



### **What are the ranking trends?**

- **New Zealand** is the top ranked economy in the *Doing Business* rankings. New Zealand scores top ranking in multiple *Doing Business* indicators, i.e. Starting a Business, Dealing with Construction Permits, Registering Property, Getting Credit, and Protecting Minority Investors.
- Six other OECD high-income economies rank among the *Doing Business* top 10 economies. These are **Denmark** (at 3), **Republic of Korea** (5), **Norway** (6), **United Kingdom** (7), **United States** (8) and **Sweden** (9).
- Other large economies in the OECD high-income grouping and their rankings are **France** (29), **Germany** (17), **Italy** (50), **Japan** (34) and **Spain** (32).
- OECD high-income economies perform best in the *Doing Business* areas of Resolving Insolvency (with an average rank of 23), Trading Across Borders (24) and Getting Electricity (37). Due to the customs union of the European Union, for example, 14 OECD high-income economies rank first in the Trading Across Borders indicator. In Getting Electricity, *Doing Business* finds that the main business cities of OECD high-income economies suffered on average less than one power outage in 2015, compared to the global average of 55 outages.

### **What are the reform trends?**

- A total of 23 reforms, making it easier to do business, were implemented in 17 of the regions 32 economies in the past year. This is lower than the annual average of 32 reforms over the past five years.
- The *Doing Business* area which saw the largest number of reforms was Paying Taxes (with 8 reforms), followed by Starting a Business and Enforcing Contracts (4 each). In the Enforcing Contracts indicator, OECD high-income economies, along with Europe and Central Asia region, recorded the most reforms.
- **Poland** implemented three reforms, the most in the OECD grouping, while the **Czech Republic**, **Spain**, **Hungary** and **Portugal** were also notable reformers. Examples of reforms in these economies include:
  - The **Czech Republic** made Starting a Business easier by reducing the cost and the time required to register a company in commercial courts by allowing notaries to directly register companies through an online system.
  - **Poland** made Getting Electricity easier by eliminating the need to secure an excavation permit for an external connection, thereby reducing the time needed to connect to the electrical grid.

### **New inclusions in *Doing Business 2017***

- This year's report covers 190 economies, with the inclusion of **Somalia**.
- For the first time, *Doing Business 2017* includes a gender dimension in three indicators: Starting a Business, Registering Property and Enforcing Contracts. The report finds that almost all OECD high-income economies do not stipulate barriers to women entrepreneurs. The only exception is **Chile**, where married women do not have equal ownership rights to property as men.
- The Paying Taxes indicator has been expanded to cover post-filing processes, such as tax audits and VAT refund. OECD high-income economies generally perform well in the new areas. Notable exceptions include **Italy**, where compliance time for VAT refund is considerably high, as is audit compliance time in **Chile** and **Japan**.
- The report includes an annex with a pilot indicator set on public procurement regulations. The 'selling to the government' procurement process is studied in 78 economies and is not included in the overall rankings. The indicator set analyzes five main areas: accessibility and transparency, bid security, payment delays, incentives for small and medium-size enterprises and complaint mechanisms.

**Rankings Data for OECD High-Income**

Economy	Rank (1–190)		Distance to frontier score (0–100)		# of Reforms	
	DB2016	DB2017	DB2016	DB2017	DB2016	DB2017
Australia	13	15	80.25	80.26	0	0
Austria	18	19	78.88	78.92	0	0
Belgium	38	42	73.02	73.00	1	0
Canada	20	22	78.79	78.57	0	0
Chile	55	57	69.48	69.56	1	0
Czech Republic	26	27	76.43	76.71	0	2
Denmark	2	3	84.85	84.87	1	0
Estonia	11	12	81.01	81.05	1	0
Finland	12	13	80.85	80.84	1	0
France	28	29	76.21	76.27	1	1
Germany	14	17	79.88	79.87	1	0
Greece	58	61	68.67	68.67	1	1
Hungary	40	41	72.74	73.07	0	2
Iceland	18	20	78.88	78.91	0	0
Ireland	15	18	79.25	79.53	1	1
Israel	49	52	71.44	71.65	0	1
Italy	44	50	71.97	72.25	1	1
Japan	32	34	75.36	75.53	0	1
Korea, Rep.	4	5	83.86	84.07	0	1
Luxembourg	57	59	68.79	68.81	0	0
Netherlands	27	28	76.33	76.38	0	1
New Zealand	1	1	86.96	87.01	1	1
Norway	8	6	82.30	82.82	2	1
Poland	25	24	77.04	77.81	2	3
Portugal	24	25	77.12	77.40	1	2
Slovak Republic	30	33	75.44	75.61	2	1
Slovenia	30	30	75.44	76.14	0	0
Spain	33	32	75.02	75.73	2	2
Sweden	9	9	81.61	82.13	1	1
Switzerland	29	31	76.07	76.06	1	0
United Kingdom	6	7	82.73	82.74	1	0
United States	7	8	82.46	82.45	0	0

Source: *Doing Business* database.

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