

OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators – United States

To help governments improve their border procedures, reduce trade costs, boost trade flows and reap greater benefits from international trade, OECD has developed a set of **trade facilitation indicators** that identify areas for action and enable the potential impact of reforms to be assessed.

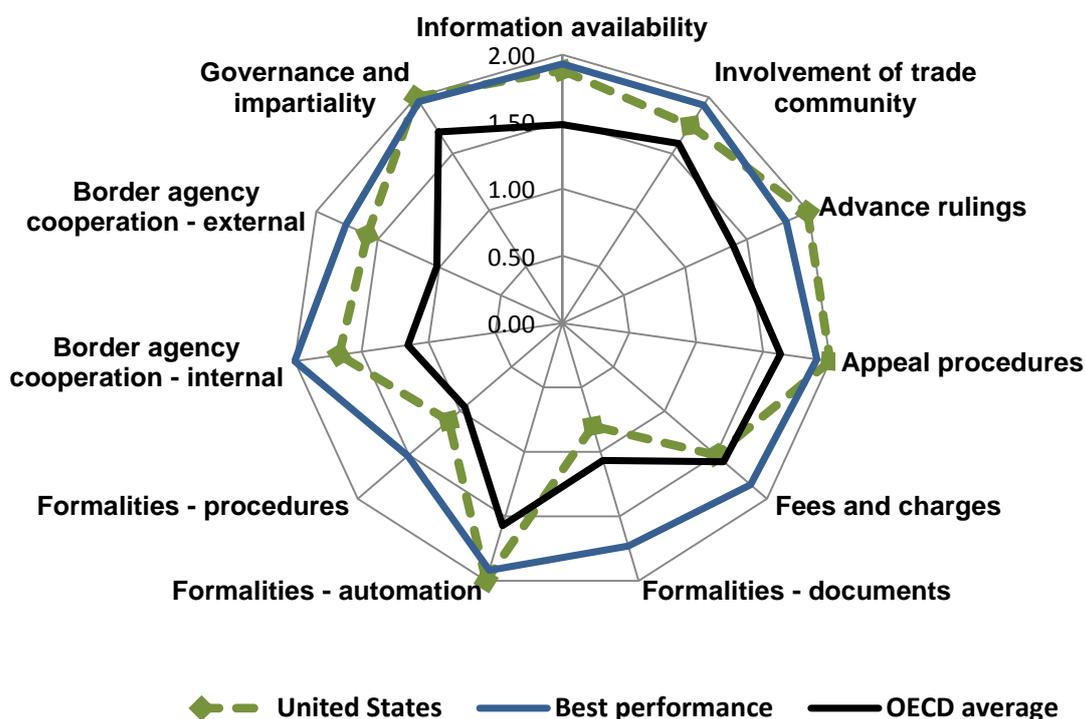
Estimates based on the indicators provide a basis for governments to prioritise trade facilitation actions and mobilise technical assistance and capacity-building efforts for developing countries in a more targeted way.

OECD analysis shows that trade facilitation measures can benefit all countries in their role as exporters as well as importers, allowing better access to inputs for production and greater participation in the international trading system.

United States' trade facilitation performance

- United States performs significantly better than the OECD average in the areas of **information availability, involvement of trade community, advance rulings, appeal procedures, automation, border agency co-operation (internal and external)** and **governance and impartiality**, according to OECD trade facilitation indicators.
- United States' performance for the **simplification and harmonisation of documents** is below the OECD average.

United States' trade facilitation performance: OECD indicators
Latest available data, where 2 = best performance



OECD average includes the indicators' values for 25 OECD countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States. The analysis is based on country replies received by June 2010 and the set of indicators as constructed for OECD countries in "Trade Facilitation Indicators: The Impact on Trade Costs" (OECD Trade Policy Paper No. 118, 2011). "Best performance" denotes the average of the top quartile for each of the trade facilitation areas covered, across all countries within the database.

Areas for action in trade facilitation

OECD quantitative analysis for the group of developed countries, which includes the United States, shows that the areas impacting trade flows and trade costs the most are: **information availability, advance rulings, fees and charges, automation and streamlining of procedures.**

Taking into account the trade flow increase and costs reduction potential of the policy areas highlighted by the quantitative analysis, the United States would see increased trade volumes and reduced trade costs from continued improvements in the following areas:

Fees and charges:

- Reduce the number and diversity of the fees and charges collected.

Formalities – Documents:

- Expand the acceptance of copies of documents in cases of electronic lodging
- Reduce the number of documents required for import and export, as they remain higher than the OECD average.

Formalities – Procedures:

- Publish the average clearance time in a consistent manner and on a periodic basis, for all major Customs offices.
- Continue further efforts for overall reduction of the clearance time.
- Increase the number and types of benefits granted to authorised operators.
- Continue overall simplification of procedures in terms of both time and costs.

OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators

OECD has developed the following indicators to assess trade facilitation policies.

- *Information Availability:* Publication of trade information, including on internet; enquiry points.
- *Involvement of the Trade Community:* Consultations with traders.
- *Advance Rulings:* Prior statements by the administration to requesting traders concerning the classification, origin, valuation method, etc., applied to specific goods at the time of importation; the rules and process applied to such statements.
- *Appeal Procedures:* The possibility and modalities to appeal administrative decisions by border agencies.
- *Fees and Charges:* Disciplines on the fees and charges imposed on imports and exports.
- *Formalities-Documents:* Simplification of trade documents; harmonisation in accordance with international standards; acceptance of copies.
- *Formalities-Automation:* Electronic exchange of data; automated border procedures; use of risk management.
- *Formalities-Procedures:* Streamlining of border controls; single submission points for all required documentation (single windows); post-clearance audits; authorised economic operators.
- *Internal Co-operation:* Co-operation between various border agencies of the country; control delegation to Customs authorities.
- *External Co-operation:* Co-operation with neighbouring and third countries.
- *Governance and Impartiality:* Customs structures and functions; accountability; ethics policy.

Further reading

Read about the methodology, sources and findings from the OECD trade facilitation indicators in these two papers, available on our website: oecd.org/trade/facilitation

- **Trade Facilitation Indicators: The Potential Impact of Trade Facilitation on Developing Countries' Trade** (OECD Trade Policy Paper No. 144, 2013)
- **Trade Facilitation Indicators: The Impact on Trade Costs** – covering OECD member countries (OECD Trade Policy Paper No. 118, 2011)