STRUCTURE OF SERVICE SECTOR OF GEORGIA

MARIKA PIRVELI

University of Szczecin, Faculty of Geosciences, POLAND e-mail: mariam.pirveli@usz.edu.pl

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, interest in Georgia has been growing. The country belongs to the Eastern Neighborhood area. Polish and international organizations systematically announce competitions, based on sharing experience and knowledge in the field of institutional and local government administration, education, science, business; most of international aid supports Georgia in the transformation process and helps to adapt the local soft and hard infrastructure to the requirements of the free market. Researchers, universities and business entities often are in need to get up to databases giving a picture of this country and region. The purpose of this text is to present the structure of the current statistical information regularly collected by the Georgia's statistical office (Geostat) and available in the digitized space. This review paper provides general information about Georgia, including a historical feature with an emphasis on the experience of creating databases. Next, it presents the structure of statistical data collected by the GeoStat.Ge, discussing in detail the services sector. Through the reviewed data structures, it draws attention to several properties, that result from the specificity of the Georgian national economy.

Introduction

Georgia is a small country, inhabited by different nationalities and belonging to different religions, most of which are Georgian. It's area is 69.700 sq.km and the population – 3,729.6 thousand persons (by January 1,

2018).¹ Britannica describes Georgia as a country of Transcaucasia located at the eastern end of the Black Sea on the southern flanks of the main crest of the Greater Caucasus Mountains. It is bounded on the north and northeast by Russia, on the east and southeast by Azerbaijan, on the south by Armenia and Turkey, and on the west by the Black Sea. Georgia includes three ethnic enclaves: Abkhazia, Ajaria and South Ossetia. The capital of Georgia is Tbilisi.

The roots of the Georgian people extend deep in history; their cultural and urban heritage is equally ancient and rich. In Hellenistic times here was the area of Greek colonization, and later there was the province of the Roman Empire. This means that all institutions inseparably associated with Greek polis were represented in Hellenistic cities in Georgia (Pirveli, 2002). During the medieval period a powerful Georgian kingdom existed, reaching its height between the 10th and 13th centuries. According to the historical chronicles collection of statistical data started in here just in 13th century. In the years of 1254–1258 Khan Arghun of Mongolia conducted the census of the population of Georgia and inventory of their assets (Chkhikvishvili, 1982, p. 72). Since 1689 chiefs of military-territorial units began conducting the population censuses in their regions once per seven years (Dzidziguri, Abashidze, Alegsidze, 1985). The surviving books of XVII–XVIII cc. contain the data obtained from these censuses. After a long passé of Turkish and Persian domination, country was annexed by the Russian Empire in the 19th century. On November 15, 1918 a temporary Bureau of Statistics was set up at the Ministry of Agriculture (Atanelishvili, 1994, p. 159). The functions of the Bureau included developing the materials for conducting an agricultural inventory, was recording the land bank and determining the norms for its distribution (Atanelishvili, 1994, p. 169). On July 25, 1919 under the Law adopted by the Constituent Assembly, the Central Statistical Committee of the Republic was set up at the Ministry of Agriculture. The Committee was tasked to manage all the statistical works of state significance. An independent Georgian state existed from 1918 to 1921, when it was incorporated into the Soviet Union. After the Soviet occupation, on April 3, 1921 the Revolutionary Committee issued the Decree on Establishing the Central Statistics Division of Soviet Republic of Georgia and on July 4, 1921 the first charter for the state statistical bodies of Georgia was published (News Archive, 2017). The seventy-year Sovietization ended in 1989, when the country declared sovereignty on November 19, 1989. It was the beginning of economic blockade and, in the same time, of profound changes aimed at building free market structures on the site of a centrally controlled economy. The period of economic blockage was reflected in the full disappearance of energy, water supply, heating, electricity, industry, services and jobs, giving the inhabitants basic living conditions (Strachota, 2007; Sadłocha, 2017). In addition, civil wars began, which did not favor changes in the political system and the economy (Dabrowski, 2004).

The number of Georgian population in the 1990–2018 period is characterized by decreasing trend. This is about the data released by Geostat, according to which the number of population reduced from 5,424,400 in 1990 to 3,729,600 in 2018. During this period there was declined both, urban and rural areas residents. Residents of Tbilisi in 2018 (1,158,677 people), in comparison to 1989 (1,263,489 people), decreased by about 100,000 people, while in regions the decline exceeded 1,088,000 people. In the same period increased urbanization rate percent from 53.8 percent to 58.3 percent. According to experts, the main reason for population reducing is increased mortality, birth rate and migration abroad (Shavishvili, Kavelashvili, 2018). Probably, the reason for the increased urbanization rate is not the urbanization but the depopulation of the village and the intensification of internal migrations from the countryside to the cities. The distribution of the population to urban centers in recent years, as the rural population

¹ As a result of the seizure of Abkhazia and South Ossetia by Russia, Georgia controls de facto 57,250 sq.km of its area.

has decreased by about 1/4 since the beginning of the 21st century. More than half the population lives in cities. Further, a considerable portion of the population, that is defined as rural, is in fact engaged in the urban economy of nearby cities (more than 1/3 de facto live in Tbilisi). Enterprises for primary processing of agricultural products have been constructed in the villages, while ore-processing plants and light industry also are increasing in number. Table 1 shows investment in fixed assets in enterprises of trade, repair of vehicles, personal and household goods by regions. The best turnover (not Tbilisi) is in the region Adjaria, Imereti and Sanegrelo, where light industry is developed. The number of rural inhabitants remains there as high as it is because of the wide distribution of labor-intensive branches of the economy such as the tea and subtropical crop plantations.

Table 1. Investment in fixed assets in enterprises of trade, repair of vehicles, personal and household goods by regions

	Georgia	of which										
Year		Tbilisi	Adjara	Guria	Imereti	Kakheti	Mtskheta- Mtianeti	Racha- Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	Samegrelo- Zemo Svaneti	Samtskhe- Javakheti	Kvemo Kartli	Shida Kartli
							mln GEL					
2006	146.0	124.8	5.5	0.3	2.2	2.0	3.6	0.0	4.7	0.3	1.4	1.2
2007	202.7	178.5	8.2	-	6.5	0.4	-	-	6.3	0.3	1.6	0.9
2008	241.5	222.3	5.3	0.3	4.2	1.5	0.0	0.0	4.9	0.3	2.1	0.6
2009	260.4	247.6	2.2	0.1	3.6	2.2	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.8	1.2	1.4
2010	501.9	489.3	3.9	0.1	2.4	0.8	0.3	0.0	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.4
2011	273.9	251.8	10.4	0.1	3.5	1.4	0.0	-	1.0	2.3	1.7	1.6
2012	234.8	192.3	14.1	0.1	6.1	0.7	7.0	0.0	1.0	5.4	5.2	3.0
2013	453.6	388.8	25.6	0.3	5.4	9.6	2.0	0.0	5.1	2.0	2.8	11.9
2014	425.5	371.3	17.5	1.1	8.3	6.0	1.3	0.0	6.5	2.0	8.4	3.0
2015	595.6	541.7	27.1	0.5	6.2	3.0	0.7	-	2.0	1.0	8.8	4.7
2016	417.6	348.6	23.5	0.7	10.0	8.4	1.8	0.2	8.4	3.3	8.5	4.3
2017	634.2	560.3	43.1	0.3	12.9	2.1	1.4	0.0	1.0	1.2	9.4	2.5

Source: GeoStat.Ge (2019e).

The great achievement of the transformation period is the fact, that the vast majority of jobs are produced in the non-state sector; even some branches of the national economy are fully located only on the private sector (e.g. hotel industry, etc.). Figure 1 shows the number of population and employment by institutional sectors (state and non-state sector). More than half of the population remains unemployed, however, the group of registered unemployed is small. The majority of employees are people working in the private sector (mostly self-employment). The lion's share of employees are over 35; however, there are some sections that have been fully rejuvenated and employ people under 35 (e.g. government administration).

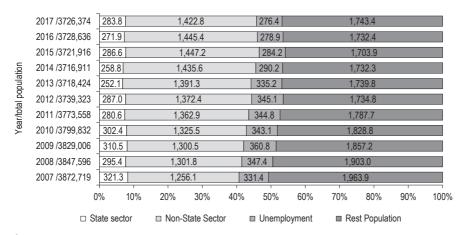


Figure 1. Number of population and employment by institutional sectors (data by January 1. Elaboration based on GeoStat.Ge) (in thousands)

Source: Integrated Household Survey (2016); Labour Force Survey (2017).

GeoStat.Ge transforming activity

After collapse of the Soviet Union, the need to make fundamental changes to all the tools and methods arose along with the need to identify different, alternative sources for obtaining the data. It became important to develop and introduce the indicators characteristic for a market economy. Since 11 December 2009 the Law of Georgia on Official Statistics provides a legal basis for its functioning; all statistical activities are carried out by an independent body of National Statistics Office of Georgia. Table 2 shows the most important legislative changes that have made the structural transformation of the current statistical office, that for 70 years was a typical Soviet office.

Table 2. Chronology of key legislative changes structuralizing the statistical office of Georgia After collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990s

Date	Key legislative changes and international projects				
1991–1995	According to the Law of Georgia, dd 27 February 1991, on the Structure and the Rules of Operations of the Executive Power, the statistical activities in the country were carried out by the Social and Economic Information Committee established at the Supreme Council of Georgia.				
1995	By the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers, dd 3 April 1995, was established the State Fund of Statistics Development in order to support and further develop the facilities for carrying out statistical works.				
1995–1997	The State Department of Social and Economic Information carried out the statistical works according to the Law of Georgia, dd 8 December 1995, on the Structure and the Rules of Operations of the Executive Power.				
1996–1997	At the Ordinance of the President of Georgia, from April 1996 to October 1997 the state temporary commission was set up in order to further develop the state statistics. High officials representing the Ministry of Economics of Georgia, State Department of Social and Economic Information, National Bank of Georgia, Ministry of Finance of Georgia and the State Chancellery served on the Commission.				
1997–2004	The State Department of Statistics of Georgia used to carry out the statistical activities.				
1998–2009	The Law on Statistics, adopted in 1997, was applied.				
2004–2009	The Department of Statistics was merged with the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia; all the statistical activities were carried out as a subordinated body of the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia.				

Source: based on: GeoStat (2019a).

GeoStat.Ge carries out its functions taking into account the international methodology and standards (Methodology, 2019). Georgian statistical office bases its methodology on the methodology provided by the European Communities, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations and World Bank (System of National Accounts 2008, 2009). They have been implemented mostly through 22 international projects; they are described in table 3 by duration, project title and financing organization (Table 3).

 Table 3. Chronology of international projects structuralizing the statistical office of Georgia

Duration	International projects (Donor organization)					
1 V 2011–1 V 2014	Cooperation project between National Statistics of Georgia (Geostat) and Statistics Sweden (Donor: Sida. Statistics Sweden).					
10 I 2006–31 XII 2013	Data collection and analyses project (under USDA Caucasus agricultural development initiative) (Donor: USDA – United States Department of Agriculture).					
1 2011–1 VII 2013	Bilateral cooperation project between Statistics Netherlands and National Statistics Office of Georgia (Donor: The government of the Netherlands).					
1 2011–1 VII 2013	Bilateral Cooperation Project between Armenia and Georgia within the framework of International Global Comparisons Program by 2011 indicators (Donor: The World Bank).					
VII 2014–XII 2014	Support the development of the Georgian System of Statistics in the field of regional accounts. Transfer of knowledge required to carry out calculations of selected macroeconomic categories by regions (Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland).					
1 IX 2012-3 VI 2013	Implementation of the Accelerated Data Program (ADP) in Georgia (Donor: OECD).					
15 XI 2013–17 XI 2017	Global research on Child labor Measurment and Policy Development (MAP) (Donor: The United States Department of Labor).					
1 I 2011–31 XII 2017	Support to improved data collection and analysis on population issues for integration of population. (Donor: Government of Sweden (through Sida – Statistics Sweden), UNFPA).					
24 IV 2017–30 X 2017	Energy consumption in households survey. (Donor: Energy Community Secretariat of Czech Republic)					
2014–2015	Support the development of the Georgian System of Statistics in the field of regional statistics (Implementing agency: Central Statistics Office of Poland).					
2 I 2015–31 XII 2015	Support for the development of Georgian System of Statistics in the field of environment statistics (Implementing agency Central Statistical Office of Poland).					
1 X 2013–30 IX 2017	Georgian Agricultural Policy Initiative (Donor: USDA – United States Department of Agriculture).					
1 III 2013–1 III 2016	European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD Georgia. Implementing agency FAO).					
1 V 2015–30 VI 2018	Cooperation project between National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat) and Statistics Sweden (Donor: Sida. Statistics Sweden).					
5 I 2009-present	National Accounts Statistics Mission (Donor: IMF).					
1 III 2017–31 III 2018	National Survey on Violence Against women in Georgia (Donor: UN Women).					
27 VII 2015–18 III 2018	Statistical Capacity Development for Social Inclusion and Gender Equality (Donor: ADB).					
10 I 2017–30 IX 2018	Data collection and analyses project (under USDA Caucasus agricultural development initiative) (Donor: USDA – United States Department of Agriculture).					
1 I 2017–31 III 2019	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey – 2018 Georgia MICS (Donor: UNICEF).					
6 II 2017–31 III 2019	Provision of Statistical Services for Purchasing Power Parities (PPP) for Georgia and Ukraine (Donor: Eurostat (via ICOI institute).					
2016–2020	ENI SEIS II EAST – Implementation of the Principles and Practices of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the Eastern Partnership Countries Funded by European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and Implemented by the European Environment Agency.					

Source: based on: GeoStat (2019b, c).

Organizational structure and main areas of statistical data

The head of the statistical office is the Executive Director. The organizational structure consists of two Deputy Executive Director, Board, Advisory Board and 11 departments organized in three sectors, divided into 34 branches. They are:

- I. Executive Director, together with the Deputies, Board and Advisory Board manage:
 - 1. Department of Strategic Planning, Coordination and Communication (with five branches),
 - 2. Information Technology Department (with two branches),
 - 3. International Audit Department.
- II. One of the Deputy Executive Director supervises the work of the:
 - 4. Social Statistics Department (with three branches),
 - 5. Price Statistics Departments (with two branches),
 - 6. National Accounts Department (with two branches),
 - 7. External Trade and Foreign Investments Statistics Department (with two branches).
- III. Another Deputy Executive Director conducts:
 - 8. Population Census and Demographic Statistics Department,
 - 9. Agricultural and Environmental Statistics Department (with two branches),
 - 10. Business Statistics Department (with five branches),
 - 11. Regional Offices (with eleven branches).

Collected and compiled by 11 departments (34 branches) statistical information is published in the form of 23 blocks, called Main Statistics (Table 4).

 Table 4. Structure of Main Statistics GeoStat.Ge

Main Statistics	Statistical information			
1	2			
GDP and Other Indicators of National Accounts	Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Supply and use tables. Gross National Income (GNI). GDP Calculation Methodology. Publications (Quarterly). Publications (Annual)			
Price Indices	Consumer Price Index (Inflation). Producer and Import Price Indices. Inflation Calculation Methodology. Publications (Monthly)			
External Trade	Georgian exports by countries. Georgian exports by country groups. Georgian exports by commodity groups (HS 4 digit level). Georgian exports by commodity groups (HS 6 digit level). Export of major commodity groups. Georgian Exports by BEC (Broad Economic Categories). Georgian Exports by SITC section. Exports of Georgia by mode of transport. Exports of Georgia by kind of economic activities (NACE Rev.2). Exports of Georgia by size of the Trader's subject. Georgian Imports by countries. Georgian imports by country groups. Georgian imports by commodity groups (HS 4 digit level). Georgian imports by commodity groups (HS 6 digit level). Import of major commodity groups. Georgian imports by BEC (Broad Economic Categories). Georgian imports by SITC section. Imports of Georgia by mode of transport. Imports of Georgia by kind of economic activities (NACE Rev.2). Imports of Georgia by size of the Trader's subject. Exports and imports of Georgia by months			
Foreign Direct Investments	Foreign Direct Investments by Countries. Foreign Direct Investments by Economic Sectors. Foreign Direct Investments by Information Sources. Foreign Direct Investments by Regions. Foreign Direct Investments in Georgia by Components. Foreign Direct Investments in Georgia for 1996–2018. Foreign Direct Investments Position (Integrated format). For more details see the web site of National Bank			
Employment and Wages	Employment and Unemployment. Labour Force Statistics. Wages. Publications (Annual)			
Population	Population. Birth. Deaths. Natural Increase. Migration. Marriages. Divorces. Summary vital statistics, January-June 2018 (Preliminary Data). Annual Publications			

1	2
Standard of Living, Subsistence Minimum	Subsistence Minimum. Subsistence Minimum Calculation Methodology for Working Age Male. Incomes of Household. Expenditures of Household. Poverty Indicators. Publications (Annual)
Justice Statistics	Criminal Justice Statistics. Administrative Violations
Healthcare and Social Protection	Healthcare. Social protection
Education and Culture	Education. Culture
Business Statistics	Turnover. Production value. Number of persons employed. Number of employees. Average monthly remuneration of employed persons. Value added. Intermediate consumption. Personnel costs. Total purchases of goods and services. Purchases of goods and services for resale. Investment in fixed assets. Methodology for Calculation of Key Indicators of Business Statistics
Business Register	By kind of economic activity. By ownership type. By legal status. By regions Business demography indicators
Agriculture, Environment and Food Security	Agriculture. Food Security. Environment Publications (Annual)
Industry, Construction and Energy Statistics	Industry. Construction. Energy Statistics
Service Statistics	Trade. Hotels and Restaurants. Transport. Other Service Statistics. Activities of Economic Agents Engaged in Organization of Markets (2017)
Government Finance Statistics	General Government budget. Central Government budget. For more details see the web site of Ministry of Finance
Monetary Statistics	Money supply by aggregates. Structure of Domestic credits. Deposits. Exchange rates. Pawnshop survey results. For more details see the web site of National Bank
IMF SDDS	International Monetary Data. Advance Release Calendar. National Summary Data Page. IMF Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB)
Gender Statistics	Women and men in Georgia, 2017, 2015, 2013, 2011
Regional Statistics	Regional Statistics. Population. Economic Activity. Business Sector. Industry. Construction. Service Areas. Standard of Living. Health Care and Social Protection. Education. Culture. Infrastructure. Agriculture. Environment. Foreign Direct Investments. Gross Domestic Product
Tourism Statistics	Domestic Tourism. Inbound Tourism
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Innovations	Information and Communication Technologies Innovation Activity of Enterprises (2013–2015, aggregated) Innovation Activity of Enterprises

Source: GeoStat (2019d).

On the office's website (www.geostat.ge) also other information is available in applications like: Database, Publications, Products, Methodology, Meta-Data. (Other icons – About Us, Calendar, Links, Service and fees – are of organizational nature). For example: under the icon *Publications* are issued:

- Quarterly Bulletin (from 4Q-2015 present),
- Gross Domestic Product of Georgia (from 2016 present),
- Foreign Direct Investments (from 4Q-2016 present),
- Small and Medium Business in Georgia (2009).
- Agriculture of Georgia (from 2012 present),
- Producer Price Index in Georgia (2018).

Transformation and fundamental restructuring of the Economy and of the Geostat (the institution, which documents the condition, resources, values and potential of the whole state and its regions) is continued and is in the process. But one can already notice, that National Economy, once dominated by the state sector, explicitly changes its structure and strongly arrives examples of self-employment (Figure 1).

Structure of Service statistics

Under the service statistics are treated: Trade, Hotels and Restaurants, Transport, Other Service Statistics, Activities of Economic Agents Engaged in Organization of Markets. They are all described according to a common formula. In few cases, the formula is a supplement in the form appropriate for a given form of information.

 Table 5. Data structure of the site Service Statistics

Service statistics	Table of Contents	Each entry in the Table of Contents is described by:	Download statistics for each entry
1	2	3	4
Trade	trade, repair of vehicles, personal & household goods by classification of economic activity NACE rev.1.1, wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles by classification of economic activity NACE rev.2	- turnover, - production value, - number of persons employed, - number of employees, - average monthly remuneration of employed persons, - value added, - intermediate consumption, - personnel costs, - total purchases of goods and services, - purchases of goods and services for resale, - investment in fixed assets	by size of enterprises according to the old methodology, by size of enterprises according to the new methodology, by kind of economic activity, by ownership type, by organizational legal forms, by regions
hotels and Restaurants	hotels and restaurants by classification of economic activity NACE rev.1.1, accommodation and Food Service Activities by classification of economic activity NACE rev.2	as above	as above
	- information on hotels and Hotel Type Enterprises)	unnecessary cell	number of visitors in hotels and hotel type enterprises by country and purpose of arrival in 2017, main indicators of hotels and hotel type enterprises (2017)
Transport	transportation and communication by classification of economic activity NACE rev.1.1, transportation and storage by classification of economic activity NACE rev.2	- turnover, - production value, - number of persons employed, - number of employees, - average monthly remuneration of employed persons, - value added, - intermediate consumption, - personnel costs, - total purchases of goods and services, - purchases of goods and services for resale, - investment in fixed assets	by size of enterprises according to the old methodology, by size of enterprises according to the new methodology, by kind of economic activity, by ownership type, by organizational legal forms, by regions

1	2	3	4
Other Service Statistics	other Service Statistics Section by classification of economic activities NACE rev 1.1	real estate, renting and business activity, community, social and personal service activities, education, health and social work	- remark (text description)
	other Service Statistics Section by classification of economic activities NACE rev.2)	- real estate activities, - professional, scientific and technical activities, - administrative and support service activities, - education, - human health and social work activities, - information and communication, - arts, entertainment and recreation, - other service activities	as above
Activities of Economic Agents Engaged in Organization of Markets	unnecessary cell	unnecessary cell	- number of markets and fairs by organizational legal forms in Georgia, - number of markets and fairs by ownership type in Georgia, - number of markets and fairs by type in Georgia, - number of markets and fairs on days of trade, - average annual number of employed persons, - financial indices of markets and fairs, - number of market-place and sellers on the markets and fairs). They are all described according to a common formula. in some cases, the pattern is complement in the form relevant to the forms of information.

Source: http://geostat.ge/index.php?action=page&p_id=299&lang=eng.

Conclusions

For Georgia November 19, 1989 was end of the seventy-year Sovietization and the beginning of economic blockade and, in the same time, of fundamental changes aimed at building free market structures on the site of a centrally controlled economy. Paradoxically, the most painful for Georgian society reality, turned out to be the simplest way to overcome the Soviet economy. The author has in mind the economic blockade imposed by Moscow as a punishment for the exodus from the soviet union. Full disappearance of workplaces in industry and lake of energy, water supply, heating, electricity, services and jobs started a long dark era and reduced the number of inhabitants by half; but also collapse of economy initiated the process, when employment and activity in the private sector dominates the public.

Still ongoing political transformation is supported by the international society and international organizations from Sweden, Norway, USA, Poland, Czech Republic, England, Netherlands (see Table 3). Information available on the website of Geostat is very different from the Soviet office, but many things still have to be fixed. The best evidence of the progress of changes, availability and quality of service is the fact that Georgia is recognized as a leader

of liberal economic reforms in the South Caucasus region. The regulatory system offers favorable conditions for running a business, which is confirmed annually by high quotations in Doing Business ranking (9th place in the Doing business 2018 report). "Georgia is the only lower-middle-income one on the list [tab.6]. To date, no low-income economy has reached the top 20 group. [...] Having few bureaucratic hurdles, robust legal institutions and laws and regulations that are based on international good practices is what matters most for a good performance in the ease of doing business ranking. [...] Georgia, with a ranking of 9, has implemented the highest number of business regulation reforms since the launch of Doing Business in 2003 – a total of 47." (Doing business, 2018, p. 3).

Table 6. Ease of doing business ranking

DB 2018 Rank	Economy	DFT score	DFT change	
1	New Zealand	86.55	-0.18	
2	Singapore	84.57	+0.04	
3	Denmark	84.06	-0.01	
4	Korea, Rep	83.92	0.00	
5	Hong Kong SAR, China	83.44	+0.29	
6	United States	82.54	-0.01	
7	United Kingdom	82.22	-0.12	
8	Norway	82.16	-0.25	
9	Georgia	82.04	+2.12	
10	Sweden	81.27	+0.03	
[]	[]	[]	[]	
190	Somalia	19.98	-0.31	

Source: Doing business (2018), p. 4.

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