

A World Bank Group Flagship Report



# Doing Business 2018

## Reforming to Create Jobs



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

## Economy Profile of Germany

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

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

## 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.

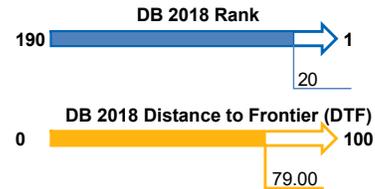
The distance to frontier (DTF) measure shows the distance of each economy to the "frontier," which represents the best performance observed on each of the indicators across all economies in the Doing Business sample since 2005. An economy's distance to frontier is reflected on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 represents the lowest performance and 100 represents the frontier. The ease of doing business ranking ranges from 1 to 190. The ranking of 190 economies is determined by sorting the aggregate distance to frontier scores, rounded to two decimals.

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

Ease of Doing Business in Germany



Region	OECD high income
Income Category	High income
Population	82,667,685
GNI Per Capita (US\$)	43,660
City Covered	Berlin

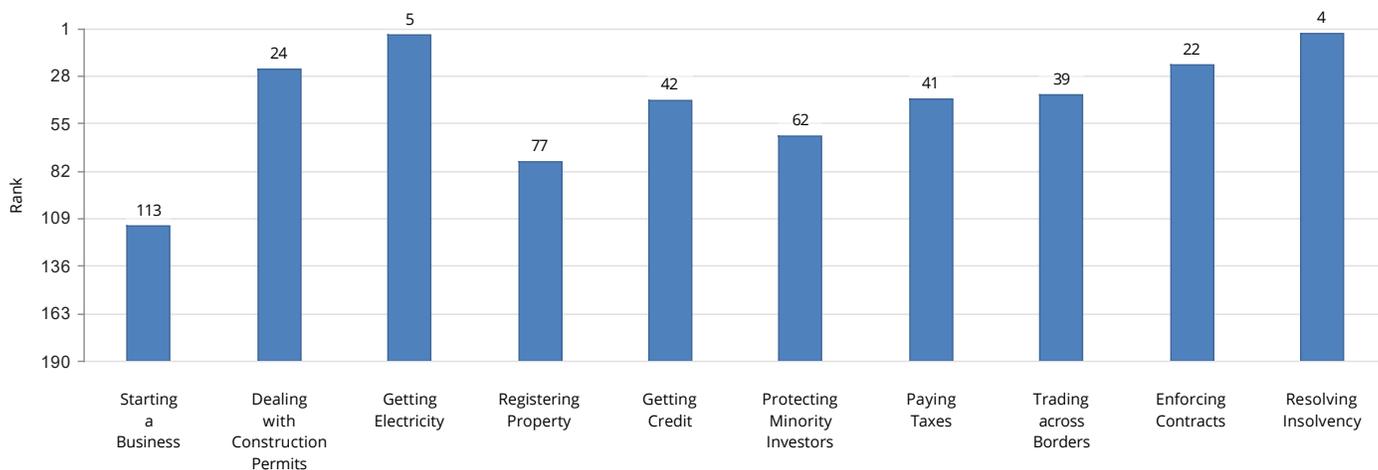


DB 2018 Distance to Frontier (DTF)

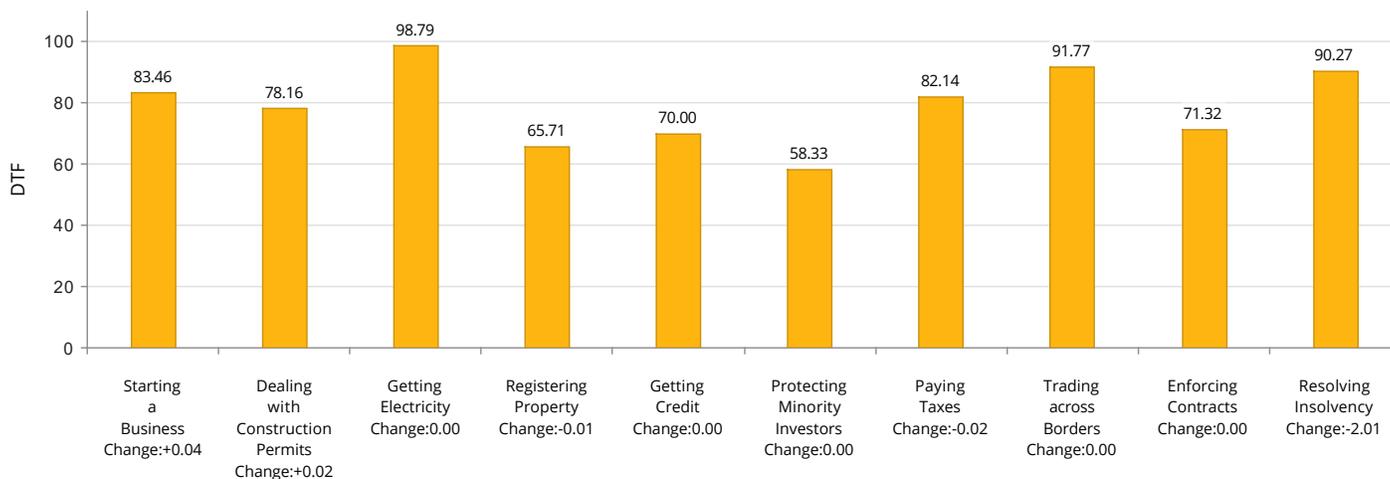


Note: The distance to frontier (DTF) measure shows the distance of each economy to the "frontier," which represents the best performance observed on each of the indicators across all economies in the Doing Business sample since 2005. An economy's distance to frontier is reflected on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 represents the lowest performance and 100 represents the frontier. The ease of doing business ranking ranges from 1 to 190.

Rankings on Doing Business topics - Germany



Distance to Frontier (DTF) on Doing Business topics - Germany



## 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:

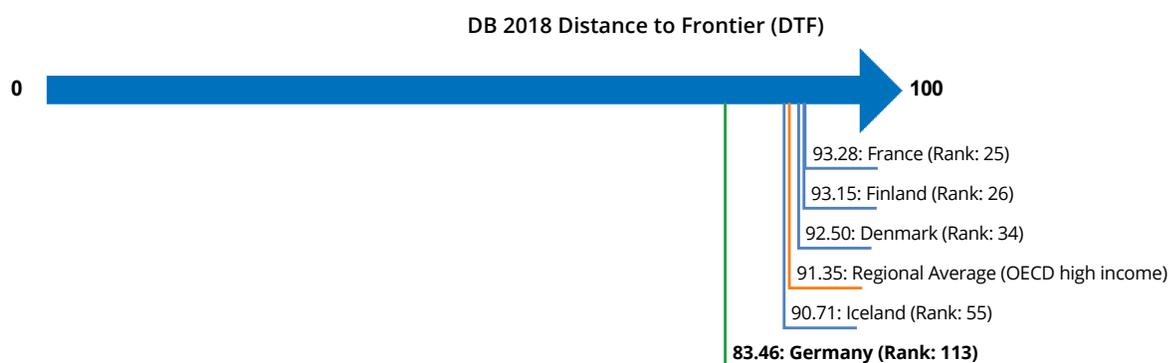
- Have reached the legal age of majority. If there is no legal age of majority, they are assumed to be 30 years old.
- Are sane, competent, in good health and have no criminal record.
- Are married and the marriage is monogamous and registered with the authorities.
- Where the answer differs according 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.

Standardized Company

Legal form	GmbH-Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung
Paid-in minimum capital requirement	EUR 12,500
City Covered	Berlin

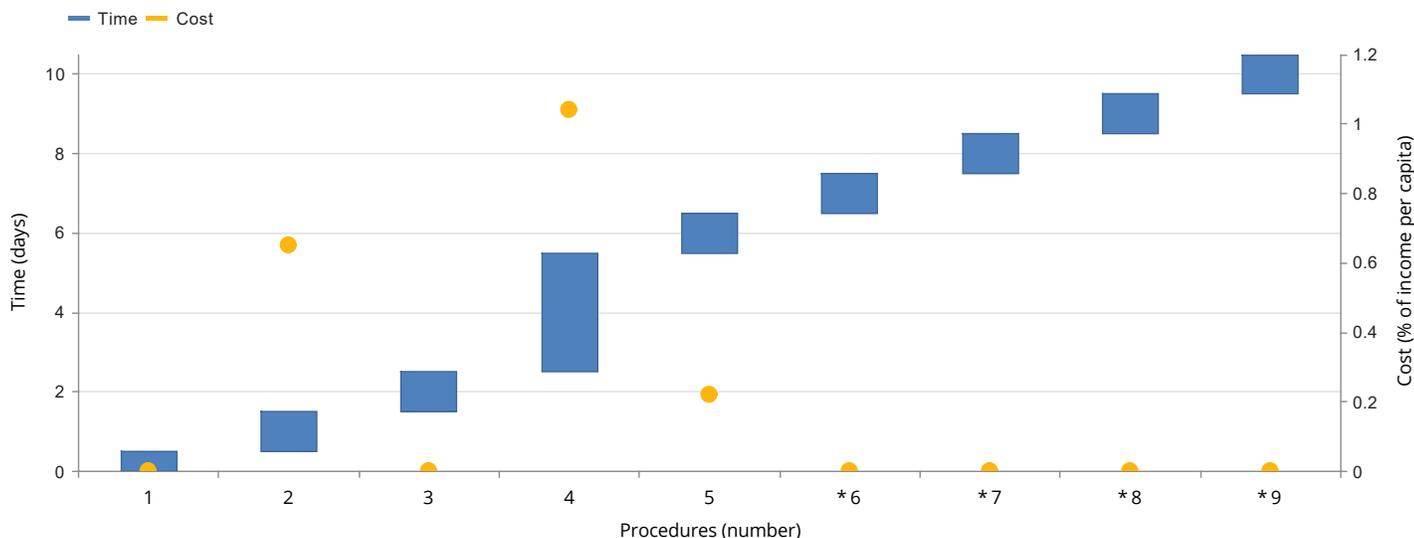
Indicator	Germany	OECD high income	OECD high income	Overall Best Performer
Procedure – Men (number)	9	4.9	4.9	1.00 (New Zealand)
Time – Men (days)	10.5	8.5	8.5	0.50 (New Zealand)
Cost – Men (% of income per capita)	1.9	3.1	3.1	0.00 (United Kingdom)
Procedure – Women (number)	9	4.9	4.9	1.00 (New Zealand)
Time – Women (days)	10.5	8.5	8.5	0.50 (New Zealand)
Cost – Women (% of income per capita)	1.9	3.1	3.1	0.00 (United Kingdom)
Paid-in min. capital (% of income per capita)	32.4	8.7	8.7	0.00 (113 Economies)

Figure – Starting a Business in Germany and comparator economies – Ranking and DTF



Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of starting a business is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for starting a business. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the component indicators.

Figure – Starting a Business in Germany – Procedure, Time and Cost



\* This symbol is shown beside procedure numbers that take place simultaneously with the previous procedure.

Note: Online procedures account for 0.5 days in the total time calculation. For economies that have a different procedure list for men and women, the graph shows the time for women. For more information on methodology, see the Doing Business website (<http://www.doingbusiness.org/methodology>). For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary below.

## Details – Starting a Business in Germany – Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedure	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	<p><b>Check company's name at the local chamber of industry and commerce</b></p> <p>Agency : Chamber of Industry &amp; Commerce</p> <p>To avoid delays with registration, entrepreneurs check availability of company name on the web-page of the Berlin Chamber of Industry and Commerce.</p> <p>In case of requesting a written consent, it costs EUR 25, oral information over the phone is free of charge.</p>	Less than one day (online procedure)	no charge
2	<p><b>Notarize the Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association</b></p> <p>Agency : Public Notary</p> <p>The Bundestag of Germany passed the Act on Modernization of Cost Rules (2. Kostenrechtsmodernisierungsgesetz) on June 27, 2013, which came into force on August 1, 2013. This Act restructured the system of judicial and notarial fees for more transparency and adjusted the costs of notarizing the Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association to the general economic development.</p> <p>The updated fees for notaries are contained in table B of sec 34 GNotKG:</p> <p>First EUR 500= EUR 15            Up to EUR 2,000 an increase of EUR 4 for every EUR 500            Up to EUR 10,000 an increase of EUR 6 for every EUR 1,000            Up to EUR 25,000 an increase of EUR 8 for every EUR 3,000            Up to EUR 50,000 an increase of EUR 10 for every EUR 5,000            Up to EUR 200,000 an increase of EUR 27 for every EUR 15,000            Up to EUR 500,000 an increase of EUR 50 for every EUR 30,000            Up to EUR 5,000,000 an increase of EUR 80 for every EUR 50,000            Up to EUR 10,000,000 an increase of EUR 130 for every EUR 200,000</p>	1 day	EUR 250
3	<p><b>Deposit minimum capital into a bank</b></p> <p>Agency : Bank</p> <p>In the case of a GmbH, pursuant to § 7 (2) GmbHG, at least 25 % of the initial capital must be paid-in before registration or, if higher, at least half of the minimum capital, i.e. EUR 12,500.</p>	1 day	no charge

<p><b>4 File the Articles of Association through the notary public at the local Commercial Register</b></p> <p>Agency : Notary Public and Commercial Register</p> <p>Notary Public must submit to the Commercial Register by electronic form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• application to the commercial register executed by the managing director(s) with the signatures certified by a notary public</li> <li>• the notarized articles of association</li> <li>• the deed of appointment of the directors, if not included in the incorporation deed</li> <li>• a list of the company's shareholders</li> <li>• the assurance by the managing director(s) that the statutory minimum paid-in capital has been paid in to the free disposition of the management; included in application</li> </ul> <p>Pursuant to the applicable registration laws, the Commercial Register must decide on the company's registration without undue delay. The Commercial Register publishes the registration on a central electronic platform (<a href="http://www.handelsregister.de">www.handelsregister.de</a>) and notifies the local Chamber of Industry and Commerce of the new company.</p>	3 days	EUR 150 (registration fee) + EUR 250 (application for registration)
<p><b>5 Notify the local Office of Business and Standards of the establishment of the company</b></p> <p>Agency : Local Trade Department (Gewerbeamt)</p> <p>Certain businesses (e.g., restaurants and brokers) must apply for a trading permit (Gewerbeerlaubnis). However, the permit does not have to be presented at the time of the registration of the GmbH at the commercial register. If no such permit is required, start-up companies must simply notify the local Trade Office, which issues a trading license (Gewerbeschein). This notification procedure also covers registration formalities with the Central Statistical Office, the relevant Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the local Labor Office, the Social Security and Federal Health Insurance Office.</p>	1 day	EUR 31 for the first shareholder EUR 13 for each additional shareholder
<p>⇒ <b>6 Register with the Professional Association of the relevant trade</b></p> <p>Agency : Professional Association (Berufsgenossenschaft)</p> <p>The professional associations are carriers of occupational accident insurance. Registration must be done within a week of the founding of the business after the notarization of the Articles of Association.</p>	1 day (simultaneous with previous procedure)	no charge
<p>⇒ <b>7 Notify the local Labor Office of the establishment of the company</b></p> <p>Agency : Local Labor Office</p> <p>The notification can be in writing and/or over the phone. The Labor Office assigns an eight-digit operating number, which is needed to report to the Social Security Office.</p>	1 day (simultaneous with previous procedure)	no charge
<p>⇒ <b>8 Register employees for health and social insurance</b></p> <p>Agency : Social Security Office</p> <p>The Social Security and Federal Health Insurance Office notifies the local Labor Office and the annuity insurance carrier (Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund). It also collects payment for mandatory health, unemployment, and annuity insurance.</p>	1 day (simultaneous with previous procedure)	no charge

⇒ 9 **Mail out the documentation to the Tax Office**

Agency : Local Tax Office

Registration must be done within 4 weeks of the opening of the business and not later than a month after the notarization of the Articles of Association.

After the Tax Office is notified of the company's business activity by the Trade Office, the Tax Office sends the company a questionnaire requesting the company's business data.

1 day

(simultaneous with previous procedure)

no charge

♀ Applies to women only.

⇒ Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

## 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.

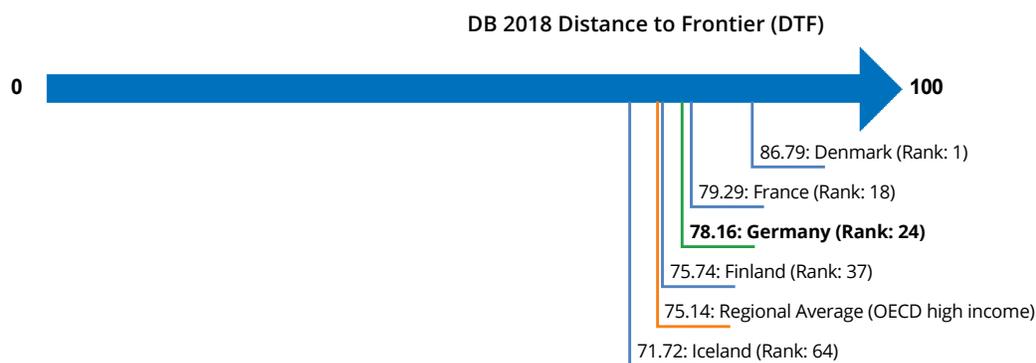
Standardized Warehouse

Estimated value of warehouse EUR 1,926,750.60

City Covered Berlin

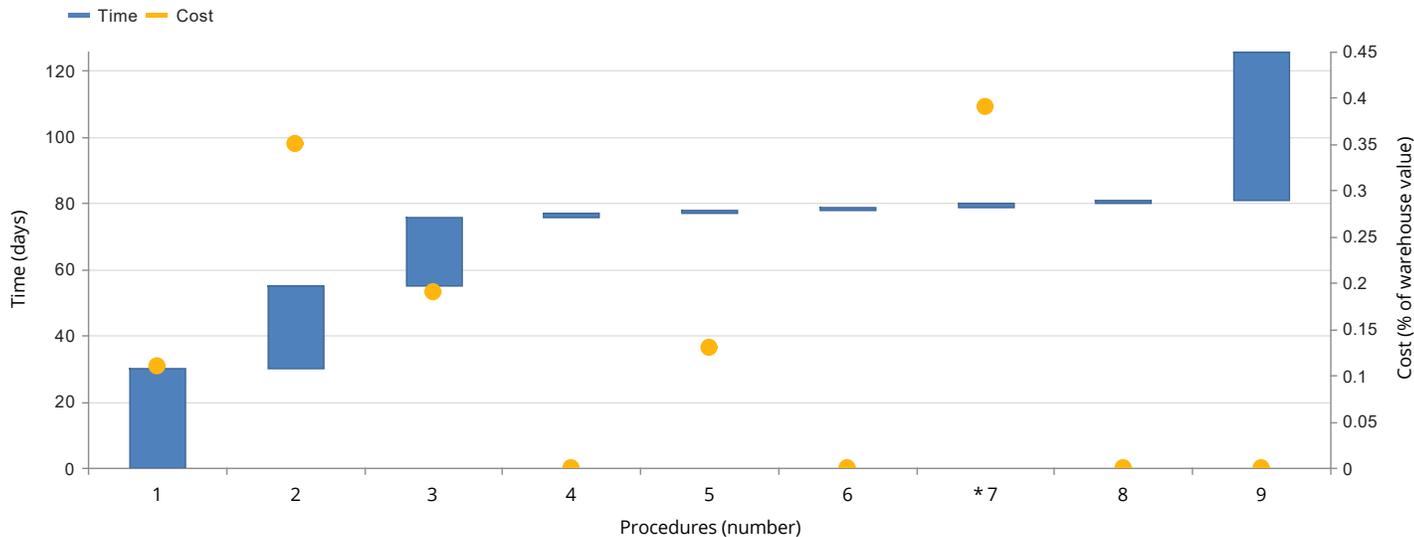
Indicator	Germany	OECD high income	OECD high income	Overall Best Performer
Procedures (number)	9	12.5	12.5	7.00 (Denmark)
Time (days)	126	154.6	154.6	27.5 (Korea, Rep.)
Cost (% of warehouse value)	1.2	1.6	1.6	0.10 (5 Economies)
Building quality control index (0-15)	9.5	11.4	11.4	15.00 (3 Economies)

Figure – Dealing with Construction Permits in Germany and comparator economies – Ranking and DTF



Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of dealing with construction permits is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for dealing with construction permits. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the component indicators.

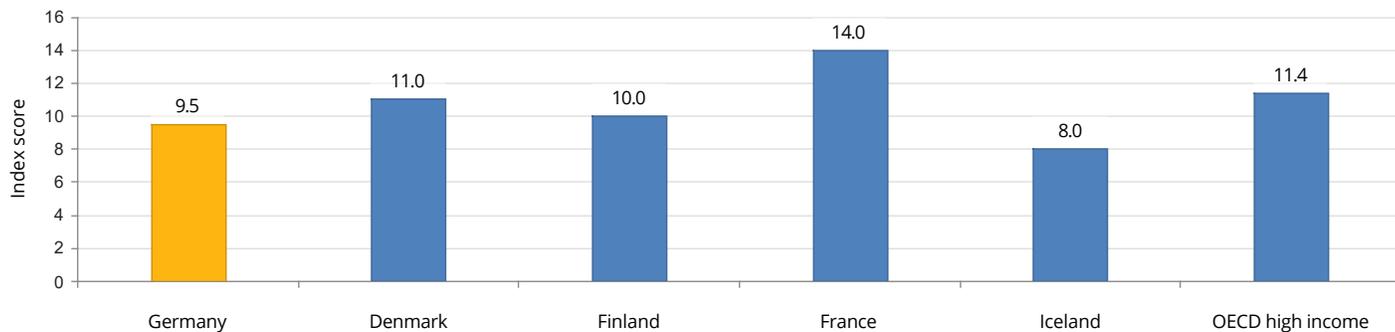
Figure – Dealing with Construction Permits in Germany – Procedure, Time and Cost



\* This symbol is shown beside procedure numbers that take place simultaneously with the previous procedure.

Note: Online procedures account for 0.5 days in the total time calculation. For economies that have a different procedure list for men and women, the graph shows the time for women. For more information on methodology, see the Doing Business website (<http://www.doingbusiness.org/methodology>). For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary below.

Figure – Dealing with Construction Permits in Germany and comparator economies – Measure of Quality



## Details – Dealing with Construction Permits in Germany – Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedure	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	<p><b>Obtain topographic survey of the land plot</b></p> <p>Agency : Berlin District Office</p> <p>A topographic survey of the land plot must be obtained prior to developing the architectural plans of the warehouse.</p>	30 days	EUR 2,175
2	<p><b>Obtain building permit</b></p> <p>Agency : Building Department</p> <p>The Building Procedures Regulation was amended on March 22, 2013 and corrected on May 2, 2013. According to the amendment the building permission procedure documents must be submitted electronically since April 1, 2013.</p> <p>The building permit grants the right to build on a plot and authorizes construction as well. There are several building departments (Bauaufsichtsämter) located in the districts of Berlin. The location of the building site in Berlin determines which building department is responsible for issuing the building permit.</p> <p>To obtain a construction permit, BuildCo must provide the building authority with, among other documents, project design drawings, a building specification including a detailed description of the future use of the building, proof of stability, and other necessary proofs (e.g. heat insulation, sound insulation). The architect needs to sign the application for the building permit and must attach the design drawings, usually scaled at 1:100. Static calculations must be added. The building authority will produce static expert double-check calculations (carried out by a "Pruefstatiker"). The building authority will then forward the application to other relevant departments (e.g., the fire department, planning department).</p> <p>The Building Procedures Regulation (Bauverfahrensverordnung, abbreviated as BauVerfVO) was amended on 22nd March 2013. According to the amendment, the applicant is now obliged to submit the building permission procedure documents electronically in Portable Document (PDF/A).</p> <p>Under a revised Berlin State Law, the Building Code Berlin (Bauordnung Berlin, abbreviated as BauO Bln), effective September 29, 2005, amended by Regulation from June 29, 2011, certain constructions require only a simple building permit (Section 64 BauO Bln) or a waiver (Section 63 BauO Bln, maximum value EUR 3,000.00). In the case of a simplified building permit under Section 64 BauO Bln, the application will be deemed to be complete and sufficient unless the building department notifies the applicant to the contrary within three weeks of receiving the application. If the building department remains silent for four weeks, the application will be deemed granted and construction may commence (Section 70, Paragraphs 3 and 4 BauO Bln, and Section 71, Paragraph 7, Item 1 BauO Bln). It is the duty of the architect or the engineer to supervise compliance of the construction project with the applicable state law.</p> <p>In addition, upon receiving the application for a normal building permit, the building department has to notify the applicant within 14 days if the</p>	25 days	EUR 6,744

application is complete or if additional documents or plans are required (Section 70, Paragraph 1 and 2 BauO Bln). If the applicant fails to amend the application within a period determined by the building authority, the application will be deemed abandoned. If the application is complete, the building department will contact other departments involved (i.e., the fire safety and public street supervision departments). If the other departments fail to make a decision within a month, they will be deemed to have consented to the issuance of the permit. If the application is not complete for the purpose of these other departments, then this period of a month is interrupted until the application is completed by the applicant. Upon receiving consent from the other departments, the building department again has a month to decide on the application for a building permit.

### 3 Apply for approval of static calculation

21 days

EUR 3,586

Agency : Independent Engineer

The building authority appoints an independent engineer (either from a private company or from within the authority) who is responsible for verifying the static calculations (the "Pruefingenieur").

A legal certificate of static stability, issued by a "Pruefingenieur", must be available at the time of start of construction.

The cost of an independent engineer to double-check the static stability is calculated by a Regulation concerning the work of the "Pruefingenieure" and the payment (Bautechnische Prüfungsverordnung, abbreviated as BauPrüfV, effective February 12, 2010, amended by Regulation from August 23, 2010). In the case of the warehouse considered here, the cost for an independent engineer is about EUR 3,586. The calculation is based on a volume of 3900 cubic meters and a chargeable building value per cubic meters (Appendix 1 to Section 27 Paragraph 1 BauPrüfVO, Item 15). A structural framework of average difficulty considered ("Bauwerksklasse" 2-3, Appendix 2 to Section 27 Paragraph 4 BauPrüfVO) gives a basic fee of about EUR 3,586.00 for a legal certificate of static stability, issued by a "Pruefingenieur".

### 4 Receive fire safety inspection from District Chimney Sweeper

1 day

EUR 31

Agency : District Chimney Sweeper

Before completion of the building shell, BuildCo must provide the building authority with a certificate confirming the suitability of the chimneys. Such a certificate by the District Chimney Sweeper is mentioned in Section 81, Paragraph 4 BauO Bln. The cost is EUR 31.20 per hour " Applicable law: Verordnung über die Kehrung und Überprüfung von Anlagen (KÜO), effective June 16, 2009, amended by Regulation from April 8, 2013. Changes relate to the harmonization of different ordinances in the federal states. Cost for inspection are based on Paragraph 6 KÜO). The inspection may take more than one hour, but it will not take more than a day. An appointment can be made on short notice, probably 1 -- 2 weeks before the day of inspection.

This procedure is for fire safety and for the cases where the heating is done by gas boilers. However, some buildings in Berlin will use a so called "long distance heating" system to heat the building, which is essentially heating by hot water from a centralized boiler. In this case, this procedure would not be required.

5	<b>Receive inspection of the building shell</b> Agency : Building Department  The notification must be made 2 weeks before the completion of the building shell. The building authority may then decide on its own whether it will inspect the site (the likelihood is 10%); 2 weeks after the notification, BuildCo may start with interior fittings.	1 day	EUR 2,600
6	<b>Receive inspection after completion of the building ("Foermliche Bauabnahme")</b> Agency : Building Department  The notification must be made 2 weeks before the completion of the building shell. The building authority may then decide on its own whether it will inspect the site (the likelihood is 10%); 2 weeks after the notification, BuildCo may start to use the building.	1 day	no charge
⇒ 7	<b>Apply for water connection</b> Agency : Berliner Wasserbetriebe  BuildCo makes an application to be connected to water and the following documents must be submitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of ownership</li> <li>• A copy of the official site plan indicating the desired pipework routing and water meter location on a scale of 1:200</li> <li>• A copy of your building installation plan or ducting scheme</li> <li>• A copy of the sectional view of your building</li> </ul>	1 day	EUR 7,500
8	<b>Receive inspection by water company</b> Agency : Berliner Wasserbetriebe  An offer will be made and a plumbing confirmation form will also be sent. This form must be completed and signed by the plumber and the original sent back to the agency. An appointment date will be provided when construction work for water and sewage will be completed.	1 day	no charge
9	<b>Obtain water connection</b> Agency : Berliner Wasserbetriebe  The work and water connection will be done together. All building connection work is carried out by the Berliner Wasserwerke or by licensed sub-contractor from the agency.	45 days	no charge

⇒ Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

## Details – Dealing with Construction Permits in Germany – Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Building quality control index (0-15)</b>		<b>9.5</b>
<b>Quality of building regulations index (0-2)</b>		<b>1.0</b>
How accessible are building laws and regulations in your economy? (0-1)	Available online; Free of charge.	1.0
Which requirements for obtaining a building permit are clearly specified in the building regulations or on any accessible website, brochure or pamphlet? (0-1)	List of required documents; Fees to be paid.	0.0
<b>Quality control before construction index (0-1)</b>		<b>1.0</b>
Which third-party entities are required by law to verify that the building plans are in compliance with existing building regulations? (0-1)	Licensed engineer; Private firm.	1.0
<b>Quality control during construction index (0-3)</b>		<b>2.0</b>
What types of inspections (if any) are required by law to be carried out during construction? (0-2)	Inspections at various phases.	1.0
Do legally mandated inspections occur in practice during construction? (0-1)	Mandatory inspections are always done in practice.	1.0
<b>Quality control after construction index (0-3)</b>		<b>2.0</b>
Is there a final inspection required by law to verify that the building was built in accordance with the approved plans and regulations? (0-2)	Yes, final inspection is done by government agency.	2.0
Do legally mandated final inspections occur in practice? (0-1)	Final inspection does not always occur in practice.	0.0
<b>Liability and insurance regimes index (0-2)</b>		<b>0.5</b>
Which parties (if any) are held liable by law for structural flaws or problems in the building once it is in use (Latent Defect Liability or Decennial Liability)? (0-1)	Construction company.	0.5
Which parties (if any) are required by law to obtain an insurance policy to cover possible structural flaws or problems in the building once it is in use (Latent Defect Liability Insurance or Decennial Insurance)? (0-1)	No party is required by law to obtain insurance .	0.0
<b>Professional certifications index (0-4)</b>		<b>3.0</b>

What are the qualification requirements for the professional responsible for verifying that the architectural plans or drawings are in compliance with existing building regulations? (0-2)	University degree in architecture or engineering; Passing a certification exam.	1.0
What are the qualification requirements for the professional who supervises the construction on the ground? (0-2)	Minimum number of years of experience; University degree in engineering, construction or construction management; Passing a certification exam.	2.0

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## ⚡ Getting Electricity

This topic measures the procedures, time and cost required for a business to obtain a permanent electricity connection for a newly constructed warehouse. Additionally, the reliability of supply and transparency of tariffs index measures reliability of supply, 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:

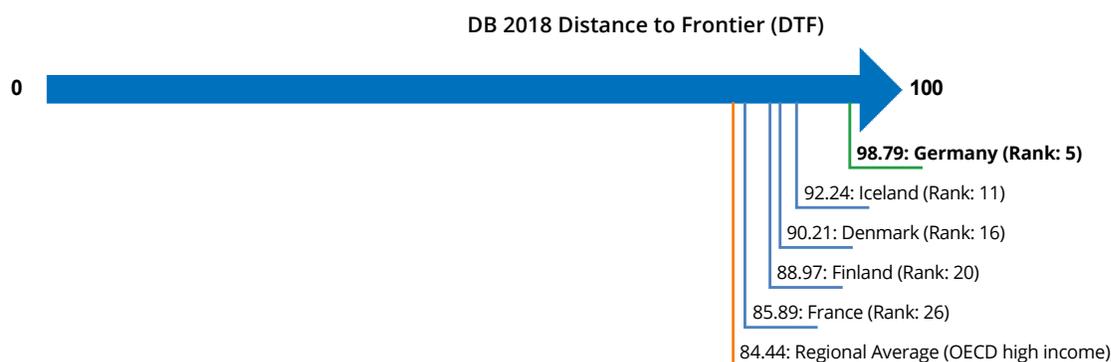
- It is assumed that the warehouse operates 30 days a month from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (8 hours a day), with equipment utilized at 80% of capacity on average and that there are no electricity cuts (assumed for simplicity reasons) and the monthly energy consumption is 26,880 kilowatt-hours (kWh); hourly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

Standardized Connection

Price of electricity (US cents per kWh)	25.0
Name of utility	Vattenfall Europe Distribution Berlin GmbH
City Covered	Berlin

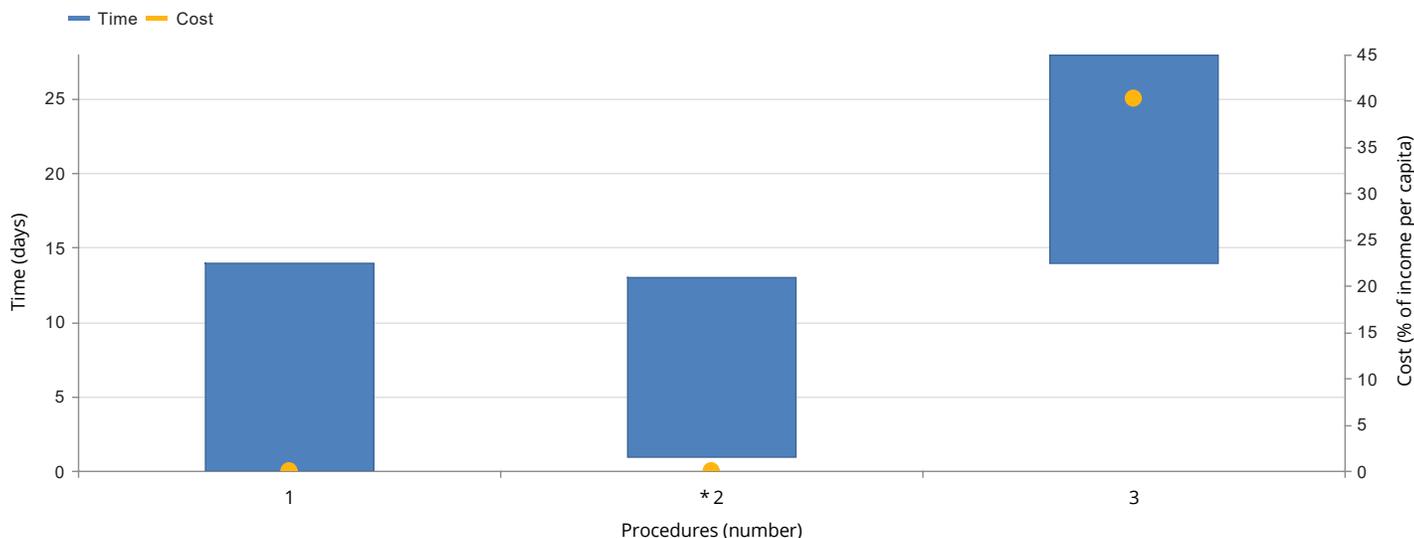
Indicator	Germany	OECD high income	OECD high income	Overall Best Performer
Procedures (number)	3	4.7	4.7	2 (United Arab Emirates)
Time (days)	28	79.1	79.1	10 (United Arab Emirates)
Cost (% of income per capita)	40.2	63.0	63.0	0.00 (Japan)
Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index (0-8)	8	7.4	7.4	8.00 (28 Economies)

Figure – Getting Electricity in Germany and comparator economies – Ranking and DTF



Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of getting electricity is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for getting electricity. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the component indicators.

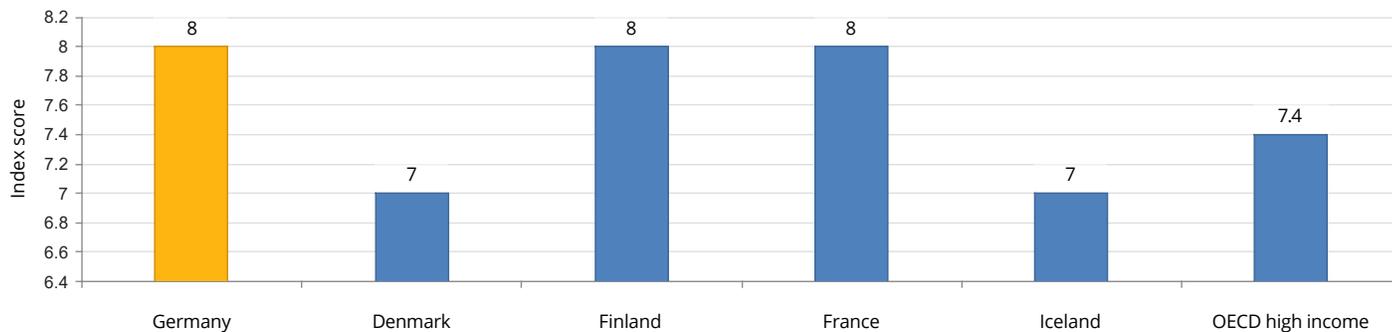
Figure – Getting Electricity in Germany – Procedure, Time and Cost



\* This symbol is shown beside procedure numbers that take place simultaneously with the previous procedure.

Note: Online procedures account for 0.5 days in the total time calculation. For economies that have a different procedure list for men and women, the graph shows the time for women. For more information on methodology, see the Doing Business website (<http://www.doingbusiness.org/methodology>). For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary below.

Figure – Getting Electricity in Germany and comparator economies – Measure of Quality



## Details – Getting Electricity in Germany – Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedure	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	<p><b>Conclude supply agreement with electricity supplier</b></p> <p>Agency : Vattenfall Europe Sales GmbH</p> <p>The customer concludes a supply contract with Vattenfall Sales (VE Sales) Berlin. The customer selects a tariff on the website of VE Sales or the customer has a conversation with a representative of the business client team at VE Sales. Afterwards, the customer concludes a supply contract.</p>	14 calendar days	EUR 0
⇒ 2	<p><b>Submit application to distribution utility and await and accept estimate</b></p> <p>Agency : Vattenfall Europe Distribution Berlin GmbH</p> <p>The application can be submitted online by email. Documents to be submitted are: Architect's plan indicating the room for the grid connection, a route in the building and on the lot for the cable, power performance balance for the building, technical information of the connection, registration number of the electrician and map of the area ("Flurplan"). The application can only be submitted by a registered electrician with the utility. This is required because the application is also of technical nature and technical information is required in the application form. The electrician responsible for the internal wiring of the warehouse has to be listed at the local distribution system operator (Full License) or via a "guest pass" from another German distribution system operator (Guest License). There are no costs for the registration process.</p> <p>The installer identification from any other DSO of the electrician or the Master craftsman's diploma, trading license and a standard form of the distribution operator is needed for the listing process. To be authorized to install internal wiring, an electrician has to be a Master electrician ("Elektromeister"). Master electrician ("Elektromeister") means he/she is licensed with the Chamber of Commerce and has a Craftsman Diploma. This is the general procedure and requirement to be allowed to work as electrician in Germany and to do the internal wiring. The Master electrician ("Elektromeister") is always legally responsible for the internal wiring. All Master electricians ("Elektromeister") in Berlin are registered with Vattenfall. This license is valid for all his/her projects in the area of the local DSO.</p> <p>Electricians working in the field of industrial (warehouses) connections are registered with Vattenfall in a second form through training. Those electricians receive a number ("Installateurnummer") and are allowed to install the meter. All electricians in Berlin that are working in the field of industrial (warehouses) connections are certified by Vattenfall. The list of those certified electricians is on the website of Vattenfall and can be obtained at the Guild of electricians ("Elektroinnung") as well. There is no external and no internal inspection. The internal wiring is never inspected by Vattenfall DSO, as they trust the electricians through a process of registration and diplomas.</p>	12 calendar days	EUR 0

- |  |                  |            |
|--|------------------|------------|
| <b>3 Make payment and await completion of external works and meter installation by utility</b> | 14 calendar days | EUR 15,500 |
|--|------------------|------------|

Agency : Vattenfall Europe Distribution Berlin GmbH

The customer pays the estimate at a bank through a wire transfer. The required external connection works are underground work for the cable, building of metering, building of the grid connection, and connection of the building to the grid. The meter gets installed at the same time when the connection is done and by the same or another department if the meter installation is done by Vattenfall DSO. However, in most cases, the private electrician (the Master electrician) who did the internal wiring would install the meter.

At this moment, this private electrician has to hand over to Vattenfall DSO a form ("Errichterbescheinigung") that certifies that he installed the internal wiring according to technical and safety standards. In 98% of all cases, the internal wiring and the external connection works are done at the same time and usually the external connection works are completed before the internal wiring as this is usually more complex. Electricity starts flowing immediately

⇒ Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

## Details – Getting Electricity in Germany – Measure of Quality

	Answer
<b>Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index (0-8)</b>	8
<b>Total duration and frequency of outages per customer a year (0-3)</b>	3
System average interruption duration index (SAIDI)	0.2
System average interruption frequency index (SAIFI)	0.2
What is the minimum outage time (in minutes) that the utility considers for the calculation of SAIDI/SAIFI	3.0
<b>Mechanisms for monitoring outages (0-1)</b>	1
Does the distribution utility use automated tools to monitor outages?	Yes
<b>Mechanisms for restoring service (0-1)</b>	1
Does the distribution utility use automated tools to restore service?	Yes
<b>Regulatory monitoring (0-1)</b>	1
Does a regulator—that is, an entity separate from the utility—monitor the utility's performance on reliability of supply?	Yes
<b>Financial deterrents aimed at limiting outages (0-1)</b>	1
Does the utility either pay compensation to customers or face fines by the regulator (or both) if outages exceed a certain cap?	Yes
<b>Communication of tariffs and tariff changes (0-1)</b>	1
Are effective tariffs available online?	Yes
Link to the website, if available online	<a href="https://www.vattenfall.de/de/profi12-strom-berlin.htm?apcprt=noreplace">https://www.vattenfall.de/de/profi12-strom-berlin.htm?apcprt=noreplace</a>
Are customers notified of a change in tariff ahead of the billing cycle?	Yes

**Note:**

If the duration and frequency of outages is 100 or less, the economy is eligible to score on the Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index.

If the duration and frequency of outages is not available, or is over 100, the economy is not eligible to score on the index.

If the minimum outage time considered for SAIDI/SAIFI is over 5 minutes, the economy is not eligible to score on the index.

## 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):

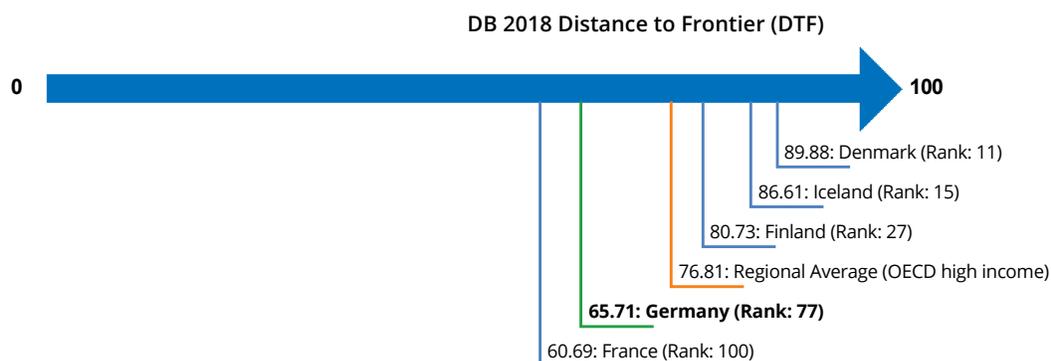
- Has a value of 50 times income per capita, which equals the sale price.
- Is fully owned by the seller.
- Has no mortgages attached and has been under the same ownership for the past 10 years.
- Is registered in the land registry or cadastre, or both, and is free of title disputes.
- Is located in 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.

Standard Property Transfer

Property value	EUR 1,926,750.60
City Covered	Berlin

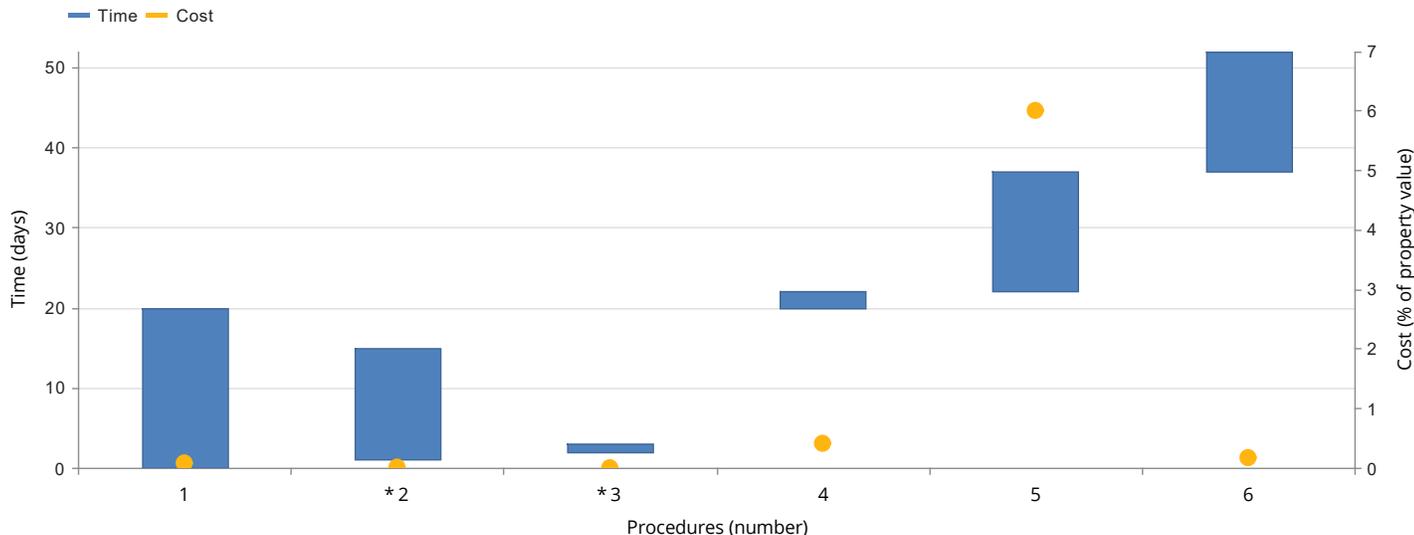
Indicator	Germany	OECD high income	OECD high income	Overall Best Performer
Procedures (number)	6	4.6	4.6	1.00 (4 Economies)
Time (days)	52	22.3	22.3	1.00 (3 Economies)
Cost (% of property value)	6.7	4.2	4.2	0.00 (5 Economies)
Quality of the land administration index (0-30)	22.0	22.7	22.7	29.00 (Singapore)

Figure – Registering Property in Germany and comparator economies – Ranking and DTF



Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of registering property is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for registering property. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the component indicators.

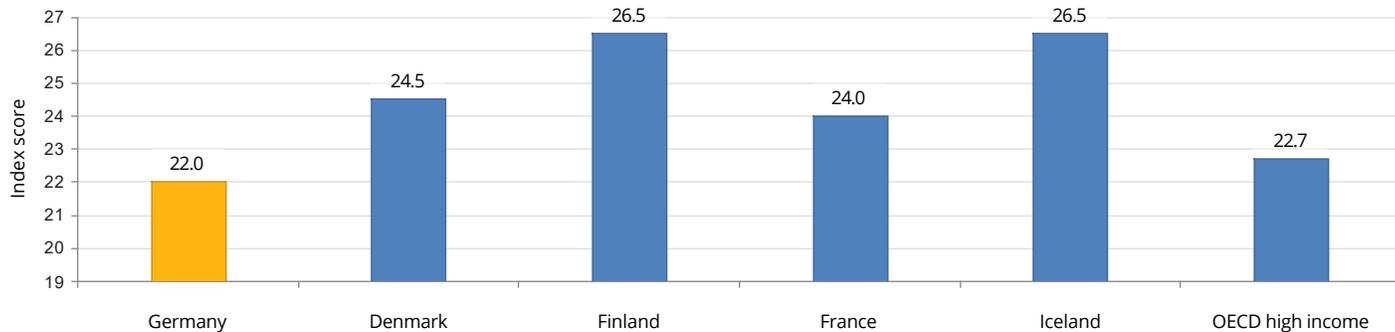
Figure – Registering Property in Germany – Procedure, Time and Cost



\* This symbol is shown beside procedure numbers that take place simultaneously with the previous procedure.

Note: Online procedures account for 0.5 days in the total time calculation. For economies that have a different procedure list for men and women, the graph shows the time for women. For more information on methodology, see the Doing Business website (<http://www.doingbusiness.org/methodology>). For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary below.

Figure – Registering Property in Germany and comparator economies – Measure of Quality



## Details – Registering Property in Germany – Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedure	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	<p><b>Fulfill the pre-conditions for the validity of the purchase price</b> Agency : Land Registry 'Grundbuchamt'</p> <p>The following pre conditions have to be fulfilled for the maturity of the purchase price: (i) Registration of the priority notice in the Land Register (not mandatory but usual practice to secure the purchasers rank in the land register and avoid a third party purchasing the property in good faith); (ii) Consent to the cancellation of existing encumbrances.</p> <p>(The priority notice prevents a purchase by a third party of good faith between the conclusion of the purchase agreement and registration of the purchaser; it usually ranks after the existing encumbrances and prior to any future encumbrances at the time of notarization. This notice provides a very high level of legal and economic security and certainty. Upon registration, the notice protects against all intervening interests (including seller's insolvency) pending completion of the transaction and actual change in registered ownership. By use of this notice, a purchaser is legally protected against potential risks at an extremely early stage of the conveyancing transaction. Therefore, such notation is generally entered in the public register by the notary immediately following authentication of the purchase contract. From that moment onward, the purchaser can rest assured that he can acquire title to the property if all prerequisites to maturity of the purchase price are fulfilled.</p> <p>If all pre-conditions to the maturity "Fälligkeit" of the purchase price, usually collected and examined by the notary, have been fulfilled, the notary issues a statement of maturity "Fälligkeitsmitteilung" to the purchaser. If the respective declarations in rem have already been provided for in the sale and transfer agreement, the notary is usually bound by an escrow agreement not to forward them to the land register until the purchase price has been paid.</p>	<p>20 days (simultaneous with Procedure 2 and 3)</p>	<p>EUR 1548 (registration fee of priority notice, 0.5 fee)</p>
⇒ 2	<p><b>Obtain the waiver of preemption rights from the Municipality of Berlin</b> Agency : Municipality of Berlin</p> <p>The consent or negative attest of the competent authority regarding any statutory pre-emption rights is required and applicable to all properties in Berlin. The civil council ("Bezirksamt") issues the consent or a negative attest to the transaction. The time limit given by the statute is that the civil council may exercise the right of pre-emption two months (preclusion period) after the delivery of a copy of the notarised sale and transfer agreement . The respective preemption right for the public authorities/civil council mentioned in the survey is regulated under Section 24, 25 and 28 German Federal Building Code (Baugesetzbuch) and Section 66 German Federal Nature Conservation Act (Bundesnaturschutzgesetz). Under specific circumstances the public authorities could have a statutory preemption right to coordinate the urban land-use planning. These rules are applicable to all properties in Berlin. It is necessary therefore to provide the land register with either a consent of the public authorities to the transfer or an attest that the statutory right of preemption either does not exist or is not exercised.</p>	<p>1 week - 3 weeks (simultaneous with Procedure 1 and 3)</p>	<p>EUR 100 (consent of negative attest of city council)</p>

**⇒ 3 Obtain the land extract from the Land Registry**

Agency : Land Registry 'Grundbuchamt'

The notary obtains the information referred to the property, e.g. from the land registry to "name" the object in the contract and to see if it is free of burdens and mortgages. A notary has a privileged access to the land register to obtain the extracts. Notaries have on-line access to such land registers which are already converted to electronic land registers. They are in the position to review the extracts very shortly before the notarization from their own offices. The land registry in Berlin is entirely computerized, and so extracts can be obtained online.

1 day  
(simultaneous with  
procedures 1 and  
2)  
EUR 8

**4 Notarize and sign the purchase sale agreement between the parties**

1-3 days

Agency : Notary

In case of real property the German law says the agreement has to be notarized (Section 311b German Civil Code). The signature between the parties must happen in front of the notary.

Authentication (2.0 fee) + Support (0.5 fee), both based on property value. A full 1.0 fee (Gebühr):  
 First EUR 500= EUR 15  
 Up to EUR 2,000 an increase of EUR 4 for every EUR 500  
 Up to EUR 10,000 an increase of EUR 6 for every EUR 1,000  
 Up to EUR 25,000 an increase of EUR 8 for every EUR 3,000  
 Up to EUR 50,000 an increase of EUR 10 for every EUR 5,000  
 Up to EUR 200,000 an increase of EUR 27 for every EUR 15,000  
 Up to EUR 500,000 an increase of EUR 50 for every EUR 30,000  
 Up to EUR 5,000,000 an increase of EUR 80 for every EUR 50,000  
 Up to EUR 10,000,000 an increase of EUR 130 for every EUR 200,000  
 Up to EUR 20,000,000 an increase of EUR 150 for every EUR 250,000  
 Up to EUR 30,000,000 an increase of EUR 280 for every EUR 500,000  
 Above EUR 30,000,000 an increase of EUR 120 for every EUR 1,000,000

<p><b>5 Obtain the statement of innocuousness and payment of the transfer tax</b></p> <p>Agency : Tax Authority 'Finanzamt'</p> <p>The notary is obliged to provide a copy of each notarized sale and transfer agreement to the responsible tax authority. The tax authority will then issue a tax assessment and send it to the purchaser. The land register clerk will not register the purchaser as new owner if the transfer tax has not been paid. After payment of the real estate transfer tax, the tax authority will issue a statement of innocuousness (Unbedenklichkeitsbescheinigung) and send it to the notary for presentation to the land register. It may be expected that such statement will be issued within two months following the notarization.</p>	15 days	6% of purchase price
<p><b>6 Apply for the registration of the new owner and delete the priority notice at the land registry</b></p> <p>Agency : Land Registry 'Grundbuchamt'</p> <p>After the purchase price has been paid and the tax authorities have provided the innocuousness statement, an application for the registration of the purchaser as new owner and deletion of the priority notice is submitted. A registration fee is paid depending on the property value. The deletion fee for the cancellation of the priority notice also depends on the value. It is important to note that there is a possibility to register the title through an expedited Procedure, whereby the notary acts as a Trustee and the client can pay through a trust account (Notartreuhandkonto). This makes it possible to obtain the legal title faster, possibly in 2-5 days. However, this occurs only with a small proportion of property title transfers. The documentation shall include: • Statement of Innocuousness (obtained in Procedure 3) • Consent of public authority/civil council to the transfer or attest that the statutory right of pre-emption either does not exist or is not exercised (obtained after Procedure 2) • Consents to the cancellation (obtained in Procedure 2 and sent to the notary) • Declarations in rem 'dingliche Erklärungen' for the registration of the purchaser as owner</p>	15 days	EUR 3,095 (Registration Fee, a 1 fee) + EUR 25 (flat fee for the deletion of the priority notice)

⇒ Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

## Details – Registering Property in Germany – Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Quality of the land administration index (0-30)</b>		<b>22.0</b>
<b>Reliability of infrastructure index (0-8)</b>		<b>7.0</b>
What is the institution in charge of immovable property registration?	Land Registry ("Grundbuchamt") of Berlin	
In what format are the majority of title or deed records kept in the largest business city—in a paper format or in a computerized format (scanned or fully digital)?	Computer/Scanned	1.0
Is there an electronic database for checking for encumbrances (liens, mortgages, restrictions and the like)?	Yes	1.0
Institution in charge of the plans showing legal boundaries in the largest business city:	Real property cadastre ("Liegenschaftskataster")	
In what format are the majority of maps of land plots kept in the largest business city—in a paper format or in a computerized format (scanned or fully digital)?	Computer/Fully digital	2.0
Is there an electronic database for recording boundaries, checking plans and providing cadastral information (geographic information system)?	Yes	1.0
Is the information recorded by the immovable property registration agency and the cadastral or mapping agency kept in a single database, in different but linked databases or in separate databases?	Different databases but linked	1.0
Do the immovable property registration agency and cadastral or mapping agency use the same identification number for properties?	Yes	1.0
<b>Transparency of information index (0-6)</b>		<b>2.0</b>
Who is able to obtain information on land ownership at the agency in charge of immovable property registration in the largest business city?	Only intermediaries and interested parties	0.0
Is the list of documents that are required to complete any type of property transaction made publicly available—and if so, how?	Yes, on public boards	0.5
Link for online access:		
Is the applicable fee schedule for any property transaction at the agency in charge of immovable property registration in the largest business city made publicly available—and if so, how?	Yes, online	0.5
Link for online access:	<a href="http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/gnotkg/index.html">http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/gnotkg/index.html</a>	

Does the agency in charge of immovable property registration commit to delivering a legally binding document that proves property ownership within a specific time frame—and if so, how does it communicate the service standard?	No	0.0
Link for online access:		
Is there a specific and separate mechanism for filing complaints about a problem that occurred at the agency in charge of immovable property registration?	No	0.0
Contact information:		
Are there publicly available official statistics tracking the number of transactions at the immovable property registration agency?	No	0.0
Number of property transfers in the largest business city in 2015:		
Who is able to consult maps of land plots in the largest business city?	Anyone who pays the official fee	0.5
Is the applicable fee schedule for accessing maps of land plots made publicly available—and if so, how?	Yes, online	0.5
Link for online access:	<a href="https://www.berlin.de/ba-charlottenburg-wilmersdorf/verwaltung/aemter/stadtentwicklung-samt/vermessung/liegenschaftskataster/artikel.202150.php">https://www.berlin.de/ba-charlottenburg-wilmersdorf/verwaltung/aemter/stadtentwicklung-samt/vermessung/liegenschaftskataster/artikel.202150.php</a>	
Does the cadastral or mapping agency commit to delivering an updated map within a specific time frame—and if so, how does it communicate the service standard?	No	0.0
Link for online access:		
Is there a specific and separate mechanism for filing complaints about a problem that occurred at the cadastral or mapping agency?	No	0.0
Contact information:		
<b>Geographic coverage index (0–8)</b>		<b>8.0</b>
Are all privately held land plots in the economy formally registered at the immovable property registry?	Yes	2.0
Are all privately held land plots in the largest business city formally registered at the immovable property registry?	Yes	2.0
Are all privately held land plots in the economy mapped?	Yes	2.0
Are all privately held land plots in the largest business city mapped?	Yes	2.0
<b>Land dispute resolution index (0–8)</b>		<b>5.0</b>

Does the law require that all property sale transactions be registered at the immovable property registry to make them opposable to third parties?	Yes	1.5
Is the system of immovable property registration subject to a state or private guarantee?	Yes	0.5
Is there a specific compensation mechanism to cover for losses incurred by parties who engaged in good faith in a property transaction based on erroneous information certified by the immovable property registry?	No	0.0
Does the legal system require a control of legality of the documents necessary for a property transaction (e.g., checking the compliance of contracts with requirements of the law)?	Yes	0.5
If yes, who is responsible for checking the legality of the documents?	Notary.	
Does the legal system require verification of the identity of the parties to a property transaction?	Yes	0.5
If yes, who is responsible for verifying the identity of the parties?	Notary.	
Is there a national database to verify the accuracy of identity documents?	No	0.0
For a standard land dispute between two local businesses over tenure rights of a property worth 50 times gross national income (GNI) per capita and located in the largest business city, what court would be in charge of the case in the first instance?	Regional Court of Berlin ("Landgericht Berlin")	
How long does it take on average to obtain a decision from the first-instance court for such a case (without appeal)?	Between 1 and 2 years	2.0
Are there any statistics on the number of land disputes in the first instance?	No	0.0
Number of land disputes in the largest business city in 2015:		
<b>Equal access to property rights index (-2-0)</b>		<b>0.0</b>
Do unmarried men and unmarried women have equal ownership rights to property?	Yes	0.0
Do married men and married women have equal ownership rights to property?	Yes	0.0

## 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:

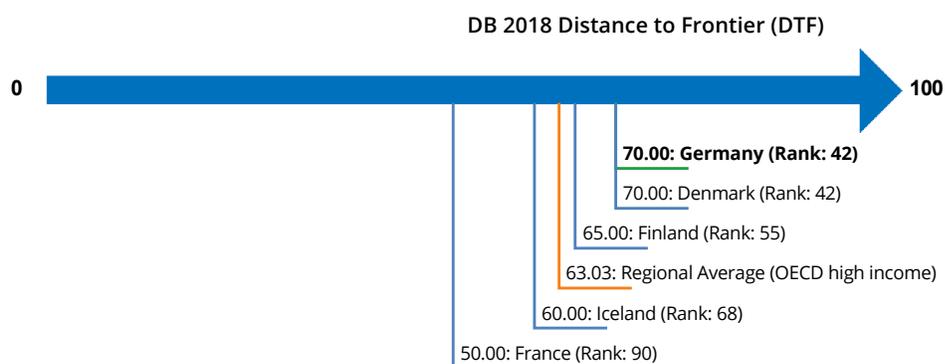
- ABC is a domestic limited liability company (or its legal equivalent).
- ABC has up to 50 employees.
- ABC has its headquarters and only base of operations in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.
- Both ABC and BizBank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

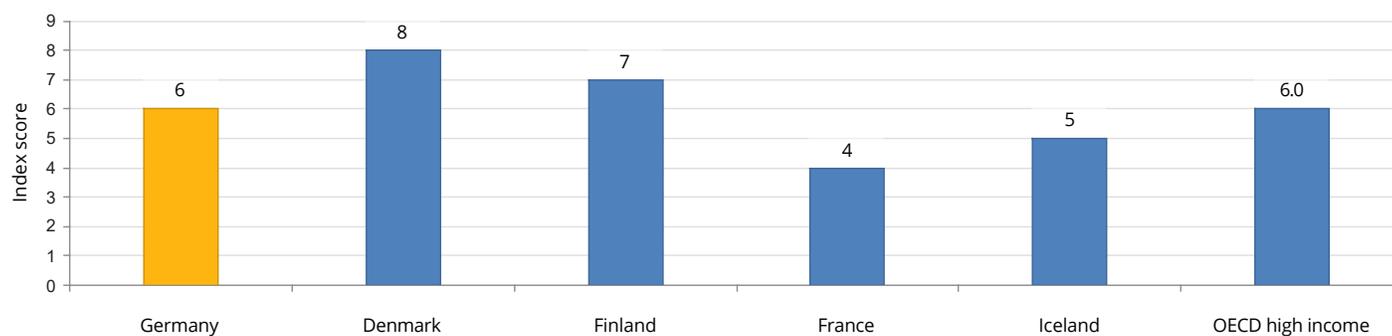
Indicator	Germany	OECD high income	OECD high income	Overall Best Performer
Strength of legal rights index (0-12)	6	6.0	6.0	12.00 (4 Economies)
Depth of credit information index (0-8)	8	6.6	6.6	8.00 (34 Economies)
Credit registry coverage (% of adults)	1.9	18.3	18.3	100.00 (3 Economies)
Credit bureau coverage (% of adults)	100.0	63.7	63.7	100.00 (23 Economies)

Figure – Getting Credit in Germany and comparator economies – Ranking and DTF



Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of getting credit is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for getting credit. These scores are the distance to frontier score for the sum of the strength of legal rights index and the depth of credit information index.

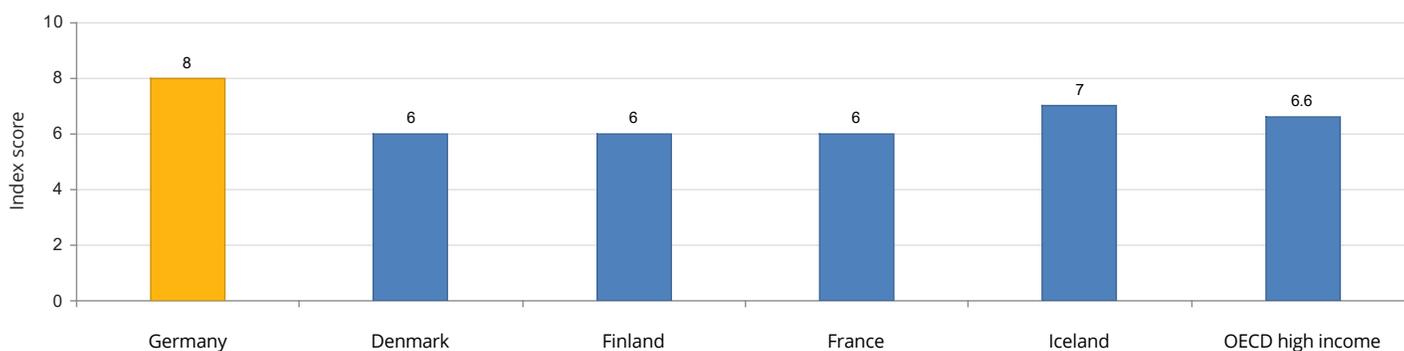
Figure – Legal Rights in Germany and comparator economies



**Details – Legal Rights in Germany**

<b>Strength of legal rights index (0-12)</b>	<b>6</b>
Does an integrated or unified legal framework for secured transactions that extends to the creation, publicity and enforcement of functional equivalents to security interests in movable assets exist in the economy?	No
Does the law allow businesses to grant a non possessory security right in a single category of movable assets, without requiring a specific description of collateral?	Yes
Does the law allow businesses to grant a non possessory security right in substantially all of its assets, without requiring a specific description of collateral?	No
May a security right extend to future or after-acquired assets, and does it extend automatically to the products, proceeds or replacements of the original assets?	Yes
Is a general description of debts and obligations permitted in collateral agreements; can all types of debts and obligations be secured between parties; and can the collateral agreement include a maximum amount for which the assets are encumbered?	Yes
Is a collateral registry in operation for both incorporated and non-incorporated entities, that is unified geographically and by asset type, with an electronic database indexed by debtor's name?	No
Does a notice-based collateral registry exist in which all functional equivalents can be registered?	No
Does a modern collateral registry exist in which registrations, amendments, cancellations and searches can be performed online by any interested third party?	No
Are secured creditors paid first (i.e. before tax claims and employee claims) when a debtor defaults outside an insolvency procedure?	Yes
Are secured creditors paid first (i.e. before tax claims and employee claims) when a business is liquidated?	Yes
Are secured creditors subject to an automatic stay on enforcement when a debtor enters a court-supervised reorganization procedure? Does the law protect secured creditors' rights by providing clear grounds for relief from the stay and/or sets a time limit for it?	No
Does the law allow parties to agree on out of court enforcement at the time a security interest is created? Does the law allow the secured creditor to sell the collateral through public auction or private tender, as well as, for the secured creditor to keep the asset in satisfaction of the debt?	Yes

**Figure – Credit Information in Germany and comparator economies**



## Details – Credit Information in Germany

Depth of credit information index (0-8)	Credit bureau	Credit registry	Score
Are data on both firms and individuals distributed?	Yes	No	1
Are both positive and negative credit data distributed?	Yes	No	1
Are data from retailers or utility companies - in addition to data from banks and financial institutions - distributed?	Yes	No	1
Are at least 2 years of historical data distributed? (Credit bureaus and registries that distribute more than 10 years of negative data or erase data on defaults as soon as they are repaid obtain a score of 0 for this component.)	Yes	No	1
Are data on loan amounts below 1% of income per capita distributed?	Yes	No	1
By law, do borrowers have the right to access their data in the credit bureau or credit registry?	Yes	No	1
Can banks and financial institutions access borrowers' credit information online (for example, through an online platform, a system-to-system connection or both)?	Yes	No	1
Are bureau or registry credit scores offered as a value-added service to help banks and financial institutions assess the creditworthiness of borrowers?	Yes	No	1
<b>Score ("yes" to either public bureau or private registry)</b>			<b>8</b>

Note: An economy receives a score of 1 if there is a "yes" to either bureau or registry. If the credit bureau or registry is not operational or covers less than 5% of the adult population, the total score on the depth of credit information index is 0.

Coverage	Credit bureau	Credit registry
Number of individuals	67,200,000	308,770
Number of firms	5,300,000	743,450
Total	72,500,000	1,052,220
<b>Percentage of adult population</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>

## ↗ 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):

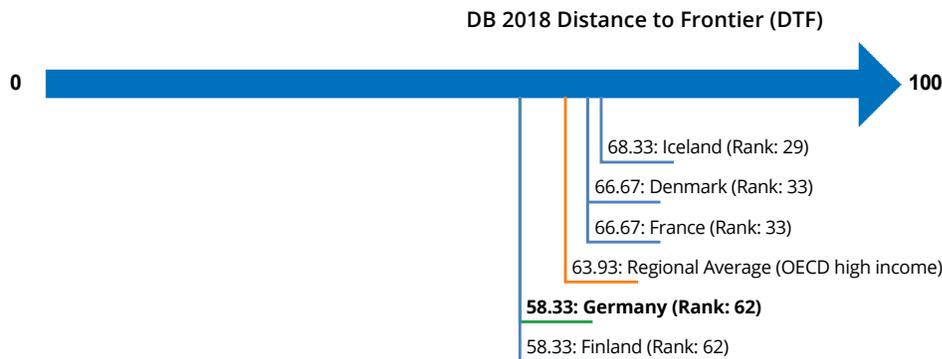
- Is a publicly traded corporation listed on the economy's most important stock exchange. If the number of publicly traded companies listed on that exchange is less than 10, or if there is no stock exchange in the economy, it is assumed that Buyer is a large private company with multiple shareholders.
- 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.

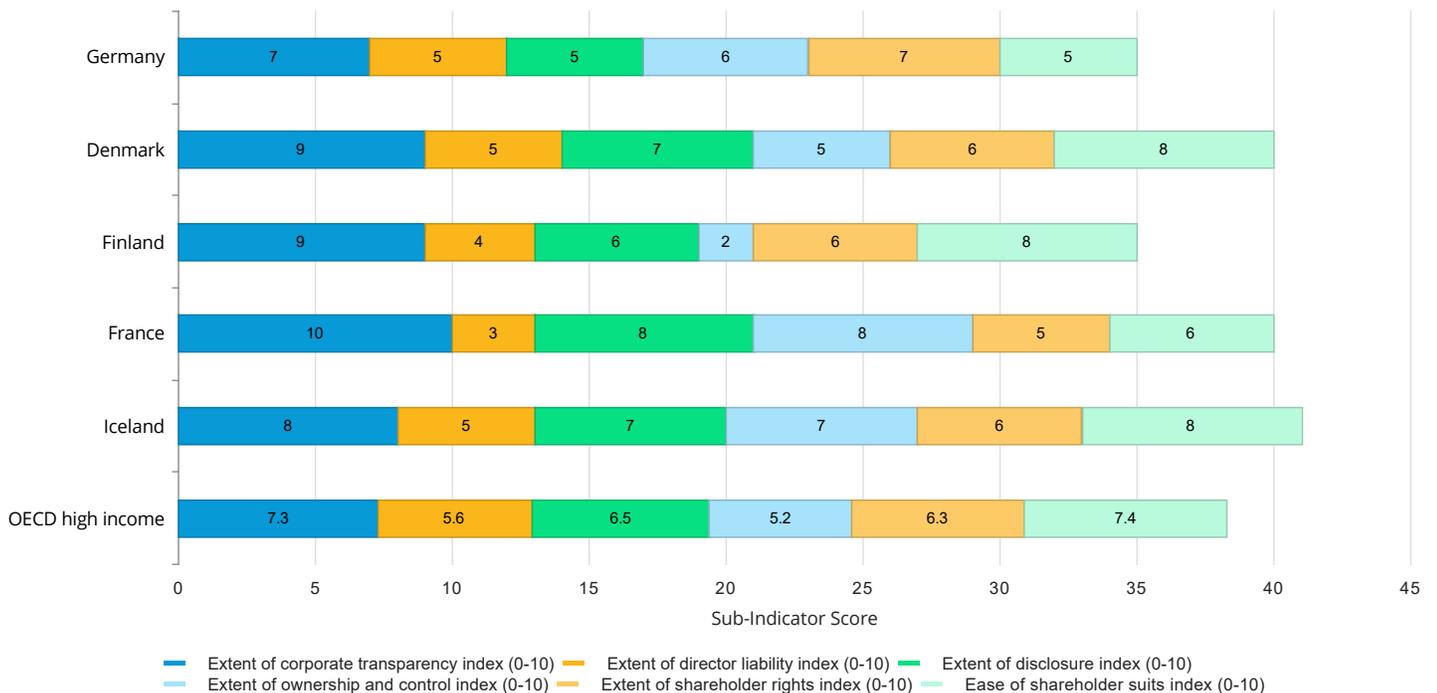
Indicator	Germany	OECD high income	OECD high income	Overall Best Performer
Extent of conflict of interest regulation index (0-10)	5	6.4	6.4	9.3 (New Zealand)
Extent of shareholder governance index (0-10)	6.7	6.4	6.4	9.00 (Kazakhstan)

Figure – Protecting Minority Investors in Germany and comparator economies – Ranking and DTF



Note: The ranking of economies on the strength of minority investor protections is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for protecting minority investors. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for the extent of conflict of interest regulation index and the extent of shareholder governance index.

Figure – Protecting Minority Investors in Germany and comparator economies – Measure of Quality



## Details – Protecting Minority Investors in Germany – Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Extent of conflict of interest regulation index (0-10)</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Extent of disclosure index (0-10)</b>		<b>5</b>
Which corporate body is legally sufficient to approve the Buyer-Seller transaction? (0-3)	Board of directors excluding interested members	2.0
Must an external body review the terms of the transaction before it takes place? (0-1)	No	0.0
Must Mr. James disclose his conflict of interest to the board of directors? (0-2)	Existence of a conflict without any specifics	1.0
Must Buyer disclose the transaction in published periodic filings (annual reports)? (0-2)	Disclosure on the transaction only	1.0
Must Buyer immediately disclose the transaction to the public and/or shareholders? (0-2)	Disclosure on the transaction only	1.0
<b>Extent of director liability index (0-10)</b>		<b>5</b>
Can shareholders representing 10% of Buyer's share capital sue directly or derivatively for the damage the transaction caused to Buyer? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Can shareholders hold the interested director liable for the damage the transaction caused to Buyer? (0-2)	Liable if negligent	1.0
Can shareholders hold the other directors liable for the damage the transaction caused to Buyer (0-2)	Liable if negligent	1.0
Must Mr. James pay damages for the harm caused to Buyer upon a successful claim by shareholders? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Must Mr. James repay profits made from the transaction upon a successful claim by shareholders? (0-1)	No	0.0
Is Mr. James disqualified or fined and imprisoned upon a successful claim by shareholders? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Can a court void the transaction upon a successful claim by shareholders? (0-2)	Only in case of fraud or bad faith	0.0
<b>Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)</b>		<b>5</b>
Before suing can shareholders representing 10% of Buyer's share capital inspect the transaction documents? (0-1)	Yes	1.0

Can the plaintiff obtain any documents from the defendant and witnesses at trial? (0-3)	Any relevant document	3.0
Can the plaintiff request categories of documents from the defendant without identifying specific ones? (0-1)	No	0.0
Can the plaintiff directly question the defendant and witnesses at trial? (0-2)	No	0.0
Is the level of proof required for civil suits lower than that of criminal cases? (0-1)	No	0.0
Can shareholder plaintiffs recover their legal expenses from the company? (0-2)	Yes if successful	1.0
<b>Extent of shareholder governance index (0-10)</b>		<b>6.7</b>
<b>Extent of shareholder rights index (0-10)</b>		<b>7</b>
Does the sale of 51% of Buyer's assets require shareholder approval?	No	0.0
Can shareholders representing 10% of Buyer's share capital call for a meeting of shareholders?	Yes	1.0
Must Buyer obtain its shareholders' approval every time it issues new shares?	Yes	1.0
Do shareholders automatically receive preemption rights every time Buyer issues new shares?	Yes	1.0
Must shareholders approve the election and dismissal of the external auditor?	Yes	1.0
Are changes to the rights of a class of shares only possible if the holders of the affected shares approve?	Yes	1.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, does the sale of 51% of its assets require member approval?	No	0.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 10% call for a meeting of members?	Yes	1.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must all members consent to add a new member?	Yes	1.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a member first offer to sell their interest to the existing members before they can sell to non-members?	No	0.0
<b>Extent of ownership and control index (0-10)</b>		<b>6</b>
Is it forbidden to appoint the same individual as CEO and chair of the board of directors?	Yes	1.0
Must the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?	Yes	1.0
Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their term?	No	0.0
Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board members?	No	0.0
Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?	Yes	1.0

Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?	Yes	1.0
Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company?	Yes	1.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?	No	0.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?	No	0.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum period set by law?	Yes	1.0
<b>Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)</b>		<b>7</b>
Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%?	Yes	1.0
Must Buyer disclose information about board members' primary employment and directorships in other companies?	Yes	1.0
Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?	No	0.0
Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?	Yes	1.0
Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?	Yes	1.0
Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?	Yes	1.0
Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?	Yes	1.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?	No	0.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the meeting agenda?	No	0.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?	Yes	1.0

## 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 postfiling 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 postfiling 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:

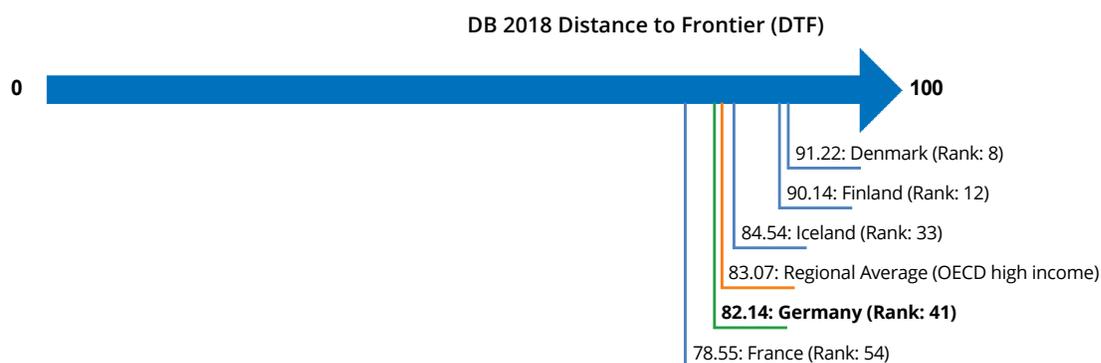
- In June 2016, TaxpayerCo. makes a large capital purchase: the value of the machine is 65 times income per capita of the economy. Sales are equally spread per month (1,050 times income per capita divided by 12) and cost of goods sold are equally expensed per month (875 times income per capita divided 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.

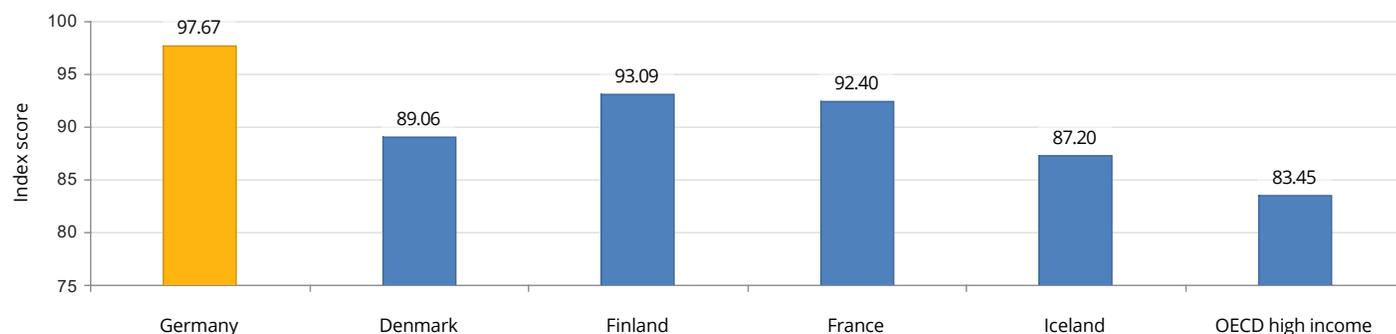
Indicator	Germany	OECD high income	OECD high income	Overall Best Performer
Payments (number per year)	9	10.9	10.9	3 (Hong Kong SAR, China)
Time (hours per year)	218	160.7	160.7	55 (Luxembourg)
Total tax and contribution rate (% of profit)	48.9	40.1	40.1	18.47% (32 Economies)
Postfiling index (0-100)	97.67	83.45	83.45	99.38 (Estonia)

Figure – Paying Taxes in Germany and comparator economies – Ranking and DTF



Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of paying taxes is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores on the ease of paying taxes. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the four component indicators – number of tax payments, time, total tax rate and postfiling index – with a threshold and a nonlinear transformation applied to one of the component indicators, the total tax rate. The nonlinear distance to frontier for the total tax rate is equal to the distance to frontier for the total tax rate to the power of 0.8. The threshold is defined as the total tax rate at the 15th percentile of the overall distribution for all years included in the analysis up to and including Doing Business 2015, which is 26.1%. All economies with a total tax rate below this threshold receive the same score as the economy at the threshold.

Figure – Paying Taxes in Germany and comparator economies – Measure of Quality



Details – Paying Taxes in Germany

Tax or mandatory contribution	Payments (number)	Notes on Payments	Time (hours)	Statutory tax rate	Tax base	Total tax and contribution rate (% of profit)	Notes on TTR
Corporate income tax	1	online	41	15%	taxable profit	11.51	
Trade tax	1	online		11-17%	taxable profit	11.07	
Social security contributions	1	online	134	9.35%	gross salaries	10.67	
Health insurance contributions	0	jointly		7.3%	gross salaries	7.90	
Property tax	1			less than 0.1%	property value	2.94	
Unemployment contributions	0	jointly		1.5%	gross salaries	1.70	
Road tax (only for trucks)	1			EUR 0.183 per kilometer for the first 9 months in 2016 - from October 1st 2016 EUR 0.149 per kilometer		1.14	
Long term care insurance	0	jointly		1.175%	gross salaries	1.13	
Tax on interest	0			25%	interest income	0.67	included in other taxes
Solidarity surcharge	0	jointly		5.5%	corporate income tax	0.63	

Tax on insurance contracts	1			19%	insurance premium	0.19	
Vehicle tax	1	online		EUR 556		0.03	
Wage tax	0	online		depends on wage tax classification of employee	employee income	0.00	not included
Value added tax (VAT)	1	online	43	19%	value added	0.00	not included
Fuel tax	1				included in fuel price	0.00	small amount
Social security contributions on employee	0			20.175%	gross salaries	0.00	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>218</b>			<b>48.9</b>	

#### Details – Paying Taxes in Germany – Tax by Type

Taxes by type	Answer
Profit tax (% of profit)	23.2
Labor tax and contributions (% of profit)	21.4
Other taxes (% of profit)	4.3

#### Details – Paying Taxes in Germany – Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Postfiling index (0-100)</b>		<b>97.67</b>
<b>VAT refunds</b>		
Does VAT exist?	Yes	
Does a VAT refund process exist per the case study?	Yes	
Restrictions on VAT refund process	None	
Percentage of cases exposed to a VAT audit (%)	0% - 24%	
Is there a mandatory carry forward period?	No	
Time to comply with VAT refund (hours)	0.0	100
Time to obtain a VAT refund (weeks)	5.2	96.2

**Corporate income tax audits**

Does corporate income tax exist?	Yes	
Percentage of cases exposed to a corporate income tax audit (%)	0% - 24%	
Time to comply with a corporate income tax audit (hours)	4.5	94.5
Time to complete a corporate income tax audit (weeks)	No tax audit per case study scenario	100

**Notes:** Names of taxes have been standardized. For instance income tax, profit tax, tax on company's income are all named corporate income tax in this table.

The hours for VAT include all the VAT and sales taxes applicable.

The hours for Social Security include all the hours for labor taxes and mandatory contributions in general.

The postfiling index is the average of the scores on time to comply with VAT refund, time to obtain a VAT refund, time to comply with a corporate income tax audit and time to complete a corporate income tax audit.

N/A = Not applicable.

## 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.](#)

Given the importance of trade digitalization, in Doing Business 2018, the Trading across Borders questionnaire included research questions on the availability and status of implementation of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and Single Window (SW) systems. With this information, Doing Business built a comprehensive dataset on the adoption and level of sophistication of electronic platforms in 190 economies. These data are not used to compute the distance to frontier score or ranking of the ease of doing business. The new dataset on EDI and SW systems is available [here](#).

### 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

#### Border compliance

- Customs clearance and inspections
- Inspections by other agencies (if applied to more than 20% of shipments)
- Handling and inspections that take place at the economy's port or border

#### Domestic transport

- Loading or unloading of the shipment at the warehouse or port/border
- Transport between warehouse and port/border
- 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:

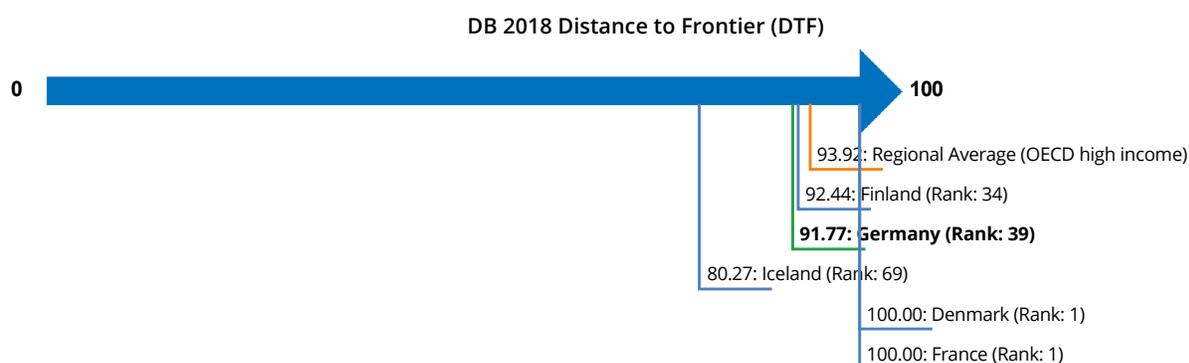
**Time:** Time is measured in hours, and 1 day is 24 hours (for example, 22 days are recorded as  $22 \times 24 = 528$  hours). If customs clearance takes 7.5 hours, the data are recorded as is. Alternatively, suppose documents are submitted to a customs agency at 8:00a.m., are processed overnight and 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.

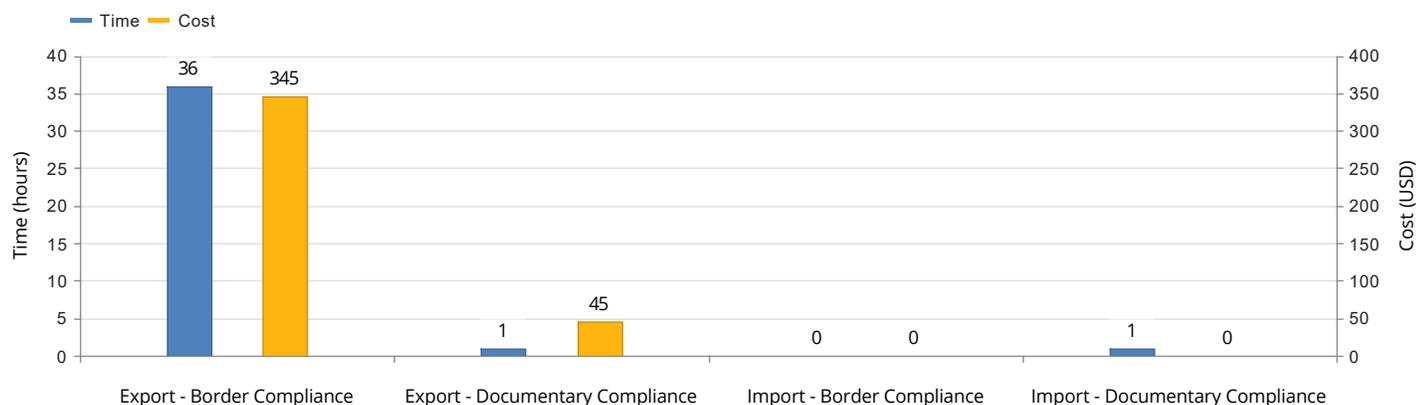
Indicator	Germany	OECD high income	OECD high income	Overall Best Performer
Time to export: Border compliance (hours)	36	12.7	12.7	0 (17 Economies)
Cost to export: Border compliance (USD)	345	149.9	149.9	0.00 (19 Economies)
Time to export: Documentary compliance (hours)	1	2.4	2.4	1.0 (25 Economies)
Cost to export: Documentary compliance (USD)	45	35.4	35.4	0.00 (19 Economies)
Time to import: Border compliance (hours)	0	8.7	8.7	0.00 (21 Economies)
Cost to import: Border compliance (USD)	0	111.6	111.6	0.00 (27 Economies)
Time to import: Documentary compliance (hours)	1	3.5	3.5	1.0 (30 Economies)
Cost to import: Documentary compliance (USD)	0	25.6	25.6	0.00 (30 Economies)

Figure – Trading across Borders in Germany and comparator economies – Ranking and DTF



Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of trading across borders is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for trading across borders. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for the time and cost for documentary compliance and border compliance to export and import (domestic transport is not used for calculating the ranking).

Figure – Trading across Borders in Germany – Time and Cost



Details – Trading across Borders in Germany

Characteristics	Export	Import
Product	HS 84 : Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	HS 8708: Parts and accessories of motor vehicles
Trade partner	China	Czech Republic
Border	Hamburg port	Germany- Czech Republic border crossing
Distance (km)	290	310
Domestic transport time (hours)	4	5
Domestic transport cost (USD)	600	520

**Details – Trading across Borders in Germany – Components of Border Compliance**

	Time to Complete (hours)	Associated Costs (USD)
Export: Clearance and inspections required by customs authorities	1.0	35.0
Export: Clearance and inspections required by agencies other than customs	0.0	0.0
Export: Port or border handling	36.0	310.0
Import: Clearance and inspections required by customs authorities	0.0	0.0
Import: Clearance and inspections required by agencies other than customs	0.0	0.0
Import: Port or border handling	0.0	0.0

**Details – Trading across Borders in Germany – Trade Documents**

Export	Import
Bill of lading	Packing list
Commercial invoice	Commercial invoice
Packing list	CMR waybill
Customs Export Declaration	Intrastat
SOLAS certificate	

## 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:

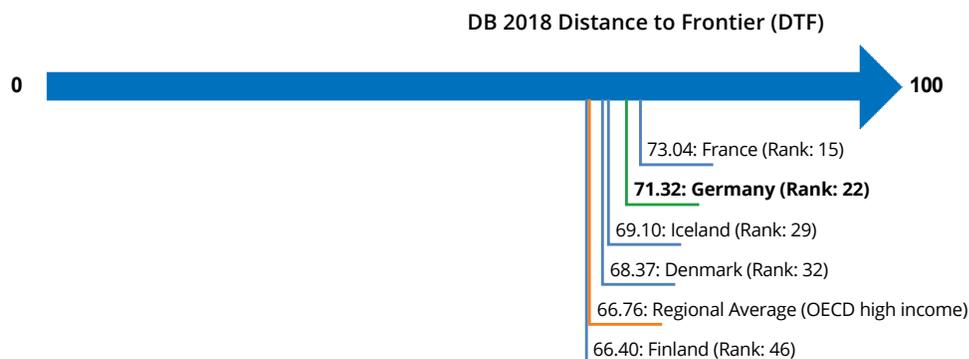
- The dispute concerns a lawful transaction between two businesses (Seller and Buyer), both located in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.
- The buyer orders custom-made goods, then fails to pay.
- The value of the dispute 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.

#### Standardized Case

Claim value	EUR 75,903.00
Court name	Berlin Regional Court
City Covered	Berlin

Indicator	Germany	OECD high income	OECD high income	Overall Best Performer
Time (days)	499	577.8	577.8	164.00 (Singapore)
Cost (% of claim value)	14.4	21.5	21.5	9.00 (Iceland)
Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)	11.0	11.0	11.0	15.50 (Australia)

Figure – Enforcing Contracts in Germany and comparator economies – Ranking and DTF



Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of enforcing contracts is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for enforcing contracts. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the component indicators.

Figure – Enforcing Contracts in Germany – Time and Cost

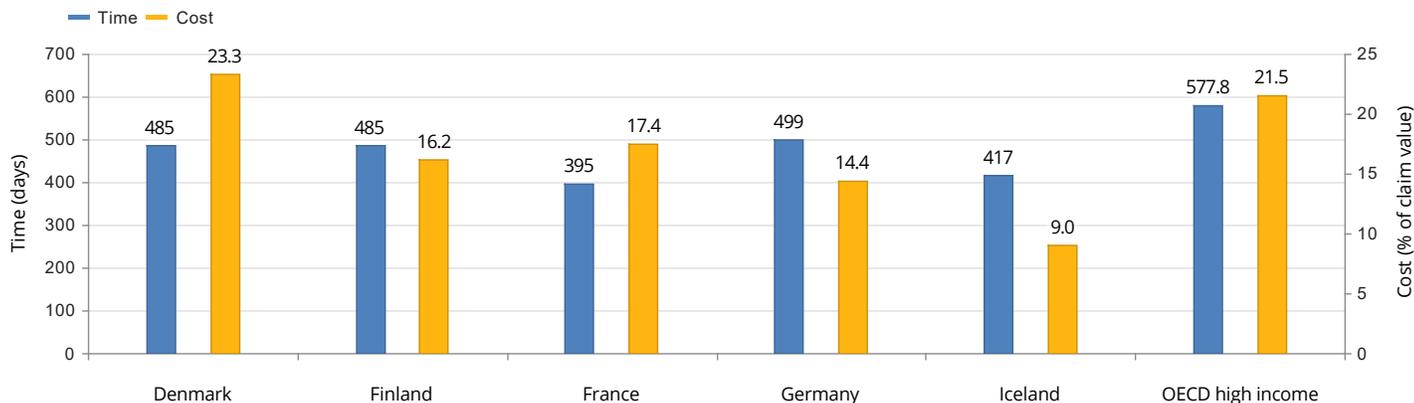
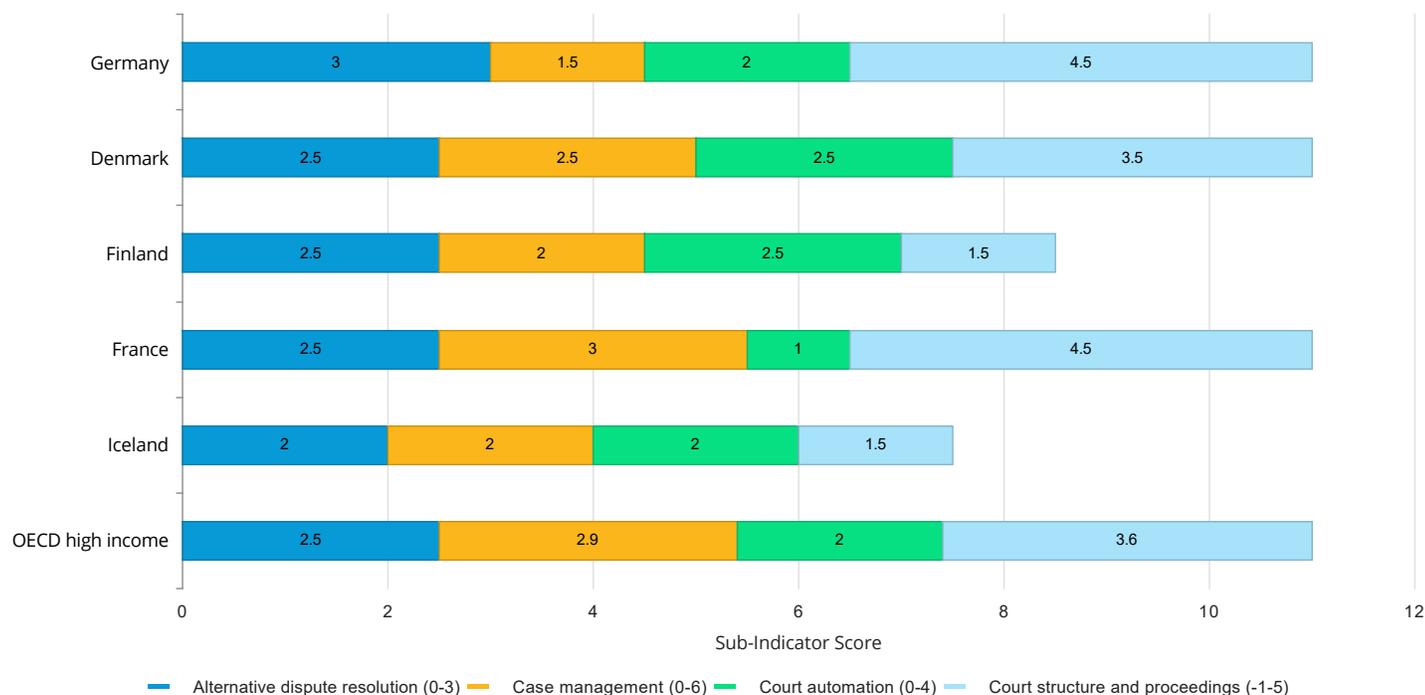


Figure – Enforcing Contracts in Germany and comparator economies – Measure of Quality



Details – Enforcing Contracts in Germany

	Indicator
<b>Time (days)</b>	<b>499</b>
Filing and service	29
Trial and judgment	380
Enforcement of judgment	90
<b>Cost (% of claim value)</b>	<b>14.4</b>
Attorney fees	6.6
Court fees	5.4
Enforcement fees	2.4
<b>Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)</b>	<b>11.0</b>
Court structure and proceedings (-1-5)	4.5
Case management (0-6)	1.5
Court automation (0-4)	2.0
Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)	3.0

## Details – Enforcing Contracts in Germany – Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)</b>		<b>11.0</b>
<b>Court structure and proceedings (-1-5)</b>		<b>4.5</b>
1. Is there a court or division of a court dedicated solely to hearing commercial cases?	Yes	1.5
2. Small claims court		1.5
2.a. Is there a small claims court or a fast-track procedure for small claims?	Yes	
2.b. If yes, is self-representation allowed?	Yes	
3. Is pretrial attachment available?	Yes	1.0
4. Are new cases assigned randomly to judges?	Yes, but manual	0.5
5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?	Yes	0.0
<b>Case management (0-6)</b>		<b>1.5</b>
1. Time standards		0.0
1.a. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil case?	Yes	
1.b. If yes, are the time standards set for at least three court events?	No	
1.c. Are these time standards respected in more than 50% of cases?	Yes	
2. Adjournments		0.5
2.a. Does the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?	No	
2.b. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances?	Yes	
2.c. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases?	Yes	
3. Can two of the following four reports be generated about the competent court: (i) time to disposition report; (ii) clearance rate report; (iii) age of pending cases report; and (iv) single case progress report?	Yes	1.0
4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?	No	0.0
5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?	No	0.0
6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?	No	0.0
<b>Court automation (0-4)</b>		<b>2.0</b>
1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?	No	0.0

2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?	No	0.0
3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?	Yes	1.0
4. Publication of judgments		1.0
4.a Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at all levels made available to the general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?	Yes	
4.b. Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at the appellate and supreme court level made available to the general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?	Yes	
<b>Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)</b>		<b>3.0</b>
1. Arbitration		1.5
1.a. Is domestic commercial arbitration governed by a consolidated law or consolidated chapter or section of the applicable code of civil procedure encompassing substantially all its aspects?	Yes	
1.b. Are there any commercial disputes—aside from those that deal with public order or public policy—that cannot be submitted to arbitration?	No	
1.c. Are valid arbitration clauses or agreements usually enforced by the courts?	Yes	
2. Mediation/Conciliation		1.5
2.a. Is voluntary mediation or conciliation available?	Yes	
2.b. Are mediation, conciliation or both governed by a consolidated law or consolidated chapter or section of the applicable code of civil procedure encompassing substantially all their aspects?	Yes	
2.c. Are there financial incentives for parties to attempt mediation or conciliation (i.e., if mediation or conciliation is successful, a refund of court filing fees, income tax credits or the like)?	Yes	

## 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

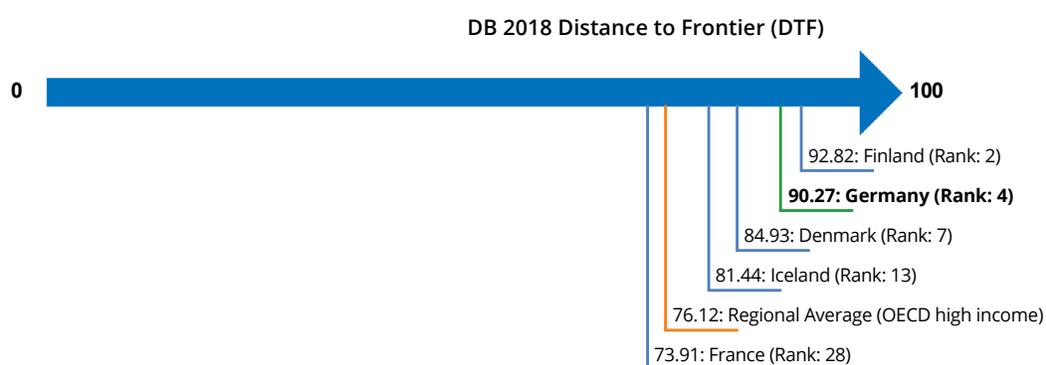
To make the data on the time, cost and outcome comparable across economies, several assumptions about the business and the case are used:

- 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.

Indicator	Germany	OECD high income	OECD high income	Overall Best Performer
Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	80.6	71.2	71.2	93.1 (Norway)
Time (years)	1.2	1.7	1.7	0.4 (Ireland)
Cost (% of estate)	8.0	9.1	9.1	1.00 (Norway)
Outcome (0 as piecemeal sale and 1 as going concern)	1	..	..	..
Strength of insolvency framework index (0-16)	15.0	12.1	12.1	15.00 (6 Economies)

Figure – Resolving Insolvency in Germany and comparator economies – Ranking and DTF



Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of resolving insolvency is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for resolving insolvency. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for the recovery rate and the strength of insolvency framework index.

Figure – Resolving Insolvency in Germany – Time and Cost

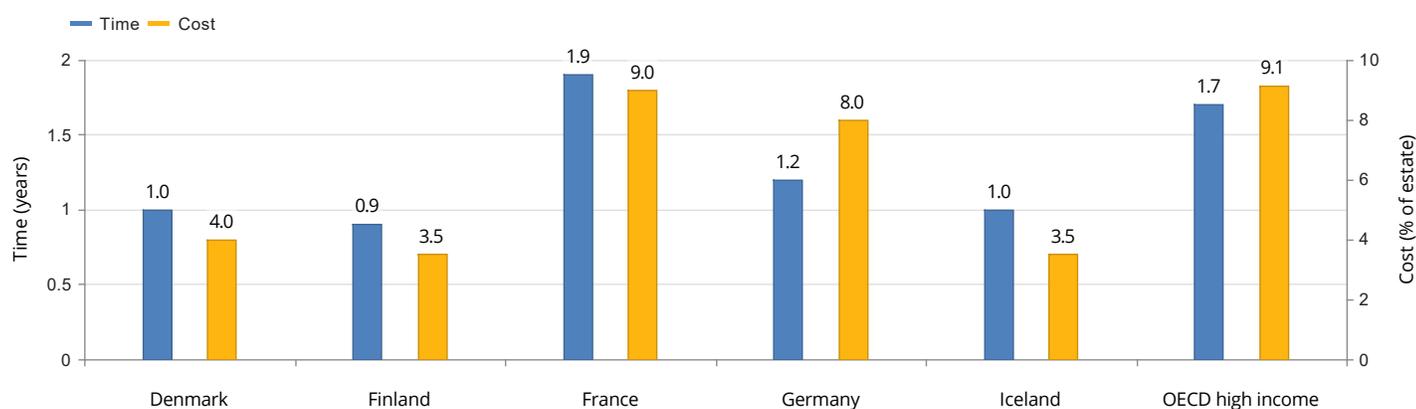


Figure – Resolving Insolvency in Germany and comparator economies – Measure of Quality

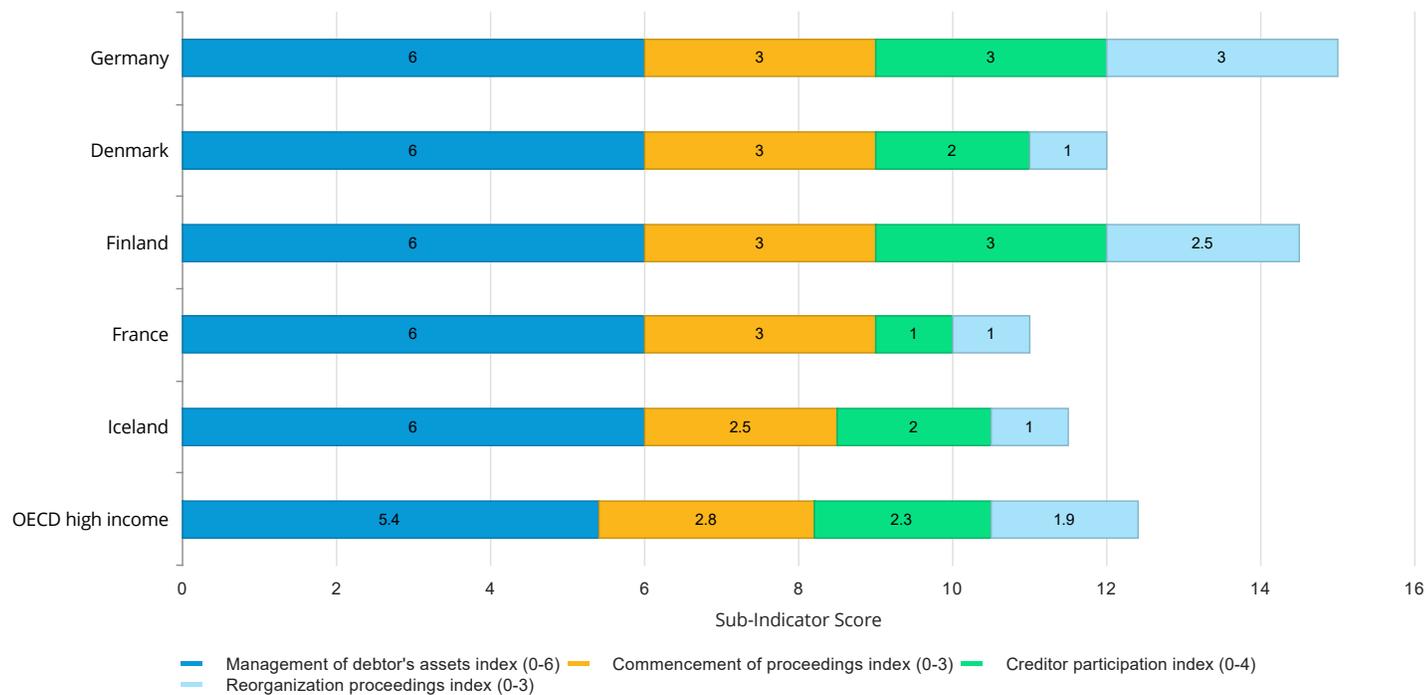
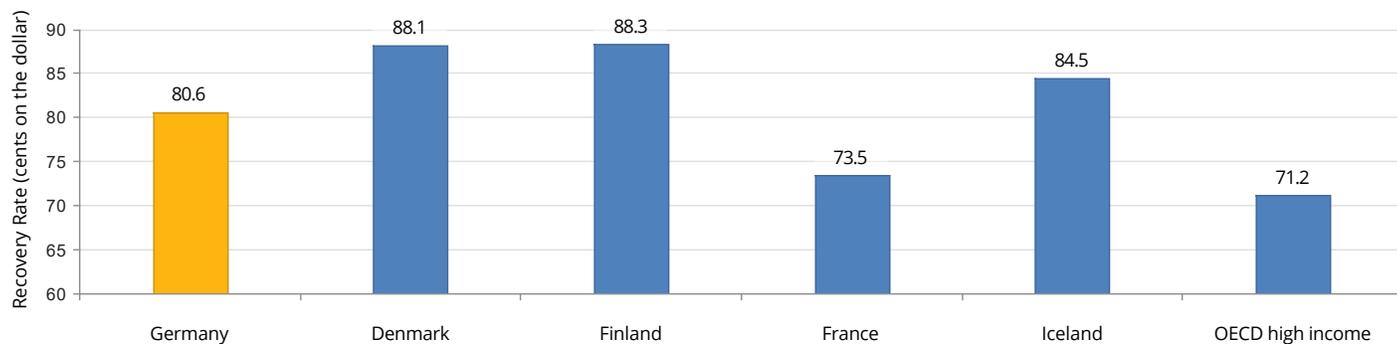


Figure – Resolving Insolvency in Germany and comparator economies – Recovery Rate



**Details – Resolving Insolvency in Germany**

Indicator	Answer	Explanation
Proceeding	liquidation	Mirage management is obligated to initiate insolvency proceedings within three weeks of when the company becomes insolvent. As hotel management would like to keep the hotel operating and remain in control of the business, they may also file a reorganization plan and an application for self-administration with its petition to commence insolvency proceedings. Creditors will vote on the reorganization plan. BizBank has a majority vote and will likely reject the reorganization plan. Reorganization procedure will be complex and costly and BizBank will prefer to sell the hotel as a going concern as soon as possible.
Outcome	going concern	BizBank will be interested in maximizing the sale value of the hotel, which can be achieved through sale as a going concern. No liabilities transfer with the purchase, other than the requirement to retain all employees, if possible.
Time (in years)	1.2	Mirage management is obligated to commence insolvency proceedings without undue delay and no later than three weeks after the company becomes insolvent. The management can also request self-administration and submit a reorganization plan, if it had sufficient time to prepare it. If self-administration is denied, the court will appoint an administrator, who will take possession of all assets. The administrator will prepare a list of assets, a list of creditors and a statement of affairs, which it will submit to the court. The first meeting of the creditors will be held (information hearing), where they will decide whether to continue hotel's operations. The court will then hold an examination hearing, where the creditors' claims will be heard. At the next creditors' meeting (hearing for discussion and voting), the creditors whose claims have been accepted, can vote on whether to accept the reorganization plan proposed by Mirage. If the plan is denied, the administrator will attempt to sell the assets as a going concern as soon as possible, through auction or by accepting bids from potential buyers. Once the assets are sold, the court will hold the final hearing, where it determines the fees of the administrator and decides on the final distribution of assets.
Cost (% of estate)	8.0	Major expenses include remuneration of the administrator (4%-6%), attorneys' fees (1%) and fees of other professionals involved in insolvency proceedings such as accountants and assessors (2%), Court fees (1%)
<b>Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)</b>		<b>80.6</b>

## Details – Resolving Insolvency in Germany – Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Strength of insolvency framework index (0-16)</b>		<b>15.0</b>
<b>Commencement of proceedings index (0-3)</b>		<b>3.0</b>
What procedures are available to a DEBTOR when commencing insolvency proceedings?	(a) Debtor may file for both liquidation and reorganization	1.0
Does the insolvency framework allow a CREDITOR to file for insolvency of the debtor?	(a) Yes, a creditor may file for both liquidation and reorganization	1.0
What basis for commencement of the insolvency proceedings is allowed under the insolvency framework?	(c) Both (a) and (b) options are available, but only one of them needs to be complied with	1.0
<b>Management of debtor's assets index (0-6)</b>		<b>6.0</b>
Does the insolvency framework allow the continuation of contracts supplying essential goods and services to the debtor?	Yes	1.0
Does the insolvency framework allow the rejection by the debtor of overly burdensome contracts?	Yes	1.0
Does the insolvency framework allow avoidance of preferential transactions?	Yes	1.0
Does the insolvency framework allow avoidance of undervalued transactions?	Yes	1.0
Does the insolvency framework provide for the possibility of the debtor obtaining credit after commencement of insolvency proceedings?	Yes	1.0
Does the insolvency framework assign priority to post-commencement credit?	(b) Yes over ordinary unsecured creditors but not over secured creditors	1.0
<b>Reorganization proceedings index (0-3)</b>		<b>3.0</b>
Which creditors vote on the proposed reorganization plan?	(b) Only creditors whose rights are affected by the proposed plan	1.0
Does the insolvency framework require that dissenting creditors in reorganization receive at least as much as what they would obtain in a liquidation?	Yes	1.0

Are the creditors divided into classes for the purposes of voting on the reorganization plan, does each class vote separately and are creditors in the same class treated equally?	Yes	1.0
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<b>Creditor participation index (0-4)</b>		<b>3.0</b>
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Does the insolvency framework require approval by the creditors for selection or appointment of the insolvency representative?	Yes	1.0
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Does the insolvency framework require approval by the creditors for sale of substantial assets of the debtor?	Yes	1.0
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Does the insolvency framework provide that a creditor has the right to request information from the insolvency representative?	No	0.0
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Does the insolvency framework provide that a creditor has the right to object to decisions accepting or rejecting creditors' claims?	Yes	1.0
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**Note:** Even if the economy's legal framework includes provisions related to insolvency proceedings (liquidation or reorganization), the economy receives 0 points for the strength of insolvency framework index, if time, cost and outcome indicators are recorded as "no practice".

## Labor Market Regulation

Doing Business presents the data for the labor market regulation indicators in an annex. The report does not present rankings of economies on these indicators or include the topic in the aggregate distance to frontier score or ranking on the ease of doing business. Detailed data collected on labor market regulation are available on the Doing Business website (<http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploretopics/labor-market-regulation>).

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

### What the indicators measure

#### Hiring

(i) whether fixed-term contracts are prohibited for permanent tasks; (ii) maximum cumulative duration of fixed-term contracts; (iii) length of the probationary period; (iv) minimum wage.

#### Working hours

(i) maximum number of working days allowed per week; (ii) premiums for work: at night, on a weekly rest day and overtime; (iii) whether there are restrictions on work at night, work on a weekly rest day and for overtime work; (iv) whether nonpregnant and nonnursing women can work same night hours as men; (v) length of paid annual leave.

#### Redundancy rules

(i) whether redundancy can be basis for terminating workers; (ii) whether employer needs to notify and/or get approval from third party to terminate 1 redundant worker and a group of 9 redundant workers; (iii) whether law requires employer to reassign or retrain a worker before making worker redundant; (iv) whether priority rules apply for redundancies and reemployment.

#### Redundancy cost

(i) notice period for redundancy dismissal; (ii) severance payments due when terminating a redundant worker.

#### Job quality

(i) whether law mandates equal remuneration for work of equal value and nondiscrimination based on gender in hiring; (ii) whether law mandates paid or unpaid maternity leave; (iii) length of paid maternity leave; (iv) whether employees on maternity leave receive 100% of wages; (v) availability of five fully paid days of sick leave a year; (vi) eligibility requirements for unemployment protection.

### Case study assumptions

To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions about the worker and the business are used.

#### The worker:

- Is a cashier in a supermarket or grocery store, age 19, with one year of work experience.
- Is a full-time employee.
- Is not a member of the labor union, unless membership is mandatory.

#### The business:

- Is a limited liability company (or the equivalent in the economy).
- Operates a supermarket or grocery store in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.
- Has 60 employees.
- Is subject to collective bargaining agreements if such agreements cover more than 50% of the food retail sector and they apply even to firms that are not party to them.
- Abides by every law and regulation but does not grant workers more benefits than those mandated by law, regulation or (if applicable) collective bargaining agreements.

**Details – Labor Market Regulation in Germany**

	Answer
<b>Hiring</b>	
Fixed-term contracts prohibited for permanent tasks?	No
Maximum length of a single fixed-term contract (months)	No limit
Maximum length of fixed-term contracts, including renewals (months)	No limit
Minimum wage applicable to the worker assumed in the case study (US\$/month)	1736.1
Ratio of minimum wage to value added per worker	0.3
Maximum length of probationary period (months)	6.0
<b>Working hours</b>	
Standard workday	8.0
Maximum number of working days per week	6.0
Premium for night work (% of hourly pay)	0.0
Premium for work on weekly rest day (% of hourly pay)	0.0
Premium for overtime work (% of hourly pay)	0.0
Restrictions on night work?	No
Whether nonpregnant and nonnursing women can work the same night hours as men	Yes
Restrictions on weekly holiday?	No
Restrictions on overtime work?	No
Paid annual leave for a worker with 1 year of tenure (working days)	24.0
Paid annual leave for a worker with 5 years of tenure (working days)	24.0
Paid annual leave for a worker with 10 years of tenure (working days)	24.0
Paid annual leave (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure, in working days)	24.0
<b>Redundancy rules</b>	
Dismissal due to redundancy allowed by law?	Yes
Third-party notification if one worker is dismissed?	Yes
Third-party approval if one worker is dismissed?	No
Third-party notification if nine workers are dismissed?	Yes
Third-party approval if nine workers are dismissed?	No

Retraining or reassignment obligation before redundancy?	Yes
Priority rules for redundancies?	Yes
Priority rules for reemployment?	No
<b>Redundancy cost</b>	
Notice period for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 1 year of tenure	4.0
Notice period for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 5 years of tenure	8.7
Notice period for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 10 years of tenure	17.3
Notice period for redundancy dismissal (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure)	10.0
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 1 year of tenure	2.2
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 5 years of tenure	10.8
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 10 years of tenure	21.7
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure)	11.6
<b>Job quality</b>	
Equal remuneration for work of equal value?	No
Gender nondiscrimination in hiring?	Yes
Paid or unpaid maternity leave mandated by law?	Yes
Minimum length of maternity leave (calendar days)?	98.0
Receive 100% of wages on maternity leave?	Yes
Five fully paid days of sick leave a year?	Yes
Unemployment protection after one year of employment?	Yes
Minimum contribution period for unemployment protection (months)?	12.0

## Business Reforms in Germany

In the year ending June 1, 2017, 119 economies implemented 264 total reforms across the different areas measured by Doing Business. 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 for Germany implemented since Doing Business 2008.

✓ = Doing Business reform making it easier to do business. ✗ = Change making it more difficult to do business.

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DB2016

✓ **Starting a Business:** Germany made starting a business easier by making the process more efficient and less costly.

**Labor Market Regulation:** Germany introduced a minimum wage of €8.50 an hour in accordance with the Act on Minimum Wages (Mindestlohngesetz), which took effect on January 1, 2015.

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DB2015

✗ **Starting a Business:** Germany made starting a business more difficult by increasing notary fees.

✗ **Registering Property:** Germany made it more expensive to register property by increasing the property transfer tax.

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DB2013

✓ **Paying Taxes:** Germany made paying taxes more convenient for companies by canceling ELENA procedures and implementing electronic filing and payment system for most taxes.

✓ **Resolving Insolvency:** Germany strengthened its insolvency process by adopting a new insolvency law that facilitates in-court restructurings of distressed companies and increases participation by creditors.

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DB2011

✓ **Starting a Business:** Germany eased business start-up by increasing the efficiency of communications between the notary and the commercial registry and eliminating the need to publish an announcement in a newspaper.

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DB2010

✓ **Starting a Business:** Germany made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement to a symbolic amount.

✓ **Resolving Insolvency:** Germany enhanced its insolvency process through the Act on the Implementation of Measures to Stabilize the Financial Market (Finanzmarktstabilisierungsgesetz), which removed the requirement for potentially viable companies to file for immediate insolvency in cases of overindebtedness.

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DB2009

✗ **Getting Credit:** Germany weakened its secured transactions framework by decreasing secured creditors' rights during reorganization procedures.

✓ **Paying Taxes:** Germany made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income and trade tax rates and by introducing straight-line depreciation for fixed assets and low-value asset write-offs below a certain threshold.

✓ **Resolving Insolvency:** Germany amended its insolvency code to allow the court to suspend enforcement actions against assets essential to the continuation of the debtor's business, making it easier to maintain the business as a going concern.

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DB2008

✓ **Starting a Business:** Germany made starting a business easier by implementing electronic registration and introducing online publication of the incorporation notice.

✗ **Registering Property:** Germany made transferring property more costly by increasing the transfer tax in Berlin.

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