

## Economy Profile of Belize

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.

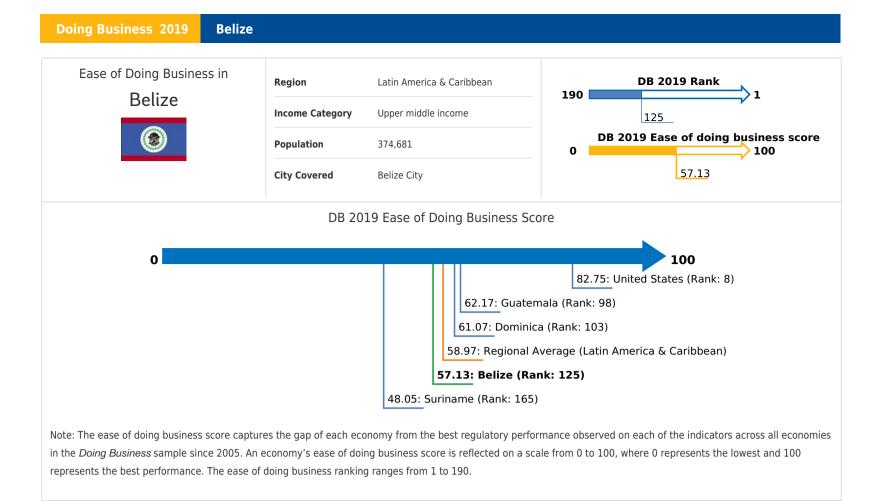
Doing Business captures several important dimensions of the regulatory environment as it applies to local firms. It provides quantitative indicators on regulation for starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority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

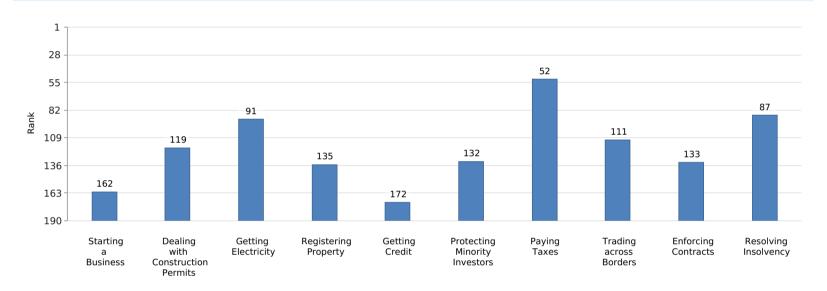
In addition, *Doing Business* offers detailed subnational reports, which exhaustively cover business regulation and reform in different cities and regions within a nation. These reports provide data on the ease of doing business, rank each location, and recommend reforms to improve performance in each 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.

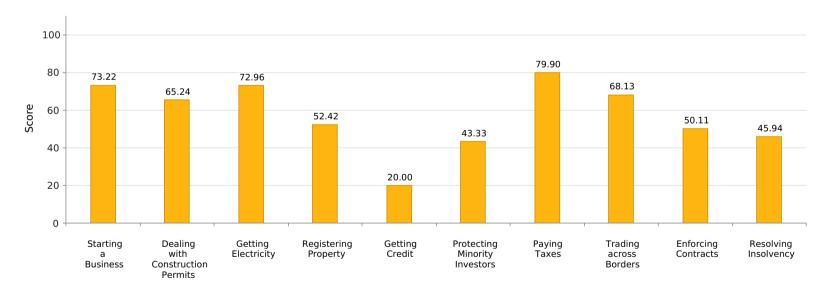
More about Doing Business (PDF, 5MB)



#### **Rankings on Doing Business topics - Belize**



#### Ease of Doing Business Score on Doing Business topics - Belize



#### **=** 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.

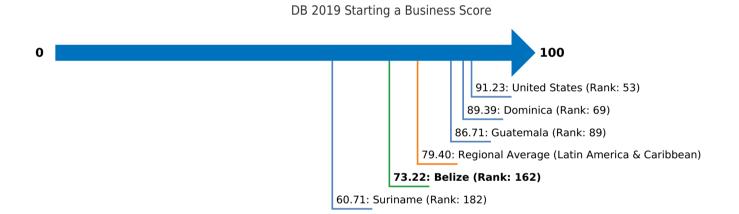
#### Starting a Business - Belize

#### **Standardized Company**

Legal form	Limited Liability Company
Paid-in minimum capital requirement	BZD 0
City Covered	Belize City

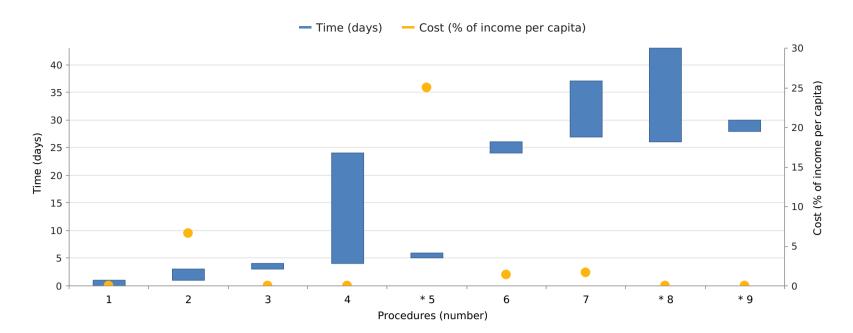
Indicator	Belize	Latin America & Caribbean	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedure - Men (number)	9	8.2	4.9	1 (New Zealand)
Time - Men (days)	43	28.5	9.3	0.5 (New Zealand)
Cost - Men (% of income per capita)	34.7	37.8	3.1	0.0 (Slovenia)
Procedure - Women (number)	9	8.2	4.9	1 (New Zealand)
Time – Women (days)	43	28.5	9.3	0.5 (New Zealand)
Cost - Women (% of income per capita)	34.7	37.8	3.1	0.0 (Slovenia)
Paid-in min. capital (% of income per capita)	0.0	1.5	8.6	0.0 (117 Economies)

Figure - Starting a Business in Belize 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 Belize - Procedure, Time and Cost



<sup>\*</sup>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.

Belize

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	Conduct a name search  Agency: Companies' Registry  The entrepreneur must travel to Belmopan, the capital, to visit the Companies' Registry and request a computerized name search of all existing Belizean company names, which takes a few minutes to complete as is free of charge. A request can also be done by e-mail, telephone or fax at a fee of BZD 50.	1 day	no charge
2	Register company statutes, memorandum and articles of association  Agency: Companies' Registry  The company must register its statutes, memorandum, and articles of association at the Companies' Registry. The applicable fees are BZD 500 for the certificate of compliance, BZD 10 for filing, BZD 50 for registration, BZD 12 (each) for registering the statutes, the memorandum, and articles of association, and BZD 13 for registering the directors to act on the company's behalf. The fees are paid directly at the Companies' Registry.  According the Companies Act, a company can be formed with one director and	2 days	see procedure details
	one shareholder. In case of one or more directors each director must initially subscribe to at least one share, and for practical purposes, each share is worth BZD 1. For a company with 5 directors, in practice, the minimum start-up capital is BZD 5.		
	The documentation must include the following:  - Identification for all directors and their representatives, if applicable  - Company statutes  - Memorandum and articles of association		
3	Submit application for a trade license  Agency: City Council  The application prompts the City Council to send an inspector to visit the site.  Although there are only four city council inspectors in Belize City, the inspector will usually arrive the next day.	1 day	no charge
	The documentation to submit an application for trade license shall include:  - Certificate of compliance from the Companies' Registry (obtained in Procedure 2)  - Proof of residency		
4	Receive inspection from City Council inspector  Agency: City Council  The city council inspector inspects the premises and submits findings to the council's trade license board. By law, the board must meet every 3 months, but in practice, it meets every 2 weeks to manage the high volume of trade license applications. At the end of the deliberation, the determination and assessment notice (25% of the inspector's assessed annual rental income of the business premises) will be couriered to the entrepreneur. About 2 days after the trade license board's decision and the entrepreneur's payment, the license will be hand delivered to the entrepreneur at no additional charge.	20 days	no charge
<b>⇒</b> 5	Pay for the trade license  Agency: City Council  Parties take the assessment notice to the City Council and pay 25% of the annual rental value of the premises, according to the inspector's assessment.	1 day (simultaneous with previous procedure)	25% of the annual rental value of the business premises
6	Make a company seal  Agency: Seal Maker  The company must make a company seal. This can be done at any stationary store and costs between BZD 50 and BZD 200, depending on whether it is rubber or embossed.	2 days	BZD 50-200
7	Register the company for business tax  Agency: Income tax department  The founders must register the company with the income tax authorities by presenting a relevant certificate of compliance. The company receives the tax number in about 1 to 2 weeks. Operations may begin at this time but the company must withhold the taxes payable. Failure to do so results in penalties and interest payable.	10 days	BZD 150
<b>⇒</b> 8	Register the company for General Sales Tax (GST)  Agency: GST office  The business must register with the general services tax authorities by presenting a relevant certificate of compliance. However, final registration will not be confirmed until a few weeks later. Operations can begin during this time, but the company must withhold the taxes payable. Failure to do so results in penalties and interest payable.	17 days on average (simultaneous with previous procedure)	no charge

<b>Doing Business 2019 Belize</b>

### $\Rightarrow 9$ Register the employees with the Social Security Board

Agency: Social Security Board

All employees must be registered with the social security authorities.

Confirmation of registration will take a few months. Operations can begin in the meantime, but deductions must be taken during this time.

2 days (simultaneous with previous procedure) no charge

**<sup>⇒</sup>**Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

#### Dealing with Construction Permits

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

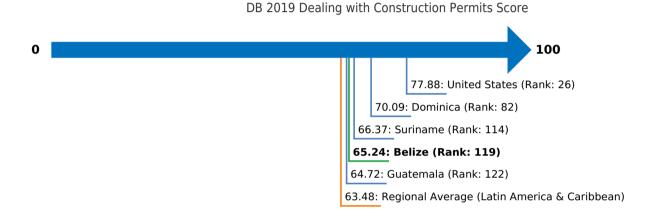
#### **Dealing with Construction Permits - Belize**

#### **Standardized Warehouse**

Estimated value of warehouse	BZD 450,737.20
City Covered	Belize City

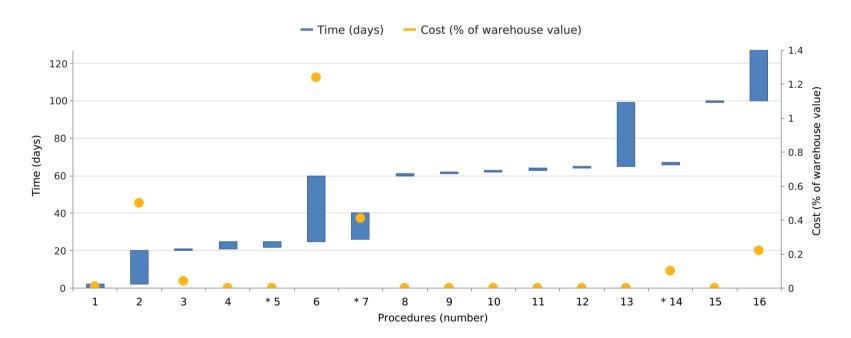
Indicator	Belize	Latin America & Caribbean	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedures (number)	16	15.4	12.7	None in 2017/18
Time (days)	127	199.0	153.1	None in 2017/18
Cost (% of warehouse value)	2.5	3.2	1.5	None in 2017/18
Building quality control index (0-15)	7.0	8.9	11.5	15.0 (3 Economies)

Figure - Dealing with Construction Permits in Belize 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.

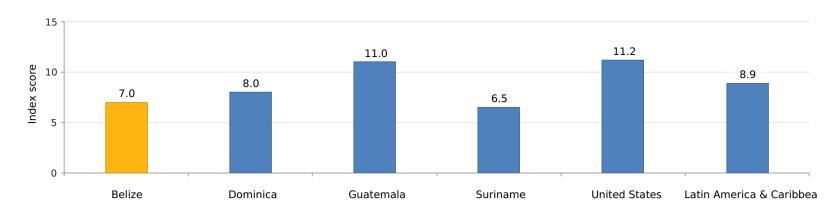
Figure - Dealing with Construction Permits in Belize - Procedure, Time and Cost



<sup>\*</sup>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 Belize and comparator economies - Measure of Quality



**Details - Dealing with Construction Permits in Belize - Procedure, Time and Cost** 

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	Obtain a lot plan  Agency: Lands Department The property title should include a lot plan. Otherwise, it can be obtained from the Lands Department. In about 30% of cases, the Lands Department will not have the lot plan in its records. In these cases, the construction company can hire a surveyor to draw up a new plan. This would take 2-3 weeks to complete and cost BZD 500-700	2 days	BZD 30
2	Obtain a topographical survey  Agency: Private Firm  BuildCo will need a topographical survey to prepare the site plan.	18 days	BZD 2,250
3	Pay application fee at Commercial Bank  Agency: Commercial Bank  Before applying for the building permit, BuildCo must first go the Central Building Authority and provide all the relevant documents, such as the building plans; location plans and sewage plans. BuildCo will fill out the application form and pay for the application fees and submit the proof of payment. The application form and proof of payment for the building permit will allow BuildCo to start requesting all required pre-approvals from the utilities.	1 day	BZD 175
4	Obtain approval of sewage disposal system  Agency: Ministry of Health  The plans of the sewage disposal system must be approved by the Ministry of Health.	4 days	no charge
<b></b> \$ 5	Obtain clearance of electrical plans from the Public Utility Company (PUC)  Agency: Public Utility Company  The electrical plans must be designed by a PUC licensed wireman or electrical engineer and then submitted (as per PUC design submission requirements) to the PUC for review and approval.	3 days	no charge

#### 6 Request and receive building permit

Agency: Central Building Authority

To obtain a building permit, BuildCo must submit to the Central Building Authority an application form with the required fees and documents (see below). Depending on the location, an environmental compliance plan may be required. Other approving agencies would be the health and fire departments. Because they are a part of the committee, this is a one-stop approval process. During construction, an inspector visits the site at least four times to ensure that the structure corresponds to the agreed plans.

With the application, BuildCo must submit the processing fee and three sets of plans, four site plans, and four location plans. The plans should include a drawing to scale, showing the plot boundaries in relation to adjoining roads, alleys, footpaths, and the position of any proposed building(s) on the same lot. Other information that should be included is the layout of sewerage and drainage and detailed foundation plans, showing each floor and roof with typical cross-sections through the building indicating foundations, each floor, and the roof, with relative heights and levels of the lowest floor of the building and of the adjacent ground.

Also complete plans of all water-retaining structures with reinforced concrete detail, where used must be submitted with the application. These and other plans are required by the regulations under the Belize City Building Act, Chapter 131 and 40 of the Public Health Act (revised edition 2000). The city engineer must be informed of the start date of the above work.

Once the City Council receives the plans, it sends them to the engineering department. The engineering department then sends the plans to the CBA for review.

Throughout the approval process, the Building Plan Committee checks that the proposed project is in compliance with zoning, environmental, and fire safety requirements. Construction must begin within 6 months of the date the building permit is issued. The permit fee covers four site visits to inspect during four different phases.

Once the plans are approved, the applicant will be requested to complete a an "Application For A Permit To Commence Construction".

#### **⇒** 7 **Obtain an environmental clearance**

Agency: Department of Environment

Due to the magnitude of the project (a 2-storey warehouse of 1300.6 sq m. above ground), the Environmental Department must be informed of the project. The Department will then determine whether an EIA or an ECP (Environmental Compliance Plan) is required and will issue an environmental clearance.

#### 8 Receive set out inspection

Agency: Central Building Authority

The setting out inspection must be carried out and approved before the actual construction commences. The construction phase must commence no later than 365 days of the date of the "No Objection To Development." The "No Objection To Development" is automatically deemed null and void 365 days after it has been issued. The City Council schedules two random inspections, based on the building plans. Belize City is comprised of five districts, and each district has one inspector assigned to it.

#### 9 Receive random inspection by City Council - I

Agency: Central Building Authority

The CBA will carry out 2 random site inspections during the construction of the project to ensure that the works are being carried out in accordance with the permitted documents.

#### 10 Receive random inspection by City Council - II

Agency: Central Building Authority

The CBA will carry out 2 random site inspections during the construction of the project to ensure that the works are being carried out in accordance with the permitted documents.

# Notify Central Building Authority of completion of construction and request occupancy certificate

Agency: Central Building Authority

No later than 1 week after construction is completed, the owner, or other authorized person must inform the CBA of the completion of the construction and request an occupancy permit from the CBA.

#### 12 Receive final inspection from Central Building Authority

Agency: Central Building Authority

This inspection will be conducted once the occupancy certificate has been issued to BuildCo.

#### 35 days

BZD 5,600

#### BZD 1,850

14 days

1 day

1 day

1 day

1 day

3ZD 1,850

#### no charge

no charge

#### no charge

no charge

#### no charge

no charge

Doi	ng Business 2019	Belize		
13	If the built work is in documents, CBA wi		34 days	no charge
<b>⇒</b> 14	Agency: Belize Wat The representative of Ltd and provide the -A written request of	sewage connection ter Services Ltd. (BWS) of BuildCo must apply in person at the Belize Water Services following information: In the company's letter head and the identification card of the to conduct the transaction on behalf of the company the property	1 day	BZD 450
15	Agency : Belize Wat	the Belize Water Services Ltd. ser Services Ltd. (BWS) ake place once the request has been processed by the utility	1 day	no charge
16	0 ,	sewage connection for Services Ltd. (BWS) the city limits do not have sewage lines so septic tanks are	27 days	BZD 1,000

**<sup>⇒</sup>**Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

#### **Details - Dealing with Construction Permits in Belize - Measure of Quality**

	Answer	Score
Building quality control index (0-15)		7.0
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)		0.0
What types of inspections (if any) are required by law to be carried out during construction? (0-2)	Unscheduled inspections.	0.0
Do legally mandated inspections occur in practice during construction? (0-1)	Mandatory inspections are always done in practice.	0.0
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)		1.0
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)	University degree in architecture or engineering; Being a registered architect or engineer.	1.0
What are the qualification requirements for the professional who supervises the construction on the ground? (0-2)	University degree in engineering, construction or construction management.	0.0

**Belize** 

#### 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 = 1kilowatt (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
- 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.

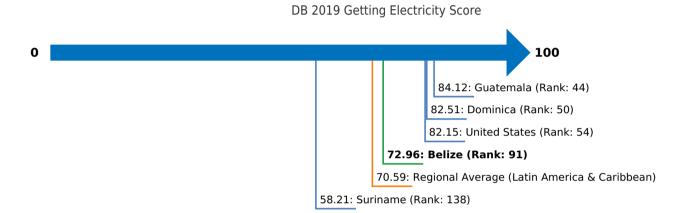
#### **Getting Electricity - Belize**

#### **Standardized Connection**

Price of electricity (US cents per kWh)	19.5
Name of utility	Belize Electricity Ltd (BEL)
City Covered	Belize City

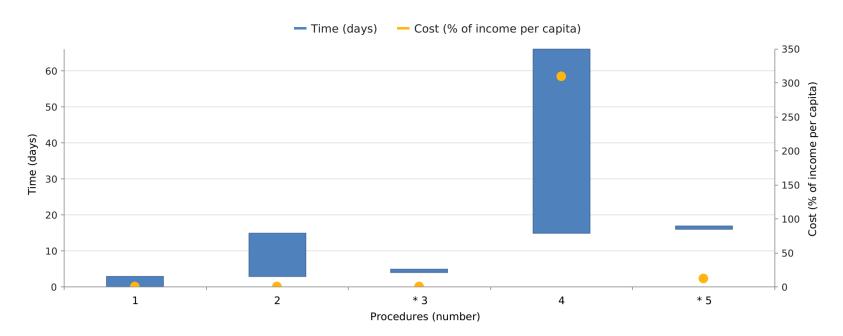
Indicator	Belize	Latin America & Caribbean	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedures (number)	5	5.5	4.5	3 (25 Economies)
Time (days)	66	65.5	77.2	18 (3 Economies)
Cost (% of income per capita)	321.3	946.3	64.2	0.0 (3 Economies)
Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index (0-8)	4	4.3	7.5	8.0 (27 Economies)

Figure - Getting Electricity in Belize and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



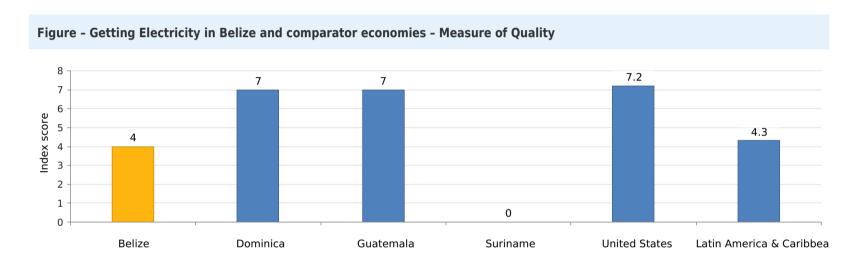
Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of getting electricity is determined by sorting their scores for getting electricity. These scores are the simple average of the scores for all the component indicators except the price of electricity.

Figure - Getting Electricity in Belize - Procedure, Time and Cost



<sup>\*</sup>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 - Getting Electricity in Belize - Procedure, Time and Cost**

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	Obtain internal inspection and certification by Public Utilities Commission Agency: Public Utilities Commission (PUC) It is a mandatory requirement that all internal wiring electrical plans to be approved by the Public Utilities Commission before requesting a building permit. The customer will submit the internal wiring plans which include fixtures and outlets schematic, service entrance details, load calculations, and panel circuit assignments. These drawings must be prepared by a technician or engineer, depending on the total amperage and the usage of the building. Without these approved and stamped drawings by the PUC, the Central or Local Building Authority will not deliver the building permit. Once the construction is completed, the customer will inform PUC and request an internal wiring inspection. PUC usually inspects before the Certificate Fit for Connection is granted	3 calendar days	BZD 0
2	Submit application to BEL and await estimate  Agency: Belize Electricity Ltd. (BEL)  The customer hires an electrical contractor licensed by, and registered with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to do their internal installation.  The process starts with an application at Belize Electricity Ltd. (BEL) (in person, by mail, or by email) along with an Identification card (SSB Card for locals and passport for foreigners). The client or the electrical contractor on behalf of the client will also need to submit the "certificate fit for connection" obtained from the Public Utilities Commission.	12 calendar days	BZD 0
⇒3	Obtain external inspection by BEL  Agency: Belize Electricity Ltd. (BEL)  The application is followed by a site visit and by the preparation of an estimate for the external work. The estimate is then exposed through an economic analysis process and a formal letter of proposal follows. A supply contract is then established at the time the customer makes payment of the Customer Contribution.  Payment of the fees can be done at a bank (or by wire transfer), or at the utility itself through the collection agents established there. A receipt of payment is necessary.  At the point of preparing the work plan and the estimate, BEL inspectors will ensure the following:  • Service installation meets the required Company standards.  • The necessary infrastructure required to provide the electricity supply are in place and are adequate.  • The Company's equipment and lines that will service the new customer are in satisfactory condition.  The company's inspectors are required to carry out checks to ensure that the service can be fed from the existing Low Voltage (LV) distribution system.  • Type of LV distribution (120/240 Volt or 120/208 Volt network)  • Condition of pole  • Height of service drop – greater than 5 meters (16.5 feet)  • Distance of service drop – less than 30 meters (98 feet)	1 calendar day	BZD 0
4	Sign supply contract, make payment and await and obtain external works from BEL Agency: Belize Electricity Ltd. (BEL) The design would be overhead lines, underground connection to supply a 225 KVA unit substation (pad-mounted transformer) as this is the next higher standard size. BEL currently stocks this type of transformers.  Any excavation permit/ right-of-way needed is obtained by the utility directly from the municipality, the city, town, administration in the case of urban areas, or from the Ministry of Works in the case of highways/major roads lying outside the domain of municipalities.	51 calendar days	BZD 27,900
<b>⇒</b>	Obtain meter installation and final connection by BEL  Agency: Belize Electricity Ltd. (BEL)  Belize Electricity Ltd carries out a final inspection before the electricity is connected. Only the original Public Utilities Commission Forms will be accepted by Belize Electricity Ltd inspectors before turning on electricity.  Meter installation and turning on of electricity are done by a separate department than the one in charge of the external works.	1 calendar day	BZD 1,066.05

**<sup>⇒</sup>**Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

#### **Details - Getting Electricity in Belize - Measure of Quality**

	Answer
Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index (0-8)	4
Total duration and frequency of outages per customer a year (0-3)	0
System average interruption duration index (SAIDI)	14.2
System average interruption frequency index (SAIFI)	15.8
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)	0
Does the utility either pay compensation to customers or face fines by the regulator (or both) if outages exceed a certain cap?	No
Communication of tariffs and tariff changes (0-1)	1
Are effective tariffs available online?	Yes
Link to the website, if available online	http://www.bel.com.b z/
Are customers notified of a change in tariff ahead of the billing cycle?	Yes

#### Note:

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

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.

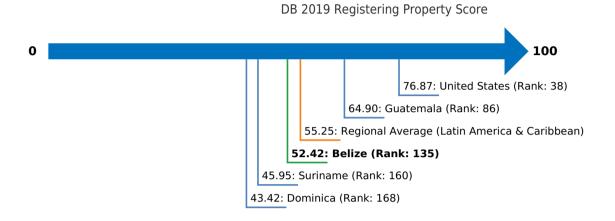
#### The property (fully owned by the seller):

- 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
- 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.

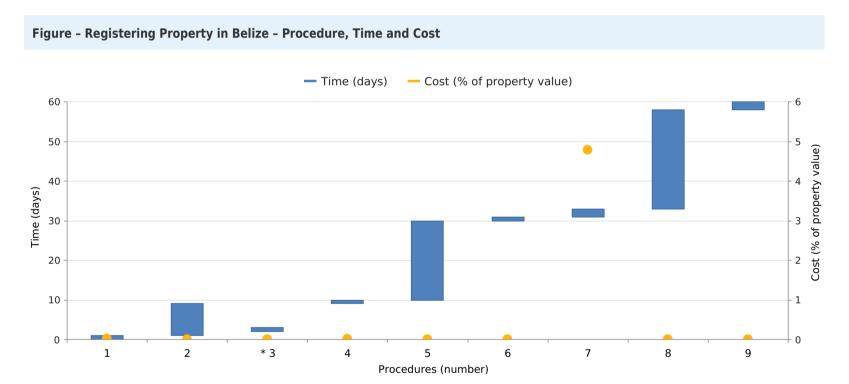
#### **Registering Property - Belize**

Indicator	Belize	Latin America & Caribbean	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedures (number)	9	7.2	4.7	1 (4 Economies)
Time (days)	60	63.3	20.1	1 (New Zealand)
Cost (% of property value)	4.8	5.8	4.2	0.0 (Saudi Arabia)
Quality of the land administration index (0-30)	11.0	11.9	23.0	None in 2017/18

Figure - Registering Property in Belize and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



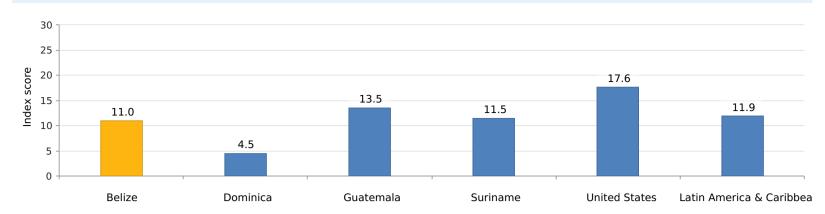
Note: The ranking of economies on the ease of registering property is determined by sorting their scores for registering property. These scores are the simple average of the scores for each of the component indicators.



<sup>\*</sup>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 Belize and comparator economies - Measure of Quality



**Details - Registering Property in Belize - Procedure, Time and Cost** 

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	Conduct a title search of the property records at the Lands Department Agency: Department of Lands and Survey Office  A title search is carried out over the past 25 years concerning the history of the property to check that the property does not have any liens or outstanding taxes. This title search is a legal requirement for property transfers in Belize.	1 day	BZD 100
2	Tax clearance stamped on the transfer instrument  Agency: Lands Tax Department  The tax clearance is proven twice: on the one hand with receipts, and on the other with a stamp from the Lands Tax Department on the actual transfer instrument.	8 days	no charge
<b>⇒</b> 3	Obtain tax clearance from the Lands Tax Department  Agency: Lands Tax Department  Tax receipts up to the current fiscal year are obtained at the Lands Tax  Department. If the property is to be transferred before the fiscal year ends, the seller may pay the property taxes up through that date, and then the buyer agrees to reimburse the seller—either through the sale price or aside.	1 day	no charge
4	Obtain the Certificate of Good Standing and a certified copy of the most recent Director's List  Agency: The Belize Companies Registry  If Buyer or Seller is a local company (Cap. 250), it will also be required to present a Certificate of Good Standing and a certified copy of the most recent Director's List issued by the Belize Companies Registry at the time of filing the registration at the Belize Lands Registry. The certificates are both obtained from the Belize Companies Registry during one single interaction with that agency.	1 day	BZD 24; (Certificate of Good Standing costs BZD 14 and the certified copy of the most recent Director's List costs BZD 10)
5	Property is valued by the Valuation Department  Agency: Valuation Department  The Valuation Department determines if the sale price in the transfer instrument is at least the real value of the property, according to its assessment. The Valuation Department assess based on actual rental value, and any factor influencing this such as location, the condition of the building, type and size, architectural design, parking area, garage or other buildings on the property. The valuation process may consist of checking the value listed in the valuation 'Roll', and/or physically inspecting the property. The Valuation Department will issue a receipt stating how much they have assessed, which is presented at the time of payment of stamp duty.	20 days	no charge
6	Justice of the Peace attests the transfer instrument  Agency: Justice of the Peace  The Government made available a transfer form online at  http://www.belize.gov.bz. The form has to be either notarized (for a fee) or  attested by a Justice of the Peace. Most people choose the latter option as it is free of charge. The Justice of Peace will check the identity certificates of the buyer and the seller before signing the transfer form.	1 day	no charge
7	Pay registration fees and stamp duty  Agency: Lands Registry  Registration fees and stamp duty are paid to the cashier at the Lands Registry.  To pay stamp duty, the receipt obtained from the valuation department  (Procedure 5) is presented and 5% of the assessed value after the first BZD  20,000.00 is charged.	2 days	BZD 21,566.86; (15 BZD x 2 (for land certificate and registration) + 5% (property value after the first BZD 20000) (stamp duty))

Doin	ng Business 2019	Belize		
8	Agency: Lands Reg There are three syst (i) The property und most likely under the Certificate. In this ca Lands Registry in Be receive a new certifi The documentation -Receipts of paymen 7); -Transfer instrument -Proof of identification (ii) Other properties	ems of land registration operating in Belize: er study by Doing Business is located in Belize City and is e Registered Land Act, whereby transfers occur by Land se, the land certificate would need to be transferred at the elmopan and would take about 3 – 4 weeks to process and cate. required in this case is: at of registration fees and stamp duty (obtained in Procedure (obtained in Procedure 6); and	25 days	(paid in Procedure 7)
9	Agency: City Council up The City Council up Since 2007, with the Registry are automa	of change in ownership il dates the property tax records to reflect the new ownership. introduction of the "Land Folio" system, changes in the Land tically communicated to the City Council. However, the new to the City Council to register the property transfer.	2 days	no charge

**式**Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

#### **Details - Registering Property in Belize - Measure of Quality**

	Answer	Score
Reliability of infrastructure index (0-8)		5.0
What is the institution in charge of immovable property registration?	Belize Lands Registry (for titles falling under the registered land system) and Land Titles Unit (for titles falling under the unregistered land system), both under The Land and Surveys 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/Scann ed	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:	Surveys and Mapping Section, under The Land and Surveys Department	
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/Scann ed	1.0
Is there an electronic database for recording boundaries, checking plans and providing cadastral information (geographic information system)?	No	0.0
Is the information recorded by the immovable property registration agency and the cadastral or mapping agency kept in a single database, in different but linked databases or in separate databases?	Different databases but linked	1.0
Do the immovable property registration agency and cadastral or mapping agency use the same identification number for properties?	Yes	1.0
Transparency of information index (0-6)		2.5
Who is able to obtain information on land ownership at the agency in charge of immovable property registration in the largest business city?	Anyone who pays the official fee	1.0
Is the list of documents that are required to complete any type of property transaction made publicly available–and if so, how?	Yes, in person	0.0
Link for online access:		
Is the applicable fee schedule for any property transaction at the agency in charge of immovable property registration in the largest business city made publicly available-and if so, how?	Yes, on public boards	0.5
Link for online access:		
Does the agency in charge of immovable property registration commit to delivering a legally binding document that proves property ownership within a specific time frame-and if so, how does it communicate the service standard?	No	0.0
Link for online access:		
Is there a specific and separate mechanism for filing complaints about a problem that occurred at the agency in charge of immovable property registration?	No	0.0
Contact information:		
Are there publicly available official statistics tracking the number of transactions at the immovable property registration agency?	No	0.0
Number of property transfers in the largest business city in 2017:		

Doing Business 2019 Belize		
Who is able to consult maps of land plots in the largest business city?	Anyone who pays the official fee	0.5
Is the applicable fee schedule for accessing maps of land plots made publicly available—and if so, how?	Yes, on public boards	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?	No	0.0
Link for online access:		
Is there a specific and separate mechanism for filing complaints about a problem that occurred at the cadastral or mapping agency?	No	0.0
Contact information:		
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)		3.5
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?	No	0.0
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; Lawyer;	
Does the legal system require verification of the identity of the parties to a property transaction?	Yes	0.5
If yes, who is responsible for verifying the identity of the parties?	Notary; Lawyer;	
Is there a national database to verify the accuracy of identity documents?	No	0.0
For a standard land dispute between two local businesses over tenure rights of a property worth 50 times gross national income (GNI) per capita and located in the largest business city, what court would be in charge of the case in the first instance?	Supreme Court of Belize	
How long does it take on average to obtain a decision from the first-instance court for such a case (without appeal)?	Between 2 and 3 years	1.0
Are there any statistics on the number of land disputes in the first instance?	No	0.0
Number of land disputes in the largest business city in 2017:		
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

**Belize** 

#### 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 (8-0)

#### 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.

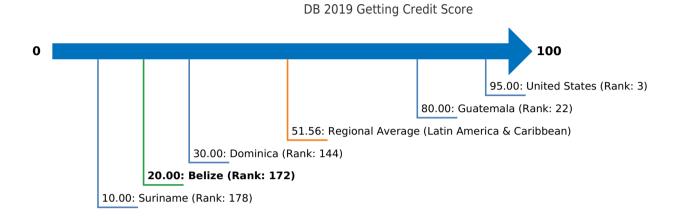
The case scenarios also involve assumptions. In case A, as collateral for the loan, ABC grants BizBank a nonpossessory security interest in one category of movable assets, for example, its machinery or its inventory. ABC wants to keep both possession and ownership of the collateral. In economies where 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.

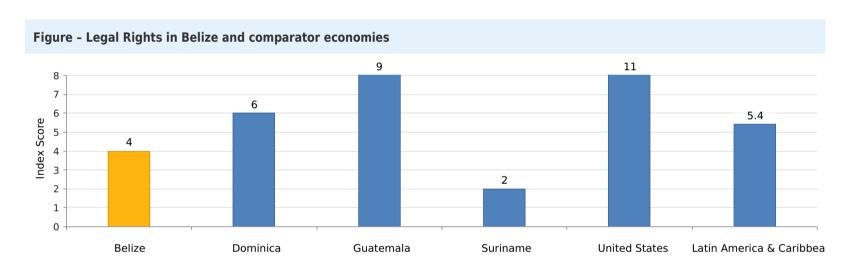
#### **Getting Credit - Belize**

Indicator	Belize	Latin America & Caribbean	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Strength of legal rights index (0-12)	4	5.4	6.1	12 (5 Economies)
Depth of credit information index (0-8)	0	4.9	6.7	8 (42 Economies)
Credit registry coverage (% of adults)	0	14.6	21.8	100.0 (4 Economies)
Credit bureau coverage (% of adults)	0	44.5	65.3	100.0 (25 Economies)

Figure - Getting Credit in Belize 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.

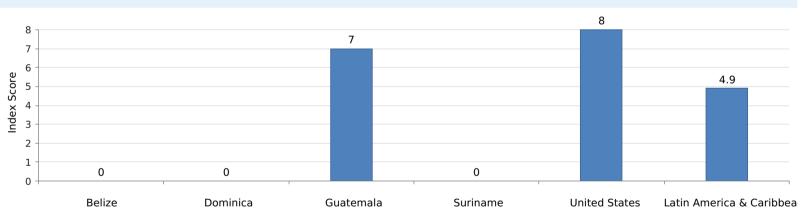


#### **Details - Legal Rights in Belize**

Belize

Strength of legal rights index (0-12)	4
Does an integrated or unified legal framework for secured transactions that extends to the creation, publicity and enforcement of functional equivalents to security interests in movable assets exist in the economy?	No
Does the law allow businesses to grant a non possessory security right in a single category of movable assets, without requiring a specific description of collateral?	Yes
Does the law allow businesses to grant a non possessory security right in substantially all of its assets, without requiring a specific description of collateral?	Yes
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?	Yes
Is a general description of debts and obligations permitted in collateral agreements; can all types of debts and obligations be secured between parties; and can the collateral agreement include a maximum amount for which the assets are encumbered?	Yes
Is a collateral registry in operation for both incorporated and non-incorporated entities, that is unified geographically and by asset type, with an electronic database indexed by debtor's name?	No
Does a notice-based collateral registry exist in which all functional equivalents can be registered?	No
Does a modern collateral registry exist in which registrations, amendments, cancellations and searches can be performed online by any interested third party?	No
Are secured creditors paid first (i.e. before tax claims and employee claims) when a debtor defaults outside an insolvency procedure?	No
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





#### **Details - Credit Information in Belize**

Depth of credit information index (0-8)	Credit bureau	Credit registry	Score
Are data on both firms and individuals distributed?	No	No	0
Are both positive and negative credit data distributed?	No	No	0
Are data from retailers or utility companies - in addition to data from banks and financial institutions - distributed?	No	No	0
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.)	No	No	0
Are data on loan amounts below 1% of income per capita distributed?	No	No	0
By law, do borrowers have the right to access their data in the credit bureau or credit registry?	No	No	0
Can banks and financial institutions access borrowers' credit information online (for example, through an online platform, a system-to-system connection or both)?	No	No	0
Are bureau or registry credit scores offered as a value-added service to help banks and financial institutions assess the creditworthiness of borrowers?	No	No	0
Total Score ("yes" to either public bureau or private registry)			0

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	0	0
Number of firms	0	0
Total	0	0
Percentage of adult population	0	0

**Belize** 

#### 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 relatedparty transactions
- Extent of director liability index (0-10): Ability of minority shareholders to sue and hold interested directors liable for prejudicial relatedparty 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.

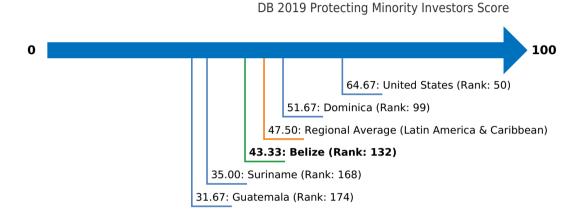
#### The transaction involves the following details:

- 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.

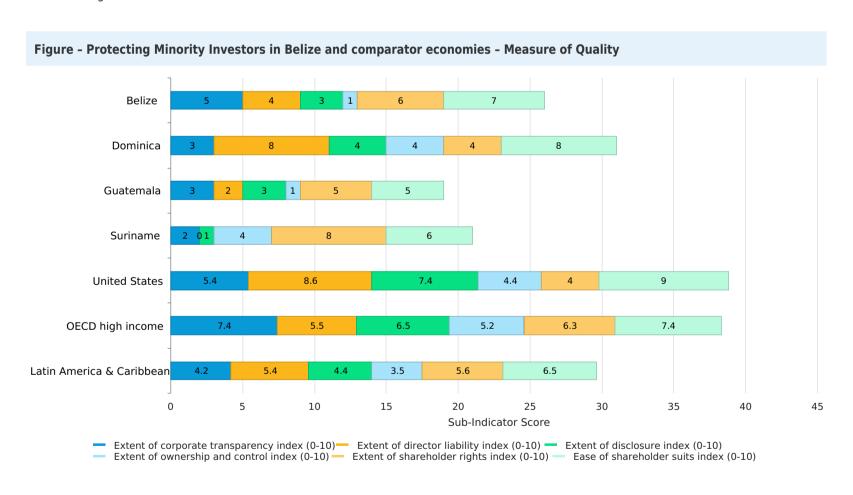
#### **Protecting Minority Investors - Belize**

Indicator	Belize	Latin America & Caribbean	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Extent of disclosure index (0-10)	3.0	4.1	6.5	10 (13 Economies)
Extent of director liability index (0-10)	4.0	5.2	5.3	10 (Cambodia)
Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)	7.0	6.7	7.3	10 (Djibouti)
Extent of shareholder rights index (0-10)	6.0	5.4	6.4	10 (Kazakhstan)
Extent of ownership and control index (0-10)	1.0	3.2	5.4	None in 2017/18
Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)	5.0	3.9	7.6	10 (6 Economies)

Figure - Protecting Minority Investors in Belize 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.



#### **Details - Protecting Minority Investors in Belize - Measure of Quality**

	Answer	Score
Extent of conflict of interest regulation index (0-10)		4.7
Extent of disclosure index (0-10)		3.0
Whose decision is sufficient to approve the Buyer-Seller transaction? (0-3)	Shareholders or board of directors including interested parties	1.0
Must an external body review the terms of the transaction before it takes place? (0-1)	No	0.0
Must Mr. James disclose his conflict of interest to the board of directors? (0-2)	Existence of a conflict without any specifics	1.0
Must Buyer disclose the transaction in periodic filings (e.g. annual reports)? (0-2)	Disclosure on the transaction only	1.0
Must Buyer immediately disclose the transaction to the public? (0-2)	No disclosure obligation	0.0
Extent of director liability index (0-10)		4.0
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 negligent	1.0
Can shareholders hold the other directors liable for the damage the transaction caused to Buyer (0-2)	Liable if negligent	1.0
Must Mr. James pay damages for the harm caused to Buyer upon a successful claim by shareholders? $(0-1)$	Yes	1.0
Must Mr. James repay profits made from the transaction upon a successful claim by shareholders? (0-1)	No	0.0
Is Mr. James disqualified upon a successful claim by shareholders? (0-1)	No	0.0
Can a court void the transaction upon a successful claim by shareholders? (0-2)	Only in case of fraud or bad faith	0.0
Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)		7.0
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)	Documents that the defendant relied on	1.0
Can the plaintiff request categories of documents from the defendant without identifying specific ones? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Can the plaintiff directly question the defendant and witnesses at trial? (0-2)	Yes	2.0
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)		4.0
Extent of shareholder rights index (0-10)		6.0
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?	No	0.0
Do shareholders automatically receive preemption rights every time Buyer issues new shares?	No	0.0

Are changes to the rights of a class of shares only possible if the holders of the affected shares approve?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, does the sale of \$1% of its assets require member approval?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 10% call for a ves 1.0 meeting of members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must all or almost all members consent to add a ves 1.0 meeting of members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must all or almost all members consent to add a ves 1.0 members for the ownership and control index (0-10)  Is a forbidden to appoint the same individual as CEO and chairperson of the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?  No 0.0  Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their term?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board members?  Must appoint a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer floring within a maximum period set by law?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum No 0.0  all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer fishriary employment and directors beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%? Yes 1.0  Must Buyer disclose information about board members' primary employment and indirect company in the super is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum No 0.0  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)  Must Buyer disclose information about board members representing 5% put tr	Doing Business 2019 Belize		
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, does the sale of 51% of its assets require member approval?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 10% call for a meeting of members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must all or almost all members consent to add a new members?  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?  Extent of ownership and control index (0-10)  Is it forbidden to appoint the same individual as CEO and chairperson of the board of directors?  Must the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?  No 0.0  Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their term?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board members?  Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of No 0.0  Buyer?  Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum no 0.0  Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum no 0.0  disagreements among members?  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)  Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial counership stakes representing 5%? Yes 1.0  Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial counership stakes representing 5%? Yes 1.0  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers? No 0.0  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers? No 0.0  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers? No 0.0  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers? No	Must shareholders approve the election and dismissal of the external auditor?	Yes	1.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 10% call for a receiting of members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must all or almost all members consent to add a reason members are member?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must all or almost all members consent to add a reason and the existing members before they can set to non-members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a member first offer to sell their interest to No 0.0  In the existing members before they can set to non-members?  Extent of ownership and control index (0-10)  Is it forbidden to appoint the same individual as CEO and chairperson of the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?  Must the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board no 0.0  Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their term?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board no 0.0  Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring board no 0.0  Buyer?  Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to no 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to no 0.0  all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to no 0.0  Must Buyer disclose information about board members' primary employment and no 0.0  Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%?  Must Buyer disclose information about board members' primary employment and no 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting Yes 1.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company,		No	0.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must all or almost all members consent to add a rew member?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must all or almost all members consent to add a rew member?  Extent of ownership and control index (0-10)  Is it forbidden to appoint the same individual as CEO and chairperson of the board of directors?  Must the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?  No 0.0  Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their tem?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board nembers?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board nembers?  Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of No 0.0  Buyer?  Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must appendial acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must appendial acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must appendial acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum No 0.0  Distributed transparency index (0-10)  Must Buyer disclose firor mation about board members' primary employment and directors include individual managers?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put Items on the general meeting Yes 1.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, and members persenting 5% put items on the		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?  Extent of ownership and control index (0-10)  Is it forbidden to appoint the same individual as CEO and chairperson of the board of directors?  Must the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?  No 0.0  Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their term?  Must the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?  No 0.0  Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their term?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board no members?  Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of No 0.0  Buyer?  Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of No 0.0  Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum period set by law?  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)  Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%?  Yes 1.0  Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%?  No 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No 0.0  Must Buyer disclose the companiation of individual managers?  Must Buyer disclose the addition of the public?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members mere at least once a year?  No 0.0  Must Buyer is a		Yes	1.0
Extent of ownership and control index (0-10)  Is it forbidden to appoint the same individual as CEO and chairperson of the board of directors?  Must the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?  No 0.0  Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their tem?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board of their tem?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board of their tem?  Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of No 0.0  Buyer?  Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?  No 0.0  Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum No 0.0  Extent of corporate transparency Index (0-10)  Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%? Yes 1.0  Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%? Yes 1.0  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting Yes 1.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year? No 0.0  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members representing 5% put items on the Yes 1.0		Yes	1.0
Is it forbidden to appoint the same individual as CEO and chairperson of the board of directors?  Must the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?  No 0.0  Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their term?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board No 0.0  members?  Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of No 0.0  Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law? No 0.0  Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company? No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum No 0.0  Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%? Yes 1.0  Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%? Yes 1.0  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers? No 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting Yes 1.0  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public? Yes 1.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year? No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members representing 5% put items on the Yes 1.0		No	0.0
Must the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members? No 0.0  Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their term?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board members?  Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?  No 0.0  Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum No 0.0  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)  Must Buyer disclose information about board members' primary employment and directorships in other companies?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No 0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?  No 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?  No 0.0  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, and members representing 5% put items on the	Extent of ownership and control index (0-10)		1.0
Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their term?  Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board members?  Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?  No  0.0  Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company?  No  0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum No  0.0  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)  Must Buyer disclose information about board members' primary employment and directorships in other companies?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No  0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?  No  0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No  0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No  0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members representing 5% put items on the	·	No	0.0
Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board members?  Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?  No 0.0  Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum period set by law?  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)  Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%?  Must Buyer disclose information about board members' primary employment and directorships in other companies?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No 0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?  No 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting yes agenda?  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the Yes 1.0	Must the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?	No	0.0
Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?  No 0.0  Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum No 0.0  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)  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?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?  No 0.0  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, an members representing 5% put items on the		Yes	1.0
Buyer?  Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?  No 0.0  Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)  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?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No 0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?  No 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the Yes 1.0		No	0.0
Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum No 0.0  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10) 5.0  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?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers? No 0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting? No 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public? Yes 1.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year? No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the Yes 1.0		No	0.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer have a mechanism to resolve disagreements among members?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum period set by law?  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)  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?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers? No 0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting? No 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor? No 0.0  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public? Yes 1.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year? No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the Yes 1.0	Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?	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?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum No 0.0 period set by law?  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10) 5.0  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? No 0.0  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers? No 0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting? No 0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting Yes 1.0  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor? No 0.0  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public? Yes 1.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year? No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the Yes 1.0	Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company?	No	0.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer distribute profits within a maximum period set by law?  Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)  Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%?  Must Buyer disclose information about board members' primary employment and directorships in other companies?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No  0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?  No  0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?  No  0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No  0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the		No	0.0
Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)  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?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No  0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?  No  0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?  No  0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No  0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the		No	0.0
Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%?  Must Buyer disclose information about board members' primary employment and directorships in other companies?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No  0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?  No  0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?  No  0.0  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Yes  1.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No  0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the		No	0.0
Must Buyer disclose information about board members' primary employment and directorships in other companies?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No  0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?  No  0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?  No  0.0  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Yes  1.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No  0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the	Extent of corporate transparency index (0-10)		5.0
directorships in other companies?  Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?  No  0.0  Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?  No  0.0  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?  No  0.0  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Yes  1.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No  0.0	Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%?	Yes	1.0
Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?  Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?  No  0.0  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No  0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the  Yes  1.0		No	0.0
Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?  Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?  No 0.0  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No 0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the Yes 1.0	Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?	No	0.0
Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?  Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No  O.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the  Yes  1.0	Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?	No	0.0
Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No  O.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the Yes  1.0		Yes	1.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?  No  0.0  Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the Yes 1.0	Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?	No	0.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, can members representing 5% put items on the Yes 1.0	Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?	Yes	1.0
	Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must members meet at least once a year?	No	0.0
		Yes	1.0
Assuming that Buyer is a limited company, must Buyer's annual financial statements be Yes 1.0 audited by an external auditor?		Yes	1.0

#### **S** 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.

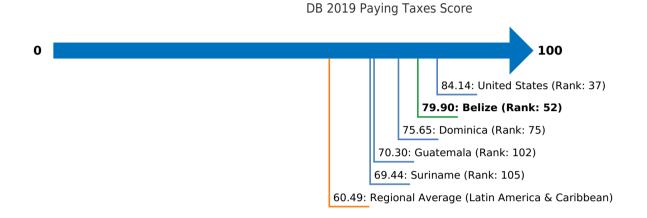
#### The corporate income tax audit process:

- 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.

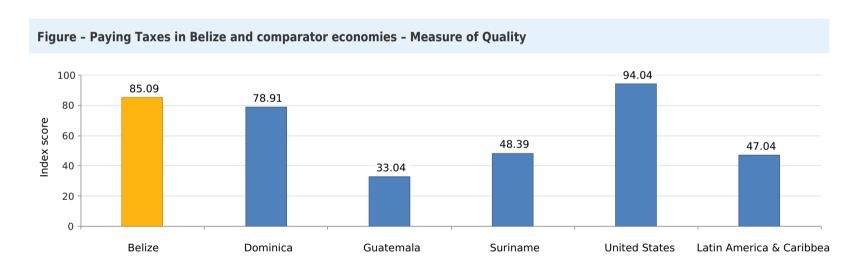
#### **Paying Taxes - Belize**

Indicator	Belize	Latin America & Caribbean	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Payments (number per year)	29	27.1	11.2	3 (Hong Kong SAR, China)
Time (hours per year)	147	330.0	159.4	49 (Singapore)
Total tax and contribution rate (% of profit)	31.1	46.7	39.8	26.1% (32 Economies)
Postfiling index (0-100)	85.09	47.04	84.41	None in 2017/18

Figure - Paying Taxes in Belize 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.



# **Details - Paying Taxes in Belize**

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
Business tax or Corporate income tax	12.0		27.0	1.75% or 25%	turnover or profits	24.75	
Employer paid - Social security contributions	1.0	online	60.0	various rates	gross salaries	5.04	
Business license	1.0			25%	rental value of business premises	0.81	
Property tax	1.0			10%	rental value of property	0.49	
Vehicle tax	1.0			various rates	ranges between BZD 250-300	0.03	
Fuel tax	1.0					0.00	small amount
General sales tax (GST)	12.0		60.0	12.5%	value added	0.00	not included
Employee paid - Social security contributions	0.0	jointly		various rates	gross salaries	0.00	withheld
Totals	29		147			31.1	

# Details - Paying Taxes in Belize - Tax by Type

Taxes by type	Answer
Profit tax (% of profit)	24.7
Labor tax and contributions (% of profit)	5
Other taxes (% of profit)	1.3

# **Details - Paying Taxes in Belize - Measure of Quality**

	Answer	Score
Postfiling index (0-100)		85.09
VAT refunds		
Does VAT exist?	Yes	
Does a VAT refund process exist per the case study?	Yes	
Restrictions on VAT refund process	None	
Percentage of cases exposed to a VAT audit (%)	75% - 100%	
Is there a mandatory carry forward period?	No	
Time to comply with VAT refund (hours)	5.0	90
Time to obtain a VAT refund (weeks)	18.5	70.56
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)	4.0	95.41
Time to complete a corporate income tax correction (weeks)	5.0	84.38

**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 22×24=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.

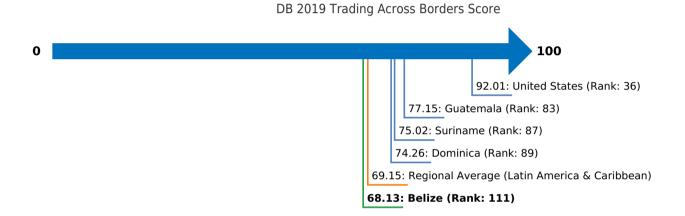
#### Assumptions of the case study:

- 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.

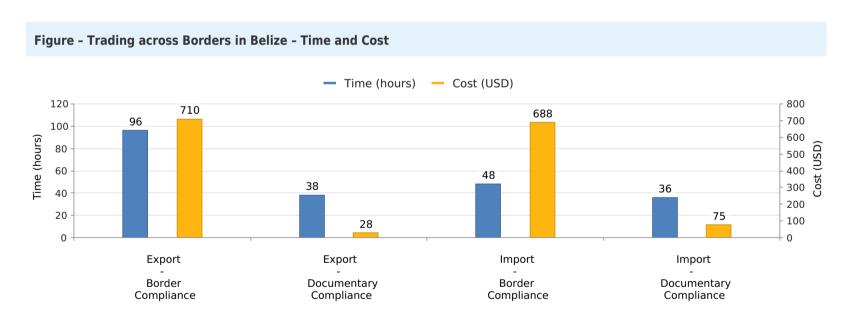
# **Trading across Borders - Belize**

Indicator	Belize	Latin America & Caribbean	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Time to export: Border compliance (hours)	96	61.9	12.5	1 (19 Economies)
Cost to export: Border compliance (USD)	710	529.8	139.1	0 (19 Economies)
Time to export: Documentary compliance (hours)	38	52.5	2.4	1 (26 Economies)
Cost to export: Documentary compliance (USD)	28	110.4	35.2	0 (20 Economies)
Time to import: Border compliance (hours)	48	62.6	8.5	0 (25 Economies)
Cost to import: Border compliance (USD)	688	647.2	100.2	0 (28 Economies)
Time to import: Documentary compliance (hours)	36	79.1	3.4	1 (30 Economies)
Cost to import: Documentary compliance (USD)	75	116.3	24.9	0 (30 Economies)

Figure - Trading across Borders in Belize 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.



# **Details - Trading across Borders in Belize**

Characteristics	Export	Import
Product	HS 08 : Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	HS 8708: Parts and accessories of motor vehicles
Trade partner	United Kingdom	United States
Border	Belize City port	Belize City port
Distance (km)	6	6
Domestic transport time (hours)	4	4
Domestic transport cost (USD)	425	425

# **Details - Trading across Borders in Belize - Components of Border Compliance**

	Time to Complete (hours)	Associated Costs (USD)
Export: Clearance and inspections required by customs authorities	18.0	187.5
Export: Clearance and inspections required by agencies other than customs	48.0	97.5
Export: Port or border handling	48.0	425.0
Import: Clearance and inspections required by customs authorities	18.0	187.5
Import: Clearance and inspections required by agencies other than customs	0.0	0.0
Import: Port or border handling	48.0	500.0

# **Details - Trading across Borders in Belize - Trade Documents**

Export	Import
Bill of lading	Bill of lading
Commercial Invoice	Application for foreign exchange (XCH form)
Customs Export Declaration	Commercial invoice
Packing list	Customs Import Declaration
Export License	Out of charge note/ cargo release order to exit the port
Phytosanitary certificate	Packing list
Certificate of origin	Delivery Order
SOLAS certificate	SOLAS certificate

# **m** 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.

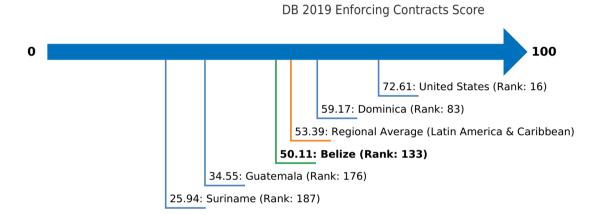
# **Enforcing Contracts - Belize**

#### **Standardized Case**

Claim value	BZD 18,236
Court name	Belize Supreme Court
City Covered	Belize City

Indicator	Belize	Latin America & Caribbean	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Time (days)	892	768.5	582.4	None in 2017/18
Cost (% of claim value)	27.5	31.4	21.2	None in 2017/18
Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)	8.0	8.5	11.5	None in 2017/18

Figure - Enforcing Contracts in Belize 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.



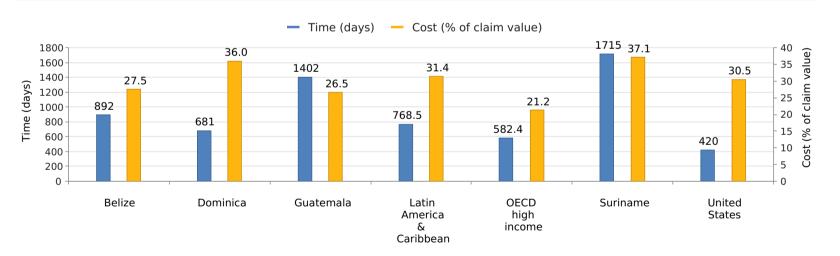
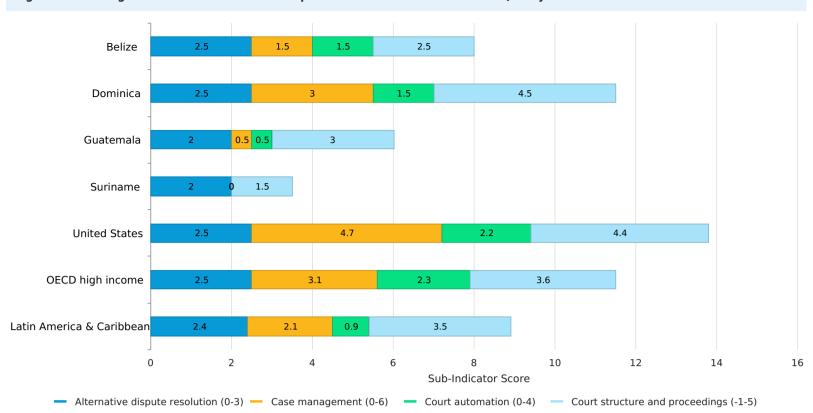




Figure - Enforcing Contracts in Belize and comparator economies - Measure of Quality



# **Details - Enforcing Contracts in Belize**

	Indicator
Time (days)	892
Filing and service	30
Trial and judgment	562
Enforcement of judgment	300
Cost (% of claim value)	27.5
Attorney fees	17.5
Court fees	2
Enforcement fees	8
Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)	8.0
Court structure and proceedings (-1-5)	2.5
Case management (0-6)	1.5
Court automation (0-4)	1.5
Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)	2.5

# **Details - Enforcing Contracts in Belize - Measure of Quality**

2.5 It is there a court or division of a court dedicated solely to hearing commercial cases? No 0.0  2. Small claims court 1,5  2.a. Is there a small claims court or fast-track procedure for small claims? Yes 2.b. If yes, is self-representation allowed? Yes 1.0  4. Are new cases assigned randomly to judges? No 0.0  5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? Yes 0.0  5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? Yes 0.0  5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? Yes 0.0  6. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? Yes 0.0  6. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? Yes 0.0  7. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? Yes 0.0  7. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? Yes 0.0  7. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? Yes 0.0  8. La. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil yes 1.5  9. La. Are these time standards respected in more than 50% of cases? No 0.0  9. La. Are understandards respected in more than 50% of cases? No 0.0  9. La. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances? No 0.0  9. La. Lift rules on a adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? No 0.0  9. La. Can the of the following four reports be generated about the competent court: 0 lime to disposable needs of the court for 1.0  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically for claims filed before the 1.0  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically find place within the competent court for 1.0  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically within the competent court for 1.0  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically find claims filed before the 1.0  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically find claims filed be		Answer	Score
1. Is there a court or division of a court dedicated solely to hearing commercial cases?  2. In the court of division of a court dedicated solely to hearing commercial cases?  2. In these a small claims court or a fast-track procedure for small claims?  2. In the same a small claims court or a fast-track procedure for small claims?  Yes  2. In the same a small claims court or a fast-track procedure for small claims?  Yes  3. Is pretrial attachment available?  4. Are new cases assigned randomly to judges?  No  0.0  5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?  Yes  0.0  1. Time standards  1. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil case?  1. If yes, are the time standards set for at least three court events?  1. If yes, are the time standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  2. Adjournments  2. Does the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?  2. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases?  2. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases?  3. Can two of the following four reports be generated about the competent court. (I) time to disposition report), (II) age of pending cases report, and (IV) single case propries report?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court for use by judges?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  7. Cauch the initial complaint be filed electronically from the maximum within the competent court for use by judges?  8. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  8. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  9. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court.  9	Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)		8.0
2. As 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 precial attachment available? Yes 1.0 4. Are new cases assigned randomly to judges? No 0.0 5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? Yes 0.0 5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? Yes 0.0 5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? Yes 0.0 5. This standards 0.5 6. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil case? 6. La. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events? Yes 1.0. If yes, are the time standards respected in more than 50% of cases? No 0.0 6. Are adjournments 1. O.0 6. Are adjournments 1. O.0 6. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances? No 1. Are adjournments assist are they respected in more than 50% of cases? No 0.0 6. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances? No 0.0 6. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances? No 0.0 6. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances? No 0.0 6. Are adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? No 0.0 6. Are adjournments exist. are they respected in more than 50% of cases? No 0.0 6. Are provided to conference among the case management techniques used before the Competent court? No 0.0 6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for No 0.0 6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for No 0.0 6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for No 0.0 6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for No 0.0 6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for No 0.0 6. Are there any electronic day the management tools in place within the co	Court structure and proceedings (-1-5)		2.5
2.a. is there a small claims court or a fast-track procedure for small claims?  2.b. if yes, is self-representation allowed?  2.b. if yes, is self-representation allowed?  3. Is pretrial attachment available?  4. Are new cases assigned randomly to judges?  5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?  5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?  5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?  6. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?  7. Solome to the laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil case?  1.b. if yes, are the time standards set for at least three court events?  2.c. Are these time standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  1.b. if yes, are the time standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  2.a. Does the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?  2.b. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances?  2.c. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases?  3. Can two of the following four reports be generated about the competent court; 0) time to disposition report; (ii) clearance rate report; (iii) age of pending cases report; and (ivi) single cases progress report?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  1.c. and the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  No 0.0  1.5  1.6. Are there any electronic asser management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  2. Is it possible to carry our service of process electronically for claims filed before the general public through publication in offic	1. Is there a court or division of a court dedicated solely to hearing commercial cases?	No	0.0
2.b. If yes, is self-representation allowed?  3. Is pretrial attachment available?  4. Are new cases assigned randomly to judges?  5. Does a woman's testimory carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?  7. Soe a management (0-6)  1. Time standards  1. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil  1. Description of the standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  1. Description of the standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  1. Description of the standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  1. Description of the standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  1. Description of the standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  2. Description of the standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  2. Description of the standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  2. Description of the standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  3. Can two of the following four reports be generated about the competent court: (i) time to disposition reports be generated about the competent court: (i) time to disposition reports (ii) age of pending cases report; and (iv) single case progress report?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  7. Court automation (0-4)  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the court for use by judges?  8. Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at all levels made available to the general public through publication in official gazetes, in newspapers or on the internet or court webster?  4. Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at the appellate and supreme court level made available to the gener	2. Small claims court		1.5
3. Is pretrial attachment available? 4. Are new case assigned randomly to judges? 5. Does a woman's testimory carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? 5. Does a woman's testimory carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? 5. Does a woman's testimory carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's? 6. The standards 6. The standards 7. La. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil case? 7. Lo. If yes, are the time standards respected in more than 50% of cases? 8. Lo. Are these time standards respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. Are these time standards respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. Are adjournments 9. Lo. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances? 9. Lo. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances? 9. Lo. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances? 9. Lo. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances? 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional cases are they repeated to fire they single exist. 9. Lo. If rules on adjournments the tensor than 50% of cases? 9. Lo. Are t	2.a. Is there a small claims court or a fast-track procedure for small claims?	Yes	
4. Are new cases assigned randomly to judges?  5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?  5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?  1.5  1. Time standards  1. Life yes, are the time standards set for at least three court events?  1. Life yes, are the time standards set for at least three court events?  2. Adjournments  2. Adjournments  3. Life are always and the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?  2. Life rules on adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances?  3. Can two of the following four reports be generated about the competent court; (ii) time to disposition report; (ii) clearance rate report; (iii) age of pending cases report: and (iv) single cases progress report?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  7. Life initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  2. Life possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  4. Publication of judgments  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?	2.b. If yes, is self-representation allowed?	Yes	
5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?  1.5  1. Time standards  1. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil case?  1. b. If yes, are the time standards set for at least three court events?  1. b. If yes, are the time standards set for at least three court events?  1. c. Are these time standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  1. b. If yes, are the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?  2. a. Does the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?  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?  1. c. are 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?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the no 0.0 competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  A Publication of judgments  4. A Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at all levels made available to the general public through publication in afficial gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?  4. B. Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at the appellate and supreme court level made available to the general public through publication in afficial gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?	3. Is pretrial attachment available?	Yes	1.0
1. Time standards 0.5  1. Time standards 0.5  1. La. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil case?  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 0.0.0  2. Adjournments No  2. a. Does the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?  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?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  4. B. Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at all levels made available to the quencal public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?  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?	4. Are new cases assigned randomly to judges?	No	0.0
1. Time standards 0.5  1.a. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil case?  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. Adjournments	5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?	Yes	0.0
1.a. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil case?  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. Adjournments  0.0  2. Adjournments move the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?  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?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  7. Court automation (0-4)  1. 5  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  4. Publication of judgments  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?  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?	Case management (0-6)		1.5
Lib. If yes, are the time standards set for at least three court events?  1.c. Are these time standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  No  2. Adjournments  2.a. Does the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?  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?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  court automation (0-4)  1.5  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  No  0.0  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  No  0.0  4. Publication of judgments  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?  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?	1. Time standards		0.5
1.c. Are these time standards respected in more than 50% of cases?  2. Adjournments  2. Does the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?  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?  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 cases progress report?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  4. Publication of judgments  4. 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?  4. B. Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at the appellate and supreme court level made available to the general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?		Yes	
2. Adjournments  2. a. Does the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?  2. b. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances?  2. c. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases?  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?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the Yes 1.0 competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  Court automation (0-4)  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  4. Publication of judgments  4. 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?  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?  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?	1.b. If yes, are the time standards set for at least three court events?	Yes	
2.a. Does the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?  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?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  7. Court automation (0-4)  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the no no no competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  No no no  4. Publication of judgments  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?  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?	1.c. Are these time standards respected in more than 50% of cases?	No	
2.b. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances?  2.c. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases?  1.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?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the no 0.0 competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  4. Publication of judgments  4. 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?  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?	2. Adjournments		0.0
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?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  7. Court automation (0-4)  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  No  0.0  4. Publication of judgments  4. 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?  4. A. 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	
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?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  7. Court automation (0-4)  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  4. Publication of judgments  4. 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?  4. D. 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?	2.b. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances?	No	
disposition report; (ii) clearance rate report; (iii) age of pending cases report; and (iv) single case progress report?  4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?  5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  7. Court automation (0-4)  7. Court automation of place within the competent court?  8. Court automation of place within the competent court?  8. Court automation of place within the competent court?  8. Court automation of judgments  9. Court automation of 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?  9. Court level made available to the general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?  9. Court level made available to the general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?	2.c. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases?	n.a.	
5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  Court automation (0-4)  1.5  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  No  0.0  4. Publication of judgments  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?  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?	disposition report; (ii) clearance rate report; (iii) age of pending cases report; and (iv) single	No	0.0
use by judges?  6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?  Court automation (0-4)  1.5  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  No  0.0  4. Publication of judgments  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?  4.b. Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at the appellate and supreme court level made available to the general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?		Yes	1.0
Court automation (0-4)  1.5  1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  No  0.0  4. Publication of judgments  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?  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	0.0
1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?  2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  No  0.0  4. Publication of judgments  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?  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	0.0
2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?  3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  4. Publication of judgments  4. 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?  4. Description of 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?  Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)  2.5	Court automation (0-4)		1.5
3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?  4. Publication of judgments  4. 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?  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?  Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)  2.5	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	no	0.0
4. Publication of judgments  4. 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?  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?  Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)  2.5		Yes	1.0
4.a Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at all levels made available to the general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?  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?  Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)  2.5	3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?	No	0.0
general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?  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?  Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)  2.5	4. Publication of judgments		0.5
court level made available to the general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?  Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)  2.5	general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the	No	
• • •	court level made available to the general public through publication in official	Yes	
1. Arbitration 1.5	Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)		2.5
	1. Arbitration		1.5

Doing Business 2019	Belize		
consolidated	stic commercial arbitration governed by a consolidated law or chapter or section of the applicable code of civil procedure og substantially all its aspects?	Yes	
	e any commercial disputes—aside from those that deal with public ic policy—that cannot be submitted to arbitration?	No	
1.c. Are valid	arbitration clauses or agreements usually enforced by the courts?	Yes	
2. Mediation/Conciliat	ion		1.0
2.a. Is volunt	ary mediation or conciliation available?	Yes	
consolidated	iation, conciliation or both governed by a consolidated law or chapter or section of the applicable code of civil procedure g substantially all their aspects?	Yes	
	e financial incentives for parties to attempt mediation or conciliation tion or conciliation is successful, a refund of court filing fees, income the like)?	No	

**Belize** 

# 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
- 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:

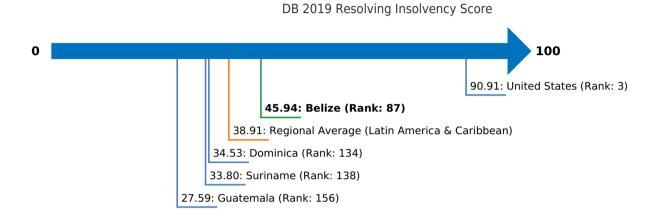
- A hotel located in the largest city (or cities) has 201 employees and 50 suppliers. The hotel experiences financial difficulties.
- The value of the hotel is 100% of the income per capita or the equivalent in local currency of USD 200,000, whichever is greater.
- The hotel has a loan from a domestic 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.

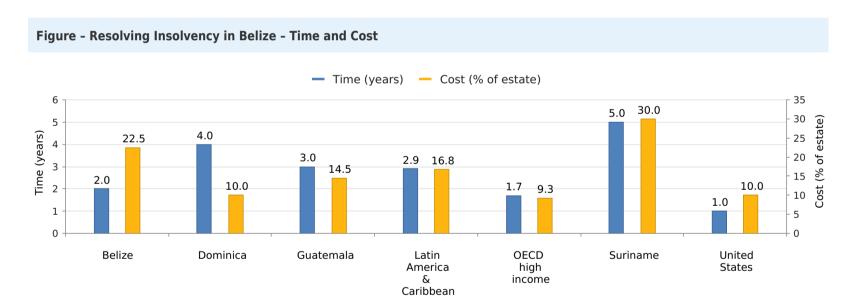
# **Resolving Insolvency - Belize**

Indicator	Belize	Latin America & Caribbean	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	56.3	30.9	70.5	None in 2017/18
Time (years)	2.0	2.9	1.7	0.4 (Ireland)
Cost (% of estate)	22.5	16.8	9.3	1.0 (Norway)
Outcome (0 as piecemeal sale and 1 as going concern)	1			
Strength of insolvency framework index (0-16)	5.0	7.1	11.9	None in 2017/18

Figure - Resolving Insolvency in Belize 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.



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."

Management of debtor's assets index (0-6) — Commencement of proceedings index (0-3) — Creditor participation index (0-4) Reorganization proceedings index (0-3)

6

8

Sub-Indicator Score

10

12

14

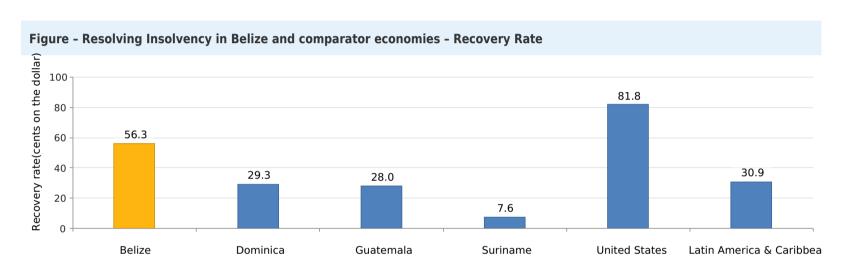
16

Latin America & Caribbean

0

2

4



# **Details - Resolving Insolvency in Belize**

Indicator	Answer	Score
Proceeding	receivership	After Mirage's default on payment, BizBank would initiate the receivership proceeding by filing a petition at the Supreme Court according to Article 5 of the Bankruptcy Act Chapter 244. The Supreme Court will review the case and an Official Receiver will be appointed by the Attorney General.
Outcome	going concern	The hotel will continue operating as a going concern after the receivership proceeding as the court appointed receiver will try to sell the business as a going concern to a third party and maximize the returns to creditors.
Time (in years)	2.0	A receivership proceeding until BizBank is repaid some or all of the money owed to it takes at least 2 year. The majority of the time will be spent on managing the estate to increase its value and on finding a buyer.
Cost (% of estate)	22.5	The costs associated with the case would amount approximately 23% of the value of the debtor's estate. Cost incurred during the entire insolvency process mainly include court or government agency fees (2%), attorney fees (10%), costs of notification and publication (1%), receiver fees(2-5%), fees of accountants, assessors, inspectors and other professionals (2-5%), fees of auctioneers (5%), and fees of service providers and/or government levies (1%).
Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		56.3

# **Details - Resolving Insolvency in Belize - Measure of Quality**

	Answer	Score
Strength of insolvency framework index (0-16)		5.0
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)		1.0
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?	Yes	1.0
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)		2.0
Does the insolvency framework require approval by the creditors for selection or appointment of the insolvency representative?	Yes	1.0
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?	Yes	1.0

**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."

# 2 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 - Belize**

# **Details - Labor Market Regulation in Belize**

	Answer
Hiring	
Fixed-term contracts prohibited for permanent tasks?	No
Maximum length of a single fixed-term contract (months)	24.0
Maximum length of fixed-term contracts, including renewals (months)	No limit
Minimum wage applicable to the worker assumed in the case study (US\$/month)	334.3
Ratio of minimum wage to value added per worker	0.6
Maximum length of probationary period (months)	6.0
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	Yes
Restrictions on weekly holiday?	No
Restrictions on overtime work?	Yes
Paid annual leave for a worker with 1 year of tenure (working days)	12.0
Paid annual leave for a worker with 5 years of tenure (working days)	12.0
Paid annual leave for a worker with 10 years of tenure (working days)	12.0
Paid annual leave (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure, in working days)	12.0
Redundancy rules	
Dismissal due to redundancy allowed by law?	Yes
Third-party notification if one worker is dismissed?	Yes
Third-party approval if one worker is dismissed?	No
Third-party notification if nine workers are dismissed?	Yes
Third-party approval if nine workers are dismissed?	No
Retraining or reassignment obligation before redundancy?	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	2.0
Notice period for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 5 years of tenure	4.0
Notice period for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 10 years of tenure	8.0
Notice period for redundancy dismissal (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure)	4.7
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 1 year of tenure	0.0

Doing Business 2019 Belize	
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 5 years of tenure	5.0
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 10 years of tenure	20.0
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure)	8.3
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)?	98.0
Receive 100% of wages on maternity leave?	No
Five fully paid days of sick leave a year?	Yes
Unemployment protection after one year of employment?	No
Minimum contribution period for unemployment protection (months)?	n.a.

**Doing Business 2019** 

Belize

# **Business Reforms in Belize**

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.

 $\checkmark$  = Doing Business reform making it easier to do business. × = Change making it more difficult to do business.

# DB2013

✓ Trading across Borders: Belize reduced the time to export and import by implementing the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system.

#### DB2012

**→ Paying Taxes:** Belize made paying taxes easier for firms by improving electronic filing and payment for social security contributions, an option now used by the majority of taxpayers.

Labor Market Regulation: Belize introduced the requirements to notify third parties in cases of redundancy dismissals.

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.

ISBN 978-1-4648-1146-3



SKU 211146



www.doingbusiness.org