


LISTS

When the World Bank released revised estimates of countries' GDPs in terms of purchasing power (rather than market exchange rates), the big news was the 40 percent drop in the calculation of China's income. The cost of living for the average Chinese, it seems, was much higher than previously thought. But the new numbers are, in fact, chock full of other surprises.

China's economy, for example, is now far larger than Japan's – though, living standards are still far below those of middle-income countries including Mexico and Brazil. Singa-

pore's per capita purchasing power exceeds Switzerland's, and has actually drawn even with that of the United States. Saudi Arabia may be the largest oil producer, but its per capita purchasing power is not in the same league as the richest countries of Europe, North America and Asia.

Below are some selected entries that caught the eye of the editor. For a look at the whole list and an explanation of what it all means, check out the World Bank's International Comparison Program Web site, at <http://go.worldbank.org/VMCB80AB40>. 

COUNTRY	GDP (US\$, BILLIONS) 2005 MARKET EXCHANGE RATES	GDP (US\$ BILLIONS) 2005 MARKET PURCHASING POWER	GDP PER CAPITA EXCHANGE RATES	GDP PER CAPITA PURCHASING POWER
U.S.	\$12,376	\$12,376	\$41,700	\$41,700
Japan	4,549	3,870	35,600	30,500
Germany	2,791	2,515	33,900	30,500
U.K.	2,244	1,902	37,300	31,600
Ireland	201	158	48,400	38,100
Norway	302	220	65,300	47,600
Switzerland	372	266	49,700	35,500
Canada	1,135	1,133	35,100	35,100
Singapore	117	180	26,900	41,500
Qatar	42	56	51,800	68,800
Saudi Arabia	315	491	13,600	21,200
Iraq	34	90	1,200	3,200
China	2,244	5,333	1,700	4,100
India	779	2,341	700	2,100
Pakistan	118	369	770	2,400
Indonesia	287	708	1,300	3,200
Mexico	768	1,175	7,400	11,300
Brazil	883	1,585	4,800	8,600
Russia	763	1,698	5,300	11,900
D.R. Congo	7	16	120	264
Kyrgyzstan	3	9	480	1,700
Bolivia	9	34	1,000	3,600

