

2009

**Latin America and the Caribbean
Selected Economic and Social Data**

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PREFACE

The 2009 edition of *Latin America and the Caribbean: Selected Economic and Social Data* (the LAC Databook) includes the most recent data at the time of publication from a multitude of official country sources and leading international institutions. The Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the U.S. Agency for International Development presents this edition of the Databook with the goal of gathering and presenting the most up-to-date information possible from numerous reliable sources. Data tables provide statistics useful for regional analysis; and analytical charts are presented throughout the book. The presentation of many of the tables and figures in the LAC Databook allows for comparisons to be made across both countries and time. If interpreted with care, the data in this publication can present a useful picture of the state and progress of socioeconomic development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The public can access and query the database that underlies the LAC Databook on the Internet at <http://qesdb.usaid.gov/lac>. Whereas the LAC Databook is a publication that is produced annually, the information presented in it is drawn from a publicly available online database that is continuously updated. A link to the database is provided on the USAID website. From www.usaid.gov, select "Latin America and the Caribbean" under the "Locations" heading. Then select "Economic and Social Database" in the sidebar at the top right of the page. At the LAC Databook's website, users can construct their own data tables that can be viewed in html or saved in spreadsheet and text formats. Users can also download PDF copies of this print edition. Like this print publication, the online database is organized by sector.

This publication benefits from the contributions of several individuals. Maxine Hillary and Chris Cushing provided review for Chapter One. Ramsay Teviotdale assisted with publication.

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For the latest data updates, visit the LAC Databook's website at <http://qesdb.usaid.gov/lac>.

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Table Format

Tables are numbered by section and display the table name and data unit when appropriate. For most tables, countries are listed alphabetically within the appropriate sub-region of Latin America and the Caribbean (i.e. Caribbean, Central America, and South America). Sub-regional headings, as well as totals and averages, are listed below each list of corresponding countries. Note that several countries located in Central and South America (Belize, Guyana, Falkland Islands, French Guiana, and Suriname) have been placed in the Caribbean sub-region for the purposes of this analysis. An explanation of the geographic breakdown employed in the LAC Databook follows.

Rationale for LAC Geographic Breakdown

The LAC Bureau's rationale for placing Belize, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana in the Caribbean sub-region is based not on geography but on economics (trade relations), politics (international relations), and culture (European heritage). Belize, Guyana, and Suriname define themselves as Caribbean as they are members of CARICOM (the Caribbean Community). Belize and Guyana also share membership in CARICOM with ten other former British colonies in the Caribbean/Atlantic area. Suriname and French Guiana are politically related to The Netherlands and France respectively, as are a number of islands in the Caribbean. Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana are oriented more to Europe and to the Caribbean—economically, politically, and culturally—than to the ten South American countries whose European heritage lies in the Iberian peninsula. Similarly, Belize is oriented more to the Caribbean region and to Europe than to the other six countries of Central America.

The same rationale applies to the Falkland Islands, which are remote from the Caribbean, but oriented much more toward Europe than to South America.

Data Standards and Methodology

This edition of the LAC Databook, like earlier editions, relies on national estimates reported by U.S. and foreign government agencies, and internationally recognized organizations. Therefore, the veracity of this report depends on the standardization and consistency of data produced by these offices.

Even when standardized international sources are used, a number of problems remain for any user of statistical data. Despite the considerable efforts to collect, process, and disseminate social and

economic statistics and to standardize definitions and data collection methods, limitations remain in the coverage, consistency, and comparability of data across time and countries. Also, significant shifts and breaks in statistical series can occur when statistical bodies and research institutions update or alter their estimates using new sources of data, such as censuses and surveys. Discrepancies in data presented in different editions of the LAC Databook reflect updates by countries as well as revisions to historical series and changes in methodology. Thus readers are advised to compare data series between editions of the LAC Databook with caution.

Series Duplication

The LAC Databook functions as a survey of the most current, reliable statistics on the state of development in Latin America and the Caribbean. As such, in some instances, the same indicator is presented more than once, using different sources. This is the case for the population, poverty, and gross domestic product series and for many of the regional comparison indicators as well. This method, along with detailed technical notes for each indicator, allows readers to choose what they consider to be the most accurate data set based on source, definition, and methodology, and the purpose for which they are seeking the data.

Conventions

As used in this publication, the term "country" does not in all cases refer to a territorial state entity as understood by international law and practice; the term also covers some non-sovereign territorial entities for which statistical data are maintained and provided internationally on a separate and independent basis.

Unless otherwise stated, all dollar amounts are expressed as current U.S. dollars.

Millions and billions of U.S. dollars are represented by US\$m and US\$b, respectively. Millions and billions are represented by "m." and "b." respectively.

Due to space limitations some figures are not represented in their full form. In these cases, the respective column heading will include a notation (in parentheses) indicating the number of zeros that follow the number in question.

Acronyms

DAC	Development Assistance Committee
ECLAC	UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESAF	Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GNI	Gross National Income
GNP	Gross National Product
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA	International Development Association
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LYA	Latest Year Available
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
SAF	Structural Adjustment Facility
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNTA	United Nations Programme of Technical Assistance
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WRI	World Resources Institute