

Measuring Russia's development

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT is a measure of the wealth and quality of life for a typical person living in a particular country.

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES are also known as high-income countries (HICs). This category includes most countries in Western Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Singapore, South Korea and Qatar are sometime considered as being developed too.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES are a mixture of middle-income countries (MICs) and low-income countries (LICs). Low-income countries are mainly found in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Middle-income countries are found in South America, North Africa, South Africa, Eastern Europe and East Asia.

EMERGING ECONOMIES are middle-income countries (MICs) which are showing high rates of economic growth and, in some people's view, have clear potential to 'catch up' with developed countries.

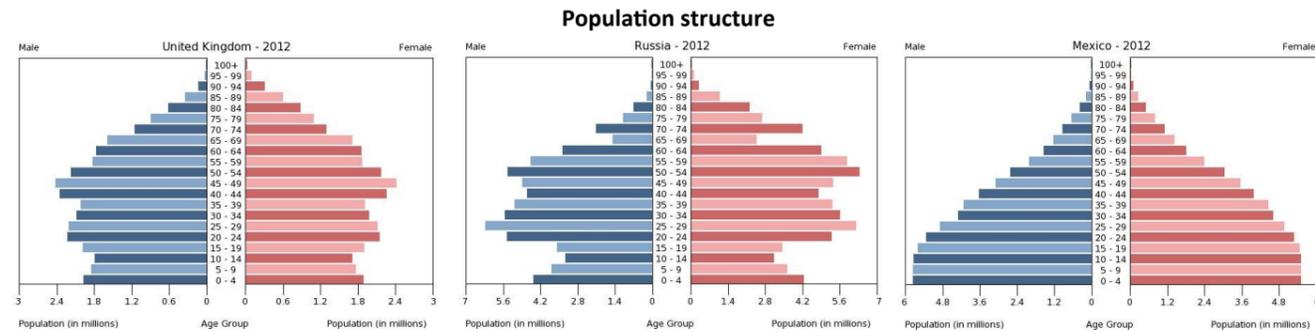
This category includes developing countries like China, Brazil, India, Mexico, Indonesia and many more.

Sometimes Russia is described as an emerging economy. Sometimes Russia is described as a developed country. You need to decide: which view seems best?

United Kingdom (developed country)

Russia

Mexico (emerging economy)



Population fact file

Life expectancy (men and women)	80	Life expectancy (men and women)	70	Life expectancy (men and women)	75
Fertility rate (births per woman)	1.9	Fertility rate (births per woman)	1.6	Fertility rate (births per woman)	2.3
Infant mortality (per 1000 births per year)	5	Infant mortality (per 1000 births per year)	9	Infant mortality (per 1000 births per year)	15
Human development index world ranking	14	Human development index world ranking	55	Human development index world ranking	61
Average annual wage per person (US dollars)	36,000 (5th place)	Average annual wage per person (US dollars)	14,000 (37th place)	Average annual wage per person (US dollars)	7,000 (58th place)



Above: a crowd in London



Above: two couples in Moscow



Above: a family in Mexico City

Life expectancy (men and women) for selected countries (2013)

Country	Life expectancy	Rank
China	76	
India	64	
Russia	70	
South Africa	61	
France	83	
Germany	82	
Japan	85	
Ireland	84	
Italy	80	
Latvia	74	
Qatar	75	
Portugal	79	
Nigeria	53	
Sudan	63	
Egypt	73	
United States	79	
United Kingdom	81	

Classroom exercises

(1) How developed is Russia?

- Study the population pyramids. You can compare the proportions of people who are living to the age of 60 or over. This gives us some idea of how developed a country is (perhaps in terms of its health care and the diets of its citizens, or how well people are educated about risks such as smoking).
- Also using the population pyramids, compare the proportions of people who are aged 20 or under. This gives us some idea of how many children have been born in recent years. Generally, a developed country has a lower number of births and so the base of the pyramid tends to be quite narrow. In a developing country (including many emerging economies), the base of the population pyramid is generally wider.
- Using the table, rank the countries shown in order, giving a rank of 1 to the country with the highest life expectancy. How far down the list does Russia appear?
- Can you remember what the ingredients of the Human Development Index (HDI) are? What do the HDI figures suggest about the development of Russia compared with the UK and Mexico?
- What do the average wage figures suggest about the development of Russia compared with the UK and Mexico?

(2) Written exercise

Complete the written exercise below. In each of the three answers spaces, use data to support your statements. Try to emphasise important, or large differences.

(a) Using evidence, identify ways in which Russia is similar to a **developed** country like the UK.

(b) Using evidence, identify ways in which Russia is similar to a **developing** country like Mexico.

(c) 'Russia is a developed country not a developing country.' To what extent do you agree with this viewpoint?
