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MARMORE FIRST TAKE

Kuwait Jumps 14 Spots to Register its Best Ranking yet in Ease of Doing Business

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HIGHLIGHTS

The Doing Business Team at the World Bank Group announced that Kuwait for the first time joined the group of top 10 improvers in the Ease of Doing Business Index 2020 out of 190 economies included in the Doing Business report, thanks to a comprehensive reform program over the past year. Kuwait was the seventh largest improver advancing 14 places from a rank of 97 in 2017/18 to 83 in 2018/19.

The 10 economies improving the most across three or more areas measured by Doing Business in 2018/19:

Country	Rank 2017/18	Rank 2018/19	Change in Rank	Change in Score
1. Saudi Arabia	92	62	30	7.7
2. Jordan	104	75	29	7.6
3. Togo	137	97	40	7.0
4. Bahrain	62	43	19	5.9
5. Tajikistan	126	106	20	5.7
6. Pakistan	136	108	28	5.6
7. Kuwait	97	83	14	4.7
8. China	46	31	15	4.0
9. India	77	63	14	3.5
10. Nigeria	146	131	15	3.4

Source: World Bank Doing Business database.

Economies are selected based on the number of reforms and on how much their ease of doing business scores have improved. The doing business report ranks countries based on distance to frontier (DTF), a score that shows the gap of an economy to the global best practice. The choice of the most improved economies is then determined by the largest improvements in the ease of doing business score among those with at least three reforms. This global index covers 10 key components that represent various dimensions of business regulatory environment for domestic enterprises. The announced improvement for Kuwait reflected reforms in seven of the ten components (excerpt from doing business report 2020):

- **Starting a business**

Kuwait made starting a business easier by merging procedures to obtain a commercial license and streamlining online company registration.

- **Dealing with construction permits**

Kuwait made dealing with construction permits easier by streamlining its permitting process, integrating additional authorities to its electronic permitting platform, enhancing interagency communication, and reducing the time to obtain a construction permit.

- **Getting electricity**

Kuwait made getting electricity easier by digitizing the application process, streamlining connection works and meter installations, and using a geographic information system to review connection requests.

- **Registering property**

Kuwait made property registration easier by streamlining the inspection and registration processes. Kuwait also improved the quality of its land administration system by publishing official service standards on property transfers.

- **Getting credit**

Kuwait improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers the legal right to inspect their credit data and offering credit scores as a value-added service to banks and financial institutions.

- **Protecting minority investors**

Kuwait strengthened minority investor protections by providing a 21-day notice for general assembly meetings.

- **Trading across borders**

Kuwait made trading across borders easier by improving the customs risk management system and by implementing a new electronic clearance system

The underlying significance of improving Kuwait's position in the Ease of Doing Business Index 2020 is that it directly and indirectly contributes to making Kuwait's investment climate more attractive and supports the attainment of the national vision 2035 and its developmental goals. With business procedures now more simplified in Kuwait, the state will be able to lure foreign investment, pushing it closer towards its goal of becoming a global economic hub.

Almost all the GCC peers, except for UAE, have demonstrated a performance improvement with Saudi Arabia landing on the top of the top ten improvers list amongst the 190 countries compared in this report, whereas Bahrain was the fourth largest improver.

GCC Ease of Doing Business Performance:

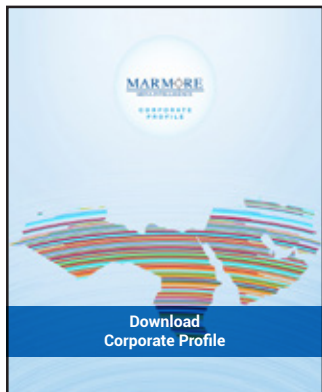
Country	Rank 2017/18	Rank 2018/19	Change in Rank
Saudi Arabia	92	62	30
Bahrain	62	43	19
Kuwait	97	83	14
Oman	78	68	10
Qatar	83	77	6
UAE	11	16	-5

Source: World Bank Doing Business Report

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About Marmore



Organizational Background

Marmore MENA Intelligence provides research-based consulting solutions to help understand current market conditions, identify growth opportunities, assess supply/demand dynamics, and make informed business decisions.

Marmore is a fully-owned research subsidiary of Kuwait Financial Center 'Markaz'. Since 2006, Markaz Research has been at the forefront in disseminating thought-provoking, hard-data backed research reports. Marmore continues that legacy with a focused approach to providing actionable solutions for business leaders and policymakers.

Since its inception, Marmore has published over 700 research reports and covered more than 25 varied industries and infrastructure segments; all focused primarily on the GCC economies. (To view our Research Library, please [click here](#))

With over 30 policy and regulatory research studies published, Marmore has partnered with renowned regional think-tanks and opinion-leaders to publish some of these intellectually provoking policy research papers. These research studies aim to initiate dialogue and propose better solutions to existing economic conundrums. (To view our Policy & Regulatory research report, [click here](#))

Almost on a weekly basis, Marmore publishes thematic economic, industry, policy and capital market reports. Marmore has been recently conferred **"Research Provider of the Year - 2018" award by Global Investor, a Euromoney Group company.** To learn more, visit www.marmoremna.com

Experience/Qualifications

Marmore is the only regional firm providing niche research based on strong analytics in areas that are less researched. Marmore provides full range of financial market, sector specific and economic and policy researches, as well. The different types of researches are availed based on the client's requirements. It is notable that Marmore research reports have regularly been used by various renowned institutions to better understand the MENA region.

Marmore's strengths can be summarized as follows:

- » Consistent track record of quality, in-depth research offerings;
- » Skilled team with extensive experience in advanced quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques;
- » Deep understanding of MENA market and access to wide-ranging database
- » Delivers high quality, client specific, insightful research reports; highlighting key client issues and uncovering key answers/opportunities for the clients.

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**KNOWLEDGE
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