What Businesses Experience

The Enterprise Analysis unit is a joint World Bank and IFC team of economists, survey experts and private sector development specialists. Surveys conducted by the team reveal what businesses and firms are experiencing across the world, thus providing global, comparable firm-level data to construct business environment indicators and to measure firm performance. The findings and recommendations help policymakers identify, prioritize and implement policy reforms that support efficient private-sector economic activity.

ENTERPRISE SURVEYS:

An Enterprise Survey is a firm-level survey targeting a representative sample of each economy’s formal, non-agricultural private sector. Since 2006, the World Bank Group has collected this data via face-to-face interviews with top managers and business owners following a standard, global methodology. Raw survey data is freely available at www.enterprisesurveys.org

UNIQUE FEATURES:

- The only survey offering a representative picture of the business environment as experienced by private firms, along with the characteristics of those firms
- Comparable data across economies and across time
- Data includes firms who are re-interviewed every three to four years
- Survey samples designed to allow sector, size, and geographic analysis within a country
- Offers basic financial information that allows for the measurement of firms’ outcomes such as productivity, access to credit, employment and firm growth, along with their association with the conditions of the business environment

PRACTICAL USE:

- The data provides a description of what businesses experience in each country. Surveys conducted under the Global methodology are comparable across the world.
- The data has been used in numerous academic and policy papers: More than 330 such papers have been written so far. The data is used by World Bank staff to contribute to business environment snapshots, regional reports and policy documents. The data also provides a quick description of the business environment conditions for international investors.

VARIOUS KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS:

- Country Highlights: two-page summary of the key findings from the Enterprise Survey
- Enterprise Notes: three- to four-page research briefings with concise empirical findings and policy implications
- Country Profiles: Provide key business environment indicators for a country, with benchmarks against their respective regional and income groups
DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIC

Did you know?

Enterprise Surveys enable analysis on many levels:

Indicators at the economy level

Manufacturers in Afghanistan experience an average of 11 water insufficiencies in a typical month.

Comparisons across global regions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Sr. management time spent dealing with the requirements of government regulations (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Developing Countries</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Economy-to-economy comparisons

Corruption in Sub-Saharan Africa

And indicators within countries

Percent of Firms in Russia Using Banks to Finance Investments

Did you know?

Crime

SMEs (<100 workers) Large (100+ workers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMEs (&lt;100 workers)</th>
<th>Large (100+ workers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>Retail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
<td>Other Services</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

ENTERPRISE SURVEYS PARTNERS:

The Enterprise Surveys implemented in Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries are also known as “Business Environment and Enterprise Performance Surveys” (BEEPS) and are jointly conducted by the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Enterprise Surveys in Latin America are jointly funded with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Surveys in the Caribbean are jointly funded with IDB and COMPETE Caribbean.

The Enterprise Surveys unit has launched a new partnership with the Department for International Development (DFID), the U.K. aid agency. In 2012, DFID started co-funding surveys in South Asia and Africa. DFID’s interests include enlarging the samples to improve productivity estimates, including more women-managed firms, and enhancing the measurement of innovation by private firms in the developing world.

For more information: www.enterprisesurveys.org
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