

## TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

In today's globalized world, making trade between economies easier is increasingly important for business. Excessive document requirements, burdensome customs procedures, inefficient port operations and inadequate infrastructure all lead to extra costs and delays for exporters and importers, stifling trade potential. Research shows that exporters in developing countries gain more from a 10% drop in their trading costs than from a similar reduction in the tariffs applied to their products in global markets.

### What do the indicators cover?

*Doing Business* measures the time and cost (excluding tariffs and the time and cost for sea transport) associated with exporting and importing a standard shipment of goods by sea transport, and the number of documents necessary to complete the transaction. The indicators cover predefined stages such as documentation requirements and procedures at customs and other regulatory agencies as well as at the port. They also cover trade logistics, including the time and cost of inland transport to the largest business city. The ranking of economies on the ease of trading across borders is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for trading across borders. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the component indicators. To make the data comparable across economies, *Doing Business* uses several assumptions about the business and the traded goods.

The business:

- Is located in the economy's largest business city. For the 11 economies with a population of more than 100 million, data for a second city have been added.
- Is a private, limited liability company, domestically owned and does not operate with special export or import privileges.
- Conducts export and import activities, but does not have any special accreditation such as an authorized economic operator status.

### WHAT THE TRADING ACROSS BORDERS INDICATORS MEASURE

#### Documents required to export and import (number)

Bank documents  
Customs clearance documents  
Port and terminal handling documents  
Transport documents

#### Time required to export and import (days)

Obtaining, filling out and submitting all the documents  
Inland transport and handling  
Customs clearance and inspections  
Port and terminal handling  
Does not include sea transport time

#### Cost required to export and import (US\$ per container)

All documentation  
Inland transport and handling  
Customs clearance and inspections  
Port and terminal handling  
Official costs only, no bribes

The traded product:

- Is not hazardous nor includes military items.
- Does not require refrigeration or any other special environment.
- Do not require any special phytosanitary or environmental safety standards other than accepted international standards.
- Is one of the economy's leading export or import products.
- Is transported in a dry-cargo, 20-foot full container load.

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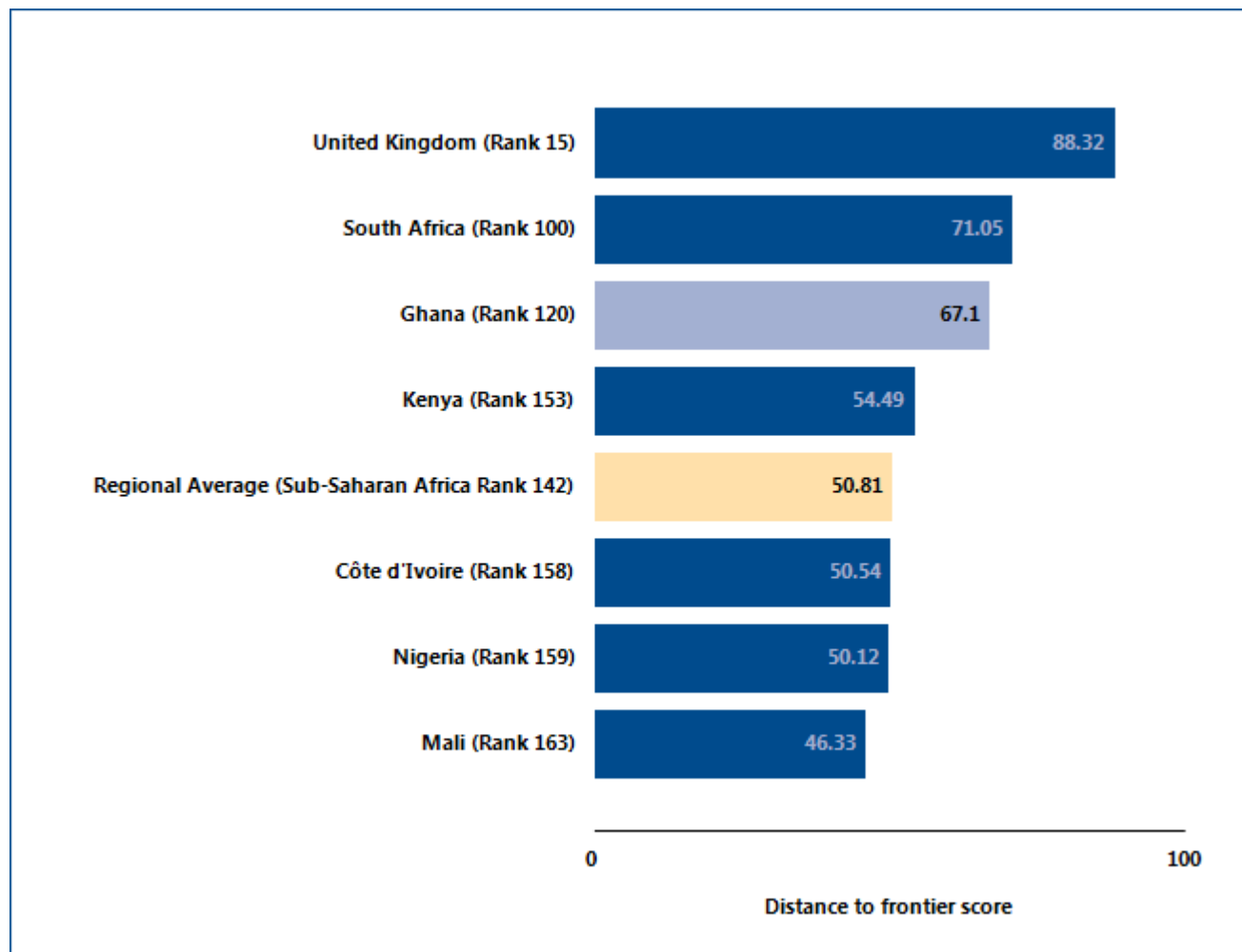
### Where does the economy stand today?

What does it take to export or import in Ghana? According to data collected by *Doing Business*, exporting a standard container of goods requires 6 documents, takes 19.0 days and costs \$875.0. Importing the same container of goods requires 7 documents, takes 41.0 days and costs \$1360.0 (see the summary of four predefined stages and documents at the end of this chapter for details). Most indicator sets refer to a case scenario in the largest business city of an economy, except for 11 economies for which the data are a

population-weighted average of the 2 largest business cities. See the chapter on distance to frontier and ease of doing business ranking at the end of this profile for more details.

Globally, Ghana stands at 120 in the ranking of 189 economies on the ease of trading across borders (figure 9.1). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide other useful information for assessing how easy it is for a business in Ghana to export and import goods.

Figure 9.1 How Ghana and comparator economies rank on the ease of trading across borders



Source: *Doing Business* database.