

**What are the ranking trends?**

- **Mauritius (13)** is the highest-ranking Sub-Saharan African economy overall. It is also the only economy from this region in the top 20 cohort.
- The second highest ranked economy in the region is **Rwanda (38)**.
- **Mauritius (13)** and Rwanda (38) are the only two Sub-Saharan African economies in the top 50 on the ease of doing business ranking. **South Sudan (185)**, **Eritrea (189)**, and **Somalia (190)** are the lowest ranked economies in the region.
- Other large economies in the region and their rankings are **Kenya (56)**, **South Africa (84)**, **Ghana (118)**, **Nigeria (131)**, and **the Democratic Republic of Congo (183)**
- The region's economies perform best in the area of getting credit (113). Conversely, the region underperforms in the areas of getting electricity (146), trading across borders (140) and registering property (129). For example, the cost to obtain a permanent electrical connection in Sub-Saharan Africa is 3 times higher than the global average and 52 times higher than in the OECD high-income group. It takes over 200 hours in Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon to comply with export border procedures for maritime transport, compared with 13 hours in OECD high-income economies. Ports in Sub-Saharan Africa are the least efficient of any region.
- Sub-Saharan Africa remains one of the weakest-performing regions on the ease of doing business ranking with an average score of 51.8, well below the OECD high-income economy average of 78.4 and the global average of 63. Compared with the previous year, Sub-Saharan African economies increased their average doing business score by 0.9 points.

**What are the reform trends?**

- For a second year in a row, **Togo** is among the top 10 economies that most improved ease of doing business through regulatory reforms. **Nigeria** also joined the top 10 improvers group.
- **Kenya** and **Nigeria** each implemented six reforms each, followed by **Togo** and **Zimbabwe** with 5 reforms.
- While 25 % of the reforms recorded by *Doing Business 2020* were in the economies of Sub-Saharan Africa, several economies in the region continue to lag. Seventeen economies implemented no reforms in the 12 months through May 2019; three economies (**Eritrea**, **Somalia**, **South Sudan**) have not implemented any reforms in the past five years and two economies (**Somalia** and **South Sudan**) have never implemented reforms in the areas measured by *Doing Business*.
- The most reforms implemented in the region were in the areas of starting a business, dealing with construction permits and getting credit. Twelve reforms were recorded in each of these areas. Conversely, the areas of protecting minority investors and trading across borders were the areas with the least number of reforms with only two in each area.
- Examples of reforms include:
  - **Togo** introduced reforms in five areas:
    - Starting a business was made easier by abolishing the requirement to notarize company documents and reducing the time to register a company.
    - Dealing with construction permits was made less expensive and faster by reducing fees and adopting an online portal for the submission of applications
    - Getting electricity became less expensive as **Togo** reduced the cost of connection works and the security deposit for new connections.
    - The process of registering property was streamlined, and costs reduced.

- **Togo** improved access to credit information by expanding the coverage of the credit bureau and beginning to distribute data from utility companies
- **Kenya** made improvements in six areas. It is one of the two Sub-Saharan African economies (the other being **Zambia**) that reformed in the area of protecting minority investors. **Kenya** did so by requiring shareholders to approve the election and dismissal of an external auditor.
- **Nigeria** made the process of trading across borders easier by reducing the time to export and import by further upgrading its electronic system and by launching e-payment of fees.

**Noteworthy items:**

- The Contracting with the Government Indicator, which is a latest area of research of the *Doing Business* study, and which benchmarks the efficiency, quality and transparency of public procurement system worldwide will be added to the *Doing Business 2021* study.
- This year, *Doing Business* includes three case studies that focus on:
  - Prominent regulatory changes implemented by governments since the inception of the *Doing Business* study across four indicator sets (Starting a Business, Getting Credit, Paying Taxes and Resolving Insolvency).
  - The efficiency of public procurement worldwide.
  - The positive effects of flexible employment regulation for firms, which impacts job creation and productivity growth.

**Rankings Data for the Sub-Saharan Africa region**

Economy	Rank	Ease of doing business score		# of Reforms	
	(1–190)	(0–100)		DB2019	DB2020
	DB2020	DB2019	DB2020		
Angola	177	41.2	41.3	2	0
Benin	149	51.7	52.4	2	1
Botswana	87	66.2	66.2	1	0
Burkina Faso	151	51.3	51.4	1	0
Burundi	166	46.5	46.8	3	0
Cabo Verde	137	54.0	55.0	0	4
Cameroon	167	46.0	46.1	2	1
Central African Republic	184	34.8	35.6	2	1
Chad	182	36.7	36.9	3	2
Comoros	160	47.0	47.9	1	0
Congo, Dem. Rep.	183	35.2	36.2	3	3
Congo, Rep.	180	38.2	39.5	2	1
Côte d'Ivoire	110	58.3	60.7	6	2
Equatorial Guinea	178	40.5	41.1	1	2
Eritrea	189	21.5	21.6	0	0
Eswatini	121	58.7	59.5	1	4
Ethiopia	159	47.1	48.0	3	2

Gabon	169	44.5	45.0	5	3
Gambia, The	155	47.8	50.3	0	2
Ghana	118	60.4	60.0	2	1
Guinea	156	49.3	49.4	5	2
Guinea-Bissau	174	43.2	43.2	1	0
Kenya	56	71.0	73.2	5	6
Lesotho	122	58.7	59.4	1	1
Liberia	175	43.5	43.2	0	0
Madagascar	161	47.0	47.7	3	1
Malawi	109	60.4	60.9	2	0
Mali	148	53.1	52.9	1	0
Mauritania	152	49.4	51.1	3	2
Mauritius	13	80.3	81.5	5	4
Mozambique	138	54.6	55.0	3	0
Namibia	104	61.4	61.4	1	0
Niger	132	52.3	56.8	4	1
Nigeria	131	53.4	56.9	4	6
Rwanda	38	75.4	76.5	7	3
São Tomé and Príncipe	170	45.0	45.0	1	0
Senegal	123	54.4	59.3	2	2
Seychelles	100	61.5	61.7	0	1
Sierra Leone	163	47.2	47.5	0	1
Somalia	190	20.0	20.0	0	0
South Africa	84	66.7	67.0	2	1
South Sudan	185	33.6	34.6	0	0
Sudan	171	48.0	44.8	5	0
Tanzania	141	54.3	54.5	1	0
Togo	97	55.3	62.3	6	5
Uganda	116	58.4	60.0	1	1
Zambia	85	65.7	66.9	1	2
Zimbabwe	140	50.5	54.5	4	5

Source: *Doing Business* database.

Note: The rankings are benchmarked to May 1, 2019 and based on the average of each economy's ease of doing business scores for the 10 topics included in the aggregate ranking. For the economies for which the data cover two cities, scores are a population-weighted average for the two cities. *Doing Business 2020* rankings are calculated based on the score rounded to two decimal places. The ease of doing business score shows how close each economy is to the global best practice in business regulation. A higher score indicates a more efficient business environment and stronger legal institutions.