

**What are the ranking trends?**

- **New Zealand** continues to be the top ranked economy on the ease of *doing business* rankings for a third consecutive year. New Zealand ranks first in several *Doing Business* indicators: Starting a Business, Registering Property and Getting Credit.
- Besides New Zealand, five other OECD high-income economies are in this year's top 10 doing business ranking; **Denmark** (3), **Korea** (5), **Norway** (7), **United States** (8), and **United Kingdom** (9).
- Other large economies in the OECD high-income grouping and their rankings are **Germany** (24), **Spain** (30), **France** (32), **Japan** (39), **Italy** (51).
- The lowest ranked economies in the region are **Greece** (72), **Luxembourg** (66) and **Chile** (56).
- The OECD high income economies have the best scores in the areas of Starting a Business, Dealing with Construction Permits, Getting Electricity, Registering Property, Enforcing Contracts, Resolving Insolvency, Trading Across Borders and Paying Taxes.
  - The recovery rate in case of insolvency proceedings in OECD high-income economies is 70.5 cents per the dollar, almost twice as much as the global average of 36.5 cents.
  - It takes on average 20 days for a business in OECD high income economies to transfer a property title after purchasing a property from another business, compared to the global average of more than 47 days.

**What are the reform trends?**

- 47% of the region's economies reformed in at least one of the areas measured by *Doing Business*. A total of 23 reforms were implemented in 16 of the region's 34 economies in the past year.
- Enforcing Contracts was the area of *Doing Business*, which saw the largest number of reforms in OECD high-income economies; 7 economies implemented reforms in this area: **Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ireland, Poland, Slovak Republic** and **Slovenia**. Paying Taxes saw a total of 4 reforms in the past year in **Finland, Hungary, France** and **Lithuania**.
- **France** and **Lithuania** implemented the highest number of reforms, 3 each.
  - For the first time, **France** made getting electricity easier by streamlining the application process and reducing the time for the external works.
  - **Lithuania** strengthened minority investor protections by introducing greater requirements for the disclosure of the compensation of directors and other high-ranking officers on an individual basis.
- Other reformers include: **Belgium, Chile** and **Ireland** with two reforms each.
- Out of 3 OECD high-income economies that improved their positions in the past year, **Belgium** improved the most, followed by **Denmark** and **Norway**.

**Noteworthy items:**

- Changes in this year's report include renaming of the distance-to-frontier measurement to ease of doing business score, to better reflect its main purpose of measuring absolute progress towards best practices (without any change in the actual calculation).
- There are no changes to the methodology this year or to the calculation of the Doing Business Score, which underpins the Doing Business rankings.
- This year, Doing Business includes four case studies that focus on the benefits of:
  - mandatory and annual training of both public officials and users of business and land registries;
  - training for customs clearance officials and brokers;
  - robust regulatory framework governing the electricity sector and accrediting the electrician profession;
  - training and specialization of judges.

## Rankings Data for OECD High-Income

Economy	Rank (1-190)	Ease of doing business score (0-100)		# of Reforms	
	DB2019	DB2018	DB2019	DB2018	DB2019
Australia	18	80.14	80.13	0	0
Austria	26	78.54	78.57	0	0
Belgium	45	71.71	73.95	1	2
Canada	22	78.88	79.26	0	1
Chile	56	71.44	71.81	0	2
Czech Republic	35	76.05	76.10	1	0
Denmark	3	84.05	84.64	0	1
Estonia	16	80.49	80.50	0	0
Finland	17	80.30	80.35	0	1
France	32	76.30	77.29	2	3
Germany	24	78.90	78.90	0	0
Greece	72	68.20	68.08	1	1
Hungary	53	71.94	72.28	2	1
Iceland	21	79.30	79.35	0	0
Ireland	23	79.42	78.91	0	2
Israel	49	72.59	73.23	1	1
Italy	51	72.71	72.56	2	0
Japan	39	75.60	75.65	1	0
Korea, Rep.	5	84.15	84.14	0	0
Latvia	19	79.26	79.59	0	0
Lithuania	14	80.54	80.83	4	3
Luxembourg	66	69.01	69.01	1	0
Netherlands	36	76.03	76.04	1	0
New Zealand	1	86.59	86.59	1	1
Norway	7	82.70	82.95	2	0
Poland	33	77.31	76.95	0	1
Portugal	34	76.62	76.55	0	0
Slovak Republic	42	74.88	75.17	1	1
Slovenia	40	75.59	75.61	1	1
Spain	30	77.61	77.68	1	0
Sweden	12	81.27	81.27	0	0
Switzerland	38	75.68	75.69	1	0
United Kingdom	9	82.32	82.65	0	1
United States	8	82.76	82.75	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.