

What are the ranking trends?

- **Mauritius**, in 25th place in the *Doing Business* rankings, is the highest ranked economy in Sub-Saharan Africa. Other economies in the region that perform well on the ease of doing business rankings are **Rwanda** (at 41), **Kenya** (80), **Botswana** (81) and **South Africa** (82).
- The region's lowest ranked economies are **Somalia** (190), **Eritrea** (189), **South Sudan** (187), and the **Central African Republic** (184).
- Other large economies in the region and their rankings are **Democratic Republic of Congo** (182), **Ethiopia** (161), **Nigeria** (145), **Tanzania** (137), **Sudan** (170), and **Uganda** (122).
- **Rwanda** ranks among the best globally in the *Doing Business* areas of Registering Property (with a rank of 2) and Getting Credit (6). In registering property, Rwanda has an efficient land registry where it takes 7 days to transfer property and costs only 0.1% of the property value, the same as in New Zealand.
- **Mauritius** has among the least cumbersome business regulations in two *Doing Business* areas: Dealing with Construction Permits (with a rank of 9) and Paying Taxes (10).
- Four economies in Sub-Saharan Africa rank in the top 10 in Getting Credit (with an average rank of 115). **Zambia** ranks 2, just after New Zealand, and **Rwanda**, **Malawi** and **Nigeria** all rank 6.
- The region underperforms in the areas of Getting Electricity (with an average rank of 148), Trading Across Borders (137), and Registering Property (131). It takes an average of 115 days to obtain a permanent electricity connection to the grid in Sub-Saharan Africa, compared to the global average of 92 days.

What are the reform trends?

- A record number of 83 reforms, making it easier to do business, were implemented in 36 of 48 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa in the past year. This is the largest number of reforms ever recorded by the *Doing Business* report in any region, and represents 31 percent of all reforms implemented globally in the past year.
- With **Malawi**, **Nigeria** and **Zambia**, Sub-Saharan Africa is the most represented region among the global top 10 improvers in the *Doing Business 2018* report.
- Multiple economies in the region implemented three or more reforms in the past year, including **Kenya** (6 reforms), **Mauritania**, **Nigeria**, **Rwanda**, and **Senegal** (5 reforms each), **Malawi**, **Mauritius** and **Niger** (4 reforms each), and **Angola**, **Benin**, **Cabo Verde** and **Zambia** (3 reforms each).
- Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 14 of the 22 reforms globally in Dealing with Construction Permits. Many economies, including **Benin**, **Cabo Verde**, **Democratic Republic of Congo**, **Gabon**, **Ghana**, **Guinea**, **Niger**, **Nigeria** and the **Seychelles** made dealing with construction permits easier by publishing regulations related to construction online.

What are the highlights of the past 15 years?

- Since the start of *Doing Business*, the region carried out a total of 798 reforms.
- Rwanda has implemented the most reforms in the past 15 years, totaling 52, followed by Kenya (32) and Mauritius (31).
- Starting a Business, with 163 reforms, was the leading indicator for regional reforms, followed by Getting Credit and Trading across Borders with 112 and 108 reforms respectively.
 - the average number of days to start a business in the region has dropped to 22.5 days from 61 days in 2003.

Rankings Data for Sub-Saharan Africa

| Economy | Rank (1–190) | Distance to frontier score (0–100) | | # of Reforms | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| | DB2018 | DB2017 | DB2018 | DB2017 | DB2018 |
| Angola | 175 | 40.11 | 41.49 | 2 | 3 |
| Benin | 151 | 48.62 | 50.47 | 2 | 3 |
| Botswana | 81 | 64.87 | 64.94 | 1 | 2 |
| Burkina Faso | 148 | 51.34 | 51.54 | 3 | 1 |
| Burundi | 164 | 46.86 | 46.92 | 1 | 0 |
| Cabo Verde | 127 | 55.82 | 56.24 | 0 | 3 |
| Cameroon | 163 | 45.05 | 47.23 | 2 | 2 |
| Central African Republic | 184 | 34.08 | 34.86 | 1 | 0 |
| Chad | 180 | 38.58 | 38.30 | 2 | 0 |
| Comoros | 158 | 48.05 | 48.52 | 2 | 1 |
| Congo, Dem. Rep. | 182 | 37.43 | 37.65 | 2 | 1 |
| Congo, Rep. | 179 | 40.09 | 39.57 | 1 | 1 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 139 | 51.67 | 53.71 | 4 | 1 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 173 | 39.89 | 41.66 | 2 | 1 |
| Eritrea | 189 | 22.45 | 22.87 | 0 | 0 |
| Ethiopia | 161 | 45.69 | 47.77 | 0 | 2 |
| Gabon | 167 | 44.86 | 46.19 | 1 | 2 |
| Gambia, The | 146 | 51.93 | 51.92 | 1 | 0 |
| Ghana | 120 | 56.90 | 57.24 | 1 | 1 |
| Guinea | 153 | 49.48 | 49.80 | 1 | 0 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 176 | 41.22 | 41.45 | 1 | 1 |
| Kenya | 80 | 62.56 | 65.15 | 5 | 6 |
| Lesotho | 104 | 59.88 | 60.42 | 1 | 0 |
| Liberia | 172 | 40.45 | 43.55 | 0 | 1 |
| Madagascar | 162 | 44.62 | 47.67 | 3 | 2 |
| Malawi | 110 | 52.61 | 58.94 | 3 | 4 |
| Mali | 143 | 52.62 | 52.92 | 3 | 0 |
| Mauritania | 150 | 49.32 | 50.88 | 4 | 5 |
| Mauritius | 25 | 75.45 | 77.54 | 1 | 4 |
| Mozambique | 138 | 53.03 | 54.00 | 1 | 2 |
| Namibia | 106 | 59.40 | 59.94 | 0 | 1 |
| Niger | 144 | 50.08 | 52.34 | 6 | 4 |
| Nigeria | 145 | 48.18 | 52.03 | 2 | 5 |
| Rwanda | 41 | 70.19 | 73.40 | 4 | 5 |
| São Tomé and Príncipe | 169 | 44.45 | 44.84 | 0 | 1 |
| Senegal | 140 | 49.31 | 53.06 | 4 | 5 |
| Seychelles | 95 | 60.40 | 61.41 | 0 | 2 |
| Sierra Leone | 160 | 48.24 | 48.18 | 1 | 2 |
| Somalia | 190 | 20.29 | 19.98 | 0 | 0 |
| South Africa | 82 | 64.97 | 64.89 | 1 | 0 |
| South Sudan | 187 | 33.19 | 32.86 | 0 | 0 |
| Sudan | 170 | 44.29 | 44.46 | 0 | 0 |
| Swaziland | 112 | 58.57 | 58.82 | 0 | 2 |
| Tanzania | 137 | 53.93 | 54.04 | 1 | 1 |
| Togo | 156 | 48.24 | 48.88 | 4 | 1 |
| Uganda | 122 | 56.52 | 56.94 | 3 | 1 |
| Zambia | 82 | 60.58 | 64.50 | 1 | 3 |
| Zimbabwe | 159 | 47.67 | 48.47 | 3 | 1 |

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.