

Contents

	Executive Summary.....	iii
	Contents.....	xv
	Explanatory Notes	xix
I	Global outlook.....	1
	The financial crisis and the prospects for the world economy	1
	The story of a crisis foretold	5
	The deteriorating international economic environment for developing countries.....	12
	Tightening and more costly external financing	12
	Increased exchange-rate volatility and the risk of a dollar collapse	14
	Weakening world trade and commodity prices	17
	A synchronized global downturn	18
	Developed economies	20
	Economies in transition	20
	Developing countries.....	21
	Macroeconomic policies to stimulate the global economy	22
	The need for reform of the international financial system.....	27
	Systemic failures.....	27
	The way forward.....	32
II	International trade.....	35
	Trade flows	35
	Merchandise trade: growth deceleration and potential revenue falls.....	35
	Trade in services: growth to slow with global downturn.....	41
	World primary commodities and prices.....	44
	Non-oil commodities: dramatic price swings	44
	Crude oil: the turnaround that was to be expected in a global slowdown	51
	Terms of trade for developing countries and economies in transition	54
	Trade policy developments: dealing with multilateral negotiations in the midst of financial and food crises	57
III	Financing for development.....	61
	Net resource flows from poor to rich countries.....	61
	Private capital flows to developing countries.....	62
	Foreign direct investment.....	68
	International financial cooperation	71
	Rehabilitating the global financial system	78
	Governance reform at the Bretton Woods institutions.....	81

IV	Regional developments and outlook	89
	Developed market economies	89
	North America: How severe will the recession in the United States be?	89
	Western Europe: Sharp deceleration with many countries now in recession	92
	The new European Union member States: A divergent growth pattern in 2008, a slowdown in 2009	96
	Developed Asia and the Pacific : Japan's economy enters recession and will contract further in 2009	99
	Economies in transition	101
	South-eastern Europe: Another year of good performance, though with activity likely to weaken	102
	The Commonwealth of Independent States: Despite some deceleration, growth remains impressive	103
	Developing economies	108
	Africa: The end of the commodity boom	109
	East Asia: A continuation of deceleration	114
	South Asia: Expectations of a slowdown in robust growth	116
	Western Asia: Resilience amidst deteriorating external conditions	118
	Latin America and the Caribbean: Significant slowdown in 2009	123

Statistical annex

Annex tables	127
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Boxes

I. 1	Key assumptions for the baseline forecast and the pessimistic and optimistic scenarios	3
I. 2	Prospects for least developed countries	7
I. 3	Don't forget the food crisis	26
II. 1	The making of the food crisis	47
IV. 1	The impact of the global financial turmoil on the banking sector of the Commonwealth of Independent States	104
IV. 2	Africa's response to the food crisis	111
IV. 3	The creation of a Gulf Cooperation Council monetary union	120

Figures

I. 1	World economic growth, 2003-2009	4
I. 2	Real per capita GDP growth in developed and developing countries, 2003-2009	5
I. 3	Divergence in economic performance across developing countries in 2008.....	8
I. 4	Daily spread between three-month LIBOR and three-month United States Treasury bill interest rate, January 2006-November 2008.....	10
I. 5	Daily yield spreads on emerging market bonds, January 2007-November 2008.....	13
I. 6	Foreign reserves of selected countries, January 2007-October 2008.....	14
I. 7	Exchange-rate indices for the United States, 2002-2008.....	15
I. 8	Current-account balances, 2003-2009.....	15
I. 9	Growth of world trade volume, January 2005-September 2008.....	18
I.10	Inflation versus growth in selected developed and developing countries, 2008 and 2009	19
I.11	Policy interest rates of major economies, January 2004-November 2008	23
II. 1	Growth of global trade, 2002-2009	36
II. 2	Monthly averages of free-market price indices of non-oil commodities, January 1997-September 2008	45
II. 3	Surplus or deficit of global production over usage for lead and zinc, 1996-2007.....	49
II. 4	Inventories and prices of lead and zinc, fourth quarter of 2003-second quarter of 2008.....	50
II. 5	Nominal and real Brent crude oil prices, 1980-2008.....	52
II. 6	Terms of trade by trade structure, 2000-2008	55
II. 7	Terms of trade by region, 2000-2008.....	56
III. 1	Net financial transfers to developing countries and economies in transition, 1997-2008.....	61
III. 2	Portfolio investment inflows to selected countries, 2007-2008.....	65
III. 3	Inflows of foreign direct investment, global and by groups of economies, 1980-2008.....	69
III. 4	DAC members' net ODA, 1990-2007, and DAC secretariat simulations to 2010	72
III. 5	Debt-service payments as a proportion of export revenues, 1990-2006.....	77
IV. 1	Quarterly growth of personal consumption expenditure in the United States, 1991-2008	90
IV. 2	Economic activity in the euro zone, 1990-2008.....	93
IV. 3	Pattern of economic growth in the new EU member States, 2004-2009.....	97
IV. 4	General government gross financial liabilities, 1991-2007	100
IV. 5	Growth of domestic credit in South-eastern Europe, 2005-2008.....	102
IV. 6	Consumer price index inflation in selected CIS economies, 2007 and 2008.....	107
IV. 7	Growth in Africa, oil versus non-oil economies, 2006-2008.....	110
IV. 8	Year-on-year headline consumer price index inflation rates, 2007-September 2008	115
IV. 9	Oil prices and combined current-account surplus in Western Asian oil-exporting countries, 2003-2009.....	123
IV.10	Real currency depreciations in Latin America, December 2006-October 2008	124

Tables

I. 1	Growth of world output, 2003-2009.....	2
I. 2	Frequency of high and low growth of per capita output, 2006-2009.....	6
II. 1	Value growth of exports and imports, 2002-2009.....	37
II. 2	Volume change of exports and imports, 2002-2009.....	38
II. 3	Exports of services: share in total trade in goods and services, 2003-2007.....	42
II. 4	Exports of services among developing economies, 1990, 2000 and 2007.....	43
II. 5	Commodity price indices in nominal terms, 2008.....	44
II. 6	Commodity price indices in real dollar terms, 1974-2008.....	45
III. 1	Net transfer of financial resources to developing economies and economies in transition, 1996-2008.....	62
III. 2	Net financial flows to developing countries and economies in transition, 1995-2009.....	63
III. 3	Credit default swap spreads and annual probabilities of default in selected emerging market countries, 31 December 2007 and 23 October 2008.....	65
III. 4	Inflows of foreign direct investment and cross-border mergers and acquisitions, by region and major economy, 2007-2008.....	70

Explanatory Notes

The following symbols have been used in the tables throughout the report:

- .. **Two dots** indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.
 - **A dash** indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.
 - **A hyphen (-)** indicates that the item is not applicable.
 - **A minus sign (-)** indicates deficit or decrease, except as indicated.
 - . **A full stop (.)** is used to indicate decimals.
 - / **A slash (/)** between years indicates a crop year or financial year, for example, 2007/08.
 - **Use of a hyphen (-)** between years, for example, 2007-2008, signifies the full period involved, including the beginning and end years.
- Reference to “dollars” (\$)** indicates United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.
- Reference to “billions”** indicates one thousand million.
- Reference to “tons”** indicates metric tons, unless otherwise stated.
- Annual rates** of growth or change, unless otherwise stated, refer to annual compound rates.
- Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals, because of rounding.
- Project LINK** is an international collaborative research group for econometric modelling, coordinated jointly by the Development Policy and Analysis Division of the United Nations Secretariat and the University of Toronto.

The following abbreviations have been used:

AAA	Accra Agenda for Action
ABCP	asset-backed commercial paper
AIG	American International Group, Inc.
Basel II	New Basel Capital Accord
bps	basis points
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CDS	credit default swap
CFA	Common Framework of Action (of the United Nations High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis)
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CPI	consumer price index
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECB	European Central Bank
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECU	European Currency Unit
EESA	Emergency Economic Stabilization Act
EMBI	Emerging Markets Bond Index
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCSA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESF	Exogenous Shock Facility
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	foreign direct investment
Fed	United States Federal Reserve

FHFA	Federal Housing Finance Agency
FSAP	Financial Sector Assessment Program
FSIs	Financial Soundness Indicators
FSF	Financial Stability Forum
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	gross domestic product
GHG	greenhouse gas
GNI	gross national income
GSEs	government-sponsored enterprises
HIPCs	heavily indebted poor countries
ICT	information and communication technologies
IFIs	international financial institutions
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IIF	Institute of International Finance
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMFC	International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMF)
IT	information technology
IWG	International Working Group of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IMF)
LDCs	least developed countries
LME	London Metal Exchange
M&As	mergers and acquisitions
mbd	millions of barrels per day
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDRI	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
NAMA	non-agricultural market access
NEER	nominal effective exchange rate
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGLs	natural gas liquids
NPV	net present value
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
pb	per barrel
PPP	purchasing power parity
PRGF	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility
R&D	research and development
REER	real effective exchange rate
ROSCs	Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes
SLF	Short-term Liquidity Facility
SSM	special safeguard mechanism
SWFs	sovereign wealth funds
TNCs	transnational corporations
TSR	Triennial Surveillance Review
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UN/DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
WGP	world gross product
WTO	World Trade Organization

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The term “country” as used in the text of this report also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

Data presented in this publication incorporate information available as of 30 November 2008.

For analytical purposes, the following country groupings and subgroupings have been used:^a

Developed economies (developed market economies):

Australia, Canada, European Union, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United States of America.

Major developed economies (the Group of Seven):

Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

European Union:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

EU-15:

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

New EU member States:

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

Economies in transition:

South-eastern Europe:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS):

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia,^b Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Net fuel exporters:

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

Net fuel importers:

All other CIS countries.

Developing economies:

Africa, Asia and the Pacific (excluding Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the member States of CIS in Asia), Latin America and the Caribbean.

Subgroupings of Africa:

North Africa:

Algeria, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Tunisia.

Sub-Saharan Africa, excluding Nigeria and South Africa (commonly contracted to “sub-Saharan Africa”):

All other African countries except Nigeria and South Africa.

Southern Africa:

Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

East Africa:

Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania.

West Africa:

Burkina Faso, Benin, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Central Africa:

Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic and Sao Tome and Principe.

Subgroupings of Asia and the Pacific:

Western Asia:

Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

East and South Asia:

All other developing economies in Asia and the Pacific (including China, unless stated otherwise). This group is further subdivided into:

South Asia:

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

East Asia:

All other developing economies in Asia and the Pacific.

Subgroupings of Latin America and the Caribbean:

South America:

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Mexico and Central America:

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Mexico.

Caribbean:

Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago.

For particular analyses, developing countries have been subdivided into the following groups:

Oil-exporting countries:

Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.

Oil-importing countries:

All other developing countries.

Least developed countries:

Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia.

Landlocked developing countries:

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao’s People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Paraguay, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

^a For definitions of country groupings and methodology, see *World Economic and Social Survey 2004* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.II.C.1, annex, introductory text).

^b In September 2008, the Georgian Parliament carried a motion to leave the Commonwealth of Independent States; this decision is due to enter into force in mid-2009.

Small island developing States:

American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cape Verde, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, Comoros, Cook Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, French Polynesia, Grenada, Guam, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montserrat, Nauru, Netherlands Antilles, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Puerto Rico, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vanuatu.

Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (countries that have reached their Completion Points or Decision Points):

Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia.

The designation of country groups in the text and the tables is intended solely for statistical or analytical convenience and does not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.