

**What are the ranking trends?**

- **Singapore** continues to be the second top ranked economy on the ease of *Doing Business* rankings for a fourth consecutive year. **Hong Kong SAR, China** also ranks among the top 10 economies globally to the third place.
- Five of the region's economies are among the top 25 global performers and the region's average rank is 96<sup>th</sup>.
- **China** is among this year's top 10 improvers.
- The region's lowest ranked economies are **Kiribati** (164), **Myanmar** (165) and **Timor-Leste** (181).
- Other large economies in the region and their rankings are **Indonesia** (73), **Philippines** (95), **Thailand** (21), Malaysia (12) and **Vietnam** (70).
- Economies in the East Asia and Pacific region perform well in the areas of getting credit (with a regional average rank of 82<sup>nd</sup>), getting electricity (83), and dealing with construction permits (84). For example, in the region, completing all the formalities to obtain a permanent electricity connection and supply takes on average 63 days and costs 594.6 percent of the income per capita, compared to 83 days and 1,049.8 percent globally.
- Important challenges remain in the areas of enforcing contracts (with a regional average rank of 105), resolving insolvency (105), and trading across borders (103), which show a wide variation between economies in the region. It takes 1,160 days to resolve a commercial dispute in **Myanmar** (ranked 187<sup>th</sup> in Enforcing Contracts) and costs 110.3% of the value of the claim in **Papua New Guinea** (173).

**What are the reform trends?**

- A total of 33 reforms making it easier to do business were implemented by 48% of the region's economies in at least one of the areas measured by *Doing Business*.
- The region's economies focused their reform efforts in the past year on improvements in the areas of dealing with construction permits and starting a business with seven and five reforms, respectively.
- **China** is among this year's top 10 improvers with the greatest number of reforms (8) in the region and second most globally. Other notable reformers include **Indonesia** and **Myanmar** (with 5 reforms each) and **Philippines** (with 3 reforms). Examples of reforms they implemented include:
  - **China** implemented reforms in the areas of starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency.
  - **Indonesia** made paying taxes easier by introducing an online filing and payment system for the major taxes and made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic case management system for judges. Furthermore, trading across borders was made easier by improving the online processing of export customs declarations, as a result, time to export border compliance reduced from 63 to 56 hours.
  - **Myanmar** started publishing performance measurement reports to ease contract enforcement, in addition to introducing an online platform for company registration and reducing incorporation fees to make starting a business easier among other reforms.
  - **Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea** and **Vietnam** carried out two reforms each.

**Noteworthy items:**

- The contracting with the government indicator, which is a latest area of research of the *Doing Business* study, and which benchmarks the efficiency, quality and transparency of public procurement system worldwide, will be added to the *Doing Business 2021* study.
- This year, *Doing Business* includes three case studies that focus on:
  - prominent regulatory changes implemented by governments since the inception of the *Doing Business* study across four indicator sets (starting a business, getting credit, paying taxes and resolving insolvency).
  - the efficiency of public procurement worldwide.
  - the positive effects of flexible employment regulation for firms, which impacts job creation and productivity growth.

#### Rankings Data for East Asia & Pacific

Economy	Rank (1-190)	Ease of doing business score (0-100)		# of Reforms	
	DB2020	DB2019	DB2020	DB2019	DB2020
Brunei Darussalam	66	69.6	70.1	3	2
Cambodia	144	53.8	53.8	1	0
China	31	74.0	77.9	7	8
Fiji	102	61.4	61.5	0	0
Hong Kong SAR,	3	85.1	85.3	1	1
Indonesia	73	68.2	69.6	3	5
Kiribati	164	46.8	46.9	0	0
Lao PDR	154	49.8	50.8	1	2
Malaysia	12	81.3	81.5	6	1
Marshall Islands	153	50.9	50.9	0	0
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	158	48.1	48.1	0	0
Mongolia	81	67.7	67.8	1	0
Myanmar	165	43.5	46.8	2	5
Palau	145	53.7	53.7	0	0
Papua New Guinea	120	59.4	59.8	2	2
Philippines	95	60.9	62.8	4	3
Samoa	98	62.1	62.1	0	0
Singapore	2	85.8	86.2	2	1
Solomon Islands	136	55.2	55.3	0	0
Taiwan, China	15	81.0	80.9	2	0
Thailand	21	79.5	80.1	4	1
Timor-Leste	181	39.7	39.4	1	0
Tonga	103	61.7	61.4	0	0
Vanuatu	107	60.7	61.1	0	0
Vietnam	70	68.6	69.8	3	2

Source: *Doing Business* database.

Note: The rankings are based on the average of each economy's *Doing Business* 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.