

### What are the ranking trends?

- **New Zealand** is the top ranked economy on the ease of doing business rankings for a second consecutive year. New Zealand is first in several *Doing Business* indicators: Starting a Business, Registering Property and Getting Credit.
- Six other OECD high-income economies are among the top 10 economies for *Doing Business*. **Denmark** (ranked 3), **Republic of Korea** (4), **United States** (6), **United Kingdom** (7), **Norway** (8) and **Sweden** (10).
- Other large economies in the OECD high-income grouping and their rankings are **France** (31), **Germany** (20), **Italy** (46), **Japan** (34) and **Spain** (28).
- The lowest ranked economies in the region are **Greece** (67), **Luxembourg** (63) and **Chile** (55).
- The region's economies perform best in the *Doing Business* areas of Resolving Insolvency (with an average rank of 23), Trading across Borders (25) and Getting Electricity (39). For example, the average recovery rate for resolving insolvency in OECD high-income economies is 72.1 cents on the dollar, compared to the global average of 36.2. In Getting Electricity, OECD high-income economies score 7.5 points (out of 8) on the Reliability of Supply and Transparency of Tariff Index, compared to a global average of 4 points.

### What are the reform trends?

- A total of 17 reforms, making it easier to do business, were implemented in 15 of the region's 33 economies last year. The region has implemented a total of 529 reforms since the founding of *Doing Business*.
- The area of *Doing Business* which saw the largest number of reforms was Paying Taxes (with 6 reforms), followed by Enforcing Contracts (4 reforms). In Enforcing Contracts, along with East Asia and Pacific, and Sub-Saharan Africa, OECD high-income economies recorded the most reforms.
- **France** and **Italy** were the only two economies to implement more than one reform (with 2 reforms each), and **Italy** became the top improver in the region. The **United Kingdom** also improved its position in the past year. Examples of reforms include:
  - **Italy** made getting electricity easier by streamlining the application process and reducing the time for the external works and meter installation and made paying taxes easier by temporarily exempting employers from social security contributions and by abolishing the value-added tax communication form.
  - **France** strengthened minority investors protections by increasing corporate transparency and made paying taxes less costly by lowering rates for social security and training contributions.

### What are the highlights of the past 15 years?

- Since the start of *Doing Business*, the region carried out a total of 529 reforms.
- Poland has implemented the most reforms in the past 15 years, totaling 33, followed by Portugal (31) and Czech Republic (29).
- Starting a Business, with 99 reforms, was the leading indicator for regional reforms, followed by Paying Taxes and Registering Property with 95 and 71 reforms respectively.
  - the average number of days to start a business in the OECD area, using the comparable sample of economies, has dropped to 7 days, from 29.5 days in 2003.

## Rankings Data for OECD High-Income

Economy	Rank (1–190)	Distance to frontier score (0–100)		# of Reforms	
	DB2018	DB2017	DB2018	DB2017	DB2018
Australia	14	80.14	80.14	0	0
Austria	22	78.69	78.54	0	0
Belgium	52	71.92	71.69	0	1
Canada	18	79.38	79.29	0	0
Chile	55	70.85	71.22	0	0
Czech Republic	30	76.24	76.27	2	1
Denmark	3	84.07	84.06	0	0
Estonia	12	80.75	80.80	0	0
Finland	13	80.48	80.37	0	0
France	31	76.19	76.13	1	2
Germany	20	79.19	79.00	0	0
Greece	67	68.01	68.02	1	1
Hungary	48	72.13	72.39	2	1
Iceland	23	78.49	78.50	0	0
Ireland	17	79.70	79.51	1	0
Israel	54	71.37	71.42	1	0
Italy	46	71.55	72.70	1	2
Japan	34	75.61	75.68	1	1
Korea, Rep.	4	83.92	83.92	1	0
Latvia	19	80.05	79.26	3	0
Luxembourg	63	68.66	69.01	0	1
Netherlands	32	75.52	76.03	1	1
New Zealand	1	86.73	86.55	1	1
Norway	8	82.41	82.16	1	1
Poland	27	77.12	77.30	3	0
Portugal	29	76.98	76.84	2	0
Slovak Republic	39	75.15	74.90	1	1
Slovenia	37	74.43	75.42	0	1
Spain	28	77.02	77.02	3	1
Sweden	10	81.24	81.27	1	0
Switzerland	33	75.73	75.92	0	1
United Kingdom	7	82.34	82.22	0	0
United States	6	82.55	82.54	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.