

Unit 1 World Bank Makes Predictions for Global Economy 世界銀行預測全球經濟趨勢

001

Step 1

Word Bank

1	prospect	['prɒspɛkt]	(n.) 前景
2	fragile	['frædʒlɪ]	(a.) 脆弱的
3	uncertain	[ʌn'sɜːtɪn]	(a.) 不確定的、前景不明的
4	economic	[ˌiːkə'nɒmɪk]	(a.) 經濟上的 (n.) economy 經濟
5	recovery	[rɪ'kʌvəri]	(n.) 復甦、復原 (v.) recover 恢復
6	predict	[prɪ'dɪkt]	(v.) 預測 (n.) prediction 預測
7	expansion	[ˌɛkspənʃən]	(n.) 擴張、擴大 (v.) expand 擴張、擴大
8	growth	[grəʊθ]	(n.) 成長 (v.) grow 成長
9	financial	[faɪ'nænʃl]	(a.) 金融的 (n.) finance 金融
10	crisis	['kraɪsɪs]	(n.) 危機
11	debt	[deɪt]	(n.) 債務
12	budget	['bʌdʒɪt]	(n.) 預算
13	deficit	['dɛfɪsɪt]	(n.) 赤字
14	investment	[ɪn'vestmənt]	(n.) 投資 (v.) invest 投資
15	infrastructure	[ˌɪnfraˈstrʌktʃə]	(n.) 基礎建設
16	reform	[rɪ'fɔːrm]	(v./n.) 改革、革新
17	ease	[iːz]	(v.) (問題或症狀的) 減輕
18	promising	['prɒmɪʃɪŋ]	(a.) 有希望的、有潛力的
19	fiscal	['fɪskəl]	(a.) 財政的、會計的
20	decrease	[dɪ'kriːs]	(v./n.) 降低、下降 (v./n.) increase 增加、上升
21	income	['ɪnˌkʌm]	(n.) 收入
22	assistance	[ə'sɪstəns]	(n.) 援助 (v.) assist 協助
23	loan	[ləʊn]	(v./n.) 借貸
24	export	['ɛkspɔːt]	(n.) 出口 (n./v.) import 進口

 002 **Step 2** Warm-Up

1. World Bank experts are using the words “fragile” and **1** “_____” to describe the economic recovery this year. The report predicts the international economy will **2** (glow/grow) a little over two percent in 2013. Slightly greater economic expansion is expected in 2014 and 2015.
2. Predictions of **3** _____ growth have become familiar since the financial crisis four years ago. Wealthy countries are expected to have slower growth than **4** (developed/developing) ones as they deal with larger amounts of debt and big budget deficits.
3. The report notes the threat of European nations failing to make debt payments has **5** _____. The World Bank president says Europe and America have approved some measures to deal **6** (of/with) economic weakness. But financial policy remains a work in progress.

Step 3 Comprehension

1. () **What have World Bank experts predicted about the international economy in 2013?**
 - (A) It will increase sharply by 20%.
 - (B) There will be mild growth by nearly 2%.
 - (C) It will decline by a little over 2%.
2. **Read the following statements and mark them as T (True) or F (False) according to the article.**
 - () The report states that developing countries are expected to enjoy stronger economic growth than developed countries.
 - () According to the report, the European debt crisis has ended and financial issues in Europe and America have been solved.
 - () World Bank Chief Kim is optimistic that low supplies of important grains will bring down food prices and thus benefit the poor.
3. **How do economic conditions in high-income nations affect the developing world?**

World Bank Makes Predictions for Global Economy

- 1 The World Bank released its **Global Economic Prospects** report this week. World Bank experts are using the words “**fragile**” and “**uncertain**” to describe the **economic recovery** this year. The report **predicts** the international economy will grow a little over two percent in 2013. Slightly greater economic **expansion** is expected in 2014 and 2015.
- 2 Predictions of limited **growth** have become familiar since the **financial crisis** four years ago. Wealthy countries are expected to have slower growth than developing ones as they deal with larger amounts of **debt** and big **budget deficits**.
- 3 World Bank President Jim Yong Kim is urging developing countries to become drivers of growth. But he noted that it was important to build a **foundation** for growth that can last over time.
- 4 He said, “What we are suggesting is that we cannot wait for the return to growth in the higher-income countries. We really need **developing countries** to think about setting the stage for medium- and long-term growth. We have to continue to support developing countries in making **investments** in **infrastructure**, in health, in education.”
- 5 Andrew Burns is lead author of the report. He says it is not only important to build roads and bridges, but to invest money in health care and effort in government **reforms**. Some high-growth developing countries such as China are spending a lot on public works projects, but spend little on health care.
- 6 The report notes the threat of European nations failing to make debt payments has **eased**. The World Bank president says Europe and America have approved some measures to deal with economic weakness. But financial policy remains a work in progress.
- 7 He said, “So despite **promising** and sometimes courageous measures taken in Europe . . . , issues remain in the euro zone, and of course we have **fiscal** policy issues in the United States.”
- 8 The World Bank notes that budget deficits are **decreasing** in most high-**income** nations. But these nations continue to carry a lot of debt compared to the size of their economies.
- 9 Developing countries are positioned for stronger growth. But they will face basic risks to economic progress over the next few years. World Bank Chief Kim said he is concerned that low supplies of important grains, such as wheat and corn, could bring high food prices, hurting the poor.
- 10 The World Bank offers knowledge, **assistance**, and **loans** to developing countries. Economic conditions in **high-income nations** affect the developing world because they are the largest and most-developed markets for **exports**. Such nations are also the providers of investment that can fuel economic growth.

Step 5 Wrap-Up Practice

(A) Circle the words or phrases in this article that are similar in meaning or concept to “developing countries.”

China	high-income nations	faster-growing countries
well-developed countries	wealthy countries	less-developed countries

(B) Match the words and the definitions.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. infrastructure | A. a situation in which there are a lot of problems that must be dealt with quickly |
| 2. expansion | B. the basic systems and structures that a country or organization needs in order to work properly (for example, roads, railways, and banks) |
| 3. crisis | C. an increase in size, range, amount, etc. |

(C) Cloze

- () World Bank experts predict limited growth in the world economy given the euro zone debt crisis and _____ policy issues in the United States.
A. fiscal B. physical C. facial
- () The report notes the threat of European nations failing to make debt payments has _____ after Europe and America have taken some measures to tackle economic weakness.
A. relieved B. increased C. eased
- () The World Bank offers economic _____ and loans to developing countries to boost economic growth.
A. recovery B. assistance C. growth

Global Economic Prospects	▶ 《全球經濟展望》：世界銀行（World Bank）每兩年發表一次的報告，針對全球與各經濟區經濟發展趨勢做出預測。
developing country	▶ 開發中國家：指經濟、社會方面發展程度較低的國家，與已發展國家（developed country）相對。通常指第三世界國家，包括亞洲、非洲、拉丁美洲及其他地區的 140 多個國家。
high-income nation	▶ 高所得國家：根據世界銀行定義，國人平均年收入 12,616 美元以上的國家。