

What are the ranking trends?

- Mauritius joins the group of top 20 economies this year. It is the highest ranked Sub-Saharan African economy.
- The second highest ranking economies in the region are **Rwanda** (29) and **Kenya** (61).
- **South Sudan** (185), **Eritrea** (189), and **Somalia** (190) are the lowest ranked economies in the region.
- Other large economies in the region and their rankings are **Democratic Republic of Congo** (184), **Ethiopia** (159), **Nigeria** (146), **Tanzania** (144), **Sudan** (162), and **Uganda** (127).
- The region's economies perform best in the area of Starting a Business (122).
- **Rwanda** ranks among the best globally in the Doing Business areas of Registering Property (with a rank of 2) and Getting Credit (3). In registering property, Rwanda has an efficient land registry where it takes 7 days to transfer property and costs only 0.1% of the property value, the same as in New Zealand.
- The region underperforms in the areas of Getting Electricity (145), Trading Across Borders (139) and Registering Property (131). It takes on average 112 days for a business to obtain a permanent electricity connection to the grid in Sub-Saharan Africa, compared to a global average of 86 days.

What are the reform trends?

- This year's report marks the sixth year in a row that Sub-Saharan Africa leads with the highest number of business regulatory reforms captured by *Doing Business*.
- One-third of all business regulatory reforms recorded by *Doing Business 2019* were in the economies of Sub-Saharan Africa. With a total of 107 reforms, Sub-Saharan Africa has a record number for a third consecutive year.
- In addition, this year also saw the highest number of economies carrying out reforms, with 40 of the region's 48 economies implementing at least one reform, compared to the previous high of 37 economies two years ago.
- The largest number of reforms implemented in the region was in the areas of Enforcing Contracts (27), followed by Starting a Business (17), and Registering Property (with 13 reforms)
- 17-member states of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa, known by its French acronym OHADA adopted a Uniform Act on Mediation in 2017 (filling a legislative void that existed in most OHADA member states) which introduced mediation as an amicable mode of dispute settlement.
- Four Sub-Saharan African economies – **Togo**, **Kenya**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, and **Rwanda** made the list of global top 10 improvers this year. Over the past 12 months, collectively these economies implemented a total of 23 reforms.
- **Rwanda** led the region in terms of the number of reforms implemented - seven in the past year, while **Gabon**, **Guinea** and **Sudan** were also among the notable reformers, with five reforms each.
- Sub-Saharan African economies recorded eight reforms in the area of getting electricity, the highest number of any region worldwide.
- Examples of reforms include:
 - **Nigeria** made starting a business easier by introducing an online platform to pay stamp duties, leading to a reduction in the time to start a business from 19 to 11 days.
 - **Burundi** increased the transparency of dealing with construction permits by publishing regulations related to construction online free of charge, improving on the building quality control index.
 - **Niger** made the process for getting an electricity connection faster by increasing the stock of material the utility carries and by allowing the internal wiring certificate of conformity to be obtained at the same time as the external connection works, reducing the time to obtain electricity connection from 97 to 68 days.

- **Rwanda** adopted a new law on insolvency that contemplates protections for secured creditors during an automatic stay in reorganization proceedings, leading to an improvement on the strength of the insolvency framework index from 12 to 15.

Noteworthy items:

- Changes in this year's report include renaming of the distance-to-frontier measurement to ease of doing business score, to better reflect its main purpose of measuring absolute progress towards best practices (without any change in the actual calculation).
- There are no changes to the methodology this year or to the calculation of the Doing Business Score, which underpins the Doing Business rankings.
- This year, Doing Business includes four case studies that focus on the benefits of:
 - mandatory and annual training of both public officials and users of business and land registries;
 - training for customs clearance officials and brokers;
 - robust regulatory framework governing the electricity sector and accrediting the electrician profession;
 - training and specialization of judges.

Rankings Data for the Sub-Saharan Africa region

Economy	Rank (1–190)	Ease of doing business score (0–100)		# of Reforms	
	DB2019	DB2018	DB2019	DB2018	DB2019
Angola	173	41.70	43.86	3	2
Benin	153	51.29	51.42	3	2
Botswana	86	64.94	65.40	2	1
Burkina Faso	151	51.45	51.57	1	1
Burundi	168	46.68	47.41	0	3
Cabo Verde	131	55.93	55.95	3	0
Cameroon	166	46.95	47.78	2	2
Central African Republic	183	34.23	36.90	0	2
Chad	181	38.21	39.36	0	3
Comoros	164	48.52	48.66	1	1
Congo, Dem. Rep.	184	36.18	36.85	1	3
Congo, Rep.	180	39.47	39.83	1	2
Côte d'Ivoire	122	53.06	58.00	1	5
Equatorial Guinea	177	41.66	41.94	1	1
Eritrea	189	22.94	23.07	0	0
Eswatini	117	58.82	58.95	2	1
Ethiopia	159	48.15	49.06	2	3
Gabon	169	45.81	45.58	2	5
Gambia, The	149	51.49	51.72	0	0
Ghana	114	57.16	59.22	1	2
Guinea	152	49.49	51.51	0	5
Guinea-Bissau	175	42.58	42.85	1	1

Kenya	61	65.06	70.31	6	5
Lesotho	106	60.41	60.60	0	1
Liberia	174	43.55	43.51	1	0
Madagascar	161	48.18	48.89	2	3
Malawi	111	58.75	59.59	4	2
Mali	145	53.27	53.50	0	1
Mauritania	148	51.07	51.99	5	3
Mauritius	20	78.29	79.58	4	5
Mozambique	135	53.75	55.53	2	3
Namibia	107	60.29	60.53	1	1
Niger	143	52.48	53.72	4	4
Nigeria	146	51.52	52.89	5	4
Rwanda	29	73.73	77.88	5	7
São Tomé and Príncipe	170	44.84	45.14	1	1
Senegal	141	53.78	54.15	5	2
Seychelles	96	62.42	62.41	2	0
Sierra Leone	163	48.59	48.74	2	0
Somalia	190	19.98	20.04	0	0
South Africa	82	64.66	66.03	0	2
South Sudan	185	33.30	35.34	0	0
Sudan	162	45.09	48.84	0	5
Tanzania	144	53.29	53.63	1	1
Togo	137	48.88	55.20	1	6
Uganda	127	56.41	57.06	1	1
Zambia	87	63.60	65.08	3	1
Zimbabwe	155	48.52	50.44	1	4

Source: *Doing Business* database.

Note: The rankings are based on the average of each economy's ease of doing business scores for the 10 topics included in this year's aggregate ranking. This measure shows how close each economy is to global best practices in business regulation. A higher score indicates a more efficient business environment and stronger legal institutions.