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**Country Information**

The following resources are starting points in the search for country information, from an international business perspective. Some of the resources are freely available on the web. Others are Leddy Library subscriptions and so, if you are off-campus, you will have to sign on with your University of Windsor ID and email password. If you do not find what you are looking for, please contact: [Katharine Ball](mailto:kball@uwindsor.ca) at (519) 253-3000 ext. 3852

**Start with the Leddy Library Databases**

[**Economist Intelligence Unit**](http://led.uwindsor.ca/eiu)

<http://led.uwindsor.ca/eiu>

Reputable, up-to-date information in a number of different databases, with overlapping coverage. Perhaps, start with the following:

**Country Report:** your basic starting point; in-depth analysis and forecasts for an individual country's economy and political situation. Includes a regular **Country Forecast** report (monthly for most countries, quarterly for smaller economies) that provides a point-in-time outlook for issues such as economic growth, economic policy, inflation, exchange rates, political stability and effectiveness, elections and international relations. Use the tabs at the top of the page.

**Country Commerce:** a guide to the specific operating conditions, commercial laws and business regulations in 55 countries. It offers guidance on critical issues such as obtaining proper permits and registrations, protecting intellectual property in the Internet age and complying with local tax laws-including e-commerce rules.

**Market Indicators And Forecasts:** a numeric database with past, current, and future estimates for countries; covers variables such as: economic, population, income, consumer spending, consumption, market demand, technology, transport, education, etc.

**World Investment Service:** (1 concurrent user only); contains data and reports; reports have quite detailed risk analysis and breakdowns of business costs.

[**Business Source Complete**](http://led.uwindsor.ca/business-source-complete)

http://led.uwindsor.ca/business-source-complete

Broad international business coverage; includes journal and trade magazine articles, country, industry, and company profiles, as well as a wide range of other business and economic information.

**Country Reports** (right-hand side). There are reports from a variety of organizations. For example:

Datamonitor/Marketline: PESTLE analysis

Business Monitor: country risk analysis

IHS Global: country risk analysis

CountryWatch: broad analysis, including social and environmental factors

[**Global Market Information Database**](http://led.uwindsor.ca/gmid)

<http://led.uwindsor.ca/gmid>

Euromonitor Country Profile, Country Pulse, Business Environment, and Consumer Lifestyle reports; also has excellent industry reports.

[**OECD iLibrary**](http://led.uwindsor.ca/oecd)

http://led.uwindsor.ca/oecd  
Covers economic and social issues from macroeconomics to trade, education, development, science, and innovation. Browse by country or use the advanced search option.

**Supplement with Free Country Information from the Web**

Focus your search by considering who might be producing the information you are looking for. The **national government** of your country is an obvious place to start. Some governments also produce reports on other countries. **Inter-governmental organizations** are another excellent resource for international business information. Their statistics tend to be a little more dated than those you might get directly from a particular country's statistical or trade office. However, the numbers are usually more comparable among countries. **Accounting firms, consultants, universities, and libraries** can also be good sources of free information, reports, and guides. Below are just a few examples.

[**Country and Regional Profiles** (UNESCO)](http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=198&IF_Language=eng)

<http://www.uis.unesco.org/DataCentre/Pages/regions.aspx?SPSLanguage=EN>  
Key indicators for education, literacy, science, technology and innovation, and culture (film and cinema).

[**Country Commercial Guides** (U.S. Commercial Service)](http://www.buyusainfo.net/adsearch.cfm?search_type=int&loadnav=no)

<http://www.buyusainfo.net/adsearch.cfm?search_type=int&loadnav=no>  
Select your country and limit to report type: Country Commercial Guides; covers the political and economic climate, trade regulations, financing, etc.

[**Country Risk Assessments**](http://www.coface.com/Economic-Studies-and-Country-Risks) (Coface)

<http://www.coface.com/Economic-Studies-and-Country-Risks>

Assessments of country risk and business climate give an indication of a country’s potential influence on businesses’ financial commitments. Choose a country from the drop-down menus to view profiles that include macroeconomic indicators, a list of strengths and weaknesses and country commentary.

[**Doing Business** (HLB International)](http://www.hlbi.com/dbi)

<http://www.hlbi.com/dbi>

Covers the investment and business climate, in particular taxation issues.

[**Doing Business: Measuring Business Regulations**](http://www.doingbusiness.org/data) (World Bank)

<http://www.doingbusiness.org/data>  
For each country, gives information on starting a business, dealing with construction permits, employing workers, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and closing a business. Click on each topic heading for a detailed breakdown of procedures, time required, and costs. For some countries, sub-national snapshots are available.

[**Enterprise Surveys**](http://www.enterprisesurveys.org/) (World Bank)

<http://www.enterprisesurveys.org>  
For each country, has information on regulations and tax, corruption, crime, informality, gender, finance, infrastructure, innovation and technology, trade, the workforce, firm characteristics, and performance. Use: Select an economy.

[**GlobalEDGE** (Michigan State University)](http://globaledge.msu.edu/)

<http://globaledge.msu.edu>  
A meta-site bringing together international business and trade information. Select your country (left-hand side).

[**Guides to Doing Business** (Lex Mundi)](http://www.lexmundi.com/lexmundi/Guides_To_Doing_business.asp)

<http://www.lexmundi.com/lexmundi/Guides_To_Doing_business.asp>

Legal and regulatory aspects of doing business in 100+ countries.

[**HSBC Global Connections**](http://globalconnections.hsbc.com/canada/en/tools-data)

<http://globalconnections.hsbc.com/canada/en/tools-data>

General business climate, trade forecast, and treasury management reports

[**Taxation and Investment Guides and Country Highlights**](http://www.deloitte.com/taxguides) (Deloitte)

<http://www.deloitte.com/taxguides>  
Information on the investment climate, business regulations, foreign investment, the choice of business entity, corporate and individual taxation, and employment law. Select your country from the pull-down menus under each title.

[**World Factbook**](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook) (CIA)

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook>

Information on the history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for 267 world entities.

[**Worldwide Tax Summaries Online**](http://taxsummaries.pwc.com/uk/taxsummaries/wwts.nsf/ID/PPAA-85RDKF) (PWC)

<http://taxsummaries.pwc.com/uk/taxsummaries/wwts.nsf/ID/PPAA-85RDKF>

Corporate and individual taxes in over 150 countries.

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**Here are some country specific databases and reports that focus on intercultural communication. For further information on this topic, see the guide:**

[**Intercultural Communication in International Business**](http://leddy.uwindsor.ca/intercultural-communication-international-business)

<http://leddy.uwindsor.ca/intercultural-communication-international-business>

**[Countries and Their Cultures](http://www.everyculture.com/)**

http://www.everyculture.com

Covers many topics, e.g. History and Ethnic Relations, Food and Economy, Social Stratification, Gender Roles and Statuses, Marriage, Family and Kinship, Socialization, Etiquette, etc.

**[Country Insights](http://www.intercultures.ca/cil-cai/countryinsights-apercuspays-eng.asp" \t "_blank)**[(Canada. Foreign Affairs & International Trade Canada)](http://www.intercultures.ca/cil-cai/countryinsights-apercuspays-eng.asp" \t "_blank)

http://www.intercultures.ca/cil-cai/countryinsights-apercuspays-eng.asp

Focuses on cultural information, e.g. communication styles, preferred managerial qualities, hierarchy and decision making, relationship building, conflicts in the workplace, motivating local colleagues

**[Country Profiles: Global Guide to Culture, Customs, and Etiquette](http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/country-profiles.html)** [(Kwintessential)](http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/country-profiles.html)

http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/country-profiles.html

General culture and customs; also business etiquette and protocol

**[Culture Crossing Guide](http://guide.culturecrossing.net/index.php)**

http://guide.culturecrossing.net/index.php

Information: on the Basics, for Business, and for Students

**[CultureGrams](http://search.proquest.com/publication/2026824?accountid=14789&OpenUrlRefId=info:xri/sid:primo)** [(ProQuest)](http://search.proquest.com/publication/2026824?accountid=14789&OpenUrlRefId=info:xri/sid:primo)

<http://search.proquest.com/publication/2026824?accountid=14789&OpenUrlRefId=info:xri/sid:primo>

Covers: Background, People, Customs and Courtesies, Lifestyle, and Society; off-campus, you will need to sign on with your UWindsor ID and email password.

**[Hofstede Centre](http://geert-hofstede.com/countries.html)** [(ITIM International)](http://geert-hofstede.com/countries.html)

http://geert-hofstede.com/countries.html

Analysis based on a cultural model which includes: Power Distance, Individualism, Masculinity, Uncertainty Avoidance, Long Term Orientation, Indulgence

**[Executive Planet](http://www.executiveplanet.com/index.php?title=Main_Page)**

http://www.executiveplanet.com/index.php?title=Main\_Page

Focuses on aspects of business etiquette: Appointments, Business Dress, Conversation, Addressing Others, Gift Giving, Negotiating, Entertaining, Acceptable Public Behaviour

[**Negotiating International Business** (Leadership Crossroads/Katz, Lothar)](http://www.leadershipcrossroads.com/nib_dld.asp)

<http://www.leadershipcrossroads.com/nib_dld.asp>

Addresses the following topics: Introduction, Relationships and Respect, Communication, Initial Contact and Meetings, Negotiation, Agreements and Contracts, Women in Business, Other Important Things to Know

**[World Values Survey](http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSOnline.jsp)** [(WVSA)](http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSOnline.jsp)

http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSOnline.jsp

Detailed analysis of culture over time

Updated August 2015