

What are the ranking trends?

- The **United Arab Emirates** (UAE), ranked 11 in the *Doing Business* report, is the highest ranked economy in the Middle East and North Africa region, followed by **Morocco** (60) and **Bahrain** (62).
- Amid continued political instability, **Syria** (179), **Libya** (186), and **Yemen** (187) are the lowest ranked economies in the region.
- Other large economies in the region and their rankings include **Algeria** (157), **Egypt** (120), **Iran** (128), **Saudi Arabia** (92) and **Tunisia** (80).
- The region's economies perform best in the areas of Paying Taxes (with an average rank of 82), Dealing with Construction Permits (98), Registering Property (90) and Getting Electricity (94). For example, an average of 30 days is required to register a transfer of property in the region, compared to a global average of 48.
- The region underperforms in the areas of Getting Credit (126), Resolving Insolvency (121) and Trading Across Borders (121). For example, in cases of bankruptcy, the average recovery rate in the region is 26.3 cents for each dollar, compared with 70.5 cents in OECD high-income economies.

What are the reform trends?

- 70% of economies reformed in at least one of the areas measured by *Doing Business*. A total of 43 reforms, making it easier to do business, were implemented in 14 of the region's 20 economies in the past year, compared to 29 reforms implemented by 13 economies in the previous year.
- The largest number of reforms was implemented in the areas of Starting a Business and Protecting Minority Investors with 7 reforms each.
- **Djibouti** made the list of global top 10 improvers for the second consecutive year. Over the past 12 months, the economy implemented a total of six reforms and moved up in the global ranking by more than 50 positions. **Djibouti** also led the region in terms of the number of reforms implemented
- **Egypt** and **Saudi Arabia** were also among the notable reformers, with five and four reforms respectively.
- Examples of reforms include:
 - **Djibouti** made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop for business start-up, leading to a reduction of 2 procedures. The reform also reduced the cost of starting a business by 17% of the income per capita.
 - **Egypt** made resolving insolvency easier by introducing the reorganization procedure, allowing debtors to initiate the reorganization procedure and granting creditors greater participation in the proceedings.
 - **Saudi Arabia** made exporting and importing easier by launching a new electronic single window and extending the hours of operation of customs at the Jeddah port.
 - The **United Arab Emirates** made getting electricity easier by eliminating all costs for commercial and industrial connections of up to 150 kVA. With this reform, the economy scores a maximum of 100 in all components of the Getting Electricity indicator.

Noteworthy items:

- Changes in this year's report include renaming of the distance-to-frontier measurement to ease of doing business score, to better reflect its main purpose of measuring absolute progress towards best practices (without any change in the actual calculation).
- There are no changes to the methodology this year or to the calculation of the Doing Business Score, which underpins the Doing Business rankings.
- This year, Doing Business includes four case studies that focus on the benefits of:
 - mandatory and annual training of both public officials and users of business and land registries;
 - training for customs clearance officials and brokers;

- robust regulatory framework governing the electricity sector and accrediting the electrician profession;
- training and specialization of judges.

Rankings Data for the Middle East and North Africa

Economy	Rank (1–190)	Ease of doing business score (0-100)		# of Reforms	
	DB2019	DB2018	DB2019	DB2018	DB2019
Algeria	157	47.59	49.65	0	2
Bahrain	62	68.03	69.85	0	2
Djibouti	99	53.15	62.02	5	6
Egypt, Arab Rep.	120	55.82	58.56	1	5
Iran, Islamic Rep.	128	54.64	56.98	1	2
Iraq	171	44.68	44.72	2	0
Jordan	104	59.56	60.98	1	4
Kuwait	97	61.45	62.20	2	2
Lebanon	142	53.97	54.04	0	0
Libya	186	33.21	33.44	0	0
Malta	84	65.15	65.43	1	1
Morocco	60	68.56	71.02	2	4
Oman	78	67.21	67.19	1	0
Qatar	83	65.25	65.89	2	2
Saudi Arabia	92	61.88	63.50	6	4
Syrian Arab Republic	179	41.55	41.57	0	0
Tunisia	80	64.60	66.11	0	4
United Arab Emirates	11	78.91	81.28	4	4
West Bank and Gaza	116	58.72	59.11	1	1
Yemen, Rep.	187	33.00	32.41	0	0

Source: *Doing Business* database.

Note: The rankings are based on the average of each economy's ease of doing business 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.