Costa Rica	Nepal	Spain
Uganda	El Salvador	Pakistan	Western Europe
Zambia	Guatemala	Sri Lanka	Austria
Zimbabwe	Honduras	Western Asia	Belgium
Northern Africa	Mexico	Armenia	France
Algeria	Nicaragua	Azerbaijan	Germany
Egypt	Panama	Bahrain	Liechtenstein
Libya	Northern America	Cyprus	Luxembourg
Morocco	Bermuda	Georgia	Monaco
Sudan	Canada	Iraq	Netherlands
Tunisia	Greenland	Israel	Switzerland
Southern Africa	United States of America	Jordan	Oceania
Botswana	South America	Kuwait	Australia and New Zealand
Eswatini	Argentina	Lebanon	Australia
Lesotho	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Oman	New Zealand
Namibia	Brazil	Qatar	Melanesia
South Africa	Chile	Saudi Arabia	Fiji
Western Africa	Colombia	State of Palestine	New Caledonia
Benin	Ecuador	Syrian Arab Rep.	Papua New Guinea
Burkina Faso	Guyana	Türkiye	Solomon Islands
Cabo Verde	Paraguay	United Arab Emirates	Vanuatu
Côte d'Ivoire	Peru	Yemen	Micronesia
Gambia	Suriname	Europe	Kiribati
Ghana	Uruguay	Eastern Europe	Marshall Islands
Guinea	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	Belarus	Micronesia (Fed. States of)
Guinea-Bissau	Asia	Bulgaria	Nauru
Liberia	Central Asia	Czechia	Palau
Mali	Kazakhstan	Hungary	Polynesia
Mauritania	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova, Rep. of	Cook Islands
Niger	Tajikistan	Poland	French Polynesia
Nigeria	Turkmenistan	Romania	Samoa
Senegal	Uzbekistan	Russian Federation	Tonga
Sierra Leone	Eastern Asia	Slovakia	Tuvalu
Togo	China	Ukraine	

Source: [11]

A.4 Changes with respect to the 2022 classification

Table A.4 | Changes between the 2022 and the 2023 UNIDO groups

Country code	Country name	UNIDO group 2023	UNIDO group 2022	Comment
585	Palau	Middle-income industrializing	High-income industrializing	Economy decreased from high to middle income in the World Bank definition
591	Panama	High-income industrial	Middle-income industrial	Economy increased from middle to high income in the World Bank definition
642	Romania	High-income industrial	Middle-income industrial	Economy increased from middle to high income in the World Bank definition
704	Viet Nam	Middle-income industrial	Middle-income industrializing	Economy moved above the threshold of industrial economies
862	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	Middle-income industrializing	Middle-income industrial	Economy moved below the threshold of industrial economies
894	Zambia	Low-income	Middle-income industrializing	Economy decreased from middle to low income in the World Bank definition

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [12; 22]

A.5 Composition of other selected country groups

Table A.5 | List of countries/areas classified as emerging industrial economies (EIEs)

Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Lao People's Dem. Rep.	Tanzania, United Rep. of
Cambodia	India	Malaysia	Uganda
China	Indonesia	Myanmar	Viet Nam

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [12; 22]

Table A.6 | Countries/areas included in the group of least developed countries (LDCs)

Afghanistan	Djibouti	Malawi	Somalia
Angola	Eritrea	Mali	South Sudan
Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Mauritania	Sudan
Benin	Gambia	Mozambique	Tanzania, United Rep. of
Bhutan	Guinea	Myanmar	Timor-Leste
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Nepal	Togo
Burundi	Haiti	Niger	Tuvalu
Cambodia	Kiribati	Rwanda	Uganda
Central African Rep.	Lao People's Dem. Rep.	Sao Tome and Principe	Yemen
Chad	Lesotho	Senegal	Zambia
Comoros	Liberia	Sierra Leone	
Congo, Dem. Rep. of	Madagascar	Solomon Islands	

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [31]

Table A.7 | Countries/areas included in the group of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs)

Afghanistan	Central African Rep.	Malawi	Rwanda
Armenia	Chad	Mali	South Sudan
Azerbaijan	Eswatini	Moldova, Rep. of	Tajikistan
Bhutan	Ethiopia	Mongolia	Turkmenistan
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Kazakhstan	Nepal	Uganda
Botswana	Kyrgyzstan	Niger	Uzbekistan
Burkina Faso	Lao People's Dem. Rep.	North Macedonia	Zambia
Burundi	Lesotho	Paraguay	Zimbabwe

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [32]

Table A.8 | Countries/areas included in the group of small island developing States (SIDS)

Anguilla	Dominica	Mauritius	Seychelles
Antigua and Barbuda	Dominican Rep.	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	Singapore
Aruba	Fiji	Montserrat	Sint Maarten (Dutch part)
Bahamas	French Polynesia	Nauru	Solomon Islands
Barbados	Grenada	New Caledonia	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Belize	Guinea-Bissau	Palau	Suriname
British Virgin Islands	Guyana	Papua New Guinea	Timor-Leste
Cabo Verde	Haiti	Puerto Rico	Tonga
Comoros	Jamaica	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Trinidad and Tobago
Cook Islands	Kiribati	Saint Lucia	Tuvalu
Cuba	Maldives	Samoa	Vanuatu
Curaçao	Marshall Islands	Sao Tome and Principe	

Source: UNIDO elaboration based on data from [33]

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