

Unit 4: Differences in development around the world – comparisons of selected countries and regions

The map of the Human Development Index indicates the differences in development around the world. There are two broad divisions based on development levels.

- More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) are the wealthier countries that have high income levels and a high quality of life.
- The Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) are the poorer countries which often have a low quality of life. These countries are aiming to improve their development.

● MEDC



● LEDC

Figure 5 The MEDC and LEDC countries

	LEDCs	MEDCs
Diet	People often don't get enough to eat – 20% suffer from malnutrition	Balanced diet, high intake of protein, people may be overweight
Types of jobs	Mainly in farming, high unemployment	Mainly in manufacturing and services
Infant mortality	Many babies die before they are one year old. Also, a large number of children die before the age of five.	Not many deaths of babies and young children
Population growth	Rapid population growth, large families. Populations often double in less than 30 years	Slow – people have smaller families
Exports	Unprocessed raw materials	Manufactured goods

	LEDCs	MEDCs
People per doctor	Approximately 3 000	Approximately 500
Life expectancy	Often under 45 years	Usually over 70 years
Housing	Poor quality, often owner built, few facilities	High standard, most people have electricity, sewage disposal and water in their homes
Energy	Low level of energy consumption, wood most common form of energy	High levels of consumption
Education	Children often do not finish secondary school, lower levels of literacy	Most people have 12 years of schooling – high literacy levels

This table shows the differences between the MEDCs and LEDCs.