

Economy Profile  
Austria

# Doing Business 2020

Comparing Business  
Regulation in  
**190** Economies



WORLD BANK GROUP

**Economy Profile of Austria**

*Doing Business 2020 Indicators  
(in order of appearance in the document)*

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

## About Doing Business

The *Doing Business* project provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 190 economies and selected cities at the subnational and regional level.

The *Doing Business* project, launched in 2002, looks at domestic small and medium-size companies and measures the regulations applying to them through their life cycle.


*Doing Business* captures several important dimensions of the regulatory environment as it applies to local firms. It provides quantitative indicators on regulation for starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency. *Doing Business* also measures features of employing workers. Although *Doing Business* does not present rankings of economies on the employing workers indicators or include the topic in the aggregate ease of doing business score or ranking on the ease of doing business, it does present the data for these indicators.

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

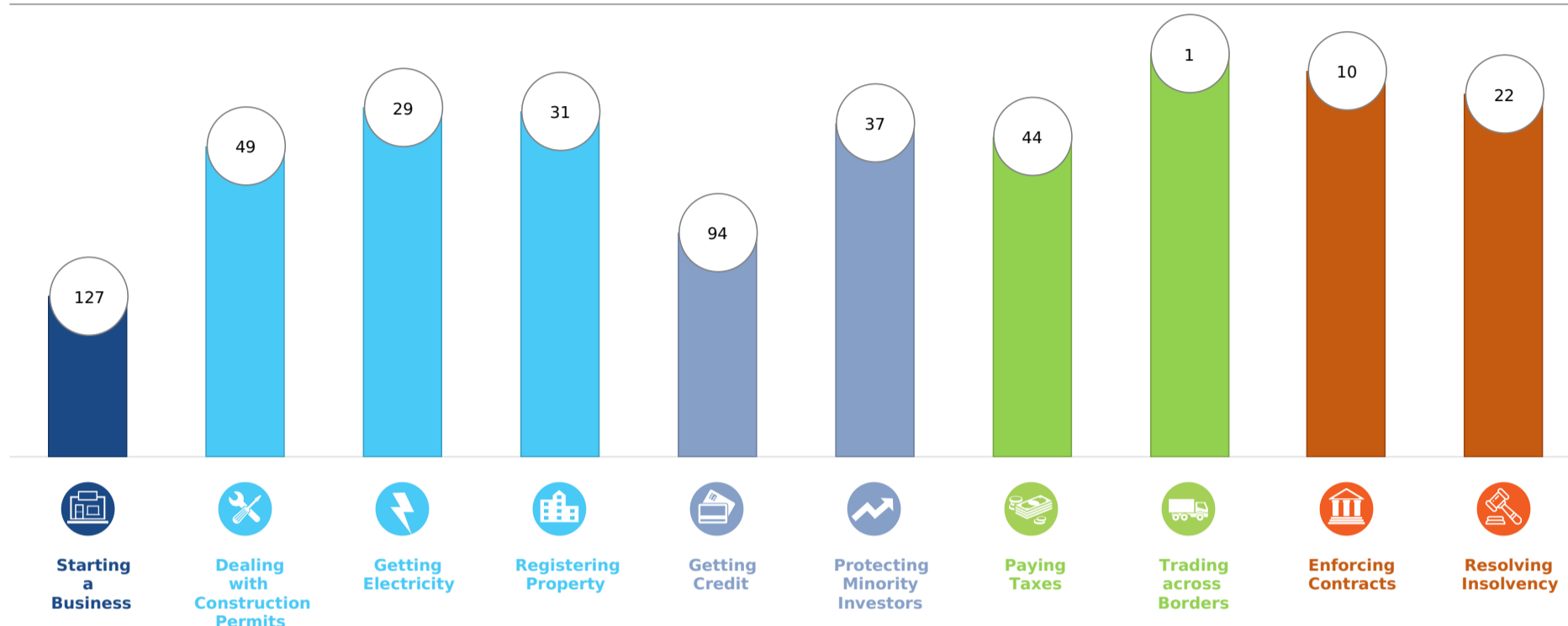
In addition, *Doing Business* offers detailed [subnational studies](#), which exhaustively cover business regulation and reform in different cities and regions within a nation. These studies provide data on the ease of doing business, rank each location, and recommend reforms to improve performance in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

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

To learn more about *Doing Business* please visit [doingbusiness.org](http://doingbusiness.org)

Ease of Doing Business in <b>Austria</b> 	<b>Region</b>	OECD high income	<b>DB RANK</b>	27	<b>DB SCORE</b>	78.7
	<b>Income Category</b>	High income				
	<b>Population</b>	8,847,037				
	<b>City Covered</b>	Vienna				

Rankings on Doing Business topics - Austria



Topic Scores



<b>Starting a Business</b> (rank)	127
Score of starting a business (0-100)	83.2
Procedures (number)	8
Time (days)	21
Cost (number)	4.7
Paid-in min. capital (% of income per capita)	11.5
<b>Dealing with Construction Permits</b> (rank)	49
Score of dealing with construction permits (0-100)	75.1
Procedures (number)	11
Time (days)	222
Cost (% of warehouse value)	1.1
Building quality control index (0-15)	13.0
<b>Getting Electricity</b> (rank)	29
Score of getting electricity (0-100)	87.7
Procedures (number)	5
Time (days)	23
Cost (% of income per capita)	85.8
Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index (0-8)	7
<b>Registering Property</b> (rank)	31
Score of registering property (0-100)	80.0
Procedures (number)	3
Time (days)	20.5
Cost (% of property value)	4.6
Quality of the land administration index (0-30)	23.0

<b>Getting Credit</b> (rank)	94
Score of getting credit (0-100)	55.0
Strength of legal rights index (0-12)	4
Depth of credit information index (0-8)	7
Credit registry coverage (% of adults)	2.2
Credit bureau coverage (% of adults)	53.5
<b>Protecting Minority Investors</b> (rank)	37
Score of protecting minority investors (0-100)	70.0
Extent of disclosure index (0-10)	5.0
Extent of director liability index (0-10)	5.0
Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)	7.0
Extent of shareholder rights index (0-6)	5.0
Extent of ownership and control index (0-7)	7.0
Extent of corporate transparency index (0-7)	6.0
<b>Paying Taxes</b> (rank)	44
Score of paying taxes (0-100)	83.5
Payments (number per year)	12
Time (hours per year)	131
Total tax and contribution rate (% of profit)	51.4
Postfiling index (0-100)	98.5

<b>Trading across Borders</b> (rank)	1
Score of trading across borders (0-100)	100
<i>Time to export</i>	
Documentary compliance (hours)	1
Border compliance (hours)	0
<i>Cost to export</i>	
Documentary compliance (USD)	0
Border compliance (USD)	0
<i>Time to export</i>	
Documentary compliance (hours)	1
Border compliance (hours)	0
<i>Cost to export</i>	
Documentary compliance (USD)	0
Border compliance (USD)	0
<b>Enforcing Contracts</b> (rank)	10
Score of enforcing contracts (0-100)	75.5
Time (days)	397
Cost (% of claim value)	20.6
Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)	13.0
<b>Resolving Insolvency</b> (rank)	22
Score of resolving insolvency (0-100)	77.4
Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	79.9
Time (years)	1.1
Cost (% of estate)	10.0
Outcome (0 as piecemeal sale and 1 as going concern)	1
Strength of insolvency framework index (0-16)	11.0

## Starting a Business

This topic measures the number of procedures, time, cost and paid-in minimum capital requirement for a small- to medium-sized limited liability company to start up and formally operate in each economy's largest business city.

To make the data comparable across 190 economies, *Doing Business* uses a standardized business that is 100% domestically owned, has start-up capital equivalent to 10 times the income per capita, engages in general industrial or commercial activities and employs between 10 and 50 people one month after the commencement of operations, all of whom are domestic nationals. Starting a Business considers two types of local limited liability companies that are identical in all aspects, except that one company is owned by 5 married women and the other by 5 married men. The ranking of economies on the ease of starting a business is determined by sorting their scores for starting a business. These scores are the simple average of the scores for each of the component indicators.

The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in May 2019. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

What the indicators measure	Case study assumptions
<p><b>Procedures to legally start and formally operate a company (number)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preregistration (for example, name verification or reservation, notarization)</li> <li>• Registration in the economy's largest business city</li> <li>• Postregistration (for example, social security registration, company seal)</li> <li>• Obtaining approval from spouse to start a business or to leave the home to register the company</li> <li>• Obtaining any gender specific document for company registration and operation or national identification card</li> </ul> <p><b>Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not include time spent gathering information</li> <li>• Each procedure starts on a separate day (2 procedures cannot start on the same day)</li> <li>• Procedures fully completed online are recorded as ½ day</li> <li>• Procedure is considered completed once final document is received</li> <li>• No prior contact with officials</li> </ul> <p><b>Cost required to complete each procedure (% of income per capita)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official costs only, no bribes</li> <li>• No professional fees unless services required by law or commonly used in practice</li> </ul> <p><b>Paid-in minimum capital (% of income per capita)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds deposited in a bank or with third party before registration or up to 3 months after incorporation</li> </ul>	<p>To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions about the business and the procedures are used. It is assumed that any required information is readily available and that the entrepreneur will pay no bribes.</p> <p><b>The business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Is a limited liability company (or its legal equivalent). If there is more than one type of limited liability company in the economy, the limited liability form most common among domestic firms is chosen. Information on the most common form is obtained from incorporation lawyers or the statistical office.</li> <li>-Operates in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.</li> <li>-Performs general industrial or commercial activities such as the production or sale to the public of goods or services. The business does not perform foreign trade activities and does not handle products subject to a special tax regime, for example, liquor or tobacco. It is not using heavily polluting production processes.</li> <li>-Does not qualify for investment incentives or any special benefits.</li> <li>-Is 100% domestically owned.</li> <li>-Has five business owners, none of whom is a legal entity. One business owner holds 30% of the company shares, two owners have 20% of shares each, and two owners have 15% of shares each.</li> <li>-Is managed by one local director.</li> <li>-Has between 10 and 50 employees one month after the commencement of operations, all of them domestic nationals.</li> <li>-Has start-up capital of 10 times income per capita.</li> <li>-Has an estimated turnover of at least 100 times income per capita.</li> <li>-Leases the commercial plant or offices and is not a proprietor of real estate.</li> <li>-Has an annual lease for the office space equivalent to one income per capita.</li> <li>-Is in an office space of approximately 929 square meters (10,000 square feet).</li> <li>-Has a company deed that is 10 pages long.</li> </ul> <p><b>The owners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Have reached the legal age of majority and are capable of making decisions as an adult. If there is no legal age of majority, they are assumed to be 30 years old.</li> <li>-Are in good health and have no criminal record.</li> <li>-Are married, the marriage is monogamous and registered with the authorities.</li> <li>-Where the answer differs according to the legal system applicable to the woman or man in question (as may be the case in economies where there is legal plurality), the answer used will be the one that applies to the majority of the population.</li> </ul>

Starting a Business - Austria

Standardized Company

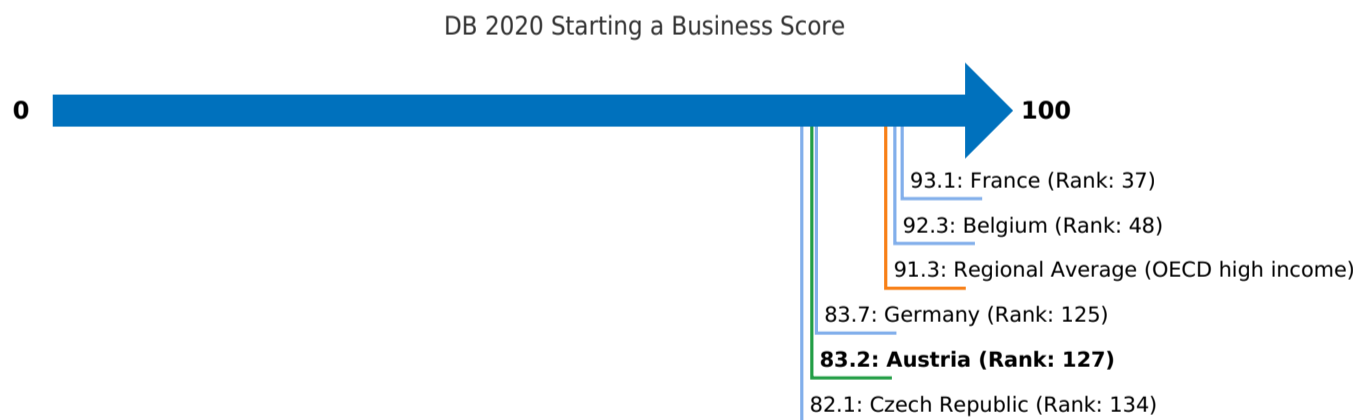
Legal form	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (GmbH)
Paid-in minimum capital requirement	EUR 5,000
City Covered	Vienna

Indicator	Austria	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedure - Men (number)	8	4.9	1 (2 Economies)
Time - Men (days)	21	9.2	0.5 (New Zealand)
Cost - Men (% of income per capita)	4.7	3.0	0.0 (2 Economies)
Procedure - Women (number)	8	4.9	1 (2 Economies)
Time - Women (days)	21	9.2	0.5 (New Zealand)
Cost - Women (% of income per capita)	4.7	3.0	0.0 (2 Economies)
Paid-in min. capital (% of income per capita)	11.5	7.6	0.0 (120 Economies)

Figure - Starting a Business in Austria - Score

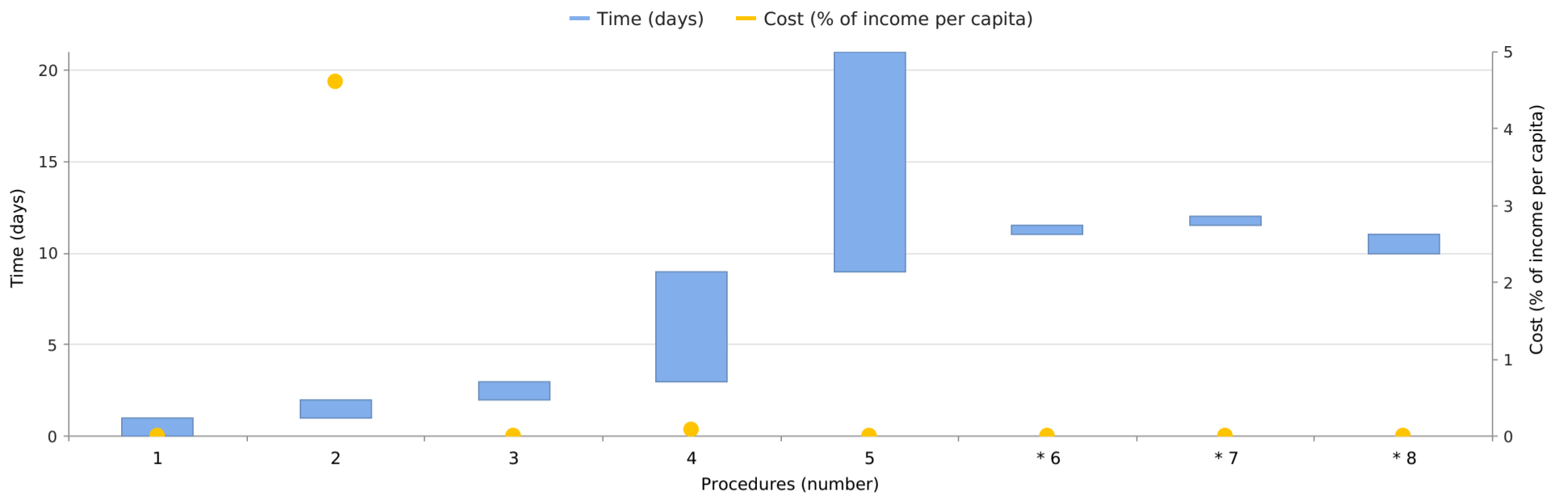


Figure - Starting a Business in Austria and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

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



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

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

## Details - Starting a Business in Austria - Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	<p><b>Obtain the confirmation from the Economic Chamber that the start-up company is really a new enterprise</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Economic Chamber            A form (NeuFö2), which is available electronically on the homepage of the Austrian Ministry of Finance must be filled in and be confirmed by the Economic Chamber. The Neufö applies to the company formation and to the transfer of businesses.</p> <p>Procedure 1 is optional but it can lead to exemption from paying certain publicly levied fees and taxes. If certain requirements are met, the following fees and taxes will be waived:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stamp duties and certain administrative fees.</li> <li>• Real estate transfer tax.</li> <li>• Charges for new entries registration in the commercial register and the cadastral register.</li> <li>• For 1 year, certain ancillary wage costs borne by the employer in addition to social security contributions.</li> </ul> <p>Depending on the requested exemptions, companies must obtain confirmation by certain public bodies (Chamber of Commerce or Social Security Organization) that the application form has been completed, after receiving counseling by that body concerning the scope and applicability of the law.</p>	1 day	no charge
2	<p><b>Notarize the statutes/articles of association or the declaration of establishment</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Notary            The articles of association (Gesellschaftsvertrag), which must be executed before a notary by notary deed (Notariatsakt), must include the following: name, seat, scope of activities, capital and initial contribution by each shareholder. According to the Federal Act on Electronic Company Formation at the Notary it is now possible to use electronic communication tools to notarize the Articles of Associations.</p> <p>Cost will depend on the authorized share capital and are subject to negotiation with the notary public.</p>	1 day	About EUR 2,000. There is an official fee schedule ("Notariatstarifgesetz") which is regarded as a maximum amount for notary fees. The notary fees are usually subject to negotiations.
3	<p><b>Deposit the minimum capital requirement</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Bank or notary            The confirmation fee depends on the bank, ranging from EUR 0 to about EUR 30.</p>	1 day	no charge
4	<p><b>Register the company at the local court (Handelsgericht)</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Local Commercial Court            The application for registering an Austrian limited liability company (Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung, GmbH) must be accompanied by the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Declaration of establishment notarized;</li> <li>-Articles of association;</li> <li>-A declaration (accompanied by a banker's confirmation) that the demanded amount of primary deposit, to be paid in cash, has been paid;</li> <li>-Evidence that the free disposability of the paid primary deposit by managing directors is not restricted by counterclaims;</li> <li>-Specimen signatures of the managing directors;</li> </ul> <p>If the court has doubts about the company name, it may request an opinion from the Chamber of Commerce. A GmbH comes into legal existence upon registration in the commercial registry.</p> <p>The fixed application fee (court fee) amounts to EUR 34. Individual entries fees can be applied depending on the information to be registered (company name, place of establishment, shared capital, etc). These entries fees can be exempted in case the company is granted with the Procedure 1 exemption.</p> <p>Public notaries and lawyers are obliged to file any petition as well as related documents, deeds, etc. in electronic form. Otherwise the cost in paper is EUR 52.</p> <p>Since January 15, 2018, all Austrian legal entities are required to disclose information about beneficial owners. Limited liability companies are exempted from the notification if all partners are natural persons. If no shareholder holds more than 25% of shares, the managing directors registered in the commercial register will be registered by the Federal Institute of Statistics Austria as beneficial owners. If another natural person exercises direct or indirect control over the management of the limited liability company, the limited liability company shall report it in accordance with the Austrian Beneficial Register Act.</p>	6 days	EUR 34



5	<p><b>Tax Office registration (obtain a VAT number)</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Tax Office</p> <p>The commercial register automatically informs tax authorities of the registration of new companies. In turn, tax authorities usually respond by requesting that the company file for tax registration. Registration is not available online, several forms must be printed, filled out, and sent by postal mail together with the articles of association, the opening balance sheet, an excerpt of the company register, an identification card of a managing director, and a specimen signature sheet of the representatives.</p> <p>The VAT number is usually issued simultaneously with the tax identification number. The statutory deadline to obtain a tax number is 1 month. Frequently tax authorities extend an introductory visit to those companies intending to engage in business activities that are eligible for the filing of VAT returns.</p> <p>Once registered companies can submit all of their tax returns online, via the website:  <a href="https://finanzonline.bmf.gv.at/">https://finanzonline.bmf.gv.at/</a></p>	12 days	no charge
⇒ 6	<p><b>Register trade (Gewerbeanmeldung) with the trade authority (Bezirksverwaltungsbehörde)</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Trade authority</p> <p>If permission is mandatory, completion of procedures takes longer, depending on the requirements and authorities involved (e. g., the production of hazardous goods requires proof of special qualifications of management and approval and control of the production site). Companies can register in person, by postal mail, or online.</p>	Less than one day (online procedure, simultaneous with previous procedure)	no charge
⇒ 7	<p><b>Register employees for social security</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Social Security</p> <p>Upon registering in the commercial register, companies with employees must apply for an employer's account number (Dienstgeberkontonummer) electronically via ELDA, the data transmission interface of the statutory health insurance office (Gebietskrankenkasse). In practice, the employer applies for a new account number via ELDA (under the menu item, Online-Services [Kontonummeranforderung]) before a new employee is registered with the statutory health insurance office.</p> <p>Health insurance is obligatory: every new employee must be electronically registered with the statutory health insurance office prior to and no later than the day of employment. Unless the company does not own a computer, the employee must be registered via ELDA. Moreover, the employer must automatically extend obligatory health insurance upon entry. On being registered with the statutory health insurance office, the employee is automatically registered for accident insurance and retirement insurance as provided by law. No further registration is needed. By data transmission, the employee is immediately registered with the competent statutory health insurance office (social insurance office). The employer instantly receives a "sent" report and a confirmation of registration.</p>	Less than one day (online procedure, simultaneous with previous procedure)	no charge
⇒ 8	<p><b>Register with the municipality</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Municipality</p> <p>Municipalities levy community taxes on all businesses. In addition, particular activities (e.g., organizing a public event) may trigger municipal stamp duties or other minor duties and taxes.</p>	1 day, (simultaneous with previous procedure)	no charge

⇒ Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

## Dealing with Construction Permits

This topic tracks the procedures, time and cost to build a warehouse—including obtaining necessary the licenses and permits, submitting all required notifications, requesting and receiving all necessary inspections and obtaining utility connections. In addition, the Dealing with Construction Permits indicator measures the building quality control index, evaluating the quality of building regulations, the strength of quality control and safety mechanisms, liability and insurance regimes, and professional certification requirements. The most recent round of data collection was completed in May 2019. [See the methodology for more information](#)

What the indicators measure	Case study assumptions
<p><b>Procedures to legally build a warehouse (number)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submitting all relevant documents and obtaining all necessary clearances, licenses, permits and certificates</li> <li>• Submitting all required notifications and receiving all necessary inspections</li> <li>• Obtaining utility connections for water and sewerage</li> <li>• Registering and selling the warehouse after its completion</li> </ul> <p><b>Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not include time spent gathering information</li> <li>• Each procedure starts on a separate day—though procedures that can be fully completed online are an exception to this rule</li> <li>• Procedure is considered completed once final document is received</li> <li>• No prior contact with officials</li> </ul> <p><b>Cost required to complete each procedure (% of income per capita)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official costs only, no bribes</li> </ul> <p><b>Building quality control index (0-15)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of building regulations (0-2)</li> <li>• Quality control before construction (0-1)</li> <li>• Quality control during construction (0-3)</li> <li>• Quality control after construction (0-3)</li> <li>• Liability and insurance regimes (0-2)</li> <li>• Professional certifications (0-4)</li> </ul>	<p>To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions about the construction company, the warehouse project and the utility connections are used.</p> <p><b>The construction company (BuildCo):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is a limited liability company (or its legal equivalent) and operates in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.</li> <li>- Is 100% domestically and privately owned; has five owners, none of whom is a legal entity. Has a licensed architect and a licensed engineer, both registered with the local association of architects or engineers. BuildCo is not assumed to have any other employees who are technical or licensed experts, such as geological or topographical experts.</li> <li>- Owns the land on which the warehouse will be built and will sell the warehouse upon its completion.</li> </ul> <p><b>The warehouse:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will be used for general storage activities, such as storage of books or stationery.</li> <li>- Will have two stories, both above ground, with a total constructed area of approximately 1,300.6 square meters (14,000 square feet). Each floor will be 3 meters (9 feet, 10 inches) high and will be located on a land plot of approximately 929 square meters (10,000 square feet) that is 100% owned by BuildCo, and the warehouse is valued at 50 times income per capita.</li> <li>- Will have complete architectural and technical plans prepared by a licensed architect. If preparation of the plans requires such steps as obtaining further documentation or getting prior approvals from external agencies, these are counted as procedures.</li> <li>- Will take 30 weeks to construct (excluding all delays due to administrative and regulatory requirements).</li> </ul> <p><b>The water and sewerage connections:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will be 150 meters (492 feet) from the existing water source and sewer tap. If there is no water delivery infrastructure in the economy, a borehole will be dug. If there is no sewerage infrastructure, a septic tank in the smallest size available will be installed or built.</li> <li>- Will have an average water use of 662 liters (175 gallons) a day and an average wastewater flow of 568 liters (150 gallons) a day. Will have a peak water use of 1,325 liters (350 gallons) a day and a peak wastewater flow of 1,136 liters (300 gallons) a day.</li> <li>- Will have a constant level of water demand and wastewater flow throughout the year; will be 1 inch in diameter for the water connection and 4 inches in diameter for the sewerage connection.</li> </ul>

Dealing with Construction Permits - Austria

Standardized Warehouse

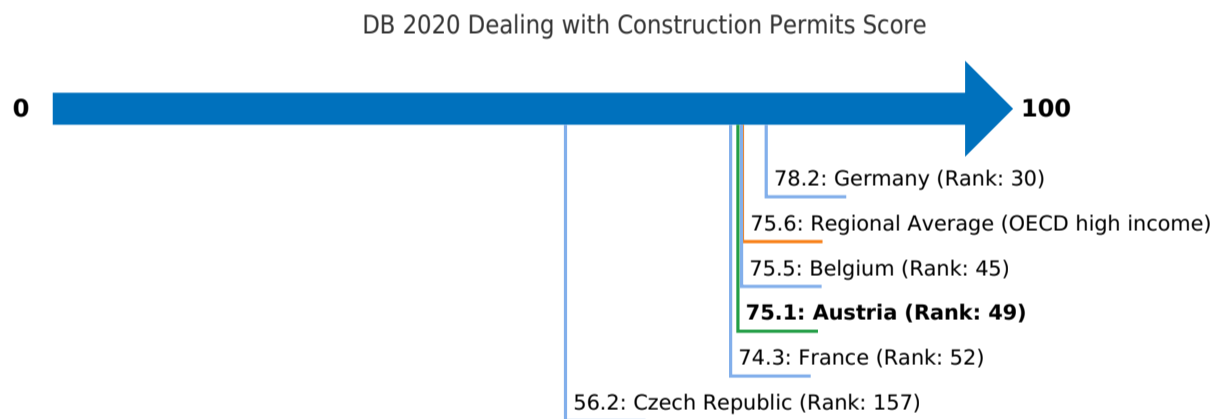
Estimated value of warehouse	EUR 2,170,650.40
City Covered	Vienna

Indicator	Austria	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedures (number)	11	12.7	None in 2018/19
Time (days)	222	152.3	None in 2018/19
Cost (% of warehouse value)	1.1	1.5	None in 2018/19
Building quality control index (0-15)	13.0	11.6	15.0 (6 Economies)

Figure - Dealing with Construction Permits in Austria - Score

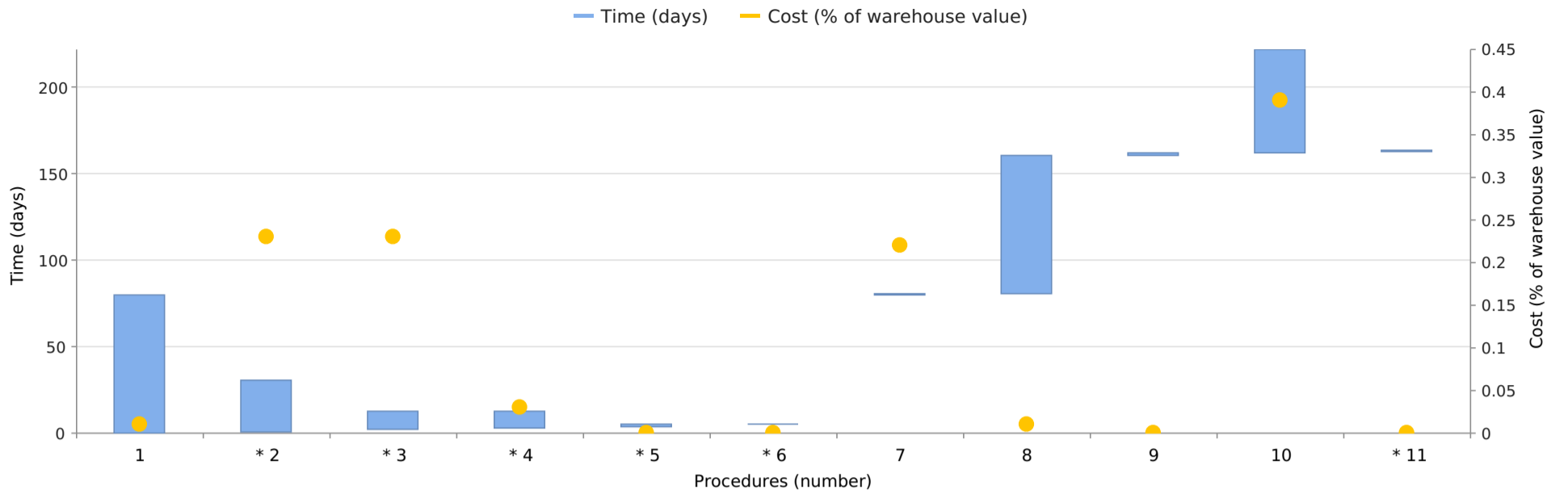


Figure - Dealing with Construction Permits in Austria and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

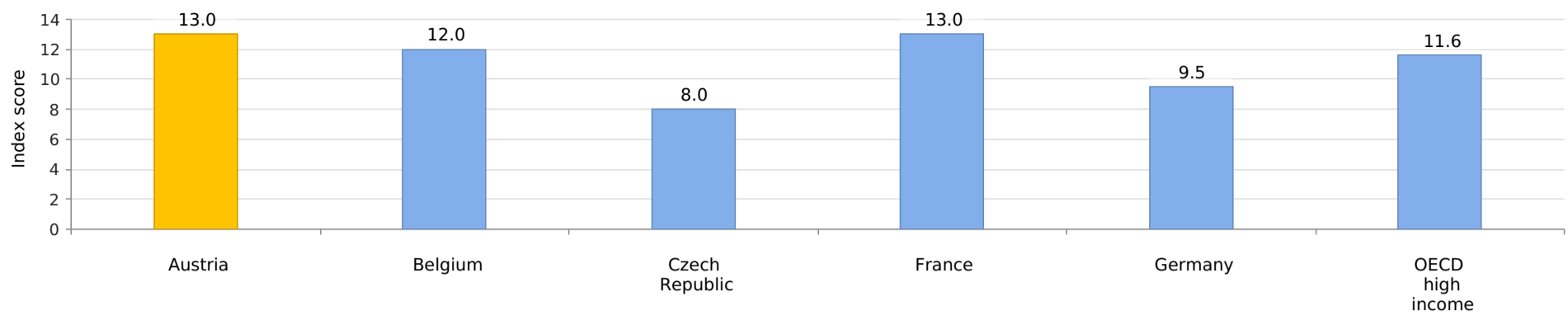
Figure - Dealing with Construction Permits in Austria - Procedure, Time and Cost



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

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

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



## Details - Dealing with Construction Permits in Austria - Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	<p><b>Obtain industrial operating permit</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Vienna City Administration            In Austria industrial operating permits (plant permits) are required when the plant (i) could endanger the lives, health or property of neighbors or employees of the plant; (ii) could cause inconvenience to neighbors with respect to noise, dust, smoke or other pollution; (iii) could cause inconvenience to public institutions such as churches, schools, hospitals; or (iv) could possibly endanger the quality of water.</p> <p>When issuing a industrial operating permits, the relevant authority usually imposes a number of conditions that the owner of the plant needs to fulfill during its operation. The plant permit is not obligatory required prior to obtaining a construction permit. However, it might be helpful obtaining the plant permit before obtaining a construction permit as the plant permit (potentially) will set out several requirements that should be considered in respect of the construction permit.</p>	80 days	EUR 300
⇒ 2	<p><b>Obtain approval of heat and noise insulation</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Independent Expert - Insulation Engineering            This approval is issued by an insulation engineering expert. BuildCo must hire a third-party specialist to conduct this work.</p>	30 days	EUR 5,000
⇒ 3	<p><b>Obtain expert opinion on structural engineering</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Independent Expert - Structural Engineering            The company must request this opinion from an independent expert.</p>	11 days	EUR 5,000
⇒ 4	<p><b>Obtain energy pass (energieausweis)</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Independent Expert - Energy Engineering            Following the Directive of European Union 2002/91/EC the practice of requiring the so called "Energy Pass" (Energieausweis) by the Municipality of Vienna has become compulsory for all projects as of January 2009. The energy pass is required when applying for the building permit at the relevant authority of City of Vienna. There are officially licensed companies and individual engineers that issue the energy pass. The prices may range, however on average it is EUR 700.00 for a building with overall size of 1300.6 sq. m. This procedure will normally take between 1-2 weeks to complete.</p>	10 days	EUR 700
⇒ 5	<p><b>Receive on-site inspection prior to issuance of building permit</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Municipal Building Inspection (Baupolizei; MA 37)            A physical inspection occurs before a building permit is issued. The inspection fee is EUR 7.63 per half hour. The inspection is estimated at 3 hours.</p> <p>The Building Inspection (MA 37) of the City of Vienna is provided upon approval of construction projects and is responsible for monitoring of buildings, orderly expansion of the city, and ensuring the safety of citizens.</p>	1 day	EUR 46
⇒ 6	<p><b>Obtain proof of land ownership</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Land Registry            BuildCo must obtain and submit with the building permit request a proof of land ownership that is not older than 3 months. This can be obtained online via certain authorized/registers companies' websites.</p>	0.5 days	EUR 14
7	<p><b>Hire a licensed engineer for construction supervision</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Private licensed engineer (Prüfingenieur)            BuildCo has to hire an external supervising engineer to supervise the entire construction process. The supervising engineer will visit the construction site at least once per week to ensure that the construction is in line with the relevant construction regulations. The engineers usually charge between EUR 120 - EUR 200 per hour of work.</p>	1 day	EUR 4,800

8	<p><b>Obtain building permit</b></p> <p><i>Agency</i> : Municipal Building Inspection (Baupolizei; MA 37)</p> <p>The construction must begin within 4 years of the date of issue, and be completed within and additional 4 years after the start of construction.</p> <p>Documents required for a building permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application for building permit</li> <li>• Approval of the land ownership of registered land</li> <li>• Current Land Registry copy (not older than three months)</li> <li>• An energy performance certificate (in electronic form) and proof of noise control, heat and sound insulation</li> <li>• For new, additions or modifications: confirmation of the plan or author's plan</li> <li>• Demonstration of compliance with the parking requirement</li> <li>• Static concept or preliminary design including foundations for smaller construction projects report that insignificance of the project for structural reasons, where no risk is due to the (experts or expert)</li> <li>• Confirmation of the principles of accessible design and construction</li> <li>• Design concept for garden areas of the site, for new buildings for construction class III</li> <li>• Proving the availability of sufficient water for firefighting on the plan; information on hydrants</li> <li>• Locations for waste receptacles</li> <li>• For enterprises that are under the Seveso II Directive: documentation of the risks</li> <li>• Required documents for architectural review of the Department of Architecture and Urban Design (MA 19)</li> </ul> <p>If it is determined that the subjective rights of neighbors are affected, a public hearing must be held. The cost for a public hearing amount to EUR 7.36 per half hour.</p>	80 days	EUR 300
9	<p><b>Request and receive on-site inspection prior to commencement of construction</b></p> <p><i>Agency</i> : Municipal Building Inspection (Baupolizei; MA 37)</p> <p>Municipal Building Inspection performs a physical inspection before the start of construction. The building inspection during construction is done by the building supervisor of the company. However, if any irregularities take place during the construction, the civil engineer appointed by the municipality will come to the site.</p>	1 day	no charge
10	<p><b>Request and obtain water and sewage connection</b></p> <p><i>Agency</i> : Vienna Water Works</p> <p>The municipal authority provides both water and sewerage connections. The request can be made online, but service delivery takes 60 days.</p>	60 days	EUR 8,478
⇒ 11	<p><b>Notify the municipal authority about completion of construction works</b></p> <p><i>Agency</i> : Municipal Building Inspection (Baupolizei; MA 37)</p> <p>Upon completion of construction work, BuildCo must provide the municipal authority with a notification of completion. The notification must be certified by a civil engineer and include several reports.</p> <p>The cost is EUR 22 if no changes to the building design were made, and EUR 50 if there were changes.</p>	1 day	EUR 22

⇒ Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

## Details - Dealing with Construction Permits in Austria - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Building quality control index (0-15)</b>		<b>13.0</b>
<b>Quality of building regulations index (0-2)</b>		<b>2.0</b>
How accessible are building laws and regulations in your economy? (0-1)	Available online; Free of charge.	1.0
Which requirements for obtaining a building permit are clearly specified in the building regulations or on any accessible website, brochure or pamphlet? (0-1)	List of required documents; Fees to be paid; Required preapprovals.	1.0
<b>Quality control before construction index (0-1)</b>		<b>0.0</b>
Which third-party entities are required by law to verify that the building plans are in compliance with existing building regulations? (0-1)	By law, there is no need to verify plans compliance; Civil servant reviews plans.	0.0
<b>Quality control during construction index (0-3)</b>		<b>2.0</b>
What types of inspections (if any) are required by law to be carried out during construction? (0-2)	Inspections by external engineer or firm; Inspections at various phases.	1.0
Do legally mandated inspections occur in practice during construction? (0-1)	Mandatory inspections are always done in practice.	1.0
<b>Quality control after construction index (0-3)</b>		<b>3.0</b>
Is there a final inspection required by law to verify that the building was built in accordance with the approved plans and regulations? (0-2)	Yes, external engineer submits report for final inspection.	2.0
Do legally mandated final inspections occur in practice? (0-1)	Final inspection always occurs in practice.	1.0
<b>Liability and insurance regimes index (0-2)</b>		<b>2.0</b>
Which parties (if any) are held liable by law for structural flaws or problems in the building once it is in use (Latent Defect Liability or Decennial Liability)? (0-1)	Architect or engineer; Professional in charge of the supervision; Construction company.	1.0
Which parties (if any) are required by law to obtain an insurance policy to cover possible structural flaws or problems in the building once it is in use (Latent Defect Liability Insurance or Decennial Insurance)? (0-1)	Architect or engineer; Construction company; Insurance is commonly taken in practice.	1.0
<b>Professional certifications index (0-4)</b>		<b>4.0</b>
What are the qualification requirements for the professional responsible for verifying that the architectural plans or drawings are in compliance with existing building regulations? (0-2)	Minimum number of years of experience; University degree in architecture or engineering; Being a registered architect or engineer; Passing a certification exam.	2.0

What are the qualification requirements for the professional who supervises the construction on the ground? (0-2)

Minimum number of years of experience; University degree in engineering, construction or construction management; Being a registered architect or engineer; Passing a certification exam. 2.0



## ⚡ Getting Electricity

This topic measures the procedures, time and cost required for a business to obtain a permanent electricity connection for a newly constructed warehouse. Additionally, the reliability of supply and transparency of tariffs index measures reliability of supply, transparency of tariffs and the price of electricity. The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in May 2019. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

### What the indicators measure

#### Procedures to obtain an electricity connection (number)

- Submitting all relevant documents and obtaining all necessary clearances and permits
- Completing all required notifications and receiving all necessary inspections
- Obtaining external installation works and possibly purchasing material for these works
- Concluding any necessary supply contract and obtaining final supply

#### Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)

- Is at least 1 calendar day
- Each procedure starts on a separate day
- Does not include time spent gathering information
- Reflects the time spent in practice, with little follow-up and no prior contact with officials

#### Cost required to complete each procedure (% of income per capita)

- Official costs only, no bribes
- Value added tax excluded

#### The reliability of supply and transparency of tariffs index (0-8)

- Duration and frequency of power outages (0-3)
- Tools to monitor power outages (0-1)
- Tools to restore power supply (0-1)
- Regulatory monitoring of utilities' performance (0-1)
- Financial deterrents limiting outages (0-1)
- Transparency and accessibility of tariffs (0-1)

#### Price of electricity (cents per kilowatt-hour)\*

- Price based on monthly bill for commercial warehouse in case study

\*Note: *Doing Business* measures the price of electricity, but it is not included in the ease of doing business score nor in the ranking on the ease of getting electricity.

### Case study assumptions

To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions about the warehouse, the electricity connection and the monthly consumption are used.

#### The warehouse:

- Is owned by a local entrepreneur and is used for storage of goods.
- Is located in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.
- Is located in an area where similar warehouses are typically located and is in an area with no physical constraints. For example, the property is not near a railway.
- Is a new construction and is being connected to electricity for the first time.
- Has two stories with a total surface area of approximately 1,300.6 square meters (14,000 square feet). The plot of land on which it is built is 929 square meters (10,000 square feet).

#### The electricity connection:

- Is a permanent one with a three-phase, four-wire Y connection with a subscribed capacity of 140-kilo-volt-ampere (kVA) with a power factor of 1, when 1 kVA = 1 kilowatt (kW).
- Has a length of 150 meters. The connection is to either the low- or medium-voltage distribution network and is either overhead or underground, whichever is more common in the area where the warehouse is located and requires works that involve the crossing of a 10-meter road (such as by excavation or overhead lines) but are all carried out on public land. There is no crossing of other owners' private property because the warehouse has access to a road.
- Does not require work to install the internal wiring of the warehouse. This has already been completed up to and including the customer's service panel or switchboard and the meter base.

#### The monthly consumption:

- It is assumed that the warehouse operates 30 days a month from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (8 hours a day), with equipment utilized at 80% of capacity on average and that there are no electricity cuts (assumed for simplicity reasons) and the monthly energy consumption is 26,880 kilowatt-hours (kWh); hourly consumption is 112 kWh.
- If multiple electricity suppliers exist, the warehouse is served by the cheapest supplier.
- Tariffs effective in January of the current year are used for calculation of the price of electricity for the warehouse. Although January has 31 days, for calculation purposes only 30 days are used.

Getting Electricity - Austria

Standardized Connection

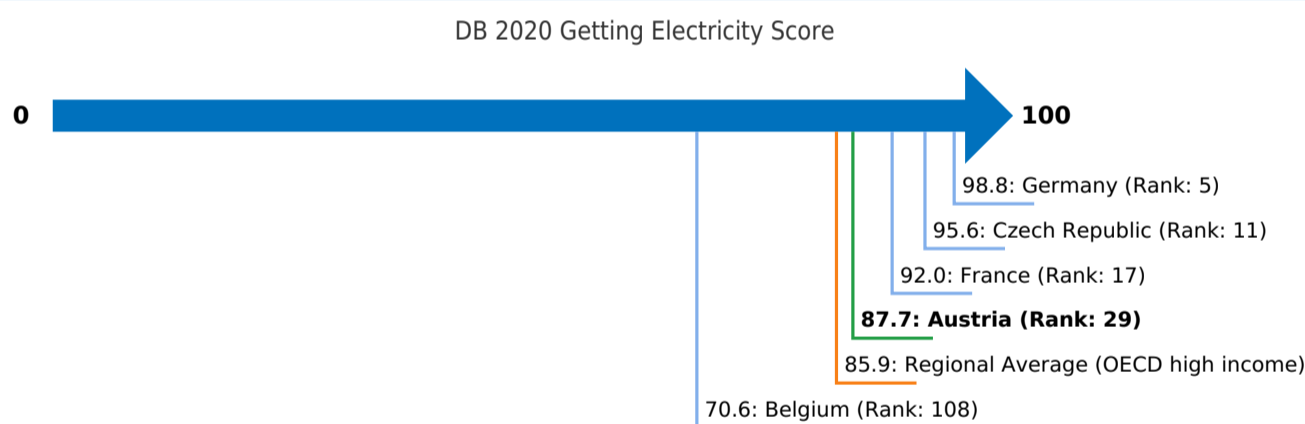
Name of utility	Wiener Netze GmbH
Price of electricity (US cents per kWh)	10.2
City Covered	Vienna

Indicator	Austria	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedures (number)	5	4.4	3 (28 Economies)
Time (days)	23	74.8	18 (3 Economies)
Cost (% of income per capita)	85.8	61.0	0.0 (3 Economies)
Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index (0-8)	7	7.4	8 (26 Economies)

Figure - Getting Electricity in Austria - Score

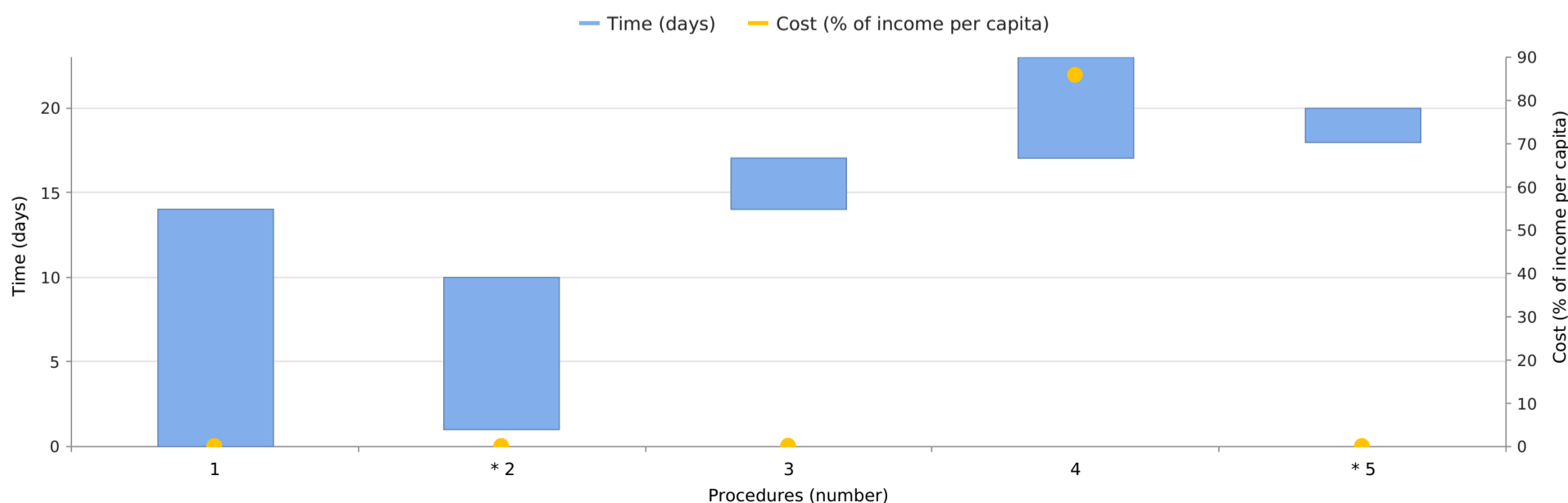


Figure - Getting Electricity in Austria and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

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

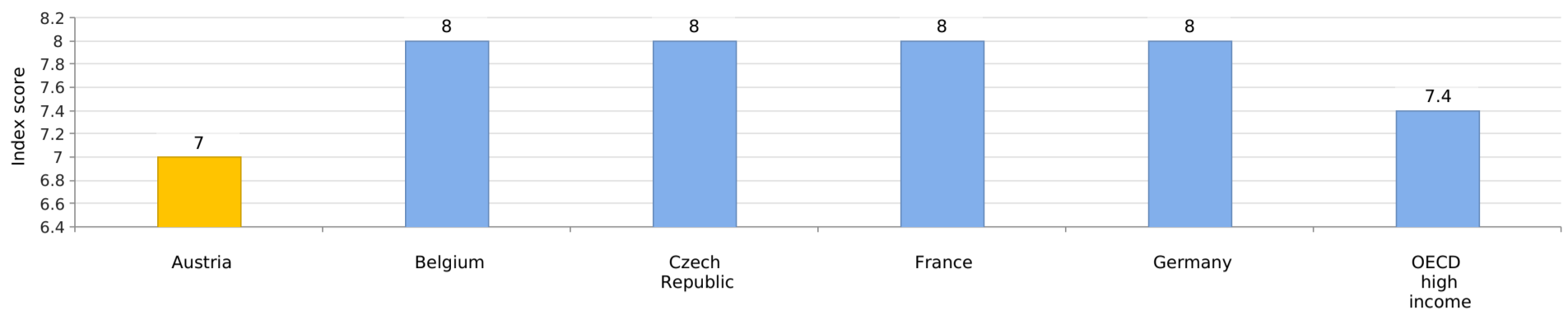


\*This symbol is shown beside procedure numbers that take place simultaneously with the previous procedure.

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

reflected here, see the summary below.

**Figure - Getting Electricity in Austria and comparator economies - Measure of Quality**



## Details - Getting Electricity in Austria - Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	<p><b>Submit application to Wiener Netze GmbH and await estimate</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Wiener Netze GmbH            An application can be submitted online, in person or by mail. There are no costs associated with the application.</p> <p>An assumption of the technical relevant values, like active and reactive power has to be attached to the application.</p>	14 calendar days	EUR 0
⇒ 2	<p><b>Receive external inspection by Wiener Netze GmbH</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Wiener Netze GmbH            An external site inspection is necessary. The waiting time is usually a few days. Someone from the customer's party has to be present.</p>	9 calendar days	EUR 0
3	<p><b>Submit completion notification for internal wiring and obtain clearance</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Wiener Netze GmbH            The customer needs to obtain a clearance for the internal wiring installation from the network operator Wiener Netze GmbH in order to get an electricity connection ("Fertigstellungsanzeige"). The electrician who installed the internal wiring has to complete a completion notification (electrician completion notification) by sending a note to Wiener Netze GmbH proving that the internal wiring is complying with security and safety standards. This clearance is done automatically, meaning the client does not have to go and pick it up, it is processed electronically. The connection contract will be concluded after the clearance.</p>	3 calendar days	EUR 24
4	<p><b>Obtain external works and meter installation by Wiener Netze GmbH</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Wiener Netze GmbH            The external works start immediately after signing the contract. The utility carries out the external work, providing the required material to build a new transformer on the private ground of the customer. The meter gets installed at the same time.</p> <p>The utility installs the meter and is the owner of it. Electricity starts flowing immediately if a contract with a supplier of electricity has been signed. The connection fees in Austria are composed of two parts:</p> <p>1) Fee for accessing the net ("Netzzutrittsentgelt") which includes all costs such as labor and material cost. The utility installs standard transformers of 360kVA. In the case of a 140kVA connection, the customer would pay about half the cost of the transformer and the remaining capacity would be used by other customers.</p> <p>2) Fee for using the net ("Netzbereitstellungsentgelt" at Netzebene 6). With a power connection of 140kVA, the customer is automatically on Level 6, meaning the customer owns the connection to the transformer and is directly connected to the low tension side of the transformer. There are meter installation costs.</p>	6 calendar days	EUR 37,233.4
⇒ 5	<p><b>Sign supply contract with an electricity supplier</b>  <i>Agency</i> : Wien Energie Vertrieb GmbH &amp; CO KG, or another energy supplier            The Distribution System Operator (Wiener Netze GmbH) only provides network services, so the customer needs to conclude a contract with a supplier in order to receive electricity. The customer can choose the electricity supplier of his/her choice - the largest supplier for the Vienna area is Wien Energie Vertrieb GmbH &amp; Co KG, but any other supplier can also be chosen. The supply contract can be concluded already before the external connection works are finished.</p>	2 calendar days	EUR 0

⇒ Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

## Details - Getting Electricity in Austria - Measure of Quality

	Answer
<b>Reliability of supply and transparency of tariff index (0-8)</b>	7
<b>Total duration and frequency of outages per customer a year (0-3)</b>	3
System average interruption duration index (SAIDI)	0.6
System average interruption frequency index (SAIFI)	0.6
What is the minimum outage time (in minutes) that the utility considers for the calculation of SAIDI/SAIFI	3.0
<b>Mechanisms for monitoring outages (0-1)</b>	1
Does the distribution utility use automated tools to monitor outages?	Yes
<b>Mechanisms for restoring service (0-1)</b>	1
Does the distribution utility use automated tools to restore service?	Yes
<b>Regulatory monitoring (0-1)</b>	1
Does a regulator—that is, an entity separate from the utility—monitor the utility's performance on reliability of supply?	Yes
<b>Financial deterrents aimed at limiting outages (0-1)</b>	0
Does the utility either pay compensation to customers or face fines by the regulator (or both) if outages exceed a certain cap?	No
<b>Communication of tariffs and tariff changes (0-1)</b>	1
Are effective tariffs available online?	Yes
Link to the website, if available online	<a href="https://www.e-control.at/">https://www.e-control.at/</a>
Are customers notified of a change in tariff ahead of the billing cycle?	Yes

**Note:**

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

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

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

## Registering Property

This topic examines the steps, time and cost involved in registering property, assuming a standardized case of an entrepreneur who wants to purchase land and a building that is already registered and free of title dispute. In addition, the topic also measures the quality of the land administration system in each economy. The quality of land administration index has five dimensions: reliability of infrastructure, transparency of information, geographic coverage, land dispute resolution, and equal access to property rights. The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in May 2019. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

### What the indicators measure

#### Procedures to legally transfer title on immovable property (number)

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

#### Time required to complete each procedure (calendar days)

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

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

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

#### Quality of land administration index (0-30)

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

### Case study assumptions

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

#### The parties (buyer and seller):

- Are limited liability companies (or the legal equivalent).
- Are located in the periurban (that is, on the outskirts of the city but still within its official limits) area of the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.
- Are 100% domestically and privately owned.
- Perform general commercial activities.

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

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

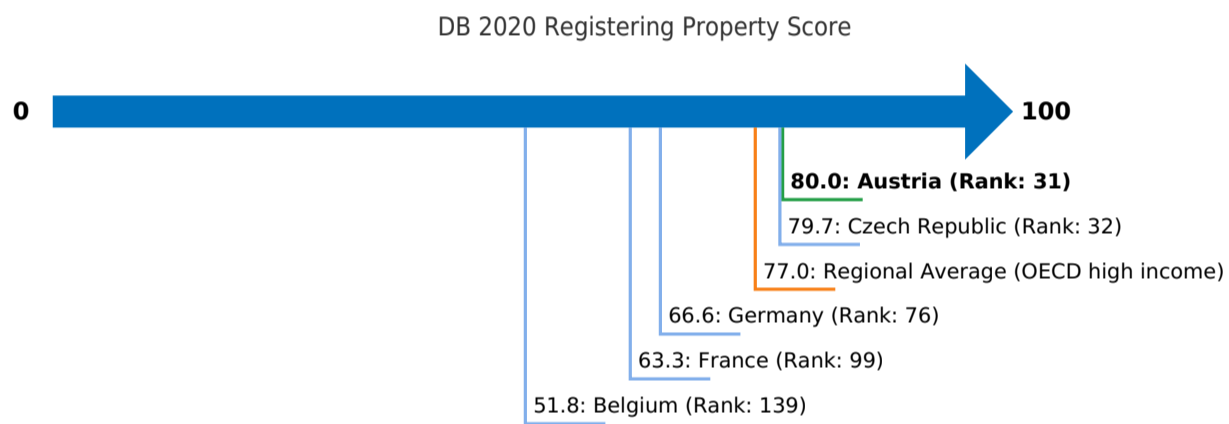
Registering Property - Austria

Indicator	Austria	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Procedures (number)	3	4.7	1 (5 Economies)
Time (days)	20.5	23.6	1 (2 Economies)
Cost (% of property value)	4.6	4.2	0.0 (Saudi Arabia)
Quality of the land administration index (0-30)	23.0	23.2	None in 2018/19

Figure - Registering Property in Austria - Score

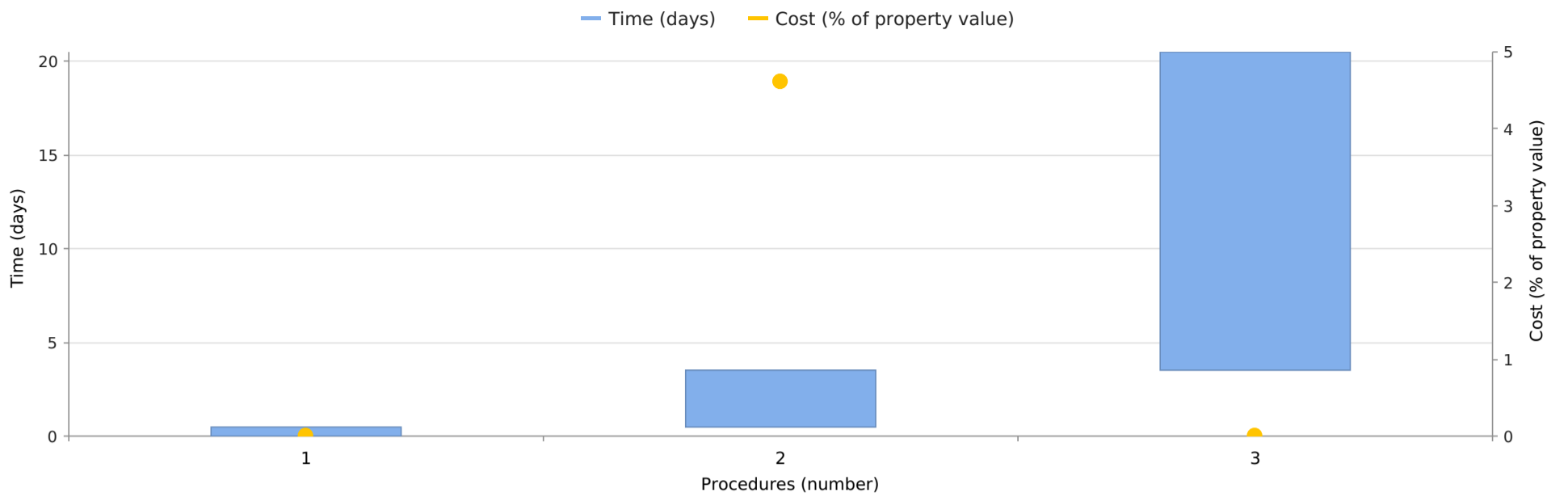


Figure - Registering Property in Austria and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

Figure - Registering Property in Austria - Procedure, Time and Cost

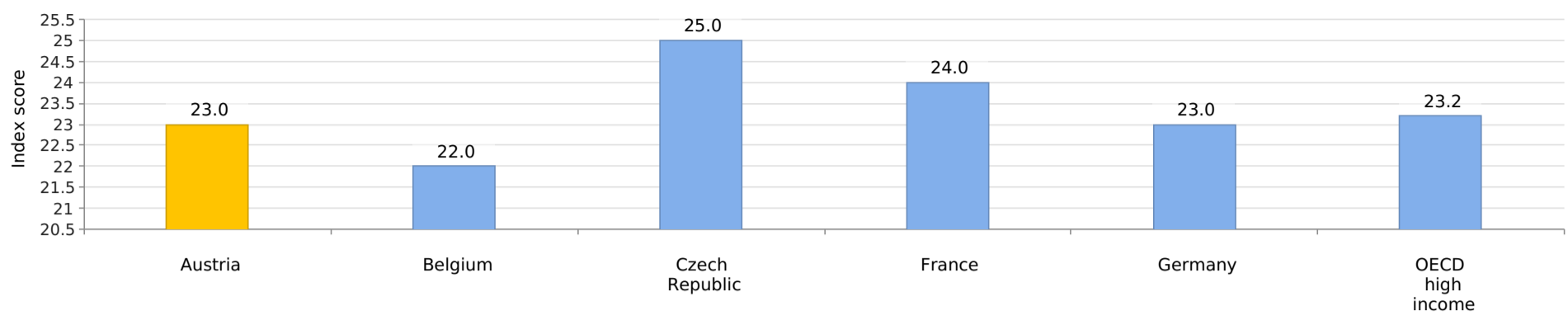


\*This symbol is shown beside procedure numbers that take place simultaneously with the previous procedure.

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



Figure - Registering Property in Austria and comparator economies - Measure of Quality



## Details - Registering Property in Austria - Procedure, Time and Cost

No.	Procedures	Time to Complete	Associated Costs
1	<p><b>Obtain a land registry extract from either the competent District Court, a notary public or an attorney-at-law</b></p> <p><i>Agency:</i> District Court, Notary public or Attorney-at-law</p> <p>Before purchasing a property, the buyer inspects the government land register for any legal requirements, rights and restrictions including the seller's ownership title, mortgages, liens, pre-emption rights, rights of way, canals, lines, brooks.</p> <p>The extract from the government land register will contain that information about any Austrian property and can be obtained at any district court [Bezirksgericht] or mapping office [Vermessungsamt]. Public notaries, lawyers and other people or authorities dealing with the transaction of property also have access to the property database.</p>	Less than one day, online	EUR 14.4; (For an electronic uncertified land registry extract the fees are EUR 3.53 per lot. For a certified land registry extract, obtained from a District Court, the fees are EUR 14.40.)
2	<p><b>Authenticate signatures and authorization of representatives, and property acquisition tax clearance from the notary</b></p> <p><i>Agency:</i> Notary</p> <p>At the notaries office the parties can combine three steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The signatures of seller and buyer must be authenticated on the contract. That can be done by the notary or in court. Fees for signature authentication is set in the Act on Fees of Public Notaries, last amended by the regulation Federal Law Gazette BGBl II NR 218/2010. Court fees may differ slightly to the notary's. Provided that more than one signature should be authenticated in one document (e.g. sales agreement), the costs for the further signature amount to 50% of the costs stated.</li> <li>2. In case of a corporation as seller or buyer the authorization of the signing representatives must be proven, and this is done together with the authentication of the signatures; otherwise a certified excerpt out of the business register produced by the High Court (Landesgericht) must be presented to the Land Book.</li> <li>3. The parties must pay the Property Acquisition Tax or Transfer Tax (Grunderwerbssteuer) which, in this case, amounts to 3.5 % of the purchase price. They must present to the Land Register a clearance certificate (Unbedenklichkeitsbescheinigung) furnished by the tax authorities certifying that the tax was paid (time to complete: tax assessment will last about 4 weeks; to get the certificate after paying the tax further 2 weeks; no extra costs). This clearance certificate may be substituted by a self-assessment declaration (Selbstbemessungserklärung) filed by a notary or a lawyer (attorney at law/solicitor) if the tax is paid to the notary or lawyer who cooperates with the tax authorities.</li> </ol> <p>The notary public or the attorney-at-law usually issues the clearance certificate stating that the real estate transfer tax (3.5% of the purchase price) and registration fee for the Land Register (1.1% of the purchase price) have been paid. The registration fee for the Land Register rises from 1% to 1.1 % of the purchase price due to the regulation Federal Law Gazette BGBl I Nr 111/2010 and is effective as of January 01, 2011. The certificate will be issued immediately after the notary or lawyer has received the amount of the real estate transfer tax and registration fee. The money for the purchase and the taxes is given to the notary/lawyer on a trust account. The parties may set up the contract themselves or use a standard template. In late 2005, the Act concerning "Changes in the vocational law of notary public, attorneys-at-law and civil engineers" was announced, providing for the use of electronic signatures which are to be submitted electronically to the courts. This Act has therefore created the legal basis for online registration and electronic notarial attestation. This reform is effective as of July 1, 2007.</p>	3 days	EUR 100,119.72; (EUR 134.90 per signature + 3.5% of property value (transfer tax) + 1.1% of property value (Registration fee))

3	<p><b>File the application at the competent District Court (Land Registry)</b> <i>Agency</i> : District Court (Land Registry)</p> <p>As of November 1, 2009, applications to transfer and register a property are required to be submitted electronically via an online data-exchange system called WebERV. The WebERV is an online-based form of communication between the courts, notaries and lawyers for submission of claims, briefs and applications and delivery of court transcripts, orders and decisions. This system provides standardized masks and forms for various kinds of applications such as registration of the ownership, registration of mortgages, precedence (Vorrangeinräumung) and cancelations. Documentation on the fact that the company is owned by Austrian or European Community citizens. This system is effective as of November 1, 2009 and is provided for by the "Grundbuchs-Novelle 2008" (Land Registry Amendment 2008), Federal Law Gazette Part 1 No. 100/2008 (BGB1 I 100/2008). As per this law, it is mandatory for attorneys and notaries to submit their applications concerning the transfer and registration of property using this system. Registration with the Land Registry has a binding effect as from the date of application, i.e. from this moment the company becomes the owner of the entire property (land, building, etc.). The fee for registration (paid to the attorney at law or notary) is freed from the trust account. Also, the notary/lawyer transfers the real property transaction tax to the tax office and transfers the purchase price to the seller. The documentation shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sales agreement</li><li>• Clearance Certificate of the tax authority verifying the payment of land transfer tax or self-assessment certificate</li><li>• Documentation on the fact that the company is owned by Austrian or European Community citizens</li></ul>	17 days	EUR 44; (EUR 44 (if the application and all deeds are submitted via Web ERV) or EUR 62 (if the application and all deeds are not submitted via WebERV))
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⇒ Takes place simultaneously with previous procedure.

## Details - Registering Property in Austria - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Quality of the land administration index (0-30)</b>		<b>23.0</b>
<b>Reliability of infrastructure index (0-8)</b>		<b>7.0</b>
Type of land registration system in the economy:	Title Registration System	
What is the institution in charge of immovable property registration?	District Courts (Bezirksgerichte)	
In what format are past and newly issued land records kept at the immovable property registry of the largest business city of the economy—in a paper format or in a computerized format (scanned or fully digital)?	Computer/Scanned	1.0
Is there a comprehensive and functional electronic database for checking for encumbrances (liens, mortgages, restrictions and the like)?	Yes	1.0
Institution in charge of the plans showing legal boundaries in the largest business city:	Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement (Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen)	
In what format are past and newly issued cadastral plans kept at the mapping agency of the largest business city of the economy—in a paper format or in a computerized format (scanned or fully digital)?	Computer/Fully digital	2.0
Is there an electronic database for recording boundaries, checking plans and providing cadastral information (geographic information system)?	Yes	1.0
Is the information recorded by the immovable property registration agency and the cadastral or mapping agency kept in a single database, in different but linked databases or in separate databases?	Different databases but linked	1.0
Do the immovable property registration agency and cadastral or mapping agency use the same identification number for properties?	Yes	1.0
<b>Transparency of information index (0-6)</b>		<b>3.0</b>
Who is able to obtain information on land ownership at the agency in charge of immovable property registration in the largest business city?	Anyone who pays the official fee	1.0
Is the list of documents that are required to complete any type of property transaction made publicly available—and if so, how?	Yes, online	0.5
Link for online access:	<a href="https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/20/Seite.200060.html#Verfahrensablauf">https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/20/Seite.200060.html#Verfahrensablauf</a>	
Is the applicable fee schedule for any type of property transaction at the agency in charge of immovable property registration in the largest business city made publicly available—and if so, how?	Yes, online	0.5
Link for online access:	<a href="https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&amp;Gesetzesnummer=10002667">https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&amp;Gesetzesnummer=10002667</a> <a href="https://www.ris.bka.gv.at">www.ris.bka.gv.at</a> (Bundesrecht - Bundesrecht konsolidiert - search for Titel, Abkürzung "GGG", Paragraf von "32" and then scroll to "Tarifpost 9" for the court fees <a href="https://www.usp.gv.at/Portal.Node">https://www.usp.gv.at/Portal.Node</a>	
Does the agency in charge of immovable property registration agency formally commit to deliver a legally binding document that proves property ownership within a specific timeframe –and if so, how does it communicate the service standard?	No	0.0
Link for online access:		

Is there a specific and independent mechanism for filing complaints about a problem that occurred at the agency in charge of immovable property registration?	No	0.0
Contact information:		
Are there publicly available official statistics tracking the number of transactions at the immovable property registration agency?	No	0.0
Number of property transfers in the largest business city in 2018:		
Who is able to consult maps of land plots in the largest business city?	Anyone who pays the official fee	0.5
Is the applicable fee schedule for accessing maps of land plots made publicly available—and if so, how?	Yes, online	0.5
Link for online access:	<a href="http://www.bev.gv.at/portal/page?_pageid=713,1941531&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL">http://www.bev.gv.at/portal/page?_pageid=713,1941531&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL</a> <a href="https://www.usp.gv.at/Portal.Node">https://www.usp.gv.at/Portal.Node</a> (amount depending on size of property) <a href="https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/60/Seite.600300.html#Grundbuchsabfrage">https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/60/Seite.600300.html#Grundbuchsabfrage</a>	
Does the cadastral/mapping agency formally specifies the timeframe to deliver an updated cadastral plan—and if so, how does it communicate the service standard?	No	0.0
Link for online access:		
Is there a specific and independent mechanism for filing complaints about a problem that occurred at the cadastral or mapping agency?	No	0.0
Contact information:		
<b>Geographic coverage index (0-8)</b>		<b>8.0</b>
Are all privately held land plots in the largest business city formally registered at the immovable property registry?	Yes	2.0
Are all privately held land plots in the economy formally registered at the immovable property registry?	Yes	2.0
Are all privately held land plots in the largest business city mapped?	Yes	2.0
Are all privately held land plots in the economy mapped?	Yes	2.0
<b>Land dispute resolution index (0-8)</b>		<b>5.0</b>
Does the law require that all property sale transactions be registered at the immovable property registry to make them opposable to third parties?	Yes	1.5
Legal basis:	§ 431 Allgemeines Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch (ABGB; Common Act on Civil Law). However, the basic purpose of registration is not to make the property opposable to third parties but to justify the ownership as in Austria both a title and a mode are needed to transfer rights on a property due to the Ancient Roman Principle of <i>titulus</i> and <i>modus</i> .	
Is the system of immovable property registration subject to a state or private guarantee?	Yes	0.5
Type of guarantee:	State guarantee	

Legal basis:	Allgemeines Grundbuchsgesetz 1955	
Is there a specific, out-of-court compensation mechanism to cover for losses incurred by parties who engaged in good faith in a property transaction based on erroneous information certified by the immovable property registry?	No	0.0
Legal basis:		
Does the legal system require a control of legality of the documents necessary for a property transaction (e.g., checking the compliance of contracts with requirements of the law)?	Yes	0.5
If yes, who is responsible for checking the legality of the documents?	Registrar; Notary;	
Does the legal system require verification of the identity of the parties to a property transaction?	Yes	0.5
If yes, who is responsible for verifying the identity of the parties?	Registrar; Notary;	
Is there a national database to verify the accuracy of government issued identity documents?	No	0.0
What is the Court of first instance in charge of a case involving a standard land dispute between two local businesses over tenure rights for a property worth 50 times gross national income (GNI) per capita and located in the largest business city?	Regional Court for Civil Proceedings Vienna (Landesgericht für Zivilrechtssachen Wien)	
How long does it take on average to obtain a decision from the first-instance court for such a case (without appeal)?	Between 1 and 2 years	2.0
Are there publicly available statistics on the number of land disputes at the economy level in the first instance court?	No	0.0
Number of land disputes in the economy in 2018:		
<b>Equal access to property rights index (-2-0)</b>		<b>0.0</b>
Do unmarried men and unmarried women have equal ownership rights to property?	Yes	
Do married men and married women have equal ownership rights to property?	Yes	0.0

## Getting Credit

This topic explores two sets of issues—the strength of credit reporting systems and the effectiveness of collateral and bankruptcy laws in facilitating lending. The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in May 2019. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

### What the indicators measure

#### Strength of legal rights index (0-12)

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

#### Depth of credit information index (0-8)

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

#### Credit bureau coverage (% of adults)

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

#### Credit registry coverage (% of adults)

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

### Case study assumptions

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

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

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

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

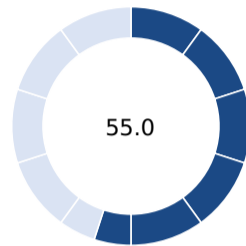
The case scenarios also involve assumptions. In case A, as collateral for the loan, ABC grants BizBank a nonpossessory security interest in one category of movable assets, for example, its machinery or its inventory. ABC wants to keep both possession and ownership of the collateral. In economies where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

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

Getting Credit - Austria

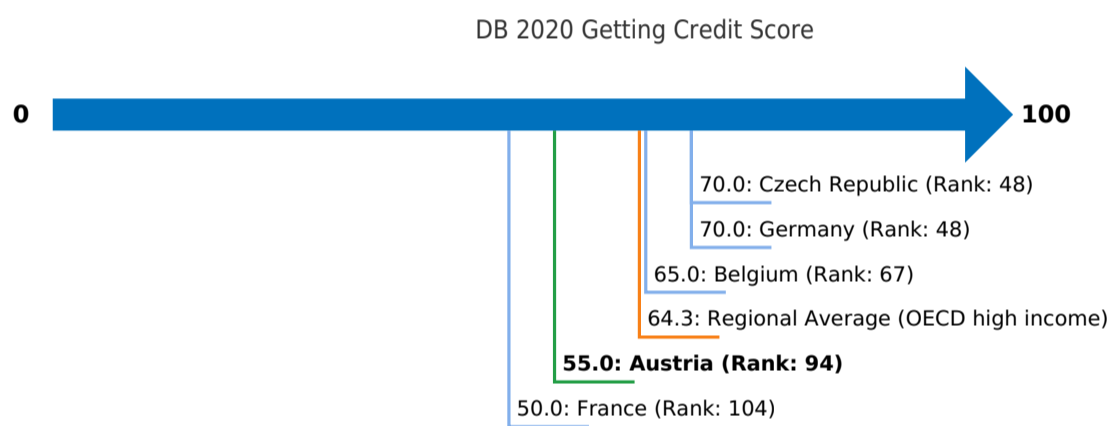
Indicator	Austria	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Strength of legal rights index (0-12)	4	6.1	12 (5 Economies)
Depth of credit information index (0-8)	7	6.8	8 (53 Economies)
Credit registry coverage (% of adults)	2.2	24.4	100.0 (2 Economies)
Credit bureau coverage (% of adults)	53.5	66.7	100.0 (14 Economies)

Figure - Getting Credit in Austria - Score



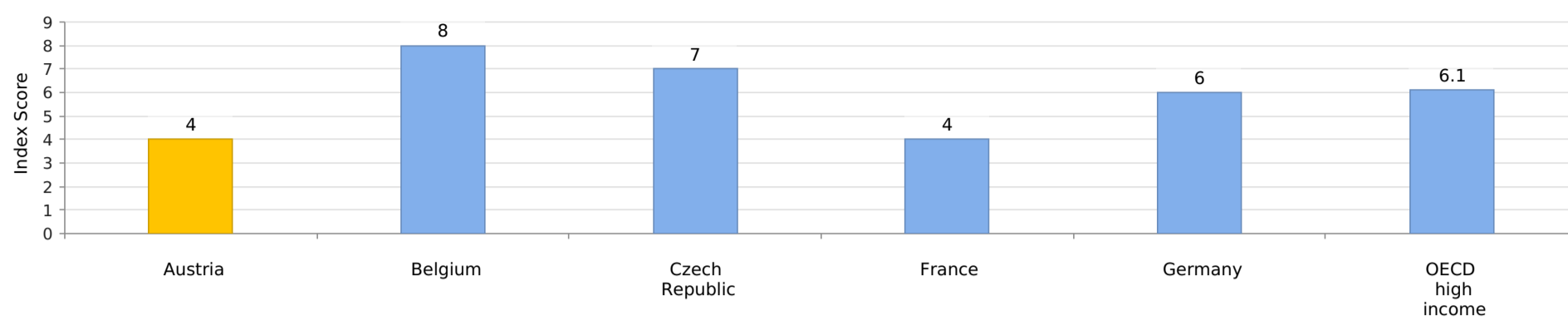
Score - Getting Credit

Figure - Getting Credit in Austria and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

Figure - Legal Rights in Austria and comparator economies





Details - Legal Rights in Austria

Strength of legal rights index (0-12)

4

Does an integrated or unified legal framework for secured transactions that extends to the creation, publicity and enforcement of functional equivalents to security interests in movable assets exist in the economy? No

Does the law allow businesses to grant a non possessory security right in a single category of movable assets, without requiring a specific description of collateral? No

Does the law allow businesses to grant a non possessory security right in substantially all of its assets, without requiring a specific description of collateral? No

May a security right extend to future or after-acquired assets, and does it extend automatically to the products, proceeds and replacements of the original assets? No

Is a general description of debts and obligations permitted in collateral agreements; can all types of debts and obligations be secured between parties; and can the collateral agreement include a maximum amount for which the assets are encumbered? Yes

Is a collateral registry in operation for both incorporated and non-incorporated entities, that is unified geographically and by asset type, with an electronic database indexed by debtor's name? No

Does a notice-based collateral registry exist in which all functional equivalents can be registered? No

Does a modern collateral registry exist in which registrations, amendments, cancellations and searches can be performed online by any interested third party? No

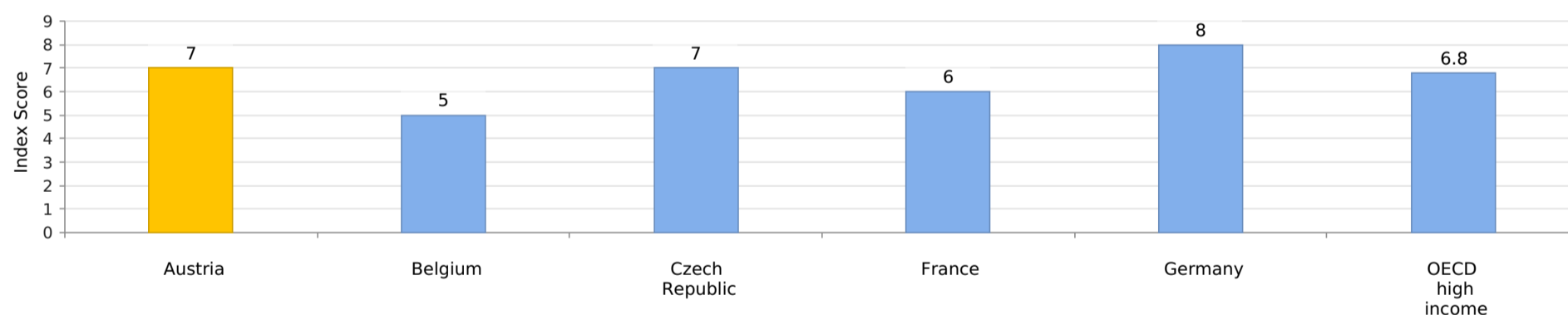
Are secured creditors paid first (i.e. before tax claims and employee claims) when a debtor defaults outside an insolvency procedure? Yes

Are secured creditors paid first (i.e. before tax claims and employee claims) when a business is liquidated? Yes

Are secured creditors subject to an automatic stay on enforcement when a debtor enters a court-supervised reorganization procedure? Does the law protect secured creditors' rights by providing clear grounds for relief from the stay and sets a time limit for it? No

Does the law allow parties to agree on out of court enforcement at the time a security interest is created? Does the law allow the secured creditor to sell the collateral through public auction or private tender, as well as, for the secured creditor to keep the asset in satisfaction of the debt? Yes

Figure - Credit Information in Austria and comparator economies



## Details - Credit Information in Austria

Depth of credit information index (0-8)	Credit bureau	Credit registry	Score
Are data on both firms and individuals distributed?	No	No	0
Are both positive and negative credit data distributed?	Yes	No	1
Are data from retailers or utility companies - in addition to data from banks and financial institutions - distributed?	Yes	No	1
Are at least 2 years of historical data distributed? (Credit bureaus and registries that distribute more than 10 years of negative data or erase data on defaults as soon as they are repaid obtain a score of 0 for this component.)	Yes	No	1
Are data on loan amounts below 1% of income per capita distributed?	Yes	No	1
By law, do borrowers have the right to access their data in the credit bureau or credit registry?	Yes	No	1
Can banks and financial institutions access borrowers' credit information online (for example, through an online platform, a system-to-system connection or both)?	Yes	No	1
Are bureau or registry credit scores offered as a value-added service to help banks and financial institutions assess the creditworthiness of borrowers?	Yes	No	1
<b>Total Score ("yes" to either public bureau or private registry)</b>			<b>7</b>

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

Coverage	Credit bureau	Credit registry
Number of individuals	3,147,016	65,478
Number of firms	0	63,414
Total	3,147,016	128,892
<b>Percentage of adult population</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>

## Protecting Minority Investors

This topic measures the strength of minority shareholder protections against misuse of corporate assets by directors for their personal gain as well as shareholder rights, governance safeguards and corporate transparency requirements that reduce the risk of abuse. The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in May 2019. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

### What the indicators measure

- **Extent of disclosure index (0-10):** Disclosure, review, and approval requirements for related-party transactions
- **Extent of director liability index (0-10):** Ability of minority shareholders to sue and hold interested directors liable for prejudicial related-party transactions; Available legal remedies (damages, disgorgement of profits, disqualification from managerial position(s) for one year or more, rescission of the transaction)
- **Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10):** Access to internal corporate documents; Evidence obtainable during trial and allocation of legal expenses
- **Extent of conflict of interest regulation index (0-30):** Sum of the extent of disclosure, extent of director liability and ease of shareholder suits indices
- **Extent of shareholder rights index (0-6):** Shareholders' rights and role in major corporate decisions
- **Extent of ownership and control index (0-7):** Governance safeguards protecting shareholders from undue board control and entrenchment
- **Extent of corporate transparency index (0-7):** Corporate transparency on ownership stakes, compensation, audits and financial prospects
- **Extent of shareholder governance index (0-20):** Sum of the extent of shareholders rights, extent of ownership and control and extent of corporate transparency indices
- **Strength of minority investor protection index (0-50):** Sum of the extent of conflict of interest regulation and extent of shareholder governance indices

### Case study assumptions

To make the data comparable across economies, a case study uses several assumptions about the business and the transaction.

#### The business (Buyer):

- Is a publicly traded corporation listed on the economy's most important stock exchange.
- Has a board of directors and a chief executive officer (CEO) who may legally act on behalf of Buyer where permitted, even if this is not specifically required by law.
- Has a supervisory board in economies with a two-tier board system on which Mr. James appointed 60% of the shareholder-elected members.
- Has not adopted bylaws or articles of association that go beyond the minimum requirements. Does not follow codes, principles, recommendations or guidelines that are not mandatory.
- Is a manufacturing company with its own distribution network.

#### The transaction involves the following details:

- Mr. James owns 60% of Buyer, sits on Buyer's board of directors and elected two directors to Buyer's five-member board.
- Mr. James also owns 90% of Seller, a company that operates a chain of retail hardware stores. Seller recently closed a large number of its stores.
- Mr. James proposes that Buyer purchase Seller's unused fleet of trucks to expand Buyer's distribution of its food products, a proposal to which Buyer agrees. The price is equal to 10% of Buyer's assets and is higher than the market value.
- The proposed transaction is part of the company's principal activity and is not outside the authority of the company.
- Buyer enters into the transaction. All required approvals are obtained, and all required disclosures made—that is, the transaction was not entered into fraudulently.
- The transaction causes damages to Buyer. Shareholders sue Mr. James and the executives and directors that approved the transaction.

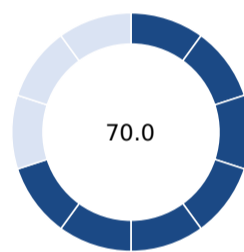
Protecting Minority Investors - Austria

Stock exchange information

Stock exchange	Vienna Stock Exchange
Stock exchange URL	http://en.wienerborse.at
Listed firms with equity securities	150
City Covered	Vienna

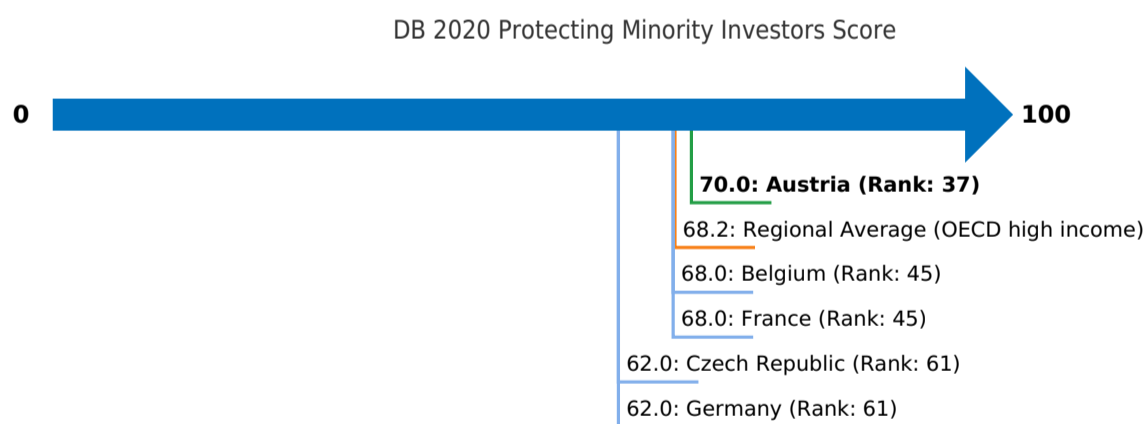
Indicator	Austria	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Extent of disclosure index (0-10)	5.0	6.5	10 (13 Economies)
Extent of director liability index (0-10)	5.0	5.3	10 (3 Economies)
Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)	7.0	7.3	10 (Djibouti)
Extent of shareholder rights index (0-6)	5.0	4.7	6 (19 Economies)
Extent of ownership and control index (0-7)	7.0	4.5	7 (9 Economies)
Extent of corporate transparency index (0-7)	6.0	5.7	7 (13 Economies)

Figure - Protecting Minority in Austria - Score



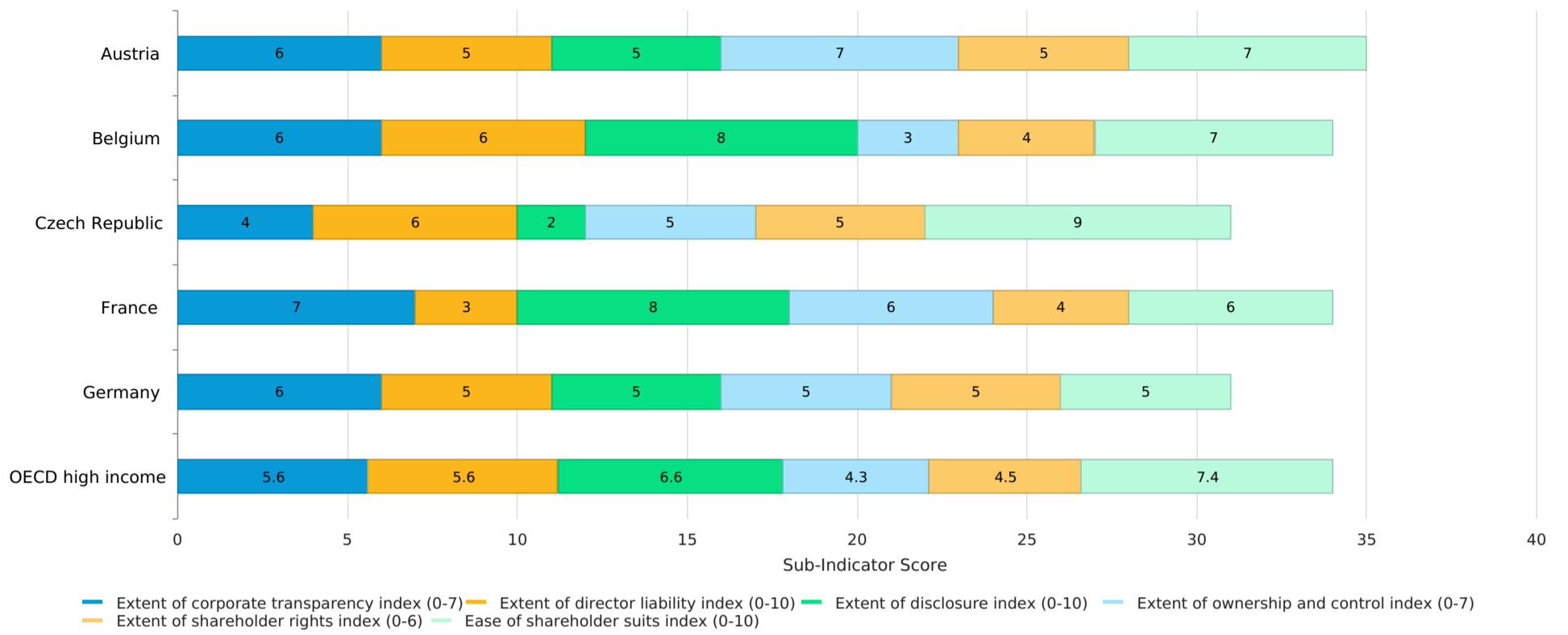
Score - Protecting Minority Investors

Figure - Protecting Minority Investors in Austria and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

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



## Details - Protecting Minority Investors in Austria - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Extent of conflict of interest regulation index (0-30)</b>		
<b>Extent of disclosure index (0-10)</b>		<b>5.0</b>
Whose decision is sufficient to approve the Buyer-Seller transaction? (0-3)	Board of directors excluding interested members	2.0
Must an external body review the terms of the transaction before it takes place? (0-1)	No	0.0
Must Mr. James disclose his conflict of interest to the board of directors? (0-2)	Existence of a conflict without any specifics	1.0
Must Buyer disclose the transaction in periodic filings (e.g. annual reports)? (0-2)	Disclosure on the transaction and on the conflict of interest	2.0
Must Buyer immediately disclose the transaction to the public? (0-2)	No disclosure obligation	0.0
<b>Extent of director liability index (0-10)</b>		<b>5.0</b>
Can shareholders representing 10% of Buyer's share capital sue for the damage the transaction caused to Buyer? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Can shareholders hold Mr. James liable for the damage the transaction caused to Buyer? (0-2)	Liable if negligent	1.0
Can shareholders hold the other directors liable for the damage the transaction caused to Buyer? (0-2)	Liable if negligent	1.0
Must Mr. James pay damages for the harm caused to Buyer upon a successful claim by shareholders? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Must Mr. James repay profits made from the transaction upon a successful claim by shareholders? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Is Mr. James disqualified upon a successful claim by shareholders? (0-1)	No	0.0
Can a court void the transaction upon a successful claim by shareholders? (0-2)	Only in case of fraud or bad faith	0.0
<b>Ease of shareholder suits index (0-10)</b>		<b>7.0</b>
Before suing, can shareholders representing 10% of Buyer's share capital inspect the transaction documents? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Can the plaintiff obtain any documents from the defendant and witnesses at trial? (0-3)	Any relevant document	3.0
Can the plaintiff request categories of documents from the defendant without identifying specific ones? (0-1)	No	0.0
Can the plaintiff directly question the defendant and witnesses at trial? (0-2)	Preapproved questions only	1.0
Is the level of proof required for civil suits lower than that of criminal cases? (0-1)	Yes	1.0
Can shareholder plaintiffs recover their legal expenses from the company? (0-2)	Yes if successful	1.0
<b>Extent of shareholder governance index (0-20)</b>		
<b>Extent of shareholder rights index (0-6)</b>		<b>5.0</b>
Does the sale of 51% of Buyer's assets require shareholder approval?	No	0.0
Can shareholders representing 10% of Buyer's share capital call for a meeting of shareholders?	Yes	1.0
Must Buyer obtain its shareholders' approval every time it issues new shares?	Yes	1.0
Do shareholders automatically receive preemption rights every time Buyer issues new shares?	Yes	1.0
Do shareholders elect and dismiss the external auditor?	Yes	1.0
Are changes to the rights of a class of shares only possible if the holders of the affected shares approve?	Yes	1.0
<b>Extent of ownership and control index (0-7)</b>		<b>7.0</b>
Is it forbidden to appoint the same individual as CEO and chairperson of the board of directors?	Yes	1.0

Must the board of directors include independent and nonexecutive board members?	Yes	1.0
Can shareholders remove members of the board of directors without cause before the end of their term?	Yes	1.0
Must the board of directors include a separate audit committee exclusively comprising board members?	Yes	1.0
Must a potential acquirer make a tender offer to all shareholders upon acquiring 50% of Buyer?	Yes	1.0
Must Buyer pay declared dividends within a maximum period set by law?	Yes	1.0
Is a subsidiary prohibited from acquiring shares issued by its parent company?	Yes	1.0
<b>Extent of corporate transparency index (0-7)</b>		<b>6.0</b>
Must Buyer disclose direct and indirect beneficial ownership stakes representing 5%?	Yes	1.0
Must Buyer disclose information about board members' primary employment and directorships in other companies?	No	0.0
Must Buyer disclose the compensation of individual managers?	Yes	1.0
Must a detailed notice of general meeting be sent 21 days before the meeting?	Yes	1.0
Can shareholders representing 5% of Buyer's share capital put items on the general meeting agenda?	Yes	1.0
Must Buyer's annual financial statements be audited by an external auditor?	Yes	1.0
Must Buyer disclose its audit reports to the public?	Yes	1.0

## Paying Taxes

This topic records the taxes and mandatory contributions that a medium-size company must pay or withhold in a given year, as well as the administrative burden of paying taxes and contributions and complying with postfiling procedures (VAT refund and tax audit). The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in May 2019 covering for the Paying Taxes indicator calendar year 2018 (January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018). [See the methodology for more information.](#)

### What the indicators measure

#### Tax payments for a manufacturing company in 2018 (number per year adjusted for electronic and joint filing and payment)

- Total number of taxes and contributions paid or withheld, including consumption taxes (value added tax, sales tax or goods and service tax)
- Method and frequency of filing and payment

#### Time required to comply with 3 major taxes (hours per year)

- Collecting information, computing tax payable
- Preparing separate tax accounting books, if required
- Completing tax return, filing with agencies
- Arranging payment or withholding

#### Total tax and contribution rate (% of commercial profits)

- Profit or corporate income tax
- Social contributions, labor taxes paid by employer
- Property and property transfer taxes
- Dividend, capital gains, financial transactions taxes
- Waste collection, vehicle, road and other taxes

#### Postfiling Index

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

### Case study assumptions

Using a case scenario, *Doing Business* records taxes and mandatory contributions a medium size company must pay in a year, and measures the administrative burden of paying taxes, contributions and dealing with postfiling processes. Information is also compiled on frequency of filing and payments, time taken to comply with tax laws, time taken to comply with the requirements of postfiling processes and time waiting.

To make data comparable across economies, several assumptions are used:

- TaxpayerCo is a medium-size business that started operations on January 1, 2017. It produces ceramic flowerpots and sells them at retail. All taxes and contributions recorded are paid in the second year of operation (calendar year 2018). Taxes and mandatory contributions are measured at all levels of government.

#### The VAT refund process:

- In June 2018, TaxpayerCo. makes a large capital purchase: the value of the machine is 65 times income per capita of the economy. Sales are equally spread per month (1,050 times income per capita divided by 12) and cost of goods sold are equally expensed per month (875 times income per capita divided by 12). The machinery seller is registered for VAT and excess input VAT incurred in June will be fully recovered after four consecutive months if the VAT rate is the same for inputs, sales and the machine and the tax reporting period is every month. Input VAT will exceed Output VAT in June 2018.

#### The corporate income tax audit process:

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



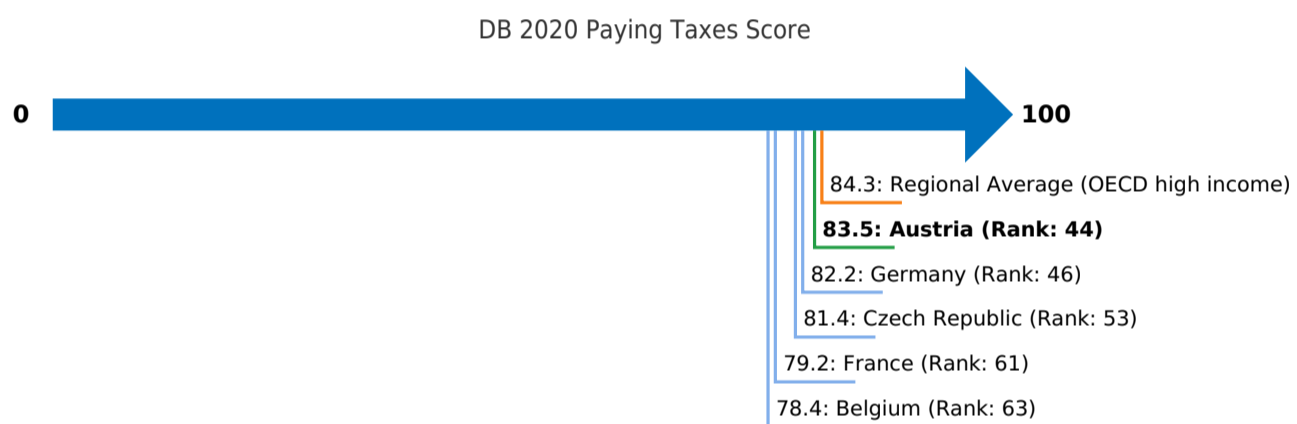
Paying Taxes - Austria

Indicator	Austria	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Payments (number per year)	12	10.3	3 (2 Economies)
Time (hours per year)	131	158.8	49 (3 Economies)
Total tax and contribution rate (% of profit)	51.4	39.9	26.1 (33 Economies)
Postfiling index (0-100)	98.5	86.7	None in 2018/19

Figure - Paying Taxes in Austria - Score

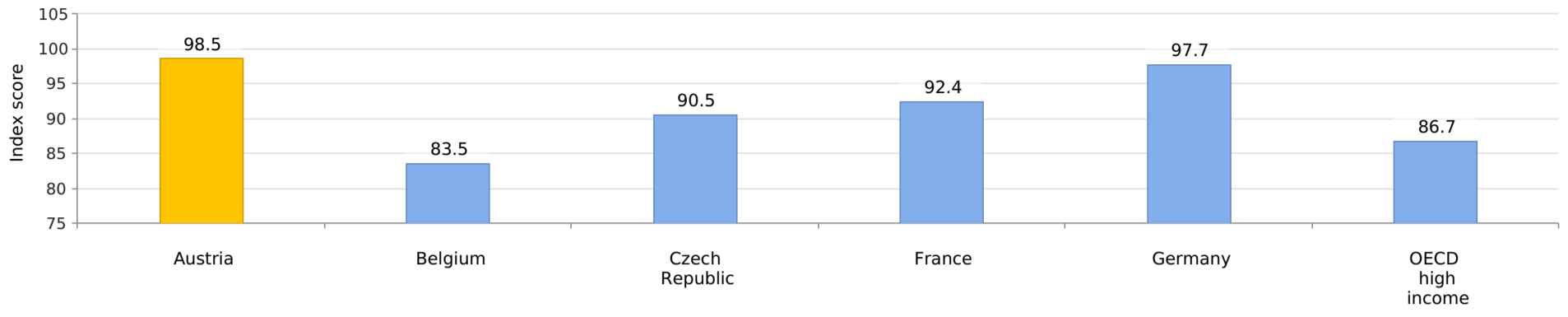


Figure - Paying Taxes in Austria and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

Figure - Paying Taxes in Austria and comparator economies - Measure of Quality



## Details - Paying Taxes in Austria

Tax or mandatory contribution	Payments (number)	Notes on Payments	Time (hours)	Statutory tax rate	Tax base	Total tax and contribution rate (% of profit)	Notes on TTCR
Social security contributions	1.0	online	50.0	20.98%-21.48%	gross salaries	23.73	
Corporate income tax	1.0	online	46.0	25%	taxable profit	17.12	
Contribution to family fund	0.0	online and jointly		3.9%	gross salaries	4.40	
Municipal employees tax	1.0	online		3.0%	gross salaries	3.38	
Contribution to pension fund	0.0	online and jointly		1.53%	gross salaries	1.73	
Contribution to the chamber of commerce	1.0	online		0.4%	gross salaries	0.45	
Property tax	1.0	online		variable	value land assessed by tax authority	0.41	
Tax on insurance contracts	1.0	online		1% & 11%	insurance premium	0.12	
Advertising tax	1.0	online		5%	value of service	0.09	
Value added tax (VAT)	1.0	online	35.0	20.0%	value added	0.00	not included
Vehicle tax	1.0	online			fixed fee	0.00	small amount
Road tax	1.0	online			fixed fee	0.00	small amount
Stamp duty	1.0			0.8% to 2%	depending on taxable event	0.00	small amount
Fuel Tax	1.0			EUR 397 per 1000 liter	fuel consumption	0.00	small amount
Totals	12		131			51.4	

## Details - Paying Taxes in Austria - Tax by Type

Taxes by type	Answer
Profit tax (% of profit)	17.1
Labor tax and contributions (% of profit)	33.7
Other taxes (% of profit)	0.6

## Details - Paying Taxes in Austria - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Postfiling index (0-100)</b>		<b>98.5</b>
<b>VAT refunds</b>		
Does VAT exist?	Yes	
Does a VAT refund process exist per the case study?	Yes	
Restrictions on VAT refund process	none	
Percentage of cases exposed to a VAT audit (%)	25% - 49%	
Is there a mandatory carry forward period?	No	
Time to comply with VAT refund (hours)	2.0	96.0
Time to obtain VAT refund (weeks)	3.0	100
<b>Corporate income tax audits</b>		
Does corporate income tax exist?	Yes	
Percentage of cases exposed to a corporate income tax audit (%)	0% - 24%	
Time to comply with a corporate income tax correction (hours)	2.5	98.2
Time to complete a corporate income tax correction (weeks)	No tax audit per case study scenario	100

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

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

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

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

N/A = Not applicable.

## Trading across Borders

*Doing Business* records the time and cost associated with the logistical process of exporting and importing goods. *Doing Business* measures the time and cost (excluding tariffs) associated with three sets of procedures—documentary compliance, border compliance and domestic transport—within the overall process of exporting or importing a shipment of goods. The most recent round of data collection for the project was completed in May 2019. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

### What the indicators measure

#### Documentary compliance

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

#### Border compliance

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

#### Domestic transport

- Loading or unloading of the shipment at the warehouse or port/border
- Transport between warehouse and port/border
- Traffic delays and road police checks while shipment is en route

### Case study assumptions

To make the data comparable across economies, a few assumptions are made about the traded goods and the transactions:

**Time:** Time is measured in hours, and 1 day is 24 hours (for example, 22 days are recorded as  $22 \times 24 = 528$  hours). If customs clearance takes 7.5 hours, the data are recorded as is. Alternatively, suppose documents are submitted to a customs agency at 8:00a.m., are processed overnight and can be picked up at 8:00a.m. the next day. The time for customs clearance would be recorded as 24 hours because the actual procedure took 24 hours.

**Cost:** Insurance cost and informal payments for which no receipt is issued are excluded from the costs recorded. Costs are reported in U.S. dollars. Contributors are asked to convert local currency into U.S. dollars based on the exchange rate prevailing on the day they answer the questionnaire. Contributors are private sector experts in international trade logistics and are informed about exchange rates.

#### Assumptions of the case study:

- For all 190 economies covered by *Doing Business*, it is assumed a shipment is in a warehouse in the largest business city of the exporting economy and travels to a warehouse in the largest business city of the importing economy.
- It is assumed each economy imports 15 metric tons of containerized auto parts (HS 8708) from its natural import partner—the economy from which it imports the largest value (price times quantity) of auto parts. It is assumed each economy exports the product of its comparative advantage (defined by the largest export value) to its natural export partner—the economy that is the largest purchaser of this product. Shipment value is assumed to be \$50,000.
- The mode of transport is the one most widely used for the chosen export or import product and the trading partner, as is the seaport or land border crossing.
- All electronic information submissions requested by any government agency in connection with the shipment are considered to be documents obtained, prepared and submitted during the export or import process.
- A port or border is a place (seaport or land border crossing) where merchandise can enter or leave an economy.
- Relevant government agencies include customs, port authorities, road police, border guards, standardization agencies, ministries or departments of agriculture or industry, national security agencies and any other government authorities.

Trading across Borders - Austria

Indicator	Austria	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Time to export: Border compliance (hours)	0	12.7	1 (19 Economies)
Cost to export: Border compliance (USD)	0	136.8	0 (19 Economies)
Time to export: Documentary compliance (hours)	1	2.3	1 (26 Economies)
Cost to export: Documentary compliance (USD)	0	33.4	0 (20 Economies)
Time to import: Border compliance (hours)	0	8.5	1 (25 Economies)
Cost to import: Border compliance (USD)	0	98.1	0 (28 Economies)
Time to import: Documentary compliance (hours)	1	3.4	1 (30 Economies)
Cost to import: Documentary compliance (USD)	0	23.5	0 (30 Economies)

Figure - Trading across Borders in Austria - Score

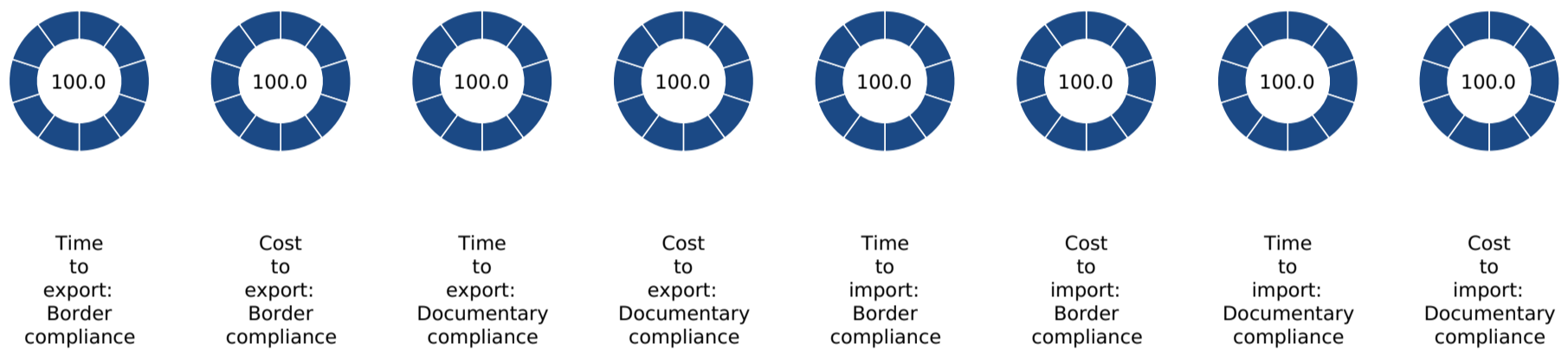
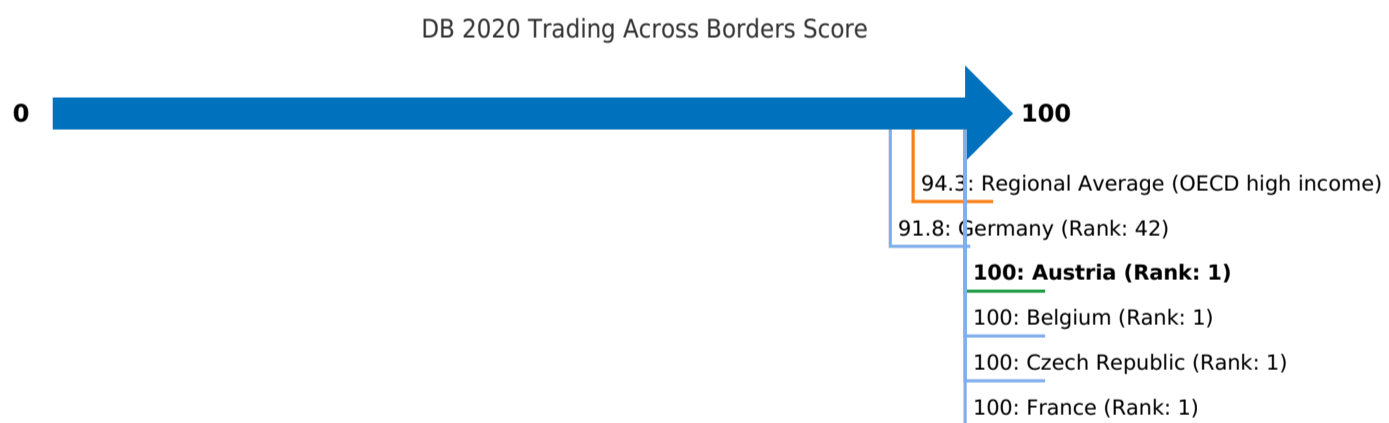
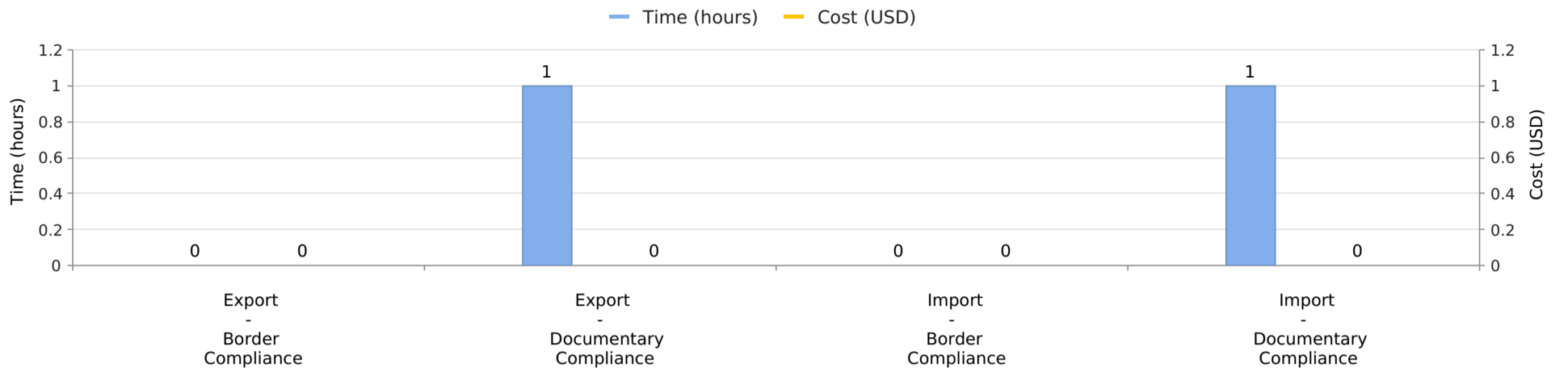


Figure - Trading across Borders in Austria and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

Figure - Trading across Borders in Austria - Time and Cost





## Details - Trading across Borders in Austria

Characteristics	Export	Import
Product	HS 84 : Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	HS 8708: Parts and accessories of motor vehicles
Trade partner	Germany	Germany
Border	Austria-Germany border crossing	Austria- Germany border crossing
Distance (km)	131	131
Domestic transport time (hours)	2	2
Domestic transport cost (USD)	188	188

## Details - Trading across Borders in Austria - Components of Border Compliance

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

## Details - Trading across Borders in Austria - Trade Documents

## Export

Commercial invoice

Packing List

CMR Waybill

Intrastat

## Import

Commercial invoice

CMR Waybill

Packing list

Intrastat

## Enforcing Contracts

The enforcing contracts indicator measures the time and cost for resolving a commercial dispute through a local first-instance court, and the quality of judicial processes index, evaluating whether each economy has adopted a series of good practices that promote quality and efficiency in the court system. The most recent round of data collection was completed in May 2019. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

### What the indicators measure

#### Time required to enforce a contract through the courts (calendar days)

- Time to file and serve the case
- Time for trial and to obtain the judgment
- Time to enforce the judgment

#### Cost required to enforce a contract through the courts (% of claim value)

- Average attorney fees
- Court costs
- Enforcement costs

#### Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)

- Court structure and proceedings (-1-5)
- Case management (0-6)
- Court automation (0-4)
- Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)

### Case study assumptions

The dispute in the case study involves the breach of a sales contract between two domestic businesses. The case study assumes that the court hears an expert on the quality of the goods in dispute. This distinguishes the case from simple debt enforcement.

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

- The dispute concerns a lawful transaction between two businesses (Seller and Buyer), both located in the economy's largest business city. For 11 economies the data are also collected for the second largest business city.
- The Buyer orders custom-made furniture, then fails to pay alleging that the goods are not of adequate quality.
- The value of the dispute is 200% of the income per capita or the equivalent in local currency of USD 5,000, whichever is greater.
- The Seller sues the Buyer before the court with jurisdiction over commercial cases worth 200% of income per capita or \$5,000 whichever is greater.
- The Seller requests the pretrial attachment of the defendant's movable assets to secure the claim.
- The claim is disputed on the merits because of Buyer's allegation that the quality of the goods was not adequate.
- The judge decides in favor of the seller; there is no appeal.
- The Seller enforces the judgment through a public sale of the Buyer's movable assets.

Enforcing Contracts - Austria

Standardized Case

Claim value	EUR 84,103
Court name	Vienna Commercial Court
City Covered	Vienna

Indicator	Austria	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Time (days)	397	589.6	120 (Singapore)
Cost (% of claim value)	20.6	21.5	0.1 (Bhutan)
Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)	13.0	11.7	None in 2018/19

Figure - Enforcing Contracts in Austria - Score

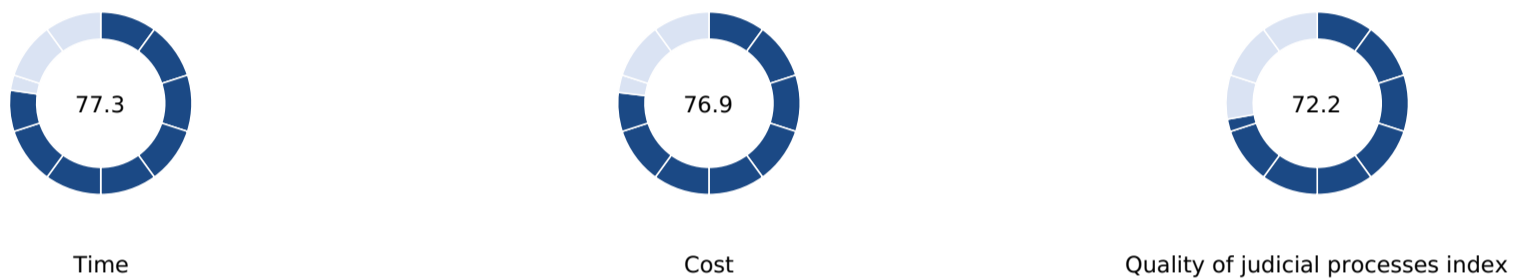
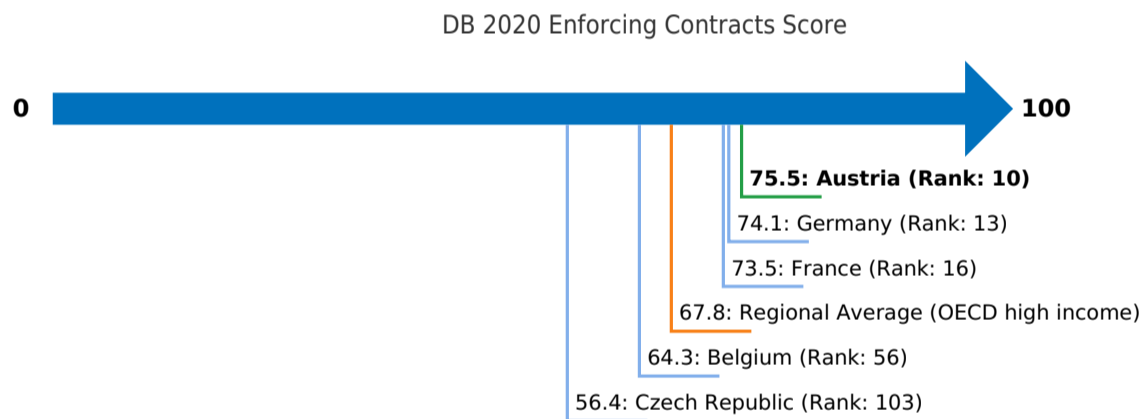


Figure - Enforcing Contracts in Austria and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

Figure - Enforcing Contracts in Austria - Time and Cost

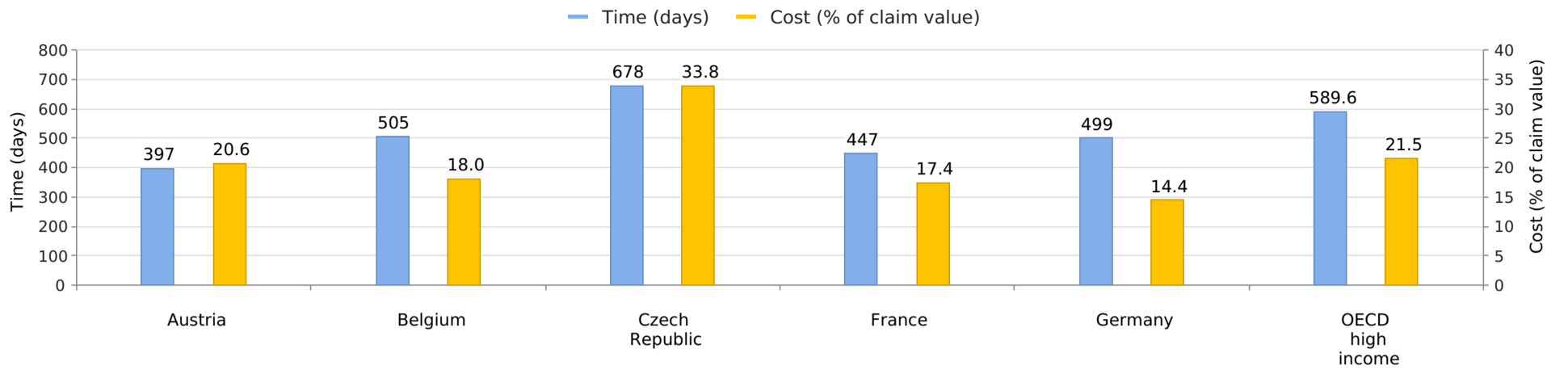
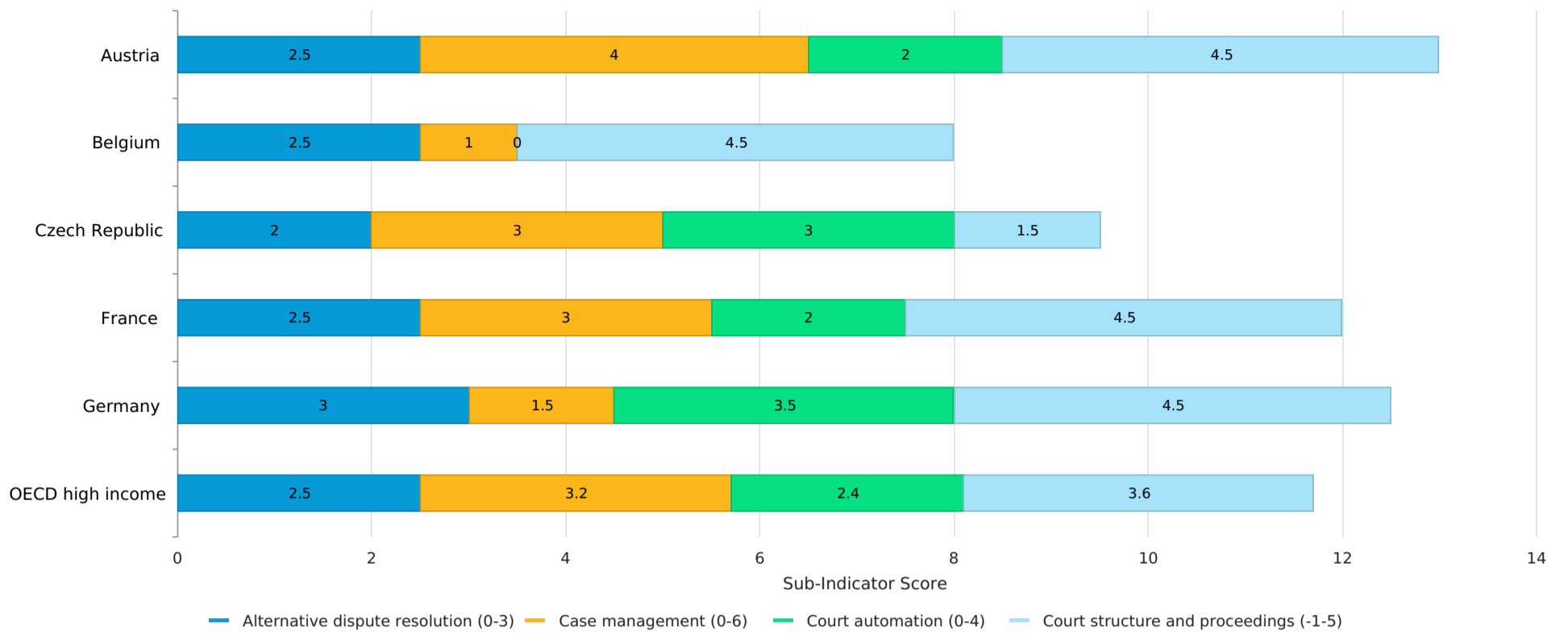


Figure - Enforcing Contracts in Austria and comparator economies - Measure of Quality



Details - Enforcing Contracts in Austria

	Indicator
<b>Time (days)</b>	<b>397</b>
Filing and service	30
Trial and judgment	277
Enforcement of judgment	90
<b>Cost (% of claim value)</b>	<b>20.6</b>
Attorney fees	13.6
Court fees	6.5
Enforcement fees	0.5
<b>Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Court structure and proceedings (-1-5)	4.5
Case management (0-6)	4.0
Court automation (0-4)	2.0
Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)	2.5

## Details - Enforcing Contracts in Austria - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Quality of judicial processes index (0-18)</b>		<b>13.0</b>
<b>Court structure and proceedings (-1-5)</b>		<b>4.5</b>
1. Is there a court or division of a court dedicated solely to hearing commercial cases?	Yes	1.5
2. Small claims court		1.5
2.a. Is there a small claims court or a fast-track procedure for small claims?	Yes	
2.b. If yes, is self-representation allowed?	Yes	
3. Is pretrial attachment available?	Yes	1.0
4. Are new cases assigned randomly to judges?	Yes, but manual	0.5
5. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?	Yes	0.0
<b>Case management (0-6)</b>		<b>4.0</b>
1. Time standards		0.0
1.a. Are there laws setting overall time standards for key court events in a civil case?	Yes	
1.b. If yes, are the time standards set for at least three court events?	No	
1.c. Are these time standards respected in more than 50% of cases?	Yes	
2. Adjournments		0.0
2.a. Does the law regulate the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted?	No	
2.b. Are adjournments limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances?	No	
2.c. If rules on adjournments exist, are they respected in more than 50% of cases?	n.a.	
3. Can two of the following four reports be generated about the competent court: (i) time to disposition report; (ii) clearance rate report; (iii) age of pending cases report; and (iv) single case progress report?	Yes	1.0
4. Is a pretrial conference among the case management techniques used before the competent court?	Yes	1.0
5. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by judges?	Yes	1.0
6. Are there any electronic case management tools in place within the competent court for use by lawyers?	Yes	1.0
<b>Court automation (0-4)</b>		<b>2.0</b>
1. Can the initial complaint be filed electronically through a dedicated platform within the competent court?	Yes	1.0
2. Is it possible to carry out service of process electronically for claims filed before the competent court?	No	0.0
3. Can court fees be paid electronically within the competent court?	Yes	1.0
4. Publication of judgments		0.0
4.a. Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at all levels made available to the general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?	No	
4.b. Are judgments rendered in commercial cases at the appellate and supreme court level made available to the general public through publication in official gazettes, in newspapers or on the internet or court website?	No	
<b>Alternative dispute resolution (0-3)</b>		<b>2.5</b>
1. Arbitration		1.5
1.a. Is domestic commercial arbitration governed by a consolidated law or consolidated chapter or section of the applicable code of civil procedure encompassing substantially all its aspects?	Yes	
1.b. Are there any commercial disputes—aside from those that deal with public order or public policy—that cannot be submitted to arbitration?	No	
1.c. Are valid arbitration clauses or agreements usually enforced by the courts?	Yes	

2. Mediation/Conciliation	1.0
2.a. Is voluntary mediation or conciliation available?	Yes
2.b. Are mediation, conciliation or both governed by a consolidated law or consolidated chapter or section of the applicable code of civil procedure encompassing substantially all their aspects (for example, definition, aim and scope of application, design)?	Yes
2.c. Are there financial incentives for parties to attempt mediation or conciliation (i.e., if mediation or conciliation is successful, a refund of court filing fees, income tax credits or the like)?	No

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## Resolving Insolvency

*Doing Business* studies the time, cost and outcome of insolvency proceedings involving domestic legal entities. These variables are used to calculate the recovery rate, which is recorded as cents on the dollar recovered by secured creditors through reorganization, liquidation or debt enforcement (foreclosure or receivership) proceedings. To determine the present value of the amount recovered by creditors, *Doing Business* uses the lending rates from the International Monetary Fund, supplemented with data from central banks and the Economist Intelligence Unit. The most recent round of data collection was completed in May 2019. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

### What the indicators measure

#### Time required to recover debt (years)

- Measured in calendar years
- Appeals and requests for extension are included

#### Cost required to recover debt (% of debtor's estate)

- Measured as percentage of estate value
- Court fees
- Fees of insolvency administrators
- Lawyers' fees
- Assessors' and auctioneers' fees
- Other related fees

#### Outcome

- Whether business continues operating as a going concern or business assets are sold piecemeal

#### Recovery rate for creditors

- Measures the cents on the dollar recovered by secured creditors
- Outcome for the business (survival or not) determines the maximum value that can be recovered
- Official costs of the insolvency proceedings are deducted
- Depreciation of furniture is taken into account
- Present value of debt recovered

#### Strength of insolvency framework index (0- 16)

- Sum of the scores of four component indices:
- Commencement of proceedings index (0-3)
- Management of debtor's assets index (0-6)
- Reorganization proceedings index (0-3)
- Creditor participation index (0-4)

### Case study assumptions

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

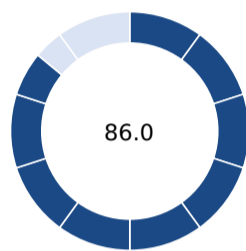
- A hotel located in the largest city (or cities) has 201 employees and 50 suppliers. The hotel experiences financial difficulties.
- The value of the hotel is 100% of the income per capita or the equivalent in local currency of USD 200,000, whichever is greater.
- The hotel has a loan from a domestic bank, secured by a mortgage over the hotel's real estate. The hotel cannot pay back the loan, but makes enough money to operate otherwise.

In addition, *Doing Business* evaluates the quality of legal framework applicable to judicial liquidation and reorganization proceedings and the extent to which best insolvency practices have been implemented in each economy covered.

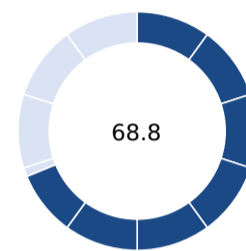
Resolving Insolvency - Austria

Indicator	Austria	OECD high income	Best Regulatory Performance
Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	79.9	70.2	92.9 (Norway)
Time (years)	1.1	1.7	0.4 (Ireland)
Cost (% of estate)	10.0	9.3	1.0 (Norway)
Outcome (0 as piecemeal sale and 1 as going concern)	1	..	..
Strength of insolvency framework index (0-16)	11.0	11.9	None in 2018/19

Figure - Resolving Insolvency in Austria - Score

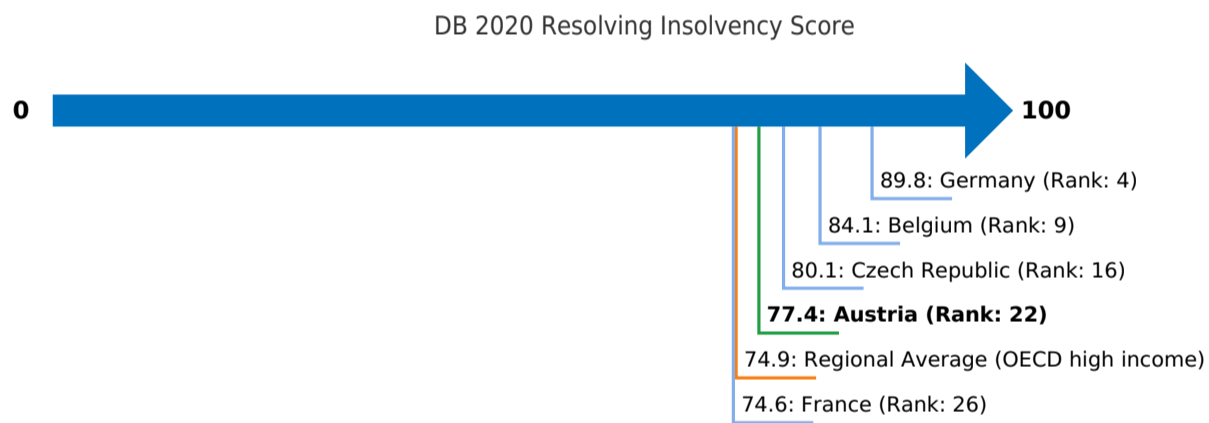


Recovery rate



Strength of insolvency framework index

Figure - Resolving Insolvency in Austria and comparator economies - Ranking and Score



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

Figure - Resolving Insolvency in Austria - Time and Cost

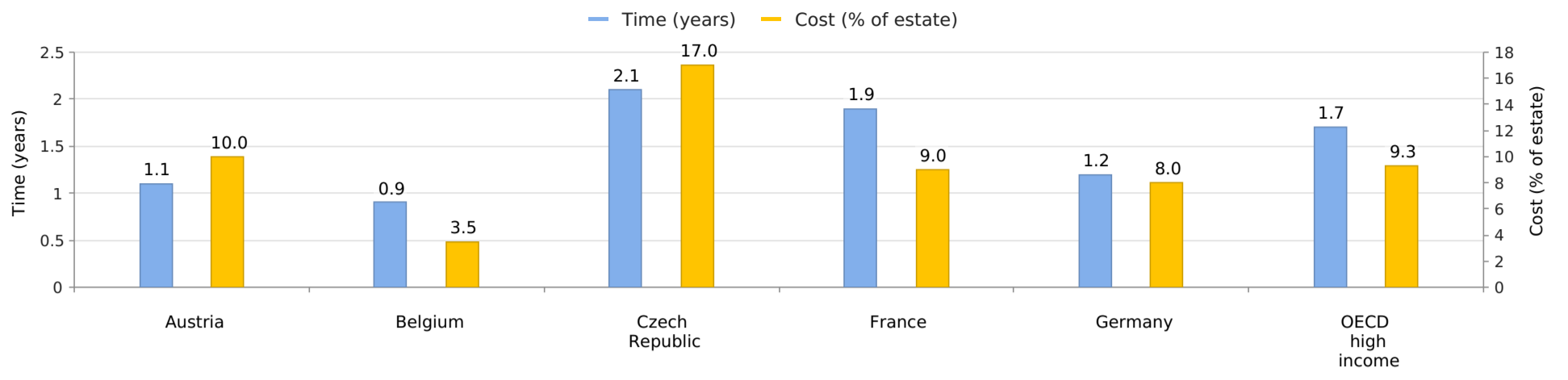
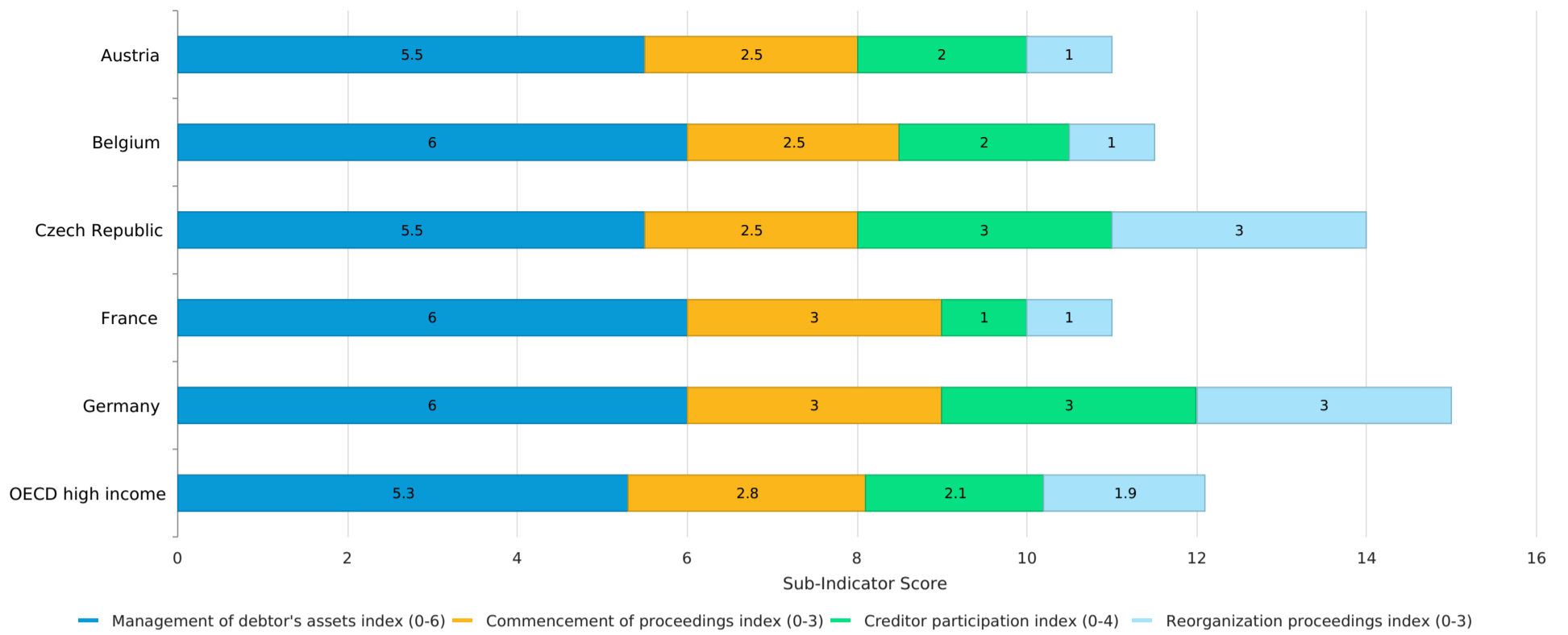
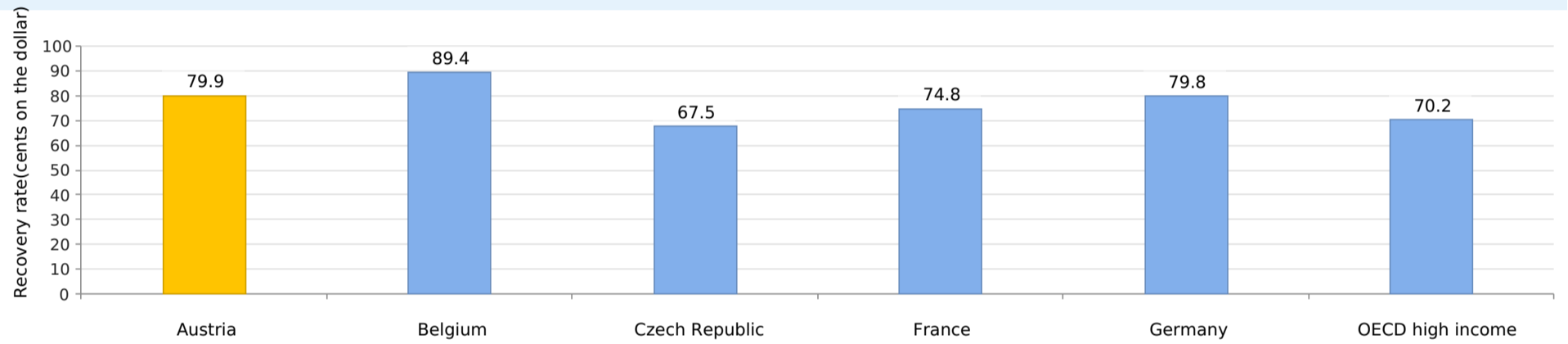


Figure - Resolving Insolvency in Austria and comparator economies - Measure of Quality



Note: Even if the economy's legal framework includes provisions related to insolvency proceedings (liquidation or reorganization), the economy receives 0 points for the strength of insolvency framework index, if time, cost and outcome indicators are recorded as "no practice."

Figure - Resolving Insolvency in Austria and comparator economies - Recovery Rate



## Details - Resolving Insolvency in Austria

Indicator	Answer	Score
Proceeding	liquidation (after an attempt at reorganization)	Mirage management has to initiate either insolvency proceedings or reorganization proceedings within 60 days after the company becomes insolvent. Management is likely to apply for reorganization proceedings with self-administration, as it will allow them to continue managing day-to-day operations of the business. However, one of the conditions of this proceeding is that creditors must be repaid at least 30% of the debt within two years, which is not possible in case of Mirage. Therefore, BizBank will vote against the plan and the proceedings will be converted into liquidation under Article 167 of the Insolvency Act.
Outcome	going concern	Mirage is a viable business and it is likely that it will be sold as a going concern and will continue operating under new ownership.
Time (in years)	1.1	Mirage management will file for reorganization proceedings with self-administration within 60 days after Mirage becomes insolvent. Together with the application, it must file a reorganization plan, which offers repayment of 30% of creditors' claims within 2 years of when the plan is adopted, an inventory of assets, a current status report and a liquidity plan for the next 90 days. The court will schedule a "reorganization hearing" where creditors representing 50% of the total outstanding debt, as well as the simple majority of creditors present at the hearing must vote in favor of the plan for it to be adopted. As it is not possible under the case assumptions that Mirage will be able to repay 30% of the claims with 2 years, the plan will be rejected. At that time, reorganization proceedings will be continued as bankruptcy proceedings. During bankruptcy proceedings, the court will appoint a receiver who will manage the debtor's assets. The court will hold several hearings, including the general creditors meeting right after the opening of the bankruptcy proceedings, the examination hearing, where the receiver will acknowledge or reject creditors' claims, and the reporting hearing, where the receiver will report on the status of the proceedings. At the reporting hearing, the receiver will report on the pre-requisites for the sale of the business. Assets will probably be sold out of court by the receiver. After the assets are sold, the receiver will present a statement of accounts.
Cost (% of estate)	10.0	The majority of the expenses will be comprised of attorneys' fees (5-8% of the value of the estate) and fees of insolvency administrator (1-2% of the value of the estate), as well as payments to other professionals involved in the proceedings, such as accountants and other professionals (1-2%) of the value of the estate.
Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		79.9

## Details - Resolving Insolvency in Austria - Measure of Quality

	Answer	Score
<b>Strength of insolvency framework index (0-16)</b>		<b>11.0</b>
<b>Commencement of proceedings index (0-3)</b>		<b>2.5</b>
What procedures are available to a DEBTOR when commencing insolvency proceedings?	(a) Debtor may file for both liquidation and reorganization	1.0
Does the insolvency framework allow a CREDITOR to file for insolvency of the debtor?	(b) Yes, but a creditor may file for liquidation only	0.5
What basis for commencement of the insolvency proceedings is allowed under the insolvency framework? (a) Debtor is generally unable to pay its debts as they mature (b) The value of debtor's liabilities exceeds the value of its assets	(c) Both (a) and (b) options are available, but only one of them needs to be complied with	1.0
<b>Management of debtor's assets index (0-6)</b>		<b>5.5</b>
Does the insolvency framework allow the continuation of contracts supplying essential goods and services to the debtor?	Yes	1.0
Does the insolvency framework allow the rejection by the debtor of overly burdensome contracts?	Yes	1.0
Does the insolvency framework allow avoidance of preferential transactions?	Yes	1.0
Does the insolvency framework allow avoidance of undervalued transactions?	Yes	1.0
Does the insolvency framework provide for the possibility of the debtor obtaining credit after commencement of insolvency proceedings?	Yes	1.0
Does the insolvency framework assign priority to post-commencement credit?	(a) Yes over all pre-commencement creditors, secured or unsecured	0.5
<b>Reorganization proceedings index (0-3)</b>		<b>1.0</b>
Which creditors vote on the proposed reorganization plan?	(b) Only creditors whose rights are affected by the proposed plan	1.0
Does the insolvency framework require that dissenting creditors in reorganization receive at least as much as what they would obtain in a liquidation?	No	0.0
Are the creditors divided into classes for the purposes of voting on the reorganization plan, does each class vote separately and are creditors in the same class treated equally?	No	0.0
<b>Creditor participation index (0-4)</b>		<b>2.0</b>
Does the insolvency framework require approval by the creditors for selection or appointment of the insolvency representative?	No	0.0
Does the insolvency framework require approval by the creditors for sale of substantial assets of the debtor?	Yes	1.0
Does the insolvency framework provide that a creditor has the right to request information from the insolvency representative?	No	0.0
Does the insolvency framework provide that a creditor has the right to object to decisions accepting or rejecting creditors' claims?	Yes	1.0

**Note:** Even if the economy's legal framework includes provisions related to insolvency proceedings (liquidation or reorganization), the economy receives 0 points for the strength of insolvency framework index, if time, cost and outcome indicators are recorded as "no practice."

## Employing Workers

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

The most recent round of data collection was completed in May 2019. [See the methodology for more information.](#)

### What the indicators measure

#### Hiring

(i) whether fixed-term contracts are prohibited for permanent tasks; (ii) maximum cumulative duration of fixed-term contracts; (iii) length of the maximum probationary period; (iv) minimum wage; (v) ratio of minimum wage to the average value added per worker.

#### Working hours

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

#### Redundancy rules

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

#### Redundancy cost

(i) notice period for redundancy dismissal; (ii) severance payments, and (iii) penalties due when terminating a redundant worker. Data on the availability of unemployment protection for a worker with one year of employment is also collected.

### Case study assumptions

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

#### The worker:

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

#### The business:

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

## Employing Workers - Austria

## Details - Employing Workers in Austria

	Answer
<b>Hiring</b>	
Fixed-term contracts prohibited for permanent tasks?	No
Maximum length of a single fixed-term contract (months)	No limit
Maximum length of fixed-term contracts, including renewals (months)	No limit
Minimum wage applicable to the worker assumed in the case study (US\$/month)	1756.1
Ratio of minimum wage to value added per worker	0.3
Maximum length of probationary period (months)	1.0
<b>Working hours</b>	
Standard workday	8.0
Maximum number of working days per week	5.5
Premium for night work (% of hourly pay)	67.0
Premium for work on weekly rest day (% of hourly pay)	100.0
Premium for overtime work (% of hourly pay)	50.0
Restrictions on night work?	Yes
Restrictions on weekly holiday?	No
Restrictions on overtime work?	No
Paid annual leave for a worker with 1 year of tenure (working days)	25.0
Paid annual leave for a worker with 5 years of tenure (working days)	25.0
Paid annual leave for a worker with 10 years of tenure (working days)	25.0
Paid annual leave (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure, in working days)	25.0
<b>Redundancy rules</b>	
Dismissal due to redundancy allowed by law?	Yes
Third-party notification if one worker is dismissed?	Yes
Third-party approval if one worker is dismissed?	No
Third-party notification if nine workers are dismissed?	Yes
Third-party approval if nine workers are dismissed?	No
Retraining or reassignment obligation before redundancy?	No
Priority rules for redundancies?	Yes
Priority rules for reemployment?	Yes
<b>Redundancy cost</b>	
Notice period for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 1 year of tenure (weeks of salary)	2.0
Notice period for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 5 years of tenure (weeks of salary)	2.0
Notice period for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 10 years of tenure (weeks of salary)	2.0
Notice period for redundancy dismissal (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure, in weeks of salary)	2.0
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 1 year of tenure (weeks of salary)	0.0
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 5 years of tenure (weeks of salary)	0.0



Severance pay for redundancy dismissal for a worker with 10 years of tenure (weeks of salary)	0.0
Severance pay for redundancy dismissal (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure, in weeks of salary)	0.0
Unemployment protection after one year of employment?	Yes

**Business Reforms in Austria**

From May 2, 2018 to May 1, 2019, 115 economies implemented 294 business regulatory reforms across the 10 areas measured by Doing Business. Reforms inspired by *Doing Business* have been implemented by economies in all regions. The following are reforms implemented since *Doing Business* 2008.

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

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DB2020

**Employing Workers:** Austria changed regulations pertaining to working time.

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DB2015

✓ **Starting a Business:** Austria made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement, which in turn reduced the paid-in minimum capital requirement, and by lowering notary fees.

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DB2012

✓ **Resolving Insolvency:** Austria passed a new law that simplifies restructuring proceedings and gives preferential consideration to the interests of the debtors.

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DB2011

✓ **Registering Property:** Austria made it easier to transfer property by requiring online submission of all applications to register property transfers.

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DB2009

✓ **Enforcing Contracts:** Austria made enforcing contracts easier by making electronic filing mandatory in civil matters and thereby increasing the efficiency of proceedings.

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DB2008

✓ **Trading across Borders:** Austria made trading across borders easier by introducing an electronic customs clearance system and a risk-based inspection system.

*Doing Business 2020* is the 17th in a series of annual studies investigating the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. It provides quantitative indicators covering 12 areas of the business environment in 190 economies. The goal of the *Doing Business* series is to provide objective data for use by governments in designing sound business regulatory policies and to encourage research on the important dimensions of the regulatory environment for firms.

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ISBN 978-1-4648-1440-2



SKU 211440