

A World Bank Group Flagship Report

16TH EDITION

DOING BUSINESS 2019

Training for Reform

Economy Profile

Saudi Arabia



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

Economy Profile of Saudi Arabia

*Doing Business 2019 Indicators
(in order of appearance in the document)*

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

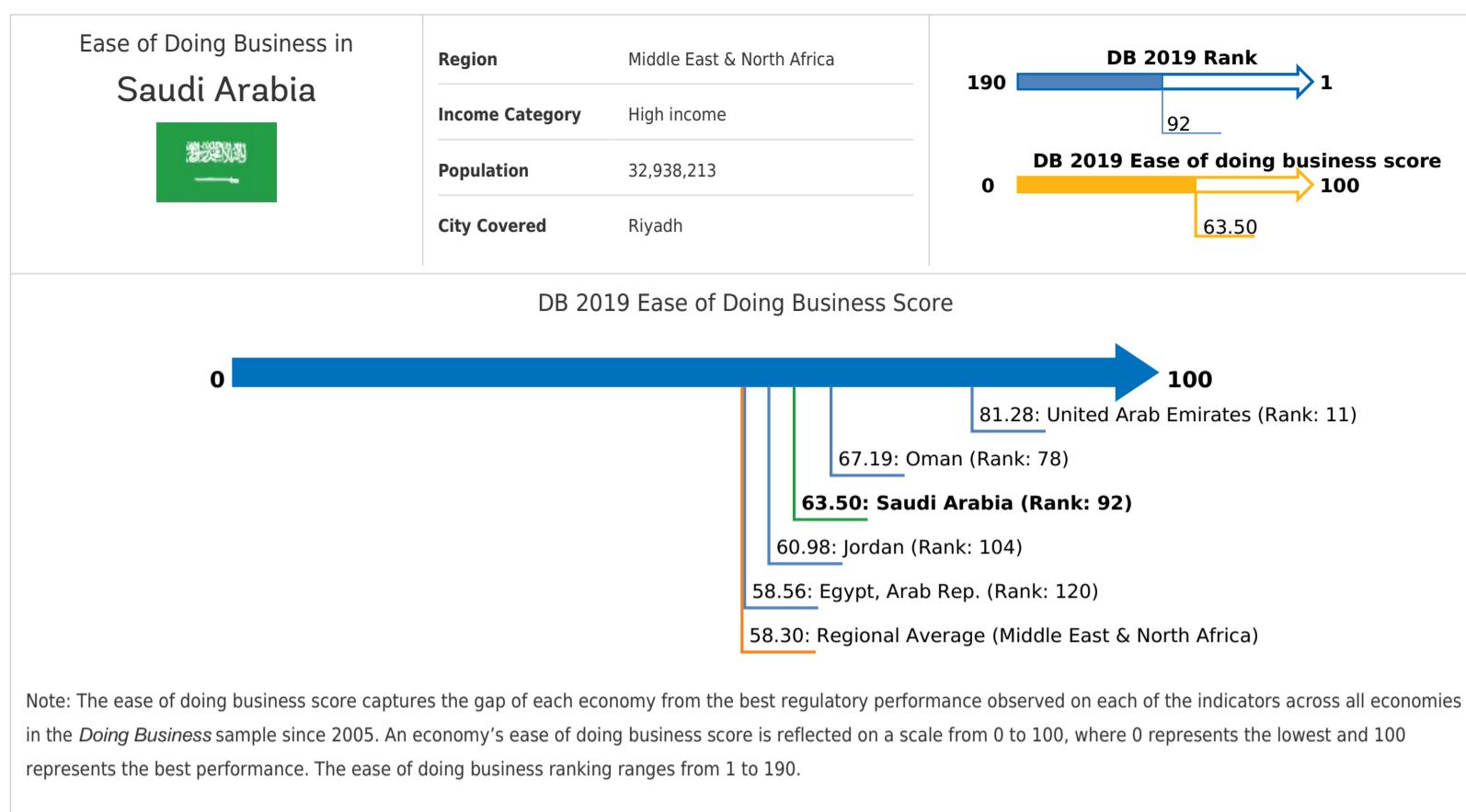
Doing Business captures several important dimensions of the regulatory environment as it applies to local firms. It provides quantitative indicators on regulation for starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority 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 ease of doing business score or ranking on the ease of doing business, it does present the data for these indicators.

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

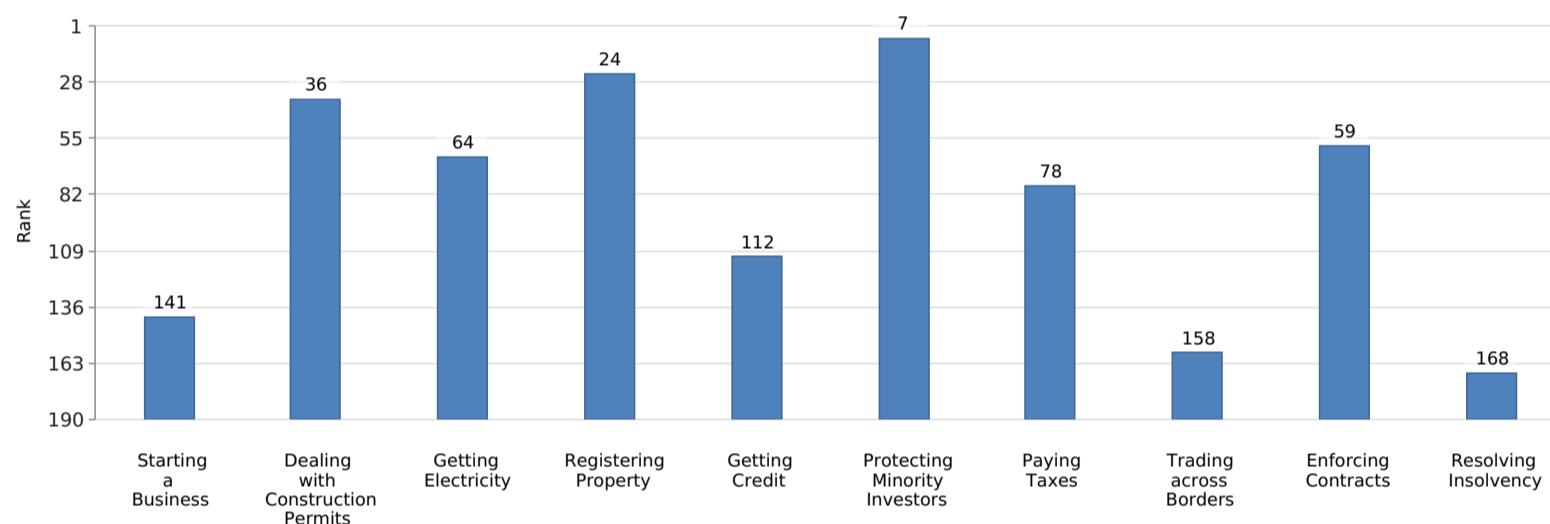
In addition, *Doing Business* offers detailed [subnational reports](#), which exhaustively cover business regulation and reform in different cities and regions within a nation. These reports provide data on the ease of doing business, rank each location, and recommend reforms to improve performance in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

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

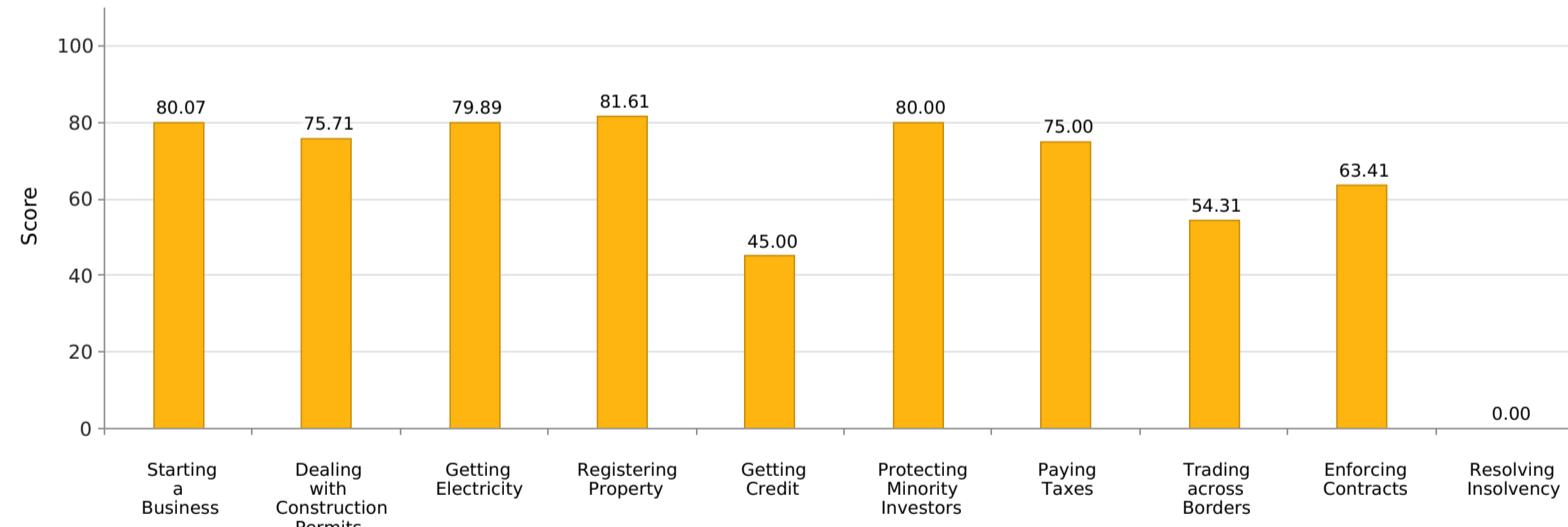
More about *Doing Business* ([PDF, 5MB](#))



Rankings on Doing Business topics - Saudi Arabia



Ease of Doing Business Score on Doing Business topics - Saudi Arabia



 Starting a Business

This topic measures the number of procedures, time, cost and paid-in minimum capital requirement for a small- to medium-sized limited liability company to start up and formally operate in each 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 the 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 ranking of economies on the ease of starting a business is determined by sorting their scores for starting a business. These scores are the simple average of the scores for each of the component indicators.

The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in May 2018. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure
Procedures to legally start and formally operate a company (number)

- Preregistration (for example, name verification or reservation, notarization)
- Registration in the economy's largest business city
- Postregistration (for example, social security registration, company seal)
- Obtaining approval from spouse to start a business or to leave the home to register the company
- Obtaining any gender specific document for company registration and operation or national identification 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. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.
- The entire office space is approximately 929 square meters (10,000 square feet).
- Is 100% domestically owned and has five owners, none of whom is a legal entity; 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 the 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 that is 10 pages long.

The owners:

- Have reached the legal age of majority. If there is no legal age of majority, they are assumed to be 30 years old.
- Are sane, competent, in good health and have no criminal record.
- Are married and the marriage is monogamous and registered with the authorities.
- Where the answer differs according to the legal system applicable to the woman or man in question (as may be the case in economies where there is legal plurality), the answer used will be the one that applies to the majority of the population.

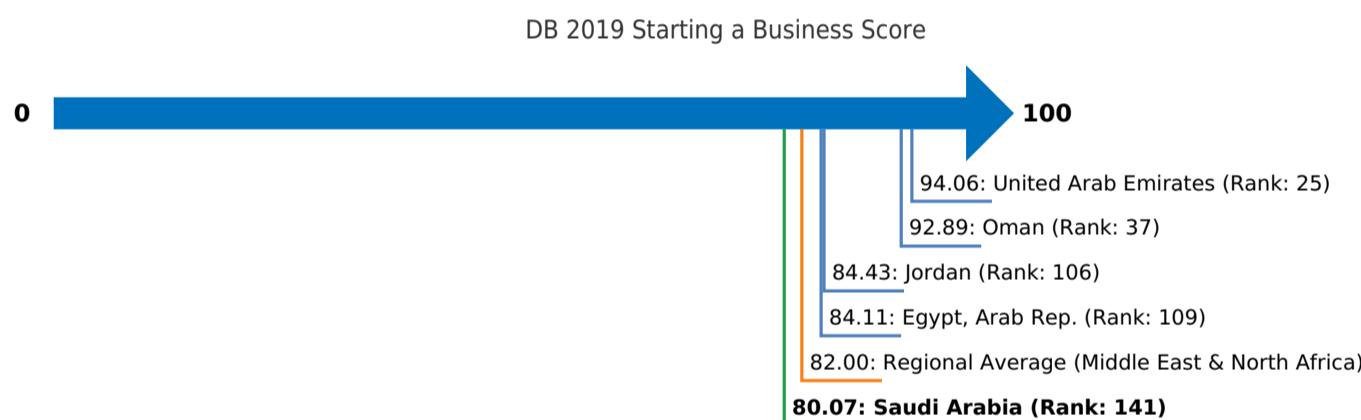
Starting a Business - Saudi Arabia

Standardized Company

Legal form	Limited Liability Company
Paid-in minimum capital requirement	SAR 0
City Covered	Riyadh

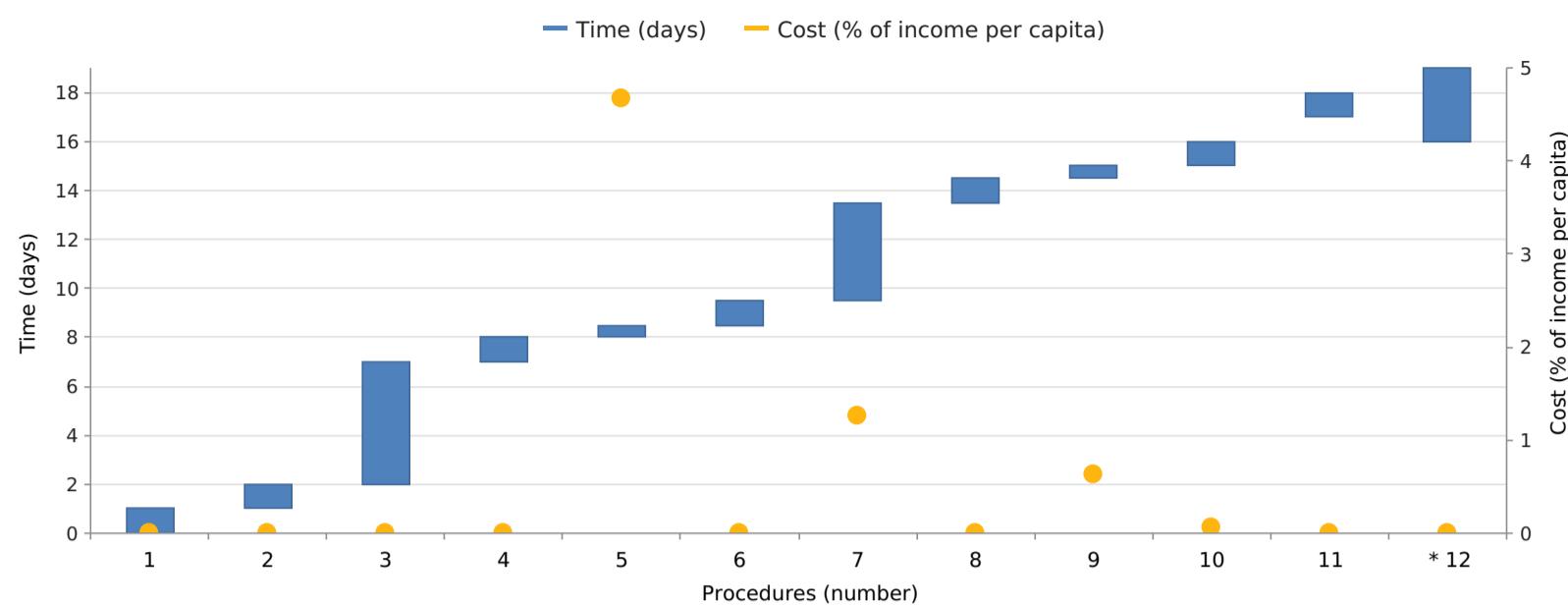
Indicator	Saudi Arabia	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedure - Men (number)	10	7.2	4.9	1 (New Zealand)
Time - Men (days)	17	20.5	9.3	0.5 (New Zealand)
Cost - Men (% of income per capita)	6.6	22.6	3.1	0.0 (Slovenia)
Procedure - Women (number)	12	7.9	4.9	1 (New Zealand)
Time - Women (days)	19	21.2	9.3	0.5 (New Zealand)
Cost - Women (% of income per capita)	6.6	22.6	3.1	0.0 (Slovenia)
Paid-in min. capital (% of income per capita)	0.0	8.1	8.6	0.0 (117 Economies)

Figure - Starting a Business in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

Figure - Starting a Business in Saudi Arabia - 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://doingbusiness.org/en/methodology>). For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary below.

Details - Starting a Business in Saudi Arabia - Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
♀ 1	APPLIES TO WOMEN ONLY: Obtain a stand alone ID card for a woman <i>Agency : Home</i> Procedures and forms to apply for a national identity card are different for men and women. When obtaining a stand alone ID, an adult Saudi woman has to be identified by her guardian (father or husband if married). If the guardian is not available, she can go with a muhram (a male relative that a woman cannot marry, such as an uncle), a Saudi female relative who holds an ID, two Saudi females (non-relatives) who hold IDs. Moreover, a Saudi woman applying for an ID must bring the family book of her husband. Married women do not have their own family book. This ID card is not just for opening a business but for any activity a woman might have to do. For example, going to university, staying alone at a hospital, etc.	1 day	no charge
♀ 2	APPLIES TO WOMEN ONLY: Obtain husband's permission to leave the house <i>Agency : Home</i> If a woman fails to obtain the permission/support of her husband in leaving the home (for example, for entrepreneurial ventures) it is possible that she may suffer consequences under the law; for example she may not be entitled to financial alimony.	1 day	no charge
3	Reserve the company name and submit Articles of Association <i>Agency : Unified Center (UC)/Companies Department</i> To initiate a company incorporation process, entrepreneurs or their third-party representatives (commonly lawyers) need to fill out the necessary forms with information about the company. Through the same platform entrepreneurs select a company name and submit Articles of Association. Within 5 days, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will complete the due diligence of all the submitted documents. Once the due diligence process is completed an entrepreneur receives an SMS stating that the Articles of Association are ready to be notarized. Also, at the end of the registration the newly formed entry is assigned a company number.	5 days on average	no charge
4	Notarize the Articles of Association with the Notary Public <i>Agency : First Notary Public</i> The notary public is located in the same building of the UC. After the articles of association are submitted online to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, it takes a few days for MOCI to review electronically submitted AOA and for the person to come on-site and get it stamped, as well as retrieve the letter of capital deposit from MOCI. The notary public reviews all the documents to make sure that they are complete. Currently, the notary public reviews up to 15 companies per day. The notary's office consists of about 5-6 employees.	1 day	no charge
5	Pay Company Registration Fees <i>Agency : Ministry of Commerce and Industry</i> The fees are only paid after a notary signs the Articles of Association and a notary clerk processes the information in the online system. Then, an entrepreneur or his representative receives an email and an SMS stating that the payment can now be made. Most entrepreneurs make payments through SADAD (https://www.sadad.com/). All fees are submitted at one.	Less than one day (online procedure)	SAR 1,200 for commercial registration + SAR 2,000 a fee to become member of Chamber of Commerce + SAR 500 e-magazine publication fee
6	Open a bank account <i>Agency : Bank</i> The entrepreneur open a company bank account at a bank of choice. After the certificate of registration is issued, the company founders go back to the bank to unblock their capital deposit and activate their bank account. It is required to open a bank account within 90 days starting from the issuance date of the commercial certificate of an LLC.	1 day	no charge
7	Obtain a Business Location License from the Municipality <i>Agency : Municipality of Riyadh</i> In order to obtain a business location license from the municipality an entrepreneur needs to go to the Municipality and present the lease, commercial registration certificate as well as a map indicating the exact location of the business. Then, the Municipality appoints an investigator who goes and inspects the property and confirms the precise location. Afterwards, the investigator submits the final report to the municipality and if everything is in order, the Municipality issues a license and assigns to it a 10-digit identification number.	4 days	SAR 1,000

8	Register with the Ministry of Labor <i>Agency :</i> Ministry of Labor In order to register with the Ministry of Labor, the company must submit its certificate of registration, articles of association, Chamber of Commerce attested signatories and the business location license. Registration with the Ministry of Labor is needed to register with the General Organization for Social Insurance. Registration can be made online or in person. If the entrepreneur chooses to register online, they must then submit the original documents in person as well.	1 day	no charge
9	Register with the Post Office "Wasel" <i>Agency :</i> Post Office Registering with the Post Office "Wasel" can be done in person, but a majority of entrepreneurs prefer to complete the registration online through the following webportal: https://balady.gov.sa . In order to complete the registration, an entrepreneur needs to create an account, log in with the already existing information, such as geographic location, address and zip code. Then, a payment is submitted through the same website. After which, a registration certificate is issued electronically. A company must register with the post office "Wasel" every year.	Less than one day (online procedure)	SAR 500
10	Make a company seal <i>Agency :</i> Seal maker The seal must include the Certificate of Registration number and the name of the company. It costs around SAR 40-50 to make. It is needed to attest signatories at the Chamber of Commerce, register with the General Organization for Social Insurance and for the companies' invoices. It is commonly used in practice. The seal is always used on the following documents: 1) Any contracts 2) Shareholder resolutions 3) Management resolutions 4) Official letters and notices 5) All Gvt agencies require documents to be put on official company letterheads and stamped.	1 day	SAR 50
11	Register with the General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI) <i>Agency :</i> General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI) To register for social security insurance, the employer must open a file with the General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI). This procedure can be done online as follows: The employer visits GOSI's website, completes an application and provides the company's Ministry of Labor number. The application must be stamped with a company seal. In addition, the location of the entity (business location license) and the designation of the authorized person to represent the company before GOSI must be included. The number that GOSI gives the employer is different from his/her Ministry of Labor number. The employer enters username and password and registers the employees with their IDs, wages, occupation, nationality, date of commencement and location.	1 day	no charge
12	Register with the Department of Zakat <i>Agency :</i> Zakat Zakat, a religious wealth tax, is assessed based on taxable income and certain assets. To register with DZIT, the employer will visit DZIT's website and complete an online application, attaching the Certificate of Registration and the details of the authorized person/signatory of the company. Then, the employer receives a unique ID number which is different from the Company ID number. The Certificate of Zakat will be issued and sent by mail and email within 2-3 days. This certificate is needed for the company to participate in tender offers and government contracts, among others.	3 days	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 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 May 2018. [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 income per capita)

- Official costs only, no bribes

Building quality control index (0-15)

- Quality of building regulations (0-2)
- Quality control before construction (0-1)
- Quality control during construction (0-3)
- Quality control after construction (0-3)
- Liability and insurance regimes (0-2)
- Professional certifications (0-4)

Case study assumptions

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

The construction company (BuildCo):

- Is a limited liability company (or its legal equivalent) and operates in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.
- Is 100% domestically and privately owned; has five owners, none of whom is a legal entity. Has a licensed architect and a licensed engineer, both registered with the local association of architects or engineers. BuildCo is not assumed to have any other employees who are technical or licensed experts, such as geological or topographical experts.
- Owns the land on which the warehouse will be built and will sell the warehouse upon its completion.

The warehouse:

- Will be used for general storage activities, such as storage of books or stationery.
- Will have two stories, both above ground, with a total constructed area of approximately 1,300.6 square meters (14,000 square feet). Each floor will be 3 meters (9 feet, 10 inches) high and will be located on a land plot of approximately 929 square meters (10,000 square feet) that is 100% owned by BuildCo, and the warehouse is valued at 50 times income per capita.
- Will have complete architectural and technical plans prepared by a licensed architect. If preparation of the plans requires such steps as obtaining further documentation or getting prior approvals from external agencies, these are counted as procedures.
- Will take 30 weeks to construct (excluding all delays due to administrative and regulatory requirements).

The water and sewerage connections:

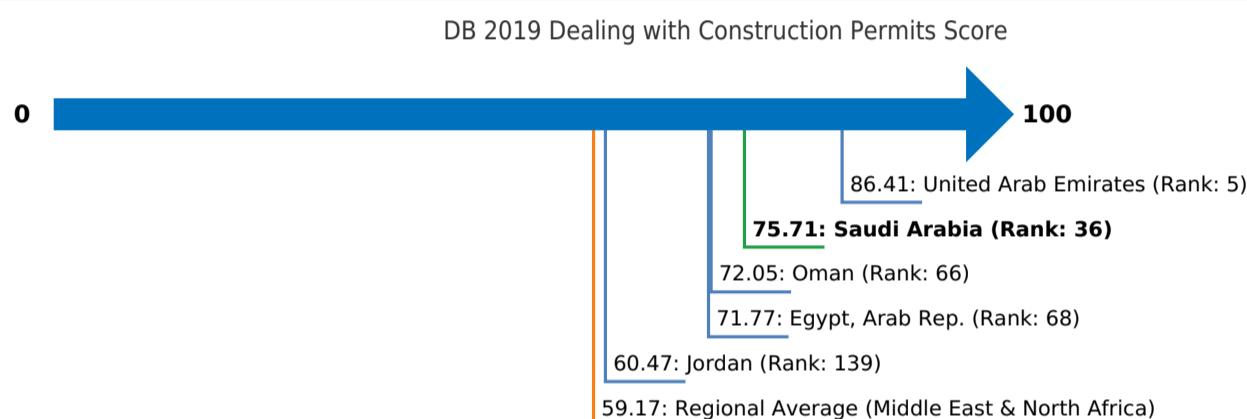
- Will be 150 meters (492 feet) from the existing water source and sewer tap. If there is no water delivery infrastructure in the economy, a borehole will be dug. If there is no sewerage infrastructure, a septic tank in the smallest size available will be installed or built.
- Will have an average water use of 662 liters (175 gallons) a day and an average wastewater flow of 568 liters (150 gallons) a day. Will have a peak water use of 1,325 liters (350 gallons) a day and a peak wastewater flow of 1,136 liters (300 gallons) a day.
- Will have a constant level of water demand and wastewater flow throughout the year; will be 1 inch in diameter for the water connection and 4 inches in diameter for the sewerage connection.

Dealing with Construction Permits - Saudi Arabia

Standardized Warehouse

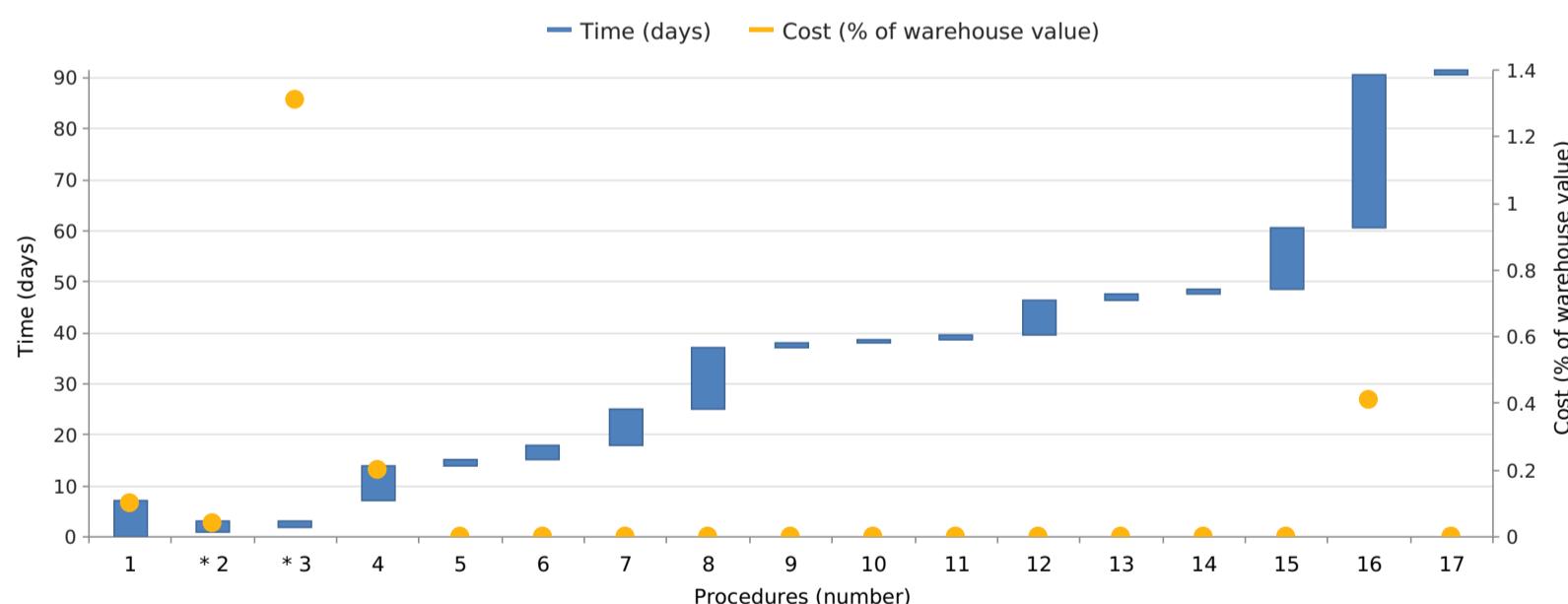
Estimated value of warehouse	SAR 3,959,340.30			
City Covered	Riyadh			
Indicator	Saudi Arabia	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedures (number)	17	16.6	12.7	None in 2017/18
Time (days)	91.5	137.4	153.1	None in 2017/18
Cost (% of warehouse value)	2.1	4.7	1.5	None in 2017/18
Building quality control index (0-15)	12.0	12.1	11.5	15.0 (3 Economies)

Figure - Dealing with Construction Permits in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

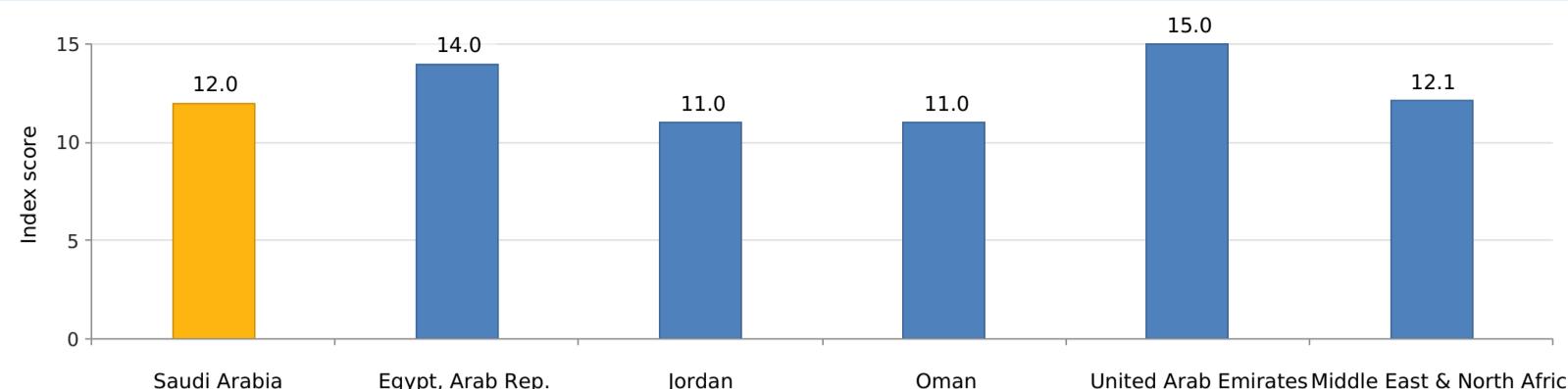
Figure - Dealing with Construction Permits in Saudi Arabia - Procedure, Time and Cost



*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://doingbusiness.org/en/methodology>). For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary below.

Figure - Dealing with Construction Permits in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Measure of Quality



Details - Dealing with Construction Permits in Saudi Arabia - Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	Obtain a geotechnical study / soil test <i>Agency : Private firms</i> BuildCo will request a soil test for the structural calculations for the foundation.	7 days	SAR 4,000
2	Obtain a topographical study of the land <i>Agency : Private firms</i>	2 days	SAR 1,500
3	Hire independent authorized engineer <i>Agency : Private Company</i> To apply for the building permit, BuildCo must hire an independent engineer for the drawings and supervise the building permit application. The building standards set forth in the surveyor's report are given to the engineering firm in order for the firm to begin drawing the building plans.	1 day	SAR 52,024
4	Apply for building approval and request inspection <i>Agency : Riyadh Municipality</i> BuildCo submits the application file with all the supporting documentation through the online portal located on the Riyadh Municipality website (http://eservices.alriyadh.gov.sa). Documents include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A cover page• Legal documentation from the owner of the land (in this case BuildCo), and the design engineer (in this case, an employee of BuildCo)• A copy of the applicant's identity card• Surveyor's report from the branch municipality• Draft of the building permit, which has been prepared in advance by BuildCo and contains full information including the instrument number, street name, the name of the neighborhood, rebounds and components of construction and the amount of construction drawings and number and the date of receipt of payment, and the general location of all data set forth in the license• Building plans drawn to a 50/1 scale with all the annexes• Two copies of the final plans on A3 paper for Municipal record and a CD containing the complete project information Incomplete files will not be accepted for further processing. Once all documents are submitted, the system will generate the permit fees, which can also be paid online through the Sadad Payment System. After this, BuildCo's engineer must be physically present to submit hard copies of all the plans and sign a sworn affidavit of responsibility before picking up the temporary permit.	7 days	SAR 7,804
5	Receive inspection from Riyadh Municipality <i>Agency : Riyadh Municipality</i> The Municipality review the deed and physically inspects the premise to ensure that it matches the drawings. The customer must be physically present at the inspection.	1 day	no charge
6	Obtain surveyor's report from Riyadh Municipality outlining the building standards <i>Agency : Riyadh Municipality</i> After the inspection, the Municipality issues a set of building standards (in a "surveyor's report") that need to be adhered to. BuildCo must obtain a surveyor's report from the Municipality prior to requesting the building permit. The report outlines whether the intended project can be built on the particular location. It also indicates the boundaries, leveling and area of the land. This report is needed for the consultant to prepare the drawings.	3 days	no charge

7	Apply for a civil defense approval from the Department of Civil Defense	7 days	no charge
	<p><i>Agency :</i> Civil Defense</p> <p>Municipality will only issue a building permit after obtaining the approval document from the Civil Defense Department. The document should be presented in paper and in original. The Civil Defense needs to confirm that the design is done in compliance with all the safety standards. If everything is in compliance with the existing standards, the department of Civil Defense issues a non-objection certificate. The initial application can be submitted online but an in-person visit is necessary to present all the original documents and to pick-up the actual approval. The building firm needs to submit fire and safety drawings as well as hydraulic calculations.</p>		
8	Obtain building permit	12 days	no charge
	<p><i>Agency :</i> Riyadh Municipality</p> <p>BuildCo will obtain the building permit after filling out and attaching all the required documentation through the Municipality's website: http://eservices.alriyadh.gov.sa</p> <p>However, original drawings and copies of all the documents (originals as well) need to be presented in person. Examples of documents include land deed, land surveys, owners' identity cards. During the in-person visit municipal clerks scan in all the documents for archiving purposes. Once all the documents are presented, the Municipality initiates the review process. The review process for small scale projects lasts 2-3 days. For big buildings, such as sky scrapers, the review process is at least one week.</p>		
9	Receive inspection during construction	1 day	no charge
	<p><i>Agency :</i> Riyadh Municipality</p> <p>The customer notifies the Branch Municipality in person that construction has begun and the site is ready for inspection. Once the site has been inspected, the Municipality will proceed with random inspections. However, the Municipality will likely only inspect once since the supervising engineer is responsible for supervising the construction throughout the project.</p>		
10	Request certificate of completion from the Riyadh Municipality	0.5 days	no charge
	<p><i>Agency :</i> Riyadh Municipality</p> <p>The customer notifies the Branch Municipality electronically that construction has been completed and the site is ready for inspection. Upon completion, the branch municipality inspects the site to ensure that all work has been performed as stated in the building permit.</p> <p>As of February 2017, once the certificate of completion is issued, this information is automatically sent to Sewage, Water, Power and Civil Defense.</p>		
11	Receive final inspection to issue certificate of completion	1 day	no charge
	<p><i>Agency :</i> Riyadh Municipality</p> <p>Municipality appoints an inspector and this inspector comes to check that all the set backs are in order. Inspectors also check the height of all floors and all the other standard building parameters. Everything has to be built in accordance with previously submitted plans. Inspectors also take multiple pictures of the constructed object for reporting and filing purposes.</p> <p>The final inspection report can be obtained electronically through the Municipality's website.</p>		
12	Obtain certificate of completion from the Riyadh Municipality	7 days	no charge
	<p><i>Agency :</i> Riyadh Municipality</p>		
13	Request letter of approval from Civil Defense	1 day	no charge
	<p><i>Agency :</i> Civil Defense</p> <p>BuildCo must visit the Civil Defense agency in person to request the letter of approval. The Civil Defense must then visit the site to approve that the warehouse is safe for commercial use.</p>		
14	Receive final inspection by Civil Defense	1 day	no charge
	<p><i>Agency :</i> Civil Defense</p>		
15	Obtain letter of approval from Civil Defense	12 days	no charge
	<p><i>Agency :</i> Civil Defense</p> <p>If the completed building complies with all the fire safety regulations, the Civil Defense issues a letter of approval.</p>		
16	Obtain water and sewage connection	30 days	SAR 16,250
	<p><i>Agency :</i> National Water Company</p>		
17	Obtain occupancy certificate	1 day	no charge
	<p><i>Agency :</i> Riyadh Municipality</p> <p>The occupancy certificate needs to be collected in person from the Municipality.</p>		

→ Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

Details - Dealing with Construction Permits in Saudi Arabia - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
Building quality control index (0-15)		12.0
Quality of building regulations index (0-2)		2.0
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; Required preapprovals.	1.0
Quality control before construction index (0-1)		1.0
Which third-party entities are required by law to verify that the building plans are in compliance with existing building regulations? (0-1)	Licensed architect; Licensed engineer.	1.0
Quality control during construction index (0-3)		2.0
What types of inspections (if any) are required by law to be carried out during construction? (0-2)	Inspections by in-house engineer; Unscheduled inspections; 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
Quality control after construction index (0-3)		3.0
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 always occurs in practice.	1.0
Liability and insurance regimes index (0-2)		0.0
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)	No party is held liable under the law.	0.0
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
Professional certifications index (0-4)		4.0
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)	Minimum number of years of experience; University degree in architecture or engineering; Being a registered architect or engineer; Passing a certification exam.	2.0

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; Being a registered architect or engineer.

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 May 2018. [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 ease of doing business score nor the ranking on the ease of getting electricity.

Case study assumptions

To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions about the warehouse, the electricity connection and the monthly consumption 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 January of the current year are used for calculation of the price of electricity for the warehouse. Although January has 31 days, for calculation purposes only 30 days are used.

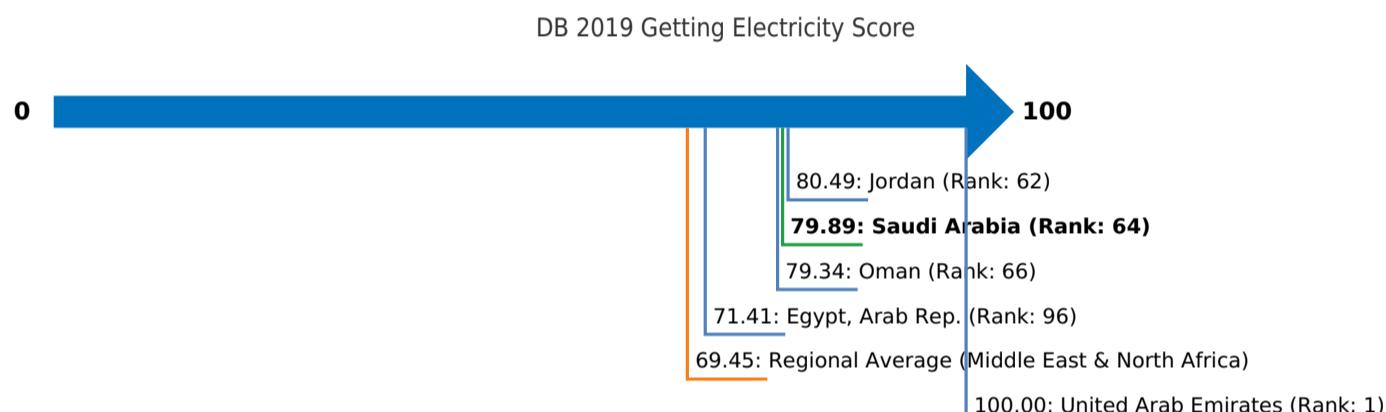
Getting Electricity - Saudi Arabia

Standardized Connection

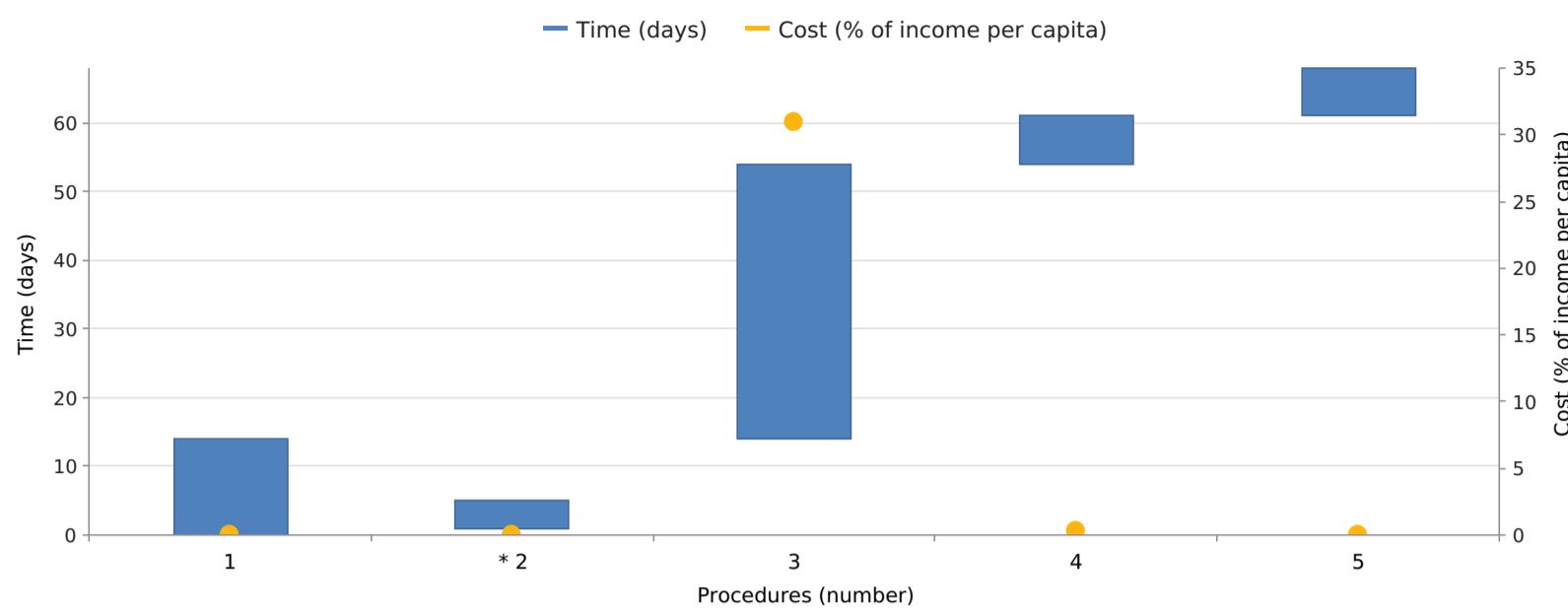
Price of electricity (US cents per kWh)	7.6
Name of utility	Saudi Electricity Company (SEC)
City Covered	Riyadh

Indicator	Saudi Arabia	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedures (number)	5	4.7	4.5	3 (25 Economies)
Time (days)	68	72.4	77.2	18 (3 Economies)
Cost (% of income per capita)	31.2	479.9	64.2	0.0 (3 Economies)
Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index (0-8)	6	4.2	7.5	8.0 (27 Economies)

Figure - Getting Electricity in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Ranking and Score

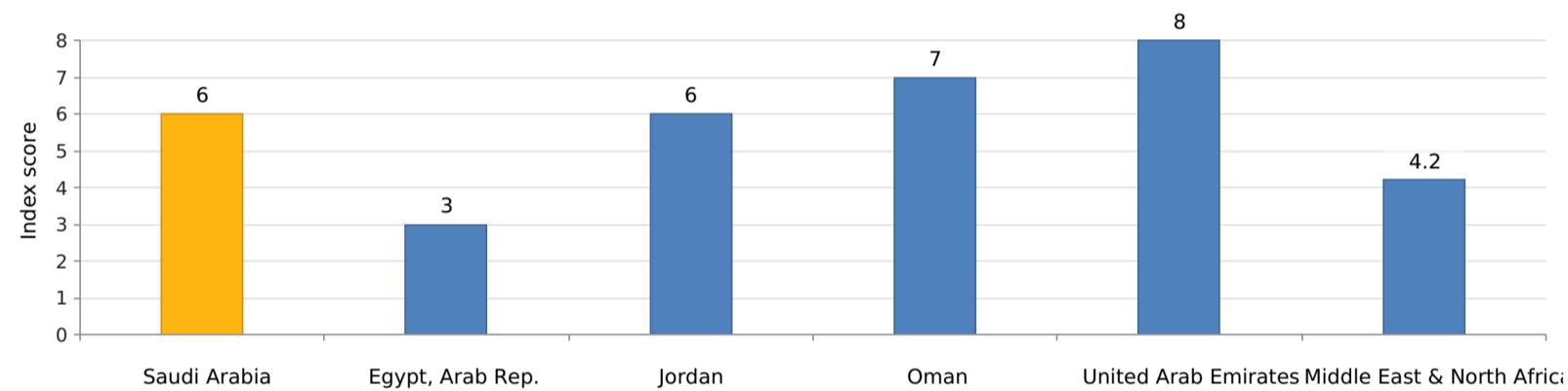


Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of getting electricity is determined by sorting their scores for getting electricity. These scores are the simple average of the scores for all the component indicators except the price of electricity.

Figure - Getting Electricity in Saudi Arabia - 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://doingbusiness.org/en/methodology>). For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary below.

Figure - Getting Electricity in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Measure of Quality

Details - Getting Electricity in Saudi Arabia - Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	Submit application to utility and await estimate <i>Agency :</i> Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) The online application system is now operational in Riyadh. The connection fees can also be paid online through the SADAD system. The documents required are commercial license, industrial license, and building permit. SEC receives subscribers' applications in principle after obtaining a building license and starting construction. The subscriber can file an application by phone, fax or online (SADAD system) where the SEC informs customer on the requirement. The locations specified for the stations and electric meters will be checked and confirmed by utility and then an estimate is delivered.	14 calendar days	SAR 0
‡ 2	Obtain external inspection by utility <i>Agency :</i> Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) The utility conducts a site inspection to determine the details of the connection and prepare an estimate of the connection fees. The inspection is generally scheduled within 1 week. There are 5 SEC offices in Riyadh. Each office is divided into 5 zones. The surveyor visits each zone 1-2 times per week. The utility will then prepare an estimate of the connection fees. SEC sends a text to the customer saying the file is ready for payment. The customer goes to the bank and pays the fees or he can pay online via the SADAT system. No inspection of the entire internal wiring, however, is carried out during the process. Upon the completion of the inspection, the customer receives an inspection report, which needs to be picked up in-person.	4 calendar days	SAR 0
3	Obtain external works from utility <i>Agency :</i> Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) The external works consist of laying out cables from the warehouse to the closest supply on the LV network. The material is all provided by the utility. If the building is located within grid coverage or at a distance less than 1,000 meters outside of coverage the client pays only the connection fees and does not pay for the actual works. Connection fees were increased, as part of a recent change in low-voltage standards from 127/220 V to 230/400 V. As such, a new "administrative decision" ruled that connection fees be changed in January 2012 from fixed per range of capacities to a fee per kVA specified by capacity range. The decision was issued by the Saudi Arabia Electricity and Cogeneration Regulatory Authority based on article (9) of the electricity regulations, as well as Ministerial decisions 169 and 324.	40 calendar days	SAR 24,500
4	Obtain meter installation from the utility <i>Agency :</i> Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) The client needs to submit a separate application for meter installation and final supply.	7 calendar days	SAR 230.15
5	Obtain Electricity Release Certificate <i>Agency :</i> Municipality The Municipality reviews the Certificate of Completion from the Department of Civil Defense (obtained during the Dealing with Construction Permit indicator). The Municipality also requires a document from SEC proving that the wiring and installation follows the electricity regulations (received in the Procedure 2 from Utility as a result of inspection) to issue the Certificate. The municipality authorizes the release of electricity, and the warehouse is energized.	7 calendar days	SAR 0

‡ Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

Details - Getting Electricity in Saudi Arabia - Measure of Quality

	Answer
Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index (0-8)	6
Total duration and frequency of outages per customer a year (0-3)	2
System average interruption duration index (SAIDI)	1.9
System average interruption frequency index (SAIFI)	1.4
What is the minimum outage time (in minutes) that the utility considers for the calculation of SAIDI/SAIFI	5.0
Mechanisms for monitoring outages (0-1)	1
Does the distribution utility use automated tools to monitor outages?	Yes
Mechanisms for restoring service (0-1)	1
Does the distribution utility use automated tools to restore service?	Yes
Regulatory monitoring (0-1)	1
Does a regulator—that is, an entity separate from the utility—monitor the utility's performance on reliability of supply?	Yes
Financial deterrents aimed at limiting outages (0-1)	1
Does the utility either pay compensation to customers or face fines by the regulator (or both) if outages exceed a certain cap?	Yes
Communication of tariffs and tariff changes (0-1)	0
Are effective tariffs available online?	Yes
Link to the website, if available online	https://www.se.com.sa/en-us/Customers/Pages/TariffRates.aspx
Are customers notified of a change in tariff ahead of the billing cycle?	No

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 May 2018. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure**Procedures to legally transfer title on immovable property (number)**

- Preregistration procedures (for example, checking for liens, notarizing sales agreement, paying property transfer taxes)
- Registration procedures in the economy's largest business city.
- Postregistration procedures (for example, filling title with municipality)

Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)

- Does not include time spent gathering information
- Each procedure starts on a separate day - though procedures that can be fully completed online are an exception to this rule
- Procedure is considered completed once final document is received
- No prior contact with officials

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

- Official costs only (such as administrative fees, duties and taxes).
- Value Added Tax, Capital Gains Tax and illicit payments are excluded

Quality of land administration index (0-30)

- Reliability of infrastructure index (0-8)
- Transparency of information index (0-6)
- Geographic coverage index (0-8)
- Land dispute resolution index (0-8)
- Equal access to property rights index (-2-0)

Case study assumptions

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

The parties (buyer and seller):

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

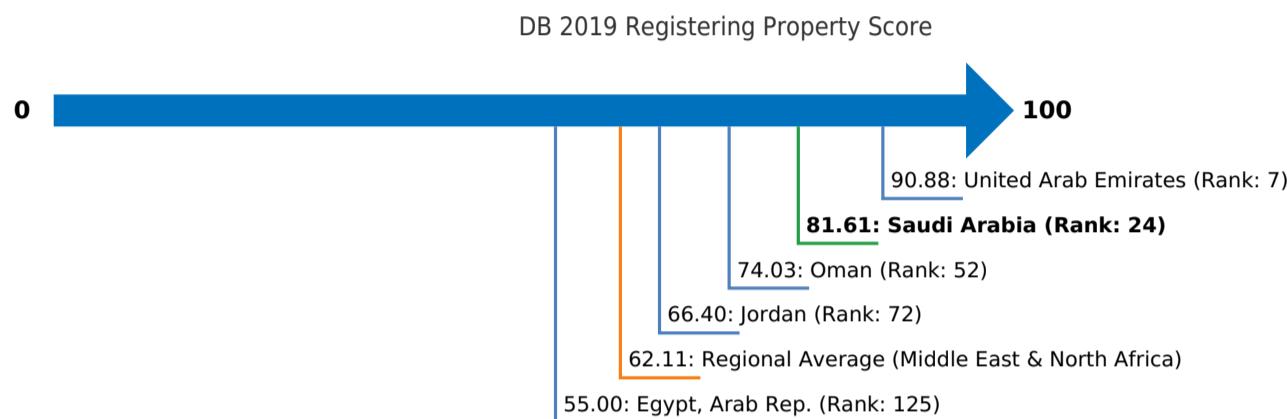
The property (fully owned by the seller):

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

Registering Property - Saudi Arabia

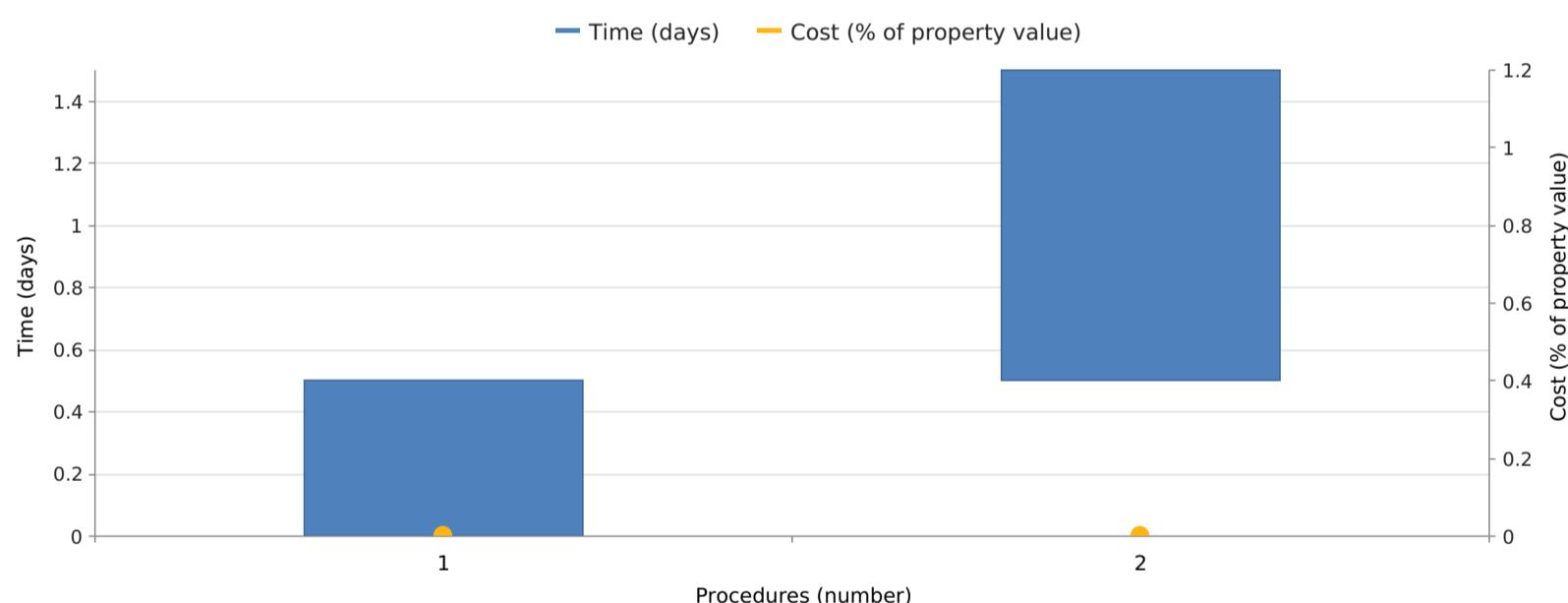
Indicator	Saudi Arabia	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedures (number)	2	5.6	4.7	1 (4 Economies)
Time (days)	1.5	29.7	20.1	1 (New Zealand)
Cost (% of property value)	0.0	5.7	4.2	0.0 (Saudi Arabia)
Quality of the land administration index (0-30)	10.5	14.2	23.0	None in 2017/18

Figure - Registering Property in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

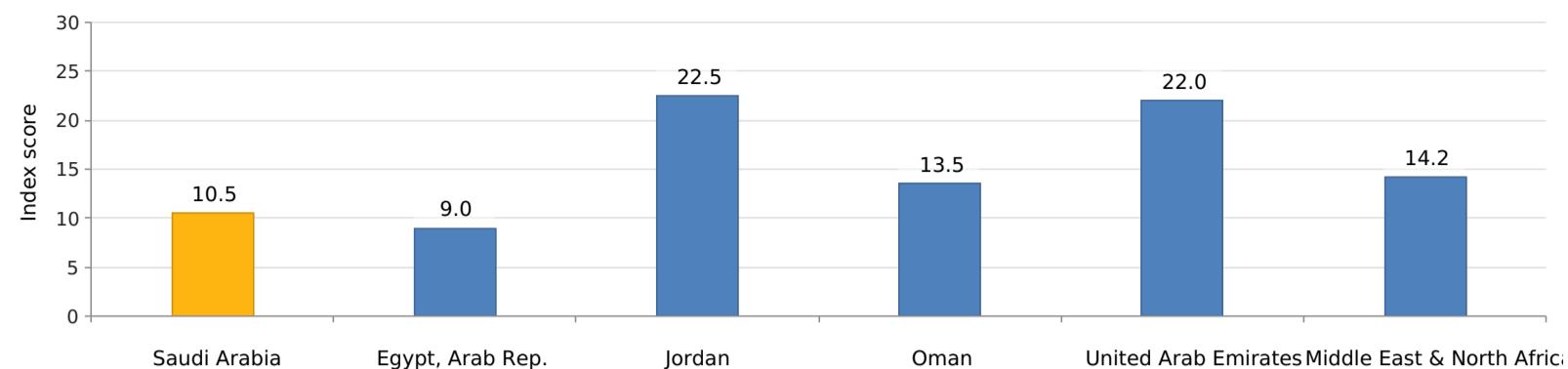
Figure - Registering Property in Saudi Arabia - Procedure, Time and Cost



*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://doingbusiness.org/en/methodology>). For details on the procedures reflected here, see the summary below.

Figure - Registering Property in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Measure of Quality



Details - Registering Property in Saudi Arabia - Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	The buyer conducts a title search on the property <i>Agency : First Notary Public Department</i> The procedure is conducted by the buyer to verify that (i) the details in the deed provided by the seller match those in the records of the agency; (ii) to get an official detailed description of the property and (iii) check if any encumbrances are registered on the property. In order to have access to the information, the buyer needs to be authorized by the seller. Since April 2017, it is possible to access all this information online through the website of the Ministry of Justice. The buyer would obtain a printout with the assigned deed number, which is validated electronically through an official digital stamp.	Less than one day, online	no charge
2	Notary drafts the deed and parties sign before the notary <i>Agency : First Notary Public Department</i> Customers first check in the front desk and are given a room number where the transfer will happen. The customer proceeds to the Notary's office (after having waited a bit in the assistant's room). Notary clerks will retrieve all the necessary documents and checks them. Then the clerk will input manually all the relevant information in the electronic Notary system which is linked with the Ministry of Justice's online portal. and approves the transaction and the change of name. Then the parties meet with the Notary to sign the deed. Both parties or their representatives need to be present for the transfer to take place. The check is handed to the Seller by the Buyer and a new deed is issued: One copy is given to the buyer, with the Notary's signature; the other one is archived with the parties' signatures.	1 day	no charge

⇒Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

Details - Registering Property in Saudi Arabia - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
Reliability of infrastructure index (0-8)		4.0
What is the institution in charge of immovable property registration?	First Notary Public Department	
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:	Municipality of Ryadh	
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/Scanned	1.0
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?	Separate databases	0.0
Do the immovable property registration agency and cadastral or mapping agency use the same identification number for properties?	No	0.0
Transparency of information index (0-6)		2.0
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, online	0.5
Link for online access:	https://www.moj.gov.sa/Documents/Regulations/pdf/70.pdf	
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:	https://www.moj.gov.sa/ar/SystemsAndRegulations/Pages/Regulations_RealEstate.aspx https://www.moj.gov.sa/ar/eServices/Pages/RealEstate.aspx	
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?	Yes	0.5

Number of property transfers in the largest business city in 2017:	Total of 217,144 property transactions in the 1439 Hijri year in Riyadh	
Who is able to consult maps of land plots in the largest business city?	Only intermediaries and interested parties	0.0
Is the applicable fee schedule for accessing maps of land plots made publicly available—and if so, how?	No cost	0.5
Link for online access:		
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?	Yes, in person	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:		
Geographic coverage index (0-8)	0.0	
Are all privately held land plots in the economy formally registered at the immovable property registry?	No	0.0
Are all privately held land plots in the largest business city formally registered at the immovable property registry?	No	0.0
Are all privately held land plots in the economy mapped?	No	0.0
Are all privately held land plots in the largest business city mapped?	No	0.0
Land dispute resolution index (0-8)	4.5	
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?	Registrar;	
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?	Registrar;	
Is there a national database to verify the accuracy of identity documents?	Yes	1.0
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?	General court	
How long does it take on average to obtain a decision from the first-instance court for such a case (without appeal)?	More than 3 years	0.0
Are there any statistics on the number of land disputes in the first instance?	Yes	0.5
Number of land disputes in the largest business city in 2017:	From October 2016 until July 2017 (year 1438 in Saudi Arabia) there were had 3.897 Real Estate disputes in Riyadh.	

Equal access to property rights index (-2-0)	0.0
Do unmarried men and unmarried women have equal ownership rights to property?	Yes
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 May 2018. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure

Strength of legal rights index (0-12)

- Rights of borrowers and lenders through collateral laws (0-10)
- Protection of secured creditors' rights through bankruptcy laws (0-2)

Depth of credit information index (0-8)

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

Credit bureau coverage (% of adults)

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

Credit registry coverage (% of adults)

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

Case study assumptions

Doing Business assesses the sharing of credit information and the legal rights of borrowers and lenders with respect to secured transactions through 2 sets of indicators. The depth of credit information index measures rules and practices affecting the coverage, scope and accessibility of credit information available through a credit registry or a credit bureau. The strength of legal rights index measures the degree to which collateral and bankruptcy laws protect the rights of borrowers and lenders and thus facilitate lending. For each economy it is first determined whether a unitary secured transactions system exists. Then two case scenarios, case A and case B, are used to determine how a nonpossessory security interest is created, publicized and enforced according to the law. Special emphasis is given to how the collateral registry operates (if registration of security interests is possible). The case scenarios involve a secured borrower, company ABC, and a secured lender, BizBank.

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

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

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

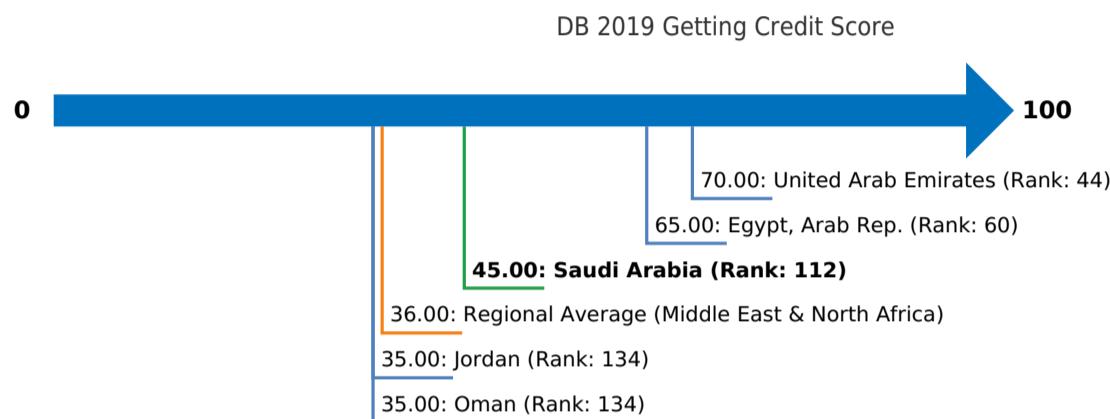
The case scenarios also involve assumptions. In case A, as collateral for the loan, ABC grants BizBank a nonpossessory security interest in one category of movable assets, for example, its machinery or its inventory. ABC wants to keep both possession and ownership of the collateral. In economies where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

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

Getting Credit - Saudi Arabia

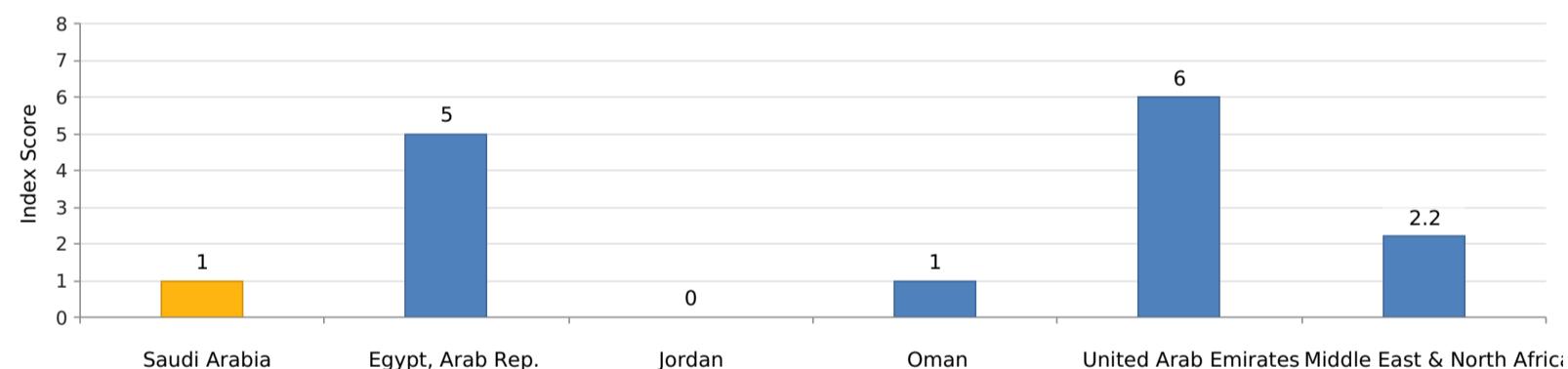
Indicator	Saudi Arabia	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Strength of legal rights index (0-12)	1	2.2	6.1	12 (5 Economies)
Depth of credit information index (0-8)	8	5.1	6.7	8 (42 Economies)
Credit registry coverage (% of adults)	0	14.7	21.8	100.0 (4 Economies)
Credit bureau coverage (% of adults)	63.2	15.5	65.3	100.0 (25 Economies)

Figure - Getting Credit in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

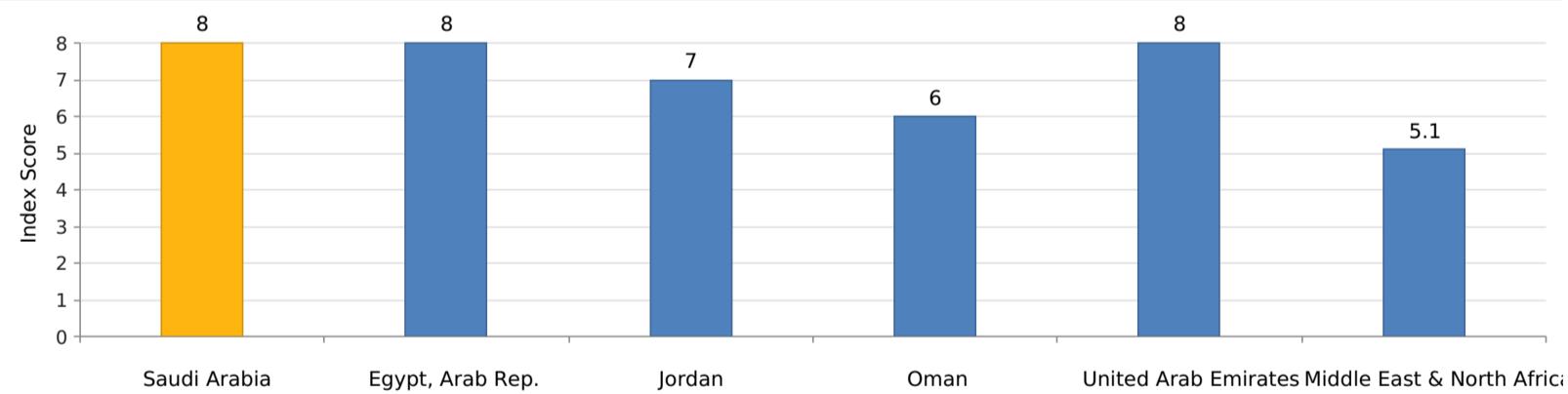
Figure - Legal Rights in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies



Details - Legal Rights in Saudi Arabia

Strength of legal rights index (0-12)	1
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?	No
Does the law allow businesses to grant a non possessory security right in substantially all of its assets, without requiring a specific description of collateral?	No
May a security right extend to future or after-acquired assets, and does it extend automatically to the products, proceeds and replacements of the original assets?	No
Is a general description of debts and obligations permitted in collateral agreements; can all types of debts and obligations be secured between parties; and can the collateral agreement include a maximum amount for which the assets are encumbered?	No
Is a collateral registry in operation 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?	No
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 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?	No

Figure - Credit Information in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies



Details - Credit Information in Saudi Arabia

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
Total Score ("yes" to either public bureau or private registry)			8

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	14,735,443	0
Number of firms	160,121	0
Total	14,895,564	0
Percentage of adult population	63.2	0

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 May 2018. [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 there are fewer than ten listed companies 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 in economies with a two-tier board system on which Mr. James appointed 60% of the shareholder-elected members.
- Has not adopted bylaws or articles of association that go beyond the minimum requirements. Does not follow codes, principles, recommendations or guidelines that are not mandatory.
- Is a manufacturing company with its own distribution network.

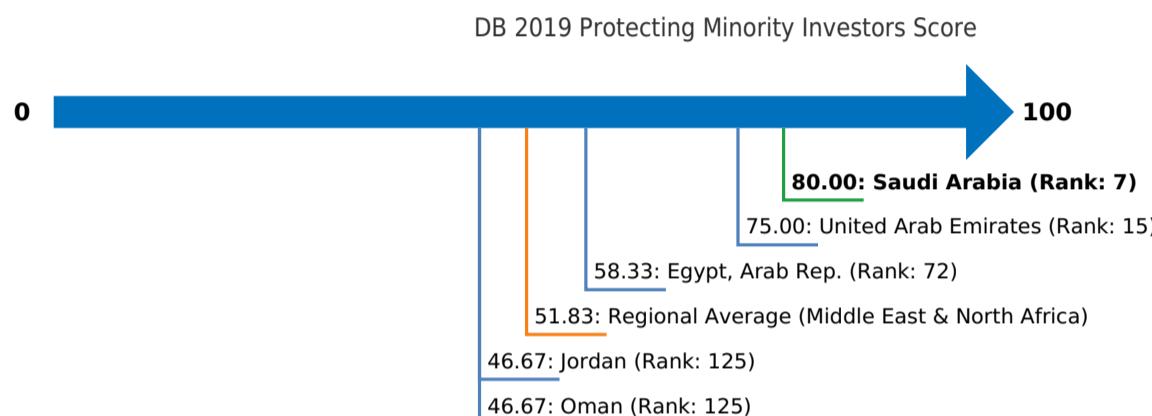
The transaction involves the following details:

- Mr. James owns 60% of Buyer, sits on Buyer's board of directors 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 principal activity 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 was not entered into fraudulently.
- The transaction causes damages to Buyer. Shareholders sue Mr. James and the executives and directors that approved the transaction.

Protecting Minority Investors - Saudi Arabia

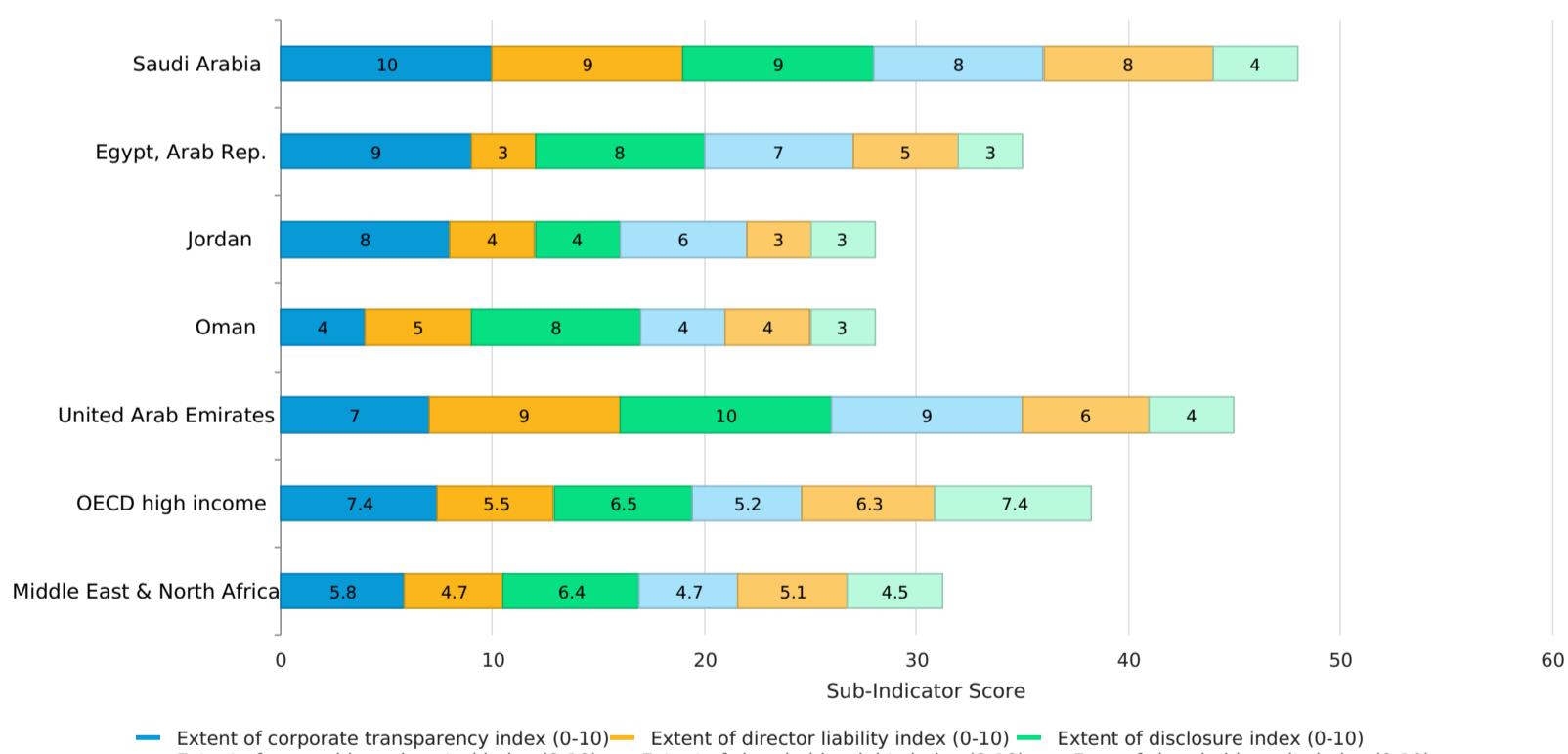
Indicator	Saudi Arabia	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Extent of disclosure index (0-10)	9.0	6.4	6.5	10 (13 Economies)
Extent of director liability index (0-10)	9.0	4.7	5.3	10 (Cambodia)
Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)	4.0	4.5	7.3	10 (Djibouti)
Extent of shareholder rights index (0-10)	8.0	5.1	6.4	10 (Kazakhstan)
Extent of ownership and control index (0-10)	8.0	4.7	5.4	None in 2017/18
Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)	10.0	5.8	7.6	10 (6 Economies)

Figure - Protecting Minority Investors in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

Figure - Protecting Minority Investors in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Measure of Quality



Details - Protecting Minority Investors in Saudi Arabia - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
Extent of conflict of interest regulation index (0-10)		7.3
Extent of disclosure index (0-10)		9.0
Whose decision is sufficient to approve the Buyer-Seller transaction? (0-3)	Shareholders excluding interested parties	3.0
Must an external body review the terms of the transaction before it takes place? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Must Mr. James disclose his conflict of interest to the board of directors? (0-2)	Full disclosure of all material facts	2.0
Must Buyer disclose the transaction in periodic filings (e.g. annual reports)? (0-2)	Disclosure on the transaction and on the conflict of interest	2.0
Must Buyer immediately disclose the transaction to the public? (0-2)	Disclosure on the transaction only	1.0
Extent of director liability index (0-10)		9.0
Can shareholders representing 10% of Buyer's share capital sue for the damage the transaction caused to Buyer? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Can shareholders hold Mr. James liable for the damage the transaction caused to Buyer? (0-2)	Liable if unfair or prejudicial	2.0
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)	Yes	1.0
Is Mr. James disqualified 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)	Voidable if unfair or prejudicial	2.0
Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)		4.0
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)	No	0.0
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)	Preapproved questions only	1.0
Is the level of proof required for civil suits lower than that of criminal cases? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Can shareholder plaintiffs recover their legal expenses from the company? (0-2)	Yes if successful	1.0
Extent of shareholder governance index (0-10)		8.7
Extent of shareholder rights index (0-10)		8.0
Does the sale of 51% of Buyer's assets require shareholder approval?	Yes	1.0
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?	No	0.0

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?	Yes	1.0
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 or almost 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
Extent of ownership and control index (0-10)		8.0
Is it forbidden to appoint the same individual as CEO and chairperson 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?	Yes	1.0
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?	Yes	1.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum period set by law?	Yes	1.0
Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)		10.0
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?	Yes	1.0
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?	Yes	1.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the meeting agenda?	Yes	1.0
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 the administrative burden of paying taxes and contributions and complying with postfiling procedures (VAT refund and tax audit). The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in May 2018 covering for the Paying Taxes indicator calendar year 2017 (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017). [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure

Tax payments for a manufacturing company in 2017 (number per year adjusted for electronic and joint filing and payment)

- Total number of taxes and contributions paid or withheld, 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
- Preparing separate tax accounting books, if required
- Completing tax return, filing with agencies
- Arranging payment or withholding

Total tax and contribution rate (% of commercial profits)

- 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 (hours)
- Time to obtain a VAT refund (weeks)
- Time to comply with a corporate income tax correction (hours)
- Time to complete a corporate income tax correction (weeks)

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, 2016. It produces ceramic flowerpots and sells them at retail. All taxes and contributions recorded are paid in the second year of operation (calendar year 2017). Taxes and mandatory contributions are measured at all levels of government.

The VAT refund process:

- In June 2017, 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 2017.

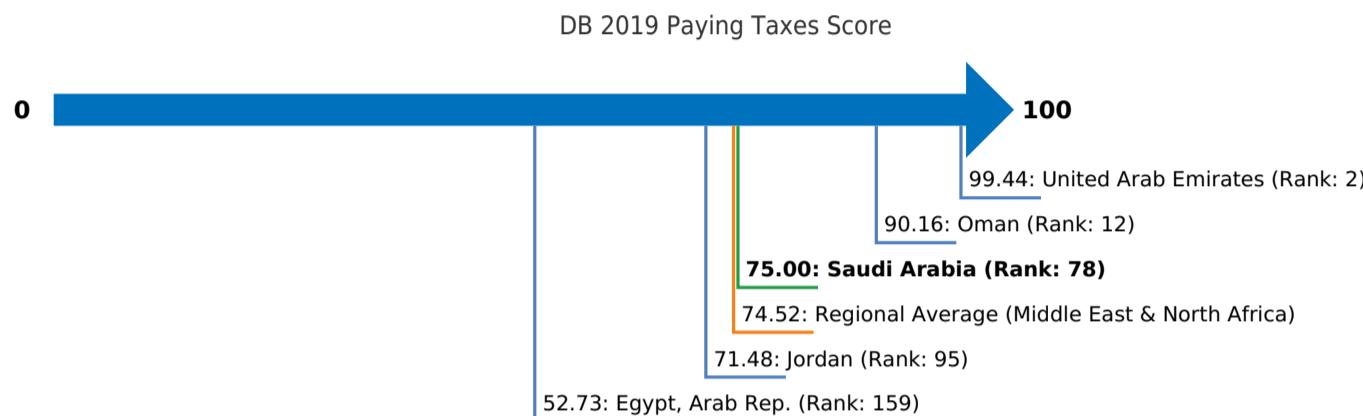
The corporate income tax audit process:

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

Paying Taxes - Saudi Arabia

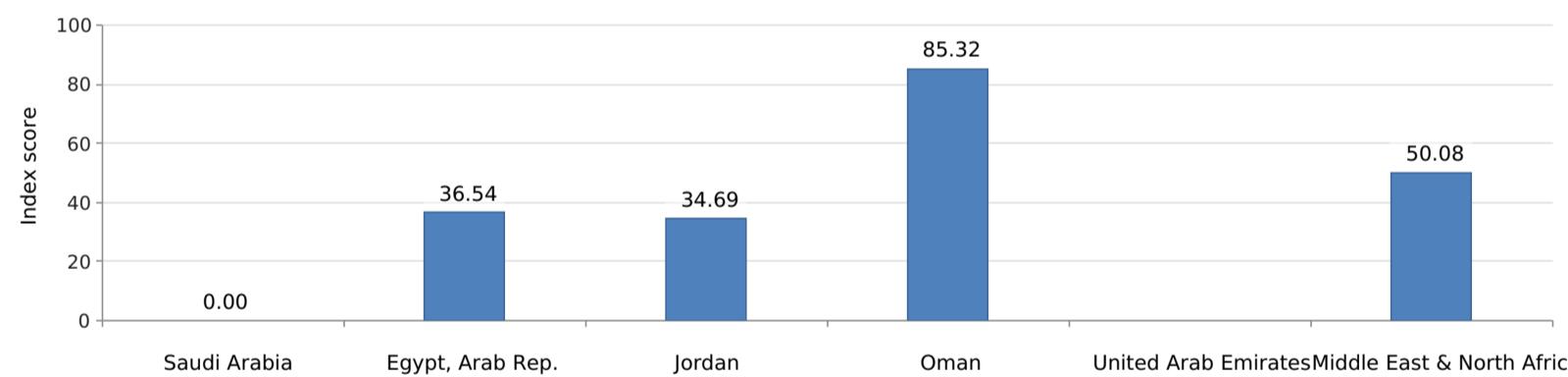
Indicator	Saudi Arabia	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Payments (number per year)	3	17.7	11.2	3 (Hong Kong SAR, China)
Time (hours per year)	39	196.7	159.4	49 (Singapore)
Total tax and contribution rate (% of profit)	15.7	32.7	39.8	26.1% (32 Economies)
Postfiling index (0-100)	0.00	50.08	84.41	None in 2017/18

Figure - Paying Taxes in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of paying taxes is determined by sorting their scores for paying taxes. These scores are the simple average of the scores for each of the component indicators, with a threshold and a nonlinear transformation applied to one of the component indicators, the total tax and contribution rate. The threshold is defined as the total tax and contribution 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 and contribution rate below this threshold receive the same score as the economy at the threshold.

Figure - Paying Taxes in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Measure of Quality



Details - Paying Taxes in Saudi Arabia

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 TTCR
Employer paid - Labor contributions	1.0	online	16.0	12%	gross salaries	13.54	
Zakat	1.0	online	23.0	2.5%	Higher of zakat base or taxable income	2.18	
Employee paid - Social security contributions	0.0	online and jointly		10%	gross salaries	0.00	withheld
Vehicle fee	1.0					0.00	small amount
Totals	3		39			15.7	

Details - Paying Taxes in Saudi Arabia - Tax by Type

Taxes by type	Answer
Profit tax (% of profit)	2.2
Labor tax and contributions (% of profit)	13.5
Other taxes (% of profit)	0

Details - Paying Taxes in Saudi Arabia - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
Postfiling index (0-100)		0.00
VAT refunds		
Does VAT exist?	No	
Does a VAT refund process exist per the case study?	N/A	
Restrictions on VAT refund process	N/A	
Percentage of cases exposed to a VAT audit (%)	Not applicable	
Is there a mandatory carry forward period?	No	
Time to comply with VAT refund (hours)	No VAT	No VAT
Time to obtain a VAT refund (weeks)	No VAT	No VAT
Corporate income tax audits		
Does corporate income tax exist?	Yes	
Percentage of cases exposed to a corporate income tax audit (%)	25% - 49%	
Time to comply with a corporate income tax correction (hours)	70.0	0
Time to complete a corporate income tax correction (weeks)	33.6	0

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 correction and time to complete a corporate income tax correction.

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 May 2018. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure

Documentary compliance

- Obtaining, preparing and submitting documents during transport, clearance, inspections and port or border handling in origin economy
- Obtaining, preparing and submitting documents required by destination economy and any transit economies
- Covers all documents required by law and in practice, including electronic submissions of information

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.

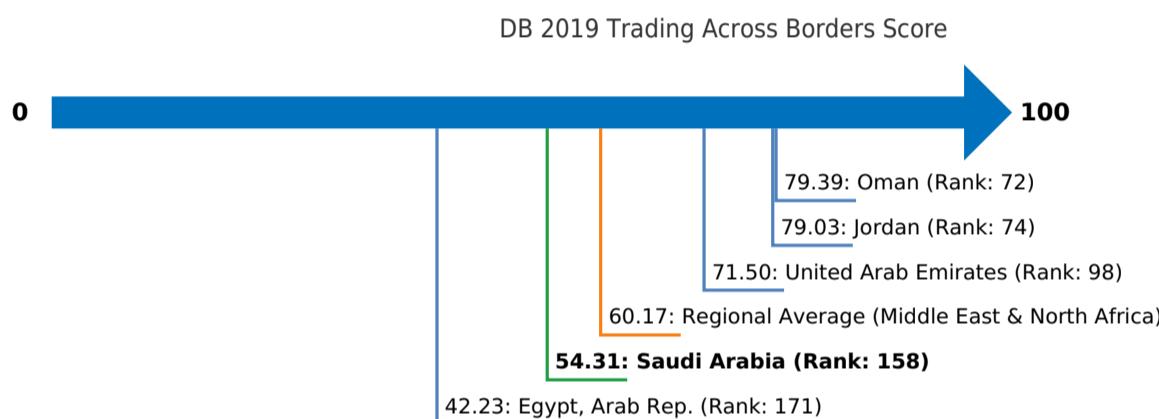
Assumptions of the case study:

- 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 or land border crossing) where merchandise can enter or leave an economy.
- Relevant government agencies include customs, port authorities, road police, border guards, standardization agencies, ministries or departments of agriculture or industry, national security agencies and any other government authorities.

Trading across Borders - Saudi Arabia

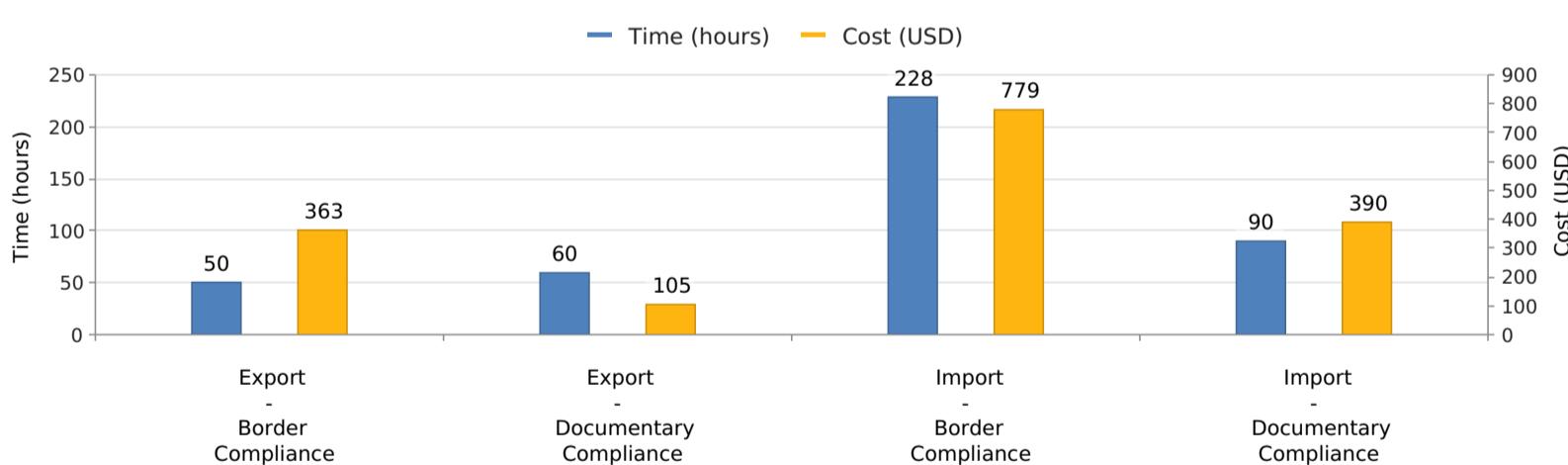
Indicator	Saudi Arabia	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Time to export: Border compliance (hours)	50	58.0	12.5	1 (19 Economies)
Cost to export: Border compliance (USD)	363	442.4	139.1	0 (19 Economies)
Time to export: Documentary compliance (hours)	60	67.9	2.4	1 (26 Economies)
Cost to export: Documentary compliance (USD)	105	244.6	35.2	0 (20 Economies)
Time to import: Border compliance (hours)	228	105.4	8.5	0 (25 Economies)
Cost to import: Border compliance (USD)	779	536.0	100.2	0 (28 Economies)
Time to import: Documentary compliance (hours)	90	75.5	3.4	1 (30 Economies)
Cost to import: Documentary compliance (USD)	390	269.0	24.9	0 (30 Economies)

Figure - Trading across Borders in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of trading across borders is determined by sorting their scores for trading across borders. These scores are the simple average of the scores for the time and cost for documentary compliance and border compliance to export and import.

Figure - Trading across Borders in Saudi Arabia - Time and Cost



Details - Trading across Borders in Saudi Arabia

Characteristics	Export	Import
Product	HS 39 : Plastics and articles thereof	HS 8708: Parts and accessories of motor vehicles
Trade partner	China	Japan
Border	Jeddah port	Jeddah port
Distance (km)	995	995
Domestic transport time (hours)	17	14
Domestic transport cost (USD)	1408	1692

Details - Trading across Borders in Saudi Arabia - Components of Border Compliance

	Time to Complete (hours)	Associated Costs (USD)
Export: Clearance and inspections required by customs authorities	24.0	150.0
Export: Clearance and inspections required by agencies other than customs	0.0	0.0
Export: Port or border handling	50.0	213.0
Import: Clearance and inspections required by customs authorities	36.0	240.4
Import: Clearance and inspections required by agencies other than customs	98.8	200.0
Import: Port or border handling	129.2	338.5

Details - Trading across Borders in Saudi Arabia - Trade Documents

Export	Import
Bill of lading	Bill of lading
Certificate of origin	Certificate of origin
Commercial invoice	Commercial invoice
Customs declaration	Customs declaration
Packing list	Packing list
SOLAS certificate	Trade license
	Certificate of conformity
	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 May 2018. [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 alleging that the goods are not of adequate quality.
- 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 the pretrial attachment of the defendant's movable assets to secure the claim.
- The dispute on the quality of the goods requires an expert opinion.
- The judge decides in favor of the seller; there is no appeal.
- The seller enforces the judgment through a public sale of the buyer's movable assets.

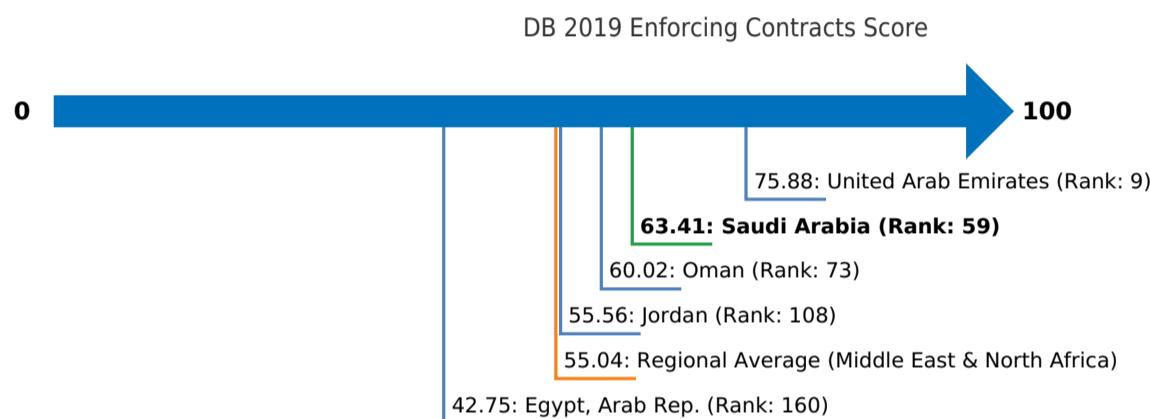
Enforcing Contracts - Saudi Arabia

Standardized Case

Claim value	SAR 153,864
Court name	Riyadh Commercial Court
City Covered	Riyadh

Indicator	Saudi Arabia	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Time (days)	575	622.0	582.4	None in 2017/18
Cost (% of claim value)	27.5	24.7	21.2	None in 2017/18
Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)	10.5	6.1	11.5	None in 2017/18

Figure - Enforcing Contracts in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

Figure - Enforcing Contracts in Saudi Arabia - Time and Cost

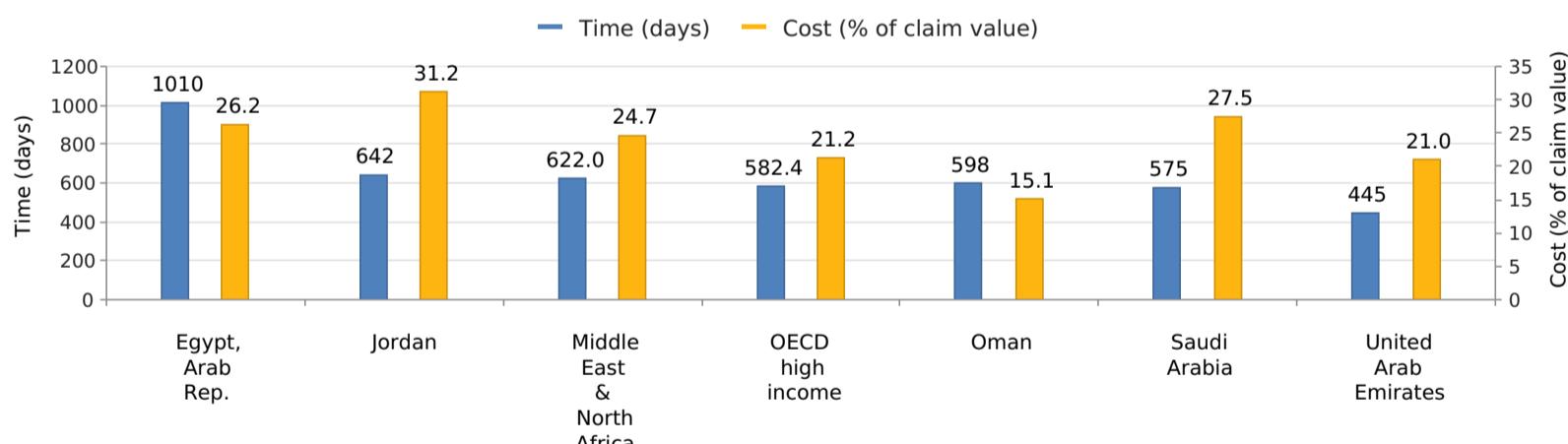
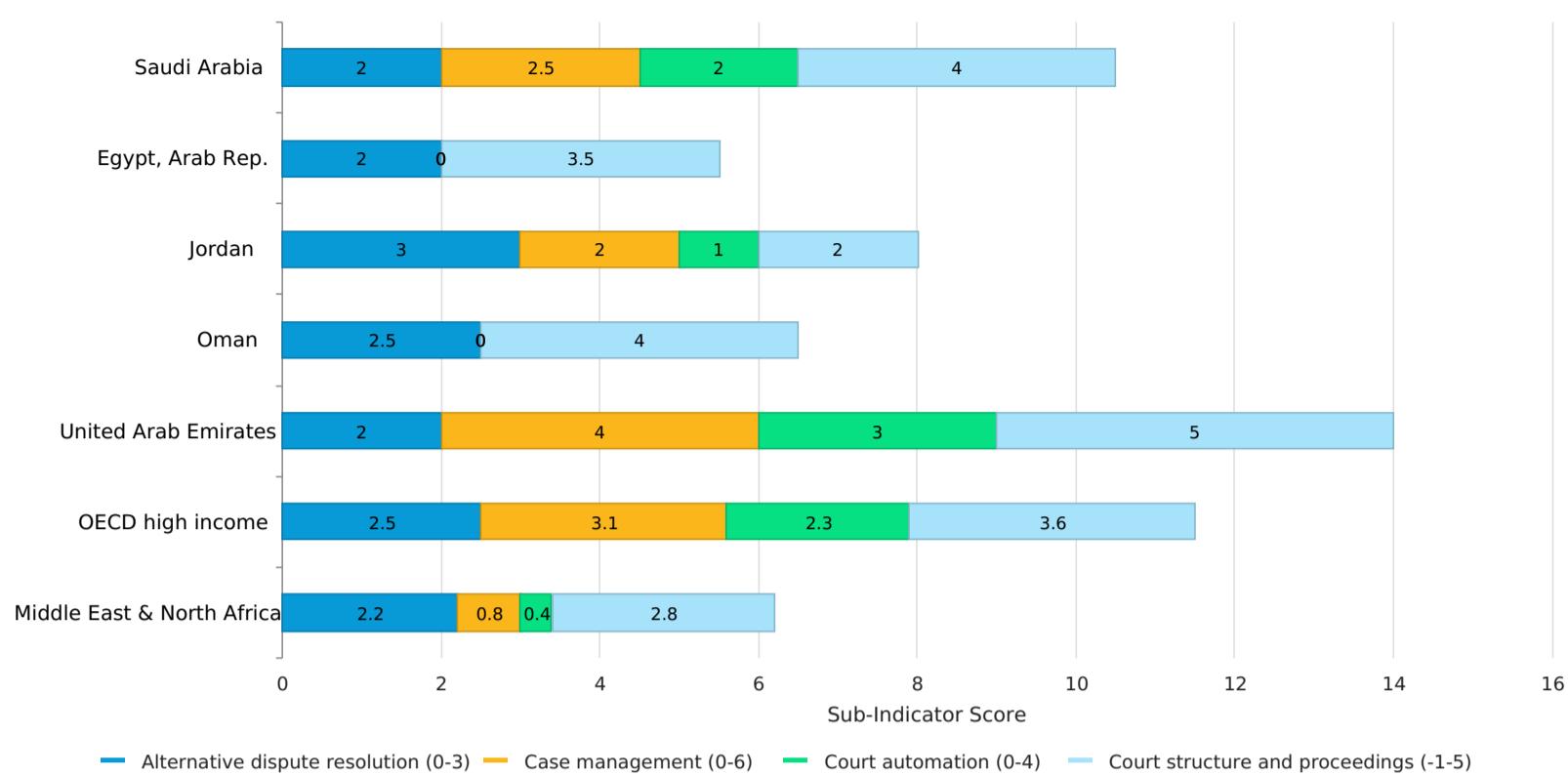


Figure - Enforcing Contracts in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Measure of Quality**Details - Enforcing Contracts in Saudi Arabia**

Indicator	
Time (days)	575
Filing and service	30
Trial and judgment	365
Enforcement of judgment	180
Cost (% of claim value)	27.5
Attorney fees	20
Court fees	7.5
Enforcement fees	0
Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)	10.5
Court structure and proceedings (-1-5)	4.0
Case management (0-6)	2.5
Court automation (0-4)	2.0
Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)	2.0

Details - Enforcing Contracts in Saudi Arabia - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)		10.5
Court structure and proceedings (-1-5)		4.0
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, automatic	1.0
5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?	No	-1.0
Case management (0-6)		2.5
1. Time standards		0.5
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?	Yes	
1.c. Are these time standards respected in more than 50% of cases?	No	
2. Adjournments		0.0
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?	No	
2.c. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases?	n.a.	
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?	No	0.0
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?	Yes	1.0
6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?	Yes	1.0
Court automation (0-4)		2.0
1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?	yes	1.0
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		0.0
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?	No	
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?	No	
Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)		2.0
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	0.5
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?	No
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)?	No

 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 was completed in May 2018. [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:

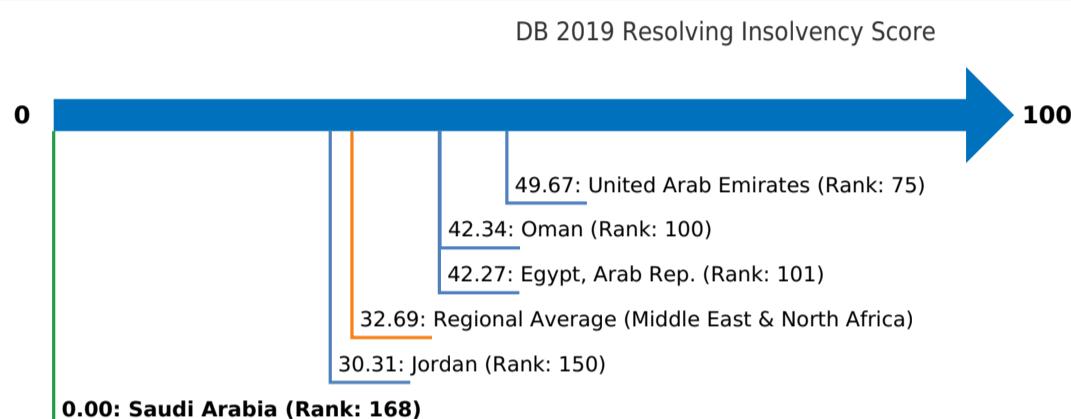
- A hotel located in the largest city (or cities) has 201 employees and 50 suppliers. The hotel experiences financial difficulties.
- The value of the hotel is 100% of the income per capita or the equivalent in local currency of USD 200,000, whichever is greater.
- The hotel has a loan from a domestic 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 quality of legal framework applicable to judicial liquidation and reorganization proceedings and the extent to which best insolvency practices have been implemented in each economy covered.

Resolving Insolvency - Saudi Arabia

Indicator	Saudi Arabia	Middle East & North Africa	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	0.0	26.3	70.5	None in 2017/18
Time (years)	No Practice	2.8	1.7	0.4 (Ireland)
Cost (% of estate)	No Practice	13.8	9.3	1.0 (Norway)
Outcome (0 as piecemeal sale and 1 as going concern)	0
Strength of insolvency framework index (0-16)	0.0	5.9	11.9	None in 2017/18

Figure - Resolving Insolvency in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

Figure - Resolving Insolvency in Saudi Arabia - Time and Cost

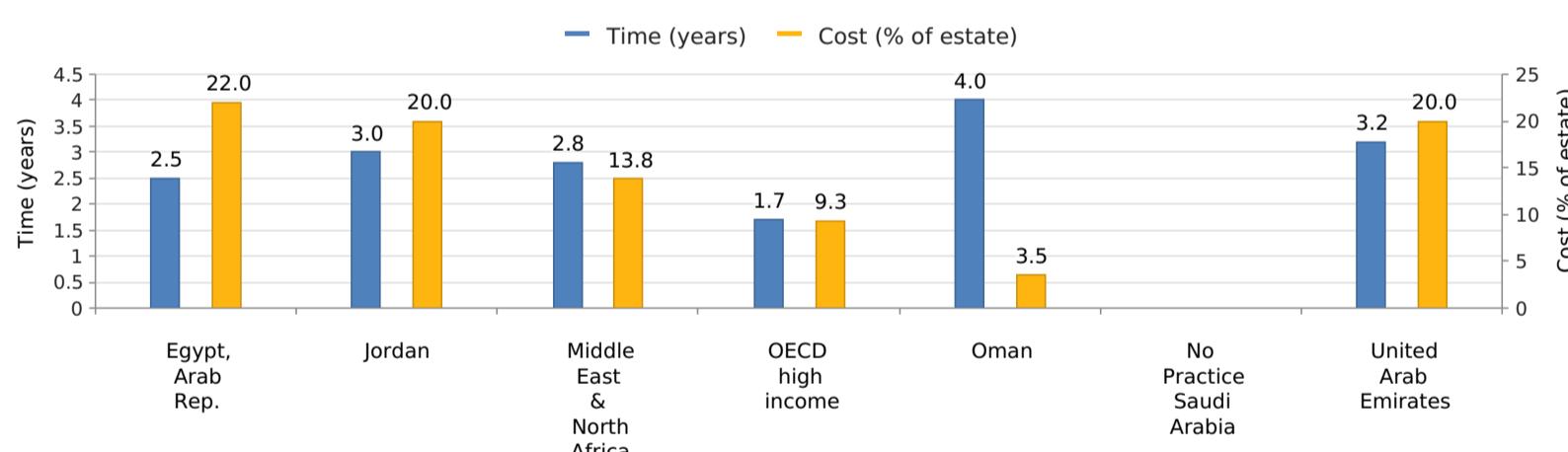
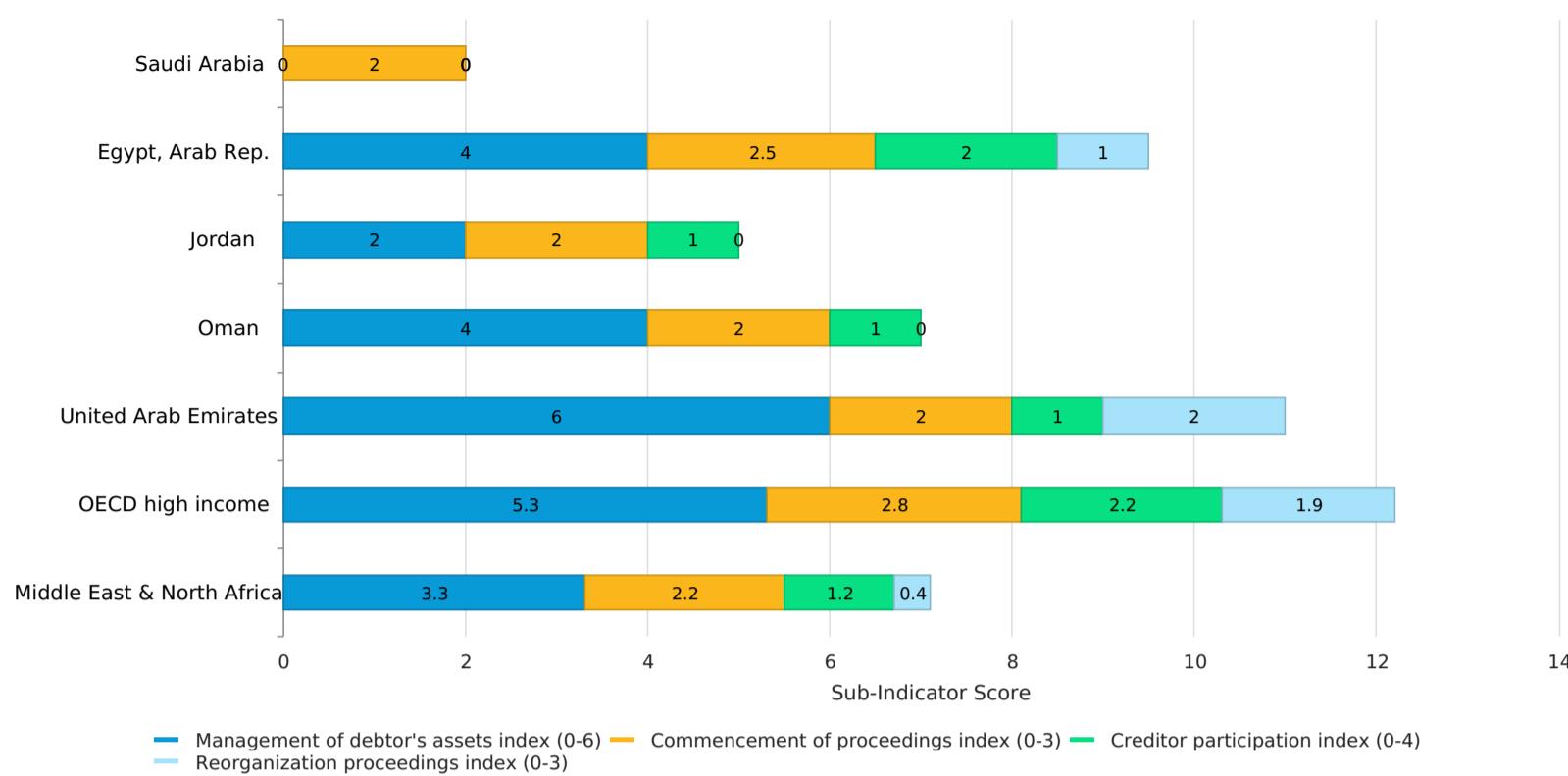
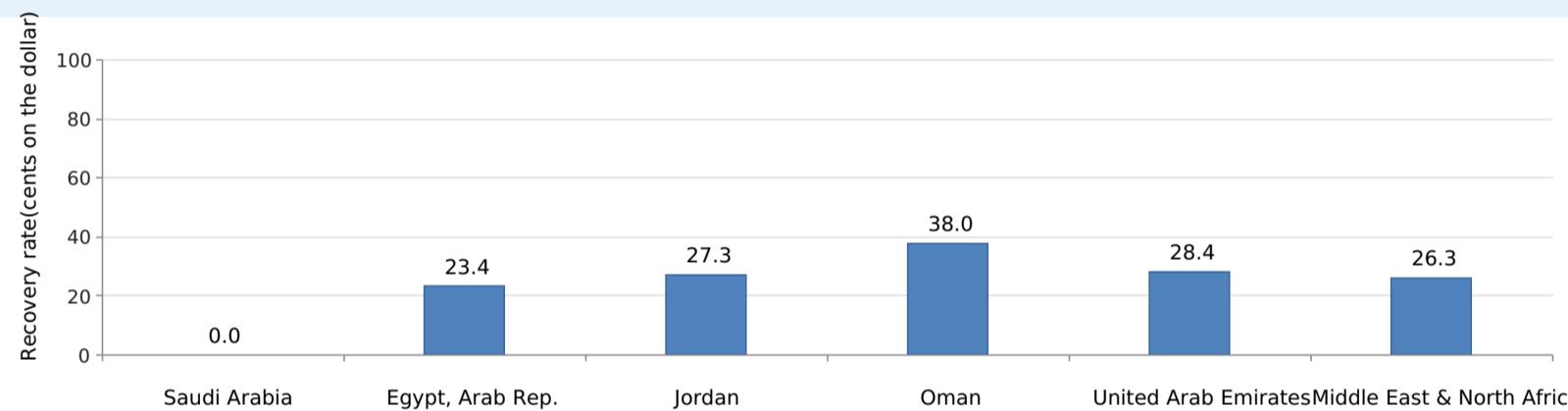


Figure - Resolving Insolvency in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Measure of Quality

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."

Figure - Resolving Insolvency in Saudi Arabia and comparator economies - Recovery Rate

Details - Resolving Insolvency in Saudi Arabia

Indicator	Answer	Score
Proceeding	No Practice	According to the research conducted by the team, there were no foreclosure, liquidation or reorganization proceedings filed in the country in the last 12 months. Due to this circumstance, it is not possible to assess the time, the cost or the outcome associated with the insolvency scenario described in the case study.
Outcome	piecemeal sale	According to the research conducted by the team, there were no foreclosure, liquidation or reorganization proceedings filed in the country in the last 12 months. Due to this circumstance, it is not possible to assess the time, the cost or the outcome associated with the insolvency scenario described in the case study.
Time (in years)	No Practice	According to the research conducted by the team, there were no foreclosure, liquidation or reorganization proceedings filed in the country in the last 12 months. Due to this circumstance, it is not possible to assess the time, the cost or the outcome associated with the insolvency scenario described in the case study.
Cost (% of estate)	No Practice	According to the research conducted by the team, there were no foreclosure, liquidation or reorganization proceedings filed in the country in the last 12 months. Due to this circumstance, it is not possible to assess the time, the cost or the outcome associated with the insolvency scenario described in the case study.
Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	0.0	

Details - Resolving Insolvency in Saudi Arabia - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
Strength of insolvency framework index (0-16)		0.0
Commencement of proceedings index (0-3)		2.0
What procedures are available to a DEBTOR when commencing insolvency proceedings?	(b) Debtor may file for liquidation only	0.5
Does the insolvency framework allow a CREDITOR to file for insolvency of the debtor?	(b) Yes, but a creditor may file for liquidation only	0.5
What basis for commencement of the insolvency proceedings is allowed under the insolvency framework?	(a) Debtor is generally unable to pay its debts as they mature	1.0
Management of debtor's assets index (0-6)		0.0
Does the insolvency framework allow the continuation of contracts supplying essential goods and services to the debtor?	No	0.0
Does the insolvency framework allow the rejection by the debtor of overly burdensome contracts?	No	0.0
Does the insolvency framework allow avoidance of preferential transactions?	No	0.0
Does the insolvency framework allow avoidance of undervalued transactions?	No	0.0
Does the insolvency framework provide for the possibility of the debtor obtaining credit after commencement of insolvency proceedings?	No	0.0
Does the insolvency framework assign priority to post-commencement credit?	(c) No priority is assigned to post-commencement creditors	0.0
Reorganization proceedings index (0-3)		0.0
Which creditors vote on the proposed reorganization plan?	N/A	0.0
Does the insolvency framework require that dissenting creditors in reorganization receive at least as much as what they would obtain in a liquidation?	No	0.0
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?	No	0.0
Creditor participation index (0-4)		0.0
Does the insolvency framework require approval by the creditors for selection or appointment of the insolvency representative?	No	0.0
Does the insolvency framework require approval by the creditors for sale of substantial assets of the debtor?	No	0.0
Does the insolvency framework provide that a creditor has the right to request information from the insolvency representative?	No	0.0
Does the insolvency framework provide that a creditor has the right to object to decisions accepting or rejecting creditors' claims?	No	0.0

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 detailed data for the labor market regulation indicators on the *Doing Business* website (<http://www.doingbusiness.org>). The report does not present rankings of economies on these indicators or include the topic in the aggregate ease of doing business score or ranking on the ease of doing business.

The most recent round of data collection was completed in May 2018. [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.

Labor Market Regulation - Saudi Arabia**Details - Labor Market Regulation in Saudi Arabia**

		Answer
Hiring		
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)		48.0
Minimum wage applicable to the worker assumed in the case study (US\$/month)		0.0
Ratio of minimum wage to value added per worker		0.0
Maximum length of probationary period (months)		3.0
Working hours		
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)		50.0
Premium for overtime work (% of hourly pay)		50.0
Restrictions on night work?		No
Whether nonpregnant and nonnursing women can work the same night hours as men		No
Restrictions on weekly holiday?		Yes
Restrictions on overtime work?		No
Paid annual leave for a worker with 1 year of tenure (working days)		18.0
Paid annual leave for a worker with 5 years of tenure (working days)		26.0
Paid annual leave for a worker with 10 years of tenure (working days)		26.0
Paid annual leave (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure, in working days)		23.3
Redundancy rules		
Dismissal due to redundancy allowed by law?		Yes
Third-party notification if one worker is dismissed?		No
Third-party approval if one worker is dismissed?		No
Third-party notification if nine workers are dismissed?		No
Third-party approval if nine workers are dismissed?		No
Retraining or reassignment obligation before redundancy?		No
Priority rules for redundancies?		No
Priority rules for reemployment?		No
Redundancy cost		
Notice period for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 1 year of tenure		8.6
Notice period for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 5 years of tenure		8.6
Notice period for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 10 years of tenure		8.6
Notice period for redundancy dismissal (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure)		8.6
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	32.5
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure)	15.2

Job quality

Equal remuneration for work of equal value?	No
Gender nondiscrimination in hiring?	No
Paid or unpaid maternity leave mandated by law?	Yes
Minimum length of maternity leave (calendar days)?	70.0
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 Saudi Arabia

In the past year, *Doing Business* observed a peaking of reform activity worldwide. From June 2, 2017, to May 1, 2018, 128 economies implemented a record 314 regulatory reforms improving the business climate. Reforms inspired by *Doing Business* have been implemented by economies in all regions. The following are reforms implemented since *Doing Business* 2008.

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

DB2019

- ✓ **Getting Electricity:** Saudi Arabia improved the reliability of electricity supply by imposing a new compensation scheme to incentivize the utility to improve service reliability.
- ✓ **Protecting Minority Investors:** Saudi Arabia strengthened minority investor protections by providing clear rules for the liability of directors and increasing the role of shareholders in major decisions.
- ✓ **Trading across Borders:** Saudi Arabia made exporting and importing easier by launching a new electronic single window and extending the hours of operation of customs at the Jeddah port.
- ✓ **Enforcing Contracts:** Saudi Arabia made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an e-system that allows plaintiffs to file the initial complaint electronically and amending the civil procedure rules to introduce time standards for key court events.

DB2018

- ✓ **Starting a Business:** Saudi Arabia made starting a business easier through the use of an online system that merges the name reservation and submission of the articles of association into one procedure. Saudi Arabia also improved the online payment system, removing the need to pay fees in person.
- ✓ **Registering Property:** Saudi Arabia improved the efficiency of its land administration system by implementing an online platform to check for ownership and encumbrances and by streamlining the property registration process. Additionally, Saudi Arabia made registering property easier by improving the land administration system's dispute resolution mechanisms.
- ✓ **Protecting Minority Investors:** Saudi Arabia strengthened minority investor protections by increasing shareholder rights and role in major decisions, clarifying ownership and control structures, requiring greater corporate transparency and regulating the disclosure of transactions with interested parties.
- ✓ **Paying Taxes:** Saudi Arabia made paying taxes by improving its online platforms used by taxpayers for filing and paying taxes.
- ✓ **Trading across Borders:** Saudi Arabia reduced the time for documentary compliance for exports and imports by reducing the number of documents required for customs clearance.
- ✓ **Enforcing Contracts:** Saudi Arabia made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic case management system for the use of judges and lawyers.

DB2017

- ✓ **Starting a Business:** Saudi Arabia made starting a business easier by reducing the time to notarize a company's article of association.
- ✓ **Protecting Minority Investors:** Saudi Arabia strengthened minority investor protections by strengthening ownership and control structures of companies and by increasing corporate transparency requirements.
- ✗ **Paying Taxes:** Saudi Arabia made paying taxes more difficult by introducing a more complex income tax return.

Labor Market Regulation: Saudi Arabia increased the length of the notice period for redundancy dismissals.

DB2016

- ✓ **Registering Property:** Saudi Arabia made property transfers faster by introducing a new computerized system at the land registry.

DB2014

- ✗ **Trading across Borders:**

DB2013

- ✗ **Getting Electricity:** Saudi Arabia made getting electricity more expensive by increasing the connection fees.
- ✓ **Paying Taxes:** Saudi Arabia made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing online filing and payment systems for social security contributions.
- ✓ **Enforcing Contracts:** Saudi Arabia made enforcing contracts easier by expanding the computerization of its courts and introducing an electronic filing system.

DB2012

- ✓ **Starting a Business:** Saudi Arabia made starting a business easier by bringing together representatives from the Department of Zakat and Income Tax and the General Organization of Social Insurance at the Unified Center to register new companies with their agencies.

DB2011

- ✓ **Dealing with Construction Permits:** Saudi Arabia made dealing with construction permits easier for the second year in a row by introducing a new, streamlined process.
- ✓ **Getting Credit:** An amendment to Saudi Arabia's commercial lien law enhanced access to credit by allowing out-of-court enforcement in case of default.
- ✓ **Trading across Borders:** Saudi Arabia reduced the time to import by launching a new container terminal at the Jeddah Islamic Port.
- ✓ **Resolving Insolvency:** Saudi Arabia speeded up the insolvency process by providing earlier access to amicable settlements and putting time limits on the settlements to encourage creditors to participate.

DB2010

- ✓ **Starting a Business:** Saudi Arabia made starting a business easier by introducing a one-stop center at the Ministry of Commerce that merged registration procedures and simplified publication requirements.
- ✓ **Dealing with Construction Permits:** Saudi Arabia made dealing with construction permits less time consuming by introducing a 1-day permitting procedure that enables builders to obtain a temporary building permit allowing them to begin construction after 1 day and a final building permit after 1 week.

DB2009

- ✓ **Starting a Business:** Saudi Arabia reduced the time and cost to start a business by eliminating non-value-added formalities.
- ✓ **Registering Property:** Saudi Arabia made property registration faster and easier by adopting a comprehensive electronic system for registering title deeds.
- ✓ **Protecting Minority Investors:** Saudi Arabia strengthened investor protections by prohibiting interested parties from voting on the approval of related-party transactions and by increasing sanctions against directors found liable for harm to a company resulting from a transaction in which they had a personal interest.
- ✓ **Resolving Insolvency:** Saudi Arabia introduced strict deadlines for bankruptcy procedures, with the result that auctions of debtors' assets now take place more quickly than before.

DB2008

- ✓ **Starting a Business:** Saudi Arabia made starting a business easier by eliminating the paid-in minimum capital requirement and speeding up company registration.
- ✓ **Getting Credit:** Saudi Arabia's private credit bureau launched a commercial credit bureau that issues reports on companies, including on their credit exposure.
- ✓ **Trading across Borders:** Saudi Arabia made importing easier by abolishing the requirement for a consular certificate, allowing the electronic transfer of data (and therefore eliminating the requirement for hard copies of documents) and improving the capacity of facilities in the port of Jeddah.

undefined:

Doing Business 2019 is the 16th in a series of annual reports investigating the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. The report provides quantitative indicators covering 11 areas of the business environment in 190 economies. The goal of the *Doing Business* series is to provide objective data for use by governments in designing sound business regulatory policies and to encourage research on the important dimensions of the regulatory environment for firms.

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