

- The **world economy** is projected to grow by 2.7 per cent this year and 2.9 per cent in 2018.
- In 2016, **gross domestic product (GDP) per capita** declined in Central, Southern and West Africa, as well as South America, with negligible per capita growth expected in these regions in 2017-2018.
- **Latin America and the Caribbean** are expected to register positive GDP growth in 2017, following two years of contraction.
- **The outlook for several of the least developed countries (LDCs)** has deteriorated. Average growth of 4.7 per cent in 2017 and 5.3 per cent in 2018 is forecast, well below the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of at least 7 per cent GDP growth.
- Under the current growth trajectory and assuming no changes in income inequality, nearly 35 per cent of the population in LDCs, highly-indebted poor countries and countries in fragile and conflict affected situations may remain in **extreme poverty** by 2030.
- **The level of global carbon emission** has stalled for three consecutive years, reflecting growing renewable power generation, improvements in energy efficiency, transition from coal to natural gas and slower economic growth in some major carbon emitters.
- **Inflation** has picked up in developed economies and exceeds 2 per cent in the United Kingdom and the United States. Meanwhile, inflation has eased in Brazil and many other emerging economies, and is at a near 25-year low in the Russian Federation.
- **Double digit food price inflation** is impacting 26 countries worldwide, of which two-thirds are in Africa.
- **International commodity prices** have seen a moderate increase in early-2017, but oil prices remain volatile.

**About the report:** *The World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2017 updates the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2017 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.17.II.C.2), released in January 2017.*

For more information, please visit: <http://www.bit.ly/wespreport>

### Growth of world output, 2015–2018

	Annual percentage change				Change from WESP 2017 forecast	
	2015	2016 <sup>a</sup>	2017 <sup>b</sup>	2018 <sup>b</sup>	2017	2018
<b>World</b>	2.6	2.3	2.7	2.9	0.0	0.0
<b>Developed economies</b>	2.2	1.6	1.8	1.8	0.1	0.0
United States of America	2.6	1.6	2.1	2.1	0.2	0.1
Japan	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.2	0.0
European Union	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.7	-0.1	-0.1
EU-15	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.6	0.0	-0.1
EU-13	3.7	2.9	3.2	3.2	0.0	-0.1
Euro area	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.7	-0.1	0.0
Other developed countries	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.1	0.1	-0.1
<b>Economies in transition</b>	-2.3	0.4	1.8	2.0	0.4	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	2.0	2.7	3.1	3.2	0.0	-0.1
Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia	-2.5	0.3	1.7	1.9	0.3	-0.1
Russian Federation	-3.0	-0.2	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.0
<b>Developing economies</b>	3.8	3.6	4.2	4.8	-0.2	0.1
Africa	3.0	1.6	2.9	3.6	-0.3	-0.2
North Africa	3.0	2.4	3.3	3.6	-0.2	0.0
East Africa	6.7	5.5	5.8	6.3	-0.2	0.0
Central Africa	1.5	1.0	2.5	3.4	-0.9	-0.8
West Africa	3.1	0.3	2.4	3.5	-0.7	-0.6
Southern Africa	1.9	0.7	1.8	2.6	0.0	0.0
East and South Asia	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	-0.1	0.0
East Asia	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0
China	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.5	0.0	0.0
South Asia	6.2	6.8	6.7	7.1	-0.2	0.2
India	7.6	7.0	7.3	7.9	-0.4	0.3
Western Asia	2.7	2.2	2.1	2.9	-0.4	-0.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	-0.6	-1.3	1.1	2.5	-0.2	0.4
South America	-1.9	-2.6	0.6	2.6	-0.3	0.6
Brazil	-3.8	-3.6	0.1	2.6	-0.5	1.0
Mexico and Central America	2.9	2.5	2.3	2.2	0.0	0.0
Caribbean	4.0	1.6	2.5	2.8	-0.2	0.0
Least developed countries	3.5	4.3	4.7	5.3	-0.5	-0.2
<b>Memorandum items:</b>						
World trade <sup>c</sup>	2.8	1.9	2.8	3.2	0.1	-0.1
World output growth with PPP-based weights	3.2	3.0	3.4	3.7	-0.1	0.0

Source: UN/DESA.

<sup>a</sup> Partly estimated;

<sup>b</sup> Forecast, based in part on Project LINK;

<sup>c</sup> Includes goods and services