

Irrigated Area, Developed and Developing Countries, 1961 to 2003

Description

Total irrigated areas by UN Food and Agriculture Organization's "developed" and "developing" country categories are listed here for 1961, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2003, the latest year for which reliable data are available. Also shown are the annual percentage changes for developed countries, developing countries, and the world. Units of area are thousands of hectares; units for annual changes are percentages. From 1965 to 2000, annual rates are calculated by dividing five-year differences by five. Total irrigated area worldwide just barely increased from 2000 to 2003—a total of only 170,000 hectares, and the area irrigated in developing countries actually declined for the first time in this period. In addition, the average annual rate of change continues to drop for all regions. In the developed world, total irrigated area has effectively remained the same for nearly a decade. Overall, the rate of increase in irrigated area worldwide has fallen well below 1 percent per year, which means that total per capita irrigated area is actually decreasing. Note that these data have been updated and changed from the previous volume of *The World's Water* for all years reported.

Limitations

These data depend on in-country surveys, national reports, and estimates by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. In some regions, multiple cropping may increase the apparent area in production, but multicropping is not reported here. No differentiation is made about the quality of the land in production. Recent changes in political borders and the independence of several countries make certain time-series comparisons difficult or inappropriate.

Source

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. 2006. FAOSTAT database. <http://faostat.fao.org/faostat/collections?subset=agriculture>.

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	1961	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2003
Thousand hectares										
Developed Countries	37,180	40,232	44,278	50,381	58,926	62,555	66,196	69,240	69,308	69,133
Developing Countries	101,652	109,518	123,414	137,764	150,366	162,687	179,048	194,455	206,960	207,965
World	138,832	149,750	167,692	188,145	209,292	225,242	245,244	263,695	276,268	277,098
Annual Rate of Change: Developed Countries		1.64	2.01	2.76	3.39	1.23	1.16	0.92	0.02	-0.08
Annual Rate of Change: Developing Countries		1.55	2.54	2.33	1.83	1.64	2.01	1.72	1.29	0.16
Annual Rate of Change: World		1.57	2.40	2.44	2.25	1.52	1.78	1.50	0.95	0.10

Notes: From 1965 to 2000, annual rates are calculated by dividing five-year differences by five.