

Locating a Factory in a Country: Labor Conditions, Economic Conditions, Investment Climate & Human Rights Issues

To begin, go to the library's web page at: www.uhd.edu/library

Choose "Research Databases"

Choose the topic "Business"

You will see a list of databases that you can now explore:

A. Business Source Complete (database)

There are 2 strategies you can try:

1) Type in keywords in the search box such as:

[country name] AND labor conditions

[country name] AND labor rights

[country name] and labor law

[country name] AND working conditions

[country name] AND worker's rights

[country name] AND human rights (often times labor conditions are discussed in terms of human rights in the business literature)

You will find articles that contain your search words and which may provide the details you are looking for.

2. The other approach is to click on "Country Profiles" in the list located on the RIGHT side of the screen (in green).

Find your [country name].

Explore some of the reports listed for [country name] such as:

[country name]: Country Monitor

[country name]: Business Forecast Report

[country name]: Country Profile

After you choose one of these you will need to drill down until you get to the document level.

These reports can be very helpful.

B. CountryWatch (database)

Click on the "Country Review" feature and choose [country name].

Some basic data will be displayed in the main screen. Examine the headings along the left side of the screen.

To understand current labor conditions you will want to look at the "Investment Climate" data. Within it there is a paragraph on Labor.

There is also a section in that column called "Economic Overview" that you can explore.

Several other pieces of information factor into understanding the "health & wealth" of a country such as:

- What are the political conditions of the country? Is the country stable? Are they at war?
- What is the country's infrastructure? Do they have airports, ports of entry, paved roads, Internet, cell phones etc.? Without an infrastructure it will be very difficult to conduct business there.

- What are the environmental regulations? Maybe it will cost you more to do business there if there are tight regulations.

These questions can be answered by exploring the other sections in Countrywatch such as "Environmental Overview" and "Political Overview." (Infrastructure information is included in the "Investment Climate" section).

Look for this type of data whenever you are looking at country information.

C. Business & Human Rights Resource Center

Go to <http://www.uhd.edu/library/websites/internationalbusiness.html>

Choose "Business & Human Rights Resource Center"

Important Note: Often the information needed regarding the treatment of workers is not found under "labor" but is instead considered "human rights" information.

Choose "Regions/Countries" on the left side of the screen. Choose "Americas" and then choose [country name].

This will produce a huge list of reports that each has some content regarding how people are being treated in that country – either from an employment point of view or with regard to their personal freedoms. Please take the time to review some of these.

At the top of this list of reports are some tabs or topic choices. To focus on a few good reports try clicking on "Country Overview."

The list of documents is narrowed down. At the bottom of the list on the first page is a report called "U.S. State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004: [country name]" (if it isn't on the first page scroll to the next until you find it). This report is from the U.S. State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Open this document.

Within this document there is a section ("Section 5") entitled "discrimination Based on Race, Sex, Disability, Language, or Social Status". This section will contain information regarding the treatment of women as well as children - such as their treatment in society (which includes the workplace). Also look at Section 6, "Worker Rights," which will have material.

Also look for reports from Amnesty International as well as UNICEF's "Child Labor Today" report.

D GlobalEdge Resource Desk

Go to <http://www.uhd.edu/library/websites/internationalbusiness.html>

Choose "GlobalEdge Resource Desk"

Scroll to your country using the "Jump To.." country search box in the upper right of the screen.

Navigate the different sections of the report such as "Economy" and "Statistics" using the links on the left under "Navigation"

E.CIA World Fact Book

Go to <http://www.uhd.edu/library/websites/countries.html>

Choose "CIA World Factbook"

Select your country from the pull-down menu.

Explore the different categories available including "Economy"

Under Economy there are some statistics that address "Labor Force by Occupation". Broadly speaking, a labor force that is high in services versus agriculture may have a higher skilled workforce or may have a higher educated workforce (professional or "white collar work" is included in the "services" statistic).

These are some of the highlights for finding information on labor conditions on a country using the library's resources. If you choose to search the web using Google please remember to search on both "labor" and "labour" since there will be information from sources other than within the US.