

Summaries of *Doing Business* reforms in 2012/13



Doing Business reforms affecting all sets of indicators included in this year's report, implemented from June 2012 to June 2013.

- ✓ *Doing Business* reform making it easier to do business
- ✗ *Doing Business* reform making it more difficult to do business

Afghanistan

✓ Starting a business

Afghanistan made starting a business easier by reducing the time and cost to obtain a business license and by eliminating the inspection of the premises of newly registered companies.

✓ Getting credit

Afghanistan strengthened its secured transactions system by implementing a unified collateral registry.

Albania

✓ Paying taxes

Albania made paying taxes easier by allowing corporate income tax to be paid quarterly.

Angola

✗ Trading across borders

Angola increased documentation requirements for cross-border trade by introducing a mandatory registration for all traders and a new license for export and import transactions.

Argentina

✗ Starting a business

Argentina made starting a business more difficult by increasing the incorporation costs.

✓ Trading across borders

Argentina reduced the number of documents necessary for importing by eliminating nonautomatic license requirements.

Armenia

✓ Starting a business

Armenia made starting a business easier by eliminating the company registration fees.

✓ Paying taxes

Armenia made paying taxes easier by merging the employee and employer social contributions and individual income tax into one unified income tax.

Australia

✓ Getting credit

Australia improved its credit information system through the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012, which permits credit bureaus to collect account payment history with improved privacy protection.

Azerbaijan

✓ Starting a business

Azerbaijan made starting a business easier by introducing free online

registration services and eliminating preregistration formalities.

- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Azerbaijan adopted a new construction code that streamlined procedures relating to the issuance of building permits and established official time limits for some procedures.
- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Azerbaijan made trading across borders easier by streamlining internal customs procedures.

Bahamas, The

- ✓ **Registering property**
The Bahamas made transferring property easier by reducing the stamp duty.
- ✓ **Resolving insolvency**
The Bahamas enhanced its insolvency process by implementing rules for the remuneration of liquidators, allowing voluntary liquidations and outlining clawback provisions for suspect transactions.

Bahrain

- ✗ **Starting a business**
Bahrain made starting a business more expensive by increasing the cost of the business registration certificate.
- ✓ **Getting credit**
Bahrain improved access to credit information by starting to collect payment information from retailers.

Employing workers

Bahrain reduced the maximum cumulative duration of fixed-term contracts, made third-party notification mandatory for redundancy dismissals and increased paid annual leave.

Bangladesh

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Bangladesh made starting a business easier by automating the registration process and reducing the time required to obtain a trading license and to complete the tax and value added tax registration.

Belarus

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Belarus made starting a business easier by reducing the registration fees and eliminating the requirement for an initial capital deposit at a bank before registration.
- ✓ **Getting electricity**
Belarus made getting electricity easier by speeding up the process of issuing technical specifications and excavation permits and by reducing the time needed to connect to the electricity network.
- ✓ **Registering property**
Belarus made transferring property easier by introducing a fast-track procedure for property registration.

- ✓ **Resolving insolvency**
Belarus improved its insolvency process through a new insolvency law that, among other things, changes the appointment process for insolvency administrators and encourages the sale of assets in insolvency. The law also regulates the liability of shareholders and directors of the insolvent company.

Benin

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Benin made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop.
- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Benin made trading across borders easier by improving port management systems, enhancing the infrastructure around the port and putting in place new rules for the transit of trucks.

Bhutan

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Bhutan made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to obtain the security clearance certificate.
- ✓ **Getting credit**
Bhutan improved access to credit information through new regulations governing the licensing and functioning of the credit bureau and guaranteeing borrowers' right to access their data.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- ✗ **Paying taxes**
Bosnia and Herzegovina introduced a penalty for failure to employ the required minimum number of people in special categories—though it also temporarily abolished the forestry tax.

Botswana

- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Botswana made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement for an environmental impact assessment for low-risk projects.

Brunei Darussalam

- ✓ **Getting credit**
Brunei Darussalam improved access to credit information by establishing a public credit registry.

Burkina Faso

- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Burkina Faso made paying taxes easier for companies by abolishing the separate capital gains tax on real estate properties.

Burundi

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Burundi made starting a business easier by allowing registration with the Ministry of Labor at the one-stop shop and by speeding up the process of obtaining the registration certificate.
- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Burundi made dealing with construction permits easier by establishing a one-stop shop for obtaining building permits and utility connections.
- ✓ **Getting electricity**
Burundi made getting electricity easier by eliminating the electricity utility's monopoly on the sale of materials needed for new connections and by dropping the processing fee for new connections.
- ✓ **Registering property**
Burundi made transferring property easier by creating a one-stop shop for property registration.

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

- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Burundi made trading across borders easier by eliminating the requirement for a preshipment inspection clean report of findings.

Cambodia

- × **Starting a business**
Cambodia made starting a business more difficult by introducing a requirement for a company name check at the Department of Intellectual Property and by increasing the costs both for getting registration documents approved and stamped by the Phnom Penh Tax Department and for completing incorporation with the commercial registrar.

Cameroon

- × **Dealing with construction permits**
Cameroon made dealing with construction permits more complex by introducing notification and inspection requirements. At the same time, Cameroon made it easier by decentralizing the process for obtaining a building permit and by introducing strict time limits for processing the application and issuing the certificate of conformity.

Cape Verde

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Cape Verde made starting a business easier by abolishing the minimum capital requirement.
- ✓ **Registering property**
Cape Verde made property transfers faster by digitizing its land registry.

Central African Republic

- ✓ **Trading across borders**
The Central African Republic made trading across borders easier by rehabilitating the key transit road at the border with Cameroon.

Chad

- ✓ **Registering property**
Chad made transferring property easier by lowering the property transfer tax.
- × **Trading across borders**
Chad made trading across borders more difficult by introducing a new export and import document.

Chile

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Chile made starting a business easier by creating a new online system for business registration.

China

- ✓ **Getting credit**
China improved its credit information system by introducing credit information industry regulations, which guarantee borrowers' right to inspect their data.
- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
China made enforcing contracts easier by amending its civil procedure code to streamline and speed up all court proceedings.

Colombia

- ✓ **Getting electricity**
Colombia made getting electricity easier by opening a one-stop shop for electricity connections and improving the efficiency of the utility's internal processes.
- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
Colombia made enforcing contracts easier by simplifying and speeding up the proceedings for commercial disputes.

Comoros

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Comoros made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to deposit the minimum capital in a bank before incorporation.

Congo, Dem. Rep.

- × **Starting a business**
The Democratic Republic of Congo made starting a business more complicated by increasing the minimum capital requirement. At the same time, it made the process easier by reducing the time and cost and by eliminating the requirement to obtain a certificate confirming the location of the new company's headquarters.

- ✓ **Getting credit**
The Democratic Republic of Congo strengthened its secured transactions system by adopting the OHADA (Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa) Uniform Act on Secured Transactions. The new law broadens the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets) and the range of obligations that can be secured, extends security interests to the proceeds of the original asset and introduces the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

- ✓ **Protecting investors**
The Democratic Republic of Congo strengthened investor protections by adopting the OHADA Uniform Act on Commercial Companies and Economic Interest Groups, which introduces additional approval and disclosure requirements for related-party transactions and makes it possible to sue directors when such transactions harm the company.

- × **Paying taxes**
The Democratic Republic of Congo made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the employers' social security contribution rate—though it also reduced the corporate income tax rate.

- ✓ **Resolving insolvency**
The Democratic Republic of Congo made resolving insolvency easier by adopting the OHADA Uniform Act Organizing Collective Proceedings for Wiping Off Debts. The law allows an insolvent debtor to file for preventive settlement, legal redress or liquidation and sets out clear rules on the steps and procedures for each of the options available.

Congo, Rep.

- ✓ **Starting a business**
The Republic of Congo made starting a business easier by reducing the registration costs and eliminating the merchant card.
- ✓ **Paying taxes**
The Republic of Congo made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by merging several employment taxes into a single tax, reducing the corporate income tax rate and lowering the tax rate on rental value.
- ✓ **Trading across borders**
The Republic of Congo made trading across borders easier by implementing prearrival processing of ship manifests and making improvements in customs administration.

Costa Rica

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Costa Rica made starting a business easier by creating an online platform for business registration, reducing the time to register with social security and simplifying the legalization of company books.
- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Costa Rica made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating procedures, improving efficiency and launching an online platform that streamlined the building permit process by integrating different agencies' approval processes.

Côte d'Ivoire

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Côte d'Ivoire made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop, reducing the notary fees and replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of company registration.
- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Côte d'Ivoire reduced the time required for obtaining a building permit by streamlining procedures at the one-stop shop (Service du Guichet Unique du Foncier et de l'Habitat).

- ✓ **Registering property**
Côte d'Ivoire made transferring property easier by streamlining procedures and reducing the property transfer tax.
- ✗ **Paying taxes**
Côte d'Ivoire made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the employers' contribution rate for social security related to retirement and by increasing the rate for the special tax on equipment.
- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
Côte d'Ivoire made enforcing contracts easier by creating a specialized commercial court.

Croatia

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Croatia made starting a business easier by introducing a new form of limited liability company with a lower minimum capital requirement and simplified incorporation procedures.
- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Croatia made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic system for social security contributions and by reducing the rates for the forest and Chamber of Commerce contributions.
- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Croatia made trading across borders easier by improving the physical and information system infrastructure at the port of Rijeka and by streamlining export customs procedures in preparation for accession to the Common Transit Convention of the European Union.
- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
Croatia made enforcing contracts easier by streamlining litigation proceedings and transferring certain enforcement procedures from the courts to state agencies.
- ✓ **Resolving insolvency**
Croatia made resolving insolvency easier by introducing an expedited out-of-court restructuring procedure.

Czech Republic

- ✗ **Registering property**
The Czech Republic made transferring property more costly by increasing the property transfer tax rate.
- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
The Czech Republic made enforcing contracts easier by simplifying and speeding up the proceedings for the execution and enforcement of judgments.
- Employing workers**
The Czech Republic abolished the minimum wage for young workers.

Denmark

- ✗ **Dealing with construction permits**
Denmark made dealing with construction permits more costly by increasing the fee for building permits.

Djibouti

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Djibouti made starting a business easier by simplifying registration formalities and eliminating the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies.
- ✓ **Getting credit**
Djibouti strengthened its secured transactions system by adopting a new commercial code, which broadens the range of movable assets that can be used as collateral.
- ✓ **Resolving insolvency**
Djibouti made resolving insolvency easier through its new commercial code, which allows an insolvent debtor to file for preventive settlement, legal redress or liquidation and sets out clear rules on the steps and procedures for each of the alternatives available.

Ecuador

- ✓ **Getting electricity**
Ecuador made getting electricity easier by dividing the city of Quito into zones for the purpose of handling applications for new connections—a change that improved the utility's customer

service—and by reducing the fees to obtain a connection.

Egypt, Arab Rep.

- ✗ **Paying taxes**
Egypt made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the corporate income tax rate.

El Salvador

- ✗ **Paying taxes**
El Salvador made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the corporate income tax rate.
- ✓ **Trading across borders**
El Salvador made trading across borders easier by developing a one-stop shop for exporting and by implementing electronic data interchange systems.

Estonia

- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
Estonia made enforcing contracts easier by lowering court fees.

Fiji

- ✗ **Paying taxes**
Fiji made paying taxes more complicated for companies by transferring the fringe benefit tax liability from employees to employers and by limiting the deductibility of mandatory contributions.

France

- ✓ **Registering property**
France made transferring property easier by speeding up the registration of the deed of sale at the land registry.

Gabon

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Gabon made starting a business easier by replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration.
- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Gabon made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the time required to obtain a building permit and

by eliminating the requirement for an on-site inspection before construction starts.

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

Gambia, The

- ✓ **Paying taxes**
The Gambia made paying taxes easier for companies by replacing the sales tax with a value added tax.

Georgia

- ✓ **Getting credit**
Georgia improved its credit information system by implementing a new law on personal data protection.

Ghana

- ✗ **Starting a business**
Ghana made starting a business more difficult by requiring entrepreneurs to obtain a tax identification number prior to company incorporation.

Greece

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Greece made starting a business easier by introducing a simpler form of limited liability company and abolishing the minimum capital requirement for such companies.
- ✓ **Protecting investors**
Greece strengthened investor protections by introducing a requirement for director approval of related-party transactions.
- ✗ **Paying taxes**
Greece made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the corporate income tax rate—though it also reduced the employers' contribution rate to the social security fund.

- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Greece made trading across borders easier by implementing a system allowing electronic submission of customs declarations for exports.

Guatemala

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Guatemala made starting a business easier by creating an online platform that allows simultaneous registration of a new company with different government agencies.
- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Guatemala made dealing with construction permits easier by streamlining procedures through the creation of a one-stop shop, backed by agreements between institutions and agencies involved in the permitting process.

- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Guatemala made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing a new electronic filing and payment system.

Guinea

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Guinea made starting a business easier by enabling the one-stop shop to publish incorporation notices and by reducing the notary fees.
- ✓ **Registering property**
Guinea made transferring property easier by reducing the property transfer tax.

- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Guinea made trading across borders easier by improving port management systems.

Guinea-Bissau

- ✓ **Registering property**
Guinea-Bissau made transferring property easier by increasing the number of notaries dealing with property transactions.

Guyana

- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Guyana made paying taxes easier for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

Hong Kong SAR, China

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Hong Kong SAR, China, made starting a business less costly by abolishing

the capital duty levied on local companies.

✗ **Registering property**

Hong Kong SAR, China, made transferring property more costly by increasing the stamp duty.

Hungary

Employing workers

Hungary reduced the premium for night work and weekly holiday work and increased the minimum wage.

Iceland

✓ **Paying taxes**

Iceland made paying taxes easier for companies by reducing employers' social security contribution rate and abolishing the weight distance tax—though it also introduced a new rehabilitation fund contribution.

Indonesia

✓ **Getting credit**

Indonesia improved its credit information system through a new regulation setting up a legal framework for establishing credit bureaus.

Ireland

Employing workers

Ireland ended a 60% rebate for employers on severance payments and eliminated the requirement for third-party notification when terminating a redundant worker.

Israel

✓ **Starting a business**

Israel made starting a business easier by reducing the time required for registration at the Income Tax Department and the National Insurance Institute.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Israel made resolving insolvency easier through amendments to its companies law allowing the assumption or rejection of executory contracts, granting maximum priority to post-commencement credit, extending

the maximum period of moratorium during restructuring proceedings and allowing the sale of secured assets when necessary to ensure a successful restructuring.

Italy

✓ **Registering property**

Italy made transferring property easier by eliminating the requirement for an energy performance certificate for commercial buildings with no heating system.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Italy made enforcing contracts easier by regulating attorneys' fees and streamlining some court proceedings.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Italy made resolving insolvency easier through amendments to its bankruptcy code that introduce a stay period for enforcement actions while the debtor is preparing a restructuring plan, make it easier to convert from one type of restructuring proceeding to another, facilitate continued operation by the debtor during restructuring and impose stricter requirements on auditors evaluating a restructuring plan.

Jamaica

✓ **Starting a business**

Jamaica made starting a business easier by enabling the Companies Office of Jamaica to stamp the new company's articles of incorporation at registration.

✗ **Registering property**

Jamaica made transferring property more difficult by increasing the transfer tax and the stamp duty.

✓ **Getting credit**

Jamaica improved its credit information system by creating a legal and regulatory framework for private credit bureaus.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Jamaica made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate—though it also increased vehicle and asset taxes.

Kazakhstan

✓ **Starting a business**

Kazakhstan made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to register a company at the Public Registration Center.

✓ **Registering property**

Kazakhstan made transferring property easier by introducing a fast-track procedure for property registration.

Korea, Rep.

✓ **Getting credit**

Korea strengthened its secured transactions system by creating new types of security rights that can be publicized through registration.

Kosovo

✓ **Starting a business**

Kosovo made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop for incorporation.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Kosovo made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement for validation of the main construction project, eliminating fees for technical approvals from the municipality and reducing the building permit fee.

✓ **Registering property**

Kosovo made transferring property easier by introducing a new notary system and by combining procedures for drafting and legalizing sale and purchase agreements.

Kuwait

✗ **Starting a business**

Kuwait made starting a business more difficult by increasing the minimum capital requirement.

✓ **Protecting investors**

Kuwait strengthened investor protections by making it possible for minority shareholders to request the appointment of an auditor to review the company's activities.

Lao PDR

- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Lao PDR made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate—though it also introduced a new property transfer tax.

Latvia

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Latvia made starting a business easier by making it possible to file the applications for company registration and value added tax registration simultaneously at the commercial registry.
- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Latvia made dealing with construction permits easier by introducing new time limits for issuing a building permit and by eliminating the Public Health Agency's role in approving building permits and conducting inspections.
- ✓ **Getting credit**
Latvia improved its credit information system by adopting a new law regulating the public credit registry.
- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Latvia made trading across borders easier by reducing the number of documents required for importing.

Lesotho

- ✓ **Registering property**
Lesotho made transferring property easier by streamlining procedures and increasing administrative efficiency.

Liberia

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Liberia made starting a business easier by eliminating the business trade license fees and reducing the time to obtain the business registration certificate.
- ✓ **Registering property**
Liberia made transferring property easier by digitizing the records at the land registry.

Lithuania

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Lithuania made starting a business easier by creating a new form of limited liability company with no minimum capital requirement.
- ✓ **Getting credit**
Lithuania strengthened its secured transactions system by broadening the range of movable assets that can be used as collateral, allowing a general description in the security agreement of the assets pledged as collateral and permitting out-of-court enforcement.

Macedonia, FYR

- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
FYR Macedonia made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the time required to register a new building and by authorizing the municipality to register the building on behalf of the owner.
- ✓ **Getting electricity**
FYR Macedonia made getting electricity easier by reducing the time required to obtain a new connection and by setting fixed connection fees per kilowatt (kW) for connections requiring a capacity below 400 kW.
- ✓ **Registering property**
FYR Macedonia made property registration faster and less costly by digitizing the real estate cadastre and eliminating the requirement for an encumbrance certificate.
- ✓ **Getting credit**
FYR Macedonia strengthened its secured transactions system by providing more flexibility on the description of assets in a collateral agreement and on the types of debts and obligations that can be secured.
- ✓ **Protecting investors**
FYR Macedonia strengthened investor protections by allowing shareholders to request the rescission of unfair related-party transactions and the appointment of an auditor to investigate alleged irregularities in the company's activities.

✓ Paying taxes

FYR Macedonia made paying taxes easier for companies by encouraging the use of electronic filing and payment systems for corporate income and value added taxes.

Madagascar

- ✗ **Starting a business**
Madagascar made starting a business more difficult by increasing the cost to register with the National Center for Statistics.
- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Madagascar made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by training taxpayers in the use of the online system for value added tax declarations and by reducing the corporate income tax rate.
- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Madagascar made trading across borders easier by rolling out an online platform linking trade operators with government agencies involved in the trade process and customs clearance.

Malawi

- ✓ **Registering property**
Malawi made transferring property easier by reducing the stamp duty.

Malaysia

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Malaysia made starting a business less costly by reducing the company registration fees.
- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Malaysia made dealing with construction permits easier by establishing a one-stop shop.
- ✓ **Getting electricity**
Malaysia made getting electricity easier by increasing the efficiency of internal processes at the utility and improving its communication and dialogue with contractors.

Employing workers

Malaysia introduced a minimum wage.

Maldives

- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Maldives made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing electronic filing systems for corporate income tax, sales tax and pension contributions.

Mali

- ✗ **Starting a business**
Mali made starting a business more difficult by ceasing to regularly publish the incorporation notices of new companies on the official website of the one-stop shop.

Malta

- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Malta made dealing with construction permits less costly by significantly reducing the building permit fees.

Mauritania

- ✗ **Paying taxes**
Mauritania made paying taxes more costly for companies by introducing a new health insurance contribution for employers that is levied on gross salaries.
- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Mauritania made trading across borders easier by introducing a new risk-based inspection system with scanners.

Mauritius

- ✓ **Getting credit**
Mauritius improved access to credit information by expanding the scope of credit information and increasing the coverage of the historical data distributed from 2 years to 3.
- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
Mauritius made enforcing contracts easier by liberalizing the profession of ushers, providing competitive options for litigants to enforce binding decisions.
- ✓ **Resolving insolvency**
Mauritius made resolving insolvency easier by introducing guidelines for out-of-court restructuring and

standardizing the process of registration, suspension and removal of insolvency practitioners.

Mexico

- ✓ **Getting electricity**
Mexico made getting electricity easier by increasing the efficiency of the utility's internal processes and by enforcing a "silence is consent" rule for the approval of the feasibility study for a new connection.
- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Mexico made trading across borders easier by implementing an electronic single-window system.
- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
Mexico made enforcing contracts easier by creating small claims courts, with oral proceedings, that can hear both civil and commercial cases.

Moldova

- ✓ **Getting credit**
Moldova strengthened its secured transactions system by introducing new grounds for relief from an automatic stay during insolvency and restructuring proceedings.
- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Moldova made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic filing and payment system for the value added tax, corporate income tax, land improvement tax and tax on immovable property.
- ✓ **Resolving insolvency**
Moldova made resolving insolvency easier by introducing new restructuring mechanisms, reducing opportunities for appeals, adding moratorium provisions and establishing strict statutory periods for several stages of the insolvency proceeding.

Mongolia

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Mongolia made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to get company statutes and charters notarized as well as the requirement to

register a new company with the local tax office.

- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Mongolia made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement for a technical review of the building plans by the state for low- and medium-risk construction projects.
- ✓ **Getting electricity**
Mongolia made getting electricity easier by increasing the efficiency of the utility's internal processes, enforcing time limits at different stages of the connection process and eliminating the fees for testing the installation.

Montenegro

- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Montenegro made dealing with construction permits easier by introducing a one-stop shop and imposing strict time limits for the issuance of approvals.
- ✓ **Registering property**
Montenegro made registering property easier by introducing a notary system.

Morocco

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Morocco made starting a business easier by reducing the company registration fees.
- ✓ **Registering property**
Morocco made transferring property easier by reducing the time required to register a deed of transfer at the tax authority.
- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Morocco made paying taxes easier for companies by increasing the use of the electronic filing and payment system for social security contributions.

Mozambique

- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Mozambique made dealing with construction permits easier by improving internal processes at the Department of Construction and Urbanization—though it also increased the fees for building permits and occupancy permits.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Mozambique made trading across borders easier by implementing an electronic single-window system.

Myanmar

✓ **Paying taxes**

Myanmar made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

Namibia

✗ **Registering property**

Namibia made transferring property more expensive by increasing the transfer and stamp duties.

Nepal

✓ **Starting a business**

Nepal made starting a business easier by reducing the administrative processing time at the company registrar and by establishing a data link between agencies involved in the incorporation process.

Netherlands

✓ **Starting a business**

The Netherlands made starting a business easier by abolishing the minimum capital requirement.

✓ **Registering property**

The Netherlands made transferring property easier by increasing the efficiency of the title search process.

✗ **Getting credit**

The Netherlands weakened its secured transactions system through an amendment to the Collection of State Taxes Act that grants priority outside bankruptcy to tax claims over secured creditors' claims.

New Zealand

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

New Zealand made enforcing contracts easier by improving its case management system to ensure a speedier and less costly adjudication of cases.

Nicaragua

✓ **Starting a business**

Nicaragua made starting a business easier by merging the procedures for registering with the revenue authority and with the municipality and by reducing the time required for incorporation.

✓ **Getting electricity**

Nicaragua reduced the time required for getting electricity by increasing efficiency in granting approval of the connection design and by informing the customer in advance what the amount of the security deposit will be.

Niger

✓ **Starting a business**

Niger made starting a business easier by replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of company registration.

✓ **Registering property**

Niger made transferring property easier by reducing the registration fees.

Employing workers

Niger increased the maximum cumulative duration of fixed-term contracts.

Palau

✓ **Getting credit**

Palau strengthened its secured transactions system through a new law that establishes a centralized collateral registry, broadens the range of assets that can be used as collateral to include future assets, allows a general description in the security agreement of debts and obligations as well as assets pledged as collateral, establishes clear priority rules outside bankruptcy for secured creditors and allows out-of-court enforcement of the collateral.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

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

Panama

✓ **Starting a business**

Panama made starting a business easier by eliminating the need to visit the municipality to obtain the municipal taxpayer number.

✓ **Registering property**

Panama made transferring property easier by connecting the land registry with the cadastre.

✓ **Protecting investors**

Panama strengthened investor protections by increasing the disclosure requirements for publicly held companies.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Panama made paying taxes easier for companies by changing the payment frequency for corporate income taxes from monthly to quarterly and by implementing a new online platform for filing the social security payroll.

Paraguay

✓ **Paying taxes**

Paraguay made paying taxes easier for companies by making electronic filing and payment mandatory for corporate income and value added taxes.

Philippines

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

The Philippines made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain a health certificate.

✓ **Getting credit**

The Philippines improved access to credit information by beginning to distribute both positive and negative information and by enacting a data privacy act that guarantees borrowers' right to access their data.

✓ **Paying taxes**

The Philippines made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic filing and payment system for social security contributions.

Poland

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Poland made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to register the new company at the National Labor Inspectorate and the National Sanitary Inspectorate.
- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Poland made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain a description of the geotechnical documentation of the land.

Portugal

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Portugal made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to report to the Ministry of Labor.
- Employing workers**
Portugal reduced the wage premium for weekly holiday work and abolished priority rules for redundancy dismissals.

Qatar

- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Qatar made paying taxes easier for companies by eliminating certain requirements associated with the corporate income tax return.

Romania

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Romania made starting a business easier by transferring responsibility for issuing the headquarters clearance certificate from the Fiscal Administration Office to the Trade Registry.
- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Romania made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by reducing the payment frequency for the firm tax from quarterly to twice a year and by reducing the vehicle tax rate.
- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
Romania made enforcing contracts easier by adopting a new civil procedure code that streamlines and speeds up all court proceedings.

Russian Federation

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Russia made starting a business easier by abolishing the requirement to have the bank signature card notarized before opening a company bank account.
- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Russia made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating several requirements for project approvals from government agencies and by reducing the time required to register a new building.

- ✓ **Getting electricity**
Russia made getting electricity simpler and less costly by setting standard connection tariffs and eliminating many procedures previously required.
- ✓ **Registering property**
Russia made transferring property easier by streamlining procedures and implementing effective time limits for processing transfer applications.

- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Russia made trading across borders easier by implementing an electronic system for submitting export and import documents and by reducing the number of physical inspections.

Rwanda

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Rwanda made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to obtain a registration certificate.
- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Rwanda made dealing with construction permits easier and less costly by reducing the building permit fees, implementing an electronic platform for building permit applications and streamlining procedures.
- ✓ **Registering property**
Rwanda made transferring property easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain a tax clearance certificate and by implementing the web-based Land Administration Information System for processing land transactions.

- ✓ **Getting credit**
Rwanda strengthened its secured transactions system by providing more flexibility on the types of debts and obligations that can be secured through a collateral agreement.

- ✓ **Protecting investors**
Rwanda strengthened investor protections through a new law allowing plaintiffs to cross-examine defendants and witnesses with prior approval of the questions by the court.

- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Rwanda made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by fully rolling out its electronic filing system to the majority of businesses and by reducing the property tax rate and business trading license fee.

- ✓ **Trading across borders**
Rwanda made trading across borders easier by introducing an electronic single-window system at the border.

- ✓ **Resolving insolvency**
Rwanda made resolving insolvency easier through a new law clarifying the standards for beginning insolvency proceedings; preventing the separation of the debtor's assets during reorganization proceedings; setting clear time limits for the submission of a reorganization plan; and implementing an automatic stay of creditors' enforcement actions.

Samoa

- ✗ **Registering property**
Samoa made transferring property more expensive by increasing the stamp duty.

Senegal

- ✓ **Registering property**
Senegal made transferring property easier by reducing the property transfer tax.
- ✗ **Paying taxes**
Senegal made paying taxes more costly by increasing the corporate income tax rate. At the same time, Senegal facilitated tax payments by making tax forms available online and

creating the Center for Medium Enterprises.

Serbia

- ✗ **Paying taxes**
Serbia made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the corporate income tax rate.

Seychelles

- ✗ **Paying taxes**
The Seychelles made paying taxes more complicated for companies by introducing a value added tax.

Singapore

- ✓ **Registering property**
Singapore made transferring property easier by introducing an online procedure for property transfers.
- ✓ **Getting credit**
Singapore improved its credit information system by guaranteeing by law borrowers' right to inspect their own data.

Slovak Republic

- ✗ **Starting a business**
The Slovak Republic made starting a business more difficult by adding a new procedure for establishing a limited liability company.
- ✗ **Paying taxes**
The Slovak Republic made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the corporate income tax rate and by adjusting land appraisal values.

Employing workers

The Slovak Republic reduced the maximum cumulative duration of fixed-term contracts, reintroduced the requirement for third-party notification when terminating an employee, reintroduced mandatory severance pay for workers with more than 2 years of service in the company and increased the minimum wage.

Slovenia

- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Slovenia made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the

requirement to obtain project conditions from the water and sewerage provider.

Employing workers

Slovenia abolished priority rules for reemployment, changed the notice period and severance pay provisions for redundancy dismissals and increased the minimum wage.

South Africa

- ✓ **Paying taxes**
South Africa made paying taxes easier for companies by replacing the secondary tax on companies with a dividend tax borne by shareholders.

South Sudan

- ✗ **Paying taxes**
South Sudan made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the corporate income tax rate.

Spain

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Spain made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain a municipal license before starting operations and by improving the efficiency of the commercial registry.

Employing workers

Spain reduced the maximum cumulative duration of fixed-term contracts and increased the minimum wage.

Sri Lanka

- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Sri Lanka made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain a tax clearance and by reducing building permit fees.
- ✓ **Getting electricity**
Sri Lanka made getting electricity easier by improving the utility's internal workflow and by reducing the time required to process new applications for connections.

- ✓ **Paying taxes**

Sri Lanka made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an

electronic filing system for social security contributions.

- ✓ **Trading across borders**

Sri Lanka made trading across borders easier by introducing an electronic payment system for port services.

St. Lucia

- ✗ **Trading across borders**

St. Lucia made trading across borders more difficult by introducing a new export document.

Suriname

- ✓ **Starting a business**

Suriname made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to obtain the president's approval for the registration of a new company.

- ✓ **Registering property**

Suriname made transferring property easier by increasing administrative efficiency at the land registry.

Swaziland

- ✓ **Starting a business**

Swaziland made starting a business easier by shortening the administrative processing times for registering a new business and obtaining a trading license.

- ✓ **Trading across borders**

Swaziland made trading across borders easier by streamlining the process for obtaining a certificate of origin.

Sweden

- ✓ **Paying taxes**

Sweden made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

Tajikistan

- ✗ **Starting a business**

Tajikistan made starting a business more difficult by requiring preliminary approval from the tax authority and the submission of additional documents at registration.

✓ **Getting credit**

Tajikistan improved access to credit information by establishing a private credit bureau.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Tajikistan made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate, merging the minimal income tax with the corporate income tax and abolishing the retail sales tax. At the same time, Tajikistan increased the land and vehicle tax rates.

Tanzania

✓ **Getting credit**

Tanzania improved its credit information system through new regulations that provide for the licensing of credit reference bureaus and outline the functions of the credit reference data bank.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Tanzania made resolving insolvency easier through new rules clearly specifying the professional requirements and remuneration for insolvency practitioners, promoting reorganization proceedings and streamlining insolvency proceedings.

Thailand

✓ **Paying taxes**

Thailand made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing employers' social security contribution rate.

Togo

✓ **Starting a business**

Togo made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to register at the one-stop shop and by reducing registration costs.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Togo made dealing with construction permits easier by improving internal operations at the City Hall of Lomé.

× **Paying taxes**

Togo made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the corporate income tax rate and employers' social security contribution rate and by introducing a new tax on corporate

cars. At the same time, Togo reduced the payroll tax rate.

× **Trading across borders**

Togo made trading across borders more difficult by granting monopoly control of all port activities at the port of Lomé to a private company.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Togo made enforcing contracts easier by creating specialized commercial divisions within the court of first instance.

Tonga

✓ **Getting credit**

Tonga improved access to credit information by establishing a private credit bureau.

× **Paying taxes**

Tonga made paying taxes more complicated for companies by introducing a superannuation levy—though it also abolished the business license for 2013.

Trinidad and Tobago

✓ **Starting a business**

Trinidad and Tobago made starting a business easier by merging the statutory declaration of compliance into the standard articles of incorporation form.

Tunisia

× **Starting a business**

Tunisia made starting a business more difficult by increasing the cost of company registration.

Turkey

× **Starting a business**

Turkey made starting a business more difficult by increasing the minimum capital requirement.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Turkey reduced the time required for dealing with construction permits by setting strict time limits for granting a lot plan and by reducing the documentation requirements for an occupancy permit.

✓ **Getting electricity**

Turkey made getting electricity easier by eliminating external inspections and reducing some administrative costs.

× **Registering property**

Turkey made transferring property more costly by increasing the registration and several other fees.

✓ **Protecting investors**

Turkey strengthened investor protections through a new commercial code that requires directors found liable in abusive related-party transactions to disgorge their profits and that allows shareholders to request the appointment of an auditor to investigate alleged prejudicial conflicts of interest.

Uganda

✓ **Registering property**

Uganda made transferring property easier by eliminating the need to have instruments of land transfer physically embossed to certify payment of the stamp duty.

Ukraine

✓ **Starting a business**

Ukraine made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for registration with the statistics authority and by eliminating the cost for value added tax registration.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Ukraine made dealing with construction permits easier by introducing a risk-based approval system, eliminating requirements for certain approvals and technical conditions and simplifying the process for registering real estate ownership rights.

✓ **Getting electricity**

Ukraine made getting electricity easier by streamlining the process for obtaining a new connection.

✓ **Registering property**

Ukraine made transferring property easier by streamlining procedures and revamping the property registration system.

✓ **Getting credit**

Ukraine improved access to credit information by beginning to collect data on firms from financial institutions.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Ukraine made paying taxes easier for companies by simplifying tax returns and further improving its electronic filing system.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Ukraine made trading across borders easier by releasing customs declarations more quickly and reducing the number of physical inspections.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Ukraine made resolving insolvency easier by strengthening the rights of secured creditors, introducing new rehabilitation procedures and mechanisms, making it easier to invalidate suspect transactions and shortening the statutory periods for several steps of the insolvency process.

United Arab Emirates✓ **Getting electricity**

The United Arab Emirates made getting electricity easier by eliminating the requirement for site inspections and reducing the time required to provide new connections.

✓ **Registering property**

The United Arab Emirates made transferring property easier by increasing the operating hours of the land registry and reducing transfer fees.

✓ **Protecting investors**

The United Arab Emirates strengthened investor protections by introducing greater disclosure requirements for related-party transactions in the annual report and to the stock exchange and by making it possible to sue directors when such transactions harm the company.

United Kingdom✓ **Starting a business**

The United Kingdom made starting a business easier by providing model articles for use in preparing memorandums and articles of association.

✓ **Registering property**

The United Kingdom made transferring property easier by introducing electronic lodgment for property transfer applications.

Employing workers

United Kingdom increased the cap on weekly wage provided to employees on the severance payment and the minimum wage.

Uruguay✓ **Trading across borders**

Uruguay made trading across borders easier by implementing an electronic customs declaration system.

Uzbekistan✓ **Starting a business**

Uzbekistan made starting a business easier by abolishing the paid-in minimum capital requirement and by eliminating the requirement to have signature samples notarized before opening a bank account.

✓ **Registering property**

Uzbekistan made transferring property easier by reducing the notary fees.

✓ **Getting credit**

Uzbekistan improved access to credit information by expanding the scope of credit information and requiring that more than 2 years of historical data be collected and distributed.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Uzbekistan made paying taxes easier for companies by eliminating some small taxes.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Uzbekistan made trading across borders easier by eliminating the need to register import contracts with customs, tightening the time limits for banks to register export or import contracts and reducing the number of export documents required.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

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

Vanuatu✓ **Getting credit**

Vanuatu improved access to credit information by establishing a private credit bureau.

Venezuela, RB✗ **Starting a business**

República Bolivariana de Venezuela made starting a business more costly by increasing the company registration fees.

✓ **Getting credit**

República Bolivariana de Venezuela improved access to credit information by starting to collect data on firms from financial institutions.

Vietnam✓ **Getting credit**

Vietnam improved its credit information system through a decree setting up a legal framework for the establishment of private credit bureaus.

✓ **Protecting investors**

Vietnam strengthened investor protections by introducing greater disclosure requirements for publicly held companies in cases of related-party transactions.

✗ **Paying taxes**

Vietnam made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing employers' social security contribution rate.

Employing workers

Vietnam abolished priority rules for redundancy dismissals or layoffs and increased the minimum wage.

West Bank and Gaza✓ **Starting a business**

West Bank and Gaza made starting a business less costly by eliminating the paid-in minimum capital requirement.

Employing workers

West Bank and Gaza introduced a minimum wage.

Zambia

✓ Starting a business

Zambia made starting a business easier by raising the threshold at which value added tax registration is required.