

The Dominican Republic 2025 World Bank Enterprise Survey Implementation Report

I. Introduction

This document provides information on the World Bank Enterprise Surveys (WBES) implemented in Dominican Republic between September 2024 and May 2026. The WBES collect both objective data based on firms' day-to-day experiences, and perceptions of enterprises regarding the business environment in which they operate. The WBES has global coverage. The WBES are also used to build a panel of enterprise data that will make it possible to track changes in the business environment over time.¹

This report describes the sampling design of the survey, the data set structure as well as additional information that may be useful when using the data, such as information on survey non-response and the appropriate use of the sampling weights.

II. Sampling Structure

The WBES use stratified random sampling, where the population of establishments is first separated into non-overlapping groups, called strata, and then respondents are selected through simple random sampling from each stratum. The detailed methodology is provided in the Sampling Note.² Stratified random sampling has several advantages over simple random sampling. In particular, it:

- produces unbiased estimates of the whole population or universe of inference, as well as at the levels of stratification
- ensures representativeness by including observations in all of those categories
- produces more precise estimates than simple random sampling for a given sample size or budget allocation, and
- may reduce implementation costs by splitting the population into convenient subdivisions.

The WBES typically use three levels of stratification: industry classification, establishment size, and subnational region (used in combination). Starting in 2022, the WBES bases the industry classification on ISIC Rev. 4 (with earlier surveys using ISIC Rev. 3.1).³ For regional coverage within a country, the WBES has national coverage.

¹ A “panel interview” refers to an interview with a business that was also interviewed in the previous WBES.

² The Sampling Note is available at:

https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/content/dam/enterprisesurveys/documents/methodology/Sampling_Note-Consolidated-2-16-22.pdf.

³ The WBES universe includes: all manufacturing (ISIC 4.0 codes 10-33), services (ISIC 4.0 codes 41-43, 45-47, 49-56, 58, 61, 62, 69-75, 79, 95). Details on sectoral coverage and the WBES universe of inference can be found in the *Enterprise Surveys Manual and Guide* (p. 4).

II.1 Universe

The universe of inference includes all formal (i.e., registered) private sector establishments⁴ (with at least 1% private ownership) and with at least five employees. In terms of sectoral criteria, all manufacturing businesses (ISIC Rev 4. codes 10-33) are eligible; for services businesses, those corresponding to the ISIC Rev 4 codes 41-43, 45-47, 49-53, 55-56, 58, 61-62, 69-75, 79, and 95 are included in the Enterprise Surveys. Cooperatives and collectives are excluded from the Enterprise Surveys. All eligible establishments must be registered with the Oficina Nacional de Estadística ONE. The universe table is the total number of eligible establishments, and the table is partitioned by the stratification groups (industry classification, establishment size, and subnational region) in a country.

For the Dominican Republic 2025 WBES, the universe table, shown in Table 1 below, was obtained from the Oficina Nacional de Estadística ONE.

II.2 Sampling Frame

The WBES requires the most complete and up-to-date Sampling Frame, the list of eligible establishments with information on industry classification, size, address and other contact information that will be used to randomly select the sample. In countries where a previous round of the WBES exists, the Sampling Frame also includes the Panel Sampling Frame, which provides information about all the establishments that participated in the previous round of the WBES in the country.

The Sampling Frame for the Dominican Republic 2025 WBES was constructed from the following sources (see counts of establishments in the frame in Table 2). The Panel Sampling Frame was constructed using information on all the establishments that participated in the Dominican Republic 2016 WBES. The Fresh Sampling Frame, i.e., list of establishments that are in the WBES universe and that have not participated in the Dominican Republic 2016 WBES was obtained mainly from Directorio de Empresas y Establecimientos (DEE) 2023, through the collaboration with Oficina Nacional de Estadística ONE to gain access to this information.

For every WBES, necessary measures are taken to ensure the quality of the frame; however, the sample frames are not immune to the typical problems found in establishment surveys: positive rates of non-eligibility, repetition, non-existent units, etc. Given the impact that non-eligible units included in the sample universe may have on the results, eligibility adjustments may be needed when computing the appropriate sampling weights for individual observations if and only if the universe equals the sampling frame (that is the weights project to universe totals by cell, coming from the sampling frame). Table 4 reports response outcomes.

II.3 Stratification Categories

The Dominican Republic 2025 WBES uses the following stratification categories:

⁴ The unit of analysis of every WBES is the establishment defined as a business entity associated with a physical location with its own set of financial statements, including Balance Sheet and Income Statement. However, in many economies official statistics are provided at the firm level, where a firm may be composed of several establishments, the so called multi-establishment firms.

- **Industry: 3 categories:**
 - Manufacturing
 - Retail
 - Other services
- **Size: 3 categories:** Small (5 to 19 employees), Medium (20 to 99 employees), and Large (100 or more employees)
- **Region: 3 categories:** Santo Domingo, West, and East

Industry strata for the sectors were selected by their contribution to total number of establishments, according to the WBES Universe. The manufacturing sector covers 13% of the whole WBES universe in terms of number of establishments. For the services sector, the strata were divided into the retail sector with 20% in terms of number of establishments, and the rest of services cover 67% of the whole WBES universe.

Region strata of the Dominican Republic 2025 WBES were selected based on administrative divisions, with some territories grouped together to achieve minimum required precision of estimates at the level of each stratification region. The West region encompasses seven sub-regions with their respective provinces. Cibao, Valdesia, Enriquillo, and El Valle. The East region has two subregions: Yuma, and Higuamo. Santo Domingo contains Distrito Nacional and Santo Domingo.

II.4 Sample Design

The WBES sample design, i.e., target number of interviews in each combination of stratification categories (cells), is generated using the two primary criteria: 1) minimize the difference from the purely proportional sample within each cell; and 2) achieve a sufficient sample size by stratification category to allow for estimates of a given level of precision. Additional information on the criteria for determining the sample size by stratification category is given in the *Sampling Note*, and additional information on the sample design is given in the *Enterprise Surveys Manual and Guide*.⁵ The original survey design for the Dominican Republic 2025 WBES is given in Table 3.

III. Data Collection

The detailed information on the WBES methodology and data collection is provided in the Enterprise Surveys Manual and Guide. The interviews for the Dominican Republic 2025 WBES were conducted between September 2024 and May 2026. The interviews were conducted in Spanish. For monetary variables, the currency was Dominican pesos (DOP).

⁵ The *Enterprise Surveys Manual and Guide* is available at:
<https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/content/dam/enterprisesurveys/documents/methodology/Enterprise-Surveys-Manual-and-Guide.pdf>

Apart from the participation and call-back challenges that are typical of firm-level surveys, the Dominican Republic 2025 WBES faced additional complexities in securing interviews. These challenges were more pronounced in the Dominican context, where firms often require additional reassurance regarding the credibility, purpose, and confidentiality of the study before agreeing to participate. Consequently, the data collection process required sustained follow-up efforts and a high degree of flexibility in scheduling to accommodate respondents' availability. Fieldwork was completed with 345 complete interviews.

III.1 Questionnaire

The standard WBES questionnaire covers several topics regarding the business environment and business performance. These topics include general establishment characteristics, infrastructure, sales and supplies, trade, management practices, competition, innovation, capacity, land and permits, finance, business-government relations, exposure to bribery, labor, and performance. Information about the general structure of the questionnaire is available in the *Enterprise Surveys Manual and Guide*.

III.2 Contractor

The fieldwork for the Dominican Republic 2025 WBES was implemented by two different vendors, Mercadeo Planificado (Mercaplan) with Alpha consulting as subcontractor; and Newlink Group. The selection for the implementing agencies followed the standard World Bank procurement practices that are described in more detail in the *Enterprise Surveys Manual and Guide*.

III.3 Sampling and screening

Samples are drawn by the Enterprise Surveys team in batches, following the stratification and sample design. The contractor conducted a thorough screening process before scheduling the ES interviews. Results of the screening are provided using the eligibility and status codes as listed in Table 4. In cases of unit non-response (either a refusal or an inability to obtain an interview after exhaustive attempts), the contractor proceeded with the contact that appeared next in the list drawn in the respective cell. The process of sampling and screening is described in more detail in the *Enterprise Surveys Manual and Guide*.

III.4 Survey response

In all surveys, including the WBES, some respondents choose not to participate. The Enterprise Analysis team and the contractor take all necessary measures to boost participation, through various methods of recruitment. The proper management of the screening process and sample replacement ensures that the resulting sample remains random.

The main measure of survey participation is the yield, which is the ratio of the total number of achieved interviews to the total number of contacted establishments. There are two main elements that boost yields. First is the survey participation rate, measured as the share of establishments that participated among those that can be assumed to have been eligible. The second

element is the quality of frame. If only a small fraction of the contacted establishments is actually eligible to participate in the survey, then the sampling frame is far from ideal. This quality is measured by the ratio of the total number of establishments that are eligible for the WBES to the total number of contacted establishments in the frame. In other words:

$$Yield = Survey\ response\ rate * Rate\ of\ quality\ of\ the\ frame$$

which can be rewritten as follows:

$$\frac{Total\ interviewed}{Total\ contacted} = \frac{Total\ interviewed}{Assumed\ eligible} * \frac{Assumed\ eligible}{Total\ contacted}$$

Table 5 provides these measures for the Dominican Republic 2025 WBES and across its stratification levels.

III.5 Achieved Sample

Tables 6 and 7 provide counts of the WBES interviews collected for each stratification cell, i.e., broken down by industry, establishment size, and region. Table 6 reports full sample, while Table 7 shows counts of only panel interviews.

III.6 Sampling Weights

Since the WBES uses stratified random sampling, individual observations should be properly weighted when making inferences about the population, since unweighted estimates are biased unless sample sizes are proportional to the size of each stratum. For each WBES, special care is given to correctly compute sampling weights. Whenever the Universe is used to draw the sample (i.e., Sampling Frame is the same as the Universe) it is imperative to accurately adjust the universe within each stratum to account for the presence of ineligible establishments (e.g., the establishment discontinued businesses, or is deemed ineligible due to its business activity or having fewer than five employees). Proper treatment of panel establishments is also crucial. Details about how the WBES sampling weights are calculated are given in the *Sampling Note*.

Three versions of sampling weights are calculated, depending on the assumptions that determine eligibility of establishments to be counted towards the WBES universe. These assumptions are called weak, medium, and strong; and are defined as given in the table below. Prevalence of each of these outcomes for the Dominican Republic 2025 WBES is given in Table 4. All indicators and analysis conducted by the Enterprise Surveys team use the sampling weights based on the median assumption. Tables 8-10 report estimated universe based on the respective assumption.

Assumption	Eligibility codes for inclusion in the WBES universe
Strict	1, 2, 3, 4
Median	1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 133
Weak	1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 133, 91, 92, 93, 94, 12

For descriptions of each eligibility code, see Table 4 of the sampling note.

III.7 Item response rates

Item response rate must be differentiated from survey response rates. The latter refers to participation in the survey itself (see Section III.4) whereas the former refers to the absence of responses to specific survey questions. The WBES, as any survey, suffer from item non-response; and different strategies are used by the data collection team to address this. In particular:

- For sensitive questions, such as on corruption or tax evasion, enumerators were instructed to collect the refusal to respond (-8) as a separate response category from don't know (-9).
- Establishments with incomplete information were re-contacted to fill gaps.

Table 11 provides item response rates for several key variables, broken down across the stratification levels.

III.8 Database Structure

The WBES datafiles are organized in ways that reflect the corresponding questionnaire. The variables that are standard across countries have the first letter in their name correspond to the questionnaire section where the variable belongs in the questionnaire, i.e., *a1* denotes section *A*. All variables are numeric with the exception of those variables with an “x” at the end of their names. The suffix “x” denotes that the variable is alpha-numeric. One additional question was fielded in the Dominican Republic 2025 WBES, namely question *ip* on location within an industrial park.

The WBES datafiles contain two establishment identifiers, *idstd* and *id*. The former is a global unique identifier of each establishment, while the latter is unique identifier within each survey. The variable *idstd* can be used to match the WBES establishment one-to-one across databases. The variables *wweak*, *wmedian*, and *wstrong* corresponding to sampling weights based on, respectively, weak, median, and strong assumptions about eligibility (see Section III.6). The variable *strata* corresponds to the stratum of each observation.⁶

Additionally, the WBES datafiles contain many standard variables. The variable *d1a2_v4* denotes the main activity of the establishment, as obtained during the WBES interview, coded in the four-digit ISIC Rev. 4. Users should note that this activity may differ from the industry classification given in the Sampling Frame, *a4a*. Users are generally advised to use industry categories based on the realized information in *d1a2_v4*. Additional sampling information is contained in variables *a2* (region) and *a6a* (size). The variable *panel* identifies panel establishments, i.e., those that participated in the Dominican Republic 2016 WBES. The combination of *a4a*, *a2*, *a6a*, and *panel* forms stratum of each establishment, which is contained in variable *strata*.

The last complete fiscal year for each establishment is contained in variables *a20m* (last month of last complete fiscal year) and *a20y* (last complete fiscal year).

⁶ Note that the sampling weights may vary within *strata* for panel establishments due to the procedure used for projecting the universe from the previous round of the survey.

Note that when an entry in the WBES database is empty, this means that the question was not asked to the corresponding respondent. This happens when the question is deemed inapplicable, due to skip patterns or other reasons.

IV. Useful Links

The users of the WBES data may find the following links useful:

- *Sampling Note* is available at:
https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/content/dam/enterprisesurveys/documents/methodology/Sampling_Note-Consolidated-2-16-22.pdf
- The *Enterprise Surveys Manual and Guide* is available at:
<https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/content/dam/enterprisesurveys/documents/methodology/Enterprise-Surveys-Manual-and-Guide.pdf>
- The WBES global questionnaires are available at:
<https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/en/methodology>
- The projects that are currently being implemented by the Enterprise Surveys team are available at: <https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/en/project-schedule>
- The list of all WBES databases and detailed information about each is available here:
<https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/content/dam/enterprisesurveys/documents/DataDetails.xls>
- The description of the WBES indicators is available at:
<https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/content/dam/enterprisesurveys/documents/methodology/Indicator-Description.pdf>

Fact Sheet

Source of Universe Table	National Statistics Bureau ONE
Source of Sampling Frame	National Statistics Bureau ONE
Levels of Universe Table and Sampling Frame	Universe Table: Establishment-level Sampling Frame: Establishment-level
Registration agency	Registro Mercantil
Stratification sectors	Manufacturing Retail, and Other Services
Stratification sizes	Small (5 to 19 employees), Medium (20 to 99 employees), and Large (100+)
Stratification regions	Santo Domingo, West and East
Contractor	Mercaplan, Newlink Group
Fieldwork dates	September 2024 – May 2026
Interview languages	Spanish
Survey software	Survey Solutions
Currency for nominal variables	Dominican peso
Reference fiscal year	2023 (75 obs.), 2024 (218 obs.) and 2025 (51 obs.)
VAT Applicable	YES
Additional definitions	“Consumption Tax” was referred to as IVA. For the capital city (a3b), Santo Domingo was entered; for the main business city (a3c), Santo Domingo was entered.
Sample Size	Total: 345 Fresh: 309 Panel: 36
Survey response rates	Yield: 7.6% Response rate: 36.3% Frame quality: 20.8%
Item response rates	d2: 87.5% n2a: 81.2% 11: 99.4% all TFPvars ⁷ : 72.2%
Additional topics covered in the questionnaire	Location within an industrial park.
Additional surveys available (if any)	

Tables

Table 1: Dominican Republic 2025 WBES Universe

⁷ TFP stands for total factor productivity. TFP variables are d2 (annual sales), n2a (annual cost of labor), n2e (annual cost of intermediate goods) and n7e (replacement cost of capital). Response rate for TFP variables is calculated only for manufacturing establishments.

		Manufacturing	Retail	Other Services	Grand Total
Santo Domingo	Small (5-19)	1141	1785	8248	15,228
Santo Domingo	Medium (20-99)	510	511	2334	
Santo Domingo	Large (100-199)	185	87	427	
West	Small (5-19)	1280	2738	6861	14,194
West	Medium (20-99)	565	599	1689	
West	Large (100-199)	224	47	191	
East	Small (5-19)	214	516	1567	3,028
East	Medium (20-99)	72	128	398	
East	Large (100-199)	32	18	83	
		4,223	6,429	21,798	32,450

Source: (Establishment-level or Firm-level)

Table 2: Dominican Republic 2025 WBES Sample Frame (Fresh and Panel Combined)

		Manufacturing	Retail	Other Services	Grand Total
Santo Domingo	Small (5-19)	1145	1813	8274	15366
Santo Domingo	Medium (20-99)	526	522	2350	
Santo Domingo	Large (100 or more)	202	96	438	
West	Small (5-19)	1289	2777	6884	14381
West	Medium (20-99)	591	624	1708	
West	Large (100 or more)	251	55	202	
East	Small (5-19)	217	525	1574	3062
East	Medium (20-99)	78	130	400	
East	Large (100 or more)	34	20	84	
		4,333	6,562	21,914	32,809

Source: (Establishment-level or Firm-level)

Table 3: Original Survey Design (Fresh and Panel Combined)

	Manufacturing	Retail	Other Services	Grand Total
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Santo Domingo	Small (5-19)	6	10	36	120
Santo Domingo	Medium (20-99)	10	10	12	
Santo Domingo	Large (100-199)	17	15	4	
West	Small (5-19)	7	14	35	124
West	Medium (20-99)	11	11	9	
West	Large (100-199)	18	15	4	
East	Small (5-19)	6	8	8	116
East	Medium (20-99)	25	26	5	
East	Large (100-199)	17	10	11	
		117	119	124	360

Table 4: Response Outcomes

		Totals	Rates relative to total contacted
Overall	Contacts available in frame	32,809	
	Issued	4,684	
	Contacted	4,569	
Screening phase	Eligibles	542	11.9%
	Screener refusals	297	6.5%
	Assumed eligibles	951	20.8%
	Ineligible + out of target	277	6.1%
	Unobtainables	3,453	75.6%
Interview phase (only if eligible)	Interview refusals	55	1.2%
	Complete interviews	345	7.6%

Table 5: Survey Yield Rates

Stratification	Yield	Survey response rate	Frame quality
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Panel	Fresh	7.3%	35.2%	20.8%
	Panel	10.0%	48.6%	20.6%
Size	Small (5-19)	10.7%	41.3%	25.9%
	Medium (20-99)	6.0%	38.7%	15.5%
	Large (100+)	6.6%	27.1%	24.2%
Region	Santo Domingo	5.2%	43.0%	12.0%
	West	10.5%	35.1%	29.9%
	East	10.9%	30.0%	36.2%
Sector	Manufacturing	7.1%	35.6%	20.0%
	Retail	10.1%	48.1%	21.1%
	Other Services	6.2%	29.1%	21.2%
Overall	Dominican Republic 2025	7.6%	36.3%	20.8%

Notes: the rates are calculated as defined in Section III.4.

Table 6: Achieved Total Sample (Fresh and Panel Combined)

		Manufacturing	Retail	Other Services	Grand Total
Santo Domingo	Small (5-19)	9	11	35	134
Santo Domingo	Medium (20-99)	8	15	22	
Santo Domingo	Large (100 or more)	12	9	13	
West	Small (5-19)	8	15	23	121
West	Medium (20-99)	9	15	23	
West	Large (100 or more)	15	4	9	
East	Small (5-19)	4	17	17	90
East	Medium (20-99)	13	16	15	
East	Large (100 or more)	4	0	4	
		82	102	161	345

Table 7: Achieved Panel Sample

		Manufacturing	Retail	Other Services	Grand Total
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Santo Domingo	Small (5-19)	1	1	5	18
Santo Domingo	Medium (20-99)	1	2	2	
Santo Domingo	Large (100 or more)	5	0	1	
West	Small (5-19)	2	3	3	13
West	Medium (20-99)	0	1	3	
West	Large (100 or more)	0	0	1	
East	Small (5-19)	0	0	2	5
East	Medium (20-99)	0	1	1	
East	Large (100 or more)	0	0	1	
		9	8	19	36

Table 8: Weak Universe Estimates

		Manufacturing	Retail	Other Services	Grand Total
Santo Domingo	Small (5-19)	1567	1358	6168	13919
Santo Domingo	Medium (20-99)	591	897	2642	
Santo Domingo	Large (100 or more)	116	106	472	
West	Small (5-19)	728	1622	3650	11220
West	Medium (20-99)	510	987	2832	
West	Large (100 or more)	370	22	498	
East	Small (5-19)	66	996	2148	4530
East	Medium (20-99)	340	247	541	
East	Large (100 or more)	42	0	149	
		4331	6235	19102	29668

Table 9: Median Universe Estimates

		Manufacturing	Retail	Other Services	Grand Total
Santo Domingo	Small (5-19)	255	220	1006	2066
Santo Domingo	Medium (20-99)	61	90	340	
Santo Domingo	Large (100 or more)	16	17	63	
West	Small (5-19)	317	723	1700	4629
West	Medium (20-99)	173	312	1085	
West	Large (100 or more)	119	9	192	
East	Small (5-19)	30	498	1040	2092
East	Medium (20-99)	134	115	201	
East	Large (100 or more)	17	0	58	
		1121	1983	5684	8788

Table 10: Strict Universe Estimates

		Manufacturing	Retail	Other Services	Grand Total
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Santo Domingo	Small (5-19)	120	107	457	987
Santo Domingo	Medium (20-99)	31	50	164	
Santo Domingo	Large (100 or more)	12	12	34	
West	Small (5-19)	181	398	896	2545
West	Medium (20-99)	106	188	591	
West	Large (100 or more)	74	6	105	
East	Small (5-19)	17	256	530	1091
East	Medium (20-99)	79	61	107	
East	Large (100 or more)	10	0	31	
		632	1077	2915	4624

Table 11: Item Response Rates

	Screeners/Interview	d2	l1	n2a	all TFP variables
Panel	Fresh	87.7%	99.4%	82.2%	73.2%
	Panel	86.1%	100.0%	72.2%	62.5%
Size	Small (5-19)	85.6%	99.3%	79.9%	57.9%
	Medium (20-99)	86.0%	99.3%	80.1%	79.3%
	Large (100+)	94.3%	100.0%	85.7%	74.2%
Region	Santo Domingo	92.5%	100.0%	87.3%	74.1%
	West	83.5%	99.2%	75.2%	74.2%
	East	85.6%	98.9%	80.0%	66.7%
Sector	Manufacturing	92.7%	100.0%	85.4%	72.2%
	Other Services	85.7%	98.8%	80.1%	#N/A
	Retail	86.3%	100.0%	79.4%	#N/A
Overall	Dominican Republic 2025	87.5%	99.4%	81.2%	72.2%

Notes: the rates are calculated as follows. The number of responses with informative content in the respective variable (or combination of variables in the case of TFP) is divided by the same number plus the number of responses that are "don't know" (code -9) or refusal (code -8).