

William's Update

Remittances

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Abstract

This paper examines the current environment of remittance measurement, identifying key literature and data sources while also addressing topics discussed during William and Michael's meeting on July 24, 2025.

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1 Introduction

In general the remittance datasets are weak. I will be presenting the following options which would be the best available datasets out there on remittances.

2 Email Communications

I contacted Remitly and Wise for data access requests.

3 Best Dataset is World Bank

3.1 Cost of Remittances Dataset

This is a more comprehensive dataset. Please see the [sample dataset](#) where we can observe source and destination countries.

We can also observe the firm, payment instrument (bank transfer, cash, etc.), and speed.

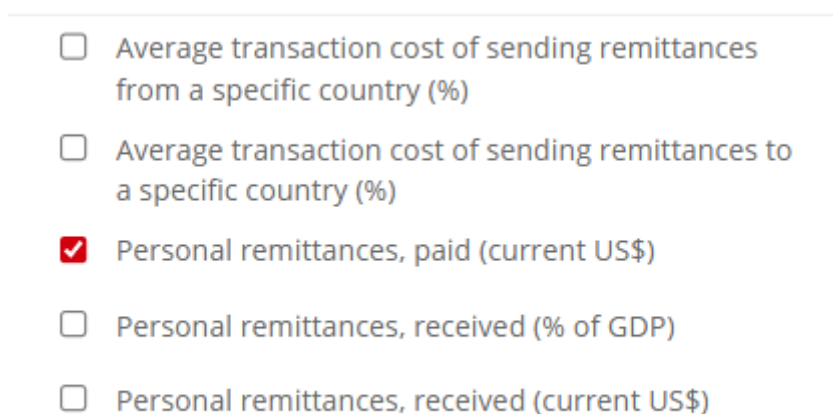
There are many different methodologies with regards to remittances. For an overview, please see the [World Bank's resources page](#).

The best dataset would be from the World Bank, as they seek to establish a unified standard for remittances and maintain public data availability. See [national and regional databases certified by the World Bank](#).

There is a problem with their data request site maybe you can try as well. I have sent them several requests with no instructions being received. The dataset should be available at: [World Bank Remittance Prices Dataset](#)

3.2 Remittances Sent Dataset

We have the following fields available in the screenshot below:



A screenshot of a web interface showing a list of five fields with checkboxes. The first two are unchecked, the third is checked, and the last two are unchecked. The fields are: 'Average transaction cost of sending remittances from a specific country (%)', 'Average transaction cost of sending remittances to a specific country (%)', 'Personal remittances, paid (current US\$)', 'Personal remittances, received (% of GDP)', and 'Personal remittances, received (current US\$)'.

- ☐ Average transaction cost of sending remittances from a specific country (%)
- ☐ Average transaction cost of sending remittances to a specific country (%)
- ☒ Personal remittances, paid (current US\$)
- ☐ Personal remittances, received (% of GDP)
- ☐ Personal remittances, received (current US\$)

Figure 1: Available Fields for Remittances Sent Dataset

We are not able to observe bilateral remittance flows; we can only observe aggregates unlike the cost dataset. Bilateral flows are like this - I can't seem to find the bilateral dataset anymore. I think they stopped sharing it. The dataset is available in the reports, but that's about it.

According to the literature: "Additionally, the World Bank also publishes estimates on bilateral remittance flows. The basis for bilateral remittances estimates are weighted migrant stock data, the weighted income of migrants based on the per capita income in the country of destination, and the weighted income in the origin country of the migrant (Ratha and Shaw, 2007: 43)."

The main dataset can be found at: [World Bank Development Indicators - Personal Remittances](#)

It is not perfect - see the limitations at the [World Bank metadata page](#), but it's the best we have.

Because direct measurement (tracking actual transactions) is often incomplete, they use a mix of methods: Direct reporting when possible and estimates and models to fill in gaps.

3.3 Remitscope

It may be worthwhile to consider [RemitScope](https://remitscope.org/how-to-use-remitscope/) as an additional resource. Please see this to see how to use remitscope <https://remitscope.org/how-to-use-remitscope/>

RemitScope I think is our best bet given that they aggregate all different sources of remittances. From my understanding the remittances bilateral data exist but they do not exist in an easily accessible format. RemitScope aggregates the data into a format that's accessible.

This is a quote from the website:

RemitSCOPE brings together data from secondary sources, that are usually scattered in different organisations and agencies, as well as collecting data through primary research and directly from market operators and regulators.

The dataset currently covers Africa and Latin America. Asia is coming soon - please see this image:

Africa	Latin America	Asia
Region overview	Region overview	Release coming soon
Themes	Themes	
Indexes	Indexes	
Country Profiles	Country Profiles	
Remittance Market Insights	Remittance Market Insights	

Figure 2: RemitScope Regional Coverage

Please see this useful dataset. It is very detailed and shows us what datasets are available out there, to what detail, and from what source:

[RemitSCOPE Thematic Dashboards Overview](#)

Please see this image:

	Indicator Name	Source * - RemitSCOPE calculations based on source	Dashboard	Country Profile
Remittance Flows	World Bank remittance inflows / outflows	WB Remittance annual inflow / outflow data (latest)	Remittances - Inflows / Outflows + Country	x
	Remittance inflows growth rate (World Bank)	WB Remittance annual inflow / outflow data (latest)	Remittances - Inflows / Outflows + Country	x
	Remittance inflows / outflows as a % of GDP	WB Remittance annual inflow / outflow data (latest)	Remittances - Inflows / Outflows + Country	x
	Population's dependence on remittances	Afrobarometer survey 2018 (and other sources)	Remittances - Inflows + Country	
	Informal remittance inflows estimate	RemitSCOPE compiled from multiple sources / varying years	Remittances - Inflows + Country	
	Estimated remittance inflows / outflows	World Bank Bilateral Remittance Matrix (estimates) 2021	Remittances - Inflows / Outflows + Corridor	x
	Central Bank remittance inflows / outflows	RemitSCOPE compiled from multiple Central Banks - annualised	Remittances - Inflows / Outflows + Country & Corridor	x

Figure 3: RemitSCOPE Dataset Overview

Currently RemitScope only allows for observation through visualizations. I can scrape data from this website if need be.

See this image of an example visualization from RemitScope:

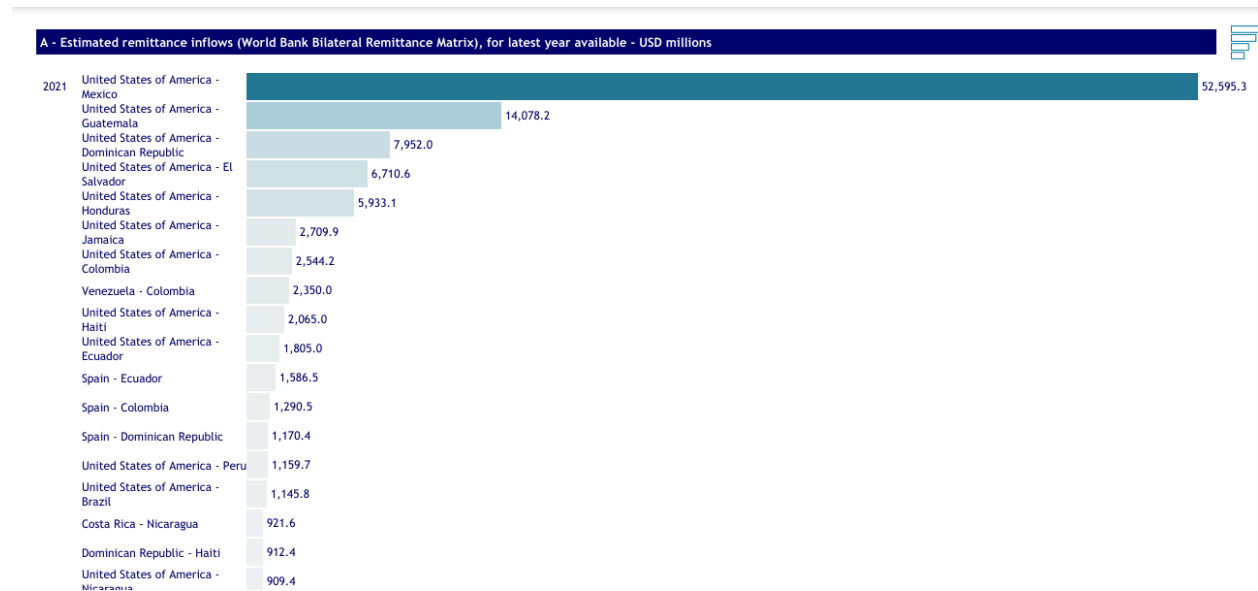


Figure 4: RemitScope Example Visualization

See this link to go to the website and see for oneself: [RemitScope Latin America Themes](#)

3.4 Canadian International Development Platform: CIDP

The [CIDP Remittances Explorer](#) is a Canadian International Development Platform tool that uses World Bank datasets as a derivative source to create an interactive remittance data visualization website.

3.5 Additional Data Sources

- [SDGs Today Remittances Dataset](#) - Sustainable Development Goals tracking platform for remittance data

3.6 Data Request Status

I have submitted a data request through the [World Bank's data download portal](#) to obtain the most current and comprehensive remittance datasets.

Wise rejected my request - please see the screenshot below:

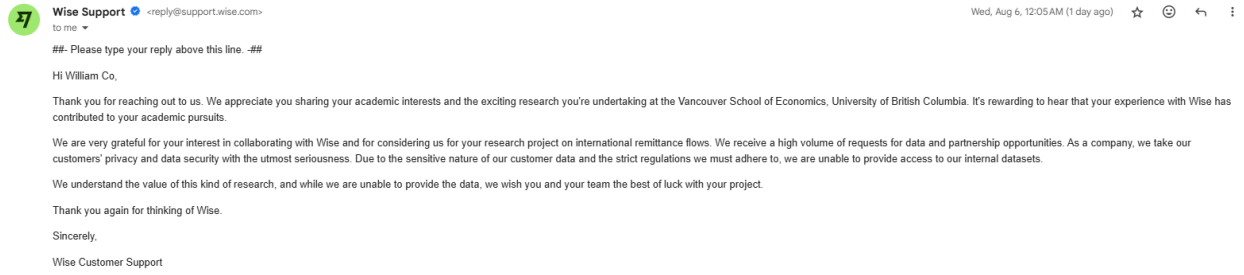


Figure 5: Wise Data Request Rejection