

UNASUR

**Fostering South American integration through
development and cooperation**



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

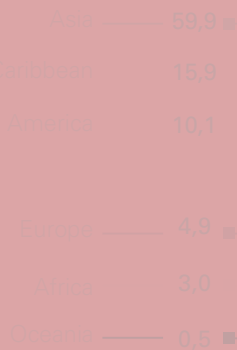
UNASUR



UNION DE NACIONES SURAMERICANAS

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The boundaries and names shown on the maps in this document do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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FOREWORD

Today, six years after the signature of its Constitutive Treaty and 14 years after the first Meeting of the Presidents of South America, the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) stands as a union of 12 member States dedicated to the integration and long-term economic and social development of South America.

With a view to achieving these aims, the Secretary-General of UNASUR has proposed three agendas: a social agenda based on the principle of inclusion, an economic agenda geared towards competitiveness and a political agenda directed towards deepening democracy and public safety.

This document, UNASUR: Fostering South American integration through development and cooperation, was prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at the request of the General Secretariat of UNASUR. In follow-up to the earlier reports published in 2009 and 2011, it offers provide national authorities, academics and students, as well as the general public, an overview of some key issues on the development agenda of the nations of South America.

The report deals concisely with a number of topics relating to the region's socioeconomic problems, and highlights the similarities and asymmetries that characterize the member countries of UNASUR and that condition the possibilities for promoting intraregional cooperation. The analysis of key issues is backed by a number of charts and graphs illustrating the scope of the problems and challenges facing the region, and their potential policy implications.

The report is structured in four chapters dealing with important aspects of the current reality in South America. Chapter I, on population, includes a demographic snapshot of the region, its age profile, its urban-rural mix by age, recent migration movements, and trends in terms of demographic transition. It also looks at the indigenous population and advances and challenges in terms of their access to services, the recognition of their rights and their political participation.

Chapter II presents a series of indicators of development and social inclusion and sketches a scenario for creating and consolidating forums of cooperation and discussion for realizing the dream of a South America that is more egalitarian, integrated, and socially just.

Chapter III analyses the regional economy and various indicators of trade, regional integration, physical infrastructure, energy and the environment, and considers the opportunities for using cooperation through UNASUR as a key tool for overcoming the effects of the crisis and integrating the region's economies more closely into the world economy.

Lastly, chapter IV presents a synthesis of the region's achievements against the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It uses a set of selected indicators to gauge progress in UNASUR towards the MDG targets, and identifies a number of areas where the region is lacking behind, and which will have to be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

We hope that the information provided in this document will help move forward the dialogue on regional cooperation, as well as the design of policies geared to achieving greater social inclusion and thereby enhancing the quality of life for all people in UNASUR. With this, we hope to contribute to the founding objectives of UNASUR: preserving peace, upholding democracy and the effective application of human rights throughout the region.

Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for
Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

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Member States of UNASUR

I. POPULATION

The member countries of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) will have a combined population of 412,296,000 in 2015, representing 65% of the Latin American population. The demographic transition is tending to slow the pace of population growth —although the population will continue to increase— and is producing an older age profile. It is time, then, to address demographic change, particularly in terms of adjusting resources in line with the new age pyramid, in light of current poverty indices and the low coverage of social security.

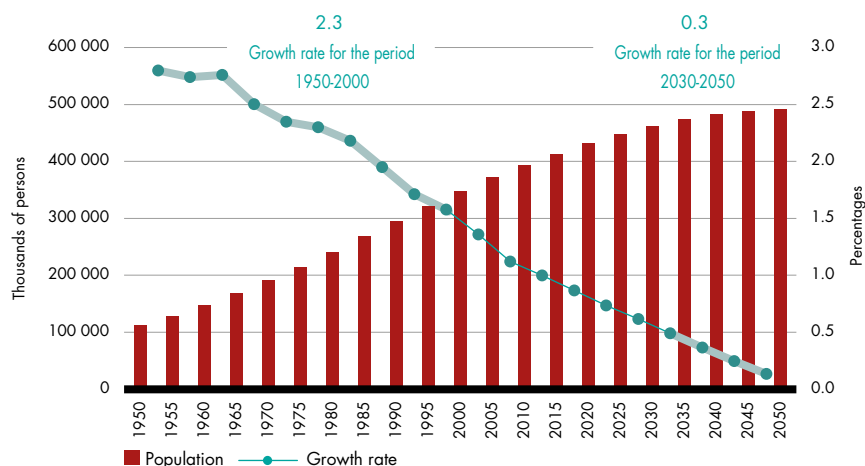
In addition, UNASUR is one of the most highly urbanized regions in the world, and it contains six of the eight cities of Latin America and the Caribbean with more than 4 million inhabitants. In this context the grouping's member States face a number of problems, such as social inequalities and urban poverty. Rural areas, too, continue to exhibit unresolved specific needs and social lags.

International migration among the member countries of UNASUR accounts for the bulk of migration within the Latin America region. At the same time, the relative frequency of internal migration within member countries is declining, reflecting perhaps in part its substitution by international migration.

A. DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND STRUCTURE

- According to population estimates and projections by the Latin American and Caribbean Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, the total population of the UNASUR countries at the mid-twentieth century was 118,811,000. By 2015 that figure will rise to 412,296,000, representing around 5.6% of the world population and 65.4% of the Latin American population. In 2025, the total population of UNASUR member countries will be 446,495,778, and by 2050 it will reach 489,839,041 (see figure I.1).

FIGURE I.1. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries):^a total population and annual growth rate, 1950-2050
(Thousands of persons and percentages)



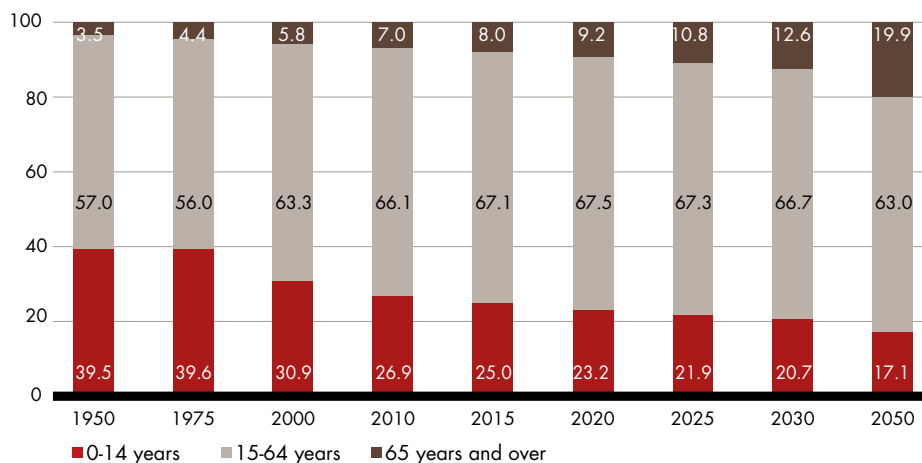
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision.

^a Simple averages of the rates for the countries.

- The pace of population growth within UNASUR has been declining over the years. In the period 1950-1975, UNASUR recorded an annual population growth rate of 2.5%, while that rate is expected to decline to around 0.8% in 2015-2025, and to fall even further, to 0.3%, in 2025-2050 (see figure I.1).
- Changes in growth rates and in the demographic structure can be attributed to a sustained decrease in mortality and, more particularly, in fertility. Both of these variables have contributed to these demographic shifts, which have been more pronounced in some UNASUR countries. In the period 1950-1955 the total fertility rate (TFR) was 5.5 children per woman, while over the five years 2010-2015 it was 2.2 children per woman. In the coming 15 years, that rate will decline further and will drop below the replacement rate, as women will be having on average 2.0 children by 2025-2030.

- The member countries of UNASUR have made enormous efforts to boost life expectancy at birth. In 1950, life expectancy at birth for both sexes was no just 60 years, while in 2010-2015 it is approximately 74 years—71 years for men and 77.5 years for women. There are of course differences between countries: life expectancy at birth is highest in Chile (79 years), and lowest in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (67 years).
- Over the next 30 years, life expectancy will continue to rise: for 2040-2045 it is forecast to be 79 years, although gender and country differences will persist.
- As to the population structure by sex in UNASUR member countries, women tend to outnumber men slightly: the gender ratio for 2015 is estimated at 97.6 men for every 100 women. Because of the higher male mortality that is characteristic of the region, this index will decline slightly by 2025, when there will be 96.9 men for every 100 women.
- The analysis of the population age structure uses three broad groups: persons under 15 years, those between 15 and 64 years, and those aged 65 years and older, bearing in mind that the first and third groups (those under 15 and those over 64) are potentially dependent. In 2015, 24.8% of the UNASUR population will fall within the under-15 age group, while the 65 and older group will account for 8%, leaving 67.2% of the population between the ages of 15 and 64 (the potentially active group). The population age structure will continue to change: in 2025 the proportion under 15 years will fall to 21.4%, while the middle and older age groups will grow further, with persons 65 and over accounting for 10.8% of the population, and those 15 to 64 years representing 67.8% (see figure I.2).
- The changes that the population age structure will undergo in only 10 years (from 2015 to 2025) will be reflected, for example, in the fact that the under-15 population will decline in absolute terms by 6,737,048 persons, or 6.6%, while the number of persons over 65 will increase by 15,536,031, or 47%. The 15-64 age group will rise by 9%, representing an additional 25,401,266 individuals.

FIGURE I.2. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a population distribution by age group, 1950-2050
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT.

^a Simple averages of the rates for the countries.

- As the demographic transition advances and as mortality and —especially— fertility rates drop, the population will become progressively older. The UNASUR countries have not been exempt from the ageing process: while 11.2% of the population is over 60 years of age today, this proportion will rise to 14.6% by 2025, and to 24.9% by 2050. Moreover, 3 of the 12 member countries had already reached an advanced stage of the ageing process by 2010: Uruguay, with 18.4% of the population aged over 60; Argentina, with 14.5%; and Chile, with 13.1%. By 2050 the countries now at the earlier stages of ageing are expected to have 14% of their population over the age of 60.

B. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

- An analysis of international migration between UNASUR countries, using recent data available from six countries, shows that the highest volumes of immigrants are to be found in Argentina and in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and their ranks expanded during the first decade of this century (see table I.1). Except in Brazil, immigrants from within the region represented an increasingly share of total immigration, for the region as a whole, as can be seen in table I.1.

TABLE I.1. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries): stocks, percentages and growth rates of the immigrant population by place of birth, 2000 and 2010

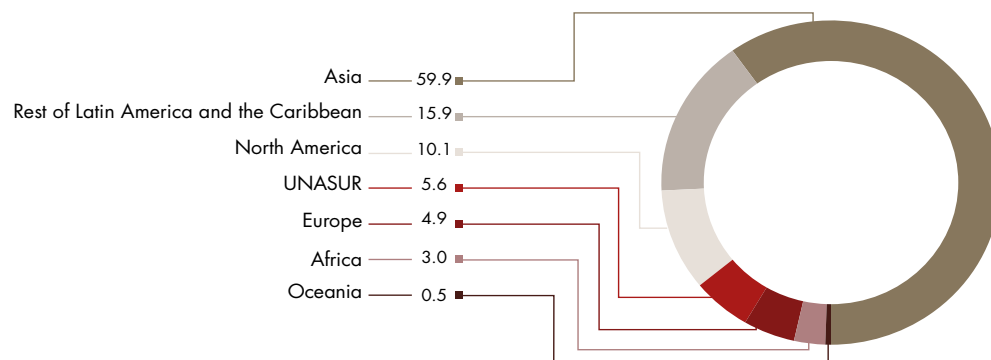
Country of residence	2000			2010			Annual growth rate 2000-2010		
	Total born abroad	Born in Latin America and the Caribbean	Born in other countries	Total born abroad	Born in Latin America and the Caribbean	Born in other countries	Total born abroad	Born in Latin America and the Caribbean	Born in other countries
		(Percentages)	(Percentages)		(Percentages)	(Percentages)			
Argentina	1 517 904	67.8	32.2	1 805 957	80.3	19.7	1.74	3.42	-3.15
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	87 338	82.8	17.2	127 645	75.2	24.8	3.79	2.84	7.44
Brasil	683 830	20.7	79.3	592 393	30.4	69.6	-1.44	2.4	-2.74
Ecuador	150 565	49.2	50.8	194 398	70.1	29.9	2.56	6.11	-2.76
Uruguay	92 378	50	50	77 003	62.9	37.1	-1.82	0.47	-4.79
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1 015 538	73	27	1 156 581	73.6	26.4	1.3	1.39	1.06
Total	3 547 553	57.3	42.7	3 953 977	62.8	37.2	2.6	3.5	1.23

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of data from the Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) project.

C. URBANIZATION AND INTERNAL MIGRATION

- According to census data for the member countries of UNASUR, population density is 20.9 inhabitants per km², which is lower than the world average (47.9 inhabitants per km²) and lower than the regional averages for Asia (123.5 inhabitants per km²), Europe (116.3 inhabitants per km²) and Africa (30.4 inhabitants per km²).

FIGURE I.3. Distribution of world population by major region, 2015
(Percentages)

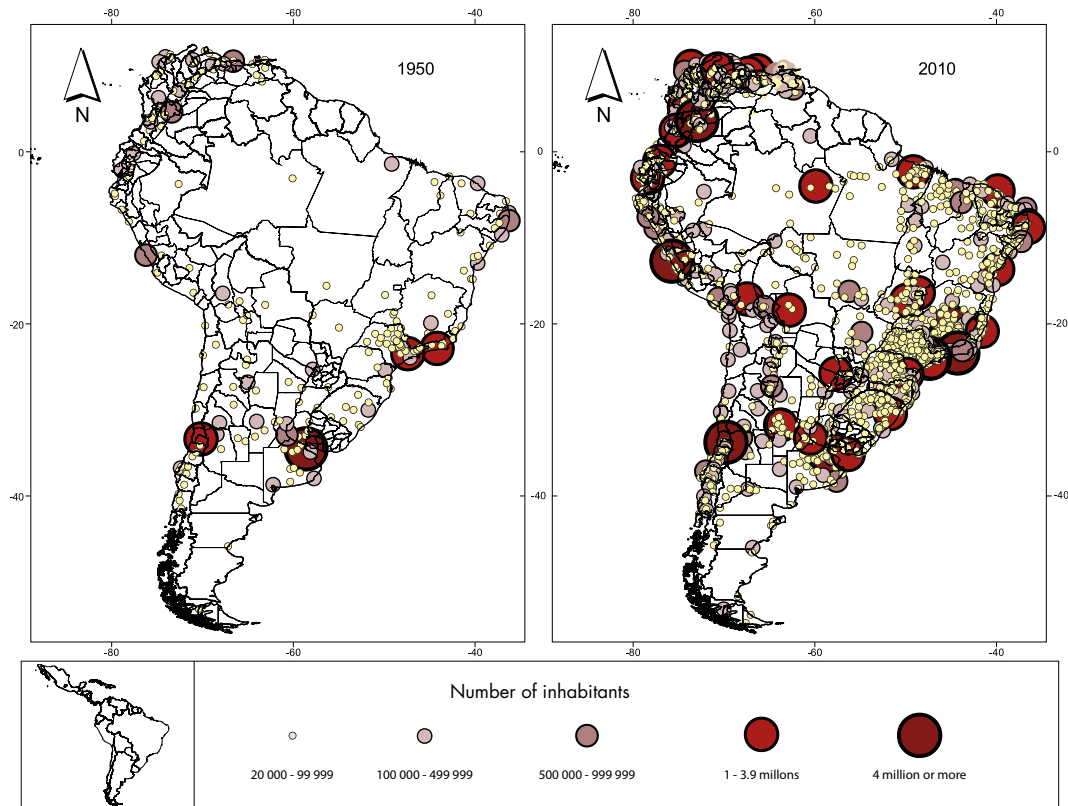


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), population estimates and projections, 2007; United Nations, "World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision. Population Database".

- Today the urban population represents 84% of the total population in UNASUR, making it one of the most urbanized regions in the world. Moreover, 66.4% of the population lives in cities with at least 20,000 inhabitants, and 34% in cities of at least 1 million. The most populous cities are São Paulo (19.5 million), Buenos Aires (12.8 million), Rio de Janeiro (11 million), Lima (8.5 million), Bogotá (7.3 million) and Santiago (5.4 million) (see map I.1).
- Table I.2, using data from censuses since 2010, reveals some interesting facts and trends. First, in all countries the majority of people live in the same major administrative division (MAD, e.g. state or province) in which they were born. Second, figures for lifetime (absolute) migration between minor administrative divisions (MIAD, e.g. counties, districts, municipios within the same state or province) reveal that a significant portion of the population has experienced a move. Third, the percentage of migrants between major administrative divisions (MAD) in countries with census data from 2010 or later is lower than 5.5%: by way of comparison, the figure for the United States of America over the years 2005-2010 was 5.7%, according to the 2010 census.¹

¹ Refers to change of residence between states, 2005-2010, in the population resident in the United States in 2005. ECLAC calculations on the basis of David K. Ihrc and Carol S. Faber, Geographical Mobility: 2005 to 2010, 2012 [online] www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p20-567.pdf.

MAP I.1. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR): cities with 20,000 or more inhabitants, data from census rounds of 1950 and 2010^a



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): on the basis of data from the project Spatial distribution of population and urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean (DEPUALC).

^a The information for Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia is from the 2000 census rounds.

- Table I.2 shows a declining trend in the intensity of internal migration, at both the MAD and the MIAD scale. This is a rather surprising trend, as the costs of moving within countries have on the whole fallen, and territorial inequalities have persisted, considerations that might be expected to generate steady if not growing migratory pressures. Yet the evidence shows conclusively that changes of residence between MAD and between MIAD in the same country are less frequent than they were in the past. There must, then, be factors that are countering the forces that should, a priori, be favourable to a continuing or even rising level of internal migration. Those factors include: (i) the exhaustion of the principal type of internal migration during the twentieth century, i.e. migration from the countryside to the city, due essentially to the narrowing of the potential base of rural emigrants; (ii) the increase in international

migration, which in some cases can be a substitute for internal migration; (iii) increased day-to-day or seasonal mobility, which can also be a substitute for migration; (iv) the ageing of the population, recognizing that older people are less likely to migrate; and (v) the disappearance of official internal migration programmes, including those that encouraged colonization.

TABLE I.2. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries): migration between major and minor administrative regions, by type of migration (long-term and recent), according to data from census rounds of 1990, 2000 and 2010^a

(Percentages)

Country	Census year	Long-term migrants		Recent migrants (past 5 years)	
		MAD	MIAD	MAD	MIAD
Argentina	2001	19.9	...	3.3	...
	2010	19.9	...	3.4	...
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1992	13.8	25	5.6	9.6
	2001	15.2	26.3	6	10
	2012 ^b	14.8	23.9	4.1	7.5
Brazil	1991	14.8	36	3.8	13.4
	2000	15.4	37.1	3.4	10
	2010	13.9	...	2.8	...
Chile	1992	20.3	46	6.1	17.1
	2002	21.0	48.9	5.8	16
Colombia	1993	22.1	...	8.1	...
	2005	20.6	36.8	4.3	7.6
Ecuador	1990	19.2	28.1	5.8	8.3
	2001	19.9	32.8	5.2	8.7
	2010	20.8	46.9	4.7	7.5
Paraguay	1992	26.1	31.7	9.1	12.6
	2002	26.4	35.1	7.6	11.5
Peru	1993	22.4	...	8.6	...
	2007	19.6	34.9	5.4	11.8
Uruguay	1996	24.1	...	6.5	...
	2010 ^b	29.8	...	5.1	...
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1990	23.1	NA	6	NA
	2001	23.8	NA	5.1	6.7
	2011 ^b	18.5	...	1.8	2.9

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNASUR: un espacio de desarrollo y cooperación por construir (LC/L.3339), Santiago, Chile, 2011, table I.2, and special processing of census microdatabases of the 2010 round of censuses.

^a Three dots (...) indicates that data were not available. NA: not applicable

^b Data from processing of provisional census microdatabases, although the outcomes are expected to vary little if at all, at least with respect to the indicators in the table.



D. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES²

- According to census data, the indigenous population of UNASUR in 2010 was around 21 million, representing 5.3% of the grouping's total population: 7 million indigenous people were living in Peru, and 6 million in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Thus, the countries with the greatest proportion of indigenous people are the Plurinational State of Bolivia (62.2%) and Peru (24.0%) (see table I.3).
- Today, 826 indigenous peoples are accounted for in the region. This represents an increase from the last figure reported by ECLAC in 2006, when 642 indigenous peoples were identified. This increase can be attributed to the improvement in statistical information in recent years, and to the efforts of indigenous peoples themselves to win recognition. Within the countries of UNASUR, Brazil has the greatest number of indigenous peoples (305), followed by Colombia (102), Peru (85) and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (39). Many of these peoples are facing physical or cultural extinction: this is the case in Brazil (70 indigenous peoples at risk), in Colombia (35) and in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (13). In addition, it is estimated that another 200 indigenous peoples are living in voluntary isolation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.
- The past decade has seen improvements in indigenous peoples' access to health and education, in the recognition of their territorial rights and in their political participation, although there are still gaps to be closed.
- Access to health services has improved greatly, as reflected for example in better indicators for assisted childbirth and child mortality rates among indigenous peoples. Mortality among children under the age of five declined between 2000 and 2010 in the five countries for which data are available (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Plurinational State of Bolivia). In addition, several countries have some type of State institution with a specific mandate to manage cross-cultural health.
- In the education field, school attendance rates have risen at all levels. The five countries with census data available from 2010 and 2011, for example, report attendance rates of between 82% and 99% for children aged 6 to 11 years. Nevertheless, there are still significant gaps between indigenous and non-indigenous groups in the completion rate for intermediate school and in access to higher levels of education.

² This section was prepared on the basis of information from the document *Los pueblos indígenas en América Latina: avances en el último decenio y retos pendientes para la garantía de sus derechos* (whose summary is available in English as *Guaranteeing indigenous people's rights in Latin America: progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*. Summary), prepared by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) Population Division of ECLAC in 2014 in preparation for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

TABLE I.3. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (7 countries): total and indigenous populations, according to data from the 2010 census round
(Numbers of individuals and percentages)

Country and census year	Total population	Indigenous population	Percentage of indigenous population
Census information			
Argentina (2010)	40 117 096	955 032	2.4
Brazil (2010)	190 755 799	896 917	0.5
Chile (2012) ^a	16 341 929	1 805 243	11
Ecuador (2010)	14 483 499	1 018 176	7
Paraguay (2012) ^b	6 232 511	112 848	1.8
Uruguay (2011) ^c	3 251 654	76 452	2.4
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2011)	27 227 930	724 592	2.7
Estimates at 2010 ^d			
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	9 995 000	6 216 026	62.2
Colombia	46 448 000	1 559 852	3.4
Peru ^e	29 272 000	7 021 271	24
Total	384 125 418	20 386 409	5.3

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special processing of census microdatabases.

^a These are the results of Chile's 2012 census in Chile. However, the current administration does not regard them as official owing to census quality issues.

^b Data refer to preliminary results of the Indigenous Census in Paraguay. They do not include the indigenous population counted in the general census, which is not yet available.

^c The census question on the recognition of descent with multiple response categories shows a total of 159,319 indigenous persons.

^d For these countries census results are not yet available for the 2010 decade. The percentages for the indigenous population were therefore taken from the latest census available and applied to the estimated population in 2010, on the basis of population estimates produced by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC (Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC, Demographic Observatory 2012. Population projections (LC/G.2569-P), Santiago, Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2013).

^e The 2007 census included only mother tongue, so the indigenous population was estimated by classing all household members as indigenous when the head of household or spouse reported an indigenous language.

- There has also been progress in recognizing the territorial rights of indigenous peoples, including the right to collective ownership of their territory. Most countries of the region have made progress in this regard, primarily through the demarcation and registration of land titles, but major challenges remain with respect to territorial control, including natural resources. Between 2010 and 2013 there were more than 200 conflicts relating to hydrocarbon and mining activities in indigenous territories.
- Political participation by indigenous peoples has also been gaining momentum, with the steady strengthening of their organizations and the forging of alliances to enhance their political clout. However, these peoples still have scant representation in the branches of government. Moreover, while there has been some progress in terms of the right to free, prior and informed consent and respect for indigenous peoples' institutions and systems of self-government, the results still fall short of international standards that recognize these peoples' fundamental right to free determination.



- Territorial inequalities are the expression of the limitations that people face in exercising their rights. For indigenous peoples those constraints are more intense and bear special significance. In a territorial analysis of indigenous peoples, as well as in public policies, there is a need for a concept of territory and a practice of territoriality that, beyond the physical dimension, will include the social, cultural and symbolic dimensions. All of these are essential in defining the identity of indigenous peoples and in the exercise of their rights to own, use, develop and control their territories and resources.

II. SOCIAL ISSUES

South America is a mestizo continent. It is defined by international agencies as a middle-income region, with a higher proportion of poor people than would be expected given its level of income, and a highly unequal distribution of wealth.

This inequality is the main obstacle to development, and at the same time a principal cause of the lack of social cohesion. The asymmetries within countries are considerable and obvious, but there are also asymmetries between countries. The historic and cultural identity of our region has been fractured by these asymmetries, which undermine the trust that is needed for regional cooperation and for a common sense of belonging.

The following section presents the social landscape of South America in terms of the following variables: poverty and inequality, employment, social spending, education, food and nutrition, health, and some data on gender parity.

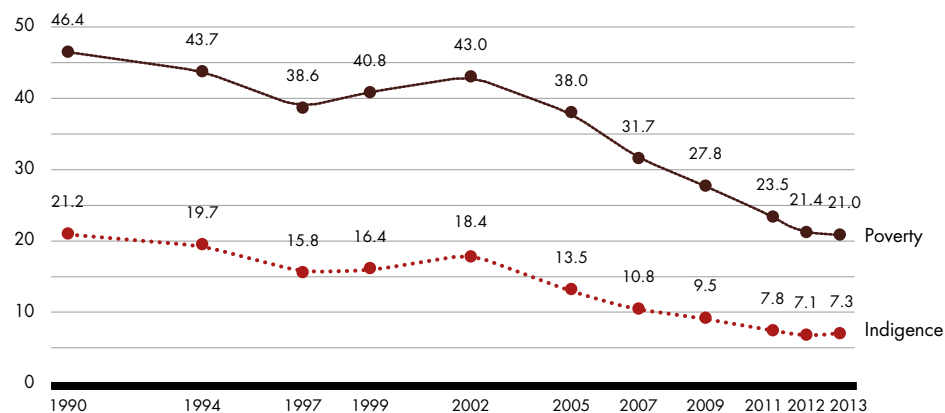
A. POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty and extreme poverty (indigence) have declined noticeably in UNASUR countries, but a significant portion of the population still lacks the resources to satisfy its basic needs. While income distribution has improved in recent years, inequity remains a distinctive feature of UNASUR in comparison with other regions of the world. Thus, to move toward greater social inclusion will require overcoming poverty and ensuring a more equitable structure of opportunities.

- Poverty levels have fallen substantially in the countries of UNASUR in recent years. In 2012, the poverty and indigence rates stood at their lowest level since 1990 (21.4% and 7.1% respectively), while projections for 2013 place poverty at 21% and indigence at 7.3%.
- Poverty trends are closely linked to the business cycle: the percentage of poor people declined between 1990 and 1997, rose again between 1997 and 2002, and dropped steeply between 2003 and 2009, a time of sustained economic growth. Between 2009 and 2013 the downward trend continued.

FIGURE II.1. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a poverty and indigence rates, selected years between 1990 and 2013^b

(Percentages of the total population)



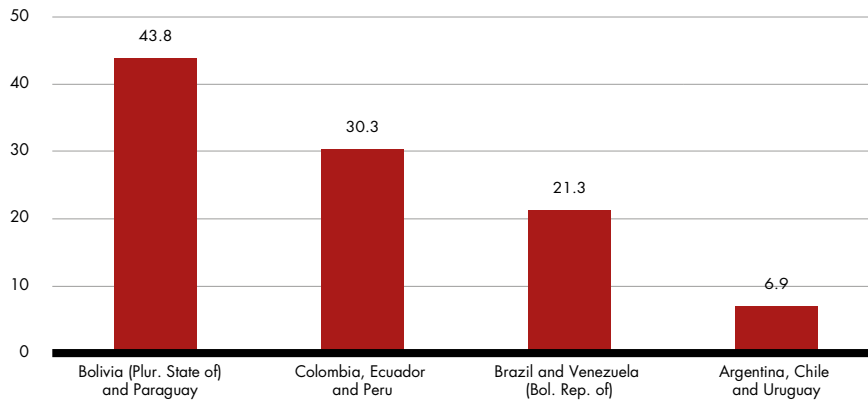
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of household surveys conducted in the respective countries.

^a No comparable information is available for Guyana and Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

^b Figures for 2013 are projections.

- In 2012, the poor numbered 85 million in total in the region, down sharply from the 156 million recorded in 2003, which was the highest figure for the last two decades.
- The countries of UNASUR have differing incidences of poverty. In figure II.2, countries are grouped in four categories by poverty level in 2012, from those in which over 40% of the population was poor, to others in which less than 7% was poor.

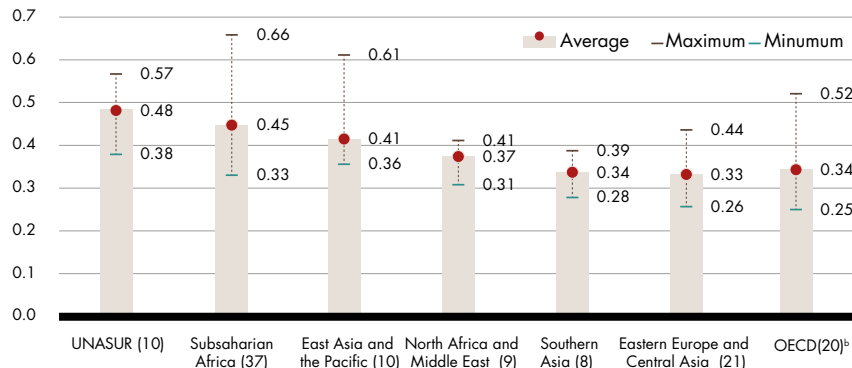
FIGURE II.2. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a classification of countries by poverty rate, 2012
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of household surveys conducted in the respective countries.
^a No comparable information is available for Guyana and Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- Between 2009 and 2012, 9 of the 10 UNASUR countries saw an improvement in income distribution as measured by the Gini index: in five, the Gini fell by 5% or more, and by more than 10% in two of those five (Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay). Despite this favourable trend, however, UNASUR remains the most unequal region in the world, with greater income concentration than any other region.

FIGURE II.3. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries) and other world regions:^a Gini coefficient of per capita income concentration, around 2012



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of household surveys conducted in the respective countries and World Bank, "World Development Indicators (WDI)".

^a No comparable information is available for Guyana and Suriname. Simple averages of the Gini.

^b Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

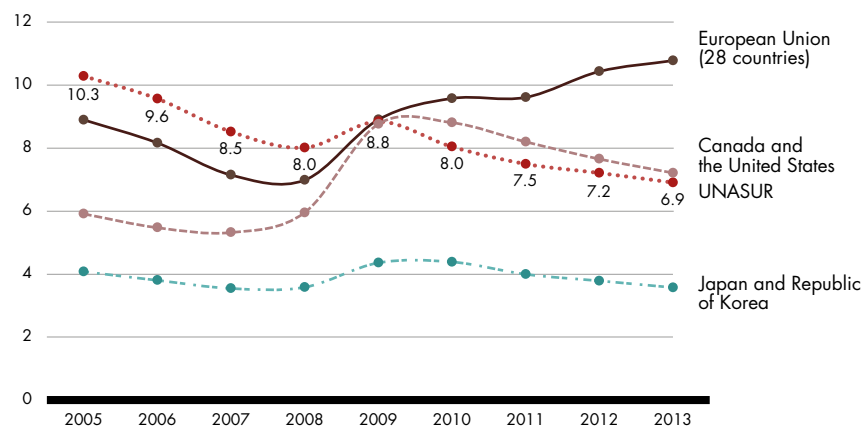
B. EMPLOYMENT

Despite an increase in employment and a reduction in open unemployment in the countries of UNASUR, unemployment levels remain high, exacerbated by the international financial crisis. In addition, informal employment is widespread, wage gaps are still large, working conditions have become more precarious, and a substantial portion of workers are still excluded from contributory social protection schemes. The countries of UNASUR, then, have some major tasks ahead to achieve quality employment for the population as a whole.

- Despite an increase in employment and a reduction in open unemployment in the countries of UNASUR, unemployment levels remain high, exacerbated by the international financial crisis. In addition, informal employment is widespread, wage gaps are still large, working conditions have become more precarious, and a substantial portion of workers are still excluded from contributory social protection schemes. The countries of UNASUR, then, have some major tasks ahead to achieve quality employment for the population as a whole.
- Between 2003 and 2008, a time of strong economic growth, there was a major reduction in open unemployment, which fell from 13.4% in 2003 to 7.9% in 2008. The fallout from the international financial crisis pushed this rate up again, to 8.9%. From 2010 to 2013, however, unemployment fell significantly, to 6.9%.
- Since the end of the 1990s, the average unemployment rate in UNASUR has exceeded those in more developed regions. However, the gap between UNASUR and developed countries has been narrowed by the declines in unemployment recorded between 2003 and 2008 and between 2010 and 2013. Since 2010, average unemployment in UNASUR has in fact been lower than in the United States and Canada taken together, and than in the European Union

FIGURE II.4. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries) and other world regions:^a unemployment rate, 2005-2013

(Percentages)

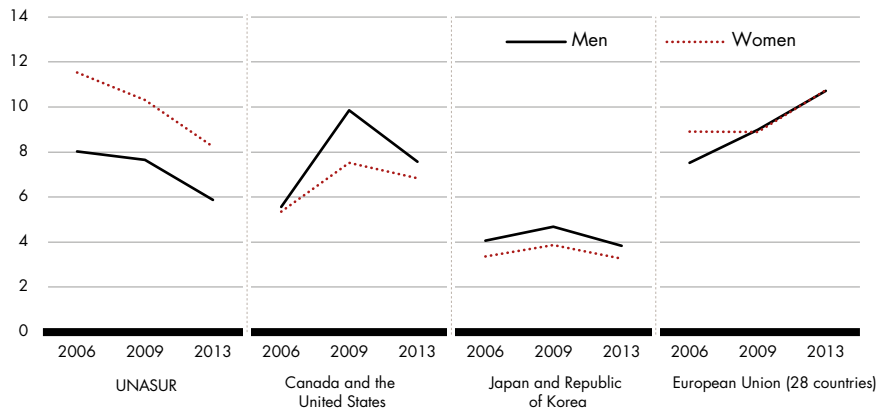


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures from the countries and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

^a No comparable information is available for Guyana and Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- The open unemployment rate in UNASUR countries dropped faster —yet remains higher— for women than for men between 2006 and 2013. Disparities in the unemployment rate by sex are much greater in UNASUR than in other regions and countries at higher levels of development, a situation that pertained as much in 2006 and 2009 as in 2013.

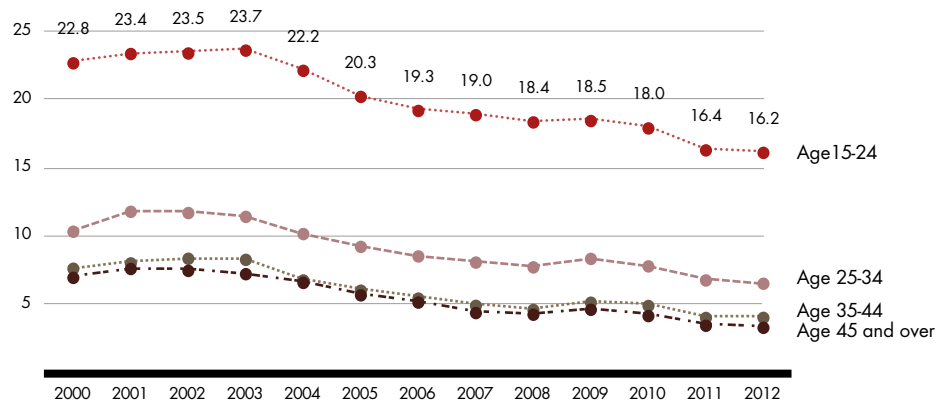
FIGURE II.5. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries) and other world regions:^a unemployment rate by sex, 2006, 2009 and 2013
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures from the countries and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), “Labour force statistics by sex and age: indicators”, OECD Employment and Labour Market Statistics [database].
^a No comparable information is available for Guyana and Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- Between 2000 and 2012, unemployment among young people aged between 15 and 24 was higher than for other age groups in UNASUR. In the first five years of this century, the youth unemployment rate exceeded 20%, and then declined to 16% in 2012.
- In the UNASUR countries, having a job is no guarantee of escape from poverty, or of avoidance of slipping back into it. This is largely a reflection of the high rate of informal employment. Nevertheless, low-productivity jobs have fallen as a proportion of total jobs created in recent years. In 2007, the share of employment in low-productivity sectors in UNASUR was 52.8%, while by 2012 it had fallen to 47.2%.

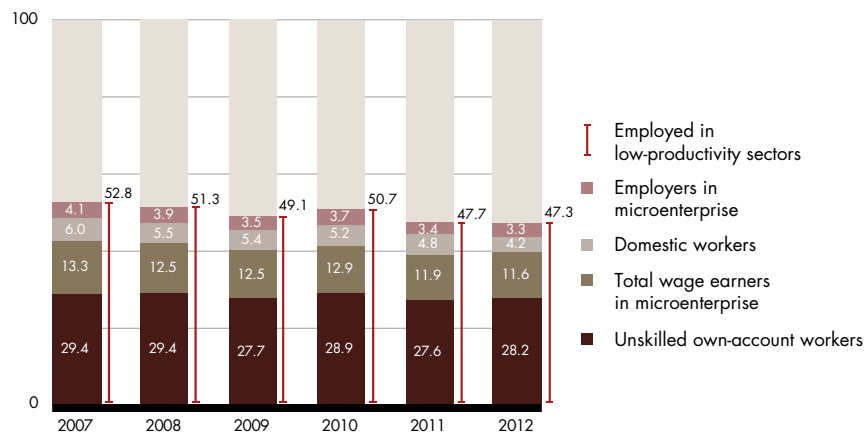
FIGURE II.6. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (up to 10 countries):^a urban unemployment rate by age bracket, 2000-2012
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures from the countries.

^a No comparable information is available for Guyana and Suriname; depending on the year, the simple average is calculated from between 5 and 10 surveys, according to availability.

FIGURE II.7. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (up to 10 countries):^a persons employed in low-productivity sectors as a proportion of all employed, by type of business unit, 2007-2012
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures from the countries.

^a No comparable information is available for Guyana and Suriname. Depending on the year, the simple average is calculated from between 5 and 10 surveys, according to availability.



- Las The labour market gaps in UNASUR are also evident in the quality of employment. For example, earnings from work have been systematically lower for women than for men, although the gap has started to narrow again after the widening observed around 2007. In 2012, women’s earnings (including earnings of employees as well as own-account workers) represented 72.8% of men’s earnings, compared to 67.6% in 2007. In other words, the 2012 gap was 27.2 percentage points, compared to 32.4 percentage points in 2007, for a reduction of 5.2 percentage points over a period of five years.
- Although they are still at a disadvantage, the situation of women compares more favourably when it is restricted to persons working as employees. Thus, the average female wage in 2012 amounted to 88.9% of the male wage, leaving a wage gap of 11.1 percentage points. The trend since 2007 has been positive: in that year, the female wage was 83.3% of the male wage, for a gap of 16.7 percentage points. The reduction in the wage gap over the period 2007-2012 was 5.6 percentage points, for an improvement of more than one percentage point per year

FIGURE II.8. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a women’s average income compared to men’s average income, 2000-2012
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of household surveys conducted in the respective countries.

^a No comparable information is available for Guyana and Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

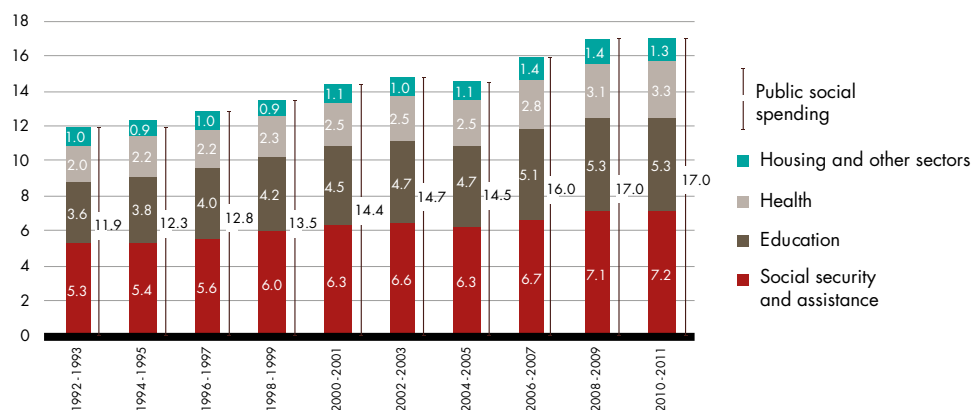
^b Incomes income from both waged and own-account work.

C. SOCIAL SPENDING

The countries of UNASUR have boosted their public social spending significantly over the last decade, indicating a more active government role in procuring the welfare of the population. Nevertheless, the weight of that spending in relation to GDP remains below the level in OECD countries. Moreover, social spending in UNASUR countries is highly sensitive to the economic cycle, making it vulnerable to the vagaries of the growth rate. Lastly, the biggest spending item is social security, which is concentrated on higher income groups.

- The public spending data reported by countries for the period from the mid-1990s to 2010-2011 show significant and steady growth in total social spending (up by 5.1% of GDP) and by sector.
- The sectoral distribution of social spending reveals continued priority to social security and assistance, which accounts for the largest single share of the total (42%). However, that sector's share of total social spending has stagnated in the last decade.
- Education remains the second priority, with a share of 31%. The housing and health sectors, although apparently accorded less priority, have seen the biggest relative increases during the decade (19% and 8%, respectively).

FIGURE II.9. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a public social spending, total and by sector, 1992-1993 to 2010-2011
(Percentages of GDP)

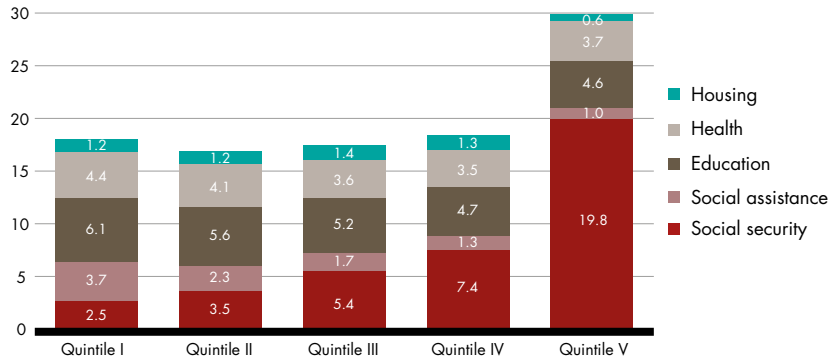


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of information from the Commission's social expenditure database.
^a Does not include Guyana or Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- The richest population quintile receives, on average, 30% of public social spending, and its share of social security spending is greater than that of the remaining income quintiles. On the other hand, the 40% of the population with the lowest incomes receives between 42% and 45% of public investment in education, health and housing, with 35% and 37% going to the richest 40%.

- Social assistance spending serves redistribution goals, but there are still problems with its targeting. Among the most progressive social programmes are those aimed at combating poverty, and in particular those that use conditional cash transfer mechanisms

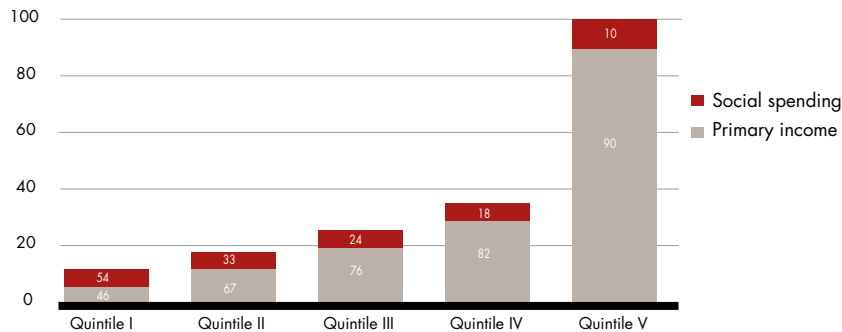
FIGURE II.10. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (9 countries):^a public spending by sector as a share of total public social spending, by primary income quintile, 2008-2009
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of information from the Commission's social expenditure database.
^a Does not include the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Guyana or Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- Government transfers have a significant redistributive impact, and in fact account for more than half the total income of the poorest quintile.
- In absolute terms, however, the volume of public social spending going to for the higher income groups is greater, reflecting the highly regressive nature of the social security system.

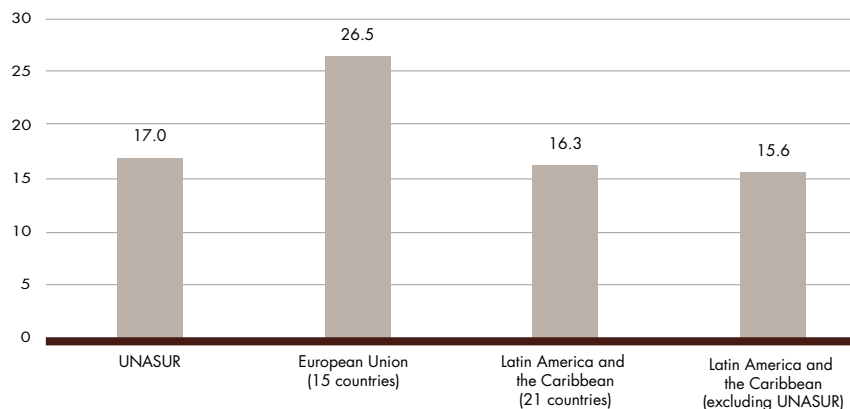
FIGURE II.11. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a income redistribution impact of public social spending, by primary income quintile, 1997-2004
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of national studies.
^a Does not include Guyana or Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- On average, the proportion of GDP devoted by UNASUR countries to social spending is higher than that of other countries in the region. Nevertheless, that proportion is well below the equivalent figures for European Union countries, which moreover have much higher GDP.

FIGURE II.12. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries) and other regions:^a public social spending as a proportion of GDP, 2010-2011
(Percentages)

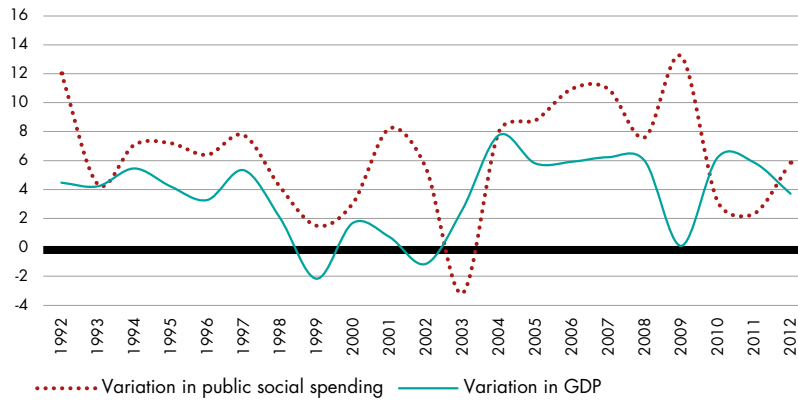


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of information from the Commission's social expenditure database.

^a Does not include Guyana or Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- In 2009, the last year for which full information is available, average social spending per capita in UNASUR countries was US\$ 930. This figure varied greatly among countries, however, ranging from US\$ 200 per capita to more than US\$ 1,400. As a percentage of GDP, it was well below the equivalent figures for more developed countries.
- A characteristic of the policies pursued in UNASUR countries is the procyclical behaviour of their social spending. This tendency limits the capacity to finance policies geared towards lessening vulnerability among the poor, and in some cases can actually make their situation worse.

FIGURE II.13. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a annual variation in GDP and public social spending, 1992-2012
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures from the countries and the Commission's social expenditure database.

^a Does not include Guyana or Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

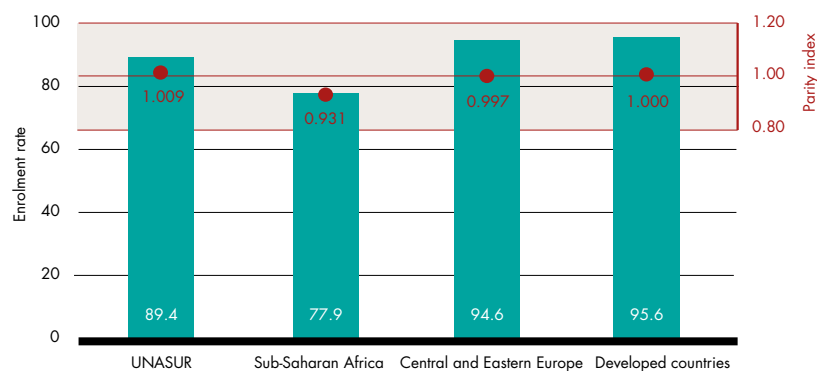
D. EDUCATION

UNASUR countries have made progress in universalizing primary education, but still have work to do in boosting access and completion rates in secondary education (which in most countries is not compulsory), or to expand the coverage of preschool education. At the same time, there are still important challenges of quality and equity. In terms of learning, children in UNASUR countries are well behind their peers in developed countries, and there are sharp disparities in educational achievement depending on socioeconomic situation, place of residence, and ethnic status, among other factors.

- In 2010-2012, the net enrolment rate in primary education in UNASUR stood at 89.4%, very close to the levels observed in developed countries and in Eastern and Central Europe, but higher than those in sub-Saharan Africa. The primary school completion rate in UNASUR is close to 90%, although there are persistent gaps associated with socioeconomic factors.

FIGURE II.14. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries) and other world regions:^a net enrolment rate and gender parity in primary education, around 2012

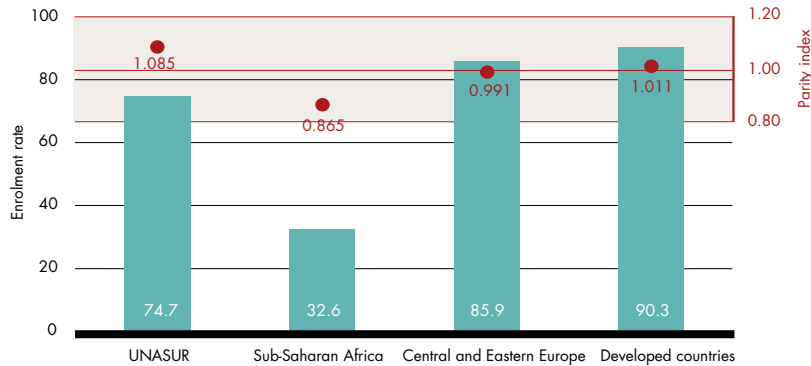
(Percentages and indices)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).
^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

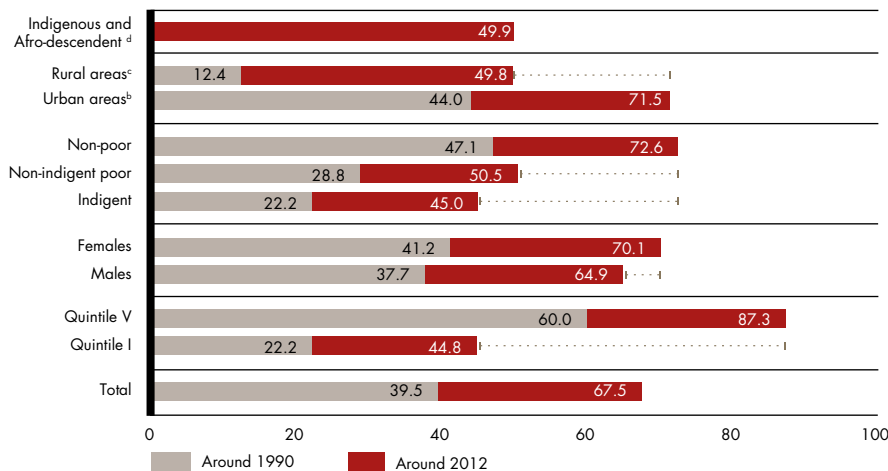
- There are difficulties in relation to level of schooling in the secondary education system. In 2010-2012, the net enrolment rate at this level was 75% in UNASUR, higher than the enrolment rates recorded in Arab States and in sub-Saharan Africa, but well below those for Western Europe, the United States and Canada, and Eastern Europe.
- While secondary school completion rates improved between 1990 and 2012, there are still sharp disparities that affect the poorest groups, indigenous peoples, and rural youngsters.

FIGURE II.15. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (11 countries) and other world regions:^a net enrolment rate and gender parity in secondary education, around 2012
(Percentages and indices)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).
^a Does not include Brazil. Simple averages of the figures for the countries

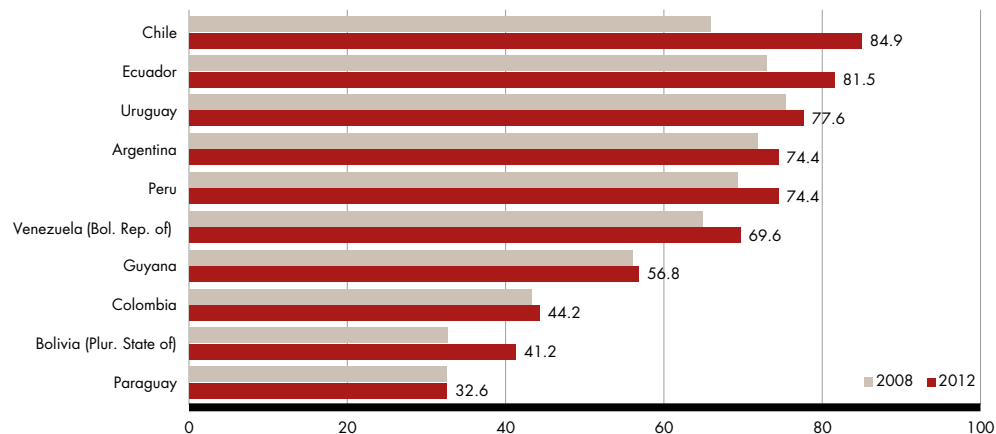
FIGURE II.16. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a secondary education completion rates among young people aged 20 to 24, selected groups, around 1990 and 2012
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of household surveys conducted in the respective countries.
^a Does not include Guyana or Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.
^b Does not include Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
^c Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru.
^d Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

- Schooling challenges are not confined to secondary education. Efforts are still needed to expand access to preschool education (in 2008, net preschool enrolment was 59% in UNASUR, as a simple average, and rose to 64% in 2012), and to tertiary education.

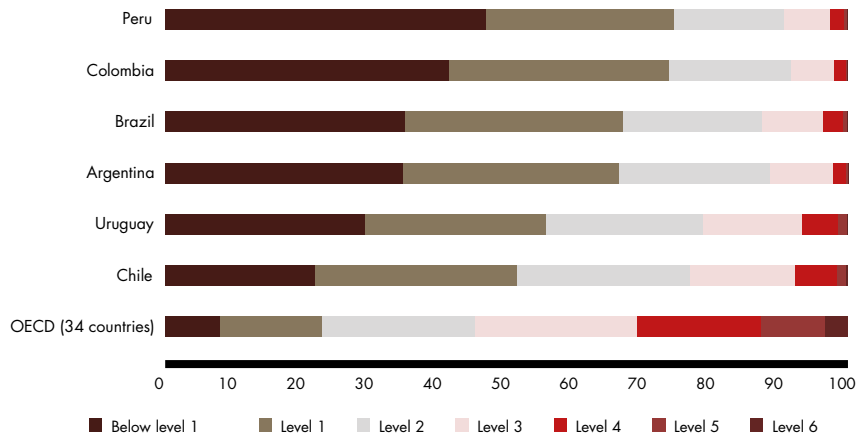
FIGURE II.17. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries): net enrolment rate in preschool education, 2008 and 2012 (Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

- Perhaps the greatest challenge for the countries of UNASUR is to improve the quality of education. There is systematic evidence that students' learning levels in some UNASUR countries fall short of those achieved by their peers in developed countries.
- Within the UNASUR countries there are great differences in the quality of the education their children receive. These differences have to do with the dynamics of school segmentation and segregation, and they are reflected in poor learning outcomes that reproduce the divides related to socioeconomic status, ethnic status, and place of residence.

FIGURE II.18. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (6 countries) and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (34 countries): mathematics performance of students aged 15 years, 2012^a
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), 2012.

^a PISA establishes six levels for assessing proficiency in mathematics. Students scoring below level 2 are understood to be incapable of carrying out the basic tasks measured by the test, while those scoring higher are capable of logical and mathematical thought processes that given them the minimum skills needed to participate in today's society.

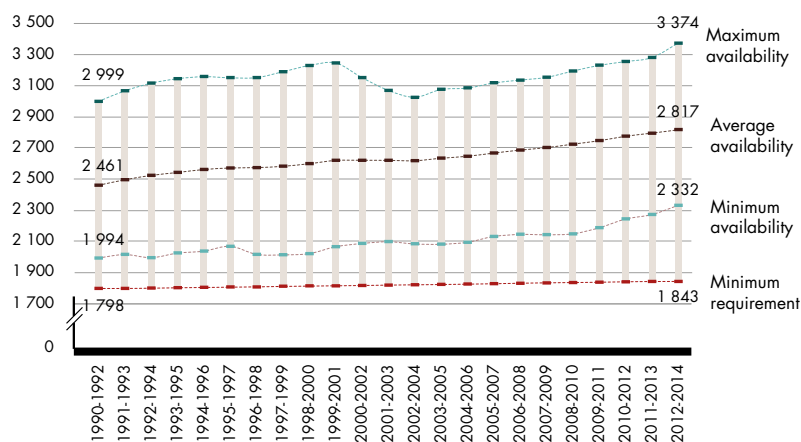
E. FOOD AND NUTRITION

The problems of malnutrition in UNASUR countries are yet another indicator of the region's persistent inequalities. Member countries have sufficient food supply to cover the needs of their people, yet barriers to access and problems of child malnutrition remain serious challenges, compounded by the growing prevalence of overweight and obesity .

- Between 2011 and 2013, food availability was on average 50% above the population's minimum nutritional requirements. However, during that time around 28.6 million people were not consuming the minimum caloric requirements.

FIGURE II.19. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries):^a food availability and minimum daily kilocalorie requirement per person, 1990-1992 to 2012-2014

(Kilocalories)



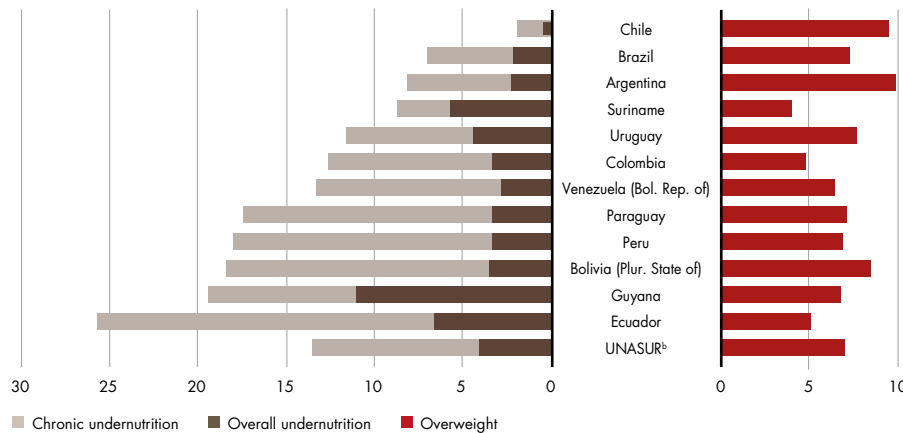
Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), "Food security", Corporate Database for Substantive Statistical Data (FAOSTAT).

^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- Recent years have seen steadily higher food prices: the food-specific CPI rose by 115% between 2005 and 2012, during which time the general CPI increased by 78%. This situation worsens the food and nutritional vulnerability of the population, in particular the poorest people, not only limiting access to food in general but also promoting the consumption of less healthful food products, factors that affect malnutrition as well as obesity.
- The most recent information from nutritional surveys indicates that 996,000 children under the age of five are underweight for their age, and 3.9 million show signs of stunting.

- In 2004, the costs associated with undernutrition were estimated at US\$ 10.5 billion in the Andean countries and Paraguay alone.
- The most vulnerable groups are indigenous populations living in rural mountainous and forest areas.
- Overweight and obesity are also growing problems in the region. The proportion of overweight children under age 5 in UNASUR countries is currently 7%. In some member countries, up to 48% of women of childbearing age are overweight, and 16% of them are obese; for another group of countries, 57% of males and females over 18 years are overweight. This situation has serious public health implications. There is now scientific evidence linking obesity with non-communicable chronic diseases, and the attendant higher morbidity and mortality rates, greater health costs, and productivity losses.

FIGURE II.20. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): chronic and overall undernutrition and overweight rates among children under age 5, 2004-2012^a
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of data from the United Nations Statistics Division, for under-nutrition and official sources.

^a Overall undernutrition is defined as low weight for age (underweight) and chronic undernutrition as low height for age (stunting). Figures estimated on the basis of World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

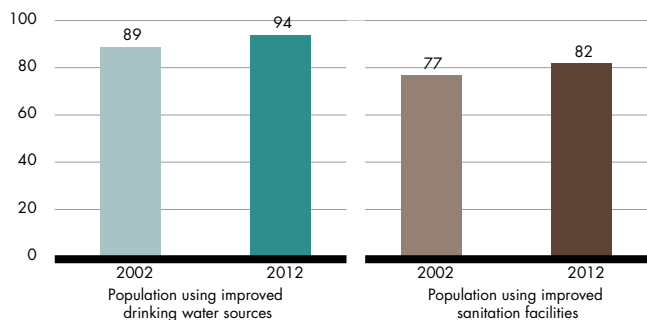
^b Simple average for 12 UNASUR countries.

F. HEALTH

In urban areas of UNASUR countries, the expansion of sanitation facilities and maternal and child health services, as well as a change in people's attitudes and conduct, have helped to reduce infant mortality and to narrow the socioeconomic gaps in mortality. In poorer areas where slums are most frequent, however, the situation is different, and there are wide gaps in access to basic sanitation and drinking water. The countries of UNASUR must also deal with new health problems associated with shifting demographics and morbidity profiles.

- The proportion of the population with access to sanitation services in UNASUR rose from 77% in 2002 to 82% in 2012. Access to safe drinking water increased from 89% to 94% over that same time.

FIGURE II.21. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries):^a sustainable access to drinking water and basic sanitation services, 2002 and 2012
(Percentages)

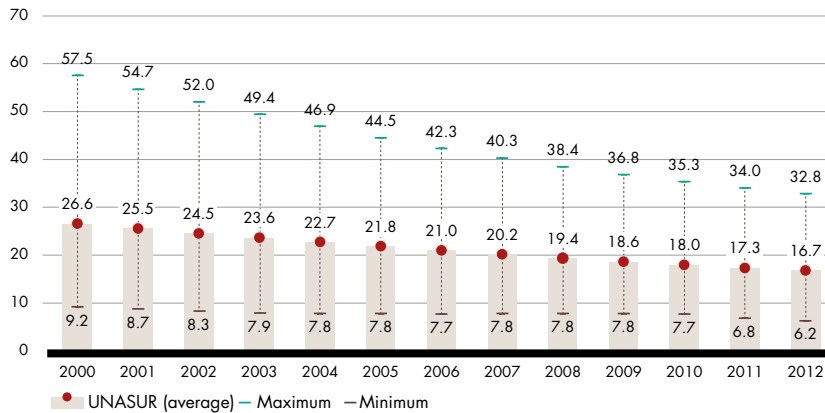


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of World Health Organization (WHO)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation.

^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

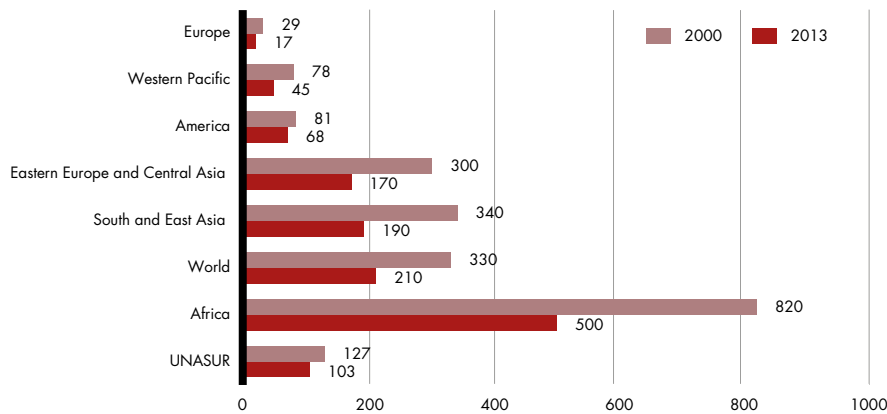
- Between 2000 and 2012, the infant mortality rate in UNASUR dropped from 26.6 to 16.7 for every 1,000 live births. Over that time, the broad differences among member countries of UNASUR declined significantly, as the gap between minimum and maximum rates of infant mortality per 1,000 live births has tended to narrow.
- The maternal mortality rate in UNASUR countries declined from 127 to 103 per 100,000 live births between 2000 and 2013, but remain above the rates in industrialized countries.

FIGURE II.22. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries):^a infant mortality rate, children under 1 year of age, 2000-2012
(Per 1,000 births)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME).
^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

FIGURE II.23. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries) and other world regions: maternal mortality rate,^a 2000 and 2013
(Per 100,000 live births)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of World Health Organization (WHO), "Global health indicators", World Health Statistics 2014.

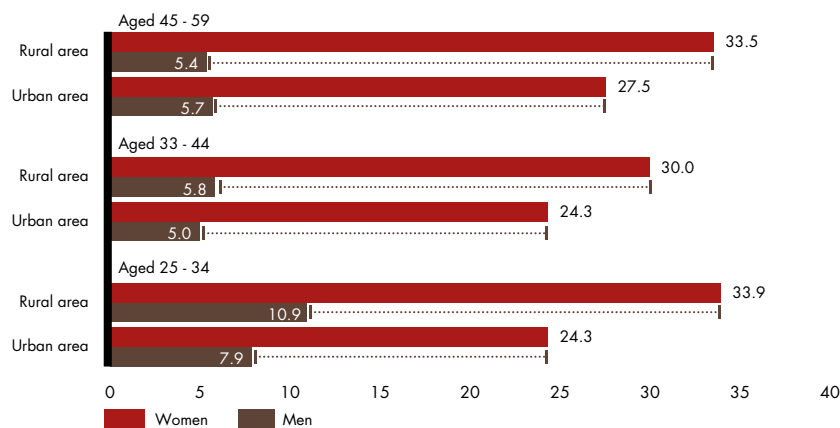
^a Maternal mortality is defined as the death of a woman during pregnancy or within 42 days after the end of pregnancy due to complications in pregnancy, delivery or in the postnatal period, but not to accidental or incidental causes. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

G. GENDER PARITY

Despite progress on certain aspects of gender equity, the countries of UNASUR still betray substantial obstacles to women's empowerment, and this prevents them from fully enjoying equal rights. The countries need to join forces to empower women in terms of their economic, physical and decision-making autonomy.

- Although women have achieved greater economic autonomy in the countries of UNASUR, and the gap vis-à-vis men is narrowing, there are still glaring disparities. In 2012, some 28% of urban women and 34% of rural women had no incomes of their own, while the respective figures for urban and rural men were 5% and 6%.
- The gaps are greater in rural areas, and particularly among women between 45 and 59 years of age: here, 33.5% of women have no incomes of their own, versus 5.4% of men.

FIGURE II.24. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a population with no personal income, by sex, age group and area of residence, around 2012 (Percentages)

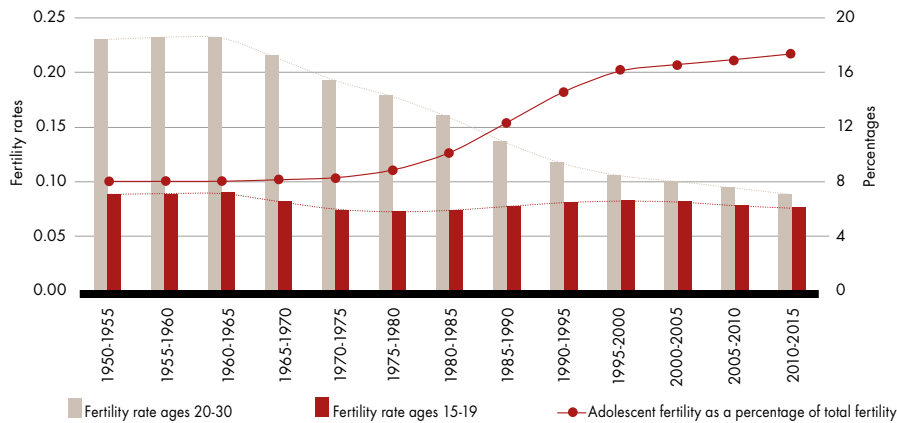


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of household surveys conducted in the respective countries.
^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- In terms of physical autonomy, problems persist that threaten the exercise of women's reproductive rights. For example, the decline in fertility among the population aged 20 to 39 years has not occurred among adolescents, for whom fertility rates have remained more or less flat between 1950-1955 and 2010-2015. This has led to an increase in adolescent fertility as a proportion of total fertility.

FIGURE II.25. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a fertility rates by age, and adolescent fertility as a proportion of total fertility, 1950-1955 to 2010-2015

(Percentages)



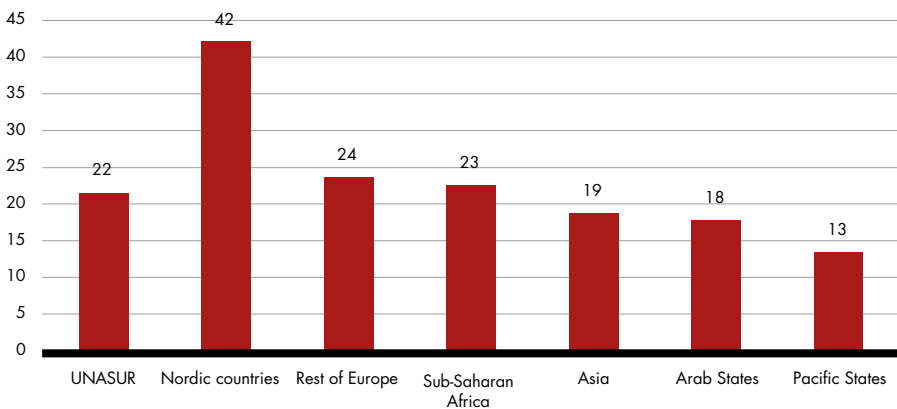
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC estimates and projections.

^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- One indicator for estimating women’s participation in decision-making is the percentage of seats in parliament occupied by women. Although the proportion of women in the lower parliamentary chambers in UNASUR rose from 10% in 1990 to 22% in 2014, it is still far below the figures for Nordic countries, where women hold 42% of parliamentary seats.

FIGURE II.26. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries) and other world regions: seats held by women in the national parliament,^a 2014

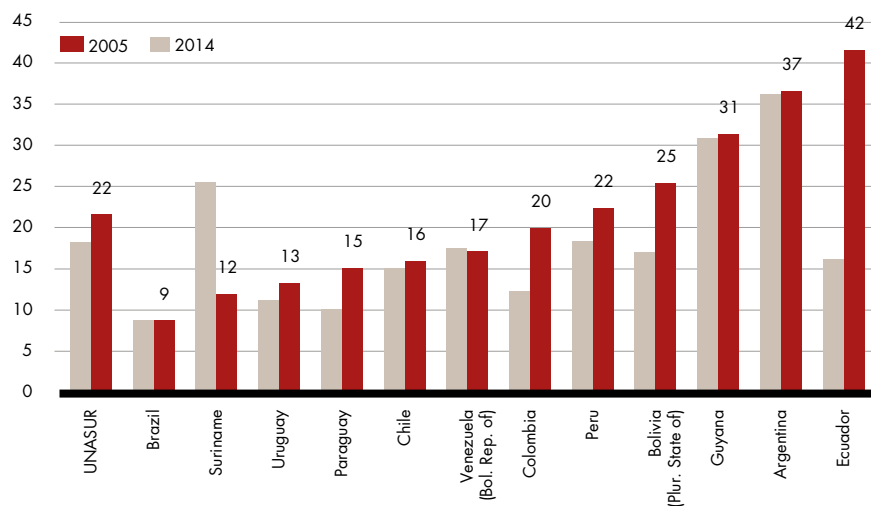
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

^a Refers to seats in the single chamber or the lower chamber. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

FIGURE II.27. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): seats held by women in the national parliament,^a 2005 and 2014
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

^a Refers to seats in the single chamber or the lower chamber.

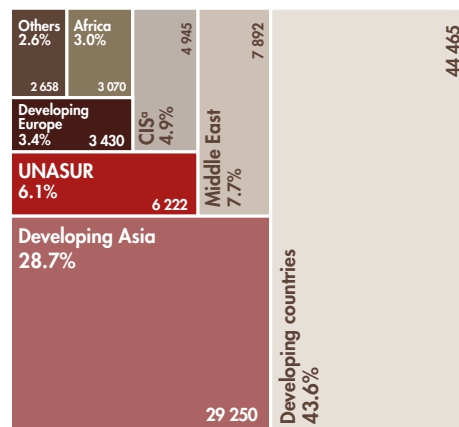
III. ECONOMY, TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

UNASUR constitutes a set of 12 countries with a high degree of specialization in the production and export of commodities (hydrocarbons, metals and minerals, and food). For this reason, the region reaped significant benefits from rising terms of trade for much of the past decade, in a context of sustained economic growth together with a trade surplus. This dynamism was interrupted by the impact of the world economic and financial crisis. The economies of the region returned to growth in 2010, supported by a recovery in international commodity prices, but in subsequent years the global context has been less auspicious than in the previous decade, with commodities experiencing lower demand and falling prices (although these remained relatively high in historic terms), compounded by great volatility on financial markets.

A. ECONOMY

- The combined GDP of UNASUR members represents 6.1% of world GDP, measured in dollars at purchasing power parity (PPP).

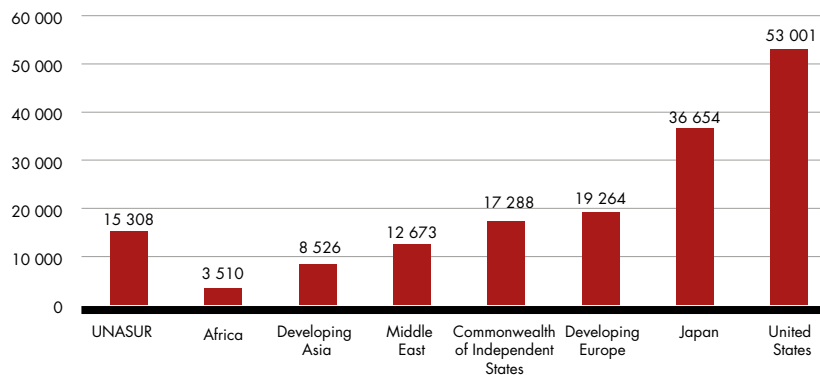
FIGURE III.1. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries) and other world regions: share in global GDP, in purchasing power parity (PPP) dollars, 2013
(Percentages)



Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), "World Economic Outlook Database".

- The per capita GDP of UNASUR is slightly over 15,000 PPP dollars, on average, with a range of variation between 6,000 and 22,000 PPP dollars.

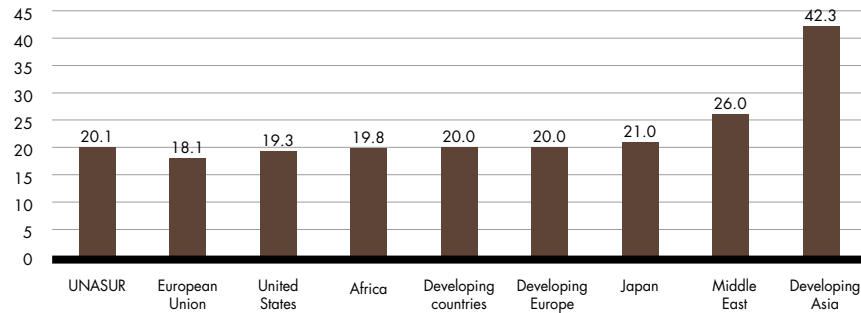
FIGURE III.2. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries) and other world regions:^a per capita GDP, 2013
(PPP dollars)



Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), "World Economic Outlook Database".

^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

FIGURE III.3. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (11 countries) and other world regions:^a investment rate, 2013
 ((Percentages of GDP at current prices)

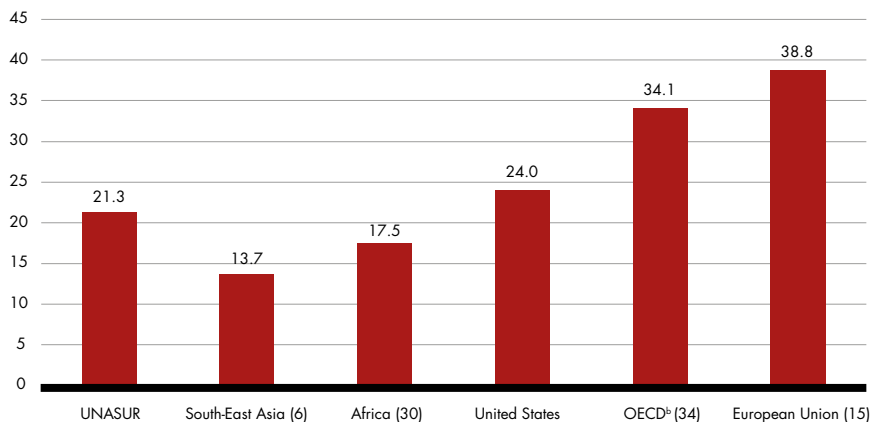


Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), "World Economic Outlook Database".

^a Suriname is excluded, as there is no information available in the database. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- Investment in the region amounted to 20.1% of GDP at current prices in 2013: this was close to the pre-crisis level, but is considered low in comparison with other developing economies.
- Another distinctive feature of UNASUR is the tax burden, which may be considered low (21.3% of GDP) compared to developed countries (average 34.1% of GDP for OECD countries and 24% of GDP in the United States), but is higher than those found in the economies of Southeast Asia and Africa (13.7% and 17.5% of GDP, respectively).

FIGURE III.4. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries) and other world regions: tax burden by region, 2012^a
 (Percentages of GDP)



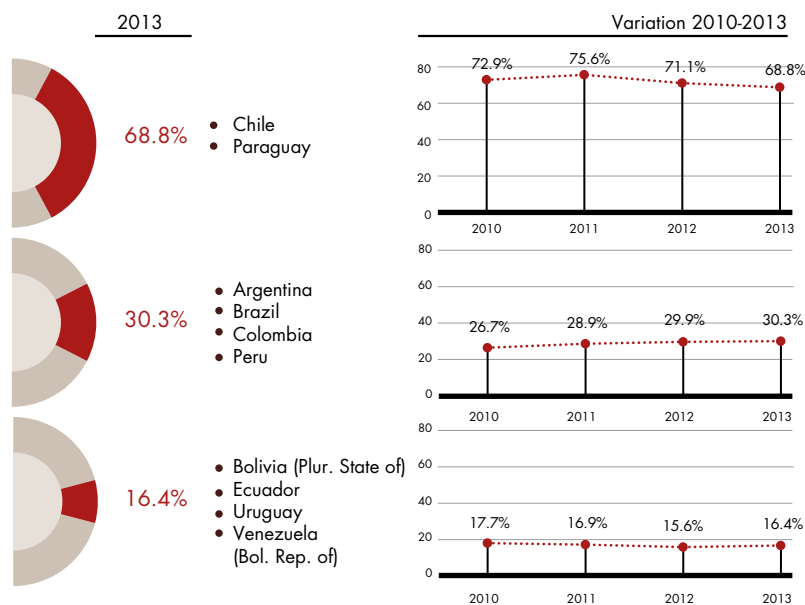
Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), "Revenue Statistics of OECD Member Countries", OECDStat, Paris, 2011; World Bank, "World Development Indicators" and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures, 2012.

^a The data for UNASUR refer to 2012 and those for other regions to 2011. Simple averages. The number of countries included from each region is shown in brackets.

^b Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

- UNASUR countries have an intermediate degree of trade openness, at around 35%, although there are great disparities among them. In recent years, the degree of trade openness has declined moderately in several countries, primarily because of the slowing of international trade, which has not been offset by intraregional trade.
- Investment has been the most dynamic component of demand (which averaged real growth of 8.8% over the same period): as a percentage of GDP at current prices, investment rose from 15.8% in 2003 to around 20% in 2013.

FIGURE III.5. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a degree of trade openness, 2010-2013 (Percentages)



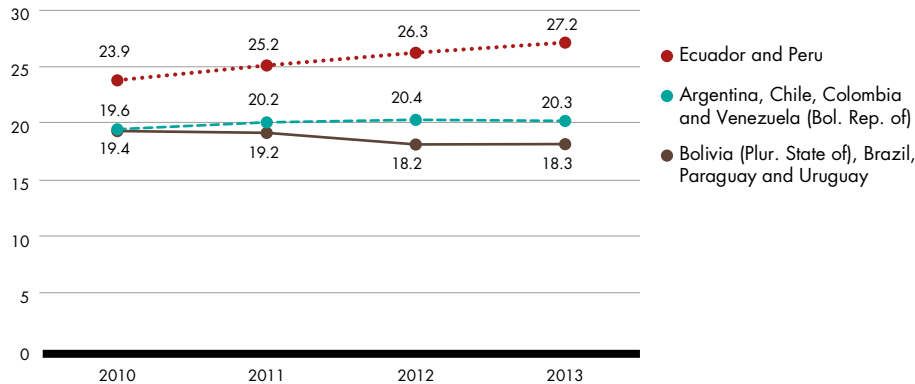
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures.

^a Does not include Guyana or Suriname, owing to lack of data for the four years in question. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- In the context of the global economic and financial crisis, Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole experienced a sharp interruption in its growth path in 2009. The rapid recovery that took place in 2010 translated into a recovery of per capita GDP, which posted cumulative growth of 23.7% over the period 2003-2013.
- As well, in 2010 most UNASUR countries returned to growth rates at or above their pre-crisis levels. Nevertheless, growth rates have declined considerably since 2011.



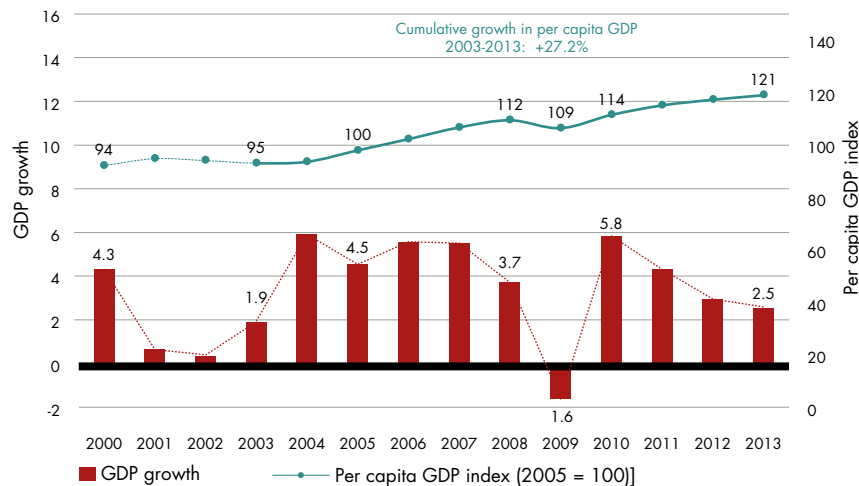
FIGURE III.6. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a gross fixed capital formation, 2010-2013
 (Percentages of GDP at current prices)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures.

^a Does not include Guyana or Suriname, owing to lack of data for the four years in question. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

FIGURE III.7. Latin America and the Caribbean:^a GDP growth rate and performance of per capita GDP, 2000-2013
 (Percentages and per capita GDP indices: base year 2005=100)

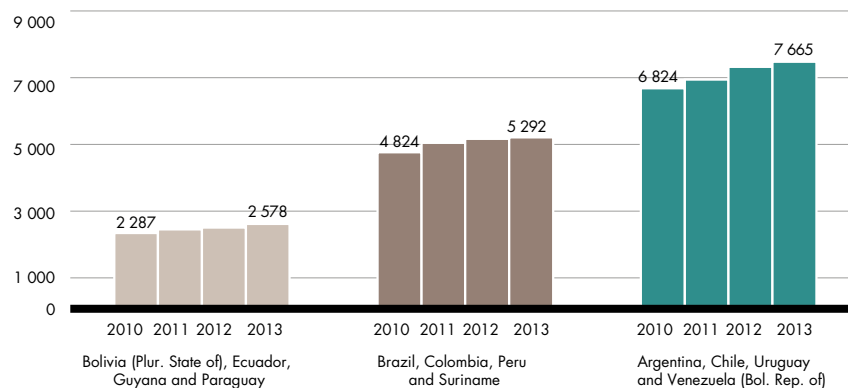


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures.

^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- During the years between 2003 and 2013, the economies of UNASUR grew at a cumulative annual rate of 3.9% (or 2.9% annually in terms of per capita GDP). More recently, countries with lower per capita GDP have grown at higher rates than the other UNASUR countries, and the intraregional gaps have accordingly narrowed slightly.

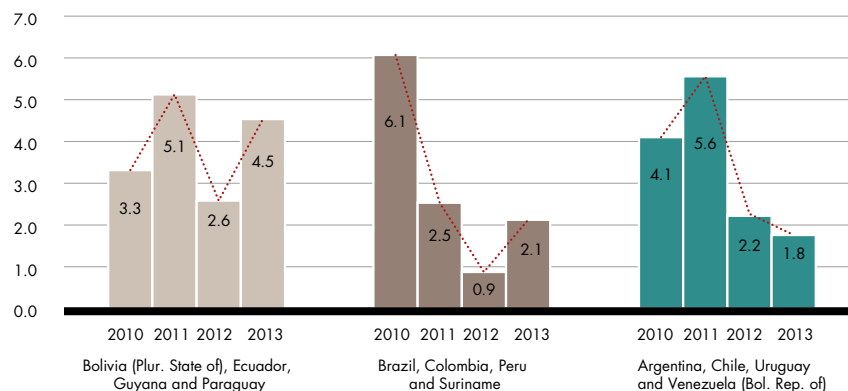
FIGURE III.8. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries):^a per capita GDP, 2010-2013
(Dollars at constant 2005 prices)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures.

^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

FIGURE III.9. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries):^a per capita GDP variation, 2010-2013
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures.

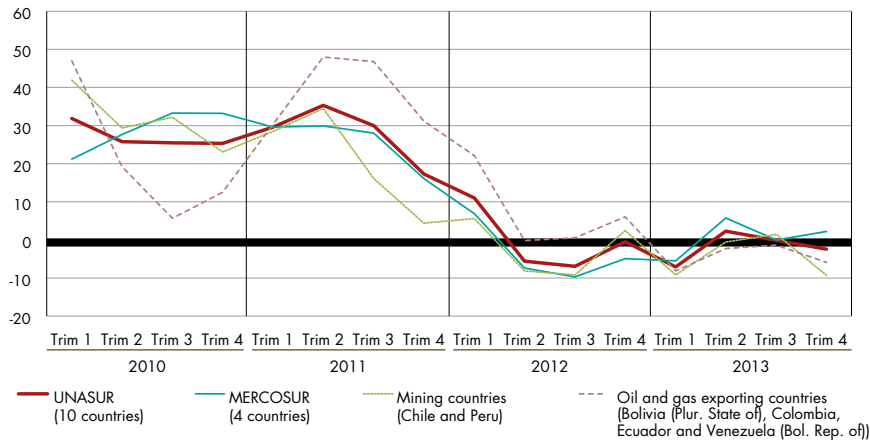
^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- The vigorous recovery of the region's economies following the economic crisis was driven by countercyclical policies and supported by the revival of the global economy, and of international trade in particular. Consequently, as of the second half of 2009 the volumes of international trade began to rise again and, from the second quarter of 2010 to 2011, Latin American exports picked up.
- However, in 2012 the value of UNASUR exports began to decline, a trend that has applied to all subregions.



FIGURE III.10. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a year-on-year quarterly variation in the value of goods exports, 2010-2013

(Percentages)

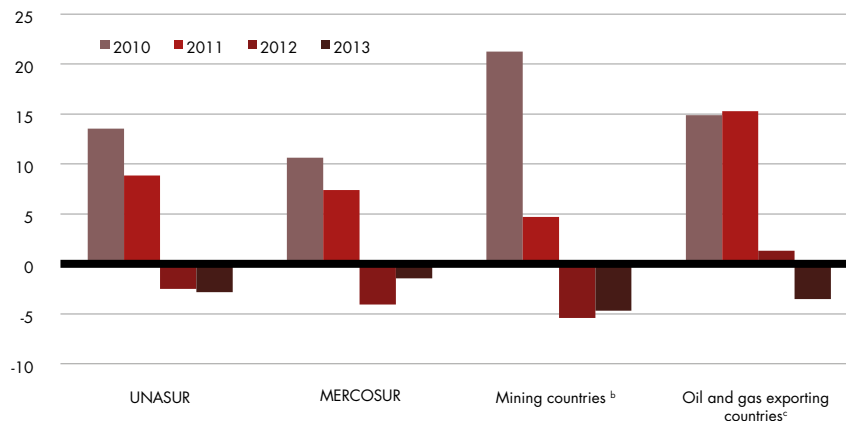


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures.

^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- Following the initial impact of the global economic and financial crisis of 2008-2009, the terms of trade began to recover, due in large part to the renewed upward trend in commodity prices for countries exporting hydrocarbons and, even more importantly, mining products. Since 2012, however, the terms of trade for all groups of countries, and in particular for the mining countries, have lost ground.
- Despite higher values for exports, the balance-of-payments current account showed a deficit in 2010 for the second year running, due to the increase in imports and profit remittances. The weak export performance and high levels of profit remittances have widened this deficit in subsequent years.
- This current account deficit was, however, financed by external capital inflows, as a result of which most countries of the region were able to build up their international reserves to above 2008 levels. In 2013, the countries of UNASUR as a whole had international reserves amounting to nearly 14% of GDP.

FIGURE III.11. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a estimated year-on-year variation in terms of trade, 2010-2013
(Percentages)



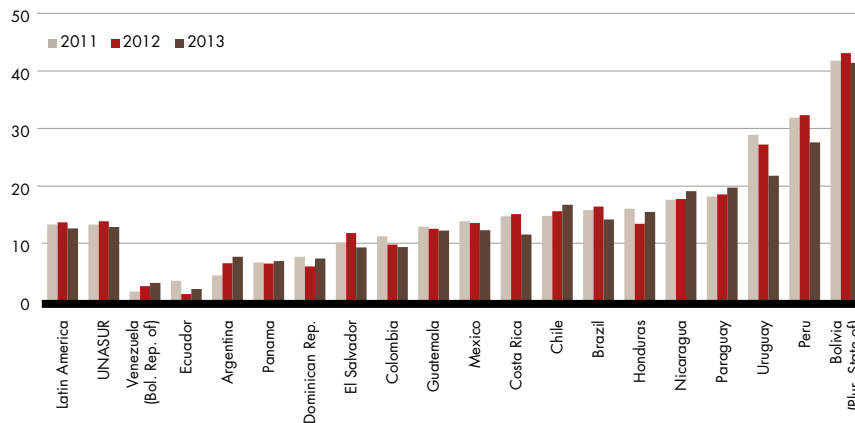
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures.

^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

^b Chile and Peru.

^c Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Plurinational State of Bolivia.

FIGURE III.12. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries) and other Latin American countries: international reserves, 2011-2013
(Percentages of GDP)

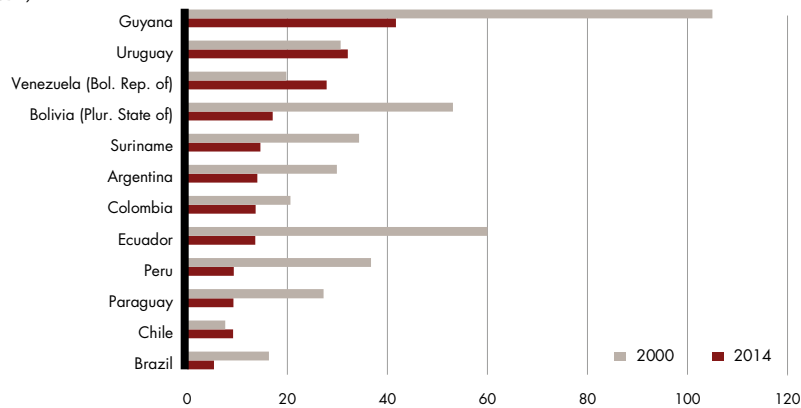


Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Financial Statistics, and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures.



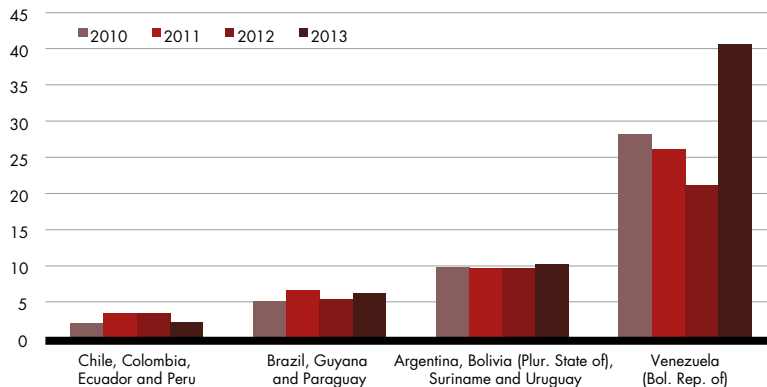
- The region managed to maintain the public external debt —considered another indicator of external vulnerability— at levels that may be deemed prudent, and well below those prevailing at the beginning of the century.
- Having overcome the immediate impacts of the crisis, the economies of UNASUR now face the challenge of sustaining growth amid the dismantling of the monetary and fiscal stimulus measures introduced during the crisis, an external setting that is less favourable than it was during much of the past decade and, in some cases, the reemergence of inflationary pressures.

FIGURE III.13. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): public external debt, 2000 and 2014^a
(Percentages of GDP)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures.
^a Preliminary figures for 2014.

FIGURE III.14. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries):^a inflation rate, 2010-2013
(Percentages)



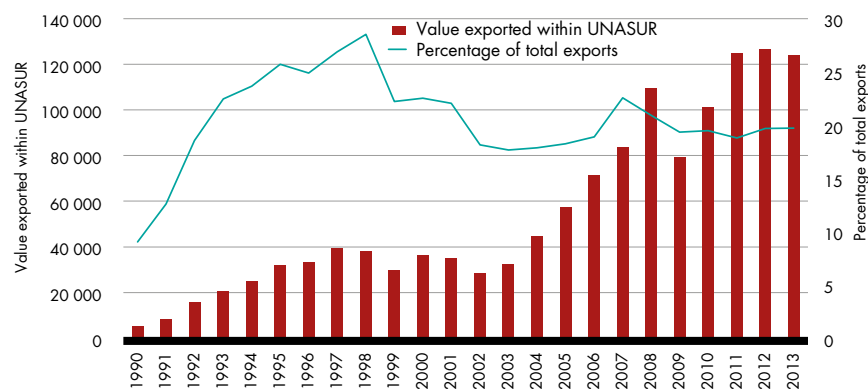
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of official figures.
^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

B. TRADE

- After a steep fall in 2009, as a result of the global economic crisis, trade among member countries of UNASUR surpassed its pre-crisis level in 2011. However, it has essentially stagnated since that time. In 2013 it reached US\$ 124.004 billion, or 2% less than the US\$ 126.6 billion recorded in 2012.
- Intra-UNASUR trade as a share of the world exports of member countries as a whole was around 20% in 2013, having remained basically stable since 2009. This share is far below the peak (29%) recorded in 1998.

FIGURE III.15. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR): intraregional exports by value and as a proportion of total exports, 1990-2013^a

(Millions of dollars and percentages)

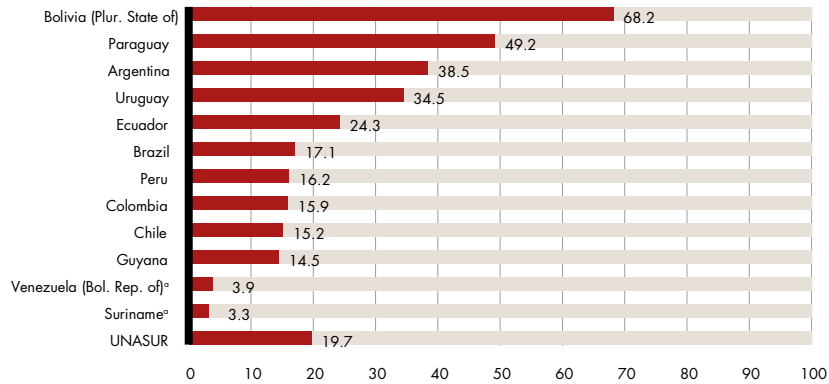


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of United Nations, United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE).

^a Exports of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in 2012 and 2013 are mirror data, i.e. derived from the import records of other member countries of UNASUR.

- Trade within UNASUR accounts for a large proportion of the total trade of many of the grouping's members. Several UNASUR countries ship a considerable proportion of their exports to other member countries. This is the case in particular with the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Paraguay, which in 2013 sent almost 70% and 50%, respectively, of their total exports to South American markets. Next comes Argentina, which ships almost 40% of its worldwide exports to UNASUR, followed by Uruguay, which sends a third of its total shipments to South America. By contrast, South America accounts for less than 4% of total exports for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Suriname.

FIGURE III.16. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): exports to UNASUR as a share of worldwide exports, 2013
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of United Nations Commodity Trade Database (COMTRADE).

^a Exports of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Suriname in 2013 are mirror data, i.e. derived from the import records of other member countries of UNASUR.

- The composition of intraregional trade (both among UNASUR members and between those countries and the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean) differs considerably from that of South American exports beyond the region. Primary products, which represent more than half of South American shipments to the world, to the United States and to the European Union, and nearly three-quarters of the value of shipments to Asia, account for only 30% of the value of intraregional trade, where manufactured products, especially “mid-tech” goods, weigh much more heavily.
- The principal destination of exports from UNASUR countries as a whole in 2013 was UNASUR itself, accounting for 20%, followed closely by the United States (18%), China (16%) and the European Union (15%). These figures bespeak the important changes of recent years in the export orientation of South American countries, and in particular the growing weight of China and the declining shares of the United States and the European Union. During the years 2007-2009, the average share of these three trading partners in total UNASUR exports was 9%, 24% and 20%, respectively.
- South American integration faces a number of challenges in relation to trade. One of them is infrastructure, which is critical for economic growth, productivity and geographically balanced development, and infrastructure expansion helps to reduce regional and local inequalities.

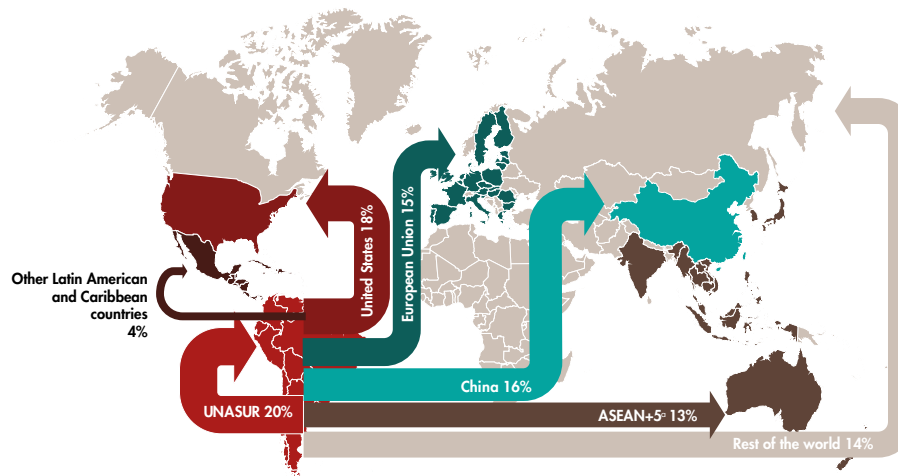
Table III. 1. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR): structure of exports to selected destinations, by technology intensity, 2013
(Percentages of total)

Main product groupings	Intraregionals exports			Extraregional exports			
	UNASUR	Rest of Latin America and the Caribbean	United States	European Union	China	ASEAN+5 ^a	World
Primary products	30	29.3	52.4	58.2	74.5	73.8	54.3
Manufactures	70	70.7	47.6	41.8	25.5	26.2	45.7
Natural-resource-based	19.9	22.7	25.3	24.4	21.7	20.6	22.8
Low-tech	9.5	6.7	4.7	4.3	1.2	1.5	4.6
Mid-tech	36.2	37	13.3	10.1	2	3.4	15.5
High-tech	4.5	4.3	4.3	3	0.6	0.8	2.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of United Nations, United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE).

^a Includes the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea.

FIGURE III.17. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR): distribution of total exports by main destination, 2013
(Percentages)



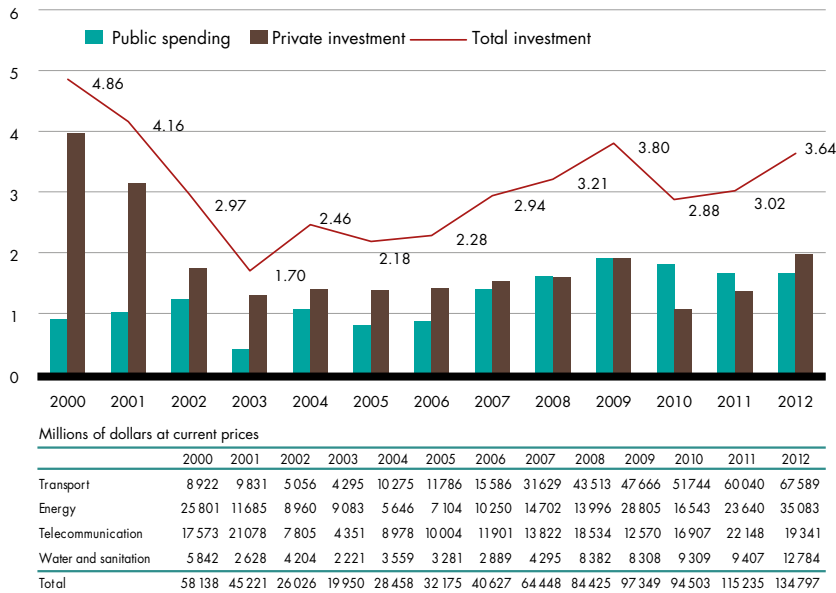
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of United Nations Commodity Trade Database (COMTRADE).

^a Includes the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea.

- While the emerging economies of Asia have been devoting great volumes of resources to infrastructure since the 1980s, the countries of UNASUR have cut their infrastructure investment from more than 4% of GDP in the late 1980s to less than 3% of GDP at the beginning of this decade, although there has been a slight increase since 2010.

FIGURE III.18. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN) and Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA):^a total investment in infrastructure,^b 2000-2012^c

(Percentages of GDP and millions of dollars at current prices)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

^a Includes Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Plurinational State of Bolivia.

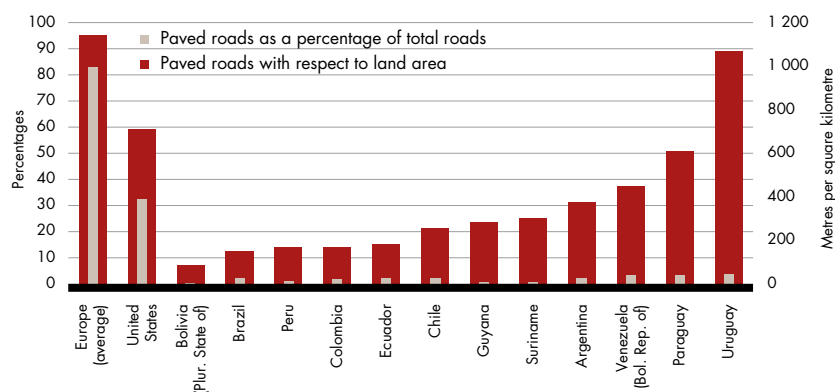
^b Includes the following sectors: transport, energy, telecommunications, and water and sanitation

^c Data for 2012 are preliminary. The average for 2000-2010 is 3.04% of GDP. The average for 2002-2012 is 2.82% of GDP.

- The region now faces a series of common challenges: transportation infrastructure is outdated and not properly maintained, while the principal road corridors lack sufficient capacity, and there are no competitive rail freight services.
- The strategic development of sustainable regional transportation infrastructure in South America would not only boost competitiveness and reduce transport times and costs but would also open new opportunities for economic and social development. Thus, a strategic, integrated and sustainable approach to infrastructure development with a South American vision could play a key role in promoting and sustaining economic and social development, as it would help to promote regional balance, inclusion, territorial cohesion, and the development of the region's peoples in harmony with the environment.
- A glance at a few simple highways indices reveals the relative scarcity of infrastructure and logistics in UNASUR.

FIGURE III.19. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR): ratio of paved roads to total roads and ratio of paved roads to land area, 2011

(Percentages and metres per square kilometre)

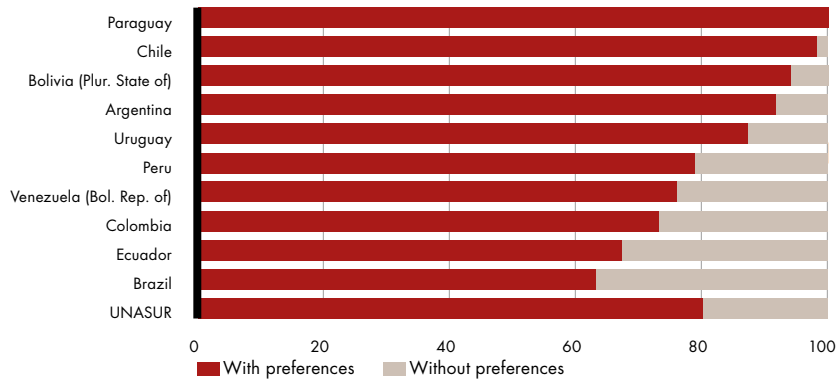


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Infrastructure for regional integration (LC/L.3408), Georgina Cipoletta Tomassian and Ricardo Sánchez, Santiago, Chile, 2011.

- While a significant portion of trade among the countries of UNASUR is conducted under various preferential arrangements, progress in creating a free-trade zone in the region has been very slow.
- Some 80% of internal trade within UNASUR takes place under the preferential regimes of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Andean Community, as well as under the economic complementarity agreements between those groups, and with Chile.
- Although there is virtually free trade among the members of the Andean Community and Mercury (with the exception in the latter case of trade in sugar and the automotive sector), progress in freeing trade among the member countries of UNASUR has been slow.
- For example, in 2011 intraregional tariff-free trade represented between 50% and 70% of the total. In 2018, it is to represent between 65% and 95% of the total.
- Consequently, there is room to speed the reciprocal opening of trade.
- Trade facilitation is an essential tool for supporting trade among UNASUR members and facilitating South America's integration into the world economy.
- The countries of the region fare poorly against indicators of cross-border trade, such as cost per container exported and time required for commercial transactions

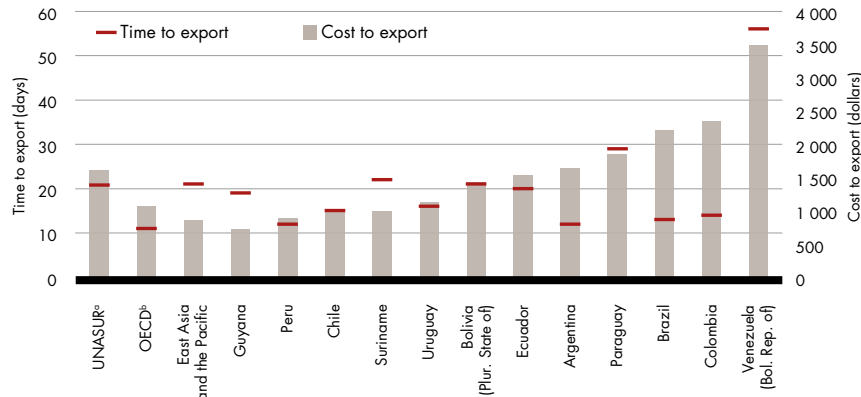


FIGURE III.20. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries): distribution of intraregional trade, by tariff preferences granted by country, 2010
(Percentages of intraregional trade)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official information from the period 2007-2009.

FIGURE III.21. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): time to export and cost to export, 2013
(Time in days, and dollars)



Source: World Bank, Doing Business 2014, Washington, D.C.

^a Simple average.

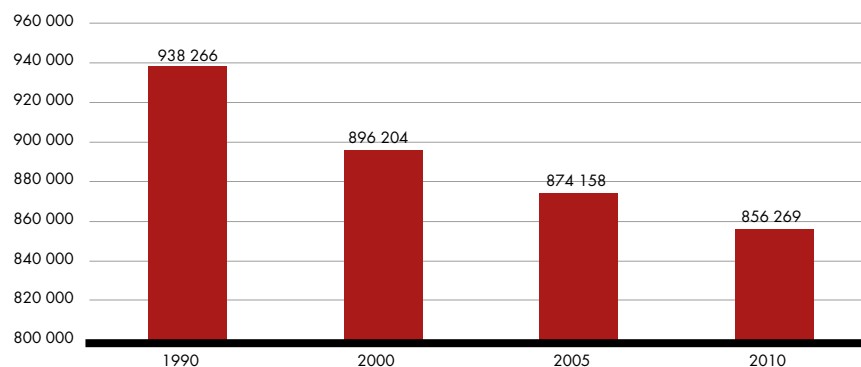
^b Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

C. ENVIRONMENT

The countries of UNASUR face environmental problems that are jeopardizing their capacity to sustain development. Those problems include the loss of biodiversity and forests, over-exploitation of natural resources, soil degradation, and the exhaustion of fisheries. Moreover, accelerated and unplanned urbanization and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption have increased air pollution and trash generation and have deprived many precarious settlements of basic services. To this must be added the production patterns of the mining, industrial and energy sectors, which are polluting the waters and affecting coastal ecosystems. This picture is made worse by the impacts of climate change, such as the growing intensity and frequency of natural disasters.

- The loss of forest cover is one of the greatest environmental problems for the sustainability of development. Between 1990 and 2010, the countries of UNASUR lost more than 8.7% of their forest cover, equivalent to some 82 million hectares.
- Although the annual rate of forest cover loss was higher in the period 2000-2005 than it was during the decade 1990-2000 (0.49% compared to 0.45%), that rate has dropped significantly in recent years, falling to 0.41% between 2005 and 2010. Yet some countries of UNASUR recorded the greatest annual changes in forest cover between 2005 and 2010.

FIGURE III.22. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): change in forest cover, 1990-2010
(Thousands of hectares)

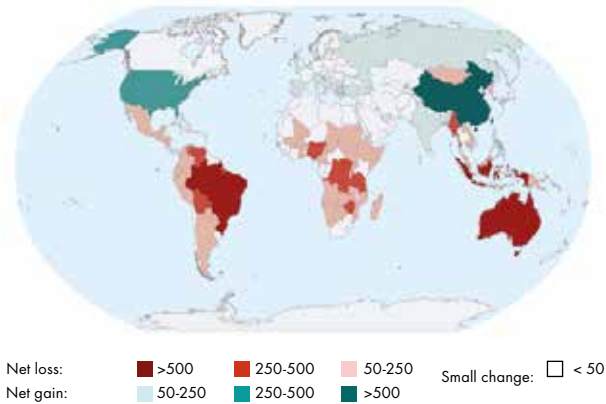


Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Forest Resources Assessment, 2010.

- The growing demand for energy generated by the economic growth of UNASUR countries poses risks to the sustainability of development, because of the heavy reliance on nonrenewable energy sources. In 2011, around 30% of the grouping's energy demand was being met by renewable energy sources.

Map III.1. Annual change in forest cover by country, 2005-2010

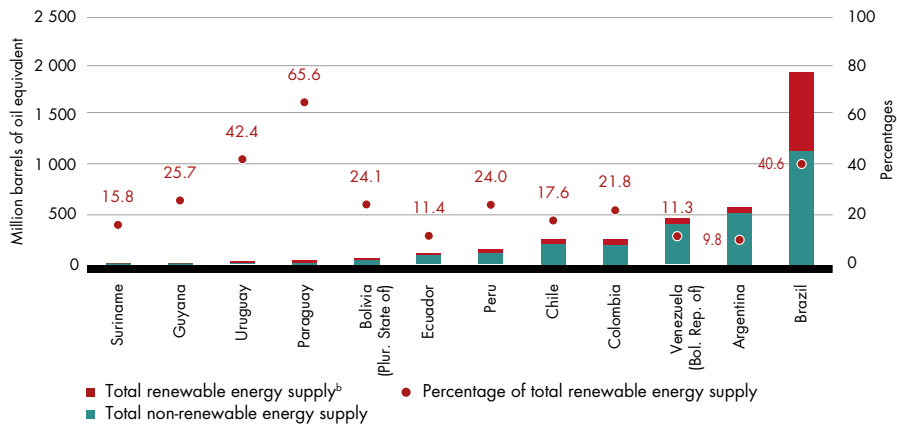
(Thousands of hectares)



Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Forest Resources Assessment, 2010.

FIGURE III.23. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): renewability of the energy supply, 2011^a

(Millions of barrels of oil equivalent and percentages)



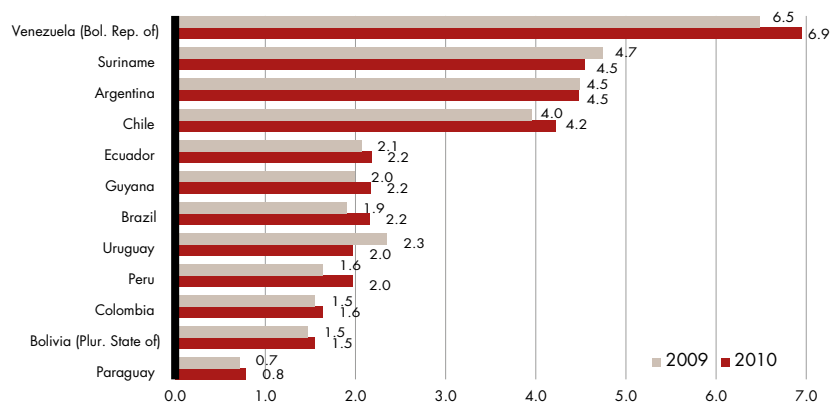
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), Energy-Economic Information System.

^a Information referenced at 12 December 2012 (percentages) and 8 July 2014 (total energy).

^b Corresponds to supply of geothermal energy, hydropower, sustainably produced wood, sugarcane and other renewable sources (such as solar and wind), according to criteria established by the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE).

- Another problem is air pollution in major cities. Contamination by 10-micron particulate matter (PM10) in some of the larger cities of UNASUR exceeds maximum permitted concentrations. This problem could in fact be even more severe, as not all cities conduct proper monitoring of air quality (especially with respect to the most harmful pollutants, PM10 and PM2.5).

FIGURE III.24. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): per capita emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), 2000-2010 (Tons)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of Millennium Development Goals Indicators.

Table III.2. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (8 countries): proven oil and gas reserves, 2013^a

Selected countries	Oil	Natural gas	Total hydrocarbons ^b	Trend over past decade ^c
	(billions of barrels)	(trillions of cubic feet)	(billions of barrels of oil equivalent)	
Argentina	2.4	11.1	4.3	(-)
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.2	11.2	2.2	(-)
Brazil	15.6	15.9	18.3	(+)
Chile	0.2	1.5	0.4	(-)
Colombia	2.4	5.7	3.4	(+)
Ecuador	8.2	0.3	8.2	(+)
Peru	1.4	15.4	4.1	(+)
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	298.3	196.8	332.2	(+)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of British Petroleum (BP), Statistical Review of World Energy, 2014; ENI, "World Oil and Gas Review", 2014 ; and Natural resources: status and trends towards a regional development agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3748), Santiago, Chile, December 2013.

^a End of year.

^b Total energy content of oil and natural gas, with a conversion factor of 5,800 ft.³ per barrel of oil equivalent used for natural gas.

^c Decline (-) or increase (+) in total proven reserves of hydrocarbons in 2013, with respect to 2003.



IV. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In September 2000, the Millennium Declaration was adopted by world leaders gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Signed by 189 States Members of the United Nations, that Declaration was subsequently translated into a roadmap setting out the objectives to be achieved by 2015.

The eight Millennium Development Goals are based on agreements reached during the 1990s at United Nations conferences and summits, and represent a commitment by all nations to reduce poverty, hunger and disease, lessen gender inequity, confront shortcomings in education and the lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and halt environmental degradation



With less than a year remaining before the deadline for achieving the goals, Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole have made significant progress in reducing extreme poverty, combating hunger and undernutrition, reducing infant mortality, and ensuring greater access to drinking water and improved sanitation facilities.

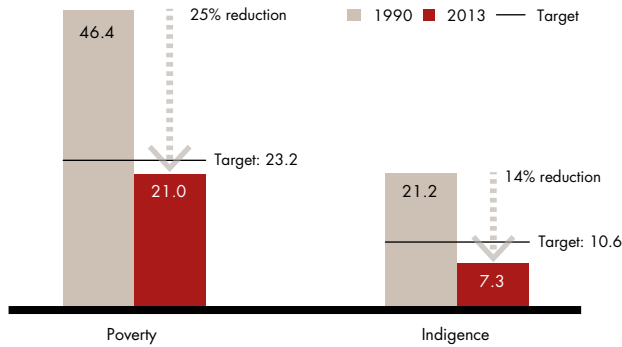
Progress has been inadequate in improving enrolment and completion rates in primary education, achieving gender parity both in employment and in national parliaments, reducing maternal mortality, ensuring access to reproductive health services, and reversing the loss of forest cover.

A. ERADICATING EXTREME POVERTY, ACHIEVING FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL, AND REDUCING HUNGER

- In recent decades, the countries of UNASUR have made significant progress in reducing poverty and unemployment and have begun to improve the distribution of income. By 2013, UNASUR had on the whole achieved the goal of halving the number of people living in poverty and extreme poverty.
- The weak and uneven global economic recovery of recent years has had an adverse impact on labour markets in developing countries, limiting the reduction in low-quality employment. This situation is particularly severe in Latin America and the Caribbean, the only region that has seen an increase in the percentage of total employment accounted for by contributing family workers and own-account workers during the period 2008-2013.
- The average annual growth rates in labour productivity have also been disappointingly low in nearly all developing regions. It is estimated that, in 2013, Latin America's labour productivity growth was 0.8%, a figure that falls short of the world average and is well below that in developed regions.



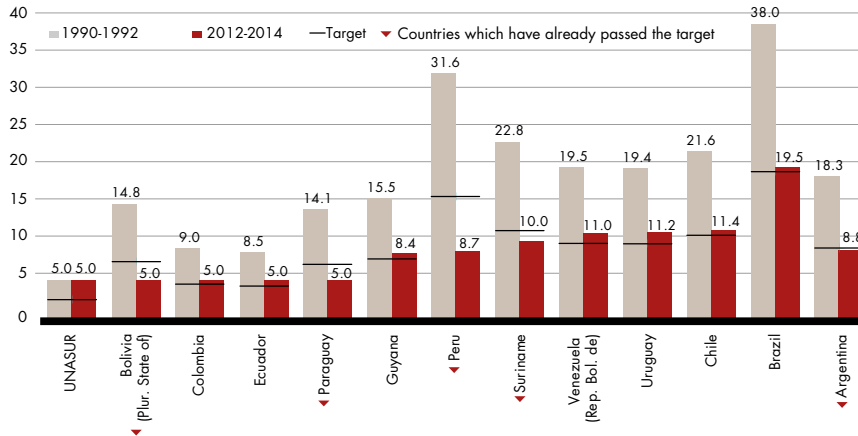
FIGURE IV.1. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries):^a poverty and indigence, 1990, 2013, and target for 2015 (Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of household surveys conducted in the respective countries
^a Excludes Guyana and Suriname. Simple averages of the figures for the countries.

- The food and nutritional security situation varies greatly among South American countries. Evidence indicates that in most countries food insecurity is associated with the inequality of income distribution, as well as with the market’s inability to satisfy the food needs of the most vulnerable population.

FIGURE IV.2. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): proportion of the population evidencing inadequate nutrition, 1990-1992, 2012-2014, and target for 2015 (Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Corporate Database for Substantive Statistical Data (FAOSTAT).

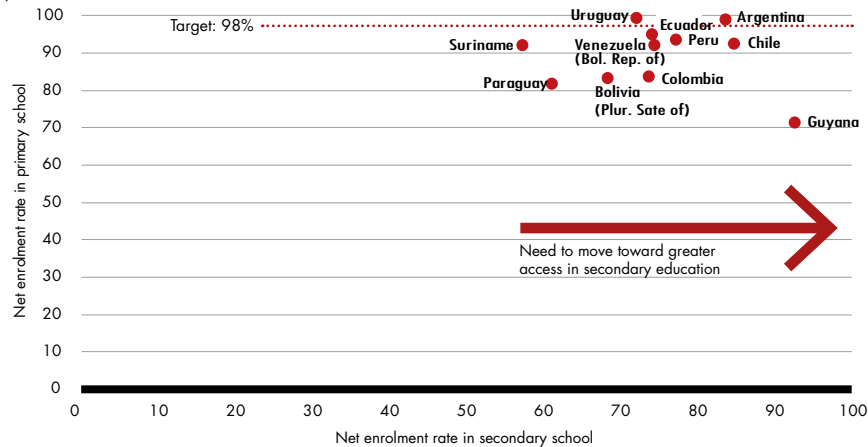
- UNASUR countries as a group have managed to halve the proportion of the population with inadequate nutrition. As of 2014, however, only four countries have achieved the target, although several others are close to doing so.
- Latin America and the Caribbean has, on the whole, achieved the target with respect to global malnutrition for children under five years, yet the degree of progress varies among countries. By 2015, Latin America and the Caribbean will not only have achieved a substantial reduction in child malnutrition but will also have succeeded in reducing inter-country discrepancies.



B. ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

- In general terms, UNASUR countries are well on the way to meeting the target of universal access to primary education. In South America, the primary school enrolment rate is close to 90%, and the juvenile literacy rate is about 98%.
- Yet in most countries of UNASUR, progress has been insufficient when it comes to advancement and completion rates in primary education, as well as in providing universal access to preschool and secondary education. Greater efforts will need to be made in these areas in the coming years.

FIGURE IV.3. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (11 countries): net enrolment rate in primary and secondary education, latest year with available information and target for 2015
(Percentages)

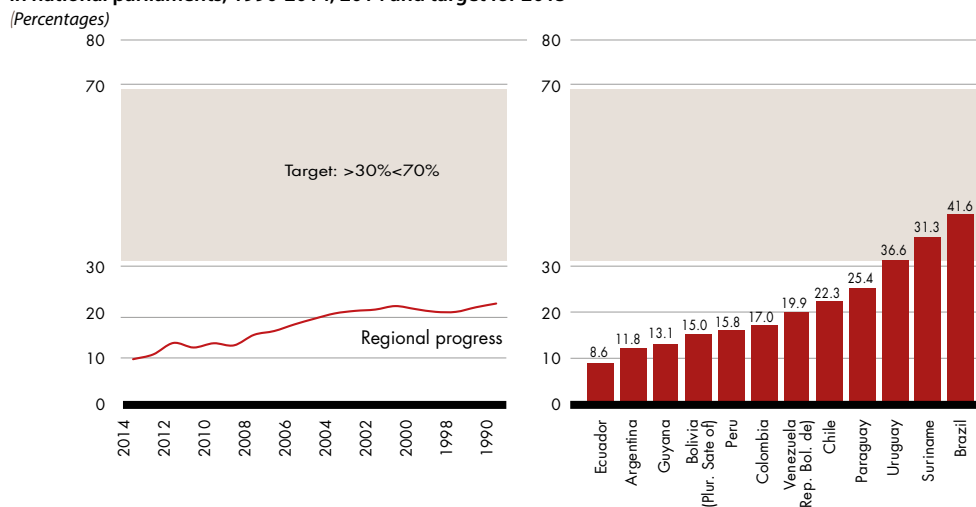


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

C. PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERING WOMEN

- In recent years there has been scarcely any narrowing of the gender divide in South America. There are still significant gender gaps in various dimensions of the labour market and in access to productive activity in general, despite the fact that most of UNASUR has achieved parity in access to primary, secondary and tertiary education, and has seen a sustained trend toward incorporation of women in nonfarm employment.
- In terms of women’s political participation and their access to decision-making, there has been significant but inadequate progress in giving women their due representation. Women’s participation in the lower house of parliament in South America has increased, but in 2014 only 20% of those parliament seats were held by women.

FIGURE IV.4. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments, 1990-2014, 2014 and target for 2015



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

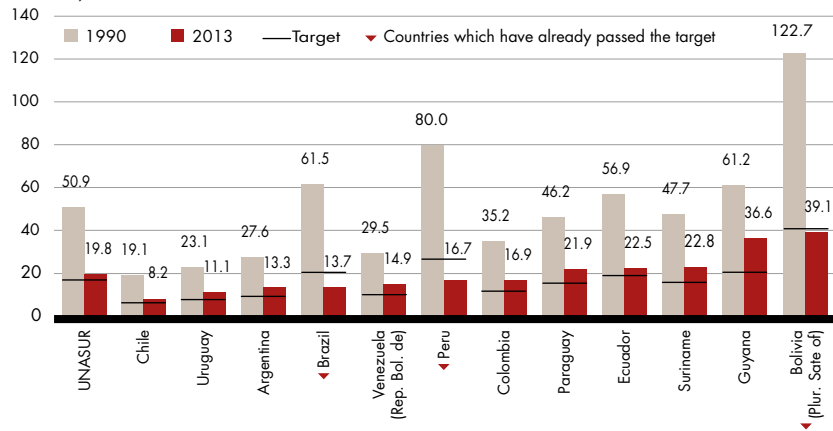


D. REDUCING THE UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE

- UNASUR has progress to show in reducing child mortality, but it is not likely to be enough to achieve the goal of cutting the mortality rate by two thirds for children under age 5. Thus, reducing child mortality will remain a challenge for the post-2015 period.
- The South American countries with higher child mortality risks are those with lower incomes, with a lower female literacy rate, with less access to drinking water and basic sanitation, and with less public spending on health.

FIGURE IV.5. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): under-five mortality rate, 1990, 2013 and target for 2015

(Rate per 1,000 live births)

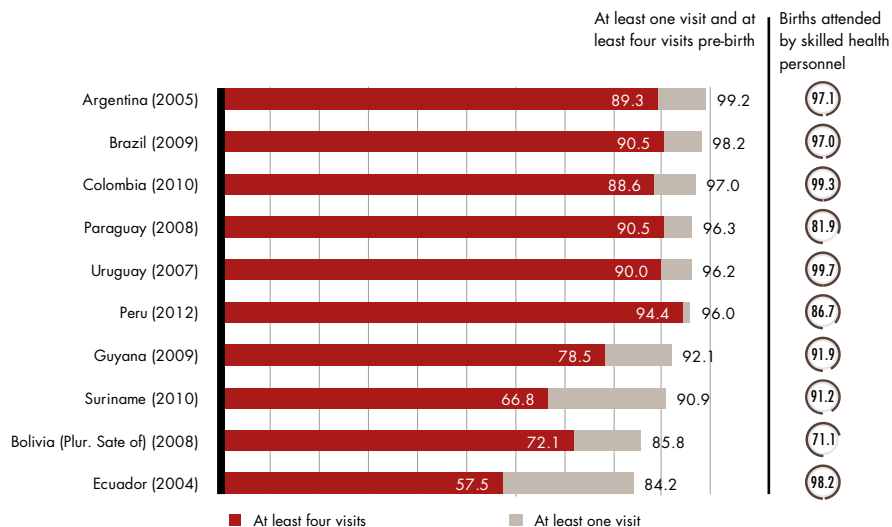


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME).

E. REDUCING THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- Latin America and the Caribbean have not made any significant progress in reducing maternal mortality. The countries of UNASUR, as a group, achieved a decrease of 32% between 1990 and 2013, but they are far from the target of reducing the mortality ratio by three-quarters by 2015.
- Five countries of UNASUR in fact still have maternal mortality ratios higher than 100 deaths per 100,000 live births, while two countries have achieved ratios below 25 per 100,000 live births. In terms of trends, since 1990 some countries have reduced maternal mortality by more than 60%, whereas the ratio has increased in three countries.
- Essential strategies for reducing maternal mortality must include the provision of proper prenatal care and an assurance that all childbirths will be assisted by a trained health professional. Here, UNASUR is well on the way. With some exceptions, the coverage of prenatal care is relatively high in South America, and in most countries more than 90% of births are attended by skilled health personnel.

FIGURE IV.6. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (10 countries): births attended by skilled health personnel, last year with available information
(Percentages)



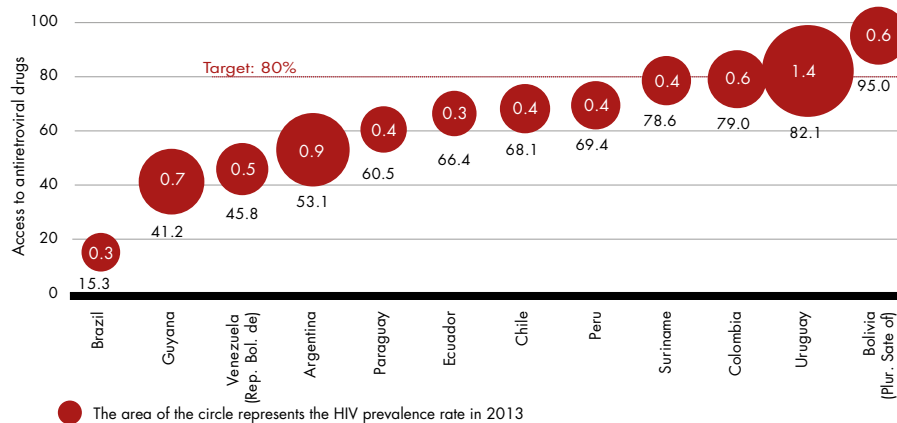
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of United Nations, Millennium Development Goals Indicators.



F. COMBATING HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

- According to the latest estimates from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the prevalence of HIV among the adult population of Latin America in 2013 was 0.4%, with some 1.6 million individuals infected. Around 75% of these persons were in only four countries: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico. More than half of those infected are males, and the epidemic seems to be concentrated primarily in urban areas located along trading routes and around ports.
- Although the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Latin America has remained stable over the last 10 years, at rates below the global average (0.8% in 2013), 10 new victims become infected every hour, and at least a third of them are young people between the ages of 15 and 24.
- By 2012, Latin America had achieved an antiretroviral therapy coverage of 75%, thanks to which AIDS-related deaths in fact declined by 31% between 2005 and 2013. The outlook is not uniformly promising for all countries or for all subpopulations, however, as there are sharp disparities in access to this therapy.

FIGURE IV.7. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs, 2011, and HIV prevalence rate among the population aged 15 to 49, 2013
(Percentages)



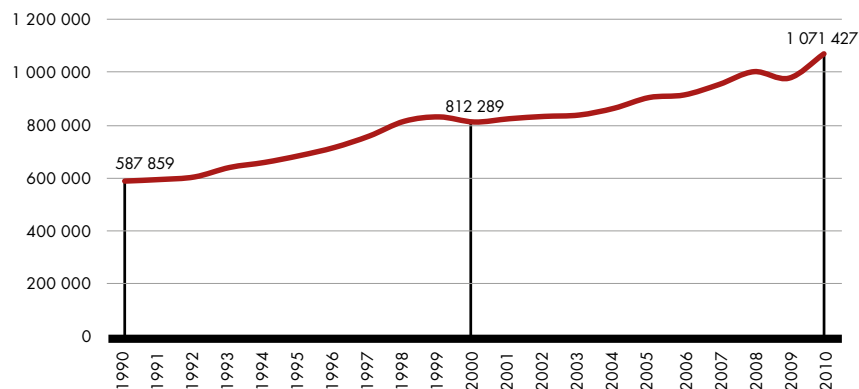
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of United Nations, Millennium Development Goals Indicators.

- The goal of halting and reversing the incidence of tuberculosis by 2015 has been achieved at the global level. Latin America had in fact halved the prevalence of tuberculosis by 2005, and it reduced mortality by more than 70% between 1990 and 2012.

G. ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- To achieve environmentally sustainable development remains a great challenge for most countries of South America. During the past decade, several countries have made significant progress with environmental legislation and the creation of institutions devoted to environmental management. Nevertheless, this has yet to translate into concrete results, because of the failure to implement institutional arrangements and enforce legal provisions.
- Since 1990, the forested area of UNASUR countries has declined on average by 7%, and over the same period carbon dioxide emissions have risen by 80%. On the other hand, there has been a significant expansion of protected areas, but the failure to manage those areas properly and to take supplementary conservation measures has meant that habitat is being steadily lost, along with an important portion of South America's biodiversity.

FIGURE IV.8. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries): carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, 1990-2010
(Thousands of tons)

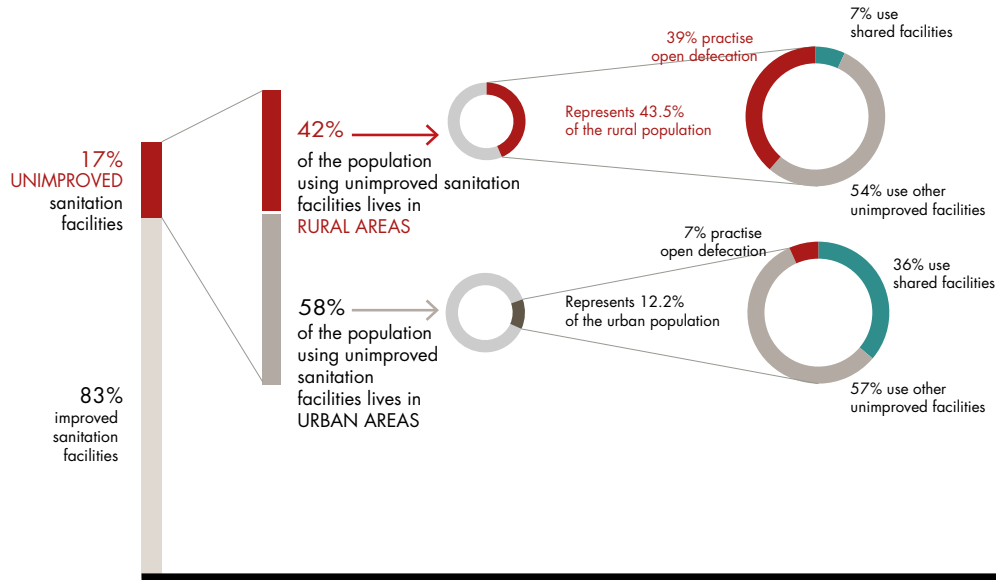


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of United Nations, Millennium Development Goals Indicators.

- South America has performed rather better when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions. In particular, the consumption of ozone-depleting substances declined by 85% between 2000 and 2012.
- UNASUR overall has achieved the target of halving the percentage of persons without sustainable access to drinking water and basic sanitation services. Despite this, a high proportion of the population is still poorly served in terms of coverage and quality, with the rural population the most severely affected. In 2012, 28 million people in UNASUR lacked access to improved sanitation facilities.



FIGURE IV.9. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries):^a proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, by urban or rural area, 2012
(Percentages)



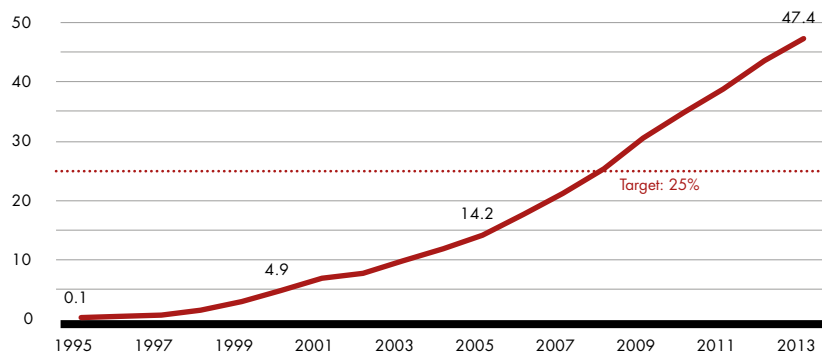
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of World Health Organization (WHO)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation.

^a Weighted averages.

H. MAKING AVAILABLE THE BENEFITS OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

- Target 8F of Millennium Development Goal 8 seeks to make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications (ICT), recognizing them as an essential pillar for development. Although the Millennium Development Goal indicators deal only with access to ICT infrastructure, this is a basic condition for making use of the information and innovation available in today's society.
- The number of fixed-line telephone subscribers has risen by 24% across UNASUR since 2000, but has remained virtually stable since 2008. As of 2013, fixed telephone penetration was under 18% and in some countries it was less than 10%.
- Over the past decade, UNASUR has seen a rapid expansion in mobile telephony. With 116 subscriptions for every 100 inhabitants in 2013, it ranks above the world average, and very close to the average of developed countries.
- In 2013, only half the countries of UNASUR had exceeded the 50% Internet penetration rate. Although Internet use exceeds 60% in some countries, in others nearly 70% of the population makes no use of it.
- Future efforts will have to focus on closing the gaps in access, through efforts to reduce inequalities within and between the countries of UNASUR.

FIGURE IV.10. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) (12 countries):^a Internet users, 1995-2013 (Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT on the basis of International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

^a Simple averages of the figures for the countries.





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