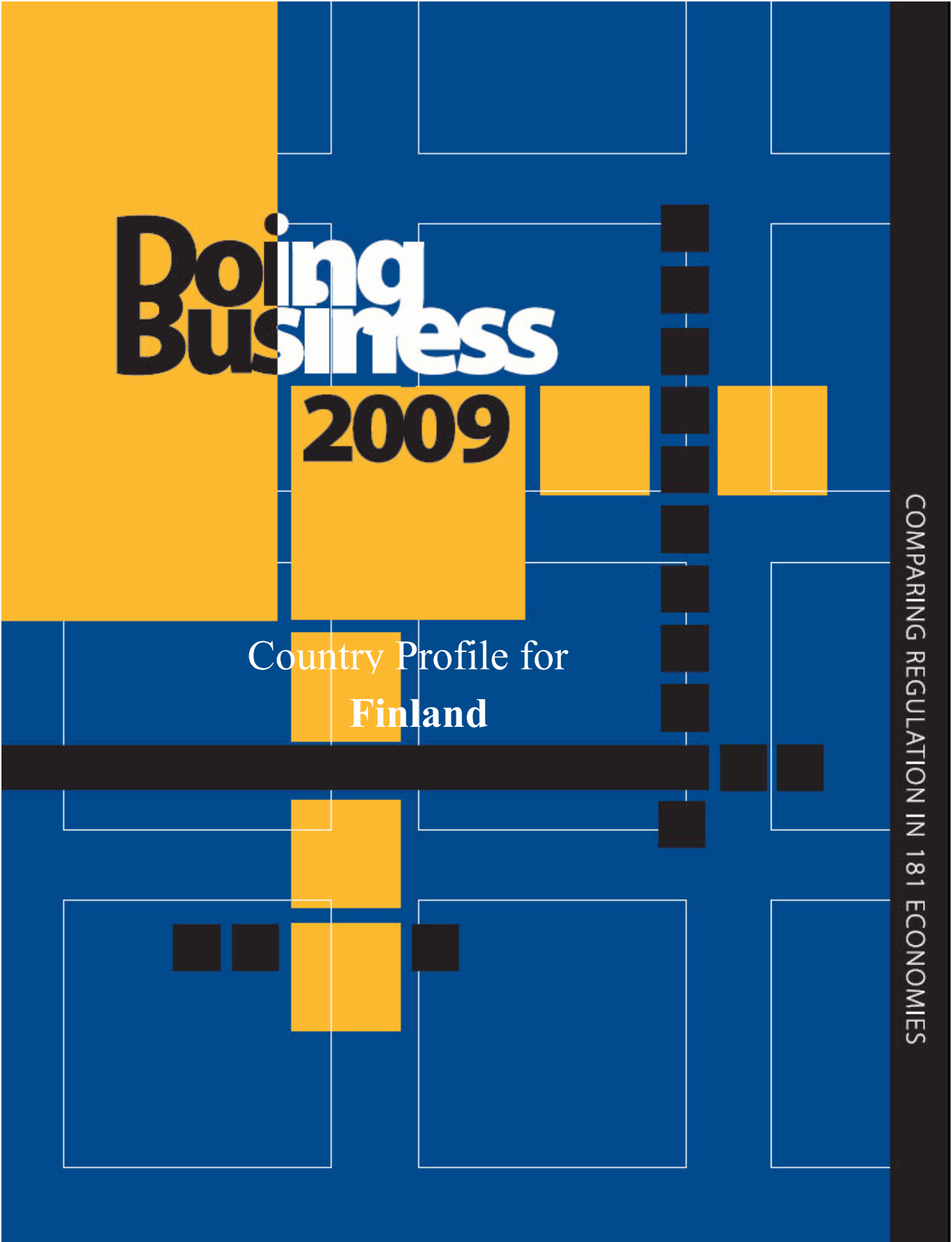


Doing Business

2009

Country Profile for Finland

COMPARING REGULATION IN 181 ECONOMIES



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Introduction

Doing Business 2009 is the sixth in a series of annual reports investigating regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. Doing Business presents quantitative indicators on business regulations and the protection of property rights that can be compared across 181 economies, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, over time.

A set of regulations affecting 10 stages of a business's life are measured : starting a business, dealing with construction permits, employing workers, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and closing a business. Data in Doing Business 2009 are current as of June 1, 2008*. The indicators are used to analyze economic outcomes and identify what reforms have worked, where, and why.

The Doing Business methodology has limitations. Other areas important to business such as an economy's proximity to large markets, the quality of its infrastructure services (other than those related to trading across borders), the security of property from theft and looting, the transparency of government procurement, macroeconomic conditions or the underlying strength of institutions, are not studied directly by Doing Business. To make the data comparable across economies, the indicators refer to a specific type of business, generally a local limited liability company operating in the largest business city. Because standard assumptions are used in the data collection, comparisons and benchmarks are valid across economies. The data not only highlight the extent of obstacles to doing business; they also help identify the source of those obstacles, supporting policymakers in designing reform.

The data set covers 181 economies: 46 in Sub-Saharan Africa, 32 in Latin America and The Caribbean, 25 in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 24 in East Asia and Pacific, 19 in the Middle East and North Africa and 8 in South Asia, as well as 27 OECD high-income economies as benchmarks.

The following pages present the summary Doing Business indicators for Finland. The data used for this country profile come from the Doing Business database and are summarized in graphs. These graphs allow a comparison of the economies in each region not only with one another but also with the "good practice" economy for each indicator.

The good-practice economies are identified by their position in each indicator as well as their overall ranking and by their capacity to provide good examples of business regulation to other countries. These good-practice economies do not necessarily rank number 1 in the topic or indicator, but they are in the top 10.

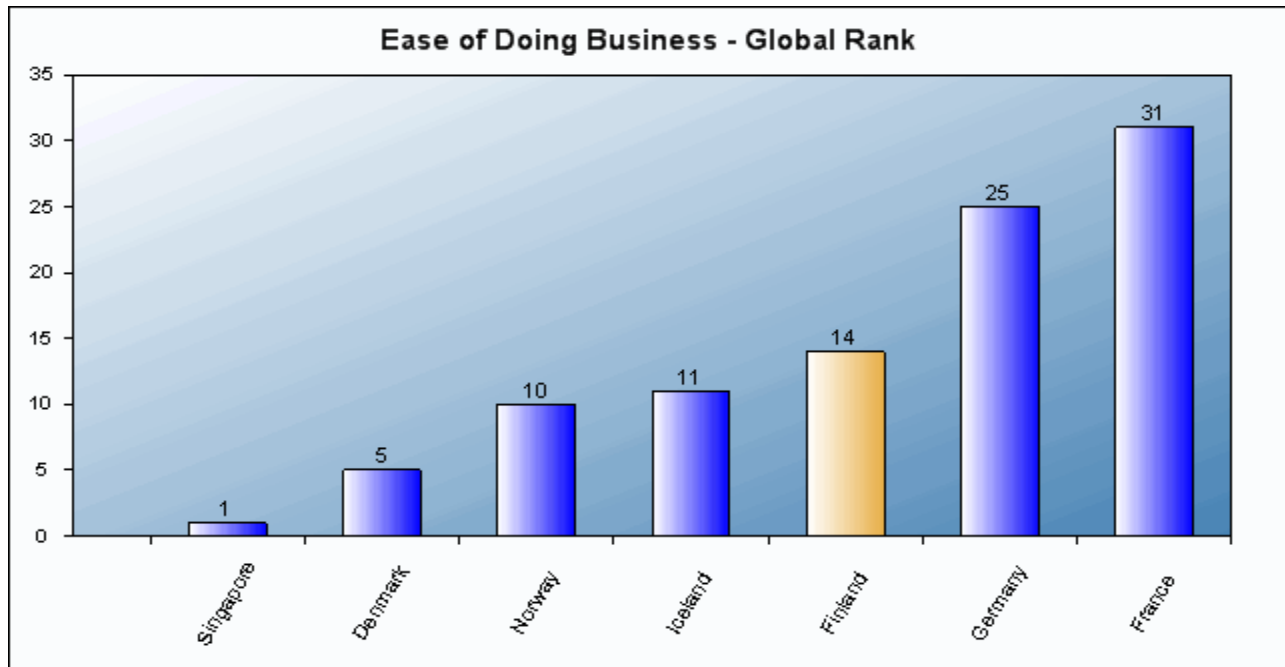
More information is available in the full report. Doing Business 2009 presents the indicators, analyzes their relationship with economic outcomes and recommends reforms. The data, along with information on ordering the report, are available on the Doing Business website (www.doingbusiness.org).

* Except for the Paying Taxes indicator that refers to the period January to December of 2007.

Economy Rankings - Ease of Doing Business

Finland is ranked 14 out of 181 economies. Singapore is the top ranked economy in the Ease of Doing Business.

Finland - Compared to global good practice economy as well as selected economies:



Finland's ranking in Doing Business 2009

Rank	Doing Business 2009
Ease of Doing Business	14
Starting a Business	18
Dealing with Construction Permits	43
Employing Workers	129
Registering Property	21
Getting Credit	28
Protecting Investors	53
Paying Taxes	97
Trading Across Borders	4
Enforcing Contracts	5
Closing a Business	5

Summary of Indicators - Finland

Starting a Business	Procedures (number)	3
	Duration (days)	14
	Cost (% GNI per capita)	1.0
	Paid in Min. Capital (% of GNI per capita)	7.4
Dealing with Construction Permits	Procedures (number)	18
	Duration (days)	38
	Cost (% of income per capita)	118.3
Employing Workers	Difficulty of Hiring Index	44
	Rigidity of Hours Index	60
	Difficulty of Firing Index	40
	Rigidity of Employment Index	48
	Firing costs (weeks of salary)	26
Registering Property	Procedures (number)	3
	Duration (days)	14
	Cost (% of property value)	4.0
Getting Credit	Legal Rights Index	7
	Credit Information Index	5
	Public registry coverage (% adults)	0.0
	Private bureau coverage (% adults)	14.8
Protecting Investors	Disclosure Index	6

Protecting Investors	Director Liability Index	4
	Shareholder Suits Index	7
	Investor Protection Index	5.7
Paying Taxes	Payments (number)	20
	Time (hours)	269
	Profit tax (%)	17.0
	Labor tax and contributions (%)	29.7
	Other taxes (%)	1.0
	Total tax rate (% profit)	47.8
Trading Across Borders	Documents for export (number)	4
	Time for export (days)	8
	Cost to export (US\$ per container)	495
	Documents for import (number)	5
	Time for import (days)	8
	Cost to import (US\$ per container)	575
Enforcing Contracts	Procedures (number)	32
	Duration (days)	235
	Cost (% of claim)	10.4
Closing a Business	Time (years)	0.9
	Cost (% of estate)	4
	Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	87.3



Starting a Business

When entrepreneurs draw up a business plan and try to get under way, the first hurdles they face are the procedures required to incorporate and register the new firm before they can legally operate. Economies differ greatly in how they regulate the entry of new businesses. In some the process is straightforward and affordable. In others the procedures are so burdensome that entrepreneurs may have to bribe officials to speed the process or may decide to run their business informally.

The data on starting a business is based on a survey and research investigating the procedures that a standard small to medium-size company needs to complete to start operations legally. These include obtaining all necessary permits and licenses and completing all required inscriptions, verifications and notifications with authorities to enable the company to formally operate. The time and cost required to complete each procedure under normal circumstances are calculated, as well as the minimum capital that must be paid in. It is assumed that all information is readily available to the entrepreneur, that there has been no prior contact with officials and that all government and nongovernment entities involved in the process function without corruption.

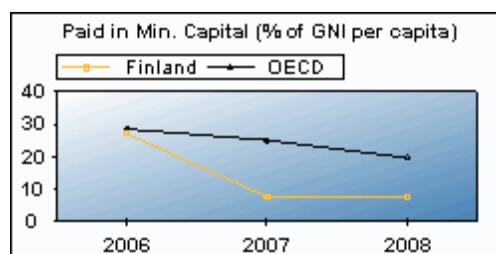
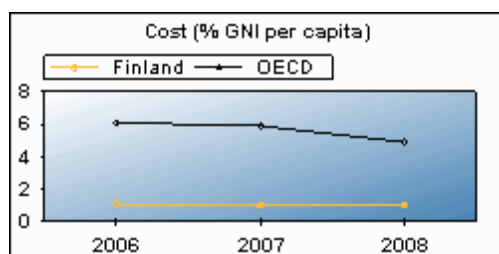
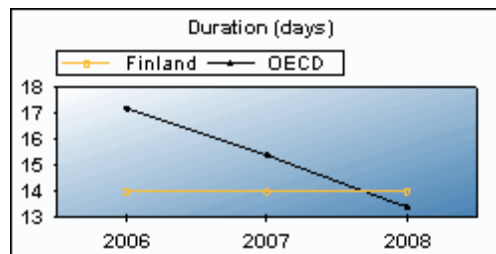
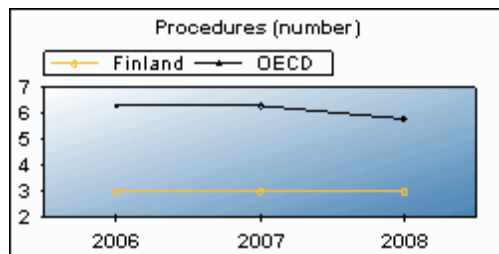
To make the data comparable across economies, detailed assumptions about the type of business are used. Among these assumptions are the following: the business is a limited liability company conducting general commercial activities in the largest business city; it is 100% domestically owned, with a start-up capital of 10 times income per capita, a turnover of at least 100 times income per capita and between 10 and 50 employees; and it does not qualify for any special benefits, nor does it own real estate. Procedures are recorded only where interaction is required with an external party. It is assumed that the founders complete all procedures themselves unless professional services (such as by a notary or lawyer) are required by law. Voluntary procedures are not counted, nor are industry-specific requirements and utility hook-ups. Lawful shortcuts are counted.

Cumbersome entry procedures are associated with more corruption, particularly in developing economies. Each procedure is a point of contact, a potential opportunity to extract a bribe. Analysis shows that burdensome entry regulations do not increase the quality of products, make work safer or reduce pollution. Instead, they constrain private investment; push more people into the informal economy; increase consumer prices and fuel corruption.

1. Historical data: Starting a Business in Finland

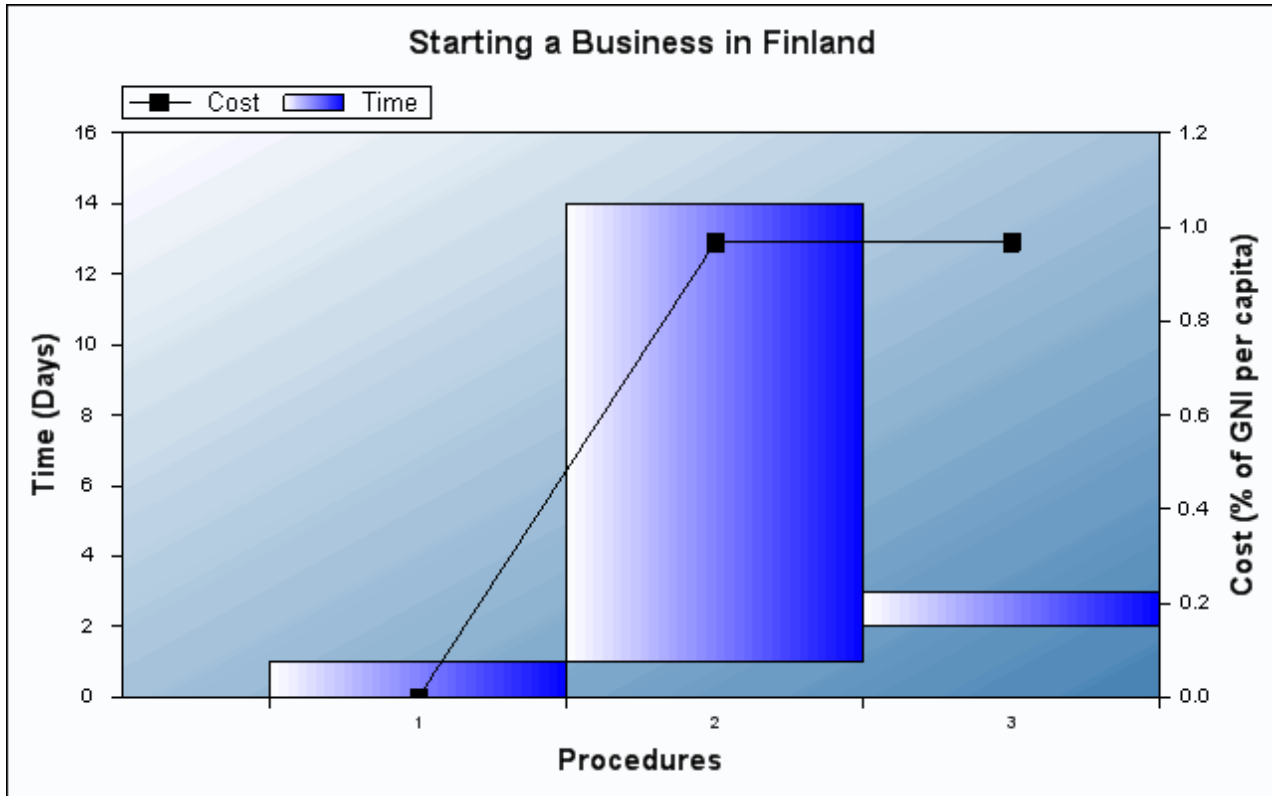
Starting a Business data	Doing Business 2007	Doing Business 2008	Doing Business 2009
Rank		15	18
Procedures (number)	3	3	3
Duration (days)	14	14	14
Cost (% GNI per capita)	1.1	1.0	1.0
Paid in Min. Capital (% of GNI per capita)	27.1	7.7	7.4

2. The following graphs illustrates the Starting a Business indicators in Finland over the past 3 years:



3. Steps to Starting a Business in Finland

It requires 3 procedures, takes 14 days, and costs 0.97 % GNI per capita to start a business in Finland.



List of Procedures:

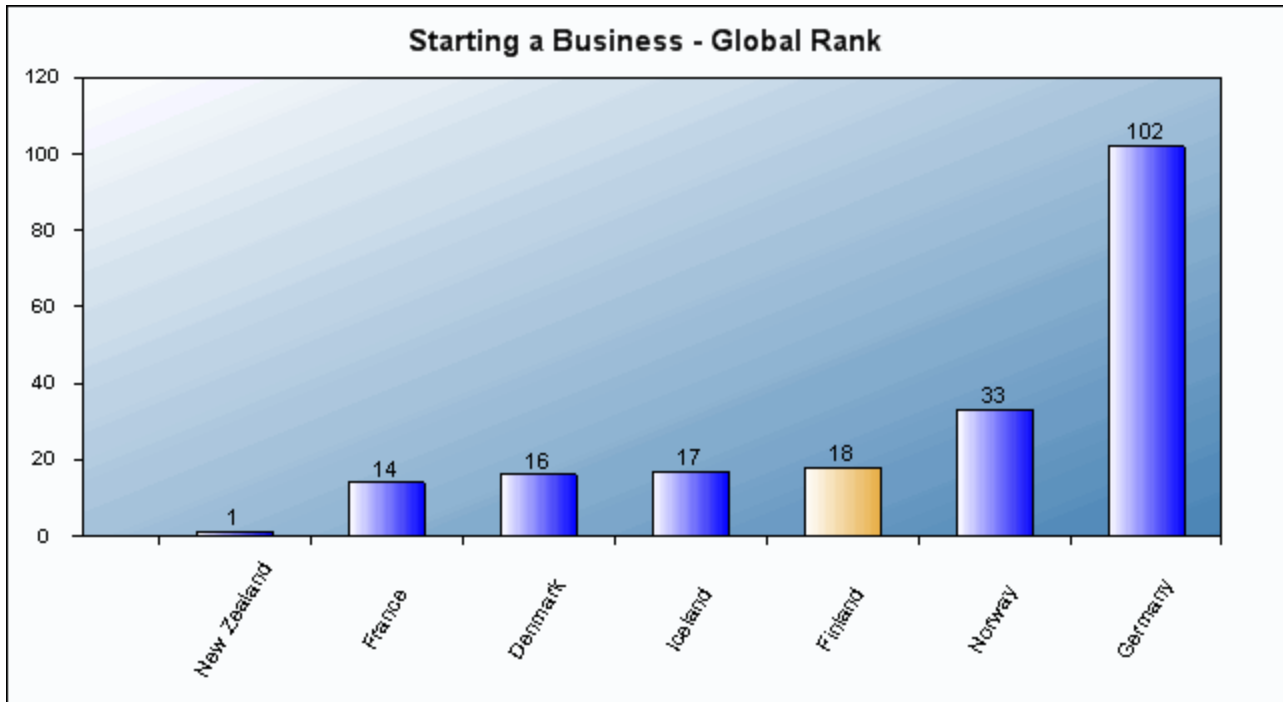
1. Deposit the paid-in share capital in a bank; pay the registration fee and get a receipt
2. Submit a basic declaration to the NBPR's Trade Register Department in the forms prescribed by the NBPR
3. File at a private insurer for pension insurance, accident insurance, and medical insurance of employees

More detail is included in the appendix.

4. Benchmarking Starting a Business Regulations:

Finland is ranked 18 overall for Starting a Business.

Ranking of Finland in Starting a Business - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Starting a Business data for Finland compared to good practice and comparator economies:

Good Practice Economies	Procedures (number)	Duration (days)	Cost (% GNI per capita)	Paid in Min. Capital (% of GNI per capita)
Denmark			0.0	
New Zealand*	1	1		0.0

<i>Selected Economy</i>				
Finland	3	14	1.0	7.4

<i>Comparator Economies</i>				
Denmark	4	6	0.0	40.1
France	5	7	1.0	0.0
Germany	9	18	5.6	42.2
Iceland	5	5	2.6	13.6
Norway	6	10	2.1	21.0

* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

Procedures (number): **Canada**

Dealing with Construction Permits

Once entrepreneurs have registered a business, what regulations do they face in operating it? To measure such regulation, Doing Business focuses on the construction sector. Construction companies are under constant pressure; from government to comply with inspections and with licensing and safety regulations and from customers to be quick and cost-effective. These conflicting pressures point to the tradeoff in building regulation; the tradeoff between protecting people (construction workers, tenants, passersby) and keeping the cost of building affordable. Striking the right balance is a challenge when it comes to construction regulations. Good regulations ensure safety standards that protect the public while making the permitting process efficient, transparent and affordable for both building authorities and the private professionals who use it. If procedures are overly complicated or costly, builders build without a permit, leading to hazardous construction.

The indicators on dealing with construction permits record all procedures officially required for an entrepreneur in the construction industry to build a warehouse. These include submitting project documents (building plans, site maps) to the authorities, obtaining all necessary licenses and permits, completing all required notifications and receiving all necessary inspections. They also include procedures for obtaining utility connections, such as electricity, telephone, water and sewerage. The time and cost to complete each procedure under normal circumstances are calculated. All official fees associated with legally completing the procedures are included (bribes not included). Time is recorded in calendar days. The survey assumes that the entrepreneur is aware of all existing regulations and does not use an intermediary to complete the procedures unless required to do so by law. To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions about the business and its operations are used. The business is a small to medium-size limited liability company, located in the most populous city, domestically owned and operated, in the construction business, with 60 qualified employees. The warehouse to be built:

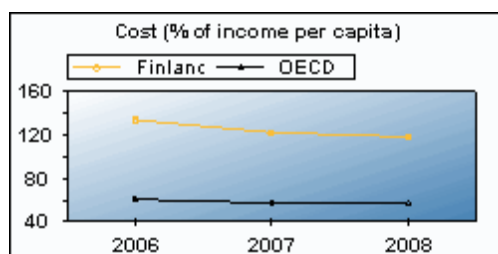
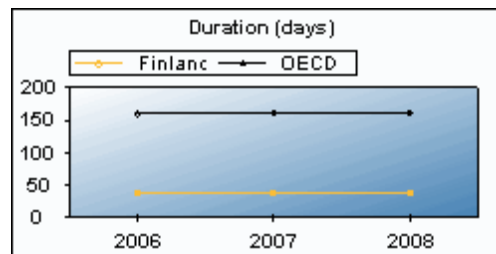
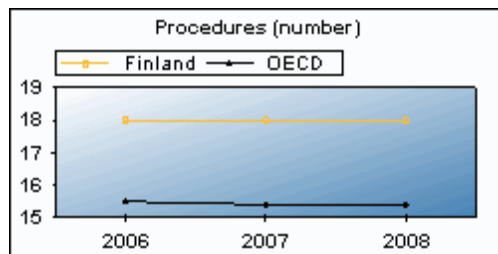
- Is a new construction (there was no previous construction on the land).
- Has 2 stories, both above ground, with a total surface of approximately 1,300.6 square meters (14,000 square feet). Each floor is 3 meters (9 feet, 10 inches) high
- Has complete architectural and technical plans prepared by a licensed architect.
- Will be connected to electricity, water, sewerage (sewage system, septic tank or their equivalent) and one land phone line. The connection to each utility network will be 32 feet, 10 inches (10 meters) long.
- Will be used for general storage, such as of books or stationery. The warehouse will not be used for any goods requiring special conditions, such as food, chemicals or pharmaceuticals.
- Will take 30 weeks to construct (excluding all delays due to administrative and regulatory requirements).

Where the regulatory burden is large, entrepreneurs move their activity into the informal economy. There they operate with less concern for safety, leaving everyone worse off.

1. Historical data: Dealing with Construction Permits in Finland

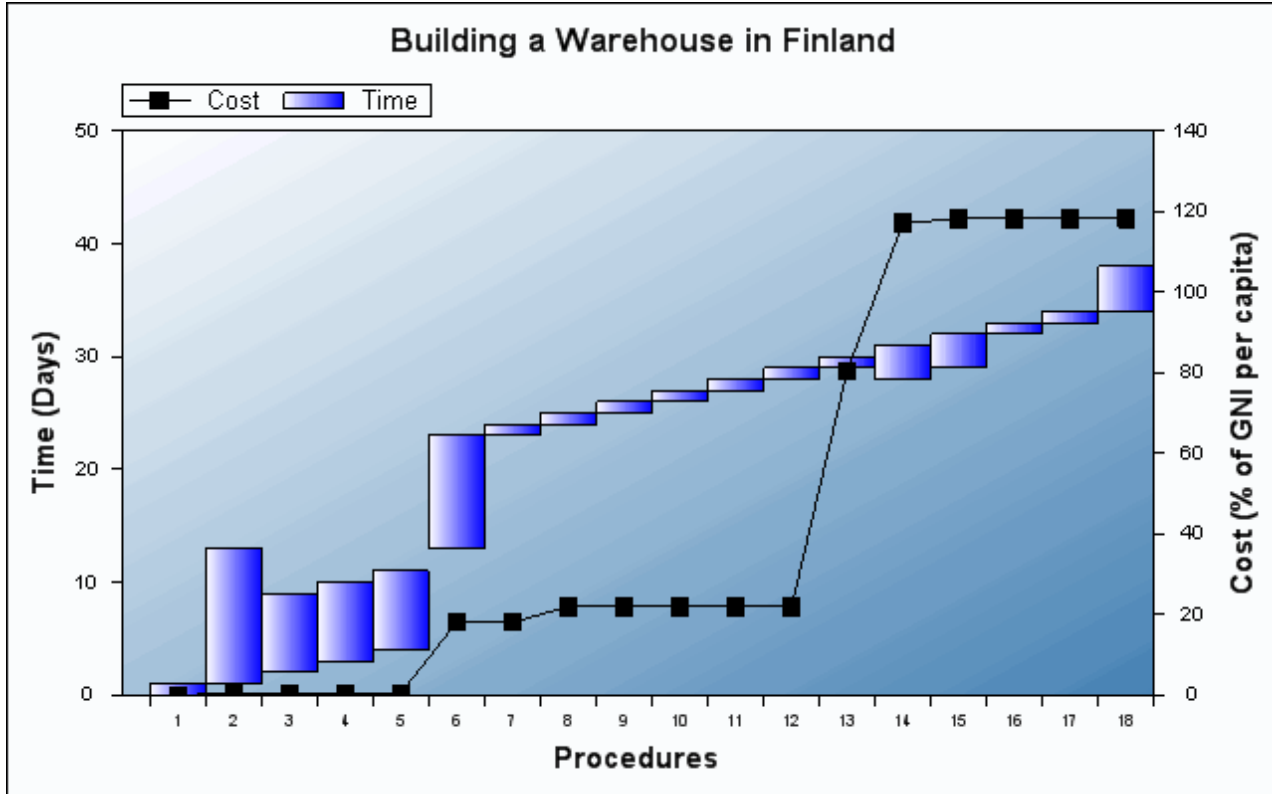
Dealing with Construction Permits data	Doing Business 2007	Doing Business 2008	Doing Business 2009
Rank		42	43
Procedures (number)	18	18	18
Duration (days)	38	38	38
Cost (% of income per capita)	134.0	122.3	118.3

2. The following graphs illustrates the Dealing with Construction Permits indicators in Finland over the past 3 years:



3. Steps to Building a Warehouse in Finland

It requires 18 procedures, takes 38 days, and costs 118.32 % GNI per capita to build a warehouse in Finland.



List of Procedures:

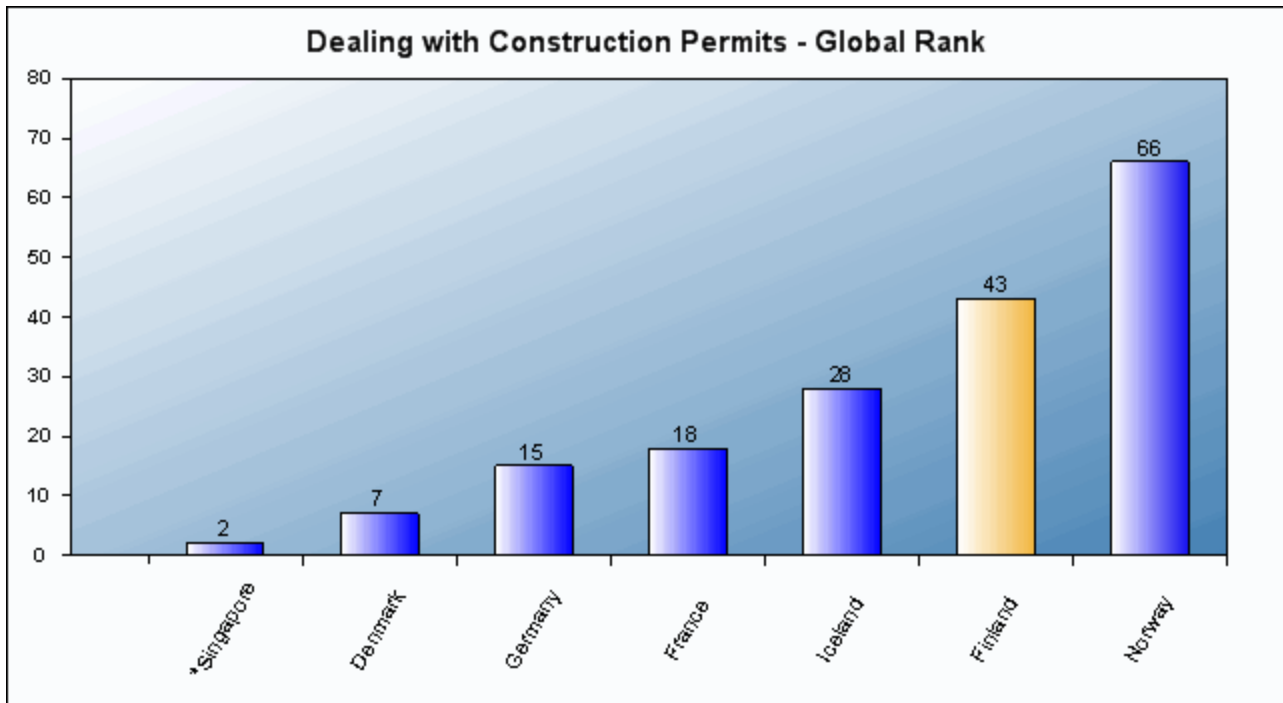
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Obtain extract from the trade register | 12. Receive sewer and water pipeline inspection |
| 2. Obtain building permit maps and extract from the real estate registry | 13. Request and obtain electricity connection |
| 3. Obtain report on the height of the intended construction | 14. Request and obtain water connection |
| 4. Obtain official opinion on the connection of the wastewater drain and water pipeline | 15. Request and obtain phone connection |
| 5. Schedule start-up meeting | 16. Receive fire inspection from the Public Rescue Service |
| 6. Obtain Building Permit | 17. Receive final inspection |
| 7. Receive foundation work inspection | 18. Obtain occupancy permit |
| 8. Receive location inspection from the real estate office | |
| 9. Submit electric wiring designs to Helsinki Energy and receive inspection | |
| 10. Receive structure inspection | |
| 11. Receive ventilation inspection | |

More detail is included in the appendix.

4. Benchmarking Dealing with Construction Permits Regulations:

Finland is ranked 43 overall for Dealing with Construction Permits.

Ranking of Finland in Dealing with Construction Permits - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



* The following economies are also good practice economies for Building a Warehouse: Belize, New Zealand, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The following table shows Dealing with Construction Permits data for Finland compared to good practice and comparator economies:

Good Practice Economies	Procedures (number)	Duration (days)	Cost (% of income per capita)
Denmark	6		
Korea		34	
Malaysia*			7.9

<i>Selected Economy</i>			
Finland	18	38	118.3

<i>Comparator Economies</i>			
Denmark	6	69	60.9
France	13	137	23.8
Germany	12	100	62.2
Iceland	18	75	19.2
Norway	14	252	46.6

* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

Cost (% of income per capita): Brunei, Palau, Qatar, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates



Employing Workers

Economies worldwide have established a system of laws and institutions intended to protect workers and guarantee a minimum standard of living for its population. This system generally encompasses four bodies of law: employment, industrial relations, social security and occupational health and safety laws. Doing Business examines government regulation in the area of employment.

Two measures are presented: a rigidity of employment index and a firing cost measure. The rigidity of employment index is the average of three subindices: difficulty of hiring, rigidity of hours and difficulty of firing. Each index takes values between 0 and 100, with higher values indicating more rigid regulation. The difficulty of hiring index measures the flexibility of contracts and the ratio of the minimum wage to the value added per worker. The rigidity of hours index covers restrictions on weekend and night work, requirements relating to working time and the workweek, and mandated days of annual leave with pay. The difficulty of firing index covers workers' legal protections against dismissal, including the grounds permitted for dismissal and procedures for dismissal (individual and collective): notification and approval requirements, retraining or reassignment obligations and priority rules for dismissals and reemployment.

The firing cost indicator measures the cost of advance notice requirements, severance payments and penalties due when terminating a redundant worker, expressed in weeks of salary.

To make the data comparable across economies, a range of assumptions about the worker and the company are used. The company is assumed to be a limited liability manufacturing corporation that operates in the economy's most populous city, is 100% domestically owned and has 201 employees. The company is also assumed to be subject to collective bargaining agreements in economies where such agreements cover more than half the manufacturing sector and apply even to firms not party to them.

Employment regulations are needed to allow efficient contracting between employers and workers and to protect workers from discriminatory or unfair treatment by employers. In its indicators on employing workers, Doing Business measures flexibility in the regulation of hiring, working hours and dismissal in a manner consistent with the conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). An economy can have the most flexible labor regulations as measured by Doing Business while ratifying and complying with all conventions directly relevant to the factors measured by Doing Business and with the ILO core labor standards. No economy can achieve a better score by failing to comply with these conventions.

Governments all over the world face the challenge of finding the right balance between worker protection and labor market flexibility. But in developing countries especially, regulators often err to one extreme, pushing employers and workers into the informal sector. Analysis across economies shows that while employment regulation generally increases the tenure and wages of incumbent workers, overly rigid regulations may have undesirable side effects. These include less job creation, smaller company size, less investment in research and development, and longer spells of unemployment and thus the obsolescence of skills, all of which may reduce productivity growth. When economies err on the side of excessive rigidity, it is to the detriment of businesses and workers alike.

1. Historical data: Employing Workers in Finland

Employing Workers data	Doing Business 2007	Doing Business 2008	Doing Business 2009
Rank		129	129
Rigidity of Employment Index	48	48	48
Firing costs (weeks of salary)	26	26	26

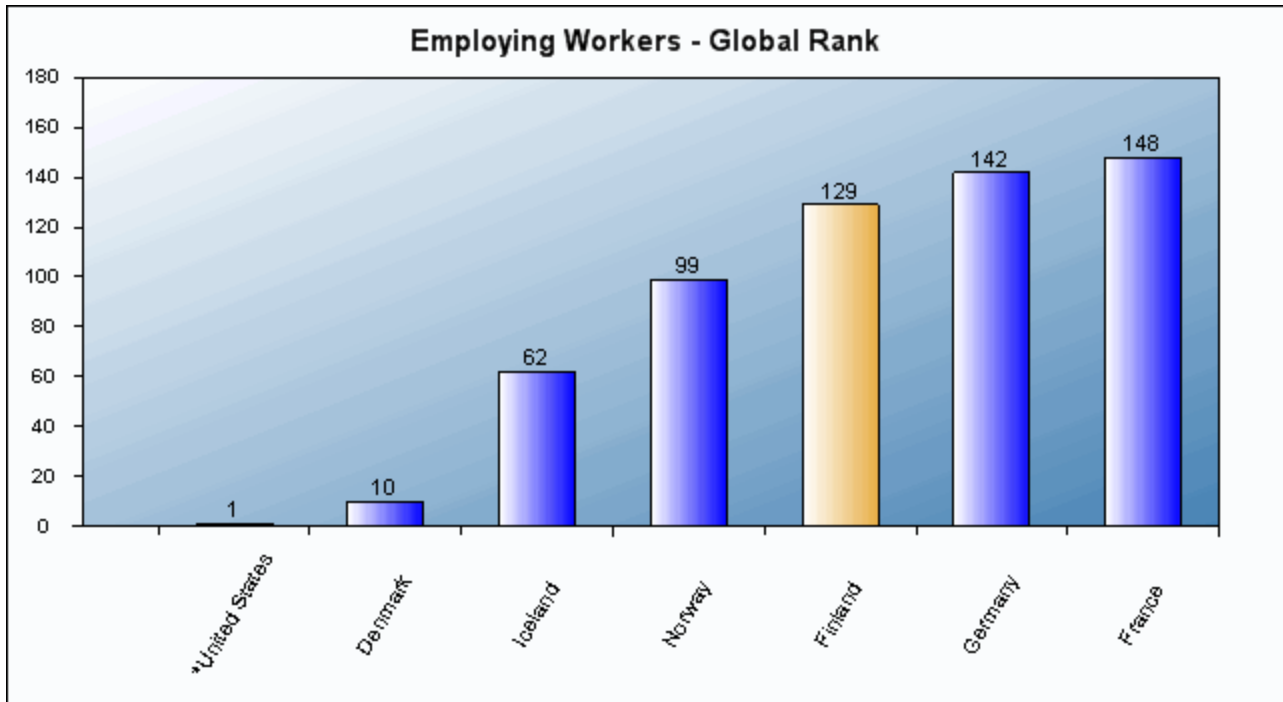
2. The following graphs illustrates the Employing Workers indicators in Finland over the past 3 years:



3. Benchmarking Employing Workers Regulations:

Finland is ranked 129 overall for Employing Workers.

Ranking of Finland in Employing Workers - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



* The following economies are also good practice economies for Employing Workers: Marshall Islands, Singapore

The following table shows Employing Workers data for Finland compared to good practice and comparator economies:

Good Practice Economies	Rigidity of Employment Index	Firing costs (weeks of salary)
Hong Kong, China*	0	
New Zealand*		0

<i>Selected Economy</i>		
Finland	48	26

<i>Comparator Economies</i>		
Denmark	10	0
France	56	32
Germany	44	69
Iceland	31	13
Norway	47	13

* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

Rigidity of Employment Index: Maldives, Marshall Islands, Singapore, United States

Firing costs (weeks of salary): Afghanistan, Denmark, Iraq, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Puerto Rico, Tonga, United States



Registering Property

Formal property titles help promote the transfer of land, encourage investment and give entrepreneurs access to formal credit markets. But a large share of property in developing economies is not formally registered. Informal titles cannot be used as security in obtaining loans, which limits financing opportunities for businesses. Many governments have recognized this and started extensive property titling programs. But bringing assets into the formal sector is only part of the story. The more difficult and costly it is to formally transfer property, the greater the chances that formalized titles will quickly become informal again. Eliminating unnecessary obstacles to registering and transferring property is therefore important for economic development.

Doing Business records the full sequence of procedures necessary for a business (buyer) to purchase a property from another business (seller) and to transfer the property title to the buyer's name. The property of land and building will be transferred in its entirety. The transaction is considered complete when the buyer can use the property as collateral for a bank loan.

Local property lawyers and officials in property registries provide information on required procedures as well as the time and cost to complete each one. For most economies the data are based on responses from both. Based on the responses, three indicators are constructed.

- Number of procedures to register property.
- Time to register property (in calendar days).
- Official costs to register property (as a percentage of the property value).

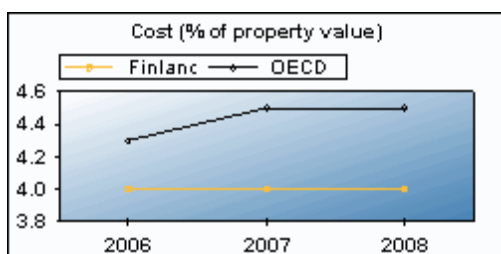
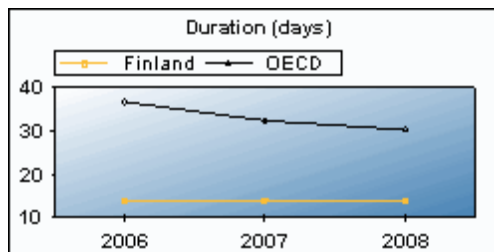
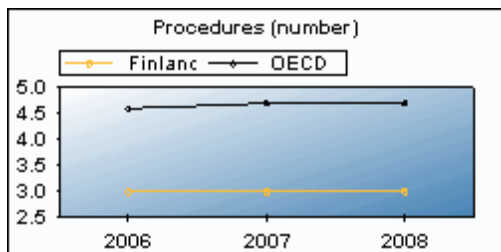
Many titling programs in Africa were futile because people bought and sold property informally, neglecting to update the title records in the property registry. Why? Doing Business shows that completing a simple formal property transfer in the largest business city of an African economy cost 10% of the value of the property and takes on average 90 days. Worse, the property registries are so poorly organized that they provide little security of ownership.

Efficient property registration reduces transaction costs and helps to formalize property titles. Simple procedures to register property are also associated with greater perceived security of property rights and less corruption. That benefits all entrepreneurs, especially women, the young and the poor. The rich have few problems protecting their property rights. They can afford to invest in security systems and other measures to defend their property. But small entrepreneurs cannot. Reform can change this. Twenty-four economies made it easier to register property in 2007/08. The most popular reform: lowering the cost of registration by reducing the property transfer tax, registration fees or stamp duty.

1. Historical data: Registering Property in Finland

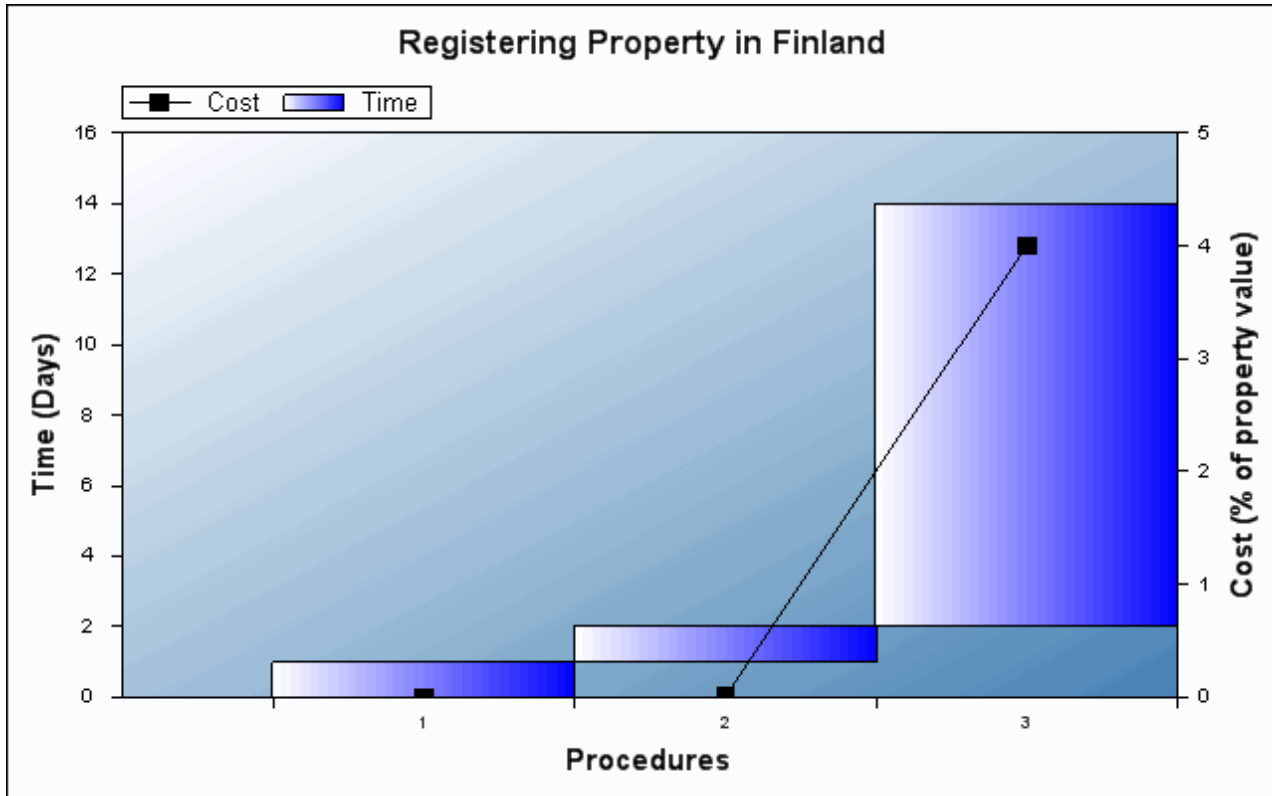
Registering Property data	Doing Business 2007	Doing Business 2008	Doing Business 2009
Rank		18	21
Procedures (number)	3	3	3
Duration (days)	14	14	14
Cost (% of property value)	4.0	4.0	4.0

2. The following graphs illustrates the Registering Property indicators in Finland over the past 3 years:



3. Steps to Registering Property in Finland

It requires 3 procedures, takes 14 days, and costs 4.03 % of property value to register the property in Finland.



List of Procedures:

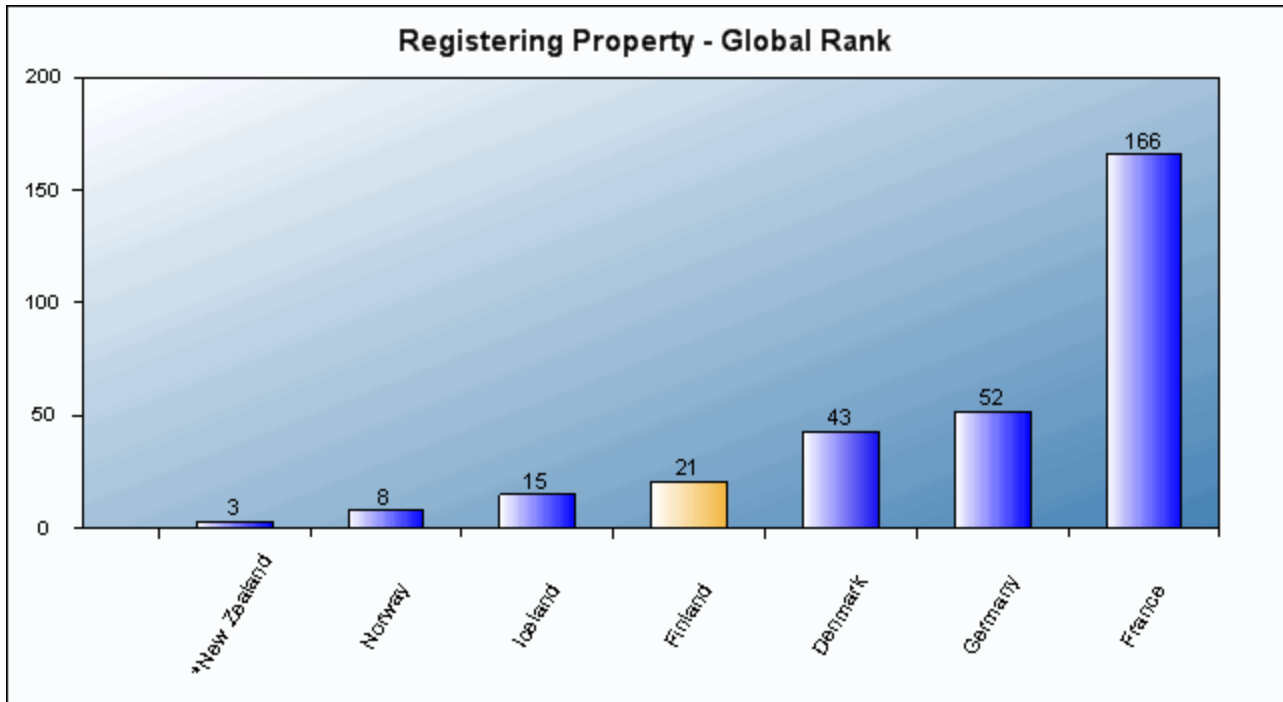
1. The seller and buyer notarize the deed of sale in the presence of a public notary
2. The buyer pays the transfer tax
3. The buyer applies for a land title at the District Court

More detail is included in the appendix.

4. Benchmarking Registering Property Regulations:

Finland is ranked 21 overall for Registering Property.

Ranking of Finland in Registering Property - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



** The following economies are also good practice economies for Registering Property: Georgia, Saudi Arabia*

The following table shows Registering Property data for Finland compared to good practice and comparator economies:

Good Practice Economies	Procedures (number)	Duration (days)	Cost (% of property value)
New Zealand*		2	
Norway*	1		
Saudi Arabia			0.0

<i>Selected Economy</i>			
Finland	3	14	4.0

<i>Comparator Economies</i>			
Denmark	6	42	0.6
France	9	113	6.3
Germany	4	40	5.2
Iceland	3	4	2.4
Norway	1	3	2.5

* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

Procedures (number): Sweden

Duration (days): Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand



Getting Credit

Firms consistently rate access to credit as among the greatest barriers to their operation and growth. Doing Business constructs two sets of indicators of how well credit markets function: one on credit registries and the other on legal rights of borrowers and lenders. Credit registries, institutions that collect and distribute credit information on borrowers, can greatly expand access to credit. By sharing credit information, they help lenders assess risk and allocate credit more efficiently. And they free entrepreneurs from having to rely on personal connections alone when trying to obtain credit. Three indicators are constructed to measure the sharing of credit information:

- Depth of credit information index, which measures the extent to which the rules of a credit information system facilitate lending based on the scope of information distributed, the ease of access to information and the quality of information.
- Public registry coverage, which reports the number of individuals and firms covered by a public credit registry as a percentage of the adult population.
- Private bureau coverage, which reports the number of individuals and firms, covered by a private credit bureau as a percentage of the adult population.

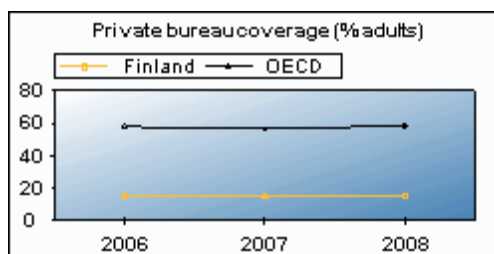
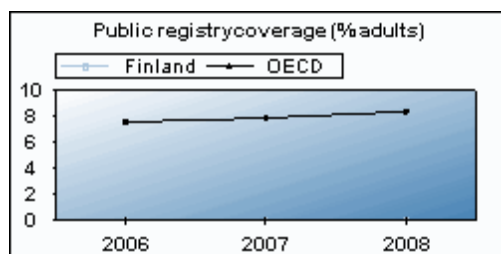
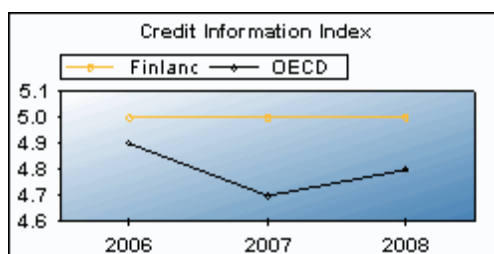
The strength of legal rights index measures the degree to which collateral and bankruptcy laws protect the rights of borrowers and lenders and thus facilitate lending. This year, three main changes were made; first, a standardized case scenario with specific assumptions was introduced to bring this indicator into line with other Doing Business indicators. Second, the indicator now focuses not on tangible movable collateral, such as equipment, but on revolving movable collateral, such as accounts receivable and inventory. Third, the indicator no longer considers whether management remains in place during a reorganization procedure, better accommodating economies that adopt reorganization procedures. The strength of legal rights index includes 8 aspects related to legal rights in collateral law and 2 aspects in bankruptcy law:

- Any business may use movable assets as collateral while keeping possession of the assets, and any financial institution may accept such assets as collateral.
- The law allows a business to grant a non possessory security right in a single category of revolving movable assets, without requiring a specific description of the secured assets.
- The law allows a business to grant a non possessory security right in substantially all of its assets, without requiring a specific description of the secured assets.
- A security right may extend to future or after-acquired assets and may extend automatically to the products, proceeds or replacements of the original assets.
- General description of debts and obligations is permitted in collateral agreements and in registration documents, so that all types of obligations and debts can be secured by stating a maximum rather than a specific amount between the parties.
- A collateral registry is in operation that is unified geographically and by asset type and that is indexed by the name of the grantor of a security right.
- Secured creditors are paid first when a debtor defaults outside an insolvency procedure or when a business is liquidated.
- Secured creditors are not subject to an automatic stay or moratorium on enforcement procedures when a debtor enters a court-supervised reorganization procedure.
- The law allows parties to agree in a collateral agreement that the lender may enforce its security right out of court.

1. Historical data: Getting Credit in Finland

Getting Credit data	Doing Business 2007	Doing Business 2008	Doing Business 2009
Rank		25	28
Legal Rights Index	7	7	7
Credit Information Index	5	5	5
Public registry coverage (% adults)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Private bureau coverage (% adults)	14.9	14.9	14.8

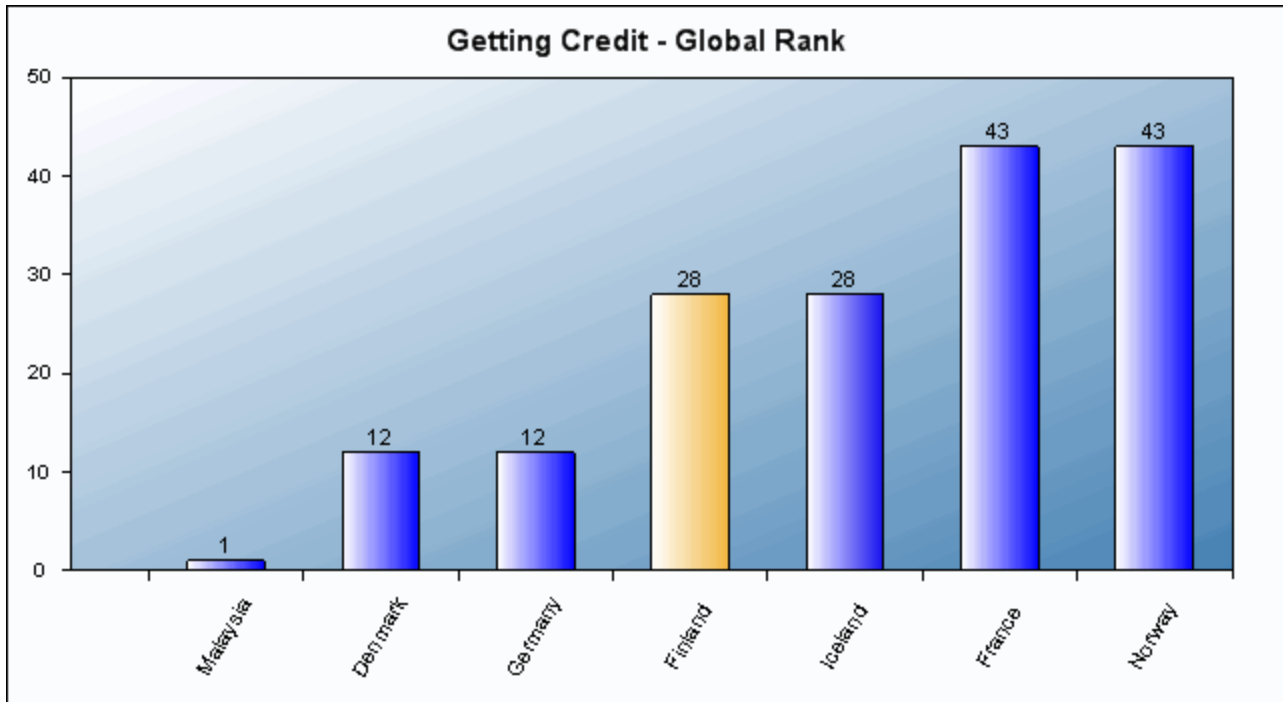
2. The following graphs illustrates the Getting Credit indicators in Finland over the past 3 years:



3. Benchmarking Getting Credit Regulations:

Finland is ranked 28 overall for Getting Credit.

Ranking of Finland in Getting Credit - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Getting Credit data for Finland compared to good practice and comparator economies:

Good Practice Economies	Legal Rights Index	Credit Information Index	Public registry coverage (% adults)	Private bureau coverage (% adults)
Malaysia*	10			
New Zealand*				100.0
Portugal			76.4	
United Kingdom		6		

<i>Selected Economy</i>				
Finland	7	5	0.0	14.8

<i>Comparator Economies</i>				
Denmark	9	4	0.0	5.0
France	7	4	28.3	0.0
Germany	7	6	0.7	98.4
Iceland	7	5	0.0	100.0
Norway	7	4	0.0	100.0

* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

Legal Rights Index: Hong Kong, China, Kenya, Singapore

Private bureau coverage (% adults): Argentina, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Nicaragua, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States

24 countries have the highest credit information index.



Protecting Investors

Companies grow by raising capital, either through a bank loan or by attracting equity investors. Selling shares allows companies to expand without the need to provide collateral and repay bank loans. But investors worry about their money, and look for laws that protect them. A study finds that the presence of legal and regulatory protections for investors explains up to 73% of the decision to invest. In contrast, company characteristics explain only between 4% and 22%*. Good protections for minority shareholders are associated with larger and more active stock markets. Thus both governments and businesses have an interest in reforms strengthening investor protections. To document some of the protections investors have, Doing Business measures how economies regulate a standard case of self-dealing, use of corporate assets for personal gain.

The case facts are straightforward. Mr. James, a director and the majority shareholder of a public company, proposes that the company purchase used trucks from another company he owns. The price is higher than the going price for used trucks. The transaction goes forward. All required approvals are obtained, and all required disclosures made, though the transaction is prejudicial to the purchasing company. Shareholders sue the interested parties and the members of the board of directors. Several questions arise. Who approves the transaction? What information must be disclosed? What company documents can investors access? What do minority shareholders have to prove to get the transaction stopped or to receive compensation from Mr. James? Three indices of investor protection are constructed based on the answers to these and other questions. All indices range from 0 to 10, with higher values indicating more protections or greater disclosure.

- The extent of disclosure index covers approval procedures, requirements for immediate disclosure to the public and shareholders of proposed transactions, requirements for disclosure in periodic filings and reports and the availability of external review of transactions before they take place.
- The extent of director liability index covers the ability of investors to hold Mr. James and the board of directors liable for damages, the ability to rescind the transaction, the availability of fines and jail time associated with self-dealing, the availability of direct or derivative suits and the ability to require Mr. James to pay back his personal profits from the transaction.
- The ease of shareholder suits index covers the availability of documents that can be used during trial, the ability of the investor to examine the defendant and other witnesses, shareholders' access to internal documents of the company, the appointment of an inspector to investigate the transaction and the standard of proof applicable to a civil suit against the directors.

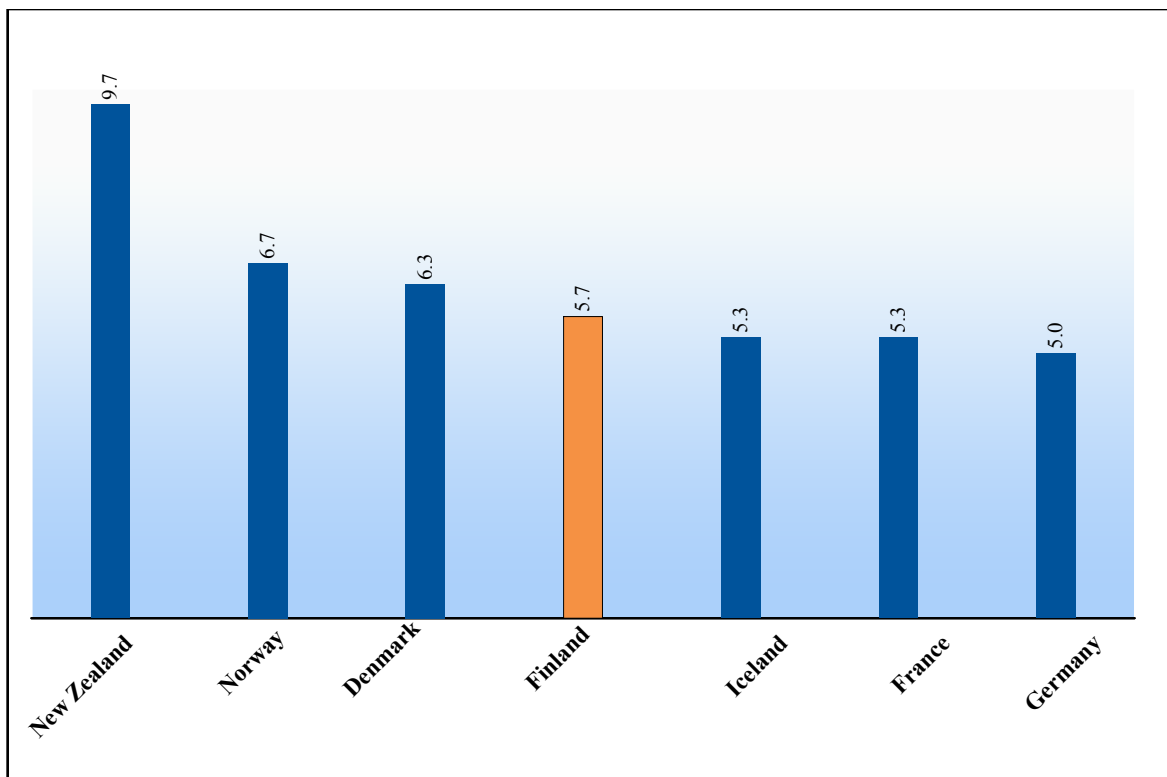
These three indices are averaged to create the strength of investor protection index. This index ranges from 0 to 10, with higher values indicating better investor protection.

*Doidge, Karayi and Stulz (2007)

1. Historical data: Protecting Investors in Finland

Protecting Investors data	Doing Business 2007	Doing Business 2008	Doing Business 2009
Rank		49	53
Investor Protection Index	5.7	5.7	5.7

2. The following graph illustrates the Protecting Investors index in Finland compared to best practice and selected Economies:

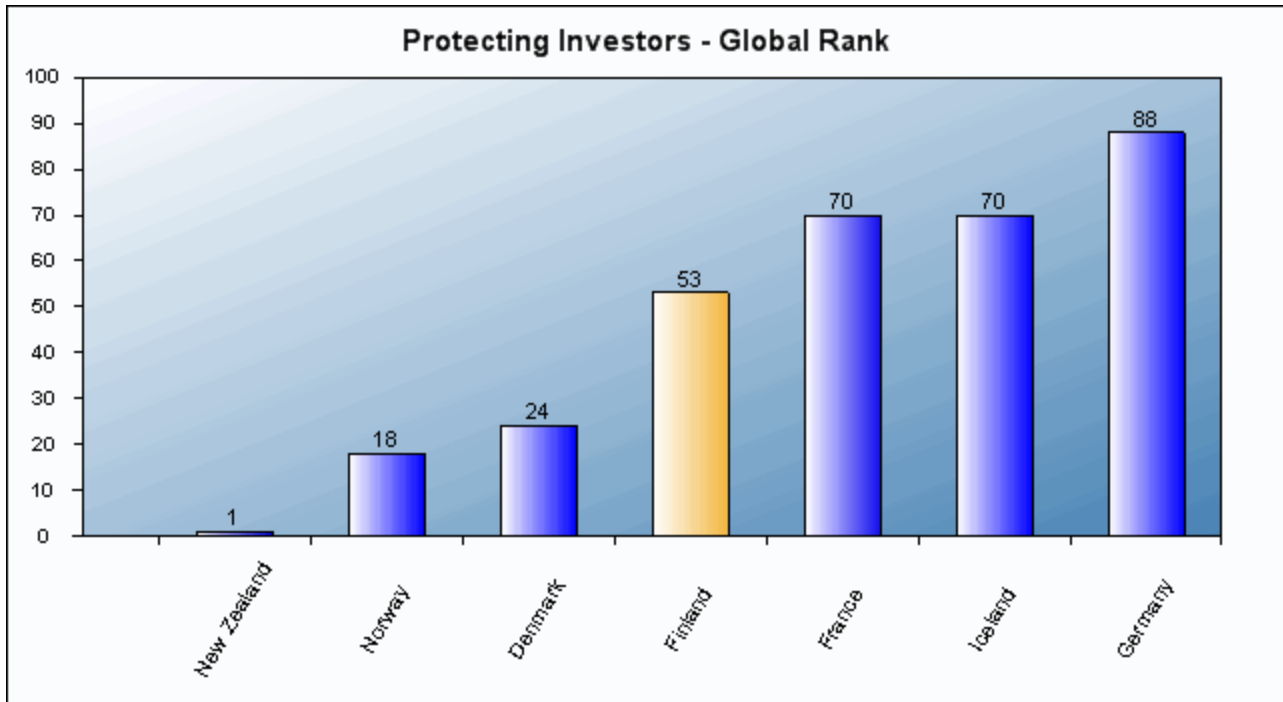


Note: The higher the score, the greater the investor protection.

3. Benchmarking Protecting Investors Regulations:

Finland is ranked 53 overall for Protecting Investors.

Ranking of Finland in Protecting Investors - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Protecting Investors data for Finland compared to good practice and comparator economies:

Good Practice Economies	Investor Protection Index
New Zealand	9.7

<i>Selected Economy</i>	
Finland	5.7

<i>Comparator Economies</i>	
Denmark	6.3
France	5.3
Germany	5.0
Iceland	5.3
Norway	6.7



Paying Taxes

Taxes are essential. Without them there would be no money to provide public amenities, infrastructure and services which are crucial for a properly functioning economy. But particularly for small and medium size companies, they may opt out and choose to operate in the informal sector. One way to enhance tax compliance is to ease and simplify the process of paying taxes for such businesses.

The Doing Business tax survey records the effective tax that a small and medium company must pay and the administrative costs of doing so. Imagine a medium-size business, TaxpayerCo, that started operations last year. Doing Business asks tax practitioners in 181 economies to review TaxpayerCo's financial statements and a standard list of transactions that the company completed during the year. Respondents are asked how much in taxes and mandatory contributions the business must pay and what the process is for doing so.

The business starts from the same financial position in each economy. All the taxes and mandatory contributions paid during the second year of operation are recorded. Taxes and mandatory contributions are measured at all levels of government and include corporate income tax, turnover tax, all labor taxes and contributions paid by the company (including mandatory contributions paid to private pension or insurance funds), property tax, property transfer tax, dividend tax, capital gains tax, financial transactions tax, vehicle tax, sales tax and other small taxes (such as fuel tax, stamp duty and local taxes). A range of standard deductions and exemptions are also recorded.

Three indicators are constructed:

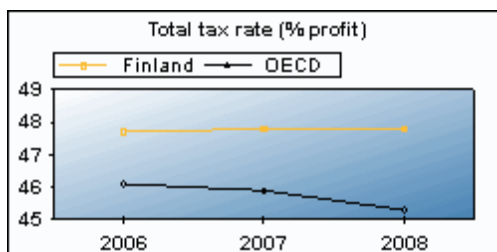
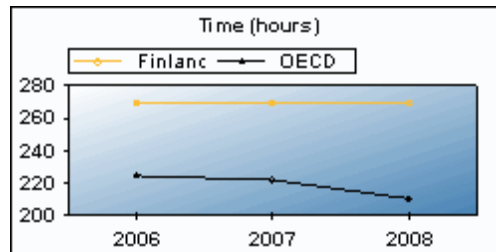
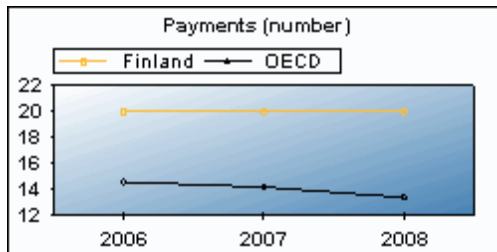
- Number of tax payments, which takes into account the method of payment, the frequency of payments and the number of agencies involved in our standardized case study.
- Time, which measures the number of hours per year necessary to prepare and file tax returns and to pay the corporate income tax, value added tax, sales tax or goods and service tax and labor taxes and mandatory contributions.
- Total tax rate, which measures the amount of taxes and mandatory contributions payable by the company during the second year of operation. This amount, expressed as a percentage of commercial profit, is the sum of all the different taxes payable after accounting for various deductions and exemptions.

Businesses care about what they get for their taxes and contributions, such as the quality of infrastructure and social services. Efficient tax systems tend to have less complex tax arrangements, comprising of straightforward compliance procedures and clear laws. Taxpayers in such economies often get more from their taxes. Simple, moderate taxes and fast, cheap administration mean less hassle for businesses, and also more revenue collected and better public services. More burdensome tax regimes create an incentive to evade taxes.

1. Historical data: Paying Taxes in Finland

Paying Taxes data	Doing Business 2007	Doing Business 2008	Doing Business 2009
Rank		87	97
Time (hours)	269	269	269
Total tax rate (% profit)	47.7	47.8	47.8
Payments (number)	20	20	20

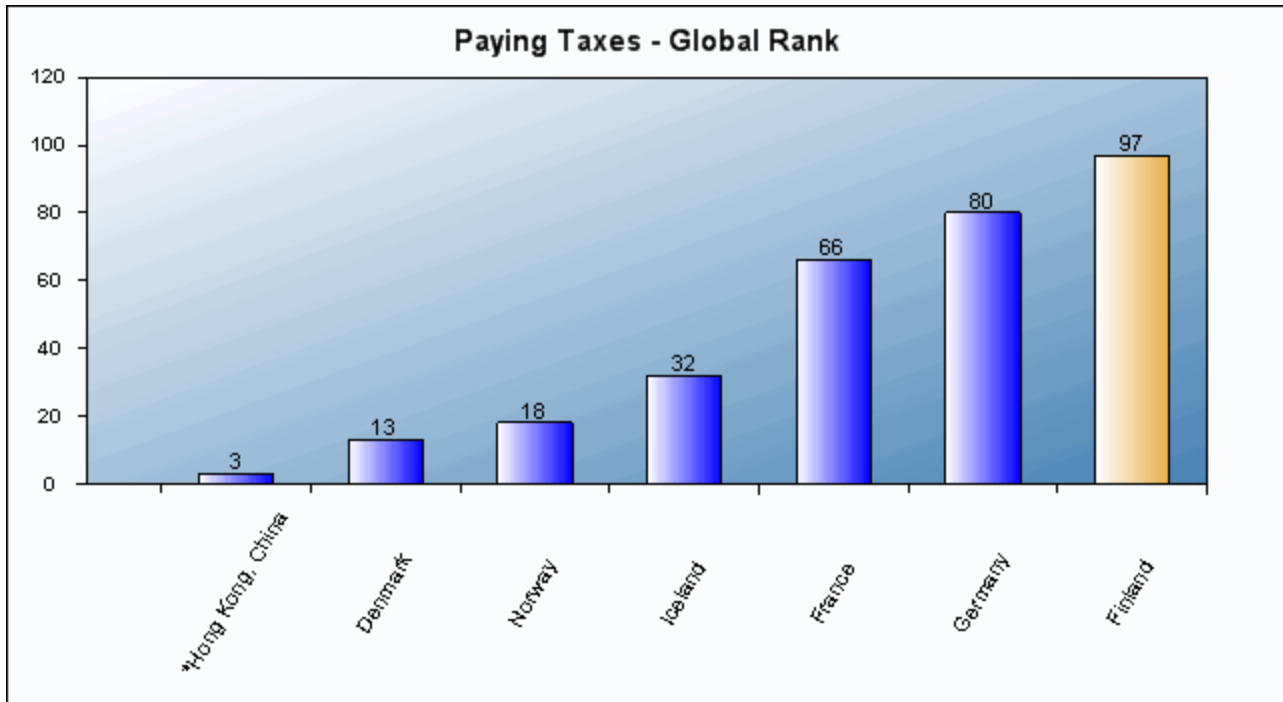
2. The following graphs illustrates the Paying Taxes indicators in Finland over the past 3 years:



3. Benchmarking Paying Taxes Regulations:

Finland is ranked 97 overall for Paying Taxes.

Ranking of Finland in Paying Taxes - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



* The following economies are also good practice economies for Paying Taxes: Maldives, Qatar

The following table shows Paying Taxes data for Finland compared to good practice and comparator economies:

Good Practice Economies	Payments (number)	Time (hours)	Total tax rate (% profit)
Luxembourg*		59	
Sweden*	2		
Vanuatu			8.4

<i>Selected Economy</i>			
Finland	20	269	47.8

<i>Comparator Economies</i>			
Denmark	9	135	29.9
France	11	132	65.4
Germany	16	196	50.5
Iceland	31	140	26.8
Norway	4	87	41.6

* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

Payments (number): Maldives, Qatar

Time (hours): Bahamas, Bahrain, Maldives, Qatar, United Arab Emirates



Trading Across Borders

The benefits of trade are well documented; as are the obstacles to trade. Tariffs, quotas and distance from large markets greatly increase the cost of goods or prevent trading altogether. But with bigger ships and faster planes, the world is shrinking. Global and regional trade agreements have reduced trade barriers. Yet Africa's share of global trade is smaller today than it was 25 years ago. So is the Middle East's, excluding oil exports. Many entrepreneurs face numerous hurdles to exporting or importing goods, including delays at the border. They often give up. Others never try. In fact, the potential gains from trade facilitation may be greater than those arising from only tariff reductions.

Doing Business compiles procedural requirements for trading a standard shipment of goods by ocean transport. Every procedure and the associated documents, time and cost, for importing and exporting the goods is recorded, starting with the contractual agreement between the two parties and ending with delivery of the goods. For importing the goods, the procedures measured range from the vessel's arrival at the port of entry to the shipment's delivery at the importer's warehouse. For exporting the goods, the procedures measured range from the packing of the goods at the factory to their departure from the port of exit. Payment is by letter of credit and the time and cost for issuing or securing a letter of credit is taken into account.

To make the data comparable across countries, several assumptions about the business and the traded goods are used. The business is of medium size, employs 60 people, and is located in the periurban area of the economy's most populous city. It is a private, limited liability company, domestically owned, formally registered and operating under commercial laws and regulations of the economy. The traded goods are ordinary, legally manufactured products transported in a dry-cargo, 20-foot FCL (full container load) container.

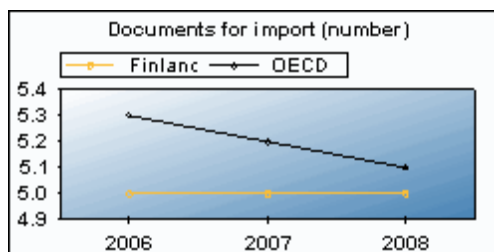
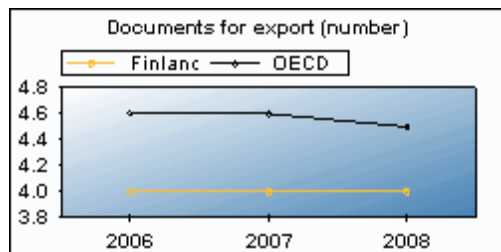
Documents recorded include port filing documents, customs declaration and clearance documents, as well as official documents exchanged between the parties to the transaction. Time is recorded in calendar days, from the beginning to the end of each procedure. Cost includes the fees levied on a 20-foot container in U.S. dollars. All the fees associated with completing the procedures to export or import the goods are included, such as costs for documents, administrative fees for customs clearance and technical control, terminal handling charges and inland transport. The cost measure does not include tariffs or duties.

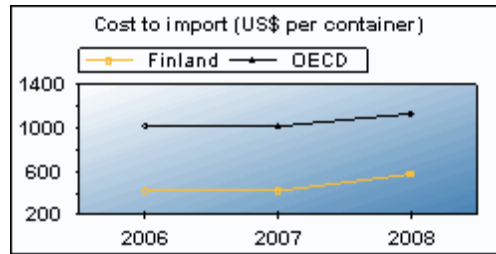
Economies that have efficient customs, good transport networks and fewer document requirements, making compliance with export and import procedures faster and cheaper, are more competitive globally. That can lead to more exports; and exports are associated with faster growth and more jobs. Conversely, a need to file many documents is associated with more corruption in customs. Faced with long delays and frequent demands for bribes, many traders may avoid customs altogether. Instead, they smuggle goods across the border. This defeats the very purpose in having border control of trade to levy taxes and ensure high quality of goods.

1. Historical data: Trading Across Borders in Finland

Trading Across Borders data	Doing Business 2007	Doing Business 2008	Doing Business 2009
Rank		5	4
Documents for export (number)	4	4	4
Time for export (days)	8	8	8
Cost to export (US\$ per container)	420	420	495
Documents for import (number)	5	5	5
Time for import (days)	8	8	8
Cost to import (US\$ per container)	420	420	575

2. The following graphs illustrates the Trading Across Borders indicators in Finland over the past 3 years:

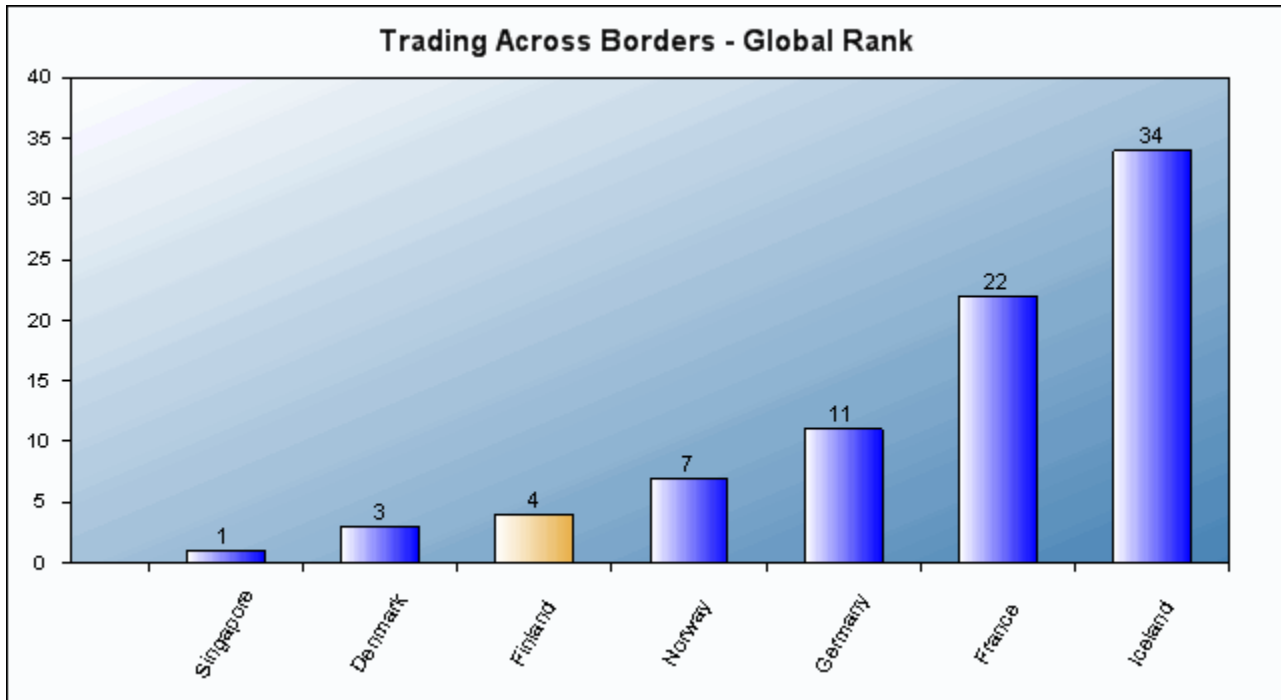




3. Benchmarking Trading Across Borders Regulations:

Finland is ranked 4 overall for Trading Across Borders.

Ranking of Finland in Trading Across Borders - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Trading Across Borders data for Finland compared to good practice and comparator economies:

Good Practice Economies	Documents for export (number)	Time for export (days)	Cost to export (US\$ per container)	Documents for import (number)	Time for import (days)	Cost to import (US\$ per container)
Denmark*		5				
France	2			2		
Malaysia			450			
Singapore					3	439

<i>Selected Economy</i>						
Finland	4	8	495	5	8	575

<i>Comparator Economies</i>						
Denmark	4	5	681	3	5	681
France	2	9	1078	2	11	1248
Germany	4	7	822	5	7	887
Iceland	5	15	1109	5	14	1183
Norway	4	7	780	4	7	709

* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

Time for export (days): Estonia, Singapore



Enforcing Contracts

Where contract enforcement is efficient, businesses are more likely to engage with new borrowers or customers. Doing Business tracks the efficiency of the judicial system in resolving a commercial dispute, following the step-by-step evolution of a commercial sale dispute before local courts. The data is collected through study of the codes of civil procedure and other court regulations as well as through surveys completed by local litigation lawyers (and, in a quarter of the countries, by judges as well).

The dispute concerns a contract for the sale of goods between two businesses (the Seller and the Buyer) both located in the economy's largest business city.

The Seller sells and delivers goods, worth 200% of the economy's income per capita, to the Buyer. The Buyer refuses to pay on the grounds that they were not of adequate quality.

The Seller sues the Buyer to recover the amount under the sales agreement (200% of the economy's income per capita). The claim is filed before a court in the economy's largest business city with jurisdiction over commercial cases worth 200% of the income per capita and is disputed on the merits. Judgment is 100% in favor of the Seller and is not appealed. Seller enforces the judgment and the money is successfully collected through a public sale of Buyer's assets.

Rankings on enforcing contracts are based on 3 sub-indicators:

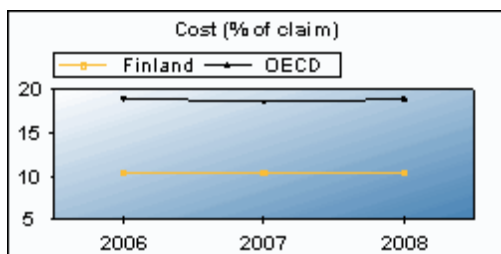
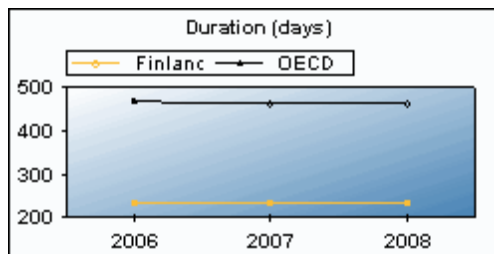
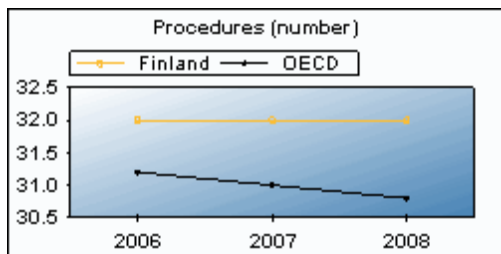
- Number of procedures, which are defined as any interaction between the parties or between them and the judge or court officer. This includes steps to file the case, steps for trial and judgment and steps necessary to enforce the judgment.
- Time, which counts the number of calendar days from the moment the Seller files the lawsuit in court until payment is received. This includes both the days on which actions take place and the waiting periods in between.
- Cost, which is recorded as a percentage of the claim (assumed to be equivalent to 200% of income per capita). Three types of costs are recorded: court costs (including expert fees), enforcement costs (including costs for a public sale of Buyer's assets) and attorney fees.

Justice delayed is often justice denied. And in many economies only the rich can afford to go to court. For the rest, justice is out of reach. In the absence of efficient courts, firms undertake fewer investments or business transactions. And they prefer to involve only a small group of people who know each other from previous dealings.

1. Historical data: Enforcing Contracts in Finland

Enforcing Contracts data	Doing Business 2007	Doing Business 2008	Doing Business 2009
Rank		6	5
Procedures (number)	32	32	32
Duration (days)	235	235	235
Cost (% of claim)	10.4	10.4	10.4

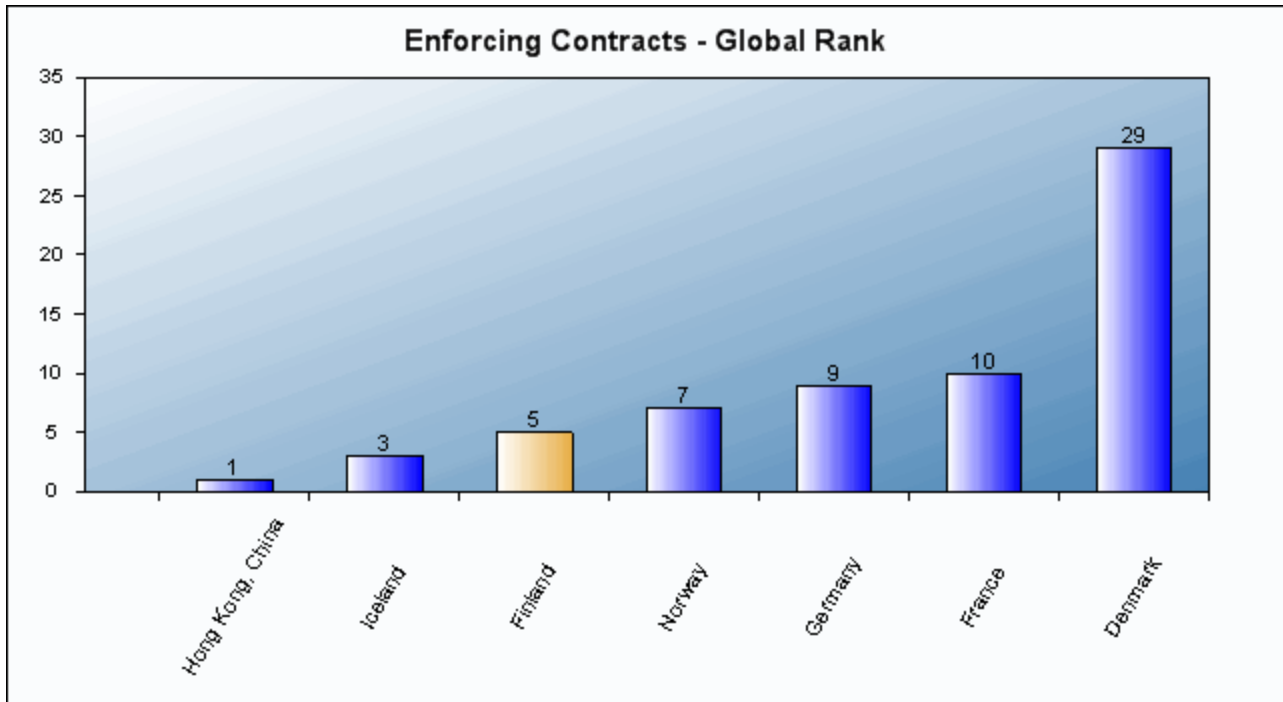
2. The following graphs illustrates the Enforcing Contracts indicators in Finland over the past 3 years:



3. Benchmarking Enforcing Contracts Regulations:

Finland is ranked 5 overall for Enforcing Contracts.

Ranking of Finland in Enforcing Contracts - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Enforcing Contracts data for Finland compared to good practice and comparator economies:

Good Practice Economies	Procedures (number)	Duration (days)	Cost (% of claim)
Iceland*			6.2
Ireland	20		
Singapore		150	

<i>Selected Economy</i>			
Finland	32	235	10.4

<i>Comparator Economies</i>			
Denmark	34	380	23.3
France	30	331	17.4
Germany	30	394	14.4
Iceland	26	393	6.2
Norway	33	310	9.9

* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

Cost (% of claim): Bhutan



Closing Business

The economic crises of the 1990s in emerging markets—from East Asia to Latin America, from Russia to Mexico—raised concerns about the design of bankruptcy systems and the ability of such systems to help reorganize viable companies and close down unviable ones. In countries where bankruptcy is inefficient, unviable businesses linger for years, keeping assets and human capital from being reallocated to more productive uses.

The Doing Business indicators identify weaknesses in the bankruptcy law as well as the main procedural and administrative bottlenecks in the bankruptcy process. In many developing countries bankruptcy is so inefficient that the parties hardly ever use it. In countries such as these, reform would best focus on improving contract enforcement outside bankruptcy.

The data on closing a business are developed using a standard set of case assumptions to track a company going through the step-by-step procedures of the bankruptcy process. It is assumed that the company is a domestically owned, limited liability corporation operating a hotel in the country's most populous city. The company has 201 employees, 1 main secured creditor and 50 unsecured creditors. Assumptions are also made about the debt structure and future cash flows. The case is designed so that the company has a higher value as a going concern—that is, the efficient outcome is either reorganization or sale as a going concern, not piecemeal liquidation. The data are derived from questionnaires answered by attorneys at private law firms.

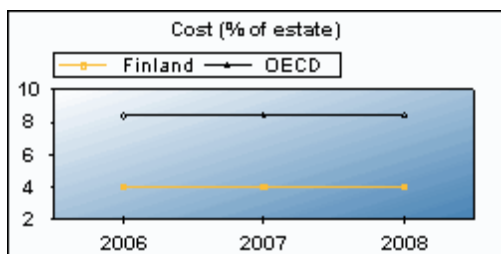
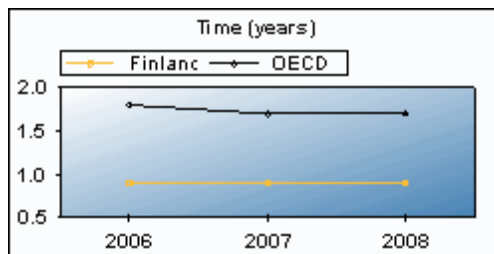
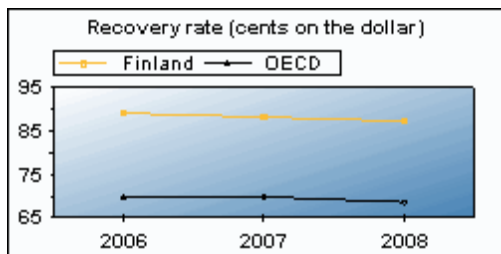
Three measures are constructed from the survey responses: the time to go through the insolvency process, the cost to go through the process and the recovery rate—how much of the insolvency estate is recovered by stakeholders, taking into account the time, cost, depreciation of assets and the outcome of the insolvency proceeding.

Bottlenecks in bankruptcy cut into the amount claimants can recover. In countries where bankruptcy laws are inefficient, this is a strong deterrent to investment. Access to credit shrinks, and nonperforming loans and financial risk grow because creditors cannot recover overdue loans. Conversely, efficient bankruptcy laws can encourage entrepreneurs. The freedom to fail, and to do so through an efficient process, puts people and capital to their most effective use. The result is more productive businesses and more jobs.

1. Historical data: Closing Business in Finland

Closing a Business data	Doing Business 2007	Doing Business 2008	Doing Business 2009
Rank		5	5
Time (years)	0.9	0.9	0.9
Cost (% of estate)	4	4	4
Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	89.1	88.2	87.3

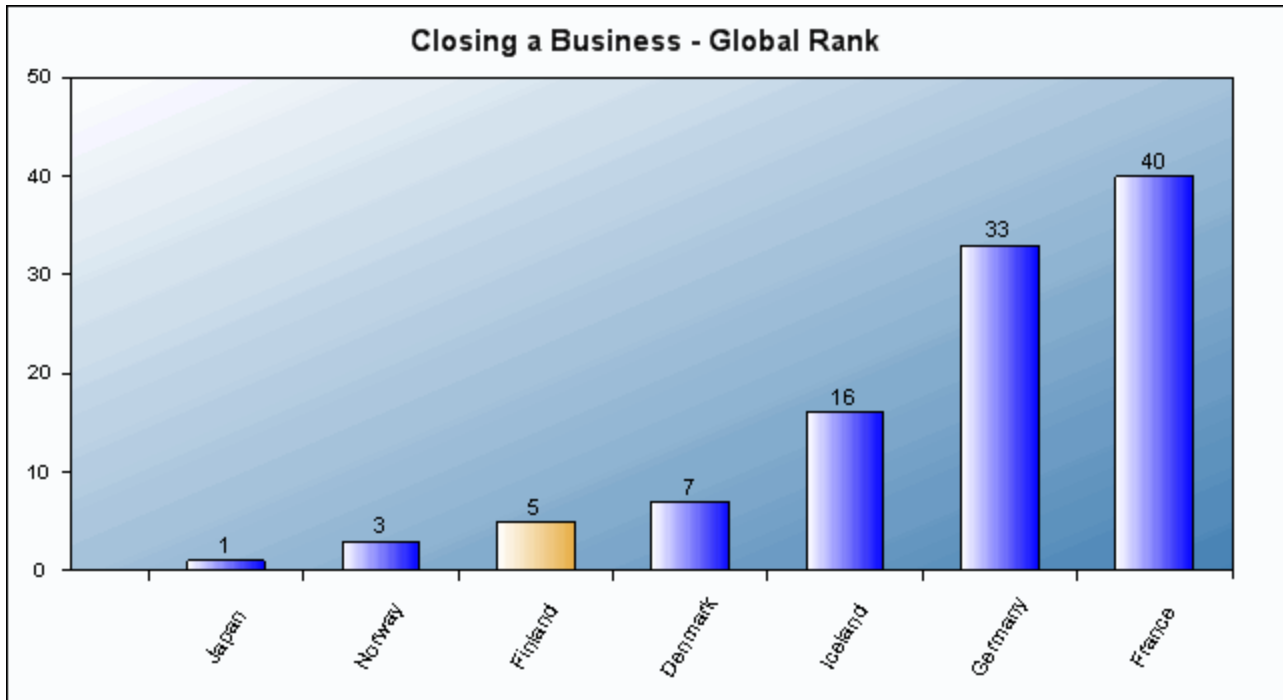
2. The following graphs illustrates the Closing Business indicators in Finland over the past 3 years:



3. Benchmarking Closing Business Regulations:

Finland is ranked 5 overall for Closing a Business.

Ranking of Finland in Closing Business - Compared to good practice and selected economies:



The following table shows Closing Business data for Finland compared to good practice and comparator economies:

Good Practice Economies	Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	Time (years)	Cost (% of estate)
Ireland		0.4	
Japan	92.5		
Singapore*			1

<i>Selected Economy</i>			
Finland	87.3	0.9	4

<i>Comparator Economies</i>			
Denmark	86.5	1.1	4
France	44.7	1.9	9
Germany	52.2	1.2	8
Iceland	76.6	1.0	4
Norway	89.0	0.9	1

* The following economies are also good practice economies for :

Cost (% of estate): Colombia, Kuwait, Norway

DB2009 Reforms

Number of reforms in Doing Business 2009

Rank	Economy	Reform Categories									Total number of reforms
		Starting a Business	Dealing with Construction Permits	Employing Workers	Registering Property	Getting Credit	Protecting Investors	Paying Taxes	Trading Across Borders	Enforcing Contracts	
1	Azerbaijan	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	7
2	Albania	✓				✓	✓	✓			4
3	Kyrgyz Republic	✓	✓				✓				3
4	Belarus	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		6
5	Senegal	✓			✓				✓		3
6	Burkina Faso		✓	✓	✓			✓			4
7	Botswana	✓					✓	✗	✓		3
8	Colombia	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	5
9	Dominican Republic	✓			✓			✓	✓		4
10	Egypt	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		6
	Finland					✓				✓	2
	Iceland										
	Norway										
	Denmark							✓			1
	France							✓	✓		2
	Germany							✓		✓	2

Note: Economies are ranked on the number and impact of reforms, Doing Business selects the economies that reformed in 3 or more of the Doing Business topics. Second, it ranks these economies on the increase in rank in Ease of Doing Business from the previous year. The larger the improvement, the higher the ranking as a reformer.

Albania

Albania, a top reformer globally and regionally, established a public credit registry allowing financial institutions to share credit information and covering 8.3 percent of the adult population. This reform allows banks to better evaluate the creditworthiness of potential borrowers, facilitating access to credit for firms and individuals. Albania also strengthened investor protections. A new company law requires that disinterested shareholders approve transactions between interested parties and obligates those parties to disclose all information on the transaction to the public. The law also reinforces directors' duties and requires directors, when found liable, to pay damages and return profits to the company. Starting a business became easier with online publication, reduction of the registration cost, and the consolidation of tax, health insurance, and labor registration into a single application. The corporate income tax rate was reduced from 20 percent to 10 percent effective January 1, 2008.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan, the top reformer globally and regionally, eliminated the minimum threshold for reporting loans to the public credit registry in September 2007. The public registry now records information on all loans made by the financial system, more than doubling the coverage of borrowers with a credit history. Substantial amendments to the labor code in May 2007 made hiring workers easier by allowing employers to use fixed-term contracts for permanent tasks, easing restrictions on night work, and reducing requirements for redundancy dismissals. Azerbaijan created a second commercial court in Baku, increasing the number of judges dealing with commercial cases from five to nine. The average time to enforce a contract through the courts fell from 267 days to 237. A new law strengthens investor protections by requiring that transactions between interested parties be approved by shareholders. Interested parties are allowed to vote on the matter. Other provisions protect investors because directors who are held liable must pay damages and disgorge profits. Azerbaijan introduced a new unified property registry, reducing the number of procedures required to register property from seven to four. In addition, the State Register Service introduced the option of expediting two of the four procedures, making it possible to register property in 11 days. Similarly, the country created a one-stop shop for company registration, cutting the number of procedures from 13 to six and reducing the time required by half. Azerbaijan reduced the tax burden by introducing an online filing and payment system with advanced accounting software for calculating taxes due. This saves more than 500 hours a year on average in dealing with paperwork.

Belarus

In Belarus, a top reformer globally and regionally, the public credit registry expanded credit information by eliminating the minimum threshold for loans recorded in its database. It also guaranteed the right of borrowers to review their data, improving accuracy. Starting a business became easier: a unified registry database was created, a time limit was introduced for registration, and the minimum capital requirement was cut by half. Belarus created a one-stop shop for property registration and introduced a broad administrative simplification program that set strict time limits at the registry and computerized its records. As a result, the time required to register property in Minsk fell from 231 days to 21. The time required for dealing with construction permits fell by 140 days, thanks to new statutory time limits for preapproval clearances and building permits. Belarus eased the tax burden by abolishing the "Chernobyl tax" (3 percent) and unemployment tax (1 percent) and amending the simplified tax system for small businesses. A new customs code and new banking regulations reduced the time to export

Botswana

Botswana improved its business environment by speeding the start-up process through computerization. A similar effort, which included training customs officers in using an electronic data interchange system, sped the processing of trade documents and reduced the time to export by two days and the time to import by a day. A new Company Act has come into force, requiring that shareholders approve related-party transactions and that directors repay damages and surrender profits if held liable. Finally, since January 2008, companies have been required to pay 0.2 percent of turnover for the training of workers.

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso eliminated random inspections during construction. It also introduced a new one-stop shop for construction permits, which reduced approval fees and combined five separate payments into a single one. A new labor code, approved in May 2008, makes hiring workers easier by allowing employers to use fixed-term contracts for permanent tasks, removing the 48-month limit on the duration of such contracts, and easing restrictions on determining the weekly rest day. Requirements for redundancy dismissals were also eased: third-party notification and consent are no longer required for dismissal of a single worker, and priority rules for dismissals were abolished. Burkina Faso made it easier to transfer property by eliminating the requirement for authorization from the municipality, merging two taxes at the Land Registry (Conservation Foncière), and reducing the transfer tax. The changes reduced the time required by 46 days and the cost by 2 percent of the property value. Finally, Burkina Faso reduced the corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 30 percent (effective January 1, 2008), and the tax on dividends from 15 percent to 12.5 percent.

Colombia	Colombia, a top global and regional reformer, improved in five of the 10 Doing Business indicators. It reduced the time and cost to start a business by simplifying registration formalities, including speeding up processes at the registry and eliminating the need to obtain a certificate of compliance with zoning regulations. A silence-is-consent principle for building permits is now applied, reducing the total time for dealing with construction permits by 32 days. A new unified application form was introduced. Colombia made electronic social security contributions mandatory for companies with more than 30 employees and created unified electronic forms for filing taxes. Trading across borders was expedited: better banking services and the implementation of e-payments, electronic data interchange, and coordinated inspections in customs reduced the time to export by 10 days and the time to import by five. Authorities also introduced two new insolvency proceedings: a reorganization procedure to restructure insolvent companies and a mandatory liquidation procedure. Its new insolvency law tightens time limits for negotiating reorganization agreements. Before, the term allowed was six months, with a possible extension of eight months. The new law limits the term to four months, and the extension to two.
Denmark	Denmark reduced the corporate income tax rate from 28% to 25%.
Dominican Republic	The Dominican Republic, a top global and regional reformer, sped up formalities in several areas by making them electronic. An online system for filing and paying taxes, piloted in 2006, is now fully operational. And entrepreneurs can complete several start-up formalities online, including name verification, and commercial and tax registration. The Dominican Republic also reduced the corporate income tax rate from 29% to 25%, and abolished several taxes, including the stamp duty. The cost of property registration fell, thanks to a reduction in the transfer tax from 4.3% to 3%. Transferring property now costs 3.8% of the property value, down from 5.1%. In addition, authorities reduced the time to export by three days by improving the online portal for customs documentation and payment.
Egypt	Egypt was once again among the top 10 global reformers—the third time in 4 years—and top regional reformer this year. Egypt made starting a business easier by reducing the paid-in minimum capital requirement by more than 80%, abolishing bar association fees, and automating tax registration. A new building code introduced in 2008 is aimed at reducing the procedures and time required to deal with construction permits by establishing a single window for processing construction-related approvals. Simplified administrative procedures for registering property and new time limits have reduced the time to transfer property in Cairo from 193 days to 72. The port of Alexandria continued to upgrade its facilities and sped customs clearance, reducing the time to export by 1 day and the time to import by 3. New listing rules for the Cairo Stock Exchange strengthened protections for minority shareholders: now an independent body must assess transactions between interested parties before they are approved. And thanks to new regulations issued by the Central Bank of Egypt, borrowers have the right to inspect their data in the private credit bureau.
Finland	Finland revised its Restructuring of Enterprises Act making it easier for companies in distress to reorganize. It also consolidated regulations relating to the provision of credit information into a single law.
France	France made electronic filing mandatory for social security contributions above €800,000. It also made customs clearance easier by introducing electronic filing and eliminating certain documents.
Germany	Germany made it easier for companies in distress to restructure by allowing the court to suspend enforcement against assets essential to the continuation of the business with the aim of keeping the company working as a going concern. It also reduced the corporate income tax from 25% to 15%, introduced straight-line depreciation for fixed assets and reduced trade tax while no longer allowing a deduction of the tax for corporate income tax.
Iceland	In Iceland no major reforms were recorded.

Kyrgyz Republic

The Kyrgyz Republic, a top reformer globally and regionally, strengthened investor protections through legal amendments allowing minority investors to take legal actions as shareholders. The amendments also require an independent assessment of a related-party transaction before it is approved. Moreover, directors can be held liable for negligence if they harm minority shareholders and will be forced to pay damages and disgorge profits. A new one-stop shop made it easier to start a business by streamlining and simplifying business registration processes and eliminating certain requirements such as proof of residence. Obtaining a company seal became optional. Dealing with construction permits also became easier, thanks to a one-stop shop making it possible to obtain a designing permit, construction license, and occupancy permit at a single place. This reform eliminated nine steps, reduced the time required by almost 6 months, and lowered the cost from 759 percent of income per capita to 406 percent.

Norway

In Norway no major reforms were recorded.

Senegal

Senegal's one-stop shop for business start-up became fully operational, merging more than half the procedures and speeding the process as a result. Similarly, the introduction of time limits at the Land Registry and the Directorate of Taxes and Property sped property registration. The top reformer globally in easing trade, Senegal introduced a single window for customs clearance, cutting document requirements in half. It also set up an electronic data interchange system, implemented risk-based inspections, extended the operating hours of customs, and improved port and road infrastructure.

APPENDICES

Starting a Business in Finland

This table summarizes the procedures and costs associated with setting up a business in Finland.

STANDARDIZED COMPANY

Legal Form: Private Limited Company (Oy)

Minimum Capital Requirement:

City: Helsinki

Registration Requirements:

No:	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
1	Deposit the paid-in share capital in a bank; pay the registration fee and get a receipt	1 day	no charge
2	Submit a basic declaration to the NBPR's Trade Register Department in the forms prescribed by the NBPR	5 working days – 3 weeks	€330, includes the notification fee related to establishment of a limited liability company
3	* File at a private insurer for pension insurance, accident insurance, and medical insurance of employees	1 day, simultaneously with procedure 2	no charge

* Takes place simultaneously with another procedure.

Procedure 1 Deposit the paid-in share capital in a bank; pay the registration fee and get a receipt

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment: The paid-in share capital must be paid in full into the company's bank account. According to the new Companies Act, the subscription price may be paid to a bank account abroad. However, the bank account should correspond to a bank account of a Finnish depository bank or a branch of a foreign credit company in Finland. There is no legal maximum for the company's share capital. However, the company's articles of association may limit the maximum capital. To open a bank account, the company must produce at least the following documentation:

- The memorandum of association (a copy).
- The minutes of the meeting of the board of directors containing a resolution to open a bank account and the persons authorized to make withdrawals from the account.
- A description of the nature of future banking transactions.
- A detailed description of the company's field of business.

No withdrawals may be made from the account until the company has been registered and has provided the bank with proof of registration. The company's auditors shall issue a written statement confirming the payment of the share capital.

Procedure 2 Submit a basic declaration to the NBPR's Trade Register Department in the forms prescribed by the NBPR

Time to complete: 5 working days – 3 weeks

Cost to complete: €330, includes the notification fee related to establishment of a limited liability company

Comment: A basic declaration to the Trade Register must be filed (in either Finnish or Swedish) as specified on forms issued by the National Board of Patents and Registration. For each type of business, a separate basic declaration form must be used. The forms are available from the National Board of Patents and Registration, regional tax offices, local tax offices, Employment and Economic Development Centers (TE Centers), local register offices, and Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise Agencies. All registrations to the Trade Register and to the Tax Administration are performed with the same basic declaration. Copies of any licenses for licensed trades are required, where applicable.

If the company has employees, the company must be entered into the Employer Register, according to Section 31 of the Preliminary Taxation Act.

When the basic declaration is submitted, a certificate of the company's business identification number may be obtained at a fee of EUR 5. This certificate allows companies to use their bank accounts before registration has been completed.

Procedure 3 File at a private insurer for pension insurance, accident insurance, and medical insurance of employees

Time to complete: 1 day, simultaneously with procedure 2

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment: Under the statutory pension insurance scheme, an employer must subscribe its employees for pension insurance with a pension provider handling earnings-related pensions. Supplemental pension insurance is optional.

The employer also pays the pension institution statutory employee earnings-related

contributions: accident insurance, unemployment insurance, and group life assurance premium. A social security contribution is also payable to the Regional Tax Office.

The employer must insure its employees against accidents and occupational diseases, according to Section 8 of the Employment Accidents Act. In addition, certain collective labor agreements require that employers provide their employees with group life insurance.

No proof of insurance is needed to start operations.

Dealing with Construction Permits in Finland

The table below summarizes the procedures, time, and costs to build a warehouse in Finland.

BUILDING A WAREHOUSE

Date as of: January 2, 2008

Estimated Warehouse Value:

City: Helsinki

Registration Requirements:

No:	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
1	Obtain extract from the trade register	1 day	EUR 10
2 *	Obtain building permit maps and extract from the real estate registry	12 days	EUR 161
3 *	Obtain report on the height of the intended construction	7 days	no charge
4 *	Obtain official opinion on the connection of the wastewater drain and water pipeline	7 days	no charge
5 *	Schedule start-up meeting	7 days	no charge
6	Obtain building permit	10 days	EUR 6,010
7	Receive foundation work inspection	1 day	no charge
8	Receive location inspection from the real estate office	1 day	EUR 1,304
9	Submit electric wiring designs to Helsinki Energy and receive inspection	1 day	no charge
10	Receive structure inspection	1 day	no charge
11	Receive ventilation inspection	1 day	no charge
12	Receive sewer and water pipeline inspection	1 day	no charge
13 *	Request and obtain electricity connection	3 days	EUR 20,000
14 *	Request and obtain water connection	3 days	EUR 12,500
15 *	Request and obtain phone connection	3 days	EUR 389

16	Receive fire inspection from the Public Rescue Service	1 day	no charge
17	Receive final inspection	1 day	no charge
18	Obtain occupancy permit	4 days	no charge

* Takes place simultaneously with another procedure.

Procedure 1 Obtain extract from the trade register

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete: EUR 10

Comment: This procedure is usually required when the building permit applicant is a company. It takes about 7 days if ordered by mail.

Procedure 2 Obtain building permit maps and extract from the real estate registry

Time to complete: 12 days

Cost to complete: EUR 161

Comment: The Real Estate Office issues the building permits maps, which must be attached as originals to the application. The applicant cannot use a map that is older than 3 months. The fee includes also the extract from the real estate register and the report of the build-site height.

Procedure 3 Obtain report on the height of the intended construction

Time to complete: 7 days

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment: Obtained from the Real Estate Office, the report is required to ensure that the height of the new building is in proportion with other buildings in the same neighborhood.

Procedure 4 Obtain official opinion on the connection of the wastewater drain and water pipeline

Time to complete: 7 days

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment: The official opinion on the connection of the wastewater drain and the water pipeline must be attached to the building permit application if the building will be connected to the public water distribution system and to the public sewerage system. The opinion is issued by the municipal organization in charge of the water supply (in the greater Helsinki area, Helsinki Water). The cost is included in the connection charge.

Procedure 5 Schedule start-up meeting

Time to complete: 7 days

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment: BuildCo must set a date for a startup meeting with the building supervision authority and convene all necessary persons to the meeting. The meeting must be held before the beginning of construction (some excavation work can be done, but the foundation may not be laid before the meeting). At a minimum, the following persons should attend the meeting: the person starting the building project, the head designer, and the site manager. The meeting attendees must be agreed with the building supervision authority.

Procedure 6 Obtain building permit

Time to complete: 10 days

Cost to complete: EUR 6,010

Comment: The building permit is issued by the Municipal Building Inspection. The applicant is required to provide the needed information to the local building supervision authority to decide on the building permit application. The quality and the extent of the required information depend on the project features.

The following documentation is usually required for warehouse projects:

- The completed application form issued by the building supervision authority. The owner or the holder of the building site in question must sign the form. If there are several owners or holders, all must sign the application form.
- A power of attorney is required only if a representative files the building permit application. (This is not applicable to the warehouse project considered here.)
- The establishment of the ownership title is required because the building permit can be granted only based on the application made by the owner or the holder of the building site. Usually one of the following documents is presented to the building supervision authority:
 - The deed of sale of the real estate.
 - The lease contract.
 - The deed of title.
- The extract from the trade register.
- The building permit map and the extract from the real estate registry.
- The decision to deviate from the provisions, regulations, prohibitions, and other restrictions on building and other action must be attached to the application, in original, if the project requires such a decision.
- The certificate of the decision's legal validity must be presented before the actual launching of the building project. (This is not applicable to the warehouse project.)
- The environmental permit is required if the use of the building poses a threat of environmental pollution. The decision on the building permit can be postponed until the environmental permit is attached to the application. (This is not applicable to the warehouse project.)
- Three master drawings must be attached to the application. One document will be archived with the building supervision authority, and the other will be returned to the applicant with the final decision. The master drawings to be followed in construction master drawings are approved in connection with the grant of the building permit.
- Report of the height of the building site.
- The ground investigation report of the building site. If needed, also enclosed with the building permit application will be an account of the site's health effects and ground levels, and the type of foundation and any other measures required as a result. This report may be produced by BuildCo.
- The official opinion on the connection of the wastewater drain and the water pipeline.
- Notification to the neighbors. When the building permit application is filed with the building supervision authority, the neighbors must also be notified. The applicant may do this personally by using the official form, obtained from the building supervision authority. Otherwise, subject to a fee, the applicant may request the building supervision authority to conduct the notification.
- Forms for official statistics. The building supervision authority must deliver information on building projects to the Population Register Center. Thus, the forms in question must be attached to the application. These forms are available at the building supervision authority or at the public printing center.
- The official form on the building designer. Every building project must have a qualified head designer in charge of the construction design and the quality of the design as a whole.
- Other documents are required, as follows:
 - Working designs.
 - Calculation of permitted building volume.

- Report on fire load, parking spaces, handling construction waste; on environmental issues, with photographs (can be produced by BuildCo).
- Constructional drawings and strength calculations and drawings on ventilation and heating devices, on water and sewage devices, and on bomb shelters and the notification of the bomb shelter.

The price is determined by the building size: EUR 4.34 per sq. m. plus EUR 365.69 for each building. It is assumed that notification is conducted by the authority. Thus, no extra procedure is necessary.

Procedure 7 Receive foundation work inspection

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment: The ground inspection and the setting out of the building's location and level are conducted after the foundation work is completed.

Procedure 8 Receive location inspection from the real estate office

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete: EUR 1,304

Comment: The location inspection must be requested from the Real Estate Office after the foundation work is completed. This inspection is held to determine that the building height and location are in accordance with the master drawings.

Procedure 9 Submit electric wiring designs to Helsinki Energy and receive inspection

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment: The electricity designer must deliver, for inspection and approval, the electrical wiring design for the connection and metering to Helsinki Energy's connection service. BuildCo must enter into a connection agreement about a month before the actual construction of the connection cable.

The electricity contractor conducts the commissioning inspection of the metering center and delivers the request for metering to Helsinki Energy at least 4 working days before the requested date. The electricity contract must be signed before the metering. The electricity contractor conducts the commissioning inspection of the electrical installation before handing over the entity.

BuildCo must deliver the final drawings to Helsinki Energy for completing the drawings archives to ensure that the drawings are available if needed. The filing does not have a cost

Procedure 10 Receive structure inspection

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment: The inspection of the building structure is conducted after the load-bearing structure and connected insulation works are completed.

Procedure 11 Receive ventilation inspection

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment: The ventilation inspection is conducted after the completion of the exit flue and the ventilation installation.

Procedure 12 Receive sewer and water pipeline inspection

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment: The inspection of the sewer and water pipeline fittings is conducted after the completion of these fittings.

Procedure 13 Request and obtain electricity connection

Time to complete: 3 days

Cost to complete: EUR 20,000

Comment: The electricity connection charges are determined by the fuse size of building. Up-to-date fees can be found at the Helsingin Energia Web site (www.helsinginenergia.fi/sahko/hinnastot/liittymismaksut.html).

Procedure 14 Request and obtain water connection

Time to complete: 3 days

Cost to complete: EUR 12,500

Comment: Helsinki Water, a municipal institution, is responsible for all matters of connections to the water distribution and sewerage systems. The procedure for ordering a connection is as follows:

- Helsinki Water customer service staff provide the new customer with a statement on the connection. The street address of the plot or property is required, as is the owner's name, address, and phone number.
- Helsinki Water provides the customer with a preliminary estimate of the recently introduced connection charge.
- The customer should acquire a building permit for the plot.
- After the customer has obtained the building permit, Helsinki Water will send the customer the connection charge notice. The property owner can file a complaint within 14 days of receiving the notice. Unless a complaint is made, the proposed charge will be considered as having been accepted by the customer.
- Water service connection and meter installation will be conducted after the connection charge is paid. The customer is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the connection pipes and conduits and their financing. Before the start of on-site construction work, a supervisor responsible for the construction of the water facility and sewerage system—approved by the municipal building control officials—should be assigned. Helsinki Water always takes care of installation of water meters with seals, water main

connection with water-sealed joints, and connections to the sewerage system on the customer's properties. Service charges will be invoiced at rates valid at the time of the order.

- A connection agreement is concluded.
- The invoicing procedure is settled.

The fee is EUR 10,546.05 based on the building plot size (929 sq. m.) and the building area (1,300.6 sq. m.) assumed in this case, using the following formula: building plot size plus building area multiplied by the connection fee per unit (EUR 4.47 for water, sewage, and storm water). The EUR 10,546.05 quoted does not include required connection charges. The fee for this is EUR 1,954.44, which includes one water pipe and two sewer connections.

Procedure 15 Request and obtain phone connection

Time to complete: 3 days

Cost to complete: EUR 389

Comment: The telephone subscription can be ordered, for example, from Elisa Oyj, which is a publicly listed company. The charge for setting up the subscription is EUR 99 (basic connection). Usually, the installation requires that a mechanic come to the building to finish the installation. The hourly charge of the mechanic is EUR 69, including VAT of 22%. The hours required depend on the features of the building. It is assumed here that the mechanic must work for 4.2 hours to finalize the connection.

Procedure 16 Receive fire inspection from the Public Rescue Service

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment:

Procedure 17 Receive final inspection

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment: A building, or a part thereof, shall not be commissioned before it has been finally inspected and approved for use. The minutes of the commissioning inspection of the electrical installation (drafted by the electricity contractor) are necessary for obtaining a use or occupancy permit. This inspection can be performed by BuildCo, provided that the company has qualified employees.

Procedure 18 Obtain occupancy permit

Time to complete: 4 days

Cost to complete: no charge

Comment:

Employing Workers in Finland

Employing workers indices are based on responses to survey questions. The table below shows these responses in Finland.

Employing Workers Indicators (2008)	Answer	Score
Rigidity of Employment Index		48.1
Difficulty of Hiring Index		44.4
Are fixed-term contracts prohibited for permanent tasks?	Yes	1
What is the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts (including renewals)? (in months)	60	0.0
What is the ratio of mandated minimum wage to the average value added per worker?	0.32	0.33
Rigidity of Hours Index		60.0
Can the workweek extend to 50 hours (including overtime) for 2 months per year to respond to a seasonal increase in production?	Yes	0
What is the maximum number of working days per week?	6	0
Are there restrictions on night work?	Yes	1
Are there restrictions on "weekly holiday" work?	Yes	1
What is the paid annual vacation (in working days) for an employee with 20 years of service?	30	1
Difficulty of Firing Index		40.0
Is the termination of workers due to redundancy legally authorized?	Yes	0
Must the employer notify a third party before terminating one redundant worker?	Yes	1
Does the employer need the approval of a third party to terminate one redundant worker?	No	0
Must the employer notify a third party before terminating a group of 25 redundant workers?	Yes	1
Does the employer need the approval of a third party to terminate a group of 25 redundant workers?	No	0
Is there a retraining or reassignment obligation before an employer can make a worker redundant?	Yes	1
Are there priority rules applying to redundancies?	No	0
Are there priority rules applying to re-employment?	Yes	1

Firing costs (weeks of salary)**26.0**

What is the notice period for redundancy dismissal after 20 years of continuous employment? (weeks of salary) 26.0

What is the severance pay for redundancy dismissal after 20 years of employment? (weeks of salary) 0.0

What is the legally mandated penalty for redundancy dismissal? (weeks of salary) 0.0

Note: The first three indices measure how difficult it is to hire a new worker, how rigid the regulations are on working hours, and how difficult it is to dismiss a redundant worker. Each index assigns values between 0 and 100, with higher values representing more rigid regulations. The overall Rigidity of Employment Index is an average of the three indices.

Registering Property in Finland

This topic examines the steps, time, and cost involved in registering property in Finland.

STANDARDIZED PROPERTY

Property Value: 1,706,206.83

City: Helsinki

Registration Requirements:

No:	Procedure	Time to complete	Cost to complete
1	The seller and buyer notarize the deed of sale in the presence of a Public Notary	1 day	
2	The buyer must pay the transfer tax before the registration of the property	1 day	4% of the property value
3	The buyer applies for a land title at the District Court	7-20 days	€ 65 (registration fee)

Procedure 1 The seller and buyer notarize the deed of sale in the presence of a Public Notary

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete:

Comment: The agreement can be prepared by the seller or the buyer, no involvement of a lawyer or real estate agent is required. In general the seller shall present an extract from the land register and an abstract of title confirming the title of the property, but this is not formally required. The agreement should be in writing and contain at a minimum the following (according to the Code of Real Estate): name of the seller and buyer, the object of purchase, the purchase price or equivalent compensation and possible subsequent conditions. The sale agreement shall be signed both by the seller and buyer, in the presence of the attesting notary. The attesting notary checks the ID of the seller and buyer and verifies the formal validity of the sales agreement. Failure to follow these requirements will result in the transaction being automatically null and void. Note that an attesting notary is required only when ownership (full freehold title) of the property is assigned. When the right of tenancy or other right to possess the property is assigned, the presence of the attesting notary is not required.

Procedure 2 The buyer must pay the transfer tax before the registration of the property

Time to complete: 1 day

Cost to complete: 4% of the property value

Comment: The transfer tax can be paid at a local bank, directly at the Tax Authorities or online. The attesting notary gives the buyer instructions on the transfer tax payment. The payment is done using a printed tax form for the Transfer Tax. The receipt of the payment of the taxes must be included in the application for the registration of title to the property (see procedure 3).

Procedure 3 The buyer applies for a land title at the District Court

Time to complete: 7-20 days

Cost to complete: € 65 (registration fee)

Comment: The buyer is under obligation to register the property title at the Land Registry within 6 months from the purchase. The application shall be submitted to the district court of the region where the property is situated. The Land Register enjoys public credibility and thus the validity of the registration of title and the information of the register can be trusted.

The District court examines the preconditions of title and when those are met, grants the title that is registration of the ownership in the Land Registry (Register of Titles and Mortgages).

The documentation shall include:

O r i g i n a l s a l e s a g r e e m e n t

The receipt of the paid transfer tax (Paid in Procedure 2).

Extract from the Register of Companies, articles of Association, minutes from the General Meeting of the companies (seller and buyer) where the sale and purchase was resolved.

Verified copy of the sales agreement.

Registration fee is paid at bank, local court (registry authority) or online.

Getting Credit in Finland

The following table summarize legal rights of borrowers and lenders, and the availability and legal framework of credit registries in Finland.

Getting Credit Indicators (2008)			Indicator
			score
Private bureau coverage (% adults)	Private credit bureau	Public credit registry	5
Are data on both firms and individuals distributed?	Yes	No	1
Are both positive and negative data distributed?	Yes	No	1
Does the registry distribute credit information from retailers, trade creditors or utility companies as well as financial institutions?	No	No	0
Are more than 2 years of historical credit information distributed?	Yes	No	1
Is data on all loans below 1% of income per capita distributed?	Yes	No	1
Is it guaranteed by law that borrowers can inspect their data in the largest credit registry?	Yes	No	1
Coverage		14.8	0.0
Number of individuals	
Number of firms	

Legal Rights Index	7
Can any business use movable assets as collateral while keeping possession of the assets; and any financial institution accept such assets as collateral ?	Yes
Does the law allow businesses to grant a non possessory security right in a single category of revolving movable assets, without requiring a specific description of the secured assets ?	No
Does the law allow businesses to grant a non possessory security right in substantially all of its assets, without requiring a specific description of the secured assets ?	Yes
May a security right extend to future or after-acquired assets, and may it extend automatically to the products, proceeds or replacements of the original assets ?	Yes
Is a general description of debts and obligations permitted in collateral agreements, so that all types of obligations and debts can be secured by stating a maximum amount rather than a specific amount between the parties ?	Yes
Is a collateral registry in operation, that is unified geographically and by asset type, as well as indexed by the grantor's name of a security right ?	Yes
Do secured creditors have absolute priority to their collateral outside bankruptcy procedures?	Yes
Do secured creditors have absolute priority to their collateral in bankruptcy procedures?	Yes

During reorganization, are secured creditors' claims exempt from an automatic stay on enforcement?

No

Does the law authorize parties to agree on out of court enforcement?

No

Protecting Investors in Finland

The table below provides a full breakdown of how the disclosure, director liability, and shareholder suits indexes are calculated in Finland.

Protecting Investors Data (2008)	Indicator
Disclosure Index	6
What corporate body provides legally sufficient approval for the transaction? (0-3; see notes)	2
Immediate disclosure to the public and/or shareholders (0-2; see notes)	1
Disclosures in published periodic filings (0-2; see notes)	2
Disclosures by Mr. James to board of directors (0-2; see notes)	1
Requirement that an external body review the transaction before it takes place (0=no, 1=yes)	0
Director Liability Index	4
Shareholder plaintiff's ability to hold Mr. James liable for damage the Buyer-Seller transaction causes to the company. (0-2; see notes)	1
Shareholder plaintiff's ability to hold the approving body (the CEO or board of directors) liable for damage to the company. (0-2; see notes)	1
Whether a court can void the transaction upon a successful claim by a shareholder plaintiff (0-2; see notes)	0
Whether Mr. James pays damages for the harm caused to the company upon a successful claim by the shareholder plaintiff (0=no, 1=yes)	1
Whether Mr. James repays profits made from the transaction upon a successful claim by the shareholder plaintiff (0=no, 1=yes)	0
Whether fines and imprisonment can be applied against Mr. James (0=no, 1=yes)	0
Shareholder plaintiff's ability to sue directly or derivatively for damage the transaction causes to the company (0-1; see notes)	1
Shareholder Suits Index	7
Documents available to the plaintiff from the defendant and witnesses during trial (0-4; see notes)	3
Ability of plaintiffs to directly question the defendant and witnesses during trial (0-2; see notes)	2
Plaintiff can request categories of documents from the defendant without identifying specific ones (0=no, 1=yes)	0
Shareholders owning 10% or less of Buyer's shares can request an inspector investigate the transaction (0=no, 1=yes)	1

Level of proof required for civil suits is lower than that for criminal cases (0=no, 1=yes)	1
Shareholders owning 10% or less of Buyer's shares can inspect transaction documents before filing suit (0=no, 1=yes)	0

Investor Protection Index

5.7

Notes:

Extent of Disclosure Index

What corporate body provides legally sufficient approval for the transaction?

0=CEO or managing director alone; 1=shareholders or board of directors vote and Mr. James can vote; 2=board of directors votes and Mr. James cannot vote; 3 = shareholders vote and Mr. James cannot vote

Immediate disclosure to the public and/or shareholders

0=none; 1=disclosure on the transaction only; 2=disclosure on the transaction and Mr. James' conflict of interest

Disclosures in published periodic filings

0=none; 1=disclosure on the transaction only; 2=disclosure on the transaction and Mr. James' conflict of interest

Disclosures by Mr. James to board of directors

0=none; 1=existence of a conflict without any specifics; 2= full disclosure of all material facts

Director Liability Index

Shareholder plaintiff's ability to hold Mr. James liable for damage the Buyer-Seller transaction causes to the company

0= Mr. James is not liable or liable only if he acted fraudulently or in bad faith; 1= Mr. James is liable if he influenced the approval or was negligent; 2= Mr. James is liable if the transaction was unfair, oppressive or prejudicial to minority shareholders

Shareholder plaintiff's ability to hold the approving body (the CEO or board of directors) liable for damage to the company

0=members of the approving body are either not liable or liable only if they acted fraudulently or in bad faith; 1=liable for negligence in the approval of the transaction; 2=liable if the transaction is unfair, oppressive, or prejudicial to minority shareholders

Whether a court can void the transaction upon a successful claim by a shareholder plaintiff

0=rescission is unavailable or available only in case of Seller's fraud or bad faith; 1=available when the transaction is oppressive or prejudicial to minority shareholders; 2=available when the transaction is unfair or entails a conflict of interest

Shareholder plaintiffs' ability to sue directly or derivatively for damage the transaction causes to the company

0=not available; 1=direct or derivative suit available for shareholders holding 10% of share capital or less

Shareholder Suits Index

Documents available to the plaintiff from the defendant and witnesses during trial

Score 1 each for (1) information that the defendant has indicated he intends to rely on for his defense; (2) information that directly proves specific facts in the plaintiff's claim; (3) any information that is relevant to the subject matter of the claim; and (4) any information that may lead to the discovery of relevant information.

Ability of plaintiffs to directly question the defendant and witnesses during trial

0=no; 1=yes, with prior approval by the court of the questions posed; 2=yes, without prior approval

Paying Taxes in Finland

The table below addresses the taxes and mandatory contributions that a medium-size company must pay or withhold in a given year in Finland, as well as measures of administrative burden in paying taxes.

Tax or mandatory contribution	Payments (number)	Notes on Payments	Time (hours)	Statutory tax rate	Tax base	Total tax rate (% profit)	Notes on TTR
Value added tax (VAT)	1	online filing	48	22.0%	value added		
Vehicle tax	1				fixed fee		
Group life insurance contributions	0	paid jointly		0.1%	gross salaries	0.09	
Property tax	2				property value	1.04	
Accident insurance	0	paid jointly		1.1%	gross salaries	1.26	
Unemployment contribution	1				gross salaries	2.32	
Social security contributions	1	online filing			gross salaries	6.94	
Corporate income tax	13		21	26.0%	taxable profit	17.03	
Pension contribution	1	online filing	200	16.7%	gross salaries	19.12	
Totals	20		269			47.8	

Notes:

- a) data not collected
- b) VAT is not included in the total tax rate because it is a tax levied on consumers
- c) very small amount
- d) included in other taxes
- e) Withheld tax
- f) electronic filling available
- g) paid jointly with another tax

Name 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.

When there is more than one statutory tax rate, the one applicable to TaxpayerCo is reported.

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.

Trading Across Borders in Finland

These tables list the procedures necessary to import and exports a standardized cargo of goods in Finland. The documents required to export and import the goods are also shown.

Nature of Export Procedures (2008)	Duration (days)	US\$ Cost
Documents preparation	3	100
Customs clearance and technical control	1	60
Ports and terminal handling	2	135
Inland transportation and handling	2	200
Totals	8	495

Nature of Import Procedures (2008)	Duration (days)	US\$ Cost
Documents preparation	3	180
Customs clearance and technical control	2	60
Ports and terminal handling	2	135
Inland transportation and handling	1	200
Totals	8	575

Export

Bill of lading

Commercial invoice

Customs export declaration

Packing list

Import

Bill of lading

Cargo release order

Commercial Invoice

Customs import declaration

Packing list

Enforcing Contracts in Finland

This topic looks at the efficiency of contract enforcement in Finland.

Nature of Procedure (2008)	Indicator
Procedures (number)	32
Duration (days)	235
Filing and service	35.0
Trial and judgment	140.0
Enforcement of judgment	60.0
Cost (% of claim)*	10.40
Attorney cost (% of claim)	10.0
Court cost (% of claim)	0.2
Enforcement Cost (% of claim)	0.2

Court information: Helsinki District Court ("Helsingin kaeraerjaoikeus")

* Claim assumed to be equivalent to 200% of income per capita.



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