

# The gap is widening faster

**References**

**CURRENT SITUATION**  
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation

**RECENT EVOLUTION** (Between most recent and previous available data)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➡ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➡ Regression
- ➔ Major regression

Complete table at: [www.socialwatch.org/statistics2009](http://www.socialwatch.org/statistics2009)

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) RECENT EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (Basic Capabilities Index value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)	PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)	TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)	ICT EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	R&D EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	Value
➔	Albania (96)	149 ➔	38 ➔	89			92
➔	Algeria (96)	103 ➔	11 ➡	91 ➔	2.5 ➡	0.1	42
➔	American Samoa (—)			168 ➔			168
➔	Andorra (93)	718 ➔		455 ➔			587
➔	Angola (58)	29 ➔	7 ➔	6 ➡			14
➔	Antigua and Barbuda (94)	707 ➔	208 ➔	447 ➡			454
➔	Argentina (98)	259 ➔	90 ➔	240 ➔	6 ➔	0.5 ➔	119
➔	Armenia (95)	57 ➔	98 ➔	197 ➡		0.2 ➔	88
➔	Aruba (—)	238 ➔	99 ➔	383 ➔			240
➔	Australia (99)	681 ➡	603 ➔	464 ➔	6.6 ➡	1.8 ➔	351
➔	Austria (99)	674 ➔	607	410 ➔	5.6 ➡	2.5 ➔	340
➔	Azerbaijan (96)	108 ➔	24 ➡	146 ➔		0.2 ➔	70
➔	Bahamas (99)	362 ➔	124 ➔	401 ➔			296
➔	Bahrain (99)	332 ➔	183 ➔	263 ➡			259
➔	Bangladesh (56)	3 ➔	22 ➔	7 ➔	8 ➔		10
➔	Barbados (98)	548 ➔	137 ➔	462 ➔			382
➔	Belarus (100)	290 ➔	8 ➔	378 ➔		0.7 ➔	169
➔	Belgium (98)	655 ➔	417 ➔	439 ➡	5.8 ➡	1.8 ➔	304
➔	Belize (92)	105 ➔	148 ➔	112 ➡			122
➔	Benin (77)	17 ➔	7 ➔	12 ➔			12
➔	Bermuda (—)	750 ➔	225 ➔	904 ➡		0.1 ➔	470
➔	Bhutan (79)	61 ➔	26 ➔	45 ➔			44
➔	Bolivia (79)	105 ➔	24 ➡	71	5.8 ➔	0.3 ➔	41
➔	Bosnia and Herzegovina (98)	280 ➔	64 ➔	282 ➔			209
➔	Botswana (90)	53 ➔	48 ➔	73 ➡		0.4 ➔	44
➔	Brazil (90)	352 ➔	161 ➔	206 ➔	5.8 ➔	0.8 ➔	145
➔	Brunei Darussalam (99)	417 ➔	88 ➡	210 ➔			238
➔	Bulgaria (97)	309 ➔	89 ➔	300 ➔	7.7 ➔	0.5 ➡	141
➔	Burkina Faso (71)	6 ➔	6 ➔	7 ➡		0.2 ➔	5
➔	Burma/Myanmar (73)	1 ➔	9 ➔	11 ➔		0.2 ➔	5
➔	Burundi (61)	7 ➔	8 ➔	4 ➡			6
➔	Cambodia (66)	5 ➔	4 ➔	3 ➔		0 ➔	3
➔	Cameroon (77)	20 ➔	11 ➔	10 ➔	5 ➡		12
➔	Canada (99)	728 ➔	943 ➔	553 ➡	6.4 ➔	2 ➡	446
➔	Cape Verde (93)	70 ➔	130 ➔	138 ➡			113
➔	Cayman Islands (—)	411 ➔		918 ➔			665
➔	Central African Republic (65)	3 ➔	3 ➡	3 ➔			3
➔	Chad (44)	6 ➔	2 ➔	1 ➔			3
➔	Chile (99)	311 ➔	141	208 ➡	4.2 ➔	0.7 ➔	133
➔	China (95)	161 ➔	57 ➔	277 ➡	7.9 ➔	1.4 ➡	101
➔	Colombia (94)	275 ➔	80 ➔	180 ➔	4.4 ➔	0.2 ➔	108
➔	Comoros (79)	34 ➡	9 ➔	31 ➔			25
➔	Congo DR (68)	4 ➔				0.5 ➔	2
➔	Congo, Rep. (76)	19 ➔	5 ➔	4 ➔			9
➔	Costa Rica (93)	336 ➔	231 ➔	322 ➔	3.9 ➔	0.4	179
➔	Côte d'Ivoire (74)	16 ➔	17 ➔	14 ➡			16
➔	Croatia (100)	447 ➔	180 ➔	416 ➡			261
➔	Cuba (99)	116 ➔	36 ➔	93 ➔			61

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) RECENT EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (Basic Capabilities Index value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)		PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)		TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)		ICT EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)		R&D EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)		Value
←	Cyprus (100)	380	←	383	→	449	←			0.4	→	303
→	Czech Republic (99)	483	→	274	→	233	←	7.1	→	1.5	→	200
→	Denmark (100)	807	→	549	←	517	←	5.8	→	2.4	←	376
	Djibouti (90)	13	→	24		13	→					17
	Dominica (96)	366	→	182		293						280
←	Dominican Republic (87)	172	→	35		93	→					100
→	Ecuador (86)	132	→	130	→	135	→	6.1	→	0.1	→	81
→	Egypt (89)	140	→	49	→	149	→	5.8	→	0.2	→	69
→	El Salvador (80)	111	→	52	→	158	→			0.1	→	80
→	Equatorial Guinea (58)	16	→	19	→	21	→					19
→	Eritrea (60)	25	→	8		8	←					14
→	Estonia (99)	637	→	522	→	369	→			1.2	→	382
→	Ethiopia (53)	4	→	7	→	11	→			0.2		6
→	Faroe Islands (—)	775	→			464	→					620
→	Fiji (93)	96	→	61	→	146	→					101
→	Finland (100)	788	→	500	→	329	←	5.2	←	3.4	→	325
→	France (99)	512	→	652	→	564	→	5.7	←	2.1	→	347
→	French Polynesia (—)	286	→	110		207						201
→	Gabon (82)	62	→	36	→	20	←					39
→	Gambia (73)	59	→	33	→	45	→					46
→	Georgia (96)	82	→	54	→	126	←			0.2	←	66
→	Germany (99)	723	→	656	→	653	→	6.2		2.5		408
→	Ghana (76)	38	→	6	→	16	→					20
→	Greece (99)	329	→	94	→	537	←	5.4	→	0.5	→	193
←	Greenland (—)	916	→			408	←			0.7		442
←	Grenada (92)	218	→	153	→	262	←					211
←	Guam (—)	386				402	←					394
→	Guatemala (68)	101	→	21	→	104	→					75
→	Guinea (68)	5	←	5		5	→					5
←	Guinea-Bissau (58)	22	→	2		3	←					9
→	Guyana (84)	257	→	39	→	149	→					148
→	Haiti (48)	104	→	52		11	←					56
→	Honduras (82)	60	→	20	→	113	→	11.2	→			51
→	Hong Kong (—)	572	→	686	→	596	→	4.7	←	0.7	→	372
→	Hungary (99)	519	→	256	→	323	→	5.9	→	1	→	221
←	Iceland (98)	650	←	527	→	600	←			2.8	←	445
→	India (68)	72	→	33	→	35	←	5.6	←	0.7	←	29
→	Indonesia (85)	58	←	20	→	79	→	3.9	→			40
→	Iran (95)	324	→	106	→	336	→	3.5	→	0.6	←	154
→	Ireland (100)	561	→	582	→	484		5.9	→	1.3	→	327
←	Israel (99)	279	←	242	←	426		6.5	←	4.5		192
→	Italy (100)	539	→	367		456	→	5.8	→	1.1	→	274
→	Jamaica (95)	561	→	68	→	136	→	6.6	←	0.1	→	154
←	Japan (99)	690	→	407	←	401	←	7.2	←	3.4	→	302
←	Jordan (99)	197	→	67	→	102	←	9.3	→	0.3		75
→	Kazakhstan (99)	123	→			209	→			0.3	→	111
→	Kenya (71)	80	→	14	→	7	←	8.2	→			27
←	Kiribati (89)	21	→	11	→	43	←					25
→	Korea, DPR (87)					50	→					50
→	Korea, Rep. (100)	759	→	576	→	462	←	7.1	→	3.2	→	361
→	Kuwait (100)	338	→	237		199	→	4.5	→	0.2		156
→	Kyrgyzstan (95)	143	→	19	→	92	→			0.2		64
→	Lao PDR (58)	17	→	18	→	16	→					17
→	Latvia (99)	550	→	327	→	283	←			0.7	→	290
→	Lebanon (96)	383	→	104	→	170	←					219
←	Lesotho (72)	35	→	3		27	→			0.1	→	16
→	Liberia (61)	5	→			1	←					3
→	Libya (99)	43	→	22	←	144	→					70

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) RECENT EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (Basic Capabilities Index value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)	PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)	TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)	ICT EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)		R&D EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	Value
	Liechtenstein (—)	652 →		555 ←				604
→	Lithuania (99)	492 →	183 →	237 →			0.8 →	228
→	Luxembourg (100)	758 →	673 →	517 ←			1.5 ←	487
←	Macau (—)	496 →	402 →	371 ←			0.1	317
→	Macedonia (—)	273 →	368 →	228 ←			24.8 →	223
→	Madagascar (59)	6 →	5	7 →			0.2 →	5
→	Malawi (62)	10 →	2 →	13 →				8
→	Malaysia (97)	557 →	231 →	164 ←	6.8		0.6 ←	192
→	Maldives (91)	108 →	200 →	108 →				139
→	Mali (67)	8 →	8 →	6 →				7
→	Malta (99)	447 →	229 →	562 →			0.5 →	310
→	Marshall Islands (93)	39 →	91 →	83 →				71
→	Mauritania (68)	10 →	46 →	13 ←				23
→	Mauritius (99)	270 →	176 →	286			0.4 →	183
	Mayotte (—)			62				62
→	Mexico (95)	227 →	144 →	188	4 →		0.5 →	113
←	Micronesia (89)	135 →	55	78 ←				89
→	Moldova (—)	184 →	111 →	284 →			0.8	145
	Monaco (—)	612		1049				831
→	Mongolia (93)	123 →	139 →	61			0.3	81
	Montenegro (94)	467		588				528
→	Morocco (81)	214 →	36 →	78 →	8.3 →		0.7 →	67
→	Mozambique (66)	9 →	14 →	3 ←			0.5 ←	7
→	Namibia (89)	49 →	240 →	66 →				118
→	Nepal (58)	14 →	5 →	25 →				15
→	Netherlands (100)	842 →	912 →	448 ←	6.6 →		1.7 ←	442
←	Netherlands Antilles (—)	11 ←		449 ←				230
←	New Caledonia (—)	335 →	171	248 →				251
→	New Zealand (98)	692 →	526 →	413 ←	5.7 ←		1.2 →	328
	Nicaragua (70)	28 →	40 ←	45 →			0 ←	28
→	Niger (55)	3 →	1 →	2 →				2
→	Nigeria (56)	68 →	8 →	11 →	3.4 ←			23
→	Norway (100)	848 →	629 →	423 ←	4.4 ←		1.5 ←	381
→	Oman (98)	131 →	71 →	103				102
→	Pakistan (71)	108 →	5 →	30 ←	5.6 ←		0.4 →	30
	Palau (99)	273		370				322
→	Panama (93)	223 →	46	148 →	5.9 ←		0.3 ←	85
←	Papua New Guinea (62)	18 ←	64	9 ←				30
→	Paraguay (95)	87 →	78	64 →			0.1	57
→	Peru (88)	274 →	103 →	96 →	3.9 ←		0.1	95
→	Philippines (78)	60 →	73 →	45 →	5.7 ←		0.1 ←	37
→	Poland (99)	440 →	169 →	271 ←	6 →		0.6 →	177
→	Portugal (99)	401 →	172 →	395 ←	5.7 →		0.8 →	195
←	Puerto Rico (—)	254 →	8	265 ←				176
→	Qatar (95)	420 →	191 →	284 →				298
→	Romania (96)	239 →	192 →	198 ←	5.3 →		0.5 →	127
→	Russia (99)	211 →	133 →	311 →	4.1 →		1.1 ←	132
→	Rwanda (53)	11 →	3	2 ←				5
→	Samoa (97)	44 →	23 →	109 →				59
←	San Marino (—)	510 ←	800 ←	689 ←				666
←	São Tomé and Príncipe (83)	146 →	39	48 →				78
←	Saudi Arabia (95)	264 →	148 ←	165	4.7 →			145
←	Senegal (68)	66 →	21 ←	22 ←	10.9 →		0.1	24
→	Serbia (98)	203	244 →	406 →			1.7 →	214
→	Seychelles (99)	376 →	212 →	267 →			0.4 →	214
→	Sierra Leone (57)	2 →		5 →				4
→	Singapore (92)	657 →	740 →	406 ←	6.5 ←		2.4 →	362
→	Slovakia (99)	559 →	514 →	213 ←	6 →		0.5 ←	259

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) RECENT EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (Basic Capabilities Index value, 0-100)	INTERNET USERS (per 1,000 people)	PERSONAL COMPUTERS (per 1,000 people)	TELEPHONE MAINLINES (per 1,000 people)	ICT EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	R&D EXPENDITURE (% of GDP)	Value
→	Slovenia (99)	526 ←	425 →	425 →	4.7 →	1.6	276
→	Solomon Islands (—)	17 →	47 →	16 →			27
→	Somalia (48)	11	9 →	11 ←			10
←	South Africa (89)	83 ←	85	97 ←	9.7 ←	0.9 →	55
→	Spain (100)	513 →	393 →	453 →	5.5 →	1.2 →	273
→	Sri Lanka (96)	39 →	37 →	137 →	6 →	0.2 →	44
→	St Kitts and Nevis (95)	307 →	234	532			358
→	St Lucia (98)	655 →	160	321			379
→	St Vincent and Grenadines (95)	474 →	138 →	191 →		0.2	201
→	Sudan (70)	91 →	112 →	9 ←		0.3	53
→	Suriname (82)	96 →	44 ←	179			106
→	Swaziland (80)	37 →	37 →	39 →			38
→	Sweden (100)	797 →	881 →	602 ←	6.4 ←	3.8 →	458
→	Switzerland (97)	763 →	918 →	653 ←	8 →	2.9 →	469
→	Syria (95)	174 →	90 →	174 →			146
→	Tajikistan (89)	72 →	13 →	50 →		0.1	34
→	Tanzania (73)	10 →	9 →	4 →			8
→	Thailand (96)	210 →	70 →	110	6.1 →	0.3 →	79
→	Timor-Leste (56)	1 →		2 →			2
→	Togo (68)	50 →	30	15 →			32
→	Tonga (96)	82 →	59 →	206 →			116
→	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	160 →	132 →	231 ←		0.1 ←	131
→	Tunisia (95)	168 →	75 →	125	6	1 →	75
←	Turkey (92)	165 ←	60 →	246 ←	5.5 ←	0.8 →	95
→	Turkmenistan (88)	14 →	72 →	92 →			59
→	Uganda (59)	25 →	17 →	5 →		0.2 ←	12
→	Ukraine (99)	215 →	45 →	276 →	7.1 ←	1 ←	109
→	United Arab Emirates (100)	518 →	330 →	317 →	5.1 →		293
→	United Kingdom (99)	717 →	802 →	552 →	6.7 ←	1.8 ←	416
→	United States of America (98)	735 →	805 →	541 ←	7.5 ←	2.6 ←	418
→	Uruguay (98)	291 →	136 →	290 ←	6 ←	0.3 →	145
←	US Virgin Islands (—)	277	28 →	660 →			322
←	Uzbekistan (93)	45 →	31 →	68 →			48
→	Vanuatu (87)	75 →	14 ←	39 →			43
→	Venezuela (94)	208 →	93 →	188 →	3.9 →	0.2 ←	99
→	Vietnam (93)	210 →	96 →	335 →	6.1 ←	0.2 →	129
→	West Bank and Gaza (—)	96 →	56 →	94 ←			82
→	Yemen (59)	14 →	28 →	45 →			29
→	Zambia (71)	42 →	11 →	8 ←		0 ←	15
←	Zimbabwe (77)	101 →	65 ←	26 →	3.5 ←		49

**NOTE:**

**1. Evolution:** Evolution of indicators obtained by re-escalating those values resulting from the relative rate of variation among the following ranks:

Minor than -5: significant regression; Between -5 and -1: regression; Between -1 and 1: stagnant; Between 1 and 5: slight progress; Larger than 5: significant progress.

This rate is obtained from the following operation:  
(2009 value - 2008 value / 2008 value) \* 100

**2. Value reached by the index:** The value results from adding the values calculated for each dimension and dividing the result by the total number of dimensions presenting data.

**3. Stagnant Evolution:** In those indicators showing stagnant evolution in all their values, said evolution responds to lack of updating, being reproduced those values registered in 2008.

**SOURCE:** World Development Indicators 2009, World Bank (www.worldbank.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2009

**DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:**

**Internet users (per 1,000 people):** People with access to the internet, per 1,000 people.

**Personal computers (per 1,000 people):** Personal computers are self-contained computers designed to be used by a single individual, per 1,000 people.

**Telephone mainlines (per 1,000 people):** Telephone lines connecting a customer's equipment to the public switched telephone network. Data are presented per 1,000 people for the entire country.

**Information and communication technology expenditure (% of GDP):** Includes external spending on information technology ("tangible" spending on information technology products purchased by businesses, households, governments, and education institutions from vendors or organizations outside the purchasing entity), internal spending on information technology ("intangible" spending on internally customized software, capital depreciation, and the like), and spending on telecommunications and other office equipment. Expressed as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).

**Research and development expenditure (% of GDP):** Expenditures for research and development are current and capital expenditures (both public and private) on creative work undertaken systematically to increase knowledge, including knowledge of humanity, culture, and society, and the use of knowledge for new applications. R&D covers basic research, applied research, and experimental development. Expressed as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).

Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.

## The gap is widening faster

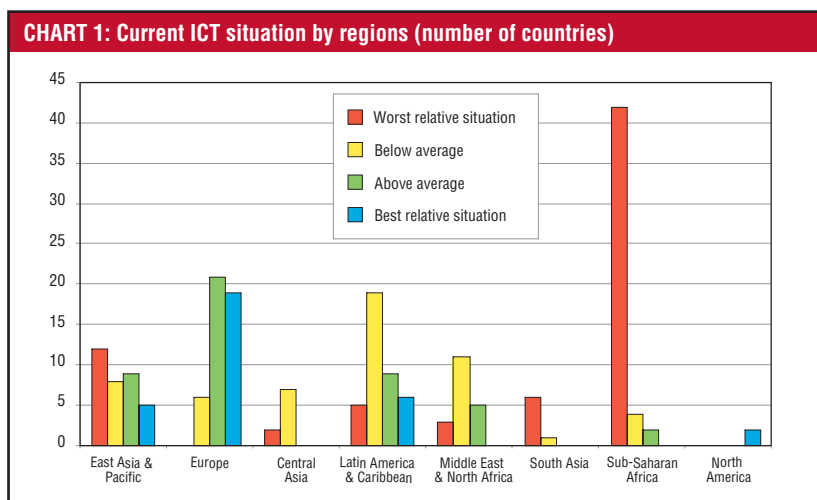
Like in the other indexes, the trend in Information and Communication Technologies is towards increasing polarisation – that is to say, the gap between countries and regions in the better and worse relative situations is continuing to widen. An examination of the evolution of countries in terms of their relative situation (Table 1) shows those in the worse relative situation have plummeted and those in the better relative situation have risen appreciably.

The proportion of people in the world who have benefited from technological progress has varied substantially from one year to another. There has also been considerable variation in the proportion of resources different countries allocate to research and development in terms of finance and public policies (Table 2).

The biggest differences are in expenditure on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and on Research and Development (R&D). Among the countries in the worse relative situation this is expressed as a fall, and among those in the better relative situation this is expressed as a rise. In the countries in the worse relative situation average expenditure on ICTs decreased by around half from 2008 to 2009 (from an average of 5% of GDP to 3.9%) and spending on R&D simply stopped (from 0.3% of GDP in 2008 to 0% in 2009). On the other hand, in the countries in the better relative situation average expenditure on ICTs increased by 24.3% (from an average of 7% of GDP to an average of 8.7%) and spending on R&D nearly quadrupled (with a net increase of 278.9%, it went from 1.9% of GDP in 2008 to 7.2% in 2009).

In the countries in the worse situation, this evolution in expenditure was accompanied by a process of elitization in access to the various modern communication technologies. The number of people with a telephone line (per 1000 inhabitants) fell by 157.8%, that is to say it decreased by nearly a third (from 58 to 22.5 per 1000 people from 2008 to 2009, so today it is 38.8% less than in 2008). The number of people with a personal computer fell by 31.1% (from 27 per 1000 inhabitants in 2008 to 20.6 in 2009). And now there are a third fewer Internet users than in 2008 (28.9% fewer, with a reduction from 37 users per 1000 inhabitants to 28.7).

At the other end of the spectrum, in the countries in the better relative situation, the effects of the above-mentioned favourable evolution of expenditure are evident. In these countries today there are 8.9% more people with telephone lines than in 2008 (a rise from 517 per 1000 inhabitants to 562.9), and there has been a 21.1% increase in the number of people with a personal computer (from 535 per 1000 inhabitants in 2008 to 678.4 in 2009). In addition,



**TABLE 1. Current situation by ICT evolution (number of countries)**

	←	↔	↔	→	→	Total
<b>Worse relative situation</b>	5	2	0	0	48	55
<b>Below average</b>	11	2	1	2	28	44
<b>Above average</b>	7	0	1	5	16	29
<b>Better relative situation</b>	7	4	2	1	54	68
<b>Total</b>	30	8	4	8	146	196

**TABLE 2. Averages by indicator for countries in worse and better ICT situation**

		Internet users (per 1,000 people)	Personal computers (per 1,000 people)	Telephone lines (per 1,000 people)	Expenditure on ICTs (% of GDP)	Expenditure on R & D (% of GDP)
Worse relative situation	Average	28.7	20.6	22.5	3.9	0.0
	Number of countries	68	77	67	17	46
Better relative situation	Average	668.8	678.4	562.9	8.7	7.2
	Number of countries	41	23	35	11	6
Total	Average	258.8	167.9	217.2	6.0	1.1
	Number of countries	201	186	203	74	107

there has been a relative increase<sup>1</sup> of 23.1% over 2008 in the number of Internet users (from 514 per 1000 people to 668.8).

There is a stark contrast between countries at the bottom of the scale, where only 3% to 5% of the population have access to information communication tools, and the countries at the top, where between 56% and 68% have access. If the generalised use of new technologies, particularly those that permit horizontal, symmetrical communication with the rest of the world, are factors that promote and underpin the rights of “information citizens”, these vast differences reflect the increasing polarisation, and therefore for some populations increasing exclusion, in the modern world.

### Access by regions

The regions that are best positioned in this dimension are North America, where there are no countries below the average, and Europe, where no countries have remained in a worse relative situation although

6 are below the average (and 21 above average and 19 in a better relative situation).

The distribution in Latin America and the Caribbean is similar to that in the Middle East and North Africa region. Most of these countries are in the intermediate situation (71.8% and 84.2%, respectively) and the proportion of countries in the worse situation is relatively small (12.8% and 15.8%, respectively).

East Asia and the Pacific, on the other hand, is the most heterogeneous region, but the balance is clearly negative: 35.3% of the countries are in a worse relative situation, 23.5% are below average, 26.5% are above average and only 14.7% are in a better relative situation.

This contrasts with South Asia, where no countries are above the average or in a better relative situation and 85.7% are in a worse situation.

But the geographical region in the worst situation is sub-Saharan Africa, where not only there are no countries in a better relative situation but nearly nine tenths of the countries (87.5%) are in the worse relative situation. Moreover, 8.3% are below the average and only 4.2% are above average. ■

<sup>1</sup> In this case the word “increase” refers to the rate of relative variation between the values considered.