

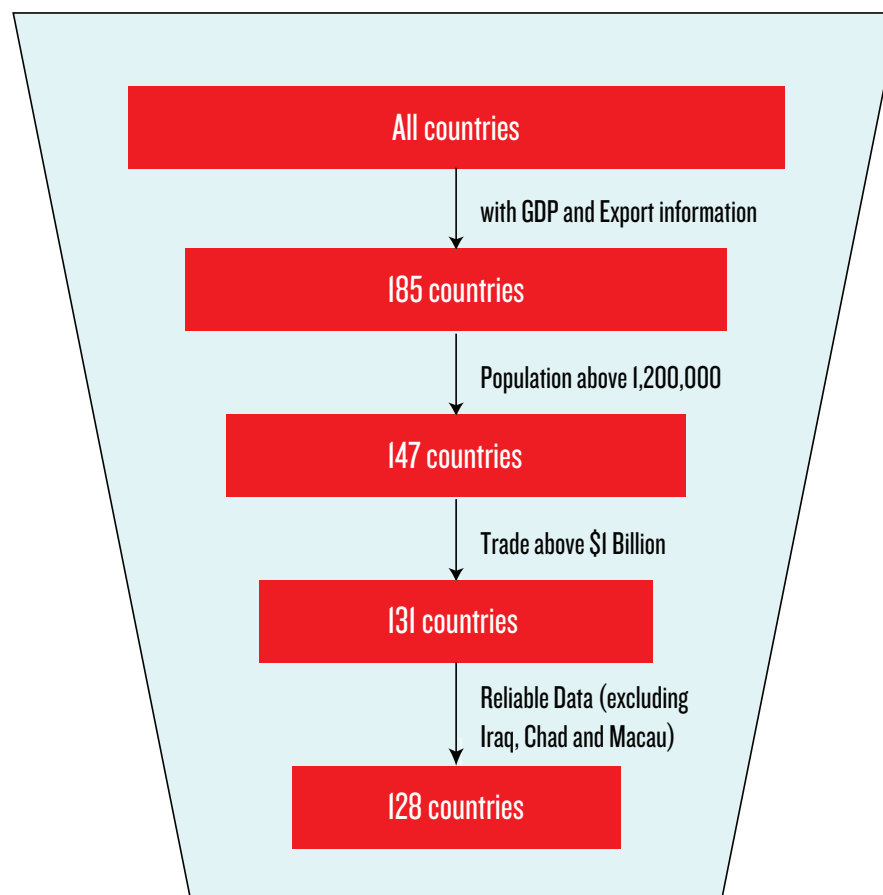


## SECTION 7

# Which Countries Are Included in This Atlas?

FIGURE 7.1:

► Schematic of the procedure used to determine the countries that were included in The Atlas.



**T**his Atlas includes data for 128 countries. These account for 99% of world trade, 97% of the world's total GDP and 95% of the world's population. To generate this list we used a variety of criteria. First, we limit ourselves only to the set of countries for which there is product-level trade data available in the UN COMTRADE and income data available for 2010. Second, we only use data on countries with a population above 1,200,000. Third, we only consider countries that exported at least 1 billion dollars per year, on average, between 2006 and 2010. Finally, we remove from this sample Iraq, Macau and Chad, three countries with severe data quality issues (Figure 7.1).

Countries are highly heterogeneous. When it comes to the size of their population, territory, income and economy, countries differ by orders of magnitude. When it comes to land, Russia is 1,000 times larger than Kuwait. In terms of population, China is more than 600 times more populous than Slovenia. And as for Gross Domestic Product, that of the United States is more than 1,300 times larger than Namibia's. All of these are countries that made it into this Atlas, illustrating the large cross section of the world captured in this book.

Products also differ enormously in terms of their world market size. Depending on the year, crude oil represents five to ten percent of world trade while goat skins represent less than one part in one hundred thousand of total world trade. To make countries and products comparable we control for the size of the country and of the product by calculating their Revealed Comparative Advantage (see Technical Box 2.2). This means that large and small countries and products with big and small markets count the same as far as our method is concerned. Moreover, the data of each country affects the calculations of all others so including data that is noisy or unreliable greatly affects the integrity of our calculations. Countries that are too small in terms of their export base, such as Tuvalu or Vanuatu, or with data that is highly unreliable or not adequately classified, do not provide us with a sufficiently broad sample to infer their structure. ●

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# The Atlas of Economic Complexity

## Mapping Paths to Prosperity

**By:** Ricardo Hausmann, César A. Hidalgo, Sebastián Bustos, Michele Coscia, Alexander Simoes, Muhammed A. Yildirim

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## THE ATLAS OF ECONOMIC COMPLEXITY MAPPING PATHS TO PROSPERITY

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