

Summaries of *Doing Business* reforms in 2009/10

Doing Business reforms affecting all sets of indicators included in this year's ranking on the ease of doing business, implemented between June 2009 and May 2010.

✓ *Doing Business* reform making it easier to do business

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

ALBANIA

✓ **Paying taxes**

Albania made it easier and less costly for companies to pay taxes by amending several laws, reducing social security contributions and introducing electronic filing and payment.

ANGOLA

✓ **Trading across borders**

Angola reduced the time for trading across borders by making investments in port infrastructure and administration.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

✗ **Registering property**

In Antigua and Barbuda, to transfer property now requires clearance by the chief surveyor to avoid mischievous declarations.

ARMENIA

✓ **Trading across borders**

Armenia made trading easier by introducing self-declaration desks at customs houses and warehouses, investing in new equipment to improve border operations and introducing a risk management system.

AUSTRIA

✓ **Registering property**

Austria made it easier to transfer property by requiring online submission of all applications to register property transfers.

AZERBAIJAN

✓ **Getting credit**

Azerbaijan improved access to credit by establishing an online platform allowing financial institutions to provide information to, and retrieve it from, the public credit registry.

✓ **Paying taxes**

A revision of Azerbaijan's tax code lowered several tax rates, including the profit tax rate, and simplified the process of paying corporate income tax and value added tax.

BAHRAIN

✗ **Registering property**

Bahrain made registering property more burdensome by increasing the fees at the Survey and Land Registration Bureau.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Bahrain made it easier to trade by building a modern new port, improving the electronic data interchange system and introducing risk-based inspections.

BANGLADESH

✓ **Starting a business**

Bangladesh made business start-up easier by eliminating the requirement to buy adhesive stamps and further enhancing the online registration system.

✓ **Registering property**

Bangladesh reduced the property transfer tax to 6.7% of the property value.

BELARUS

✓ **Getting credit**

Belarus enhanced access to credit by facilitating the use of the pledge as a security arrangement and providing for out-of-court enforcement of the pledge on default.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Reductions in the turnover tax, social security contributions and the base

for property taxes along with continued efforts to encourage electronic filing made it easier and less costly for companies in Belarus to pay taxes.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Belarus reduced the time to trade by introducing electronic declaration of exports and imports.

✓ **Closing a business**

Belarus amended regulations governing the activities of insolvency administrators and strengthened the protection of creditor rights in bankruptcy.

BELGIUM

✗ **Registering property**

Belgium's capital city, Brussels, made it more difficult to transfer property by requiring a clean-soil certificate.

✓ **Closing a business**

Belgium introduced a new law that will promote and facilitate the survival of viable businesses experiencing financial difficulties.

BENIN

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Benin created a new municipal commission to streamline construction permitting and set up an ad hoc commission to deal with the backlog in permit application

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

✓ **Registering property**

Bosnia and Herzegovina reduced delays in property registration at the land registry in Sarajevo.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Bosnia and Herzegovina simplified its labor tax processes, reduced employer contribution rates for social security and abolished its payroll tax.

BRAZIL

✓ **Starting a business**

Brazil eased business start-up by further enhancing the electronic synchronization between federal and state tax authorities.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**✓ Starting a business**

Brunei Darussalam made starting a business easier by improving efficiency at the company registrar and implementing an electronic system for name searches.

✓ Paying taxes

Brunei Darussalam reduced the corporate income tax rate from 23.5% to 22% while also introducing a lower tax rate for small businesses, ranging from 5.5% to 11%.

✓ Trading across borders

The introduction of an electronic customs system in Brunei Darussalam made trading easier.

BULGARIA**✓ Starting a business**

Bulgaria eased business start-up by reducing the minimum capital requirement from 5,000 leva (\$3,250) to 2 leva (\$1.30).

✓ Paying taxes

Bulgaria reduced employer contribution rates for social security.

BURKINA FASO**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Burkina Faso made dealing with construction permits easier by cutting the cost of the soil survey in half and the time to process a building permit application by a third.

✓ Paying taxes

Burkina Faso reduced the statutory tax rate and the number of taxes for business and introduced simpler, uniform compliance procedures.

✓ Trading across borders

Burkina Faso reduced documentation requirements for importers and exporters, making it easier to trade.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Burkina Faso made enforcing contracts easier by setting up a specialized commercial court and abolishing the fee to register judicial decisions.

BURUNDI**✓ Paying taxes**

Burundi made paying taxes simpler by replacing the transactions tax with a value added tax.

CAMBODIA**✓ Trading across borders**

Cambodia eliminated preshipment inspections, reducing the time and number of documents required for importing and exporting.

CAMEROON**✓ Starting a business**

Cameroon made starting a business easier by establishing a new one-stop shop and abolishing the requirement for verifying business premises and its corresponding fees.

CANADA**✓ Paying taxes**

Canada harmonized the Ontario and federal tax returns and reduced the corporate and employee tax rates.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Canada increased the efficiency of the courts by expanding electronic document submission and streamlining procedures.

CAPE VERDE**✓ Starting a business**

Cape Verde made start-up easier by eliminating the need for a municipal inspection before a business begins operations and computerizing the system for delivering the municipal license.

✓ Registering property

Cape Verde eased property registration by switching from fees based on a percentage of the property value to lower fixed rates.

✓ Paying taxes

Cape Verde abolished the stamp duties on sales and checks.

CHAD**X Paying taxes**

Chad increased taxes on business through changes to its social security contribution rates.

CHILE**✓ Starting a business**

Chile made business start-up easier by introducing an online system for registration and for filing the request for publication.

✓ Protecting investors

An amendment to Chile's securities law strengthened investor protections by requiring greater corporate disclosure and regulating the approval of transactions between interested parties.

CHINA**✓ Paying taxes**

China's new corporate income tax law unified the tax regimes for domestic and foreign enterprises and clarified the calculation of taxable income for corporate income tax purposes.

COLOMBIA**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Colombia eased construction permitting by improving the electronic verification of prebuilding certificates.

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

The Democratic Republic of Congo eased business start-up by eliminating procedures, including the company seal.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Dealing with construction permits became easier in the Democratic Republic of Congo thanks to a reduction in the cost of a building permit from 1% of the estimated construction cost to 0.6% and a time limit for issuing building permits.

✓ Registering property

The Democratic Republic of Congo reduced by half the property transfer tax to 3% of the property value.

CONGO, REP.**✓ Paying taxes**

The Republic of Congo reduced its corporate income tax rate from 38% to 36% in 2010.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Côte d'Ivoire eased construction permitting by eliminating the need to obtain a preliminary approval.

CROATIA**✓ Starting a business**

Croatia eased business start-up by allowing limited liability companies to file their registration application with the court registries electronically through the notary public.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Croatia replaced the location permit and project design confirmation with a single certificate, simplifying and speeding up the construction permitting process.

CZECH REPUBLIC**✓ Paying taxes**

The Czech Republic simplified its labor tax processes and reduced employer contribution rates for social security.

✓ Closing a business

The Czech Republic made it easier to deal with insolvency by introducing further legal amendments to restrict setoffs in insolvency cases and suspending for some insolvent debtors the obligation to file for bankruptcy.

DENMARK**✓ Starting a business**

Denmark eased business start-up by reducing the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies from 125,000 Danish kroner (\$22,850) to 80,000 Danish kroner (\$14,620).

✓ Registering property

Computerization of Denmark's land registry cut the number of procedures required to register property by half.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**X Starting a business**

The Dominican Republic made it more difficult to start a business by setting a minimum capital requirement of 100,000 Dominican pesos (\$2,855) for its new type of company, *sociedad de responsabilidad limitada* (limited liability company).

ECUADOR**✓ Starting a business**

Ecuador made starting a business easier by introducing an online registration system for social security.

EGYPT, ARAB REP.**✓ Starting a business**

Egypt reduced the cost to start a business.

✓ Trading across borders

Egypt made trading easier by introducing an electronic system for submitting export and import documents.

ESTONIA**X Dealing with construction permits**

Estonia made dealing with construction permits more complex by increasing the time for obtaining design criteria from the municipality.

✓ Getting credit

Estonia improved access to credit by amending the Code of Enforcement Procedure and allowing out-of-court enforcement of collateral by secured creditors.

X Paying taxes

Estonia increased the unemployment insurance contribution rate and raised the standard value added tax rate from 18% to 20%.

✓ Closing a business

Amendments to Estonia's recent insolvency law increased the chances that viable businesses will survive insolvency by improving procedures and changing the qualification requirements for insolvency administrators.

ETHIOPIA**✓ Trading across borders**

Ethiopia made trading easier by addressing internal bureaucratic inefficiencies.

FIJI**✓ Trading across borders**

Fiji made trading easier by opening customer care service centers and improving customs operations.

GEORGIA**✓ Getting credit**

Georgia improved access to credit by implementing a central collateral registry with an electronic database accessible online.

✓ Protecting investors

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

✓ Enforcing contracts

Georgia made the enforcement of contracts easier by streamlining the procedures for public auctions, introducing private enforcement officers and modernizing its dispute resolution system.

✓ Closing a business

Georgia improved insolvency proceedings by streamlining the regulation of auction sales.

GERMANY**✓ Starting a business**

Germany eased business start-up by increasing the efficiency of communications between the notary and the commercial registry and eliminating the need to publish an announcement in a newspaper.

GHANA**✓ Getting credit**

Ghana enhanced access to credit by establishing a centralized collateral registry and by granting an operating license to a private credit bureau that began operations in April 2010.

GREECE**X Registering property**

Greece made transferring property more costly by increasing the transfer tax from 1% of the property value to 10%.

GRENADA**✓ Starting a business**

Grenada eased business start-up by transferring responsibility for the commercial registry from the courts to the civil administration.

✓ Registering property

The appointment of a registrar focusing only on property cut the time needed to transfer property in Grenada by almost half.

✓ Trading across borders

Grenada's customs administration made trading faster by simplifying procedures, reducing inspections, improving staff training and enhancing communication with users.

GUINEA

X Dealing with construction permits

Guinea increased the cost of obtaining a building permit.

GUINEA-BISSAU

✓ Enforcing contracts

Guinea-Bissau established a specialized commercial court, speeding up the enforcement of contracts.

GUYANA

✓ Starting a business

Guyana eased business start-up by digitizing company records, which speeded up the process of company name search and reservation.

✓ Getting credit

Guyana enhanced access to credit by establishing a regulatory framework that allows the licensing of private credit bureaus and gives borrowers the right to inspect their data.

✓ Trading across borders

Guyana improved its risk profiling system for customs inspection, reducing physical inspections of shipments and the time to trade.

HAITI

✓ Starting a business

Haiti eased business start-up by eliminating the review by the president's or the prime minister's office of the incorporation act submitted for publication.

HONG KONG SAR, CHINA

✓ Paying taxes

Hong Kong SAR (China) abolished the fuel tax on diesel.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Reforms implemented in the civil justice system of Hong Kong SAR (China) will help increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of commercial dispute resolution.

HUNGARY

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Hungary implemented a time limit for the issuance of building permits.

✓ Registering property

Hungary reduced the property registration fee by 6% of the property value.

✓ Paying taxes

Hungary simplified taxes and tax bases.

✓ Closing a business

Amendments to Hungary's bankruptcy law encourage insolvent companies to consider reaching agreements with creditors out of court so as to avoid bankruptcy.

ICELAND

X Dealing with construction permits

Iceland made dealing with construction permits more costly by increasing the fees to obtain the design approval and receive inspections.

X Paying taxes

Iceland increased the corporate income tax rate from 15% to 18% and raised social security and pension contribution rates.

INDIA

✓ Starting a business

India eased business start-up by establishing an online VAT registration system and replacing the physical stamp previously required with an online version.

✓ Paying taxes

India reduced the administrative burden of paying taxes by abolishing the fringe benefit tax and improving electronic payment.

INDONESIA

✓ Starting a business

Indonesia eased business start-up by reducing the cost for company name clearance and reservation and the time required to reserve the name and approve the deed of incorporation.

✓ Paying taxes

Indonesia reduced its corporate income tax rate.

✓ Trading across borders

Indonesia reduced the time to export by launching a single-window service.

IRAN, ISLAMIC REP.

✓ Starting a business

The Islamic Republic of Iran eased business start-up by installing a web portal allowing entrepreneurs to search for and reserve a unique company name.

✓ Getting credit

The establishment of a new private credit bureau improved access to credit information.

✓ Enforcing contracts

The Islamic Republic of Iran made enforcing contracts easier and faster by introducing electronic filing of some documents, text message notification and an electronic case management system.

ISRAEL

✓ Trading across borders

Israel is expanding its electronic data interchange system and developing a single-window framework, allowing easier assembly of documents required by different authorities and reducing the time to trade.

ITALY

✓ Starting a business

Italy made starting a business easier by enhancing an online registration system.

JAMAICA

✓ Registering property

Jamaica eased the transfer of property by lowering transfer taxes and fees, offering expedited registration procedures and making information from the company registrar available online.

JAPAN**✓ Closing a business**

Japan made it easier to deal with insolvency by establishing a new entity, the Enterprise Turnaround Initiative Corporation, to support the revitalization of companies suffering from excessive debt but professionally managed.

JORDAN**✓ Getting credit**

Jordan improved its credit information system by setting up a regulatory framework for establishing a private credit bureau as well as lowering the threshold for loans to be reported to the public credit registry.

✓ Paying taxes

Jordan abolished certain taxes and made it possible to file income and sales tax returns electronically.

KAZAKHSTAN**✓ Starting a business**

Kazakhstan eased business start-up by reducing the minimum capital requirement to 100 tenge (\$0.70) and eliminating the need to have the memorandum of association and company charter notarized.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Kazakhstan made dealing with construction permits easier by implementing a one-stop shop related to technical conditions for utilities.

✓ Protecting investors

Kazakhstan strengthened investor protections by requiring greater corporate disclosure in company annual reports.

✓ Trading across borders

Kazakhstan speeded up trade through efforts to modernize customs, including implementation of a risk management system and improvements in customs automation.

KENYA**✓ Starting a business**

Kenya eased business start-up by reducing the time it takes to get the memorandum and articles of association stamped, merging the tax and value added tax registration procedures and digitizing records at the registrar.

X Paying taxes

Kenya increased the administrative burden of paying taxes by requiring quarterly filing of payroll taxes.

✓ Trading across borders

Kenya speeded up trade by implementing an electronic cargo tracking system and linking this system to the Kenya Revenue Authority's electronic data interchange system for customs clearance.

KOREA, REP.**✓ Closing a business**

Korea made it easier to deal with insolvency by introducing postfiling financing, granting superpriority to the repayment of loans given to companies undergoing reorganization.

KOSOVO**X Starting a business**

Kosovo made business start-up more difficult by replacing the tax number previously required with a "fiscal number," which takes longer to issue and requires the tax administration to first inspect the business premises.

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**✓ Starting a business**

The Kyrgyz Republic eased business start-up by eliminating the requirement to have the signatures of company founders notarized.

X Closing a business

The Kyrgyz Republic streamlined insolvency proceedings and updated requirements for administrators, but new formalities added to prevent abuse of proceedings made closing a business more difficult.

LAO PDR**✓ Paying taxes**

Lao PDR replaced the business turnover tax with a new value added tax.

LATVIA**✓ Trading across borders**

Latvia reduced the time to export and import by introducing electronic submission of customs declarations.

✓ Closing a business

Latvia introduced a mechanism for out-of-court settlement of insolvencies to alleviate pressure on courts and tightened some procedural deadlines.

LEBANON**X Starting a business**

Lebanon increased the cost of starting a business.

✓ Getting credit

Lebanon improved its credit information system by allowing banks online access to the public credit registry's reports.

LITHUANIA**✓ Starting a business**

Lithuania tightened the time limit for completing the registration of a company.

✓ Getting credit

Lithuania's private credit bureau now collects and distributes positive information on borrowers.

✓ Paying taxes

Lithuania reduced corporate tax rates.

✓ Trading across borders

Lithuania reduced the time to import by introducing, in compliance with EU law, an electronic system for submitting customs declarations.

✓ Closing a business

Lithuania introduced regulations relating to insolvency administrators that set out clear rules of liability for violations of law.

LUXEMBOURG**✓ Starting a business**

Luxembourg eased business start-up by speeding up the delivery of the business license.

MACEDONIA, FYR**✓ Starting a business**

FYR Macedonia made it easier to start a business by further improving its one-stop shop.

✓ Paying taxes

FYR Macedonia lowered tax costs for businesses by requiring that corporate income tax be paid only on distributed profits.

MADAGASCAR**✓ Paying taxes**

Madagascar continued to reduce corporate tax rates.

✓ Trading across borders

Madagascar improved communication and coordination between customs and the terminal port operators through its single-window system (GASNET), reducing both the time and the cost to export and import.

MALAWI**✓ Registering property**

Malawi eased property transfers by cutting the wait for consents and registration of legal instruments by half.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Malawi simplified the enforcement of contracts by raising the ceiling for commercial claims that can be brought to the magistrate's courts.

MALAYSIA**✓ Starting a business**

Malaysia eased business start-up by introducing more online services.

✓ Registering property

Malaysia's introduction of online stamping reduced the time and cost to transfer property.

MALDIVES**✓ Registering property**

Maldives now allows registered companies to own land as long as all company shares are owned by Maldivians.

MALI**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Mali eased construction permitting by implementing a simplified environmental impact assessment for noncomplex commercial buildings.

✓ Registering property

Mali eased property transfers by reducing the property transfer tax for firms from 15% of the property value to 7%.

✓ Trading across borders

Mali eliminated redundant inspections of imported goods, reducing the time for trading across borders.

MARSHALL ISLANDS**✓ Getting credit**

The Marshall Islands improved access to credit through a new law on secured transactions that establishes a central collateral registry, broadens the range of assets that can be used as collateral, allows a general description of debts and obligations and assets granted as collateral and establishes clear priority rules outside bankruptcy for secured creditors.

MAURITIUS**X Paying taxes**

Mauritius introduced a new corporate social responsibility tax.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Mauritius speeded up the resolution of commercial disputes by recruiting more judges and adding more courtrooms.

MEXICO**✓ Starting a business**

Mexico launched an online one-stop shop for initiating business registration.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Mexico improved construction permitting by merging and streamlining procedures related to zoning and utilities.

X Paying taxes

Mexico increased taxes on companies by raising several tax rates, including the corporate income tax and the rate on cash deposits. At the same time, the administrative burden continued to decrease with more options for online payment and increased use of accounting software.

MOLDOVA**✓ Paying taxes**

Moldova reduced employer contribution rates for social security.

MONTENEGRO**✓ Starting a business**

Montenegro eliminated several procedures for business start-up by introducing a single registration form for submission to the tax administration.

✓ Paying taxes

An amendment to Montenegro's corporate income tax law removed the obligation for advance payments and abolished the construction land charge.

✓ Trading across borders

Montenegro's customs administration simplified trade by eliminating the requirement to present a terminal handling receipt for exporting and importing.

MOROCCO**✓ Protecting investors**

Morocco strengthened investor protections by requiring greater disclosure in companies' annual reports.

MOZAMBIQUE**✓ Starting a business**

Mozambique eased business start-up by introducing a simplified licensing process.

NETHERLANDS**✓ Paying taxes**

The Netherlands reduced the frequency of filing and paying value added taxes from monthly to quarterly and allowed small entities to use their annual accounts as the basis for computing their corporate income tax.

NEW ZEALAND**✓ Enforcing contracts**

New Zealand enacted new district court rules that make the process for enforcing contracts user friendly.

NICARAGUA**X Paying taxes**

Nicaragua increased taxes on firms by raising social security contribution rates and introducing a 10% withholding tax on the gross interest accrued from deposits. It also improved electronic payment of taxes through bank transfer.

✓ Trading across borders

Nicaragua expedited trade by migrating to a new electronic data interchange system for customs, setting up a physical one-stop shop for exports and investing in new equipment at the port of Corinto.

NIGER**✓ Paying taxes**

Niger reduced its corporate income tax rate.

PAKISTAN**X Registering property**

Pakistan made registering property more expensive by doubling the capital value tax to 4%.

✓ Trading across borders

Pakistan reduced the time to export by improving electronic communication between the Karachi Port authorities and the private terminals, which have also boosted efficiency by introducing new equipment.

PANAMA**✓ Starting a business**

Panama eased business start-up by increasing efficiency at the registrar.

X Registering property

Panama made it more expensive to transfer property by requiring that an amount equal to 3% of the property value be paid upon registration.

✓ Paying taxes

Panama reduced the corporate income tax rate, modified various taxes and created a new tax court of appeals.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA**✓ Getting credit**

Operation of a new private credit bureau improved the credit information system in Papua New Guinea.

PARAGUAY**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Paraguay made dealing with construction permits easier by creating a new administrative structure and a better tracking system in the municipality of Asunción.

PERU**✓ Starting a business**

Peru eased business start-up by simplifying the requirements for operating licenses and creating an online one-stop shop for business registration.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Peru streamlined construction permitting by implementing administrative reforms.

✓ Registering property

Peru introduced fast-track procedures at the land registry, cutting by half the time needed to register property.

✓ Trading across borders

Peru made trading easier by implementing a new web-based electronic data interchange system, risk-based inspections and payment deferrals.

PHILIPPINES**✓ Starting a business**

The Philippines eased business start-up by setting up a one-stop shop at the municipal level.

X Dealing with construction permits

The Philippines made construction permitting more cumbersome through updated electricity connection costs.

✓ Trading across borders

The Philippines reduced the time and cost to trade by improving its electronic customs systems, adding such functions as electronic payments and online submission of declarations.

POLAND**✓ Registering property**

Poland eased property registration by computerizing its land registry.

PORTUGAL**✓ Registering property**

Portugal established a one-stop shop for property registration.

✓ Paying taxes

Portugal introduced a new social security code and lowered corporate tax rates.

PUERTO RICO**X Paying taxes**

Puerto Rico made paying taxes more costly for business by introducing a special surtax of 5% on the tax liability in addition to the normal corporate income tax.

QATAR**X Starting a business**

Qatar made starting a business more difficult by adding a procedure to register for taxes and obtain a company seal.

ROMANIA**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Romania amended regulations related to construction permitting to reduce fees and expedite the process.

X Paying taxes

Romania introduced tax changes, including a new minimum tax on profit, that made paying taxes more costly for companies.

✓ Closing a business

Substantial amendments to Romania's bankruptcy laws—introducing, among other things, a procedure for out-of-court workouts—made dealing with insolvency easier.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Russia eased construction permitting by implementing a single window for all procedures related to land use.

✓ Closing a business

Russia introduced a series of legislative measures in 2009 to improve creditor rights and the insolvency system.

RWANDA**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Rwanda made dealing with construction permits easier by passing new building regulations at the end of April 2010 and implementing new time limits for the issuance of various permits.

✓ Getting credit

Rwanda enhanced access to credit by allowing borrowers the right to inspect their own credit report and mandating that loans of all sizes be reported to the central bank's public credit registry.

✓ Trading across borders

Rwanda reduced the number of trade documents required and enhanced its joint border management procedures with Uganda and other neighbors, leading to an improvement in the trade logistics environment.

SAMOA**✓ Registering property**

Samoa shifted from a deed system to a title system and fully computerized its land registry, which reduced the time required to register property by 4 months.

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPE**X Starting a business**

São Tomé and Príncipe made starting a business more difficult by introducing a minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies.

✓ Paying taxes

São Tomé and Príncipe reduced the corporate income tax rate to a standard 25%.

SAUDI ARABIA**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Saudi Arabia made dealing with construction permits easier for the second year in a row by introducing a new, streamlined process.

✓ Getting credit

An amendment to Saudi Arabia's commercial lien law enhanced access to credit by making secured lending more flexible and allowing out-of-court enforcement in case of default.

✓ Trading across borders

Saudi Arabia reduced the time to import by launching a new container terminal at the Jeddah Islamic Port.

✓ Closing a business

Saudi Arabia speeded up the insolvency process by providing earlier access to amicable settlements and putting time limits on the settlements to encourage creditors to participate.

SERBIA**✓ Closing a business**

Serbia passed a new bankruptcy law that introduced out-of-court workouts and a unified reorganization procedure.

SEYCHELLES**✓ Paying taxes**

The Seychelles removed the tax-free threshold limit and lowered corporate income tax rates.

SIERRA LEONE**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Sierra Leone made dealing with construction permits easier by streamlining the issuance of location clearances and building permits.

✓ Registering property

Sierra Leone lifted a moratorium on sales of privately owned properties.

✓ Paying taxes

Sierra Leone replaced sales and service taxes with a goods and service tax.

SLOVENIA**✓ Starting a business**

Slovenia made starting a business easier through improvements to its one-stop shop that allowed more online services.

✓ Registering property

Greater computerization in Slovenia's land registry reduced delays in property registration by 75%.

✓ Paying taxes

Slovenia abolished its payroll tax and reduced its corporate income tax rate.

SOLOMON ISLANDS**✓ Getting credit**

The Solomon Islands strengthened access to credit by passing a new secured transactions law that broadens the range of assets that can be used as collateral, allows a general description of debts and obligations secured by collateral, permits out-of-court enforcement and creates a collateral registry.

SPAIN**✓ Trading across borders**

Spain streamlined the documentation for imports by including tax-related information on its single administrative document.

✓ Closing a business

Spain amended its regulations governing insolvency proceedings with the aim of reducing the cost and time. The new regulations also introduced out-of-court workouts.

SWAZILAND**✓ Protecting investors**

Swaziland strengthened investor protections by requiring greater corporate disclosure, higher standards of accountability for company directors and greater access to corporate information for minority investors.

✓ Trading across borders

Swaziland reduced the time to import by implementing an electronic data interchange system for customs at its border posts.

SWEDEN**✓ Starting a business**

Sweden cut the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies by half, making it easier to start a business.

✓ Registering property

Sweden made registering property easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain a preemption waiver from the municipality.

✓ Protecting investors

Sweden strengthened investor protections by requiring greater corporate disclosure and regulating the approval of transactions between interested parties.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**✓ Starting a business**

Syria eased business start-up by reducing the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies by two-thirds. It also decentralized approval of the company memorandum.

✓ Getting credit

Syria enhanced access to credit by eliminating the minimum threshold for loans included in the database, which expanded the coverage of individuals and firms to 2.2% of the adult population.

TAIWAN, CHINA**✓ Starting a business**

Taiwan (China) eased business start-up by reducing the time required to check company names, register retirement plans and apply for health, pension and labor insurance.

✓ Paying taxes

Taiwan (China) reduced the corporate income tax rate and simplified tax return forms, rules for assessing corporate income tax and the calculation of interim tax payments.

TAJIKISTAN**✓ Starting a business**

Tajikistan made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop that consolidates registration with the state and the tax authority.

✓ Protecting investors

Tajikistan strengthened investor protections by requiring greater corporate disclosure in the annual report and greater access to corporate information for minority investors.

✓ Paying taxes

Tajikistan lowered its corporate income tax rate.

THAILAND**X Registering property**

Thailand made registering property more costly by repealing a 2-year temporary tax reduction for property transfers.

✓ Paying taxes

Thailand temporarily lowered taxes on business by reducing its specific business tax for 12 months.

TIMOR-LESTE**✓ Enforcing contracts**

Timor-Leste increased court efficiency by training and appointing new judges and passing a new civil procedure code.

TONGA**✓ Paying taxes**

Tonga simplified the payment of taxes by replacing a 2-tier system with a 25% corporate income tax rate for both domestic and foreign companies and introducing tax incentives with a broad-based capital allowance system to replace tax holidays and other tax concessions.

TUNISIA**✓ Paying taxes**

Tunisia introduced the use of electronic systems for payment of corporate income tax and value added tax.

✓ Trading across borders

Tunisia upgraded its electronic data interchange system for imports and exports, speeding up the assembly of import documents.

UGANDA**X Starting a business**

Uganda made it more difficult to start a business by increasing the trade licensing fees.

✓ Getting credit

Uganda enhanced access to credit by establishing a new private credit bureau.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Uganda continues to improve the efficiency of its court system, greatly reducing the time to file and serve a claim.

UKRAINE**✓ Starting a business**

Ukraine eased business start-up by substantially reducing the minimum capital requirement.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Ukraine made dealing with construction permits easier by implementing national and local regulations that streamlined procedures.

✓ Paying taxes

Ukraine eased tax compliance by introducing and continually enhancing an electronic filing system for value added tax.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**✓ Getting credit**

The United Arab Emirates enhanced access to credit by setting up a legal framework for the operation of the private credit bureau and requiring that financial institutions share credit information.

✓ Trading across borders

The United Arab Emirates streamlined document preparation and reduced the time to trade with the launch of Dubai Customs' comprehensive new customs system, Mirsal 2.

UNITED KINGDOM**✓ Enforcing contracts**

The United Kingdom improved the process for enforcing contracts by modernizing civil procedures in the commercial court.

✓ Closing a business

Amendments to the United Kingdom's insolvency rules streamline bankruptcy procedures, favor the sale of the firm as a whole and improve the calculation of administrators' fees.

UNITED STATES**✗ Paying taxes**

In the United States the introduction of a new tax on payroll increased taxes on companies operating within the New York City metropolitan commuter transportation district.

URUGUAY**✓ Registering property**

In Uruguay the Municipality of Montevideo made registering property easier by eliminating the need to obtain a mandatory waiver for preemption rights.

UZBEKISTAN**✗ Dealing with construction permits**

Uzbekistan increased all fees for procedures relating to construction permits.

VENEZUELA, RB**✗ Starting a business**

República Bolivariana de Venezuela made starting a business more difficult by introducing a new procedure for registering a company.

✓ Paying taxes

República Bolivariana de Venezuela abolished the tax on financial transactions.

VIETNAM**✓ Starting a business**

Vietnam eased company start-up by creating a one-stop shop that combines the processes for obtaining a business license and tax license and by eliminating the need for a seal for company licensing.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Vietnam made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the cost to register newly completed buildings by 50% and transferring the authority to register buildings from local authorities to the Department of National Resources and Environment.

✓ Getting credit

Vietnam improved its credit information system by allowing borrowers to examine their own credit report and correct errors.

WEST BANK AND GAZA**✗ Starting a business**

West Bank and Gaza made starting a business more difficult by increasing the lawyers' fees that must be paid for incorporation.

✓ Trading across borders

More efficient processes at Palestinian customs made trading easier in the West Bank.

ZAMBIA**✓ Starting a business**

Zambia eased business start-up by eliminating the minimum capital requirement.

✓ Trading across borders

Zambia eased trade by implementing a one-stop border post with Zimbabwe, launching web-based submission of customs declarations and introducing scanning machines at border posts.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Zambia improved contract enforcement by introducing an electronic case management system in the courts that provides electronic referencing of cases, a database of laws, real-time court reporting and public access to court records.

ZIMBABWE**✓ Starting a business**

Zimbabwe eased business start-up by reducing registration fees and speeding up the name search process and company and tax registration.

✓ Paying taxes

Zimbabwe reduced the corporate income tax rate from 30% to 25%, lowered the capital gains tax from 20% to 5% and simplified the payment of corporate income tax by allowing quarterly payment through commercial banks.