

# The Worldwide Governance Indicators, 2019 Update: Changes in Underlying Source Data and Calculations

September 20, 2019

This note describes revisions to the source data relevant to the 2019 update of the Worldwide Governance Indicators, covering the period 1996-2018.

## *Changes in Data Sources*

This year one data sub-source was dropped from the WGI. The WGI use a number of indicators produced by Freedom House as components of “Voice and Accountability”, “Rule of Law”, and “Control of Corruption”. In 2018, Freedom House discontinued its “Freedom of the Press” index, and so starting in 2018 this is no longer included as a component of “Voice and Accountability”. We continue to use Freedom House political rights and civil liberties indicators, as well as Freedom House Nations in Transit indicators of media, civil society, and electoral processes, as components of “Voice and Accountability”.

## *Revisions to Data From Previous Years*

We have made the following minor revisions to the underlying source data for past years.

- **AFR:** At the time of the 2018 WGI update, the latest Afrobarometer Round 7 data was incomplete. We included data from the 22 countries available at the time in the WGI aggregate indicators for 2017. As of August 2019, 12 more countries are available from Afrobarometer Round 7, and these have been included as inputs to the WGI data for 2017 and 2018. In addition (a) there were some minor revisions to the data for the first set of countries 22 countries when downloaded from Afrobarometer in July 2019 relative to the version from July 2018, and (b) we corrected a few errors in our own calculations in the assignment of Afrobarometer variables to the six WGI indicators in 2015/16. The overall effect is to expand coverage of Afrobarometer data in 2017 to 34 countries, and to slightly change the data for 2015/16/17. This has minor effects on the reported estimates for Voice and Accountability, Government Effectiveness, Rule of Law, and Control of Corruption for 2015-2017.
- **HUM:** At the time of the 2019 WGI update, data from the Political Terror Scale was only available through 2016, and so we used the 2016 data for 2016 and 2017. At the time of the 2019 WGI update, data from this source for 2017 is available. We use this data for 2017, and also carry it forward for 2018. This revision affects only the Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism indicator for 2017.

Because of these revisions to data from previous years, this update of the entire WGI dataset supersedes previous versions for all years – as is the case with each annual update of the WGI. For reference, previous years’ versions of the full WGI dataset can be downloaded at [www.govindicators.org](http://www.govindicators.org) (Documentation tab, section on WGI data sources).

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