

International Co-operative Facts

Across the globe, co-operatives excel in business and in giving back to the community. Co-operatives are present in all industry sectors and represent every scale of enterprise from grass-roots community organisations like grocery stores, childcare centres and arts clubs to transnational corporations in banking, agriculture and manufacturing.

Many household names are co-operatives including Ocean Spray, Best Western Hotels, Associated Press, Rabobank and the world's greatest football club, FC Barcelona.

- Co-operatives have one billion members around the world, which is one in every five people over the age of 15. This is three times the number of individual shareholders globally (328 million) and can be as much as six times the number in Africa.
- There are 1.4 million co-operatives globally. According to the United Nations, three billion people rely on co-operatives for their livelihoods
- 100 million jobs are provided by co-operatives, 20% more than all multinational corporations together
- The 300 largest co-operatives had combined annual revenue of USD1.6 trillion in 2008, equivalent to the world's ninth largest economy (or the economy of Canada).
- There were eight million new credit union members in 2011 according to the World Council of Credit Unions
- Europe has 150 million co-operatives members (around one person in every five). In several countries more than half the population are co-operative members. For example 70% in Ireland, 60% in Finland and 59% in Austria. European co-operatives have an annual turnover well over UKP100 billion
- There are 9000 co-operatives in Canada with 18 million members (52% of the population) employing 155,000 people with annual revenue of CAD50 billion
- In India 20% of the population belongs to co-operatives, which support the needs of 67% of rural households. India is now the world's fourth largest economy and poverty has declined from 37.2% in 2004 to 29.8% in 2009.
- 21,000 co-operatives provide over one million jobs in France, representing 3.5% of the active working population
- Co-operatives generate 2% of GDP (NZD27 billion) including 95% of domestic and export dairy markets
- 80 million individuals are co-operative members in Indonesia, or one person in three



Recommendations

Find out more about co-operatives at www.2012.coop and www.uk.coop