

The Economic and Social Database (ESDB) recently added a new data source - the World Bank Enterprise Surveys - a compilation of national firm-level data from emerging markets and developing economies. The data are based on survey responses from more than 100,000 firms in 123 countries which generate indicators to benchmark the quality of the business and investment climate. The Enterprise Survey data are useful to prioritize potential reforms to improve the business environment of a country.

Enterprise Survey Data 2010

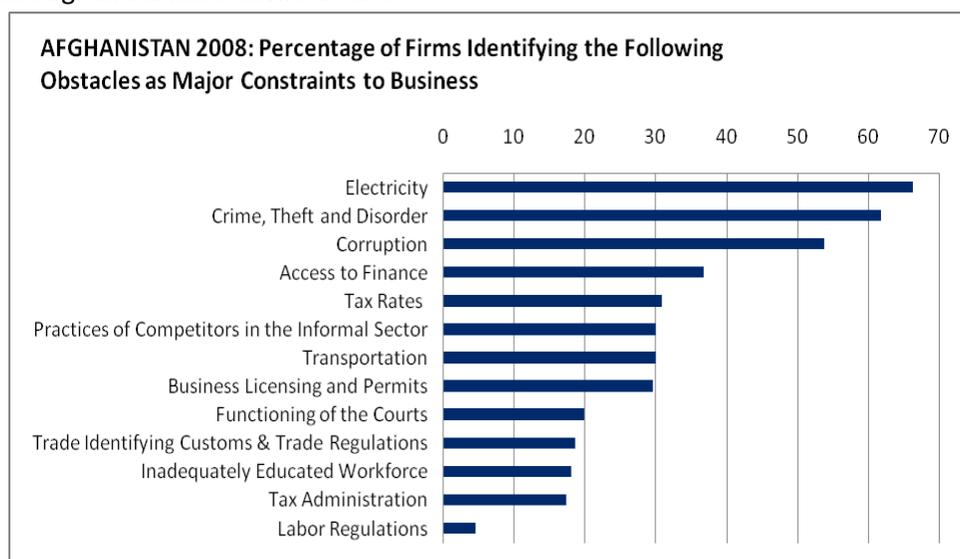
The tables below highlight the top and bottom three performers in key business environment indicators among countries receiving at least \$2 million of USAID assistance. The values for each country are from the most recent enterprise survey data available in May 2010 (year shown in table is the survey year).

Incidence of Graft Index (Probability firm asked to pay a bribe)		
Top Performers		
Eritrea	2009	0.0
Namibia	2006	0.0
Montenegro	2009	1.4
Bottom Performers		
Guinea	2006	50.3
Liberia	2009	53.2
DR Congo	2006	67.3

Number of Power Outages in a Typical Month		
Top Performers		
Bolivia	2006	0.8
Peru	2006	0.9
Colombia	2006	1.0
Bottom Performers		
Kosovo	2009	42.8
Nepal	2009	52.0
Bangladesh	2007	101.6

% of Firms with Line of Credit or Loans from Financial Institutions		
Top Performers		
Peru	2006	69.9
Serbia	2009	67.6
Brazil	2009	65.3
Bottom Performers		
Angola	2006	4.1
Nigeria	2007	3.8
Afghanistan	2008	3.4

The chart below ranks the major obstacles to conducting business identified by firms in Afghanistan. Shortages of electricity and high incidence of crime and corruption are identified as the greatest challenges while other obstacles such as the burden of the tax administration or labor regulations are perceived as relatively minor constraints in the Afghan business environment.



Comparing the World Bank Enterprise Surveys to the Doing Business Report

Enterprise Surveys and Doing Business are complementary, but use different approaches to benchmarking the quality of the business environment across countries.

Topic	Enterprise Surveys	Doing Business
Types of indicators gathered	Objective data on the business environment as experienced by firms, performance measures, firm characteristics, and perceptions regarding obstacles to growth. Measures several investment climate topics: firm characteristics, gender participation, access to finance, annual sales, costs of inputs/labor, workforce composition, corruption, licensing, infrastructure, trade, crime, competition, capacity utilization, land and permits, taxation, informality, business-government relations, innovation and technology.	Time and cost to complete common business transactions based on standardized case-studies; underlying laws and regulations. Measures 10 business regulation topics: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, employing workers, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and closing a business.
Global coverage	Covers 122 economies and aims to conduct a survey in all emerging economies (143) once every 3 years. Some developed economies have also been surveyed for comparative purposes.	Collects data annually for 183 economies .
Sources of data	Collects firm-level data. Each unit of observation is an enterprise. The business owner or top manager is usually the subject during the face-to-face interview. Businesses surveyed include manufacturing, retail, construction, transport, communications, and other services.	Collects information through surveys administered to local experts on the subject matter or business transaction such as lawyers, accountants, and architects. The information is confirmed through the underlying laws and regulations.
Data collection methodology	In smaller economies, data generated by 150-360 survey interviews; in larger economies, between 1,200 and 1,800 survey interviews are conducted.	For all economies, data are generated by an average of 39 surveys of experts in addition to an analysis of underlying laws and regulations in the economy.
Geographical coverage within an economy	In each survey project, the sample design aims to include the main cities/regions of economic activity. The actual number of cities depends on the size of the economy. Major cities include the urban centers as well as the surrounding areas within a specified radius.	Collects data only for the main (most populous) business city . However there are an increasing number of sub-national studies that capture differences in business regulation across cities in a single country.

Where can I get World Bank Enterprise Survey Data?

To access the WB Enterprise Survey Data visit the Economic and Social Database (ESDB) at <http://esdb.eads.usaidallnet.gov/>. The ESDB website offers related datasets from the IMF, World Bank, and other sources. Through the ESDB website you can also access trade and investment country profiles, generate customized tables and graphs, and utilize a wide array of analytic tools including the Financial Sector Analysis Tool.