

"Do We Really Need to Pay for this Anymore?"

The best free v. fee sources for statistics and country research

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A BLINC and GRS co-production.

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This is our fact sheet that accompanied our opinioned, comparative presentation.

ROUND 1

The World Bank dataBank

- Available at databank.worldbank.org
- 9 datasets; All now free ("open data" initiative); Most have print equivalents
- WDI goes back to 1960

UN Data

- Available at data.un.org
- Many datasets; Some UN data (ex. Comtrade) still requires subscriptions

IMF Data & Statistics

- Available at <http://www.imf.org/external/data.htm>
- "lending, exchange rates and other economic and financial indicators."
- Some free datasets; others still subscription based

ROUND 2

EIU Country Reports (via Business Source Premier)

- Available monthly through Business Source Premier with a 6 month embargo
- Easy-to-read PDF reports on political stability, economic indicators and more.
- The EIU "flagship product".
- Covers over 200 countries.
- Very popular at most libraries that subscribe directly, but also very expensive.

Datamonitor Country Analysis Report (via Business Source Premier)

- Annuals in color PDF format
- 62 countries; 70-80 pages each
- Updated in August, released by Ebsco in the fall?
- PESTLE = political, economic, social, technological, legal, & environmental structure

ROUND 3

Political Risk Yearbook

- From PRS Group
- 100 countries covered annually, 60-75 pages each
- http://www.prsgroup.com/PRS_Methodology.aspx

CQ Political Handbook of the World

- Subscription source from CQ Press; available annually as online and in print
- Focus is primarily political aspects: political parties, regime type, party system, electoral systems, etc.

ROUND 4

CountryWatch Country Reports (via Business Source Premier)

- Available annually
- Narrative reports discuss wide range of topics (human rights, history, etc.)

IHS Country Monitor (via Business Source Premier)

- IHS = country & industry forecasting company
- Monthly reports (most recent in BSP is from January, hmm)
- Country Monitor = economic focus
- 114 countries covered

ROUND 5

OECD iLibrary

- Online subscription portal for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- Wide array of resources (Books, statistics, datasets, factbooks) on range of subjects (Education, environment, migration, etc.)

Euromonitor Passport GMID

- Very expensive database that covers international consumer markets with data, reports, and analysis.
- Historical, current, & projected data
- Also covers demographics and economic indicators

ROUND 6

Country Commercial Guides

- Available free at <http://www.buyusainfo.net> by the US Department of Commerce
- Focus on exporting US goods to other markets

World Bank "Doing Business In" Guides

- <http://www.doingbusiness.org/>
- Free
- "provides objective measures of business regulations for local firms in 183 economies and selected cities at the subnational level."

EIU Country Commerce (via Business Source Premier)

- Provides "how to do business" info for over 54 countries.

ROUND 7

Nationmaster

- "Where stats come alive!"
- <http://www.nationmaster.com>

Wikipedia

- enough said

ROUND 8

Europa World

- Subscription source available from Routledge
- Provides basic but current facts and informative narratives about countries
- Emphasis on politics and history; lighter on data.

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations

- New edition every 3-4 years or so
- Covers all countries as well as the UN system.

ROUND 9

US Department of State Background Notes

- Available at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/>
- Provide facts about land, people, geography, country conditions, etc.; updated irregularly by Department's regional bureaus.
- Travel.state.gov now provides the travel warnings

CIA World Factbook

- Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- Profiles cover wide range of information with more unique sections like Military and Transnational Issues