

Doing Business 2016
Fact Sheet: East Asia and the Pacific

What are the ranking trends?

- Economies in East Asia and the Pacific have an average ranking on the ease of doing business of 96.
- **Singapore** remains at the top of the global ranking. Also among the top performers worldwide are **Hong Kong SAR, China** (at 5 in the ranking); **Taiwan, China** (11); and **Malaysia** (18).
- Other large economies in the region and their rankings are **China** (84), **Indonesia** (109), the **Philippines** (103), and **Thailand** (49).
- The region's economies perform well on average in Dealing with Construction Permits (with an average ranking of 78) and Getting Credit (80). Completing the formalities to build a warehouse takes 135 days on average in the region, compared with a global average of 160 days.
- The region performs below the global average in Resolving Insolvency (with an average ranking of 106), Enforcing Contracts (104), Starting a Business (103), Protecting Minority Investors (102), and Registering Property (98). Registering a property transfer in the region takes 74 days on average, compared with a global average of 48 days.

What are the reform trends?ⁱ

- Thirteen of 25 economies in East Asia and the Pacific (52 percent) implemented at least one reform making it easier to do business in the past year, 27 in total—up from the previous year.
- Among the reforms implemented in the region, the highest numbers were in Starting a Business (8) and Paying Taxes (6). No reforms were recorded in Dealing with Construction Permits, Protecting Minority Investors, or Enforcing Contracts.
- **Vietnam** implemented the most reforms in the region, with 5, followed by **Hong Kong SAR, China** (4); and **Indonesia** (3). Some details of these reforms:
 - **Vietnam** made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to get the company seal engraved and registered. In addition, it guaranteed borrowers' right to inspect their credit data while the new credit bureau expanded borrower coverage, improving the credit information system.
 - **Hong Kong SAR, China**, improved access to credit by implementing a modern collateral registry. And it made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for a company seal in practice.
 - **Indonesia** made starting a business in Jakarta easier by reducing the time needed to register with the Ministry of Manpower. Moreover, Indonesia made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies in both Jakarta and Surabaya by introducing an online system for paying social security contributions and by reducing both the rate and the ceiling for the contributions.
- **Myanmar** made the biggest improvement globally in the area of Starting a Business—by eliminating the minimum capital requirement for local companies and streamlining incorporation procedures.
- **Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Mongolia, Myanmar, and Vanuatu** each implemented 2 reforms in the past year. Cambodia was one of only two economies worldwide that improved the reliability of electricity supply, thanks to an increase in power generation capacity.
- **China** improved its regulatory environment through a reform in Shanghai in the area of Paying Taxes.

Rankings Data for East Asia and the Pacific

Economy	Rank (1–189)		Distance to frontier score (0–100)		Reforms	
	DB2015	DB2016	DB2015	DB2016	DB2015	DB2016
Brunei Darussalam	105	84	58.02	62.93	2	2
Cambodia	133	127	52.78	55.22	0	2
China	83	84	62.81	62.93	2	1
Fiji	86	88	62.52	62.58	0	0
Hong Kong SAR, China	5	5	82.87	83.67	1	4
Indonesia	120	109	56.73	58.12	3	3
Kiribati	143	149	49.99	49.50	0	0
Lao PDR	139	134	51.22	53.77	2	1
Malaysia	17	18	79.08	79.13	0	1
Marshall Islands	137	140	51.58	51.58	0	0
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	146	148	49.68	49.67	0	0
Mongolia	59	56	68.19	68.83	2	2
Myanmar	177	167	40.09	45.27	1	2
Palau	131	136	53.43	53.43	1	0
Papua New Guinea	141	145	50.67	50.74	0	0
Philippines	97	103	59.94	60.07	0	1
Samoa	92	96	60.63	60.70	0	0
Singapore	1	1	87.34	87.34	1	0
Solomon Islands	109	112	57.74	57.86	1	0
Taiwan, China	11	11	80.53	80.55	3	1
Thailand	46	49	71.33	71.42	1	0
Timor-Leste	167	173	44.08	44.02	1	0
Tonga	74	78	64.17	64.13	0	0
Vanuatu	96	94	60.02	61.08	1	2
Vietnam	93	90	60.35	62.10	2	5

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. The scores for both *Doing Business 2015* and *Doing Business 2016* are based on the new methodology.

¹ Reform count regional averages excludes Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand, which are classified as OECD high-income economies.