

Power BI Case Study: Global Debt Analysis (1950–2022)

Business Context

The Global Debt Database (GDD), developed by the International Monetary Fund, captures the total gross debt of the nonfinancial sector across 190 economies—spanning government, corporate, household, and private debt—from 1950 to 2022. This wide-ranging dataset enables stakeholders to monitor, compare, and analyze debt accumulation trends across time, income groups, and world regions.

Business Problem

As the global economy continues to evolve, understanding how debt levels have changed over time is critical for:

1. Identifying periods and patterns of debt surges or decline across country groups.
2. Comparing public vs. private sector debt trends.
3. Assessing regional vulnerabilities to fiscal shocks.
4. Exploring correlations between different debt types.
5. Supporting data-driven policymaking and financial risk forecasting.

Key Business Questions

1. General Debt Trends
 - How has global debt evolved over time by sector: central government, general government, household, non-financial corporate, and private?
 - Which decades saw the highest debt growth rates across sectors?
 - What is the average debt level (as % of GDP) by sector in each income group: low, middle, and high-income countries?
2. Country-Level Insights

- Which countries currently have the highest levels of each debt type?
- Which countries have seen the most dramatic changes in debt levels over the past 30 years?
- How do debt levels in developed vs. developing countries compare over time?

3. Sector Comparisons

- Which debt type (e.g., household vs. corporate) is growing the fastest globally?
- Are there notable trade-offs between government and private debt levels in some countries?
- Which countries have balanced vs. imbalanced debt profiles (e.g., high government but low private debt)?