



## Relative Characteristics of Development

### Less Developed

1. Per capita incomes are low, and capital is scarce.
2. Wealth is unevenly distributed within individual countries (e.g., in Colombia 2.6% of population owns 40% of the national wealth, and in Gabon 1% owns 56% of total wealth).
3. Primary industries (farming, forestry, quarrying, mining, fishing) dominate national economies.
4. High proportion (more than 50%) of the labor force is engaged in agriculture.
5. Farming is mostly at the subsistence level and is characterized by hand labor methods and underemployment. Farm holdings are small, mechanization is limited, and crop yields are low.
6. Populations are dominantly rural, though impoverished urban numbers are growing.
7. Birth and death rates are high, and life expectancy is low. There tends to be a high proportion of children. Rates of natural increase are high.
8. Inadequate or unbalanced diets resulting from a relatively low consumption of protein; hunger and malnutrition are common.

### Developed

9. Infectious, respiratory, and parasitic diseases are common; medical services are poor.
  10. Overcrowding, poor housing, few public services, and bad sanitation yield poor social conditions.
  11. Poor educational facilities and high levels of illiteracy hinder scientific and technological advancement. (In sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of adult population is illiterate.)
  12. Women may be held in inferior position in society.
1. Per capita incomes are high, and capital is readily available.
  2. Wealth within individual countries is comparatively evenly distributed (e.g., in Canada, 10% of the population owns 24% of national wealth).
  3. Manufacturing and service industries dominate national economies.
  4. Very small proportion (less than 10%) of population is engaged in agriculture.
  5. Farming is mostly commercial, efficient, and highly mechanized.
6. Populations are predominantly urban, with nearly 80% living in towns and cities.
  7. Birth and death rates are low, and life expectancy is high. There is often a high proportion of people over 65 years of age. Rates of natural increase are low.
  8. Generally adequate supplies of food and balanced diets; overeating is sometimes a problem.
  9. Primary diseases are related to age and lifestyle; good medical services are available.
  10. Social conditions are generally good, with adequate housing space and a high level of public health facilities and sanitation.
  11. Highly developed educational facilities and low levels of illiteracy are the norm. Technical proficiency is advanced.
  12. Women are increasingly treated on equal terms with men.

Source: Adapted from *Elements of Human Geography*, 2nd ed. by Charles Whyman-Hammond, p. 171. Copyright 1985 by Taylor & Francis Books (UK).