

Summaries of *Doing Business* reforms in 2010/11

245 reforms in 2010/11 made it easier to do business

Starting a business	Dealing with construction permits	Getting credit		
53	15	44		
Armenia Benin Bhutan Bosnia and Herzegovina Burkina Faso Burundi Congo, Dem. Rep. Central African Republic Chad Chile Colombia Congo, Dem. Rep. Côte d'Ivoire Dominican Republic Georgia Greece Guinea-Bissau Guyana Hong Kong SAR, China Indonesia Jordan Korea, Rep. Latvia Liberia Madagascar Malaysia Mali Moldova Montenegro Oman Panama Peru Portugal Puerto Rico (U.S.) Qatar Rwanda São Tomé and Príncipe Saudi Arabia Senegal Solomon Islands South Africa Spain Syrian Arab Republic Taiwan, China Tajikistan Thailand Timor-Leste Tonga Turkey Ukraine United Arab Emirates Uruguay Uzbekistan Vanuatu	Armenia Bosnia and Herzegovina Burkina Faso Burundi Congo, Dem. Rep. Macedonia, FYR Mauritania Mexico Morocco Paraguay Portugal Puerto Rico (U.S.) São Tomé and Príncipe Taiwan, China United Kingdom	Algeria Angola Armenia Benin Bhutan Brazil Burkina Faso Cambodia Cameroon Cape Verde Central African Republic Chad Chile Comoros Congo, Rep. Côte d'Ivoire Croatia Equatorial Guinea Gabon Georgia Guinea Guinea-Bissau Honduras Liberia Macedonia, FYR Madagascar Malawi Mali Mexico Moldova Mongolia Niger Oman Paraguay Qatar Rwanda Senegal Sierra Leone Slovak Republic Timor-Leste Togo Tonga United Arab Emirates Uruguay	Kazakhstan Lithuania Morocco Peru Solomon Islands Sri Lanka Vietnam	Poland Russian Federation São Tomé and Príncipe Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Slovenia Tanzania Vanuatu
	Getting electricity		Paying taxes	
	9		33	
	Registering property			Enforcing contracts
	20			11
		Protecting investors		Resolving insolvency
		13		29
	Albania Angola Belarus Belgium Cape Verde Central African Republic Costa Rica Czech Republic Latvia Macedonia, FYR Nicaragua Russian Federation São Tomé and Príncipe Serbia Slovenia Solomon Islands South Africa Swaziland Uganda Vanuatu	Belarus Burundi Cyprus El Salvador Georgia Iceland	Armenia Belarus Belize Burundi Canada Colombia Congo, Dem. Rep. Costa Rica Côte d'Ivoire Czech Republic Finland Gambia, The Georgia Greece Iceland India Korea, Rep. Mexico Montenegro Morocco New Zealand Nicaragua Oman Peru Romania Rwanda Seychelles Sri Lanka St. Kitts and Nevis Togo Turkey Ukraine Yemen, Rep.	Armenia Australia Austria Bulgaria Burundi Cape Verde Colombia Denmark France Israel Italy Latvia Lithuania Macedonia, FYR Malawi Malaysia Moldova Montenegro Namibia Philippines Poland Romania Serbia Sierra Leone Slovenia Solomon Islands South Africa Switzerland Ukraine

Source: *Doing Business* database.

Doing Business reforms affecting all sets of indicators included in this year's ranking on the ease of doing business, implemented between June 2010 and May 2011.

- ✓ *Doing Business* reform making it easier to do business
- ✗ *Doing Business* reform making it more difficult to do business

AFGHANISTAN

✓ Getting electricity

Afghanistan made getting electricity easier by improving the efficiency of the electricity department in Kabul and introducing a new fee schedule for connections.

ALBANIA

✗ Dealing with construction permits

In Albania dealing with construction permits became more difficult because the main authority in charge of issuing building permits has not met since April 2009.

✓ Registering property

Albania made property registration easier by setting time limits for the land registry to register a title.

ALGERIA

✓ Getting credit

Algeria improved its credit information system by guaranteeing by law the right of borrowers to inspect their personal data.

ANGOLA

✓ Registering property

Angola made transferring property less costly by reducing transfer taxes.

✓ Getting credit

Angola strengthened its credit information system by adopting new rules for credit bureaus and guaranteeing the right of borrowers to inspect their data.

ARGENTINA

✗ Registering property

Argentina made transferring property more difficult by adding a requirement that the notary obtain the tax agency's reference value for property before notarizing the sale deed.

ARMENIA

✓ Starting a business

Armenia made starting a business easier by establishing a one-stop shop that merged the procedures for name reservation, business

registration and obtaining a tax identification number and by allowing for online company registration.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Armenia made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain an environmental impact assessment for small projects.

✓ Getting credit

Armenia improved its credit information system by introducing a requirement to collect and distribute information from utility companies.

✓ Paying taxes

Armenia made tax compliance easier for firms by reducing the number of payments for social security contributions and corporate income, property and land taxes and by introducing mandatory electronic filing and payment for major taxes.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Armenia amended its bankruptcy law to clarify procedures for appointing insolvency administrators, reduce the processing time for bankruptcy proceedings and regulate asset sales by auction.

AUSTRALIA

✓ Resolving insolvency

Australia clarified the priority of claims of unsecured creditors over all shareholders' claims and introduced further regulation of the profession of insolvency practitioners.

AUSTRIA

✓ Resolving insolvency

Austria passed a new law that simplifies restructuring proceedings and gives preferential consideration to the interests of the debtors.

BAHAMAS, THE

✗ Registering property

The Bahamas made transferring property more costly by increasing the applicable stamp duty fees.

BANGLADESH

✗ Getting electricity

Bangladesh made getting electricity more difficult by imposing a moratorium on new electricity connections from April 2010 to March 2011 because of an electricity supply shortage. This moratorium has led to long delays for customers and has increased the time to obtain an electricity connection.

BELARUS

✓ Registering property

Belarus simplified property transfer by doing away with the requirement to obtain the municipality's approval for transfers of most commercial buildings in Minsk.

✓ Protecting investors

Belarus strengthened investor protections by introducing requirements for greater corporate disclosure to the board of directors and to the public.

✓ Paying taxes

Belarus abolished several taxes, including turnover and sales taxes, and simplified compliance with corporate income, value added and other taxes by reducing the frequency of filings and payments and facilitating electronic filing and payment.

✗ Enforcing contracts

Belarus modified its code of economic procedure, altering the time frames for commercial dispute resolution.

BELGIUM

✓ Registering property

Belgium made property registration quicker for entrepreneurs by setting time limits and implementing its "e-notariat" system.

✓ Trading across borders

Belgium made trading across borders faster by improving its risk-based profiling system for imports.

BELIZE

✓ Paying taxes

Belize made paying taxes easier for firms by improving electronic filing and payment for social security contributions, an option now used by the majority of taxpayers.

BENIN

✓ Starting a business

Benin 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 the company's registration.

✓ Getting credit

Access to credit in Benin was improved through amendments to the OHADA (Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa) Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

BHUTAN✓ **Starting a business**

Bhutan eased the process of starting a business by making its criminal records search electronic and making the rubber company stamps available on the local market.

✓ **Getting credit**

Bhutan improved its credit information system by launching the operation of a public credit registry.

BOLIVIA✗ **Paying taxes**

Bolivia raised social security contribution rates for employers.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA✓ **Starting a business**

Bosnia and Herzegovina made starting a business easier by replacing the required utilization permit with a simple notification of commencement of activities and by streamlining the process for obtaining a tax identification number.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Bosnia and Herzegovina made dealing with construction permits easier by fully digitizing and revamping its land registry and cadastre.

BRAZIL✓ **Getting credit**

Brazil improved its credit information system by allowing private credit bureaus to collect and share positive information.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM✓ **Getting electricity**

Brunei Darussalam made getting electricity easier by establishing a one-stop shop and reducing the time required to obtain an excavation permit.

BULGARIA✓ **Trading across borders**

Bulgaria made trading across borders faster by introducing online submission of customs declaration forms.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Bulgaria amended its commerce act to extend further rights to secured creditors and increase the transparency of insolvency proceedings.

BURKINA FASO✓ **Starting a business**

Burkina Faso 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 the company's registration.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Burkina Faso made dealing with construction permits less costly by reducing the fees to obtain a fire safety study.

✓ **Getting credit**

Access to credit in Burkina Faso was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

BURUNDI✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Burundi made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the cost to obtain a geotechnical study.

✓ **Protecting investors**

Burundi strengthened investor protections by introducing new requirements for the approval of transactions between interested parties, by requiring greater corporate disclosure to the board of directors and in the annual report and by making it easier to sue directors in cases of prejudicial transactions between interested parties.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Burundi made paying taxes easier for companies by reducing the payment frequency for social security contributions from monthly to quarterly.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Burundi amended its commercial code to establish foreclosure procedures.

CAMBODIA✓ **Getting credit**

Cambodia strengthened its credit information system through a new regulation allowing credit bureaus to collect and distribute positive as well as negative credit information.

CAMEROON✓ **Starting a business**

Cameroon 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 the company's registration, and by reducing publication fees.

✓ **Getting credit**

Access to credit in Cameroon was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

CANADA✓ **Paying taxes**

Canada made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by reducing profit tax rates, eliminating the Ontario capital tax and harmonizing sales taxes.

CAPE VERDE✓ **Registering property**

Cape Verde made registering property faster by implementing time limits for the notaries and the land registry.

✓ **Getting credit**

Cape Verde improved its credit information system by introducing a new online platform and by starting to provide 5 years of historical data.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Cape Verde introduced qualification requirements for insolvency administrators and a shorter time frame for liquidation proceedings.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC✓ **Starting a business**

The Central African Republic made starting a business easier by reducing business registration fees and by replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of the company's registration.

✓ **Registering property**

The Central African Republic halved the cost of registering property.

✓ **Getting credit**

Access to credit in the Central African Republic was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

CHAD✓ **Starting a business**

Chad made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for a medical certificate and by replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of the company's registration.

✓ **Getting credit**

Access to credit in Chad was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

CHILE✓ **Starting a business**

Chile made business start-up easier by starting to provide an immediate temporary operating license to new companies, eliminating the requirement for an inspection of premises by the tax authority before new companies can begin operations and allowing free online publication of the notice of a company's creation.

✓ **Getting credit**

Chile strengthened its secured transactions system by implementing a unified collateral registry and a new legal framework for non-possessory security interests.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Chile made trading across borders faster by implementing an online electronic data interchange system for customs operations.

COLOMBIA✓ **Starting a business**

Colombia reduced the costs associated with starting a business, by no longer requiring up-front payment of the commercial license fee.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Colombia eased the administrative burden of paying taxes for firms by establishing mandatory electronic filing and payment for some of the major taxes.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Colombia amended regulations governing insolvency proceedings to simplify the proceedings and reduce their time and cost.

COMOROS✓ **Getting credit**

Access to credit in the Comoros was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform

Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

CONGO, DEM. REP.✓ **Starting a business**

The Democratic Republic of Congo made business start-up faster by reducing the time required to complete company registration and obtain a national identification number.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

The Democratic Republic of Congo reduced the administrative costs of obtaining a construction permit.

✓ **Paying taxes**

The Democratic Republic of Congo made paying taxes easier for firms by replacing the sales tax with a value added tax.

CONGO, REP.x **Registering property**

The Republic of Congo made registering property more expensive by reversing a previous law that reduced the registration fee.

✓ **Getting credit**

Access to credit in the Republic of Congo was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

COSTA RICA✓ **Registering property**

Costa Rica made transferring property easier and quicker by making property certificates available online through a single website.

✓ **Paying taxes**

In Costa Rica online payment of social security contributions is now widespread and used by the majority of taxpayers.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE✓ **Starting a business**

Côte d'Ivoire made starting a business easier by reorganizing the court clerk's office where entrepreneurs file their company documents.

✓ **Getting credit**

Access to credit in Côte d'Ivoire was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral

(including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Côte d'Ivoire eliminated a tax on firms, the contribution for national reconstruction (*contribution pour la reconstruction nationale*).

CROATIA✓ **Getting credit**

In Croatia the private credit bureau started to collect and distribute information on firms, improving the credit information system.

CYPRUS✓ **Protecting investors**

Cyprus strengthened investor protections by requiring greater corporate disclosure to the board of directors, to the public and in the annual report.

CZECH REPUBLIC✓ **Registering property**

The Czech Republic speeded up property registration by computerizing its cadastral office, digitizing all its data and introducing electronic communications with notaries.

✓ **Paying taxes**

The Czech Republic revised its tax legislation to simplify provisions relating to administrative procedures and relationships between tax authorities and taxpayers.

DENMARK✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Denmark introduced new rules on company reorganization, which led to the elimination of the suspension-of-payments regime.

DJIBOUTIx **Dealing with construction permits**

Djibouti made dealing with construction permits costlier by increasing the fees for inspections and the building permit and adding a new inspection in the preconstruction phase.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Djibouti made trading across borders faster by developing a new container terminal.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC✓ **Starting a business**

The Dominican Republic made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for a proof of deposit of capital when establishing a new company.

EL SALVADOR

✓ Protecting investors

El Salvador strengthened investor protections by allowing greater access to corporate information during the trial.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

✓ Getting credit

Access to credit in Equatorial Guinea was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

ESTONIA

x Paying taxes

In Estonia a municipal sales tax introduced in Tallinn made paying taxes costlier for firms, though a later parliamentary measure abolished local sales taxes effective January 1, 2012.

ETHIOPIA

x Getting electricity

In Ethiopia delays in providing new connections made getting electricity more difficult.

FIJI

x Starting a business

Fiji made starting a business more difficult by adding a requirement to obtain a tax identification number when registering a new company.

FINLAND

✓ Paying taxes

Finland simplified reporting and payment for the value added tax and labor tax.

FRANCE

✓ Resolving insolvency

France passed a law that enables debtors to implement a restructuring plan with financial creditors only, without affecting trade creditors.

GABON

✓ Getting credit

Access to credit in Gabon was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security

interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

GAMBIA, THE

✓ Getting electricity

The Gambia made getting electricity faster by allowing customers to choose private contractors to carry out the external connection works.

✓ Paying taxes

The Gambia reduced the minimum turnover tax and corporate income tax rates.

✓ Trading across borders

The Gambia made trading across borders faster by implementing the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA).

GEORGIA

✓ Starting a business

Georgia simplified business start-up by eliminating the requirement to visit a bank to pay the registration fees.

✓ Getting credit

Georgia expanded access to credit by amending its civil code to broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral.

✓ Protecting investors

Georgia strengthened investor protections by introducing requirements relating to the approval of transactions between interested parties.

✓ Paying taxes

Georgia made paying taxes easier for firms by simplifying the reporting for value added tax and introducing electronic filing and payment of taxes.

GHANA

x Starting a business

Ghana increased the cost to start a business by 70%.

GREECE

✓ Starting a business

Greece made starting a business easier by implementing an electronic platform that interconnects several government agencies.

✓ Paying taxes

Greece reduced its corporate income tax rate.

GUINEA

✓ Getting credit

Access to credit in Guinea was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform

Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

GUINEA-BISSAU

✓ Starting a business

Guinea-Bissau made starting a business easier by establishing a one-stop shop, eliminating the requirement for an operating license and simplifying the method for providing criminal records and publishing the registration notice.

✓ Getting credit

Access to credit in Guinea-Bissau was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

GUYANA

✓ Starting a business

Guyana made starting a business easier by reducing the time needed for registering a new company and for obtaining a tax identification number.

x Getting electricity

Guyana made getting electricity more expensive by tripling the security deposit required for a new connection.

x Registering property

In Guyana transferring property became slower because of a lack of personnel at the deed registry.

HAITI

x Dealing with construction permits

Haiti made dealing with construction permits costlier by increasing the fees to obtain a building permit.

HONDURAS✓ **Getting credit**

Honduras strengthened its secured transactions system through a new decree establishing a centralized and computerized collateral registry and providing for out-of-court enforcement of collateral upon default.

✗ **Paying taxes**

Honduras made paying taxes costlier for firms by raising the solidarity tax rate.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Honduras made trading across borders faster by implementing a web-based electronic data interchange system and X-ray machines at the port of Puerto Cortes.

✗ **Enforcing contracts**

Honduras adopted a new civil procedure code that modified litigation procedures for enforcing a contract.

HONG KONG SAR, CHINA✓ **Starting a business**

Hong Kong SAR, China, made starting a business easier by introducing online electronic services for company and business registration.

✓ **Getting electricity**

Hong Kong SAR, China, made getting electricity easier by increasing the efficiency of public agencies and streamlining the utility's procedures with other government agencies.

HUNGARY✗ **Getting credit**

Hungary reduced the amount of credit information available from private credit bureaus by shortening the period for retaining data on defaults and late payments (if repaid) from 5 years to 1 year.

✗ **Paying taxes**

Hungary made paying taxes costlier for firms by introducing a sector-specific surtax.

ICELAND✓ **Protecting investors**

Iceland strengthened investor protections by introducing new requirements relating to the approval of transactions between interested parties.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Iceland made paying taxes easier and less costly for firms by abolishing a tax.

INDIA✓ **Paying taxes**

India eased the administrative burden of paying taxes for firms by introducing mandatory electronic filing and payment for value added tax.

INDONESIA✓ **Starting a business**

Indonesia made starting a business easier by introducing a simplified application process allowing an applicant to simultaneously obtain both a general trading license and a business registration certificate.

✗ **Getting electricity**

Indonesia made getting electricity more difficult by increasing connection fees.

IRAQ✗ **Starting a business**

In Iraq starting a business became more expensive because of an increase in the cost to obtain a name reservation certificate and in the cost for lawyers to draft articles of association.

ISRAEL✓ **Trading across borders**

Israel made trading across borders easier by changing the method used to calculate port fees.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Israel amended its courts law to establish specialized courts for dealing with economic matters.

ITALY✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Italy has introduced debt restructuring and reorganization procedures as alternatives to bankruptcy proceedings.

JAPAN✗ **Dealing with construction permits**

Japan made dealing with construction permits costlier by increasing inspection fees.

JORDAN✓ **Starting a business**

Jordan made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement from 1,000 Jordanian dinars to 1 dinar, of which only half must be deposited before company registration.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Jordan made trading across borders faster by introducing X-ray scanners for risk management systems.

KAZAKHSTAN✓ **Protecting investors**

Kazakhstan strengthened investor protections by regulating the approval of transactions between interested parties and making it easier to sue directors in cases of prejudicial transactions between interested parties.

KENYA✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Kenya introduced a case management system that will help increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of commercial dispute resolution.

KOREA, REP.✓ **Starting a business**

Korea made starting a business easier by introducing a new online one-stop shop, Start-Biz.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Korea eased the administrative burden of paying taxes for firms by merging several taxes, allowing 4 labor taxes and contributions to be paid jointly and continuing to increase the use of the online tax payment system.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Korea made filing a commercial case easier by introducing an electronic case filing system.

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC✗ **Paying taxes**

The Kyrgyz Republic made paying taxes costlier for firms by introducing a real estate tax, though it also reduced the sales tax rate.

LATVIA✓ **Starting a business**

Latvia made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement and introducing a common application for value added tax and company registration.

✓ **Getting electricity**

Latvia made getting electricity faster by introducing a simplified process for approval of external connection designs.

✓ Registering property

Latvia made transferring property easier by allowing electronic access to municipal tax databases that show the tax status of property, eliminating the requirement to obtain this information in paper format.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Latvia adopted a new insolvency law that streamlines and expedites the insolvency process and introduces a reorganization option for companies.

LEBANON

✓ Getting electricity

Lebanon made getting electricity less costly by reducing the application fees and security deposit for a new connection.

LESOTHO

✓ Enforcing contracts

Lesotho made enforcing contracts easier by launching a specialized commercial court.

LIBERIA

✓ Starting a business

Liberia made starting a business easier by introducing a one-stop shop.

✓ Getting credit

Liberia strengthened its legal framework for secured transactions by adopting a new commercial code that broadens the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets) and extends the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset.

✓ Trading across borders

Liberia made trading across borders faster by implementing online submission of customs forms and enhancing risk-based inspections.

LITHUANIA

✗ Getting electricity

Lithuania made getting electricity more difficult by abolishing the one-stop shop for obtaining technical conditions for utility services.

✓ Protecting investors

Lithuania strengthened investor protections by introducing greater requirements for corporate disclosure to the public and in the annual report.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Lithuania amended its reorganization law to simplify and shorten reorganization proceedings, grant priority to secured creditors and introduce professional requirements for insolvency administrators.

MACEDONIA, FYR

✓ Dealing with construction permits

FYR Macedonia made dealing with construction permits easier by transferring oversight processes to the private sector and streamlining procedures.

✓ Registering property

FYR Macedonia made registering property easier by reducing notary fees and enforcing time limits.

✓ Getting credit

FYR Macedonia improved its credit information system by establishing a private credit bureau.

✓ Resolving insolvency

FYR Macedonia increased the transparency of bankruptcy proceedings through amendments to its company and bankruptcy laws.

MADAGASCAR

✓ Starting a business

Madagascar made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement, but also made it more difficult by introducing a requirement to obtain a tax identification number.

✓ Getting credit

Madagascar improved its credit information system by eliminating the minimum threshold for loans included in the database and making it mandatory for banks to share credit information with the credit bureau.

MALAWI

✗ Registering property

Malawi did not sustain the previous year's improvement in processing times for the compliance certificate at the Ministry of Lands, leading to slower property registration.

✓ Getting credit

Malawi improved its credit information system by passing a new law allowing the creation of a private credit bureau.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Malawi adopted new rules providing clear procedural requirements and time frames for winding up a company.

MALAYSIA

✓ Starting a business

Malaysia made starting a business easier by merging company, tax, social security and employment fund registrations at the one-stop shop and providing same-day registration.

✗ Paying taxes

Malaysia made paying taxes costlier for firms by reintroducing the real estate capital gains tax—but also made tax compliance easier by improving electronic systems and the availability of software.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Malaysia continued to improve the computerization of its courts by introducing a system making it possible to file complaints electronically.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Malaysia established dedicated commercial courts to handle foreclosure proceedings.

MALI

✓ Starting a business

Mali made starting a business easier by adding to the services provided by the one-stop shop.

✓ Getting credit

Access to credit in Mali was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

MAURITANIA

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Mauritania made dealing with construction permits easier by opening a one-stop shop.

MEXICO

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Mexico made dealing with construction permits faster by consolidating internal administrative procedures.

✓ Getting credit

Mexico strengthened its secured transactions system by implementing a centralized collateral registry with an electronic database that is accessible online.

✓ Paying taxes

Mexico continued to ease the administrative burden of paying taxes for firms by ending the requirement to file a yearly value added tax return and reducing filing requirements for other taxes.

MOLDOVA

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Moldova made starting a business easier by implementing a one-stop shop.
- ✓ **Getting credit**
Moldova improved its credit information system by establishing its first private credit bureau.
- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
Moldova made enforcement of judgments more efficient by introducing private bailiffs.
- ✓ **Resolving insolvency**
Moldova amended its insolvency law to grant priority to secured creditors.

MONGOLIA

- ✓ **Getting credit**
Mongolia improved its credit information system by eliminating the minimum threshold for loans included in the database.

MONTENEGRO

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Montenegro made starting a business easier by implementing a one-stop shop.
- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Montenegro made paying taxes easier and less costly for firms by abolishing a tax, reducing the social security contribution rate and merging several returns into a single unified one.
- ✓ **Resolving insolvency**
Montenegro passed a new bankruptcy law that introduces reorganization and liquidation proceedings, introduces time limits for these proceedings and provides for the possibility of recovery of secured creditors' claims and settlement before completion of the entire bankruptcy procedure.

MOROCCO

- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Morocco made dealing with construction permits easier by opening a one-stop shop.
- ✓ **Protecting investors**
Morocco strengthened investor protections by allowing minority shareholders to obtain any nonconfidential corporate document during trial.
- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Morocco eased the administrative burden of paying taxes for firms by enhancing electronic filing and payment of the corporate income tax and value added tax.

MOZAMBIQUE

- ✗ **Getting electricity**
Mozambique made getting electricity more difficult by requiring authorization of a connection project by the Ministry of Energy and by adding an inspection of the completed external works.

NAMIBIA

- ✗ **Registering property**
Namibia made transferring property more expensive for companies.
- ✓ **Resolving insolvency**
Namibia adopted a new company law that established clear procedures for liquidation.

NEPAL

- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
Nepal improved oversight and monitoring in the court, speeding up the process for filing claims.

NEW ZEALAND

- ✓ **Paying taxes**
New Zealand reduced its corporate income tax rate and fringe benefit tax rate.

NICARAGUA

- ✓ **Registering property**
Nicaragua made transferring property more efficient by introducing a fast-track procedure for registration.
- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Nicaragua made paying taxes easier for companies by promoting electronic filing and payment of the major taxes, an option now used by the majority of taxpayers.
- ✓ **Enforcing contracts**
Nicaragua raised the monetary threshold for commercial claims that can be brought to the Managua local civil court, leaving lower-value claims in the local courts, where proceedings are simpler and faster.

NIGER

- ✓ **Getting credit**
Access to credit in Niger was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

OMAN

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Oman introduced online company registration, reducing the time it takes to register a business.
- ✓ **Getting credit**
Oman improved its credit information system by launching the Bank Credit and Statistical Bureau System, which collects historical information on performing and nonperforming loans for both firms and individuals.
- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Oman enacted a new income tax law that redefined the scope of taxation.

PAKISTAN

- ✗ **Paying taxes**
Pakistan increased the profit tax rate for small firms.

PANAMA

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Panama extended the operating hours of the public registry, reducing the time required to register a new company.

PARAGUAY

- ✓ **Dealing with construction permits**
Paraguay made dealing with construction permits easier by implementing a risk-based approval system and a single window for obtaining construction permits.
- ✓ **Getting credit**
Paraguay improved its credit information system by establishing an online platform for financial institutions to exchange information with the public credit registry.
- ✗ **Paying taxes**
Paraguay made paying taxes more burdensome for companies by introducing new tax declarations that must be filed monthly.

PERU

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Peru made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for micro and small enterprises to deposit start-up capital in a bank before registration.
- ✓ **Protecting investors**
Peru strengthened investor protections through a new law allowing minority shareholders to request access to nonconfidential corporate documents.

✓ Paying taxes

Peru made paying taxes easier for companies by improving electronic filing and payment of the major taxes and promoting the use of the electronic option among the majority of taxpayers.

PHILIPPINES

✓ Resolving insolvency

The Philippines adopted a new insolvency law that provides a legal framework for liquidation and reorganization of financially distressed companies.

POLAND

✓ Trading across borders

Poland made trading across borders faster by implementing electronic preparation and submission of customs documents.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Poland amended its bankruptcy and reorganization law to simplify court procedures and extend more rights to secured creditors.

PORTUGAL

✓ Starting a business

Portugal made starting a business easier by allowing company founders to choose the amount of minimum capital and make their paid-in capital contribution up to 1 year after the company's creation, and by eliminating the stamp tax on company's share capital subscriptions.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Portugal made dealing with construction permits easier by streamlining its inspection system.

PUERTO RICO (U.S.)

✓ Starting a business

Puerto Rico (territory of the United States) made starting a business easier by merging the name search and company registration procedures.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Puerto Rico (territory of the United States) made dealing with construction permits easier by creating the Office of Permits Management to streamline procedures.

QATAR

✓ Starting a business

Qatar made starting a business easier by combining commercial registration and registration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the one-stop shop.

✗ Dealing with construction permits

Qatar made dealing with construction permits more difficult by increasing the time and cost to process building permits.

✓ Getting credit

Qatar improved its credit information system by starting to distribute historical data and eliminating the minimum threshold for loans included in the database.

ROMANIA

✗ Starting a business

Romania made starting a business more difficult by requiring a tax clearance certificate for a new company's headquarters before company registration.

✓ Paying taxes

Romania made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic payment system and a unified return for social security contributions. It also abolished the annual minimum tax.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Romania amended its insolvency law to shorten the duration of insolvency proceedings.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

✓ Getting electricity

Russia made getting electricity less costly by revising the tariffs for connection.

✓ Registering property

Russia made registering property transfers easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain cadastral passports on land plots.

✗ Paying taxes

Russia increased the social security contribution rate for employers.

✓ Trading across borders

Russia made trading across borders easier by reducing the number of documents needed for each export or import transaction and lowering the associated cost.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Russia made filing a commercial case easier by introducing an electronic case filing system.

RWANDA

✓ Starting a business

Rwanda made starting a business easier by reducing the business registration fees.

✗ Registering property

Rwanda made transferring property more expensive by enforcing the checking of the capital gains tax.

✓ Getting credit

In Rwanda the private credit bureau started to collect and distribute information from utility companies and also started to distribute more than 2 years of historical information, improving the credit information system.

✓ Paying taxes

Rwanda reduced the frequency of value added tax filings by companies from monthly to quarterly.

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

✓ Starting a business

São Tomé and Príncipe made starting a business easier by establishing a one-stop shop, eliminating the requirement for an operating license for general commercial companies and simplifying publication requirements.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

São Tomé and Príncipe made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the time required to process building permit applications.

✓ Registering property

São Tomé and Príncipe made registering property less costly by lowering property transfer taxes.

✓ Trading across borders

São Tomé and Príncipe made trading across borders faster by adopting legislative, administrative and technological improvements.

SAUDI ARABIA

✓ Starting a business

Saudi Arabia made starting a business easier by bringing together representatives from the Department of Zakat and Income Tax and the General Organization of Social Insurance at the Unified Center to register new companies with their agencies.

SENEGAL

✓ Starting a business

Senegal 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 the company's registration.

✓ Getting credit

Access to credit in Senegal was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

✓ Trading across borders

Senegal made trading across borders less costly by opening the market for transport, which increased competition.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Senegal made enforcing contracts easier by launching specialized commercial chambers in the court.

SERBIA

✓ Registering property

Serbia made transferring property quicker by offering an expedited option.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Serbia adopted legislation introducing professional requirements for insolvency administrators and regulating their compensation.

SEYCHELLES

✓ Paying taxes

The Seychelles made paying taxes less costly for firms by eliminating the social security tax.

✓ Trading across borders

The Seychelles made trading across borders faster by introducing electronic submission of customs documents.

✗ Enforcing contracts

The Seychelles expanded the jurisdiction of the lower court, increasing the time required to enforce contracts.

SIERRA LEONE

✓ Getting credit

Sierra Leone improved its credit information system by enacting a new law providing for the creation of a public credit registry.

✓ Trading across borders

Sierra Leone made trading across borders faster by implementing the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA).

✓ Enforcing contracts

Sierra Leone made enforcing contracts easier by launching a fast-track commercial court.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Sierra Leone established a fast-track commercial court in an effort to expedite commercial cases, including insolvency proceedings.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

✓ Getting credit

The Slovak Republic improved its credit information system by guaranteeing by law the right of borrowers to inspect their own data.

SLOVENIA

✓ Registering property

Slovenia made transferring property easier and less costly by introducing online procedures and reducing fees.

✓ Trading across borders

Slovenia made trading across borders faster by introducing online submission of customs declaration forms.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Slovenia simplified and streamlined the insolvency process and strengthened professional requirements for insolvency administrators.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

✓ Starting a business

The Solomon Islands made starting a business easier by implementing an online registration process.

✓ Registering property

The Solomon Islands made registering property faster by separating the land registry from the business and movable property registries.

✓ Protecting investors

The Solomon Islands strengthened investor protections by increasing shareholder access to corporate information.

✓ Resolving insolvency

The Solomon Islands adopted a new law that simplified insolvency proceedings.

SOUTH AFRICA

✓ Starting a business

South Africa made starting a business easier by implementing its new company law, which eliminated the requirement to reserve a company name and simplified the incorporation documents.

✓ Registering property

South Africa made transferring property less costly and more efficient by reducing the transfer duty and introducing electronic filing.

✓ Resolving insolvency

South Africa introduced a new reorganization process to facilitate the rehabilitation of financially distressed companies.

SPAIN

✓ Starting a business

Spain made starting a business easier by reducing the cost and by reducing the minimum capital requirement.

SRI LANKA

✓ Protecting investors

Sri Lanka strengthened investor protections by requiring greater corporate disclosure on transactions between interested parties.

✓ Paying taxes

Sri Lanka made paying taxes less costly for businesses by abolishing the turnover tax and social security contribution and by reducing corporate income tax, value added tax and national building tax rates.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

✓ Paying taxes

St. Kitts and Nevis made paying taxes easier by introducing a value added tax.

SWAZILAND

✓ Registering property

Swaziland made transferring property quicker by streamlining the process at the land registry.

SWEDEN

✗ Registering property

Sweden increased the cost of transferring property between companies.

SWITZERLAND

✓ Getting electricity

Switzerland made getting electricity less costly by revising the conditions for connections.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Switzerland introduced a unified civil procedure code and made a number of changes to its federal bankruptcy law.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

✓ Starting a business

Syria made starting a business less costly by reducing both the minimum capital requirement and the cost of publication for the registration notice.

TAIWAN, CHINA

✓ Starting a business

Taiwan, China, made starting a business easier by implementing an online one-stop shop for business registration.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Taiwan, China, made dealing with construction permits easier by creating a one-stop center.

TAJKISTAN✓ **Starting a business**

Tajikistan made starting a business easier by allowing entrepreneurs to pay in their capital up to 1 year after the start of operations, thereby eliminating the requirements related to opening a bank account.

✗ **Getting credit**

Access to credit using movable property in Tajikistan became more complicated because the movable collateral registry stopped its operations in January 2011.

TANZANIA✓ **Trading across borders**

Tanzania made trading across borders faster by implementing the Pre-Arrival Declaration (PAD) system and electronic submission of customs declarations.

THAILAND✓ **Starting a business**

Thailand made starting a business easier by introducing a one-stop shop.

✗ **Registering property**

Thailand made registering property more expensive by increasing the registration fee.

TIMOR-LESTE✓ **Starting a business**

Timor-Leste made starting a business faster by improving the registration process.

✓ **Getting credit**

Timor-Leste improved its credit information system by establishing a public credit registry.

TOGO✓ **Getting credit**

Access to credit in Togo was improved through amendments to the OHADA Uniform Act on Secured Transactions that broaden the range of assets that can be used as collateral (including future assets), extend the security interest to the proceeds of the original asset and introduce the possibility of out-of-court enforcement.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Togo reduced its corporate income tax rate.

TONGA✓ **Starting a business**

Tonga made starting a business easier by implementing an electronic system at the registry, which reduced the time required for verification of the uniqueness of the company name and for registration of the company. The costs for the name search, company registration and business license increased, however.

✓ **Getting electricity**

Tonga made getting electricity faster by implementing a time limit for the safety inspection.

✗ **Registering property**

Tonga made transferring property more costly.

✓ **Getting credit**

Tonga strengthened its secured transactions system by passing a new law that allows a general description of the obligation in the security agreement and gives secured creditors priority outside bankruptcy.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO✗ **Dealing with construction permits**

Trinidad and Tobago made dealing with construction permits costlier by increasing the fees for building permit approvals.

TURKEY✓ **Starting a business**

Turkey made starting a business less costly by eliminating notarization fees for the articles of association and other documents.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Turkey lowered the social security contribution rate for companies by offering them a 5% rebate.

UGANDA✗ **Starting a business**

Uganda introduced changes that added time to the process of obtaining a business license, slowing business start-up. But it simplified registration for a tax identification number and for value added tax by introducing an online system.

✓ **Registering property**

Uganda increased the efficiency of property transfers by establishing performance standards and recruiting more officials at the land office.

UKRAINE✓ **Starting a business**

Ukraine made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain approval for a new corporate seal.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Ukraine made paying taxes easier and less costly for firms by revising and unifying tax legislation, reducing corporate income tax rates and unifying social security contributions.

✗ **Trading across borders**

Ukraine made trading across borders more difficult by introducing additional inspections for customs clearance of imports.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Ukraine amended legislation to streamline commercial dispute resolution and increase the efficiency of enforcement procedures.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Ukraine amended its legislation on enforcement, introducing more guarantees for secured creditors.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES✓ **Starting a business**

The United Arab Emirates made starting a business easier by merging the requirements to file company documents with the Department for Economic Development, to obtain a trade license and to register with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

✓ **Getting credit**

The United Arab Emirates improved its credit information system through a new law allowing the establishment of a federal credit bureau under the supervision of the central bank.

UNITED KINGDOM✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

The United Kingdom made dealing with construction permits easier by increasing efficiency in the issuance of planning permits.

URUGUAY✓ **Starting a business**

Uruguay made starting a business easier by establishing a one-stop shop for general commercial companies.

✓ **Getting credit**

Uruguay improved its credit information system by introducing a new online platform allowing access to credit reports for financial institutions, public utilities and borrowers.

UZBEKISTAN✓ **Starting a business**

Uzbekistan made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement, eliminating 1 procedure and reducing the cost of registration.

VANUATU✓ **Starting a business**

Vanuatu made starting a business easier by reducing the time required for company registration at the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission and issuing provisional licenses at the Department of Customs.

✗ **Dealing with construction permits**

Vanuatu made dealing with construction permits more difficult by increasing the number of procedures and the cost to obtain a building permit.

✓ **Registering property**

Vanuatu made registering property easier by computerizing the land registry.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Vanuatu made trading across borders faster by upgrading Port-Vila's wharf infrastructure, which increased the efficiency of port and terminal handling activities.

VENEZUELA, RB✗ **Paying taxes**

República Bolivariana de Venezuela made paying taxes costlier for firms by doubling the municipal economic activities tax (sales tax).

VIETNAM✓ **Protecting investors**

Vietnam strengthened investor protections by requiring higher standards of accountability for company directors.

YEMEN, REP.✓ **Paying taxes**

The Republic of Yemen enacted a new tax law that reduced the general corporate tax rate from 35% to 20% and abolished all tax exemptions except those granted under the investment law for investment projects.

ZAMBIA✗ **Registering property**

Zambia made registering property more costly by increasing the property transfer tax rate.