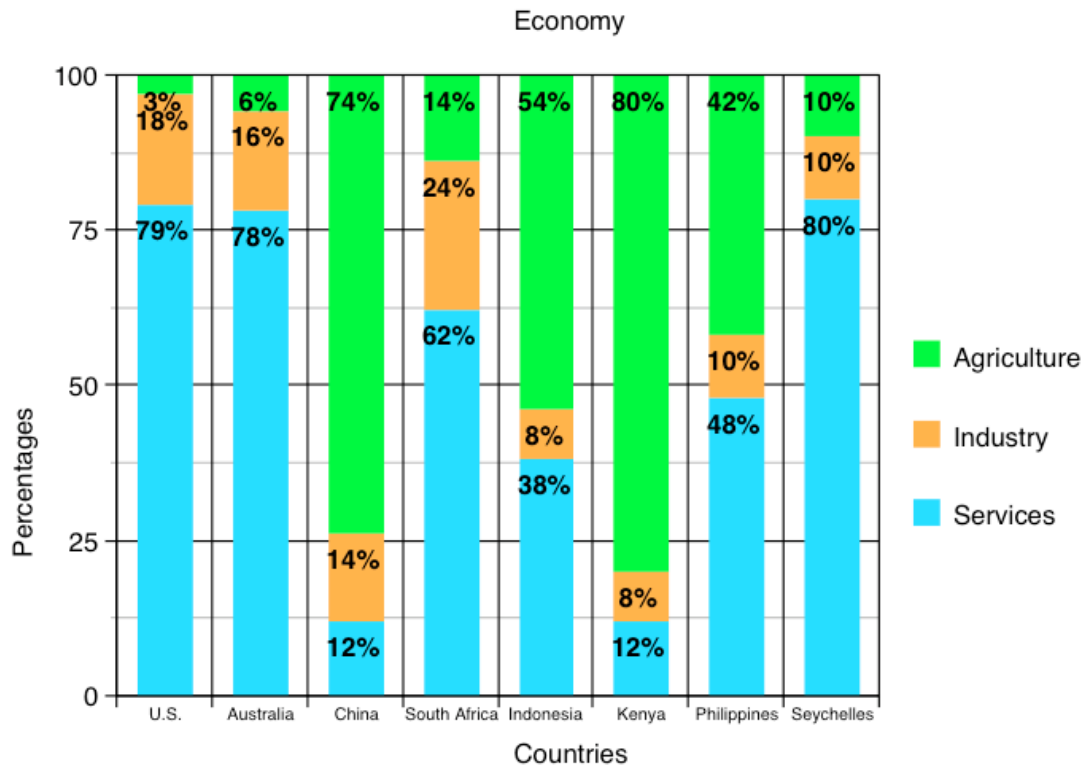


What I Learned Sailing Around the World

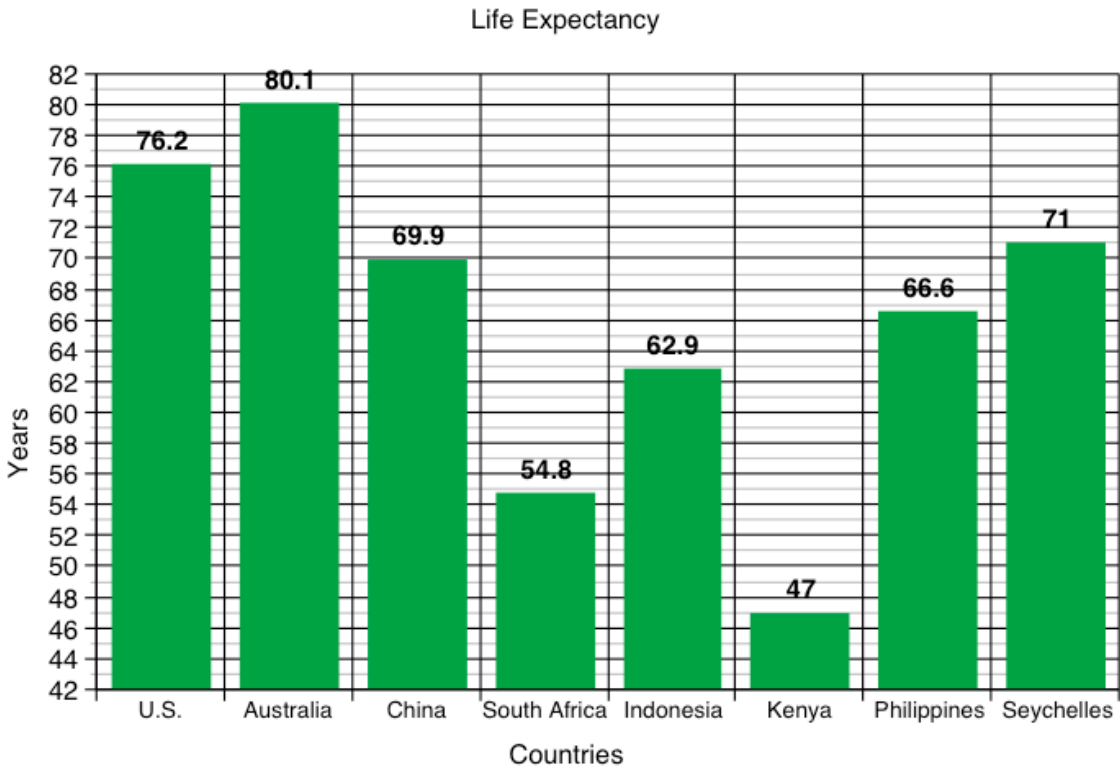
by Natalie McDonald

Well, I'm back! Yes, after 119 days sailing around the world, I am back! All right... just kidding. I've been at home in Los Angeles (and Cambria) all this time, but I have been *learning* all about the 30 countries the real world cruise visited. One of my favorite ways of doing so was reading the atlas. Our atlas is an enormous book called *Geographica* that weighs 7 ½ lbs (I weighed it). *Geographica* is also terribly interesting, full of maps and entries about every single country in the world. No wonder it's so heavy. Nearly every day I would read aloud an entry to my mommy on one of the countries the ship was visiting, a routine which we named "Atlas." Each "episode" of "Atlas" started like so: "Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to another episode of your favorite show... "Atlas!" (followed by some made-up-on-the-spot music). There is a whole wealth of information inside the pages of the atlas, including details about weather, geography, economy, agriculture, politics, religion, culture, and history, just to skim the surface. I have constructed three graphs, the first comparing the gross national product (GNP) per capita – the average income per person – in each of eight countries. The second compares the economy of each country, and what percentage of the entire country's GNP each sector makes up. The third compares each country's life expectancy.





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