



### **What are the ranking trends?**

- Four economies in the East Asia and Pacific region rank among the top 10 economies globally in the *Doing Business* rankings. The top-ranked economies are **New Zealand** (at 1), followed by **Singapore** (2), **Hong Kong SAR**, **China** (4) and the **Republic of Korea** (5).
- The region's lowest ranked economies are **Myanmar** (170) and **Timor-Leste** (175).
- Other large economies in the region and their rankings are **China** (78), **Japan** (34), **Indonesia** (91), **Malaysia** (23), the **Philippines** (99), **Thailand** (46) and **Vietnam** (82).
- Economies of East Asia and Pacific region perform best in the *Doing Business* areas of Getting Credit (with an average rank of 77), Dealing with Construction Permits (79) and Getting Electricity (82). For example, the average time for an entrepreneur to connect to the electricity grid in the East Asia and Pacific region is 73 days, compared to the global average of 93 days.
- The areas where the region's economies underperform are Starting a Business (with an average rank of 106), Trading Across Borders (103) and Enforcing Contracts (102).

### **What are the reform trends? <sup>i</sup>**

- A total of 45 reforms, making it easier to do business, were implemented by 17 of the region's 25 economies in the past year. This is significantly higher than the region's annual average of 28 reforms over the past five years.
- **Brunei Darussalam** and **Indonesia** both made the list of global top 10 improvers.
- Almost a quarter of the past year's reforms for the region were implemented in the Getting Credit area.
- Multiple economies in the region implemented three or more reforms in the past year, including **Indonesia** (7 reforms), **Brunei Darussalam** (6), **Vanuatu** (4), and **Singapore**, **Vietnam** and **Thailand** (3 each). Examples of reforms in these economies include:
  - **Indonesia** made Starting a Business easier by abolishing the minimum capital requirement for small and medium-size enterprises and by encouraging the use of an online system to reserve company names.
  - **Brunei Darussalam** made Paying Taxes easier by fully implementing an electronic system for filing and paying corporate income tax.

### **New inclusions in *Doing Business 2017***

- This year's report covers 190 economies, with the inclusion of Somalia.
- For the first time, *Doing Business 2017* includes a gender dimension in three indicators: Starting a Business, Registering Property and Enforcing Contracts. The report finds that the majority of East Asia and Pacific economies do not have gender-based barriers. The exceptions are **Malaysia** and **Brunei Darussalam** where extra procedures are stipulated by law for married women to start and operate a business.
- The Paying Taxes indicator has been expanded to cover post-filing processes, such as tax audits and VAT refund. Many East Asia and Pacific economies perform well in these areas. There are exceptions however. Audit compliance time, for example, is high in **Thailand** and **Timor-Leste**, and compliance with a VAT refund process is time-consuming in **Tonga** as well as **Fiji**.
- The report includes an annex with a pilot indicator set on public procurement regulations. The 'selling to the government' procurement process is studied in 78 economies and is not included in the overall rankings. The indicator set analyzes five main areas: accessibility and transparency, bid security, payment delays, incentives for small and medium-size enterprises and complaint mechanisms.

**Rankings Data for East Asia and Pacific**

Economy	Rank (1–190)		Distance to frontier score (0–100)		# Reforms	
	DB2016	DB2017	DB2016	DB2017	DB2016	DB2017
Brunei Darussalam	97	72	60.28	65.51	2	6
Cambodia	128	131	54.54	54.79	2	1
China	80	78	62.86	64.28	1	2
Fiji	84	97	62.47	60.71	0	2
Hong Kong SAR, China	5	4	83.77	84.21	4	2
Indonesia	106	91	58.51	61.52	3	7
Kiribati	151	152	48.51	49.19	0	0
Lao PDR	136	139	52.44	53.29	1	2
Malaysia	22	23	78.18	78.11	1	2
Marshall Islands	137	143	51.90	51.92	0	0
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	148	151	49.48	49.48	0	0
Mongolia	62	64	67.31	68.15	2	1
Myanmar	171	170	44.01	44.56	2	2
Palau	135	136	53.78	53.81	0	0
Papua New Guinea	133	119	53.92	57.29	1	2
Philippines	99	99	59.53	60.40	1	2
Samoa	87	89	62.16	62.17	0	0
Singapore	3	2	84.50	85.05	0	3
Solomon Islands	105	104	58.79	59.17	0	1
Taiwan, China	10	11	81.08	81.09	1	0
Thailand	46	46	71.65	72.53	0	3
Timor-Leste	173	175	42.03	40.88	0	0
Tonga	76	85	63.83	63.58	0	0
Vanuatu	88	83	61.45	63.66	2	4
Vietnam	91	82	61.11	63.83	5	3

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.

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i Reform count regional averages excludes Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand, which are classified as OECD high-income economies.