Summaries of Doing Business reforms in 2013/14

Doing Business reforms affecting all sets of indicators included in this year’s report, implemented from June 2013 to June 2014.

Reform making it easier to do business  
Change making it more difficult to do business

**Afghanistan**

× Starting a business  
Afghanistan made starting a business more difficult by increasing the publication fees and prolonging the time required for registration.

**Albania**

✓ Starting a business  
Albania made starting a business easier by lowering registration fees.

✓ Dealing with construction permits  
Albania made dealing with construction permits easier by resuming the issuance of construction permits and by consolidating the land permit and construction permit into a single construction development permit.

✓ Registering property  
Albania made transferring property easier by establishing effective time limits and computerizing the records on immovable property.

× Getting credit  
Albania weakened its secured transactions system through an amendment to the Securing Charges Law that does not allow intangible assets to be secured with a nonpossessory pledge.

× Paying taxes  
Albania made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the corporate income tax rate.

**Algeria**

✓ Trading across borders  
Algeria made trading across borders easier by upgrading infrastructure at the port of Algiers.

**Argentina**

× Dealing with construction permits  
Argentina made dealing with construction permits more costly by increasing several fees.

**Armenia**

✓ Starting a business  
Armenia made starting a business easier by streamlining postregistration procedures.

**Austria**

✓ Starting a business  
Austria made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement, which in turn reduced the paid-in minimum capital.
Azerbaijan
✓ Starting a business
Azerbaijan made starting a business easier by reducing the time to obtain an electronic signature for online tax registration.
✓ Registering property
Azerbaijan made registering property easier by introducing an online procedure for obtaining the nonencumbrance certificate.
✓ Paying taxes
Azerbaijan made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic system for filing and paying social insurance contributions.

Bahamas, The
✗ Dealing with construction permits
The Bahamas made dealing with construction permits more costly by increasing the building permit fees.
✓ Enforcing contracts
The Bahamas made enforcing contracts easier by introducing new rules of civil procedure focused on streamlining and simplifying court proceedings and ensuring less costly resolution of disputes.

Bahrain
✓ Registering property
Bahrain made registering property easier by reducing the registration fee.
✓ Getting credit
Bahrain improved access to credit information by approving the credit bureau’s collection of data on firms.

Bangladesh
✓ Trading across borders
Bangladesh made trading across borders easier by introducing a fully automated, computerized customs data management system, ASYCUDA (Automated System for Customs Data) World. This reform applies to both Chittagong and Dhaka.

Belarus
✓ Paying taxes
Belarus made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic system for filing and paying contributions for the obligatory insurance for work accidents—and by simplifying the filing requirements for corporate income tax and value added tax (VAT). On the other hand, it increased the ecological tax rate and made bad debt provisions nondeductible for purposes of the corporate income tax.

Belgium
✗ Resolving insolvency
Belgium made resolving insolvency more difficult by establishing additional requirements for commencing reorganization proceedings, including the submission of documents verified by external parties.
✓ Labor market regulation
Belgium increased the notice period for redundancy dismissals.

Benin
✓ Starting a business
Benin made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement and the fees to be paid at the one-stop shop.
✓ Protecting minority investors
Benin strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.
✓ Trading across borders
Benin made trading across borders easier by reducing the number of documents needed for imports.
✓ Enforcing contracts
Benin made enforcing contracts easier by creating a commercial section within its court of first instance.

Bolivia
✗ Trading across borders
Bolivia made trading across borders more difficult by increasing customs clearance time.

Brunei Darussalam
✓ Dealing with construction permits
Brunei Darussalam made dealing with construction permits easier by consolidating final inspections.
✓ Paying taxes
Brunei Darussalam made paying taxes easier for companies by allowing joint filing and payment of supplemental contributory pension and employee provident fund contributions and by introducing an online system for paying these 2 contributions.

Bulgaria
✓ Starting a business
Bulgaria made starting a business easier by lowering registration fees.

Burkina Faso
✓ Protecting minority investors
Burkina Faso strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.
Cabo Verde

✓ Getting credit
Cabo Verde improved its credit information system by adopting a new law providing for the establishment of credit bureaus.

Labor market regulation
Cabo Verde introduced a minimum wage.

Cameroon

✓ Getting credit
Cameroon improved its credit information system by passing regulations that provide for the establishment and operation of a credit registry database.

✓ Protecting minority investors
Cameroon strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.

China

✓ Starting a business
China made starting a business easier by eliminating both the minimum capital requirement and the requirement to obtain a capital verification report from an auditing firm. This reform applies to both Beijing and Shanghai.

✓ Paying taxes
China made paying taxes easier for companies by enhancing the electronic system for filing and paying taxes and adopting new communication channels within its taxpayer service, changes applying to both Beijing and Shanghai. In addition, China made paying taxes less costly for companies in Shanghai by reducing the social security contribution rate.

Central African Republic

✓ Protecting minority investors
The Central African Republic strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.

✓ Trading across borders
The Central African Republic made trading across borders more difficult by increasing border checks and security controls at the border post with Cameroon.

Chad

✓ Protecting minority investors
Chad strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.

Comoros

✓ Protecting minority investors
The Comoros strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.


✓ Starting a business
The Democratic Republic of Congo made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop.

✓ Dealing with construction permits
The Democratic Republic of Congo made dealing with construction permits more costly by increasing the building permit fee.

✓ Getting electricity
In the Democratic Republic of Congo the utility in Kinshasa made getting electricity easier by reducing the number of approvals required for new connections and reducing the burden of the security deposit.

✓ Getting credit
The Democratic Republic of Congo improved access to credit information by establishing a credit registry.
✓ Protecting minority investors
The Democratic Republic of Congo strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.

✓ Paying taxes
The Democratic Republic of Congo made paying taxes easier for companies by simplifying corporate income tax returns and abolishing the minimum tax payable depending on a company’s size. On the other hand, it increased the rate for the minimum lump-sum tax applied to annual revenue.

Congo, Rep.

✓ Protecting minority investors
The Republic of Congo strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.

✓ Paying taxes
The Republic of Congo made paying taxes easier for companies by simplifying corporate income tax returns and abolishing the minimum tax payable depending on a company’s size. On the other hand, it increased the rate for the minimum lump-sum tax applied to annual revenue.

Costa Rica

✓ Getting electricity
Costa Rica reduced the time required for getting electricity by improving the coordination between different departments at the utility.

✓ Paying taxes
Costa Rica made paying taxes easier for companies by implementing an electronic system for filing corporate income tax and VAT.

Côte d’Ivoire

✓ Starting a business
Côte d’Ivoire made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement, lowering registration fees and enabling the one-stop shop to publish notices of incorporation.

✓ Registering property
Côte d’Ivoire made transferring property easier by digitizing its land registry system and lowering the property registration tax.

✓ Getting credit
Côte d’Ivoire improved its credit information system by introducing regulations that govern the licensing and operation of credit bureaus.

✓ Protecting minority investors
Côte d’Ivoire strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.

✓ Trading across borders
Côte d’Ivoire made trading across borders easier by simplifying the processes for producing the inspection report and by reducing port and terminal handling charges at the port of Abidjan.

Croatia

✓ Starting a business
Croatia made starting a business easier by reducing notary fees.

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Croatia made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the requirements and fees for building permits and carrying out the final building inspection more promptly.

✓ Paying taxes
Croatia made paying taxes more complicated for companies by raising the health insurance contribution rate, increasing the Croatian Chamber of Commerce fees and introducing more detailed filing requirements for VAT. On the other hand, it abolished the contribution to the Croatian Chamber of Commerce.

✓ Trading across borders
Croatia made trading across borders easier by implementing a new electronic customs system.

Labor market regulation
Croatia lifted the 3-year limit on the duration of first-time fixed-term contracts.

Cyprus

✓ Getting credit
Cyprus improved its credit information system by adopting a central bank directive eliminating the minimum threshold for loans to be included in credit bureaus’ databases.

✓ Paying taxes
Cyprus made paying taxes easier for companies by reducing the number of provisional tax installments for corporate income tax.

Czech Republic

✓ Starting a business
The Czech Republic made starting a business easier by substantially reducing the minimum capital requirement and the paid-in minimum capital requirement.

✓ Getting credit
The Czech Republic improved access to credit by adopting a new legal regime on secured transactions that
allows the registration of receivables at the collateral registry and permits out-of-court enforcement of collateral.

**Enforcing contracts**
The Czech Republic made enforcing contracts easier by amending its civil procedure code and modifying the monetary jurisdiction of its courts.

**Denmark**
- **Starting a business**
  Denmark made starting a business easier by reducing the paid-in minimum capital requirement.

**Djibouti**
- **Dealing with construction permits**
  Djibouti made dealing with construction permits less time-consuming by streamlining the review process for building permits.

**Dominican Republic**
- **Dealing with construction permits**
  The Dominican Republic made dealing with construction permits more costly by increasing the building permit fees.
- **Getting credit**
  The Dominican Republic improved its credit information system by enacting a new law regulating the protection of personal data and the operation of credit reporting institutions.
- **Protecting minority investors**
  The Dominican Republic strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater shareholder rights and requirements for greater corporate transparency.
- **Trading across borders**
  The Dominican Republic made trading across borders easier by upgrading to a new electronic data interchange system called ECUAPASS.

**Ecuador**
- **Protecting minority investors**
  Ecuador strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions as well as a requirement that a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring voting shares.
- **Trading across borders**
  Ecuador made trading across borders easier by upgrading to a new electronic data interchange system called ECUAPASS.

**Egypt, Arab Rep.**
- **Protecting minority investors**
  The Arab Republic of Egypt strengthened minority investor protections by introducing additional requirements for approval of related-party transactions and greater requirements for disclosure of such transactions to the stock exchange.

**Equatorial Guinea**
- **Protecting minority investors**
  Equatorial Guinea strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.

**Finland**
- **Labor market regulation**
  Finland eliminated the requirement to notify a third party before dismissing a redundant employee or group of redundant employees.

**France**
- **Starting a business**
  France made starting a business easier by reducing the time it takes to register a company at the one-stop shop (Centre de Formalités des Entreprises).
- **Labor market regulation**
  France substantially amended its labor market regulations, including the provisions dealing with large-scale collective redundancy processes.

**Gabon**
- **Registering property**
  Gabon made transferring property more costly by increasing the property registration tax rate.
- **Protecting minority investors**
  Gabon strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.
- **Paying taxes**
  Gabon made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic system for filing and paying VAT.

**Gambia, The**
- **Starting a business**
  The Gambia made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to pay stamp duty.
- **Protecting minority investors**
  The Gambia strengthened minority investor protections by clarifying the duties of directors and providing new venues and remedies for minority shareholders seeking redress for oppressive conduct.

**Georgia**
- **Labor market regulation**
  Georgia reduced the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts
and introduced a notice period for redundancy dismissals.

Germany

- **Starting a business**
  Germany made starting a business more difficult by increasing notary fees.

- **Registering property**
  Germany made transferring property more costly by increasing the property transfer tax rate.

Ghana

- **Dealing with construction permits**
  Ghana made dealing with construction permits less time-consuming by streamlining the process to obtain a building permit.

- **Trading across borders**
  Ghana made trading across borders easier by upgrading infrastructure at the port of Tema.

Greece

- **Starting a business**
  Greece made starting a business easier by lowering registration costs.

- **Registering property**
  Greece made transferring property easier by reducing the property transfer tax rate and eliminating the requirement for a municipal tax clearance certificate.

- **Enforcing contracts**
  Greece made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic filing system for court users.

Guatemala

- **Starting a business**
  Guatemala made starting a business easier by eliminating certain registration fees and reducing the time to publish a notice of incorporation.

- **Paying taxes**
  Guatemala made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by enhancing the electronic system for filing and paying corporate income tax and VAT and by reducing the capital gains and corporate income tax rates. On the other hand, it also made paying taxes more complicated by introducing a new form for capital gains tax.

Guinea

- **Registering property**
  Guinea made registering property easier by reorganizing the records at the land registry and reducing the notary fees.

- **Protecting minority investors**
  Guinea strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.

Guinea-Bissau

- **Protecting minority investors**
  Guinea-Bissau strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.

Hong Kong SAR, China

- **Starting a business**
  Hong Kong SAR, China, made starting a business more difficult by increasing the registration fee.

- **Protecting minority investors**
  Hong Kong SAR, China, strengthened minority investor protections by introducing requirements for directors to provide more detailed disclosure of conflicts of interest to the other board members.

Hungary

- **Starting a business**
  Hungary made starting a business more difficult by increasing the paid-in minimum capital requirement.

- **Getting credit**
  Hungary improved access to credit by adopting a new legal regime on secured transactions that implements a functional approach to secured transactions, extends security interests to the products and proceeds of the original asset and establishes a modern, notice-based collateral registry.

- **Paying taxes**
  Hungary made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by abolishing the special tax that had been temporarily introduced in 2010 and by reducing the vehicle tax rate.

Iceland

- **Starting a business**
  Iceland made starting a business easier by offering faster online procedures.

- **Registering property**
  Iceland made transferring property more costly by increasing the stamp duty rate.

India

- **Starting a business**
  India made starting a business easier by considerably reducing the
registration fees, but also made it more difficult by introducing a requirement to file a declaration before the commencement of business operations. These changes apply to both Delhi and Mumbai.

✓ Getting electricity
In India the utility in Mumbai made getting electricity less costly by reducing the security deposit for a new connection.

✓ Protecting minority investors
India strengthened minority investor protections by requiring greater disclosure of conflicts of interest by board members, increasing the remedies available in case of prejudicial related-party transactions and introducing additional safeguards for shareholders of privately held companies. This reform applies to both Delhi and Mumbai.

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**Indonesia**

✓ Starting a business
Indonesia made starting a business easier by allowing the Ministry of Law and Human Rights to electronically issue the approval letter for the deed of establishment. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.

✓ Getting electricity
In Indonesia the electricity company in Jakarta made getting electricity easier by eliminating the need for electrical contractors to obtain multiple certificates guaranteeing the safety of internal installations—though it also increased the cost by introducing a security deposit for new connections.

✓ Paying taxes
Indonesia made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing employers’ health insurance contribution rate. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.

✓ Trading across borders
In Indonesia trading across borders became more difficult because of insufficient infrastructure at the Tanjung Priok Port Jakarta. This change applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.

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**Iran, Islamic Rep.**

✓ Starting a business
The Islamic Republic of Iran made starting a business easier by streamlining the name reservation and company registration procedures.

✓ Getting electricity
The Islamic Republic of Iran made getting electricity easier by eliminating the need for customers to obtain an excavation permit for electricity connection works.

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**Ireland**

✓ Registering property
Ireland made transferring property easier by enhancing its computer-ized system at the land registry and implementing an online system for the registration of title.

✓ Getting credit
Ireland improved its credit information system by passing a new act that provides for the establishment and operation of a credit registry.

✓ Enforcing contracts
Ireland made enforcing contracts easier by modifying the monetary jurisdictions of its courts.

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**Israel**

✓ Paying taxes
Israel made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the profit tax rate.

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**Italy**

✓ Starting a business
Italy made starting a business easier by reducing both the minimum capital requirement and the paid-in minimum capital requirement and by streamlining registration procedures.

Labor market regulation
Italy relaxed the conditions for using fixed-term contracts but reduced their maximum duration to 36 months.

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**Jamaica**

✓ Starting a business
Jamaica made starting a business easier by consolidating forms, but also made it more time-consuming as a result of delays in the implementation of the electronic interface with different agencies.

✓ Getting electricity
Jamaica made getting electricity less expensive by reducing the cost of external connection works.

✓ Getting credit
Jamaica improved access to credit by establishing credit bureaus and by adopting a new secured transactions law that implements a functional approach to secured transactions, broadens the range of assets that can be used as collateral, allows a general description of assets granted as collateral and establishes a modern, notice-based collateral registry.

✓ Paying taxes
Jamaica made paying taxes more costly for companies by introducing a new minimum business tax.

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**Jordan**

✓ Trading across borders
Jordan made trading across borders easier by improving infrastructure at the port of Aqaba.

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**Kağakhstan**

✓ Registering property
Kağakhstan made registering property easier by introducing effective time limits and an expedited procedure.

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Paying taxes
Kazakhstan made paying taxes more complicated for companies by introducing a mandatory contribution to the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs and by increasing the vehicle and environmental taxes.

Trading across borders
Kazakhstan made trading across borders easier by opening a new border station and railway link that helped reduce congestion at the border with China.

Enforcing contracts
Kazakhstan made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic filing system for court users.

Resolving insolvency
Kazakhstan made resolving insolvency easier by clarifying and simplifying provisions on liquidation and reorganization, introducing the concept of creditors’ meetings, expanding the rights of creditors during insolvency proceedings, authorizing payment in kind to secured creditors and clarifying the process for submitting creditors’ claims.

Kenya

Dealing with construction permits
Kenya made dealing with construction permits more costly by increasing the building permit fees.

Getting credit
Kenya improved its credit information system by passing legislation that allows the sharing of both positive and negative credit information and establishes guidelines for the treatment of historical data.

Paying taxes
Kenya made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing employers’ social security contribution rate.

Kiribati

Paying taxes
Kiribati made paying taxes more complicated for companies by introducing VAT.

Korea, Rep.

Registering property
The Republic of Korea made transferring property easier by reducing the time needed to buy housing bonds and to register the property transfer.

Protecting minority investors
Korea strengthened minority investor protections by increasing the level of transparency expected from companies on managerial compensation.

Kosovo

Dealing with construction permits
Kosovo made dealing with construction permits easier by establishing a new phased inspection scheme and substantially reducing the building permit fee.

Enforcing contracts
Kosovo made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a private bailiff system.

Latvia

Starting a business
Latvia made starting a business more difficult by increasing registration fees, bank fees and notary fees.

Paying taxes
Latvia made paying taxes easier for companies by simplifying the VAT return, enhancing the electronic system for filing corporate income tax returns and reducing employers’ social security contribution rate.

Lithuania

Starting a business
Lithuania made starting a business easier by eliminating the need to have a company seal and speeding up the VAT registration at the State Tax Inspectorate.

Dealing with construction permits
Lithuania made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the time required for processing building permit applications.

Enforcing contracts
Lithuania made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic filing system for court users.

Macedonia, FYR

Starting a business
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia made starting a business easier by implementing a modern, unified, notice-based collateral registry.

Protecting minority investors
Lao PDR strengthened minority investor protections by introducing requirements for directors to disclose in detail their conflicts of interest to the other board members and for companies to promptly disclose related-party transactions to the Securities Commission and to include the information in their annual reports.

Lao PDR

Getting credit
The Lao People’s Democratic Republic improved access to credit by implementing a modern, unified, notice-based collateral registry.

Protecting minority investors
Lao PDR strengthened minority investor protections by introducing requirements for directors to disclose in detail their conflicts of interest to the other board members and for companies to promptly disclose related-party transactions to the Securities Commission and to include the information in their annual reports.

Kuwait

Starting a business
Kuwait made starting a business more difficult by increasing the commercial license fee.

Lithuania

Starting a business
Lithuania made starting a business easier by eliminating the need to have a company seal and speeding up the VAT registration at the State Tax Inspectorate.

Dealing with construction permits
Lithuania made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the time required for processing building permit applications.

Enforcing contracts
Lithuania made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic filing system for court users.
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Easier by making online registration free of charge.

- Protecting minority investors
  FYR Macedonia strengthened minority investor protections by requiring prior review of related-party transactions by an external auditor.

- Resolving insolvency
  FYR Macedonia made resolving insolvency easier by establishing a framework for electronic auctions of debtors’ assets, streamlining and tightening the time frames for insolvency proceedings and the appeals process and establishing a framework for out-of-court restructurings.

Malta

- Starting a business
  Malta made starting a business easier by creating an electronic link between the Registrar of Companies and the Inland Revenue Department to facilitate issuance of a tax identification number.

Mauritania

- Starting a business
  Mauritania made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop and eliminating the publication requirement and the fee to obtain a tax identification number.

- Getting credit
  Mauritania improved its credit information system by lowering the minimum threshold for loans to be included in the registry’s database.

Mauritius

- Starting a business
  Mauritius made starting a business easier by reducing trade license fees.

- Enforcing contracts
  Mauritius made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic filing system for court users.

- Labor market regulation
  Mauritius reduced the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts.

Mexico

- Getting credit
  Mexico improved access to credit by amending its insolvency proceedings law and establishing clear grounds for relief from a stay of enforcement actions by secured creditors during reorganization procedures. This reform applies to both Mexico City and Monterrey.

- Resolving insolvency
  Mexico made resolving insolvency easier by clarifying several rules, shortening the time extensions allowed during reorganization, facilitating the electronic submission of documents and improving the legal rights of creditors and other parties involved in bankruptcy procedures. This reform applies to both Mexico City and Monterrey.

Moldova

- Starting a business
  Moldova made starting a business easier by abolishing the minimum capital requirement.

- Paying taxes
  Moldova made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic system for filing and paying social security contributions. On the other hand, it increased the minimum salary used for calculating the environmental tax liability. Furthermore, Moldova increased the employers’ health insurance contribution rate and introduced new filing requirements for VAT.

Mongolia

- Protecting minority investors
  Mongolia strengthened minority investor protections by introducing a requirement for public joint stock companies to publicly disclose related-party transactions within 2 business days.

- Paying taxes
  Mongolia made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic system for filing corporate income tax, VAT and social security contributions.
Montenegro

- Dealing with construction permits
  Montenegro made dealing with construction permits substantially less costly by reducing the fee for the provision of utilities on construction land and eliminating the fee for obtaining urban development and technical requirements from the municipality.

Morocco

- Trading across borders
  Morocco made trading across borders easier by reducing the number of export documents required.

Mozambique

- Registering property
  Mozambique made registering property easier by streamlining procedures at the land registry and municipality.

- Resolving insolvency
  Mozambique made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a court-supervised reorganization procedure and a mechanism for prepackaged reorganizations, by clarifying rules on the appointment and qualifications of insolvency administrators and by strengthening creditors’ rights.

Myanmar

- Trading across borders
  Myanmar made trading across borders easier by reducing the number of documents required for exports and imports.

Namibia

- Paying taxes
  Namibia made paying taxes more complicated for companies by introducing a new vocational education and training levy.

Nepal

- Dealing with construction permits
  Nepal made dealing with construction permits easier by implementing a new electronic building permit system.

New Zealand

- Getting credit
  New Zealand improved access to credit information by beginning to distribute both positive and negative credit information.

Nicaragua

- Starting a business
  Nicaragua made starting a business easier by combining multiple registration procedures.

- Getting credit
  Nicaragua improved access to credit information by starting to provide credit scores to banks and financial institutions.

Niger

- Protecting minority investors
  Niger strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.

Norway

- Starting a business
  Norway made starting a business easier by revising the fee structure for new connections.

- Registering property
  Poland made transferring property easier by introducing online procedures and reducing notary fees.

- Trading across borders
  Poland made trading across borders easier by implementing a new terminal operating system at the port of Gdansk.

Pakistan

- Trading across borders
  Pakistan made trading across borders easier by introducing a fully automated, computerized system (the Web-Based One Customs system) for the submission and processing of export and import documents. This reform applies to both Lahore and Karachi.

Palau

- Trading across borders
  Palau made trading across borders easier by improving the system for calculating customs duties and thereby reducing customs clearance time.

Panama

- Getting credit
  Panama improved access to credit through a new law broadening the range of assets that can be used as collateral, allowing a general description of assets granted as collateral and allowing out-of-court enforcement of collateral.

Philippines

- Trading across borders
  In the Philippines trading across borders became more difficult because of a new city ordinance restricting truck traffic in Manila.

Poland

- Getting electricity
  Poland made getting electricity less costly by introducing a fully automated, computerized system (the Web-Based One Customs system) for the submission and processing of export and import documents. This reform applies to both Lahore and Karachi.

- Registering property
  Poland made transferring property easier by introducing online procedures and reducing notary fees.

- Trading across borders
  Poland made trading across borders easier by implementing a new terminal operating system at the port of Gdansk.
Portugal

✔ Paying taxes
Portugal made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate and introducing a reduced corporate tax rate for a portion of the taxable profits of qualifying small and medium-size enterprises.

✔ Enforcing contracts
Portugal made enforcing contracts easier by adopting a new code of civil procedure designed to reduce case backlogs, streamline court procedures, enhance the role of judges and speed up the resolution of standard civil and commercial disputes.

Labor market regulation
Portugal reduced the amount of severance pay per year of service and increased the maximum cumulative duration of fixed-term contracts.

Puerto Rico (U.S.)

✔ Dealing with construction permits
Puerto Rico (territory of the United States) made dealing with construction permits easier by introducing the option of hiring authorized private professionals to carry out the fire safety recommendations and issue the fire safety and environmental health certificates.

Romania

✔ Paying taxes
Romania made paying taxes easier for companies, with the majority now using the electronic system for filing and paying taxes.

Russian Federation

✔ Starting a business
The Russian Federation made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to deposit the charter capital before company registration as well as the requirement to notify tax authorities of the opening of a bank account. This reform applies to both Moscow and St. Petersburg.

✔ Registering property
Russia made transferring property easier by eliminating the requirement for notarization and introducing tighter time limits for completing the property registration. This reform applies to both Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Rwanda

✖ Starting a business
Rwanda made starting a business more difficult by requiring companies to buy an electronic billing machine from a certified supplier, but also made it easier by launching free mandatory online registration.

✔ Dealing with construction permits
Rwanda made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the fee for obtaining a freehold title and by streamlining the process for obtaining an occupancy permit.

✔ Getting electricity
In Rwanda the electricity company made getting electricity less costly by eliminating several fees.

✔ Getting credit
Rwanda improved its credit information system by introducing regulations developed by the West African Economic and Monetary Union that govern the licensing and operation of credit bureaus.

✔ Protecting minority investors
Senegal strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors; by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions; and by making it possible for shareholder plaintiffs to request from the other party, and from witnesses, documents relevant to the subject matter of the claim during the trial.

São Tomé and Príncipe

✔ Starting a business
São Tomé and Príncipe made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement.

✔ Dealing with construction permits
Senegal made dealing with construction permits less time-consuming by reducing the time for processing building permit applications.

✔ Registering property
Senegal made transferring property easier by replacing the requirement for authorization from the tax authority with a notification requirement and by creating a single step for the property transfer at the land registry.

✔ Getting credit
Senegal improved its credit information system by introducing regulations developed by the West African Economic and Monetary Union that govern the licensing and operation of credit bureaus.
Paying taxes
Senegal made paying taxes easier for companies by abolishing the vehicle tax and making it possible to download the declaration forms for VAT online.

Serbia

Registering property
Serbia made transferring property more difficult by eliminating the expedited procedure for registering a property transfer.

Seychelles

Paying taxes
The Seychelles made paying taxes easier for companies by reducing the business tax rate applicable to income above 1 million Seychelles rupees ($77,700) and by introducing a simplified new tax return allowing joint filing and payment of the business tax, VAT and corporate social responsibility tax. On the other hand, it increased employers’ pension fund contribution rate.

Enforcing contracts
The Seychelles made enforcing contracts easier by establishing a commercial court, implementing and refining its case management system, introducing court-annexed mediation and addressing scheduling conflicts within the courts.

Resolving insolvency
The Seychelles made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a reorganization procedure, provisions on the avoidance of undervalued transactions and the possibility to request post-commencement financing during the reorganization.

Sierra Leone

Getting electricity
Sierra Leone made getting electricity easier by eliminating the need for customers to submit an application letter inquiring about a new connection before submitting an application—and made the process faster by improving staffing at the utility.

Registering property
Sierra Leone made registering property easier by introducing a fast-track procedure.

Getting credit
Sierra Leone improved its credit information system by beginning to distribute both positive and negative data and by increasing the system’s coverage rate.

Paying taxes
Sierra Leone made paying taxes more complicated for companies by introducing a capital gains tax.

Singapore

Enforcing contracts
Singapore made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a new electronic litigation system that streamlines litigation proceedings.

Slovak Republic

Starting a business
The Slovak Republic made starting a business easier by reducing the time needed to register with the district court and eliminating the need (and therefore the fee) for the verification of signatures by a notary public.

Getting credit
The Slovak Republic improved its credit information system by implementing a new law on the protection of personal data.

Slovenia

Resolving insolvency
Slovenia made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a simplified reorganization procedure for small companies and a preventive restructuring procedure for medium-size and large ones, by allowing creditors greater participation in the management of the debtor and by establishing provisions for an increase in share capital through debt-equity swaps.

Solomon Islands

Getting electricity
The Solomon Islands made getting electricity easier by improving procurement practices for the materials needed to establish new connections.

South Africa

Getting credit
South Africa made access to credit information more difficult by introducing regulations requiring credit bureaus to remove negative credit information from their databases, such as adverse information on consumer behavior or enforcement action accumulated on a consumer’s record before April 1, 2014.

Enforcing contracts
South Africa made enforcing contracts easier by amending the monetary jurisdiction of its lower courts and introducing voluntary mediation.

Spain

Starting a business
Spain made starting a business easier by introducing an electronic system linking several public agencies and thereby simplifying business registration.

Registering property
Spain made transferring property easier by reducing the property transfer tax rate.

Paying taxes
Spain made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the statutory corporate income tax rate.

Resolving insolvency
Spain made resolving insolvency easier by introducing new rules for out-of-court restructuring, introducing provisions applicable to
prepackaged reorganizations and making insolvency proceedings more public.

**Sri Lanka**

- **Paying taxes**
  Sri Lanka made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the reduced corporate income tax rate for qualifying small and medium-size enterprises.

**St. Kitts and Nevis**

- **Dealing with construction permits**
  St. Kitts and Nevis made dealing with construction permits more costly by increasing the building permit fees.
- **Paying taxes**
  St. Kitts and Nevis made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

**St. Lucia**

- **Trading across borders**
  St. Lucia made trading across borders easier by implementing the ASYCUDA World electronic system for the submission of export and import documents and by reducing the number of export documents required.

**Suriname**

- **Starting a business**
  Suriname made starting a business easier by introducing an online system for obtaining trade licenses.

**Swaziland**

- **Starting a business**
  Swaziland made starting a business easier by enabling the Statistics Agency to issue the statistics code for the new business at the time of registration.
- **Dealing with construction permits**
  Tajikistan made dealing with construction permits less costly by reducing the fee to obtain the architectural planning assignment.
- **Getting credit**
  Tajikistan improved access to credit information by beginning to provide credit scores.
- **Paying taxes**
  Tajikistan made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic system for filing and paying corporate income tax, VAT and labor taxes.

**Taiwan, China**

- **Getting electricity**
  Taiwan, China, made getting electricity easier by eliminating site inspections.
- **Getting credit**
  Taiwan, China, improved access to credit information by beginning to include data from utility companies in credit reports.
- **Paying taxes**
  Taiwan, China, made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic system for paying the vehicle license tax.
- **Trading across borders**
  Taiwan, China, made trading across borders easier by upgrading infrastructure at the port of Dar es Salaam.

**Thailand**

- **Dealing with construction permits**
  Thailand made dealing with construction permits less time-consuming by introducing a fast-track approval process for building permits for smaller buildings.
Timor-Leste

✓ Starting a business
Timor-Leste made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop.

✓ Resolving insolvency
Trinidad and Tobago made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a formal mechanism for rehabilitation, establishing a public office responsible for the general administration of insolvency proceedings and clarifying the rules on appointment of trustees.

Togo

✓ Starting a business
Togo made starting a business easier by enabling the one-stop shop to publish notices of incorporation and eliminating the requirement to obtain an economic operator card.

✓ Registering property
Togo made transferring property easier by lowering the property registration tax rate.

✓ Protecting minority investors
Togo strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for disclosure of related-party transactions to the board of directors and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to related-party transactions and to appoint auditors to conduct an inspection of such transactions.

✓ Paying taxes
Togo made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the payroll tax rate.

Trinidad and Tobago

✓ Starting a business
Trinidad and Tobago made starting a business easier by introducing online systems for employer registration and tax registration.

✓ Getting credit
Trinidad and Tobago improved access to credit by adopting the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, which establishes clear grounds for relief from a stay of enforcement actions by secured creditors during reorganization procedures as well as a time limit for the stay.

✓ Resolving insolvency
Ukraine made resolving insolvency easier by introducing an electronic system for filing and paying labor taxes. On the other hand, it increased the environmental tax.

United Arab Emirates

✓ Registering property
The United Arab Emirates made transferring property easier by introducing new service centers and a standard contract for property transactions.

✓ Getting credit
In the United Arab Emirates the credit bureau improved access to credit information by starting to exchange credit information with a utility.

✓ Protecting minority investors
The United Arab Emirates strengthened minority investor protections by introducing additional approval requirements for related-party transactions and greater requirements for disclosure of such transactions to the stock exchange; by introducing a requirement that interested directors be held liable in a related-party transaction that is unfair or constitutes a conflict of interest; and by making it possible for shareholders to inspect the documents pertaining to a related-party transaction, appoint auditors to inspect the transaction and request a rescission of the transaction if it should prove to be unfair.
United Kingdom

✓ Starting a business
The United Kingdom made starting a business easier by speeding up tax registration.

✓ Paying taxes
The United Kingdom made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate. On the other hand, it increased the landfill tax.

United States

✓ Starting a business
In the United States starting a business became easier in New York City thanks to faster online procedures.

Uruguay

✓ Trading across borders
Uruguay made trading across borders easier by implementing a risk-based inspection system that reduced customs clearance time for both exports and imports.

✓ Enforcing contracts
Uruguay made enforcing contracts easier by simplifying and speeding up the proceedings for commercial disputes.

Uzbekistan

✓ Protecting minority investors
Uzbekistan strengthened minority investor protections by introducing a requirement for public joint stock companies to disclose information about related-party transactions in their annual report; setting higher standards for disclosure of such transactions to the board of directors; and establishing the right of shareholders to receive all documents related to such transactions.

✓ Trading across borders
Uzbekistan made trading across borders easier by reducing the number of documents to export and import and by making it possible to submit documents electronically.

Vanuatu

✓ Registering property
Vanuatu made property transfers faster by digitizing its land registry system and hiring and training new staff.

Venezuela, RB

✗ Starting a business
Republika Bolivariana de Venezuela made starting a business more difficult by increasing incorporation costs.

Vietnam

✓ Getting credit
Vietnam improved its credit information system by establishing a new credit bureau.

✓ Paying taxes
Vietnam made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

West Bank and Gaza

✓ Paying taxes
West Bank and Gaza made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing the option to make either 1 or 4 advance payments of corporate income tax.

Yemen, Rep.

✗ Trading across borders
In the Republic of Yemen trading across borders became more difficult as a result of inefficient port operation.

Zambia

✓ Registering property
Zambia made transferring property more difficult by increasing the property transfer tax rate.

✓ Getting credit
In Zambia the credit bureau improved access to credit information by starting to exchange credit information with retailers and utilities.

✓ Paying taxes
Zambia made paying taxes easier for companies by abolishing the medical levy and by introducing an online system for filing corporate income tax, VAT and some labor taxes. At the same time, it also increased the property transfer tax.