Business Ready (B-READY), World Bank

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The World Bank has an annual global doing business report available here <http://www.doingbusiness.org/>. The latest data has been pulled from the report updated on February 15, 2019 which covers 189 economies from year 2004 to year 2019.

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Instructions on pulling doing business series

1. The data can be accessed from the World Bank's Doing Business database page http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/doing-business-database. By clicking on the tab entitled "Data & Resources", the raw data can be downloaded either through CSV format or Excel format.
2. Using Excel files as an example, the file contains three sheets with the names Data, Series, and Footnote. The Doing Business data was acquired from the Data tab. Prior to importing the data into the IFs, the raw data needs some pre-processing. The first step is to concord the country names with the IFs country names since the IFs does not have a specific country concording list for Doing Business data. Then, the next step is to separate the data into several individual files based on different series. After those two procedures, the data should be ready for import.
3. One thing to note in the country concording process is that there are some sub-areas in the data (e.g., China - Beijing). Those data should be ignored since we only care about the data in certain countries. However, data for areas like 'Hong Kong, China' would be different, we actually need the data for that. Thus, to differentiate from sub-areas and main areas, you should look for that dash symbol '-' (i.e., China - Beijing would be treated as a sub-area).
4. Certain series we had in the system are not being measured in the Doing Business data. Thus, series that were not included in the original downloaded data were typically not updated. Since the organization constantly updates their data and methodology each year, some series will not be concordant through years. Those series will need to be handled carefully.
5. Series that were not updated are as follows (11 series in total): BetterBusinessIndex, BusinessRegulationIndex, ConstructionPermitDays, ConstructionPermitProcedures, EmpRigiIndex, ExportDocumentationNeeded, ImportDocumentationNeeded, HiringDiffIndex, RedundancyCostperWeekSalary, RedundancyIndex, TotalTaxRate. Note that the Tax%Profit series was updated using the "Total tax rate (% of profit)" in the raw downloaded data.
6. Series that have been updated but need to be put on hold due to inconsistency in values through years are: SeriesGovWBDoingBusContainerExportCostUSD, SeriesGovWBDoingBusContainerImportCostUSD,

SeriesGovWBDoingBusCreditTransparency, SeriesGovWBDoingBusImportDays, SeriesGovWBDoingBusLegalRightsStrengthIndex. Those 5 series in the most recent updated data only cover the years 2014-2017 while data in IFs covers 2006-2014. Moreover, the values in the overlapping year 2014 differ so much that we might need to create them as new series.

2019 Update

For the 2019 update, the WB Doing Business data was pulled from the website using R. It was then cleaned and concorded with the corresponding variable names and the IFs country concordance list. The R script can be found in the Data Team Shared folder and can be used for future pulls to automate the process. In 2015, there were updates to the Doing Business methodology. Specific changes that affected our pulls were for the following series, and these series are no longer reported (stopped in 2015) and are now disaggregated into two separate series for each one.

GovWBDoingBusImportDays; SeriesGovWBDoingBusContainerImportCostUSD; SeriesGovWBDoingBusContainerExportCostUSD.

The following new series start in 2015. While they are aggregated to create the new variable, they don not relate to the old variables we have in IFs due to the change in methodology from the source.

GovWBDoingBusContainExportCostUSDNew, calculated by adding the Documentary compliance and Border compliance costs for import together.

GovWBDoingBusContainImportCostUSDNew, calculated by adding the Documentary compliance and Border compliance costs for export together.

GovWBDoingBusImportDaysNew, calculated by adding the Documentary compliance and Border compliance time for import together.

2024 Update

For the 2024 update, the Doing Business project faced criticism and was discontinued in 2021. In 2020, the **World Bank** halted the **Doing Business** report after an internal audit revealed that data had been improperly altered in past reports to boost the rankings of certain countries. Specifically, it was found that the rankings of **China**, **Saudi Arabia**, the **United Arab Emirates**, and **Azerbaijan** had been adjusted inappropriately due to pressure from senior World Bank officials. In **September 2021**, the World Bank officially announced that it would discontinue the **Doing Business** report. The decision came after the findings of the investigation, which detailed significant ethical concerns, particularly with regards to the manipulation of rankings for political and economic reasons.

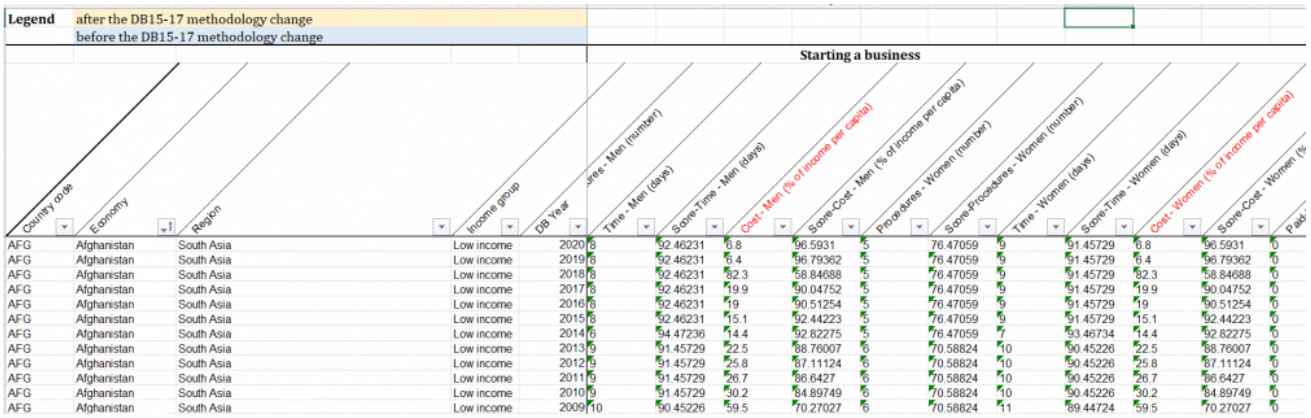
We updated 1 series in preprocessor, **GovWBDoingBusinessCostofStarting.**

- Download archive corrected data from https://archive.doingbusiness.org/en/doingbusiness

Corrected data

Complete historical data up to *Doing Business 2020*, revised to correct data irregularities: historical data (excel).

- Open the downloaded file and in the "All Data" tab, find the Cost - Men (% of income per capita) and Cost - Women (% of income per capita) under Starting a business.



Legend	after the DB15-17 methodology change
	before the DB15-17 methodology change

					Starting a business									
Country code	Economy	Region	Income group	DB Year	ures - Men (number)	Time - Men (days)	Score-Time - Men (days)	Cost - Men (% of income per capita)	Score-Cost - Men (% of income per capita)	Procedures - Women (number)	Score-Procedures - Women (number)	Time - Women (days)	Score-Time - Women (days)	Cost - Women (% of income per capita)	Score-Cost - Women (%	Paid
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2020	8	92.46231	6.8	96.5931	5	76.47059	9	91.45729	6.8	96.5931	0	
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2019	8	92.46231	6.4	96.79362	5	76.47059	9	91.45729	6.4	96.79362	0	
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2018	8	92.46231	82.3	58.84688	5	76.47059	9	91.45729	82.3	58.84688	0	
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2017	8	92.46231	19.9	90.04752	5	76.47059	9	91.45729	19.9	90.04752	0	
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2016	8	92.46231	19	90.51254	5	76.47059	9	91.45729	19	90.51254	0	
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2015	8	92.46231	15.1	92.44223	5	76.47059	9	91.45729	15.1	92.44223	0	
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2014	6	94.47236	14.4	92.82275	5	76.47059	7	93.46734	14.4	92.82275	0	
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2013	9	91.45729	22.5	88.76007	6	70.58824	10	90.45226	22.5	88.76007	0	
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2012	9	91.45729	25.8	87.11124	6	70.58824	10	90.45226	25.8	87.11124	0	
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2011	9	91.45729	26.7	86.6427	6	70.58824	10	90.45226	26.7	86.6427	0	
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2010	9	91.45729	30.2	84.89749	6	70.58824	10	90.45226	30.2	84.89749	0	
AFG	Afghanistan	South Asia	Low income	2009	10	90.45226	59.5	70.27027	6	70.58824	11	89.44724	59.5	70.27027	0	

- Take an average of the 2 columns listed above to get the new values.
- Compare the new values with the values in IFs.
- Blend in the new values to the values in IFs followed by 2 rules:
  - If he new values are null, then use the values in IFs to fill the null.
  - If the new values are not null, then use the new values.
- The final series contains values from 2003 to 2020.

Business Ready (B-READY)

The World Bank's "Business Ready" (B-READY) project is a new initiative launched to replace the discontinued "Doing Business" report. The B-READY project, which began its pilot phase in 2024, seeks to assess countries on ten key indicators, focusing on how business regulations are implemented in practice compared to what is written in law. Here are the new indicators will be provided in the BusinessReady. (https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/content/dam/enterprisesurveys/documents/methodology/Indicator-Description.pdf)

Model implications

What are the biggest differences (in both relative and absolute terms) in 2015? 2050? 2100?

What are the effects of these changes on other variables in the model?

Any other major changes or anomalies?

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This page was last edited on 19 February 2025, at 23:46.