

7 Comparing Countries

One method of discovering the ways that countries are similar and different is by looking at statistics about their economy and their population. Here are four measures that are often used.

Total population	Population density	Average life expectancy	Average income
This is the total number of people living in the country. This figure changes all the time as people are born, die, arrive and leave. Population figures are set at a census, held once or twice a decade. Estimates are made each year based on birth rates, death rates and migration statistics.	This figure shows how crowded a country is, based on the number of people, on average, for every square kilometre. As Australia is very large, and its population is quite small, our population density is extremely low compared to many other countries.	This is the average age to which people live. It varies between men and women. Women usually live slightly longer on average than men. For example, while the average life expectancy of Australians is about 82, the figure is about 80 for men and about 84 for women.	The average income per person is found by dividing the total number of people (over the age of 15) into the total amount of money earned by the nation. The figure is expressed in the same currency (often the US dollar) to allow comparisons to be made between nations.

Australia

	Total population ¹	Population density ²	Average life expectancy ³	Average income ⁴
Australia	24 million	3	82	\$ 60 070

Selected Asian Nations

	Total population ¹	Population density ²	Average life expectancy ³	Average income ⁴
China	1382 million	147	75	\$ 7820
India	1330 million	446	68	\$ 1590
Indonesia	260 million	144	72	\$ 3440
Japan	126 million	347	85	\$ 36 680
Timor-Leste	1.2 million	82	68	\$ 1920
Vietnam	94 million	305	73	\$ 1980

Selected Other Nations

	Total population ¹	Population density ²	Average life expectancy ³	Average income ⁴
Italy	60 million	203	82	\$ 32 790
New Zealand	4.5 million	17	81	\$ 40 080
Somalia	11 million	18	52	\$ 542
United States	325 million	35	80	\$ 54 960

1 United Nations estimate, 2016

2 United Nations estimate, 2016

3 CIA World Factbook, 2015

4 World Bank, 2015, figures in US dollars