

Informal Economy Database

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Summary

The World Bank's Prospects Group has constructed a global database of informal economic activity. The database includes up to 196 economies over the period 1990-2020 and includes the 11 most commonly used measures of informal economy.

Output:

- Dynamic General Equilibrium (DGE) model-based estimates of informal output
- Multiple Indicators Multiple Causes (MIMIC) model-based estimates of informal output

Employment:

- Self-employment
- Informal employment
- Employment outside the formal sector
- Labor force without pension insurance

Perceptions:

- One indicator based on World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Executive Opinion surveys
- Four indicators based on World Bank Enterprise Surveys of firms
- One indicator based on World Value Surveys (WVS) of households

The database includes both indirect, model-based estimates (DGE- and MIMIC-based indicators) and direct measures gathered from labor force or expert, firm, or household opinion surveys.

Tables In IFs

Variable	Definition	Last IFs Update	UsedInPreprocessor	UsedInPreprocessorFileName
GDPInformal%Elgin	Informal economy as % of GDP, from Elgin and Oztunali (2012)	4/4/2014	1	ECONOMY
GDPInformal%WBDGE	informal output (% of official GDP), dynamic general equilibrium model-based (DGE) estimates	12/22/2021	0	
GDPInformal%WBMIMIC	informal output (% of official GDP), multiple indicators multiple causes model-based (MIMIC) estimates	12/22/2021	0	
LaborInformal%WB	Informal employment (% of total employment; International Labour Organization; hamonized series)	12/22/2021	0	
LaborInformaSectorl%WB	Employment outside the formal sector (% of total employment; International Labour Organization; hamonized series)	12/22/2021	0	

Data Pulling Instructions

1. Navigate to <https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/brief/informal-economy-database>
2. Click "Informal economy data (Excel)"

Data Notes

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