

# COUNTRY PROFILE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

## Arab Business Legislative Frameworks Syrian Arab Republic Profile

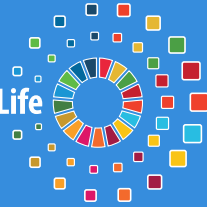


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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

# Arab Business Legislative Frameworks

## Syrian Arab Republic Profile



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# Country Profile

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



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## Summary



The Syrian Arab Republic, formed after independence from French occupation in 1945, has a legal system based and inspired by the Ottoman, French and Islamic legal code. The Syrian Arab Republic is considered a civil law country with a constitution, yet with a heavy dominance of military and security courts, while certain aspects of personal status are handled by religious courts. The Syrian Arab Republic is currently experiencing a decade-long civil war.



## Competition



- The Syrian Arab Republic has passed **LEGISLATION ON COMPETITION**, particularly over the past decade, notably **Law No. 7 of 2008**;
- By extension, the Syrian Arab Republic also established a **COMPETITION COUNCIL** that is directly **embedded in the Ministry of Economy**, hence regressing the Council's autonomy and independence;
- Despite having legislation, **THERE REMAIN GAPS** in **clarity** and **coherence** of **definitions of the themes and terms**.

## Foreign Direct Investment



- The Syrian Arab Republic has developed **LEGISLATIVE DECREE NO. 8 OF 2007** on **investment promotion**, and has been amending and updating the regulations ever since. Moreover, **Legislative Decree No. 29 of 2011**, or the Company Law, is a further indication of **progress** in that regard;
- To that effect, Syria has a developed **FDI LEGISLATION SYSTEM**, which includes **legislation, enforcement processes**, and **institutions** to approve, assess and manage **foreign investments** into the country;
- The Syrian Arab Republic has a **RESTRICTION ON FDI** in certain sectors, particularly in the field of **military/security**. However, there seem to be **indications** that it will lax these measures for its **developmental needs** in the **post-conflict era**.



## Anti-Corruption



- The Syrian Arab Republic has **TWO LEGISLATIONS** that relate to **tackling corruption**: **Law No. 3 of 2012** on **Punishment of Economic and Monetary Crimes**, and **Law No. 33 of 2005** on **Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing**;
- The Syrian Arab Republic has formed an **ANTI-CORRUPTION AUTHORITY**, yet the **implementation** of its policies **varies** according to **political** and **state considerations**.

## Consumer Protection



- The Syrian Arab Republic has developed **TWO LAWS** related to consumer protection: **Law No. 2 of 2008** and **Law No. 14 of 2015**;
- As a consequence of that law, Syria has established the **MINISTRY OF INTERNAL TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION** that has the **legislative characteristics** to **support enforcement**;
- Yet, there remain **MASSIVE GAPS** in **implementing** and **enforcing the law** due to a **lack of awareness** and **training** of government officials and the society at large on **consumer protection rights**.

## Main Headings

● Very Strong  
 ● Strong  
 ● Developed  
 ● Moderate  
 ● Basic  
 ● Weak  
 ● Very Weak

### COMPETITION

● **MODERATE**

Anti-Trust and Competition Laws	<span style="color: red;">●</span> Moderate
Anti-Dominance and Monopolisation Laws	<span style="color: red;">●</span> Moderate
Cartels and Anti-Competitive Agreements	<span style="color: red;">●</span> Moderate
Competition Enforcement Practices	<span style="color: lightgreen;">●</span> Developed
International Trade Agreements	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Weak
Liberalisation and Competition Intervention in Regulated Sectors	<span style="color: red;">●</span> Moderate
Merger Regulatory Regime	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Strong
Labor Protection	<span style="color: red;">●</span> Moderate




### FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

● **MODERATE**

Banking Regulations	<span style="color: lightgreen;">●</span> Developed
Macroeconomic Policies	<span style="color: lightgreen;">●</span> Developed
Investment Regulatory Framework	<span style="color: red;">●</span> Moderate
Incentivisation Schemes	<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Basic
Bi-lateral Treaties	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Strong





<b>ANTI-CORRUPTION</b>		<b>BASIC</b>
Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Public Sector	Moderate	
Anti-Bribery and Whistle Blow Laws	Weak	
Budgeting and Public Expenditures	Moderate	
Digital Government	Very Weak	
Open Government and Transparency	Very Weak	
Public Procurement Standards	Developed	

<b>CONSUMER PROTECTION</b>		<b>DEVELOPED</b>
Physical Safety Regulations	Developed	
Protection of Consumers' Economic Interests	Very Strong	
Measures Enabling Consumers to Obtain Redress	Developed	
Promotion of Sustainable Consumption	Basic	

## Sub-categories

● Very Strong  
 ● Strong  
 ● Developed  
 ● Moderate  
 ● Basic  
 ● Weak  
 ● Very Weak

### COMPETITION

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Strong	
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Basic	
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Very Strong	
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Basic	
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	<span style="color: lightgreen;">●</span> Developed	
Exemptions	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Very Weak	
Accessibility/Transparency	<span style="color: lightgreen;">●</span> Developed	

### FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Strong	
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Basic	
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Very Strong	
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	<span style="color: lightgreen;">●</span> Developed	
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	<span style="color: red;">●</span> Moderate	
Exemptions	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Very Weak	
Accessibility/Transparency	<span style="color: red;">●</span> Moderate	

## ANTI-CORRUPTION



Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	Moderate
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	Weak
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	Moderate
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	Moderate
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	Moderate
Exemptions	Basic
Accessibility/Transparency	Weak

## CONSUMER PROTECTION



Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	Very Strong
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	Developed
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	Strong
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	Moderate
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	Developed
Exemptions	Developed
Accessibility/Transparency	Basic



