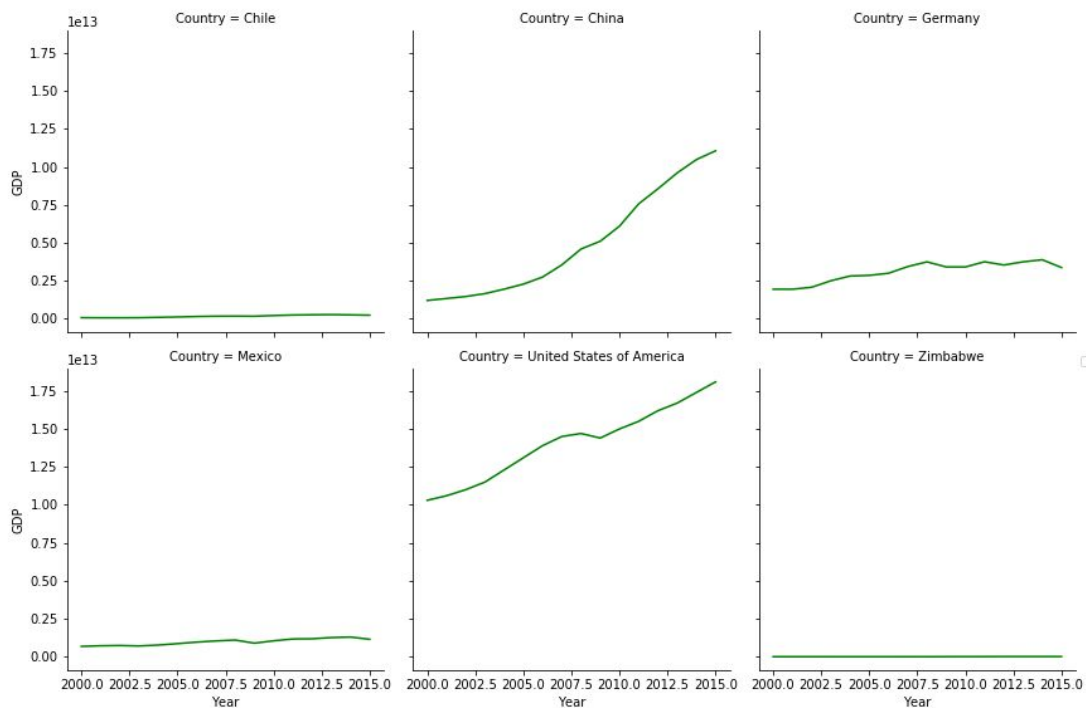


# Changes in GDP and Life Expectancy Around the World Since 2000

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A recent study has compared the gross domestic product (GDP) and life expectancy of six countries between the years 2000 and 2015. These countries include Chile, China, Germany, Mexico, the United States of America, and Zimbabwe. GDP is a measure of the monetary value of goods produced by a country over a given period.

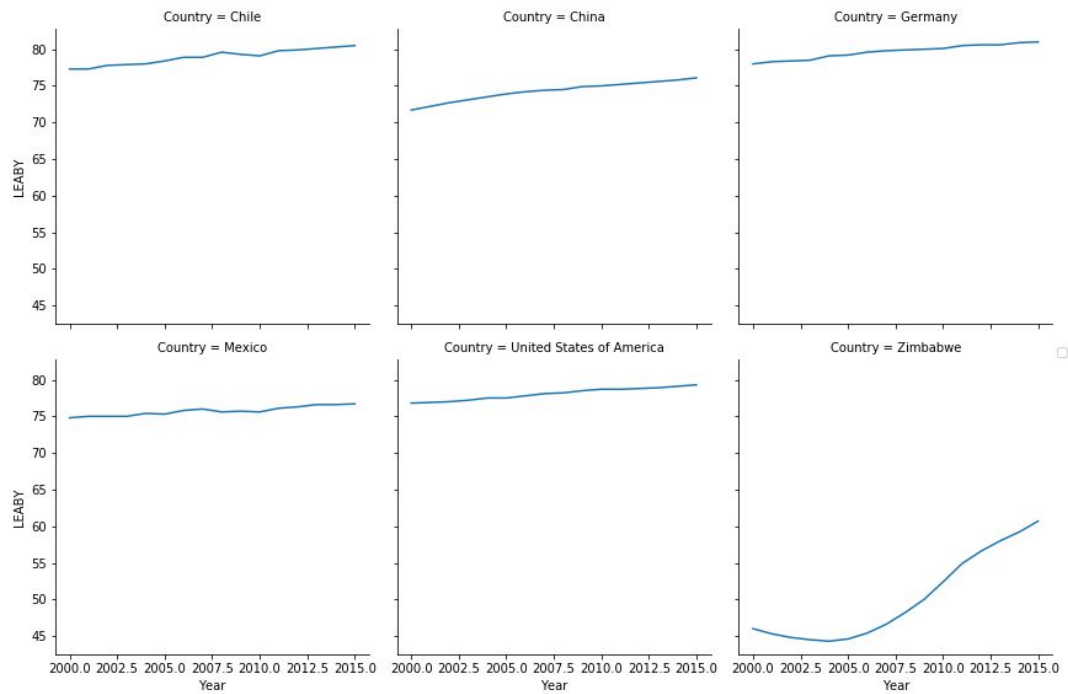
GDP greatly increased for China and the United States, while Chile, Germany, and Mexico experienced a smaller increase in GDP in comparison (Fig. 1). Zimbabwe showed no change in GDP during this period. China and the United States each have a large population and a powerful global economy, which undoubtedly contributed to the steady rise in GDP over these fifteen years. At the other side of the spectrum, Zimbabwe is a developing country with few global exports, making economic growth a challenge.



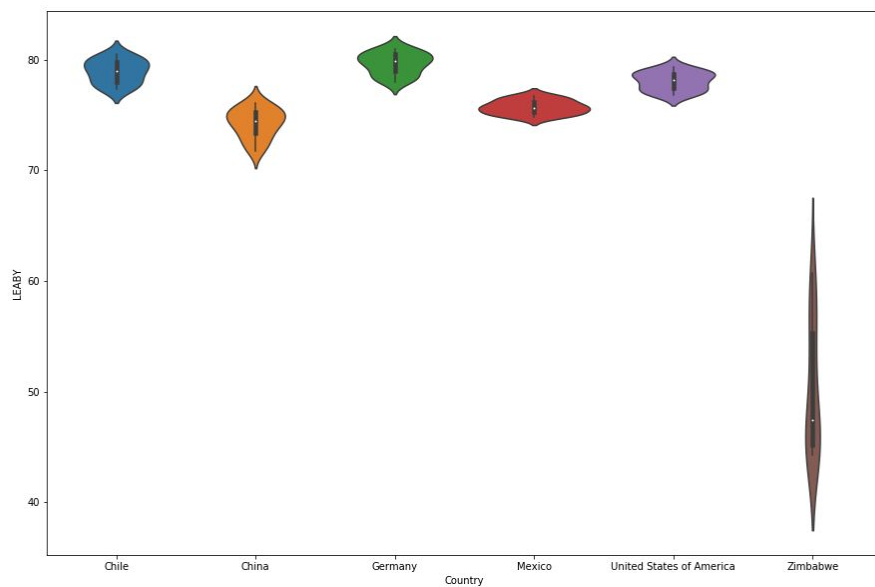
**Fig. 1:** GDP of each country from 2000 to 2015.

Life expectancy increased in all six countries, but Zimbabwe showed a clear gain between 2004 and 2015 (Fig. 2). Just prior to 2000, Zimbabwe experienced a severe economic decline, which caused life expectancy to drop dramatically. Political unities led to a rejuvenation of economic activity, and food and healthcare became more readily available. These benefits resulted in an

overall rise in life expectancy during this fifteen year period. Despite this rise, Zimbabwe's life expectancy still remains far below that of the developed countries in this study (Fig. 3).

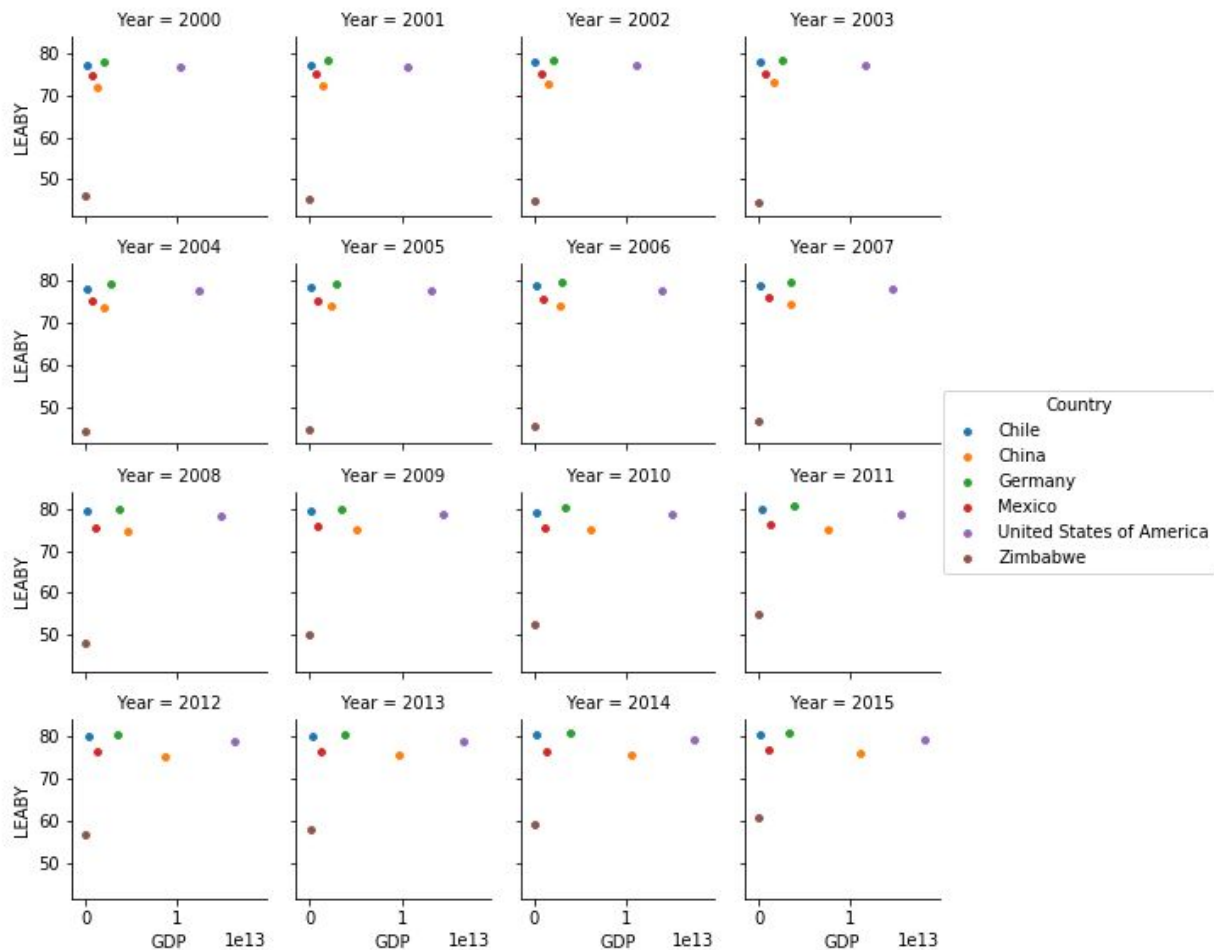


**Fig. 2:** Life expectancy at birth in years (LEABY) of each country between 2000 and 2015.



**Fig. 3:** Variation in LEABY by country.

A comparison of these two factors show that there is little correlation between them (Fig. 4). While life expectancy has been increasing in Zimbabwe, its GDP has remained stagnant. Perhaps the quality of life and health standards have improved, while the cost of goods and amount of exports remain the same. These data demonstrate that GDP and life expectancy are not necessarily linked, despite the two factors increasing in other countries.



**Fig. 4:** LEABY over GDP between the years 2000 and 2015.

#### Sources:

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