

Doing Business 2016
Fact Sheet: Sub-Saharan Africa

What are the ranking trends?

- Economies in Sub-Saharan Africa have an average ranking on the ease of doing business of 143.
- **Mauritius** has the region's highest ranking, at 32. **Rwanda** has its second highest (62), followed by **Botswana** (72) and **South Africa** (73).
- Other large economies in the region and their rankings are **Kenya** (108), **Nigeria** (169), and **Uganda** (122).
- Those with the region's lowest rankings are **Eritrea** (189), **South Sudan** (187), and the **Central African Republic** (185).
- **Rwanda** ranks among the best in the world in Getting Credit (2) and Registering Property (12).
- Average rankings for Sub-Saharan Africa show the most room for improvement in Getting Electricity (149), Trading across Borders (136), and Paying Taxes (131)—all areas where it ranks last among regions. In cross-border trade, for example, completing border compliance procedures takes an exporter in the region 108 hours and \$542 on average, compared with a global average of 64 hours and \$389.

What are the reform trends?

- Thirty-five of 47 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa (74 percent) implemented at least one reform making it easier to do business in the past year, 69 in total—up slightly from the annual average of 67 reforms over the past 5 years.
- Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 14 of the 32 reforms globally in Getting Credit. Of the 14 reforms, 12 focused on improving the availability of credit information—more than in any other region.
- The region accounts for 5 of the 10 top improvers this year. These 5 are **Uganda, Kenya, Mauritania, Senegal, and Benin**.
- **Rwanda** implemented the most reforms in Sub-Saharan Africa in the past year, with 6. **Kenya, Madagascar, and Senegal** followed with 4 reforms each. Some details of the reforms:
 - **Rwanda** implemented a credit scoring service in May 2015, supporting the ability of banks and other financial institutions to assess the creditworthiness of potential borrowers. And it made starting a business easier by eliminating the need for new companies to open a bank account in order to register for value added tax.
 - **Kenya** launched government service centers offering company preregistration services in major towns, reducing the time required to start a business by 4 days. Ten years ago, starting a business in Kenya took 54 days. Now it takes just 26 days—less than the regional average.
 - **Madagascar** strengthened minority investor protections by requiring that directors with a conflict of interest fully disclose the nature of their interest to the board of directors.
 - In **Senegal** the electricity utility improved the regulation of the connection process and lowered the cost by reducing the security deposit.
- Members of the **Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa** were particularly active: 14 of the 17 economies implemented business regulation reforms in the past year—29 reforms in total. Twenty-four of these reforms reduced the complexity and cost of regulatory processes, while the other 5 strengthened legal institutions.

Rankings Data for Sub-Saharan Africa

Economy	Rank (1–189)		Distance to frontier score (0–100)		Reforms	
	DB2015	DB2016	DB2015	DB2016	DB2015	DB2016
Angola	183	181	37.46	39.64	0	2
Benin	162	158	45.37	47.15	4	3
Botswana	72	72	64.42	64.98	0	1
Burkina Faso	149	143	48.97	50.81	1	1
Burundi	151	152	48.80	48.82	0	0
Cabo Verde	124	126	55.28	55.54	1	1
Cameroon	168	172	44.02	44.11	2	0
Central African Republic	185	185	36.15	36.26	1	0
Chad	182	183	37.83	38.22	1	1
Comoros	159	154	46.09	48.22	1	2
Congo, Dem. Rep.	187	184	34.79	38.14	5	2
Congo, Rep.	174	176	41.48	41.88	2	1
Côte d'Ivoire	145	142	49.71	50.93	5	3
Equatorial Guinea	178	180	40.06	40.03	1	0
Eritrea	189	189	27.40	27.61	0	0
Ethiopia	148	146	49.24	49.73	0	0
Gabon	156	162	46.59	45.99	2	2
Gambia, The	150	151	48.84	48.99	2	1
Ghana	112	114	57.65	57.69	2	1
Guinea	171	165	42.83	45.54	2	1
Guinea-Bissau	181	178	38.87	40.56	1	1
Kenya	129	108	53.60	58.24	1	4
Lesotho	110	114	57.67	57.69	0	1
Liberia	180	179	39.01	40.19	0	1
Madagascar	166	164	44.28	45.68	1	4
Malawi	144	141	49.74	51.03	2	0
Mali	142	143	50.11	50.81	2	2
Mauritania	176	168	40.41	44.74	2	3
Mauritius	31	32	74.39	75.05	2	1
Mozambique	128	133	53.66	53.98	2	1
Namibia	101	101	59.72	60.17	0	1
Niger	164	160	44.65	46.37	1	3
Nigeria	170	169	43.56	44.69	0	2
Rwanda	55	62	68.88	68.12	3	6
São Tomé and Príncipe	163	166	45.22	45.50	1	0
Senegal	156	153	46.59	48.57	6	4
Seychelles	104	95	58.31	61.05	3	1
Sierra Leone	147	147	49.67	49.69	3	0
South Africa	69	73	64.93	64.89	1	0
South Sudan	186	187	35.56	34.78	0	0
Sudan	158	159	46.11	46.97	0	0
Swaziland	102	105	59.00	59.10	2	1
Tanzania	140	139	50.89	51.62	2	1
Togo	152	150	47.54	49.03	4	3
Uganda	135	122	51.80	56.64	2	3
Zambia	91	97	60.69	60.50	2	2
Zimbabwe	153	155	47.33	48.17	0	2



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.