

Technology

Societal Type	First Appearance	Characteristics	Technology
Hunting-Gathering	Beginning of human life	Nomadic; Production limited to readily available food and fibers	
Horticultural/Pastoral	About 10,000 to 12,000 years ago	Semi-settled; Development of agriculture & limited technology	Domestication of Plants & Animals
Agrarian	About 5,000 years ago	Larger, stable settlements; Increased crop yields; Some specialization of labor	Plow
Industrial	About 150 to 250 years ago	Mechanical power, energy harnessed for production; Centralized workplaces developed; Specialization & economic interdependence; Formal education	Steam Engine
Post-industrial/Post-modern or Information	About 30 to 40 years ago	Manufacturing decreases & service sector increases; Information is the dominant commodity High technology; Mass consumption of goods & media images; Cross-cultural integration	Microchip
Bioeconomy?	Near Future	Genetic structures (plant & animal) used to produce food and medicine	Mapping human genome

Adapted from Schaefer, p. 121 and Henslin, p. 87