

Quick: What's the second largest economy in the world? What country has the highest per capita income? Yes, both are trick questions since the answers depend on how you measure output. The standard (and far easier) way uses currency exchange rates to compare output priced in dollars, yen, euros, drachmas, etc. The more useful way adjusts exchange rates for what currencies can actually buy, and thus says a lot more about productivity and living standards.



COUNTRY	2000 INCOME \$BILLIONS AT CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE	2000 INCOME AT \$BILLIONS PPP	PER CAPITA INCOME AT EXCHANGE RATE	PER CAPITA INCOME AT PPP
Argentina	276	446	7,500	12,100
Azerbaijan	5	22	600	2,700
Bangladesh	48	209	400	1,600
Brazil	610	1243	3,600	7,300
Burundi	1	4	100	600
Cambodia	3	17	260	1,400
Chile	70	138	4,600	9,100
China	1,063	4,952	800	3,900
Hong Kong	176	174	25,900	25,600
Costa Rica	15	30	3,800	8,000
Czech Republic	54	142	5,300	13,800
Egypt	95	235	1,500	3,700
Germany	2,064	2,047	25,100	24,900
India	455	2,375	500	2,300
Iran	107	376	1,700	5,900
Israel	104	121	16,700	19,300
Japan	4,519	3,436	35,600	27,100
South Korea	421	818	8,900	17,300
Mexico	497	861	5,100	8,800
New Zealand	50	71	13,000	18,500
Nicaragua	2.1	11	400	2,100
Norway	155	133	34,500	29,600
Russia	241	1,165	1,700	8,000
Saudi Arabia	150	236	7,200	11,400
South Africa	129	392	3,000	9,200
Switzerland	274	219	38,100	30,500
Thailand	122	384	2,000	6,300
UK	1,460	1,407	24,400	23,600
USA	9,602	9,602	34,100	34,100
Vietnam	30	157	400	2,000

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