Many Least Developed Countries have seen economic growth in the last decade, but few have achieved the SDG target of 7 percent a year.

Average annual GDP and GDP per capita growth, 2007–16 (%)

- Ethiopia and Myanmar have seen average annual GDP and GDP per capita growth of more than 7 percent—exceeding the SDG target.
- 85 percent of the UN-classified Least Developed Countries have seen sustained GDP per capita growth in the last decade.
- The Central African Republic and the Republic of Yemen have experienced conflict and economic shocks in recent years and have seen GDP shrink.

Note: Data are not available for Djibouti, Eritrea, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.
Agriculture dominates employment in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, while most people in Europe & Central Asia, Latin America & Caribbean, and North America work in the service sector.

Employment by sector, 2016 (% of total employment)

In the early 2000s the service sector overtook agriculture to become the world’s largest employer. Globally, services account for 50 percent of employment, agriculture 30 percent, and industry 20 percent.

Employment by sector (% of total employment)

Not everyone of working age can find employment, especially young people. And as populations age, the share of the population that is working falls.

People (billions)

Source: ILO. WDI (SP.POP.TOTL; SP.POP.1564.TO.ZS; SP.POP.65UP.TO.ZS; SL.EMP.TOTL.SP.ZS).
Globally, women are less likely to be employed than men, but the gap is most pronounced in lower-middle-income countries.
Share of people by employment status, 2016 (% of population ages 15 and older)

Many people in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa work for themselves or their family. They are more likely to lack social safety nets, and they face a greater risk from economic shocks than salaried workers do.

Employment type, 2016 (% of total employment)

Source: ILO. World Development Indicators (SL.IEM.TOTL.FE.ZS; SL.IEM.TOTL.MA.ZS; SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS; SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS; SL.EMP.TOTL.SP.FE.ZS; SL.EMP.TOTL.SP.MA.ZS; SP.POP.1564.FE.ZS; SP.POP.65UP.FE.ZS; SP.POP.1564.MA.ZS; SP.POP.65UP.MA.ZS).

Source: ILO. World Development Indicators (SL.EMP.MPYR.FE.ZS; SL.EMP.MPYR.MA.ZS; SL.EMP.WORK.FE.ZS; SL.EMP.WORK.MA.ZS; SL.EMP.OWAC.FE.ZS; SL.EMP.OWAC.MA.ZS; SL.FAM.WORK.FE.ZS; SL.FAM.WORK.MA.ZS).
Access to financial services benefits individuals and societies. Globally, 69 percent of adults have an account with a financial institution or mobile money provider.

Account ownership, 2017 (% of population ages 15 and older)

Financial account ownership is lower among younger adults, those with less education, women, and poorer adults.

Account ownership, 2017 (% of population ages 15 and older)

Note: Data refer to the richest 60 percent and poorest 40 percent within individual economies rather than the region as a whole.

Source: Global Findex Database. World Development Indicators (FX.OWN.TOTL.ZS).