



# Trade Flows and Trade Policy Analysis

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# Research using World Bank Enterprise Surveys data

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## a) Introduction

- Most of the published firm-level work has used national datasets
- Most commonly, these data come from government statistical agencies
- They are usually of very high quality, since firms can be subject to penalties for non-compliance or mis-statements
- Two main disadvantages:
  - They are generally not comparable across countries
  - Statistical coverage is essentially limited to accounting data

## a) Introduction (ct'd)

- There is a small, but growing, part of the firm-level literature that uses data from a number of countries simultaneously
- One approach is to use commercially available firm-level data, such as Amadeus (EU), Orbis (Global), or Datastream
  - Extremely expensive
  - Again, only accounting data
  - Usually less reliable than national survey data
  - Problems of comparability across countries

## b) World Bank Enterprise Surveys (WB ES)

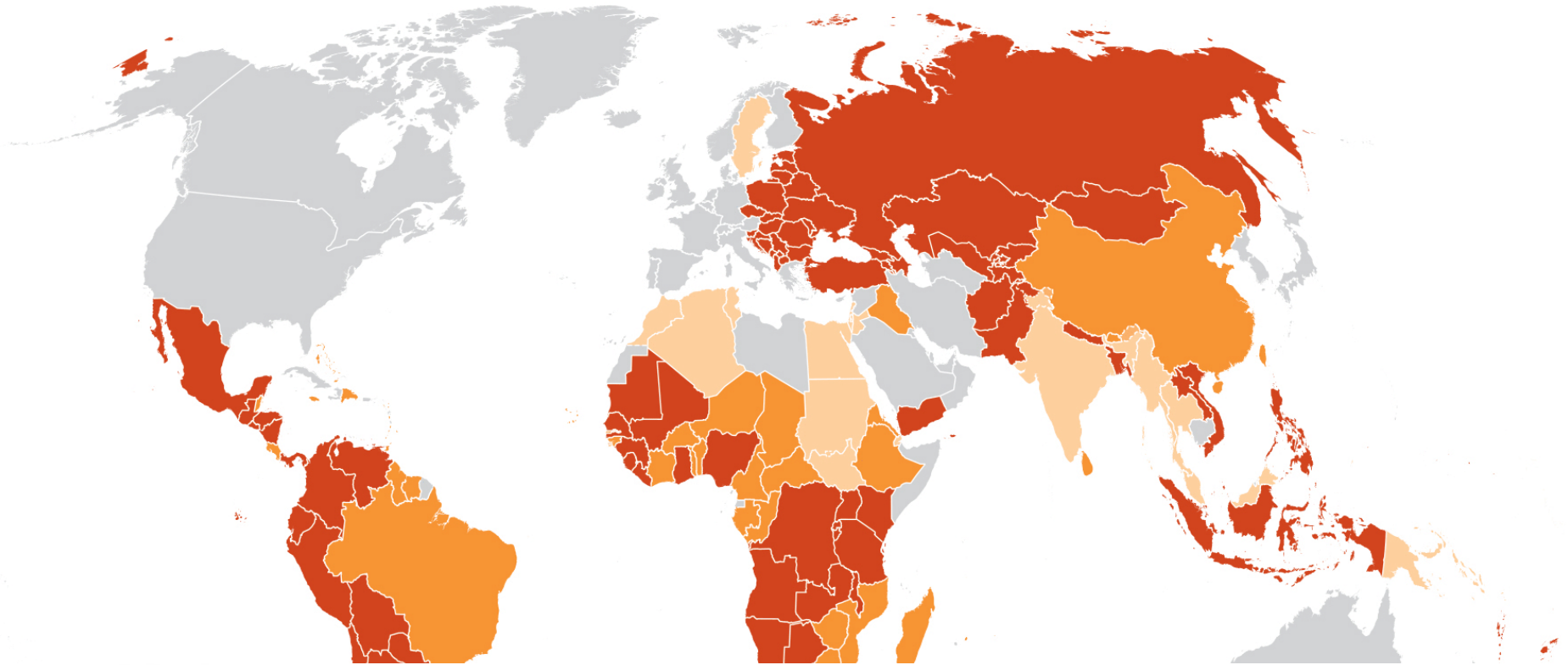
- An alternative is provided by the World Bank's Enterprise Surveys project: [www.enterprisesurveys.org](http://www.enterprisesurveys.org)
- Freely available at the aggregate level. For firm-level data, just fill out the form, and accept the confidentiality restrictions
- Very wide coverage: 130,000 firms in 135 countries
- Some countries/firms are surveyed over multiple years
- Combination of accounting data and data based on opinions/perceptions
- Firm level data: standardized cross-country dataset and country-specific datasets (panel data for some countries)

## b) WB ES: Structure of the core questionnaire

- A. Control information
- B. General information (*legal status, ownership, birth year*)
- C. Infrastructure and services (*connection applications for electricity, water and telephone, waiting time, informal payments*)
- D. Sales and supplies (*sales, exports, customs, shipment problems*)
- E. Degree of competition (*price changes due to competition, informal sector*)
- F. Capacity (*utilization of facilities*)
- G. Land (*ownership versus lease, construction permit*)
- I. Crime (*cost for security, losses due to theft*)
- J. Business-government relations (*courts, government contracts, informal payments, licenses*)
- K. Finance (*timing of payments, sources for financing, loans, collaterals*)
- L. Labor (*number of employees, worker types, training, skills, labor regulation*)
- M. Investment climate constraints (*three biggest obstacles*)
- N. Performance (*cost structure, value of assets, sales three years ago*)

## b) WB ES: Global coverage

### ENTERPRISE SURVEYS AROUND THE WORLD



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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_6595](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_6595)

