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Doing Business 2011 Fact Sheet – Summary of Reforms in the Middle East and North Africa

Algeria

Rank in Doing Business 2011: 136

Bahrain made property registration more burdensome by increasing the fees at the Survey and Land Registration Bureau. It made trading easier, however, by building a modern new port, improving the electronic data interchange system, and introducing risk-based inspections.

Areas of business regulation reform: Registering property (making it more difficult), Trading across borders

Rank in Doing Business 2011: 28

Djibouti

Rank in Doing Business 2011: 158

The **Arab Republic of Egypt** reduced the cost of starting a business. In addition, the introduction of an electronic system for submitting export and import documents made trading easier.

Areas of business regulation reform: Starting a business, Trading across borders

Rank in Doing Business 2011: 94

The **Islamic Republic of Iran** eased business start-up by installing a web portal allowing entrepreneurs to search for and reserve a company name. The establishment of a new private credit bureau improved access to credit information. Contract enforcement became easier and faster thanks to the introduction of electronic filing for some documents, text message notification, and an electronic case management system.

Areas of business regulation reform: Starting a business, Getting credit (credit information), Enforcing contracts

Rank in Doing Business 2011: 129

Iraq

Rank in Doing Business 2011: 166

Jordan improved its credit information system by setting up a regulatory framework for establishing a private credit bureau and by lowering the threshold for loans to be reported to the public credit registry. It also abolished certain taxes and made it possible to file income and sales tax returns electronically.

Areas of business regulation reform: Getting credit (credit information), Paying taxes

Rank in Doing Business 2011: 111

Kuwait

Rank in Doing Business 2011: 74

Lebanon improved its credit information system by allowing banks online access to the public credit registry's reports. It also increased the cost of starting a business.

Areas of business regulation reform: Getting credit (credit information), Starting a business (making it more difficult)

Rank in Doing Business 2011: 113

Morocco strengthened investor protections by requiring greater disclosure in company annual reports.
Areas of business regulation reform: Protecting investors
Rank in Doing Business 2011: 114

Oman
Rank in Doing Business 2011: 57

Qatar made starting a business more difficult by adding a procedure to register for taxes and obtain a company seal.
Areas of business regulation reform: Starting a business (making it more difficult)
Rank in Doing Business 2011: 50

Saudi Arabia made dealing with construction permits easier for the second year in a row by introducing a new, streamlined process. An amendment to its commercial lien law enhanced access to credit by making secured lending more flexible and allowing out-of-court enforcement in case of default. The launch of a new container terminal at the Jeddah Islamic Port reduced the time required for importing. And the insolvency process became faster thanks to earlier access to amicable settlements. Time limits on the settlements encourage creditors to participate.
Areas of business regulation reform: Dealing with construction permits, Getting credit (legal rights), Trading across borders, Closing a business
Rank in Doing Business 2011: 11

The **Syrian Arab Republic** eased business start-up by reducing the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies by two-thirds. It also decentralized approval of the company memorandum. It enhanced credit information by eliminating the minimum threshold for loans included in the database, which expanded the coverage of individuals and firms to 2.2 percent of the adult population.
Areas of business regulation reform: Starting a business, Getting credit (credit information)
Rank in Doing Business 2011: 144

Tunisia introduced the use of electronic systems for payment of corporate income tax and value added tax. It also upgraded its electronic data interchange system for imports and exports, speeding up the assembly of import documents.
Areas of business regulation reform: Paying taxes, Trading across borders
Rank in Doing Business 2011: 55

The **United Arab Emirates** enhanced access to credit by setting up a legal framework for the operation of the private credit bureau and requiring that financial institutions share credit information. In trade, document preparation was streamlined, and the launch of Dubai Customs' comprehensive new customs system, Mirsal 2, reduced the time required for trading.
Areas of business regulation reform: Getting credit (credit information), Trading across borders
Rank in Doing Business 2011: 40

West Bank and Gaza made starting a business more difficult by increasing the lawyers' fees that must be paid for incorporation. More efficient processes at customs made trading easier.
Areas of business regulation reform: Starting a business (making it more difficult), Trading across borders
Rank in Doing Business 2011: 135



Republic of Yemen
Rank in Doing Business 2011: 105

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For more information on *Doing Business 2011*, please contact:

Nadine Ghannam +1 (202) 473-3011
E-mail: nsg hannam@ifc.org

Yasmin Zand +1 (202) 458-9458
E-mail: yzand@worldbank.org

Contacts for region-specific queries on *Doing Business 2011*:

Middle East and North Africa
Riham Mustafa +20 010 2247482
E-mail: rmustafa@ifc.org

Hafed Al Ghwell +1 (202) 473-8930
E-mail: halghwell@worldbank.org