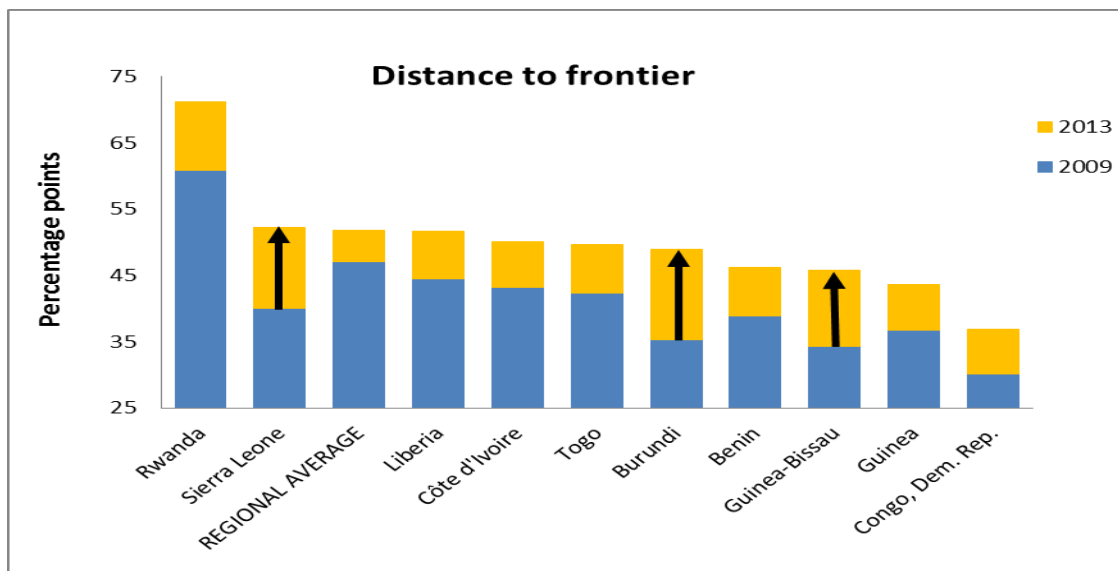


Doing Business 2014 Fact Sheet: Sub-Saharan Africa

- Thirty-one of 47 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa implemented at least one regulatory reform making it easier to do business from June 2, 2012, to June 1, 2013—66 reforms in total.
- Since 2005, all economies in the region have implemented business regulatory reforms in the areas measured by *Doing Business*. **Rwanda** implemented the most number of reforms in the region with 34 reforms during this period, followed by **Mauritius** with 23 and **Burundi** with 21.
- **Rwanda** has made the greatest progress globally since 2005 in narrowing the gap with global good practices. **Burkina Faso** and **Burundi** are also among the top 10 most improved. **Mali**, **Sierra Leone**, **Ghana**, **Guinea-Bissau**, and **Côte d'Ivoire** are among the top 20. The top 50 include 18 African economies.
- **Rwanda**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, and **Burundi** are among the global top 10 improvers this year—the economies making the biggest improvement in business regulation over the past year. Rwanda implemented regulatory reforms in eight of 10 areas measured by *Doing Business*. Côte d'Ivoire implemented four reforms making it easier to do business (and one making it more difficult), and Burundi implemented six.
- **Mauritius** has the region's highest ranking on the ease of doing business, at 20 out of 189 economies. **Rwanda** has the region's second highest ranking, having overtaken South Africa.
- Data were collected for the first time this year for **South Sudan**. The country has a ranking of 186 on the ease of doing business.



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 regional averages exclude South Sudan, which was added to the *Doing Business* sample after 2009. The figure shows individual scores only for the 10 economies with the biggest improvements in the region; the arrows indicate those making the largest advances toward the frontier.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

Summary of 2012/13 *Doing Business* Reforms in Sub-Saharan Africa¹

Angola

Angola made trading across borders more difficult by increasing documentation requirements: it introduced a mandatory registration for all traders and a new license for export and import transactions.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Trading across borders (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 179

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 45.3 (in 2012: 45.1; improvement: 0.2)

Benin

Benin made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop. And it 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.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Trading across borders

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 174

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 46.2 (in 2012: 45.3; improvement: 0.9)

Botswana

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Dealing with construction permits

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 56

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 67.2 (in 2012: 66.4; improvement: 0.8)

Burkina Faso

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Paying taxes

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 154

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 49.0 (in 2012: 49.0; improvement: 0.1)

Burundi

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. It made dealing with construction permits easier by establishing a one-stop shop for obtaining building permits and utility connections. And it 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. In addition, it made trading across borders easier by eliminating the requirement for a preshipment inspection clean report of findings. Moreover, Burundi made transferring property easier by creating a one-stop shop for property registration. Finally, it made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

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

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 140

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 48.9 (in 2012: 45.7; improvement: 3.2)

Cameroon

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.

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.

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

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 168

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 50.3 (in 2012: 50.2; improvement: 0.1)

Cape Verde

Cape Verde made starting a business easier by abolishing the minimum capital requirement. And it made property transfers faster by digitizing its land registry.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Registering property

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 121

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 58.7 (in 2012: 58.1; improvement: 0.6)

Central African Republic

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Trading across borders

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 188

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 34.1 (in 2012: 34.2; improvement: -0.2)

Chad

Chad made transferring property easier by lowering the property transfer tax. However, it made trading across borders more difficult by introducing a new export and import document.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Registering property, Trading across borders (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 189

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 31.2 (in 2012: 30.7; improvement: 0.5)

Comoros

The Comoros made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to deposit the minimum capital in a bank before incorporation.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 158

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 49.3 (in 2012: 48.4; improvement: 0.9)

Congo, Dem. Rep.

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, which 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. The country 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. And it made resolving insolvency easier by adopting the OHADA Uniform Act Organizing Collective Proceedings for Wiping Off Debts, 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 options available. However, the Democratic Republic of Congo made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing employers' social security contribution rate—though it also reduced the corporate income tax rate. And it made starting a business more complicated by increasing the minimum capital requirement. At the same time, it made the start-up 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.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Getting credit (legal rights), Protecting investors, Resolving insolvency, Paying taxes (making it more difficult), Starting a business (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 183

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 36.9 (in 2012: 36.0; improvement: 0.9)

Congo, Rep.

The Republic of Congo made starting a business easier by reducing the registration costs and eliminating the merchant card. And it 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. In addition, it made trading across borders easier by implementing prearrival processing of ship manifests and making improvements in customs administration.

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

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 185

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 39.0 (in 2012: 37.2; improvement: 1.8)

Côte d'Ivoire

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. And it made dealing with construction permits easier by streamlining procedures at the one-stop shop (Service du Guichet Unique du Foncier et de l'Habitat), which reduced the time required for obtaining a building permit. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire made transferring property easier by streamlining procedures and reducing the property transfer tax. Moreover, it made enforcing contracts easier by creating a specialized commercial court. However, 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.

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

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 167

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 50.1 (in 2012: 46.6; improvement: 3.5)

Equatorial Guinea

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 166

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 49.1 (in 2012: 49.1; improvement: 0.1)

Eritrea

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 184

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 34.7 (in 2012: 34.5; improvement: 0.2)

Ethiopia

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 125

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 57.6 (in 2012: 55.9; improvement: 1.6)

Gabon

Gabon made starting a business easier by replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration. And it 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. In addition, it made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Dealing with construction permits, Paying taxes

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 163

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 52.5 (in 2012: 51.5; improvement: 1.0)

Gambia, The

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Paying taxes

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 150

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 50.9 (in 2012: 51.3; improvement: -0.4)

Ghana

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 67

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 67.9 (in 2012: 67.5; improvement: 0.4)

Guinea

Guinea made starting a business easier by enabling the one-stop shop to publish incorporation notices and by reducing the notary fees. And it made transferring property easier by reducing the property transfer tax. In addition, it made trading across borders easier by improving port management systems.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Registering property, Trading across borders

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 175

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 43.7 (in 2012: 41.8; improvement: 1.9)

Guinea-Bissau

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Registering property

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 180

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 45.8 (in 2012: 44.1; improvement: 1.6)

Kenya

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 129

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 58.7 (in 2012: 59.0; improvement: -0.3)

Lesotho

Lesotho made transferring property easier by streamlining procedures and increasing administrative efficiency.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Registering property

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 136

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 56.8 (in 2012: 55.2; improvement: 1.6)

Liberia

Liberia made starting a business easier by eliminating the business trade license fees and reducing the time to obtain the business registration certificate. In addition, it made transferring property easier by digitizing the records at the land registry.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Registering property

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 144

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 51.6 (in 2012: 49.7; improvement: 1.9)

Madagascar

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. In addition, it 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. However, Madagascar made starting a business more difficult by increasing the cost to register with the National Center for Statistics.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Paying taxes, Trading across borders, Starting a business (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 148

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 50.1 (in 2012: 49.3; improvement: 0.7)

Malawi

Malawi made transferring property easier by reducing the stamp duty.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Registering property

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 171

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 46.2 (in 2012: 45.9; improvement: 0.3)

Mali

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.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 155

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 52.6 (in 2012: 52.4; improvement: 0.1)

Mauritania

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Trading across borders, Paying taxes (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 173

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 43.4 (in 2012: 43.1; improvement: 0.3)

Mauritius

Mauritius improved access to credit information by expanding the scope of credit information and increasing the coverage of the historical data distributed from two years to three. And it made enforcing contracts easier by liberalizing the profession of ushers, providing competitive options for litigants to enforce binding decisions. In addition, it made resolving insolvency easier by introducing guidelines for out-of-court restructuring and standardizing the process of registration, suspension, and removal of insolvency practitioners.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Getting credit (credit information), Enforcing contracts, Resolving insolvency

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 20

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 74.4 (in 2012: 73.6; improvement: 0.8)

Mozambique

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. In addition, it made trading across borders easier by implementing an electronic single-window system.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Dealing with construction permits, Trading across borders

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 139

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 55.0 (in 2012: 53.7; improvement: 1.3)

Namibia

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Registering property (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 98

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 62.2 (in 2012: 62.2; improvement: 0.0)

Niger

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. In addition, it made transferring property easier by reducing the registration fees.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Registering property

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 176

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 43.5 (in 2012: 43.7; improvement: -0.1)

Nigeria

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 147

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 46.6 (in 2012: 46.3; improvement: 0.3)

Rwanda

Rwanda made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to obtain a registration certificate. It 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. And it 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. In addition, 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, improving the conditions for getting credit. Moreover, it strengthened investor protections through a new law allowing plaintiffs to cross-examine defendants and witnesses with prior approval of the questions by the court. Furthermore, 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. And it made trading across borders easier by introducing an electronic single-window system at the border. Finally, 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.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Dealing with construction permits, Registering property, Getting credit (legal rights), Protecting investors, Paying taxes, Trading across borders, Resolving insolvency

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 32

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 71.1 (in 2012: 65.7; improvement: 5.4)

São Tomé and Príncipe

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 169

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 49.4 (in 2012: 49.0; improvement: 0.4)

Senegal

Senegal made transferring property easier by reducing the property transfer tax. However, it made paying taxes more costly for companies 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.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Registering property, Paying taxes (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 178

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 46.0 (in 2012: 45.3; improvement: 0.8)

Seychelles

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Paying taxes (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 80

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 62.6 (in 2012: 62.3; improvement: 0.2)

Sierra Leone

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 142

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 52.2 (in 2012: 50.0; improvement: 2.2)

South Africa

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Paying taxes

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 41

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 70.9 (in 2012: 70.6; improvement: 0.3)

South Sudan

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Paying taxes (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 186

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 33.6 (in 2012: 35.9; improvement: -2.3)

Sudan

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 149

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 52.7 (in 2012: 52.5; improvement: 0.2)

Swaziland

Swaziland made starting a business easier by shortening the administrative processing times for registering a new business and obtaining a trading license. And it made trading across borders easier by streamlining the process for obtaining a certificate of origin.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Trading across borders

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 123

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 59.3 (in 2012: 58.8; improvement: 0.4)

Tanzania

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Getting credit (credit information), Resolving insolvency

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 145

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 56.7 (in 2012: 56.5; improvement: 0.2)

Togo

Togo made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to register at the one-stop shop and by reducing registration costs. And it made dealing with construction permits easier by improving internal operations at the City Hall of Lomé. In addition, it made enforcing contracts easier by creating specialized commercial divisions within the court of first instance. However, 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—though it also reduced the payroll tax rate. And it made trading across borders more difficult by granting monopoly control of all port activities at the port of Lomé to a private company.

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Dealing with construction permits, Enforcing contracts, Paying taxes (making it more difficult), Trading across borders (making it more difficult)

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 157

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 49.7 (in 2012: 48.8; improvement: 0.9)

Uganda

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Registering property

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 132

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 53.9 (in 2012: 53.7; improvement: 0.2)

Zambia

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

Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 83

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 64.6 (in 2012: 63.0; improvement: 1.5)

Zimbabwe

DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 170

Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 42.1 (in 2012: 40.7; improvement: 1.5)

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.

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