

A World Bank Group Flagship Report



Doing Business 2018

Reforming to Create Jobs

Regional Profile

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)



Comparing Business Regulation
for Domestic Firms in **190** Economies

Region Profile of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Doing Business 2018 Indicators
(in order of appearance in the document)

Starting a business	Procedures, time, cost and paid-in minimum capital to start a limited liability company
Dealing with construction permits	Procedures, time and cost to complete all formalities to build a warehouse and the quality control and safety mechanisms in the construction permitting system
Getting electricity	Procedures, time and cost to get connected to the electrical grid, the reliability of the electricity supply and the transparency of tariffs
Registering property	Procedures, time and cost to transfer a property and the quality of the land administration system
Getting credit	Movable collateral laws and credit information systems
Protecting minority investors	Minority shareholders' rights in related-party transactions and in corporate governance
Paying taxes	Payments, time and total tax rate for a firm to comply with all tax regulations as well as post-filing processes
Trading across borders	Time and cost to export the product of comparative advantage and import auto parts
Enforcing contracts	Time and cost to resolve a commercial dispute and the quality of judicial processes
Resolving insolvency	Time, cost, outcome and recovery rate for a commercial insolvency and the strength of the legal framework for insolvency

About Doing Business

The Doing Business project provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 190 economies and selected cities at the subnational and regional level.

The Doing Business project, launched in 2002, looks at domestic small and medium-size companies and measures the regulations applying to them through their life cycle.

Doing Business captures several important dimensions of the regulatory environment as it applies to local firms. It provides quantitative indicators on regulation for starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency. Doing Business also measures features of labor market regulation. Although Doing Business does not present rankings of economies on the labor market regulation indicators or include the topic in the aggregate distance to frontier score or ranking on the ease of doing business, it does present the data for these indicators.

By gathering and analyzing comprehensive quantitative data to compare business regulation environments across economies and over time, Doing Business encourages economies to compete towards more efficient regulation; offers measurable benchmarks for reform; and serves as a resource for academics, journalists, private sector researchers and others interested in the business climate of each economy.

In addition, Doing Business offers detailed [subnational reports](#), which exhaustively cover business regulation and reform in different cities and regions within a nation. These reports provide data on the ease of doing business, rank each location, and recommend reforms to improve performance in each of the indicator areas. Selected cities can compare their business regulations with other cities in the economy or region and with the 190 economies that Doing Business has ranked.

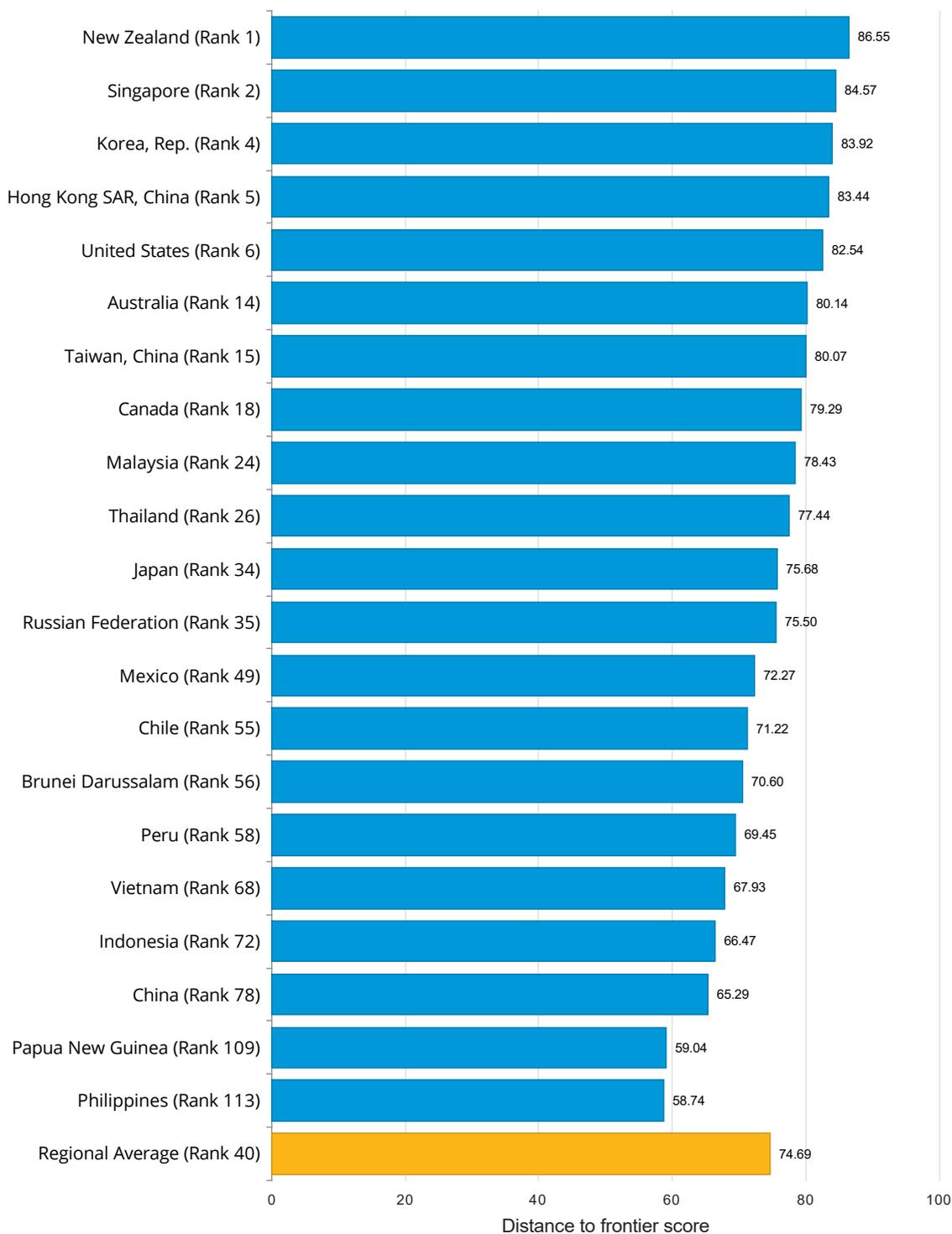
The first Doing Business report, published in 2003, covered 5 indicator sets and 133 economies. This year's report covers 11 indicator sets and 190 economies. Most indicator sets refer to a case scenario in the largest business city of each economy, except for 11 economies that have a population of more than 100 million as of 2013 (Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and the United States) where Doing Business also collected data for the second largest business city. The data for these 11 economies are a population-weighted average for the 2 largest business cities. The project has benefited from feedback from governments, academics, practitioners and reviewers. The initial goal remains: to provide an objective basis for understanding and improving the regulatory environment for business around the world.

More about [Doing Business](#) (PDF, 5MB)

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 in the region and compared with the regional average. Another perspective is provided by the regional average rankings on the topics included in the ease of doing business ranking and the distance to frontier scores.

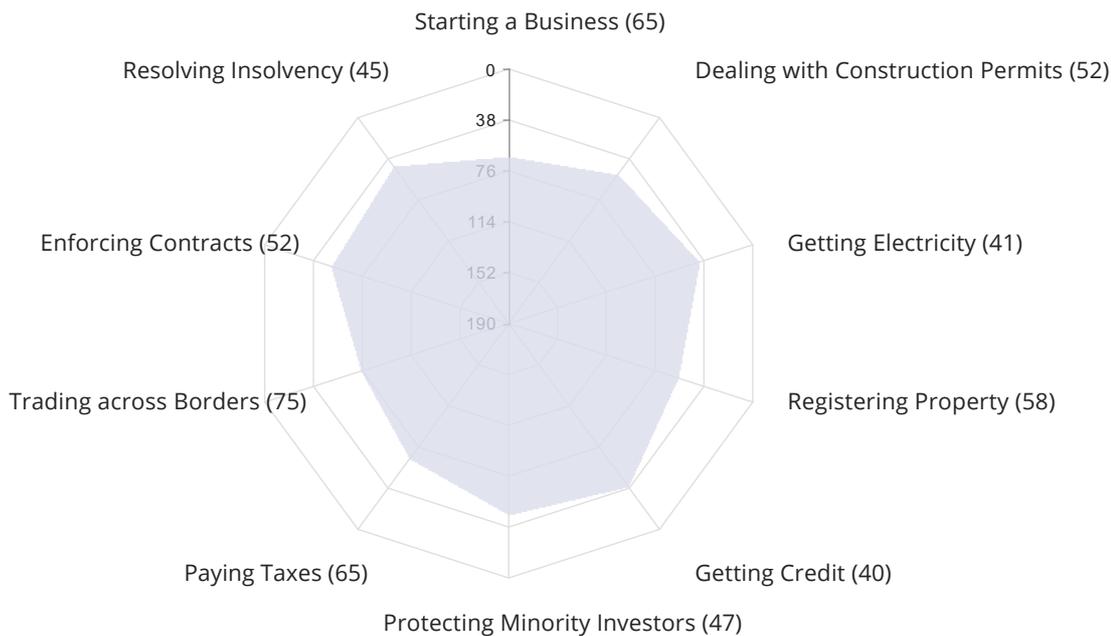
How economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rank on the ease of doing business



Note: Economies are ranked on their ease of doing business, from 1–190. The rankings are determined by sorting the aggregate distance to frontier scores on 10 topics, each consisting of several indicators, giving equal weight to each topic. The rankings for all economies are benchmarked to June 2017. The distance to frontier (DTF) measure shows the distance of each economy to the “frontier,” which represents the best performance observed on each of the indicators across all economies in the Doing Business sample since 2005. An economy’s distance to frontier is reflected on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 represents the lowest performance and 100 represents the frontier.

Source: Doing Business database

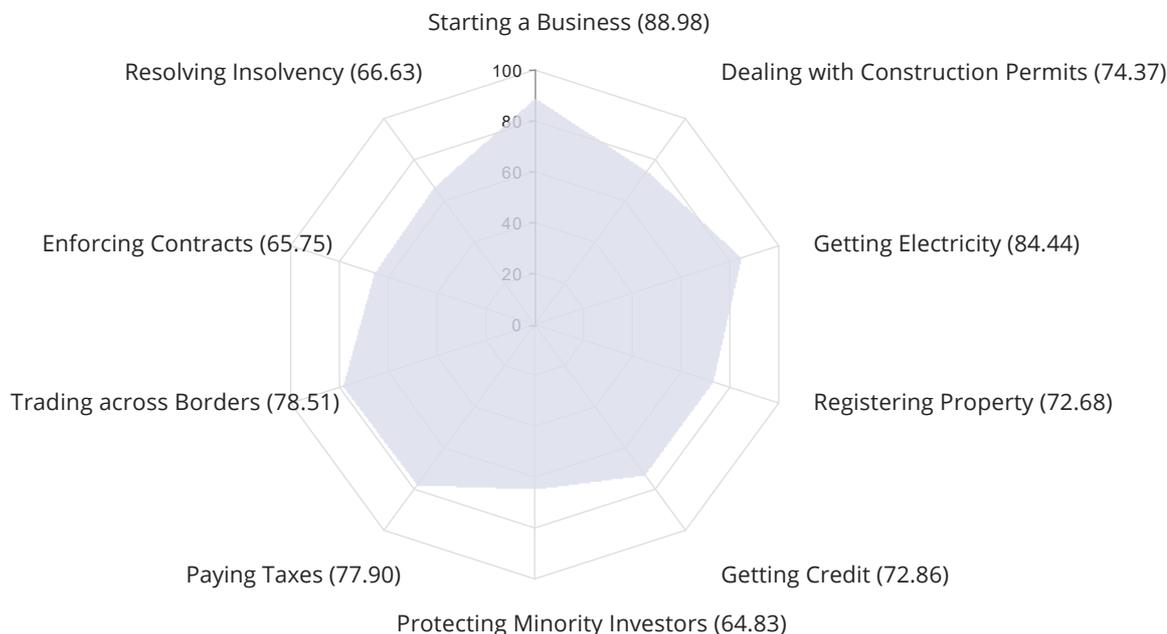
Rankings on Doing Business topics - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)



Regional average ranking (Scale: Rank 190 center, Rank 1 outer edge)

Source: Doing Business database.

Distance to frontier scores on Doing Business topics - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)



(Scale: Score 0 center, Score 100 outer edge)

Note: Economies are ranked on their ease of doing business, from 1-190. The rankings are determined by sorting the aggregate distance to frontier scores on 10 topics, each consisting of several indicators, giving equal weight to each topic. The rankings for all economies are benchmarked to June 2017. The distance to frontier (DTF) measure shows the distance of each economy to the "frontier," which represents the best performance observed on each of the indicators across all economies in the Doing Business sample since 2005. An economy's distance to frontier is reflected on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 represents the lowest performance and 100 represents the frontier. Source: Doing Business database

Starting a Business

This topic measures the paid-in minimum capital requirement, number of procedures, time and cost for a small- to medium-sized limited liability company to start up and formally operate in economy's largest business city.

To make the data comparable across 190 economies, Doing Business uses a standardized business that is 100% domestically owned, has start-up capital equivalent to 10 times income per capita, engages in general industrial or commercial activities and employs between 10 and 50 people one month after the commencement of operations, all of whom are domestic nationals. Starting a Business considers two types of local limited liability companies that are identical in all aspects, except that one company is owned by 5 married women and the other by 5 married men. The distance to frontier score for each indicator is the average of the scores obtained for each of the component indicators.

The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in June 2017. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure

Procedures to legally start and operate a company (number)

Pre-registration (for example, name verification or reservation, notarization)

Registration in economy's largest business city

Post-registration (for example, social security registration, company seal)

Obtaining approval from spouse to start business or leave home to register company

Obtaining any gender-specific permission that can impact company registration, company operations and process of getting national identity card

Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)

Does not include time spent gathering information

Each procedure starts on a separate day (2 procedures cannot start on the same day)

Procedures fully completed online are recorded as ½ day

Procedure is considered 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 or commonly used in practice

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

Funds deposited in a bank or with third party before registration or up to 3 months after incorporation

Case study assumptions

To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions about the business and the procedures are used. It is assumed that any required information is readily available and that the entrepreneur will pay no bribes.

The business:

- Is a limited liability company (or its legal equivalent). If there is more than one type of limited liability company in the economy, the most common among domestic firms is chosen. Information on the most common form is obtained from incorporation lawyers or the statistical office.

- Operates in the economy's largest business city and the entire office space is approximately 929 square meters (10,000 square feet). For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.

- Is 100% domestically owned and has five owners, none of whom is a legal entity; and has a start-up capital of 10 times income per capita and has a turnover of at least 100 times income per capita.

- Performs general industrial or commercial activities, such as the production or sale of goods or services to the public. The business does not perform foreign trade activities and does not handle products subject to a special tax regime, for example, liquor or tobacco. It does not use heavily polluting production processes.

- Leases the commercial plant or offices and is not a proprietor of real estate and the amount of the annual lease for the office space is equivalent to 1 times income per capita.

- Does not qualify for investment incentives or any special benefits.

- Has at least 10 and up to 50 employees one month after the commencement of operations, all of whom are domestic nationals.

- Has a company deed 10 pages long.

The owners:

- Have reached the legal age of majority. If there is no legal age of majority, they are assumed to be 30 years old.

- Are sane, competent, in good health and have no criminal record.

- Are married and the marriage is monogamous and registered with the authorities.

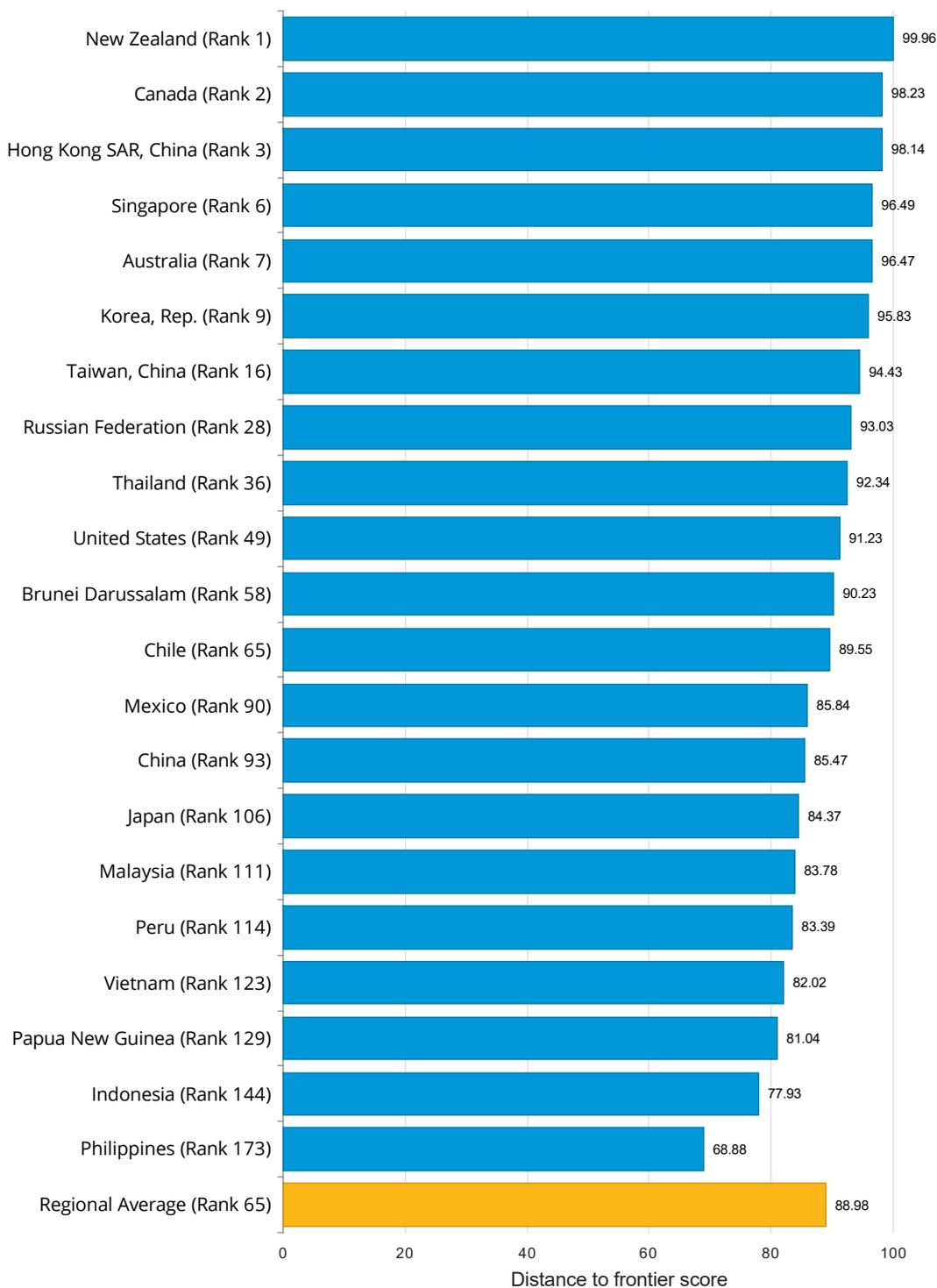
- Where the answer differs according to the legal system applicable to the woman or man in question (as may be the case in economies where there is legal plurality), the answer used will be the one that applies to the majority of the population.

Starting a Business

Where do the region's economies stand today?

How easy is it for entrepreneurs in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to start a business? The global rankings of these economies on the ease of starting a business suggest an answer. The average ranking of the region and comparator regions provide a useful benchmark.

How economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rank on the ease of starting a business



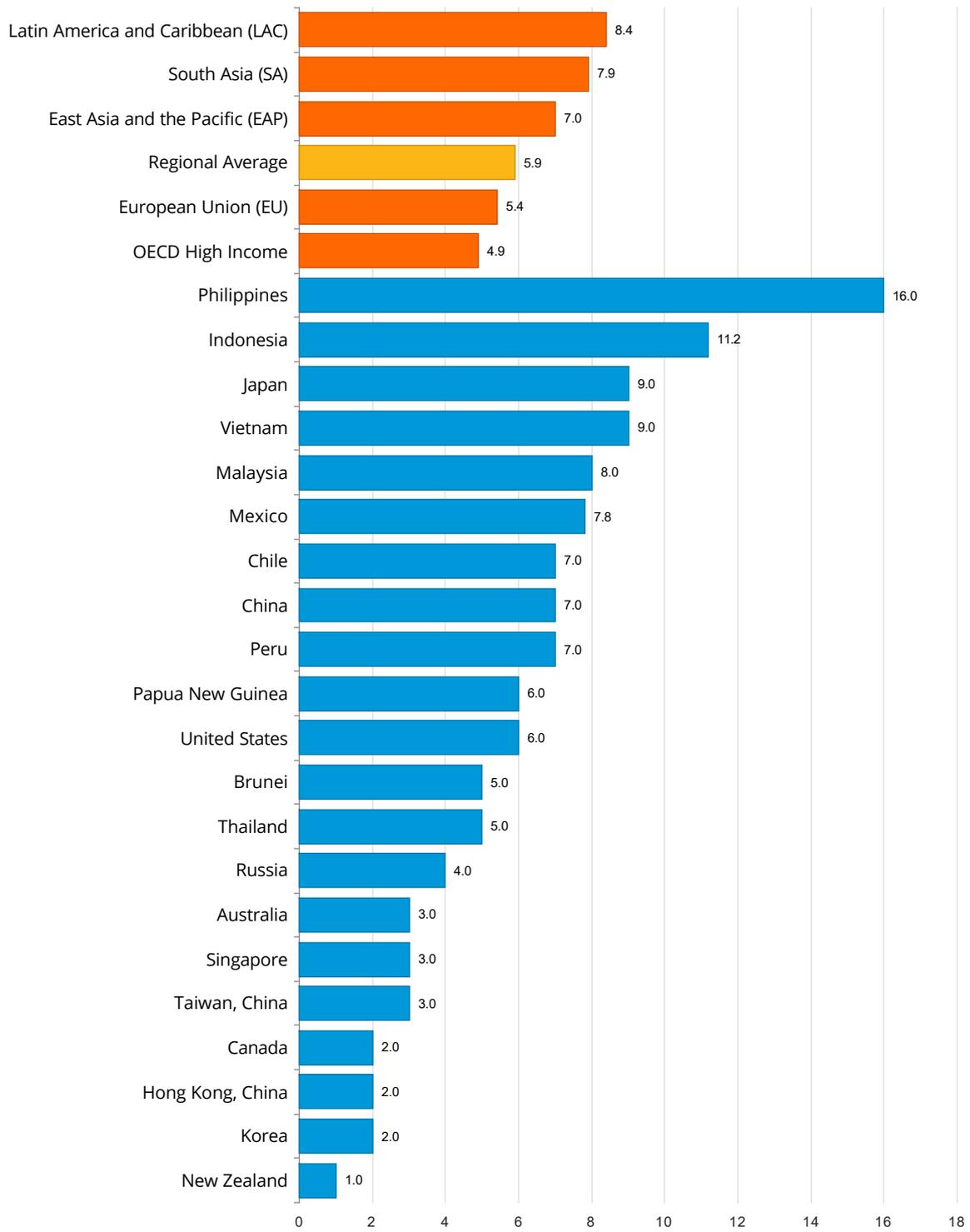
Source: Doing Business database.

Starting a Business

The indicators underlying the rankings may be more revealing. Data collected by Doing Business show what it takes to start a business in each economy in the region: the number of procedures, the time, the cost and the paid-in minimum capital requirement. Comparing these indicators across the region and with averages both for the region and for comparator regions can provide useful insights.

What it takes to start a business in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

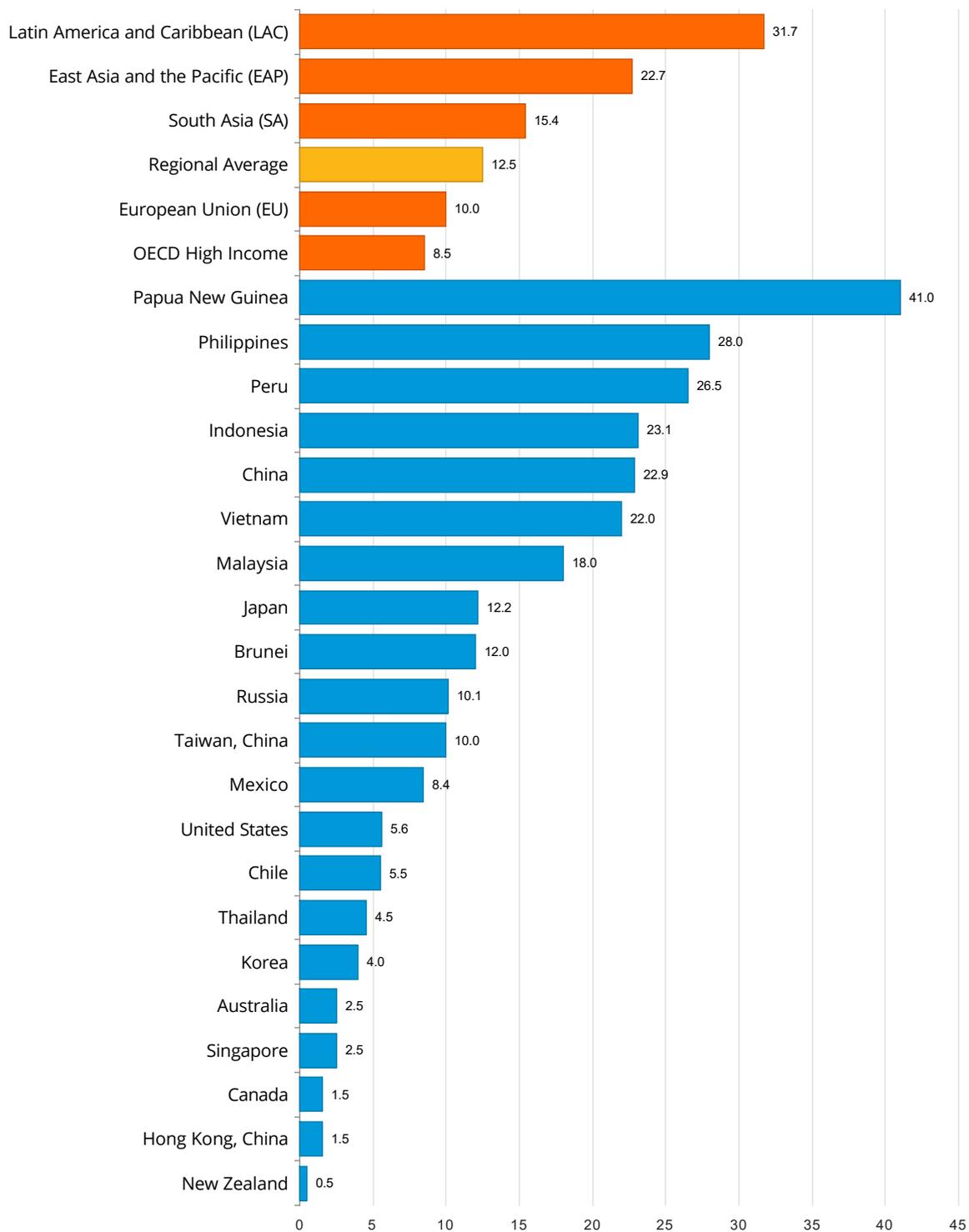
Procedure – Men (number)



Source: Doing Business database.

Starting a Business

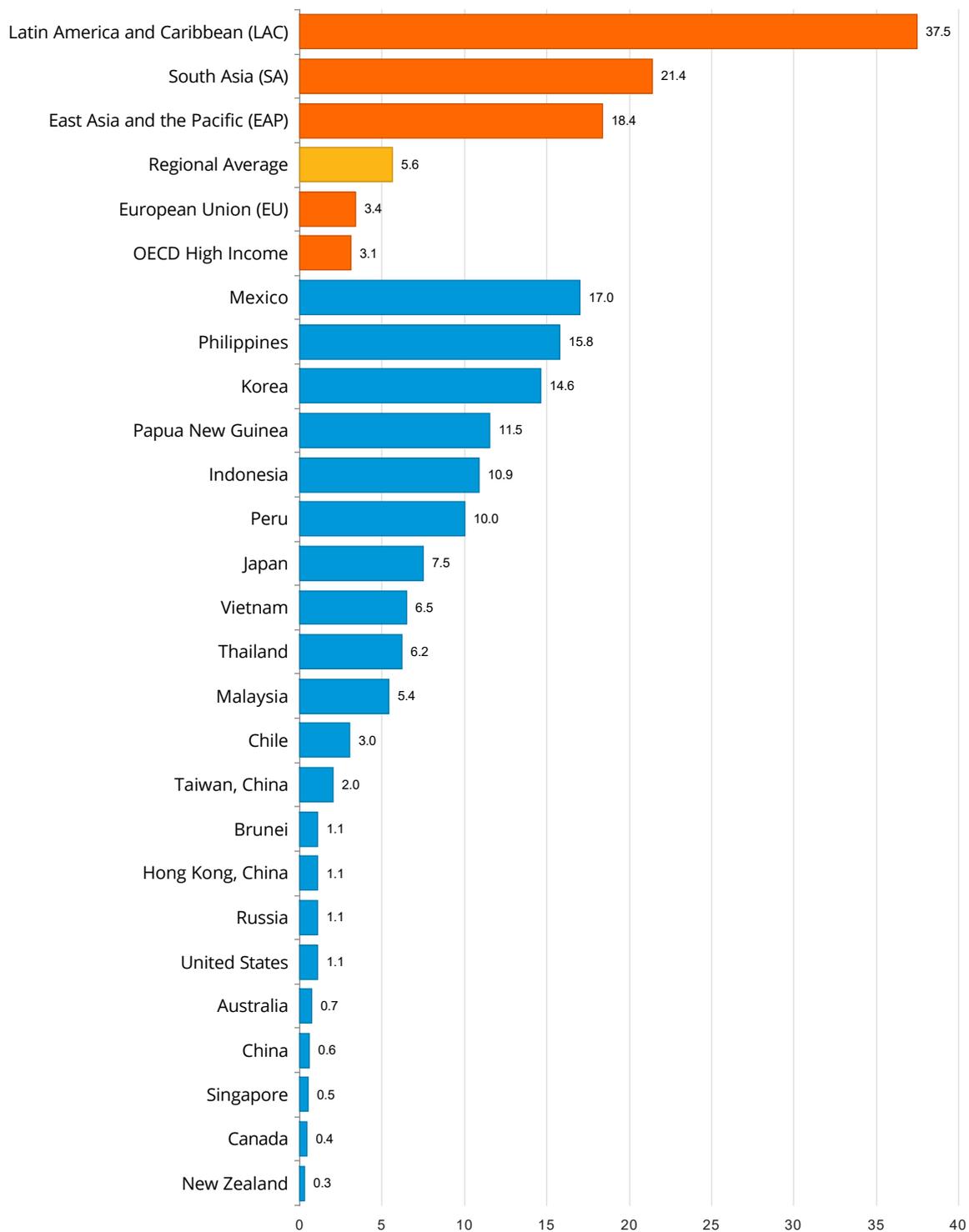
Time - Men (days)



Source: Doing Business database.

Starting a Business

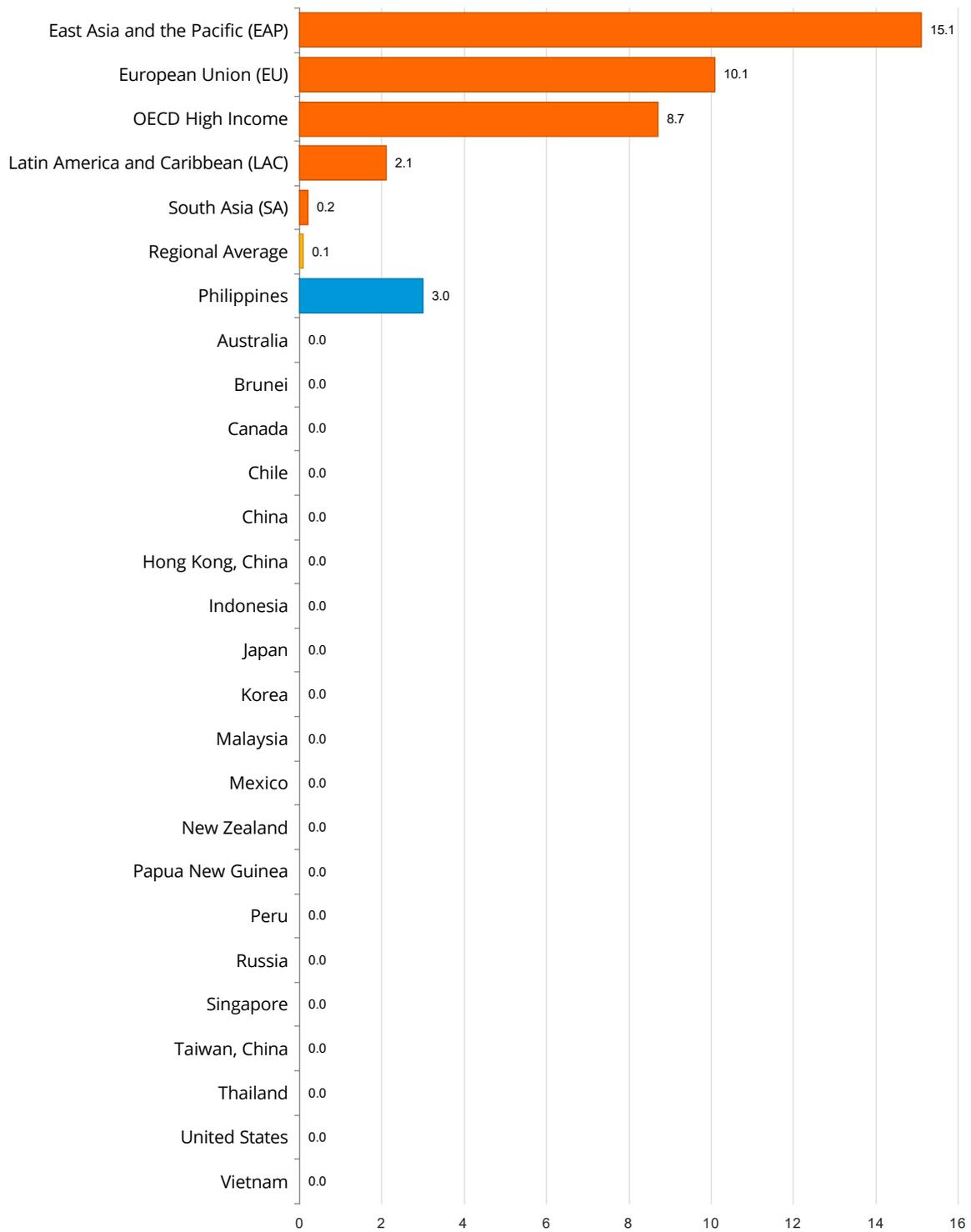
Cost – Men (% of income per capita)



Source: Doing Business database.

Starting a Business

Paid-in min. capital (% of income per capita)



Source: Doing Business database.

Dealing with Construction Permits

This topic tracks the procedures, time and cost to build a warehouse—including obtaining necessary the licenses and permits, submitting all required notifications, requesting and receiving all necessary inspections and obtaining utility connections. In addition, the Dealing with Construction Permits indicator measures the building quality control index, evaluating the quality of building regulations, the strength of quality control and safety mechanisms, liability and insurance regimes, and professional certification requirements. The most recent round of data collection was completed in June 2017. [See the methodology for more information](#)

What the indicators measure

Procedures to legally build a warehouse (number)

Submitting all relevant documents and obtaining all necessary clearances, licenses, permits and certificates

Submitting all required notifications and receiving all necessary inspections

Obtaining utility connections for water and sewerage

Registering and selling the warehouse after its completion

Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)

Does not include time spent gathering information

Each procedure starts on a separate day—though procedures that can be fully completed online are an exception to this rule

Procedure is considered completed once final document is received

No prior contact with officials

Cost required to complete each procedure (% of warehouse value)

Official costs only, no bribes

Building quality control index (0-15)

Sum of the scores of six component indices:

Quality of building regulations (0-2)

Quality control before construction (0-1)

Quality control during construction (0-3)

Quality control after construction (0-3)

Liability and insurance regimes (0-2)

Professional certifications (0-4)

Case study assumptions

To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions about the construction company, the warehouse project and the utility connections are used.

The construction company (BuildCo):

- Is a limited liability company (or its legal equivalent) and operates in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.

- Is 100% domestically and privately owned; has five owners, none of whom is a legal entity. Has a licensed architect and a licensed engineer, both registered with the local association of architects or engineers. BuildCo is not assumed to have any other employees who are technical or licensed experts, such as geological or topographical experts.

- Owns the land on which the warehouse will be built and will sell the warehouse upon its completion.

The warehouse:

- Will be used for general storage activities, such as storage of books or stationery.

- Will have two stories, both above ground, with a total constructed area of approximately 1,300.6 square meters (14,000 square feet). Each floor will be 3 meters (9 feet, 10 inches) high and will be located on a land plot of approximately 929 square meters (10,000 square feet) that is 100% owned by BuildCo, and the warehouse is valued at 50 times income per capita.

- Will have complete architectural and technical plans prepared by a licensed architect. If preparation of the plans requires such steps as obtaining further documentation or getting prior approvals from external agencies, these are counted as procedures.

- Will take 30 weeks to construct (excluding all delays due to administrative and regulatory requirements).

The water and sewerage connections:

- Will be 150 meters (492 feet) from the existing water source and sewer tap. If there is no water delivery infrastructure in the economy, a borehole will be dug. If there is no sewerage infrastructure, a septic tank in the smallest size available will be installed or built.

- Will have an average water use of 662 liters (175 gallons) a day and an average wastewater flow of 568 liters (150 gallons) a day. Will have a peak water use of 1,325 liters (350 gallons) a day and a peak wastewater flow of 1,136 liters (300 gallons) a day.

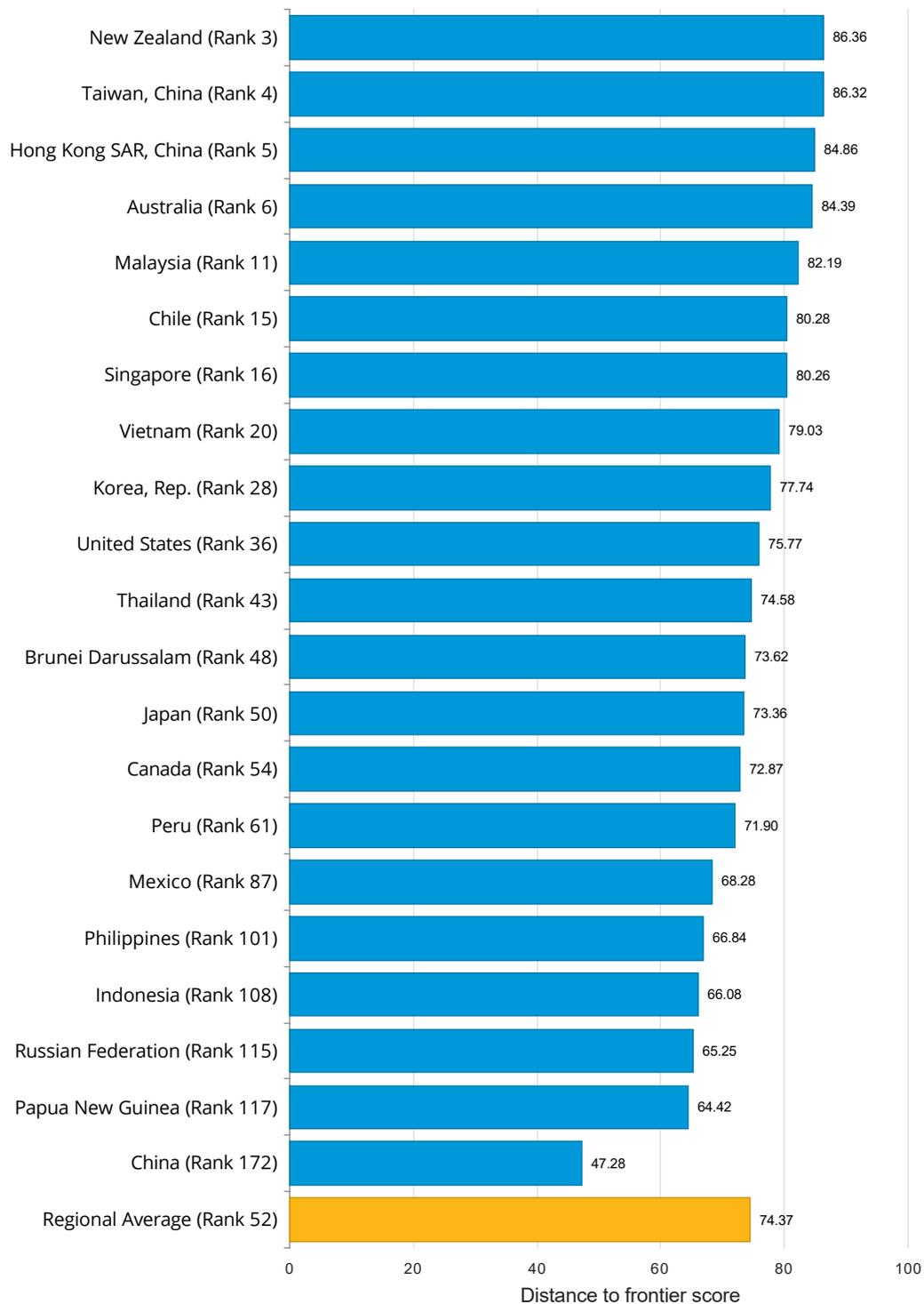
- Will have a constant level of water demand and wastewater flow throughout the year; will be 1 inch in diameter for the water connection and 4 inches in diameter for the sewerage connection.

Dealing with Construction Permits

Where do the region's economies stand today?

How easy it is for entrepreneurs in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to legally build a warehouse? The global rankings of these economies on the ease of dealing with construction permits suggest an answer. The average ranking of the region and comparator regions provide a useful benchmark.

How economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rank on the ease of dealing with construction permits



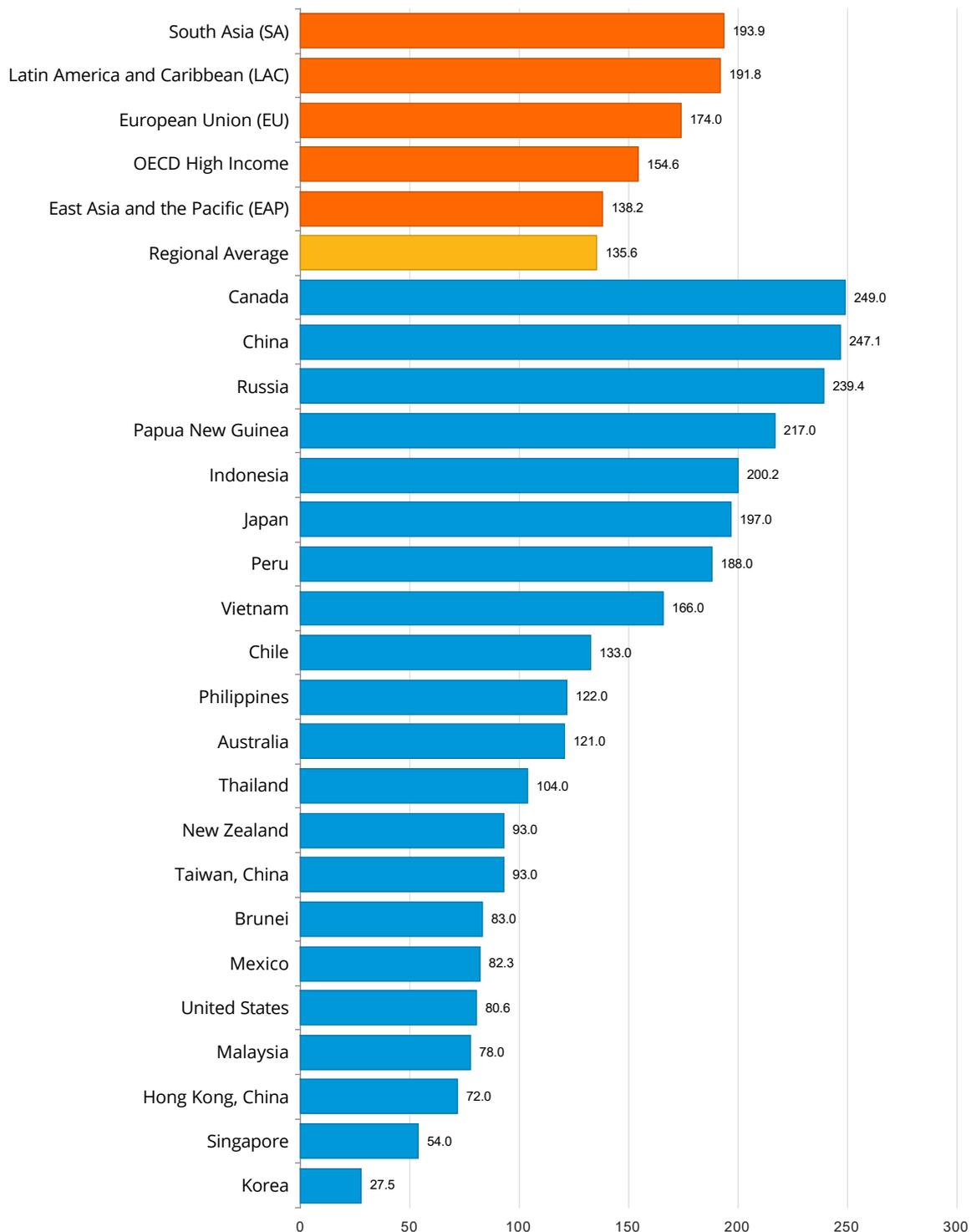
Source: Doing Business database.

Dealing with Construction Permits

The indicators underlying the rankings may be more revealing. Data collected by Doing Business show what it takes to comply with formalities to build a warehouse in each economy in the region: the number of procedures, the time and the cost. Comparing these indicators across the region and with averages both for the region and for comparator regions can provide useful insights.

What it takes to comply with formalities to build a warehouse in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

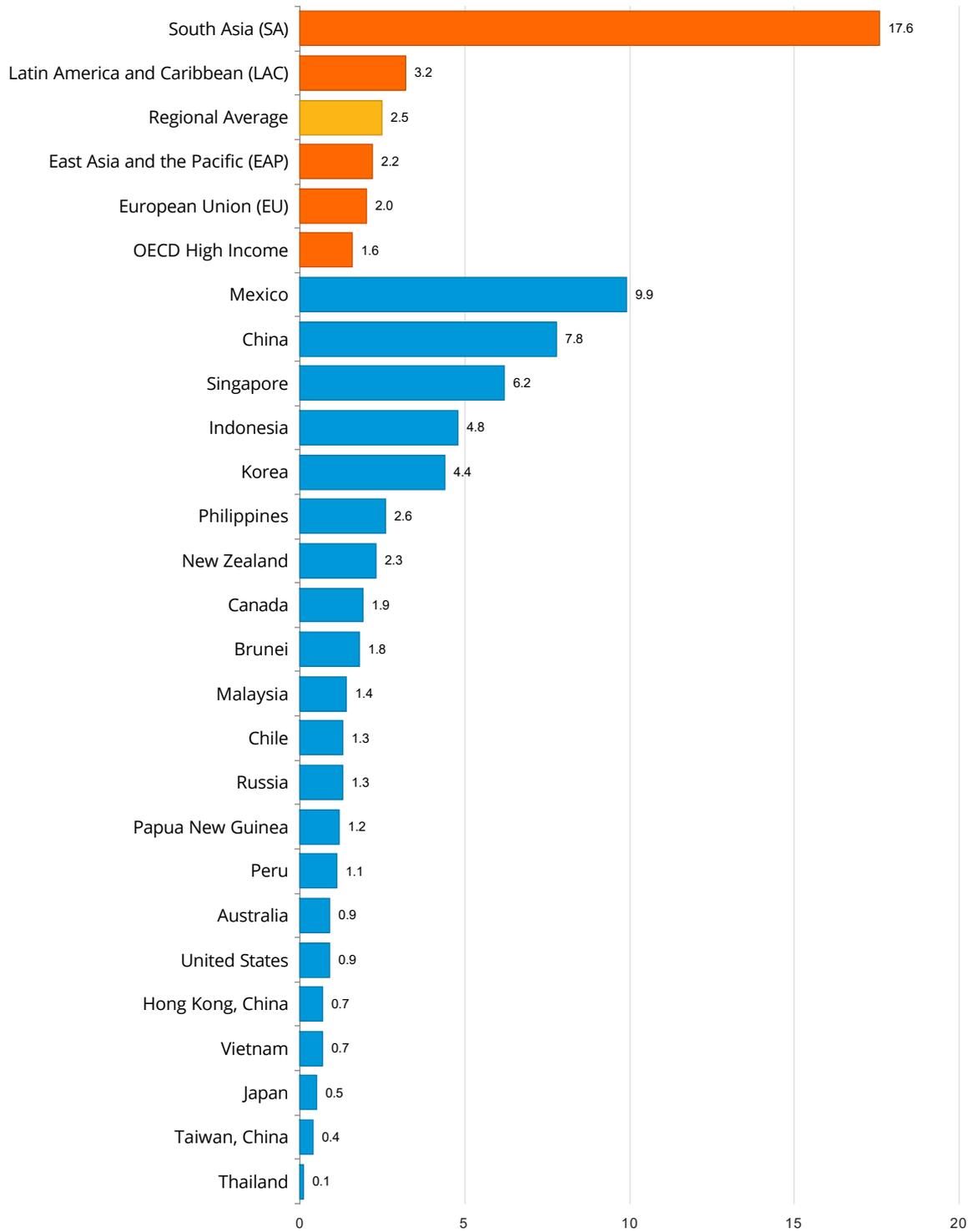
Time (days)



Source: Doing Business database.

Dealing with Construction Permits

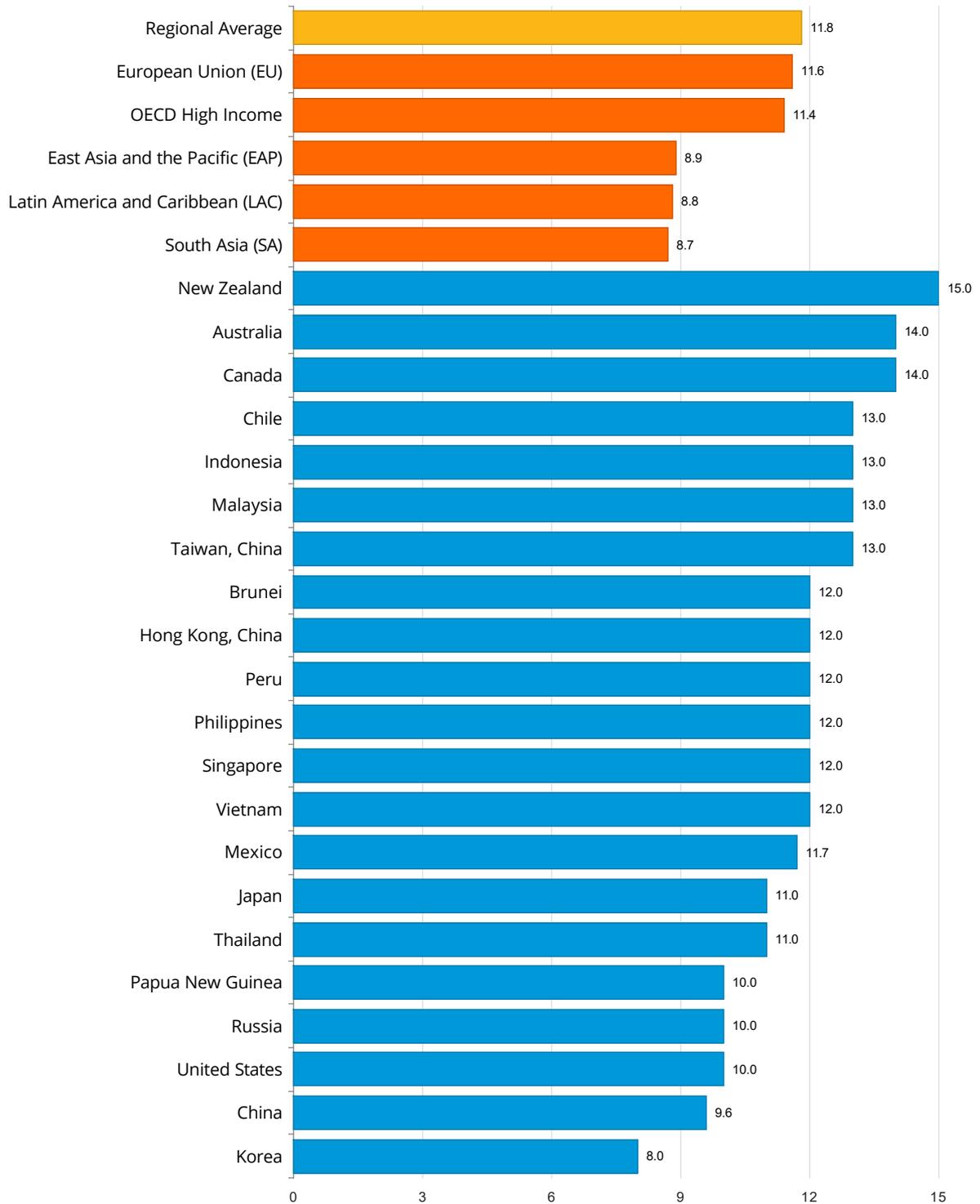
Cost (% of warehouse value)



Source: Doing Business database.

Dealing with Construction Permits

Building quality control index (0-15)



Source: Doing Business database.

⚡ Getting Electricity

This topic tracks the procedures, time and cost required for a business to obtain a permanent electricity connection for a newly constructed warehouse. In addition to assessing efficiency of connection process, Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index measures reliability of power supply and transparency of tariffs and the price of electricity. The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in June 2017. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the 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

Value added tax excluded

The reliability of supply and transparency of tariffs index (0-8)

Duration and frequency of power outages (0-3)

Tools to monitor power outages (0-1)

Tools to restore power supply (0-1)

Regulatory monitoring of utilities' performance (0-1)

Financial deterrents limiting outages (0-1)

Transparency and accessibility of tariffs (0-1)

Price of electricity (cents per kilowatt-hour)*

Price based on monthly bill for commercial warehouse in case study

*Note: Doing Business measures the price of electricity, but it is not included in the distance to frontier score nor the ranking on the ease of getting electricity.

Case study assumptions

To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions are used.

The warehouse:

- Is owned by a local entrepreneur and is used for storage of goods.

- Is located in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.

- Is located in an area where similar warehouses are typically located and is in an area with no physical constraints. For example, the property is not near a railway.

- Is a new construction and is being connected to electricity for the first time.

- Has two stories with a total surface area of approximately 1,300.6 square meters (14,000 square feet). The plot of land on which it is built is 929 square meters (10,000 square feet).

The electricity connection:

- Is a permanent one with a three-phase, four-wire Y connection with a subscribed capacity of 140-kilo-volt-ampere (kVA) with a power factor of 1, when 1 kVA = 1 kilowatt (kW).

- Has a length of 150 meters. The connection is to either the low- or medium-voltage distribution network and is either overhead or underground, whichever is more common in the area where the warehouse is located and requires works that involve the crossing of a 10- meter road (such as by excavation or overhead lines) but are all carried out on public land. There is no crossing of other owners' private property because the warehouse has access to a road.

- Does not require work to install the internal wiring of the warehouse. This has already been completed up to and including the customer's service panel or switchboard and the meter base.

The monthly consumption:

- It is assumed that the warehouse operates 30 days a month from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (8 hours a day), with equipment utilized at 80% of capacity on average and that there are no electricity cuts (assumed for simplicity reasons) and the monthly energy consumption is 26,880 kilowatt-hours (kWh); hourly consumption is 112 kWh.

- If multiple electricity suppliers exist, the warehouse is served by the cheapest supplier.

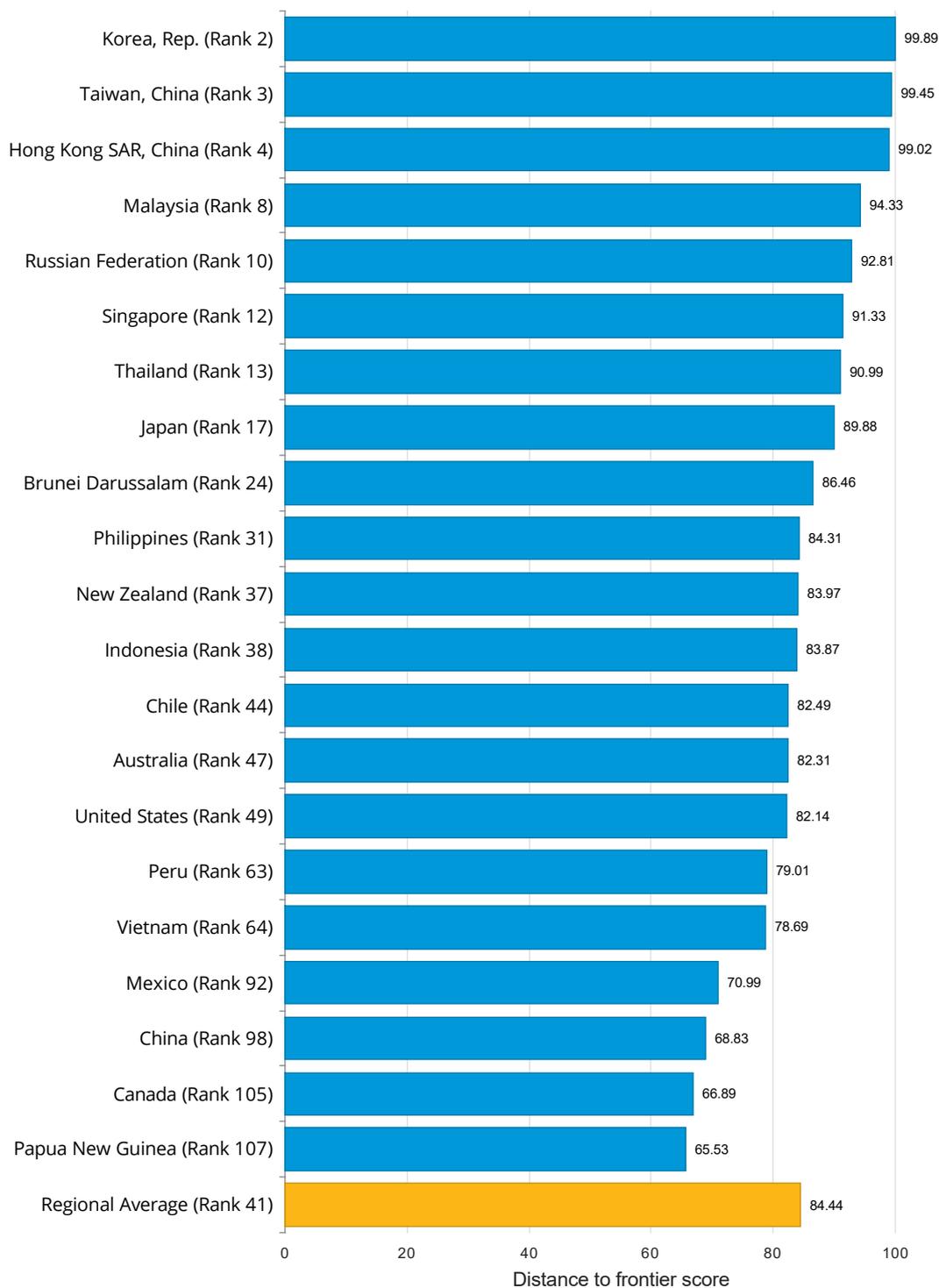
- Tariffs effective in March of the current year are used for calculation of the price of electricity for the warehouse. Although March has 31 days, for calculation purposes only 30 days are used.

Getting Electricity

Where do the region's economies stand today?

How easy it is for entrepreneurs in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to connect a warehouse to electricity? The global rankings of these economies on the ease of getting electricity suggest an answer. The average ranking of the region and comparator regions provide a useful benchmark.

How economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rank on the ease of getting electricity



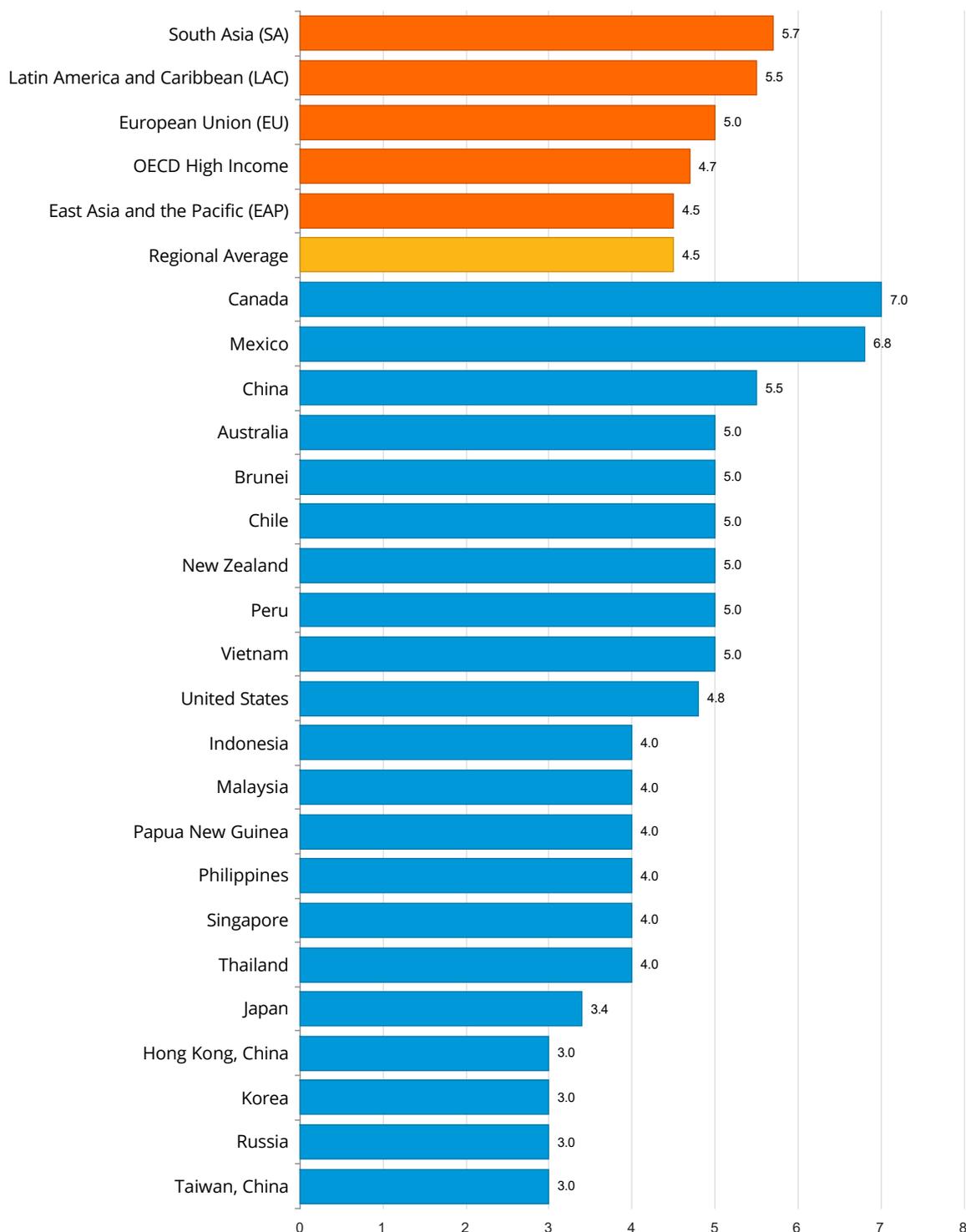
Source: Doing Business database.

Getting Electricity

The indicators underlying the rankings may be more revealing. Data collected by Doing Business show what it takes to get a new electricity connection in each economy in the region: the number of procedures, the time and the cost. Comparing these indicators across the region and with averages both for the region and for comparator regions can provide useful insights.

What it takes to get an electricity connection in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

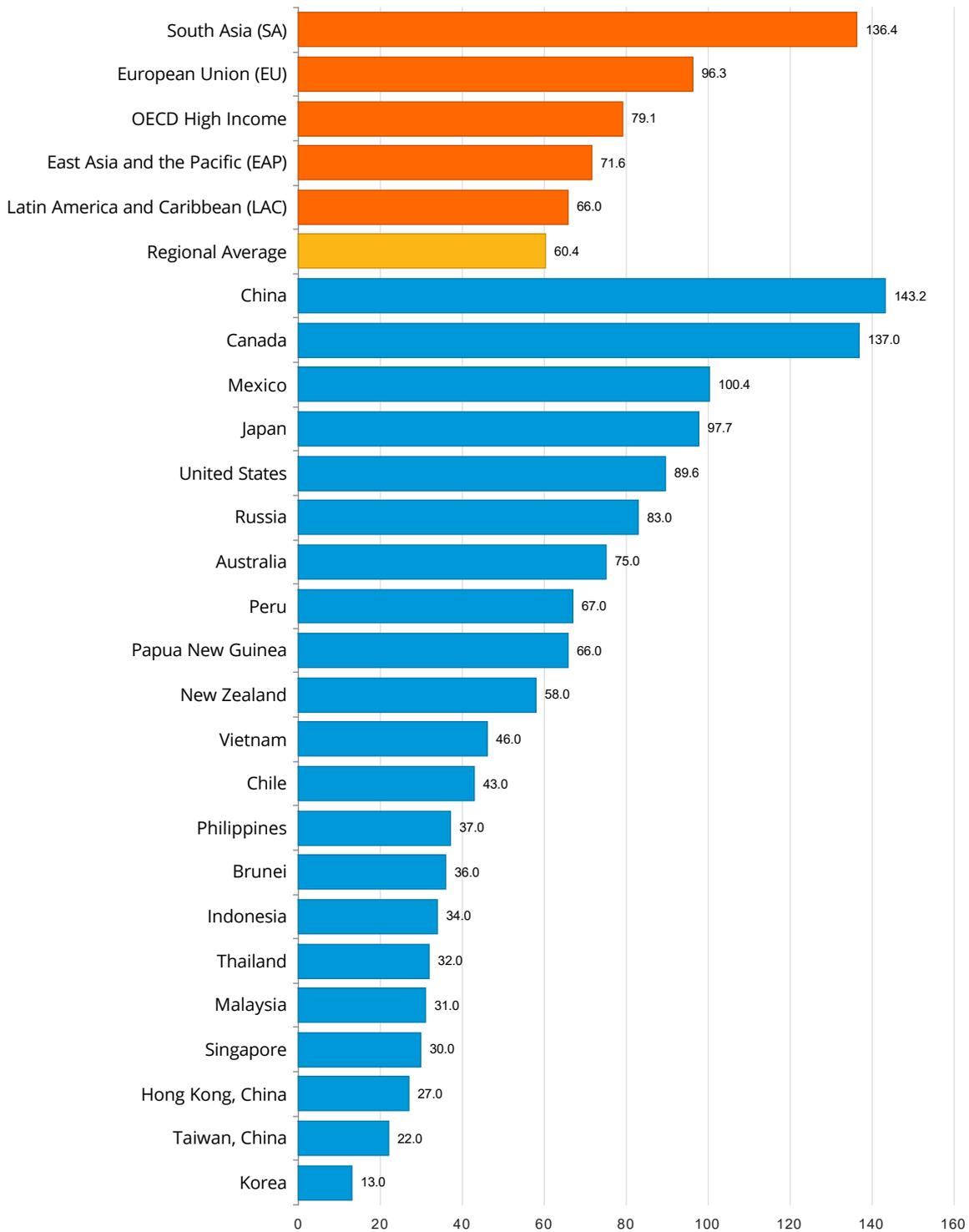
Procedures (number)



Source: Doing Business database.

Getting Electricity

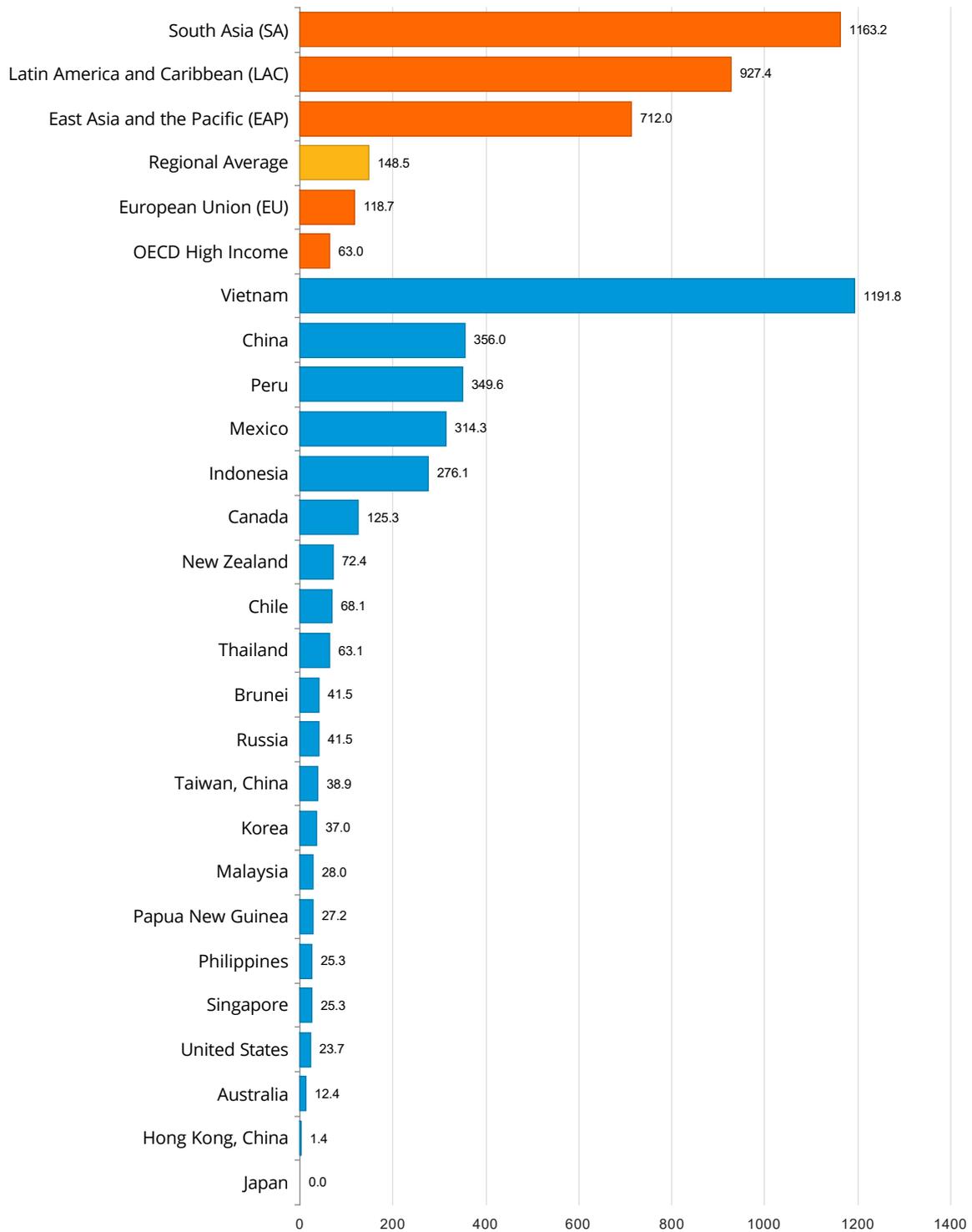
Time (days)



Source: Doing Business database.

Getting Electricity

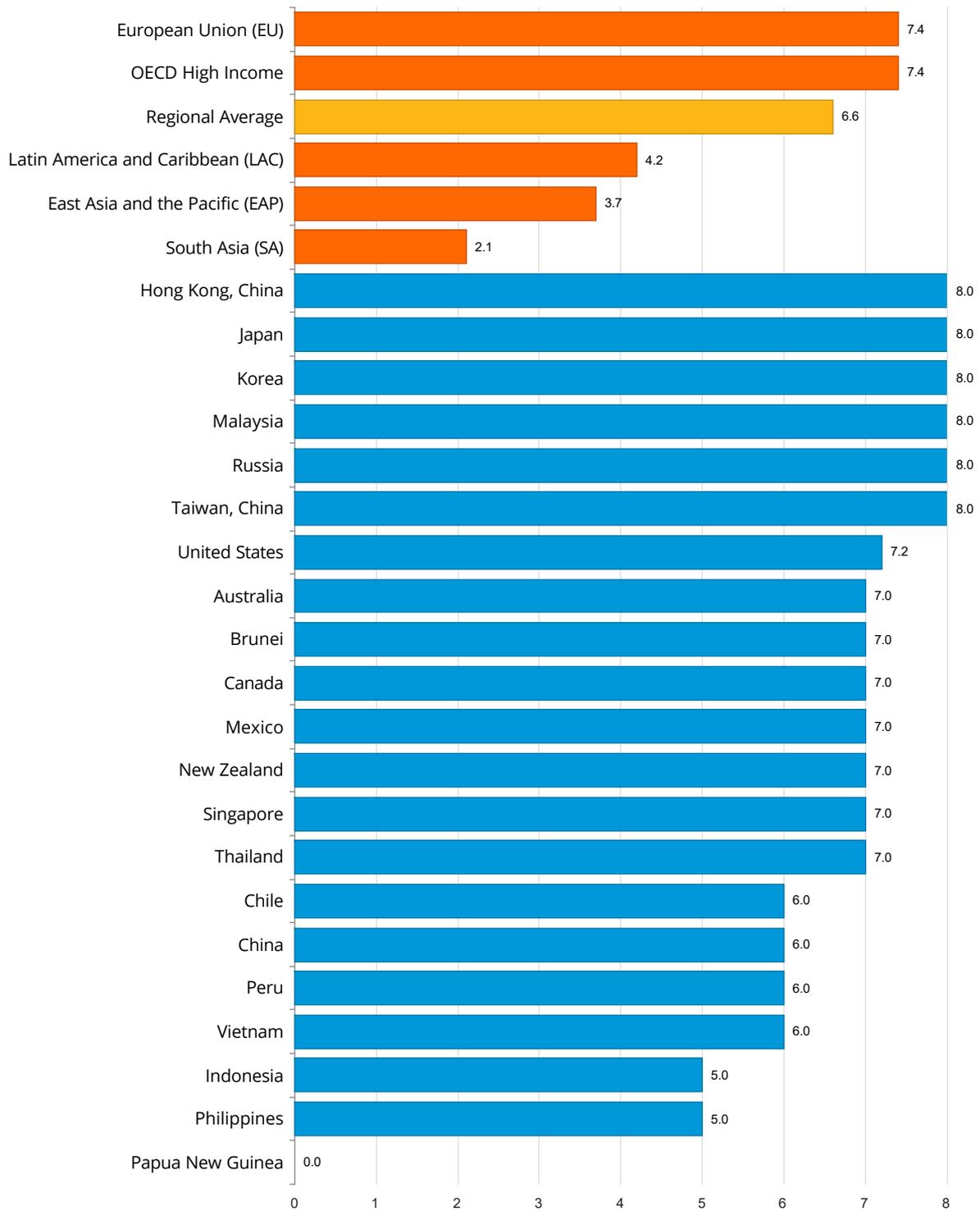
Cost (% of income per capita)



Source: Doing Business database.

Getting Electricity

Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index (0-8)



Source: Doing Business database.

Registering Property

This topic examines the steps, time and cost involved in registering property, assuming a standardized case of an entrepreneur who wants to purchase land and a building that is already registered and free of title dispute. In addition, the topic also measures the quality of the land administration system in each economy. The quality of land administration index has five dimensions: reliability of infrastructure, transparency of information, geographic coverage, land dispute resolution, and equal access to property rights. The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in June 2017. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure

Procedures to legally transfer title on immovable property (number)

Preregistration procedures (for example, checking for liens, notarizing sales agreement, paying property transfer taxes)

Registration procedures in the economy's largest business city.

Postregistration procedures (for example, filling title with municipality)

Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)

Does not include time spent gathering information

Each procedure starts on a separate day - though procedures that can be fully completed online are an exception to this rule

Procedure is considered completed once final document is received

No prior contact with officials

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

Official costs only (such as administrative fees, duties and taxes).

Value Added Tax, Capital Gains Tax and illicit payments are excluded

Quality of land administration index (0-30)

Reliability of infrastructure index (0-8)

Transparency of information index (0-6)

Geographic coverage index (0-8)

Land dispute resolution index (0-8)

Equal access to property rights index (-2-0)

Case study assumptions

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 (or the legal equivalent).
- Are located in the periurban area of the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.
- Are 100% domestically and privately owned.
- Have 50 employees each, all of whom are nationals.
- Perform general commercial activities.

The property (fully owned by the seller):

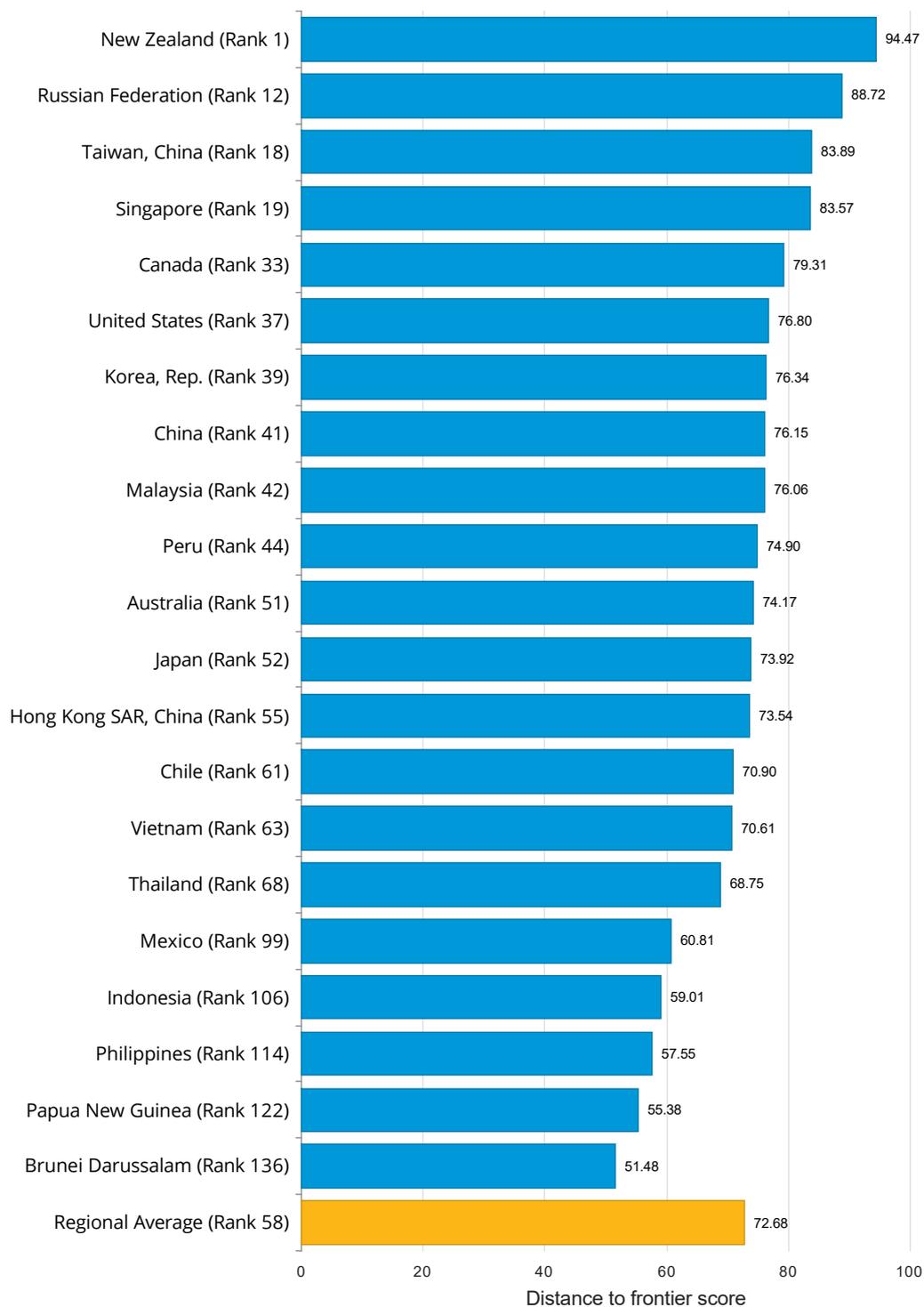
- Has a value of 50 times income per capita, which equals the sale price.
- Is fully owned by the seller.
- Has no mortgages attached and has been under the same ownership for the past 10 years.
- Is registered in the land registry or cadastre, or both, and is free of title disputes.
- Is located in a periurban commercial zone, and no rezoning is required.
- Consists of land and a building. The land area is 557.4 square meters (6,000 square feet). A two-story warehouse of 929 square meters (10,000 square feet) is located on the land. The warehouse is 10 years old, is in good condition, has no heating system and complies with all safety standards, building codes and legal requirements. The property, consisting of land and building, will be transferred in its entirety.
- Will not be subject to renovations or additional construction following the purchase.
- Has no trees, natural water sources, natural reserves or historical monuments of any kind.
- Will not be used for special purposes, and no special permits, such as for residential use, industrial plants, waste storage or certain types of agricultural activities, are required.
- Has no occupants, and no other party holds a legal interest in it.

Registering Property

Where do the region's economies stand today?

How easy it is for entrepreneurs in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to transfer property? The global rankings of these economies on the ease of registering property suggest an answer. The average ranking of the region and comparator regions provide a useful benchmark.

How economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rank on the ease of registering property



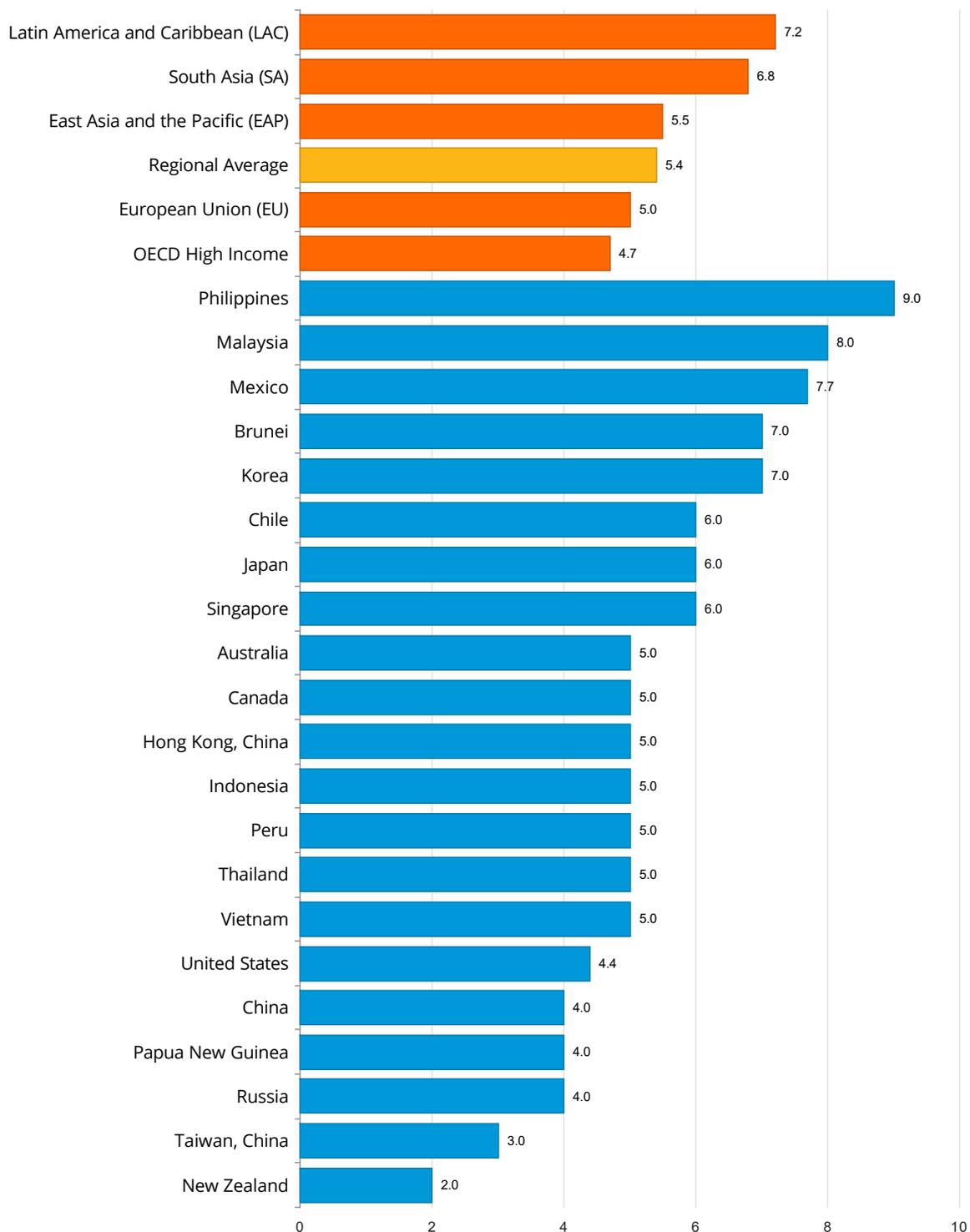
Source: Doing Business database.

Registering Property

The indicators underlying the rankings may be more revealing. Data collected by Doing Business show what it takes to complete a property transfer in each economy in the region: the number of procedures, the time and the cost. Comparing these indicators across the region and with averages both for the region and for comparator regions can provide useful insights.

What it takes to register property in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

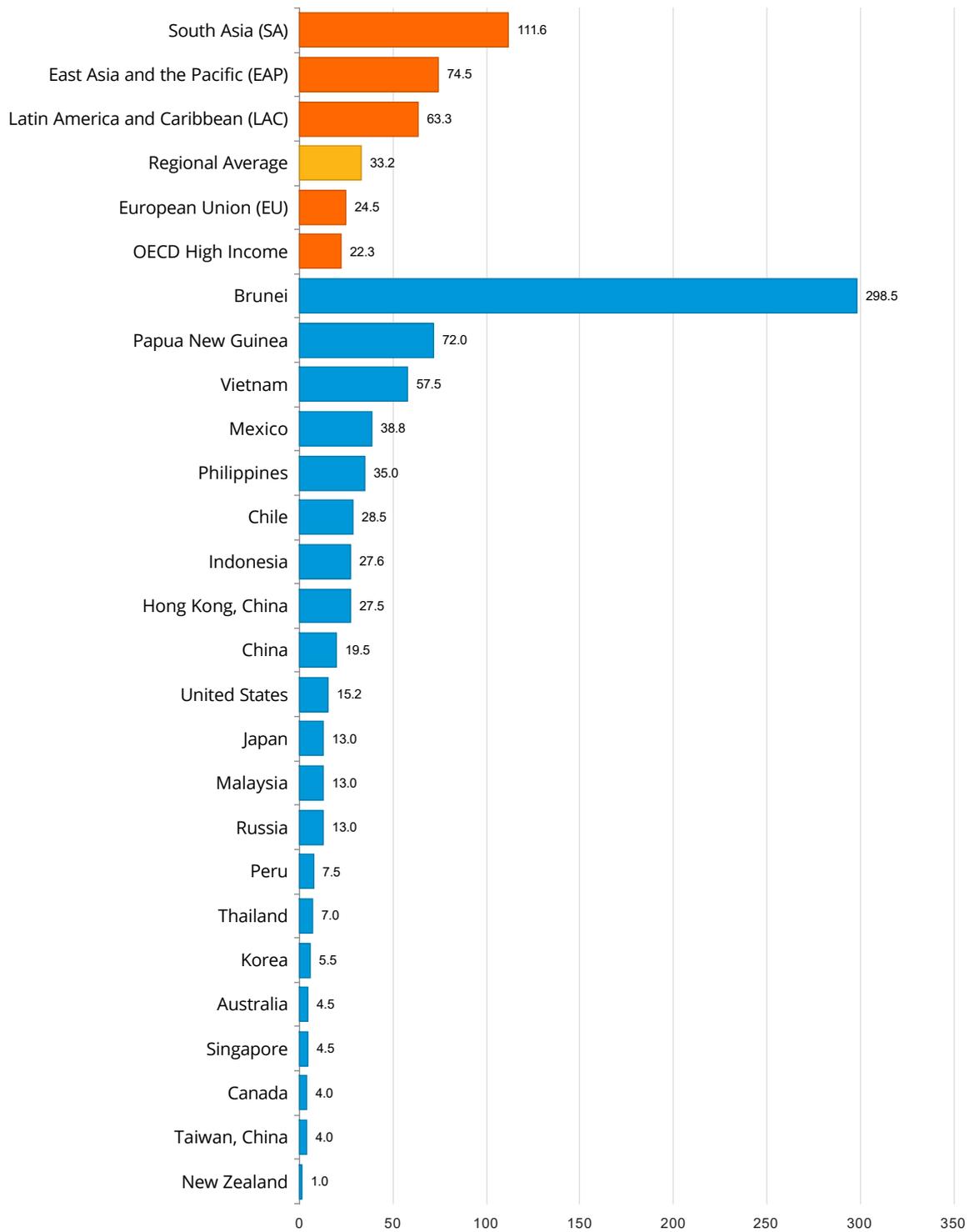
Procedures (number)



Source: Doing Business database.

Registering Property

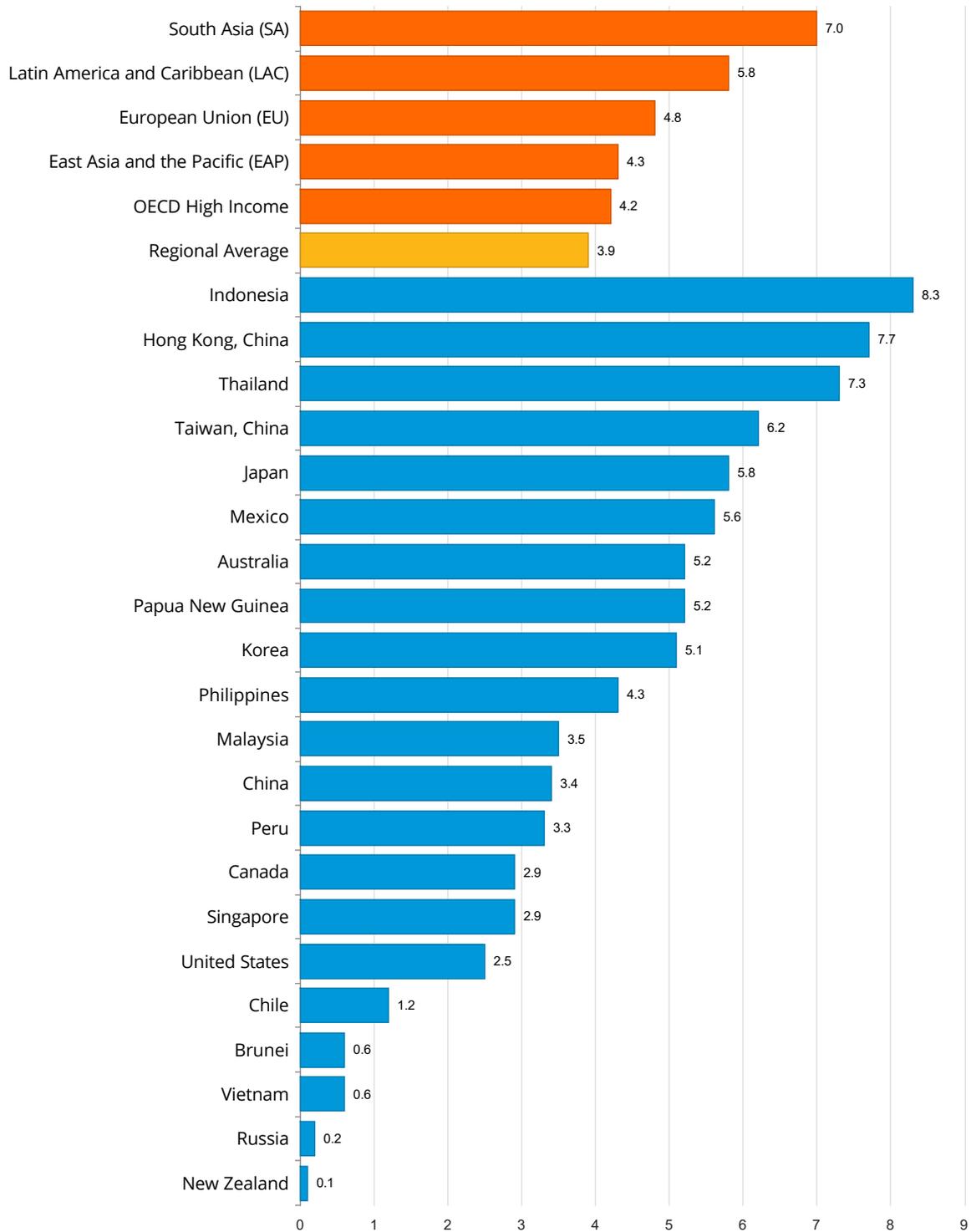
Time (days)



Source: Doing Business database.

Registering Property

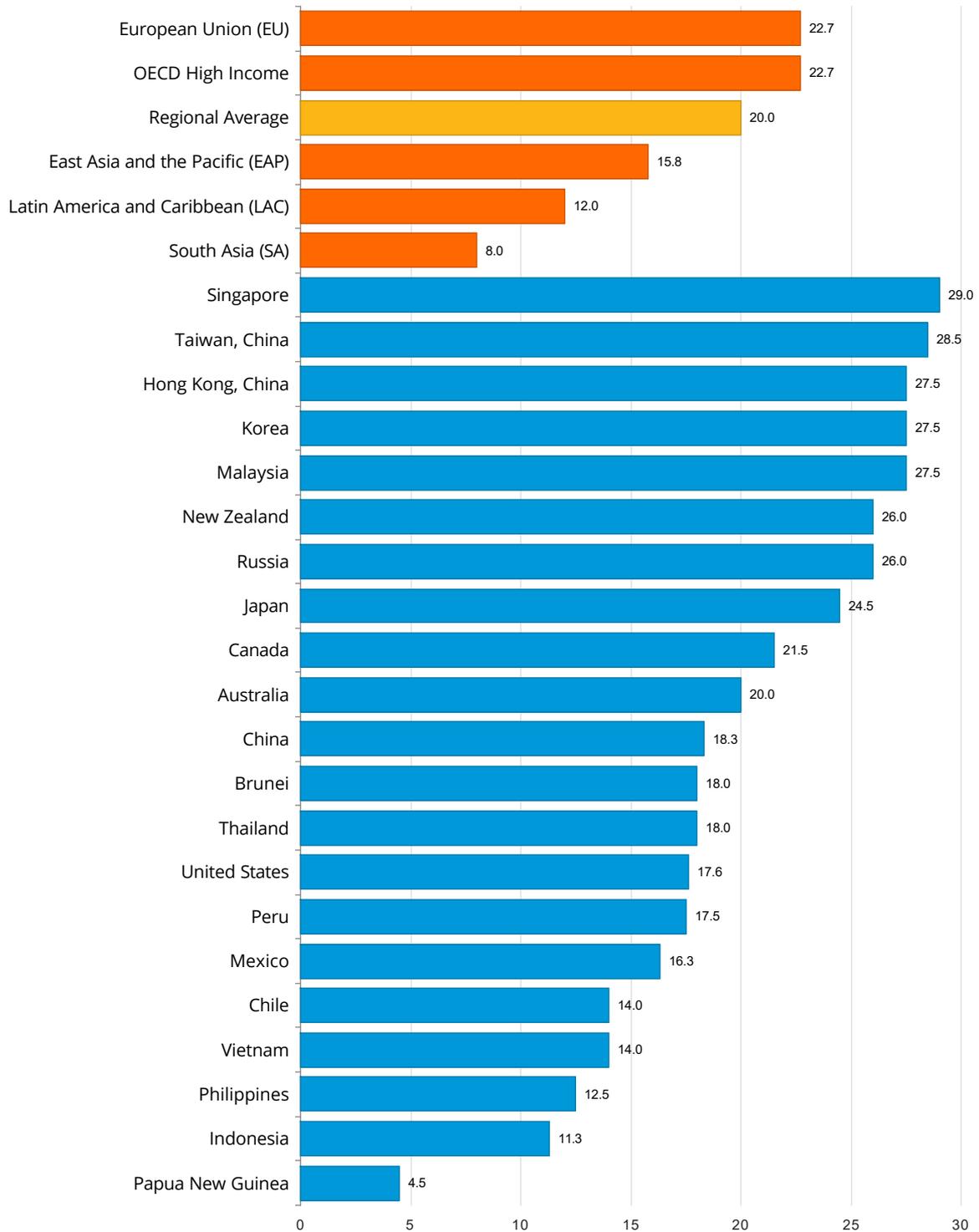
Cost (% of property value)



Source: Doing Business database.

Registering Property

Quality of the land administration index (0-30)



Source: Doing Business database.

Getting Credit

This topic explores two sets of issues—the strength of credit reporting systems and the effectiveness of collateral and bankruptcy laws in facilitating lending. The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in June 2017. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure

Strength of legal rights index (0–12)

Rights of borrowers and lenders through collateral laws (0-10)

Protection of secured creditors' rights through bankruptcy laws (0-2)

Depth of credit information index (0–8)

Scope and accessibility of credit information distributed by credit bureaus and credit registries (0-8)

Credit bureau coverage (% of adults)

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

Credit registry coverage (% of adults)

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

Case study assumptions

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 credit registry or a 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. For each economy it is first determined whether a unitary secured transactions system exists. Then two case scenarios, case A and case B, are used to determine how a nonpossessory security interest is created, publicized and enforced according to the law. Special emphasis is given to how the collateral registry operates (if registration of security interests is possible). The case scenarios involve a secured borrower, company ABC, and a secured lender, BizBank.

In some economies the legal framework for secured transactions will allow only case A or case B (not both) to apply. Both cases examine the same set of legal provisions relating to the use of movable collateral.

Several assumptions about the secured borrower (ABC) and lender (BizBank) are used:

- ABC is a domestic limited liability company (or its legal equivalent).
- ABC has up to 50 employees.
- ABC has its headquarters and only base of operations in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.
- Both ABC and BizBank are 100% domestically owned.

The case scenarios also involve assumptions. In case A, as collateral for the loan, ABC grants BizBank a nonpossessory security interest in one category of movable assets, for example, its machinery or its inventory. ABC wants to keep both possession and ownership of the collateral. In economies where the law does not allow nonpossessory security interests in movable property, ABC and BizBank use a fiduciary transfer-of-title arrangement (or a similar substitute for nonpossessory security interests).

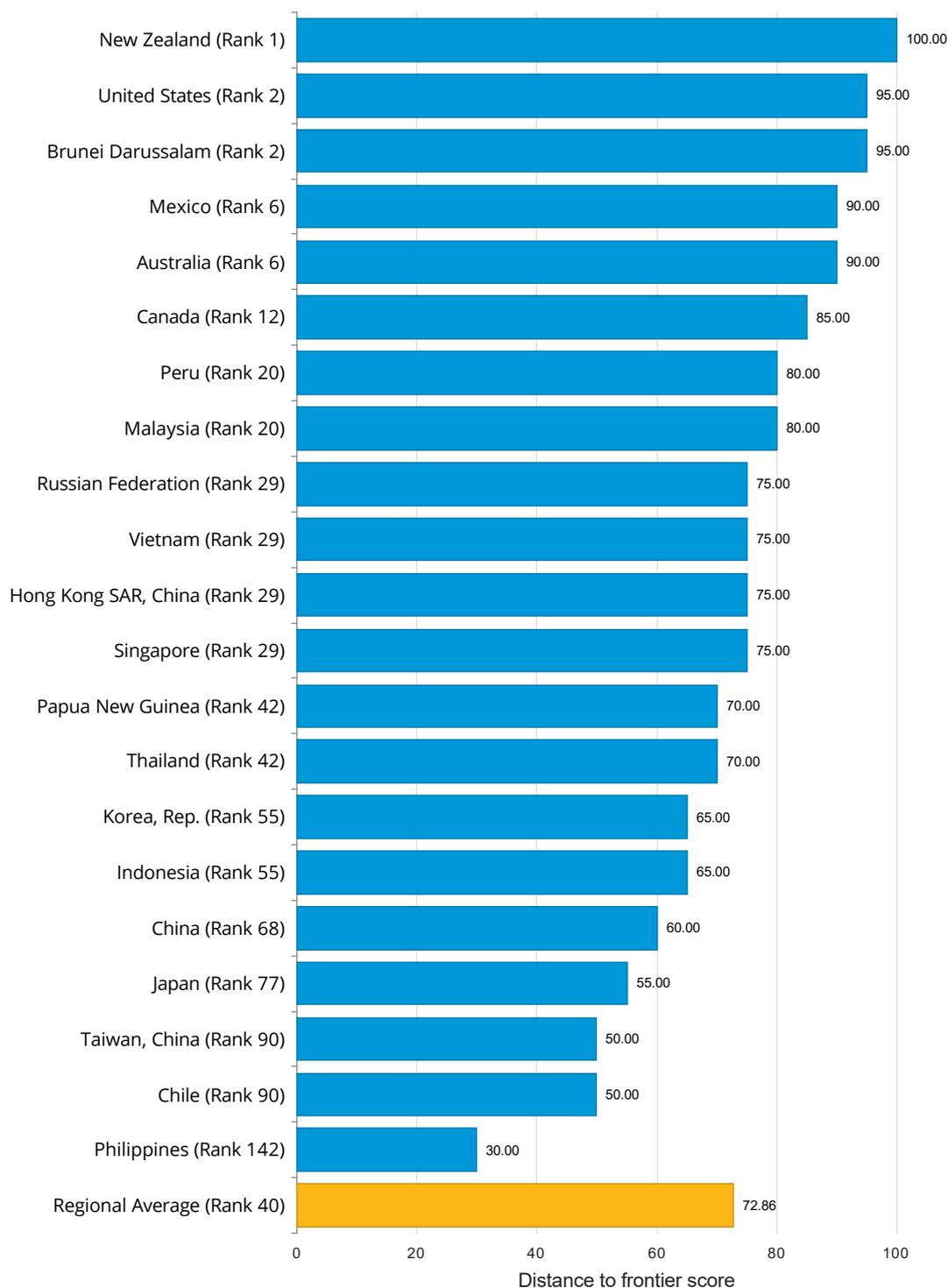
In case B, ABC grants BizBank a business charge, enterprise charge, floating charge or any charge that gives BizBank a security interest over ABC's combined movable assets (or as much of ABC's movable assets as possible). ABC keeps ownership and possession of the assets.

Getting Credit

Where do the region's economies stand today?

How well do the credit information systems and collateral and bankruptcy laws in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) facilitate access to credit? The global rankings of these economies on the ease of getting credit suggest an answer. The average ranking of the region and comparator regions provide a useful benchmark.

How economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rank on the ease of getting credit



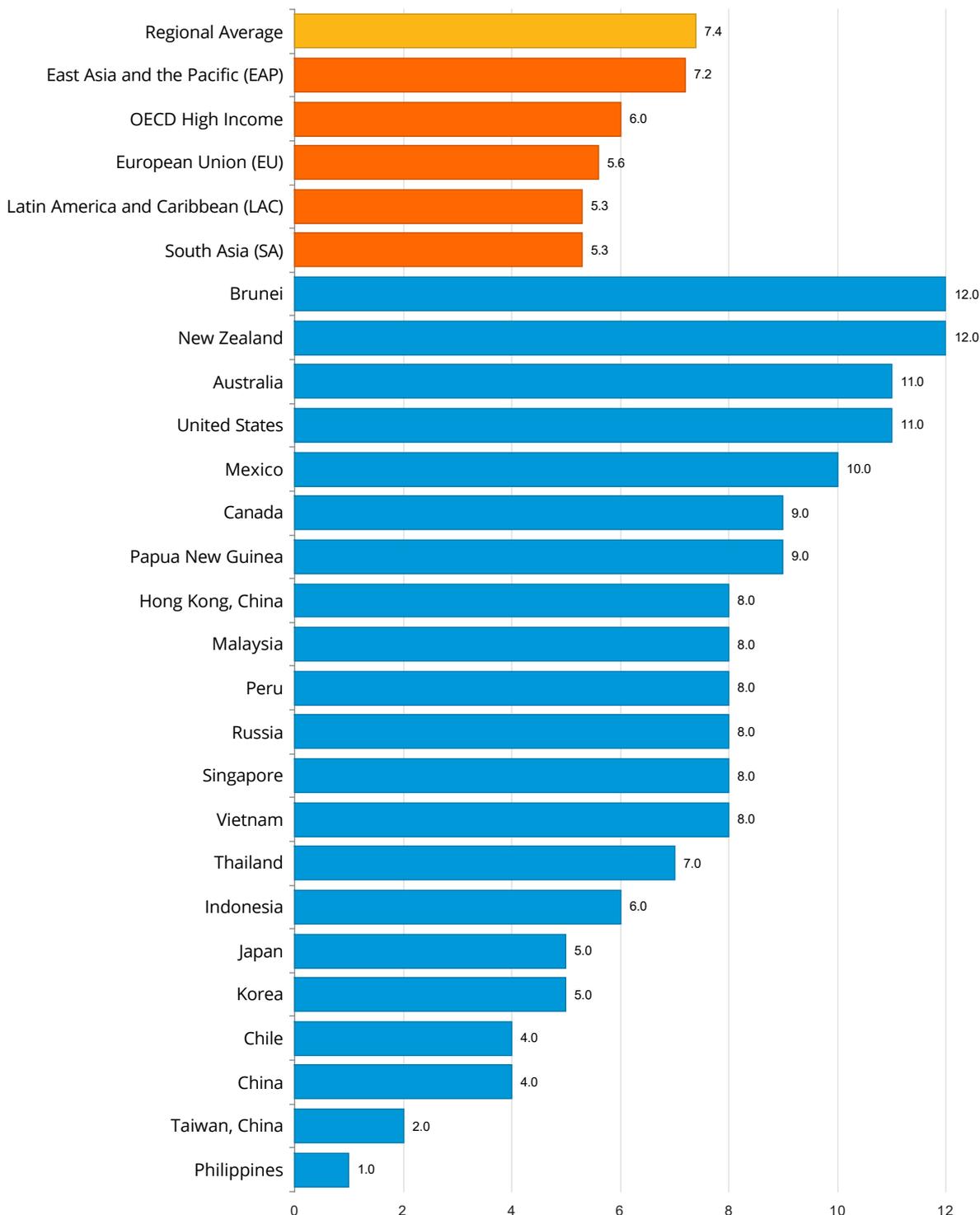
Source: Doing Business database.

Getting Credit

Another way to assess how well regulations and institutions support lending and borrowing in the region is to see where the region stands in the distribution of scores across regions. The first figure highlights the score on the strength of legal rights index in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and comparator regions. The second figure shows the same thing for the depth of credit information index.

How strong are legal rights for borrowers and lenders

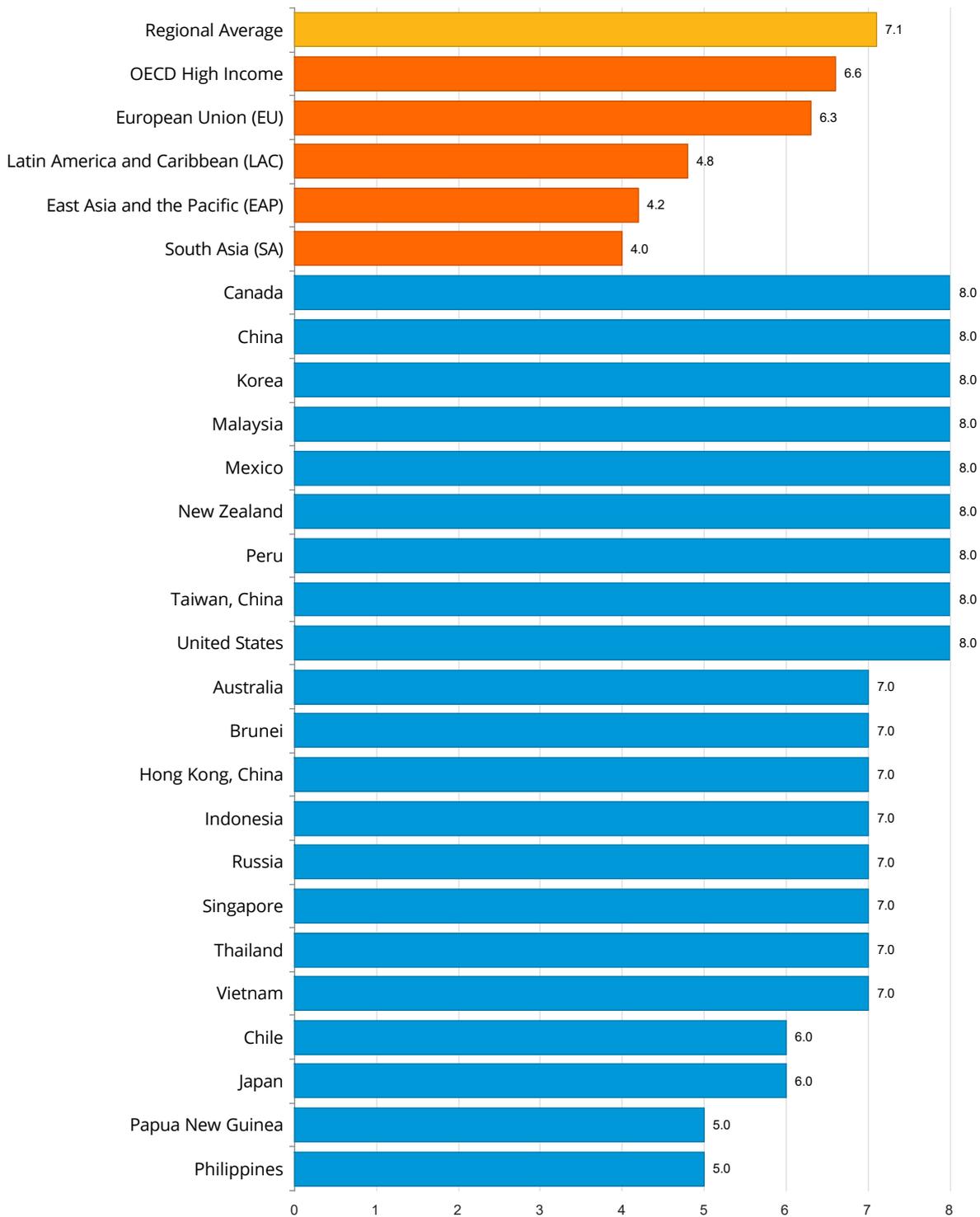
Strength of legal rights index (0-12)



Source: Doing Business database.

Getting Credit

Depth of credit information index (0-8)



Source: Doing Business database.

Protecting Minority Investors

This topic measures the strength of minority shareholder protections against misuse of corporate assets by directors for their personal gain as well as shareholder rights, governance safeguards and corporate transparency requirements that reduce the risk of abuse. The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in June 2017. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure

Extent of disclosure index (0–10): Review and approval requirements for related-party transactions; Disclosure requirements for related-party transactions

Extent of director liability index (0–10): Ability of minority shareholders to sue and hold interested directors liable for prejudicial related-party transactions; Available legal remedies (damages, disgorgement of profits, fines, imprisonment, rescission of the transaction)

Ease of shareholder suits index (0–10): Access to internal corporate documents; Evidence obtainable during trial and allocation of legal expenses

Extent of conflict of interest regulation index (0–10): Simple average of the extent of disclosure, extent of director liability and ease of shareholder indices

Extent of shareholder rights index (0–10): Shareholders' rights and role in major corporate decisions

Extent of ownership and control index (0–10): Governance safeguards protecting shareholders from undue board control and entrenchment

Extent of corporate transparency index (0–10): Corporate transparency on ownership stakes, compensation, audits and financial prospects

Extent of shareholder governance index (0–10): Simple average of the extent of shareholders rights, extent of ownership and control and extent of corporate transparency indices

Strength of minority investor protection index (0–10): Simple average of the extent of conflict of interest regulation and extent of shareholder governance indices

Case study assumptions

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. If the number of publicly traded companies listed on that exchange is less than 10, or if there is no stock exchange in the economy, it is assumed that Buyer is 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.

- Has a supervisory board (applicable to economies with a two-tier board system) on which 60% of the shareholder-elected members have been appointed by Mr. James, who is Buyer's controlling shareholder and a member of Buyer's board of directors.

- Has not adopted any bylaws or articles of association that differ from default minimum standards and does not follow any nonmandatory codes, principles, recommendations or guidelines relating to corporate governance.

- Is a manufacturing company with its own distribution network.

The transaction involves the following details:

- Mr. James owns 60% of Buyer and elected two directors to Buyer's five-member board.

- Mr. James also owns 90% of Seller, a company that operates a chain of retail hardware stores. Seller recently closed a large number of its stores.

- Mr. James proposes that Buyer purchase Seller's unused fleet of trucks to expand Buyer's distribution of its food products, a proposal to which Buyer agrees. The price is equal to 10% of Buyer's assets and is higher than the market value.

- The proposed transaction is part of the company's ordinary course of business and is not outside the authority of the company.

- Buyer enters into the transaction. All required approvals are obtained, and all required disclosures made (that is, the transaction is not fraudulent).

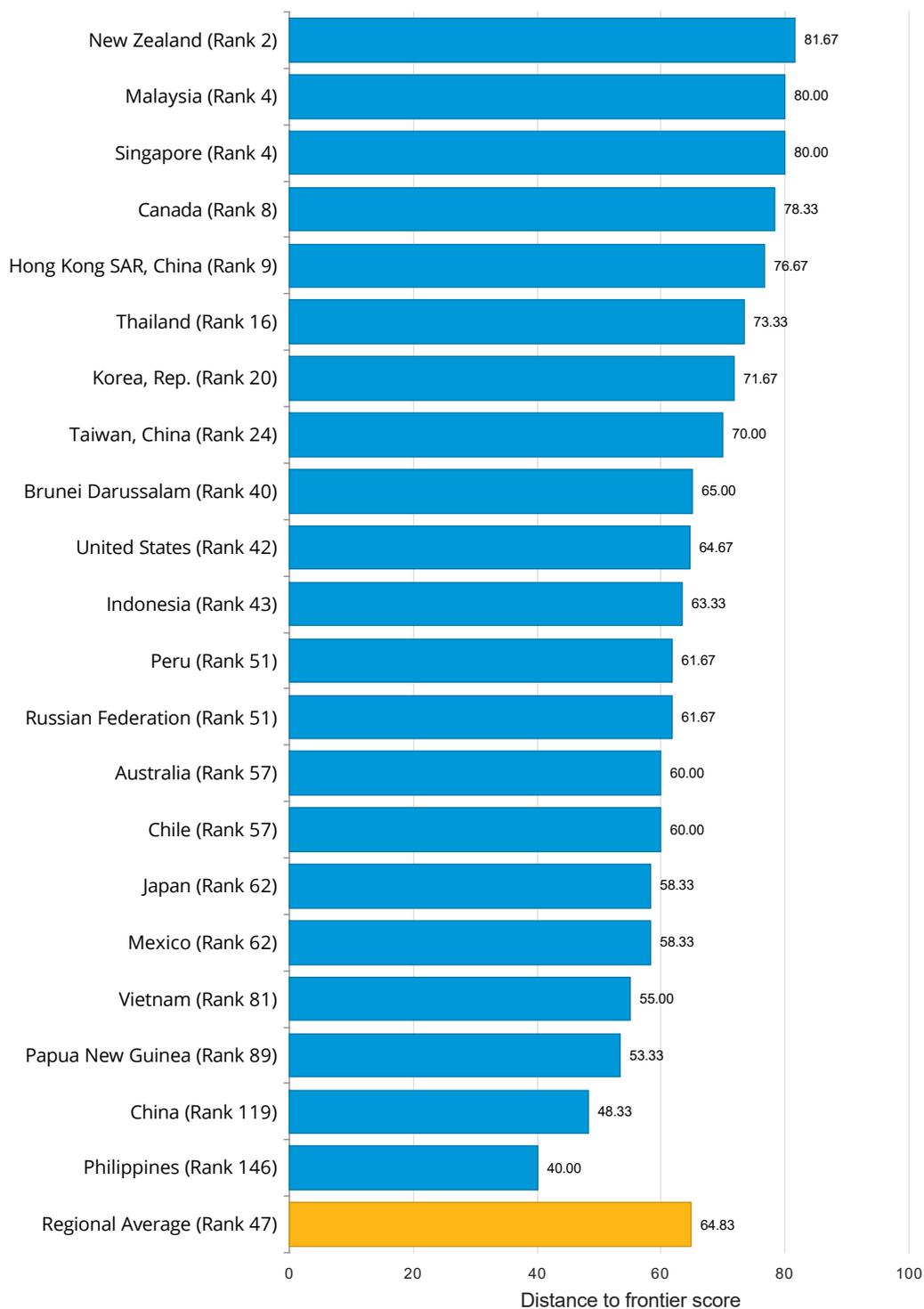
- The transaction causes damages to Buyer. Shareholders sue Mr. James and the other parties that approved the transaction.

Protecting Minority Investors

Where do the region's economies stand today?

How strong are investor protections against self-dealing in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)? The global rankings of these economies on the strength of investor protection index suggest an answer. 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.

How economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rank on the ease of protecting minority investors



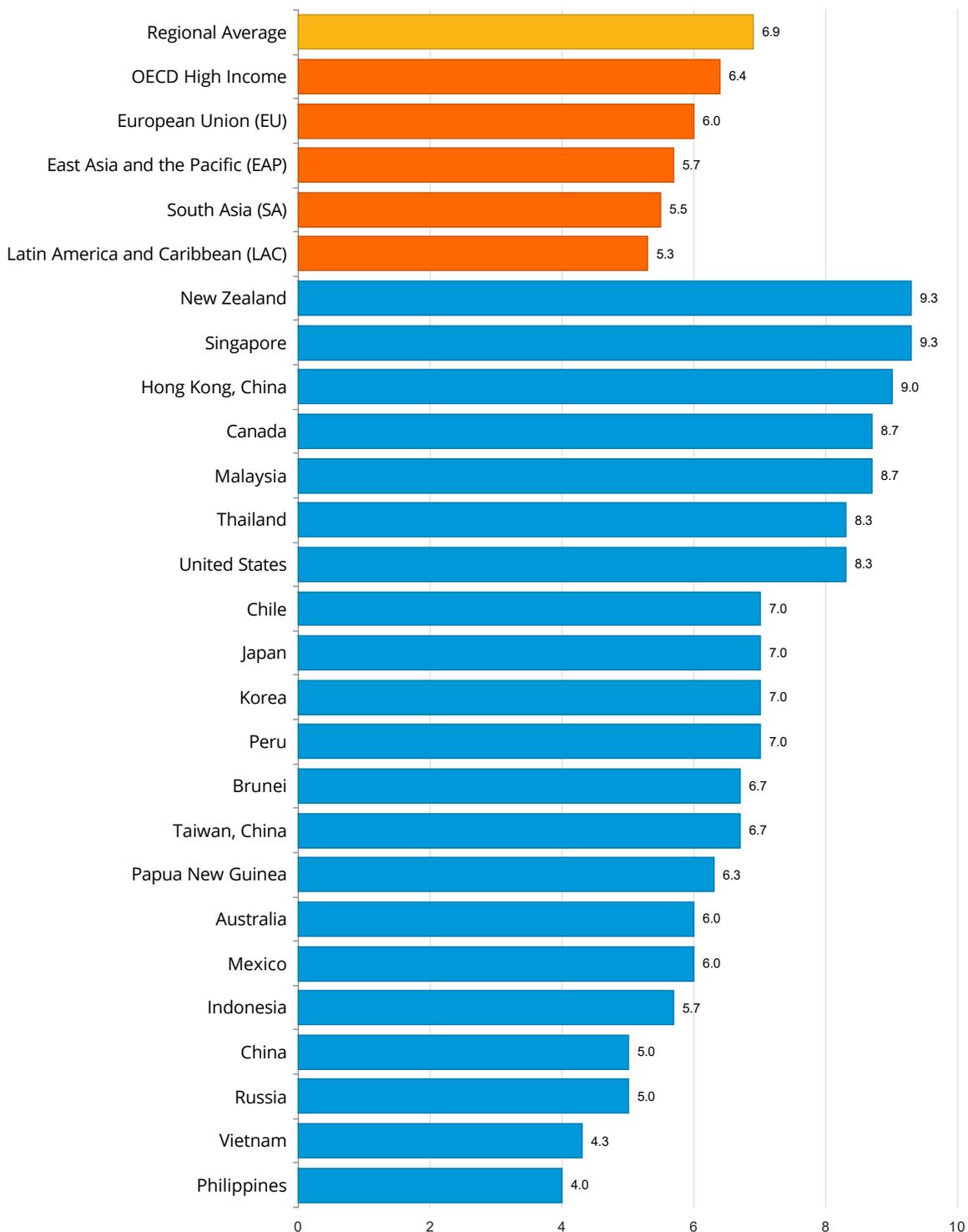
Source: Doing Business database.

Protecting Minority Investors

The strength of minority investor protection index is the average of the extent of conflict of interest regulation index and the extent of shareholder governance index. The index ranges from 0 to 10, rounded to the nearest decimal place, with higher values indicating stronger minority investor protections. The following two figures highlight the scores on the various minority investor protection indices in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Comparing the scores across the region and with averages both for the region and for comparator regions can provide useful insights.

How extensive are conflict of interest regulations

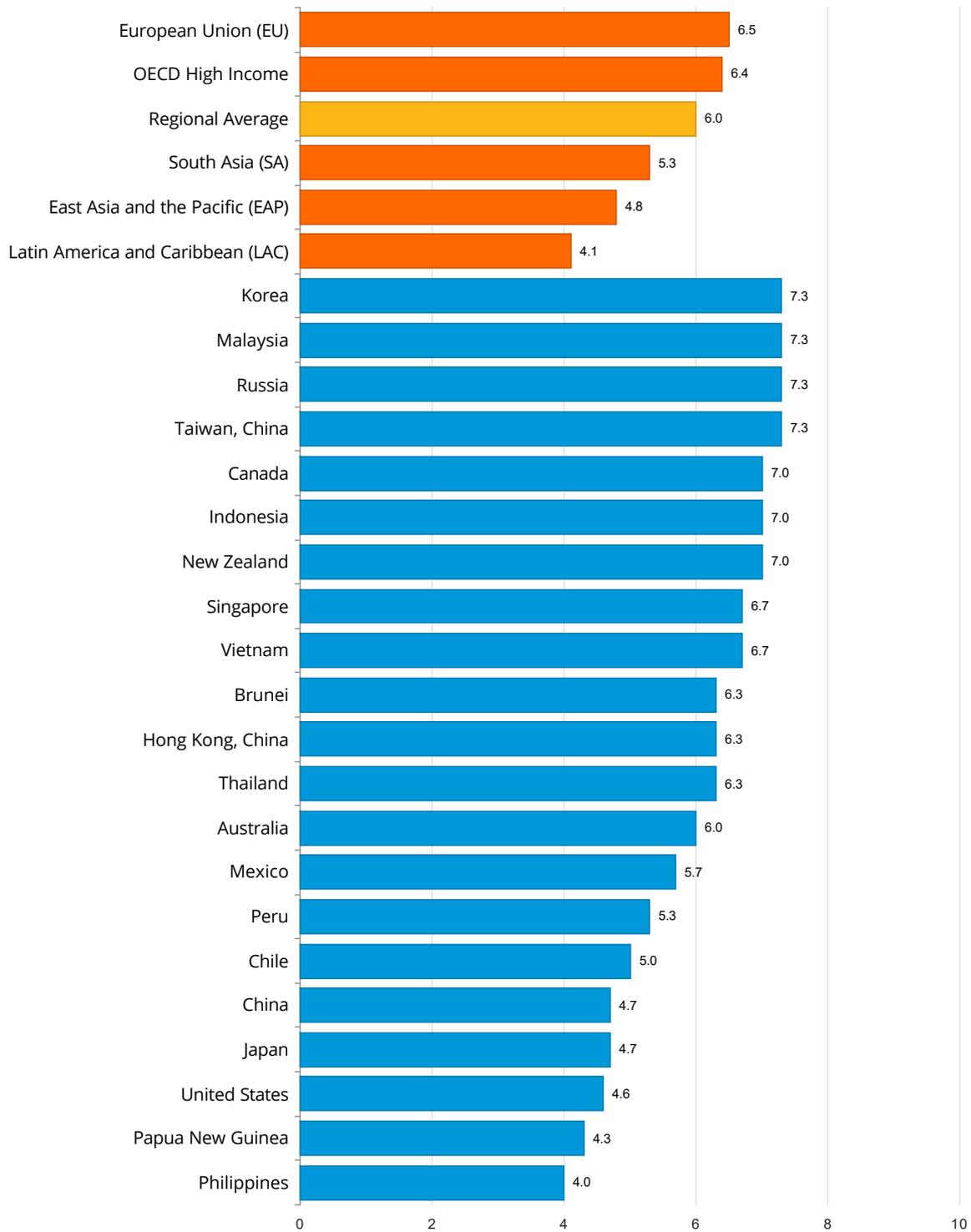
Extent of conflict of interest regulation index (0-10)



Source: Doing Business database.

Protecting Minority Investors

Extent of shareholder governance index (0-10)



Source: Doing Business database.

Paying Taxes

This topic records the taxes and mandatory contributions that a medium-size company must pay or withhold in a given year, as well as measures the administrative burden in paying taxes and contributions. The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed on June 30, 2017 covering for the Paying Taxes indicator calendar year 2016 (January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016).

Last year (Doing Business 2017) the scope of data collection was expanded to better understand the overall tax environment in an economy. The questionnaire was expanded to include new questions on post-filing processes: VAT refund and tax audit. The data shows where post-filing processes and practices work efficiently and what drives the differences in the overall tax compliance cost

across economies. The new section covers both the legal framework and the administrative burden on businesses to comply with post-filing processes. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure

Tax payments for a manufacturing company in 2016 (number per year adjusted for electronic and 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, computing tax payable

Completing tax return, filing with agencies

Arranging payment or withholding

Preparing separate tax accounting books, if required

Total tax and contribution rate (% of profit before all taxes)

Profit or corporate income tax

Social contributions, labor taxes paid by employer

Property and property transfer taxes

Dividend, capital gains, financial transactions taxes

Waste collection, vehicle, road and other taxes

Postfiling Index

Time to comply with a VAT refund

Time to receive a VAT refund

Time to comply with a corporate income tax audit

Time to complete a corporate income tax audit

Case study assumptions

Using a case scenario, Doing Business records taxes and mandatory contributions a medium size company must pay in a year, and measures the administrative burden of paying taxes, contributions and dealing with postfiling processes. Information is also compiled on frequency of filing and payments, time taken to comply with tax laws, time taken to comply with the requirements of postfiling processes and time waiting.

To make data comparable across economies, several assumptions are used:

- TaxpayerCo is a medium-size business that started operations on January 1, 2015. It produces ceramic flowerpots and sells them at retail. All taxes and contributions recorded are paid in the second year of operation (calendar year 2016). Taxes and mandatory contributions are measured at all levels of government.

The VAT refund process:

- In June 2016, TaxpayerCo. makes a large capital purchase: the value of the machine is 65 times income per capita of the economy. Sales are equally spread per month (1,050 times income per capita divided by 12) and cost of goods sold are equally expensed per month (875 times income per capita divided by 12). The machinery seller is registered for VAT and excess input VAT incurred in June will be fully recovered after four consecutive months if the VAT rate is the same for inputs, sales and the machine and the tax reporting period is every month. Input VAT will exceed Output VAT in June 2016.

The corporate income tax audit process:

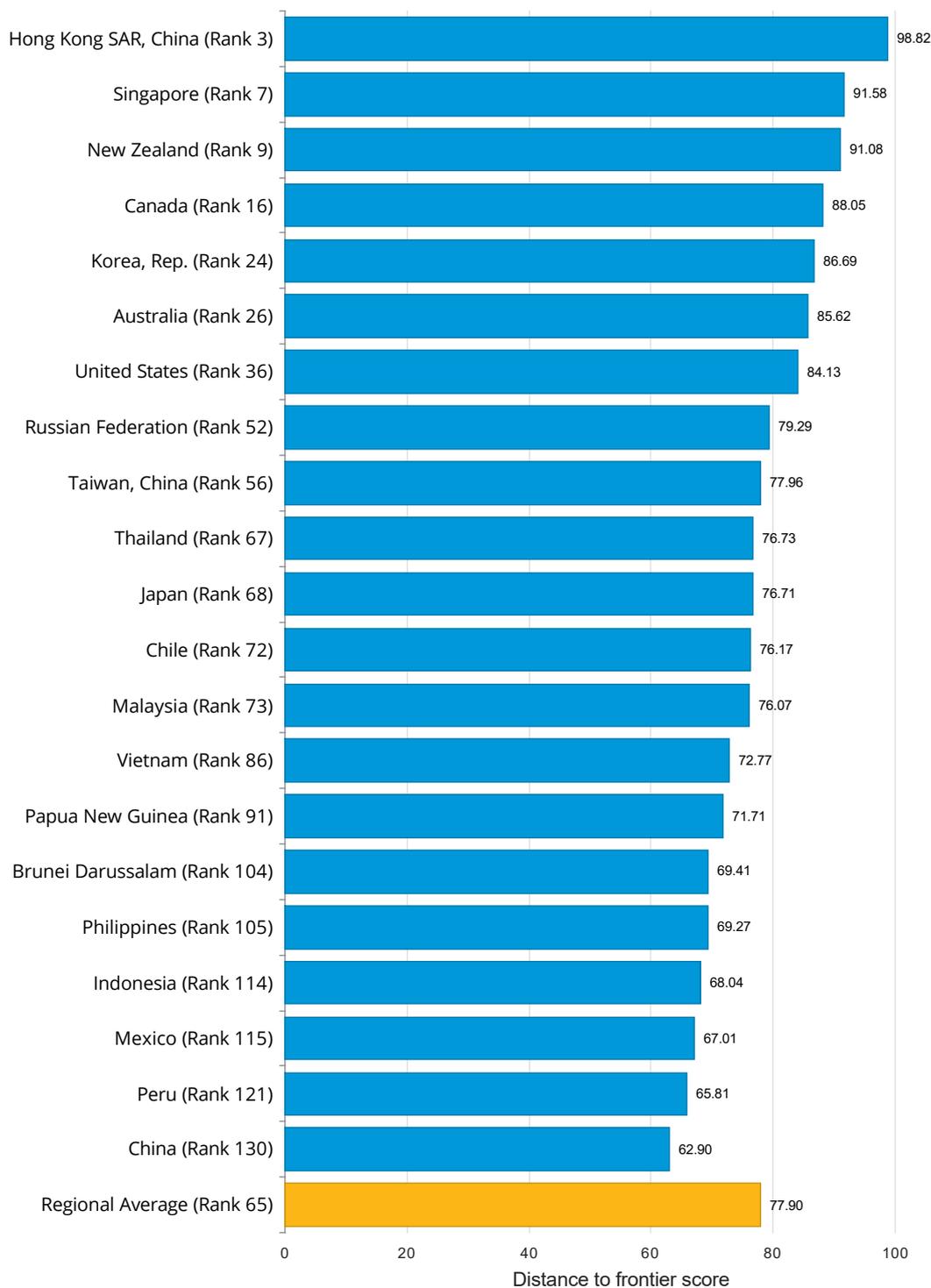
- An error in calculation of income tax liability (for example, use of incorrect tax depreciation rates, or incorrectly treating an expense as tax deductible) leads to an incorrect income tax return and a corporate income tax underpayment. TaxpayerCo. discovered the error and voluntarily notified the tax authority. The value of the underpaid income tax liability is 5% of the corporate income tax liability due. TaxpayerCo. submits corrected information after the deadline for submitting the annual tax return, but within the tax assessment period.

Paying Taxes

Where do the region's economies stand today?

What is the administrative burden of complying with taxes in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)—and how much do firms pay in taxes? The global rankings of these economies on the ease of paying taxes offer useful information for assessing the tax compliance burden for businesses. The average ranking of the region provides a useful benchmark.

How economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rank on the ease of paying taxes



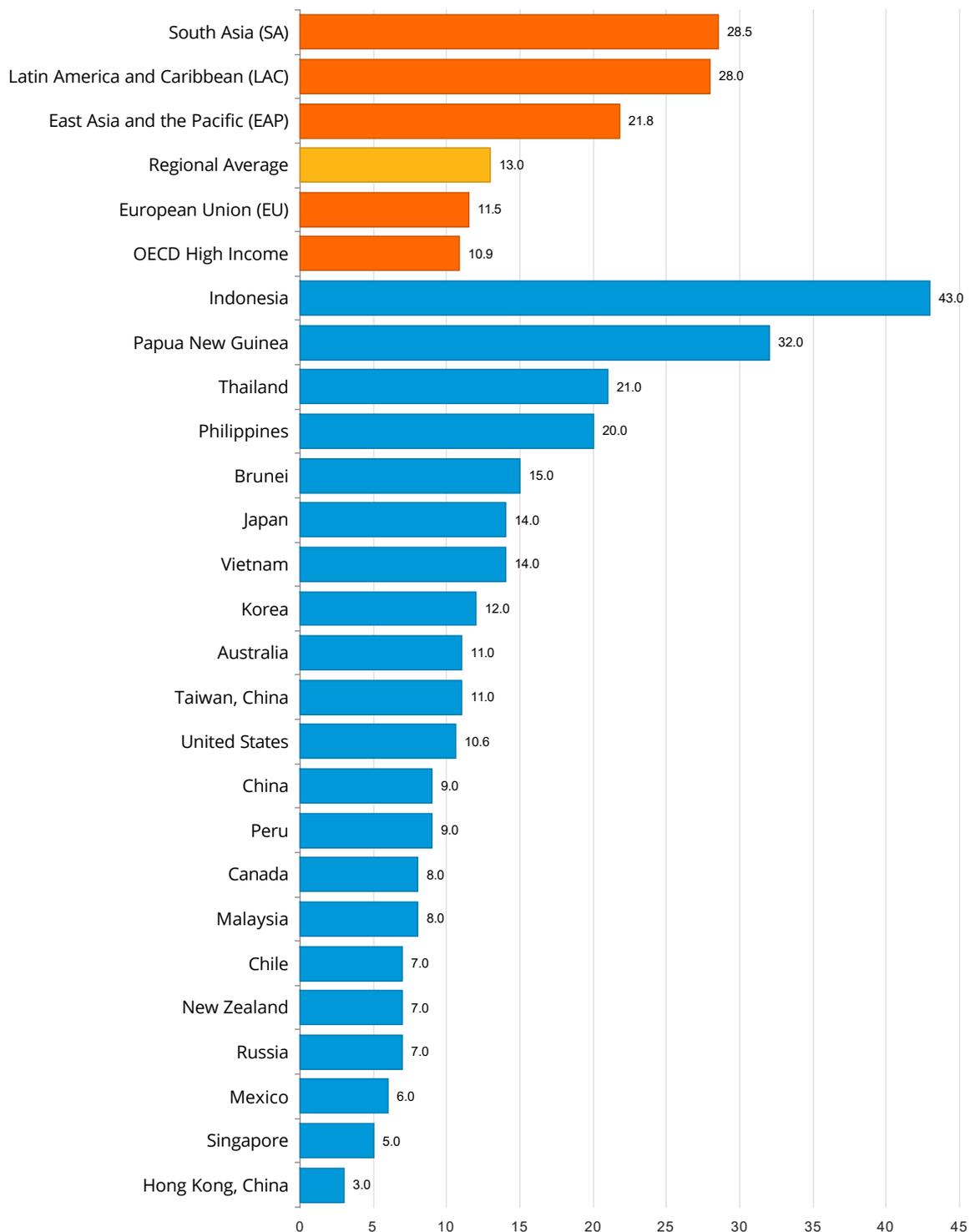
Source: Doing Business database.

Paying Taxes

The indicators underlying the rankings may be more revealing. Data collected by Doing Business show what it takes to comply with tax regulations in each economy in the region—the number of payments per year and the time required to prepare, and file and pay taxes the 3 major taxes (corporate income tax, VAT or sales tax and labor taxes and mandatory contributions)—as well as the total tax rate. Comparing these indicators across the region and with averages both for the region and for comparator regions can provide useful insights.

How easy is it to pay taxes in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) - and what are the total tax rates

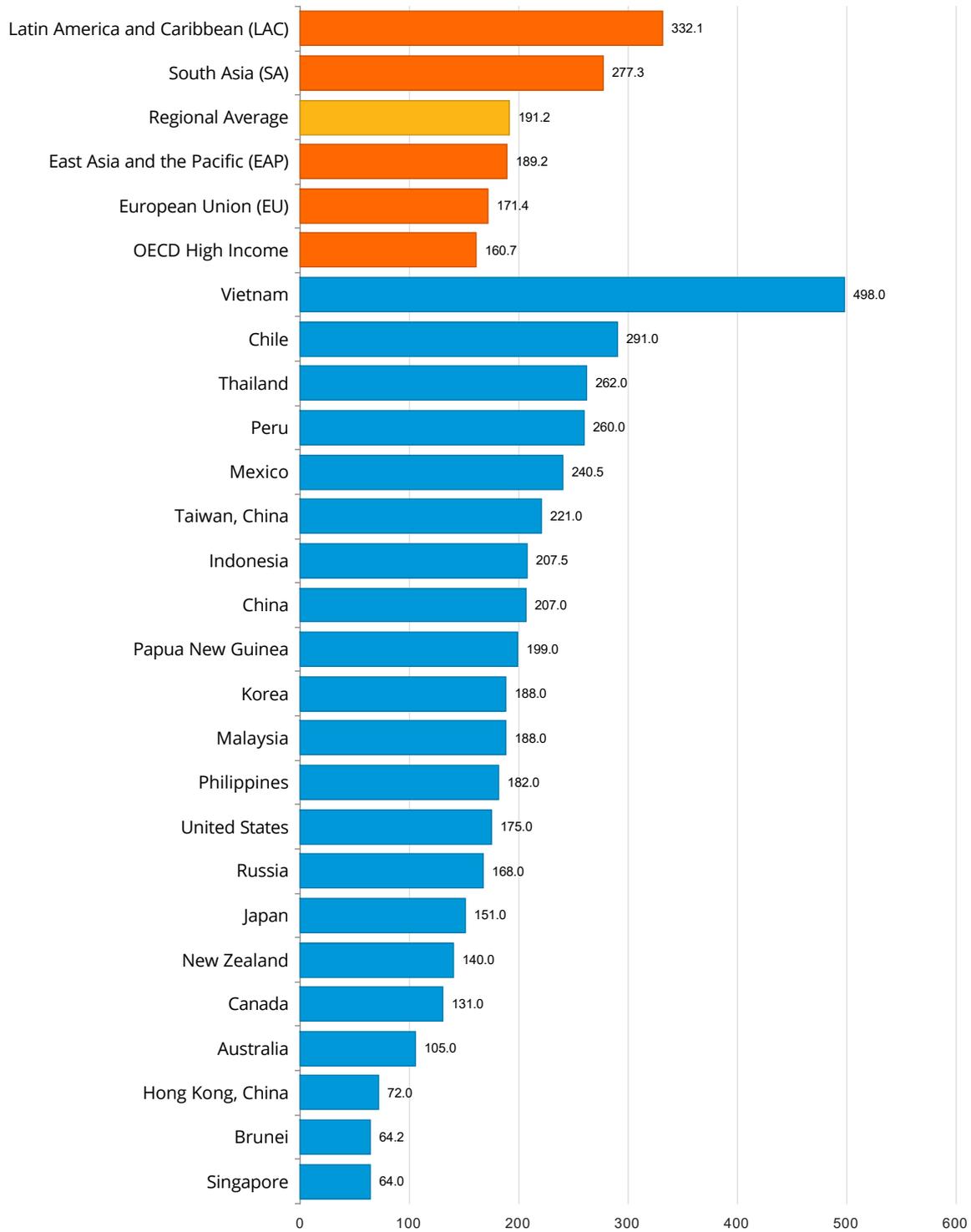
Payments (number per year)



Source: Doing Business database.

Paying Taxes

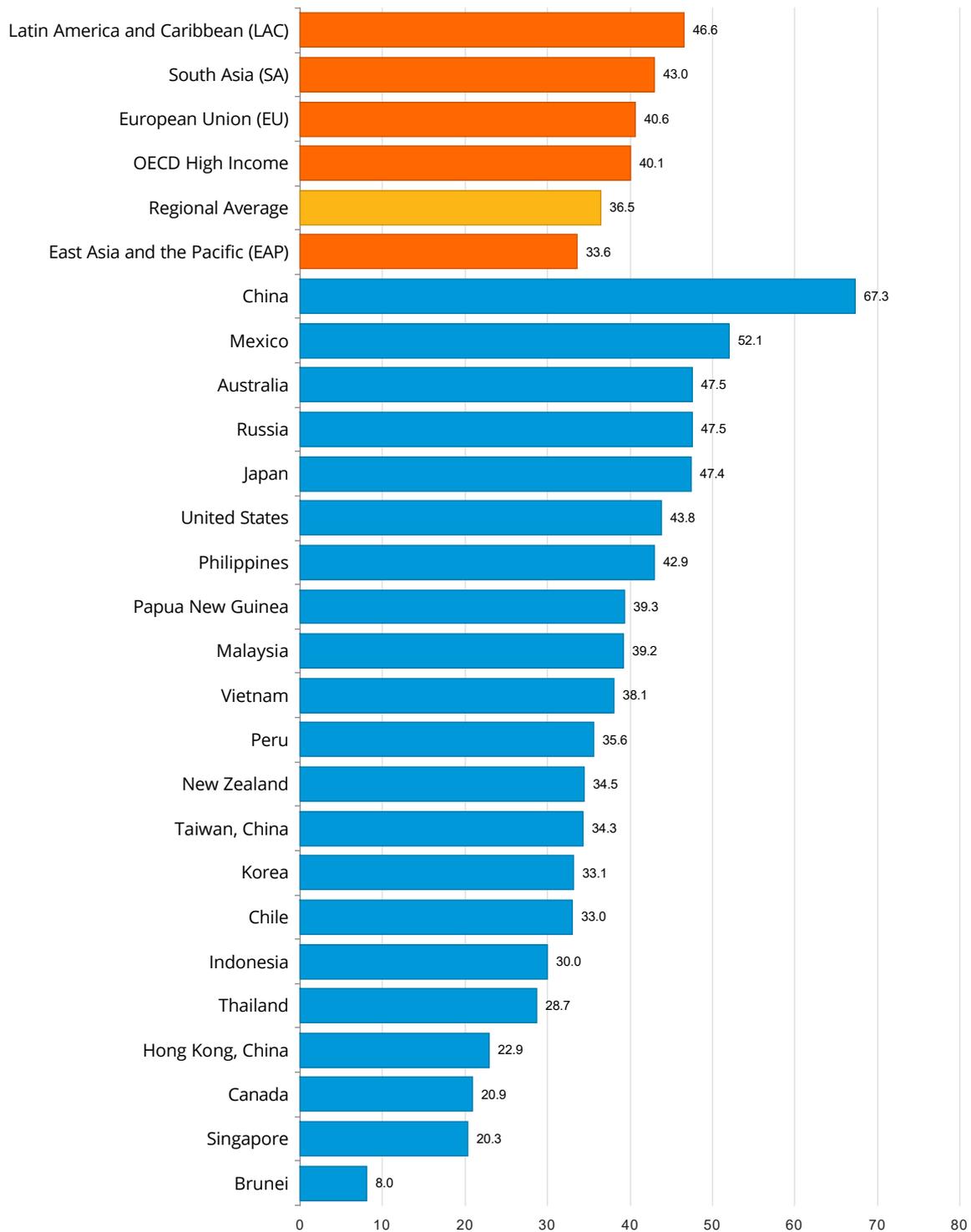
Time (hours per year)



Source: Doing Business database.

Paying Taxes

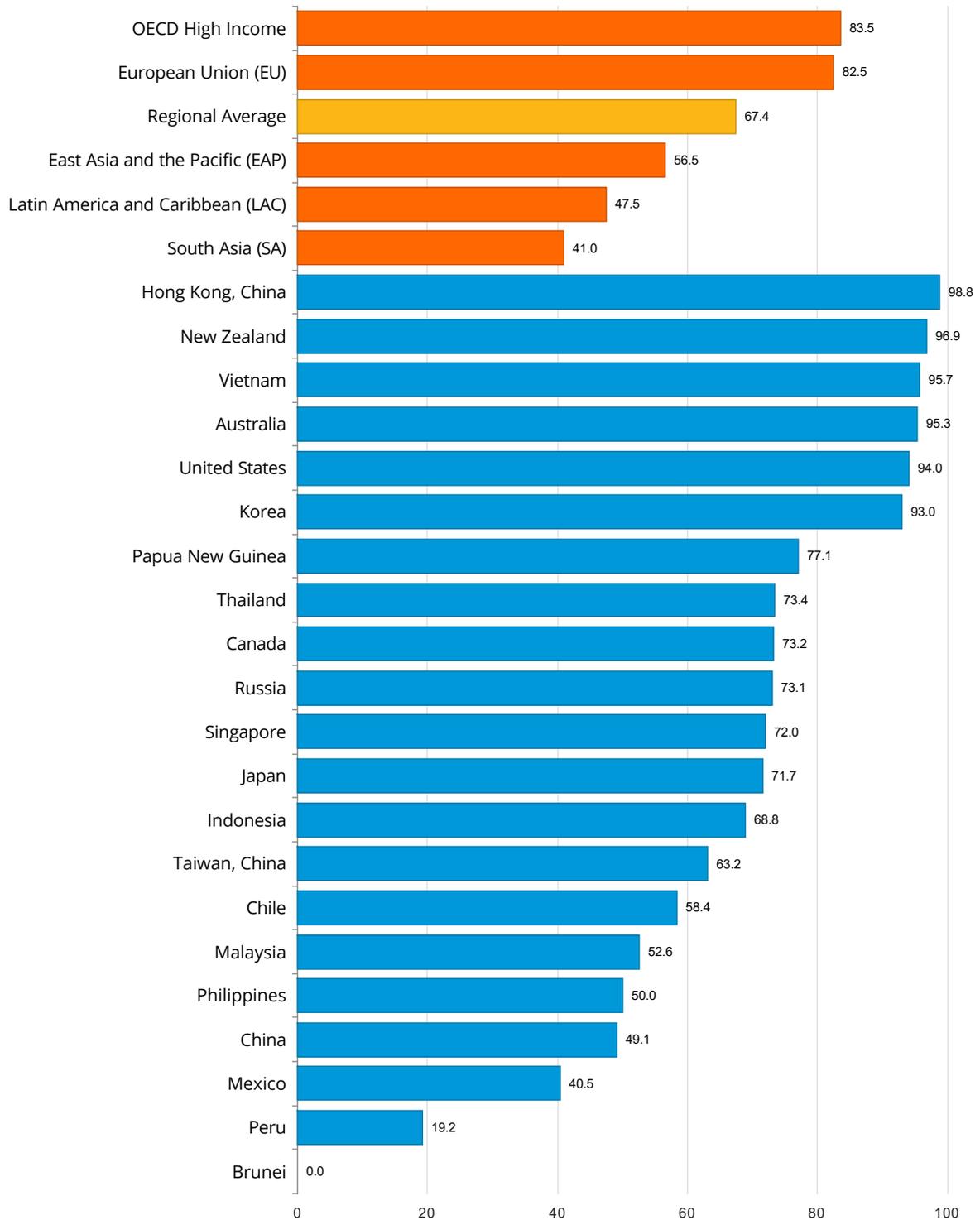
Total tax and contribution rate (% of profit)



Source: Doing Business database.

Paying Taxes

Postfiling index (0-100)



Source: Doing Business database.

Trading across Borders

Doing Business records the time and cost associated with the logistical process of exporting and importing goods. Doing Business measures the time and cost (excluding tariffs) associated with three sets of procedures—documentary compliance, border compliance and domestic transport—within the overall process of exporting or importing a shipment of goods. The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in June 2017. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure

Documentary compliance

Obtaining, preparing and submitting documents during transport, clearance, inspections and port or border handling in origin economy

Obtaining, preparing and submitting documents required by destination economy and any transit economies

Covers all documents required by law and in practice, including electronic submissions of information as well as non-shipment-specific documents necessary to complete the trade

Border compliance

Customs clearance and inspections

Inspections by other agencies (if applied to more than 10% of shipments)

Port or border handling

Processing of documents during clearance, inspections and port or border handling.

Domestic transport

Loading and unloading of shipment at warehouse, dry port or border

Transport by most widely used mode between warehouse and terminal or dry port

Traffic delays and road police checks while shipment is en route

Case study assumptions

To make the data comparable across economies, a few assumptions are made about the traded goods and the transactions:

Time: Time is measured in hours, and 1 day is 24 hours (for example, 22 days are recorded as $22 \times 24 = 528$ hours). If customs clearance takes 7.5 hours, the data are recorded as is. Alternatively, suppose documents are submitted to a customs agency at 8:00a.m., are processed overnight and can be picked up at 8:00a.m. the next day. The time for customs clearance would be recorded as 24 hours because the actual procedure took 24 hours.

Cost: Insurance cost and informal payments for which no receipt is issued are excluded from the costs recorded. Costs are reported in U.S. dollars. Contributors are asked to convert local currency into U.S. dollars based on the exchange rate prevailing on the day they answer the questionnaire. Contributors are private sector experts in international trade logistics and are informed about exchange rates.

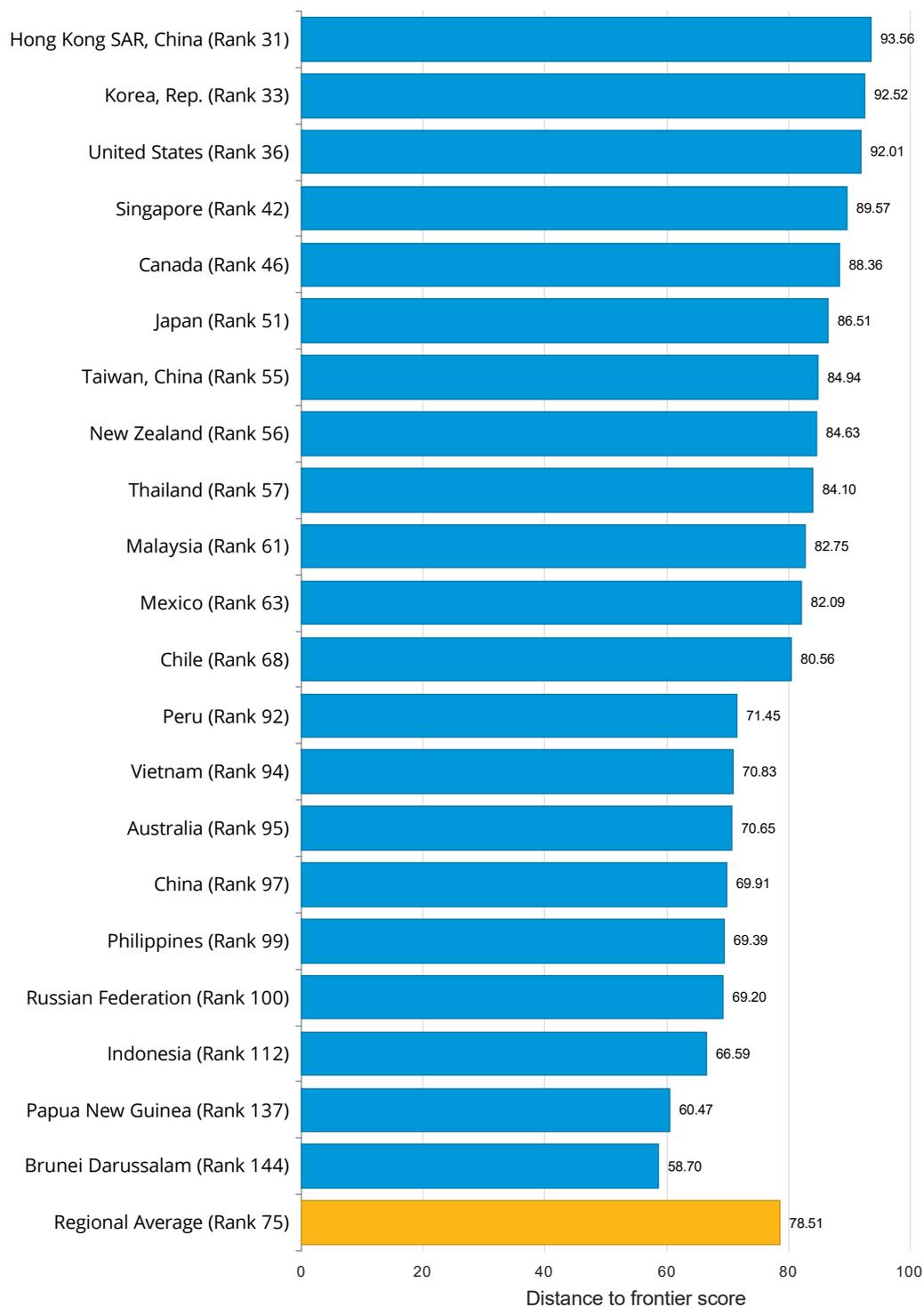
Assumptions of the case study: - For all 190 economies covered by Doing Business, it is assumed a shipment is in a warehouse in the largest business city of the exporting economy and travels to a warehouse in the largest business city of the importing economy. - It is assumed each economy imports 15 metric tons of containerized auto parts (HS 8708) from its natural import partner—the economy from which it imports the largest value (price times quantity) of auto parts. It is assumed each economy exports the product of its comparative advantage (defined by the largest export value) to its natural export partner—the economy that is the largest purchaser of this product. Shipment value is assumed to be \$50,000. - The mode of transport is the one most widely used for the chosen export or import product and the trading partner, as is the seaport, or land border crossing. - All electronic information submissions requested by any government agency in connection with the shipment are considered to be documents obtained, prepared and submitted during the export or import process. - A port or border is a place (seaport, airport or land border crossing) where merchandise can enter or leave an economy. - Relevant government agencies include customs, port authorities, road police, border guards, standardization agencies, ministries or departments of agriculture or industry, national security agencies and any other government authorities.

Trading across Borders

Where do the region's economies stand today?

How easy it is for businesses in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to export and import goods? The global rankings of these economies on the ease of trading across borders suggest an answer. The average ranking of the region and comparator regions provide a useful benchmark.

How economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rank on the ease of trading across borders



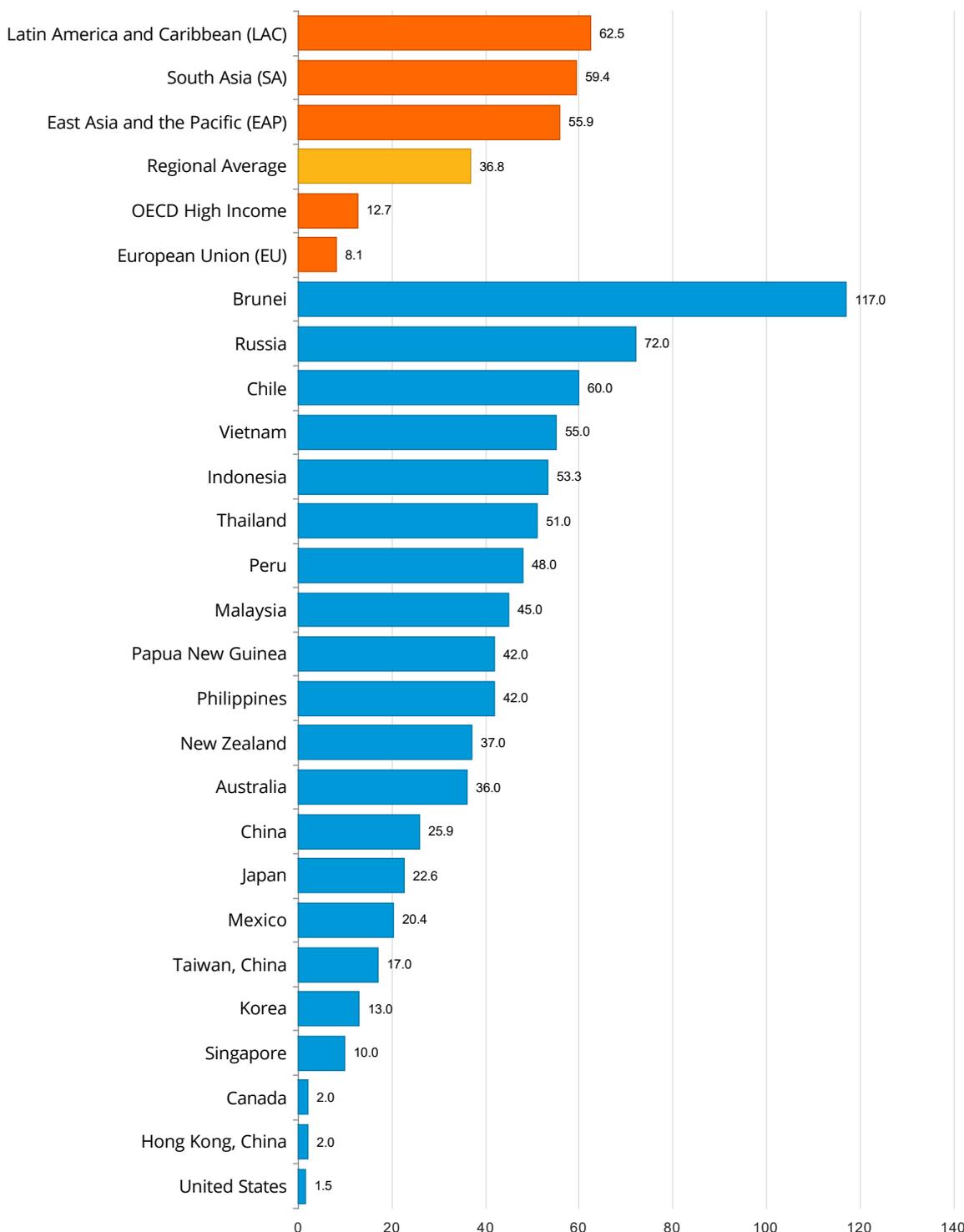
Source: Doing Business database.

Trading across Borders

The indicators reported here are for trading a shipment of goods by the most widely used mode of transport (whether sea, land, air or some combination of these). The information on the time and cost to complete export and import is collected from local freight forwarders, customs brokers and traders. Comparing these indicators across the region and with averages both for the region and for comparator regions can provide useful insights.

What it takes to trade across borders in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

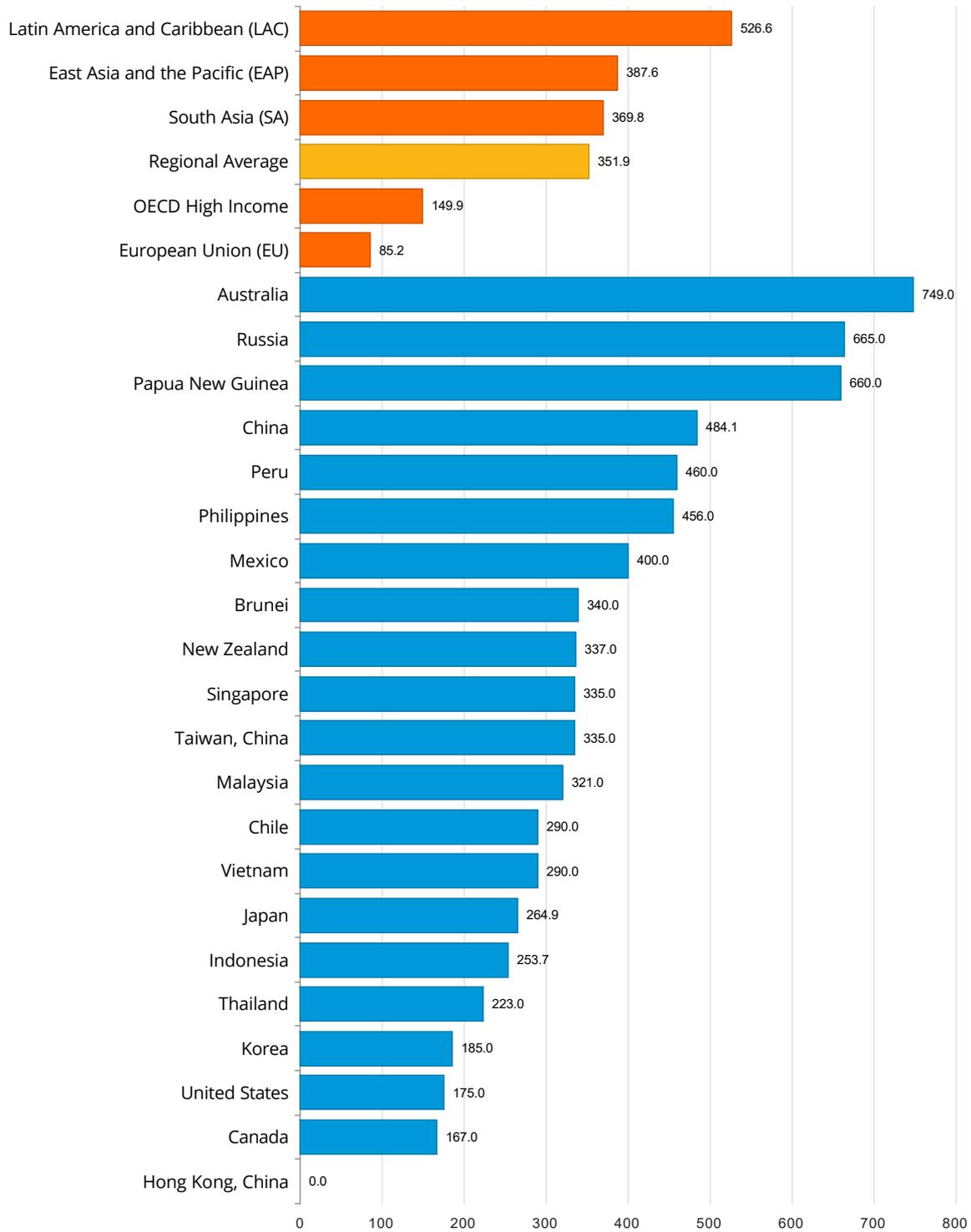
Time to export: Border compliance (hours)



Source: Doing Business database.

Trading across Borders

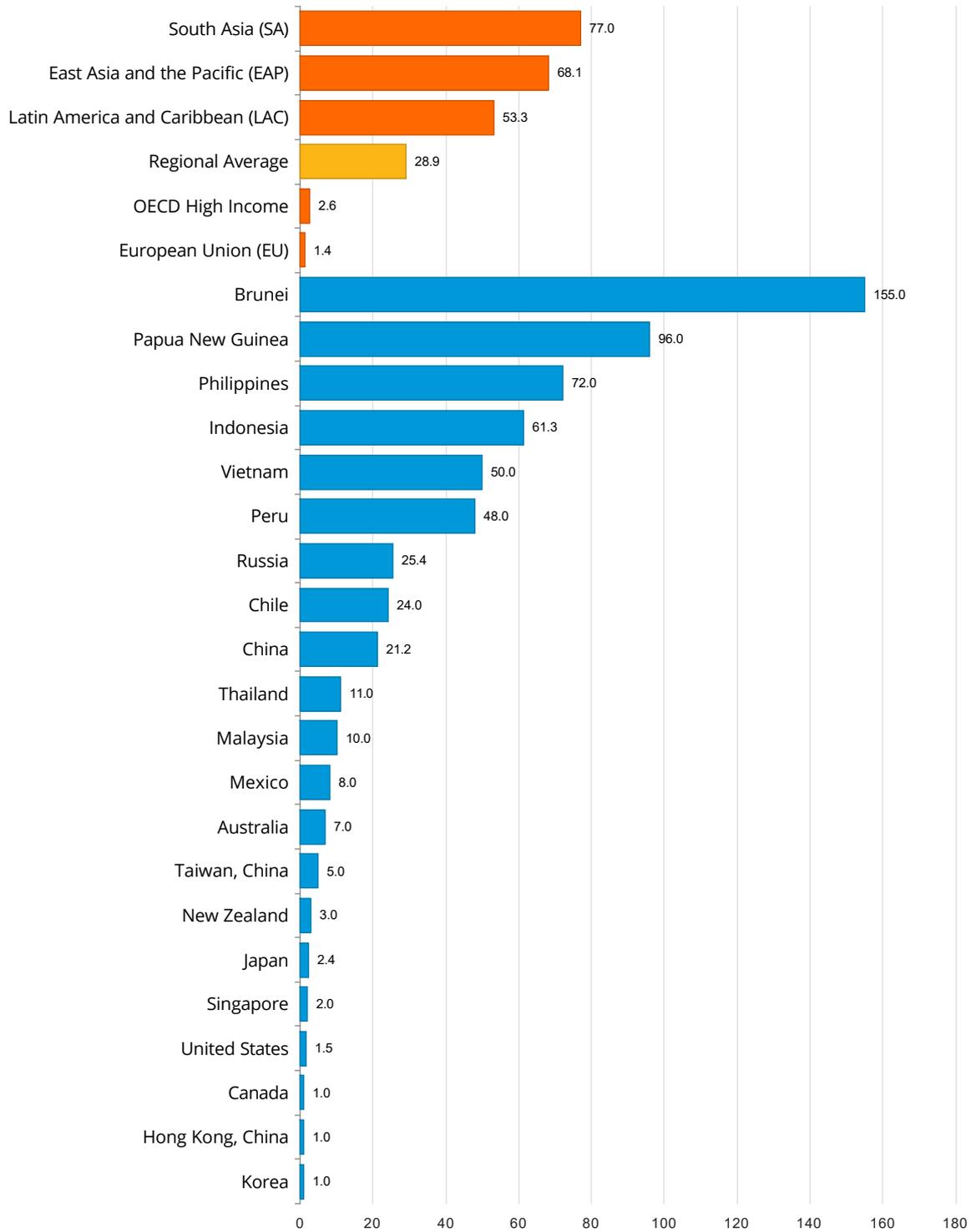
Cost to export: Border compliance (USD)



Source: Doing Business database.

Trading across Borders

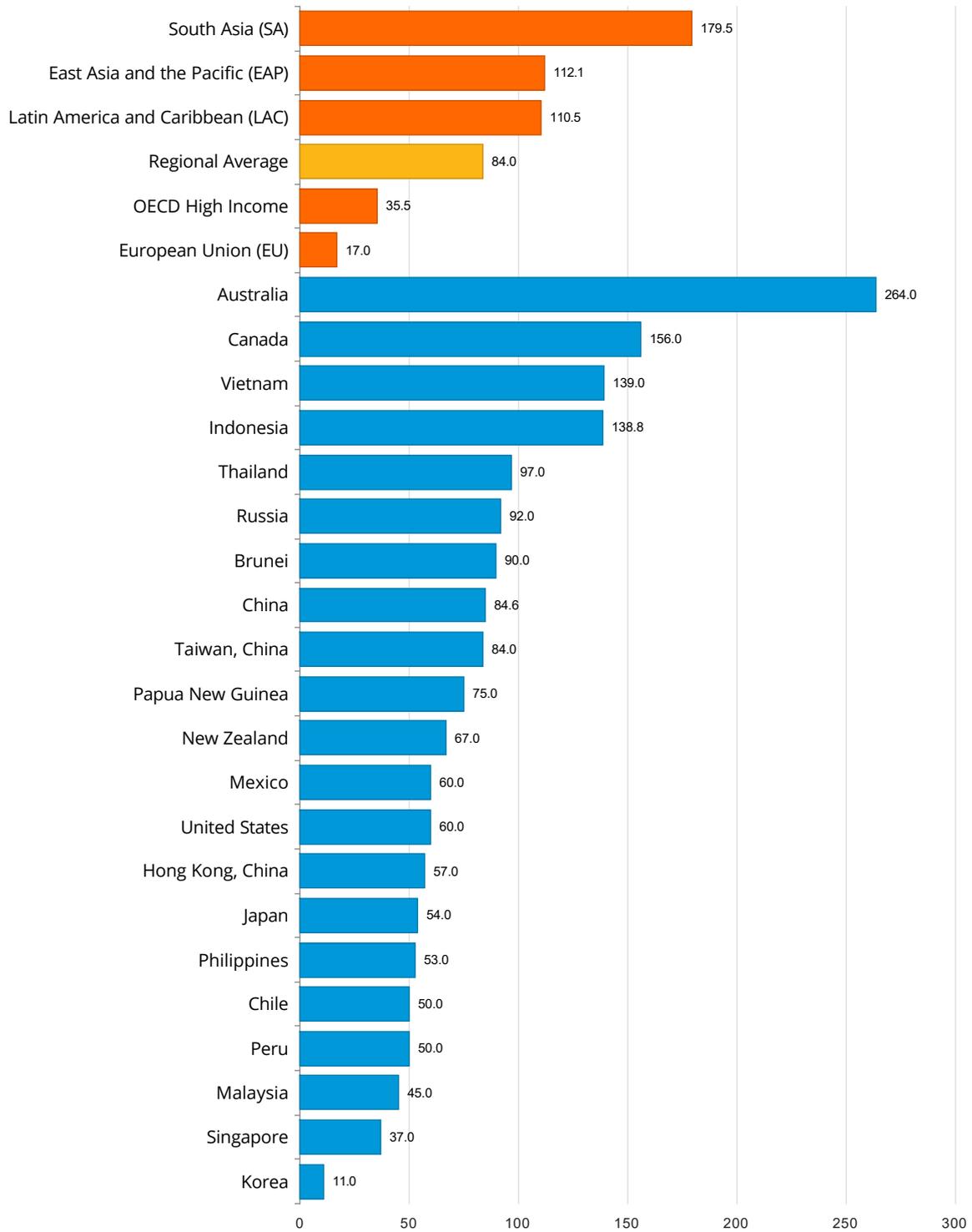
Time to export: Documentary compliance (hours)



Source: Doing Business database.

Trading across Borders

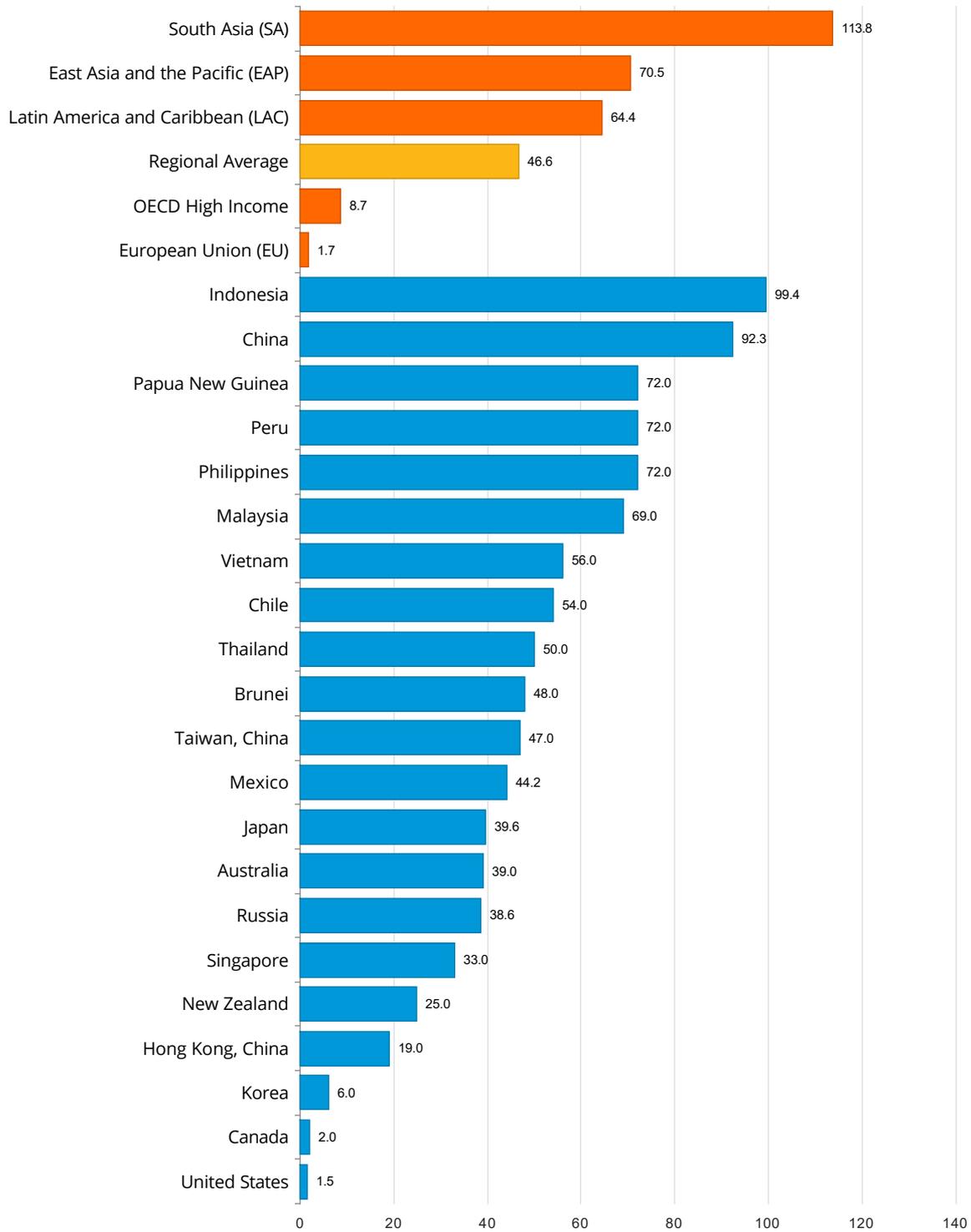
Cost to export: Documentary compliance (USD)



Source: Doing Business database.

Trading across Borders

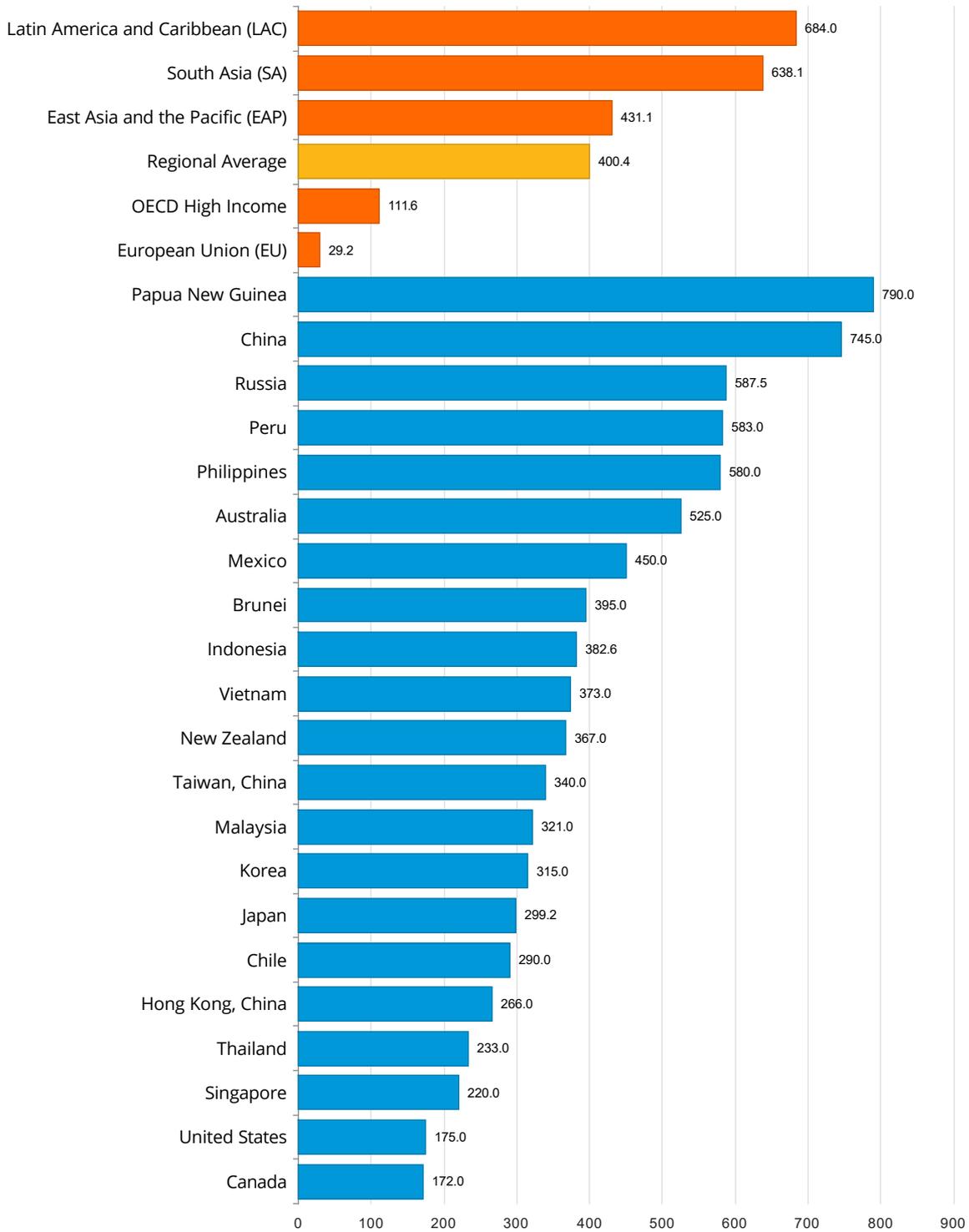
Time to import: Border compliance (hours)



Source: Doing Business database.

Trading across Borders

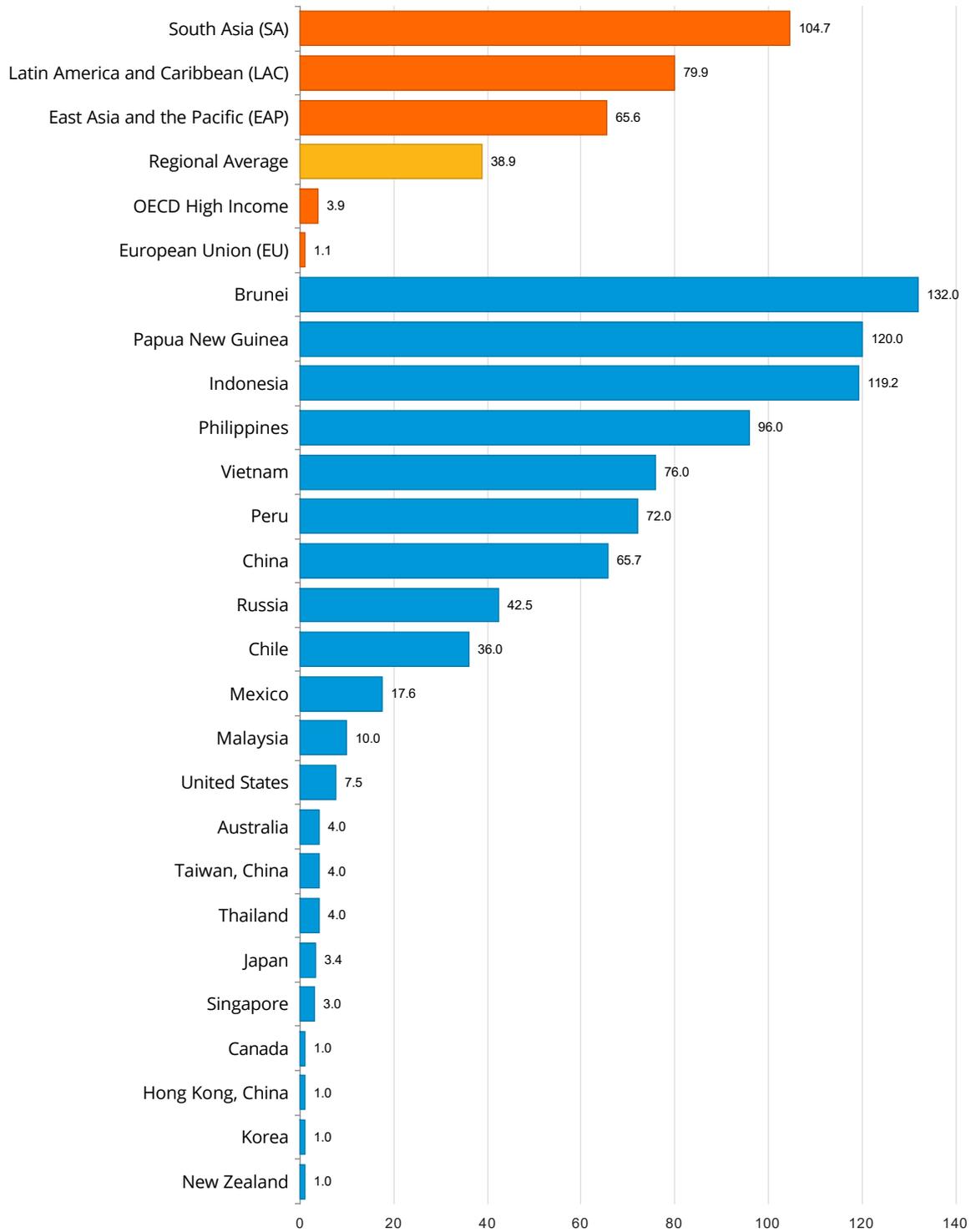
Cost to import: Border compliance (USD)



Source: Doing Business database.

Trading across Borders

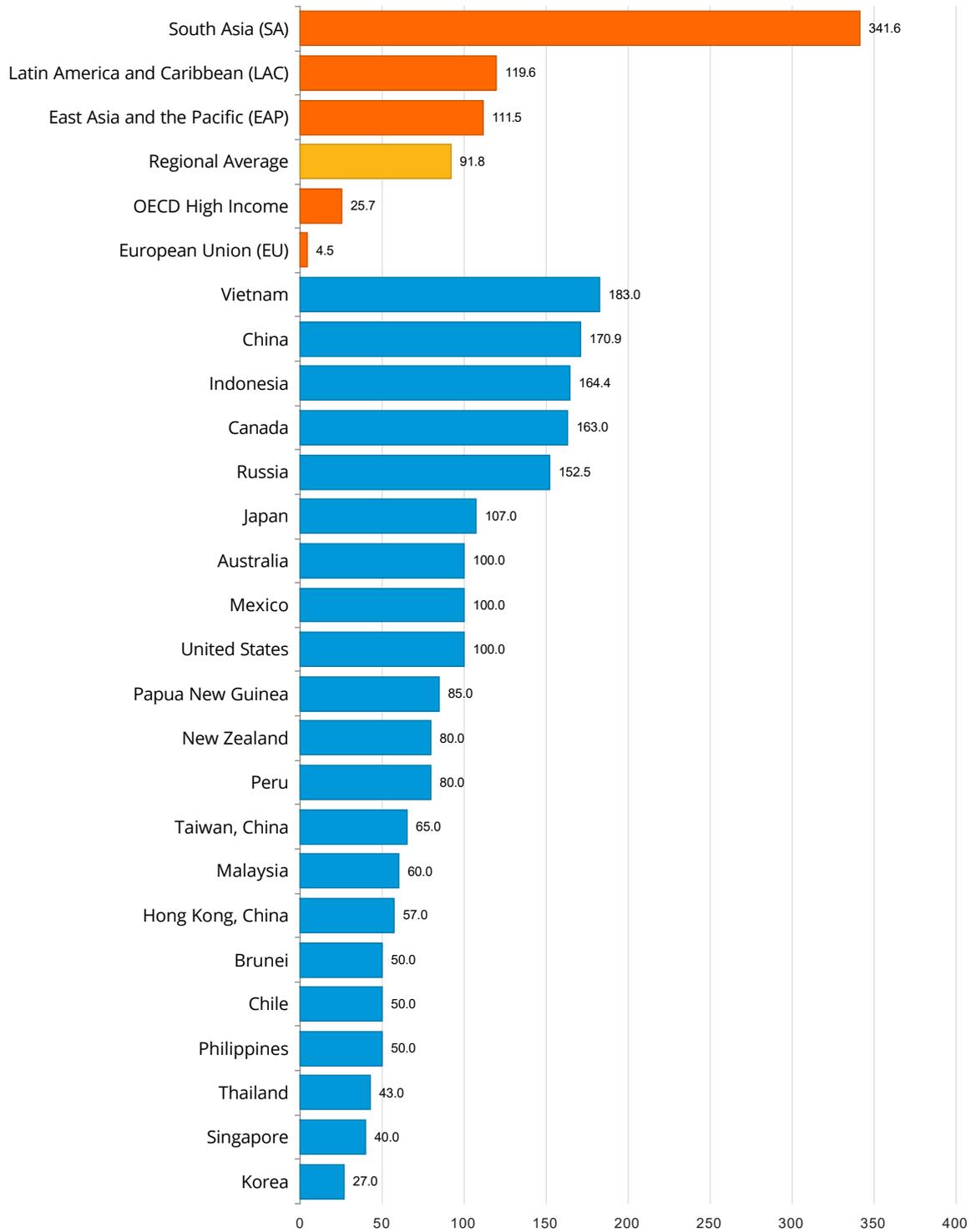
Time to import: Documentary compliance (hours)



Source: Doing Business database.

Trading across Borders

Cost to import: Documentary compliance (USD)



Source: Doing Business database.

Enforcing Contracts

The enforcing contracts indicator measures the time and cost for resolving a commercial dispute through a local first-instance court, and the quality of judicial processes index, evaluating whether each economy has adopted a series of good practices that promote quality and efficiency in the court system. The most recent round of data collection was completed in June 2017. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure

Time required to enforce a contract through the courts (calendar days)

Time to file and serve the case

Time for trial and to obtain the judgment

Time to enforce the judgment

Cost required to enforce a contract through the courts (% of claim)

Attorney fees

Court fees

Enforcement fees

Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)

Court structure and proceedings (-1-5)

Case management (0-6)

Court automation (0-4)

Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)

Case study assumptions

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:

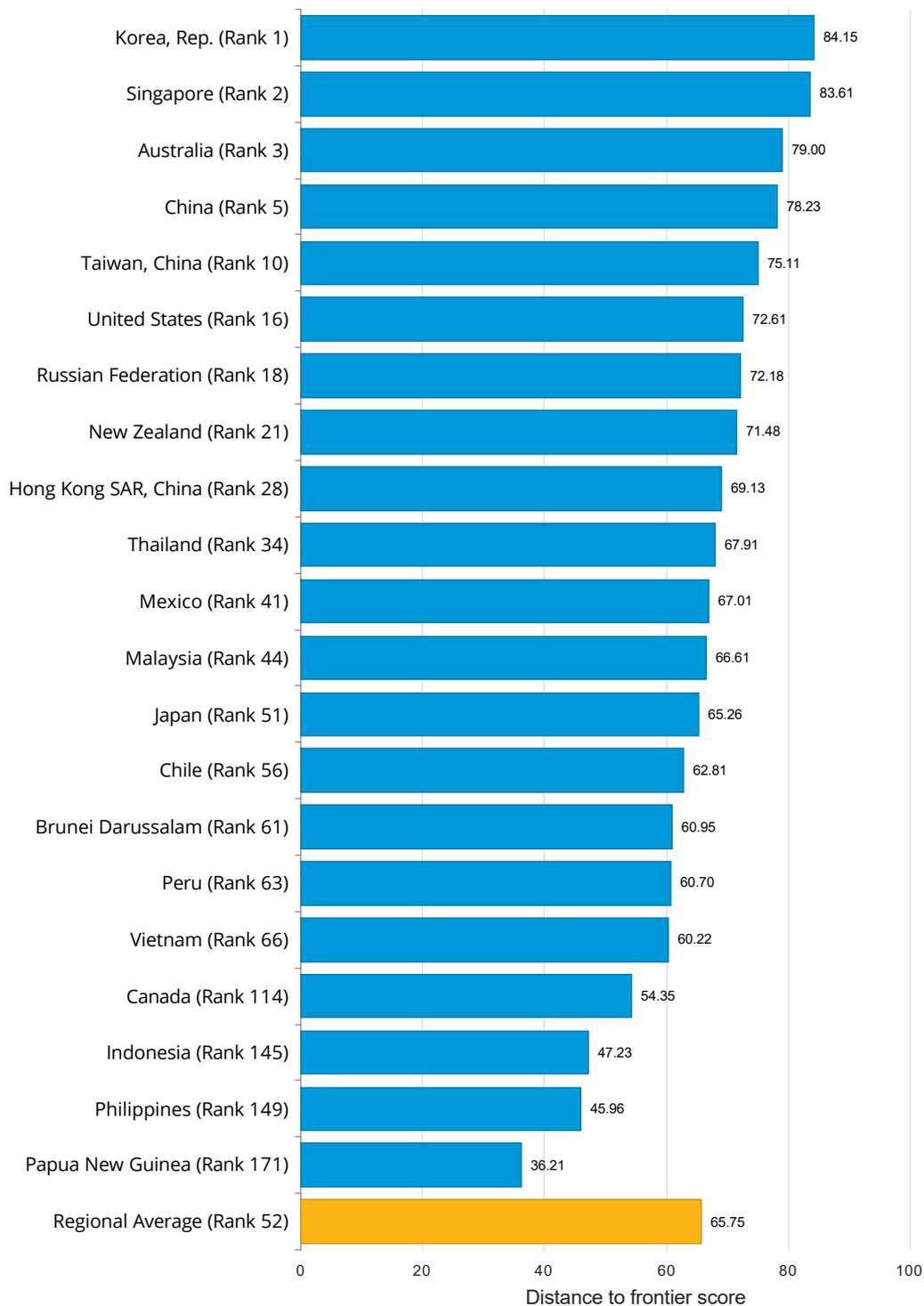
- The dispute concerns a lawful transaction between two businesses (Seller and Buyer), both located in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.
- The buyer orders custom-made goods, then fails to pay.
- The value of the dispute is 200% of the income per capita or the equivalent in local currency of USD 5,000, whichever is greater.
- The seller sues the buyer before the court with jurisdiction over commercial cases worth 200% of income per capita or \$5,000.
- The seller requests a pretrial attachment to secure the claim.
- 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 do the region's economies stand today?

How efficient is the process of resolving a commercial dispute through the courts in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)? The global rankings of these economies on the ease of enforcing contracts suggest an answer. The average ranking of the region and comparator regions provide a useful benchmark.

How economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rank on the ease of enforcing contracts



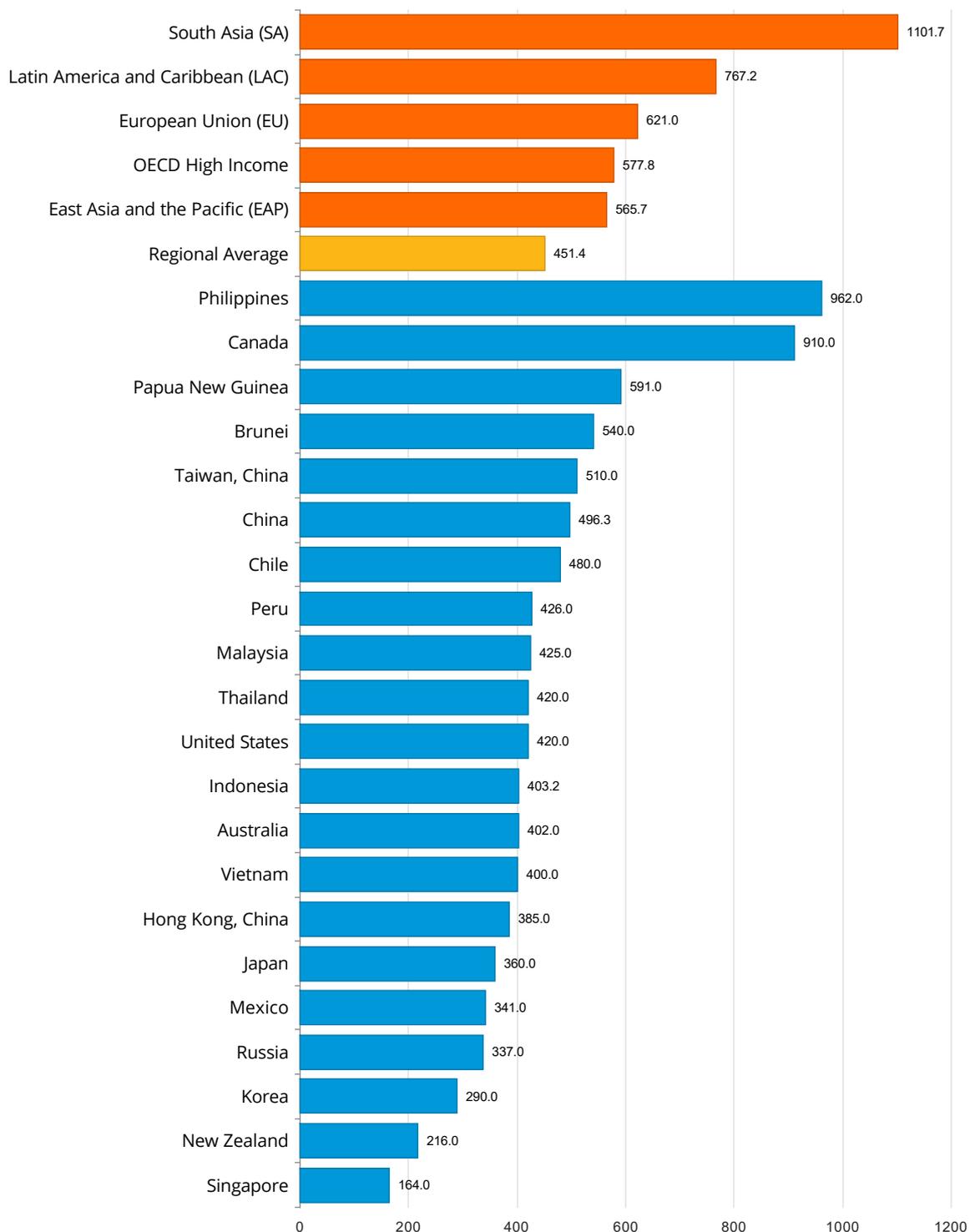
Source: Doing Business database.

Enforcing Contracts

The indicators underlying the rankings may also be revealing. Data collected by Doing Business show what it takes to enforce a contract through the courts in each economy in the region: the time, the cost and quality of judicial processes index. Comparing these indicators across the region and with averages both for the region and for comparator regions can provide useful insights.

What it takes to enforce a contract through the courts in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

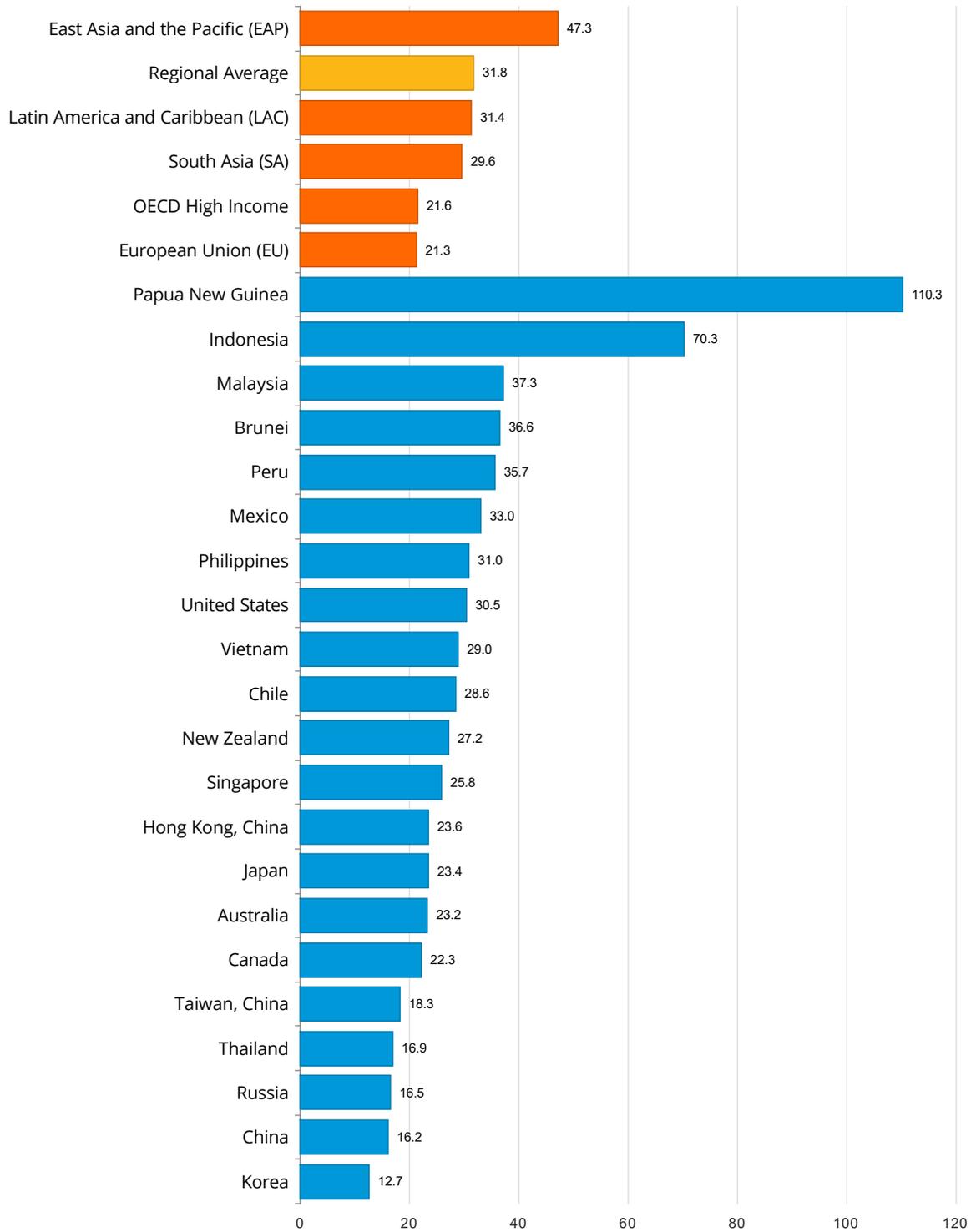
Time (days)



Source: Doing Business database.

Enforcing Contracts

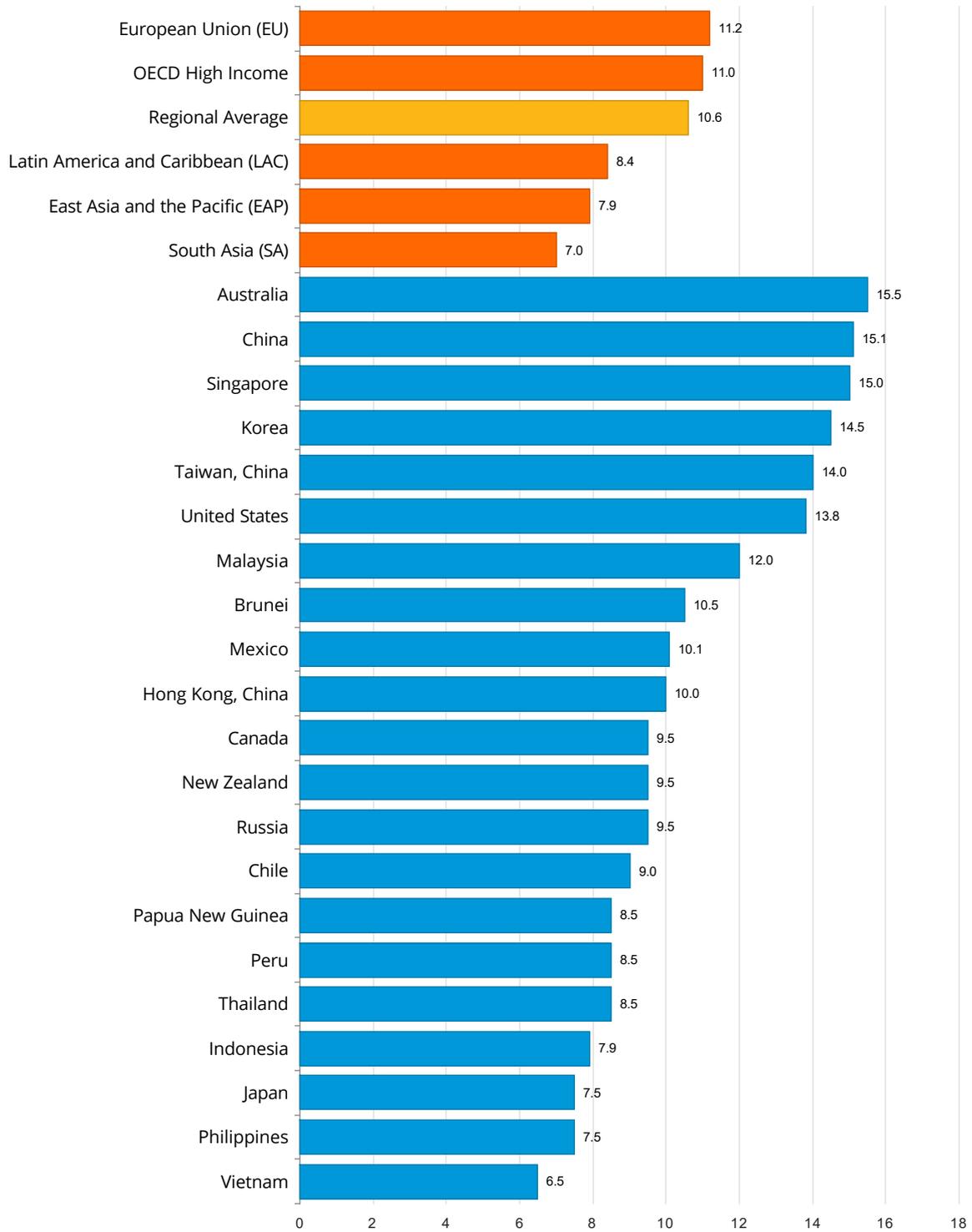
Cost (% of claim value)



Source: Doing Business database.

Enforcing Contracts

Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)



Source: Doing Business database.

Resolving Insolvency

Doing Business studies the time, cost and outcome of insolvency proceedings involving domestic legal entities. These variables are used to calculate the recovery rate, which is recorded as cents on the dollar recovered by secured creditors through reorganization, liquidation or debt enforcement (foreclosure or receivership) proceedings. To determine the present value of the amount recovered by creditors, Doing Business uses the lending rates from the International Monetary Fund, supplemented with data from central banks and the Economist Intelligence Unit.

The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in June 2017. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the 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

Outcome

Whether business continues operating as a going concern or business assets are sold piecemeal

Recovery rate for creditors

Measures the cents on the dollar recovered by secured creditors

Outcome for the business (survival or not) determines the maximum value that can be recovered

Official costs of the insolvency proceedings are deducted

Depreciation of furniture is taken into account

Present value of debt recovered

Strength of insolvency framework index (0- 16)

Sum of the scores of four component indices:

Commencement of proceedings index (0-3)

Management of debtor's assets index (0-6)

Reorganization proceedings index (0-3)

Creditor participation index (0-4)

Case study assumptions

To make the data on the time, cost and outcome comparable across economies, several assumptions about the business and the case are used:

- A hotel located in the largest city (or cities) has 201 employees and 50 suppliers. The hotel experiences financial difficulties.

- The value of the hotel is 100% of the income per capita or the equivalent in local currency of USD 200,000, whichever is greater.

- The hotel has a loan from a domestic bank, secured by a mortgage over the hotel's real estate. The hotel cannot pay back the loan, but makes enough money to operate otherwise.

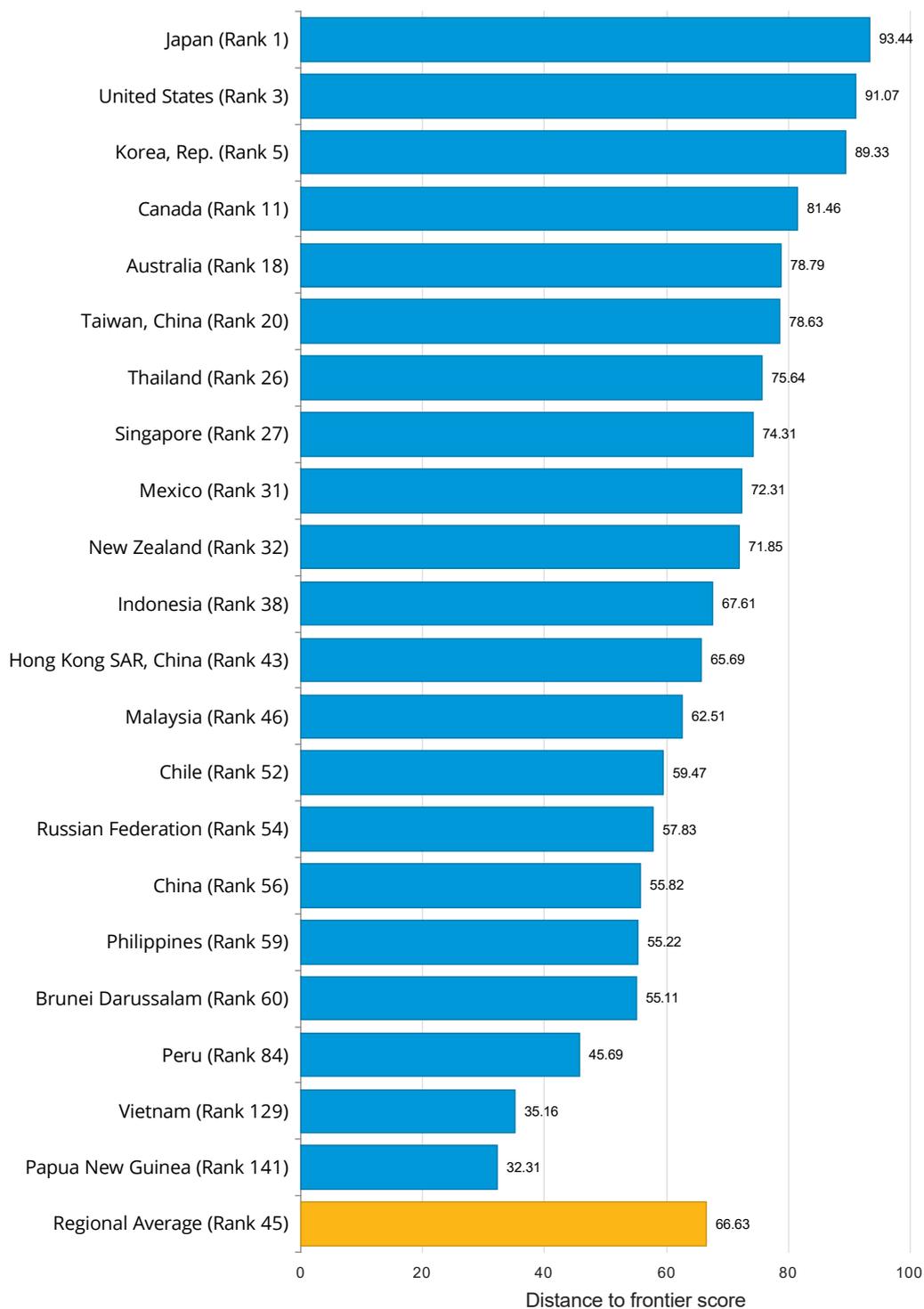
In addition, Doing Business evaluates the adequacy and integrity of the existing legal framework applicable to liquidation and reorganization proceedings through the strength of insolvency framework index. The index tests whether economies adopted internationally accepted good practices in four areas: commencement of proceedings, management of debtor's assets, reorganization proceedings and creditor participation.

Resolving Insolvency

Where do the region's economies stand today?

How efficient are insolvency proceedings in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)? The global rankings of these economies on the ease of resolving insolvency suggest an answer. The average ranking of the region and comparator regions provide a useful benchmark for assessing the efficiency of insolvency proceedings. Speed, low costs and continuation of viable businesses characterize the top performing economies.

How economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rank on the ease of resolving insolvency



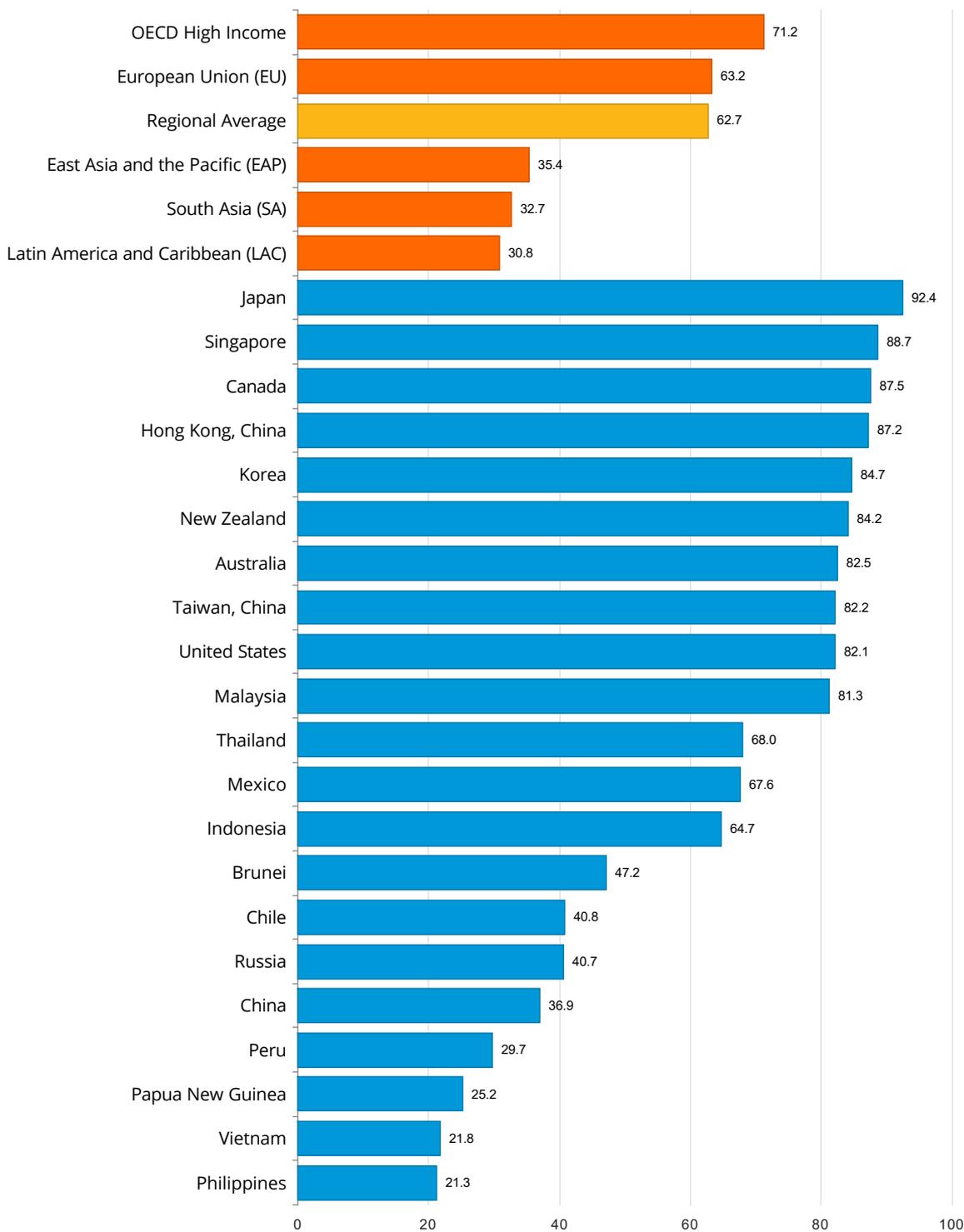
Source: Doing Business database.

Resolving Insolvency

The indicators underlying the rankings may be more revealing. Data collected by Doing Business show the average recovery rate and the average strength of insolvency framework index. Comparing these indicators across the region and with averages both for the region and for comparator regions can provide useful insights.

How efficient is the insolvency process in economies in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)



Source: Doing Business database.

Business Reforms

Starting a Business

In the year ending June 1, 2017, 137 economies implemented 283 total reforms across the different areas measured by Doing Business, an increase of over 20% from last year. Doing Business has recorded more than 2,900 regulatory reforms making it easier to do business since 2004. Reforms inspired by Doing Business have been implemented by economies in all regions. The following are the reforms implemented in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) since Doing Business 2008.

DB Year	Economy	Reform
DB2018	Thailand	Thailand made starting a business easier by abolishing the requirement to obtain a company's seal and eliminating the need for approval from the Labor Department of company work regulations.
DB2018	China	China made starting a business easier by streamlining registration procedures. This reform applies to both Beijing and Shanghai.
DB2018	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made starting a business faster by removing post-incorporation procedures.
DB2018	Indonesia	Indonesia made starting a business less costly by reducing the start-up fees for limited liability companies. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2018	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR, China, made starting a business more expensive by reintroducing the business tax fee.
DB2017	China	China made starting a business easier by introducing a single form to obtain a business license, organization code and tax registration. This reform applies to both Shanghai and Beijing.
DB2017	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR, China, made starting a business less costly by reducing the business registration fee.
DB2017	Indonesia	Indonesia made starting a business easier by creating a single form to apply for the company registration certificate and trading license. This reform applies to Jakarta. Indonesia also made starting a business easier by abolishing the minimum capital requirement for small and medium-size enterprises and by encouraging the use of an online system to reserve company names. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2017	Korea, Rep.	The Republic of Korea made starting a business faster by eliminating post-registration procedures.
DB2017	Malaysia	Malaysia made starting a business more difficult by requiring that companies with an annual revenue of more than MYR 500,000 register as a GST payer.
DB2017	Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea reduced the time required to start a business by streamlining business registration at the Investment Promotion Agency (IPA).
DB2017	Thailand	Thailand made starting a business easier by creating a single window for registration payment and reducing the time to obtain a company seal.
DB2017	Vietnam	Vietnam made starting a business more difficult by requiring entrepreneurs to receive approval of the seal sample before using it.
DB2016	Vietnam	Vietnam made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to get the company seal engraved and registered.

DB2016	Philippines	The Philippines made starting a business easier by streamlining communications between the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Social Security System and thereby expediting the process of issuing an employer registration number.
DB2016	Indonesia	Indonesia made starting a business in Jakarta easier by reducing the time needed to register with the Ministry of Manpower.
DB2016	Russian Federation	The Russian Federation made starting a business in Moscow easier by reducing the number of days required to open a corporate bank account.
DB2016	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR, China, made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for a company seal.
DB2016	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made starting a business easier by improving online procedures and simplifying registration and post registration requirements.
DB2015	Indonesia	Indonesia made starting a business easier by allowing the Ministry of Law and Human Rights to electronically issue the approval letter for the deed of establishment. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2015	China	China made starting a business easier by eliminating both the minimum capital requirement and the requirement to obtain a capital verification report from an auditing firm. This reform applies to both Beijing and Shanghai.
DB2015	United States	In the United States starting a business became easier in New York City thanks to faster online procedures.
DB2015	Russian Federation	The Russian Federation made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to deposit the charter capital before company registration as well as the requirement to notify tax authorities of the opening of a bank account. This reform applies to both Moscow and St. Petersburg.
DB2015	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR, China, made starting a business more difficult by increasing the registration fee.
DB2014	Malaysia	Malaysia made starting a business less costly by reducing the company registration fees.
DB2014	Russian Federation	Russia made starting a business easier by abolishing the requirement to have the bank signature card notarized before opening a company bank account.
DB2014	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR, China, made starting a business less costly by abolishing the capital duty levied on local companies.
DB2014	Chile	Chile made starting a business easier by creating a new online system for business registration.
DB2013	China	China made starting a business less costly by exempting micro and small companies from paying several administrative fees from January 2012 to December 2014.
DB2013	Mexico	Mexico made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies.

DB2013	Thailand	Thailand made starting a business easier by allowing the registrar at the Department of Business Development to receive the company's work regulations.
DB2013	Vietnam	Vietnam made starting a business easier by allowing companies to use self-printed value added tax invoices.
DB2012	Chile	Chile made business start-up easier by starting to provide an immediate temporary operating license to new companies, eliminating the requirement for an inspection of premises by the tax authority before new companies can begin operations and allowing free online publication of the notice of a company's creation.
DB2012	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR (China) made starting a business easier by introducing online electronic services for company and business registration.
DB2012	Taiwan, China	Taiwan (China) made starting a business easier by implementing an online one-stop shop for business registration.
DB2012	Indonesia	Indonesia made starting a business easier by introducing a simplified application process allowing an applicant to simultaneously obtain both a general trading license and a business registration certificate.
DB2012	Korea, Rep.	Korea made starting a business easier by introducing a new online one-stop shop, Start-Biz.
DB2012	Malaysia	Malaysia made starting a business easier by merging company, tax, social security and employment fund registrations at the one-stop shop and providing same-day registration.
DB2012	Peru	Peru made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for micro and small enterprises to deposit start-up capital in a bank before registration.
DB2012	Thailand	Thailand made starting a business easier by introducing a one-stop shop.
DB2011	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made starting a business easier by improving efficiency at the company registrar and implementing an electronic system for name searches.
DB2011	Chile	Chile made business start-up easier by introducing an online system for registration and for filing the request for publication.
DB2011	Taiwan, China	Taiwan (China) eased business start-up by reducing the time required to check company names, register retirement plans and apply for health, pension and labor insurance.
DB2011	Indonesia	Indonesia eased business start-up by reducing the cost for company name clearance and reservation and the time required to reserve the name and approve the deed of incorporation.
DB2011	Malaysia	Malaysia eased business start-up by introducing more online services.
DB2011	Mexico	Mexico launched an online one-stop shop for initiating business registration.

DB2011	Peru	Peru eased business start-up by simplifying the requirements for operating licenses and creating an online one-stop shop for business registration.
DB2011	Philippines	The Philippines eased business startup by setting up a one-stop shop at the municipal level.
DB2011	Vietnam	Vietnam eased company start-up by creating a one-stop shop that combines the processes for obtaining a business license and tax license and by eliminating the need for a seal for company licensing.

Dealing with Construction Permits

DB Year	Economy	Reform
DB2018	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made dealing with construction permits less cumbersome by streamlining the process of obtaining a building permit.
DB2018	Canada	Canada made dealing with construction permits more expensive by increasing fees for site plan approval and building permits.
DB2018	Mexico	Mexico made dealing with construction permits costlier by increasing several fees. This reform applies to both Mexico City and Monterrey.
DB2017	Philippines	The Philippines made dealing with construction permits easier by increasing the transparency of its building regulations.
DB2017	Russian Federation	Russian Federation Saint Petersburg made dealing with construction permits easier by removing the requirement to obtain permission to fence the construction site.
DB2017	Singapore	Singapore made dealing with construction permits easier by streamlining procedures and improving the online one-stop shop.
DB2015	Thailand	Thailand made dealing with construction permits less time-consuming by introducing a fast-track approval process for building permits for smaller buildings.
DB2015	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made dealing with construction permits easier by consolidating final inspections.
DB2014	Malaysia	Malaysia made dealing with construction permits easier by establishing a one-stop shop.
DB2014	Russian Federation	Russia made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating several requirements for project approvals from government agencies and by reducing the time required to register a new building.
DB2014	Philippines	The Philippines made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain a health certificate.
DB2013	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made dealing with construction permits easier by creating a one-stop shop for preconstruction approvals.
DB2013	China	China simplified the process of obtaining a construction permit by streamlining and centralizing preconstruction approvals.

DB2013	Taiwan, China	Taiwan, China, made dealing with construction permits easier by introducing a risk-based and self-regulatory inspection system and improving operational features of the one-stop shop for building permits.
DB2013	Malaysia	Malaysia made dealing with construction permits faster by improving the one-stop center for new buildings and by reducing the time to connect to telephone service.
DB2013	Peru	Peru made obtaining a construction permit easier by eliminating requirements for several preconstruction approvals.
DB2013	Russian Federation	Russia made obtaining a construction permit simpler by eliminating requirements for several preconstruction approvals.
DB2012	Taiwan, China	Taiwan (China) made dealing with construction permits easier by creating a one-stop center.
DB2012	Japan	Japan made dealing with construction permits costlier by increasing inspection fees.
DB2012	Mexico	Mexico made dealing with construction permits faster by consolidating internal administrative procedures.
DB2011	Peru	Peru streamlined construction permitting by implementing administrative reforms.
DB2011	Philippines	The Philippines made construction permitting more cumbersome through updated electricity connection costs.
DB2011	Russian Federation	Russia eased construction permitting by implementing a single window for all procedures related to land use.
DB2011	Vietnam	Vietnam made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the cost to register newly completed buildings by 50% and transferring the authority to register buildings from local authorities to the Department of National Resources and Environment.

Getting Electricity

DB Year	Economy	Reform
DB2018	Philippines	The Philippines reduced the time to get an electricity connection by implementing a new asset management system and by creating a new scheduling and planning office.
DB2018	Thailand	Thailand made getting electricity easier by streamlining procedures through the implementation of a geographic information system, eliminating the external site inspection.
DB2018	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made getting electricity more difficult by increasing the number of procedures needed to obtain a new connection. At the same time, a new compensation scheme was introduced to incentivize the utility to improve reliability.

DB2018	Indonesia	Indonesia made getting electricity less costly by reducing connection and internal wiring certification fees. In Jakarta, getting electricity was also made easier after the utility streamlined the processing of new connection applications.
DB2018	Vietnam	Vietnam increased the reliability of power supply by rolling out a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) automatic energy management system for the monitoring of outages and the restoration of service.
DB2018	Mexico	Mexico (Mexico City) improved the reliability of electricity supply by installing smart meters, extending the medium-voltage network and implementing a new system to remotely restore power service.
DB2017	Brunei Darussalam	The utility in Brunei Darussalam streamlined the processes of reviewing applications, and the time to issue an excavation permit was reduced. In addition, Brunei Darussalam increased the reliability of power supply by rolling out a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) automatic energy management system for the monitoring of outages and the restoration of service.
DB2017	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR, China, streamlined the processes of reviewing applications for new electrical connections and also reduced the time needed to issue an excavation permit.
DB2017	Indonesia	Indonesia made the process for getting an electricity connection faster by reducing the time for contractors to perform external work thanks to an increase in the stock of electrical material supplied by the utility. In Surabaya, getting electricity was also made easier after the utility streamlined the process for new connection requests.
DB2016	Vietnam	The utility in Vietnam reduced the time required for getting an electricity connection by reducing delays and increasing efficiency in approving connection applications and designs for connection works. Getting electricity was also made easier by eliminating the need to obtain a substation certification from the Fire Fighters Prevention Department for connections to the medium-voltage grid.
DB2016	Taiwan, China	The utility in Taiwan, China, reduced the time required for getting an electricity connection through a simplified procedure for obtaining excavation permits from the municipality.
DB2016	Russian Federation	Russia made the process of obtaining an electricity connection simpler, faster and less costly by eliminating a meter inspection by electricity providers and revising connection tariffs. This reform applies to both Moscow and St. Petersburg.
DB2016	New Zealand	The utility in New Zealand reduced the time required for getting an electricity connection by improving its payment monitoring and confirmation process for the connection works.
DB2016	Hong Kong SAR, China	The utility in Hong Kong SAR, China, made getting electricity easier by streamlining the process for reviewing connection applications and for completing the connection works and meter installation. In addition, the time needed to issue an excavation permit was reduced.

DB2015	Indonesia	In Indonesia the electricity company in Jakarta made getting electricity easier by eliminating the need for electrical contractors to obtain multiple certificates guaranteeing the safety of internal installations—though. The utility in Jakarta and Surabaya also increased the cost by introducing a security deposit for new connections.
DB2015	Taiwan, China	Taiwan, China, made getting electricity easier by eliminating site inspections.
DB2014	Mexico	Mexico made getting electricity easier by increasing the efficiency of the utility's internal processes and by enforcing a "silence is consent" rule for the approval of the feasibility study for a new connection.
DB2014	Malaysia	Malaysia made getting electricity easier by increasing the efficiency of internal processes at the utility and improving its communication and dialogue with contractors.
DB2014	Russian Federation	Russia made getting electricity simpler and less costly by setting standard connection tariffs and eliminating many procedures previously required.
DB2013	Canada	Canada made getting an electricity connection easier by reducing the time needed for external connection works.
DB2013	Indonesia	Indonesia made getting electricity easier by eliminating the requirement for new customers applying for an electricity connection to show a neighbor's electricity bill as a way to help determine their address.
DB2013	Korea, Rep.	Korea made getting electricity less costly by introducing a new connection fee schedule and an installment payment system.
DB2013	Mexico	In Mexico the distribution utility made getting electricity easier by streamlining procedures, offering training opportunities to private contractors, using a geographic information system (GIS) to map the electricity distribution network and increasing the stock of materials.
DB2012	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made getting electricity easier by establishing a one-stop shop and reducing the time required to obtain an excavation permit.
DB2012	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR (China) made getting electricity easier by increasing the efficiency of public agencies and streamlining the utility's procedures with other government agencies.
DB2012	Indonesia	Indonesia made getting electricity more difficult by increasing connection fees.
DB2012	Russian Federation	Russian Federation made getting electricity less costly by revising the tariffs for connection.

Registering Property

DB Year	Economy	Reform
DB2018	Thailand	Thailand improved the reliability of its land administration system by implementing a geographic information system and by scanning maps for most of Bangkok.

DB2018	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei made registering property easier by increasing the transparency of its land administration system and by improving the land administration system's dispute resolution mechanisms.
DB2018	Russian Federation	The Russian Federation made it easier to transfer property by decreasing the time necessary to apply for state registration of title transfer. This reform applies to both Moscow and Saint Petersburg.
DB2018	Indonesia	Indonesia made registering property easier by reducing the transfer tax. This reform applies to Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2018	Mexico	Mexico (Monterrey) made registering property more expensive by increasing the municipal property transfer tax.
DB2018	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR, China, improved the quality of its land administration system by enhancing its reliability and establishing a complaints mechanism.
DB2017	Indonesia	Indonesia made it easier to register property by digitizing its cadastral records and setting up a geographic information system.
DB2017	Mexico	Mexico made registering property easier by digitizing its land records, improving the quality of the Land Registry infrastructure and making the registration process more efficient.
DB2017	Singapore	Singapore made it easier to transfer a property by introducing an independent mechanism for reporting errors on titles and maps.
DB2016	Russian Federation	Russia made transferring property easier by reducing the time required for property registration. This reform applies to both Moscow and St. Petersburg.
DB2015	Russian Federation	The Russian Federation made transferring property easier by eliminating the requirement for notarization and introducing tighter time limits for completing the property registration. This reform applies to both Moscow and St. Petersburg.
DB2015	Korea, Rep.	The Republic of Korea made transferring property easier by reducing the time needed to buy housing bonds and to register the property transfer.
DB2014	Russian Federation	Russia made transferring property easier by streamlining procedures and implementing effective time limits for processing transfer applications.
DB2014	Singapore	Singapore made transferring property easier by introducing an online procedure for property transfers.
DB2014	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR, China, made transferring property more costly by increasing the stamp duty.
DB2013	Malaysia	Malaysia substantially reduced the number of days it takes to register property transfers.
DB2012	Russian Federation	Russia made registering property transfers easier by eliminating the requirement to obtain cadastral passports on land plots.
DB2012	Thailand	Thailand made registering property more expensive by increasing the registration fee.

DB2011	Malaysia	Malaysia's introduction of online stamping reduced the time and cost to transfer property.
DB2011	Peru	Peru introduced fast-track procedures at the land registry, cutting by half the time needed to register property.
DB2011	Thailand	Thailand made registering property more costly by repealing a 2-year temporary tax reduction for property transfers.

Getting Credit

DB Year	Economy	Reform
DB2018	Thailand	Thailand strengthened access to credit by adopting new legislation that broadens the scope of assets that can be used as collateral. Thailand now allows a general description of assets granted as collateral and allows the security interest to automatically attach to the proceeds of the original asset. It also establishes clear grounds for relief from a stay for secured creditors during reorganisation procedures and allows out-of-court enforcement of collateral.
DB2018	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam strengthened access to credit by adopting a new law on secured transactions that establishes a unified legal framework for movable assets and creates a modern, notice-based collateral registry. The law also establishes priority rules for secured creditors inside and outside of insolvency proceedings as well as allows for out of court enforcement.
DB2018	Russian Federation	Russia improved access to credit by adopting a new law that establishes a modern collateral registry. This reform applies to both Moscow and St. Petersburg.
DB2018	Indonesia	Indonesia improved access to credit information by launching a new credit bureau. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2018	Malaysia	Malaysia strengthened access to credit by adopting a new law that establishes a modern collateral registry.
DB2018	Vietnam	Vietnam strengthened access to credit by adopting a new civil code that broadens the scope of assets that can be used as collateral.
DB2017	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam strengthened access to credit by adopting a new insolvency law that contemplates protections for secured creditors during an automatic stay in reorganization proceedings. Brunei also improved access to credit information by beginning to distribute data from two utility companies.
DB2017	China	China improved access to credit information by starting to report payment histories from utility companies and providing credit scores to banks and financial institutions. This reform applies to both Shanghai and Beijing.
DB2017	Indonesia	Indonesia strengthened access to credit by establishing a modern collateral registry.
DB2017	Malaysia	In Malaysia the credit bureau began to provide consumer credit scores.

DB2017	Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea strengthened access to credit by adopting a new law on secured transactions that implemented a functional secured transactions system and established a centralized, notice-based collateral registry. The new law broadens the scope of assets that can be used as collateral and allows out-of-court enforcement of collateral.
DB2017	Thailand	Thailand improved access to credit information by starting to provide credit scores to banks and financial institutions.
DB2016	Vietnam	Vietnam guaranteed borrowers' right to inspect their credit data while the new credit bureau expanded borrower coverage, improving the credit information system.
DB2016	Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea improved access to credit information by expanding the bureau's coverage.
DB2016	Indonesia	Indonesia improved access to credit by enabling searches of the collateral registry by the debtor's name. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2016	Peru	Peru improved its credit information system by implementing a new law on personal data protection.
DB2016	Mexico	Mexico improved access to credit by implementing a decree allowing a general description of assets granted as collateral. This reform applies to both Mexico City and Monterrey.
DB2016	Russian Federation	Russia improved access to credit by adopting a new law on secured transactions that established a centralized collateral registry and allows a general description of a combined category of assets granted as collateral. This reform applies to both Moscow and St. Petersburg.
DB2016	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR, China, improved access to credit by implementing a modern collateral registry.
DB2015	Vietnam	Vietnam improved its credit information system by establishing a new credit bureau.
DB2015	Mexico	Mexico improved access to credit by amending its insolvency proceedings law and establishing clear grounds for relief from a stay of enforcement actions by secured creditors during reorganization procedures. This reform applies to both Mexico City and Monterrey.
DB2015	Taiwan, China	Taiwan, China, improved access to credit information by beginning to include data from utility companies in credit reports.
DB2015	New Zealand	New Zealand improved access to credit information by beginning to distribute both positive and negative credit information.
DB2014	Indonesia	Indonesia improved its credit information system through a new regulation setting up a legal framework for establishing credit bureaus.
DB2014	China	China improved its credit information system by introducing credit information industry regulations, which guarantee borrowers' right to inspect their data.

DB2014	Australia	Australia improved its credit information system through the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012, which permits credit bureaus to collect account payment history with improved privacy protection.
DB2014	Singapore	Singapore improved its credit information system by guaranteeing by law borrowers' right to inspect their own data.
DB2014	Korea, Rep.	Korea revised its secured transactions framework by creating new types of security rights that can be publicized through registration.
DB2014	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam improved access to credit information by establishing a public credit registry.
DB2014	Vietnam	Vietnam improved its credit information system through a decree setting up a legal framework for the establishment of private credit bureaus.
DB2014	Philippines	The Philippines improved access to credit information by beginning to distribute both positive and negative information and by enacting a data privacy act that guarantees borrowers' right to access their data.
DB2013	Australia	Australia strengthened its secured transactions system by adopting a new national legal regime governing the enforceability of security interests in personal property and implementing a unified collateral registry.
DB2013	New Zealand	New Zealand improved access to credit information by allowing credit bureaus to collect positive information on individuals.
DB2012	Chile	Chile strengthened its secured transactions system by implementing a unified collateral registry and a new legal framework for nonpossessory security interests.
DB2012	Mexico	Mexico strengthened its secured transactions system by implementing a centralized collateral registry with an electronic database that is accessible online.
DB2011	Papua New Guinea	Operation of a new private credit bureau improved the credit information system in Papua New Guinea.
DB2011	Singapore	Singapore improved its credit information system by collecting and distributing information on firms.
DB2011	Vietnam	Vietnam improved its credit information system by allowing borrowers to examine their own credit report and correct errors.

Protecting Minority Investors

DB Year	Economy	Reform
DB2018	Thailand	Thailand strengthened minority investor protections by making it easier to sue directors in case of prejudicial related-party transactions, increasing shareholder rights and role in major corporate decisions and clarifying ownership and control structures.
DB2018	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam strengthened minority investor protections by increasing shareholder rights and role in major corporate decisions, clarifying ownership and control structures and requiring greater corporate transparency.

DB2018	Indonesia	Indonesia strengthened minority investor protections by increasing shareholder rights and role in major corporate decisions and requiring greater corporate transparency. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2018	Malaysia	Malaysia strengthened minority investor protections by requiring greater corporate transparency.
DB2017	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam strengthened minority investor protections by clarifying ownership and control structures, making it easier to sue directors in case of prejudicial related-party transactions, and allowing the rescission of related-party transactions that harm the company.
DB2017	Russian Federation	The Russian Federation strengthened minority investor protections by increasing shareholder rights and role in major corporate decisions.
DB2017	Vietnam	Vietnam strengthened minority investor protections by making it easier to sue directors in cases of prejudicial transactions between interested parties, by increasing shareholder rights and role in major corporate decisions, by strengthening the ownership and control structures of companies and by increasing corporate transparency requirements.
DB2015	Korea, Rep.	The Republic of Korea strengthened minority investor protections by increasing the level of transparency expected from companies on managerial compensation.
DB2015	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR, China, strengthened minority investor protections by introducing requirements for directors to provide more detailed disclosure of conflicts of interest to the other board members.
DB2014	Vietnam	Vietnam strengthened investor protections by introducing greater disclosure requirements for publicly held companies in cases of related-party transactions.
DB2013	Taiwan, China	Taiwan, China, strengthened investor protections by increasing disclosure requirements for related-party transactions and improving the liability regime for company directors in cases where such transactions are abusive.
DB2013	Korea, Rep.	Korea strengthened investor protections by making it easier to sue directors in cases of prejudicial related-party transactions.
DB2013	Peru	Peru strengthened investor protections through a new law regulating the approval of related-party transactions and making it easier to sue directors when such transactions are prejudicial.
DB2012	Peru	Peru strengthened investor protections through a new law allowing minority shareholders to request access to nonconfidential corporate documents.
DB2012	Vietnam	Vietnam strengthened investor protections by requiring higher standards of accountability for company directors.
DB2011	Chile	An amendment to Chile's securities law strengthened investor protections by requiring greater corporate disclosure and regulating the approval of transactions between interested parties.

Paying Taxes

DB Year	Economy	Reform
DB2018	Philippines	The Philippines made paying taxes easier by introducing a new electronic system for payment and collection of the housing development fund contributions.
DB2018	Thailand	Thailand made paying taxes easier by introducing an automatic risk-based system for selecting companies for a tax audit. It also made paying taxes less costly by reducing the property transfer tax rate.
DB2018	China	China made paying taxes easier by introducing several measures for easing compliance.
DB2018	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made paying taxes easier by introducing an online system for filing and paying labor contributions.
DB2018	New Zealand	New Zealand made paying taxes easier by improving the online portal for filing and paying general sales tax.
DB2018	Indonesia	Indonesia made paying taxes easier by promoting the online filing of taxes and by lowering the rate for capital gains tax. Indonesia also increased the ceiling used in the calculation of health care contribution. These reforms apply to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2018	Vietnam	Vietnam made paying taxes easier by abolishing the 12-month mandatory carry forward period for VAT credit and by introducing an online platform for filing social security contributions.
DB2018	Japan	Japan made paying taxes less costly by reducing the statutory rate for corporate income tax and rates for other taxes including mandatory labor contributions. This reforms apply to Osaka and Tokyo.
DB2017	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made paying taxes easier by fully implementing an electronic system for filing and paying corporate income tax.
DB2017	Indonesia	Indonesia made paying taxes easier by introducing an online system for filing and paying health contributions. Indonesia also made paying taxes more costly by levying a new pension contribution at a rate of 2% paid by employers. These reforms apply to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2017	Japan	Japan made paying taxes easier by disclosing the technical specifications of the eTax platform and allowing the upload of additional information in comma separated value (CSV) format. The restoration surtax was also abolished. However, a local corporation tax was introduced and the rates of special local corporation tax, inhabitants tax and enterprise tax were raised. Welfare pension premiums were also raised. These reforms apply to both Tokyo and Osaka. However, the rate for health insurance contributions paid by employers was reduced only in Osaka.
DB2017	Malaysia	Malaysia made paying taxes easier by introducing an online system for filing and paying the Goods and Services Tax (GST) while also making it is more complex by replacing sales tax with GST.
DB2017	New Zealand	New Zealand made paying taxes easier by abolishing the cheque levy. New Zealand made paying less costly by decreasing the rate of accident compensation levy paid by employers. At the same time, New Zealand made paying taxes more costly by raising property tax and road user levy rates.

DB2017	Peru	Peru made paying taxes less costly by decreasing the corporate income tax rate.
DB2017	Philippines	The Philippines made paying taxes easier by introducing an online system for filing and paying health contributions and by allowing for the online corporate income tax and VAT returns to be completed offline.
DB2017	Singapore	Singapore made paying taxes easier by introducing improvements to the online system for filing corporate income tax returns and VAT returns. At the same time, the social security contribution rate paid by employers increased and the rebate of 30% on vehicle tax expired.
DB2017	Vietnam	Vietnam made paying taxes easier and less costly by streamlining the administrative process of complying with tax obligations and abolishing environmental protection fees.
DB2016	Vietnam	Vietnam made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate—and made it easier by reducing the number of procedures and documents for filing VAT and social security contributions, reducing the number of filings for VAT and replacing quarterly filings of corporate income tax with quarterly advance payments. On the other hand, Vietnam increased the rate for social security contributions paid by employers.
DB2016	Indonesia	Indonesia made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by introducing an online system for paying social security contributions and by reducing both the rate paid by employers and the ceiling for the contributions. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2016	Peru	Peru made paying taxes easier for companies by creating an advanced online registry with up-to-date information on employees.
DB2016	Mexico	Mexico made paying taxes easier for companies by abolishing the business flat tax—though it also made paying taxes more costly by allowing only a portion of salaries to be deductible. These changes apply to both Mexico City and Monterrey. In addition, the payroll tax rate paid by employers was increased for Mexico City.
DB2016	Malaysia	Malaysia made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by making electronic filing mandatory and reducing the property tax rate. At the same time, it also increased the capital gains tax.
DB2016	China	China made paying taxes less costly for companies in Shanghai by reducing the social security contribution rate.
DB2016	Russian Federation	Russia made paying taxes less costly for companies by excluding movable property from the corporate property tax base—though it also raised the wage ceiling used in calculating social contributions. These changes apply to both Moscow and St. Petersburg. In addition, the cadastral value of land in Moscow was updated.
DB2016	Korea, Rep.	The Republic of Korea made paying taxes more complicated and costly for companies by requiring separate filing and payment of the local income tax and by increasing the rates for unemployment insurance and national health insurance paid by employers.

DB2016	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR, China, made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by simplifying compliance with the mandatory provident fund obligations and increasing the allowance for profit tax. At the same time, it increased the maximum contribution to the mandatory provident fund and reduced the property tax waiver.
DB2016	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by merging contributions for the Employee Provident Fund and the Supplemental Pension Fund and increasing the capital allowance for industrial buildings. In addition, it reduced the corporate income tax rate, though it also abolished the partial exemption of income and introduced a flat rate.
DB2016	Chile	Chile made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the corporate income tax rate.
DB2015	Vietnam	Vietnam made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.
DB2015	Indonesia	Indonesia made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing employers' health insurance contribution rate. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2015	China	China made paying taxes easier for companies by enhancing the electronic system for filing and paying taxes and adopting new communication channels within its taxpayer service, changes applying to both Beijing and Shanghai. In addition, China made paying taxes less costly for companies in Shanghai by reducing the social security contribution rate.
DB2015	Taiwan, China	Taiwan, China, made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic system for paying the vehicle license tax.
DB2015	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made paying taxes easier for companies by allowing joint filing and payment of supplemental contributory pension and employee provident fund contributions and by introducing an online system for paying these 2 contributions.
DB2014	Thailand	Thailand made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing employers' social security contribution rate.
DB2014	Vietnam	Vietnam made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing employers' social security contribution rate.
DB2014	Philippines	The Philippines made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic filing and payment system for social security contributions.
DB2013	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate.
DB2013	Japan	Japan made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate—though it also introduced a restoration surtax for a 3-year period.
DB2013	Korea, Rep.	Korea made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate.

DB2013	Russian Federation	Russia eased the administrative burden of taxes for firms by simplifying compliance procedures for value added tax and by promoting the use of tax accounting software and electronic services.
DB2013	Thailand	Thailand made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate.
DB2012	Canada	Canada made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by reducing profit tax rates, eliminating the Ontario capital tax and harmonizing sales taxes.
DB2012	Korea, Rep.	Korea eased the administrative burden of paying taxes for firms by merging several taxes, allowing 4 labor taxes and contributions to be paid jointly and continuing to increase the use of the online tax payment system.
DB2012	Malaysia	Malaysia made paying taxes costlier for firms by reintroducing the real estate capital gains tax—but also made tax compliance easier by improving electronic systems and the availability of software.
DB2012	Mexico	Mexico continued to ease the administrative burden of paying taxes for firms by ending the requirement to file a yearly value added tax return and reduced filing requirements for other taxes
DB2012	New Zealand	New Zealand reduced its corporate income tax rate and fringe benefit tax rate.
DB2012	Peru	Peru made paying taxes easier for companies by improving electronic filing and payment of the major taxes and promoting the use of the electronic option among the majority of taxpayers.
DB2012	Russian Federation	Russia increased the social security contribution rate for employers.
DB2011	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam reduced the corporate income tax rate from 23.5% to 22% while also introducing a lower tax rate for small businesses, ranging from 5.5% to 11%.
DB2011	Canada	Canada harmonized the Ontario and federal tax returns and reduced the corporate and employee tax rates.
DB2011	China	China's new corporate income tax law unified the tax regimes for domestic and foreign enterprises and clarified the calculation of taxable income for corporate income tax purposes.
DB2011	Hong Kong SAR, China	Hong Kong SAR (China) abolished the fuel tax on diesel.
DB2011	Taiwan, China	Taiwan (China) reduced the corporate income tax rate and simplified tax return forms, rules for assessing corporate income tax and the calculation of interim tax payments.
DB2011	Indonesia	Indonesia reduced its corporate income tax rate.
DB2011	Mexico	Mexico increased taxes on companies by raising several tax rates, including the corporate income tax and the rate on cash deposits. At the same time, the administrative burden was reduced slightly with more options for online payment and increased use of accounting software.

DB2011	Thailand	Thailand temporarily lowered taxes on business by reducing its specific business tax for 12 months.
DB2011	United States	In the United States the introduction of a new tax on payroll increased taxes on companies operating within the New York City metropolitan commuter transportation district.
DB2011	Vietnam	The government of Vietnam eased paying taxes by reducing corporate income tax rate.

Trading across Borders

DB Year	Economy	Reform
DB2018	Taiwan, China	Taiwan, China made exporting easier by allowing different organizations to electronically issue certificates of origin.
DB2018	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made exporting and importing easier by enhancing the Brunei Darussalam National Single Window and the customs clearance process.
DB2018	Russian Federation	Russia made exporting and importing easier by opening a new deep water port on the coast of the Gulf of Finland, increasing competition and reducing the cost of border compliance at the Port of St. Petersburg. This reform applies to both Moscow and St. Petersburg.
DB2018	Indonesia	Indonesia made importing faster by introducing an electronic single billing system. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2018	Singapore	Singapore made exporting and importing easier by improving infrastructure and electronic equipment at the port.
DB2018	Malaysia	Malaysia made importing and exporting easier by improving the infrastructure, equipment and facilities at Port Klang.
DB2018	Vietnam	Vietnam made exporting and importing easier by upgrading the automated cargo clearance system and extending the operating hours of the customs department.
DB2017	Indonesia	Indonesia made exporting and importing easier by improving the customs services and document submission functions of the Indonesia National Single Window.
DB2017	Vietnam	Vietnam made exporting and importing easier by implementing electronic customs clearance system.
DB2015	Philippines	In the Philippines trading across borders became more difficult because of a new city ordinance restricting truck traffic in Manila.
DB2015	Indonesia	In Indonesia trading across borders became more difficult because of insufficient infrastructure at the Tanjung Priok Port Jakarta. This change applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2014	Mexico	Mexico made trading across borders easier by implementing an electronic single-window system.

DB2014	Russian Federation	Russia made trading across borders easier by implementing an electronic system for submitting export and import documents and by reducing the number of physical inspections.
DB2012	Chile	Chile made trading across borders faster by implementing an online electronic data interchange system for customs operations.
DB2012	Russian Federation	Russia made trading across borders easier by reducing the number of documents needed for each export or import transaction and lowering the associated cost.
DB2011	Brunei Darussalam	The introduction of an electronic customs system in Brunei Darussalam made trading easier.
DB2011	Indonesia	Indonesia reduced the time to export by launching a single-window service.
DB2011	Peru	Peru made trading easier by implementing a new web-based electronic data interchange system, risk-based inspections and payment deferrals.
DB2011	Philippines	The Philippines reduced the time and cost to trade by improving its electronic customs systems, adding such functions as electronic payments and online submission of declarations.

Enforcing Contracts

DB Year	Economy	Reform
DB2018	Taiwan, China	Taiwan, China, made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic filing system.
DB2018	Thailand	Thailand made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a system that allows users to pay court fees electronically. Thailand also reduced enforcement times by increasing the automation and efficiency of enforcement processes.
DB2018	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic case management system for the use of judges and lawyers.
DB2018	New Zealand	New Zealand made enforcing contracts more difficult by suspending the filing of new commercial cases before the Commercial List of the High Court of New Zealand during the establishment of a new Commercial Panel.
DB2018	Vietnam	Vietnam made enforcing contracts easier by adopting a new code of civil procedure and by introducing a consolidated law on voluntary mediation.
DB2017	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic filing system as well as a platform that allows users to pay court fees electronically.
DB2017	Indonesia	Indonesia made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a dedicated procedure for small claims that allows for parties' self-representation. This reform applies to both Jakarta and Surabaya.
DB2017	Russian Federation	The Russian Federation made enforcing contracts more difficult by mandating pre-trial resolution before filing a claim, thereby lengthening the initial phase of judicial proceedings. This reform applies to both Moscow and St. Petersburg.

DB2015	Singapore	Singapore made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a new electronic litigation system that streamlines litigation proceedings.
DB2014	Mexico	Mexico made enforcing contracts easier by creating small claims courts, with oral proceedings, that can hear both civil and commercial cases.
DB2014	China	China made enforcing contracts easier by amending its civil procedure code to streamline and speed up all court proceedings.
DB2014	New Zealand	New Zealand made enforcing contracts easier by improving its case management system to ensure a speedier and less costly adjudication of cases.
DB2012	Korea, Rep.	Korea made filing a commercial case easier by introducing an electronic case filing system.
DB2012	Malaysia	Malaysia continued to improve the computerization of its courts by introducing a system making it possible to file complaints electronically.
DB2012	Russian Federation	Russia made filing a commercial case easier by introducing an electronic case filing system.
DB2011	Canada	Canada increased the efficiency of the courts by expanding electronic document submission and streamlining procedures.
DB2011	Hong Kong SAR, China	Reforms implemented in the civil justice system of Hong Kong SAR (China) will help increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of commercial dispute resolution.
DB2011	New Zealand	New Zealand enacted new district court rules that make the process for enforcing contracts user friendly.

Resolving Insolvency

DB Year	Economy	Reform
DB2018	Thailand	Thailand made resolving insolvency easier by changing the voting procedures for reorganization plans.
DB2018	Singapore	Singapore made resolving insolvency easier by establishing a new scheme of arrangement procedure with features of the debtor-in-possession reorganization regime and introducing provisions applicable to prepackaged restructurings.
DB2017	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam made resolving insolvency easier by adopting a new insolvency law that introduced a reorganization procedure and facilitated continuation of the debtor's business during insolvency proceedings. Brunei Darussalam also introduced regulations for insolvency practitioners.
DB2017	Thailand	Thailand made resolving insolvency easier by introducing new restructuring for small and medium-size companies and by streamlining provisions related to company liquidation.

DB2016	Vietnam	Vietnam made resolving insolvency easier by clarifying and simplifying provisions on liquidation and reorganization, modifying the standard for commencement of insolvency proceedings, changing provisions on voidable transactions, regulating the profession of insolvency trustees and establishing the rules for enterprise asset managers.
DB2016	Chile	Chile made resolving insolvency easier by clarifying and simplifying provisions on liquidation and reorganization, introducing provisions to facilitate the continuation of the debtor's business during insolvency, establishing a public office responsible for the general administration of insolvency proceedings and creating specialized insolvency courts.
DB2015	Mexico	Mexico made resolving insolvency easier by clarifying several rules, shortening the time extensions allowed during reorganization, facilitating the electronic submission of documents and improving the legal rights of creditors and other parties involved in bankruptcy procedures. This reform applies to both Mexico City and Monterrey.
DB2013	Korea, Rep.	Korea expedited the insolvency process by implementing a fast track for company rehabilitation.
DB2012	Australia	Australia clarified the priority of claims of unsecured creditors over all shareholders' claims and introduced further regulation of the profession of insolvency practitioners.
DB2012	Malaysia	Malaysia established dedicated commercial courts to handle foreclosure proceedings.
DB2012	Philippines	The Philippines adopted a new insolvency law that provides a legal framework for liquidation and reorganization of financially distressed companies.
DB2011	Japan	Japan made it easier to deal with insolvency by establishing a new entity, the Enterprise Turnaround Initiative Corporation, to support the revitalization of companies suffering from excessive debt but professionally managed.
DB2011	Korea, Rep.	Korea made it easier to deal with insolvency by introducing postfiling financing, granting superpriority to the repayment of loans given to companies undergoing reorganization.
DB2011	Russian Federation	Russia introduced a series of legislative measures in 2009 to improve creditor rights and the insolvency system.

Doing Business 2018 is the 15th in a series of annual reports investigating the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. The report provides quantitative indicators covering 11 areas of the business environment in 190 economies. The goal of the *Doing Business* series is to provide objective data for use by governments in designing sound business regulatory policies and to encourage research on the important dimensions of the regulatory environment for firms.



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