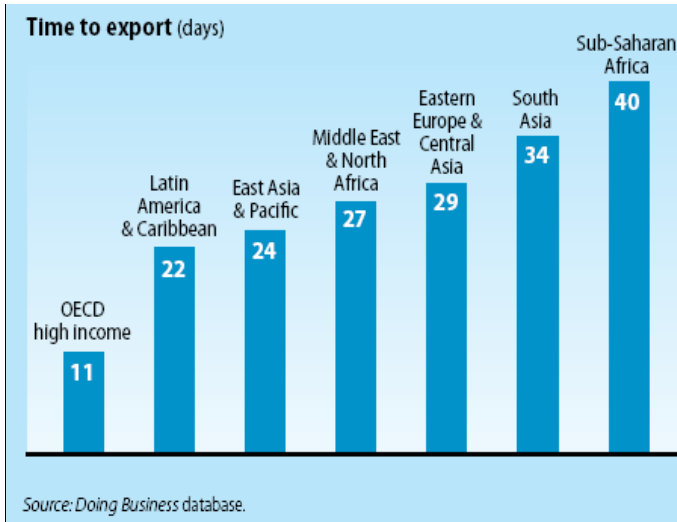




Rule of Law

- It takes about **4 years to enforce a simple commercial contract in India.**¹
- Denmark, Sweden and Norway rank 1-2-3 in terms of where it is easiest to enforce a contract.²

Longest export delays in Africa and South Asia



Source: World Bank. *Doing Business 2007: How to Reform*

Business Environment

- **If a company paid all of its business taxes in Brazil, it would end up paying 148% of its gross profits.**³
- The most difficult country to get credit in is Algeria.⁴
- Serbia and Montenegro recently made business registration administrative rather than judicial by allowing entrepreneurs to register their businesses online. If the entrepreneur does not hear back from the registry within 5 days, the business can start.⁵
- Obtaining a construction permit takes longer than the actual construction in 70 countries around the world.⁶
- If an entrepreneur goes bankrupt in Greece, he or she loses their trading license. In Lithuania, an

entrepreneur may face criminal charges, even if there is no fraudulence.⁷

- In comparing regulation in 175 economies, Guatemala is the most difficult country to build a warehouse.⁸
- In Tanzania, only 10% of property is officially registered. To register property in Dar es Salaam, it takes an average of 123 days and 10 procedures.⁹

Workers

- Hiring and firing workers is easiest in Hong Kong (China), and most difficult in Portugal.¹⁰
- In Greece, the mandatory retirement age for men is 65; for women, it is 58.¹¹
- **Employers choose conservatively when employment laws are rigid, a common feature in developing countries.**¹²
- According to the World Bank's *Business Report in 2006*, women, youth and low-skilled workers often lose out from rigid employment laws.¹³

Corruption

- A significant barrier for doing business in many developing countries is corruption.¹⁴
- Countries can increase national incomes up to 4 times in the long term by tackling corruption and improving rule of law.¹⁵
- In addition to corruption, other aspects of weak governance include bureaucratic capability and ineffective checks and balances.¹⁶

Governance

Nations in which good governance prevails tend to be business-friendly. They typically enjoy well-enforced favorable regulatory frameworks characterized by low levels of burdensome bureaucratic procedures and paperwork, business-conducive fiscal regimes, and clearly-defined property rights. This serves to encourage large-scale entrepreneurship, attract high levels of corporate investment, and provide stable environments for business to operate.



Notes

- ¹ World Bank. *Doing Business 2007: How to Reform*.
- ² World Bank. *Doing Business 2007: How to Reform*.
- ³ World Bank. *Doing Business in 2006: Creating Jobs*.
- ⁴ World Bank. *Doing Business in 2006: Creating Jobs*.
- ⁵ World Bank. *Doing Business in 2006: Creating Jobs*.
- ⁶ World Bank. *Doing Business 2007: How to Reform*.
- ⁷ World Bank. *Doing Business in 2006 : Creating jobs*.
- ⁸ World Bank. *Doing Business 2007: How to Reform*.
- ⁹ World Bank. *Doing Business 2007: How to Reform*.
- ¹⁰ World Bank. *Doing Business in 2006: Creating Jobs*.
- ¹¹ World Bank. *Doing Business in 2006: Creating Jobs*.
- ¹² World Bank. *Doing Business in 2006: Creating Jobs*.
- ¹³ World Bank. *Doing Business in 2006: Creating Jobs*.
- ¹⁴ World Bank. 2007. *Atlas of Global Development*.
- ¹⁵ World Bank. 2007. *Atlas of Global Development*.
- ¹⁶ World Bank 2007. *Atlas of Global Development*.