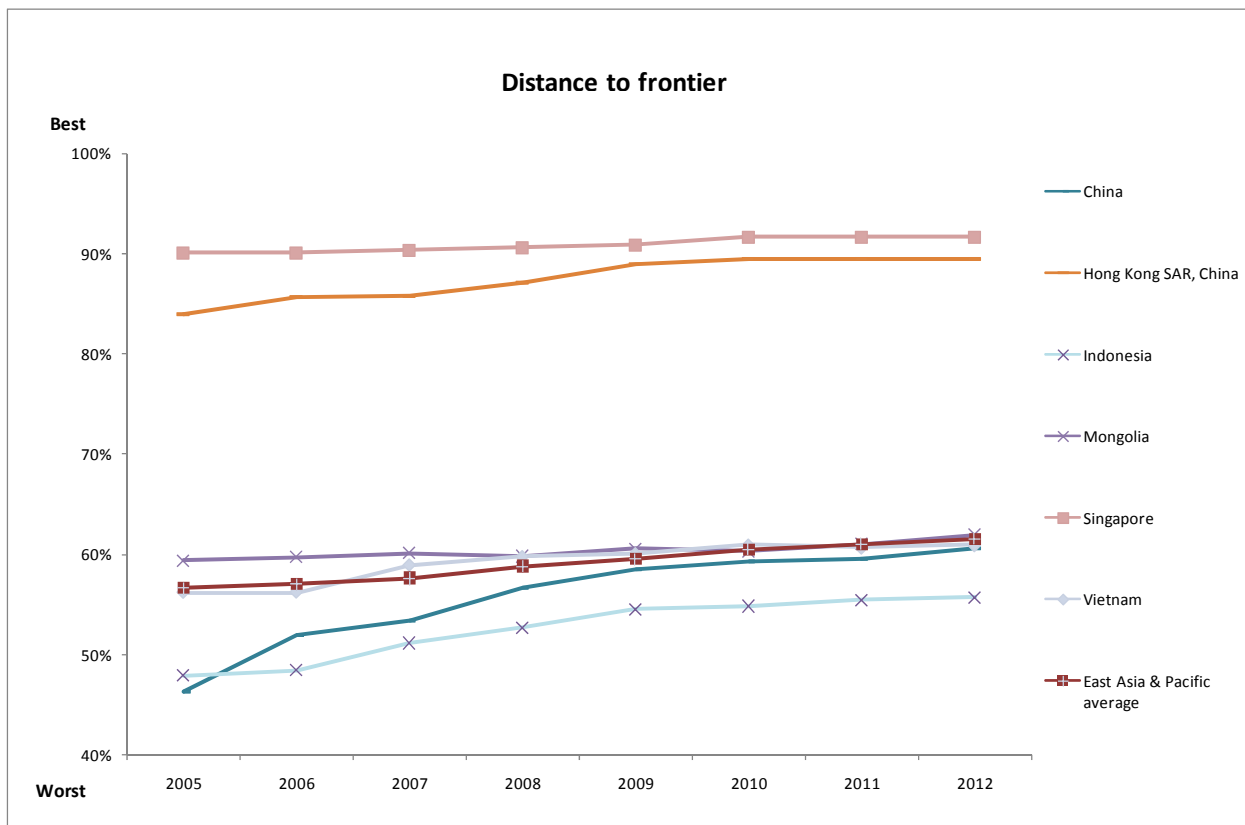


**Doing Business 2013 Fact Sheet: East Asia and the Pacific**

- Singapore and Hong Kong SAR, China, continue to provide the most business-friendly regulatory environments for local entrepreneurs globally.
- Taiwan, China, made it to the top 20 in the global ease of doing business ranking. The Republic of Korea is also among the top 20.
- Since 2005, 23 economies in East Asia and the Pacific have made their regulatory environment more business-friendly.
- With 16 regulatory improvements during the past 8 years, China is the economy that has made the biggest progress in the region.
- In the past year, 11 of 24 economies in East Asia and the Pacific improved business regulations.
- Mongolia was the region's top improver for the year and the only regional economy among the global top 10 improvers in *Doing Business 2013*.



*Note:* The distance to frontier measure shows how far on average an economy is from the best performance achieved by any economy on each *Doing Business* indicator since 2005. The measure is normalized to range between 0 and 100, with 100 representing the best performance (the frontier). The data refer to the 174 economies included in *Doing Business 2006* (2005). Eleven economies were added in subsequent years.

*Source:* *Doing Business* database.

## Summary of 2011/12 *Doing Business* Reforms in East Asia and the Pacific

**Brunei Darussalam** made dealing with construction permits easier by creating a one-stop shop for preconstruction approvals. And it made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Dealing with construction permits, Paying taxes

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 79

**Cambodia** improved access to credit information by establishing its first private credit bureau. At the same time, the country introduced a new tax on immovable property.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Getting credit (credit information), Paying taxes (making it more difficult)

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 133

**China** made obtaining a construction permit easier by streamlining and centralizing preconstruction approvals and made starting a business less costly by exempting micro and small companies from paying several administrative fees from January 2012 to December 2014.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Dealing with construction permits, Starting a business

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 91

**Fiji** made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate—though it also introduced a capital gains tax. At the same time, Fiji made obtaining a construction permit more expensive by implementing a fee for the fire department clearance and made transferring property more difficult by requiring parties to a property transaction to obtain a capital gains tax clearance certificate from the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority. In addition, authorities made starting a business more difficult by requiring new companies applying for a business license to obtain a certificate from the national fire authority and a letter of compliance from the Ministry of Labor.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Paying taxes, Dealing with construction permits (making it more difficult), Registering property (making it more difficult), Starting a business (making it more difficult)

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 60

**Indonesia** made getting electricity easier by eliminating the requirement for new customers applying for an electricity connection to show a neighbor's electricity bill as a way to help determine their address.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Getting electricity

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 128

The **Lao People's Democratic Republic** made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate. In addition, Lao PDR made starting a business easier by allowing entrepreneurs to apply for tax registration at the time of incorporation. And it reduced the time to export and import by implementing the ASYCUDA electronic data interchange system at the Thanaleng–Friendship Bridge border crossing.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Paying taxes, Starting a business, Trading across borders

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 163

**Malaysia** made dealing with construction permits faster by improving the one-stop center for new buildings and by reducing the time to connect to telephone service. In addition, authorities reduced the number of days it takes to register property transfers.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Dealing with construction permits, Registering property

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 12

**Mongolia** improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers' right to inspect their personal data. In addition, the country strengthened investor protections by increasing the disclosure requirements for related-party transactions. And it made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Getting credit (credit information), Protecting investors, Starting a business

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 76

**Taiwan, China**, made dealing with construction permits easier by introducing a risk-based and self-regulatory inspection system and improving operational features of the one-stop shop for building permits. In addition, it strengthened investor protections by increasing disclosure requirements for related-party transactions and improving the liability regime for company directors in cases where such transactions are abusive.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Dealing with construction permits, Protecting investors

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 16

**Thailand** made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate and made starting a business easier by allowing the registrar at the Department of Business Development to receive the company's work regulations.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Paying taxes, Starting a business

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 18

**Vanuatu** made obtaining a construction permit more cumbersome by making a preliminary environmental assessment mandatory and made the process more expensive by increasing the fees.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Dealing with construction permits (making it more difficult)

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 80

**Vietnam** made starting a business easier by allowing companies to use self-printed value added tax invoices.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Starting a business

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 99

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### **About the *Doing Business* report series**

*Doing Business* analyzes regulations that apply to an economy's businesses during their life cycle, including start-up and operations, trading across borders, paying taxes, and protecting investors. The aggregate ease of doing business rankings are based on 10 indicators and cover 185 economies. *Doing Business* does not measure all aspects of the business environment that matter to firms and investors. For example, it does not measure the quality of fiscal management, other aspects of macroeconomic stability, the level of skills in the labor force, or the resilience of financial systems. Its findings have stimulated policy debates worldwide and enabled a growing body of research on how firm-level regulation relates to economic outcomes across economies. This year's report marks the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the global *Doing Business* report series. For more information about the *Doing Business* report series, please visit [www.doingbusiness.org](http://www.doingbusiness.org). Join us on [Facebook](#).

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