Each national economy is categorized into one of four income groupings by The World Bank ([www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).) The categories include: low, lower-middle, upper-middle and high. The income group classification is intended to define how well the population of a country lives and is based on Gross National Income per capita.

The high-income category is further differentiated based on membership in the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.) The organization states that its mission is to “promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.” ([www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)) Current membership in the OECD includes 35 of the most advanced or emerging countries in the world.

This analysis will examine the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as an indicator of economic value, and the World Bank’s income grouping, as a measurement of population wealth, for 190 countries. Specifically, we will review the differences in average GDP for high-income countries that are members in the OECD and those that are not. We will also identify countries that have high GDP while qualifying for the lower-middle income grouping based on income per capita.