

# Contents

*Doing Business 2008* is the fifth in a series of annual reports investigating the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. *Doing Business* presents quantitative indicators on business regulations and the protection of property rights that can be compared across 178 economies—from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe—and over time.

Regulations affecting 10 stages of a business's life are measured: starting a business, dealing with licenses, employing workers, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and closing a business. Data in *Doing Business 2008* are current as of June 1, 2007. The indicators are used to analyze economic outcomes and identify what reforms have worked, where, and why.

The *Doing Business* methodology has limitations. Other areas important to business—such as a country's proximity to large markets, the quality of its infrastructure services (other than those related to trading across borders), the security of property from theft and looting, the transparency of government procurement, macroeconomic conditions or the underlying strength of institutions—are not studied directly by *Doing Business*. To make the data comparable across countries, the indicators refer to a specific type of business—generally a limited liability company operating in the largest business city.

The methodology for 3 of the *Doing Business* topics changed for *Doing Business 2008*: dealing with licenses, employing workers and enforcing contracts. See Data notes for details. Three new topics—not paying bribes, opportunities for women and infrastructure—are under development. The analysis is described in What to expect.

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