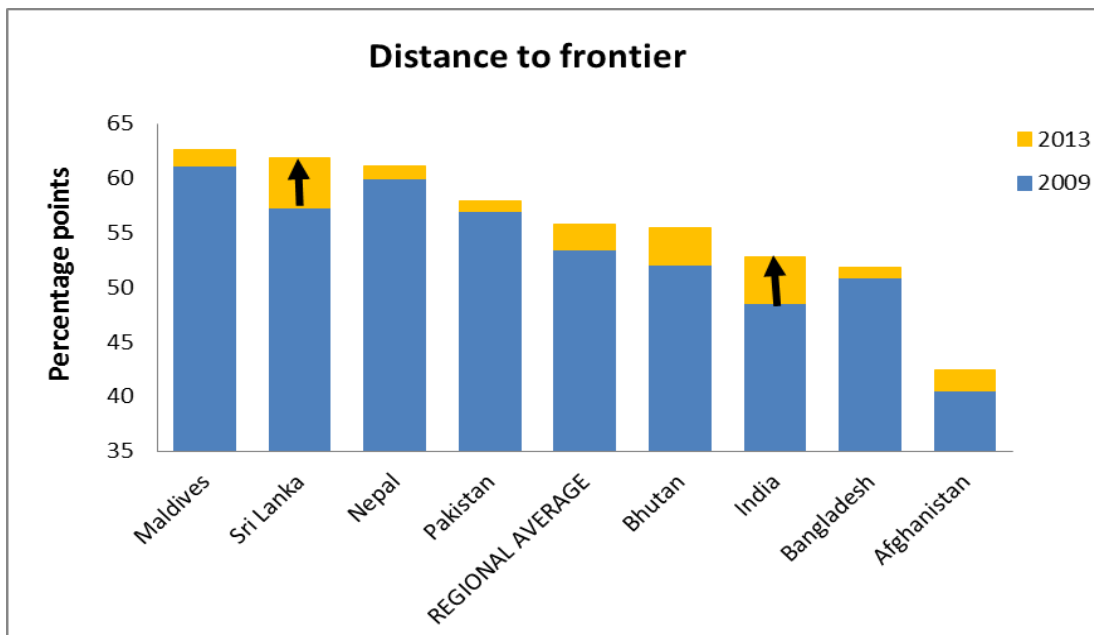


Doing Business 2014 Fact Sheet: South Asia

- Six of eight economies in South Asia implemented at least one regulatory reform making it easier to do business in the year from June 2, 2012, to June 1, 2013—11 reforms in total. That 75 percent share of economies in the region implementing at least one reform is up from 38 percent in the previous year.
- Since 2005, all economies in the region have implemented business regulatory reforms in the areas measured by *Doing Business*. Together, the eight economies recorded 75 reforms. **India** implemented the most number of reforms in the region with 17 reforms during this period, followed by **Sri Lanka** with 16.
- **Sri Lanka** claims the region’s highest spot in the global ease of doing business ranking, at 85 out of 189 economies. It is also the top improver in the region since 2009. In the past year, **Sri Lanka** continued to improve its business regulatory environment in four areas measured by *Doing Business*—dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, paying taxes, and trading across borders.
- **Maldives** is the global top improver in registering property since 2009, thanks to an amendment to its Land Act. Beginning in 2010, the amended law allowed companies to own land, something not previously permitted.



Note: The distance to frontier measure shows how far on average an economy is at a point in time from the best performance achieved by any economy on each *Doing Business* indicator since 2003 or the first year in which data for the indicator were collected. The measure is normalized to range between 0 and 100, with 100 representing the best performance (the frontier). The arrows indicate the economies in the region making the largest advances toward the frontier.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

Summary of 2012/13 *Doing Business* Reforms in South Asia¹

Afghanistan

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. In addition, it strengthened its secured transactions system by implementing a unified collateral registry.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Getting credit (legal rights)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 164

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 42.5 (in 2012: 41.6; improvement: 0.8)

Bangladesh

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.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 130

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 51.8 (in 2012: 51.3; improvement: 0.5)

Bhutan

Bhutan made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to obtain the security clearance certificate. In addition, it improved access to credit information through new regulations governing the licensing and functioning of its credit bureau and guaranteeing borrowers' right to access their data.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Getting credit (credit information)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 141

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 55.5 (in 2012: 54.7; improvement: 0.8)

India

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 134

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 52.7 (in 2012: 52.3; improvement: 0.5)

Maldives

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Paying taxes

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 95

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 62.6 (in 2012: 64.3; improvement: -1.6)

Nepal

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.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 105

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 61.1 (in 2012: 60.7; improvement: 0.4)

Pakistan

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 110

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 57.9 (in 2012: 57.8; improvement: 0.2)

¹ The difference between the distance to frontier scores shown for 2012 and 2013 may differ from the size of the improvement reported because of rounding.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain a tax clearance and by reducing building permit fees. And it made getting electricity easier by improving the utility's internal workflow and by reducing the time required to process new applications for connections. In addition, Sri Lanka made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic system for filing social security contributions. Finally, it made trading across borders easier by introducing an electronic payment system for port services.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Dealing with construction permits, Getting electricity, Paying taxes, Trading across borders

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 85

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 61.8 (in 2012: 60.9; improvement: 1.0)

About the *Doing Business* report series

The joint World Bank and IFC flagship *Doing Business* report analyzes regulations that apply to an economy's businesses during their life cycle, including start-up and operations, trading across borders, paying taxes, and resolving insolvency. The aggregate ease of doing business rankings are based on 10 indicators and cover 189 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 11th edition of the global *Doing Business* report series and covers 189 economies. For more information about the *Doing Business* reports, please visit doingbusiness.org and join us on [doingbusiness.org/Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/doingbusiness.org).

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