

**Ranking trends**

- More than half of the 20 top-ranking economies are from the OECD high-income group.
- **New Zealand** continues to lead the world in setting global best practices on the ease of doing business rankings for a fourth consecutive year. New Zealand ranks first in two *Doing Business* indicators: starting a business and getting credit.
- Besides New Zealand, six other OECD high-income economies are in this year's top 10 *Doing Business* rankings: **Denmark** (4), **Korea** (5), **United States** (6), **United Kingdom** (8), **Norway** (9), and **Sweden** (10).
- Rankings of other large economies in the OECD high-income group are **Germany** (22), **Japan** (29), **Spain** (30), **France** (32), **Italy** (58).
- Lowest ranked economies in group: **Greece** (79), **Luxembourg** (72) and **Chile** (59).
- The OECD high income economies have the best scores in the areas of starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, protecting minority investors, enforcing contracts, resolving insolvency, trading across borders and paying taxes.
  - The recovery rate in case of insolvency proceedings in OECD high-income economies is 70.2 cents on the dollar, almost twice the global average of 36.8 cents.
  - It takes on average 9 days for an entrepreneur to register a firm in OECD high-income economies, compared to the global average of more than 19 days.

**Reform trends**

- 44% of the group's economies reformed in at least one of the areas measured by *Doing Business*. 23 reforms were implemented in 15 of the group's 34 economies last year.
- Starting a business was the area of *Doing Business* that saw the largest number of reforms in OECD high-income economies; 7 economies implemented reforms in this area: **Belgium, Chile, Finland, Greece, Israel, Slovak Republic and United States**. Paying taxes saw a total of 5 reforms in the past year in **Belgium, Hungary, Israel, Korea and United States**.
- **Israel** implemented 4 reforms, the highest number among this group. Israel made paying taxes easier and less costly by introducing an electronic system for filing and paying VAT and social security contributions and reducing the corporate income tax rate.
- The **United States** has also improved its position with 3 reforms implemented in the past year. The country made enforcing contracts easier by introducing electronic filing and electronic payment of court fees.
- Other reformers include: **Belgium, Greece and Lithuania** with two reforms each.

**Noteworthy items:**

- The contracting with the government indicator, the latest area of research of the *Doing Business* study benchmarks the efficiency, quality and transparency of public procurement system worldwide. It will be added to *Doing Business 2021*.
- 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 impact job creation and productivity growth.

## Rankings Data for OECD High-Income

Economy	Rank (1-190)	Ease of doing business score (0-100)		# of Reforms	
	DB2020	DB2019	DB2020	DB2019	DB2020
Australia	14	80.7	81.2	0	1
Austria	27	78.7	78.7	0	0
Belgium	46	74.7	75.0	2	2
Canada	23	79.7	79.6	1	0
Chile	59	72.3	72.6	2	1
Czech Republic	41	76.3	76.3	0	0
Denmark	4	85.2	85.3	1	1
Estonia	18	80.8	80.6	0	0
Finland	20	80.0	80.2	1	1
France	32	76.8	76.8	3	0
Germany	22	79.3	79.7	0	1
Greece	79	67.4	68.4	1	2
Hungary	52	73.2	73.4	1	1
Iceland	26	79.0	79.0	0	0
Ireland	24	79.6	79.6	2	0
Israel	35	75.0	76.7	1	4
Italy	58	73.0	72.9	0	0
Japan	29	78.0	78.0	0	0
Korea, Rep.	5	84.0	84.0	0	1
Latvia	19	80.3	80.3	0	0
Lithuania	11	81.0	81.6	3	2
Luxembourg	72	69.6	69.6	0	0
Netherlands	42	76.1	76.1	0	0
New Zealand	1	87.0	86.8	1	0
Norway	9	82.9	82.6	0	0
Poland	40	76.9	76.4	1	1
Portugal	39	76.4	76.5	0	0
Slovak Republic	45	75.4	75.6	1	1
Slovenia	37	76.4	76.5	1	0
Spain	30	77.7	77.9	0	1
Sweden	10	82.0	82.0	0	0
Switzerland	36	76.6	76.6	0	0
United Kingdom	8	83.6	83.5	1	0
United States	6	83.6	84.0	0	3

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.