

2010 Update of World Bank Country Classifications

The World Bank classifies countries into four income groups which are used to determine eligibility for loans and grants with different conditions (see the tables below for more details). In the 2010 annual World Bank country classifications update, nine countries moved up income categories and two countries regressed.

The Solomon Islands reverted to Low Income status in 2010, a year after exceeding that income group's threshold. The similarly small island nation of Antigua and Barbuda also fell in 2010, slipping from High to Upper Middle Income.

On the bright side, Poland and Latvia managed to weather the financial crisis and climb from Upper Middle Income to High Income status. Poland is the only E.U. member whose economy did not contract in 2009. A third European country to push ahead despite the global financial crisis is Albania. The former communist country is successfully transitioning to a more open economy and may soon join the E.U. In Eurasia, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan advanced to new income groupings. After contracting from 1990 to 1995, these two economies have taken off with rapid income growth boosted by rising oil revenues, increased trade and economic reforms.

In the Middle East, Iran and Yemen rose in the income groupings. Despite several rounds of U.N. economic sanctions against Iran, the country has achieved over a 2% annual GDP per capita growth rate since 2000. In Yemen, economic growth - based mainly on increased revenues from oil exports - has been slow but steady.

Finally, Senegal and Vietnam are the only representatives from Africa and Asia, respectively, to graduate to a higher income category. Both rose from Low Income to Lower-Middle Income status.

In addition to updating the status of economies currently in income groupings, the World Bank added three economies to their lists. Tuvalu was added as a Lower Middle Income country in the East Asia and Pacific region. Tuvalu is the world's second least populated country, with just over 12,000 citizens in 2009. Gibraltar and the Turks and Caicos Islands were added to the High Income group.

WB Income Group Climbers 2010

Change	Country
Low to Lower Middle	Senegal
	Uzbekistan
	Vietnam
	Yemen, Rep.
Lower Middle to Upper Middle	Albania
	Azerbaijan
	Iran, Islamic Rep.
Upper Middle to High	Latvia
	Poland

WB Income Group Sliders 2010

Change	Country
High to Upper Middle	Antigua and Barbuda
Lower Middle to Low	Solomon Islands

WB Income Groups

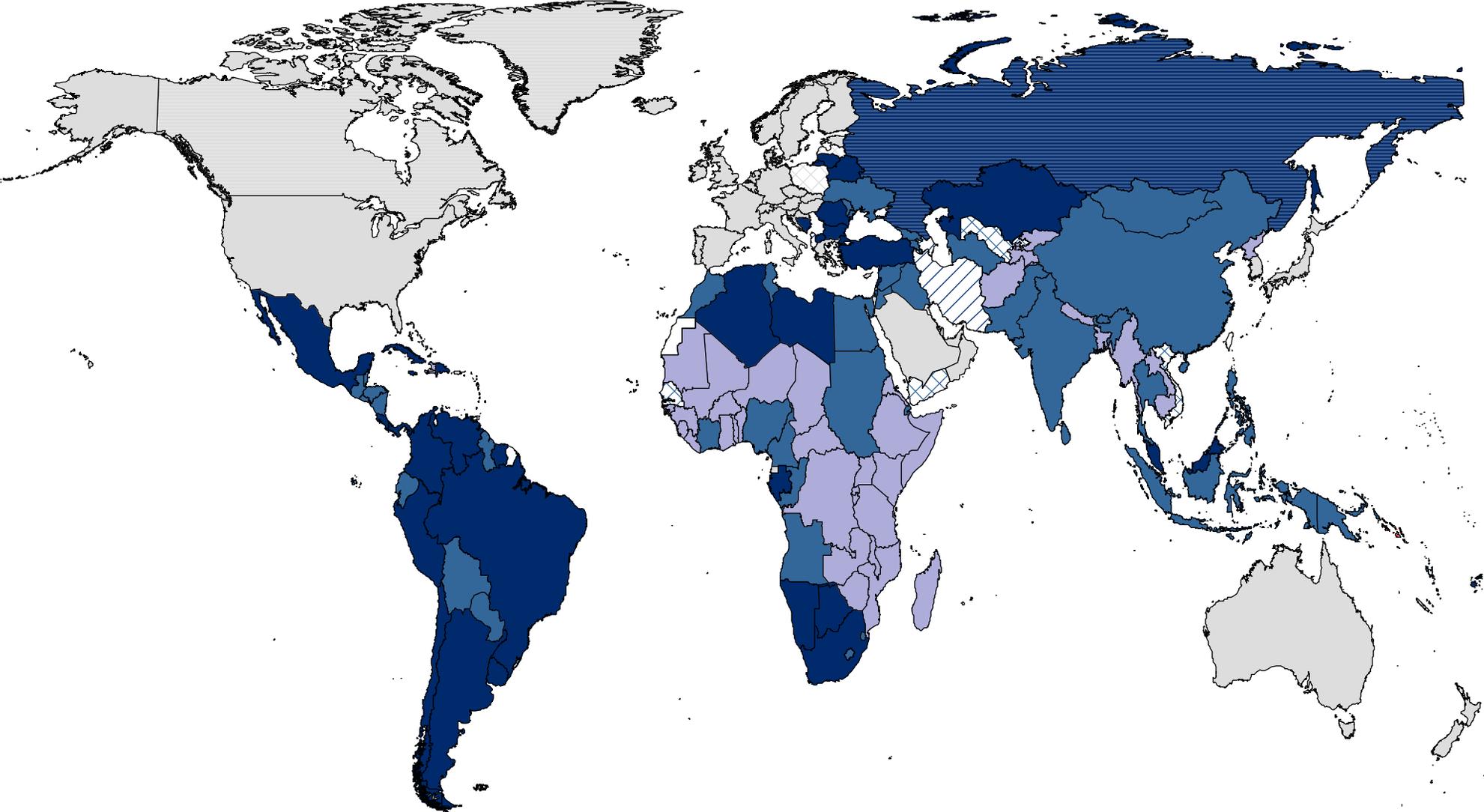
Income Group	GNI per capita (2009)
Low	\$995 or less
Lower Middle	\$996 - \$3,945
Upper Middle	\$3,946 - \$12,195
High	\$12,196 or more

Loan Classifications

Code	Loan Type	Income Group
IDA	International Development Assistance: Concessional-interest-free loans and grants	Low income (< 1,165 GNI p.c.)
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development: Non-concessional	Middle income
Blend	Eligible for IDA and IBRD loans	Low income, credit-worthy



World Bank Income Groups 2010



High Income
Upper Middle Income
Lower Middle Income
Low Income

Moved up to High
Moved up to Upper Middle
Moved up to Lower Middle
Moved down