

Doing Business



2012

Economy Profile: **West Bank and Gaza**

Doing business in a
more transparent world

COMPARING REGULATION FOR DOMESTIC FIRMS IN 183 ECONOMIES

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INTRODUCTION

Doing Business sheds light on how easy or difficult it is for a local entrepreneur to open and run a small to medium-size business when complying with relevant regulations. It measures and tracks changes in regulations affecting 10 areas in the life cycle of a business: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency.

In a series of annual reports *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. The data set covers 46 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, 32 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 24 in East Asia and the Pacific, 24 in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 18 in the Middle East and North Africa and 8 in South Asia, as well as 31 OECD high-income economies. The indicators are used to analyze economic outcomes and identify what reforms have worked, where and why.

This economy profile presents the *Doing Business* indicators for West Bank and Gaza. To allow useful comparison, it also provides data for other selected economies (comparator economies) for each indicator. The data in this report are current as of June 1, 2011

(except for the paying taxes indicators, which cover the period January–December 2010).

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 and getting electricity), the security of property from theft and looting, the transparency of government procurement, macroeconomic conditions or the underlying strength of institutions—are not directly studied by *Doing Business*. 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 policy makers in designing regulatory reform.

More information is available in the full report. *Doing Business 2012* presents the indicators, analyzes their relationship with economic outcomes and recommends regulatory reforms. The data, along with information on ordering *Doing Business 2012*, are available on the *Doing Business* website at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>.

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

For policy makers trying to improve their economy's regulatory environment for business, a good place to start is to find out how it compares with the regulatory environment in other economies. *Doing Business* provides an aggregate ranking on the ease of doing business based on indicator sets that measure and benchmark regulations applying to domestic small to medium-size businesses through their life cycle. Economies are ranked from 1 to 183 by the ease of doing business index. For each economy the index is calculated as the ranking on the simple average of its percentile rankings on each of the 10 topics included in the index in *Doing Business 2012*: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency. The ranking on each topic is the simple average of the percentile rankings on its component indicators (see the data notes for more details).¹

The aggregate ranking on the ease of doing business benchmarks each economy's performance on the indicators against that of all other economies in the *Doing Business* sample (figure 1.1). While this ranking tells much about the business environment in an economy, it does not tell the whole story. The ranking on the ease of doing business, and the underlying indicators, do not measure all aspects of the business environment that matter to firms and investors or that affect the competitiveness of the economy. Still, a high ranking does mean that the government has created a regulatory environment conducive to operating a business.

ECONOMY OVERVIEW

Region: Middle East & North Africa

Income category: Lower middle income

Population: 4,152,102

GNI per capita (US\$): 1,523.00

DB2012 rank: 131

DB2011 rank: 128

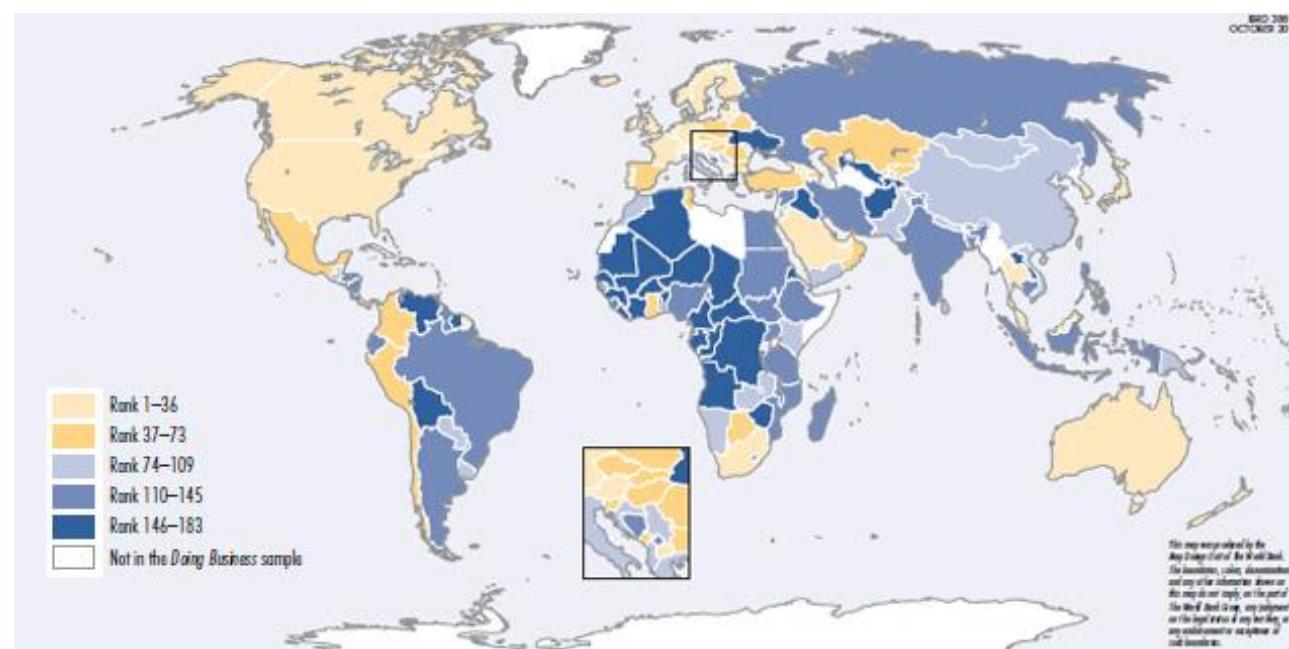
Change in rank: -3

Note: See the data notes for sources and definitions.

¹ Except for the ease of getting credit, for which the percentile rankings on its component indicators are weighted, the depth of credit information index at 37.5% and the strength of legal rights index at 62.5%.

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Figure 1.1 Where economies stand in the global ranking on the ease of doing business



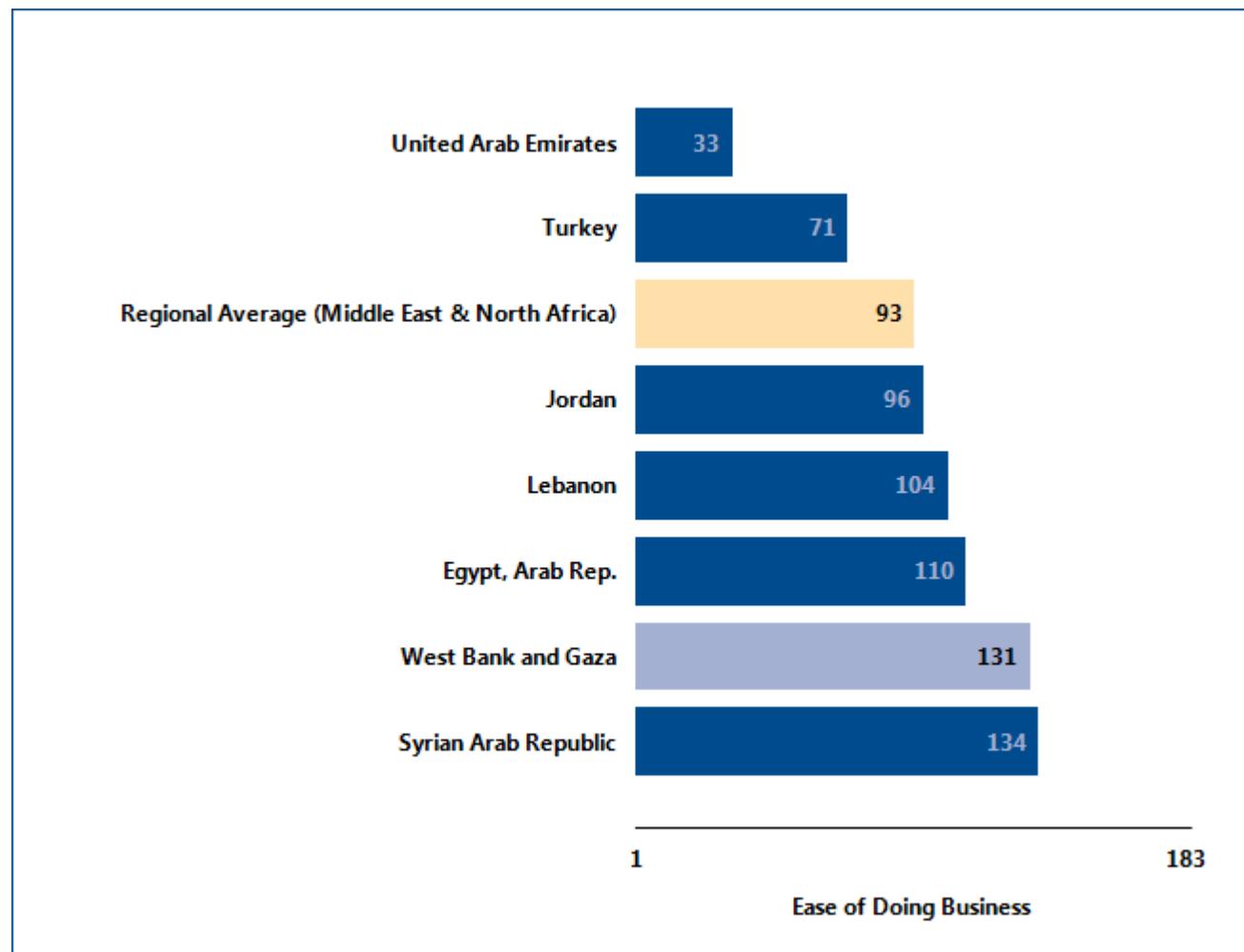
Source: *Doing Business* database.

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

For policy makers, knowing where their economy stands in the aggregate ranking on the ease of doing business is useful. Also useful is to know how it ranks compared with other economies and compared with

the regional average (figure 1.2). The economy's rankings on the topics included in the ease of doing business index provide another perspective (figure 1.3).

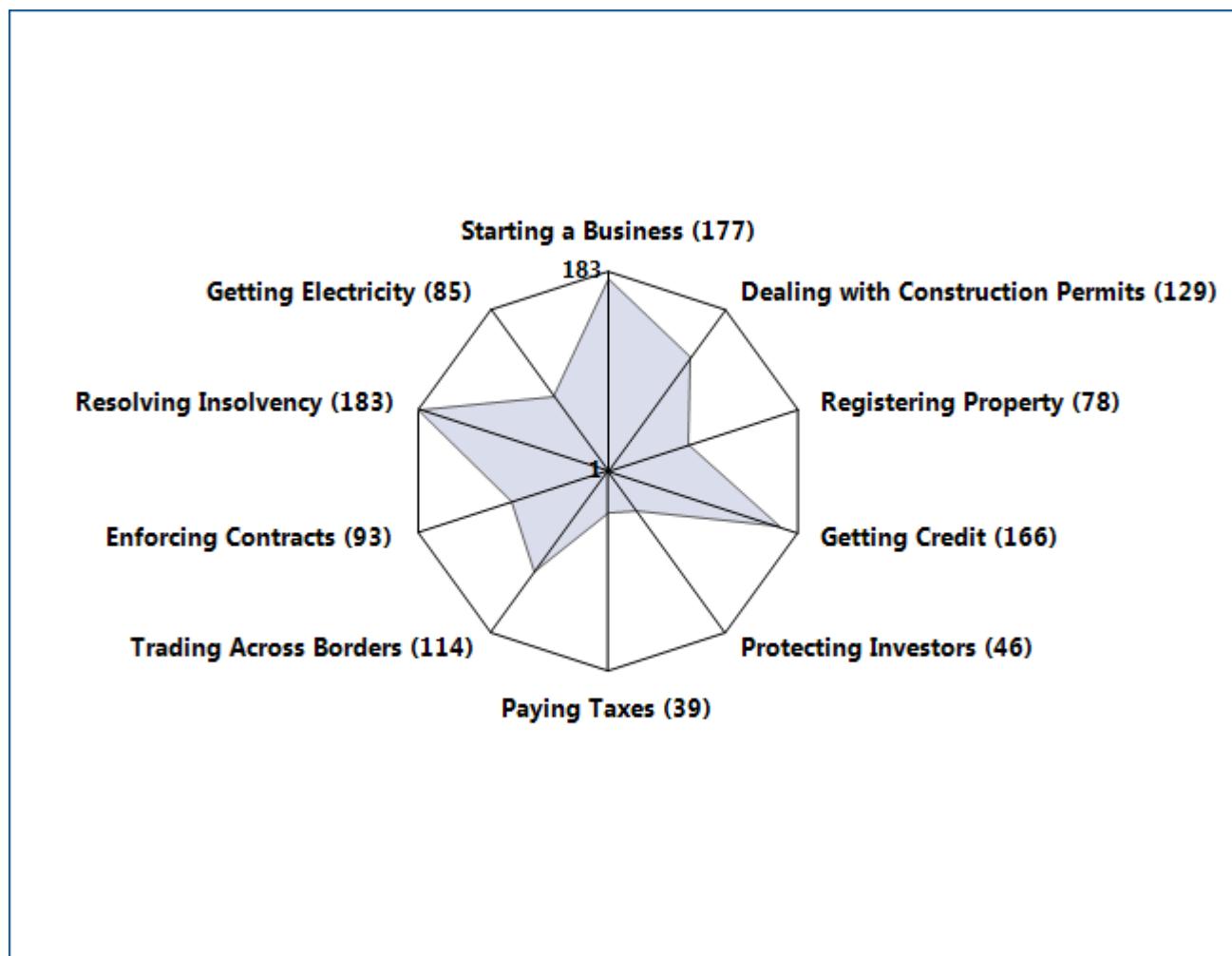
Figure 1.2 How West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies rank on the ease of doing business



Source: *Doing Business* database.

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Figure 1.3 How West Bank and Gaza ranks on *Doing Business* topics



Source: *Doing Business* database.

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Just as the overall ranking on the ease of doing business tells only part of the story, so do changes in that ranking. Yearly movements in rankings can provide some indication of changes in an economy's regulatory environment for firms, but they are always relative. An economy's ranking might change because of developments in other economies. An economy that implemented business regulation reforms may fail to rise in the rankings (or may even drop) if it is passed by others whose business regulation reforms had a more significant impact as measured by *Doing Business*.

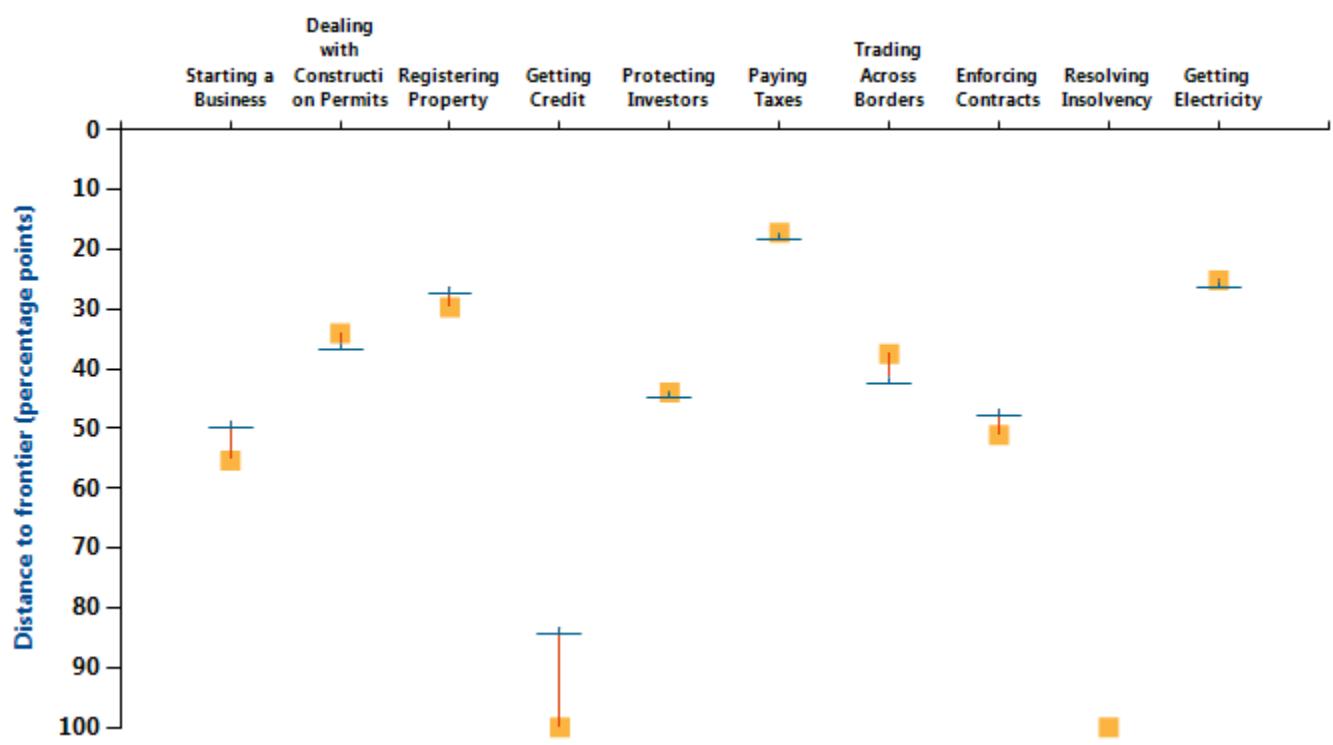
Moreover, year-to-year changes in the overall rankings do not reflect how the business regulatory environment in an economy has changed over time—or how it has changed in different areas. To aid in assessing such changes, *Doing Business 2012* introduces the distance to frontier measure.

This measure shows the distance of each economy to the "frontier," a synthetic measure based on the most efficient practice or highest score observed for each *Doing Business* indicator across all economies and years included in the *Doing Business* sample since 2005. Nine areas of business regulation are covered.

Comparing the measure for an economy at 2 points in time allows users to assess how much the economy's regulatory environment as measured by *Doing Business* has changed over time—how far it has moved toward (or away from) the most efficient practices and strongest regulations in areas covered by *Doing Business* (figure 1.4). The results may show that the pace of change varies widely across the areas measured. They also may show that an economy is relatively close to the frontier in some areas and relatively far from it in others.

Figure 1.4 How far has West Bank and Gaza come in the areas measured by *Doing Business*?

Distance to frontier, 2005 and 2011



Note: For economies added to the *Doing Business* sample after 2005, the starting point is the year in which they were added: 2006 for Montenegro; 2007 for Brunei Darussalam, Liberia and Luxembourg; 2008 for The Bahamas, Bahrain and Qatar; and 2009 for Cyprus and Kosovo. See the data notes for more details on the distance to frontier measure.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

The absolute values of the indicators tell another part of the story (table 1.1). The indicators, on their own or in comparison with the indicators of a good practice economy or those of comparator economies in the region, may reveal bottlenecks reflected in large numbers of procedures, long delays or high costs. Or they may reveal unexpected strengths in an area of

business regulation—such as a regulatory process that can be completed with a small number of procedures in a few days and at a low cost. Comparison of the economy's indicators today with those in the previous year may show where substantial bottlenecks persist—and where they are diminishing.

Table 1.1 Summary of *Doing Business* indicators for West Bank and Gaza

Indicator	West Bank and Gaza DB2012	West Bank and Gaza DB2011	Egypt, Arab Rep. DB2012	Jordan DB2012	Lebanon DB2012	Syrian Arab Republic DB2012	Turkey DB2012	United Arab Emirates DB2012	Best performer globally DB2012
Starting a Business (rank)	177	173	21	95	109	129	61	42	New Zealand (1)
Procedures (number)	11	11	6	7	5	7	6	7	Canada (1)*
Time (days)	49	49	7	12	9	13	6	13	New Zealand (1)
Cost (% of income per capita)	96.0	93.7	5.6	13.9	67.1	17.1	11.2	5.6	Denmark (0.0)*
Paid-in Min. Capital (% of income per capita)	218.8	215.6	0.0	0.0	35.3	127.7	8.7	0.0	82 Economies (0.0)*
Dealing with Construction Permits (rank)	129	123	154	93	161	133	155	12	Hong Kong SAR, China (1)
Procedures (number)	18	18	22	17	19	23	24	14	Denmark (5)
Time (days)	119	119	218	70	219	104	189	46	Singapore (26)*
Cost (% of income per capita)	1000.5	974.4	155.3	534.2	234.9	504.1	197.7	5.2	Qatar (1.1)

Indicator	West Bank and Gaza DB2012	West Bank and Gaza DB2011	Egypt, Arab Rep. DB2012	Jordan DB2012	Lebanon DB2012	Syrian Arab Republic DB2012	Turkey DB2012	United Arab Emirates DB2012	Best performer globally DB2012
Getting Electricity (rank)	85	85	101	36	47	83	72	10	Iceland (1)
Procedures (number)	5	5	7	5	5	5	5	4	Germany (3)*
Time (days)	63	63	54	43	75	71	70	55	Germany (17)
Cost (% of income per capita)	1627.8	1560.6	455.5	274.2	99.9	940.4	624.4	14.6	Japan (0.0)
Registering Property (rank)	78	78	93	101	105	82	44	6	New Zealand (3)
Procedures (number)	7	7	7	7	8	4	6	1	Portugal (1)*
Time (days)	47	47	72	21	25	19	6	2	Portugal (1)
Cost (% of property value)	0.8	0.7	0.8	7.5	5.8	27.9	3.3	2.0	Slovak Republic (0.0)
Getting Credit (rank)	166	152	78	150	78	174	78	78	United Kingdom (1)*
Strength of legal rights index (0-10)	1	1	3	4	4	1	4	4	New Zealand (10)*
Depth of credit information index (0-6)	3	3	6	2	5	2	5	5	Japan (6)*
Public registry coverage (% of adults)	5.5	5.6	3.5	1.6	11.0	3.7	23.8	9.0	Portugal (86.2)
Private bureau coverage (% of adults)	0.0	0.0	13.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	60.5	29.2	New Zealand (100.0)*
Protecting Investors (rank)	46	44	79	122	97	111	65	122	New Zealand (1)
Extent of disclosure index (0-10)	6	6	8	5	9	7	9	4	France (10)*

Indicator	West Bank and Gaza DB2012	West Bank and Gaza DB2011	Egypt, Arab Rep. DB2012	Jordan DB2012	Lebanon DB2012	Syrian Arab Republic DB2012	Turkey DB2012	United Arab Emirates DB2012	Best performer globally DB2012
Extent of director liability index (0-10)	5	5	3	4	1	5	4	7	Singapore (9)*
Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)	7	7	5	4	5	2	4	2	New Zealand (10)*
Strength of investor protection index (0-10)	6.0	6.0	5.3	4.3	5.0	4.7	5.7	4.3	New Zealand (9.7)
Paying Taxes (rank)	39	37	145	21	30	111	79	7	Canada (8)
Payments (number per year)	27	27	29	25	19	19	15	14	Norway (4)
Time (hours per year)	154	154	433	116	180	336	223	12	Luxembourg (59)
Trading Across Borders (rank)	114	114	64	58	93	122	80	5	Singapore (1)
Documents to export (number)	6	6	8	6	5	8	7	4	France (2)
Time to export (days)	23	23	12	13	22	15	14	7	Hong Kong SAR, China (5)*
Cost to export (US\$ per container)	1310	1310	613	825	1050	1190	990	630	Malaysia (450)
Documents to import (number)	6	6	9	7	7	9	8	5	France (2)
Time to import (days)	40	40	12	15	32	21	15	7	Singapore (4)
Cost to import (US\$ per container)	1295	1225	755	1335	1250	1625	1063	635	Malaysia (435)
Enforcing Contracts (rank)	93	93	147	130	120	175	51	134	Luxembourg (1)

Indicator	West Bank and Gaza DB2012	West Bank and Gaza DB2011	Egypt, Arab Rep. DB2012	Jordan DB2012	Lebanon DB2012	Syrian Arab Republic DB2012	Turkey DB2012	United Arab Emirates DB2012	Best performer globally DB2012
Time (days)	540	540	1010	689	721	872	420	537	Singapore (150)
Cost (% of claim)	21.2	21.2	26.2	31.2	30.8	29.3	27.9	26.2	Bhutan (0.1)
Procedures (number)	44	44	41	38	37	55	36	49	Ireland (21)*
Resolving Insolvency (rank)	183	183	137	104	125	102	120	151	Japan (1)
Time (years)	no practice	no practice	4.2	4.3	4.0	4.1	3.3	5.1	Ireland (0.4)
Cost (% of estate)	no practice	no practice	22	9	22	9	15	30	Singapore (1)*
Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	0.0	0.0	17.7	27.2	20.6	27.5	22.3	11.0	Japan (92.7)

Note: The methodology for the paying taxes indicators changed in *Doing Business 2012*; see the data notes for details. For these indicators, the best performer globally is the economy that has implemented the most efficient practices in its tax system and is not necessarily the one with the highest ranking. For more information on “no practice” marks, see the data notes for details.

* Two or more economies share the top ranking on this indicator. A number shown in place of an economy's name indicates the number of economies that share the top ranking on the indicator. For a list of these economies, see the *Doing Business* website (<http://www.doingbusiness.org>).

Source: *Doing Business* database.

STARTING A BUSINESS

Formal registration of companies has many immediate benefits for the companies and for business owners and employees. Legal entities can outlive their founders. Resources are pooled as several shareholders join forces to start a company. Formally registered companies have access to services and institutions from courts to banks as well as to new markets. And their employees can benefit from protections provided by the law. An additional benefit comes with limited liability companies. These limit the financial liability of company owners to their investments, so personal assets of the owners are not put at risk. Where governments make registration easy, more entrepreneurs start businesses in the formal sector, creating more good jobs and generating more revenue for the government.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business measures the ease of starting a business in an economy by recording all procedures that are officially required or commonly done in practice by an entrepreneur to start up and formally operate an industrial or commercial business—as well as the time and cost required to complete these procedures. It also records the paid-in minimum capital that companies must deposit before registration (or within 3 months). The ranking on the ease of starting a business is the simple average of the percentile rankings on the 4 component indicators: procedures, time, cost and paid-in minimum capital requirement.

To make the data comparable across economies, *Doing Business* uses several assumptions about the business and the procedures. It assumes that all information is readily available to the entrepreneur and that there has been no prior contact with officials. It also assumes that all government and nongovernment entities involved in the process function without corruption. And it assumes that the business:

- Is a limited liability company, located in the largest business city.
- Conducts general commercial or industrial activities.

WHAT THE STARTING A BUSINESS INDICATORS MEASURE
Procedures to legally start and operate a company (number)
Preregistration (for example, name verification or reservation, notarization)
Registration in the economy's largest business city
Postregistration (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 before registration (or within 3 months)

- Has a start-up capital of 10 times income per capita.
- Has a turnover of at least 100 times income per capita.
- Does not qualify for any special benefits.
- Does not own real estate.
- Is 100% domestically owned.

STARTING A BUSINESS

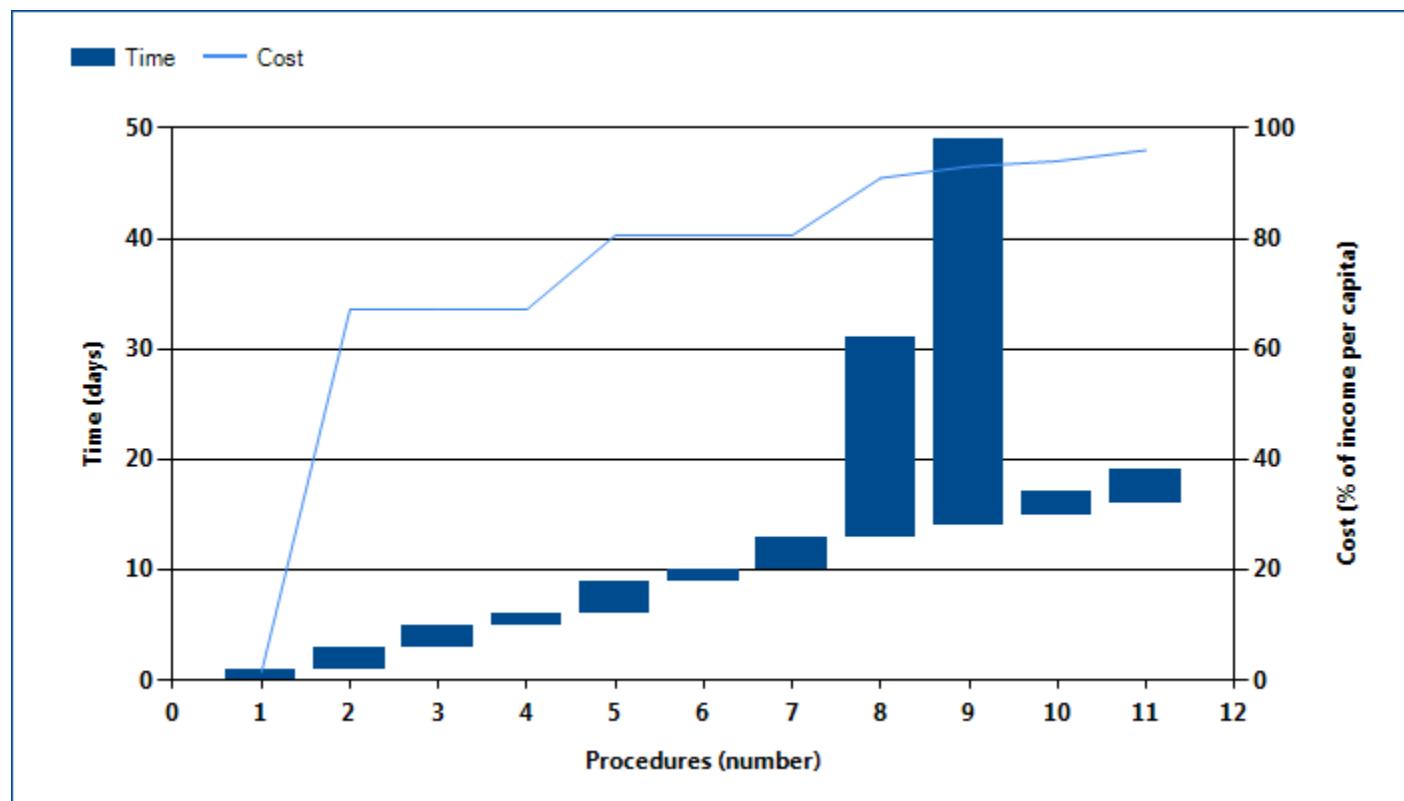
Where does the economy stand today?

What does it take to start a business in West Bank and Gaza? According to data collected by *Doing Business*, starting a business there requires 11 procedures, takes

49 days, costs 96.0% of income per capita and requires paid-in minimum capital of 218.8% of income per capita (figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1 What it takes to start a business in West Bank and Gaza

Paid-in minimum capital (% of income per capita): 218.8



Note: For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary at the end of this chapter.

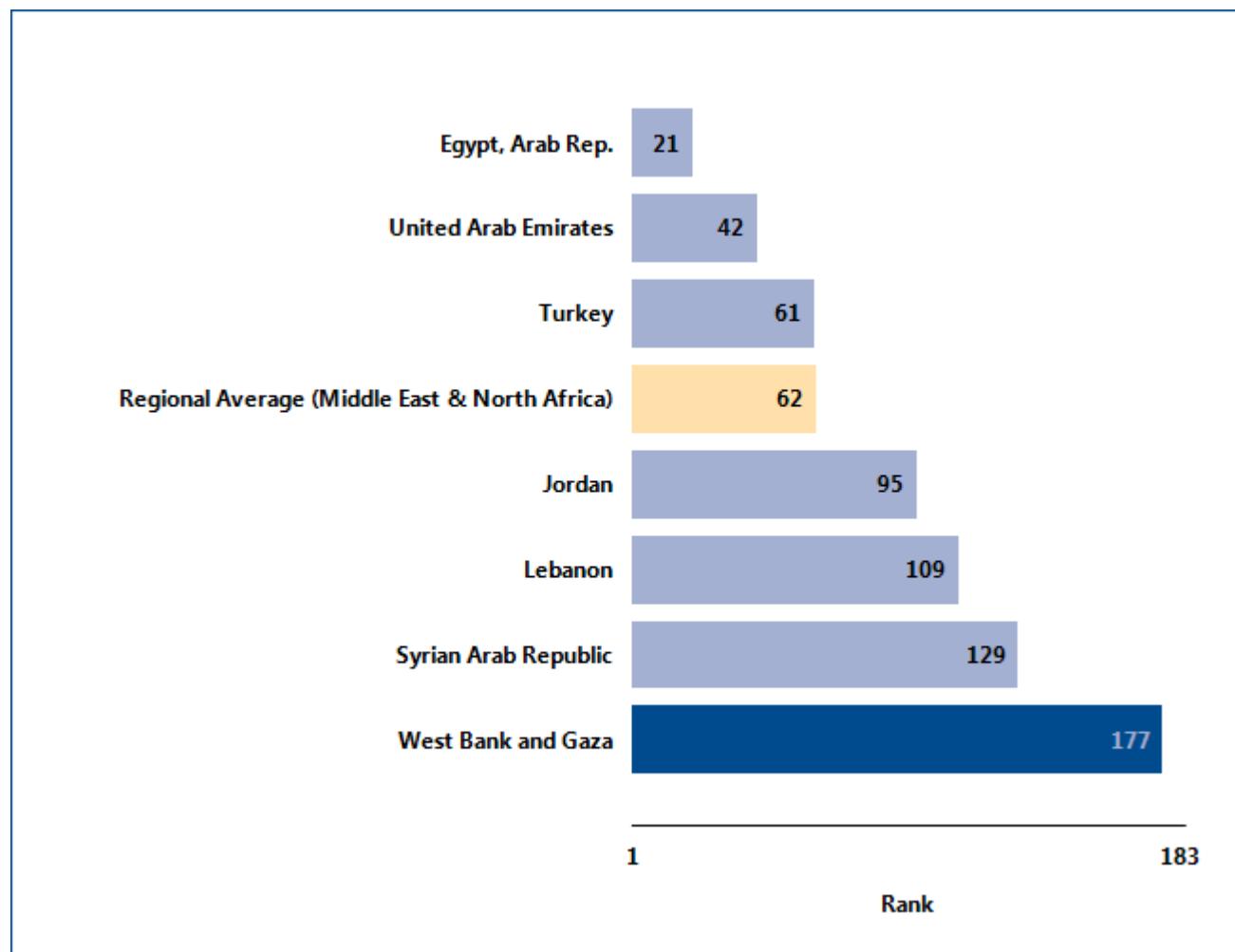
Source: *Doing Business* database.

STARTING A BUSINESS

Globally, West Bank and Gaza stands at 177 in the ranking of 183 economies on the ease of starting a business (figure 2.2). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide

other useful information for assessing how easy it is for an entrepreneur in West Bank and Gaza to start a business.

Figure 2.2 How West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies rank on the ease of starting a business



Source: Doing Business database.

STARTING A BUSINESS

What are the changes over time?

While the most recent *Doing Business* data reflect how easy (or difficult) it is to start a business in West Bank and Gaza today, data over time show which aspects of

the process have changed—and which have not (table 2.1). That can help identify where the potential for improvement is greatest.

Table 2.1 The ease of starting a business in West Bank and Gaza over time

By *Doing Business* report year

Indicator	DB2004	DB2005	DB2006	DB2007	DB2008	DB2009	DB2010	DB2011	DB2012
Rank	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	173	177
Procedures (number)	12	12	12	12	12	11	11	11	11
Time (days)	106	106	93	93	92	49	49	49	49
Cost (% of income per capita)	94.3	81.7	82.7	108.7	96.6	69.1	55.0	93.7	96.0
Paid-in Min. Capital (% of income per capita)	63.6	63.0	56.4	75.6	63.0	56.1	210.0	215.6	218.8

Note: n.a. = not applicable (the economy was not included in *Doing Business* for that year). DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

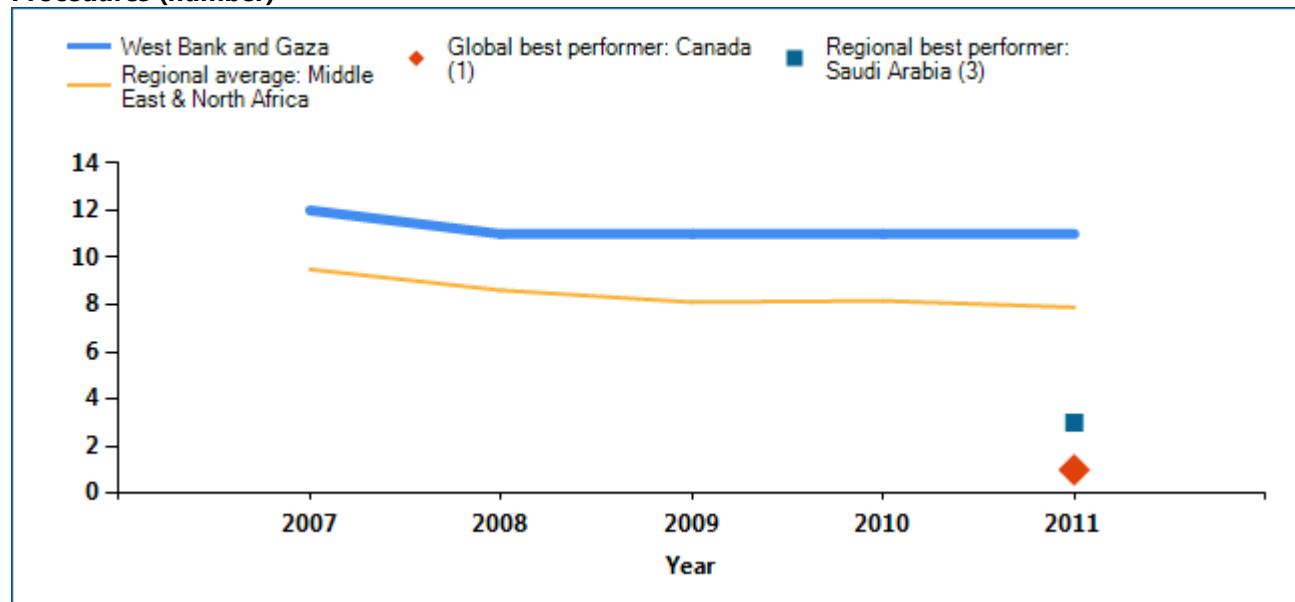
STARTING A BUSINESS

Equally helpful may be the benchmarks provided by the economies that today have the best performance regionally or globally on the procedures, time, cost or paid-in minimum capital required to start a business (figure 2.3). These economies may provide a model for

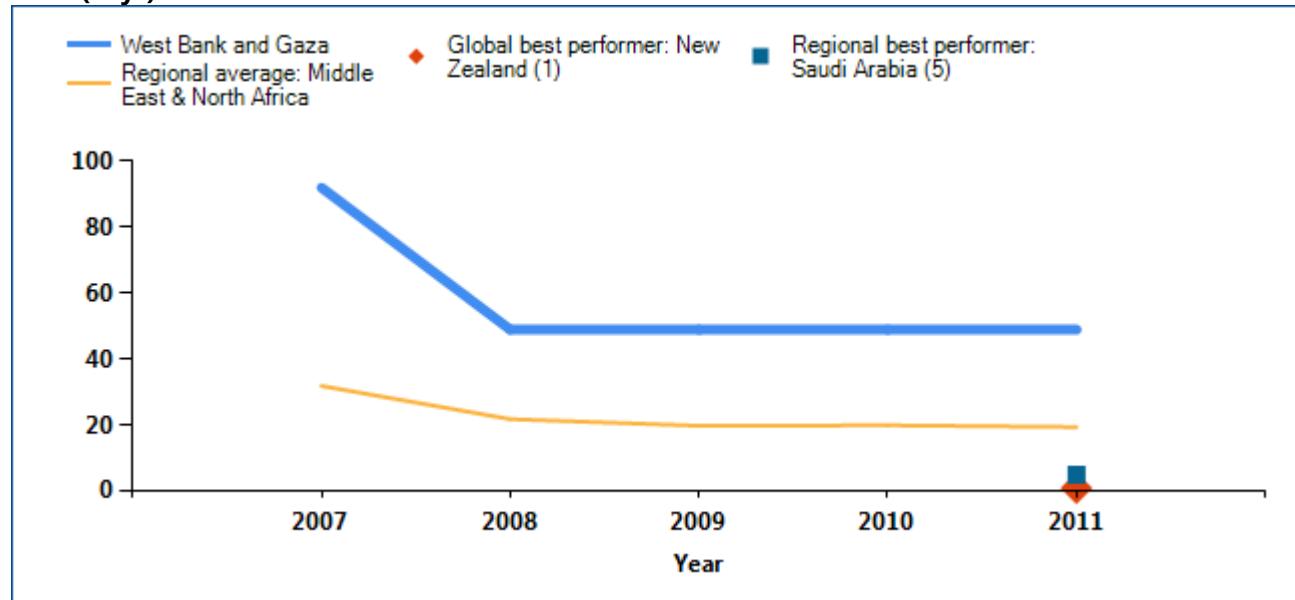
West Bank and Gaza on ways to improve the ease of starting a business. And changes in regional averages can show where West Bank and Gaza is keeping up—and where it is falling behind.

Figure 2.3 Has starting a business become easier over time?

Procedures (number)

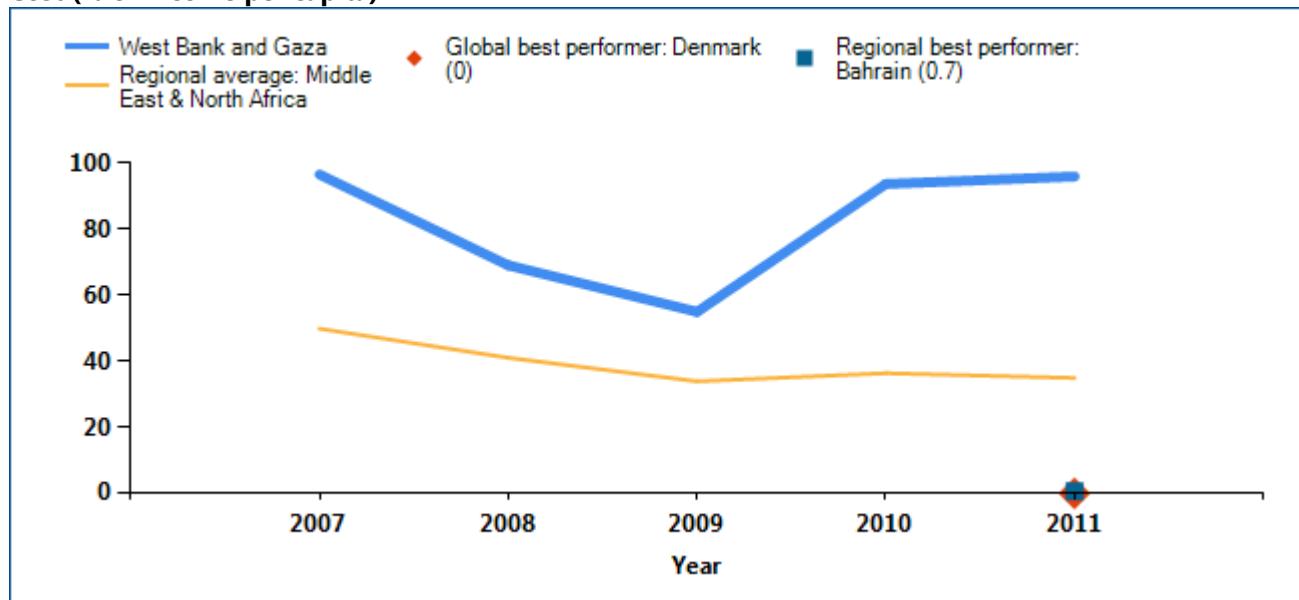


Time (days)

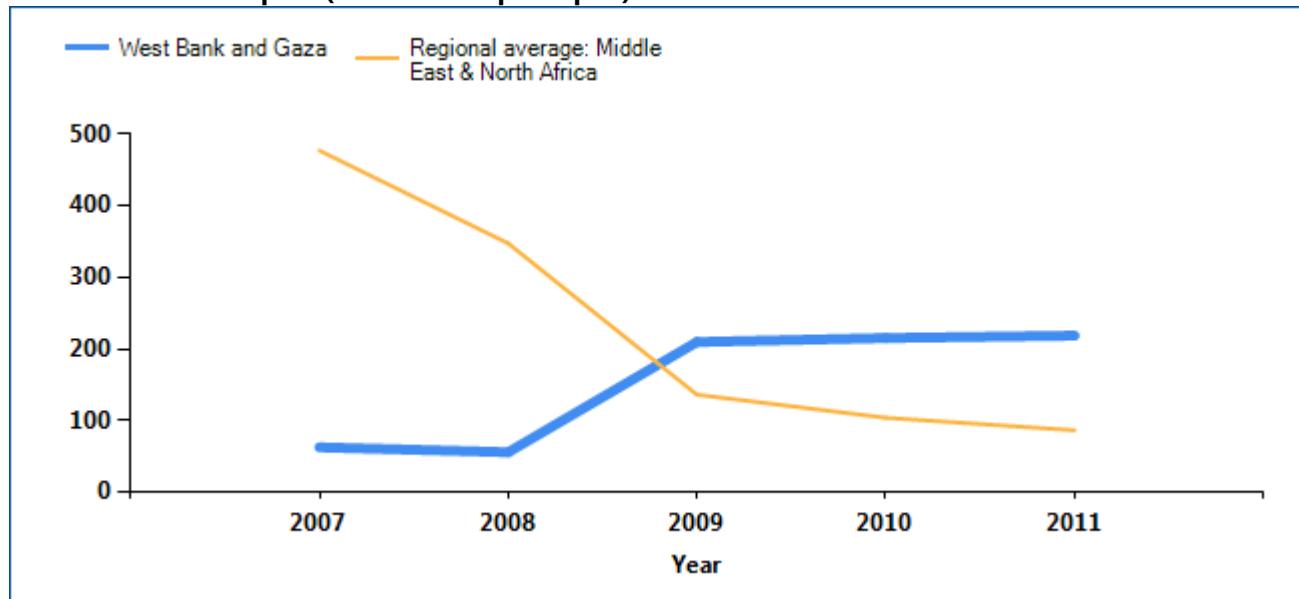


STARTING A BUSINESS

Cost (% of income per capita)



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



Note: The economy with the best performance regionally on each indicator, and the economy with the best performance globally, are included as benchmarks. In some cases 2 or more economies share the top regional or global ranking on an indicator. In the case of paid-in minimum capital, 82 economies globally and 6 economies in Middle East & North Africa have no paid-in minimum capital.

Source: Doing Business database.

STARTING A BUSINESS

Economies around the world have taken steps making it easier to start a business—streamlining procedures by setting up a one-stop shop, making procedures simpler or faster by introducing technology and reducing or eliminating minimum capital requirements. Many have undertaken business registration reforms in stages—and they often are part of a larger regulatory reform program. Among the benefits have been

greater firm satisfaction and savings and more registered businesses, financial resources and job opportunities.

What business registration reforms has *Doing Business* recorded in West Bank and Gaza (table 2.2)?

Table 2.2 How has West Bank and Gaza made starting a business easier—or not?
By *Doing Business* report year

DB Year	Reform
DB2012	No reform.
DB2011	West Bank and Gaza made starting a business more difficult by increasing the lawyers' fees that must be paid for incorporation.
DB2010	Starting a business became more costly because of an increase in the minimum capital requirement.
DB2009	The information management system at the commercial registry became fully operational, cutting the time to start a business.

Note: For information on reforms in earlier years (back to DB2005), see the *Doing Business* reports for these years, available at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

STARTING A BUSINESS

What are the details?

Underlying the indicators shown in this chapter for West Bank and Gaza is a set of specific procedures—the bureaucratic and legal steps that an entrepreneur must complete to incorporate and register a new firm. These are identified by *Doing Business* through collaboration with relevant local professionals and the study of laws, regulations and publicly available information on business entry in that economy. Following is a detailed summary of those procedures, along with the associated time and cost. These procedures are those that apply to a company matching the standard assumptions (the “standardized company”) used by *Doing Business* in collecting the data (see the section in this chapter on what the indicators measure).

Summary of procedures for starting a business in West Bank and Gaza—and the time and cost

STANDARDIZED COMPANY

City: Ramallah

Legal Form: Private Limited Liability Company

Start-up capital: 10 times GNI per capita

Paid-in minimum capital (% of income per capita): 218.8

No.	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
1	Search for company name and reserve proposed name The name could be checked and reserved online and the Ministry sends an email with approval if the name is not already taken. The name reservation could be done in person at the registry. However payment of the name reservation fees should be paid at bank.	1 day	ILS 87
2	Local lawyer signs company documents Hiring a lawyer to draft the articles is recommended. Stamping them by the Lawyers Bar association before being filed at the companies' controller is required. The fees (at least 1000 USD) should be deposited with the Bar who in their turn will transfer 90% of the fee to the lawyer and will retain 10% for the Bar. This decision came into force as of January 2010.	1-3 days	USD 1000
3	Submit company incorporation papers & obtain temporary copy of certificate of registration from Ministry Before depositing the initial capital in the bank account, the company founder must obtain from the Ministry of National Economy a temporary registration copy designed for “bank account opening purposes only.” The company controller keeps the original and gives the company a copy to set up a bank account and to ensure that a certain amount of the capital is deposited in the bank.	2 days	no charge
4	* Deposit initial capital The founders must deposit 25% of the initial capital plus the official	1 day (simultaneous with previous)	see comments

No.	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
	bank fees (1/1,000 of stated capital). Upon payment, a receipt is obtained and supplied back to the Ministry. The Companies Registry gives the company its identification number and preliminary approval, which is required to open the bank account. The company then obtains this receipt and brings it to the Companies Registry to obtain the final approval.	procedure)	
5	<p>Register with Companies Registry</p> <p>The following documents are required to register with the Companies Registry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Articles of association. - Company bylaws. - Shareholders identification card (copies). - Verified company name. <p>Fee schedule for company registration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company name verification: ILS 87 (included in Procedure 2). - Application: ILS 285. - Signature verification: ILS 84 per signature (minimum number of required signatures is two to form a private limited company or seven to form a public limited company). Note that signing must occur before the Company Registrar - Initial deposit of 1/1,000 of the stated capital. <p>There are two separate types of fees, one that varies with the number of shareholders and another that is a percentage of the stated capital.</p>	3-4 days	see comments
6	<p>Payment of registration fee</p> <p>Registration fees must be paid at a local bank upon submission of the registration documents. The Ministry will not review the application until the fee is paid.</p>	1 day	no charge
7	<p>Register for income and VAT tax</p> <p>The tax offices are in the same building and the unique registration numbers for VAT and income tax are the same. In most cases, accountants register the company for these taxes. Registration for VAT takes a day and for income tax takes 2 days.</p>	3 days	no charge
8	<p>Register with Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Registration with the Chamber is optional, however most businesses prefer to do it to qualify for business boarders permits. The fee to register with the Chamber of Commerce depends on the company's capital and on the nature of business. for a Grade B with registered capital between USD 20,000 and USD 50,000: The membership fee is JD 100 (about \$143), Initial fee of ILS 50 (about \$15) and annual fee of USD 80.</p>	14-18 days	USD 158
9	<p>* Obtain business license from municipality</p> <p>The time and cost for obtaining a business license varies from sector to sector. However for general trading the time is about 3 weeks and the</p>	35 days (simultaneous with previous procedure)	ILS 120

No.	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
	fees are about ILS 20 for application and ILS 100 for the license.		
10	<p>* Obtain approval from fire department</p> <p>Providing the fire department approval is necessary to obtain the business license.</p>	1-3 days (simultaneous with previous procedure)	0.15 USD per square meter
11	<p>* Obtain and legalize special company books</p> <p>All corporate and financial records must be legalized by the company controller and auditors. Although this applies to all forms of companies, supervision is more stringent for public shareholding companies than for Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) or partnerships. In practice, this procedure is not done for LLCs.</p>	3 days (simultaneous with previous procedure)	30 USD per transaction

* Takes place simultaneously with another procedure.

Source: Doing Business database.

DEALING WITH CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

Regulation of construction is critical to protect the public. But it needs to be efficient, to avoid excessive constraints on a sector that plays an important part in every economy. Where complying with building regulations is excessively costly in time and money, many builders opt out. They may pay bribes to pass inspections or simply build illegally, leading to hazardous construction that puts public safety at risk. Where compliance is simple, straightforward and inexpensive, everyone is better off.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business records the procedures, time and cost for a business to obtain all the necessary approvals to build a simple commercial warehouse in the economy's largest business city, connect it to basic utilities and register the property so that it can be used as collateral or transferred to another entity.

The ranking on the ease of dealing with construction permits is the simple average of the percentile rankings on its component indicators: procedures, time and cost.

To make the data comparable across economies, *Doing Business* uses several assumptions about the business and the warehouse, including the utility connections.

The business:

- Is a limited liability company operating in the construction business and located in the largest business city.
- Is domestically owned and operated.
- Has 60 builders and other employees.

The warehouse:

- Is a new construction (there was no previous construction on the land).
- Has complete architectural and technical plans prepared by a licensed architect.

WHAT THE DEALING WITH CONSTRUCTION PERMITS INDICATORS 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 water, sewerage and a fixed telephone line

Registering the warehouse after its completion (if required for use as collateral or for transfer of the 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

- Will be connected to water, sewerage (sewage system, septic tank or their equivalent) and a fixed telephone line. The connection to each utility network will be 10 meters (32 feet, 10 inches) long.
- Will be used for general storage, such as of books or stationery (not for goods requiring special conditions).
- Will take 30 weeks to construct (excluding all delays due to administrative and regulatory requirements).

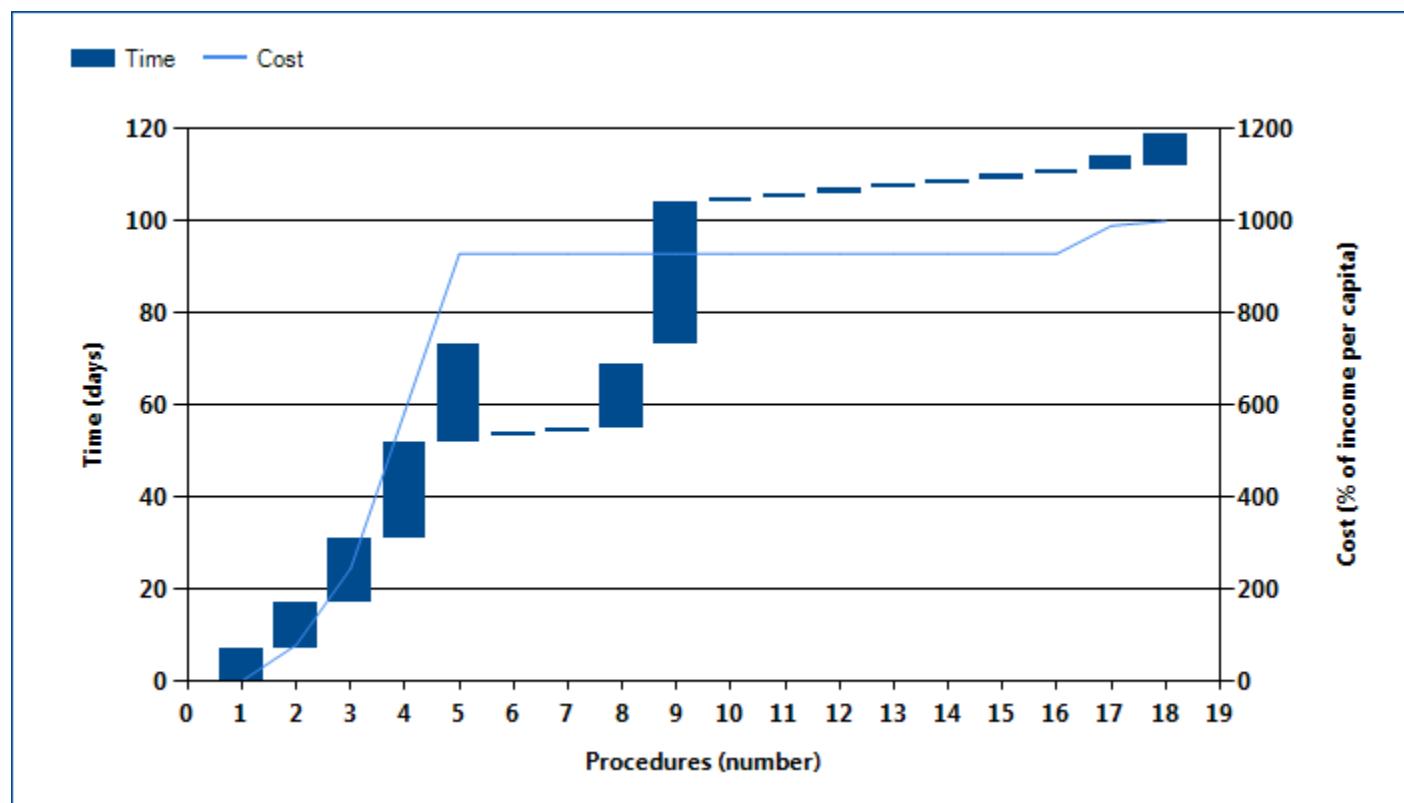
DEALING WITH CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

Where does the economy stand today?

What does it take to comply with the formalities to build a warehouse in West Bank and Gaza? According to data collected by *Doing Business*, dealing with

construction permits there requires 18 procedures, takes 119 days and costs 1000.5% of income per capita (figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1 What it takes to comply with formalities to build a warehouse in West Bank and Gaza



Note: For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary at the end of this chapter.

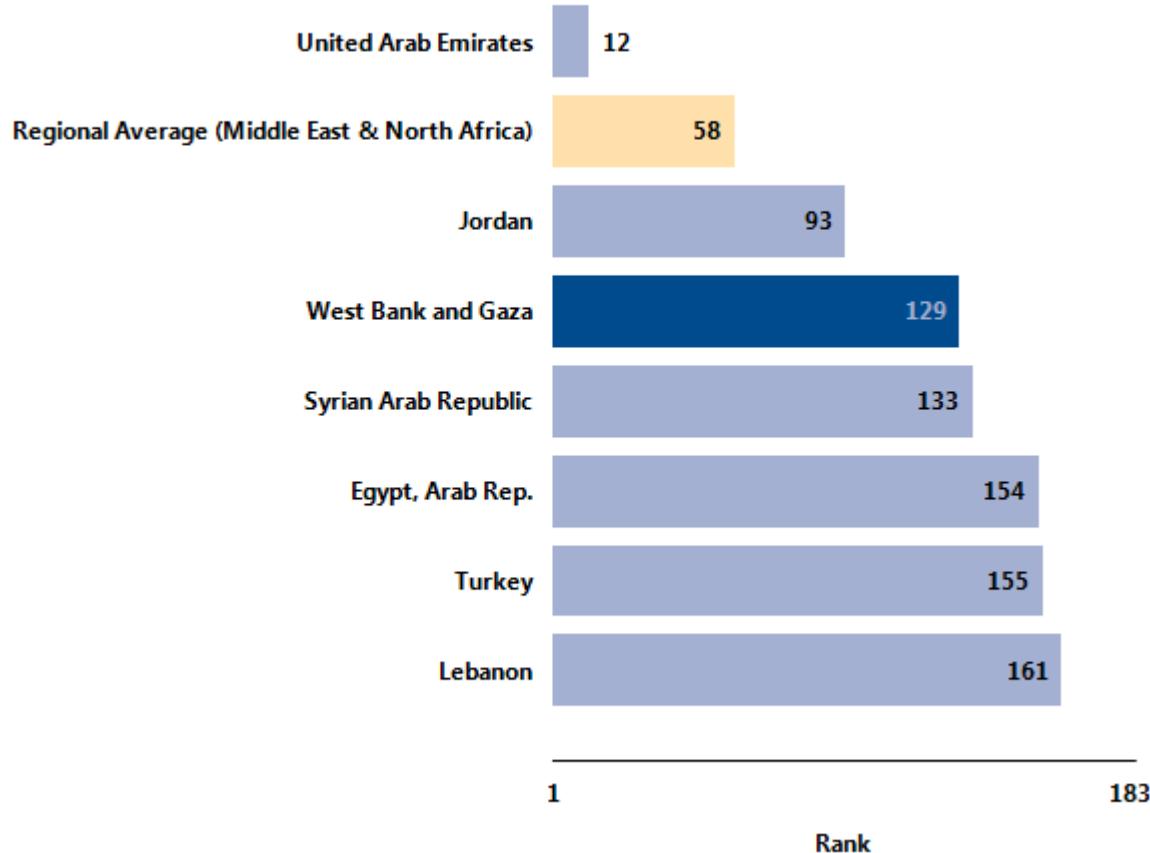
Source: *Doing Business* database.

DEALING WITH CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

Globally, West Bank and Gaza stands at 129 in the ranking of 183 economies on the ease of dealing with construction permits (figure 3.2). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average

ranking provide other useful information for assessing how easy it is for an entrepreneur in West Bank and Gaza to legally build a warehouse.

Figure 3.2 How West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies rank on the ease of dealing with construction permits



Source: Doing Business database.

DEALING WITH CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

What are the changes over time?

While the most recent *Doing Business* data reflect how easy (or difficult) it is to deal with construction permits in West Bank and Gaza today, data over time show

which aspects of the process have changed—and which have not (table 3.1). That can help identify where the potential for improvement is greatest.

**Table 3.1 The ease of dealing with construction permits in West Bank and Gaza over time
By *Doing Business* report year**

Indicator	DB2006	DB2007	DB2008	DB2009	DB2010	DB2011	DB2012
Rank	..	..	..	..	..	123	129
Procedures (number)	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Time (days)	112	112	119	119	119	119	119
Cost (% of income per capita)	900.8	1,191.8	1,013.8	1,227.2	971.1	974.4	1,000.5

Note: n.a. = not applicable (the economy was not included in *Doing Business* for that year). DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology. For more information on “no practice” marks, see the data notes for details.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

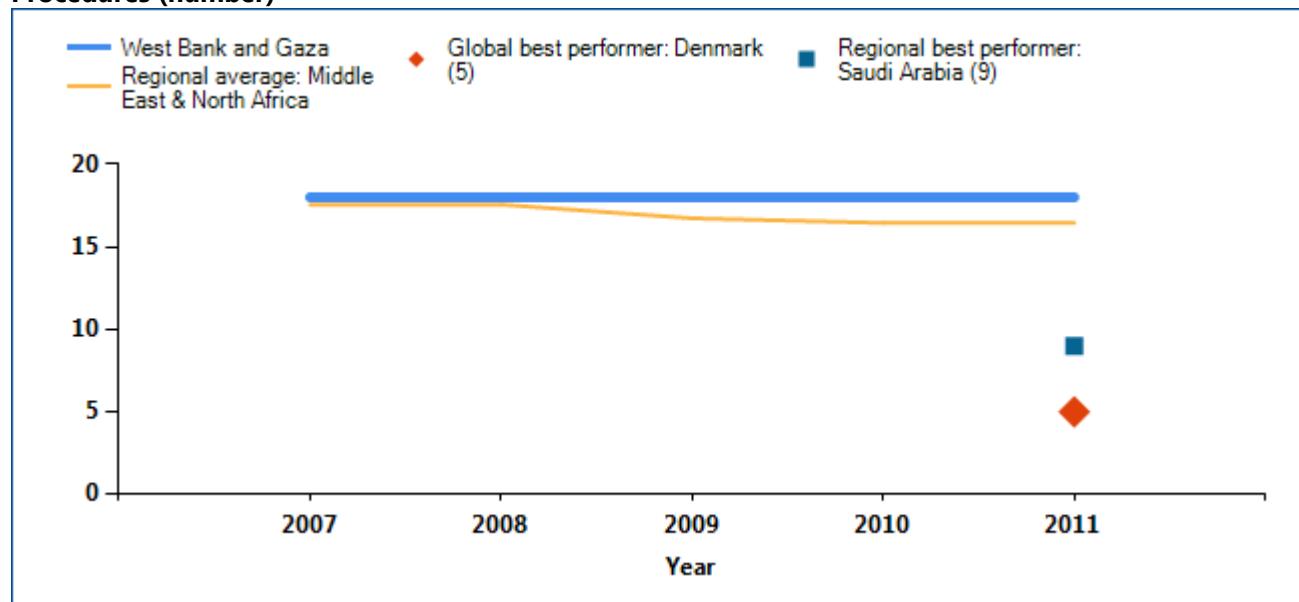
DEALING WITH CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

Equally helpful may be the benchmarks provided by the economies that today have the best performance regionally or globally on the procedures, time or cost required to deal with construction permits (figure 3.3). These economies may provide a model for West Bank

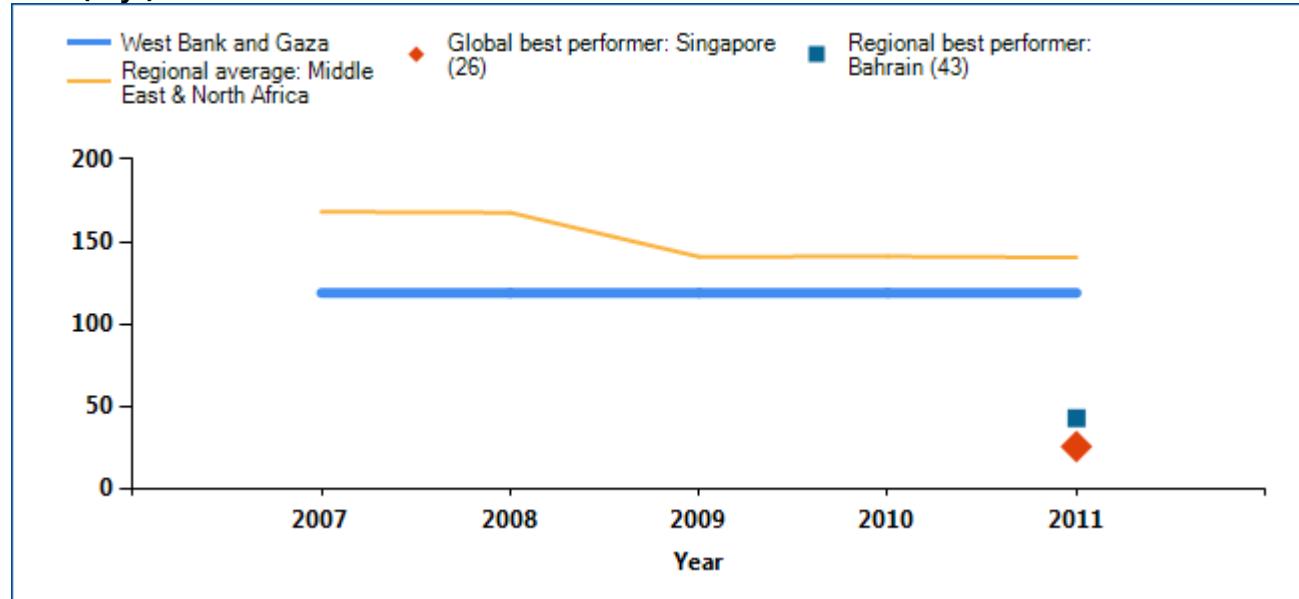
and Gaza on ways to improve the ease of dealing with construction permits. And changes in regional averages can show where West Bank and Gaza is keeping up—and where it is falling behind.

Figure 3.3 Has dealing with construction permits become easier over time?

Procedures (number)

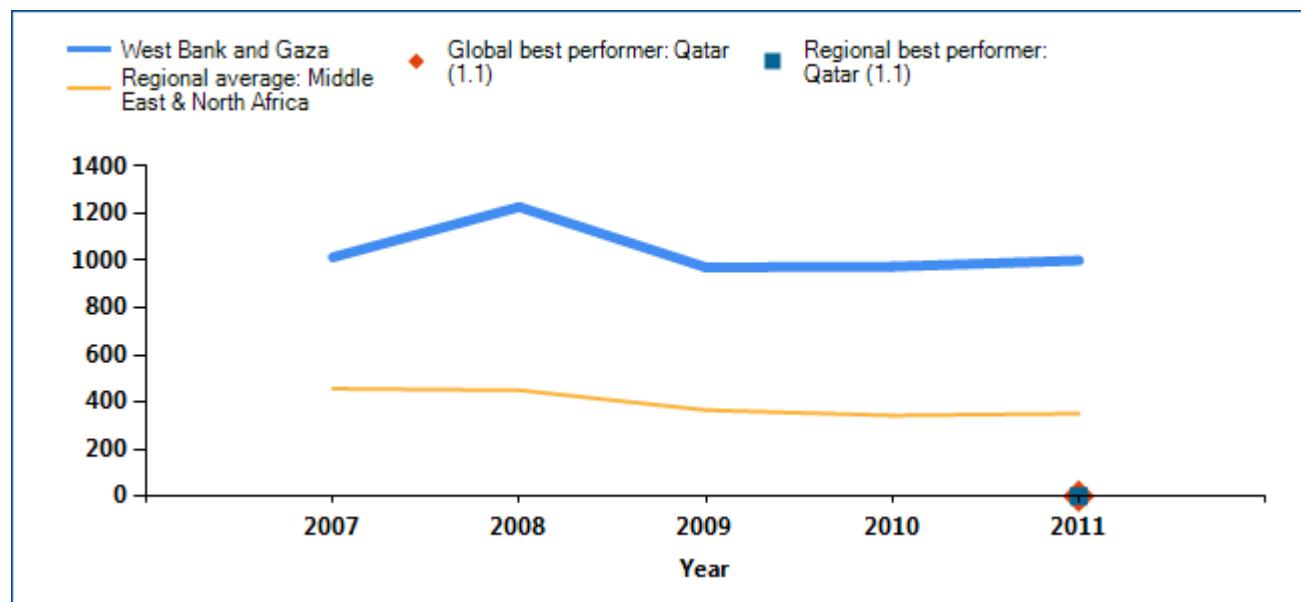


Time (days)



DEALING WITH CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

Cost (% of income per capita)



Note: The economy with the best performance regionally on each indicator, and the economy with the best performance globally, are included as benchmarks. In some cases 2 or more economies share the top regional or global ranking on an indicator. In cases where no data are displayed above for the economy, this indicates that the economy has received a “no practice” mark; see the data notes for details.

Source: Doing Business database.

DEALING WITH CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

Smart regulation ensures that standards are met while making compliance easy and accessible to all. Coherent and transparent rules, efficient processes and adequate allocation of resources are especially important in sectors where safety is at stake. Construction is one of them. In an effort to ensure

building safety while keeping compliance costs reasonable, governments around the world have worked on consolidating permitting requirements. What construction permitting reforms has *Doing Business* recorded in West Bank and Gaza (table 3.2)?

Table 3.2 How has West Bank and Gaza made dealing with construction permits easier—or not?

By *Doing Business* report year

DB Year	Reform
DB2012	No reform.
DB2011	No reform.
DB2010	No reform.
DB2009	Fees related to construction permitting increased total cost by almost 20%.

Note: For information on reforms in earlier years (back to DB2006), see the *Doing Business* reports for these years, available at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

DEALING WITH CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

What are the details?

The indicators reported here for West Bank and Gaza are based on a set of specific procedures—the steps that a company must complete to legally build a warehouse—identified by *Doing Business* through information collected from experts in construction licensing, including architects, construction lawyers, construction firms, utility service providers and public officials who deal with building regulations. These procedures are those that apply to a company and structure matching the standard assumptions used by *Doing Business* in collecting the data (see the section in this chapter on what the indicators cover).

Summary of procedures for dealing with construction permits in West Bank and Gaza—and the time and cost

BUILDING A WAREHOUSE	
City :	Ramallah
Estimated Warehouse Value :	ILS 1,648,511

The procedures, along with the associated time and cost, are summarized below.

No.	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
1	Obtain location map from municipality BuildCo must obtain a location map from the municipality to check that the proposed construction project is allowed on this land.	7 days	ILS 72
2	Obtain survey map from a licensed surveyor The survey map is usually at a scale of 1:500 or 1:250 and shows, in addition to the boundaries, the levels and/or contour lines, the site, and the surroundings, including sewerage, electricity, telephone, and water connections.	10 days	USD 1,200
3	Make soil test A law requiring a soil exam went into effect in 2001, but because of the economic situation, some companies do not comply with it. However, since January 2005, the Engineers Syndicate stopped approving any plan without the soil test for projects exceeding 200 sq. m. A minimum of 3 boreholes must be made on the proposed site. If the building is an extension above an existing building, a report about the state of the existing building must be submitted.	14 days	ILS 9,592
4	Hire independent syndicate engineer to review building plans and approve them for submission As required by the Engineers' Syndicate, BuildCo must hire an outside engineer to submit the plans. Each project has to be licensed by a locally registered and licensed engineering/architecture office even if the project has in-house engineers and architects. Drawings are checked in Ramallah, but a jury from outside the city will check the plans. The cost includes the Engineers Syndicate fees.	21 days	USD 5,202
5	Obtain building permit from the municipality	21 days	USD 5,202

No.	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
	To obtain a building permit from the municipality, BuildCo must submit the following documents in five copies, one copy each for the consulting office, the municipality, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and the engineer, as well as one copy that will be returned to BuildCo: - Land property title, including, site map, location map, city-land parcel number, and area regulations signed by a surveyor. - Documents about dimensions. - Project drawings: the proposed site plan and architectural plans, including dimensions, furniture, and reflected ceiling; and elevation, sections, and area diagrams with door and window schedules. - Structural drawings, including foundation plans, slabs, and details. - Plans for utilities, lighting, and earthling diagrams. - Mechanical plans for hot and cold water supplies, heating/cooling, ventilation, and sewerage. - Soil test. - Application form. The municipality must approve all copies mentioned above. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities must also approve BuildCo's set of copies, as do the utility companies.		
6	* Obtain no objection letter from the Electricity Company regarding the connection to utilities	1 day	no charge
7	* Obtain no objection letter from the Water Company regarding the connection to utilities	1 day	no charge
8	* Obtain civil defense permit To obtain a civil defense permit, BuildCo must submit the following documents: - Land property title. - Documents about dimensions. - Project drawings. - Certificate of professional engineer - Project acceptance from the Engineers Syndicate. - Application form.	14 days	no charge
9	Obtain excavation permit	31 days	no charge
10	Receive foundation inspection During construction the municipality randomly inspects the excavation work.	1 day	no charge
11	Submit concrete casting permit to Engineers syndicate for stamping	1 day	no charge
12	Submit stamped concrete casting permit to the Municipality	1 day	no charge
13	Request and receive final inspection	1 day	USD 8
14	Bring municipal letters of approval to water and sewage company (GEKA) and make appointment for inspection	1 day	no charge

No.	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
15	Bring municipal letters of approval to the phone company to obtain fixed telephone line	1 day	no charge
16	Receive water and sewage inspection The time from scheduling an appointment to when the inspector installs the meter is a week.	1 day	no charge
17	* Obtain water and sewage connection The time and cost of obtaining an electricity connection depend on how much power is needed. In this case, only a 100-ampere connection is needed. If more than 1,000 amperes are needed, a transformer is necessary, which costs a few thousand U.S. dollars and takes a month.	3 days	ILS 3,500
18	* Receive inspection and obtain phone connection	7 days	ILS 600

* Takes place simultaneously with another procedure.

Source: Doing Business database.

GETTING ELECTRICITY

Access to reliable and affordable electricity is vital for businesses. To counter weak electricity supply, many firms in developing economies have to rely on self-supply, often at a prohibitively high cost. Whether electricity is reliably available or not, the first step for a customer is always to gain access by obtaining a connection.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business records all procedures required for a local business to obtain a permanent electricity connection and supply for a standardized warehouse, as well as the time and cost to complete them. These procedures include applications and contracts with electricity utilities, clearances from other agencies and the external and final connection works. The ranking on the ease of getting electricity is the simple average of the percentile rankings on its component indicators: procedures, time and cost. To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions are used.

The warehouse:

- Is located in the economy's largest business city, in an area where other warehouses are located.
- Is not in a special economic zone where the connection would be eligible for subsidization or faster service.
- Has road access. The connection works involve the crossing of a road or roads but are carried out on public land.
- Is a new construction being connected to electricity for the first time.
- Has 2 stories, both above ground, with a total surface of about 1,300.6 square meters (14,000 square feet), and is built on a plot of 929 square meters (10,000 square feet).

The electricity connection:

- Is a 3-phase, 4-wire Y, 140-kilovolt-ampere (kVA) (subscribed capacity) connection.

WHAT THE GETTING ELECTRICITY INDICATORS MEASURE

Procedures to obtain an electricity connection (number)

- Submitting all relevant documents and obtaining all necessary clearances and permits
- Completing all required notifications and receiving all necessary inspections
- Obtaining external installation works and possibly purchasing material for these works
- Concluding any necessary supply contract and obtaining final supply

Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)

- Is at least 1 calendar day
- Each procedure starts on a separate day
- Does not include time spent gathering information
- Reflects the time spent in practice, with little follow-up and no prior contact with officials

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

- Official costs only, no bribes
- Excludes value added tax
- Is 150 meters long.
- Is to either the low-voltage or the medium-voltage distribution network and either overhead or underground, whichever is more common in the economy and in the area where the warehouse is located. The length of any connection in the customer's private domain is negligible.
- Involves installing one electricity meter. The monthly electricity consumption will be 0.07 gigawatt-hour (GWh). The internal electrical wiring has been completed.

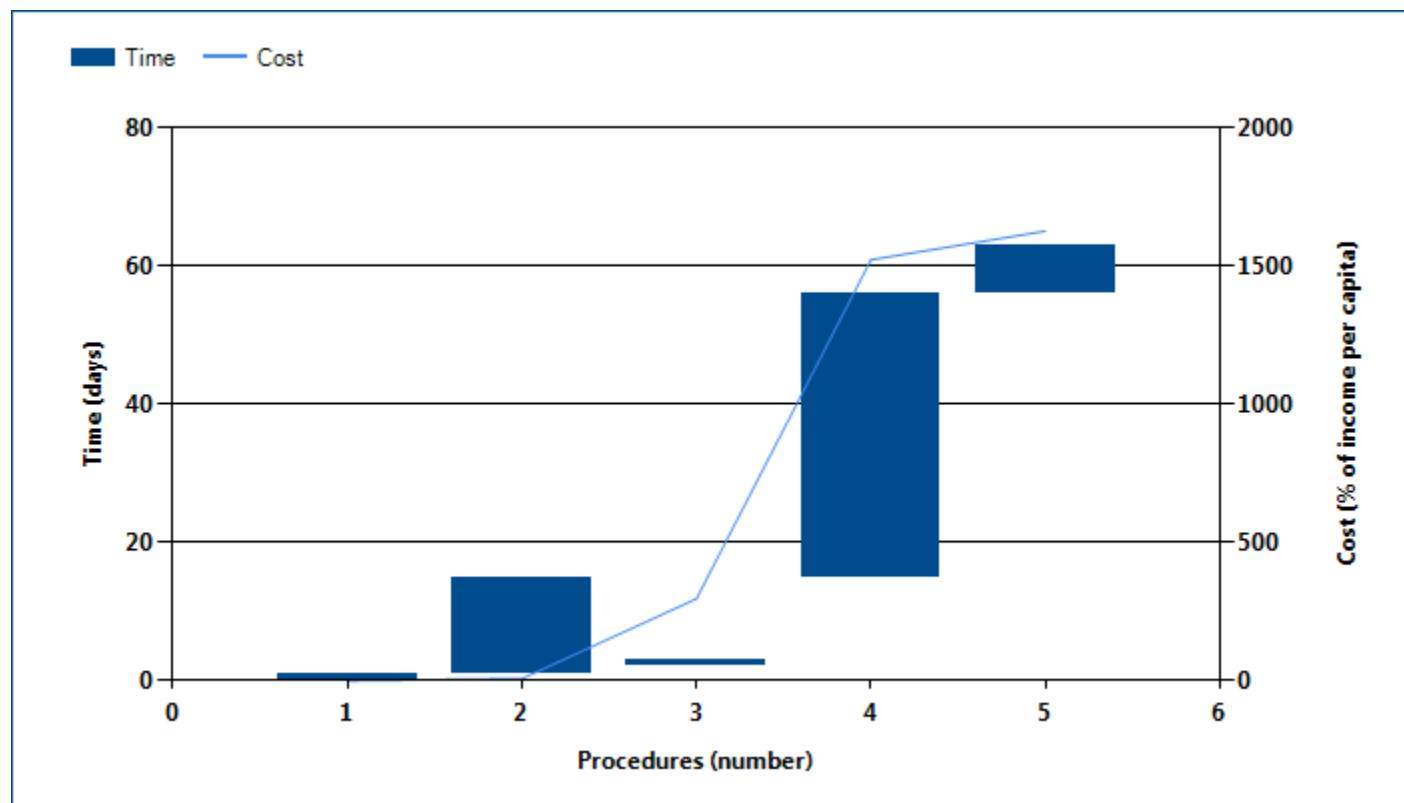
GETTING ELECTRICITY

Where does the economy stand today?

What does it take to obtain a new electricity connection in West Bank and Gaza? According to data collected by *Doing Business*, getting electricity there

requires 5 procedures, takes 63 days and costs 1627.8% of income per capita (figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1 What it takes to obtain an electricity connection in West Bank and Gaza



Note: For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary at the end of this chapter.

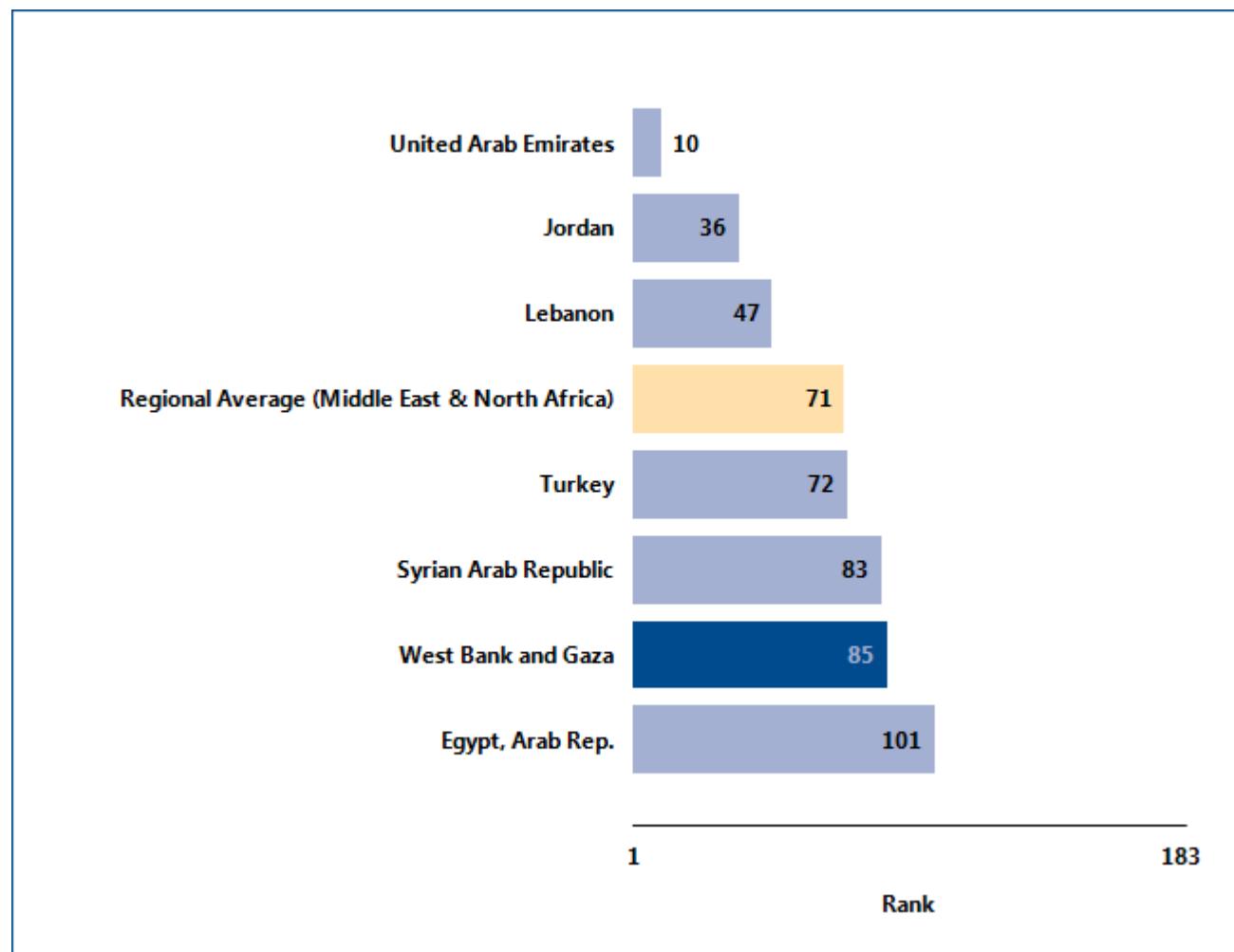
Source: *Doing Business* database.

GETTING ELECTRICITY

Globally, West Bank and Gaza stands at 85 in the ranking of 183 economies on the ease of getting electricity (figure 4.2). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide

another perspective in assessing how easy it is for an entrepreneur in West Bank and Gaza to connect a warehouse to electricity.

Figure 4.2 How West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies rank on the ease of getting electricity



Source: Doing Business database.

GETTING ELECTRICITY

Even more helpful than rankings for other economies may be the indicators underlying those rankings (table 4.1). If obtaining a new electricity connection requires fewer procedures, less time or less cost in other

economies, the practices of their utilities may provide a model for West Bank and Gaza on ways to improve the ease of getting electricity. Regional and global averages on these indicators may provide useful benchmarks.

Table 4.1 The ease of getting electricity in West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies

Indicator	West Bank and Gaza	Egypt, Arab Rep.	Jordan	Lebanon	Syrian Arab Republic	Turkey	United Arab Emirates	Middle East & North Africa average	Global average
Rank	85	101	36	47	83	72	10	71	..
Procedures (number)	5	7	5	5	5	5	4	5	5
Time (days)	63	54	43	75	71	70	55	79	111
Cost (% of income per capita)	1627.8	455.5	274.2	99.9	940.4	624.4	14.6	1,317.1	1,942.3

Source: Doing Business database.

GETTING ELECTRICITY

What are the details?

The indicators reported here for West Bank and Gaza are based on a set of specific procedures—the steps that an entrepreneur must complete to get a warehouse connected to electricity by the local distribution utility—identified by *Doing Business*. Data are collected from the distribution utility, then completed and verified by electricity regulatory agencies and independent professionals such as electrical engineers, electrical contractors and construction companies. The electricity distribution utility surveyed is the one serving the area (or areas) in which warehouses are located. If there is a choice of distribution utilities, the one serving the largest number of customers is selected.

OBTAINING AN ELECTRICITY CONNECTION

City:	Ramallah
Name of Utility:	Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDECo)

The procedures are those that apply to a warehouse and electricity connection matching the standard assumptions used by *Doing Business* in collecting the data (see the section in this chapter on what the indicators cover). The procedures, along with the associated time and cost, are summarized below.

Summary of procedures for getting electricity in West Bank and Gaza—and the time and cost

No.	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
1	The client obtains a clearance from Jerusalem municipality to apply for electricity This clearance is needed to apply for electricity. It can be obtained the same day, and is used to show that the customer has paid all financial/tax dues and that the building was constructed according to the rules set in the construction permit.	1 calendar day	no charge
2	The client applies for electricity connection and awaits estimate for connection fees from the Jerusalem Electricity Distribution Company (JDECO) The following documents are needed along with the application (that can be submitted in person only): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building permit and excavation permit; • Copy of ID card; • Copy of sell-purchase agreement; • Number of client's closest service or of their old service; • Site plan for the land; • Requested capacity in kVA; • Business license of the company; • Expected loads in the first phase and future developments; and • Nature and type of the building and construction stages After the application has been submitted, a number is given so clients can follow up on the status of their application online. A site inspection is necessary to prepare an estimate for the connection fees.	14 calendar days	ILS 420.0

No.	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
	<p>Once the estimate the client has paid the fees, a contract is signed between the two parties.</p> <p>The contractor usually hires an electrician registered with Jerusalem Electricity Distribution Company (JDECO) to prepare an electrical scheme for and complete the internal wiring of the warehouse.</p>		
3	<p>* The client obtains external inspection from the Jerusalem Electricity Distribution Company (JDECO)</p>	1 calendar day	USD 4,400.0
4	<p>The client obtains external connection works and meter installation from the Jerusalem Electricity Distribution Company (JDECO)</p> <p>After the customer has paid the connection fees, the utility applies for an excavation permit at the municipality. The electricity company also needs to obtain clearances from other utilities and agencies such as water, drainage, telephone, and roads departments.</p> <p>In this case, a substation is most likely needed. The utility might need to wait some time to obtain the clearances and acquire any material it might not have in stock for an expansion of the network (such as switchgears).</p> <p>The client is responsible for the internal wiring including circuits and panel board and the company is responsible for the external wiring (including excavation works and layout of cables from the substation to the medium voltage network).</p>	38 calendar days	ILS 71,000.0
5	<p>The client awaits and obtains internal inspection and final connection from the Jerusalem Electricity Distribution Company (JDECO)</p> <p>When the external works have been completed, and after the electrician has finished the internal installation, the electrician (licensed by the utility) needs to submit to the electricity company their electrical plans attesting to the required specifications, and request an inspection of the wiring. In order to obtain a license from the utility the electrician needs to have earned a diploma and had a certain number of years of work experience.</p> <p>An inspection to assess the internal wiring (including checking of air levels, usage of waterproof material, etc.) is conducted right before electricity is turned on.</p> <p>Testing is conducted by a different department than the one in charge of the external works in the electrician's presence.</p> <p>The electricity is turned upon successful inspection.</p>	7 calendar days	ILS 6,000.0

* Takes place simultaneously with another procedure.

Source: Doing Business database.

REGISTERING PROPERTY

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. And where property is informal or poorly administered, it has little chance of being accepted as collateral for loans—limiting access to finance.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business records the full sequence of procedures necessary for a business to purchase property from another business and transfer the property title to the buyer's name. The transaction is considered complete when it is opposable to third parties and when the buyer can use the property, use it as collateral for a bank loan or resell it. The ranking on the ease of registering property is the simple average of the percentile rankings on its component indicators: procedures, time and cost.

To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions about the parties to the transaction, the property and the procedures are used.

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.
- 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.

WHAT THE REGISTERING PROPERTY

INDICATORS MEASURE

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

Postregistration (for example, filing title with the municipality)

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 property value)

Official costs only, no bribes

No value added or capital gains taxes included

- Has no mortgages attached and has been under the same ownership for the past 10 years.
- Consists of 557.4 square meters (6,000 square feet) of land and a 10-year-old, 2-story warehouse of 929 square meters (10,000 square feet). 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.

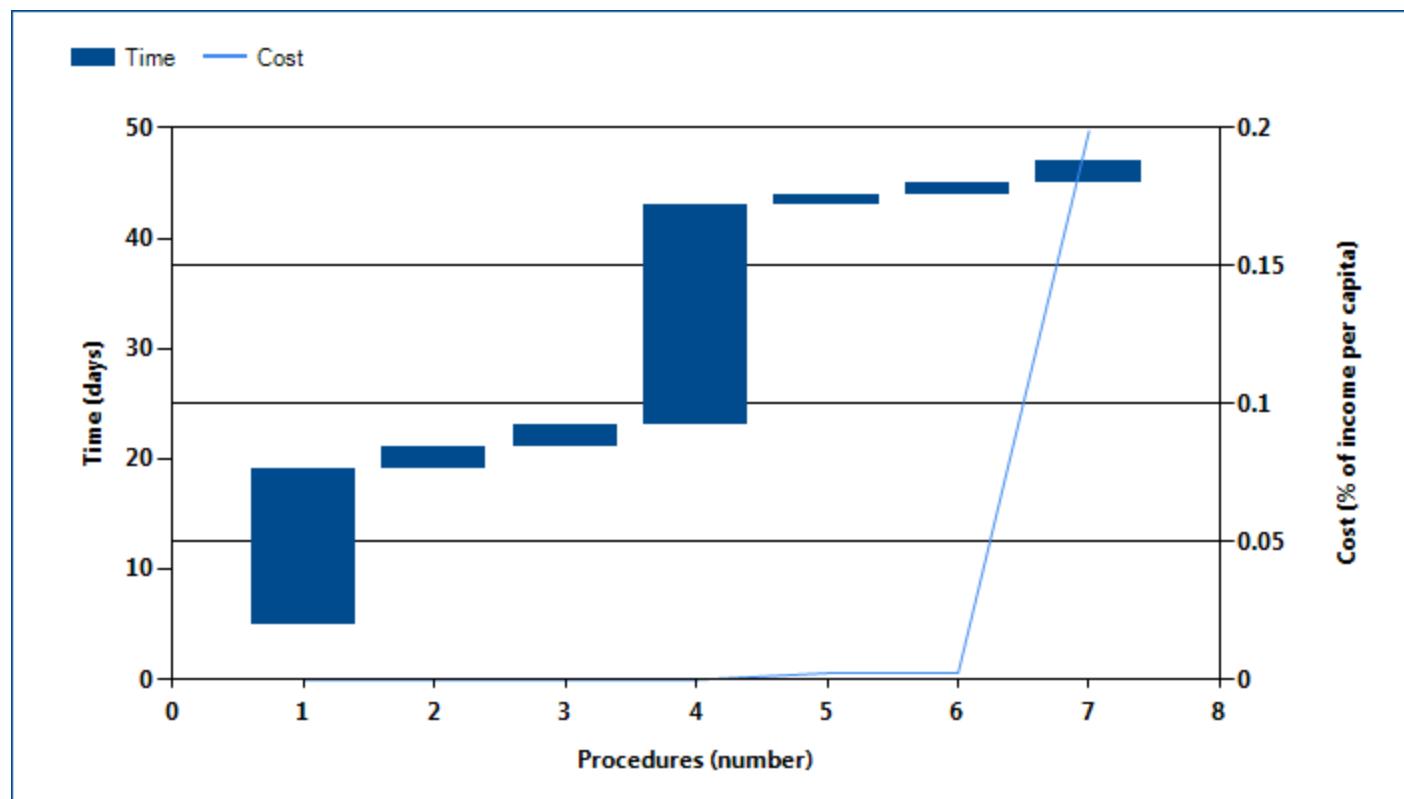
REGISTERING PROPERTY

Where does the economy stand today?

What does it take to complete a property transfer in West Bank and Gaza? According to data collected by *Doing Business*, registering property there requires 7

procedures, takes 47 days and costs 0.8% of the property value (figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1 What it takes to register property in West Bank and Gaza



Note: For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary at the end of this chapter.

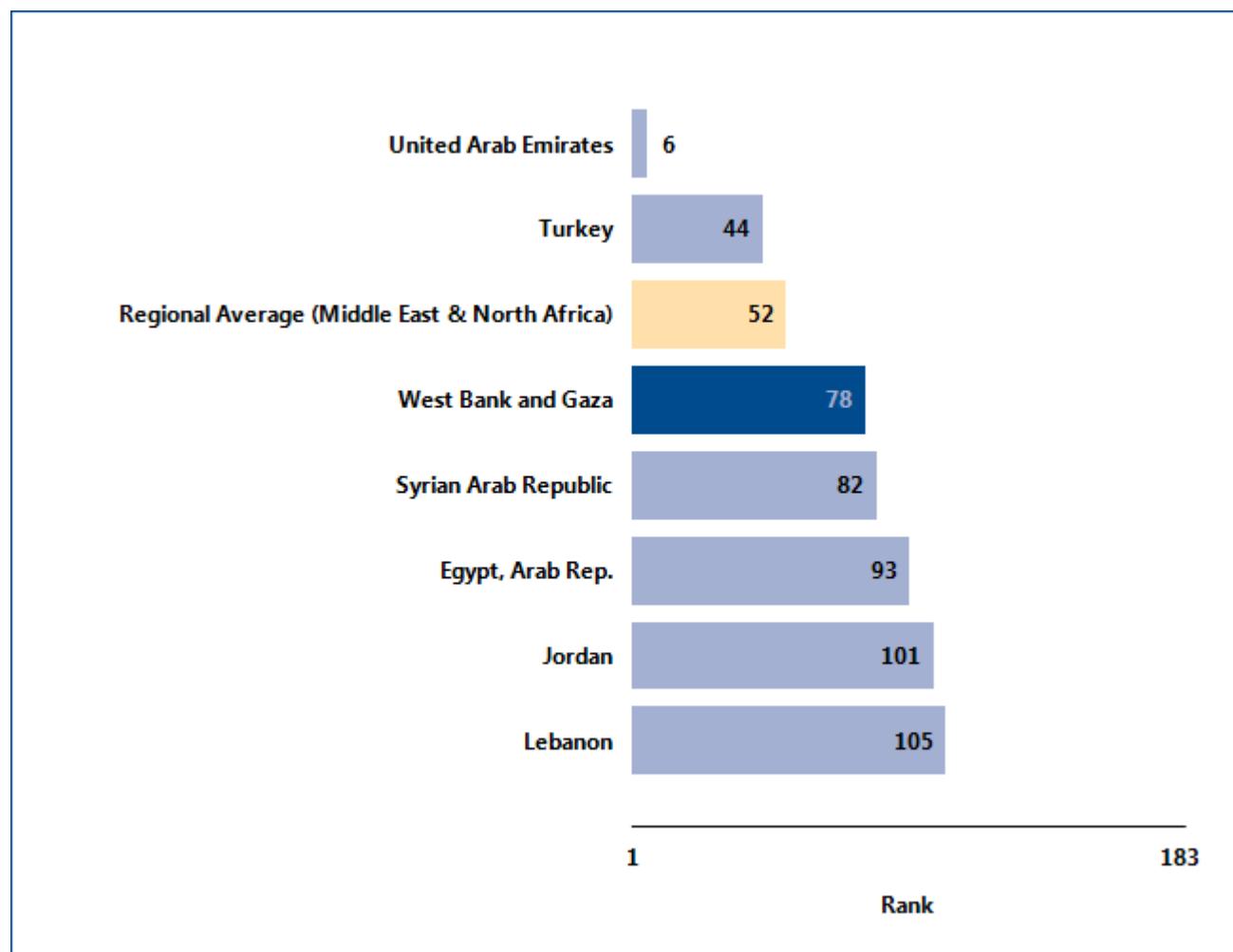
Source: *Doing Business* database.

REGISTERING PROPERTY

Globally, West Bank and Gaza stands at 78 in the ranking of 183 economies on the ease of registering property (figure 5.2). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average provide

other useful information for assessing how easy it is for an entrepreneur in West Bank and Gaza to transfer property.

Figure 5.2 How West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies rank on the ease of registering property



Source: Doing Business database.

REGISTERING PROPERTY

What are the changes over time?

While the most recent *Doing Business* data reflect how easy (or difficult) it is to register property in West Bank and Gaza today, data over time show which aspects of

the process have changed—and which have not (table 5.1). That can help identify where the potential for improvement is greatest.

**Table 5.1 The ease of registering property in West Bank and Gaza over time
By *Doing Business* report year**

Indicator	DB2005	DB2006	DB2007	DB2008	DB2009	DB2010	DB2011	DB2012
Rank	..	..	..	..	..	..	78	78
Procedures (number)	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Time (days)	68	68	68	68	63	47	47	47
Cost (% of property value)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8

Note: n.a. = not applicable (the economy was not included in *Doing Business* for that year). DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology. For more information on “no practice” marks, see the data notes for details.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

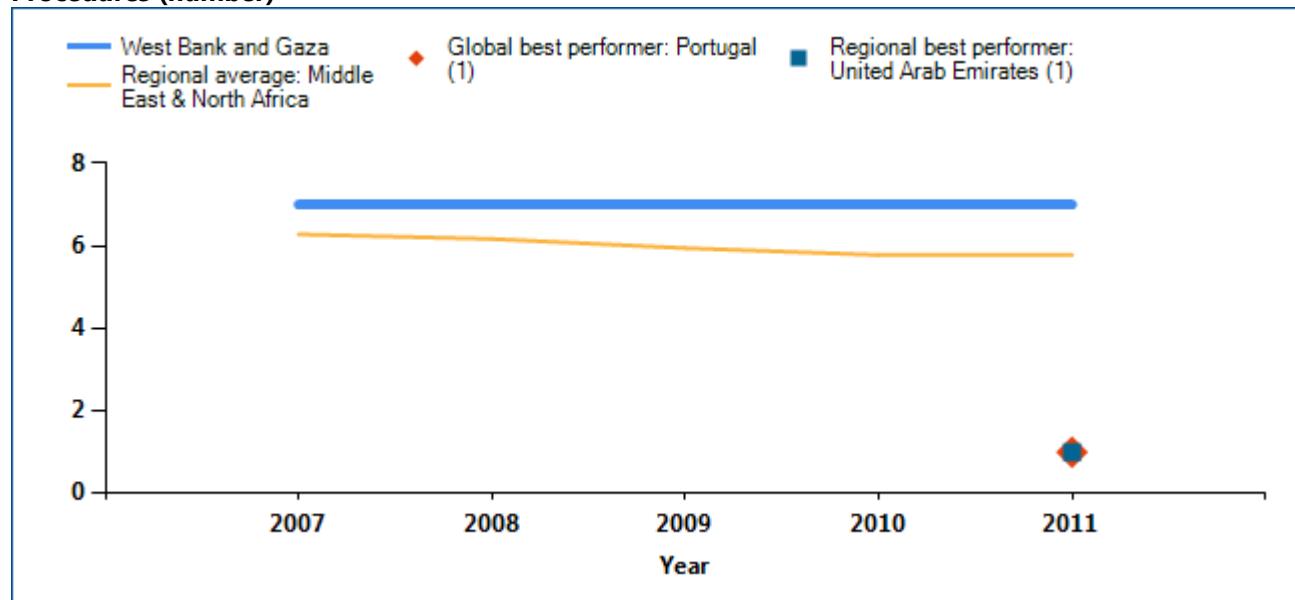
REGISTERING PROPERTY

Equally helpful may be the benchmarks provided by the economies that today have the best performance regionally or globally on the procedures, time or cost required to complete a property transfer (figure 5.3). These economies may provide a model for West Bank

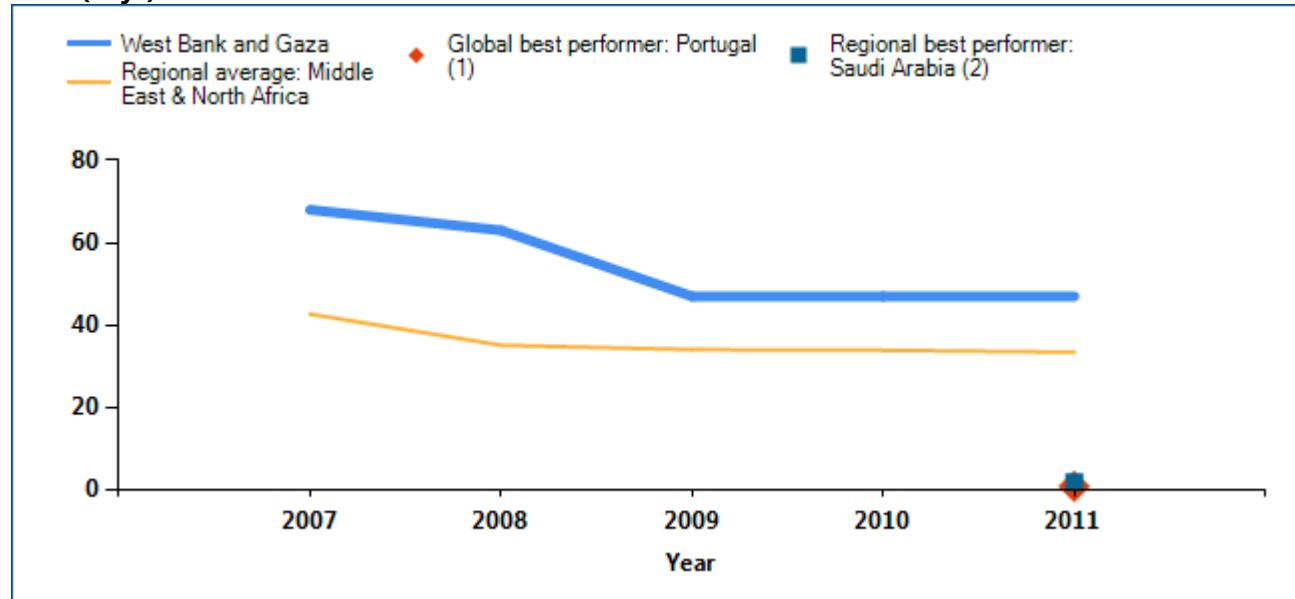
and Gaza on ways to improve the ease of registering property. And changes in regional averages can show where West Bank and Gaza is keeping up—and where it is falling behind.

Figure 5.3 Has registering property become easier over time?

Procedures (number)

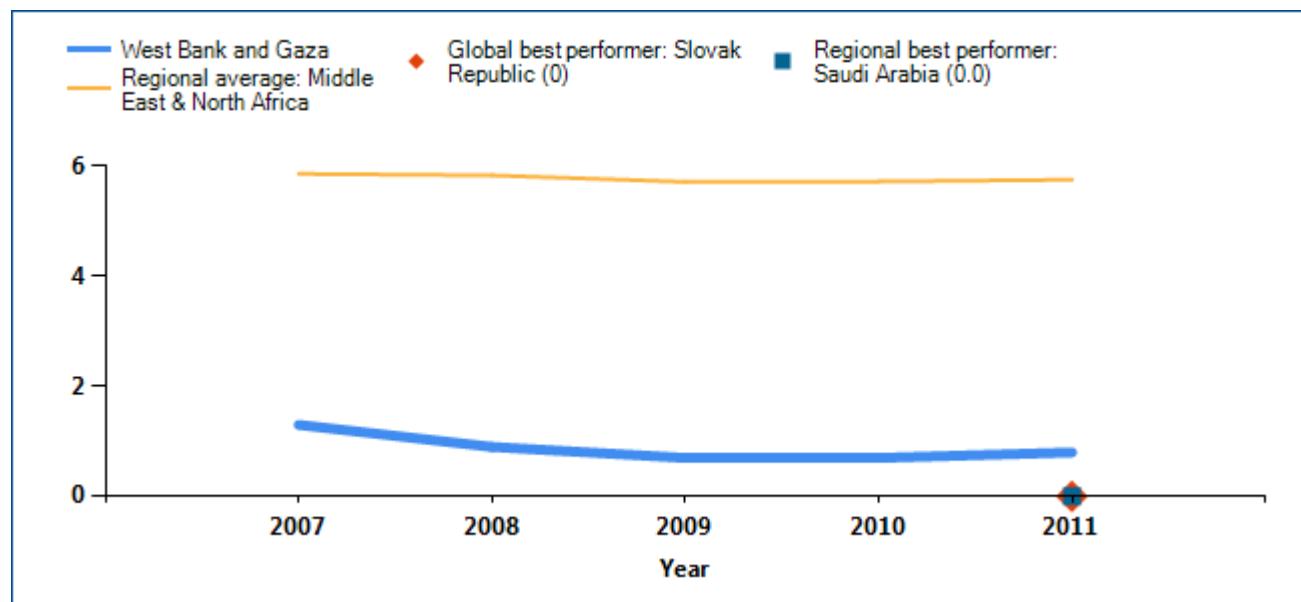


Time (days)



REGISTERING PROPERTY

Cost (% of property value)



Note: The economy with the best performance regionally on each indicator, and the economy with the best performance globally, are included as benchmarks. In some cases 2 or more economies share the top regional or global ranking on an indicator. In cases where no data are displayed above for the economy, this indicates that the economy has received a “no practice” mark; see the data notes for details.

Source: Doing Business database.

REGISTERING PROPERTY

Economies worldwide have been making it easier for entrepreneurs to register and transfer property—such as by computerizing land registries, introducing time limits for procedures and setting low fixed fees. Many

have cut the time required substantially—enabling buyers to use or mortgage their property earlier. What property registration reforms has *Doing Business* recorded in West Bank and Gaza (table 5.2)?

Table 5.2 How has West Bank and Gaza made registering property easier—or not?
By *Doing Business* report year

DB Year	Reform
DB2012	No reform.
DB2011	No reform.
DB2010	Property registration was expedited through a major project to computerize records at the land registry.
DB2009	No reform.

Note: For information on reforms in earlier years (back to DB2005), see the *Doing Business* reports for these years, available at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

REGISTERING PROPERTY

What are the details?

The indicators reported here are based on a set of specific procedures—the steps that a buyer and seller must complete to transfer the property to the buyer's name—identified by *Doing Business* through information collected from local property lawyers, notaries and property registries. These procedures are those that apply to a transaction matching the standard assumptions used by *Doing Business* in collecting the data (see the section in this chapter on what the indicators cover).

Summary of procedures for registering property in West Bank and Gaza—and the time and cost

STANDARD PROPERTY TRANSFER	
City:	Ramallah
Property Value:	289,119.4

The procedures, along with the associated time and cost, are summarized below.

No.	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
1	Valuation of property (admin) The land registry examines the documents and the property file and determines what taxes are to be paid on it. It then makes an estimate of the property value and gives the parties 2 forms—one each for the Municipality and the Ministry of Finance, to take to those offices and receive debt-free tax certificates. Documents required: - incorporation documents - board resolutions to buy/sell - identification of all parties - notarized POAs	14 days	no cost
2	Obtain tax certificate - city Parties bring the form initially obtained from the land registry in procedure 3.	2 days	no cost
3	Obtain tax certificate Parties bring the form initially obtained from the land registry in procedure 3.	2 days	no cost
4	Inspect property for valuation The valuation is only needed if the property has not been assessed in the past 5 years—which indeed applies to this case. If it has, the value should be in the title file or the parties give an estimate. If not, then an inspection/valuation is required which takes 3 days total and no cost. The registry will then take the remaining time to make its estimate of the value based on the higher of either the parties estimate or the official valuation.	20 days	\$6 - \$8

No.	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
5	Valuation of property (admin)	1 day	no cost
6	Pay registration fees	1 day	1% of property value (transfer fee) + \$ 8 (stamp duty)
7	Registration of new title	1 -2 days	no cost

* Takes place simultaneously with another procedure.

Source: Doing Business database.

GETTING CREDIT

Two types of frameworks can facilitate access to credit and improve its allocation: credit information systems and the legal rights of borrowers and lenders in collateral and bankruptcy laws. Credit information systems enable lenders to view a potential borrower's financial history (positive or negative)—valuable information to consider when assessing risk. And they permit borrowers to establish a good credit history that will allow easier access to credit. Sound collateral laws enable businesses to use their assets, especially movable property, as security to generate capital—while strong creditors' rights have been associated with higher ratios of private sector credit to GDP.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business assesses the sharing of credit information and the legal rights of borrowers and lenders with respect to secured transactions through 2 sets of indicators. The depth of credit information index measures rules and practices affecting the coverage, scope and accessibility of credit information available through a public credit registry or a private credit bureau. The strength of legal rights index measures the degree to which collateral and bankruptcy laws protect the rights of borrowers and lenders and thus facilitate lending. *Doing Business* uses case scenarios to determine the scope of the secured transactions system, involving a secured borrower and a secured lender and examining legal restrictions on the use of movable collateral. These scenarios assume that the borrower:

- Is a private, limited liability company.
- Has its headquarters and only base of operations in the largest business city.

WHAT 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 adult population
Private credit bureau coverage (% of adults)
Number of individuals and firms listed in largest private credit bureau as percentage of adult population

- Has 100 employees.
- Is 100% domestically owned, as is the lender.

The ranking on the ease of getting credit is based on the percentile rankings on its component indicators: the depth of credit information index (weighted at 37.5%) and the strength of legal rights index (weighted at 62.5%).

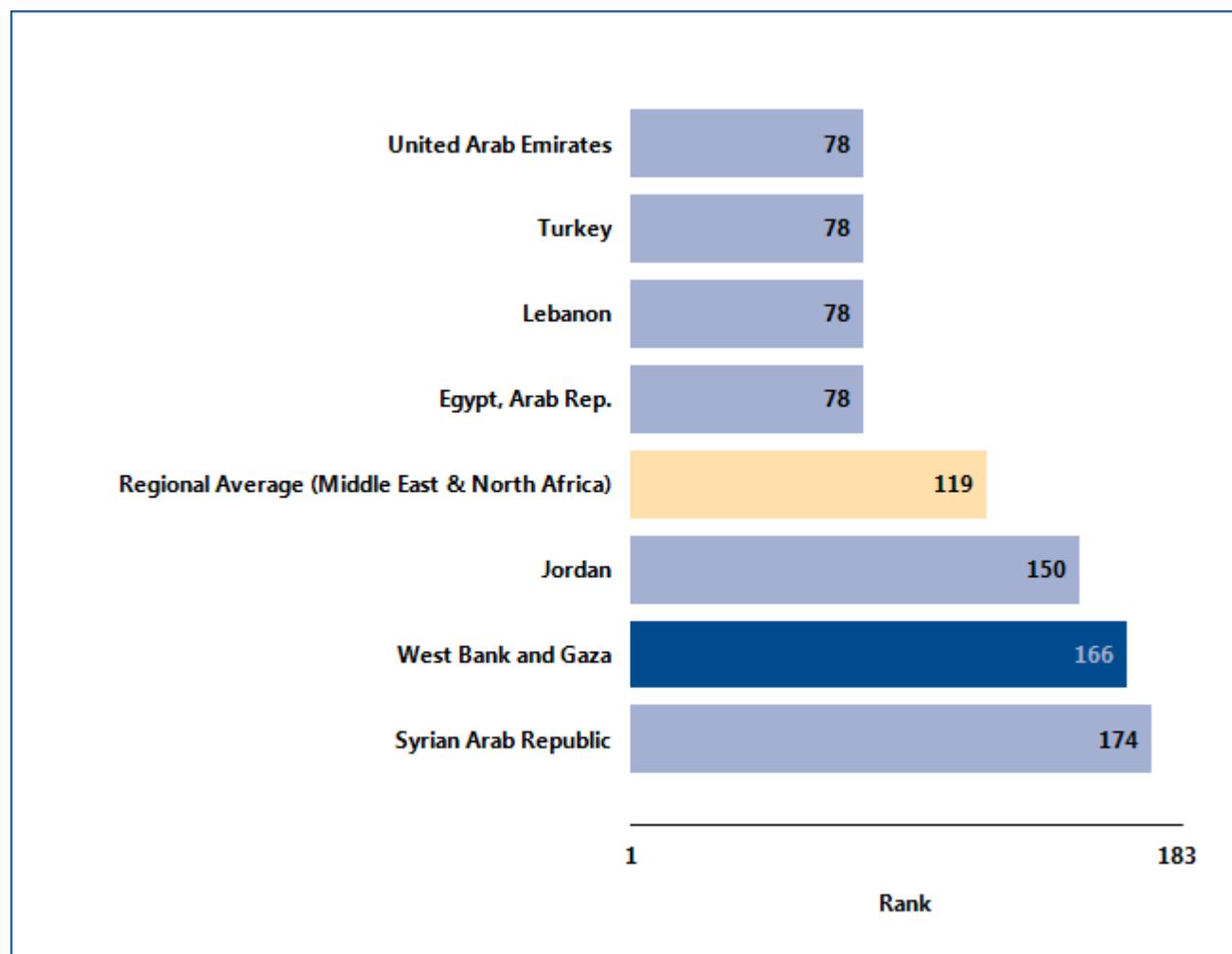
GETTING CREDIT

Where does the economy stand today?

How well do the credit information system and collateral and bankruptcy laws in West Bank and Gaza facilitate access to credit? The economy has a score of 3 on the depth of credit information index and a score of 1 on the strength of legal rights index (see the summary of scoring at the end of this chapter for details). Higher scores indicate more credit information and stronger legal rights for borrowers and lenders.

Globally, West Bank and Gaza stands at 166 in the ranking of 183 economies on the ease of getting credit (figure 6.1). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide other useful information for assessing how well regulations and institutions in West Bank and Gaza support lending and borrowing.

Figure 6.1 How West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies rank on the ease of getting credit



Source: Doing Business database.

GETTING CREDIT

What are the changes over time?

While the most recent *Doing Business* data reflect how well the credit information system and collateral and bankruptcy laws in West Bank and Gaza support lending and borrowing today, data over time can help

show where institutions and regulations have been strengthened—and where they have not (table 6.1). That can help identify where the potential for improvement is greatest.

Table 6.1 The ease of getting credit in West Bank and Gaza over time

By *Doing Business* report year

Indicator	DB2005	DB2006	DB2007	DB2008	DB2009	DB2010	DB2011	DB2012
Rank	..	..	..	..	..	..	152	166
Strength of legal rights index (0-10)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Depth of credit information index (0-6)	0	0	2	3	3	3	3	3
Public registry coverage (% of adults)	n.a.	0.0	0.7	1.8	7.8	6.5	5.6	5.5
Private bureau coverage (% of adults)	n.a.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Note: n.a. = not applicable (the economy was not included in *Doing Business* for that year). DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

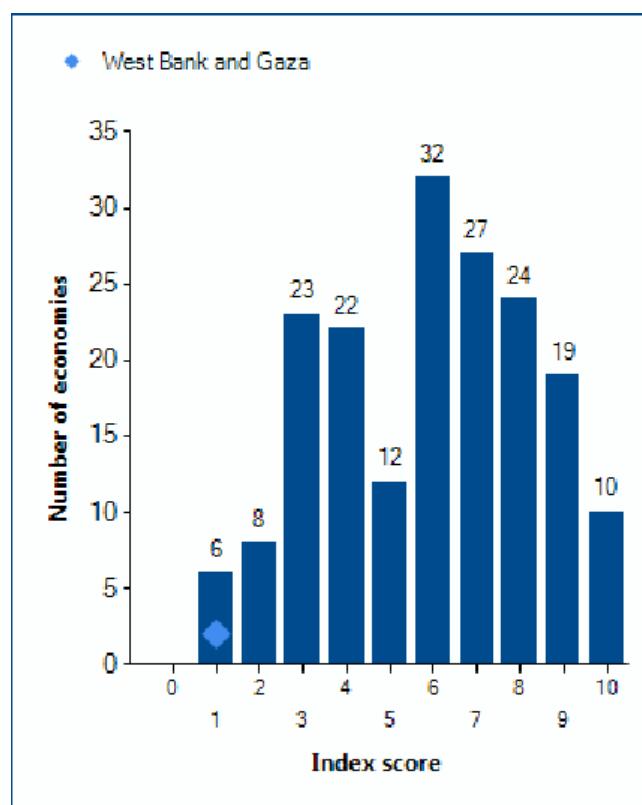
GETTING CREDIT

One way to put an economy's getting credit indicators into context is to see where the economy stands in the distribution of scores across other economies. Figure 6.2 highlights the score on the strength of legal rights

index for West Bank and Gaza in 2011 and shows the number of other economies having the same score in 2011. Figure 6.3 shows the same thing for the depth of credit information index.

Figure 6.2 Have legal rights for borrowers and lenders become stronger?

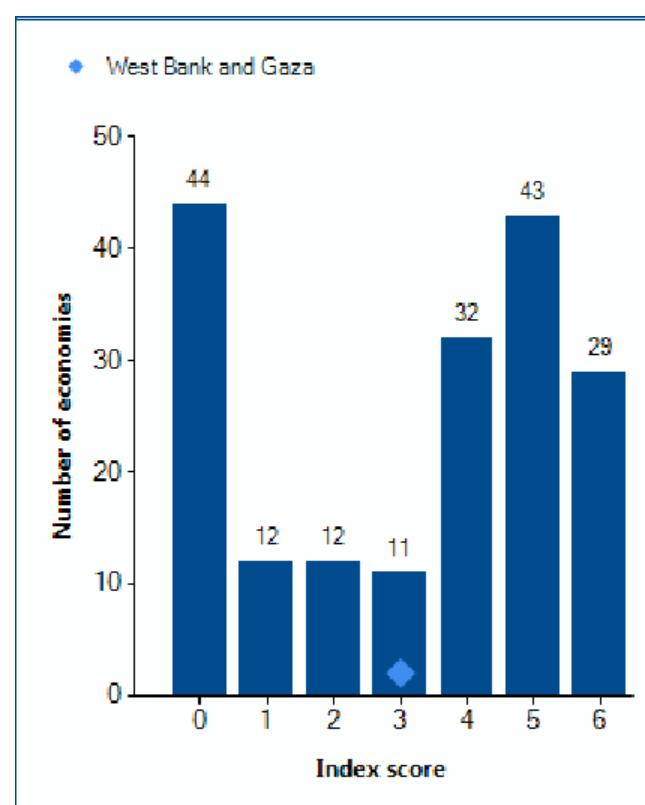
Number of economies with each score on strength of legal rights index (0–10), 2011



Source: Doing Business database.

Figure 6.3 Have the coverage and accessibility of credit information grown?

Number of economies with each score on depth of credit information index (0–6), 2011



Source: Doing Business database.

GETTING CREDIT

When economies strengthen the legal rights of lenders and borrowers under collateral and bankruptcy laws, and increase the scope, coverage and accessibility of

credit information, they can increase entrepreneurs' access to credit. What credit reforms has *Doing Business* recorded in West Bank and Gaza (table 6.2)?

Table 6.2 How has West Bank and Gaza made getting credit easier—or not?

By *Doing Business* report year

DB Year	Reform
DB2012	No reform.
DB2011	No reform.
DB2010	No reform.
DB2009	The Central Bank has set up an online system for lenders to access credit information.

Note: For information on reforms in earlier years (back to DB2005), see the *Doing Business* reports for these years, available at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

GETTING CREDIT

What are the details?

The getting credit indicators reported here for West Bank and Gaza are based on detailed information collected in that economy. The data on credit information sharing are collected through a survey of a public credit registry or private credit bureau (if one exists). To construct the depth of credit information index, a score of 1 is assigned for each of 6 features of the public credit registry or private credit bureau (see summary of scoring below).

The data on the legal rights of borrowers and lenders are gathered through a survey of financial lawyers and verified through analysis of laws and regulations as well as public sources of information on collateral and bankruptcy laws. For the strength of legal rights index, a score of 1 is assigned for each of 8 aspects related to legal rights in collateral law and 2 aspects in bankruptcy law.

[Summary of scoring for the getting credit indicators in West Bank and Gaza](#)

Indicator	West Bank and Gaza	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income
Strength of legal rights index (0-10)	1	3	7
Depth of credit information index (0-6)	3	4	5
Public registry coverage (% of adults)	5.5	7.8	9.5
Private bureau coverage (% of adults)	0.0	9.3	63.9

Strength of legal rights index (0-10)	Index score: 1
Can any business use movable assets as collateral while keeping possession of the assets; and any financial institution accept such assets as collateral ?	No
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?	No
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?	No
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 ?	No
Is a general description of debts and obligations permitted in collateral agreements; can all types of debts and obligations be secured between parties; and can the collateral agreement include a maximum amount for which the assets are encumbered?	No
Is a collateral registry in operation, that is unified geographically and by asset type, with an electronic database indexed by debtor's names?	No
Are secured creditors paid first (i.e. before general tax claims and employee claims) when a debtor defaults outside an insolvency procedure?	No

Strength of legal rights index (0–10)	Index score: 1
Are secured creditors paid first (i.e. before general tax claims and employee claims) when a business is liquidated?	No
Are secured creditors either not subject to an automatic stay or moratorium on enforcement procedures when a debtor enters a court-supervised reorganization procedure, or the law provides secured creditors with grounds for relief from an automatic stay or	Yes
Does the law allow parties to agree in a collateral agreement that the lender may enforce its security right out of court, at the time a security interest is created?	No

Depth of credit information index (0–6)	Private credit bureau	Public credit registry	Index score: 3
Are data on both firms and individuals distributed?	No	Yes	1
Are both positive and negative data distributed?	No	Yes	1
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	Yes	1
Is it guaranteed by law that borrowers can inspect their data in the largest credit registry?	No	No	0

Note: An economy receives a score of 1 if there is a "yes" to either private bureau or public registry.

Coverage	Private credit bureau	Public credit registry
Number of firms	0	2,751
Number of individuals	0	116,402

Source: Doing Business database.

PROTECTING INVESTORS

Investor protections matter for the ability of companies to raise the capital they need to grow, innovate, diversify and compete. If the laws do not provide such protections, investors may be reluctant to invest unless they become the controlling shareholders. Strong regulations clearly define related-party transactions, promote clear and efficient disclosure requirements, require shareholder participation in major decisions of the company and set clear standards of accountability for company insiders.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business measures the strength of minority shareholder protections against directors' use of corporate assets for personal gain—or self-dealing. The indicators distinguish 3 dimensions of investor protections: transparency of related-party transactions (extent of disclosure index), liability for self-dealing (extent of director liability index) and shareholders' ability to sue officers and directors for misconduct (ease of shareholder suits index). The ranking on the strength of investor protection index is the simple average of the percentile rankings on these 3 indices. To make the data comparable across economies, a case study uses several assumptions about the business and the transaction.

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 involves the following details:

- Mr. James, a director and the majority shareholder of the company, proposes that

WHAT THE PROTECTING INVESTORS INDICATORS MEASURE

Extent of disclosure index (0–10)

Who can approve related-party transactions
Disclosure requirements in case of related-party transactions

Extent of director liability index (0–10)

Ability of shareholders to hold interested parties and members of the approving body liable in case of related-party transactions

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)

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

Strength of investor protection index (0–10)

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

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 Buyer.
- Shareholders sue the interested parties and the members of the board of directors.

PROTECTING INVESTORS

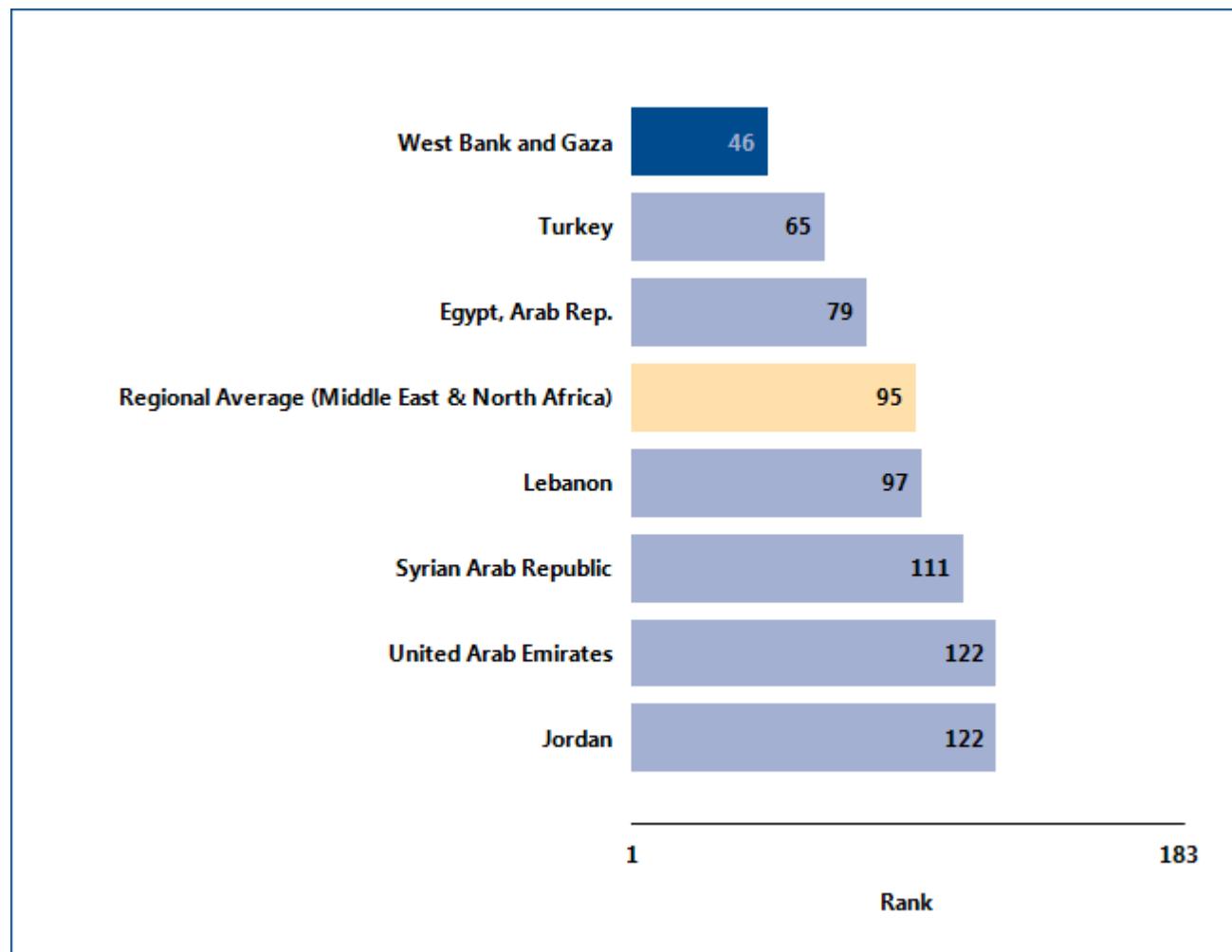
Where does the economy stand today?

How strong are investor protections in West Bank and Gaza? The economy has a score of 6.0 on the strength of investor protection index, with a higher score indicating stronger protections (see the summary of scoring at the end of this chapter for details).

Globally, West Bank and Gaza stands at 46 in the ranking of 183 economies on the strength of investor

protection index (figure 7.1). While the indicator does not measure all aspects related to the protection of minority investors, a higher ranking does indicate that an economy's regulations offer stronger investor protections against self-dealing in the areas measured.

Figure 7.1 How West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies rank on the strength of investor protection index



Source: Doing Business database.

PROTECTING INVESTORS

What are the changes over time?

While the most recent *Doing Business* data reflect how well regulations in West Bank and Gaza protect minority investors today, data over time show whether the protections have been strengthened (table 7.1).

And the global ranking on the strength of investor protection index over time shows whether the economy is slipping behind other economies in investor protections—or surpassing them.

Table 7.1 The strength of investor protections in West Bank and Gaza over time
By *Doing Business* report year

Indicator	DB2006	DB2007	DB2008	DB2009	DB2010	DB2011	DB2012
Rank	..	..	..	..	..	44	46
Extent of disclosure index (0-10)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Extent of director liability index (0-10)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Strength of investor protection index (0-10)	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

Note: n.a. = not applicable (the economy was not included in *Doing Business* for that year). DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

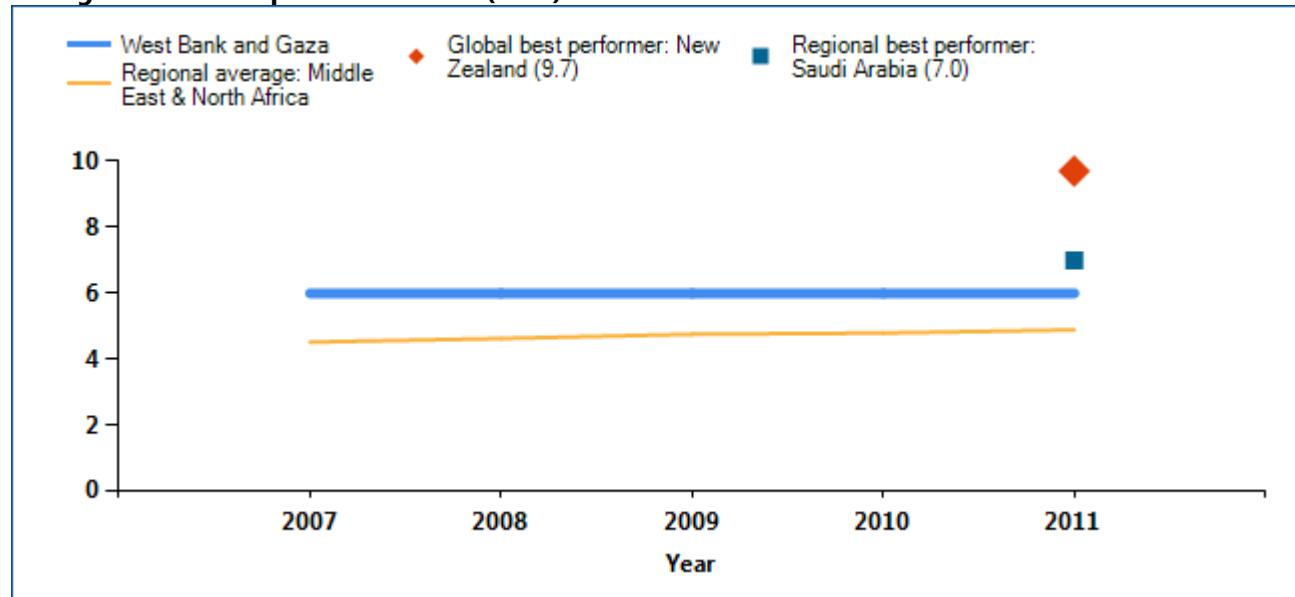
PROTECTING INVESTORS

But the overall ranking on the strength of investor protection index tells only part of the story. Economies may offer strong protections in some areas but not others. So the scores recorded over time for West Bank and Gaza on the extent of disclosure, extent of director

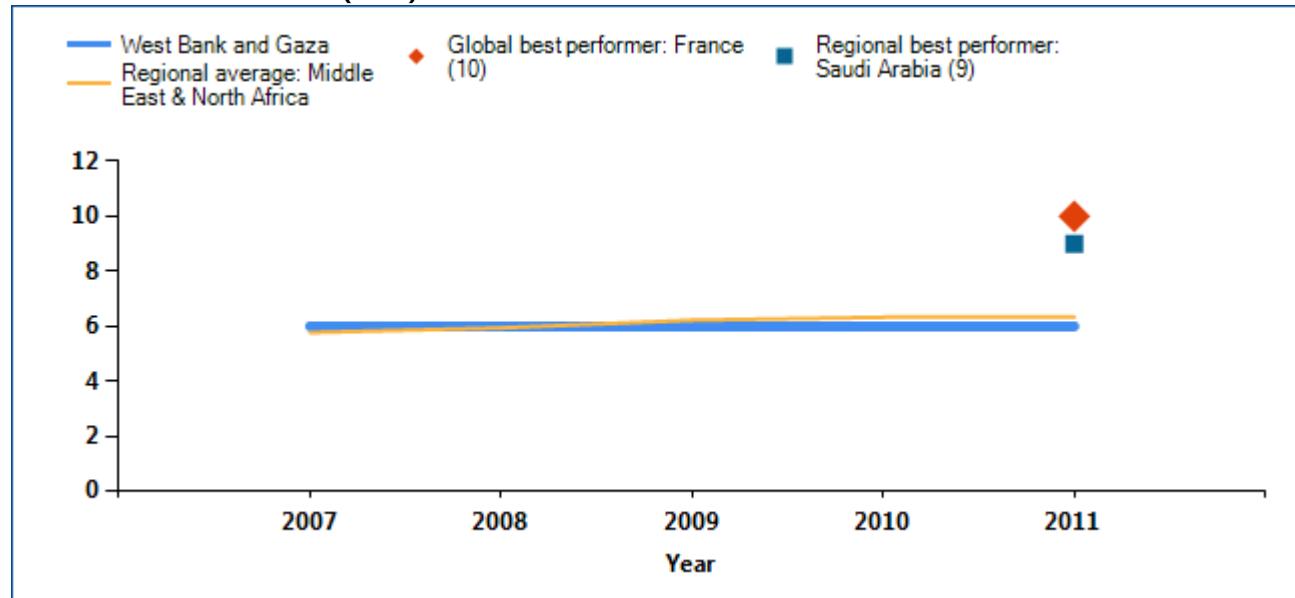
liability and ease of shareholder suits indices may also be revealing (figure 7.2). Equally interesting may be the changes over time in the regional average scores for those indices.

Figure 7.2 Have investor protections become stronger?

Strength of investor protection index (0-10)



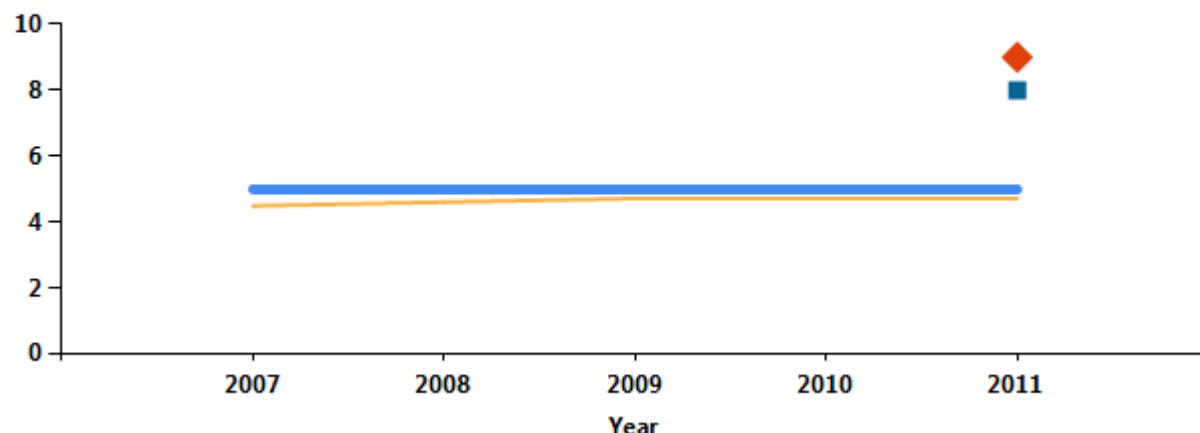
Extent of disclosure index (0-10)



PROTECTING INVESTORS

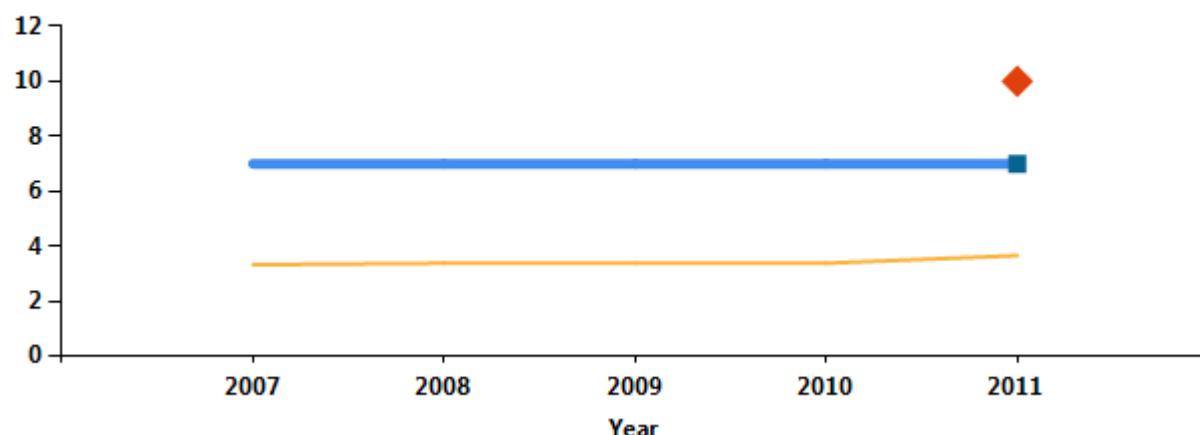
Extent of director liability index (0-10)

— West Bank and Gaza ◆ Global best performer: Singapore (9) ■ Regional best performer: Saudi Arabia (8)



Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)

— West Bank and Gaza ◆ Global best performer: New Zealand (10) ■ Regional best performer: West Bank and Gaza (7)



Note: The higher the score, the stronger the investor protections. The economy with the best performance regionally on each indicator, and the economy with the best performance globally, are included as benchmarks. In some cases 2 or more economies share the top regional or global ranking on an indicator.

Source: Doing Business database.

PROTECTING INVESTORS

Economies with the strongest protections of minority investors from self-dealing require more disclosure and define clear duties for directors. They also have well-functioning courts and up-to-date procedural rules that give minority investors the means to prove their case and obtain a judgment within a reasonable

time. So reforms to strengthen investor protections may move ahead on different fronts—such as through new or amended company laws or civil procedure rules. What investor protection reforms has *Doing Business* recorded in West Bank and Gaza (table 7.2)?

Table 7.2 How has West Bank and Gaza strengthened investor protections—or not?
By *Doing Business* report year

DB Year	Reform
DB2012	No reform.
DB2011	No reform.
DB2010	No reform.
DB2009	No reform.

Note: For information on reforms in earlier years (back to DB2006), see the *Doing Business* reports for these years, available at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

PROTECTING INVESTORS

What are the details?

The protecting investors indicators reported here for West Bank and Gaza are based on detailed information collected through a survey of corporate and securities lawyers and are based on securities regulations, company laws and court rules of evidence. To construct the extent of disclosure, extent of director

liability and ease of shareholder suits indices, a score is assigned for each of a range of conditions relating to disclosure, director liability and shareholder suits in a standard case study transaction (see the notes at the end of this chapter). The summary below shows the details underlying the scores for West Bank and Gaza.

Summary of scoring for the protecting investors indicators in West Bank and Gaza

Indicator	West Bank and Gaza	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income
Extent of disclosure index (0-10)	6	6	6
Extent of director liability index (0-10)	5	5	5
Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)	7	4	7
Strength of investor protection index (0-10)	6.0	4.9	6.0

	Score
Extent of disclosure index (0-10)	6
What corporate body provides legally sufficient approval for the transaction?	1
Whether disclosure of the conflict of interest by Mr. James to the board of directors is required?	1
Whether immediate disclosure of the transaction to the public and/or shareholders is required?	2
Whether disclosure of the transaction in published periodic filings (annual reports) is required?	2
Whether an external body must review the terms of the transaction before it takes place?	0
Extent of director liability index (0-10)	5
Whether shareholders can sue directly or derivatively for the damage that the Buyer-Seller transaction causes to the company?	1
Whether shareholders can hold Mr. James liable for the damage that the Buyer-Seller transaction causes to the company?	1
Whether shareholders can hold members of the approving body liable for the damage that the Buyer-Seller transaction causes to the company?	1
Whether a court can void the transaction upon a successful claim by a shareholder plaintiff?	0

	Score
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
Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)	7
Whether shareholders owning 10% or less of Buyer's shares can inspect transaction documents before filing suit?	1
Whether shareholders owning 10% or less of Buyer's shares can request an inspector to investigate the transaction?	0
Whether the plaintiff can obtain any documents from the defendant and witnesses during trial?	3
Whether the plaintiff can request categories of documents from the defendant without identifying specific ones?	0
Whether the plaintiff can directly question the defendant and witnesses during trial?	2
Whether the level of proof required for civil suits is lower than that of criminal cases?	1
Strength of investor protection index (0-10)	6.0

Source: Doing Business database.

Notes:

Extent of disclosure index (0–10)

Scoring for the extent of disclosure index is based on 5 components:

Which corporate body can provide legally sufficient approval for the transaction

0 = CEO or managing director alone; 1 = shareholders or board of directors vote and Mr. James can vote; 2 = board of directors votes and Mr. James cannot vote; 3 = shareholders vote and Mr. James cannot vote.

Whether disclosure of the conflict of interest by Mr. James to the board of directors is required

0 = no disclosure; 1 = disclosure of the existence of a conflict without any specifics; 2 = full disclosure of all material facts.

Whether immediate disclosure of the transaction to the public, the regulator or the shareholders is required

0 = no disclosure; 1 = disclosure on the transaction only; 2 = disclosure on the transaction and Mr. James's conflict of interest.

Whether disclosure of the transaction in the annual report is required

0 = no disclosure; 1 = disclosure on the transaction only; 2 = disclosure on the transaction and Mr. James's conflict of interest.

Whether it is required that an external body (for example, an external auditor) review the transaction before it takes place

0 = no; 1 = yes.

Extent of director liability index (0–10)

Scoring for the extent of director liability index is based on 7 components:

Whether shareholders can sue directly or derivatively for the damage that the Buyer-Seller transaction causes to the company

0 = suits are unavailable or available only for shareholders holding more than 10% of the company's share capital; 1 = direct or derivative suits available for shareholders holding 10% of share capital or less.

Whether shareholders can hold Mr. James liable for the damage that the transaction causes to the company

0 = Mr. James is not liable or is liable only if he acted fraudulently or in bad faith; 1 = Mr. James is liable if he influenced the approval or was negligent; 2 = Mr. James is liable if the transaction is unfair or prejudicial to the other shareholders.

Whether shareholders can hold the approving body (the CEO or members of the board of directors) liable for the damage that the transaction causes to the company

0 = members of the approving body are either not liable or liable only if they acted fraudulently or in bad faith; 1 = liable for negligence in the approval of the transaction; 2 = liable if the transaction is unfair or prejudicial to the other shareholders.

Whether a court can void the transaction upon a successful claim by a shareholder plaintiff

0 = rescission is unavailable or available only in case of Seller's fraud or bad faith; 1 = rescission is available when the transaction is oppressive or prejudicial to the other shareholders; 2 = rescission is available when the transaction is unfair or entails a conflict of interest.

Whether Mr. James pays damages for the harm caused to the company upon a successful claim by the shareholder plaintiff

0 = no; 1 = yes.

Whether Mr. James repays profits made from the transaction upon a successful claim by the shareholder plaintiff

0 = no; 1 = yes.

Whether both fines and imprisonment can be applied against Mr. James

0 = no; 1 = yes.

Ease of shareholder suits index (0–10)

Scoring for the ease of shareholder suits index is based on 6 components:

What range of documents is available to the plaintiff from the defendant and witnesses during trial

Score of 1 for each of the following: information that the defendant has indicated he intends to rely on for his defense; information that directly proves specific facts in the plaintiff's claim; any information relevant to the subject matter of the claim; and any information that may lead to the discovery of relevant information.

Whether the plaintiff can directly examine the defendant and witnesses during trial

0 = no; 1 = yes, with prior approval by the court of the questions posed; 2 = yes, without prior approval.

Whether the plaintiff can obtain categories of relevant documents from the defendant without identifying each document specifically

0 = no; 1 = yes.

Whether shareholders owning 10% or less of the company's share capital can request that a government inspector investigate the transaction without filing suit in court

0 = no; 1 = yes.

Whether shareholders owning 10% or less of the company's share capital have the right to inspect the transaction documents before filing suit

0 = no; 1 = yes.

Whether the standard of proof for civil suits is lower than that for a criminal case

0 = no; 1 = yes.

Strength of investor protection index (0–10)

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

PAYING TAXES

Taxes are essential. They fund the public amenities, infrastructure and services that are crucial for a properly functioning economy. But the level of tax rates needs to be carefully chosen—and needless complexity in tax rules avoided. According to *Doing Business* data, in economies where it is more difficult and costly to pay taxes, larger shares of economic activity end up in the informal sector—where businesses pay no taxes at all.

What do the indicators cover?

Using a case scenario, *Doing Business* measures the taxes and mandatory contributions that a medium-size company must pay in a given year as well as the administrative burden of paying taxes and contributions. This case scenario uses a set of financial statements and assumptions about transactions made over the year. Information is also compiled on the frequency of filing and payments as well as time taken to comply with tax laws. The ranking on the ease of paying taxes is the simple average of the percentile rankings on its component indicators: number of annual payments, time and total tax rate, with a threshold being applied to the total tax rate.² To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions about the business and the taxes and contributions are used.

- TaxpayerCo is a medium-size business that started operations on January 1, 2009.
- 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.

WHAT THE PAYING TAXES INDICATORS MEASURE
Tax payments for a manufacturing company in 2010 (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 before all taxes) Profit or corporate income tax 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

- Taxes and mandatory contributions include corporate income tax, turnover tax and all labor taxes and contributions paid by the company.
- A range of standard deductions and exemptions are also recorded.

² The threshold is defined as the highest total tax rate among the top 30% of economies in the ranking on the total tax rate. It will be calculated and adjusted on a yearly basis. The threshold is not based on any underlying theory. Instead, it is intended to mitigate the effect of very low tax rates on the ranking on the ease of paying taxes.

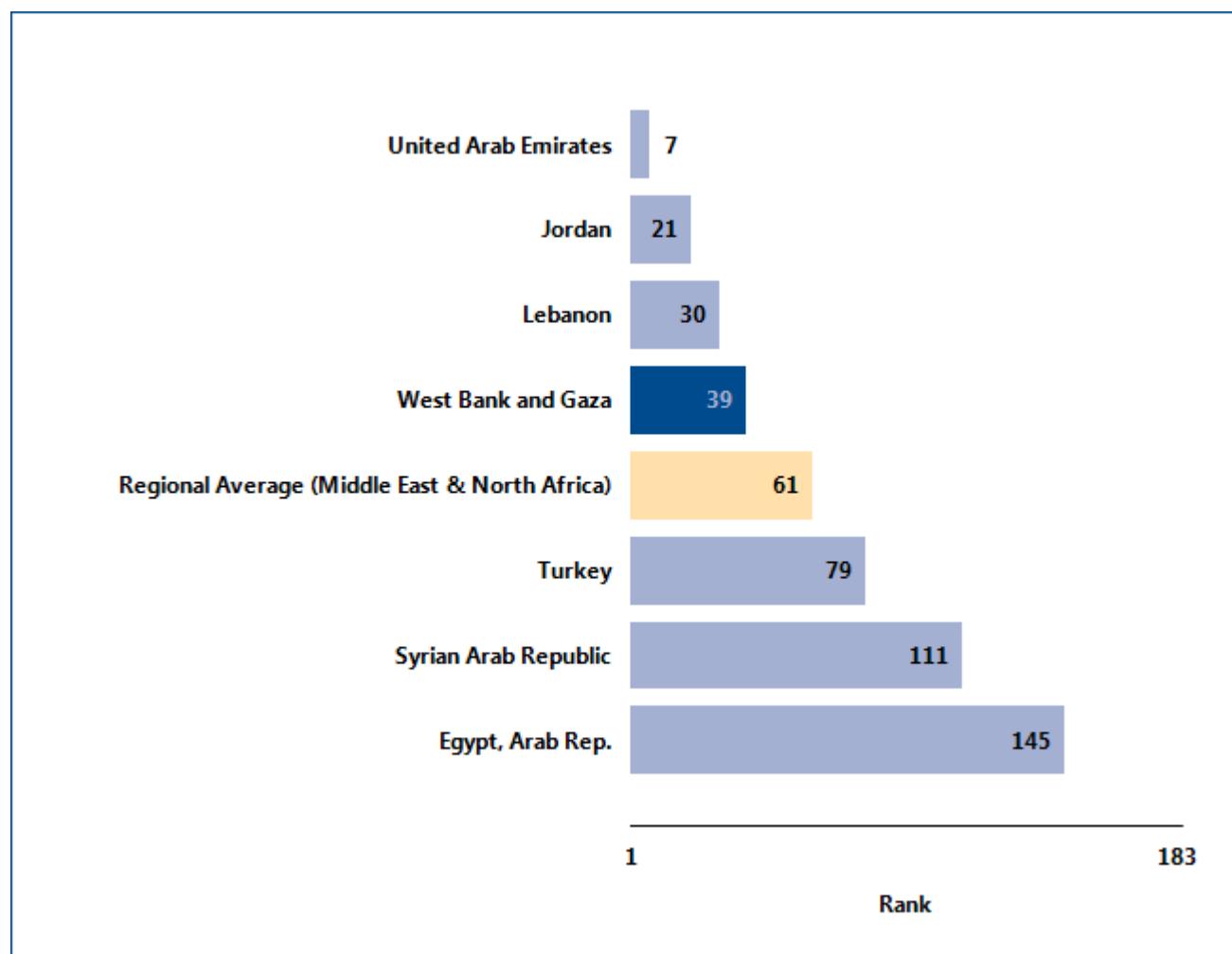
PAYING TAXES

Where does the economy stand today?

What is the administrative burden of complying with taxes in West Bank and Gaza—and how much do firms pay in taxes? On average, firms make 27 tax payments a year, spend 154 hours a year filing, preparing and paying taxes and pay total taxes amounting to 16.2% of profit (see the summary at the end of this chapter for details).

Globally, West Bank and Gaza stands at 39 in the ranking of 183 economies on the ease of paying taxes (figure 8.1). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide other useful information for assessing the tax compliance burden for businesses in West Bank and Gaza.

Figure 8.1 How West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies rank on the ease of paying taxes



Note: DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology. For all economies with a total tax rate below the threshold of 32.5% applied in DB2012, the total tax rate is set at 32.5% for the purpose of calculating the ranking on the ease of paying taxes.

Source: Doing Business database.

PAYING TAXES

What are the changes over time?

While the most recent *Doing Business* data reflect how easy (or difficult) it is to comply with tax rules in West Bank and Gaza today, data over time show which

aspects of the process have changed — and which have not (table 8.1). That can help identify where the potential for easing tax compliance is greatest.

Table 8.1 The ease of paying taxes in West Bank and Gaza over time
By *Doing Business* report year

Indicator	DB2006	DB2007	DB2008	DB2009	DB2010	DB2011	DB2012
Rank	..	..	..	..	..	37	39
Payments (number per year)	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
Time (hours per year)	154	154	154	154	154	154	154
Total tax rate (% profit)	22.8	18.4	17.1	16.8	16.8	16.8	16.8

Note: n.a. = not applicable (the economy was not included in *Doing Business* for that year). DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology. For all economies with a total tax rate below the threshold of 32.5% applied in DB2012, the total tax rate is set at 32.5% for the purpose of calculating the rank on the ease of paying taxes.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

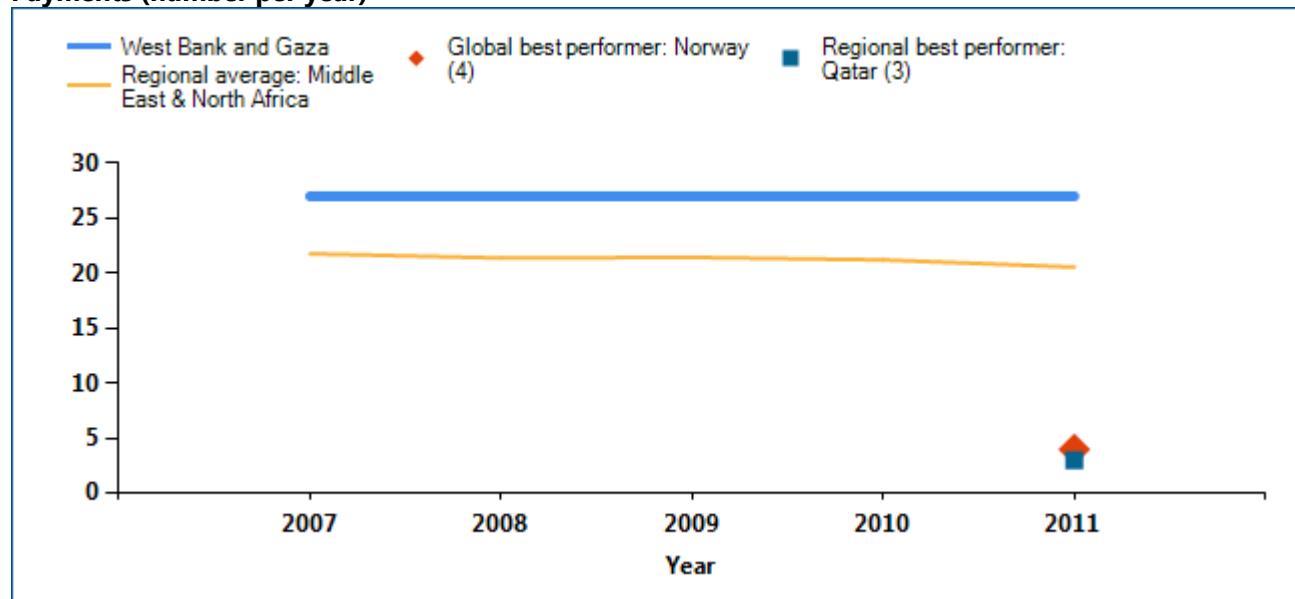
PAYING TAXES

Equally helpful may be the benchmarks provided by the economies that today have the best performance regionally or globally on the number of payments or the time required to prepare and file taxes (figure 8.2). These economies may provide a model for West Bank

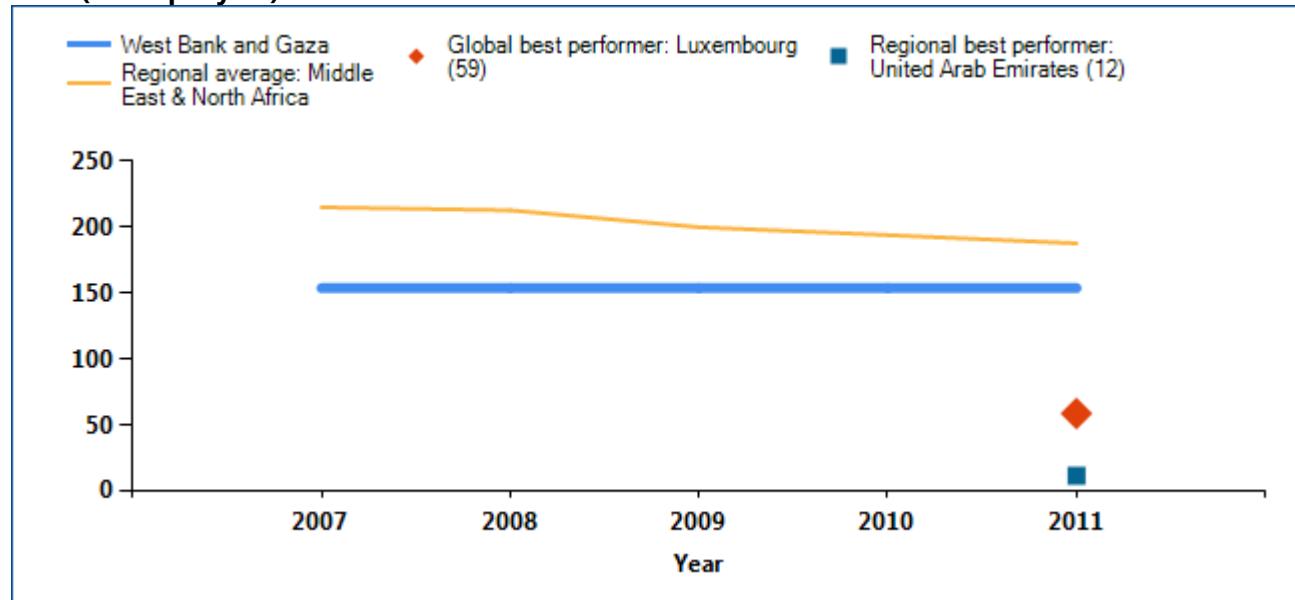
and Gaza on ways to ease the administrative burden of tax compliance. And changes in regional averages can show where West Bank and Gaza is keeping up—and where it is falling behind.

Figure 8.2 Has paying taxes become easier over time?

Payments (number per year)

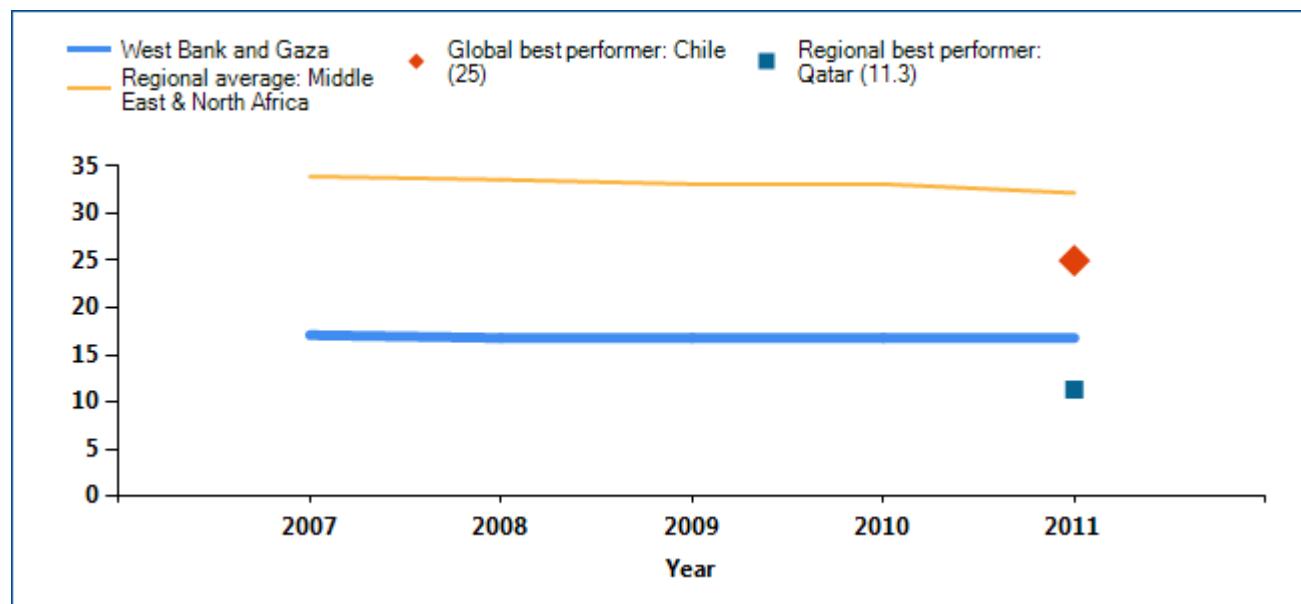


Time (hours per year)



PAYING TAXES

Total tax rate (% of profit)



Note: The economy with the best performance regionally on each indicator, and the economy with the best performance globally, are included as benchmarks. The best performer globally on an indicator has implemented the most efficient practices in its tax system but is not necessarily the one with the highest ranking on the indicator. In some cases 2 or more economies share the top regional ranking on an indicator. DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology. For all economies with a total tax rate below the threshold of 32.5% applied in DB2012, the total tax rate is set at 32.5% for the purpose of calculating the ranking on the ease of paying taxes.

Source: Doing Business database.

PAYING TAXES

Economies around the world have made paying taxes faster and easier for businesses—such as by consolidating filings, reducing the frequency of payments or offering electronic filing and payment. Many have lowered tax rates. Changes have brought

concrete results. Some economies simplifying tax payment and reducing rates have seen tax revenue rise. What tax reforms has *Doing Business* recorded in West Bank and Gaza (table 8.2)?

Table 8.2 How has West Bank and Gaza made paying taxes easier—or not?

By *Doing Business* report year

DB Year	Reform
DB2012	No reform.
DB2011	No reform.
DB2010	No reform.
DB2009	No reform.

Note: For information on reforms in earlier years (back to DB2006), see the *Doing Business* reports for these years, available at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

PAYING TAXES

What are the details?

The indicators reported here for West Bank and Gaza are based on a standard set of taxes and contributions that would be paid by the case study company used by *Doing Business* in collecting the data (see the section in this chapter on what the indicators cover). Tax practitioners are asked to review standard 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 taxes and contributions paid are listed in the summary below, along with the associated number of payments, time and tax rate.

Summary of tax rates and administrative burden in West Bank and Gaza

Indicator	West Bank and Gaza	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income
Payments (number per year)	27	21	13
Time (hours per year)	154	188	186
Profit tax (%)	16.2	11.2	15.4
Labor tax and contributions (%)	0.0	16.9	24.0
Other taxes (%)	0.6	4.0	3.2
Total tax rate (% profit)	16.8	32.2	42.7

Tax or mandatory contribution	Payments (number)	Notes on payments	Time (hours)	Statutory tax rate	Tax base	Total tax rate (% of profit)	Notes on total tax rate
Corporate income tax	13		10	15.0%	taxable profits	15.4	
Capital gains tax	1		0	15.0%	gain	0.8	
Irrecoverable VAT (on fuel)	0		0	14.5%	fuel consumption	0.3	
Municipal business tax	1		0	17.0%	rental value of building	0.3	
Employee paid - Personal income tax	0	withheld	96	5%-15%		0	withheld
Value added tax (VAT)	12		48	16% and 14.5%	value added	0	not included
Totals	27		154			16.8	

Note: DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology. For all economies with a total tax rate below the threshold of 32.5% applied in DB2012, the total tax rate is set at 32.5% for the purpose of calculating the ranking on the ease of paying taxes.

Source: Doing Business database.

TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

In today's globalized world, making trade between economies easier is increasingly important for business. 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. Research shows that exporters in developing countries gain more from a 10% drop in their trading costs than from a similar reduction in the tariffs applied to their products in global markets.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business measures the time and cost (excluding tariffs) associated with exporting and importing a standard shipment of goods by ocean transport, and the number of documents necessary to complete the transaction. The indicators cover procedural requirements such as documentation requirements and procedures at customs and other regulatory agencies as well as at the port. They also cover trade logistics, including the time and cost of inland transport to the largest business city. The ranking on the ease of trading across borders is the simple average of the percentile rankings on its component indicators: documents, time and cost to export and import.

To make the data comparable across economies, *Doing Business* uses several assumptions about the business and the traded goods.

The business:

- Is of medium size and employs 60 people.
- Is located in the periurban area of the economy's largest business city.
- Is a private, limited liability company, domestically owned, formally registered and operating under commercial laws and regulations of the economy.

The traded goods:

- Are not hazardous nor do they include military items.

WHAT THE TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

INDICATORS MEASURE

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

- Do not require refrigeration or any other special environment.
- Do not require any special phytosanitary or environmental safety standards other than accepted international standards.
- Are one of the economy's leading export or import products.
- Are transported in a dry-cargo, 20-foot full container load.

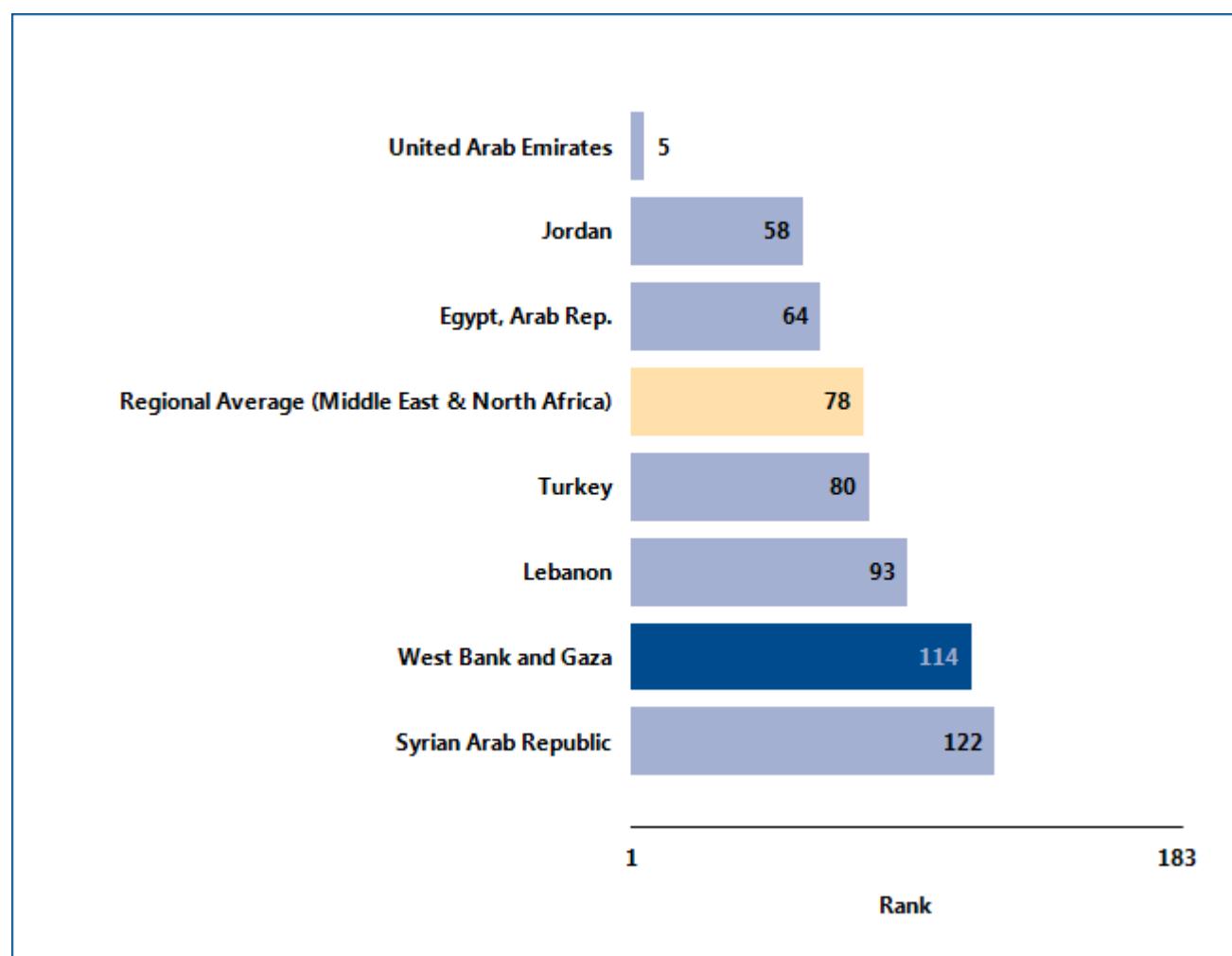
TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

Where does the economy stand today?

What does it take to export or import in West Bank and Gaza? According to data collected by *Doing Business*, exporting a standard container of goods requires 6 documents, takes 23 days and costs \$1310. Importing the same container of goods requires 6 documents, takes 40 days and costs \$1295 (see the summary of procedures and documents at the end of this chapter for details).

Globally, West Bank and Gaza stands at 114 in the ranking of 183 economies on the ease of trading across borders (figure 9.1). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average provide other useful information for assessing how easy it is for a business in West Bank and Gaza to export and import goods.

Figure 9.1 How West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies rank on the ease of trading across borders



Source: *Doing Business* database.

TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

What are the changes over time?

While the most recent *Doing Business* data reflect how easy (or difficult) it is to export or import in West Bank and Gaza today, data over time show which aspects of

the process have changed—and which have not (table 9.1). That can help identify where the potential for improvement is greatest.

Table 9.1 The ease of trading across borders in West Bank and Gaza over time

By *Doing Business* report year

Indicator	DB2006	DB2007	DB2008	DB2009	DB2010	DB2011	DB2012
Rank	..	..	..	..	..	114	114
Documents to export (number)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Time to export (days)	25	25	25	25	25	23	23
Cost to export (US\$ per container)	830	830	830	835	835	1,310	1,310
Documents to import (number)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Time to import (days)	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Cost to import (US\$ per container)	995	995	995	1,225	1,225	1,225	1,295

Note: n.a. = not applicable (the economy was not included in *Doing Business* for that year). DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

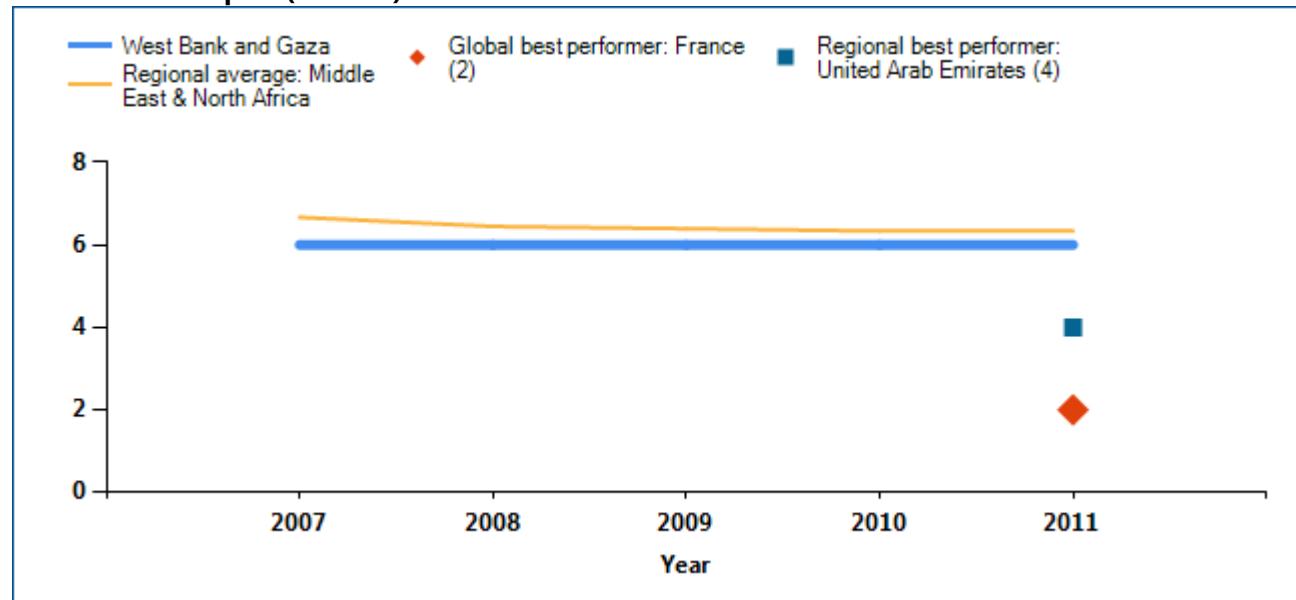
Equally helpful may be the benchmarks provided by the economies that today have the best performance regionally or globally on the documents, time or cost required to export or import (figure 9.2). These economies may provide a model for West Bank and

Gaza on ways to improve the ease of trading across borders. And changes in regional averages can show where West Bank and Gaza is keeping up—and where it is falling behind.

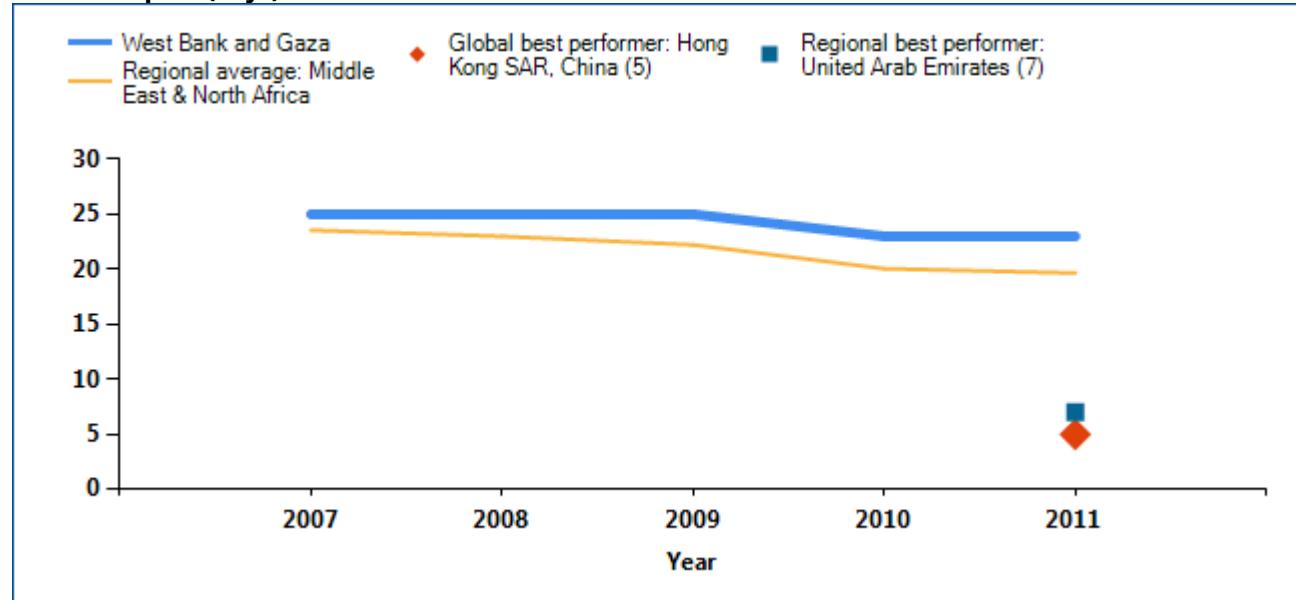
TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

Figure 9.2 Has trading across borders become easier over time?

Documents to export (number)

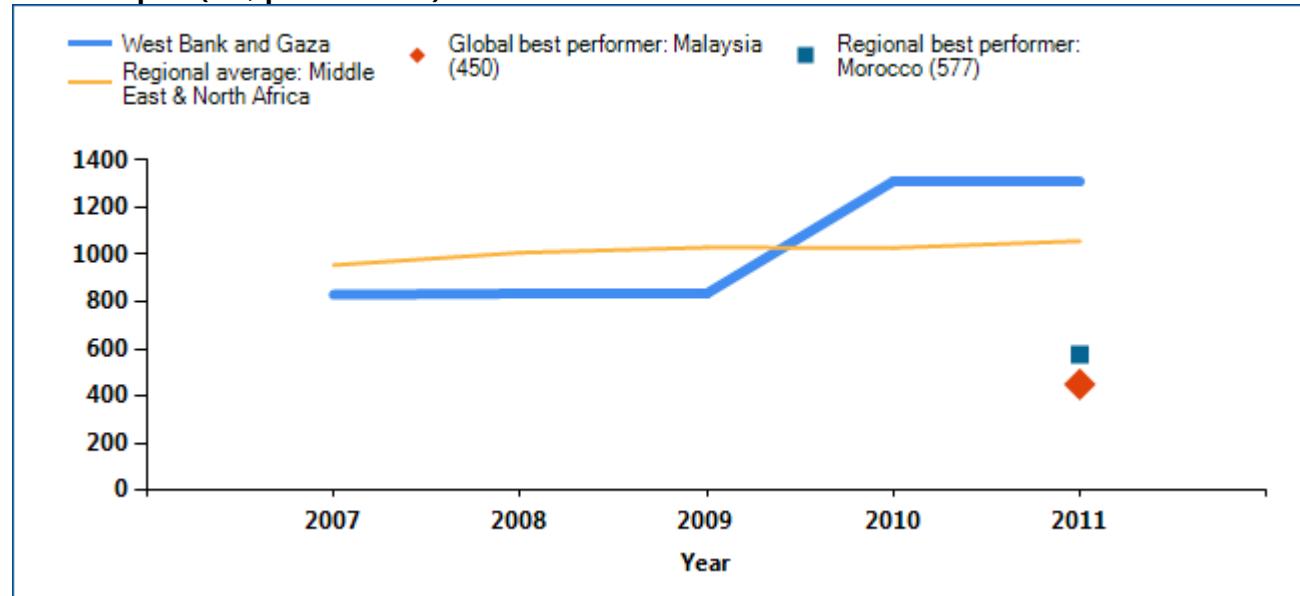


Time to export (days)

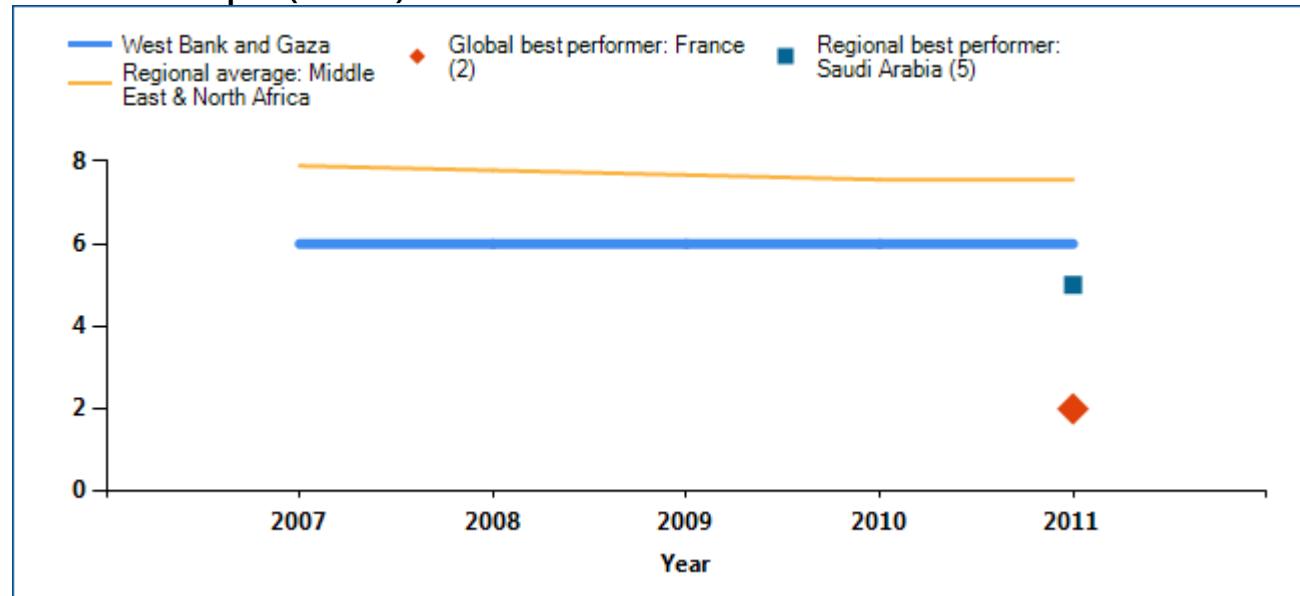


TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

Cost to export (US\$ per container)



Documents to import (number)

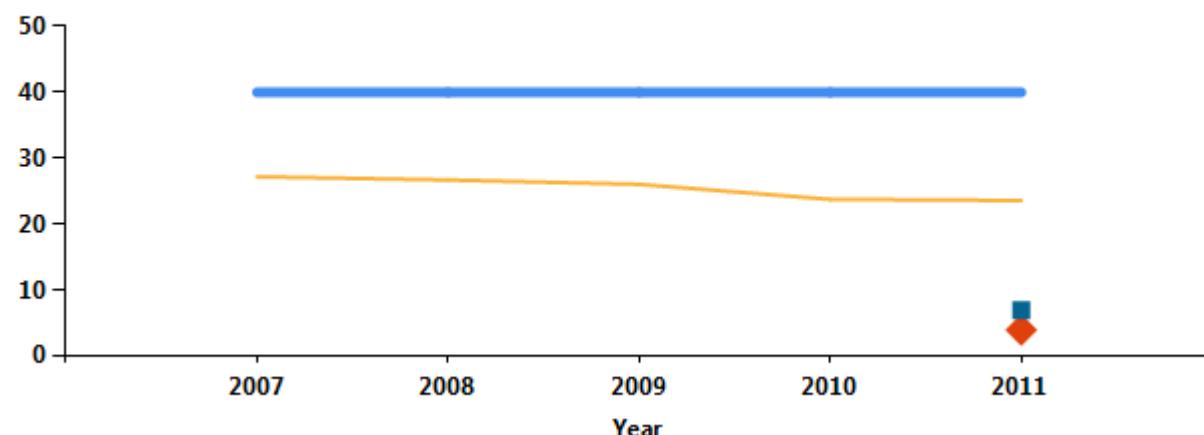


TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

Time to import (days)

— West Bank and Gaza ♦ Global best performer: Singapore (4) ■ Regional best performer: United Arab Emirates (7)

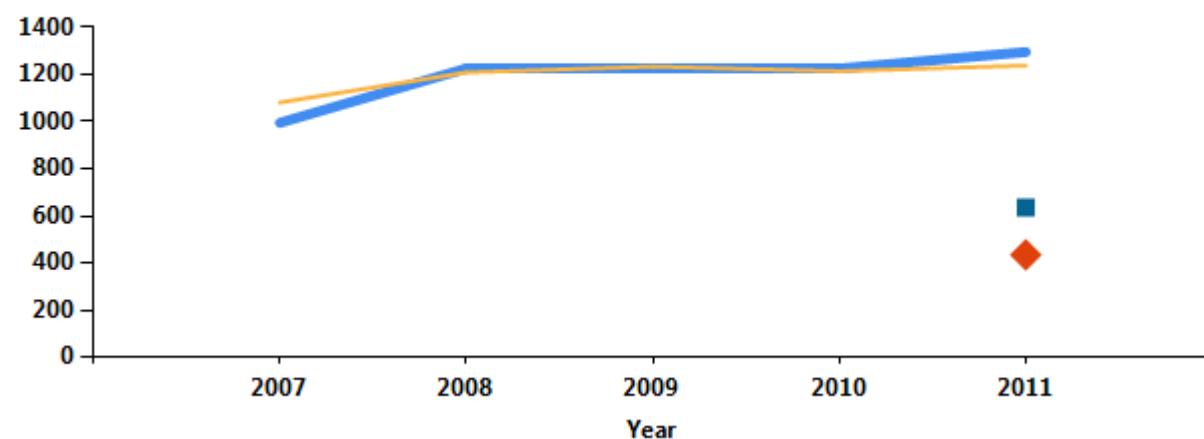
— Regional average: Middle East & North Africa



Cost to import (US\$ per container)

— West Bank and Gaza ♦ Global best performer: Malaysia (435) ■ Regional best performer: United Arab Emirates (635)

— Regional average: Middle East & North Africa



Note: The economy with the best performance regionally on each indicator, and the economy with the best performance globally, are included as benchmarks. In some cases 2 or more economies share the top regional or global ranking on an indicator.

Source: Doing Business database.

TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

In economies around the world, trading across borders as measured by *Doing Business* has become faster and easier over the years. Governments have introduced tools to facilitate trade—including single windows, risk-based inspections and electronic data interchange

systems. These changes help improve the trading environment and boost firms' international competitiveness. What trade reforms has *Doing Business* recorded in West Bank and Gaza (table 9.2)?

Table 9.2 How has West Bank and Gaza made trading across borders easier—or not?
By *Doing Business* report year

DB Year	Reform
DB2012	No reform.
DB2011	More efficient processes at Palestinian customs made trading easier in the West Bank.
DB2010	No reform.
DB2009	No reform.

Note: For information on reforms in earlier years (back to DB2006), see the *Doing Business* reports for these years, available at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

What are the details?

The indicators reported here for West Bank and Gaza are based on a set of specific procedural requirements for trading a standard shipment of goods by ocean transport (see the section in this chapter on what the indicators cover). Information on the procedures as well as the required documents and the time and cost to complete each procedure is collected from local

freight forwarders, shipping lines, customs brokers, port officials and banks. The procedural requirements, and the associated time and cost, for exporting and importing a standard shipment of goods are listed in the summary below, along with the required documents.

[Summary of procedures and documents for trading across borders in West Bank and Gaza](#)

Indicator	West Bank and Gaza	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income
Documents to export (number)	6	6	4
Time to export (days)	23	20	10
Cost to export (US\$ per container)	1310	1,057	1,032
Documents to import (number)	6	8	5
Time to import (days)	40	24	11
Cost to import (US\$ per container)	1295	1,238	1,085

Procedures to export	Time (days)	Cost (US\$)
Documents preparation	10	310
Customs clearance and technical control	6	300
Ports and terminal handling	3	250
Inland transportation and handling	4	450
Totals	23	1310

Procedures to import	Time (days)	Cost (US\$)
Documents preparation	17	290
Customs clearance and technical control	12	180
Ports and terminal handling	7	400
Inland transportation and handling	4	425
Totals	40	1295

TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

Documents to export	Documents to import
Preferential certificate	Commercial invoice
Technical standard/health certificate	Customs import declaration
Bill of lading	Packing list
Customs export declaration	Bill of Lading
Commercial invoice	Gate Pass
Packing list	Certificate of origin

ENFORCING CONTRACTS

Well-functioning courts help businesses expand their network and markets. Without effective contract enforcement, people might well do business only with family, friends and others with whom they have established relationships. Where contract enforcement is efficient, firms are more likely to engage with new borrowers or customers, and they have greater access to credit.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business measures the efficiency of the judicial system in resolving a commercial dispute before local courts. Following the step-by-step evolution of a standardized case study, it collects data relating to the time, cost and procedural complexity of resolving a commercial lawsuit. The ranking on the ease of enforcing contracts is the simple average of the percentile rankings on its component indicators: procedures, time and cost.

The dispute in the case study involves the breach of a sales contract between 2 domestic businesses. The case study assumes that the court hears an expert on the quality of the goods in dispute. This distinguishes the case from simple debt enforcement. To make the data comparable across economies, *Doing Business* uses several assumptions about the case:

- The seller and buyer are located in the economy's largest business city.
- The buyer orders custom-made goods, then fails to pay.
- The seller sues the buyer before a competent court.
- The value of the claim is 200% of income per capita.
- The seller requests a pretrial attachment to secure the claim.

WHAT THE ENFORCING CONTRACTS

INDICATORS MEASURE

Procedures to enforce a contract through the courts (number)

Any interaction between the parties in a commercial dispute, or between them and the judge or court officer

Steps to file and serve 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

- The dispute on the quality of the goods requires an expert opinion.
- The judge decides in favor of the seller; there is no appeal.
- The seller enforces the judgment through a public sale of the buyer's movable assets.

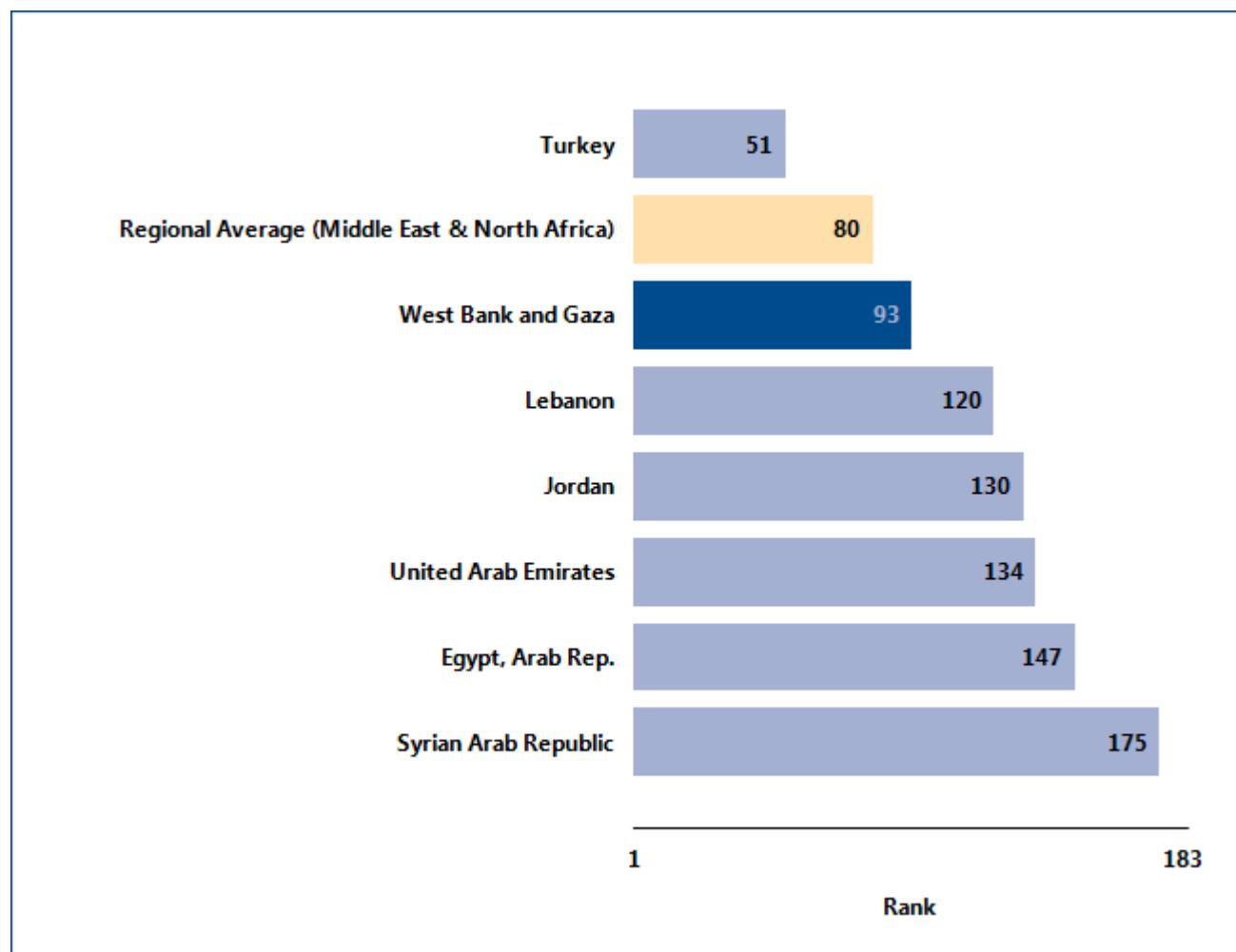
ENFORCING CONTRACTS

Where does the economy stand today?

How efficient is the process of resolving a commercial dispute through the courts in West Bank and Gaza? According to data collected by *Doing Business*, enforcing a contract requires 44 procedures, takes 540 days and costs 21.2% of the value of the claim (see the summary at the end of this chapter for details).

Globally, West Bank and Gaza stands at 93 in the ranking of 183 economies on the ease of enforcing contracts (figure 10.1). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide other useful benchmarks for assessing the efficiency of contract enforcement in West Bank and Gaza.

Figure 10.1 How West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies rank on the ease of enforcing contracts



Source: *Doing Business* database.

ENFORCING CONTRACTS

What are the changes over time?

While the most recent *Doing Business* data reflect how easy (or difficult) it is to enforce a contract in West Bank and Gaza today, data on the underlying

indicators over time help identify which areas have changed and where the potential for improvement is greatest (table 10.1).

Table 10.1 The ease of enforcing contracts in West Bank and Gaza over time

By *Doing Business* report year

Indicator	DB2004	DB2005	DB2006	DB2007	DB2008	DB2009	DB2010	DB2011	DB2012
Rank	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93	93
Time (days)	n.a.	700	700	700	700	700	600	540	540
Cost (% of claim)	n.a.	21.2	21.2	21.2	21.2	21.2	21.2	21.2	21.2
Procedures (number)	n.a.	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44

Note: n.a. = not applicable (the economy was not included in *Doing Business* for that year). DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

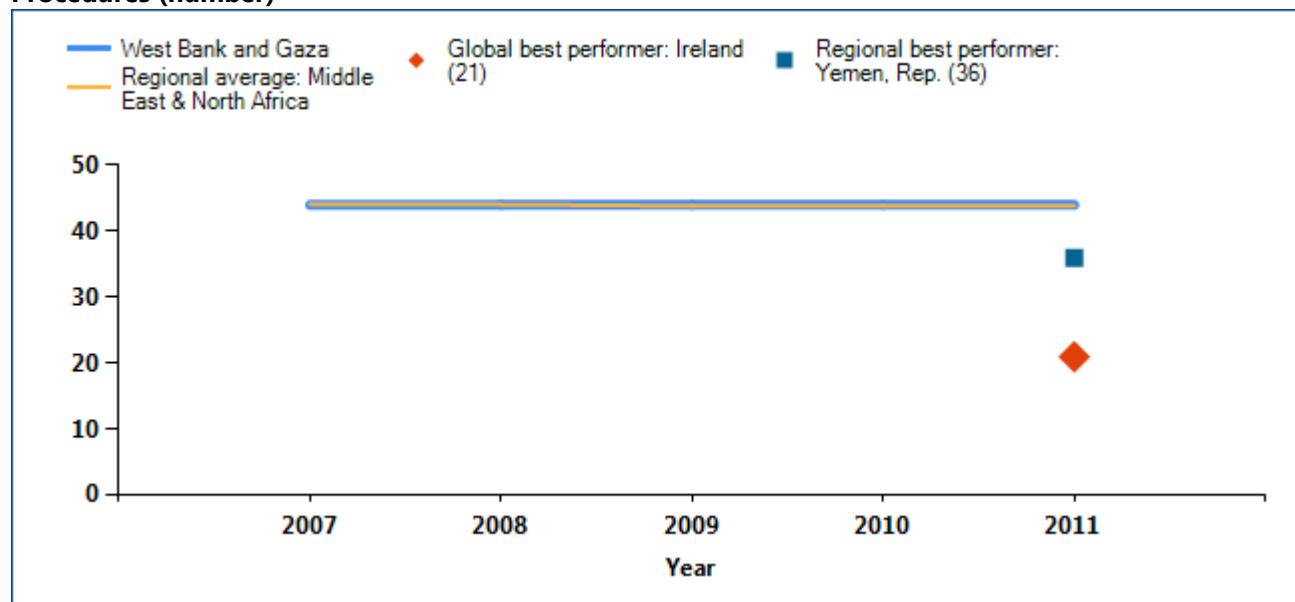
ENFORCING CONTRACTS

Equally helpful may be the benchmarks provided by the economies that today have the best performance regionally or globally on the number of steps, time or cost required to enforce a contract through the courts (figure 10.2). These economies may provide a model

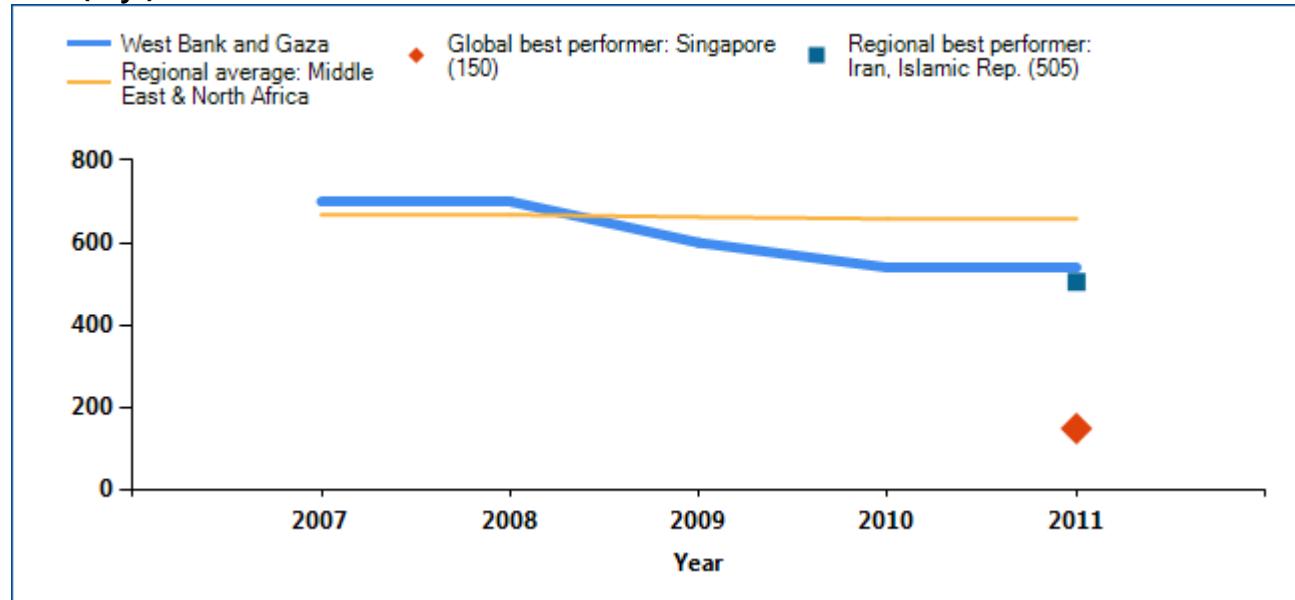
for West Bank and Gaza on ways to improve the efficiency of contract enforcement. And changes in regional averages can show where West Bank and Gaza is keeping up—and where it is falling behind.

Figure 10.2 Has enforcing contracts become easier over time?

Procedures (number)

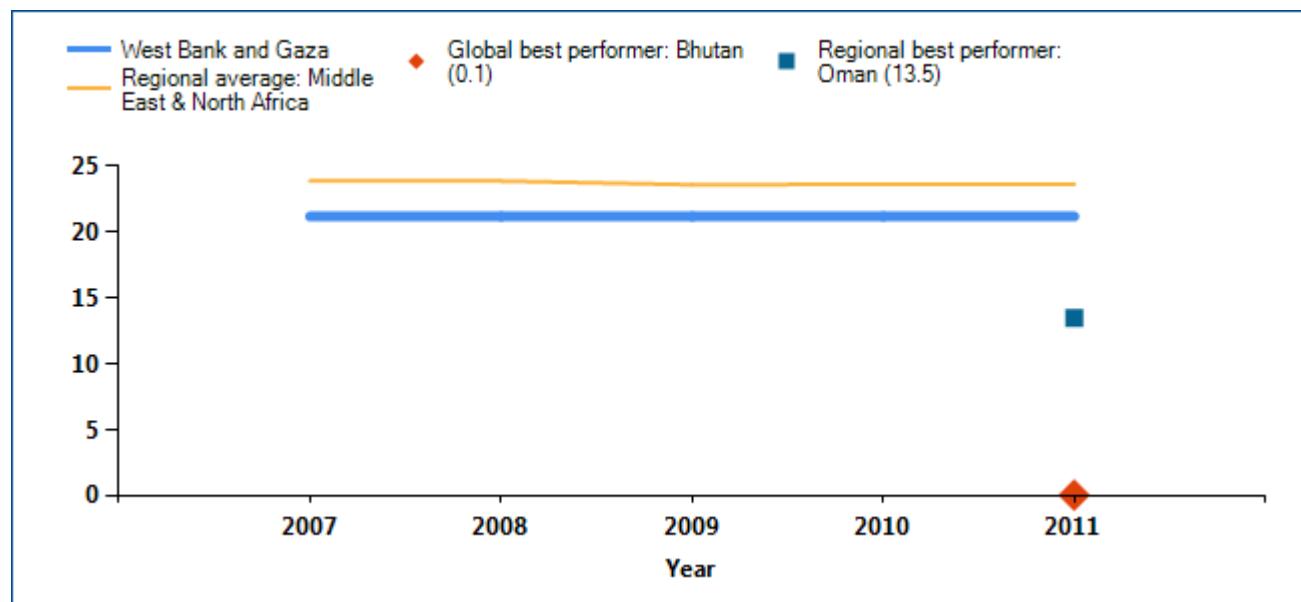


Time (days)



ENFORCING CONTRACTS

Cost (% of claim)



Note: The economy with the best performance regionally on each indicator, and the economy with the best performance globally, are included as benchmarks. In some cases 2 or more economies share the top regional or global ranking on an indicator.

Source: Doing Business database.

ENFORCING CONTRACTS

Economies in all regions have improved contract enforcement in recent years. A judiciary can be improved in different ways. Higher-income economies tend to look for ways to enhance efficiency by introducing new technology. Lower-income economies often work on reducing backlogs by introducing

periodic reviews to clear inactive cases from the docket and by making procedures faster. What reforms making it easier (or more difficult) to enforce contracts has *Doing Business* recorded in West Bank and Gaza (table 10.2)?

Table 10.2 How has West Bank and Gaza made enforcing contracts easier—or not?

By *Doing Business* report year

DB Year	Reform
DB2012	No reform.
DB2011	No reform.
DB2010	Contract enforcement has sped up as new judges have been recruited, appointed, and trained. Courts now have enforcement judges in charge of execution and possess computerized case management software.
DB2009	No reform.

Note: For information on reforms in earlier years (back to DB2005), see the *Doing Business* reports for these years, available at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

ENFORCING CONTRACTS

What are the details?

The indicators reported here for West Bank and Gaza are based on a set of specific procedural steps required to resolve a standardized commercial dispute through the courts (see the section in this chapter on what the indicators cover). These procedures, and the time and cost of completing them, are identified 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 economies covered by *Doing Business*, by judges as well). The procedures for resolving a commercial lawsuit, and the associated time and cost, are listed in the summary below.

[Summary of procedures for enforcing a contract in West Bank and Gaza—and the time and cost](#)

Indicator	West Bank and Gaza	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income
Time (days)	540	658.22	518.03
Filing and service	25		
Trial and judgment	440		
Enforcement of judgment	75		
Cost (% of claim)	21.2	23.64	19.71
Attorney cost (% of claim)	17		
Court cost (% of claim)	2.2		
Enforcement Cost (% of claim)	2		
Procedures (number)	44	43.83	31.42

Source: *Doing Business* database.

RESOLVING INSOLVENCY

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 the speedy return of businesses 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.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business studies the time, cost and outcome of insolvency proceedings involving domestic entities. It does not measure insolvency proceedings of individuals and financial institutions. The data are derived from survey responses by local insolvency practitioners and verified through a study of laws and regulations as well as public information on bankruptcy systems.

The ranking on the ease of resolving insolvency is based on the recovery rate, which is recorded as cents on the dollar recouped by creditors through reorganization, liquidation or debt enforcement (foreclosure) proceedings. The recovery rate is a function of time, cost and other factors, such as lending rate and the likelihood of the company continuing to operate.

To make the data comparable across economies, *Doing Business* uses several assumptions about the business and the case. It assumes that the company:

- Is a domestically owned, limited liability company operating a hotel.
- Operates in the economy's largest business city.

WHAT THE RESOLVING INSOLVENCY INDICATORS MEASURE
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) Measured as percentage of estate value Court fees Fees of insolvency administrators Lawyers' fees Assessors' and auctioneers' fees Other related fees
Recovery rate for creditors (cents on the dollar) Measures the cents on the dollar recovered by creditors Present value of debt recovered Official 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

- Has 201 employees, 1 main secured creditor and 50 unsecured creditors.
- Has a higher value as a going concern—and the efficient outcome is either reorganization or sale as a going concern, not piecemeal liquidation.

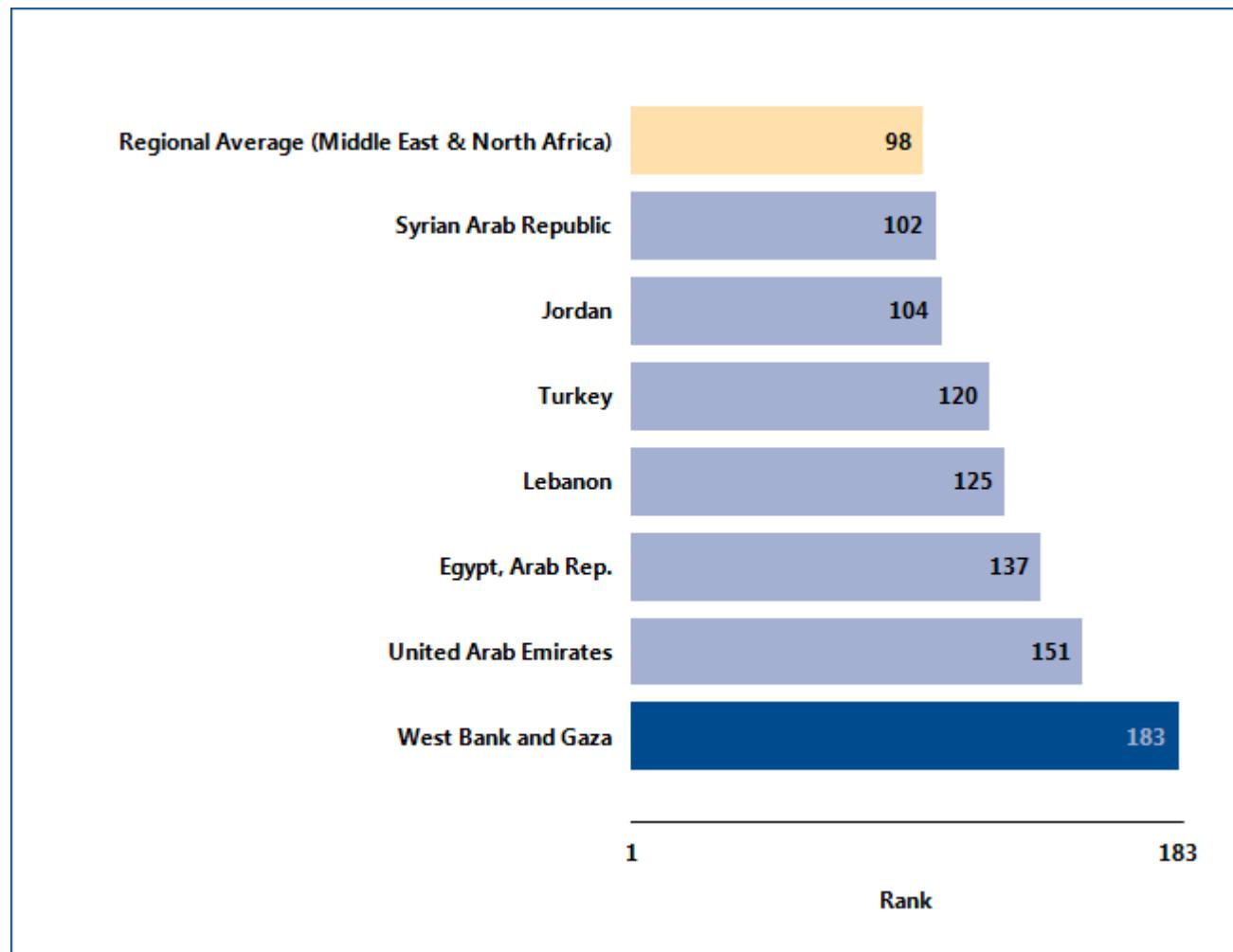
RESOLVING INSOLVENCY

Where does the economy stand today?

Speed, low costs and continuation of viable businesses characterize the top-performing economies. How efficient are insolvency proceedings in West Bank and Gaza? According to data collected by *Doing Business*, this economy receives a "no practice" mark for resolving insolvency, indicating that in each of the previous 5 years there were no cases involving a judicial reorganization, judicial liquidation or debt

enforcement procedure (foreclosure). Globally, West Bank and Gaza stands at 183 in the ranking of 183 economies on the ease of resolving insolvency (figure 11.1). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide other useful benchmarks for assessing the efficiency of insolvency proceedings in West Bank and Gaza.

Figure 11.1 How West Bank and Gaza and comparator economies rank on the ease of resolving insolvency



Source: *Doing Business* database.

RESOLVING INSOLVENCY

What are the changes over time?

While the most recent *Doing Business* data reflect the efficiency of insolvency proceedings in West Bank and Gaza today, data over time show where the efficiency

has changed—and where it has not (table 11.1). That can help identify where the potential for improvement is greatest.

**Table 11.1 The ease of resolving insolvency in West Bank and Gaza over time
By *Doing Business* report year**

Indicator	DB2004	DB2005	DB2006	DB2007	DB2008	DB2009	DB2010	DB2011	DB2012
Rank	183	183
Time (years)	n.a.	no practice							
Cost (% of estate)	0	no practice							
Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	n.a.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Note: n.a. = not applicable (the economy was not included in *Doing Business* for that year). DB2012 rankings reflect changes to the methodology. “No practice” indicates that in each of the previous 5 years the economy had no cases involving a judicial reorganization, judicial liquidation or debt enforcement procedure (foreclosure). This means that creditors are unlikely to recover their money through a formal legal process (in or out of court). The recovery rate for “no practice” economies is 0.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

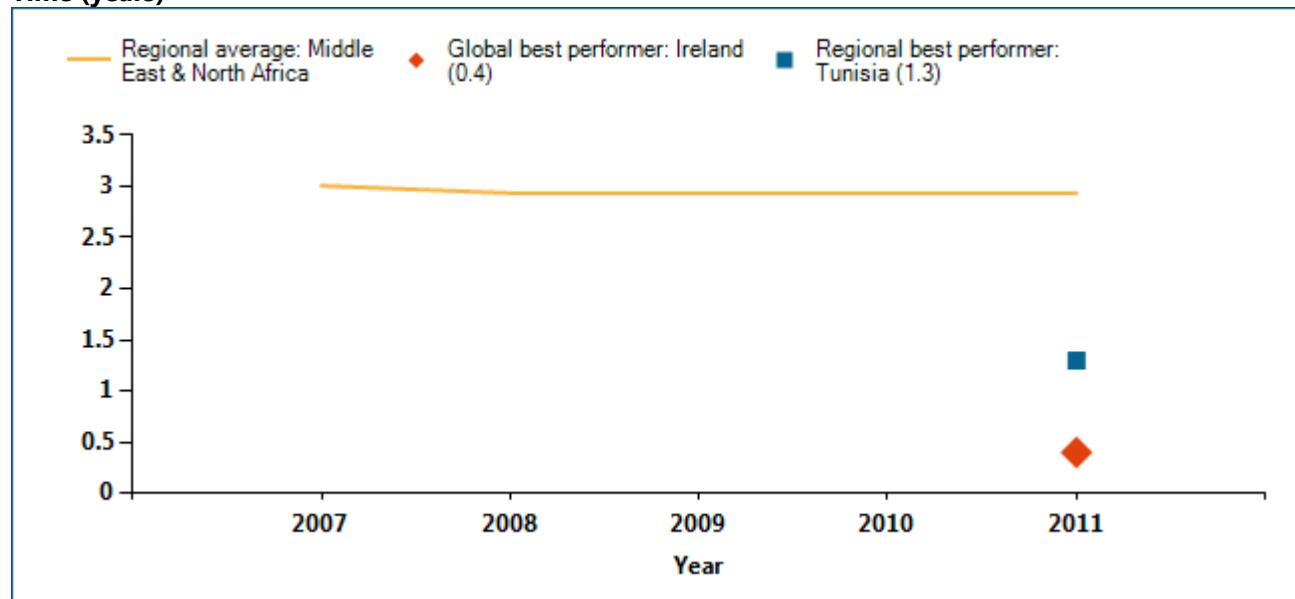
RESOLVING INSOLVENCY

Equally helpful may be the benchmarks provided by the economies that today have the best performance regionally or globally on the time or cost of insolvency proceedings or on the recovery rate (figure 11.2). These economies may provide a model for West Bank

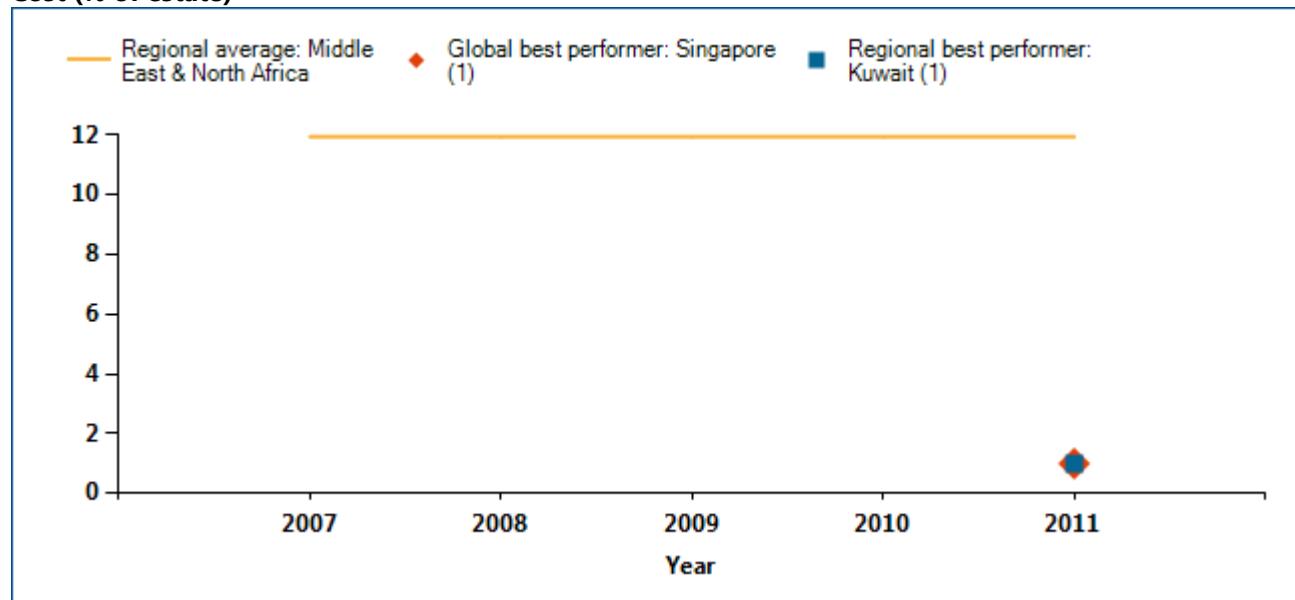
and Gaza on ways to improve the efficiency of insolvency proceedings. And changes in regional averages can show where West Bank and Gaza is keeping up—and where it is falling behind.

Figure 11.2 Has resolving insolvency become easier over time?

Time (years)

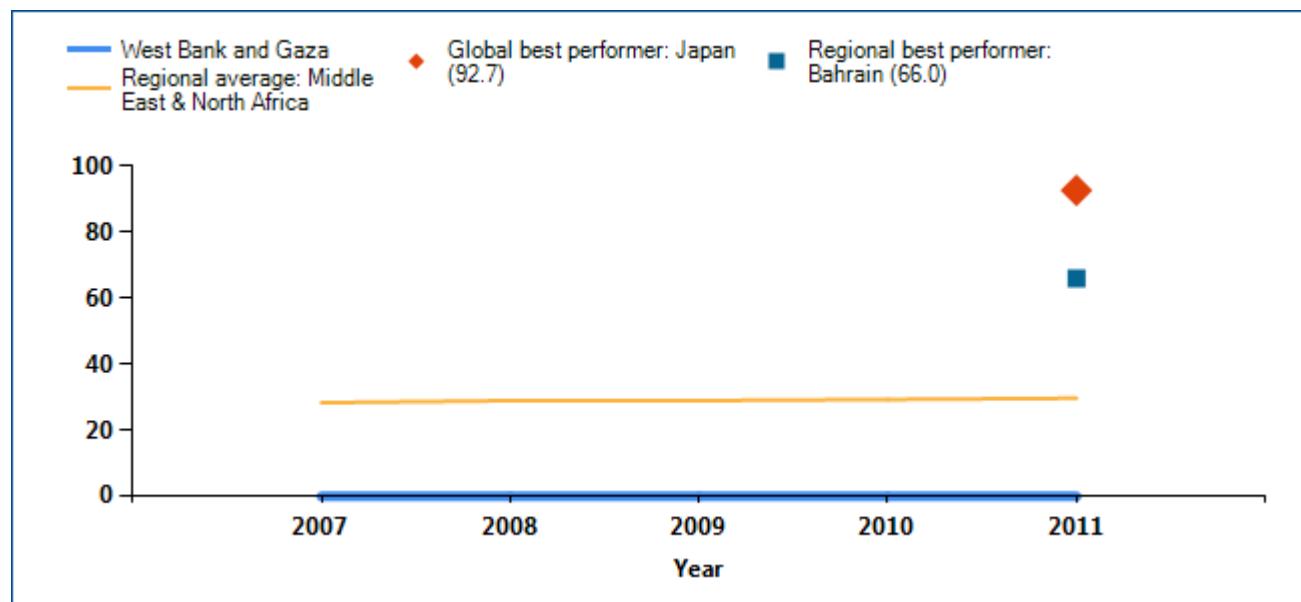


Cost (% of estate)



RESOLVING INSOLVENCY

Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)



Note: The economy with the best performance regionally on each indicator, and the economy with the best performance globally, are included as benchmarks. In some cases 2 or more economies share the top regional or global ranking on an indicator. In cases where no data are displayed above for the economy, this indicates that the economy has received a “no practice” mark; see the data notes for details.

Source: Doing Business database.

RESOLVING INSOLVENCY

A well-balanced bankruptcy system distinguishes companies that are financially distressed but economically viable from inefficient companies that should be liquidated. But in some insolvency systems even viable businesses are liquidated. This is starting to

change. Many recent reforms of bankruptcy laws have been aimed at helping more of the viable businesses survive. What insolvency reforms has *Doing Business* recorded in West Bank and Gaza (table 11.2)?

Table 11.2 How has West Bank and Gaza made resolving insolvency easier—or not?
By *Doing Business* report year

DB Year	Reform
DB2012	No reform.
DB2011	No reform.
DB2010	No reform.
DB2009	No reform.

Note: For information on reforms in earlier years (back to DB2005), see the *Doing Business* reports for these years, available at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>.

Source: *Doing Business* database.

DATA NOTES

The indicators presented and analyzed in *Doing Business* measure business regulation and the protection of property rights—and their effect on businesses, especially small and medium-size domestic firms. First, the indicators document the complexity of regulation, such as the number of procedures to start a business or to register and transfer commercial property. Second, they gauge the time and cost of achieving a regulatory goal or complying with regulation, such as the time and cost to enforce a contract, go through bankruptcy or trade across borders. Third, they measure the extent of legal protections of property, for example, the protections of investors against looting by company directors or the range of assets that can be used as collateral according to secured transactions laws. Fourth, a set of indicators documents the tax burden on businesses. Finally, a set of data covers different aspects of employment regulation.

The data for all sets of indicators in *Doing Business 2012* are for June 2011.³

Methodology

The *Doing Business* data are collected in a standardized way. To start, the *Doing Business* team, with academic advisers, designs a questionnaire. The questionnaire uses a simple business case to ensure comparability across economies and over time—with assumptions about the legal form of the business, its size, its location and the nature of its operations. Questionnaires are administered through more than 9,028 local experts, including lawyers, business consultants, accountants, freight forwarders, government officials and other professionals routinely administering or advising on legal and regulatory requirements. These experts have several rounds of interaction with the *Doing Business* team, involving conference calls, written correspondence and visits by the team. For *Doing Business 2012* team members visited 40 economies to verify data and recruit respondents. The data from questionnaires are subjected to numerous rounds of verification, leading to revisions or expansions of the information collected.

ECONOMY CHARACTERISTICS

Gross national income (GNI) per capita

Doing Business 2012 reports 2010 income per capita as published in the World Bank's *World Development Indicators 2011*. Income is calculated using the Atlas method (current US\$). For cost indicators expressed as a percentage of income per capita, 2010 GNI in U.S. dollars is used as the denominator. Data were not available from the World Bank for Afghanistan; Australia; The Bahamas; Bahrain; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Cyprus; Djibouti; the Islamic Republic of Iran; Kuwait; New Zealand; Oman; Puerto Rico (territory of the United States); Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Suriname; Taiwan, China; the United Arab Emirates; West Bank and Gaza; and the Republic of Yemen. In these cases GDP or GNP per capita data and growth rates from the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook database and the Economist Intelligence Unit were used.

Region and income group

Doing Business uses the World Bank regional and income group classifications, available at <http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass>. The World Bank does not assign regional classifications to high-income economies. For the purpose of the *Doing Business* report, high-income OECD economies are assigned the "regional" classification *OECD high income*. Figures and tables presenting regional averages include economies from all income groups (low, lower middle, upper middle and high income).

Population

Doing Business 2012 reports midyear 2010 population statistics as published in *World Development Indicators 2011*.

The *Doing Business* methodology offers several advantages. It is transparent, using factual information about what laws and regulations say and allowing multiple interactions with local respondents to clarify potential misinterpretations of questions. Having representative samples of respondents is not an issue;

³ The data for paying taxes refer to January – December 2010.

Doing Business is not a statistical survey, and the texts of the relevant laws and regulations are collected and answers checked for accuracy. The methodology is inexpensive and easily replicable, so data can be collected in a large sample of economies. Because standard assumptions are used in the data collection, comparisons and benchmarks are valid across economies. Finally, the data not only highlight the extent of specific regulatory obstacles to business but also identify their source and point to what might be reformed.

Information on the methodology for each *Doing Business* topic can be found on the *Doing Business* website at <http://www.doingbusiness.org/methodology/>.

Limits to what is measured

The *Doing Business* methodology has 5 limitations that should be considered when interpreting the data. First, the collected data refer to businesses in the economy's largest business city and may not be representative of regulation in other parts of the economy. To address this limitation, subnational *Doing Business* indicators were created (see the section on subnational *Doing Business* indicators). Second, the data often focus on a specific business form—generally a limited liability company (or its legal equivalent) of a specified size—and may not be representative of the regulation on other businesses, for example, sole proprietorships. Third, transactions described in a standardized case scenario refer to a specific set of issues and may not represent the full set of issues a business encounters. Fourth, the measures of time involve an element of judgment by the expert respondents. When sources indicate different estimates, the time indicators reported in *Doing Business* represent the median values of several responses given under the assumptions of the standardized case.

Finally, the methodology assumes that a business has full information on what is required and does not waste time when completing procedures. In practice, completing a procedure may take longer if the business lacks information or is unable to follow up promptly. Alternatively, the business may choose to disregard some burdensome procedures. For both reasons the time delays reported in *Doing Business* 2012 would differ from the recollection of

entrepreneurs reported in the World Bank Enterprise Surveys or other perception surveys.

Subnational *Doing Business* indicators

This year *Doing Business* published a subnational study for the Philippines and a regional report for Southeast Europe covering 7 economies (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia) and 22 cities. It also published a city profile for Juba, in the Republic of South Sudan.

The subnational studies point to differences in business regulation and its implementation—as well as in the pace of regulatory reform—across cities in the same economy. For several economies subnational studies are now periodically updated to measure change over time or to expand geographic coverage to additional cities. This year that is the case for the subnational studies in the Philippines; the regional report in Southeast Europe; the ongoing studies in Italy, Kenya and the United Arab Emirates; and the projects implemented jointly with local think tanks in Indonesia, Mexico and the Russian Federation.

Besides the subnational *Doing Business* indicators, *Doing Business* conducted a pilot study this year on the second largest city in 3 large economies to assess within-country variations. The study collected data for Rio de Janeiro in addition to São Paulo in Brazil, for Beijing in addition to Shanghai in China and for St. Petersburg in addition to Moscow in Russia.

Changes in what is measured

The methodology for 3 of the *Doing Business* topics was updated this year—getting credit, dealing with construction permits and paying taxes.

First, for getting credit, the scoring of one of the 10 components of the strength of legal rights index was amended to recognize additional protections of secured creditors and borrowers. Previously the highest score of 1 was assigned if secured creditors were not subject to an automatic stay or moratorium on enforcement procedures when a debtor entered a court-supervised reorganization procedure. Now the highest score of 1 is also assigned if the law provides secured creditors with grounds for relief from an

automatic stay or moratorium (for example, if the movable property is in danger) or sets a time limit for the automatic stay.

Second, because the ease of doing business index now includes the getting electricity indicators, procedures, time and cost related to obtaining an electricity connection were removed from the dealing with construction permits indicators.

Third, a threshold has been introduced for the total tax rate for the purpose of calculating the ranking on the ease of paying taxes. All economies with a total tax rate below the threshold (which will be calculated and adjusted on a yearly basis) will now receive the same ranking on the total tax rate indicator. The threshold is not based on any underlying theory. Instead, it is meant to emphasize the purpose of the indicator: to highlight economies where the tax burden on business is high relative to the tax burden in other economies. Giving the same ranking to all economies whose total tax rate is below the threshold avoids awarding economies in the scoring for having an unusually low total tax rate, often for reasons unrelated to government policies toward enterprises. For example, economies that are very small or that are rich in natural resources do not need to levy broad-based taxes.

Data challenges and revisions

Most laws and regulations underlying the *Doing Business* data are available on the *Doing Business* website at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>. All the sample questionnaires and the details underlying the indicators are also published on the website. Questions on the methodology and challenges to data can be submitted through the website's "Ask a Question" function at <http://www.doingbusiness.org>.

Ease of doing business and distance to frontier

This year's report presents results for 2 aggregate measures: the aggregate ranking on the ease of doing business and a new measure, the "distance to frontier." While the ease of doing business ranking compares economies with one another at a point in time, the distance to frontier measure shows how much the

regulatory environment for local entrepreneurs in each economy has changed over time.

Ease of doing business

The ease of doing business index ranks economies from 1 to 183. For each economy the ranking is calculated as the simple average of the percentile rankings on each of the 10 topics included in the index in *Doing Business 2012*: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, resolving insolvency and, new this year, getting electricity. The employing workers indicators are not included in this year's aggregate ease of doing business ranking. In addition to this year's ranking, *Doing Business* presents a comparable ranking for the previous year, adjusted for any changes in methodology as well as additions of economies or topics.⁴

Construction of the ease of doing business index

Here is one example of how the ease of doing business index is constructed. In the Republic of Korea it takes 5 procedures, 7 days and 14.6% of annual income per capita in fees to open a business. There is no minimum capital required. On these 4 indicators Korea ranks in the 18th, 14th, 53rd and 0 percentiles. So on average Korea ranks in the 21st percentile on the ease of starting a business. It ranks in the 12th percentile on getting credit, 25th percentile on paying taxes, 8th percentile on enforcing contracts, 7th percentile on resolving insolvency and so on. Higher rankings indicate simpler regulation and stronger protection of property rights. The simple average of Korea's percentile rankings on all topics is 21st. When all economies are ordered by their average percentile rankings, Korea stands at 8 in the aggregate ranking on the ease of doing business.

More complex aggregation methods—such as principal components and unobserved components—

⁴ In case of revisions to the methodology or corrections to the underlying data, the data are back-calculated to provide a comparable time series since the year the relevant economy or topic was first included in the data set. The time series is available on the *Doing Business* website (<http://www.doingbusiness.org>). The *Doing Business* report publishes yearly rankings for the year of publication as well as the previous year to shed light on year-to-year developments. Six topics and more than 50 economies have been added since the inception of the project. Earlier rankings on the ease of doing business are therefore not comparable.

yield a ranking nearly identical to the simple average used by *Doing Business*.⁵ Thus, *Doing Business* uses the simplest method: weighting all topics equally and, within each topic, giving equal weight to each of the topic components.⁶

If an economy has no laws or regulations covering a specific area—for example, insolvency—it receives a “no practice” mark. Similarly, an economy receives a “no practice” or “not possible” mark if regulation exists but is never used in practice or if a competing regulation prohibits such practice. Either way, a “no practice” mark puts the economy at the bottom of the ranking on the relevant indicator.

The ease of doing business index is limited in scope. It does not account for an economy’s proximity to large markets, the quality of its infrastructure services (other than services related to trading across borders and getting electricity), the strength of its financial system, the security of property from theft and looting, its macroeconomic conditions or the strength of underlying institutions.

Variability of economies’ rankings across topics

Each indicator set measures a different aspect of the business regulatory environment. The rankings of an economy can vary, sometimes significantly, across indicator sets. The average correlation coefficient between the 10 indicator sets included in the aggregate ranking is 0.36, and the coefficients between any 2 sets of indicators range from 0.17 (between protecting investors and getting electricity) to 0.57 (between starting a business and protecting investors). These correlations suggest that economies rarely score universally well or universally badly on the indicators.

⁵ See Simeon Djankov, Darshini Manraj, Caralee McLiesh and Rita Ramalho, “*Doing Business* Indicators: Why Aggregate, and How to Do It” (World Bank, Washington, DC, 2005). Principal components and unobserved components methods yield a ranking nearly identical to that from the simple average method because both these methods assign roughly equal weights to the topics, since the pairwise correlations among indicators do not differ much. An alternative to the simple average method is to give different weights to the topics, depending on which are considered of more or less importance in the context of a specific economy.

⁶ A technical note on the different aggregation and weighting methods is available on the *Doing Business* website (<http://www.doingbusiness.org>).

Consider the example of Canada. It stands at 12 in the aggregate ranking on the ease of doing business. Its ranking is 3 on both starting a business and resolving insolvency, and 5 on protecting investors. But its ranking is only 59 on enforcing contracts, 42 on trading across borders and 156 on getting electricity.

Variation in performance across the indicator sets is not at all unusual. It reflects differences in the degree of priority that government authorities give to particular areas of business regulation reform and the ability of different government agencies to deliver tangible results in their area of responsibility.

Economies that improved the most across 3 or more Doing Business topics in 2010/11

Doing Business 2012 uses a simple method to calculate which economies improved the most in the ease of doing business. First, it selects the economies that in 2010/11 implemented regulatory reforms making it easier to do business in 3 or more of the 10 topics included in this year’s ease of doing business ranking.⁷ Thirty economies meet this criterion: Armenia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Georgia, Korea, Latvia, Liberia, FYR Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Peru, Russia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, the Solomon Islands, South Africa and Ukraine. Second, *Doing Business* ranks these economies on the increase in their ranking on the ease of doing business from the previous year using comparable rankings.

Selecting the economies that implemented regulatory reforms in at least 3 topics and improved the most in the aggregate ranking is intended to highlight economies with ongoing, broad-based reform programs.

Distance to frontier measure

This year’s report introduces a new measure to illustrate how the regulatory environment for local businesses in each economy has changed over time. The distance to frontier measure illustrates the distance of an economy to the “frontier” and shows

⁷ *Doing Business* reforms making it more difficult to do business are subtracted from the total number of those making it easier to do business.

the extent to which the economy has closed this gap over time. The frontier is a score derived from the most efficient practice or highest score achieved on each of the component indicators in 9 *Doing Business* indicator sets (excluding the employing workers and getting electricity indicators) by any economy since 2005. In starting a business, for example, New Zealand has achieved the highest performance on the time (1 day), Canada and New Zealand on the number of procedures required (1), Denmark and Slovenia on the cost (0% of income per capita) and Australia on the paid-in minimum capital requirement (0% of income per capita).

Calculating the distance to frontier for each economy involves 2 main steps. First, individual indicator scores are normalized to a common unit. To do so, each of the 32 component indicators y is rescaled to $(y - \text{min})/(\text{max} - \text{min})$, with the minimum value (min) representing the frontier—the highest performance on that indicator across all economies since 2005. Second, for each economy the scores obtained for individual indicators are aggregated through simple averaging into one distance to frontier score. An economy's distance to the frontier is indicated on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 represents the frontier and 100 the lowest performance.

The difference between an economy's distance to frontier score in 2005 and its score in 2011 illustrates the extent to which the economy has closed the gap to the frontier over time.

The maximum (max) and minimum (min) observed values are computed for the 174 economies included in the *Doing Business* sample since 2005 and for all years (from 2005 to 2011). The year 2005 was chosen as the baseline for the economy sample because it was the first year in which data were available for the majority of economies (a total of 174) and for all 9 indicator sets included in the measure. To mitigate the effects of extreme outliers in the distributions of the rescaled data (very few economies need 694 days to complete the procedures to start a business, but many need 9 days), the maximum (max) is defined as the 95th percentile of the pooled data for all economies and all years for each indicator.

Take Colombia, which has a score of 0.21 on the distance to frontier measure for 2011. This score indicates that the economy is 21 percentage points away from the frontier constructed from the best performances across all economies and all years. Colombia was further from the frontier in 2005, with a score of 0.43. The difference between the scores shows an improvement over time.

RESOURCES ON THE *DOING BUSINESS* WEBSITE

Current features

News on the *Doing Business* project
<http://www.doingbusiness.org>

Rankings

How economies rank—from 1 to 183
<http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings/>

Reports

Access to *Doing Business* reports as well as subnational and regional reports, reform case studies and customized economy and regional profiles
<http://www.doingbusiness.org/reports/>

Methodology

The methodologies and research papers underlying *Doing Business*
<http://www.doingbusiness.org/methodology/>

Research

Abstracts of papers on *Doing Business* topics and related policy issues
<http://www.doingbusiness.org/research/>

***Doing Business* reforms**

Short summaries of DB2012 business regulation reforms, lists of reforms since DB2008 and a ranking simulation tool
<http://www.doingbusiness.org/reforms/>

Historical data

Customized data sets since DB2004
<http://www.doingbusiness.org/custom-query/>

Law library

Online collection of business laws and regulations relating to business and gender issues
<http://www.doingbusiness.org/law-library/>
<http://wbl.worldbank.org/>

Contributors

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