

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

The promotion of economic and social development in non-member countries has been a principal objective of the OECD since its foundation. The share of national income devoted to official development assistance (ODA) is widely regarded as a test of a country's commitment to international development, and there is a long-standing United Nations target for developed countries to devote 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) to ODA. The tables in this section show total ODA as shares of GNI as well as the geographical distribution of bilateral ODA.

Definition

Official development assistance is defined as government aid to developing countries designed to promote the economic development and welfare of recipient countries. Loans and credits for military purposes are excluded. The aid may be provided bilaterally, from donor to recipient, or it may be channeled through a multilateral development agency such as the United Nations or the World Bank.

Aid includes grants, "soft" loans, and the provision of technical assistance. Soft loans are those where the grant element is at least 25%. ODA is usually measured on a net basis, i.e. after subtracting loan repayments from the gross aid flows. Data on the geographical distribution of aid are presented on a gross basis to show the level of new aid provided during the period.

The OECD maintains a list of developing countries and territories, and only aid to these countries counts as ODA. The list is periodically updated and currently contains over 150 countries or territories which had per capita incomes of less than USD 10 066 in 2004 (by comparison, per capita income in OECD countries averaged over USD 35 000 in that year). Note that of the 30 member countries of the OECD, only the 22 shown in the table are members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), along with the European Commission.

Long-term trends

The DAC total shown in the graph is the weighted average of total ODA provided by DAC members as a percentage of their total GNI; it amounted to 0.28% in 2007. The unweighted average, measuring "average country effort", was 0.45% in 2007. The decline since 1990 in both the weighted and unweighted averages was halted in 1999 and then reversed as DAC members increased their aid following the commitments they made at the Monterrey 2002 Financing for Development Conference.

ODA shares of GNI declined to their lowest point in 1997 but increased again from 2002 to reach a peak in 2005, due to debt relief. 2006 marked the first fall in ODA in real terms since 1997, though the level was still the highest recorded with the exception of 2005. ODA fell again in 2007 (by -8.5% in real terms) as large Paris Club debt relief operations for Nigeria and Iraq tapered off. Other types of aid should increase in the future as donors move to fulfill their more recent pledges to increase their aid.

Comparability

Statistics on ODA are compiled according to a set of directives drawn up by the DAC and each country's statistics are subject to regular peer reviews by other DAC members. Data for Greece are available only since 1996 as Greece joined the DAC in 1999. From 1990 to 1992 inclusive, forgiveness of non-ODA debt was reportable as a part of a country's ODA but was excluded from the DAC total.

Source

- Development Assistance Committee Aid Statistics.

Further information

Analytical publications

- OECD (2008), *OECD Journal on Development: Development Co-operation – 2007 Report – Efforts and Policies of the Members of the Development Assistance Committee Volume 9, Issue 1*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *OECD Journal on Development Volume 9, Issue 2: Measuring Human Rights and Democratic Governance: Experiences and Lessons from Metagora*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *Natural Resources and Pro-Poor Growth: The Politics and Economics*, DAC Guidelines and Reference Series, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *Governance, Taxation and Accountability: Issues and Practices*, DAC Guidelines and Reference Series, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *2008 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration, Making Aid More Effective by 2010, Better Aid*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2009), *Aid Effectiveness: A Progress Report on Implementing the Paris Declaration*, Better Aid, OECD, Paris.

Statistical publications

- OECD (2009), *International Development Statistics on CD-Rom*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2009), *Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Aid Recipients 2003/2007: 2009 Edition*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2009), *Development Aid at a Glance 2008: Statistics by Region*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *Creditor Reporting System 2008: Aid Activities in Support of Water Supply and Sanitation*, OECD, Paris.

Online databases

- International Development Statistics, www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline.

Websites

- OECD, Calculation of the Grant Element of Loans, www.oecd.org/dataoecd/15/0/31738575.pdf.
- Development Assistance Committee Aid Statistics, www.oecd.org/dac/stats.

Net official development assistance

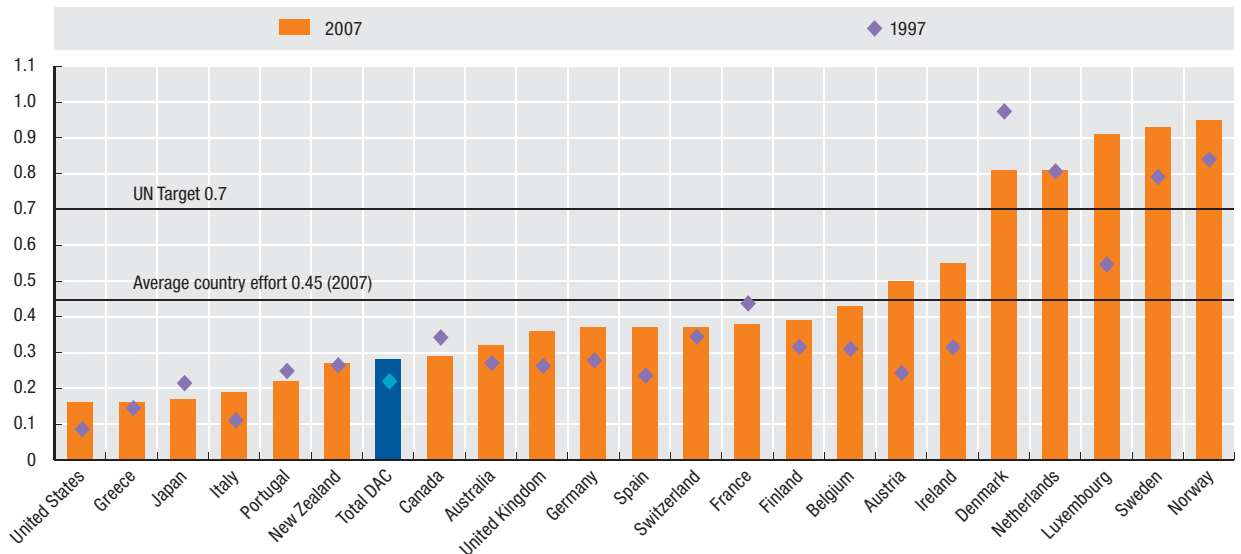

As a percentage of gross national income

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Australia | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.26 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.30 | 0.32 |
| Austria | 0.17 | 0.27 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.22 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.34 | 0.26 | 0.20 | 0.23 | 0.52 | 0.47 | 0.50 |
| Belgium | 0.32 | 0.38 | 0.34 | 0.31 | 0.35 | 0.30 | 0.36 | 0.37 | 0.43 | 0.60 | 0.41 | 0.53 | 0.50 | 0.43 |
| Canada | 0.43 | 0.38 | 0.32 | 0.34 | 0.30 | 0.28 | 0.25 | 0.22 | 0.28 | 0.24 | 0.27 | 0.34 | 0.29 | 0.29 |
| Denmark | 1.03 | 0.96 | 1.04 | 0.97 | 0.99 | 1.01 | 1.06 | 1.03 | 0.96 | 0.84 | 0.85 | 0.81 | 0.80 | 0.81 |
| Finland | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.33 | 0.32 | 0.31 | 0.33 | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.37 | 0.46 | 0.40 | 0.39 |
| France | 0.62 | 0.55 | 0.48 | 0.44 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.30 | 0.31 | 0.37 | 0.40 | 0.41 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.38 |
| Germany | 0.33 | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.28 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.37 |
| Greece | .. | .. | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.20 | 0.17 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.16 |
| Ireland | 0.25 | 0.29 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.30 | 0.31 | 0.29 | 0.33 | 0.40 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.42 | 0.54 | 0.55 |
| Italy | 0.27 | 0.15 | 0.20 | 0.11 | 0.20 | 0.15 | 0.13 | 0.15 | 0.20 | 0.17 | 0.15 | 0.29 | 0.20 | 0.19 |
| Japan | 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.20 | 0.21 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.28 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.20 | 0.19 | 0.28 | 0.25 | 0.17 |
| Luxembourg | 0.40 | 0.36 | 0.44 | 0.55 | 0.65 | 0.66 | 0.72 | 0.77 | 0.78 | 0.86 | 0.79 | 0.79 | 0.90 | 0.91 |
| Netherlands | 0.76 | 0.81 | 0.81 | 0.81 | 0.80 | 0.79 | 0.84 | 0.82 | 0.81 | 0.80 | 0.73 | 0.82 | 0.81 | 0.81 |
| New Zealand | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.21 | 0.26 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.22 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 |
| Norway | 1.05 | 0.86 | 0.83 | 0.84 | 0.89 | 0.88 | 0.76 | 0.80 | 0.89 | 0.92 | 0.87 | 0.94 | 0.89 | 0.95 |
| Portugal | 0.34 | 0.25 | 0.21 | 0.25 | 0.24 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.27 | 0.22 | 0.63 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.22 |
| Spain | 0.28 | 0.24 | 0.22 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.30 | 0.26 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.27 | 0.32 | 0.37 |
| Sweden | 0.96 | 0.77 | 0.84 | 0.79 | 0.72 | 0.70 | 0.80 | 0.77 | 0.84 | 0.79 | 0.78 | 0.94 | 1.02 | 0.93 |
| Switzerland | 0.36 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.32 | 0.35 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.33 | 0.37 | 0.40 | 0.44 | 0.39 | 0.37 |
| United Kingdom | 0.31 | 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.26 | 0.27 | 0.24 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.31 | 0.34 | 0.36 | 0.47 | 0.51 | 0.36 |
| United States | 0.14 | 0.10 | 0.12 | 0.09 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.11 | 0.13 | 0.15 | 0.17 | 0.23 | 0.18 | 0.16 |
| DAC total | 0.29 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.22 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.23 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 0.33 | 0.31 | 0.28 |
| of which: EU members | 0.41 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.33 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.44 | 0.43 | 0.39 |

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Net official development assistance


As a percentage of gross national income

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Distribution of gross bilateral ODA from DAC countries by income group and by region

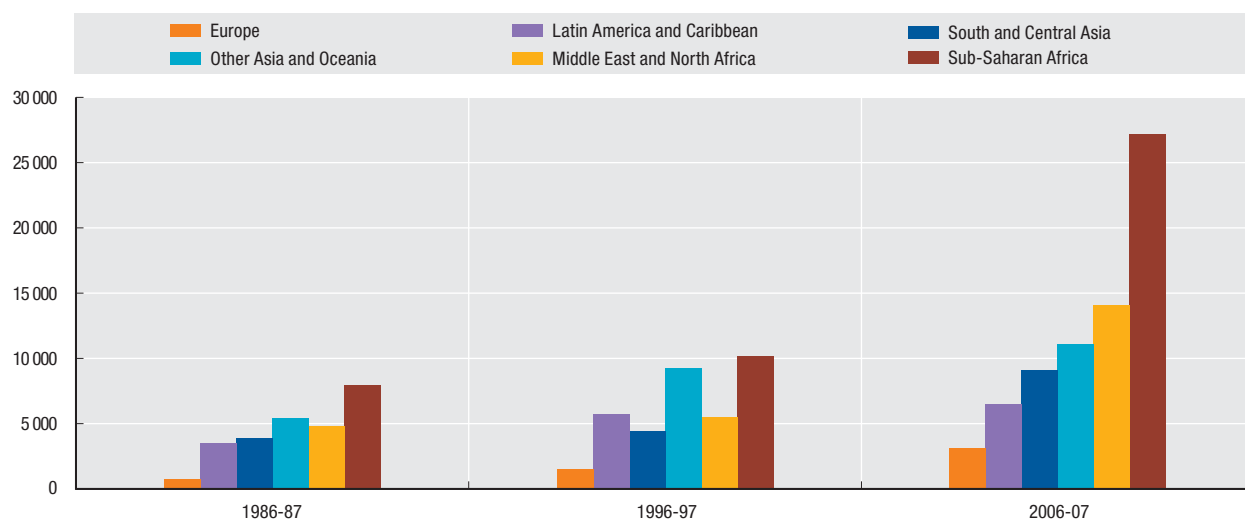
Million US dollars, 2-year averages


| | 1986-87 | 1996-97 | 2006-07 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Distribution of bilateral ODA by income group | | | |
| Least Developed Countries | 7 566 | 8 466 | 19 459 |
| Other low-Income Countries | 3 877 | 6 383 | 16 402 |
| Lower Middle-Income Countries | 8 882 | 14 216 | 27 226 |
| Upper Middle-Income Countries | 1 928 | 2 643 | 3 652 |
| More Advanced Developing Countries and Territories | 2 931 | 2 495 | .. |
| Unallocated | 4 739 | 9 010 | 20 163 |
| Distribution of bilateral ODA by region | | | |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | 7 954 | 10 128 | 27 187 |
| Middle East and North Africa | 4 790 | 5 484 | 14 028 |
| South and Central Asia | 3 866 | 4 387 | 9 097 |
| Other Asia and Oceania | 5 435 | 9 229 | 11 050 |
| Europe | 734 | 1 490 | 3 121 |
| Latin America and Caribbean | 3 452 | 5 738 | 6 439 |
| Unspecified | 3 691 | 6 757 | 15 981 |
| Bilateral ODA | 29 922 | 43 213 | 86 903 |
| Multilateral ODA | 11 171 | 16 321 | 29 510 |
| Total ODA | 41 093 | 59 534 | 116 413 |

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Distribution of gross bilateral ODA from DAC countries by region

Million US dollars, 2-year averages




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Major recipients of total gross bilateral ODA from DAC countries

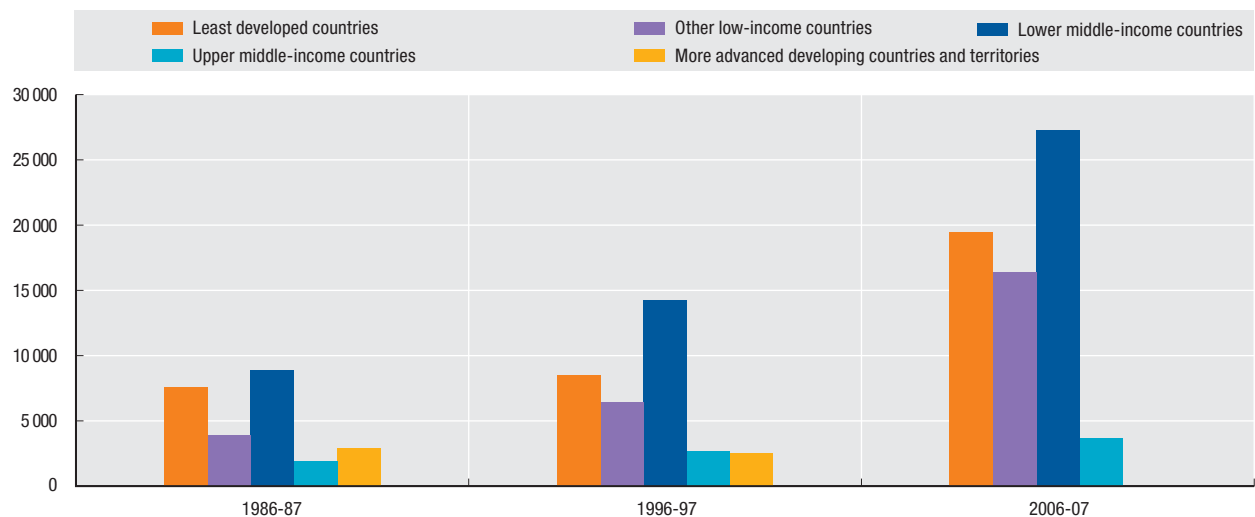
2-year averages

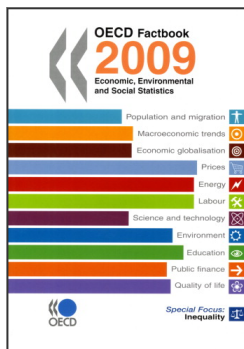
| | 1986-87 | | | 1996-97 | | | 2006-07 | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| | Million US dollars | As a percentage of total ODA | | Million US dollars | As a percentage of total ODA | | Million US dollars | As a percentage of total ODA |
| Israel | 1 681 | 4.1 | Egypt | 1 795 | 3.0 | Iraq | 8 752 | 7.5 |
| Egypt | 1 653 | 4.0 | China | 1 783 | 3.0 | Nigeria | 6 488 | 5.6 |
| India | 1 356 | 3.3 | Indonesia | 1 761 | 3.0 | Afghanistan | 2 699 | 2.3 |
| Indonesia | 1 232 | 3.0 | India | 1 616 | 2.7 | China | 2 411 | 2.1 |
| Bangladesh | 888 | 2.2 | Israel | 1 213 | 2.0 | Indonesia | 2 245 | 1.9 |
| Philippines | 875 | 2.1 | Philippines | 1 058 | 1.8 | Cameroon | 1 836 | 1.6 |
| China | 805 | 2.0 | Thailand | 919 | 1.5 | India | 1 732 | 1.5 |
| Pakistan | 687 | 1.7 | Bangladesh | 767 | 1.3 | Sudan | 1 595 | 1.4 |
| Tanzania | 665 | 1.6 | Mozambique | 613 | 1.0 | Vietnam | 1 568 | 1.3 |
| Thailand | 490 | 1.2 | Pakistan | 605 | 1.0 | Tanzania | 1 415 | 1.2 |
| Turkey | 468 | 1.1 | Tanzania | 598 | 1.0 | Congo, Democratic Republic | 1 152 | 1.0 |
| Sudan | 460 | 1.1 | Vietnam | 590 | 1.0 | Pakistan | 1 142 | 1.0 |
| Kenya | 441 | 1.1 | Bosnia-Herzegovina | 561 | 0.9 | Ethiopia | 1 138 | 1.0 |
| Mozambique | 430 | 1.0 | Bolivia | 552 | 0.9 | Egypt | 1 131 | 1.0 |
| Sri Lanka | 389 | 0.9 | Nicaragua | 538 | 0.9 | Philippines | 1 115 | 1.0 |
| Bilateral ODA | 29 922 | 72.8 | Bilateral ODA | 43 213 | 72.6 | Bilateral ODA | 86 903 | 74.7 |
| Multilateral ODA | 11 171 | 27.2 | Multilateral ODA | 16 321 | 27.4 | Multilateral ODA | 29 510 | 25.3 |
| Total ODA | 41 093 | 100.0 | Total ODA | 59 534 | 100.0 | Total ODA | 116 413 | 100.0 |

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Distribution of gross bilateral ODA from DAC countries by income group

Million US dollars, 2-year averages

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