

Market Metrics

Development specialists are increasingly inclined these days to look to the nuts-and-bolts for explanations of why some economies do so much better than others. Hence the World Bank's decade-long project to rank countries according to the ease of doing business. I've culled the latest results for 24 countries that interested me and included sub-rankings for four of the 10 criteria used to build the index.

Check out the new report (doingbusiness.org) for answers to questions like how many days it takes to get a construction permit in Brazil (469) and how many days a business must wait for an electricity hookup in Russia (281).

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS 2012 RANKING AMONG 183 COUNTRIES

	OVERALL RANK	STARTING A BUSINESS	REGISTERING PROPERTY	GETTING CREDIT	ENFORCING CONTRACTS
Singapore.....	1	4	14	8	12
United States.....	4	13	16	4	7
South Korea.....	8	24	71	8	2
Saudi Arabia.....	12	10	1	48	138
Georgia.....	16	7	1	8	41
Germany.....	19	98	77	24	8
Japan.....	20	107	58	24	34
Switzerland.....	26	85	14	24	23
Israel.....	34	43	147	8	94
South Africa.....	35	44	76	1	81
Mexico.....	53	75	140	40	81
Italy.....	87	77	84	98	158
China.....	91	151	40	67	104
Greece.....	100	135	150	78	90
Egypt.....	110	21	93	78	147
Russia.....	120	111	45	98	13
Brazil.....	126	120	114	98	136
India.....	132	166	97	40	182
Nigeria.....	133	166	97	78	99
Iran.....	144	53	163	98	50
Afghanistan.....	160	30	172	150	161
Iraq.....	164	176	98	174	140
Venezuela.....	177	147	91	182	77
Chad.....	183	183	143	98	163

SOURCE: World Bank Group