Public debt ratios have benefited from disciplined fiscal policies and recent high growth. Sustaining recent progress will require increasing private sector investment to support stable long-term growth.

Selected Indicators of Doing Business, 2005
(average across all countries = 100)

Cost of starting business
Time to acquire license
Investor protection index
Time to pay taxes
Time to enforce contracts

Latin America
Developing Asia
Emerging Europe

Sources: World Bank, Doing Business Database; and IMF staff calculations.

Consists of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Consists of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

Excluding Argentina.

Simple average.

Latin America’s gross capital formation in percent of GDP and private direct investment as a share of total emerging market and developing countries.

Consists of China, India, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.