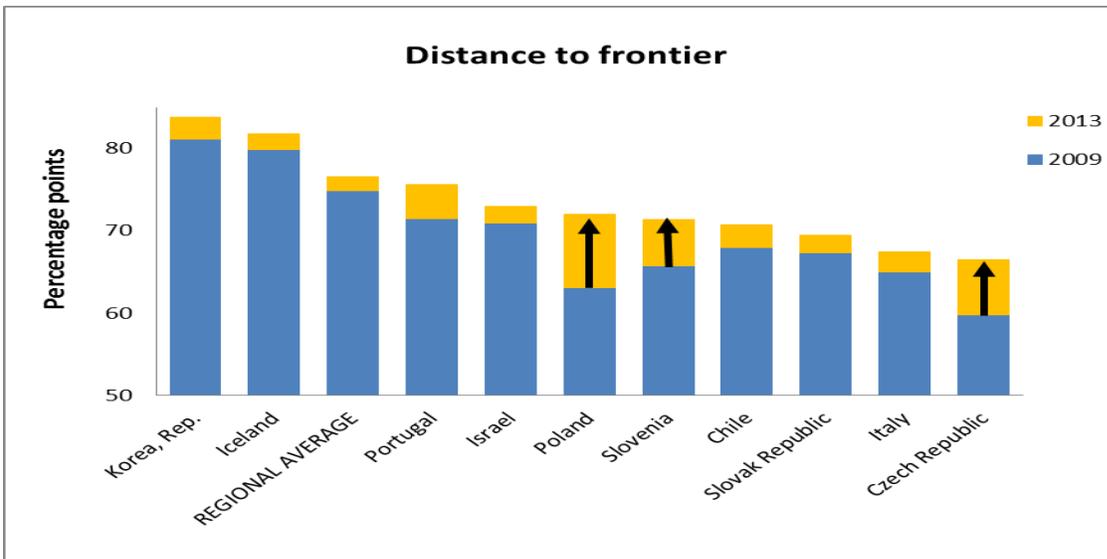


**Doing Business 2014 Fact Sheet: OECD**

- Eighteen of 31 OECD high-income economies implemented at least one regulatory reform making it easier to do business in the year from June 2, 2012, to June 1, 2013—26 reforms in total.
- Since 2005, all OECD high-income economies have implemented business regulatory reforms in the areas measured by *Doing Business*. Together, the 31 economies recorded 336 reforms. **Portugal** implemented the most number of reforms in the region with 24 reforms during this period, followed by the **Czech Republic** and **Poland** with 22 each.
- **Poland** is among the 20 economies worldwide that have narrowed the gap with global good practices the most since 2005. The **Czech Republic** and **Slovenia** are among the top 50 narrowing this gap the most.
- **New Zealand** has the highest ranking among OECD high-income economies on the ease of doing business, at 3 among 189 economies. The **United States**, **Denmark**, the **Republic of Korea**, **Norway**, and the **United Kingdom** are also among the top 10.
- This year's report features case studies highlighting **Australia's** efforts to privatize its risk-based inspection system for construction, **France's** strengthening of its technical control agencies for construction inspections, and the **Republic of Korea's** initiatives to improve the e-court experience.



*Note:* The distance to frontier measure shows how far on average an economy is at a point in time from the best performance achieved by any economy on each *Doing Business* indicator since 2003 or the first year in which data for the indicator were collected. The measure is normalized to range between 0 and 100, with 100 representing the best performance (the frontier). The figure shows individual scores only for the 10 economies with the biggest improvements in the region; the arrows indicate those making the largest advances toward the frontier.  
*Source:* *Doing Business* database.

## Summary of 2012/13 *Doing Business* Reforms in OECD Economies<sup>1</sup>

### Australia

Australia improved its credit information system through the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012, which permits credit bureaus to collect account payment history with improved privacy protection.

*Areas of business regulatory reform:* Getting credit (credit information)

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 11

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 80.7 (in 2012: 80.7; improvement: 0.1)

### Austria

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 30

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 78.3 (in 2012: 78.3; improvement: -0.1)

### Belgium

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 36

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 74.4 (in 2012: 74.3; improvement: 0.0)

### Canada

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 19

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 79.9 (in 2012: 80.3; improvement: -0.3)

### Chile

Chile made starting a business easier by creating a new online system for business registration.

*Areas of business regulatory reform:* Starting a business

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 34

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 70.7 (in 2012: 70.7; improvement: 0.0)

### Czech Republic

The Czech Republic made enforcing contracts easier by simplifying and speeding up the proceedings for the execution and enforcement of judgments. On the other hand, it made transferring property more costly by increasing the property transfer tax rate.

*Areas of business regulatory reform:* Enforcing contracts, Registering property (making it more difficult)

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 75

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 66.5 (in 2012: 65.7; improvement: 0.8)

### Denmark

Denmark made dealing with construction permits more costly by increasing the fee for building permits.

*Areas of business regulatory reform:* Dealing with construction permits (making it more difficult)

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 5

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 85.2 (in 2012: 85.1; improvement: 0.0)

### Estonia

Estonia made enforcing contracts easier by lowering court fees.

*Areas of business regulatory reform:* Enforcing contracts

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 22

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 75.2 (in 2012: 74.1; improvement: 1.1)

---

<sup>1</sup> The difference between the distance to frontier scores shown for 2012 and 2013 may differ from the size of the improvement reported because of rounding.

## **Finland**

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 12*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 81.7 (in 2012: 81.6; improvement: 0.1)*

## **France**

France made transferring property easier by speeding up the registration of the deed of sale at the land registry.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Registering property*

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 38*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 72.0 (in 2012: 71.9; improvement: 0.0)*

## **Germany**

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 21*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 80.0 (in 2012: 79.7; improvement: 0.3)*

## **Greece**

Greece made starting a business easier by introducing a simpler form of limited liability company and abolishing the minimum capital requirement for such companies. And it strengthened investor protections by introducing a requirement for director approval of related-party transactions. In addition, Greece made trading across borders easier by implementing a system allowing electronic submission of customs declarations for exports. On the other hand, Greece made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the corporate income tax rate—though it also reduced employers' contribution rate to the social security fund.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Protecting investors, Trading across borders, Paying taxes (making it more difficult)*

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 72*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 62.5 (in 2012: 61.5; improvement: 1.0)*

## **Iceland**

Iceland made paying taxes easier for companies by reducing employers' social security contribution rate and abolishing the weight distance tax—though it also introduced a new rehabilitation fund contribution.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Paying taxes*

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 13*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 81.7 (in 2012: 81.4; improvement: 0.3)*

## **Ireland**

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 15*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 83.2 (in 2012: 83.0; improvement: 0.2)*

## **Israel**

Israel made starting a business easier by reducing the time required for registration at the Income Tax Department and the National Insurance Institute. In addition, Israel made resolving insolvency easier through amendments to its companies law allowing the assumption or rejection of executory contracts, granting maximum priority to postcommencement credit, extending the maximum period of moratorium during restructuring proceedings, and allowing the sale of secured assets when necessary to ensure a successful restructuring.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Resolving insolvency*

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 35*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 73.0 (in 2012: 72.4; improvement: 0.6)*

## **Italy**

Italy made transferring property easier by eliminating the requirement for an energy performance certificate for commercial buildings with no heating system. And it made enforcing contracts easier by

regulating attorneys' fees and streamlining some court proceedings. In addition, Italy made resolving insolvency easier through amendments to its bankruptcy code that introduce a stay period for enforcement actions while the debtor is preparing a restructuring plan, make it easier to convert from one type of restructuring proceeding to another, facilitate continued operation by the debtor during restructuring, and impose stricter requirements on auditors evaluating a restructuring plan.

*Areas of business regulatory reform:* Registering property, Enforcing contracts, Resolving insolvency

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 65

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 67.4 (in 2012: 66.6; improvement: 0.8)

### **Japan**

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 27

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 78.6 (in 2012: 78.6; improvement: 0.0)

### **Korea, Rep.**

The Republic of Korea made getting credit easier by strengthening its secured transactions system through the creation of new types of security rights that can be publicized through registration.

*Areas of business regulatory reform:* Getting credit (legal rights)

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 7

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 83.7 (in 2012: 83.5; improvement: 0.2)

### **Luxembourg**

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 60

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 66.6 (in 2012: 66.6; improvement: 0.1)

### **Netherlands**

The Netherlands made starting a business easier by abolishing the minimum capital requirement. And it made transferring property easier by increasing the efficiency of the title search process. On the other hand, the Netherlands made getting credit more difficult by weakening its secured transactions system through an amendment to the Collection of State Taxes Act that grants priority outside bankruptcy to tax claims over secured creditors' claims.

*Areas of business regulatory reform:* Starting a business, Registering property, Getting credit (legal rights; making it more difficult)

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 28

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 76.4 (in 2012: 76.5; improvement: -0.1)

### **New Zealand**

New Zealand made enforcing contracts easier by improving its case management system to ensure speedier and less costly adjudication of cases.

*Areas of business regulatory reform:* Enforcing contracts

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 3

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 88.6 (in 2012: 88.7; improvement: 0.0)

### **Norway**

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 9

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points):* 83.2 (in 2012: 83.1; improvement: 0.1)

### **Poland**

Poland made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to register the new company at the National Labor Inspectorate and the National Sanitary Inspectorate. And it made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain a description of the geotechnical documentation of the land.

*Areas of business regulatory reform:* Starting a business, Dealing with construction permits

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank:* 45

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 72.0 (in 2012: 71.0; improvement: 0.9)*

### **Portugal**

Portugal made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to report to the Ministry of Labor.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business*

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 31*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 75.6 (in 2012: 75.9; improvement: -0.3)*

### **Slovak Republic**

The Slovak Republic made starting a business more difficult by adding a new procedure for establishing a limited liability company. In addition, it made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the corporate income tax rate and by adjusting land appraisal values.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business (making it more difficult), Paying taxes (making it more difficult)*

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 49*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 69.5 (in 2012: 69.6; improvement: -0.2)*

### **Slovenia**

Slovenia made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain project conditions from the water and sewerage provider.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Dealing with construction permits*

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 33*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 71.3 (in 2012: 70.9; improvement: 0.4)*

### **Spain**

Spain made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain a municipal license before starting operations and by improving the efficiency of the commercial registry.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business*

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 52*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 71.4 (in 2012: 72.7; improvement: -1.3)*

### **Sweden**

Sweden made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Paying taxes*

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 14*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 83.0 (in 2012: 82.8; improvement: 0.1)*

### **Switzerland**

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 29*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 75.3 (in 2012: 75.4; improvement: -0.1)*

### **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom made starting a business easier by providing model articles for use in preparing memorandums and articles of association. And it made transferring property easier by introducing electronic lodgment for property transfer applications.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Registering property*

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 10*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 83.5 (in 2012: 83.7; improvement: -0.1)*

### **United States**

*DB2014 ease of doing business rank: 4*

*Distance to frontier in 2013 (percentage points): 84.0 (in 2012: 84.0; improvement: 0.0)*

### **About the *Doing Business* report series**

The joint World Bank and IFC flagship *Doing Business* report analyzes regulations that apply to an economy's businesses during their life cycle, including start-up and operations, trading across borders, paying taxes, and resolving insolvency. The aggregate ease of doing business rankings are based on 10 indicators and cover 189 economies. *Doing Business* does not measure all aspects of the business environment that matter to firms and investors. For example, it does not measure the quality of fiscal management, other aspects of macroeconomic stability, the level of skills in the labor force, or the resilience of financial systems. Its findings have stimulated policy debates worldwide and enabled a growing body of research on how firm-level regulation relates to economic outcomes across economies. This year's report marks the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the global *Doing Business* report series and covers 189 economies. For more information about the *Doing Business* reports, please visit [doingbusiness.org](http://doingbusiness.org) and join us on [doingbusiness.org/Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/doingbusiness.org).

### **About the World Bank Group**

The World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. It comprises five closely associated institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), which together form the World Bank; the International Finance Corporation (IFC); the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA); and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Each institution plays a distinct role in the mission to fight poverty and improve living standards for people in the developing world. For more information, please visit [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org), [www.miga.org](http://www.miga.org), and [www.ifc.org](http://www.ifc.org).

### **For more information on *Doing Business 2014*, please contact:**

Nadine Ghannam +1 (202) 473-3011  
E-mail: [nsghannam@ifc.org](mailto:nsghannam@ifc.org)

Sushmitha Narsiah +1 (202) 473-0995  
E-mail: [snarsiah@worldbank.org](mailto:snarsiah@worldbank.org)

### **Contacts for region-specific queries on *Doing Business 2014*:**

#### **Central and Eastern Europe**

Nezhdana Bukova +7 (985) 411-3986  
E-mail: [nbukova@ifc.org](mailto:nbukova@ifc.org)

Kristyn Schrader-King +1 (202) 458-2736  
E-mail: [kschrader@worldbank.org](mailto:kschrader@worldbank.org)

#### **Southern Europe**

Slobodan Brkic +381 (11) 30-23-750  
E-mail: [sbrkic@ifc.org](mailto:sbrkic@ifc.org)

Kristyn Schrader-King +1 (202) 458-2736  
E-mail: [kschrader@worldbank.org](mailto:kschrader@worldbank.org)

#### **East Asia and the Pacific**

Hannfried von Hindenburg +852 2509-8115  
E-mail: [hvonhindenburg@ifc.org](mailto:hvonhindenburg@ifc.org)

Diana Chung +1(202) 473-8357  
E-mail: [Dchung1@worldbank.org](mailto:Dchung1@worldbank.org)

#### **Southern and Western Europe**

Oliver Griffith +33-1-4069-3195  
E-mail: [OGriffith@ifc.org](mailto:OGriffith@ifc.org)

Valerie Chevalier +33 (0) 1 40-69-3048  
E-mail: [vchevalier@worldbank.org](mailto:vchevalier@worldbank.org)

Andrea Engel +32 (2) 552-00-39  
E-mail: [aengel@ifc.org](mailto:aengel@ifc.org)

Derek Warren +44 (207) 592-8402  
E-mail: [dwarren1@worldbank.org](mailto:dwarren1@worldbank.org)