

### Sources

Gross domestic product (GDP) data for most countries are based on the BLS report *International Comparisons of GDP per Capita and per Hour, 1960–2010*. GDP data for the remaining countries and all purchasing power parities (PPP) are based on data in the World Bank database *World Development Indicators*. A country or region's share of world GDP (chart 1.2) is based on data in The Conference Board *Total Economy Database*.

Each country prepares GDP measures in accordance with national accounts principles. To make international comparisons of levels of GDP, GDP per capita, and GDP per employed person, it is necessary to express GDP in a common currency unit. BLS converts GDP from national currency units to U.S. dollars through the use of PPP.

### Definitions

**Gross domestic product** (GDP) is the market value of all goods and services produced in a country. **GDP per capita** is GDP divided by population and is a rough measure of a country's overall wealth. **GDP per employed person** is GDP divided by the number of employed persons and is a rough measure of a country's productivity. **Purchasing power parities** (PPP) are currency conversion rates that allow output in different currency units to be expressed in a common unit of value. A PPP is the ratio between the number of units of a country's currency and the number of U.S. dollars required to purchase an equivalent basket of goods and services within each respective country. ■