

# Doing Business 2011

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**Making  
a Difference for  
Entrepreneurs**

COMPARING BUSINESS REGULATION IN 183 ECONOMIES



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1818 H Street NW  
Washington, DC 20433  
Telephone 202-473-1000  
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*Doing Business 2011: Making a Difference for Entrepreneurs* is the eighth in a series of annual reports investigating regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. *Doing Business* presents quantitative indicators on business regulations and the protection of property rights that can be compared across 183 economies, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, over time.

A set of regulations affecting 9 stages of a business's life are measured: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and closing a business. Data in *Doing Business 2011* are current as of June 1, 2010\*. The indicators are used to analyze economic outcomes and identify what reforms have worked, where, and why.

The Doing Business methodology has limitations. Other areas important to business such as an economy's proximity to large markets, the quality of its infrastructure services (other than those related to trading across borders), the security of property from theft and looting, the transparency of government procurement, macroeconomic conditions or the underlying strength of institutions, are not studied directly by Doing Business. To make the data comparable across economies, the indicators refer to a specific type of business, generally a local limited liability company operating in the largest business city. Because standard assumptions are used in the data collection, comparisons and benchmarks are valid across economies. The data not only highlight the extent of obstacles to doing business; they also help identify the source of those obstacles, supporting policymakers in designing reform.

The data set covers 183 economies: 46 in Sub-Saharan Africa, 32 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 25 in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 24 in East Asia and Pacific, 18 in the Middle East and North Africa and 8 in South Asia, as well as 30 OECD high-income economies.

The following pages present the summary Doing Business indicators for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The data used for this economy profile come from the Doing Business database and are summarized in graphs. These graphs allow a comparison of the economies in each region not only with one another but also with the "good practice" economy for each indicator.

The good-practice economies are identified by their position in each indicator as well as their overall ranking and by their capacity to provide good examples of business regulation to other countries. These good-practice economies do not necessarily rank number 1 in the topic or indicator, but they are in the top 10.

More information is available in the full report. *Doing Business 2011: Making a Difference for Entrepreneurs* presents the indicators, analyzes their relationship with economic outcomes and recommends reforms. The data, along with information on ordering the report, are available on the Doing Business website ([www.doingbusiness.org](http://www.doingbusiness.org)).

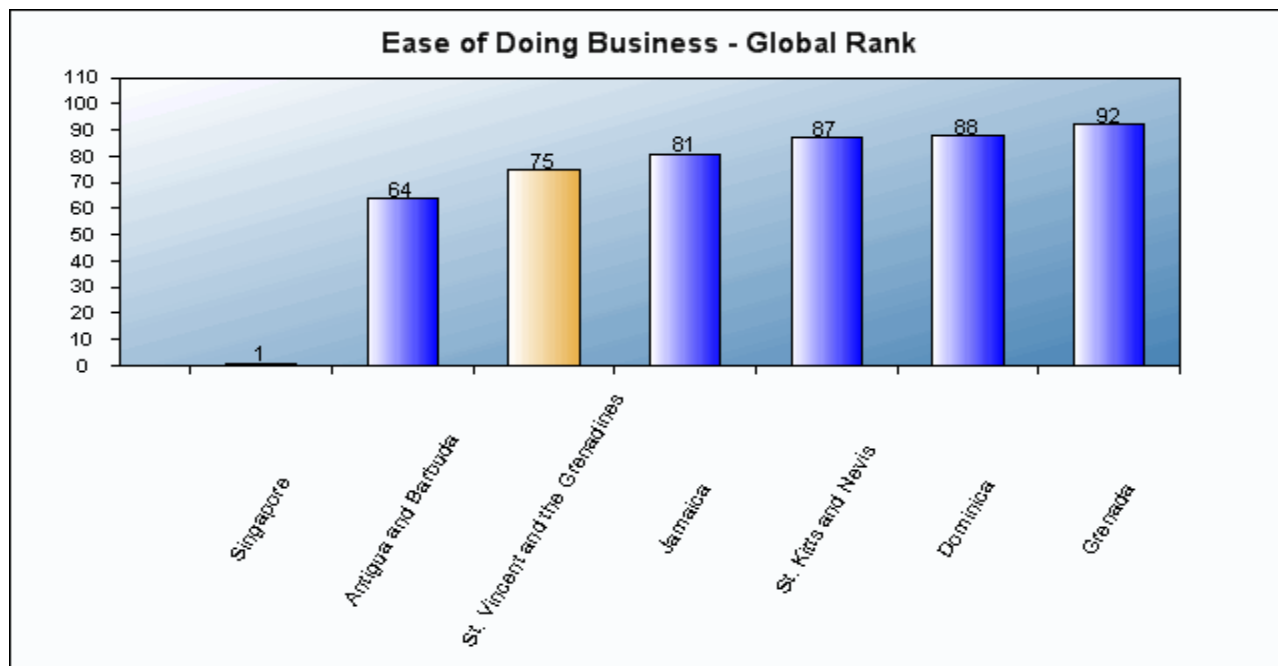
\* Except for the Paying Taxes indicator that refers to the period January to December of 2009.

Note: 2008-2010 Doing Business data and rankings have been recalculated to reflect changes to the methodology and the addition of new economies (in the case of the rankings).

## Economy Rankings - Ease of Doing Business

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is ranked 75 out of 183 economies. Singapore is the top ranked economy in the Ease of Doing Business.

### St. Vincent and the Grenadines - Compared to global good practice economy as well as selected



### St. Vincent and the Grenadines's ranking in Doing Business 2011

| Rank                              | Doing Business 2011 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ease of Doing Business            | 75                  |
| Starting a Business               | 52                  |
| Dealing with Construction Permits | 3                   |
| Registering Property              | 138                 |
| Getting Credit                    | 116                 |
| Protecting Investors              | 28                  |
| Paying Taxes                      | 55                  |
| Trading Across Borders            | 41                  |
| Enforcing Contracts               | 103                 |
| Closing a Business                | 183                 |

## Summary of Indicators - St. Vincent and the Grenadines

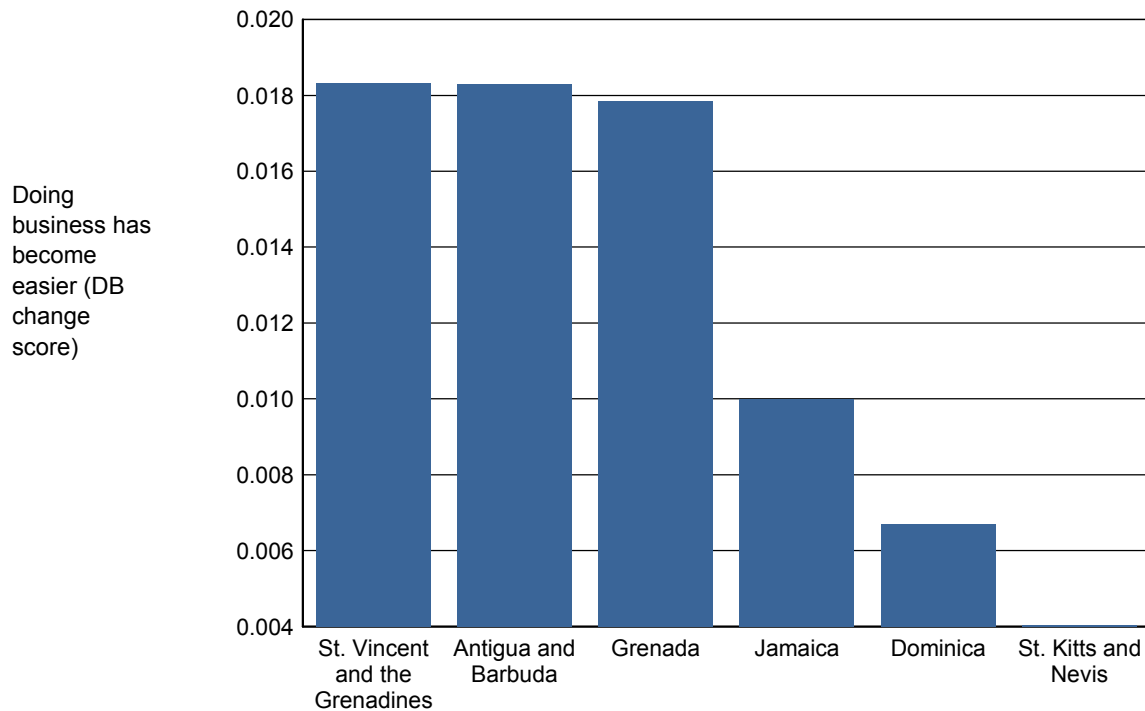
|  |  |      |
|--|--|------|
| <b>Starting a Business</b>               | Procedures (number)                          | 7    |
|  | Time (days)                                  | 10   |
|  | Cost (% of income per capita)                | 21.2 |
|  | Min. capital (% of income per capita)        | 0.0  |
| <b>Dealing with Construction Permits</b> | Procedures (number)                          | 11   |
|  | Time (days)                                  | 74   |
|  | Cost (% of income per capita)                | 7.0  |
| <b>Registering Property</b>              | Procedures (number)                          | 7    |
|  | Time (days)                                  | 38   |
|  | Cost (% of property value)                   | 11.9 |
| <b>Getting Credit</b>                    | Strength of legal rights index (0-10)        | 7    |
|  | Depth of credit information index (0-6)      | 0    |
|  | Public registry coverage (% of adults)       | 0.0  |
|  | Private bureau coverage (% of adults)        | 0.0  |
| <b>Protecting Investors</b>              | Extent of disclosure index (0-10)            | 4    |
|  | Extent of director liability index (0-10)    | 8    |
|  | Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)       | 7    |
|  | Strength of investor protection index (0-10) | 6.3  |
| <b>Paying Taxes</b>                      | Payments (number per year)                   | 32   |
|  | Time (hours per year)                        | 111  |
|  | Profit tax (%)                               | 30.2 |
|  | Labor tax and contributions (%)              | 5.1  |
|  | Other taxes (%)                              | 3.4  |
|  | Total tax rate (% profit)                    | 38.7 |
| <b>Trading Across Borders</b>            | Documents to export (number)                 | 5    |
|  | Time to export (days)                        | 12   |
|  | Cost to export (US\$ per container)          | 1075 |
|  | Documents to import (number)                 | 4    |
|  | Time to import (days)                        | 12   |
|  | Cost to import (US\$ per container)          | 1605 |

|                            |                                     |             |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Enforcing Contracts</b> | Procedures (number)                 | 45          |
|                            | Time (days)                         | 394         |
|                            | Cost (% of claim)                   | 30.3        |
| <b>Closing a Business</b>  | Recovery rate (cents on the dollar) | 0.0         |
|                            | Time (years)                        | no practice |
|                            | Cost (% of estate)                  | no practice |

The 5 year measure of cumulative change illustrates how the business regulatory environment has changed in 174 economies from *Doing Business 2006* to *Doing Business 2011*. Instead of highlighting which countries currently have the most business friendly environment, this new approach shows the extent to which an economy's regulatory environment for business has changed compared with 5 years ago.

This snapshot reflects all cumulative changes in an economy's business regulation as measured by the Doing Business indicators—such as a reduction in the time to start a business thanks to a one-stop shop or an increase in the strength of investor protection index thanks to new stock exchange rules that tighten disclosure requirements for related-party transactions.

This figure shows the distribution of cumulative change across the 9 indicators and time between *Doing Business 2006* and *Doing Business 2011*





Many economies have undertaken reforms to smooth the starting a business process in stages—and often as part of a larger regulatory reform program. A number of studies have shown that among the benefits of streamlining the process to start a business have been greater firm satisfaction and savings and more registered businesses, financial resources and job opportunities. Economies with higher entry costs are associated with a larger informal sector and a smaller number of legally registered firms.

#### Some reform outcomes

*In Egypt reductions of the minimum capital requirement in 2007 and 2008 led to an increase of more than 30% in the number of limited liability companies.*

*In Portugal creation of One-Stop Shop in 2006 and 2007 resulted in a reduction of time to start a business from 54 days to 5. In 2007 and 2008 new business registrations were up by 60% compared with 2006.*

*In Malaysia reduction of registration fees in 2008 led to an increase in registrations by 16% in 2009.*

#### What does Starting a Business measure?

##### Procedures to legally start and operate a company (number)

- Preregistration (for example, name verification or reservation, notarization)
- Registration
- Post registration (for example, social security registration, company seal)

##### Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)

- Does not include time spent gathering information
- Each procedure starts on a separate day
- Procedure completed once final document is received
- No prior contact with officials

##### Cost required to complete each procedure (% of income per capita)

- Official costs only, no bribes
- No professional fees unless services required by law

##### Paid-in minimum capital (% of income per capita)

- Deposited in a bank or with a notary prior to registration begins

**Starting a Business:** getting a local limited liability company up and running  
*Rankings are based on 4 subindicators*



#### Case Study Assumptions

- Doing Business records all procedures that are officially required for an entrepreneur to start up and formally operate an industrial or commercial business.
- Any required information is readily available and that all agencies involved in the start-up process function without corruption.

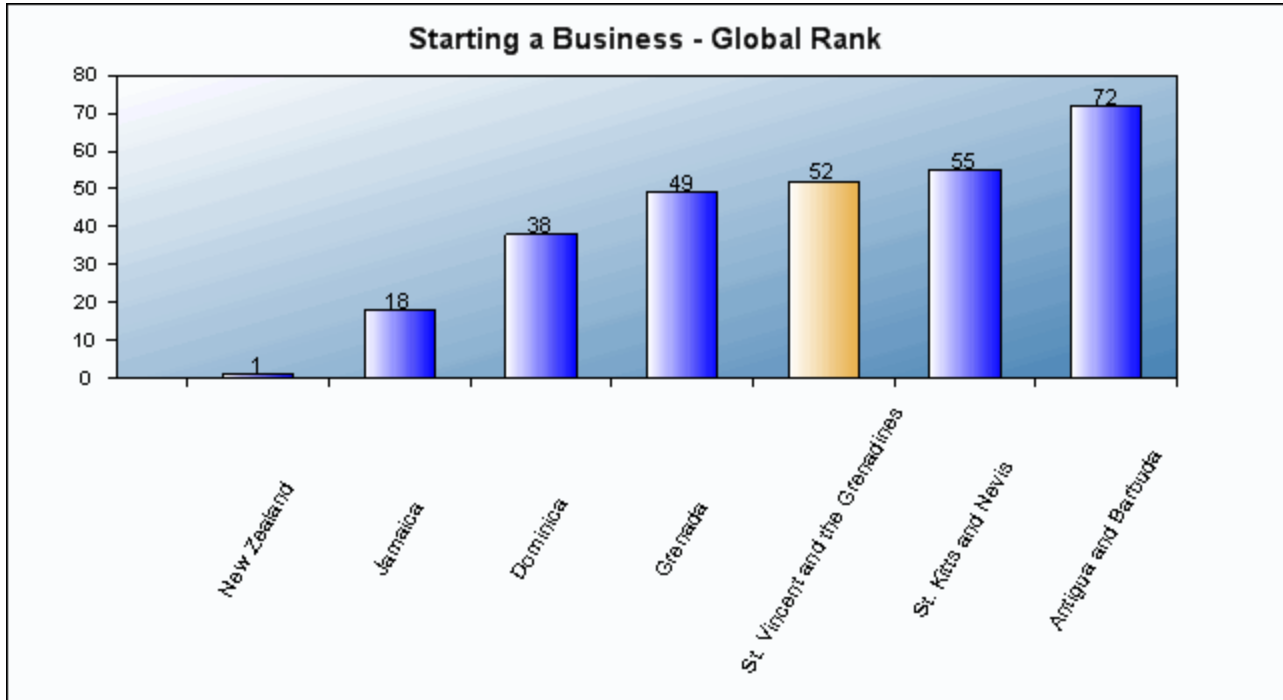
#### The business:

- is a limited liability company, located in the largest business city
- conducts general commercial activities
- is 100% domestically owned
- has a start-up capital of 10 times income per capita
- has a turnover of at least 100 times income per capita
- has at least 10 and up to 50 employees
- does not qualify for investment incentives or any special benefits
- leases the commercial plant and offices and is not a proprietor of real estate

## 1. Benchmarking Starting a Business Regulations:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is ranked 52 overall for Starting a Business.

Ranking of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Starting a Business - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Starting a Business data for St. Vincent and the Grenadines compared to good practice and comparator economies:

| <b>Good Practice Economies</b> | <b>Procedures (number)</b> | <b>Time (days)</b> | <b>Cost (% of income per capita)</b> | <b>Min. capital (% of income per capita)</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Denmark*</b>                |                            |                    | 0.0                                  |  |
| <b>New Zealand*</b>            | 1                          | 1                  |                                      | 0.0  |

| <i>Selected Economy</i>               |          |           |             |            |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| <b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>21.2</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

| <i>Comparator Economies</i> |   |    |      |     |
|-----------------------------|---|----|------|-----|
| <b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>  | 8 | 21 | 11.0 | 0.0 |
| <b>Dominica</b>             | 5 | 14 | 22.0 | 0.0 |
| <b>Grenada</b>              | 6 | 15 | 25.2 | 0.0 |
| <b>Jamaica</b>              | 6 | 8  | 5.2  | 0.0 |
| <b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>  | 7 | 19 | 11.3 | 0.0 |

\* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

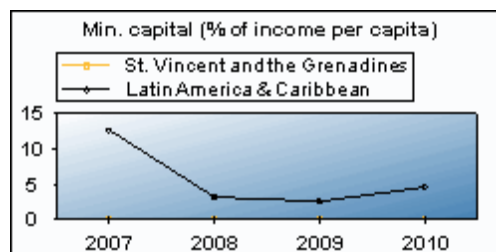
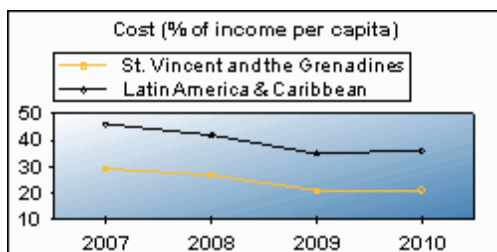
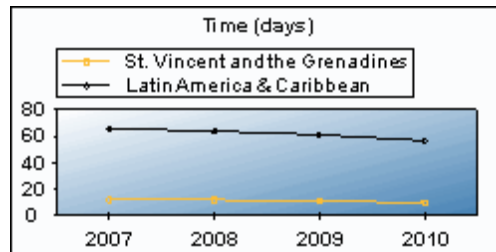
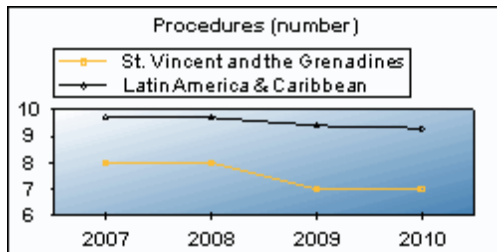
**Procedures (number):** **Canada**

**Cost (% of income per capita):** **Slovenia**

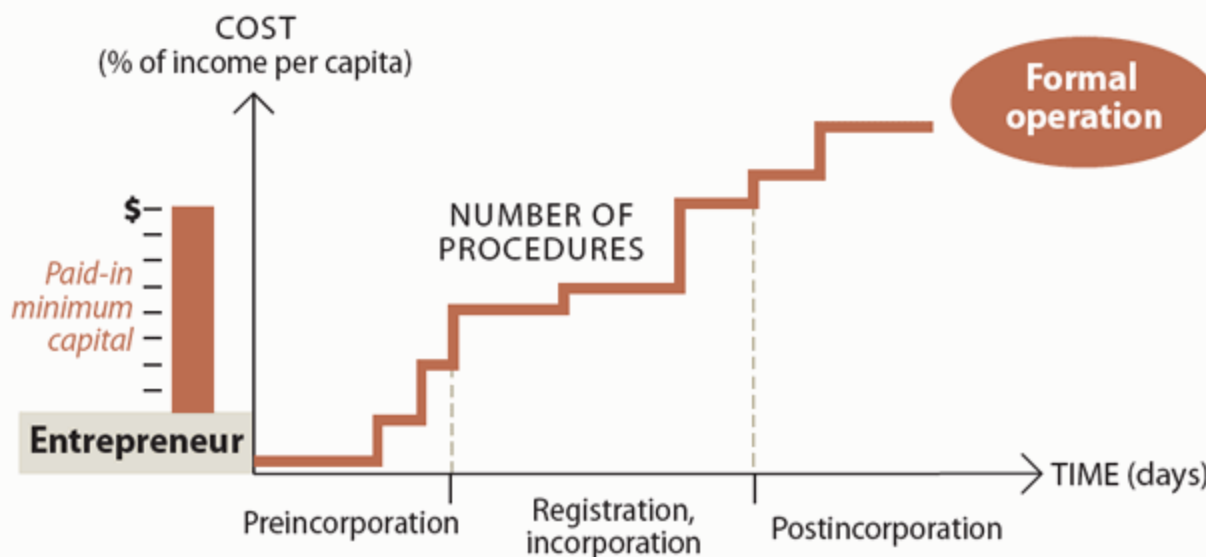
## 2. Historical data: Starting a Business in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

| Starting a Business data              | Doing Business 2008 | Doing Business 2009 | Doing Business 2010 | Doing Business 2011 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rank                                  | ..                  | ..                  | 46                  | 52                  |
| Procedures (number)                   | 8                   | 8                   | 7                   | 7                   |
| Time (days)                           | 12                  | 12                  | 11                  | 10                  |
| Cost (% of income per capita)         | 29.2                | 26.8                | 21.0                | 21.2                |
| Min. capital (% of income per capita) | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 |

3. The following graphs illustrate the Starting a Business sub indicators in St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the past 4 years:



## What are the time, cost, paid-in minimum capital and number of procedures to get a local, limited liability company up and running?



This table summarizes the procedures and costs associated with setting up a business in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

### STANDARDIZED COMPANY

Legal Form: Private Limited Liability Company

City: Kingstown

### Registration Requirements:

| No: | Procedure   | Time to complete | Cost to complete |
|-----|---|------------------|------------------|
| 1   | Search and reserve company name                               | 1                | XCD 2            |
| 2   | Obtain and legalize the incorporation documents               | 1                | XCD 1,750        |
| 3   | Registration with the Commercial Registry                     | 2                | XCD 950          |
| 4   | Filing of bylaws and notice of appointment of secretary       | 2                | XCD 150          |
| 5   | Apply for a trade/industrial license                          | 2                | XCD 100          |
| 6   | Enroll for income tax at the Inland Revenue Department        | 1                | no charge        |
| 7   | Enroll company and workers at the National Insurance Services | 1                | no charge        |

## Starting a Business Details - St. Vincent and the Grenadines

### Procedure 1 Search and reserve company name

**Time to complete:** 1

**Cost to complete:** XCD 2

**Comment:** Pre-approval of a company name is obtained by filing a request for name search and reservation (form 26) with the Commerce and Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) in advance of the related application. To avoid unnecessary delays, statutory instructions for form completion are distributed at CIPO. A fee of EC\$ 25 is payable and the firm must be filed in duplicate original. Form 26 makes provision for the choice of 3 alternative names. On receipt of a request for name reservation, CIPO will conduct a comparative search of registered business and corporate names and will consider the overall suitability of the proposed having regard to the prescribed restrictions. Where a name is approved, it will be reserved for a period of 90 days from approval. It's recommended that all applicants use the name reservation procedures to avoid the inconvenience of having to prepare a new set of forms should the first chosen name be declined.

### Procedure 2 Obtain and legalize the incorporation documents

**Time to complete:** 1

**Cost to complete:** XCD 1,750

**Comment:** The law provides that the company Director or the attorney can prepare the incorporation documents that are prescribed in the Company Act of 1996 and its amendments. A standard Article of Association exist at the registry and therefore the company director can prepare it, however almost all companies choose to use an attorney to complete these formalities. By law, an attorney signature is needed only to certify the company deceleration.

### Procedure 3 Registration with the Commercial Registry

**Time to complete:** 2

**Cost to complete:** XCD 950

**Comment:** The XCD 950 cost represents the initial administrative fee. The required documents are the following: the articles of incorporation, the notice of directors, the notice of registered office, the request for name search and name reservation, the lawyer's declaration, and a cover letter if any director does not have a middle name (the forms require a middle initial). After 2 days, if all documents are in order, the Registry releases a certificate of incorporation.

### Procedure 4 Filing of bylaws and notice of appointment of secretary

**Time to complete:** 2

**Cost to complete:** XCD 150

**Comment:** Upon retrieving the certificate of incorporation, the incorporator files two copies of the bylaws and the notice of appointment of secretary, and two days later, retrieves a registered copy.

### Procedure 5 Apply for a trade/industrial license

**Time to complete:** 2

**Cost to complete:** XCD 100

**Comment:** All businesses that conduct commercial or industrial activities must apply for a license. Government officials do not inspect the company before issuing the license. The license costs XCD 100 on average, depending on the type and the amount of stock of each company.

#### **Procedure 6 Enroll for income tax at the Inland Revenue Department**

**Time to complete:** 1

**Cost to complete:** no charge

**Comment:** The registrar sends a notice to the Inland Revenue Department once the company is incorporated and the company must then register at the Inland Revenue Department office.

#### **Procedure 7 Enroll company and workers at the National Insurance Services**

**Time to complete:** 1

**Cost to complete:** no charge

**Comment:** The company submits a form with company information and a form for every employee hired. The company's contribution to the National Insurance Services is based on each employee's salary.

In many economies, especially developing ones, complying with building regulations is so costly in time and money that many builders opt out. Builders may pay bribes to pass inspections or simply build illegally, leading to hazardous construction. Where the regulatory burden is large, entrepreneurs may tend to move their activity into the informal economy. There they operate with less concern for safety, leaving everyone worse off. In other economies compliance is simple, straightforward and inexpensive, yielding better results.

### Some reform outcomes

*In Burkina Faso, a one-stop shop for construction permits, "Centre de Facilitation des Actes de Construire", was opened in May 2008. The new regulation merged 32 procedures into 15, reduced the time required from 226 days to 122 and cut the cost by 40%. From May 2009 to May 2010 611 building permits were granted in Ouagadougou, up from an average of about 150 a year in 2002-06.*

*Toronto, Canada revamped its construction permitting process in 2005 by introducing time limits for different stages of the process and presenting a unique basic list of requirements for each project. Later it provided for electronic information and risk-based approvals with fast-track procedures. Between 2005 and 2008 the number of commercial building permits increased by 17%, the construction value of new commercial buildings by 84%.*

### What does the Dealing with Construction Permits indicator measure?

#### Procedures to legally build a warehouse (number)

- Submitting all relevant documents and obtaining all necessary clearances, licenses, permits and certificates
- Completing all required notifications and receiving all necessary inspections
- Obtaining utility connections for electricity, water, sewerage and a land telephone line
- Registering the warehouse after its completion (if required for use as collateral or for transfer of warehouse)

#### Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)

- Does not include time spent gathering information
- Each procedure starts on a separate day
- Procedure completed once final document is received
- No prior contact with officials

#### Cost required to complete each procedure (% of income per capita)

- Official costs only, no bribes

### Case Study Assumptions

#### The business:

- is a small to medium-size limited liability company in the construction industry, located in the economy's largest business city
- is 100% domestically and privately owned and operated
- has 60 builders and other employees
- has at least one employee who is a licensed architect and registered with the local association of architects

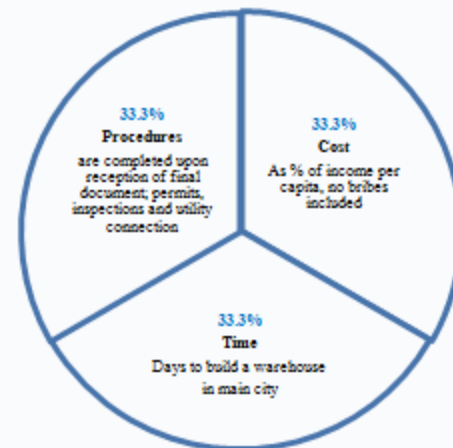
#### The warehouse:

- is a new construction (there was no previous construction on the land)
- has 2 stories, both above ground, with a total surface of approximately 1,300.6 sq. meters (14,000 sq. feet)
- has complete architectural and technical plans prepared by a licensed architect
- will be connected to electricity, water, sewerage (sewage system, septic tank or their equivalent) and a land telephone line
- will be used for general storage of non-hazardous goods, such as books
- will take 30 weeks to construct (excluding all delays due to administrative and regulatory requirements)

### Dealing with Construction Permits:

#### Building a warehouse

Rankings are based on 3 subindicators





## 1. Benchmarking Dealing with Construction Permits Regulations:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is ranked 3 overall for Dealing with Construction Permits.

Ranking of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Dealing with Construction Permits - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Dealing with Construction Permits data for St. Vincent and the Grenadines compared to good practice and comparator economies:

| <b>Good Practice Economies</b> | <b>Procedures (number)</b> | <b>Time (days)</b> | <b>Cost (% of income per capita)</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Denmark</b>                 | 6                          |                    |                                      |
| <b>Qatar</b>                   |                            |                    | 0.8                                  |
| <b>Singapore</b>               |                            | 25                 |                                      |

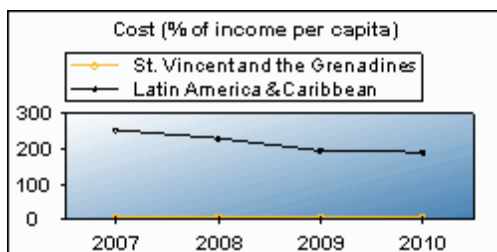
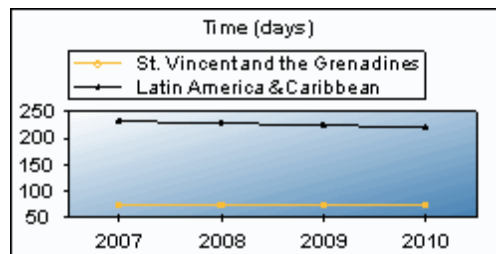
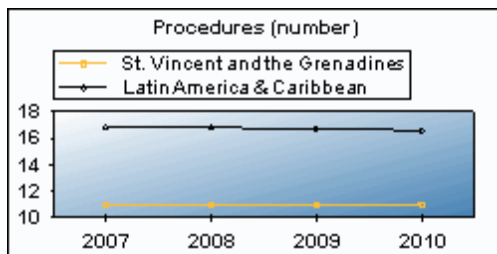
| <i>Selected Economy</i>               |           |           |            |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| <b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>74</b> | <b>7.0</b> |

| <i>Comparator Economies</i> |    |     |       |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|-------|
| <b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>  | 13 | 156 | 24.2  |
| <b>Dominica</b>             | 13 | 182 | 11.0  |
| <b>Grenada</b>              | 10 | 149 | 25.9  |
| <b>Jamaica</b>              | 10 | 156 | 258.3 |
| <b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>  | 14 | 67  | 4.8   |

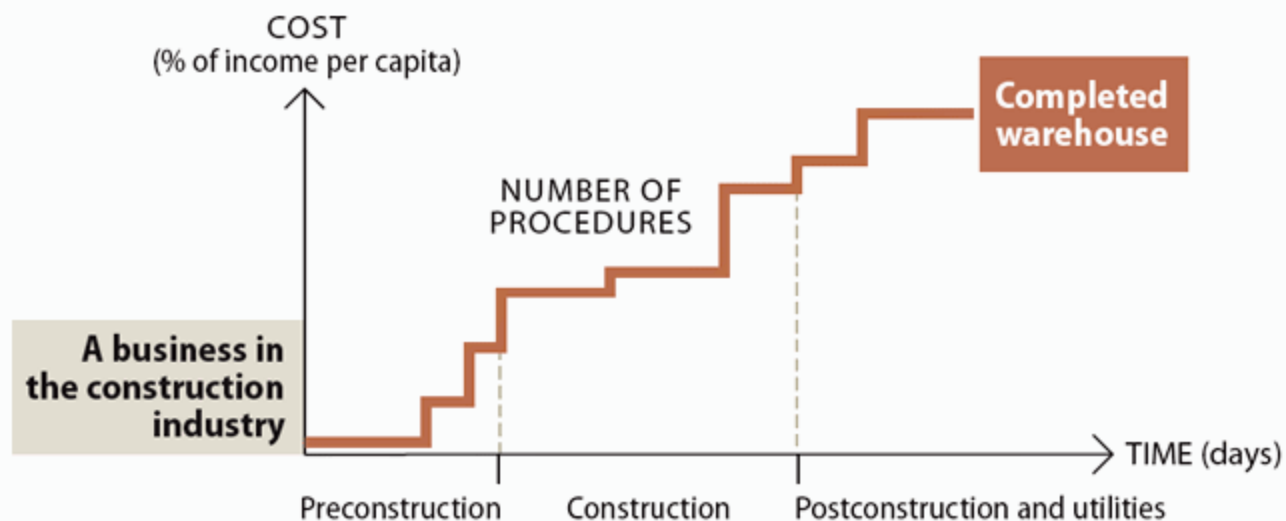
## 2. Historical data: Dealing with Construction Permits in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

| Dealing with Construction Permits data | Doing Business 2008 | Doing Business 2009 | Doing Business 2010 | Doing Business 2011 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rank                                   | ..                  | ..                  | 3                   | 3                   |
| Procedures (number)                    | 11                  | 11                  | 11                  | 11                  |
| Time (days)                            | 74                  | 74                  | 74                  | 74                  |
| Cost (% of income per capita)          | 9.2                 | 8.4                 | 6.9                 | 7.0                 |

3. The following graphs illustrate the Dealing with Construction Permits sub indicators in St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the past 4 years:



## What are the time, cost and number of procedures to comply with formalities to build a warehouse?



The table below summarizes the procedures, time, and costs to build a warehouse in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

### BUILDING A WAREHOUSE

City: Kingstown

#### Registration Requirements:

| No: | Procedure  | Time to complete | Cost to complete |
|-----|--|------------------|------------------|
| 1   | Obtain building permit from the Physical Planning Unit                     | 42 days          | XCD 300          |
| 2   | Request and receive inspection upon the commencement of construction works | 1 day            | no charge        |
| 3   | Receive random inspection during construction                              | 1 day            | no charge        |
| 4   | Request and receive inspection upon the completion of construction works   | 1 day            | no charge        |
| 5   | Request electricity connection   | 1 day            | no charge        |
| 6   | Receive electricity inspection and certificate                             | 7 days           | no charge        |
| 7   | Obtain electricity connection  | 21 days          | XCD 250          |
| 8   | Request water connection   | 1 day            | no charge        |

|      |                             |        |           |
|------|-----------------------------|--------|-----------|
| 9    | Receive water inspection    | 1 day  | no charge |
| 10 * | Obtain water connection     | 7 days | XCD 300   |
| 11 * | Obtain fixed telephone line | 7 days | XCD 125   |

\* Takes place simultaneously with another procedure.

## Dealing with Construction Permits Details - St. Vincent and the Grenadines

### Procedure 1 Obtain building permit from the Physical Planning Unit

**Time to complete:** 42 days

**Cost to complete:** XCD 300

**Agency:** Physical Planning Unit (PPU)

**Comment:** To obtain a building permit, BuildCo must first obtain an application form and a set of conditions and guidelines for building. BuildCo must then submit the application, along with the building plans and a location map.

Upon receiving the application and building plans, the Physical Planning Unit (PPU) advertises the proposed plans in the local newspaper for a minimum of 2 weeks to officially notify the area residents of the proposed commercial construction. If no complaints are raised and the file is complete, the PPU grants approval of the application. The stamped documents and application are then returned to the applicant.

### Procedure 2 Request and receive inspection upon the commencement of construction works

**Time to complete:** 1 day

**Cost to complete:** no charge

**Agency:** Physical Planning Unit (PPU)

**Comment:** An inspection at the start of construction is a formality not always completed in practice.

### Procedure 3 Receive random inspection during construction

**Time to complete:** 1 day

**Cost to complete:** no charge

**Agency:** Physical Planning Unit (PPU)

**Comment:** Though inspections are required by law, they are rarely enforced in practice because manpower and resources are limited. There are two conditions under which an inspection would certainly take place:

- If there is a complaint or the Physical Planning Unit (PPU) suspects noncompliance or an infraction.
- If BuildCo has taken a loan for the construction of the warehouse (in this case, the bank will send out its own inspectors to ensure conformity with loan requirements).

### Procedure 4 Request and receive inspection upon the completion of construction works

**Time to complete:** 1 day

**Cost to complete:** no charge

**Agency:** Physical Planning Unit (PPU)

**Comment:** An inspection on completion of construction is a formality that is not always completed in practice.

#### **Procedure 5 Request electricity connection**

**Time to complete:** 1 day

**Cost to complete:** no charge

**Agency:** Electrical Department in the Ministry of Works and Housing

**Comment:** BuildCo must submit a standard application form (the electric inspection certificate), along with copies of personal identification documents; a copy of the certificate of registration for the business; and a written statement on the required peak electricity demand, work method, times of operation, and installed capacity of the machines.

#### **Procedure 6 Receive electricity inspection and certificate**

**Time to complete:** 7 days

**Cost to complete:** no charge

**Agency:** Electrical Department in the Ministry of Works and Housing

**Comment:** BuildCo must submit an inspection certificate signed by the government electrical inspector. For connection purposes, this certificate is valid for only 3 months.

#### **Procedure 7 Obtain electricity connection**

**Time to complete:** 21 days

**Cost to complete:** XCD 250

**Agency:** VINLEC (St. Vincent Electricity Services Ltd)

**Comment:** BuildCo must pay a deposit equivalent to average electricity consumption over 2 months. The deposit is due within 2 days of connecting to the service.

#### **Procedure 8 Request water connection**

**Time to complete:** 1 day

**Cost to complete:** no charge

**Agency:** Central Water And Sewerage Authority (CWASA)

**Comment:**

#### **Procedure 9 Receive water inspection**

**Time to complete:** 1 day

**Cost to complete:** no charge

**Agency:** Central Water And Sewerage Authority (CWASA)

**Comment:**

**Procedure 10 Obtain water connection**

**Time to complete:** 7 days

**Cost to complete:** XCD 300

**Agency:** Central Water And Sewerage Authority (CWASA)

**Comment:**

**Procedure 11 Obtain fixed telephone line**

**Time to complete:** 7 days

**Cost to complete:** XCD 125

**Agency:** Cable and Wireless

**Comment:** The applicant must submit copies of personal identification documents with the application for a fixed telephone line.



Ensuring formal property rights is fundamental. Effective administration of land is part of that. If formal property transfer is too costly or complicated, formal titles might go informal again. *Doing Business* records the full sequence of procedures necessary for a business to purchase a property from another business and transfer the property title to the buyer's name. In the past 6 years 105 economies undertook 146 reforms making it easier to transfer property. Globally, the time to transfer property fell by 38% and the cost by 10% over this time. The most popular feature of property registration reform in these 6 years, implemented in 52 economies, was lowering transfer taxes and government fees.

### Some reform outcomes

*Georgia now allows property transfers to be completed through 500 authorized users, notably banks. This saves time for entrepreneurs. A third of people transferring property in 2009 chose authorized users, up from 7% in 2007. Also, Georgia's new electronic registry managed 68,000 sales in 2007, twice as many as in 2003.*

*Belarus's unified and computerized registry was able to cope with the addition of 1.2 million new units over 3 years. The registry issued 1 million electronic property certificates in 2009.*

### What does the Registering Property indicator measure?

**Registering Property:** transfer of property between 2 local companies

Rankings are based on 3 subindicators

### Procedures to legally transfer title on immovable property (number)

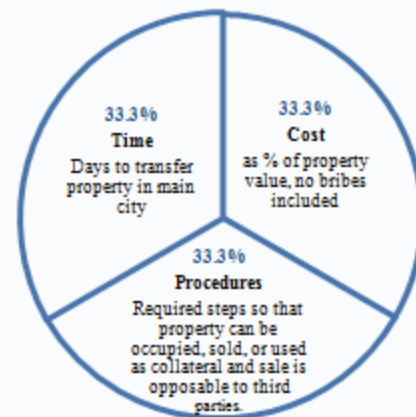
- Preregistration (for example, checking for liens, notarizing sales agreement, paying property transfer taxes)
- Registration in the economy's largest business city
- Post registration (for example, transactions with the local authority, tax authority or cadastre)

### Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)

- Does not include time spent gathering information
- Each procedure starts on a separate day
- Procedure completed once final document is received
- No prior personal contact with officials

### Cost required to complete each procedure (% of property value)

- Official costs only, no bribes
- No value added or capital gains taxes included



### Case Study Assumptions

#### The parties (buyer and seller):

- Are limited liability companies, 100% domestically and privately owned.
- Are located in the periurban area of the economy's largest business city.
- Have 50 employees each, all of whom are nationals.
- Perform general commercial activities.

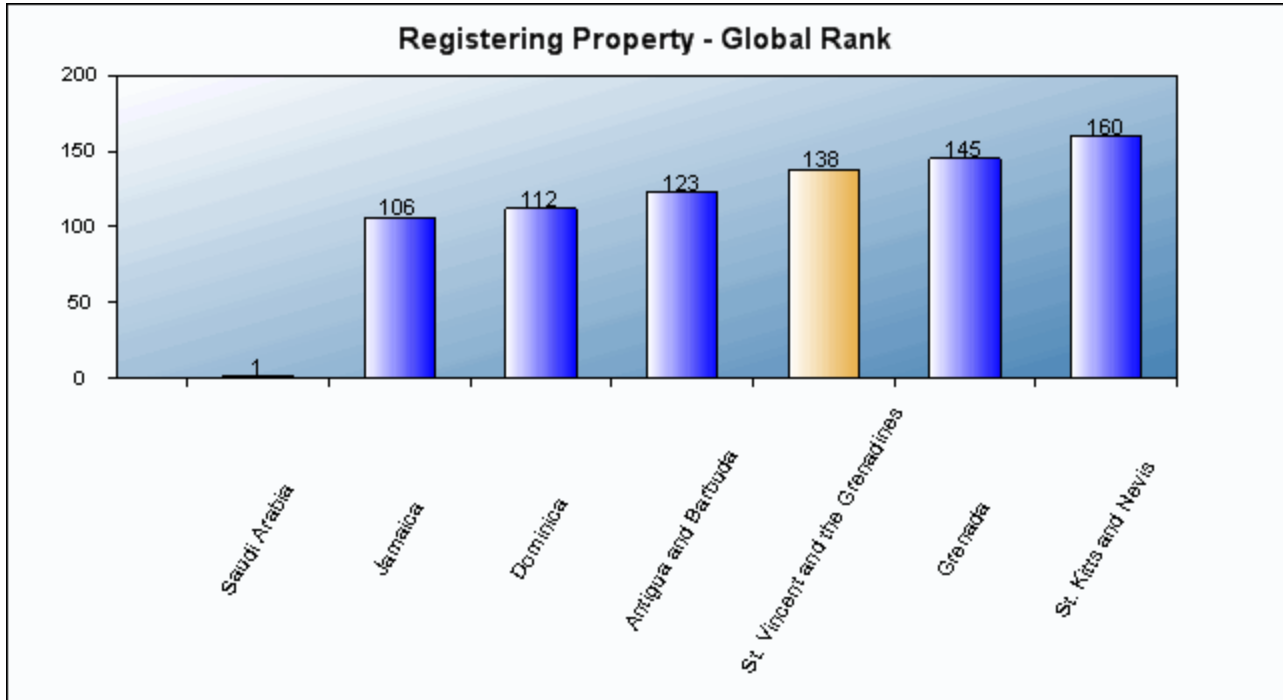
#### The property (fully owned by the seller):

- Has a value of 50 times income per capita. The sale price equals the value.
- Has no mortgages attached and has been under the same ownership for the past 10 years.
- Is registered in the land registry or cadastre, or both, and is free of title disputes.
- Is located in a periurban commercial zone, and no rezoning is required.
- Consists of a 557.4 square meters (6,000 square feet) land and 10 years old 2-story warehouse of 929 square meters (10,000 square feet) located on the land. The warehouse is in good condition and complies with all safety standards, building codes and legal requirements. The property will be transferred in its entirety.

## 1. Benchmarking Registering Property Regulations:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is ranked 138 overall for Registering Property.

Ranking of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Registering Property - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Registering Property data for St. Vincent and the Grenadines compared to good practice and comparator economies:

| <b>Good Practice Economies</b> | <b>Procedures (number)</b> | <b>Time (days)</b> | <b>Cost (% of property value)</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>New Zealand*</b>            |                            | 2                  |                                   |
| <b>Norway*</b>                 | 1                          |                    |                                   |
| <b>Saudi Arabia</b>            |                            |                    | 0.0                               |

| <i>Selected Economy</i>               |          |           |             |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>11.9</b> |

| <i>Comparator Economies</i> |   |    |      |
|-----------------------------|---|----|------|
| <b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>  | 7 | 26 | 10.9 |
| <b>Dominica</b>             | 5 | 42 | 13.7 |
| <b>Grenada</b>              | 8 | 47 | 7.4  |
| <b>Jamaica</b>              | 6 | 37 | 7.5  |
| <b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>  | 6 | 81 | 13.3 |

\* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

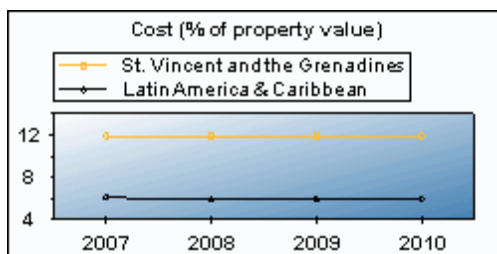
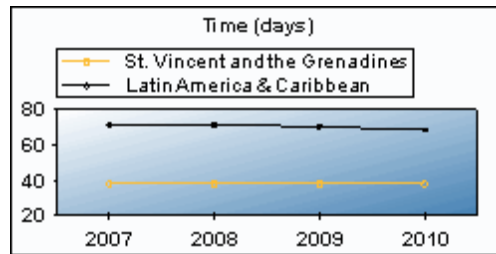
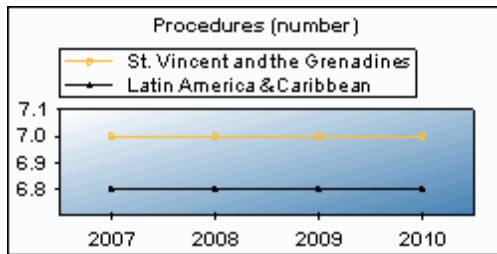
**Procedures (number): United Arab Emirates**

**Time (days): Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates**

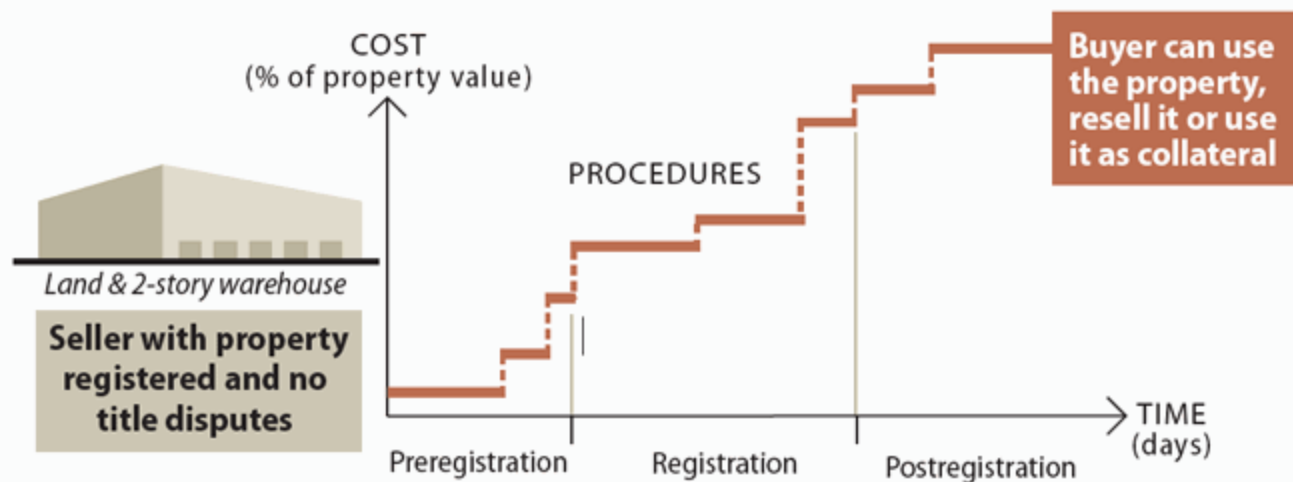
## 2. Historical data: Registering Property in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

| Registering Property data  | Doing Business 2008 | Doing Business 2009 | Doing Business 2010 | Doing Business 2011 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rank                       | ..                  | ..                  | 138                 | 138                 |
| Procedures (number)        | 7                   | 7                   | 7                   | 7                   |
| Time (days)                | 38                  | 38                  | 38                  | 38                  |
| Cost (% of property value) | 11.9                | 11.9                | 11.9                | 11.9                |

## 3. The following graphs illustrate the Registering Property sub indicators in St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the past 4 years:



## What are the time, cost and number of procedures required to transfer a property between 2 local companies?



This topic examines the steps, time, and cost involved in registering property in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

### STANDARDIZED PROPERTY

Property Value: 694,667.86

City: Kingstown

#### Registration Requirements:

| No: | Procedure   | Time to complete                      | Cost to complete   |
|-----|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1   | Search root of title at the Land Registry                                   | up to 21 days                         | EC\$2 per day + EC\$0.60 per page to be copied (on average, 3 pages) |
| 2 * | Search for encumbrances and judgements at the Registry of the High Court    | 1-2 days                              | EC\$2 per day + EC\$0.60 per page to be copied (on average, 3 pages) |
| 3 * | Conduct company search at the Commerce & Intellectual Property Organization | 1 day (simultaneous with procedure 3) | EC\$ 10  |
| 4 * | Obtain tax clearance certificate from the Inland Revenue Authority          | 1 day                                 | no cost  |

|   |  |           |  |
|---|--|-----------|--|
| 5 | Preparation of deed by lawyer  | 2 days    | Schedule of lawyer's fees as regulated by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Bar Association:<br>Property value:Fees:<br>\$10,000\$125<br>\$1,000-\$5,000Charge as for \$1,000 with addition of 5% of excess<br>\$5,000\$325<br>\$5000-\$10,000\$5,000-\$10,000<br>Charge as for \$5,000 with addition of 4% of excess<br>\$10,000\$525<br>\$10,000-\$25,000Charge as for \$10,000 with addition of 3% of excess<br>\$25,000\$975<br>\$25,000-\$50,000Charge as for \$25,000 with addition of 2.25% of excess<br>\$50,000\$1,538<br>Over\$50,000Charge as for \$50,000 with addition of 1.5% of the excess |
| 6 | Valuation of property by the Land Tax Office (Inland Revenue Department) | 3-14 days | no cost  |
| 7 | Registration of the title deed   | 2-3 days  | Stamp Duty 10% (5% paid by purchaser; 5% paid by vendor) + Registration fee according to the following scale: EC\$40 for the first 15,000 (of sale price), and EC\$2.50 per \$1000 thereafter.   |

\* Takes place simultaneously with another procedure.

## Registering Property Details - St. Vincent and the Grenadines

### Procedure 1 Search root of title at the Land Registry

**Time to complete:** up to 21 days

**Cost to complete:** EC\$2 per day + EC\$0.60 per page to be copied (on average, 3 pages)

**Agency:** Land Registry

**Comment:** It is common practice for the lawyer or lawyer's clerk to search the Index of Deeds at the Lands Registry for the root of title. This can take a long time if the title is not properly indexed- i.e. names of individuals not recorded accurately or omitted. If the indexing is not up-to-date, it may be necessary to search individual deeds for the relevant timeframe. Also, the indexing is done by hand and the quality of paper is diminishing, making the durability of the records more susceptible to wear and tear. The search area is limited and there are several persons searching at the same time which causes a delay in the process. Once the search is complete, a copy of the deed is prepared and forwarded to the Valuation Office with a covering officially prepared form with details of the property being sold, the location of the property and the price agreed by the parties (procedure 5). During this time period, the clerk also searches the Cause Books at the Registry for any judgments against the property.

### Procedure 2 Search for encumbrances and judgements at the Registry of the High Court

**Time to complete:** 1-2 days

**Cost to complete:** EC\$2 per day + EC\$0.60 per page to be copied (on average, 3 pages)

**Agency:** Registry of the High Court

**Comment:** This search is necessary to verify whether or not there are any judgments against the seller and his/her property. Some encumbrances and judgements are recorded at the High Registry only and cannot be found at the Land Registry, therefore a check at the High Court Registry must be made. Unless all judgments are settled, the transaction cannot proceed.

### Procedure 3 Conduct company search at the Commerce & Intellectual Property Organization

**Time to complete:** 1 day (simultaneous with procedure 3)

**Cost to complete:** EC\$ 10

**Agency:** Commerce & Intellectual Property Organization

**Comment:** When companies are involved in the transaction, a search is done on their files for the respective registration numbers, the directors, secretary and the by-laws.

### Procedure 4 Obtain tax clearance certificate from the Inland Revenue Authority

**Time to complete:** 1 day

**Cost to complete:** no cost

**Agency:** Inland Revenue Authority

**Comment:** In order for the execution of the deed to proceed, both the seller and purchaser must have paid all outstanding income taxes and property taxes. Therefore, clearance from the Inland Revenue Authority must be granted. This usually takes a few days because the Revenue Authority scans all documents and then must send the clearance certificate to the land registry. For non-nationals, the Vendor's Tax is 10%. In addition to this procedure, the buyer's lawyer might also chose to make an inquiry with utility companies (water, electricity and phone/cable). Such inquiry could be conducted within 1-2 days.

#### Procedure 5 Preparation of deed by lawyer

**Time to complete:** 2 days

**Cost to complete:** Schedule of lawyer's fees as regulated by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Bar Association:  
Property value:Fees:  
\$10,000\$125  
\$1,000-\$5,000Charge as for \$1,000 with addition of 5% of excess  
\$5,000\$325  
\$5000- \$10,000\$5,000-\$10,000 Charge as for \$5,000 with addition of 4% of excess  
\$10,000\$525  
\$10,000-\$25,000Charge as for \$10,000 with addition of 3% of excess  
\$25,000\$975  
\$25,000-\$50,000Charge as for \$25,000 with addition of 2.25% of excess  
\$50,000\$1,538  
Over\$50,000Charge as for \$50,000 with addition of 1.5% of the excess

**Comment:** A lawyer, or lawyer's clerk, witnesses the signature(s) of the vendor and purchaser and signs a declaration that he witnessed the signature of the vendor on the deed. (The purchaser does not have to sign the deed of conveyance.) The declaration is filed during registration.

#### Procedure 6 Valuation of property by the Land Tax Office (Inland Revenue Department)

**Time to complete:** 3-14 days

**Cost to complete:** no cost

**Agency:** Land Tax Office of the Inland Revenue Department

**Comment:** A copy of the deed (quoting the root of the title) is attached to the valuation certificate and sent to the Valuation Office (Land Tax Office) for approval. Clerks at the Valuation Office usually conduct a search on the current owner of the property and make sure that all taxes have been paid. Given that there are no outstanding taxes, the valuation is returned to the purchaser's lawyers. It is not mandatory to inspect the property, but the Valuation Office may decide to inspect if they are not familiar with the property or if the property value is deemed too low. Inspection is conducted by a valuation officer and the Chief Surveyor.

#### Procedure 7 Registration of the title deed

**Time to complete:** 2-3 days



**Cost to complete:** Stamp Duty 10% (5% paid by purchaser; 5% paid by vendor) + Registration fee according to the following scale: EC\$40 for the first 15,000 (of sale price), and EC\$2.50 per \$1000 thereafter.

**Agency:** Land Registry

**Comment:** Once the receipt is issued for payment of stamp duty and registration fees, the time and date of receipt by the Registry should be recorded on the deed. The deed is then registered, a number is allocated to it, the original is retained in the records of the Registry (it becomes part of the documents for search), and a copy of the registered deed is handed back to the person registering the deed.

Documentation required:

- Two copies of the deed with valuation certificate

Through two sets of indicators, *Doing Business* assesses the legal rights of borrowers and lenders with respect to secured transactions and the sharing of credit information. The depth of credit information index measures rules and practices affecting the coverage, scope and accessibility of credit information available through either a public credit registry or a private credit bureau. Credit information systems mitigate the ‘information asymmetry’ in lending and enable lenders to view a borrower’s financial history (positive or negative), providing them with valuable information to consider when assessing risk. Credit information systems benefit borrowers as well, allowing good borrowers to establish a reputable credit history which will enable them to access credit more easily. The Legal Rights Index measures the degree to which collateral and bankruptcy laws protect the rights of borrowers and lenders and thus facilitate lending. Sound collateral laws will enable businesses to use their assets, especially movable property, as security to generate capital while having strong creditor’s rights has been associated with higher ratios of private sector credit to GDP.

**Some reform outcomes**

*After Vietnam’s new Civil Code was enacted in 2005, a decree further clarified the provisions governing secured transactions. Since the inclusion of the new provisions, the number of registrations increased from 43,000 (2005) to 120,000 (end of 2008).*

*In 2008, when Zambia established a private credit bureau, its database initially covered about 25,000 borrowers. Thanks to a strong communication campaign and a central bank directive, coverage has grown 10-fold in the past 2 years, exceeding 200,000 by the beginning of 2010.*

**What do the Getting Credit indicators measure?**

**Strength of legal rights index (0–10)**

- Protection of rights of borrowers and lenders through collateral laws
- Protection of secured creditors’ rights through bankruptcy laws

**Depth of credit information index (0–6)**

- Scope and accessibility of credit information distributed by public credit registries and private credit bureaus

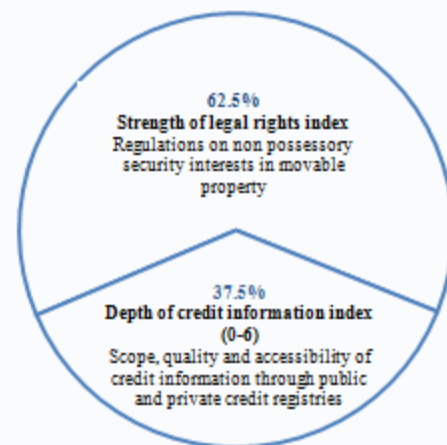
**Public credit registry coverage (% of adults)**

- Number of individuals and firms listed in public credit registry as percentage of a adult population

**Private credit bureau coverage (% of adults)**

- Number of individuals and firms listed in largest private credit bureau as percentage of a adult population

**Getting Credit: collateral rules and credit information**



*Note: Private bureau coverage and public credit registry coverage are measured but do not count for the rankings.*

**Case Study Assumptions (applying to the Legal Rights Index only)**

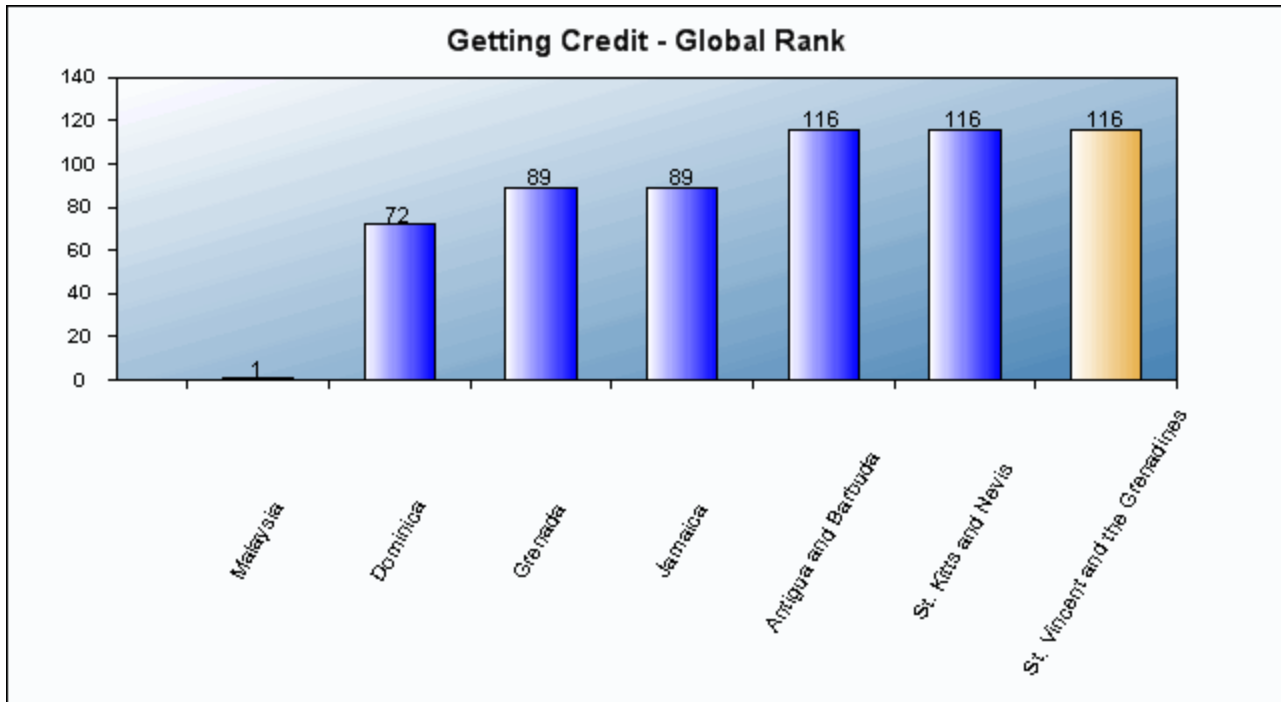
**The Debtor**

- is a Private Limited Liability Company
- has its Headquarters and only base of operations in the largest business city
- obtains a loan from a local bank (the Creditor) for an amount up to 10 times income (GNI) per capita
- Both creditor and debtor are 100% domestically owned.

## 1. Benchmarking Getting Credit Regulations:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is ranked 116 overall for Getting Credit.

Ranking of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Getting Credit - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Getting Credit data for St. Vincent and the Grenadines compared to good practice and comparator economies:

| <b>Good Practice Economies</b> | <b>Strength of legal rights index (0-10)</b> | <b>Depth of credit information index (0-6)</b> | <b>Public registry coverage (% of adults)</b> | <b>Private bureau coverage (% of adults)</b> |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| <b>New Zealand*</b>            |  |  |   | 100.0  |
| <b>Portugal</b>                |  |  | 67.1  |  |
| <b>Singapore*</b>              | 10   |  |   |  |
| <b>United Kingdom</b>          |  | 6  |   |  |

| <i>Selected Economy</i>               |          |          |            |            |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| <b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

| <i>Comparator Economies</i> |   |   |     |     |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-----|-----|
| <b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>  | 7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <b>Dominica</b>             | 9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <b>Grenada</b>              | 8 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <b>Jamaica</b>              | 8 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>  | 7 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

\* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

**Strength of legal rights index (0-10): Hong Kong, China, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia**

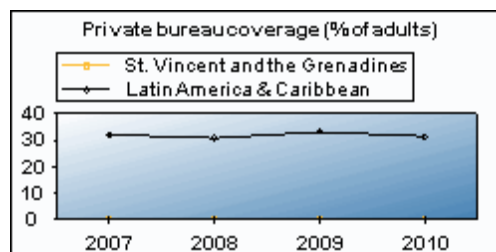
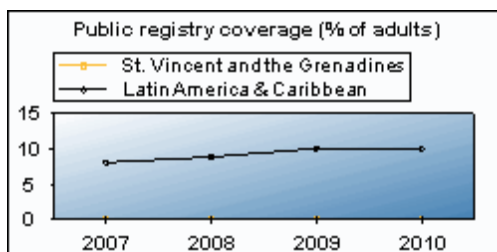
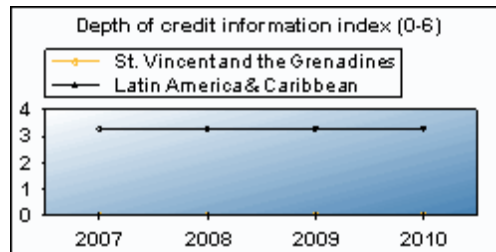
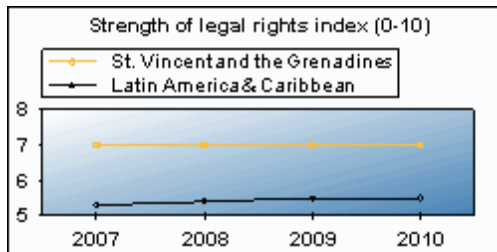
**Private bureau coverage (% of adults): Argentina, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States**

**27 countries have the highest credit information index.**

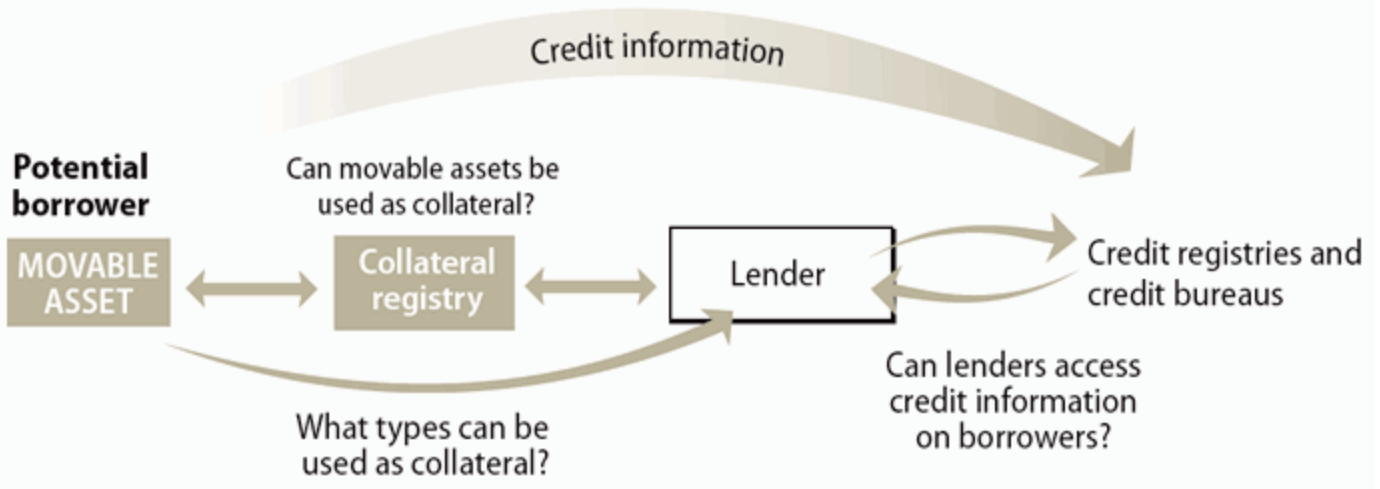
## 2. Historical data: Getting Credit in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

| Getting Credit data                     | Doing Business 2008 | Doing Business 2009 | Doing Business 2010 | Doing Business 2011 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rank                                    | ..                  | ..                  | 109                 | 116                 |
| Strength of legal rights index (0-10)   | 7                   | 7                   | 7                   | 7                   |
| Depth of credit information index (0-6) | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   |
| Private bureau coverage (% of adults)   | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 |
| Public registry coverage (% of adults)  | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 |

3. The following graphs illustrate the Getting Credit sub indicators in St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the past 4 years:



**Do lenders have credit information on entrepreneurs seeking credit?  
Is the law favorable to borrowers and lenders using movable assets as collateral?**



The following table summarize legal rights of borrowers and lenders, and the availability and legal framework of credit registries in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

| Getting Credit Indicators (2010)  |                              |                               | Indicator |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Private bureau coverage (% of adults)</b>  | <b>Private credit bureau</b> | <b>Public credit registry</b> | <b>0</b>  |
| Are data on both firms and individuals distributed?   | No                           | No                            | 0         |
| Are both positive and negative data distributed?  | No                           | No                            | 0         |
| Does the registry distribute credit information from retailers, trade creditors or utility companies as well as financial institutions? | No                           | No                            | 0         |
| Are more than 2 years of historical credit information distributed?   | No                           | No                            | 0         |
| Is data on all loans below 1% of income per capita distributed?   | No                           | No                            | 0         |
| Is it guaranteed by law that borrowers can inspect their data in the largest credit registry?   | No                           | No                            | 0         |
| <b>Coverage</b>   | 0.0                          | 0.0                           |           |
| Number of individuals   |                              | 0                             | 0         |
| Number of firms   |                              | 0                             | 0         |

**Strength of legal rights index (0-10)****7**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Can any business use movable assets as collateral while keeping possession of the assets; and any financial institution accept such assets as collateral ?  | Yes |
| Does the law allow businesses to grant a non possessory security right in a single category of movable assets, without requiring a specific description of collateral?  | Yes |
| Does the law allow businesses to grant a non possessory security right in substantially all of its assets, without requiring a specific description of collateral?  | Yes |
| May a security right extend to future or after-acquired assets, and may it extend automatically to the products, proceeds or replacements of the original assets ?  | Yes |
| Is a general description of debts and obligations permitted in collateral agreements, so that all types of obligations and debts can be secured by stating a maximum amount rather than a specific amount between the parties ? | Yes |
| Is a collateral registry in operation, that is unified geographically and by asset type, as well as indexed by the grantor's name of a security right ?   | No  |
| Do secured creditors have absolute priority to their collateral outside bankruptcy procedures?  | No  |
| Do secured creditors have absolute priority to their collateral in bankruptcy procedures?   | No  |
| During reorganization, are secured creditors' claims exempt from an automatic stay on enforcement?  | Yes |
| Does the law authorize parties to agree on out of court enforcement?  | Yes |

Stronger investor protections matter for the ability of companies to raise the capital needed to grow, innovate, diversify and compete. This is all the more crucial in times of financial crisis when entrepreneurs must navigate through defiant environments to finance their activities. Using 3 indices of investor protection, *Doing Business* measures how economies regulate a standard case of self-dealing, use of corporate assets for personal gains. Since 2005, 51 economies have strengthened investor protections as measured by *Doing Business*.

### Some reform outcomes

*In Indonesia, an economy that consistently improved its laws regulating investor protections, the number of firms listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange increased from 331 to 396 between 2004 and 2009. Meanwhile, market capitalization grew from 680 trillion rupiah (\$75 billion) to 1,077 trillion rupiah (\$119 billion).*

*After Thailand amended its laws in 2006 and 2008, more than 85 transactions that failed to comply with the disclosure standards were suspended. Thirteen were deemed prejudicial and were therefore canceled, thus preventing damage to the companies involved and preserving their value. Companies were not deterred either, as more than 30 new companies joined the stock exchange since 2005 bringing the number of listed companies to 523.*

### What do the Protecting Investors indicators measure?

#### Extent of disclosure index (0–10)

- Who can approve related-party transactions
- Requirements for external and internal disclosure in case of related-party transactions

#### Extent of director liability index (0–10)

- Ability of shareholders to hold the interested party and the approving body liable in case of a prejudicial related-party transaction
- Available legal remedies (damages, repayment of profits, fines, imprisonment and rescission of the transaction)
- Ability of shareholders to sue directly or derivatively

#### Ease of shareholder suits index (0–10)

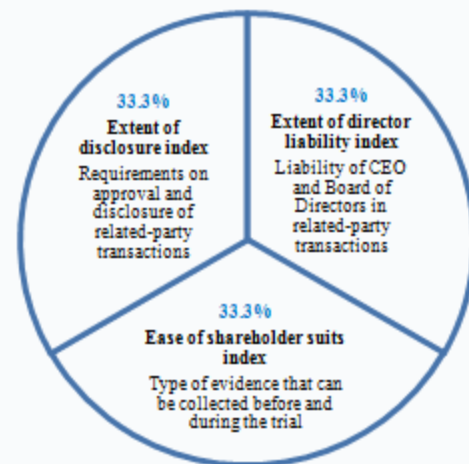
- Documents and information available during trial
- Access to internal corporate documents (directly or through a government inspector)

#### Strength of investor protection index (0–10)

- Simple average of the extent of disclosure, extent of director liability and ease of shareholder suits indices

**Protecting Investors:** minority shareholder rights in related-party transactions

Rankings are based on 3 subindicators



### Case Study Assumptions

#### The business (Buyer):

- Is a publicly traded corporation listed on the economy's most important stock exchange (or at least a large private company with multiple shareholders),
- Has a board of directors and a chief executive officer (CEO) who may legally act on behalf of Buyer where permitted, even if this is not specifically required by law.

#### The transaction

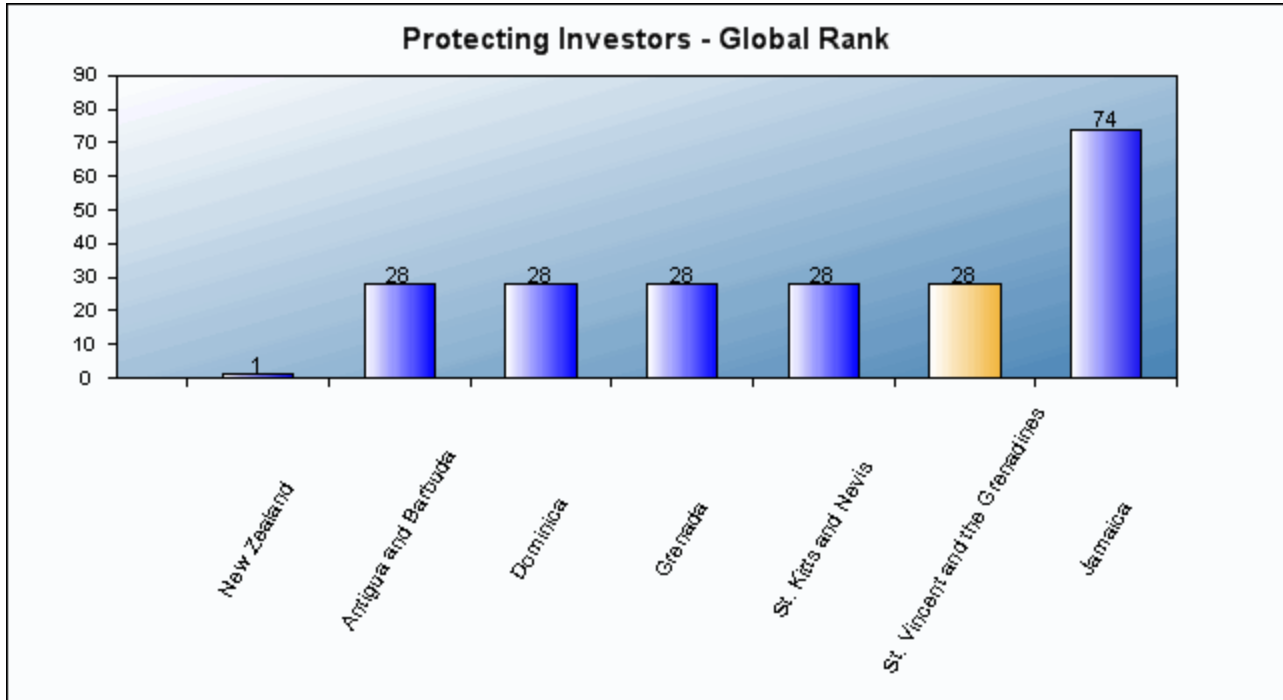
- Mr. James, a director and the majority shareholder of the company, proposes that the company purchase used trucks from another company he owns.
- The price is higher than the going price for used trucks, but the transaction goes forward.
- All required approvals are obtained, and all required disclosures made, though the transaction is prejudicial to the purchasing company.
- Shareholders sue the interested parties and the members of the board of directors.



## 1. Benchmarking Protecting Investors Regulations:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is ranked 28 overall for Protecting Investors.

Ranking of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Protecting Investors - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Protecting Investors data for St. Vincent and the Grenadines compared to good practice and comparator economies:

| <b>Good Practice Economies</b> | <b>Strength of investor protection index (0-10)</b> |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>New Zealand</b>             | 9.7   |

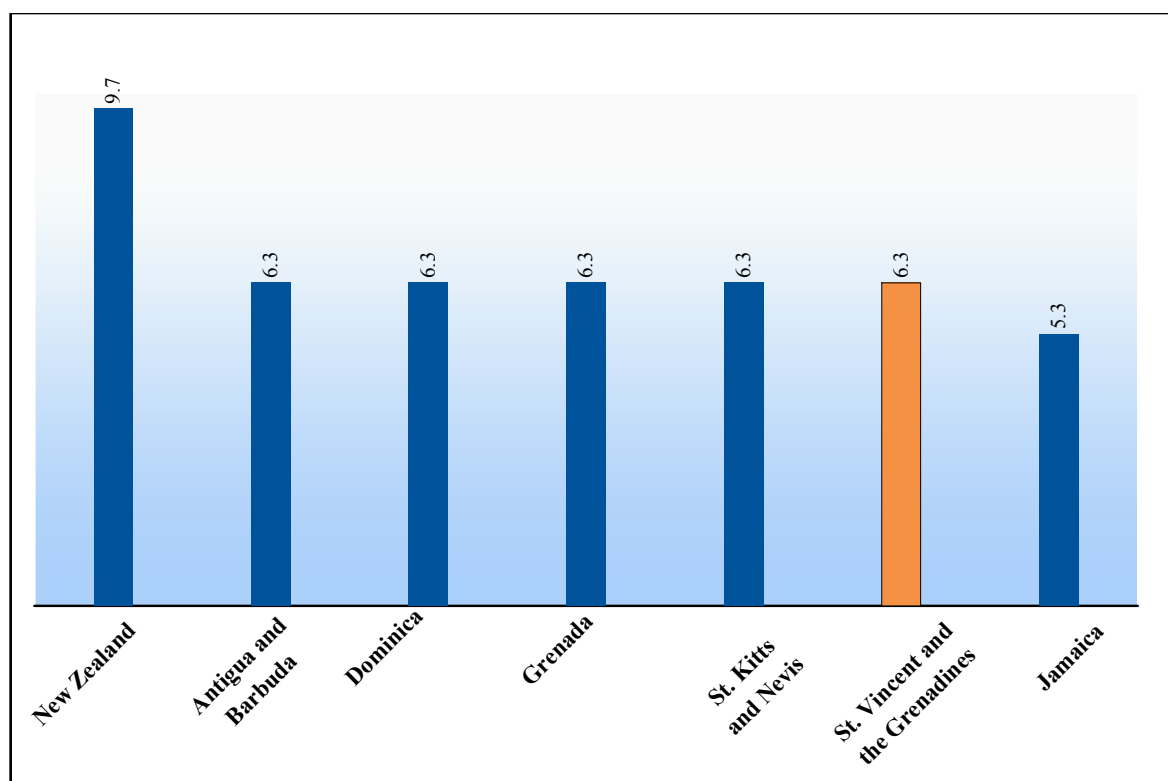
| <i>Selected Economy</i>               |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b> | <b>6.3</b> |

| <i>Comparator Economies</i> |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| <b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>  | 6.3 |
| <b>Dominica</b>             | 6.3 |
| <b>Grenada</b>              | 6.3 |
| <b>Jamaica</b>              | 5.3 |
| <b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>  | 6.3 |

## 2. Historical data: Protecting Investors in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

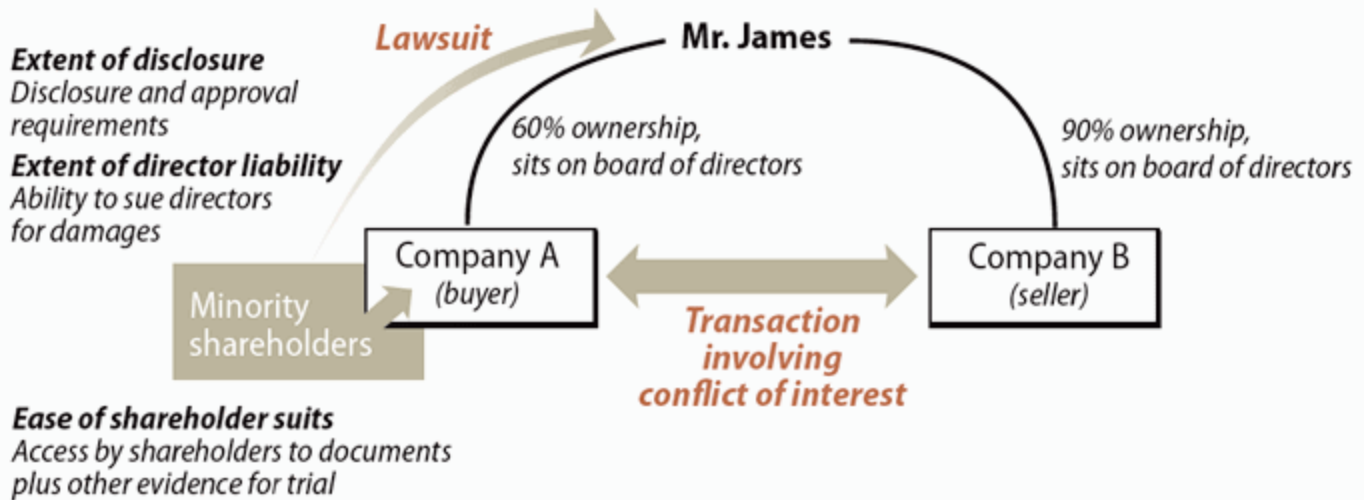
| Protecting Investors data                    | Doing Business 2008 | Doing Business 2009 | Doing Business 2010 | Doing Business 2011 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rank   | ..                  | ..                  | 27                  | 28                  |
| Strength of investor protection index (0-10) | 6.3                 | 6.3                 | 6.3                 | 6.3                 |

3. The following graph illustrates the Protecting Investors index in St. Vincent and the Grenadines compared to best practice and selected Economies:



Note: The higher the score, the greater the investor protection.

## How well are minority shareholders protected against self-dealing in related-party transactions?



The table below provides a full breakdown of how the disclosure, director liability, and shareholder suits indexes are calculated in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

| Protecting Investors Data (2010)  | Indicator |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Extent of disclosure index (0-10)</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| What corporate body provides legally sufficient approval for the transaction?   | 1         |
| Whether immediate disclosure of the transaction to the public and/or shareholders is required?  | 0         |
| Whether disclosure of the transaction in published periodic filings (annual reports) is required?   | 1         |
| Whether disclosure of the conflict of interest by Mr. James to the board of directors is required?  | 2         |
| Whether an external body must review the terms of the transaction before it takes place?  | 0         |
| <b>Extent of director liability index (0-10)</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| Whether shareholders can hold Mr. James liable for the damage that the Buyer-Seller transaction causes to the company?  | 2         |
| Whether shareholders can hold the approving body (the CEO or board of directors) liable for the damage that the Buyer-Seller transaction causes to the company? | 2         |
| Whether a court can void the transaction upon a successful claim by a shareholder plaintiff?  | 1         |
| Whether Mr. James pays damages for the harm caused to the company upon a successful claim by the shareholder plaintiff?   | 1         |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Whether Mr. James repays profits made from the transaction upon a successful claim by the shareholder plaintiff?              | 1          |
| Whether fines and imprisonment can be applied against Mr. James?  | 0          |
| Whether shareholders can sue directly or derivatively for the damage that the Buyer-Seller transaction causes to the company? | 1          |
| <b>Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)</b>   | <b>7</b>   |
| Whether the plaintiff can obtain any documents from the defendant and witnesses during trial?                                 | 3          |
| Whether the plaintiff can directly question the defendant and witnesses during trial?   | 2          |
| Whether the plaintiff can request categories of documents from the defendant without identifying specific ones?               | 1          |
| Whether shareholders owning 10% or less of Buyer's shares can request an inspector to investigate the transaction?            | 0          |
| Whether the level of proof required for civil suits is lower than that of criminal cases?                                     | 1          |
| Whether shareholders owning 10% or less of Buyer's shares can inspect transaction documents before filing suit?               | 0          |
| <b>Strength of investor protection index (0-10)</b>   | <b>6.3</b> |

Taxes are essential to provide public amenities, infrastructure and services which are crucial for a properly functioning economy. *Doing Business* data show that economies where it is more difficult and costly to pay taxes have larger shares of informal sector activity. More than 60% of economies have reformed in the last 6 years and are starting to see concrete results.

### Some reform outcomes

*Colombia introduced a new electronic system for social security and labor taxes in 2006 and by 2008 the social security contributions collected from small and medium-size companies rose by 42%, to 550 billion pesos.*

*Mauritius reduced the corporate income tax rate from 25% to 15% and removed exemptions and industry-specific allowances in 2006 and saw their corporate income tax revenue grow by 27% in the following year, and in 2008/09 it increased by 65%.*

### What do the Paying taxes indicators measure?

**Tax payments for a manufacturing company in 2009**  
(number per year adjusted for electronic or joint filing and payment)

- Total number of taxes and contributions paid, including consumption taxes (value added tax, sales tax or goods and service tax)
- Method and frequency of filing and payment

**Time required to comply with 3 major taxes** (hours per year)

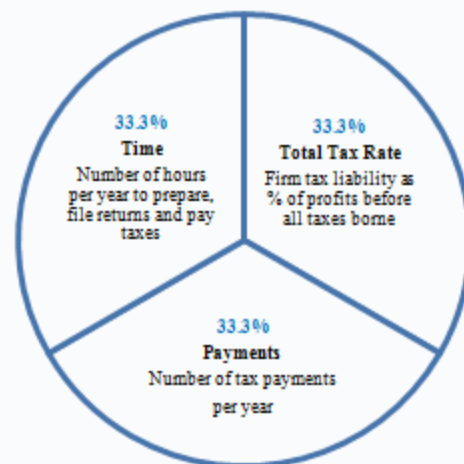
- Collecting information and computing the tax payable
- Completing tax return forms, filing with proper agencies
- Arranging payment or withholding
- Preparing separate tax accounting books, if required

**Total tax rate** (% of profit)

- Profit or corporate income tax
- Mandatory social contributions and labor taxes paid by the employer
- Property and property transfer taxes
- Dividend, capital gains and financial transactions taxes
- Waste collection, vehicle, road and other taxes

**Paying Taxes:** tax compliance for a local manufacturing company

Rankings are based on 3 subindicators



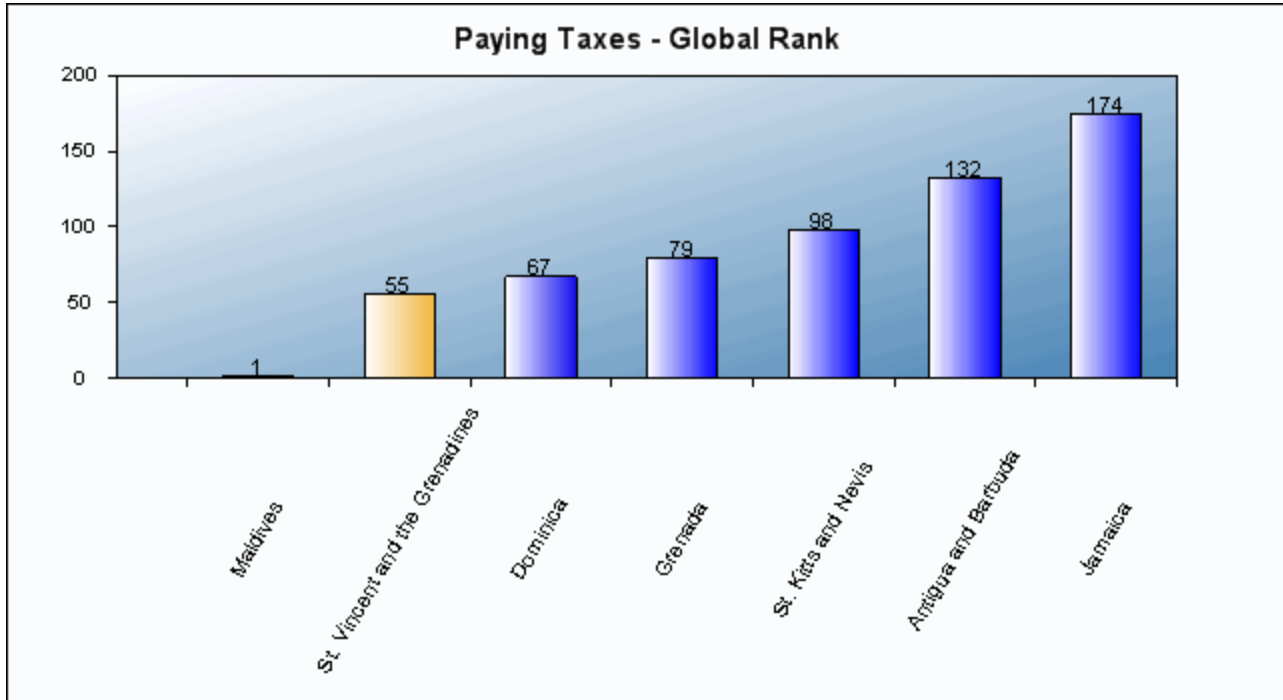
### Case Study Assumptions

- TaxpayerCo is a medium-size business that started operations 2 years ago.
- Tax practitioners are asked to review its financial statements, as well as a standard list of transactions that the company completed during the year.
- Respondents are asked how much in taxes and mandatory contributions the business must pay and what the process is for doing so.
- The business starts from the same financial position in each economy. All the taxes and mandatory contributions paid during the second year of operation are recorded.
- Taxes and mandatory contributions are measured at all levels of government
- Taxes and mandatory contributions include corporate income tax, turnover tax, all labor taxes and contributions paid by the company.
- A range of standard deductions and exemptions are also recorded.

## 1. Benchmarking Paying Taxes Regulations:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is ranked 55 overall for Paying Taxes.

Ranking of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Paying Taxes - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Paying Taxes data for St. Vincent and the Grenadines compared to good practice and comparator economies:

| <b>Good Practice Economies</b> | <b>Payments (number per year)</b> | <b>Time (hours per year)</b> | <b>Total tax rate (% profit)</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Maldives*</b>               | 3                                 | 0                            |                                  |
| <b>Timor-Leste</b>             |                                   |                              | 0.2                              |

| <i>Selected Economy</i>               |           |            |             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| <b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>111</b> | <b>38.7</b> |

| <i>Comparator Economies</i> |    |     |      |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|------|
| <b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>  | 56 | 207 | 41.5 |
| <b>Dominica</b>             | 38 | 120 | 37.0 |
| <b>Grenada</b>              | 30 | 140 | 45.3 |
| <b>Jamaica</b>              | 72 | 414 | 50.1 |
| <b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>  | 24 | 155 | 52.7 |

\* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

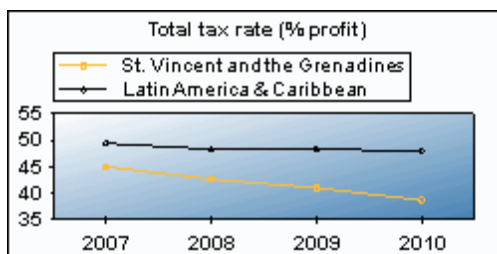
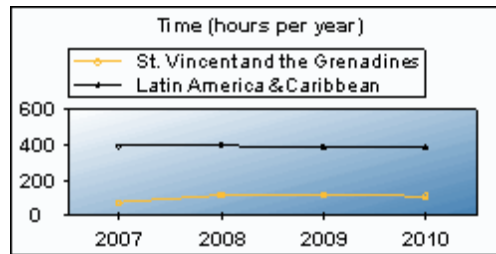
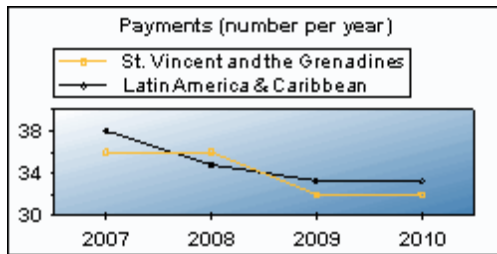
**Payments (number per year): Qatar**



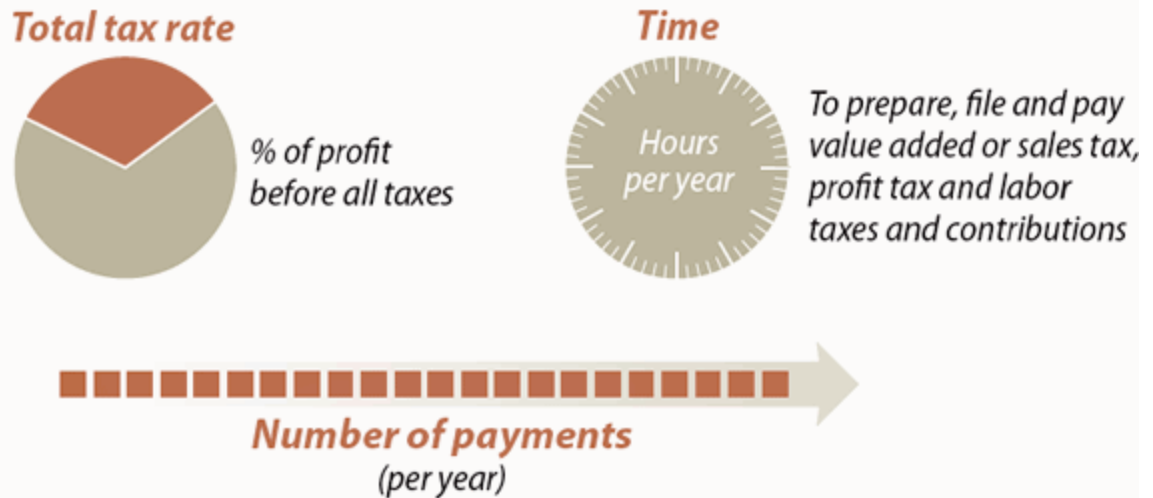
## 2. Historical data: Paying Taxes in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

| Paying Taxes data          | Doing Business 2008 | Doing Business 2009 | Doing Business 2010 | Doing Business 2011 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rank                       | ..                  | ..                  | 60                  | 55                  |
| Total tax rate (% profit)  | 45.0                | 42.6                | 41.0                | 38.7                |
| Payments (number per year) | 36                  | 36                  | 32                  | 32                  |
| Time (hours per year)      | 76                  | 117                 | 117                 | 111                 |

3. The following graphs illustrate the Paying Taxes sub indicators in St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the past 4 years:



## What are the time, total tax rate and number of payments necessary for a local medium-sized company to pay all taxes?



The table below addresses the taxes and mandatory contributions that a medium-size company must pay or withhold in a given year in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as measures of administrative burden in paying taxes.

| Tax or mandatory contribution      | Payments (number) | Notes on Payments | Time (hours) | Statutory tax rate | Tax base                      | Total tax rate (% profit) | Notes on TTR |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Fuel tax                           | 1                 |                   |              |                    | included in the price of fuel |                           |              |
| stamp duty on contracts            | 1                 |                   |              | various rates      | value of contract             |                           |              |
| VAT                                | 8                 |                   | 45           | 15.0%              | Value added                   |                           |              |
| Insurance premium tax              | 1                 |                   |              | 5.0%               | insurance premium             | 0.00                      |              |
| Tax on check transactions          | 1                 |                   |              | 30 cents           | number of checks              | 0.00                      |              |
| Business license                   | 1                 |                   |              | various rates      |                               | 0.10                      |              |
| Property tax                       | 1                 |                   |              | 5.0%               | rental value                  | 0.10                      |              |
| Vehicle tax                        | 1                 |                   |              | various rates      | size of vehicle               | 0.10                      |              |
| Property transfer tax (stamp duty) | 1                 |                   |              | 5.0%               | sale price                    | 3.00                      |              |

|                               |           |            |       |                |             |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|----------------|-------------|
| Social security contributions | 12        | 52         | 4.5%  | gross salaries | 5.10        |
| Corporate income tax          | 4         | 14         | 32.5% | taxable profit | 30.20       |
| <b>Totals</b>                 | <b>32</b> | <b>111</b> |       |                | <b>38.7</b> |

Making trade between countries easier is increasingly important for business in today's globalized world. Excessive document requirements, burdensome customs procedures, inefficient port operations and inadequate infrastructure all lead to extra costs and delays for exporters and importers, stifling trade potential. Trade facilitation tools such as electronic data interchange systems, risk-based inspections, and single windows help improve an economy's trading environment and boost firms' international competitiveness. *Doing Business* trade indicators take into account documents, cost and time associated with every procedure for trading a standard shipment of goods by ocean transport. Research indicates that exporters in developing countries have much more to gain by a 10% drop in their trading costs than from a similar decrease of the tariffs applied to their products in global markets.

### Some reform outcomes

*In Georgia, reducing customs clearance time by a day has led to operational savings of an estimated \$288 per truck, or an annual \$133 million for the country's whole trading community given the growing amount of cross-border trade in recent years.*

*In Korea, predictable cargo processing times and rapid turnover by ports and warehouses provide a benefit to the Korean economy of some \$2 billion annually.*

### What do the Trading Across Borders indicators measure?

**Trading Across Borders:** exporting and importing by ocean transport

Rankings are based on 3 subindicators

#### Documents required to export and import (number)

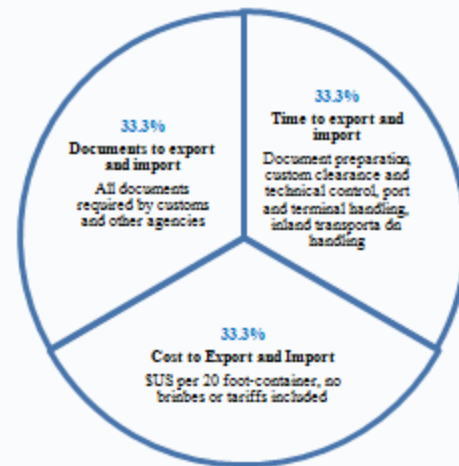
- Bank documents
- Customs clearance documents
- Port and terminal handling documents
- Transport documents

#### Time required to export and import (days)

- Obtaining all the documents
- Inland transport and handling
- Customs clearance and inspections
- Port and terminal handling
- Does not include ocean transport time

#### Cost required to export and import (US\$ per container)

- All documentation
- Inland transport and handling
- Customs clearance and inspections
- Port and terminal handling
- Official costs only, no bribes



### Case Study Assumptions

#### The Business

- Has at least 60 employees and is located in the economy's largest business city
- Is a private, limited liability company, which exports more than 10% of its sales. It is fully domestically owned and does not operate in an export processing zone or an industrial estate with special export or import privileges

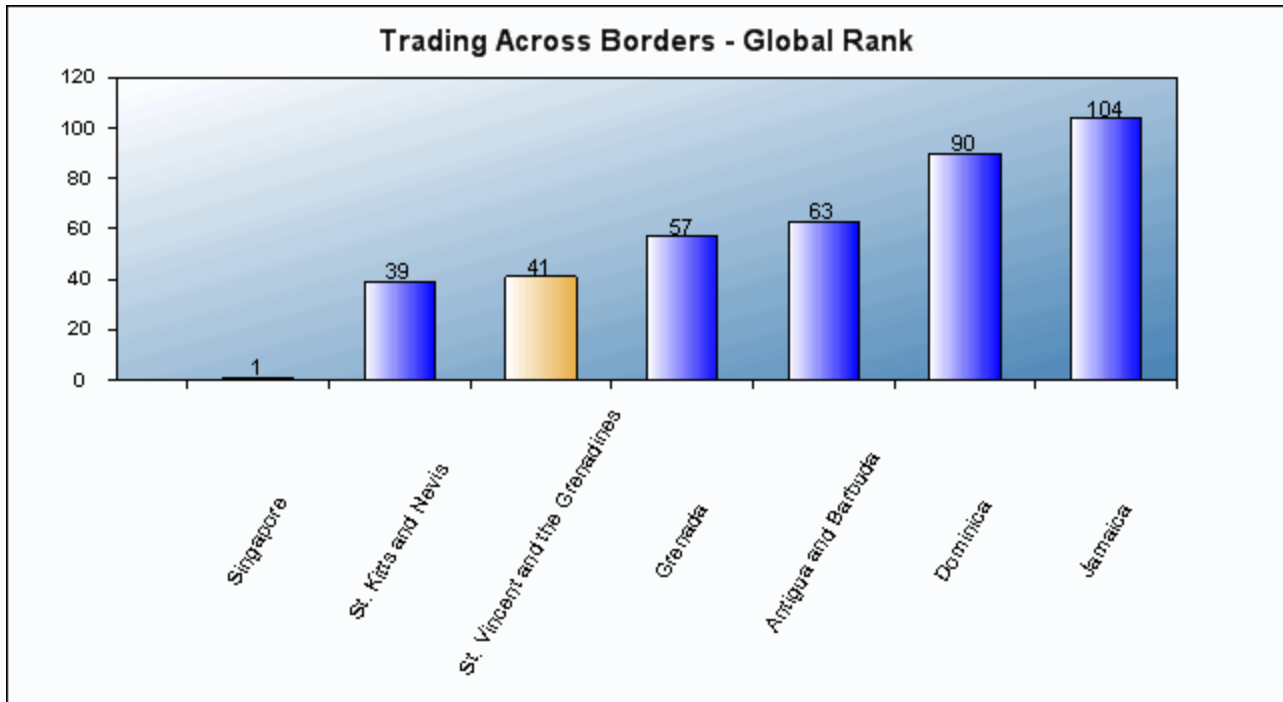
#### The traded product

- Is transported in a dry-cargo, 20-foot full container load; weighs 10 tons and is valued at \$20,000
- Is not hazardous or include military items; it does not require special phytosanitary or environmental safety standards, refrigeration or any other special environment
- Is one of the economy's leading export or import products

## 1. Benchmarking Trading Across Borders Regulations:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is ranked 41 overall for Trading Across Borders.

Ranking of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Trading Across Borders - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Trading Across Borders data for St. Vincent and the Grenadines compared to good practice and comparator economies:

| <b>Good Practice Economies</b> | <b>Documents to export (number)</b> | <b>Time to export (days)</b> | <b>Cost to export (US\$ per container)</b> | <b>Documents to import (number)</b> | <b>Time to import (days)</b> | <b>Cost to import (US\$ per container)</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Denmark*</b>                |                                     | 5                            |  |                                     |                              |  |
| <b>France</b>                  | 2                                   |                              |  | 2                                   |                              |  |
| <b>Malaysia</b>                |                                     |                              | 450  |                                     |                              |  |
| <b>Singapore</b>               |                                     |                              |  |                                     | 4                            | 439  |

| <i>Selected Economy</i>               |          |           |             |          |           |             |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>1075</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>1605</b> |

| <i>Comparator Economies</i> |   |    |      |   |    |      |
|-----------------------------|---|----|------|---|----|------|
| <b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>  | 5 | 15 | 1133 | 5 | 15 | 1633 |
| <b>Dominica</b>             | 7 | 13 | 1297 | 8 | 15 | 1310 |
| <b>Grenada</b>              | 6 | 10 | 876  | 5 | 15 | 2129 |
| <b>Jamaica</b>              | 6 | 21 | 1750 | 6 | 22 | 1420 |
| <b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>  | 4 | 12 | 850  | 5 | 13 | 2138 |

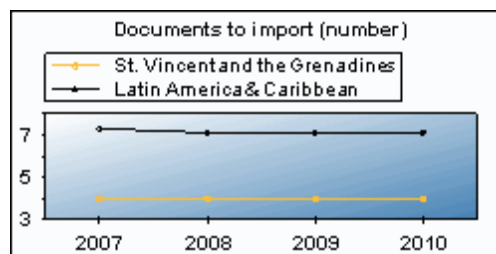
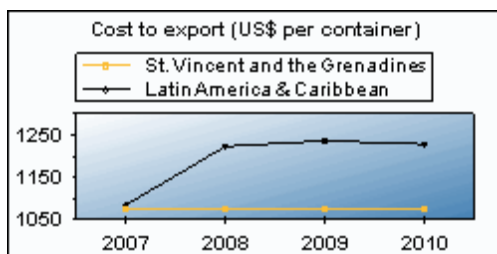
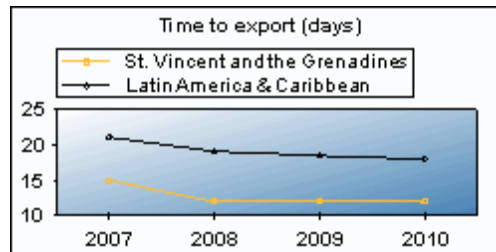
\* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

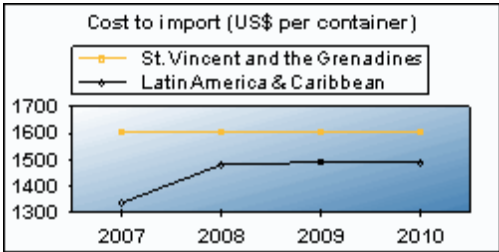
**Time to export (days): Estonia**

## 2. Historical data: Trading Across Borders in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

| Trading Across Borders data         | Doing Business 2008 | Doing Business 2009 | Doing Business 2010 | Doing Business 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rank                                | ..                  | ..                  | 39                  | 41                  |
| Cost to export (US\$ per container) | 1075                | 1075                | 1075                | 1075                |
| Cost to import (US\$ per container) | 1605                | 1605                | 1605                | 1605                |
| Documents to export (number)        | 5                   | 5                   | 5                   | 5                   |
| Documents to import (number)        | 4                   | 4                   | 4                   | 4                   |
| Time to export (days)               | 15                  | 12                  | 12                  | 12                  |
| Time to import (days)               | 15                  | 12                  | 12                  | 12                  |

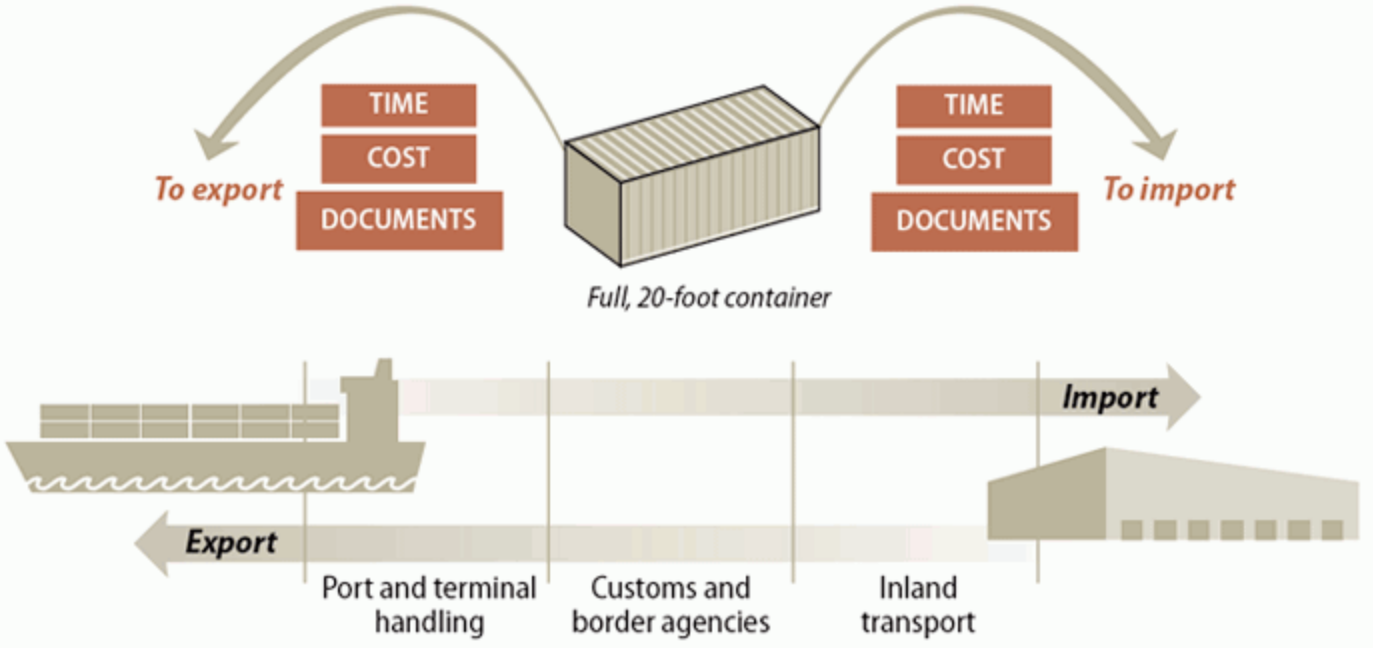
3. The following graphs illustrate the Trading Across Borders sub indicators in St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the past 4 years:







**How much time, how many documents and what cost to export and import across borders by ocean transport?**



These tables list the procedures necessary to import and export a standardized cargo of goods in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The documents required to export and import the goods are also shown.

| Nature of Export Procedures (2010)      | Duration (days) | US\$ Cost |
|---|-----------------|-----------|
| Documents preparation                   | 5               | 320       |
| Customs clearance and technical control | 1               | 200       |
| Ports and terminal handling             | 5               | 105       |
| Inland transportation and handling      | 1               | 450       |
| Totals                                  | 12              | 1075      |

| Nature of Import Procedures (2010)      | Duration (days) | US\$ Cost |
|---|-----------------|-----------|
| Documents preparation                   | 5               | 170       |
| Customs clearance and technical control | 1               | 800       |
| Ports and terminal handling             | 5               | 185       |
| Inland transportation and handling      | 1               | 450       |
| Totals                                  | 12              | 1605      |

**Documents for Export and Import**

**Export**

- Bill of lading
- Certificate of origin
- Commercial invoice
- Customs export declaration
- Packing list

**Import**

- Bill of lading
- Certificate of origin
- Commercial invoice
- Customs import declaration

Well functioning courts help businesses expand their network and markets. Where contract enforcement is efficient, firms have greater access to credit and are more likely to engage with new borrowers or customers. *Doing Business* measures the efficiency of the judicial system in resolving a commercial sale dispute before local courts. Following the step-by-step evolution of a standardized case study, data relating to the time, cost and procedural complexity of resolving a commercial lawsuit are collected through study of the codes of civil procedure and other court regulations, as well as through surveys completed by local litigation lawyers (and, in a quarter of the countries, by judges as well).

#### Some reform outcomes

*In Rwanda the implementation of specialized commercial courts in May 2008 resulted in a significant decrease of the case backlog, and contributed to reduce the time to resolve a commercial dispute by nearly 3 months.*

*In Austria a "data highway" for the courts that allows attachments to be sent electronically has produced savings of €4.4 million in postage alone.*

#### What do the Enforcing Contracts indicators measure?

##### Procedures to enforce a contract (number)

- Any interaction between the parties in a commercial dispute, or between them and the judge or court officer
- Steps to file the case
- Steps for trial and judgment
- Steps to enforce the judgment

##### Time required to complete procedures (calendar days)

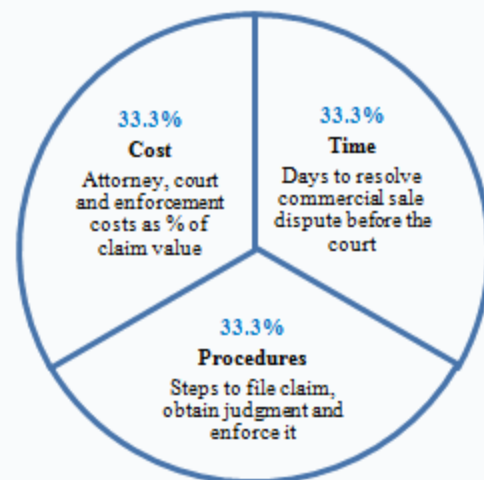
- Time to file and serve the case
- Time for trial and obtaining judgment
- Time to enforce the judgment

##### Cost required to complete procedures (% of claim)

- No bribes
- Average attorney fees
- Court costs, including expert fees
- Enforcement costs

**Enforcing Contracts:** resolving a commercial dispute through the courts

Rankings are based on 3 subindicators



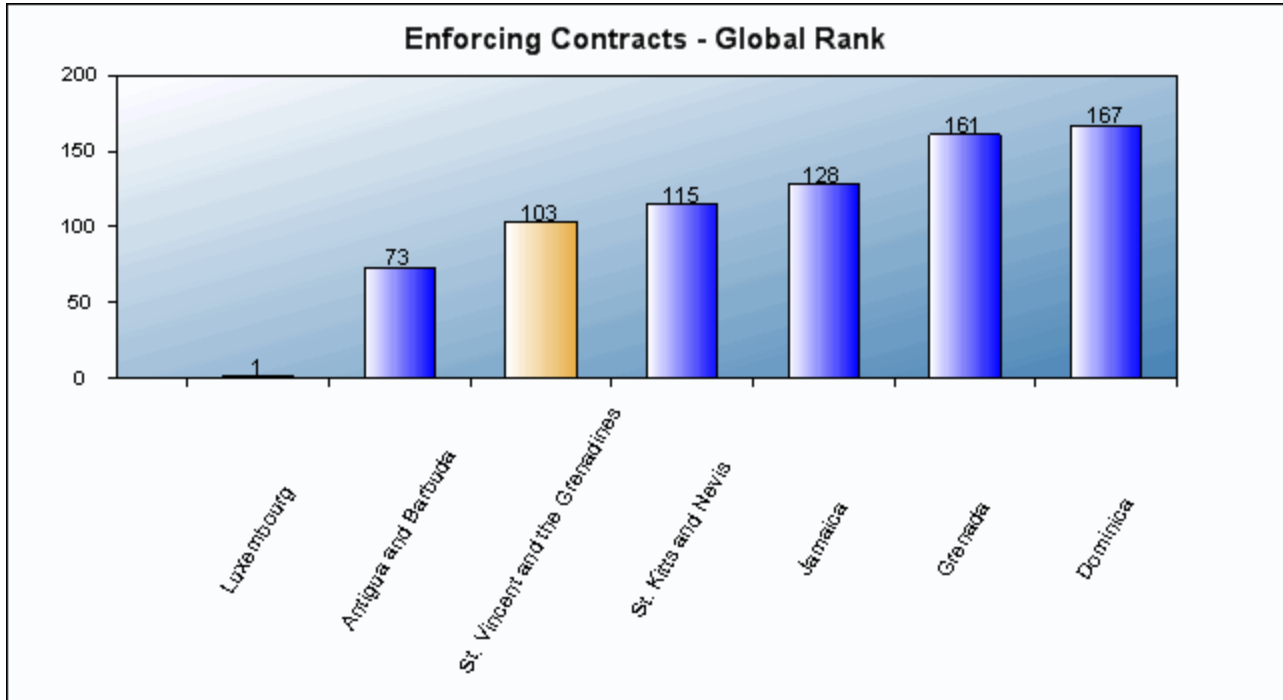
#### Case Study Assumptions

- Seller and Buyer are domestic companies
- Buyer orders custom-made goods, then does not pay
- Seller sues Buyer before competent court
- Value of claim is 200% of GNI per capita
- Seller requests pre-trial attachment to secure claim
- Dispute on quality of the goods requires expert opinion
- Judge decides in favor of Seller, no appeal
- Seller enforces judgment through a public sale of Buyer's movable assets.

## 1. Benchmarking Enforcing Contracts Regulations:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is ranked 103 overall for Enforcing Contracts.

Ranking of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Enforcing Contracts - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Enforcing Contracts data for St. Vincent and the Grenadines compared to good practice and comparator economies:

| <b>Good Practice Economies</b> | <b>Procedures (number)</b> | <b>Time (days)</b> | <b>Cost (% of claim)</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Bhutan</b>                  |                            |                    | 0.1                      |
| <b>Ireland</b>                 | 20                         |                    |                          |
| <b>Singapore</b>               |                            | 150                |                          |

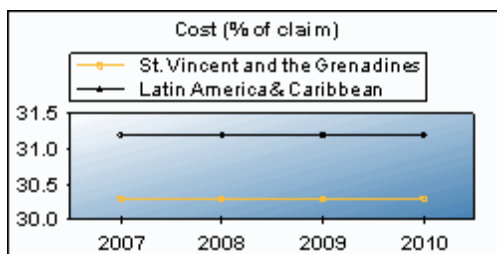
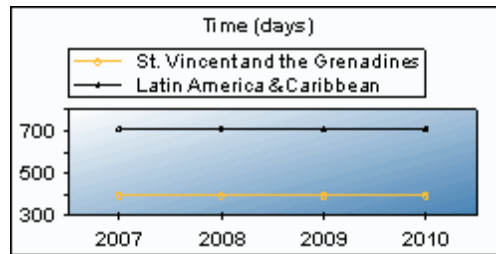
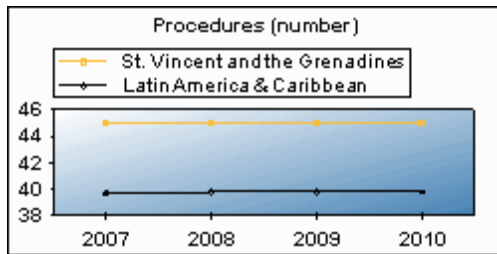
| <i>Selected Economy</i>               |           |            |             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| <b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>394</b> | <b>30.3</b> |

| <i>Comparator Economies</i> |    |     |      |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|------|
| <b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>  | 45 | 351 | 22.7 |
| <b>Dominica</b>             | 47 | 681 | 36.0 |
| <b>Grenada</b>              | 47 | 688 | 32.6 |
| <b>Jamaica</b>              | 35 | 655 | 45.6 |
| <b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>  | 47 | 578 | 20.5 |

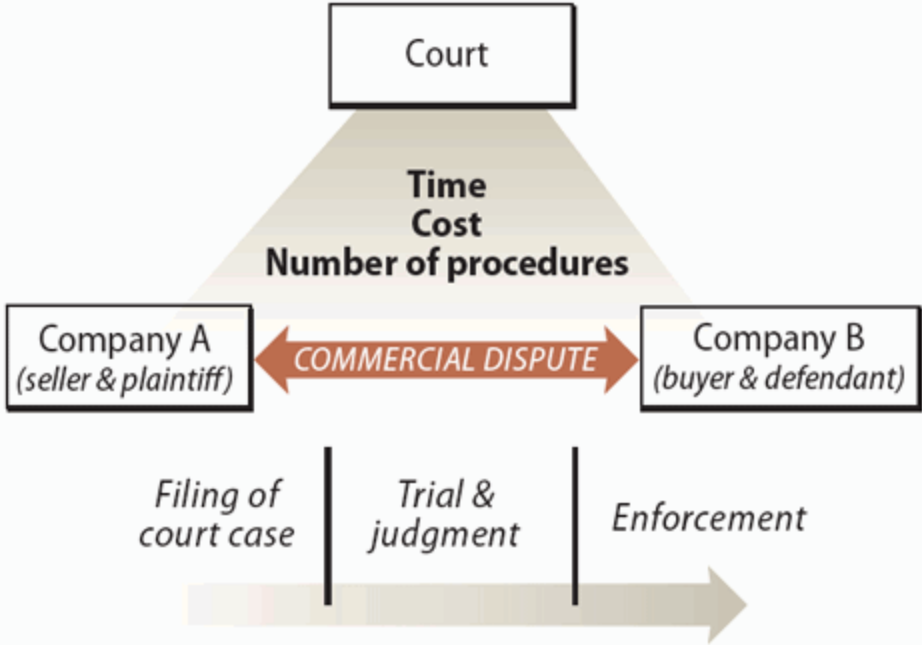
**2. Historical data: Enforcing Contracts in St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

| Enforcing Contracts data | Doing Business 2008 | Doing Business 2009 | Doing Business 2010 | Doing Business 2011 |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rank                     | ..                  | ..                  | 103                 | 103                 |
| Procedures (number)      | 45                  | 45                  | 45                  | 45                  |
| Time (days)              | 394                 | 394                 | 394                 | 394                 |
| Cost (% of claim)        | 30.3                | 30.3                | 30.3                | 30.3                |

**3. The following graphs illustrate the Enforcing Contracts sub indicators in St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the past 4 years:**



**What are the time, cost and number of procedures to resolve a commercial dispute through the courts?**



This topic looks at the efficiency of contract enforcement in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

| Nature of Procedure (2010)    | Indicator    |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Procedures (number)           | 45           |
| Time (days)                   | 394          |
| Filing and service            | 30.0         |
| Trial and judgment            | 244.0        |
| Enforcement of judgment       | 120.0        |
| <b>Cost (% of claim)*</b>     | <b>30.30</b> |
| Attorney cost (% of claim)    | 14.3         |
| Court cost (% of claim)       | 7.8          |
| Enforcement Cost (% of claim) | 8.2          |

**Court information:** Eastern Caribbean Supreme  
Court, Kingstown High Court of  
Justice

\* Claim assumed to be equivalent to 200% of income per capita.



A robust bankruptcy system functions as a filter, ensuring the survival of economically efficient companies and reallocating the resources of inefficient ones. Fast and cheap insolvency proceedings result in businesses' speedy return to normal operation and increase returns to creditors. By improving the expectations of creditors and debtors about the outcome of insolvency proceedings, well-functioning insolvency systems can facilitate access to finance, save more viable businesses, and thereby improve growth and sustainability in the economy overall.

### Some reform outcomes

*A study of the 2005 bankruptcy reform in Brazil found that it had led to an average reduction of 22% in the cost of credit for Brazilian companies, a 39% increase in overall credit and a 79% increase in long-term credit in the economy. The purpose of the reform was to improve creditor protection in insolvency proceedings.*

*Following the introduction of debtor-in-possession reorganizations in Korea in 2006, the number of reorganization filings increased from 76 in 2006 to 670 in 2009.*

### What does the Closing a Business indicator measure?

**Closing a Business:** insolvency proceedings against local company

#### Time required to recover debt (years)

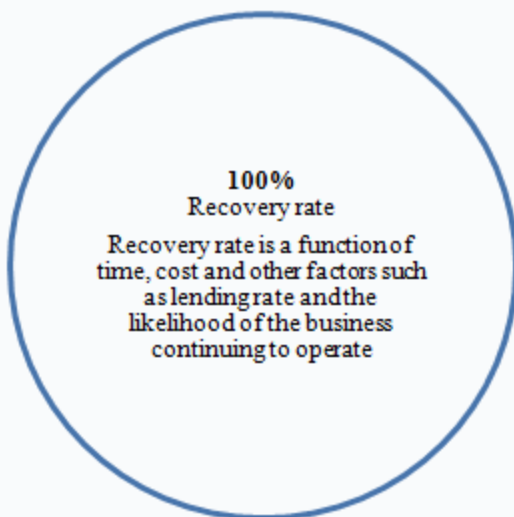
- Measured in calendar years
- Appeals and requests for extension are included

#### Cost required to recover debt (% of debtor's estate value)

- Measured as percentage of estate value
- Court fees
- Fees of insolvency administrators
- Lawyers' fees
- Assessors' and auctioneers' fees
- All other fees and costs

#### Recovery rate for creditors (cents on the dollar)

- Measures the cents on the dollar recovered by creditors
- Present value of debt recovered
- Costs of the insolvency proceedings are deducted
- Depreciation of furniture is taken into account
- Outcome for the business (survival or not) affects the maximum value that can be recovered



### Case Study Assumptions

#### The Company

- is domestically owned
- is a limited liability company operating a hotel
- operates in the economy's largest business city
- has 201 employees, 1 secured creditor and 50 unsecured creditors
- has a higher value as a going concern and a lower value in a piecemeal sale of assets

## 1. Benchmarking Closing Business Regulations:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is ranked 183 overall for Closing a Business.

Ranking of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Closing Business - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Closing Business data for St. Vincent and the Grenadines compared to good practice and comparator economies:

| <b>Good Practice Economies</b> | <b>Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)</b> | <b>Time (years)</b> | <b>Cost (% of estate)</b> |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Ireland</b>                 |  | 0.4                 |                           |
| <b>Japan</b>                   | 92.7                                       |                     |                           |
| <b>Singapore*</b>              |  |                     | 1                         |

| <i>Selected Economy</i>               |            |                    |                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>no practice</b> | <b>no practice</b> |

| <i>Comparator Economies</i> |      |             |             |
|-----------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>  | 36.7 | 3.0         | 7           |
| <b>Dominica</b>             | 0.0  | no practice | no practice |
| <b>Grenada</b>              | 0.0  | no practice | no practice |
| <b>Jamaica</b>              | 65.1 | 1.1         | 18          |
| <b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>  | 0.0  | no practice | no practice |

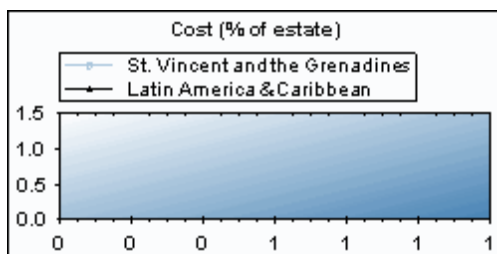
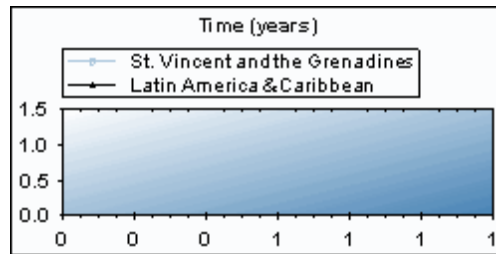
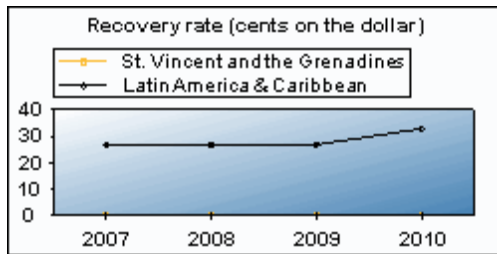
\* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

**Cost (% of estate): Colombia, Kuwait, Norway**

## 2. Historical data: Closing Business in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

| Closing a Business data             | Doing Business 2008 | Doing Business 2009 | Doing Business 2010 | Doing Business 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rank                                | ..                  | ..                  | 183                 | 183                 |
| Time (years)                        | no practice         | no practice         | no practice         | no practice         |
| Cost (% of estate)                  | no practice         | no practice         | no practice         | no practice         |
| Recovery rate (cents on the dollar) | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 | 0.0                 |

3. The following graphs illustrate the Closing Business sub indicators in St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the past 4 years:



Since 2004 Doing Business has been tracking reforms aimed at simplifying business regulations, strengthening property rights, opening access to credit and enforcing contracts by measuring their impact on 10 indicator sets . \* Nearly 1,000 reforms have had an impact on these indicators. *Doing Business 2011*, covering June 2009 to June 2010, reports that 117 economies implemented 216 reforms to make it easier to start a business. 64% of economies measured by Doing Business have reformed this year, focusing on easing business start-up, lightening the tax burden, simplifying import and export regulations and improving credit information systems.

## The top 10 most-improved in Doing Business 2011

| Economy           | Indicator           |                                   |                      |                |                      |              |                        |                     |                    |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|                   | Starting a Business | Dealing with Construction Permits | Registering Property | Getting Credit | Protecting Investors | Paying Taxes | Trading Across Borders | Enforcing Contracts | Closing a Business | Employing Workers |
| Kazakhstan        | ✓                   | ✓                                 |                      |                |                      | ✓            | ✓                      |                     |                    |                   |
| Rwanda            |                     | ✓                                 |                      | ✓              |                      |              | ✓                      |                     |                    |                   |
| Peru              | ✓                   | ✓                                 | ✓                    |                |                      |              | ✓                      |                     |                    |                   |
| Vietnam           | ✓                   | ✓                                 |                      | ✓              |                      |              |                        |                     |                    |                   |
| Cape Verde        | ✓                   |                                   | ✓                    |                |                      |              | ✓                      |                     |                    |                   |
| Tajikistan        | ✓                   |                                   |                      |                | ✓                    | ✓            |                        |                     |                    |                   |
| Zambia            | ✓                   |                                   |                      |                |                      |              | ✓                      | ✓                   |                    |                   |
| Hungary           |                     | ✓                                 | ✓                    |                |                      | ✓            |                        |                     | ✓                  |                   |
| Grenada           | ✓                   |                                   | ✓                    |                |                      |              | ✓                      |                     |                    |                   |
| Brunei Darussalam | ✓                   |                                   |                      |                |                      | ✓            | ✓                      |                     |                    |                   |

 Positive Change  
 Negative Change

\* For *Doing Business 2011* the Employing Workers indicator is not included in the aggregate ease of doing business ranking.

## **Summary of changes to business regulation in top 10 most improved economies in *Doing Business 2011* and selected comparator economies.**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Antigua and Barbuda</b> | In Antigua and Barbuda, to transfer property now requires clearance by the chief surveyor to avoid mischievous declarations.  |
| <b>Brunei Darussalam</b>   | Brunei Darussalam made starting a business easier by improving efficiency at the company registrar and implementing an electronic system for name searches. Brunei Darussalam reduced the corporate income tax rate from 23.5% to 22% while also introducing a lower tax rate for small businesses, ranging from 5.5% to 11%. The introduction of an electronic customs system in Brunei Darussalam made trading easier.  |
| <b>Cape Verde</b>          | Cape Verde made start-up easier by eliminating the need for a municipal inspection before a business begins operations and computerizing the system for delivering the municipal license. Cape Verde eased property registration by switching from fees based on a percentage of the property value to lower fixed rates. Cape Verde abolished the stamp duties on sales and checks.  |
| <b>Grenada</b>             | Grenada eased business start-up by transferring responsibility for the commercial registry from the courts to the civil administration. The appointment of a registrar focusing only on property cut the time needed to transfer property in Grenada by almost half. Grenada's customs administration made trading faster by simplifying procedures, reducing inspections, improving staff training and enhancing communication with users.   |
| <b>Hungary</b>             | Hungary implemented a time limit for the issuance of building permits. Hungary reduced the property registration fee by 6% of the property value. Hungary simplified taxes and tax bases. Amendments to Hungary's bankruptcy law encourage insolvent companies to consider reaching agreements with creditors out of court so as to avoid bankruptcy.   |
| <b>Jamaica</b>             | Jamaica eased the transfer of property by lowering transfer taxes and fees, offering expedited registration procedures and making information from the company registrar available online.  |
| <b>Kazakhstan</b>          | Kazakhstan eased business start-up by reducing the minimum capital requirement to 100 tenge (\$0.70) and eliminating the need to have the memorandum of association and company charter notarized. Kazakhstan made dealing with construction permits easier by implementing a one-stop shop related to technical conditions for utilities. Kazakhstan strengthened investor protections by requiring greater corporate disclosure in company annual reports. Kazakhstan speeded up trade through efforts to modernize customs, including implementation of a risk management system and improvements in customs automation. |
| <b>Peru</b>                | Peru eased business start-up by simplifying the requirements for operating licenses and creating an online one-stop shop for business registration. Peru streamlined construction permitting by implementing administrative reforms. Peru introduced fast-track procedures at the land registry, cutting by half the time needed to register property. Peru made trading easier by implementing a new web-based electronic data interchange system, risk-based inspections and payment deferrals.   |
| <b>Rwanda</b>              | Rwanda made dealing with construction permits easier by passing new building regulations at the end of April 2010 and implementing new time limits for the issuance of various permits. Rwanda enhanced access to credit by allowing borrowers the right to inspect their own credit report and mandating that loans of all sizes be reported to the central bank's public credit registry. Rwanda reduced the number of trade documents required and enhanced its joint border management procedures with Uganda and other neighbors, leading to an improvement in the trade logistics environment.                        |
| <b>Tajikistan</b>          | Tajikistan made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop that consolidates registration with the state and the tax authority. Tajikistan strengthened investor protections by requiring greater corporate disclosure in the annual report and greater access to corporate information for minority investors. Tajikistan lowered its corporate income tax rate.   |
| <b>Vietnam</b>             | Vietnam eased company start-up by creating a one-stop shop that combines the processes for obtaining a business license and tax license and by eliminating the need for a seal for company licensing. Vietnam made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the cost to register newly completed buildings by 50% and transferring the authority to register buildings from local authorities to the Department of National Resources and Environment. Vietnam improved its credit information system by allowing borrowers to examine their own credit report and correct errors.                              |

**Zambia**

Zambia eased business start-up by eliminating the minimum capital requirement. Zambia eased trade by implementing a one-stop border post with Zimbabwe, launching web-based submission of customs declarations and introducing scanning machines at border posts. Zambia improved contract enforcement by introducing an electronic case management system in the courts that provides electronic referencing of cases, a database of laws, real-time court reporting and public access to court records.



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