

BOX 11.1 Numbers in the News

In 1990, the World Bank issued goals for improving the lives of the people of the world, called the Millennium Development Goals. One of these goals is the elimination of extreme poverty. One objective was to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015. In 2010, that objective had already been met. Unfortunately, that pattern was not consistent across the world. Much of the decline was attributable to increasing prosperity in one country: China.⁷ Although poverty had declined in most of the countries of the world, once you control for region, you can see that the magnitude of the decline varies. Poverty has not declined in Africa and Southeast Asia as much as it has elsewhere in the world.⁸