



## **Doing Business 2015 Fact Sheet: OECD**

- Twenty of 31 OECD high-income economies implemented at least one regulatory reform making it easier to do business in the year from June 1, 2013, to June 1, 2014—37 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 373 reforms making it easier to do business.
- **Portugal** has implemented the largest number of regulatory reforms in the region since 2005, with 26, followed by the **Czech Republic** and **Poland** with 25 each. These countries are among the 50 economies worldwide that have implemented the most regulatory reforms in the past decade.
- **New Zealand** has the highest ranking among OECD high-income economies on the ease of doing business, at number 2 among 189 economies worldwide. **Denmark**, the **Republic of Korea**, **Norway**, the **United States**, the **United Kingdom**, **Finland**, and **Australia** are also among the top 10.
- For the first time this year, *Doing Business* collected data for a second city in the 11 economies with a population of more than 100 million. In **Japan**, the report analyzes business regulations in both Osaka and Tokyo—and in the **United States**, in both Los Angeles and New York City.

## **Summary of 2013/14 *Doing Business* Reforms in OECD Economies<sup>1</sup>**

### **Australia**

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 10

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 10

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 80.7

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 80.7; improvement: 0.0

### **Austria**

Austria made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement, which in turn reduced the paid-in minimum capital requirement, and by lowering notary fees.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 21

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 19

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 77.4

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 77.1; improvement: 0.3

### **Belgium**

Belgium made resolving insolvency more difficult by establishing additional requirements for commencing reorganization proceedings, including the submission of documents verified by external parties.

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<sup>1</sup> The *DB2014 ease of doing business rank* may differ from the one published in the *Doing Business 2014* report. The rank is adjusted to take into account the recent changes implemented by *Doing Business* in the calculation of the ranking, now based on the distance to frontier score; the inclusion of data for a second city in the 11 economies with a population of more than 100 million; the changes in methodology for different indicator sets; and any revisions in the data due to corrections.

The distance to frontier score shows the distance of each economy to the “frontier”—which represents the best performance observed on each of the *Doing Business* indicators. The measure is normalized to range between 0 and 100, with 100 representing the frontier. The difference between the scores shown for DB2015 (2014) and DB2014 (2013) may differ from the size of the improvement reported because of rounding.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Resolving insolvency (making it more difficult)*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 42

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 40

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 71.1

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 71.1; improvement: 0.0

### **Canada**

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 16

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 15

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 79.1

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 79.1; improvement: 0.0

### **Chile**

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 41

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 39

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 71.2

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 71.2; improvement: 0.1

### **Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic made starting a business easier by substantially reducing the minimum capital requirement and the paid-in minimum capital requirement. It improved access to credit by adopting a new legal regime on secured transactions that allows the registration of receivables at the collateral registry and permits out-of-court enforcement of collateral. In addition, the Czech Republic made enforcing contracts easier by amending its civil procedure code and modifying the monetary jurisdictions of its courts.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Getting credit (legal rights), Enforcing contracts*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 44

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 47

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 71.0

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 69.8; improvement: 1.2

### **Denmark**

Denmark made starting a business easier by reducing the paid-in minimum capital requirement.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 4

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 4

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 84.2

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 84.1; improvement: 0.1

### **Estonia**

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 17

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 16

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 78.8

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 78.5; improvement: 0.3

### **Finland**

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 9

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 8

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 80.8

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 81.1; improvement: -0.3

### **France**

France made starting a business easier by reducing the time it takes to register a company at the one-stop shop (Centre de Formalités des Entreprises).

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 31

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 33

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 73.9

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 72.2; improvement: 1.7

## **Germany**

Germany made starting a business more difficult by increasing notary fees. And it made transferring property more costly by increasing the property transfer tax rate.

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

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 14

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 13

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 79.7

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 80.0; improvement: -0.3

## **Greece**

Greece made starting a business easier by lowering registration costs. And it made transferring property easier by reducing the property transfer tax rate and eliminating the requirement for a municipal tax clearance certificate. In addition, Greece made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic filing system for court users.

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

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 61

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 65

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 66.7

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 65.0; improvement: 1.7

## **Iceland**

Iceland made starting a business easier by offering faster online procedures. On the other hand, it made transferring property more costly by increasing the stamp duty rate.

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

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 12

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 11

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 80.3

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 80.5; improvement: -0.2

## **Ireland**

Ireland made transferring property easier by enhancing its computerized system at the land registry and implementing an online system for the registration of title. And it improved its credit information system by passing a new act that provides for the establishment and operation of a credit registry. In addition, Ireland made enforcing contracts easier by modifying the monetary jurisdictions of its courts.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Registering property, Getting credit (credit information), Enforcing contracts*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 13

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 17

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 80.1

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 78.2; improvement: 1.8

## **Israel**

Israel made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the profit tax rate.

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

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 40

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 38

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 71.3

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 71.2; improvement: 0.1

### **Italy**

Italy made starting a business easier by reducing both the minimum capital requirement and the paid-in minimum capital requirement and by streamlining registration procedures.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 56

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 52

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 68.5

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 68.2; improvement: 0.3

### **Japan**

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 29

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 27

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 74.8

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 74.9; improvement: -0.1

### **Korea, Rep.**

The Republic of Korea made transferring property easier by reducing the time needed to buy housing bonds and to register the property transfer. And it strengthened minority investor protections by increasing the level of transparency expected from companies on managerial compensation.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Registering property, Protecting minority investors*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 5

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 5

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 83.4

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 83.2; improvement: 0.2

### **Luxembourg**

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 59

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 59

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 67.6

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 66.6; improvement: 1.0

### **Netherlands**

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 27

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 26

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 75.0

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 75.0; improvement: 0.0

### **New Zealand**

New Zealand improved access to credit information by beginning to distribute both positive and negative credit information.

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

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 2

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 2

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 86.9

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 86.4; improvement: 0.5

### **Norway**

Norway made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for limited liability companies to have their balance sheet examined by an external auditor if the capital is paid in cash.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 6

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 6

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 82.4

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 82.2; improvement: 0.2

### **Poland**

Poland made getting electricity less costly by revising the fee structure for new connections. And it made transferring property easier by introducing online procedures and reducing notary fees. In addition, Poland made trading across borders easier by implementing a new terminal operating system at the port of Gdansk.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Getting electricity, Registering property, Trading across borders*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 32

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 30

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 73.6

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 73.4; improvement: 0.2

### **Portugal**

Portugal made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate and introducing a reduced corporate tax rate for a portion of the taxable profits of qualifying small and medium-size enterprises. In addition, Portugal made enforcing contracts easier by adopting a new code of civil procedure designed to reduce case backlogs, streamline court procedures, enhance the role of judges, and speed up the resolution of standard civil and commercial disputes.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Paying taxes, Enforcing contracts*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 25

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 23

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 76.0

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 76.0; improvement: 0.0

### **Slovak Republic**

The Slovak Republic made starting a business easier by reducing the time needed to register with the district court and eliminating the need (and therefore the fee) for the verification of signatures by a notary public. And it improved its credit information system by implementing a new law on the protection of personal data.

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

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 37

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 35

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 71.8

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 71.7; improvement: 0.1

### **Slovenia**

Slovenia made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a simplified reorganization procedure for small companies and a preventive restructuring procedure for medium-size and large ones, by allowing creditors greater participation in the management of the debtor, and by establishing provisions for an increase in share capital through debt-equity swaps.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Resolving insolvency*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 51

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 46

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 69.9

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 69.8; improvement: 0.0

### **Spain**

Spain made starting a business easier by introducing an electronic system linking several public agencies and thereby simplifying business registration. It made transferring property easier by reducing the property transfer tax rate. And it made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the statutory corporate income tax rate. In addition, Spain made resolving insolvency easier by introducing new rules for out-of-court restructuring, introducing provisions applicable to prepackaged reorganizations, and making insolvency proceedings more public.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Registering property, Paying taxes, Resolving insolvency*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 33

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 32

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 73.2

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 72.2; improvement: 0.9

### **Sweden**

Sweden made registering property easier by fully implementing a new online system for property registration.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Registering property*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 11

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 12

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 80.6

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 80.2; improvement: 0.4

### **Switzerland**

Switzerland made starting a business easier by introducing online procedures. And it strengthened minority investor protections by increasing the level of transparency required from publicly traded companies. In addition, Switzerland made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a moratorium period while the debtor is preparing a composition (reorganization) agreement, allowing creditors greater participation in the composition (reorganization) procedure, and clarifying claw-back provisions applicable to voidable transactions.

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

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 20

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 22

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 77.8

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 76.3; improvement: 1.5

### **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom made starting a business easier by speeding up tax registration. In addition, it made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate—though it also increased the landfill tax.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business, Paying taxes*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 8

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 9

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 81.0

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 80.8; improvement: 0.2

### **United States**

In the United States, starting a business became easier in New York City thanks to faster online procedures.

*Areas of business regulatory reform: Starting a business*

DB2015 ease of doing business rank: 7

DB2014 back-calculated ease of doing business rank: 7

DB2015 distance to frontier score: 82.0

DB2014 back-calculated distance to frontier score: 82.0; improvement: 0.0

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

The annual World Bank Group 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 the distance to frontier scores for 10 topics 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. Each year the report team works to improve the methodology and to enhance their data collection, analysis and output. The project has benefited from feedback from many stakeholders over the years. With a key goal to provide an objective basis for understanding and improving the local regulatory environment for business around the world, the project goes through rigorous reviews to ensure its quality and effectiveness. This year's report marks the 12th edition of the global *Doing Business* report series. 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).

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