

Doing Business 2016
Fact Sheet: Latin America and the Caribbean

What are the ranking trends?

- Economies in Latin America and the Caribbean have an average ranking on the ease of doing business of 104.
- **Mexico** has the region's highest ranking (38), followed by **Peru** (50) and **Colombia** (54).
- Other large economies in the region and their rankings are **Argentina** (121), **Brazil** (116), **Costa Rica** (58), and **Jamaica** (64).
- The economies with the region's lowest rankings are **República Bolivariana de Venezuela** (186), **Haiti** (182), and **Bolivia** (157).
- Several economies in the region rank among the best in the world in areas measured by *Doing Business*—for example, **Colombia** in Getting Credit (at 2 in the ranking), **Puerto Rico (territory of the United States)** in Resolving Insolvency (7), and **Jamaica** in Starting a Business (9).
- On average, the region's economies rank best in the areas of Getting Electricity (79) and Getting Credit (87). Getting a new electricity connection takes 65 days on average for an entrepreneur in the region, compared with a global average of 97 days.
- The area where Latin America and the Caribbean could improve the most is Paying Taxes. A local entrepreneur in the region spends 361 hours a year on average to prepare, file, and pay taxes, compared with 177 hours on average in OECD high-income economies.

What are the reform trends?ⁱ

- Fifteen of 32 economies in Latin America and the Caribbean implemented at least one reform making it easier to do business in the past year, 24 in total. At 47 percent, the share of economies reforming was the lowest among the world's regions.
- Of the reforms implemented in the region, the highest numbers were in Paying Taxes (8) and Getting Credit (5). No reforms were recorded in Registering Property or Enforcing Contracts.
- **Costa Rica** is this year's global top improver. **Jamaica** is also among the 10 top improvers worldwide. Some details of the reforms implemented by Costa Rica and Jamaica:
 - **Costa Rica** had 3 reforms. It made getting electricity easier by reducing the time required for preparing the design of the external connection works and for initiating the electricity supply. And it made getting credit easier by adopting a new law on secured transactions, implementing a fully operational collateral registry, and allowing out-of-court enforcement.
 - **Jamaica** recorded 4 reforms. For example, it made dealing with construction permits easier by implementing a new workflow for processing building permit applications.
- **Mexico** and **Peru** were among the six economies in the region implementing multiple reforms in the past year. In addition, **Brazil** reduced the time for border and documentary compliance for exporting by implementing an electronic portal system.
- **Honduras** made the biggest improvement globally in the area of Protecting Minority Investors—by requiring greater disclosure of related-party transactions, prohibiting interested parties from voting, allowing minority shareholders to bring a direct action for damages, and giving them the right to inspect company documents.
- **Costa Rica** implemented the most regulatory reforms in the region in the past 5 years, with 13—followed by **Jamaica** (12) **Mexico** (12), **Colombia** (9), and **Panama** (9).

Rankings Data for Latin America and the Caribbean

Economy	Rank (1–189)		Distance to frontier score (0–100)		Reforms	
	DB2015	DB2016	DB2015	DB2016	DB2015	DB2016
Antigua and Barbuda	99	104	59.89	59.70	0	0
Argentina	117	121	56.82	56.78	0	0
Bahamas, The	108	106	57.77	59.00	1	2
Barbados	116	119	56.88	56.85	0	0
Belize	118	120	56.77	56.83	0	0
Bolivia	155	157	46.99	47.47	0	0
Brazil	111	116	57.66	57.67	0	1
Colombia	52	54	69.89	70.43	2	1
Costa Rica	79	58	63.59	68.55	2	3
Dominica	89	91	61.10	61.44	0	0
Dominican Republic	90	93	60.77	61.16	3	0
Ecuador	114	117	57.14	57.47	2	1
El Salvador	97	86	59.94	62.76	0	1
Grenada	130	135	53.44	53.46	0	0
Guatemala	81	81	63.41	63.49	2	2
Guyana	132	137	53.04	51.83	0	1
Haiti	179	182	39.51	39.56	0	0
Honduras	115	110	56.95	58.06	0	1
Jamaica	71	64	64.68	67.27	3	4
Mexico	42	38	72.15	73.72	2	2
Nicaragua	123	125	55.73	55.78	2	0
Panama	66	69	65.75	65.74	1	0
Paraguay	95	100	60.25	60.19	0	0
Peru	45	50	71.37	71.33	0	2
Puerto Rico (U.S.)	56	57	68.73	68.73	1	0
St. Kitts and Nevis	122	124	55.81	55.83	2	0
St. Lucia	73	77	64.19	64.20	1	0
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	106	111	57.90	57.91	0	1
Suriname	154	156	47.09	47.69	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	85	88	62.64	62.58	3	0
Uruguay	88	92	61.16	61.21	2	1
Venezuela, RB	184	186	36.30	35.51	0	0

Source: *Doing Business* database.

Note: The rankings are based on the average of each economy's distance to frontier scores for the 10 topics included in this year's aggregate ranking. This measure shows how close each economy is to global best practices in business regulation. A higher score indicates a more efficient business environment and stronger legal institutions. The scores for both *Doing Business 2015* and *Doing Business 2016* are based on the new methodology.

ⁱ Reform count and regional averages excludes Chile, which is classified as an OECD high-income economy.