



30<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION

# 2024 INDEX OF **ECONOMIC FREEDOM**

Anthony B. Kim

## RANKING THE WORLD BY ECONOMIC FREEDOM

Rank	Country	Overall Score	Rank	Country	Overall Score	Rank	Country	Overall Score
1	Singapore	83.5	65	Vanuatu	62.2	128	Niger	52.3
2	Switzerland	83.0	66	Kazakhstan	62.0	129	Malawi	52.1
3	Ireland	82.6	67	Bosnia and Herzegovina	62.0	130	Nepal	52.1
4	Taiwan	80.0	68	Mexico	62.0	131	Russia	52.0
5	Luxembourg	79.2	69	Saudi Arabia	61.9	132	Comoros	52.0
6	New Zealand	77.8	70	Azerbaijan	61.6	133	Lesotho	51.9
7	Denmark	77.8	71	North Macedonia	61.4	134	Burkina Faso	51.9
8	Estonia	77.8	72	Hungary	61.2	135	Rwanda	51.6
9	Sweden	77.5	73	Belize	61.2	136	Chad	51.4
10	Norway	77.5	74	Micronesia	61.0	137	Tajikistan	51.3
11	Netherlands	77.3	75	Kosovo	60.6	138	Kiribati	51.3
12	Finland	76.3	76	Mongolia	60.6	139	Togo	50.9
13	Australia	76.2	77	São Tomé and Príncipe	60.5	140	Uganda	50.7
14	Korea, South	73.1	78	Seychelles	60.4	141	Mozambique	50.7
15	Lithuania	72.9	79	Trinidad and Tobago	60.4	142	Laos	50.6
16	Canada	72.4	80	Paraguay	60.1	143	Timor-Leste	50.2
17	Cyprus	72.2	81	Italy	60.1	144	Liberia	49.9
18	Germany	72.1	82	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	59.8	145	Argentina	49.9
19	Mauritius	71.5	83	Montenegro	59.7	146	Egypt	49.7
20	Latvia	71.5	84	Colombia	59.2	147	Pakistan	49.5
21	Chile	71.4	85	Tonga	59.2	148	Papua New Guinea	49.4
22	United Arab Emirates	71.1	86	Tanzania	59.1	149	Sri Lanka	49.2
23	Iceland	70.5	87	Thailand	59.0	150	Tunisia	48.8
24	Czech Republic	70.2	88	Philippines	59.0	151	China	48.5
25	United States	70.1	89	Honduras	58.6	152	Zambia	48.4
26	Israel	70.1	90	Kuwait	58.5	153	Belarus	48.4
27	Uruguay	69.8	91	Côte d'Ivoire	58.4	154	Lebanon	48.3
28	Qatar	68.8	92	Jordan	58.3	155	Haiti	48.2
29	Portugal	68.7	93	Gambia, The	58.2	156	Ethiopia	47.9
30	United Kingdom	68.6	94	Fiji	58.0	157	Congo, Rep.	47.8
31	Bulgaria	68.5	95	Benin	57.7	158	Maldives	47.8
32	Georgia	68.4	96	Namibia	57.5	159	Equatorial Guinea	47.7
33	Austria	68.4	97	Madagascar	57.3	160	Congo, Dem. Rep.	47.6
34	Jamaica	68.1	98	Guyana	57.3	161	Suriname	46.7
35	Slovakia	68.1	99	Moldova	57.1	162	Turkmenistan	46.3
36	Botswana	68.0	100	Gabon	56.9	163	Sierra Leone	44.6
37	Costa Rica	67.7	101	Morocco	56.8	164	Algeria	43.9
38	Japan	67.5	102	Türkiye	56.2	165	Bolivia	43.5
39	Croatia	67.2	103	Uzbekistan	55.9	166	Guinea-Bissau	42.7
40	Samoa	67.2	104	Ghana	55.8	167	Burma	42.2
41	Barbados	66.8	105	Djibouti	55.8	168	Central African Republic	41.3
42	Poland	66.0	106	Cambodia	55.6	169	Iran	41.2
43	Brunei	65.9	107	Eswatini	55.6	170	Eritrea	39.5
44	Slovenia	65.9	108	Bhutan	55.4	171	Burundi	38.4
45	Malaysia	65.7	109	Senegal	55.4	172	Zimbabwe	38.2
46	Belgium	65.6	110	Mauritania	55.3	173	Sudan	33.9
47	Armenia	64.9	111	South Africa	55.3	174	Venezuela	28.1
48	Albania	64.8	112	Kyrgyz Republic	55.2	175	Cuba	25.7
49	Peru	64.8	113	Greece	55.1	176	Korea, North	2.9
50	Malta	64.5	114	Solomon Islands	55.0			
51	Romania	64.4	115	Ecuador	55.0			
52	Panama	64.1	116	Bangladesh	54.4			
53	Indonesia	63.5	117	El Salvador	54.4			
54	Bahrain	63.4	118	Angola	54.3			
55	Spain	63.3	119	Dominica	54.0			
56	Oman	62.9	120	Kenya	53.6			
57	Cabo Verde	62.9	121	Cameroon	53.6			
58	Dominican Republic	62.9	122	Nicaragua	53.4			
59	Vietnam	62.8	123	Guinea	53.3			
60	Serbia	62.7	124	Brazil	53.2			
61	Bahamas, The	62.5	125	Nigeria	53.1			
62	France	62.5	126	India	52.9			
63	Guatemala	62.4	127	Mali	52.5			
64	Saint Lucia	62.2						

### Economic Freedom Scores

- 80-100 Free
- 70-79.9 Mostly Free
- 60-69.9 Moderately Free
- 50-59.9 Mostly Unfree
- 0-49.9 Repressed

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Anthony B. Kim  
February 2024



# PREFACE

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the *Index of Economic Freedom*. Such an occasion gives us pause and allows us to step back and contemplate the improvement various nations have made toward freedom over the past three decades. In the decades since 1995 when The Heritage Foundation published the first edition of the *Index*, the world has undergone countless tests to the benefits of economic freedom.

This past year—2023—was yet another rife with tragic events. From Russia’s ongoing war with Ukraine and the Chinese Communist Party’s saber rattling to Hamas’s horrific terrorist attack on Israel and Houthi terrorists attacking ships in the Red Sea, the past year has served as a powerful reminder that economic freedom isn’t inevitable. Indeed, it is always under attack.

And not just from America’s foreign enemies. Despite conservative wins beating back bad liberal policies on the state level, the progressive agenda in Washington continues to severely undercut the economic freedom of Americans. The Biden Administration bends over backwards for well-connected special interests, but it won’t lift a finger or even listen to the millions of hard-working American men and women across this country.

We know from history that human flourishing comes in part from economic fairness, opportunity, and liberty. We also know, however, that the enemies of freedom are persistently pursuing collectivism, equity, and social justice. Conservatives know that these false idols produce disastrous results—such as economic stagnation, poverty, deprivation, and oppression—but too often we forget the source of their appeal.

The truth is that “a moral and religious people,” to quote John Adams, would never be tempted by socialism. Because they are virtuous and capable of governing themselves, the freedom to “reap what you sow” would come naturally to them. That’s why

progressives in Washington are so laser focused on destroying families, sowing chaos and disorder in our local communities, and undermining fair elections. They know that if Americans are permitted to govern themselves, personally and politically, all interest in their redistributionist schemes will fall apart.

To defeat our progressive elites, we must defend the efficiency of free markets but, more importantly, the morality of free markets: the dignity they give every human person to create, serve, and reap the fruits of his labor. Just as importantly, we must defend and fortify the institutions that undergird free markets: the American dinner table, the American town square, and the American local militia.

This is the challenge we now face. We are at a crossroads and must choose between self-governance, human dignity, and ordered liberty or a society run by the managerial elite with no room for dissent or responsibility. One path leads to prosperity; the other leads to ruin. As President Ronald Reagan once reminded us:

You and I are told we must choose between a left or right, but I suggest there is no such thing as a left or right. There is only an up or down. Up to man’s age-old dream—the maximum of individual freedom consistent with order—or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism.

Now is the time for choosing and correcting the course. The Heritage Foundation’s *Index of Economic Freedom* provides practical examples of successful policies proven in action. It is up to us to provide the political will to implement them.

Kevin D. Roberts, PhD  
President  
The Heritage Foundation  
February 2024



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The months since mid-2022 have been tempestuous for the global economy, and the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom* reveals just how fragile that economy has become. The cumulative downward pressure on the world economy is the product of bad economic policy choices from the coronavirus pandemic period, higher inflation, Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, and a broader conflict in the Middle East, among other economic and geopolitical tensions.

The abrupt and shortsighted renunciation of the principles of economic freedom in many countries has further risked not only undercutting much-needed stronger economic recovery, but also sacrificing long-term economic resilience and prosperity. Many countries around the world, for example, are already mired in a greater debt burden that prolongs economic stagnation.

A return to business as usual will not suffice. In addition to the impacts of the pandemic on public finances, countries face many long-term structural challenges in the policy areas of transparency, efficiency, openness, and government effectiveness.

More than ever, it should be remembered that a nation's true capacity for lasting growth and prosperity hinges on the quality of its institutions and economic system. Many nations around the globe are now at a crossroads. The question is whether they will recognize the paramount need to correct the current policy course and reinvigorate their commitment to preserving and advancing economic freedom, which has proven to be crucial to human flourishing and the achievement of real progress.

## KEY FINDINGS OF THE 2024 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM

- The 2024 *Index*, which considers economic policies and conditions in 184 sovereign countries from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, reveals a world economy that, taken as a whole, is

"mostly unfree." Regrettably, the global average score for economic freedom has fallen further from the previous year's 59.3 and is now the lowest it has been since 2001: only 58.6.

- Globally, fiscal soundness has deteriorated significantly. Rising deficits and mounting public debt in many countries have undermined and will likely further undercut their overall productivity growth and ultimately lead to economic sluggishness rather than vibrant growth.
- Despite the notable downturn in global economic freedom, there continues to be a clear relationship between improved economic freedom and improved economic dynamism as well as greater overall well-being. No matter what their existing level of development may be, countries can measurably boost their economic growth by implementing policies that reduce taxes, rationalize the regulatory environment, open the economy to greater competition, and fight corruption, all of which will also help to advance their overall economic freedom.
- The standard of living, measured by incomes per capita, is much higher in economically freer countries. Countries rated "free," "mostly free," or "moderately free" in the 2024 *Index* generate incomes that are more than double the average levels in other countries and more than three times higher than the incomes of people living in economically "repressed" countries.
- As documented once again in the 2024 *Index*, economic freedom also correlates significantly with overall well-being, which includes such factors as health, education, the environment, innovation, societal progress, and democratic governance.

- As shown in the ranking table below, only four countries (down from seven in the 2022 *Index*) recorded economic freedom scores of 80 or more, putting them in the ranks of the economically “free;” 22 countries earned a designation of “mostly free” by recording scores of 70.0 to 79.9; and an additional 55 countries were considered at least “moderately free” with scores of 60.0 to 69.9. Thus, a total of 81 countries, or slightly less than half of the 176 countries graded in the 2024 *Index*, have institutional environments in which individuals and private enterprises benefit from at least a moderate degree of economic freedom in the pursuit of greater economic development and prosperity.
- On the opposite side of the spectrum, more than 50 percent of the countries graded in the 2024 *Index* (95 economies) have registered economic freedom scores below 60. Of those, 62 are considered “mostly unfree” (scores of 50.0 to 59.9), and 33, including China and Iran, are in the economically “repressed” category.
- Within the top 10 rankings, a notable reshuffling has taken place. Singapore has maintained its status as the world’s freest economy, demonstrating a high level of economic resilience.

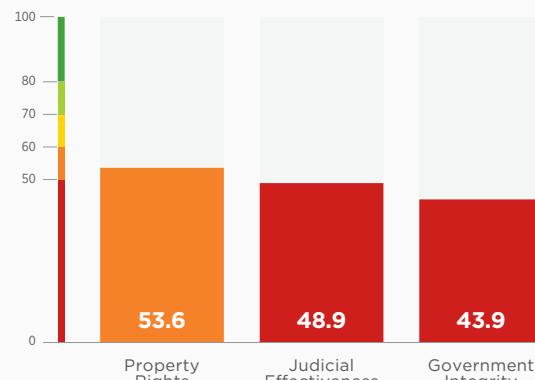
Switzerland is the world’s second freest economy, followed by Ireland, and Taiwan has moved up to the fourth slot, the highest rank the country has ever achieved in the *Index of Economic Freedom*. Both New Zealand and Australia have lost their top-tier economic freedom status, with Australia no longer among the world’s 10 freest economies.

- Especially notable is the continuing decline within the “mostly free” category of the United States, whose score plummeted to 70.1, its lowest level ever in the 30-year history of the *Index*. The U.S. is now the world’s 25th freest economy. The major causative factor in the erosion of America’s economic freedom is excessive government spending, which has resulted in mounting deficit and debt burdens.

All in all, the ongoing recovery remains uneven and uncertain with strikingly different outcomes across countries, sectors, and demographic groups. Output and employment gaps remain in many countries, particularly in emerging markets and developing economies, suggesting that countries face vastly different policy challenges during recovery and beyond.

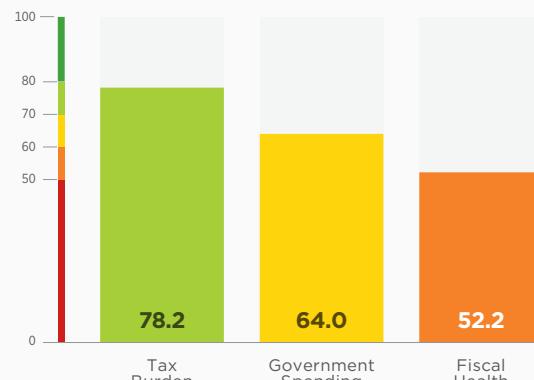
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS: A GLOBAL LOOK

## RULE OF LAW



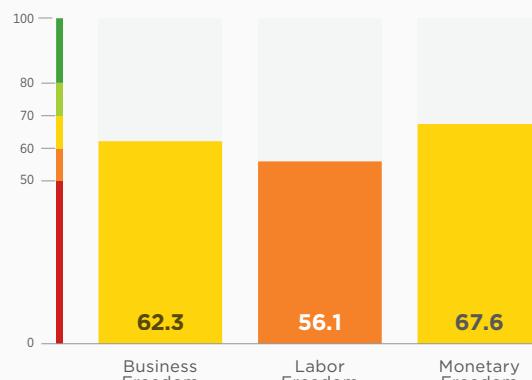
On average, of the four pillars of economic freedom used in *Index* grading, the rule of law indicator has the lowest scores. This reflects the systemic corruption of government institutions in many countries. A robust rule of law is essential for business owners and entrepreneurs when making economic decisions.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



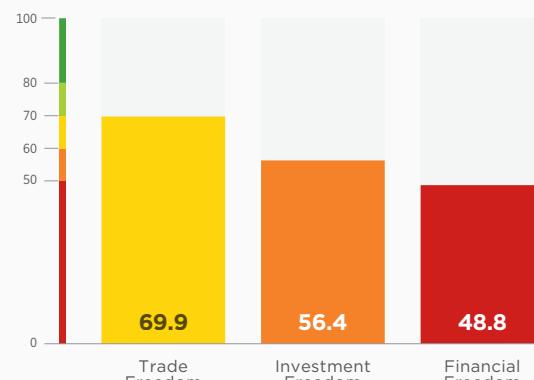
The average top individual and corporate income tax rates for all countries in the 2024 *Index* are, respectively, about 30 percent and 25 percent. The average level of government spending continues to be about 31 percent of GDP, but the average level of gross public debt has risen above 65 percent.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Globally, of the three regulatory efficiency sub-factors of economic freedom, monetary freedom scores the highest. The notable countries by average regulatory efficiency score include Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Denmark, and Finland. By contrast, the worst offenders in descending order are Sierra Leone, Cuba, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Venezuela, and North Korea.

## OPEN MARKETS



The worldwide average trade-weighted applied tariff rate stands at 7.7 percent. Investment policy measures in many countries that are geared toward promotion of sectoral investment contribute to a global investment freedom score of just 56.4. The global score for financial freedom is the lowest of the three open-markets indicators at 48.8.

## 2024 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS

World Rank	Regional Rank	Country	Overall Score	Property Rights	Judicial Effectiveness	Government Integrity	Tax Burden	Government Spending	Fiscal Health	Business Freedom	Labor Freedom	Monetary Freedom	Trade Freedom	Investment Freedom	Financial Freedom
1	1	Singapore	83.5	94.2	58.3	88.3	90.7	89.2	76.0	86.9	77.3	76.3	95.0	90.0	80
2	1	Switzerland	83.0	94.2	98.1	91.3	70.4	64.6	95.7	89.3	60.7	80.8	86.4	85.0	90
3	2	Ireland	82.6	93.5	94.3	83.4	78.0	82.4	91.7	91.3	62.8	74.5	79.2	90.0	70
4	2	Taiwan	80.0	82.2	94.0	73.4	79.2	90.5	90.3	84.9	69.1	80.1	86.4	70.0	60
5	3	Luxembourg	79.2	96.9	95.8	84.9	64.6	40.6	97.6	89.5	57.7	69.1	79.2	95.0	80
6	3	New Zealand	77.8	87.4	93.2	95.9	65.5	46.3	72.4	88.3	70.3	74.6	89.8	70.0	70
7	4	Denmark	77.8	98.6	89.6	97.4	41.8	26.8	98.2	92.7	64.9	74.3	79.2	90.0	80
8	5	Estonia	77.8	92.8	93.4	81.2	80.8	46.8	85.4	83.2	64.2	66.2	79.2	90.0	80
9	6	Sweden	77.5	96.2	95.4	93.2	50.6	28.5	97.1	84.9	65.9	74.4	79.2	85.0	80
10	7	Norway	77.5	98.8	96.7	95.6	61.7	32.1	97.2	87.2	69.4	71.1	84.8	75.0	80
11	8	Netherlands	77.3	95.6	96.2	87.8	53.1	37.1	88.1	88.6	60.5	71.5	79.2	90.0	80
12	9	Finland	76.3	100.0	97.6	94.2	67.8	8.2	74.3	88.8	65.5	75.4	79.2	85.0	60
13	4	Australia	76.2	91.0	94.4	85.2	62.6	48.2	39.9	92.1	65.4	75.6	89.8	80.0	90
14	5	Korea, South	73.1	88.3	76.9	69.2	59.0	78.9	91.6	85.0	57.2	77.3	73.4	60.0	70
15	10	Lithuania	72.9	89.1	74.4	68.0	76.8	55.5	83.2	80.7	61.8	66.5	79.2	70.0	60
16	1	Canada	72.4	88.6	95.0	73.1	75.8	34.7	33.9	84.1	69.5	70.3	83.6	80.0	80
17	11	Cyprus	72.2	83.7	88.7	55.9	79.9	45.5	79.3	78.6	66.7	74.5	79.2	75.0	60
18	12	Germany	72.1	95.3	93.0	86.0	59.3	24.1	71.9	84.2	53.7	68.8	79.2	80.0	60
19	1	Mauritius	71.5	86.4	81.2	52.3	91.5	74.7	30.4	78.9	69.1	66.7	87.4	70.0	70
20	13	Latvia	71.5	87.6	73.0	64.8	76.6	48.5	67.3	82.0	66.3	67.8	79.2	85.0	70
21	2	Chile	71.4	72.5	87.9	68.2	71.8	73.4	66.0	79.2	58.6	70.9	78.0	60.0	80
22	1	United Arab Emirates	71.1	64.8	35.2	64.9	100.0	78.4	98.1	80.2	65.3	78.3	78.0	50.0	70
23	14	Iceland	70.5	96.5	95.3	83.7	73.6	26.3	10.5	87.4	68.0	73.4	80.8	80.0	70
24	15	Czech Republic	70.2	89.3	83.1	60.7	79.6	36.2	58.7	77.3	58.9	68.8	79.2	70.0	60
25	3	United States	70.1	95.1	76.4	74.8	74.8	48.7	0.0	84.8	77.7	73.8	75.6	80.0	80
26	2	Israel	70.1	82.1	84.4	65.5	59.3	50.7	58.6	80.8	58.0	78.4	83.0	70.0	70
27	4	Uruguay	69.8	84.8	81.1	78.1	73.8	71.6	75.9	83.9	61.0	66.2	71.2	60.0	30
28	3	Qatar	68.8	70.4	41.5	51.7	99.7	74.0	96.4	66.1	52.5	72.2	81.6	60.0	80
29	16	Portugal	68.7	89.4	90.6	65.5	59.8	33.0	65.2	79.3	57.6	75.0	79.2	70.0	60
30	17	United Kingdom	68.6	94.6	84.3	84.1	62.3	34.3	0.0	82.7	63.2	73.6	83.6	80.0	60
31	18	Bulgaria	68.5	75.9	57.4	44.0	92.9	56.2	91.4	75.3	68.7	70.5	79.2	60.0	60
32	19	Georgia	68.4	53.3	54.8	61.1	89.1	69.6	39.9	74.4	63.0	69.3	86.4	80.0	60
33	20	Austria	68.4	96.9	94.8	74.8	45.1	8.6	36.5	81.9	78.9	73.8	79.2	80.0	70
34	5	Jamaica	68.1	66.1	69.7	48.4	77.0	71.5	87.5	69.9	64.9	71.2	71.6	70.0	70
35	21	Slovakia	68.1	84.5	70.6	55.8	76.5	41.4	64.2	76.3	58.1	66.1	79.2	75.0	80
36	2	Botswana	68.0	73.6	69.3	58.7	86.7	68.7	68.4	66.0	60.6	65.1	78.8	60.0	60
37	6	Costa Rica	67.7	65.4	76.9	58.7	78.9	86.9	44.4	79.5	61.8	74.5	75.0	60.0	50
38	6	Japan	67.5	94.6	93.6	82.6	63.3	42.5	0.0	77.5	68.6	81.7	75.8	70.0	30
39	22	Croatia	67.2	79.8	71.0	51.3	81.7	27.1	74.8	76.5	68.2	67.4	79.2	70.0	50
40	7	Samoa	67.2	73.2	78.3	56.0	79.0	67.8	96.2	63.9	71.4	73.6	67.2	50.0	70
41	7	Barbados	66.8	72.3	87.3	68.3	81.4	66.3	55.7	73.3	56.2	77.7	43.6	60.0	50
42	23	Poland	66.0	72.0	52.2	58.3	72.6	38.5	67.4	74.6	58.0	68.9	79.2	80.0	50
43	8	Brunei	65.9	68.8	52.3	59.8	95.8	73.7	20.0	76.5	75.2	68.9	84.8	65.0	70

## 2024 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS

World Rank	Regional Rank	Country	Overall Score	Property Rights	Judicial Effectiveness	Government Integrity	Tax Burden	Government Spending	Fiscal Health	Business Freedom	Labor Freedom	Monetary Freedom	Trade Freedom	Investment Freedom	Financial Freedom
44	24	Slovenia	65.9	88.2	91.9	60.6	57.4	27.1	47.4	79.1	65.4	74.1	79.2	70.0	60
45	9	Malaysia	65.7	65.7	65.6	48.2	83.9	81.4	42.8	70.5	58.2	79.1	83.0	60.0	50
46	25	Belgium	65.6	91.6	91.5	78.9	51.1	6.1	20.0	82.6	58.8	72.4	79.2	85.0	60
47	26	Armenia	64.9	50.3	31.6	50.0	87.6	75.5	69.1	69.2	58.9	67.5	73.6	75.0	60
48	27	Albania	64.8	56.8	50.0	36.6	88.8	69.8	51.7	74.1	51.5	75.7	82.6	70.0	50
49	8	Peru	64.8	44.9	48.2	36.3	79.1	81.8	67.8	69.5	59.3	74.0	81.4	75.0	70
50	28	Malta	64.5	86.3	89.9	55.3	69.6	45.0	14.5	77.5	64.4	71.8	79.2	70.0	70
51	29	Romania	64.4	81.0	65.8	47.6	93.9	58.0	14.9	74.6	68.2	69.3	79.2	70.0	70
52	9	Panama	64.1	56.9	51.2	37.2	85.9	82.6	21.1	73.6	61.6	75.1	78.4	75.0	70
53	10	Indonesia	63.5	39.2	44.5	38.6	81.7	90.2	66.8	73.1	59.5	78.4	79.6	50.0	50
54	4	Bahrain	63.4	65.1	30.2	38.0	99.9	68.7	0.0	72.0	56.7	79.5	85.2	85.0	70
55	30	Spain	63.3	87.2	73.6	64.0	57.0	26.0	0.0	79.7	63.6	74.1	84.2	80.0	70
56	5	Oman	62.9	72.7	24.2	42.2	97.6	59.4	73.8	65.5	53.3	80.3	76.2	60.0	60
57	3	Cabo Verde	62.9	63.7	75.4	49.1	84.6	72.8	3.8	72.1	52.0	74.8	66.4	80.0	70
58	10	Dominican Republic	62.9	55.5	58.6	35.9	84.4	88.3	57.6	75.5	53.3	66.9	68.4	70.0	50
59	11	Vietnam	62.8	49.6	35.4	38.7	80.4	87.9	94.6	73.9	54.6	69.3	79.8	40.0	40
60	31	Serbia	62.7	58.6	50.4	36.8	87.1	36.3	73.9	74.0	67.8	70.9	76.6	70.0	60
61	11	Bahamas, The	62.5	60.9	78.4	65.5	96.5	76.1	4.2	67.2	70.2	71.7	49.6	50.0	60
62	32	France	62.5	93.1	84.2	73.7	53.1	0.0	6.9	82.0	60.5	71.6	79.2	75.0	70
63	12	Guatemala	62.4	38.8	27.9	22.8	91.3	93.7	87.5	66.4	50.4	74.6	75.0	70.0	60
64	13	Saint Lucia	62.2	67.2	74.4	58.4	77.3	76.8	28.8	69.5	57.9	75.9	60.0	60.0	50
65	12	Vanuatu	62.2	63.3	71.0	47.9	98.8	45.0	90.4	55.1	40.1	69.9	59.6	65.0	40
66	13	Kazakhstan	62.0	54.1	33.8	36.5	92.6	84.4	73.7	69.7	62.6	62.6	74.6	50.0	30
67	33	Bosnia and Herzegovina	62.0	48.2	34.2	33.2	93.3	48.6	96.6	66.8	60.6	70.1	68.0	65.0	60
68	14	Mexico	62.0	46.5	39.4	29.0	76.0	77.0	66.9	71.2	58.0	68.3	76.8	75.0	80
69	6	Saudi Arabia	61.9	47.6	37.0	43.9	99.1	67.2	79.5	69.9	44.4	79.6	74.2	50.0	50
70	34	Azerbaijan	61.6	53.0	18.5	24.0	87.9	67.6	99.4	69.6	56.1	63.9	69.0	70.0	40
71	35	North Macedonia	61.4	58.8	49.4	41.4	94.4	61.7	37.7	70.0	56.1	64.6	77.8	65.0	50
72	36	Hungary	61.2	69.6	63.0	44.3	85.4	27.7	11.5	73.5	62.0	68.8	79.2	80.0	50
73	15	Belize	61.2	34.1	71.5	41.4	82.0	78.5	64.7	67.2	64.1	70.9	55.2	55.0	50
74	14	Micronesia	61.0	64.7	84.3	56.9	84.2	0.0	99.6	53.0	72.5	77.6	74.8	35.0	30
75	37	Kosovo	60.6	48.2	31.8	41.0	90.7	72.3	82.3	68.0	47.5	66.4	84.2	65.0	60
76	15	Mongolia	60.6	48.8	55.0	34.8	84.0	62.0	64.3	68.0	67.5	67.9	74.4	50.0	60
77	4	São Tomé and Príncipe	60.5	51.6	61.4	46.6	88.0	80.5	87.8	52.5	41.5	60.6	65.0	60.0	50
78	5	Seychelles	60.4	72.0	65.2	72.1	79.1	54.6	12.4	76.9	50.8	77.0	80.2	55.0	30
79	16	Trinidad and Tobago	60.4	58.1	59.8	44.8	79.9	69.6	21.1	76.0	60.4	76.7	68.6	60.0	40
80	17	Paraguay	60.1	45.0	37.2	27.3	96.0	81.6	46.4	69.0	39.8	67.3	77.2	75.0	60
81	38	Italy	60.1	81.6	77.7	60.7	57.0	2.5	0.0	77.6	70.7	74.1	79.2	80.0	50
82	18	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	59.8	66.7	77.3	62.3	76.3	61.1	4.5	65.4	59.6	77.0	57.8	70.0	20
83	39	Montenegro	59.7	59.0	41.8	48.9	88.3	32.4	39.3	70.1	62.6	70.7	78.8	75.0	50
84	19	Colombia	59.2	45.0	58.3	38.1	68.7	65.3	19.5	68.8	61.9	72.3	72.6	70.0	50

## 2024 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS

World Rank	Regional Rank	Country	Overall Score	Property Rights	Judicial Effectiveness	Government Integrity	Tax Burden	Government Spending	Fiscal Health	Business Freedom	Labor Freedom	Monetary Freedom	Trade Freedom	Investment Freedom	Financial Freedom
85	16	Tonga	59.2	63.0	68.8	44.9	85.4	40.1	95.9	59.7	56.4	64.4	71.8	40.0	50
86	6	Tanzania	59.1	45.4	28.8	36.8	80.6	90.7	79.9	47.4	62.2	72.2	60.6	55.0	40
87	17	Thailand	59.0	45.0	35.2	38.1	81.1	80.3	46.8	70.3	56.3	66.7	72.8	55.0	30
88	18	Philippines	59.0	46.1	42.2	33.8	78.2	79.2	40.5	69.7	57.8	65.8	74.4	60.0	50
89	20	Honduras	58.6	37.5	27.7	21.3	83.0	78.6	88.8	64.5	38.7	67.7	70.4	65.0	60
90	7	Kuwait	58.5	42.1	41.4	41.9	97.7	11.3	100.0	56.2	53.0	67.9	75.6	55.0	30
91	7	Côte d'Ivoire	58.4	44.1	29.7	33.3	78.9	86.7	41.1	64.6	57.1	66.3	73.6	75.0	50
92	8	Jordan	58.3	54.0	43.4	48.4	84.4	67.8	2.3	62.8	56.5	78.7	71.4	70.0	30
93	8	Gambia, The	58.2	55.3	45.4	36.2	79.3	84.3	62.5	49.0	47.6	60.0	64.4	65.0	60
94	19	Fiji	58.0	59.9	46.2	52.5	89.7	67.0	3.4	64.9	69.1	73.8	64.4	55.0	60
95	9	Benin	57.7	44.6	48.5	41.3	69.6	88.5	48.9	48.9	59.1	81.9	61.0	50.0	60
96	10	Namibia	57.5	63.9	67.1	50.6	72.2	54.2	10.2	55.6	63.3	75.7	72.0	65.0	50
97	11	Madagascar	57.3	41.4	34.5	24.8	90.9	92.5	64.0	37.5	56.3	73.0	68.4	55.0	70
98	21	Guyana	57.3	46.8	48.3	39.2	74.9	80.2	25.8	70.9	76.7	75.5	64.4	55.0	50
99	40	Moldova	57.1	39.2	30.4	39.1	93.0	61.3	75.7	61.0	47.7	56.3	76.0	55.0	60
100	12	Gabon	56.9	26.7	19.4	23.7	77.4	90.8	92.5	63.5	54.8	78.6	55.2	60.0	50
101	9	Morocco	56.8	57.6	32.9	33.9	68.0	68.2	29.9	68.5	48.6	71.1	67.4	65.0	50
102	41	Türkiye	56.2	40.6	24.4	35.0	72.5	71.0	77.5	59.2	54.6	38.5	70.8	70.0	40
103	20	Uzbekistan	55.9	32.9	15.3	29.1	92.8	70.4	72.1	61.0	48.2	63.6	75.6	60.0	40
104	13	Ghana	55.8	50.1	57.3	43.9	79.5	75.5	2.9	52.9	55.7	58.6	63.0	70.0	60
105	14	Djibouti	55.8	31.4	27.6	26.2	83.6	83.7	89.3	49.9	50.0	67.5	49.8	60.0	30
106	21	Cambodia	55.6	41.0	22.0	18.6	88.8	78.2	74.7	54.7	47.4	71.5	70.8	50.0	30
107	15	Eswatini	55.6	44.9	36.4	29.9	78.3	72.6	63.6	46.4	54.8	76.6	73.6	50.0	50
108	22	Bhutan	55.4	67.3	64.2	71.0	83.6	61.8	36.5	67.0	56.7	69.2	37.6	20.0	60
109	16	Senegal	55.4	55.5	50.5	45.6	69.0	79.2	21.7	54.0	54.5	68.0	66.2	60.0	50
110	17	Mauritania	55.3	35.3	28.1	22.9	76.0	85.9	94.8	34.4	60.3	72.7	63.0	50.0	50
111	18	South Africa	55.3	44.7	58.3	48.0	65.2	66.9	19.7	61.4	72.1	74.5	72.4	40.0	40
112	23	Kyrgyz Republic	55.2	22.4	11.4	24.8	94.0	66.0	92.2	55.0	52.3	62.4	71.8	60.0	50
113	42	Greece	55.1	76.9	69.9	55.2	60.6	3.4	5.6	73.9	62.8	68.9	79.2	55.0	40
114	24	Solomon Islands	55.0	44.7	60.1	41.7	71.5	67.7	81.1	45.7	60.5	77.4	65.2	15.0	60
115	22	Ecuador	55.0	32.9	48.5	34.9	74.7	55.1	79.9	65.0	57.0	75.3	66.4	30.0	50
116	25	Bangladesh	54.4	36.0	28.8	23.0	82.4	94.9	69.1	50.2	47.3	69.5	62.0	50.0	50
117	23	El Salvador	54.4	41.6	14.4	33.6	76.6	71.7	42.8	62.5	54.8	64.9	70.0	60.0	40
118	19	Angola	54.3	40.4	25.7	27.8	86.5	85.8	91.1	44.6	50.8	60.0	68.6	30.0	30
119	24	Dominica	54.0	67.9	82.7	59.4	76.4	0.0	7.4	63.7	49.9	75.8	54.8	70.0	40
120	20	Kenya	53.6	40.8	47.7	31.0	79.7	82.8	11.1	57.7	57.3	73.2	57.2	55.0	40
121	21	Cameroon	53.6	38.8	10.4	40.7	72.5	91.4	86.4	46.8	46.2	75.9	53.6	30.0	50
122	25	Nicaragua	53.4	27.5	10.5	15.6	74.6	74.3	94.9	52.2	47.3	66.5	67.4	60.0	40
123	22	Guinea	53.3	21.7	26.7	23.9	70.1	92.7	92.2	44.9	48.8	69.0	59.4	50.0	40
124	26	Brazil	53.2	49.1	55.0	36.9	69.7	34.9	30.9	67.0	56.9	71.6	66.8	50.0	40
125	23	Nigeria	53.1	24.5	34.5	21.7	84.8	94.7	44.2	42.9	73.7	63.2	67.6	45.0	30
126	26	India	52.9	49.2	52.1	40.8	73.7	73.5	6.9	68.3	58.4	69.1	62.2	40.0	40
127	24	Mali	52.5	32.7	32.8	22.4	68.0	80.4	54.9	42.3	54.1	72.7	64.0	65.0	50

## 2024 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS

World Rank	Regional Rank	Country	Overall Score	Property Rights	Judicial Effectiveness	Government Integrity	Tax Burden	Government Spending	Fiscal Health	Business Freedom	Labor Freedom	Monetary Freedom	Trade Freedom	Investment Freedom	Financial Freedom
128	25	Niger	52.3	38.4	37.3	31.6	77.6	84.5	40.5	34.0	54.0	72.3	63.0	55.0	30
129	26	Malawi	52.1	48.6	52.8	36.3	77.6	82.2	8.7	30.8	55.9	64.0	68.4	50.0	40
130	27	Nepal	52.1	37.7	43.7	35.6	84.3	78.1	68.5	60.5	48.2	70.0	58.2	10.0	40
131	43	Russia	52.0	20.9	32.1	25.9	89.8	59.7	95.6	54.4	57.4	58.9	69.4	30.0	40
132	27	Comoros	52.0	24.6	20.4	14.1	65.4	89.3	89.2	48.8	55.7	71.7	69.6	45.0	30
133	28	Lesotho	51.9	43.3	43.4	41.6	77.2	22.4	63.7	44.4	57.9	72.8	61.2	55.0	50
134	29	Burkina Faso	51.9	38.0	36.4	42.4	82.2	76.3	13.2	42.0	61.8	64.5	60.6	65.0	50
135	30	Rwanda	51.6	62.0	26.9	51.5	79.1	70.1	12.5	53.6	39.5	69.8	53.8	60.0	50
136	31	Chad	51.4	27.8	14.7	11.1	77.8	89.1	95.2	28.3	53.5	71.7	47.2	60.0	30
137	28	Tajikistan	51.3	29.4	12.4	17.3	92.6	76.1	93.0	56.2	43.7	67.8	72.2	25.0	40
138	29	Kiribati	51.3	73.2	66.7	49.0	70.7	0.0	19.5	60.9	58.4	76.9	80.0	30.0	40
139	32	Togo	50.9	36.6	37.0	27.5	69.6	83.0	19.9	51.2	51.9	69.1	65.0	60.0	50
140	33	Uganda	50.7	47.3	29.2	23.9	73.5	86.8	18.3	49.0	54.9	75.1	55.8	55.0	30
141	34	Mozambique	50.7	31.1	44.5	25.4	74.1	69.2	47.0	36.3	47.7	71.9	70.6	40.0	40
142	30	Laos	50.6	44.0	12.2	23.4	88.8	91.2	67.1	56.2	42.9	59.1	67.6	35.0	30
143	31	Timor-Leste	50.2	39.9	36.2	44.3	97.9	29.5	19.9	63.8	56.4	70.0	80.0	45.0	40
144	35	Liberia	49.9	32.4	23.4	24.9	86.1	71.8	69.2	34.6	43.6	71.6	66.8	55.0	60
145	27	Argentina	49.9	34.5	55.8	39.8	67.0	54.3	35.7	55.5	53.5	29.4	58.6	55.0	20
146	10	Egypt	49.7	40.0	21.9	26.2	85.4	80.8	11.8	48.9	32.8	72.9	60.2	65.0	30
147	32	Pakistan	49.5	29.3	30.5	24.9	78.3	88.5	10.7	48.3	52.2	63.8	67.6	60.0	20
148	33	Papua New Guinea	49.4	42.9	43.6	28.7	71.9	84.8	17.2	34.9	64.9	70.8	77.8	25.0	20
149	34	Sri Lanka	49.2	51.8	49.4	36.9	77.5	88.2	0.0	53.4	55.1	49.2	69.2	30.0	30
150	11	Tunisia	48.8	60.8	40.5	42.4	74.9	64.7	7.3	52.9	55.9	72.7	53.2	30.0	20
151	35	China	48.5	46.9	39.5	41.6	69.1	65.7	8.1	68.1	57.8	71.8	73.6	20.0	50
152	36	Zambia	48.4	36.2	44.1	30.0	74.1	71.7	0.6	49.0	40.4	66.2	63.4	55.0	40
153	44	Belarus	48.4	22.1	11.1	33.0	90.1	58.8	83.6	52.9	46.3	62.2	70.8	30.0	30
154	12	Lebanon	48.3	30.7	24.0	22.7	90.5	94.7	69.2	48.9	57.6	10.1	71.4	30.0	20
155	28	Haiti	48.2	12.0	17.5	12.5	81.7	97.5	89.9	32.4	55.1	53.8	66.4	30.0	20
156	37	Ethiopia	47.9	27.7	20.6	33.8	78.4	94.4	79.0	44.1	39.3	49.8	57.4	30.0	30
157	38	Congo, Rep.	47.8	30.0	13.8	12.7	75.5	86.0	82.9	35.9	42.3	79.8	49.6	35.0	20
158	36	Maldives	47.8	49.4	44.5	39.0	92.4	42.9	0.0	49.4	51.8	76.2	62.6	35.0	50
159	39	Equatorial Guinea	47.7	21.0	8.3	5.7	75.1	92.9	97.6	33.3	46.4	72.8	48.8	40.0	20
160	40	Congo, Dem. Rep.	47.6	15.1	12.6	11.3	74.2	93.0	93.1	32.6	55.6	65.6	68.2	30.0	30
161	29	Suriname	46.7	41.9	45.4	38.1	70.8	69.8	0.0	53.3	63.4	44.1	64.2	40.0	10
162	37	Turkmenistan	46.3	18.1	10.0	7.8	94.3	96.7	99.9	37.3	30.3	67.4	74.2	10.0	20
163	41	Sierra Leone	44.6	33.6	42.0	34.9	87.4	76.6	1.7	31.7	23.7	60.2	63.6	60.0	30
164	13	Algeria	43.9	27.5	28.9	27.7	79.4	54.7	13.8	54.4	51.4	71.9	57.4	30.0	30
165	30	Bolivia	43.5	21.3	28.1	28.2	86.9	61.2	7.2	54.5	46.0	72.4	60.6	15.0	30
166	42	Guinea-Bissau	42.7	26.5	14.7	19.3	88.9	83.1	7.1	32.4	55.0	74.2	50.6	30.0	30
167	38	Burma	42.2	18.0	6.5	21.2	88.5	86.3	12.8	39.8	46.3	67.9	69.6	30.0	40
168	43	Central African Republic	41.3	7.2	4.8	16.7	65.3	87.0	56.1	26.6	39.7	70.9	46.6	45.0	30
169	14	Iran	41.2	23.8	18.8	17.1	81.1	95.3	62.5	37.9	48.8	38.2	55.8	5.0	10

## 2024 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS

World Rank	Regional Rank	Country	Overall Score	Property Rights	Judicial Effectiveness	Government Integrity	Tax Burden	Government Spending	Fiscal Health	Business Freedom	Labor Freedom	Monetary Freedom	Trade Freedom	Investment Freedom	Financial Freedom
170	44	Eritrea	39.5	8.3	4.6	15.0	80.3	62.3	69.0	30.7	51.4	63.8	68.4	0.0	30
171	45	Burundi	38.4	28.2	7.1	12.0	76.0	67.6	10.7	27.7	41.9	60.3	49.6	50.0	20
172	46	Zimbabwe	38.2	20.2	16.0	19.8	74.6	92.1	78.5	39.0	32.8	0.0	50.4	25.0	10
173	47	Sudan	33.9	12.5	4.8	19.5	85.0	95.1	66.5	27.7	41.8	0.0	29.6	5.0	20
174	31	Venezuela	28.1	0.0	3.3	6.4	75.9	96.6	36.5	31.0	35.7	0.0	42.2	0.0	10
175	32	Cuba	25.7	30.1	15.2	36.2	51.9	0.0	0.0	41.5	20.0	20.3	72.8	10.0	10
176	39	Korea, North	2.9	16.0	5.4	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
N/A	N/A	Afghanistan	N/A	4.9	4.9	18.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Iraq	N/A	14.8	7.3	18.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Libya	N/A	5.9	4.2	10.2	93.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Liechtenstein	N/A	92.8	86.0	82.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	88.2	N/A	N/A	86.4	80.0	80.0
N/A	N/A	Somalia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Syria	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Ukraine	N/A	23.0	30.4	32.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	73.2	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Yemen	N/A	5.7	8.3	6.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM: REGIONAL VARIATIONS (REGIONAL AVERAGE)

Regional Ranking	The Americas (58.0)	Asia-Pacific (57.4)	Europe (67.2)	Middle East/ North Africa (57.4)	Sub-Saharan Africa (52.4)
1	Canada	Singapore	Switzerland	United Arab Emirates	Mauritius
2	Chile	Taiwan	Ireland	Israel	Botswana
3	United States	New Zealand	Luxembourg	Qatar	Cabo Verde
4	Uruguay	Australia	Denmark	Bahrain	São Tomé and Príncipe
5	Jamaica	Korea, South	Estonia	Oman	Seychelles
6	Costa Rica	Japan	Sweden	Saudi Arabia	Tanzania
7	Barbados	Samoa	Norway	Kuwait	Côte d'Ivoire
8	Peru	Brunei	Netherlands	Jordan	Gambia, The
9	Panama	Malaysia	Finland	Morocco	Benin
10	Dominican Republic	Indonesia	Lithuania	Egypt	Namibia
11	Bahamas, The	Vietnam	Cyprus	Tunisia	Madagascar
12	Guatemala	Vanuatu	Germany	Lebanon	Gabon
13	Saint Lucia	Kazakhstan	Latvia	Algeria	Ghana
14	Mexico	Micronesia	Iceland	Iran	Djibouti
15	Belize	Mongolia	Czech Republic	Iraq	Eswatini
16	Trinidad and Tobago	Tonga	Portugal	Libya	Senegal
17	Paraguay	Thailand	United Kingdom	Syria	Mauritania
18	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Philippines	Bulgaria	Yemen	South Africa
19	Colombia	Fiji	Georgia		Angola
20	Honduras	Uzbekistan	Austria		Kenya
21	Guyana	Cambodia	Slovakia		Cameroon
22	Ecuador	Bhutan	Croatia		Guinea
23	El Salvador	Kyrgyz Republic	Poland		Nigeria
24	Dominica	Solomon Islands	Slovenia		Mali
25	Nicaragua	Bangladesh	Belgium		Niger
26	Brazil	India	Armenia		Malawi
27	Argentina	Nepal	Albania		Comoros
28	Haiti	Tajikistan	Malta		Lesotho
29	Suriname	Kiribati	Romania		Burkina Faso
30	Bolivia	Laos	Spain		Rwanda
31	Venezuela	Timor-Leste	Serbia		Chad
32	Cuba	Pakistan	France		Togo
33		Papua New Guinea	Bosnia and Herzegovina		Uganda
34		Sri Lanka	Azerbaijan		Mozambique
35		China	North Macedonia		Liberia
36		Maldives	Hungary		Zambia
37		Turkmenistan	Kosovo		Ethiopia
38		Burma	Italy		Congo, Rep.
39		Korea, North	Montenegro		Equatorial Guinea
40		Afghanistan	Moldova		Congo, Dem. Rep.
41			Türkiye		Sierra Leone
42			Greece		Guinea-Bissau
43			Russia		Central African Republic
44			Belarus		Eritrea
45			Liechtenstein		Burundi
46			Ukraine		Zimbabwe
47					Sudan
48					Somalia

**Economic Freedom Scores**

- 80-100 Free
- 70-79.9 Mostly Free
- 60-69.9 Moderately Free
- 50-59.9 Mostly Unfree
- 0-49.9 Repressed
- Not Graded



# THE 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS: UNLEASHING CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITY

Economic freedom is an essential aspect of human dignity, autonomy, and personal empowerment. Equally important, it provides a proven formula for economic progress and success.

Each measured aspect of economic freedom has a significant relevance to economic growth and prosperity. Policies that allow greater freedom in any of the measured areas tend to spur growth, which translates into more opportunities for people to advance themselves economically. This leads in turn to measurable progress and lasting prosperity.

Economic freedom is best understood as a philosophy of governance that rejects dogma and embraces a diverse range of strategies for economic advancement. When governments inject themselves into economic decision-making, their actions, however well-intentioned, tend toward coercion, standardization, and the restriction of freedom. They cannot possibly account for the needs and preferences of individuals as effectively as a free marketplace can. They also are nearly certain to undermine efficiency and thus promote the waste of resources and effort.

The *Index of Economic Freedom* provides compelling evidence that it is the counterproductive policies that our governments all too often put in place, not the policies we fail to implement, that hold back economic growth.

For three decades, the *Index* has explored many critical aspects of the relationships between individuals and governments. In measuring economic freedom, we have focused on a comprehensive yet far from exhaustive range of policy areas in which governments typically act for good or ill. However, by its very nature, the concept of freedom resists narrow definition, and each year seems to bring new

challenges from those who seek to impose their own views or control the economic actions of others.

As new challenges to economic freedom arise, our definitions and methodologies will continue to evolve so that we can provide as true a picture as possible of the state of economic freedom around the world.

## DEFINING ECONOMIC FREEDOM

At its heart, economic freedom is about individual autonomy: the freedom of choice that individuals enjoy in acquiring and using economic goods and resources. The underlying assumption of those who favor economic freedom is that individuals know their own needs and desires best and that a self-directed life, guided by one's own philosophies and priorities rather than those of a government or technocratic elite, is the foundation of a fulfilling existence. Independence and self-respect flow from the ability and responsibility to take care of oneself and one's family and are invaluable contributors to human dignity and equality.

Obviously, because we live together with others in societies, individual autonomy is not absolute. For many individuals, their own well-being and that of their families and communities are equally important, and the personal rights enjoyed by one person may therefore end at his or her neighbor's doorstep. Decisions and activities that have an impact or potential impact on others are rightly constrained by societal norms and, in the most critical areas, by government laws or regulations.

In a market-oriented economy, societal norms, not government laws and regulations, are the primary regulators of behavior. Such norms grow organically out of society itself and reflect its history, its

culture, and the experience of generations as they have learned how to live with one another. They guide our understanding of ethics, the etiquette of personal and professional relationships, and consumer tastes.

At their best, democratic political systems reflect societal norms in their laws and regulations, but if they are not constrained by constitutional or other traditional limits, even democratic governments can pose substantial threats to economic freedom. A constraint imposed on economic freedom by majority rule is no less a constraint than one imposed by an absolute ruler or oligarch. It is thus not so much the type of government that determines the degree of economic freedom as it is the extent to which government has limits beyond which it may not (or at least does not) go.

Inevitably, any discussion of economic freedom will focus on the critical relationship between the individual and government. In general, state action or government control that interferes with individual autonomy limits economic freedom.

However, the goal of economic freedom is more than the absence of government coercion or constraint: The ultimate goal is creation and maintenance of a mutual sense of liberty for all. Some government action is necessary both for the citizens of a nation to defend themselves and to promote the peaceful evolution of civil society, but government action that goes beyond the minimal necessary level will inevitably infringe on someone's economic or personal freedom.

Throughout history, governments have imposed a wide array of constraints on economic activity. Sometimes they have imposed these constraints in the name of equality or some other ostensibly noble societal purpose; most often, however, they have imposed them to benefit elites or special interests.

Government's excessive intrusion into wide spheres of economic activity comes at a high cost to society as a whole. By substituting political judgments for those of the marketplace, government diverts entrepreneurial resources and energy from productive activities to rent-seeking: the quest for economically unearned benefits. As a result, society experiences lower productivity, economic stagnation, and declining prosperity.

## ASSESSING ECONOMIC FREEDOM

The *Index of Economic Freedom* takes a comprehensive view of economic freedom. Some of the

aspects of economic freedom that are evaluated (for example, the extent of an economy's openness to global investment or trade) are concerned with a country's interactions with the rest of the world. Most, however, focus on policies within a country, assessing the liberty of individuals to use their labor or finances without undue restraint and government interference.

Each of the measured aspects of economic freedom plays a vital role in promoting and sustaining personal and national prosperity, but all are complementary in their impact, and progress in one area can easily reinforce or even inspire progress in another. Similarly, repressed economic freedom in one area (for example, a lack of respect for property rights) can make it much more difficult to achieve high levels of freedom in other categories.

The 12 aspects of economic freedom measured in the *Index* are grouped into four broad pillars:

- **Rule of law** (property rights, judicial effectiveness, and government integrity);
- **Government size** (tax burden, government spending, and fiscal health);
- **Regulatory efficiency** (business freedom, labor freedom, and monetary freedom); and
- **Market openness** (trade freedom, investment freedom, and financial freedom).

### Rule of Law

**Property Rights.** In a fully functioning market economy, the ability to accumulate private property and wealth is a central motivating force for both workers and investors. Private property rights and an effective rule of law to protect them are vital features of any such economy. Secure property rights give citizens the confidence to undertake entrepreneurial activity, save their income, and make long-term plans because they know that their income, savings, and property (both real and intellectual) are safe from unfair expropriation or theft.

Property rights are a primary factor in the accumulation of capital for production and investment. Secure titling is key to unlocking the wealth embodied in real estate, making natural resources available for economic use, and providing collateral for investment financing. It is also by extending and

protecting property rights that societies avoid the “tragedy of the commons”—the phenomenon that leads to the degradation and exploitation of property that is held communally and for which no one is accountable.

A key aspect of the protection of property rights is the enforcement of contracts. The voluntary undertaking of contractual obligations is the foundation of the market system and the basis for economic specialization, gains from commercial exchange, and trade among nations. Evenhanded government enforcement of private contracts is crucial to ensuring equity and integrity in the marketplace.

**Judicial Effectiveness.** Effective legal frameworks protect the rights of all citizens against infringement of the law by others, including infringement by governments and powerful parties. Judicial effectiveness requires efficient and fair judicial systems to ensure that laws are fully respected and appropriate legal actions are taken against violations.

Especially for developing countries, judicial effectiveness may be the area of economic freedom that is most important in laying the foundations for economic growth. In advanced economies, deviations from judicial effectiveness may be the first signs of serious problems that will lead to economic decline.

There is abundant evidence from countries around the world that an honest, fair, and effective judicial system is a critical factor in empowering individuals, ending discrimination, and enhancing competition. In the never-ending struggle to improve the human condition and achieve greater prosperity, an institutional commitment to the preservation and advancement of judicial effectiveness is indispensable.

**Government Integrity.** In a world characterized by social and cultural diversity, practices that are regarded as corrupt in one place may simply reflect traditional interactions in another. For example, small informal payments to service providers or even government officials may be regarded as a normal means of compensation, a “tip” for unusually good service, or a corrupt form of extortion.

While such practices may indeed constrain an individual’s economic freedom, their impact on the economic system as a whole is likely to be modest. Of far greater concern is the systemic corruption of government institutions by such practices as bribery, nepotism, cronyism, patronage, embezzlement, and graft. Though not all of these practices are crimes

in every society or circumstance, they all erode the integrity of government wherever they are found. By allowing some individuals or special interests to gain government benefits at the expense of others, they are grossly incompatible with the principles of fair and equal treatment that are necessary for an economically free society.

There is a direct relationship between the extent of government intervention in economic activity and the prevalence of corruption. In particular, excessive and redundant government regulations provide opportunities for bribery and graft, which in turn are detrimental to economic growth and development. In addition, government regulations or restrictions in one area may create informal or black markets in another. For example, by imposing such burdensome barriers to the conduct of business as including regulatory red tape and high transaction costs, a government can incentivize bribery and encourage illegitimate and secret interactions that compromise the transparency that is essential to the efficient functioning of a free market.

## Government Size

**Tax Burden.** All governments impose fiscal burdens on economic activity through taxation and borrowing. Governments that permit individuals and businesses to keep and manage a larger share of their income and wealth for their own benefit and their own use help to maximize economic freedom.

The higher the government’s share of income or wealth is, the lower the individual’s reward for his or her economic activity and the lower the incentive to undertake work at all will be. Higher tax rates reduce the ability of individuals and firms to pursue their goals in the marketplace and thereby also reduce the overall level of private-sector activity.

Individual and corporate income tax rates are an important and direct constraint on an individual’s economic freedom and are reflected as such in the *Index*, but they are not by themselves a comprehensive measure of the tax burden. Governments impose many other indirect taxes, including payroll, sales, and excise taxes, as well as tariffs and value-added taxes (VATs). The *Index of Economic Freedom* captures the burden of these taxes by measuring the overall burden from all forms of taxation as a percentage of total gross domestic product (GDP).

**Government Spending.** The cost, size, and intrusiveness of government taken together are a

central economic freedom issue that the *Index* measures in a variety of ways. Government spending takes many forms, not all of which are equally harmful to economic freedom. Some government spending (for example, to provide infrastructure, fund research, or improve human capital) may be considered investment. Government also spends on public goods, the benefits of which accrue broadly to society in ways that markets cannot price appropriately.

All government spending, however, must eventually be financed by higher taxation and entails an opportunity cost—the value of the consumption or investment that would have occurred had the resources involved been left in the private sector.

Excessive government spending can easily crowd out private economic activity. Even if government spending helps to promote faster economic growth, such economic expansion tends to be only temporary, distorting the market allocation of resources and private investment incentives. Even worse, a government's insulation from market discipline often leads to bureaucracy, lower productivity, inefficiency, and mounting public debt that imposes an even greater burden on future generations.

**Fiscal Health.** One of the clearest indicators of the extent to which a government respects the principle of limited government is its budget. By delineating priorities and allocating resources, a budget signals unmistakably both the areas in which government will intervene in economic activity and the extent of that intervention. A budget also reflects a government's commitment (or lack of commitment) to the sound financial management of resources, which is both imperative for dynamic long-term economic expansion and critical to the advancement of economic freedom.

Widening deficits and a growing debt burden, both of which are direct consequences of poor government budget management, erode a country's overall fiscal health. Deviations from sound fiscal positions often disturb macroeconomic stability, induce economic uncertainty, and thus limit economic freedom.

Debt is an accumulation of budget deficits over time. In theory, debt financing of public spending could contribute to productive investment and economic growth. Debt could also be a mechanism for positive macroeconomic countercyclical interventions or even long-term growth policies. On the other hand, high levels of public debt can lead to higher

interest rates, crowd out private investment, and limit government's flexibility in responding to economic crises. Mounting public debt driven by persistent budget deficits—particularly deficits caused by spending that merely boosts government consumption or transfer payments—often undermines overall productivity growth and leads to economic stagnation rather than economic growth.

## Regulatory Efficiency

**Business Freedom.** An individual's ability to establish and run an enterprise without undue interference from the state is one of the most fundamental indicators of economic freedom. Burdensome and redundant regulations are the most common barriers to the free conduct of entrepreneurial activity. By increasing the costs of production, regulations can make it difficult for entrepreneurs to succeed in the marketplace.

Many regulations hinder business productivity and profitability, but those that most inhibit entrepreneurship are often those that are associated with the licensing of new businesses. In some countries, as well as many states in the United States, the procedure for obtaining a business license can be as simple as mailing in a registration form with a minimal fee. In Singapore, it takes only a day and a half and two procedures to start a business, and there is no minimum-capital requirement. In other economies, such as India and parts of South America, the process for obtaining a business license can take much longer and involve endless trips to government offices and repeated encounters with officious and sometimes corrupt bureaucrats.

Once a business is open, government regulation may interfere with the normal decision-making or price-setting process. Significantly, two countries with the same set of regulations can impose different regulatory burdens that have different consequences. A country that applies its regulations evenly and transparently can lower the regulatory burden by facilitating long-term business planning, but a country that applies regulations inconsistently adds to the regulatory burden by creating an unpredictable business environment.

**Labor Freedom.** The ability of individuals to find employment opportunities and work is essential to the advancement of economic freedom. By the same token, the ability of businesses to contract freely for labor and dismiss redundant workers

when they are no longer needed is essential to the achievement of enhanced productivity and sustained economic growth.

The core principle of any economically free market is voluntary exchange. This is just as true in the labor market as it is in the market for goods.

State intervention generates the same problems in the labor market that it produces in any other market. Government labor regulations take a variety of forms: minimum wages or other wage controls, limits on hours worked or other workplace conditions, restrictions on hiring and firing, and other constraints. In many countries, unions play an important role in regulating labor freedom and, depending on the nature of their activity, may be either a force for greater freedom or an impediment to the efficient functioning of labor markets.

Onerous labor laws penalize businesses and workers alike. Rigid labor regulations prevent employers and employees from freely negotiating changes in terms and conditions of work, and the result is often a chronic mismatch of labor supply and demand.

**Monetary Freedom.** Monetary freedom requires a stable currency and market-determined prices. Whether acting as entrepreneurs or as consumers, economically free people need a steady and reliable currency as a medium of exchange, unit of account, and store of value. The lack of monetary freedom seriously limits their ability to create long-term value or amass capital.

The value of a country's currency can be influenced significantly by the monetary policy of its government. A monetary policy that endeavors to fight inflation, maintain price stability, and preserve the nation's wealth enables people to rely on market prices for the foreseeable future. They can invest, save, and make other longer-term plans more confidently. An inflationary policy, by contrast, operates like an invisible tax to confiscate wealth and distorts prices, misallocates resources, and raises the cost of doing business.

There is no single accepted theory of the right monetary policy for a free society. At one time, the gold standard enjoyed widespread support. What characterizes almost all monetary theories today is support for low inflation and an independent central bank. It is also widely recognized that price controls corrupt market efficiency and lead to shortages or surpluses.

## Market Openness

**Trade Freedom.** Many governments restrict their citizens' ability to interact freely as buyers or sellers in the international marketplace. Impediments to trade include tariffs, export taxes, trade quotas, outright trade bans, and nontariff barriers related to various licensing, standard-setting, and other regulatory actions. Given the development of global supply chains and cross-border production processes, businesses increasingly value stability in trade policy. Government actions that create uncertainty about future trade conditions may thus have a negative impact on trade freedom that goes beyond their immediate economic effect.

The degree to which government hinders the free flow of foreign commerce has a direct bearing on the ability of individuals to pursue their economic goals and maximize their productivity and well-being. Tariffs, for example, increase the prices that local consumers pay for foreign imports, but they also distort production incentives for local producers, causing them to produce either a good in which they lack a comparative advantage or more of a protected good than is economically ideal. This undermines overall economic efficiency and growth.

In many cases, restricting trade also means limiting the productive development of local entrepreneurs by putting advanced-technology products and services beyond their reach.

**Investment Freedom.** A free and open investment environment provides more entrepreneurial opportunities and incentives for expanded economic activity, greater productivity, and job creation than any other. The benefits of such an environment flow not only to the individual companies that take the entrepreneurial risk in expectation of greater return, but also to society as a whole. An effective investment framework is characterized by transparency and equity, supporting all types of firms rather than just large or strategically important companies, and encourages rather than discourages innovation and competition.

Restrictions on the movement of capital, whether domestic or international, undermine the efficient allocation of resources and reduce productivity, thereby distorting economic decision-making. Restrictions on cross-border investment can limit both inflows and outflows of capital, thereby shrinking markets and reducing opportunities for growth.

By contrast, when individuals and companies are free to choose where and how to invest, capital

can flow to its best uses: to the sectors and activities where it is most needed and the returns are greatest. State action to redirect the flow of capital and limit choice restricts both the freedom of the investor and the freedom of the person seeking capital. The greater the number of restrictions a country imposes on investment is, the lower its level of entrepreneurial activity will be.

**Financial Freedom.** An accessible and efficiently functioning formal financial system ensures the availability of diversified savings, credit, payment, and investment services to individuals and businesses. By expanding financing opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship, an open banking environment encourages competition, which works in turn to provide the most efficient financial intermediation between households and firms as well as between investors and entrepreneurs.

Through a process driven by supply and demand, markets provide real-time information on prices and immediate discipline for those who have made bad decisions. This process depends on market transparency and the integrity of the information that is made available. A prudent and effective regulatory system, through disclosure requirements and independent auditing, ensures both.

Increasingly, the central role played by banks is being complemented by other financial services that offer alternative ways to raise capital or diversify risk. As with the banking system, the useful role for government in regulating these institutions lies in ensuring transparency and integrity

and in promoting disclosure of assets, liabilities, and risks.

State banking and financial regulation that goes beyond assuring transparency and honesty in financial markets can promote inefficiency, increase the costs of financing entrepreneurial activity, and limit competition. If the government intervenes in the stock market, for instance, it contravenes the choices of millions of individuals by interfering with the pricing of capital—the most critical function of a market economy.

## ENHANCING THE HUMAN CONDITION THROUGH BETTER ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

Economic freedom is about much more than a business environment in which entrepreneurship and prosperity can flourish. With its far-reaching impacts on various aspects of human development, economic freedom empowers people, unleashes powerful forces of choice and opportunity, nourishes other liberties, and improves the overall quality of life. Greater economic freedom really means better economic governance.

No other system—and many have been tried—comes close to free-market capitalism in promoting growth and enhancing the human condition. The undeniable link between economic freedom and prosperity is a striking demonstration of what people can do when they have the maximum opportunity to pursue their own interests within the rule of law.

# ECONOMIC FREEDOM: THE KEY TO HUMAN FLOURISHING

**F**ree-market capitalism is one of mankind's best ideas. It has led to more practical, measurable advances in living standards, health, knowledge, and societal progress than anything else that man has devised in the past 2,000 years. The Heritage Foundation's 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom* proves that the world needs free markets that conserve and advance economic freedom today more than ever.

For the past 30 years, since 1995, the *Index* has measured economic freedom's advances and retreats around the globe country by country, correlating those changes with fundamental measures of economic well-being like economic growth, reductions in poverty, various social indicators like longevity and health, and environmental protection.

At the same time, the principles of economic freedom have been questioned and put to the test. Populist attacks on the free market, fueled by politics in many countries around the world as well as by actual economic setbacks, have gained greater momentum. Out of all the debate, two things have become clear:

- A nation's capacity to develop and prosper hinges on its economic system and the quality of its institutions, and
- Economic freedom, prosperity, and resilience are undeniably and strongly linked.

The current global economic situation does not change this fundamental truth: Economic freedom, buttressed by the rule of law, fiscal responsibility, market openness, and sound regulatory environments, remains the surest pathway to resilience and prosperity. As the global economy recovers from this challenging period, economic policy must continue to have as its overarching objective preserving the

interplay between freedom and prosperity while reinforcing the values of transparency and good economic governance.

The need to advance economic freedom and vibrant entrepreneurial growth is therefore more imperative than ever. No other economic system has proven to be as capable of adapting to new challenges as has free-market capitalism built on the principles of economic freedom. The dispersed information-gathering processes and price-setting power of free markets guide change far more efficiently than centralized political processes—typically slow and often biased in favor of the status quo—ever can.

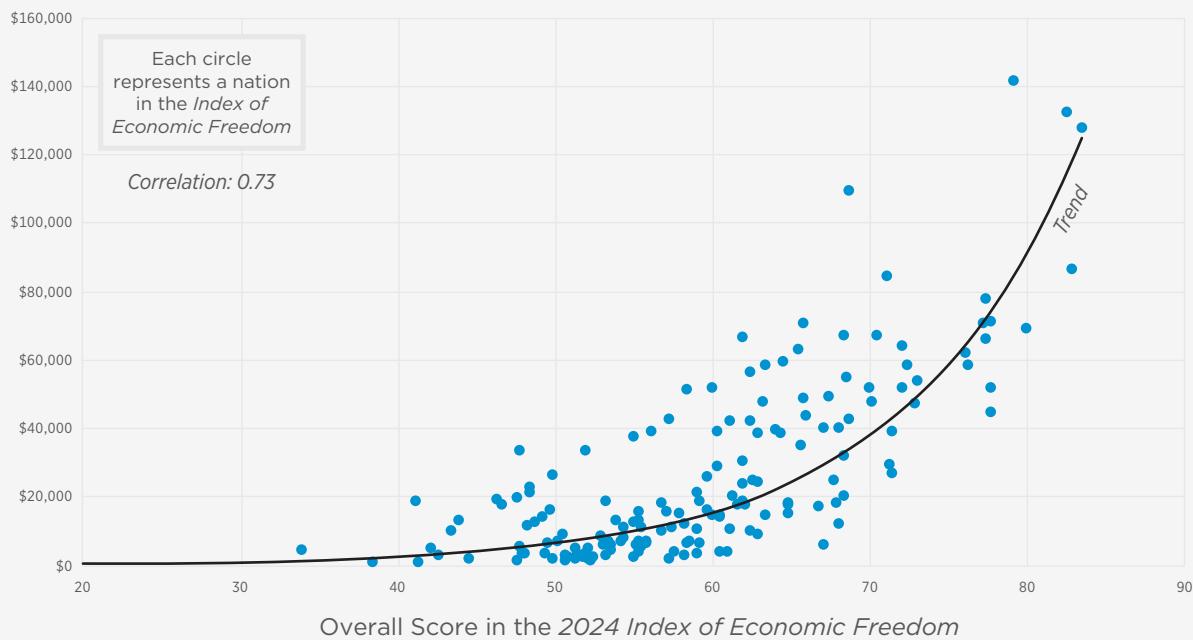
Free markets and free enterprises, sustained by economic freedom, stimulate both the innovation and the practical solutions in all realms that are necessary for progress and sustainable recovery, and this enables better jobs, better products, and healthier, cleaner, and safer societies for all.

## RESTORING ECONOMIC FREEDOM: IMPERATIVE FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

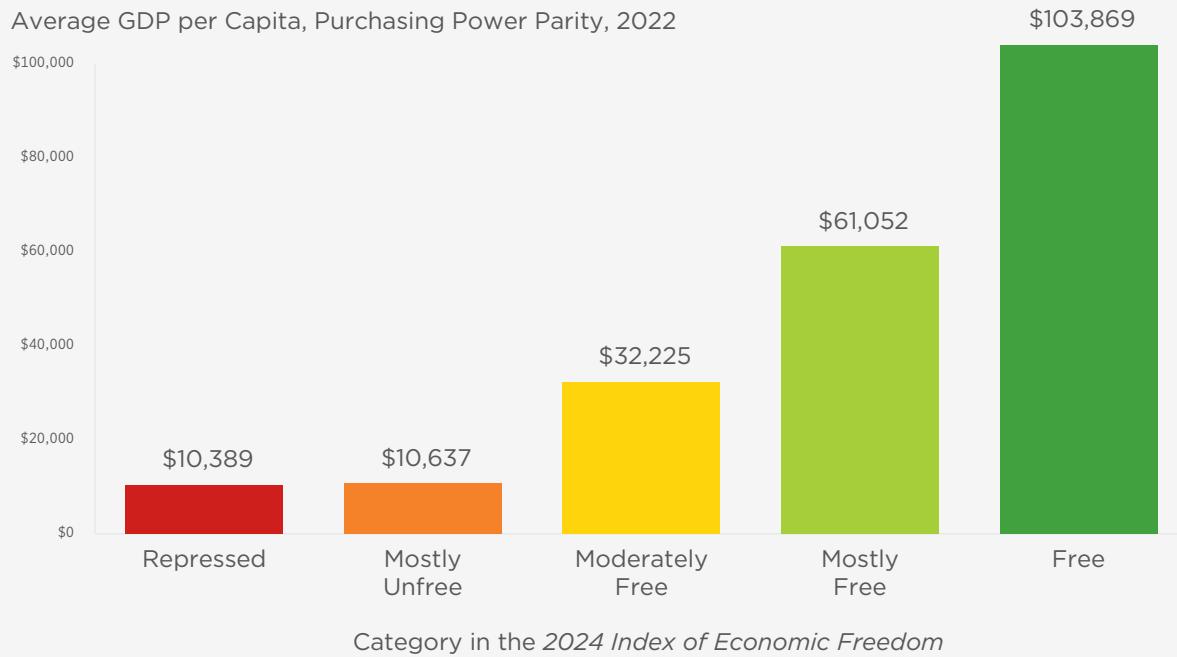
The most fundamental benefit of economic freedom stems from its strong positive relationship to levels of per capita income. As indicated in Chart 1, countries moving up the economic freedom scale show increasingly high levels of average income. For countries achieving scores that reflect even moderate levels of economic freedom (60 or above), the relationship between economic freedom and per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is highly significant. Economies rated "free" or "mostly free" in the 2024 *Index* enjoy incomes that are more than twice the average levels in all other countries and more than five times higher than the incomes of "repressed" economies.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND STANDARD OF LIVING

GDP per Capita, Purchasing Power Parity, 2022



Average GDP per Capita, Purchasing Power Parity, 2022



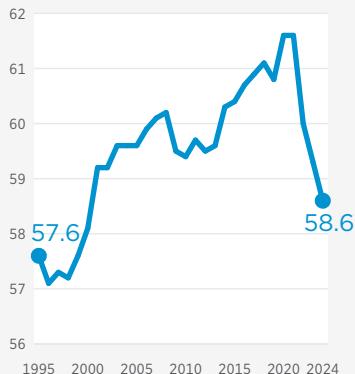
**NOTE:** Lebanon and North Korea are not included.

**SOURCES:** Anthony B. Kim, 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom* (Washington: The Heritage Foundation, 2024), <http://www.heritage.org/index>; International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook database, October 2023, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2022/April> (accessed January 16, 2024); Economist Intelligence Unit; and C.I.A. *World Factbook*.

Chart 1 heritage.org

## AS ECONOMIC FREEDOM RISES, THE GLOBAL ECONOMY EXPANDS AND POVERTY FALLS

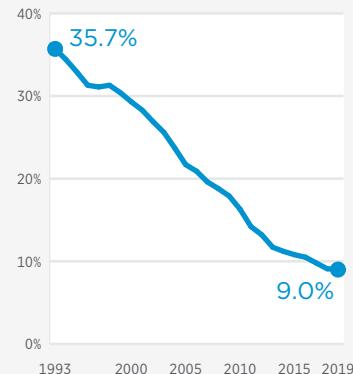
Average Score in the Index of Economic Freedom



Global GDP, in Trillions of 2015 U.S. Dollars



Percentage of Global Population Living in Abject Poverty



**SOURCES:** World Bank, “GDP (Constant 2015 US\$),” <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD> (accessed January 30, 2024); World Bank, “Regional Aggregation Using 2011 PPP and \$1.9/Day Poverty Line,” <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY?locations=1W&start=1984&view=chart> (accessed January 30, 2024); and Anthony B. Kim, 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom* (Washington: The Heritage Foundation, 2024), <http://www.heritage.org/index>.

Chart 2 heritage.org

By a great many measures, over the past decades, countries that have adopted some version of free-market capitalism with businesses supported by efficient regulations and open to the free flow of goods, services, and capital have broken the vicious cycle of poverty and dependence.

Without question, the free-market system that is rooted in empowerment of the individual and open competition has fueled unprecedented economic growth around the world. As Chart 2 illustrates, for more than two decades, as the global economy has moved toward greater economic freedom, becoming “moderately free” overall, it also has achieved real GDP expansion of around 70 percent. This progress has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty.

With global economic freedom rising steadily over the past two decades, the world has recorded significant economic expansion despite some ups and downs. Meanwhile, the global poverty rate has declined by about two-thirds. Opening the gates of prosperity to ever more people around the world, economic freedom has made the world a profoundly better place. More people are living longer and more fulfilling lives than ever before.

Greater economic freedom, because it is one of the most effective means by which to eliminate poverty, has a major positive impact on overall levels of poverty as well. Poverty intensity as measured by the United Nations Development Programme’s Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI),<sup>1</sup> which assesses the nature and intensity of deprivation at the individual level in education, health outcomes, and standard of living, is also much lower on average in countries with higher levels of economic freedom. As depicted in Chart 3, the level of poverty in countries with economies that are considered “mostly free” or “moderately free” is only about one-fourth the level in countries that are rated “less free.”

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM: DRIVING VIBRANT GROWTH

Economic freedom is closely related to the openness to entrepreneurial activity that allows individuals to innovate, respond to new opportunities in the marketplace, and enjoy success based on their own efforts. Given this positive relationship, governments should be cautious in undertaking short-sighted stimulus programs that increase their own

spending or add new layers of regulation, both of which reduce economic freedom.

The best results are likely to be achieved instead through policy reforms that improve the incentives that drive entrepreneurial activity. These reforms include improvements in the efficiency of business and labor regulations, reductions in tariffs and other barriers to trade or investment, and financial reforms to increase competition, ensure stability, and improve and broaden access to credit.

As documented in this edition of the *Index*, as well as in previous editions and volumes of academic research, vibrant and lasting economic growth is most likely to occur when governments implement policies that enhance economic freedom and empower individuals with greater choice and more opportunities. Advancing economic freedom is a proven policy for dynamic economic expansion and is likely to be the surest path to true progress for the greatest number of people.

As Chart 4 demonstrates, there is a robust relationship between improving economic freedom and achieving higher per capita economic growth. Whether long-term (30 years), medium-term (10 to 15 years), or short-term (five years), the relationship between changes in economic freedom and changes in economic growth is consistently positive. Improvements in economic freedom are a vital determinant of rates of economic expansion that the record shows will reduce poverty.

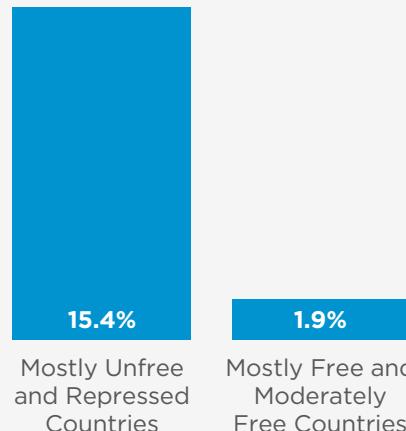
Undeniably, countries moving toward greater economic freedom tend to achieve higher growth rates of per capita GDP over time. Throughout all the time periods considered, the average annual per capita economic growth rates of countries that have increased economic freedom the most are at least about 25 percent higher than those of countries in which freedom has stagnated or declined.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM: ENSURING GREATER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL FREEDOM

Increasing economic freedom is unequivocally about achieving greater overall prosperity that includes but also goes beyond the materialistic and monetary dimensions of well-being. The societal benefits of economic freedom extend far beyond higher incomes or lower rates of poverty. Countries with higher levels of economic freedom enjoy higher levels of overall human development as

## POVERTY INTENSITY

Average Percentage of Population Living in Multidimensional Poverty



**NOTE:** Represented are the 103 developing countries scored in both indexes.

**SOURCES:** United Nations Development Programme, 2023 *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index*, <https://hdr.undp.org/content/2023-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi#/indicies/MPI> (accessed January 30, 2024), and Anthony B. Kim, 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom* (Washington: The Heritage Foundation, 2024), <http://www.heritage.org/index>.

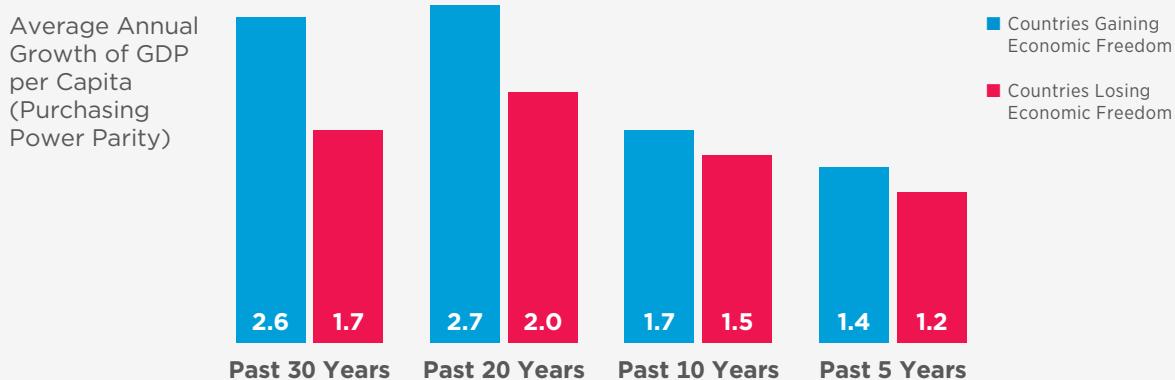
Chart 3 ■ heritage.org

measured by the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI),<sup>2</sup> which measures life expectancy, literacy, education, and standards of living in countries worldwide.

As Chart 5 shows, governments that choose policies that increase economic freedom are placing their societies on the path to more educational opportunities, better health care, and greater standards of living for their citizens.

In recent years, environmentally related government policies and actions have been more intrusive and economically distortionary. Many of the world's governments are promoting programs to tax carbon emissions, increase taxes on gasoline, and set up nontransparent and economically harmful exchanges and marketplaces for the buying and selling of carbon emissions and are using government revenue to subsidize various types of so-called clean energy. Such policies impose a huge cost on society and discourage economic growth. Fortunately, the same free-market principles that have proven to be the key to economic success can also deliver environmental success.

## INCREASING ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**NOTES:** Figures are country averages in which both Index scores and data on GDP growth are available over the same time period. Five-year growth rates include 172 countries, 10-year growth rates include 171 countries, 20-year growth rates include 148 countries, and 30-year growth rates include 96 countries.

**SOURCES:** World Bank, “GDP per Capita Growth (Annual %),” <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.KD.ZG> (accessed January 30, 2024), and Anthony B. Kim, 2024 Index of Economic Freedom (Washington: The Heritage Foundation, 2024), <http://www.heritage.org/index>.

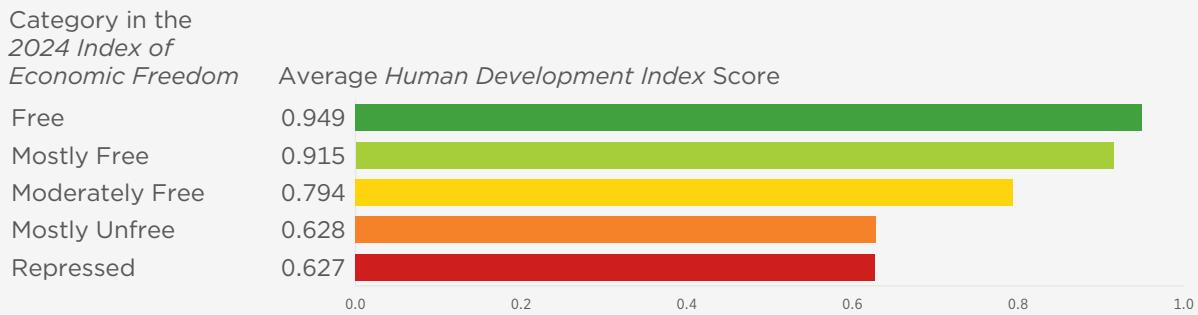
Chart 4 heritage.org

In countries around the world, economic freedom has been shown to increase the capacity for environmentally friendly innovation. The positive link between economic freedom and higher levels of innovation ensures greater capacity to cope with environmental challenges. Moreover, the most remarkable improvements in clean energy use and energy efficiency over the past decades have occurred not as a result of government regulation, but

rather because of advances in economic freedom and freer trade.

The regulatory power of the marketplace, which is generally ignored and certainly underappreciated by advocates of big government, pushes firms to identify ever more efficient means of production and respond to consumer demands for environmental cleanliness and sustainability. The result is a virtuous cycle of investment, innovation (including

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



**NOTE:** Represented are the 176 nations that are in both datasets.

**SOURCES:** U.N. Human Development Programme, Human Development Index and Its Components, Table 1, HDR21-22\_Statistical Annex\_HDI\_Table.xlsx (accessed February 6, 2024), and Anthony B. Kim, 2024 Index of Economic Freedom (Washington: The Heritage Foundation, 2024), <http://www.heritage.org/index>.

Chart 5 heritage.org

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE



**NOTE:** Represented are the 174 nations that are in both datasets.

**SOURCES:** Martin J. Wolf, John W. Emerson, Daniel C. Esty, Alex de Sherbinin, and Zachary A. Wendling, *Environmental Performance Index 2022* (New Haven, CT: Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, 2022), <https://epi.yale.edu/> (accessed January 30, 2024), and Anthony B. Kim, *2024 Index of Economic Freedom* (Washington: The Heritage Foundation, 2024), <http://www.heritage.org/index>.

Chart 6 heritage.org

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND GLOBAL INNOVATION

Global Innovation Index Score



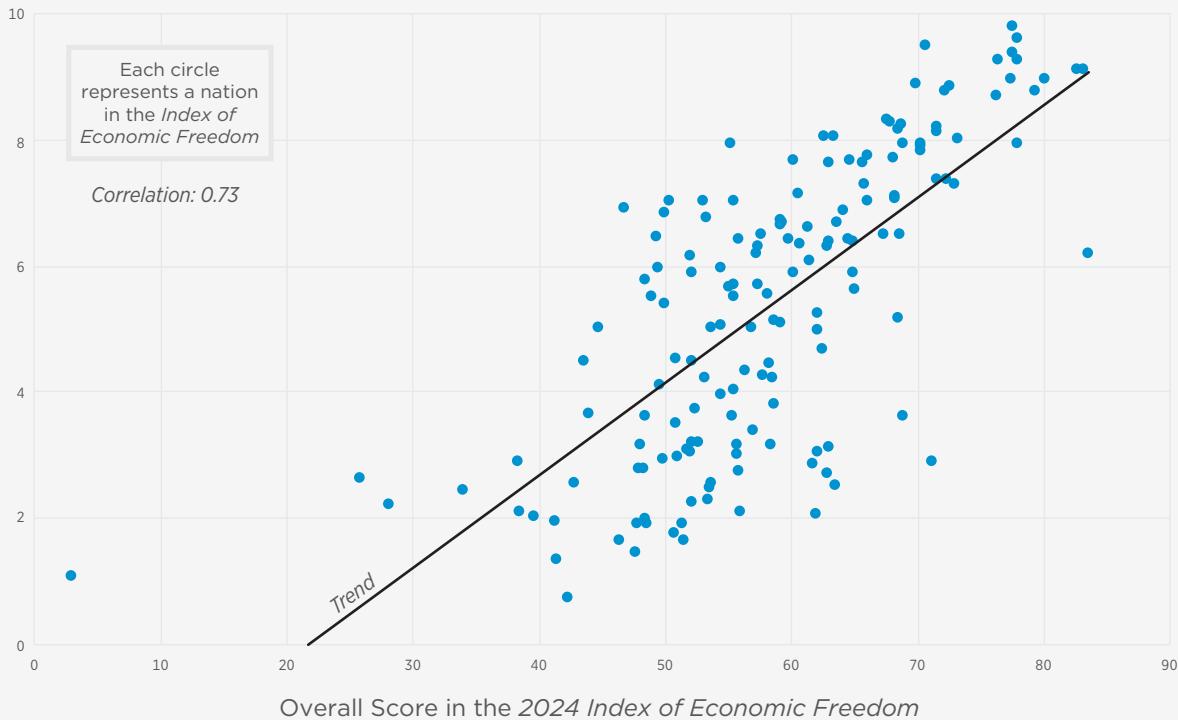
**NOTE:** Represented are the 130 nations that are in both datasets.

**SOURCES:** World Intellectual Property Organization, *Global Innovation Index 2023: Innovation in the Face of Uncertainty*, <https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo-pub-2000-2023-en-main-report-global-innovation-index-2023-16th-edition.pdf> (accessed January 30, 2024), and Anthony B. Kim, *2024 Index of Economic Freedom* (Washington: The Heritage Foundation, 2024), <http://www.heritage.org/index>.

Chart 7 heritage.org

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Democracy Index 2022 Score



**NOTE:** Represented are the 161 nations that are in both datasets.

**SOURCES:** Economist Intelligence Unit, *Democracy Index 2022*, <https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2022/> (accessed January 30, 2024), and Anthony B. Kim, *2024 Index of Economic Freedom* (Washington: The Heritage Foundation, 2024), <http://www.heritage.org/index>.

Chart 8  heritage.org

greener technologies), and dynamic economic growth. (See Chart 6 and Chart 7.)

Greater economic freedom can also provide more fertile ground for effective and democratic governance. Admittedly, the achievement of political freedom through a well-functioning democratic system is a messy and often excruciating process, but the positive relationship between economic freedom and democratic governance is undeniable. (See Chart 8.)

By empowering people to exercise greater control of their daily lives, economic freedom ultimately nurtures political reform by making it possible for individuals to gain the economic resources they can use to challenge entrenched interests or compete for political power, thereby encouraging the creation of more pluralistic societies. Pursuit of greater economic freedom is thus an important stepping-stone

to democracy: It empowers the poor and builds the middle class.

### ECONOMIC FREEDOM: THE FOUNDATION OF UPWARD MOBILITY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

The massive improvements in global indicators of income and quality of life in recent decades reflect a paradigm shift in the debate about how societies should be structured economically to achieve the most optimal outcomes. This debate has largely been won by free-market capitalism. Criticisms persist, however, based primarily on the inequality of outcomes in a system that rewards individual effort and ability, which differ within any population, and where differences in individuals' starting positions can sometimes have a profound effect on their end results.

Alternatives to free-market capitalism, such as socialism, have proven to be both unequal to the task of eliminating inequality and counterproductive in that they tend to slow economic growth and thus reduce the resources that society has available to reduce poverty or pollution. Most advanced societies have thus opted for some version of free-market capitalism with various types of government intervention to redistribute resources within society. It is our hope that the *Index of Economic Freedom*'s data on governments' tax, spending, and regulatory activities can shed light on the relative impacts of such interventions.

Ultimately, discussions of inequality are more about a society's values than they are about its economic system. At the heart of ensuring upward economic mobility is the task of advancing economic freedom so that dynamic and inclusive growth can occur meaningfully for *all* members of society. The evidence is strong that societies based on economic freedom are the societies in which social progress is strongest. Advancing economic freedom is really about putting in place growth-inducing pro-market policies that benefit the greatest possible number of people rather than a select few.

## TIME FOR RENEWAL, NOT RETREAT

A recurring theme in human history has been resilience and revival. The results of the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom* demonstrate that by building on what works, countries can accelerate their progress against even the most difficult challenges and chart ever greater economic success.

The record is clear: Economically free and dynamic societies have demonstrated repeatedly

that they are able to improve standards of living and respond effectively to any crises that may arise. This record includes countless individual stories of human progress and the achievements of countries and their citizens—billions of people around the world whose lives have measurably improved and who continue to strive for greater freedom. The path by which the global economy can emerge stronger than it was before runs through the renewal of commitments to the proven ideas of the free-market system.

Since early 2020, the global economy has been dealing with one of the greatest political, social, and economic challenges the world has ever faced. The livelihoods of millions of people have been deeply disrupted both by the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and—perhaps even more—by governments' responses to it in the form of lockdowns, travel bans, and restrictions on trade, all of which have exacted real and heavy economic and social costs. Around the world, the economic policy landscapes have taken sharp and varying turns with divergent impacts across countries.

From an economic policy perspective, the imperative now is for governments to avoid compounding the problem with ill-advised actions that distort markets, destroy incentives to work and innovate, or otherwise diminish the prospects for rapid recovery and growth. In the long run, the proven way to revitalize the economic life of societies in the most broad-based, meaningful way is by restoring what we know has worked best: economic freedom that has unambiguously made our societies strong, vibrant, and flourishing.

## **ENDNOTES**

1. United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023: Unstacking Global Poverty: Data for High-Impact Action*, <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/hdp-document/2023mpireportenpdf.pdf> (accessed January 9, 2024).
2. United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Index*, <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/human-development-index#/indicies/HDI> (accessed January 9, 2024).



# **THE COUNTRIES**

WORLD RANK:

**N/A**

REGIONAL RANK:

**N/A**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**NOT GRADED**

# AFGHANISTAN

The grading of Afghanistan's economic freedom has been suspended because of the Taliban's abrupt displacement of the government in August 2021. The compilations of official economic data are inadequate, and many of the international sources relied upon for *Index* grading contain incomplete data on Afghanistan. Key economic data have been included where available. Ongoing political uncertainty and major security challenges remain formidable and mounting.

The inability to deliver even basic services reliably has eroded confidence in the current regime, and pervasive corruption exacerbates the loss of trust. The rule of law is still fragile and uneven across the country. The economy's private sector is severely hampered by regulatory deficiencies and other challenges. The Taliban's recapture of Afghanistan in August 2021 has had dire economic, political, and security consequences. With the world's lowest living standards, Afghanistan is experiencing ongoing economic, health, and humanitarian crises, and food insecurity is especially acute.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE

**N/A**



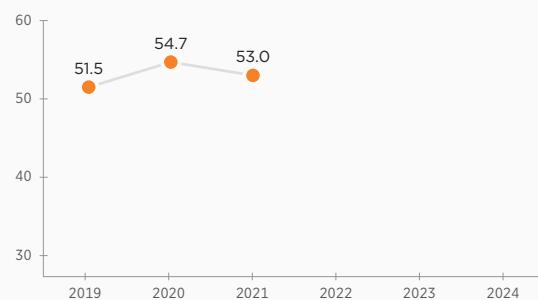
REGIONAL AVERAGE  
(ASIA-PACIFIC)

**57.4**

**58.6** WORLD  
AVERAGE

HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2017): N/A

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
39.8 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
n/a  
-20.7% growth in 2021  
5-year average growth rate: -3.1%  
n/a per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
13.3%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
13.7%

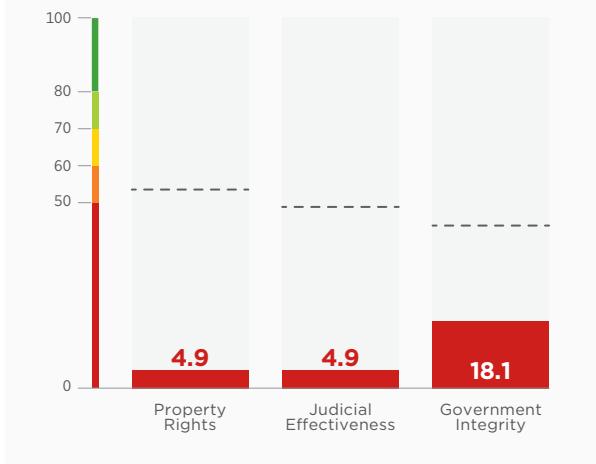
**FDI INFLOW:**  
n/a

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
n/a

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

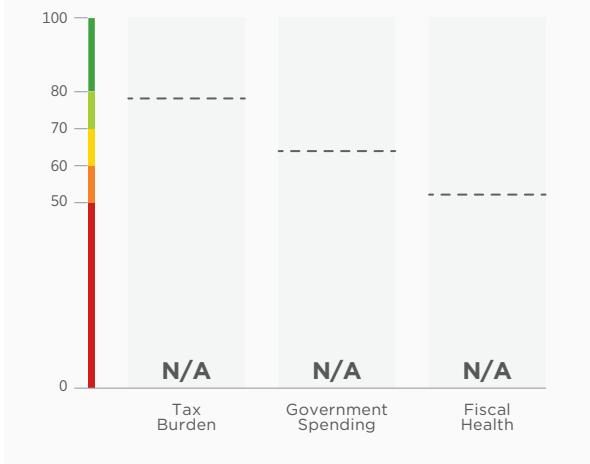
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | AFGHANISTAN

## RULE OF LAW



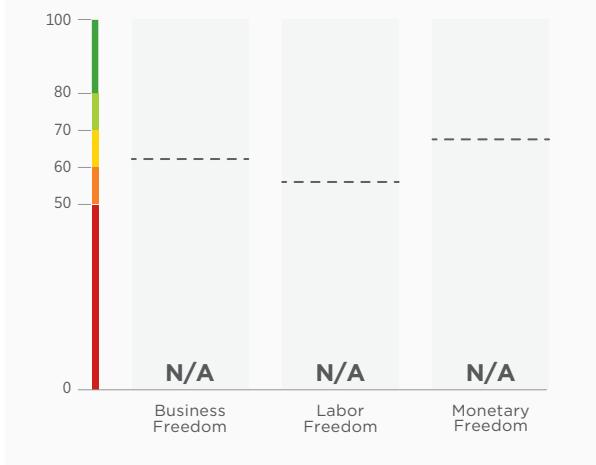
The overall rule of law has been seriously weakened in Afghanistan. The country's property rights score is far below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is much lower than the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



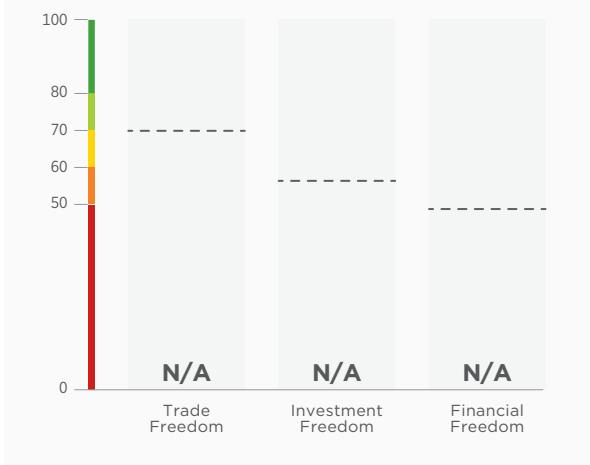
Political turmoil and civil conflict have severely damaged the overall fiscal situation, and the collapse of oil and tax revenue compounds the impact of the conflict's escalating cost. Economic policymaking is focused largely on marshalling limited fiscal resources to finance the conflict.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

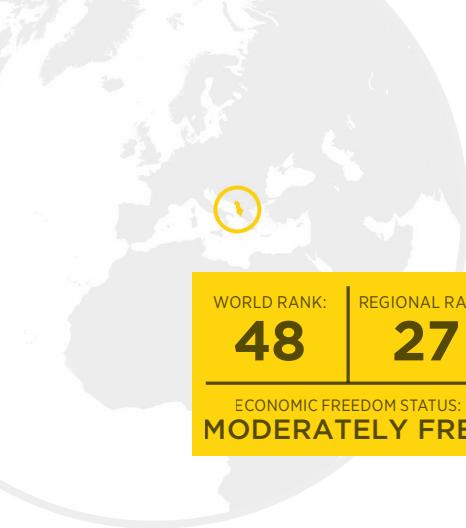


The fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban left business freedom in disarray and the physical well-being of entrepreneurs far from guaranteed. Labor freedom suffered major setbacks with the fall of Kabul. Monetary stability is fragile.

## OPEN MARKETS



Trade's contribution to economic growth has been declining. Inefficient customs administration, inadequate infrastructure, and corruption raise the cost of trade. Security concerns and the financial system's weak capacity have slowed the growth of private investment.



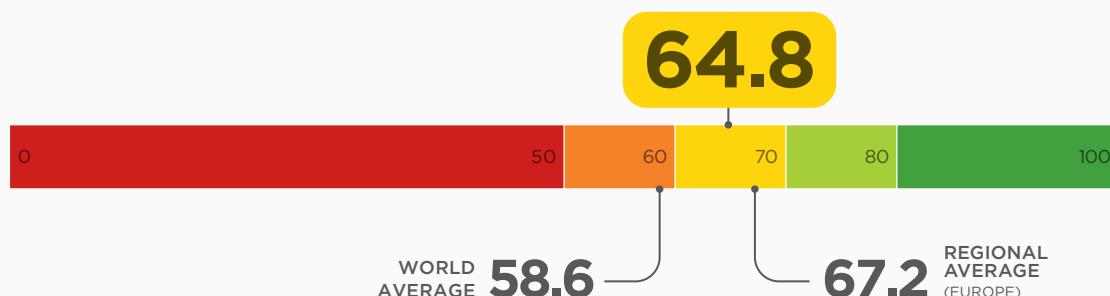
WORLD RANK: **48** REGIONAL RANK: **27**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# ALBANIA

**A**lbania's economic freedom score is 64.8, making its economy the 48th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.5 point from last year, and Albania is ranked 27th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Albania's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

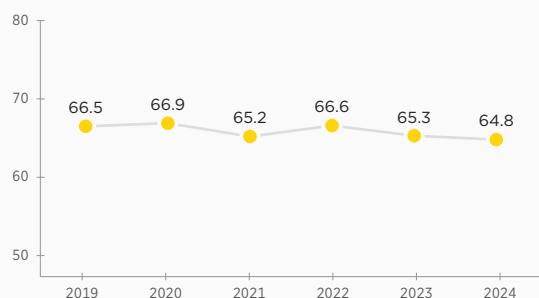
Ongoing diversification of the economic base has increased economic dynamism, although expansionary government spending has led to budget deficits in recent years. The regulatory system's efficiency has been facilitated by a broad simplification of business procedures. Foreign direct investment has increased in recent years, but levels still remain among the lowest in the region. Albania's relatively low property rights score is largely a result of political interference in the judiciary that is exacerbated by persistent corruption.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +15.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

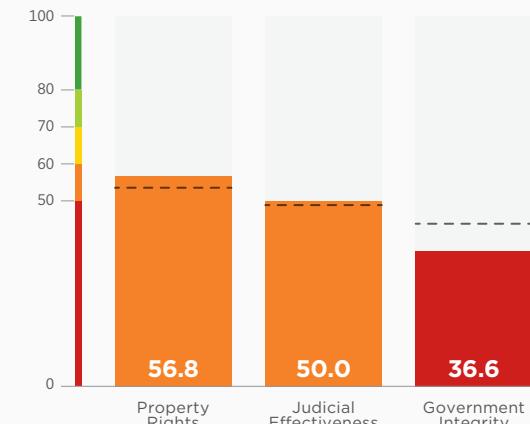
**POPULATION:**  
2.8 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$52.1 billion  
4.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.3%  
\$18,164 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
11.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.7%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.4 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
65.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

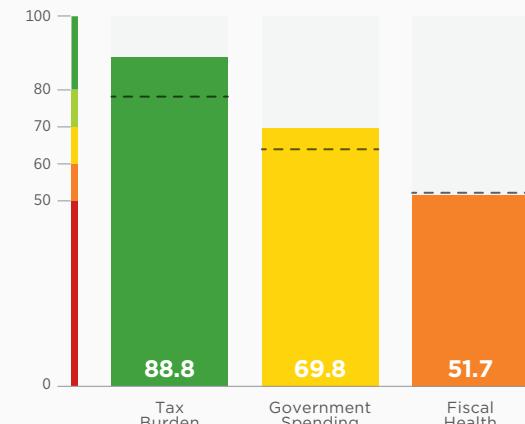
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ALBANIA

## RULE OF LAW



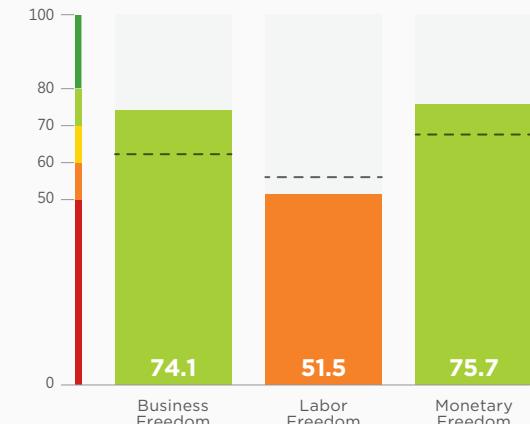
The overall rule of law is weak in Albania. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



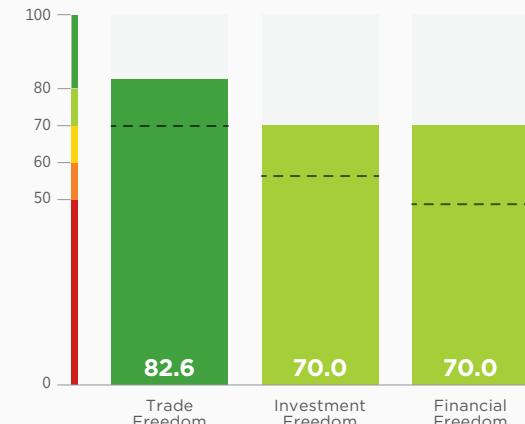
The top individual income tax rate is 23 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 19.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 31.7 percent and -5.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 65.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

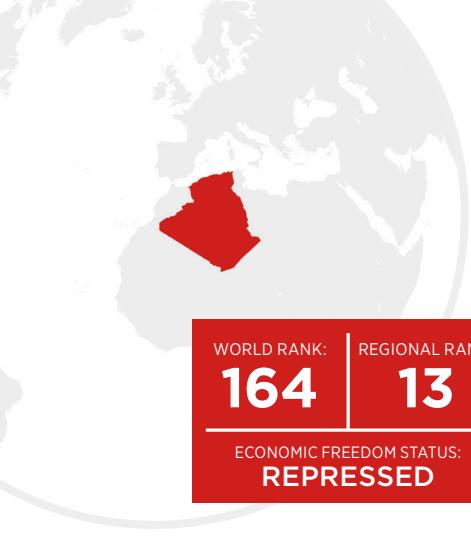


Albania's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 3.7 percent, and more than 190 nontariff measures are in effect. In general, openness to foreign investment is above the world average, but investment laws lack transparency. The banking sector is relatively well capitalized despite the challenging environment.



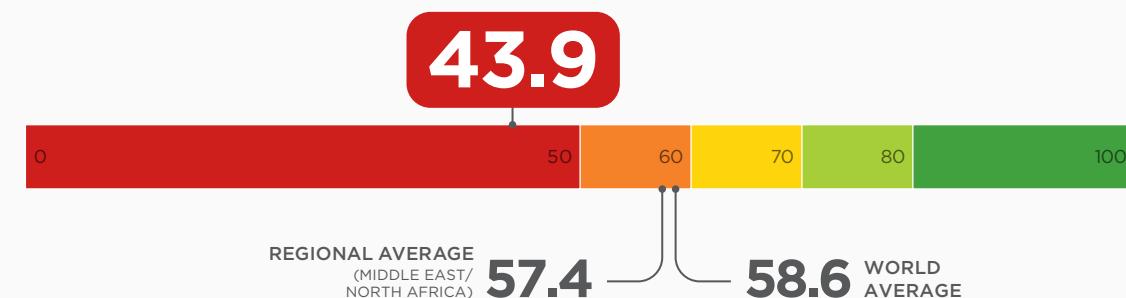
WORLD RANK: **164** | REGIONAL RANK: **13**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSIVE**

# ALGERIA

**A**lgeria's economic freedom score is 43.9, making its economy the 164th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.7 point from last year, and Algeria is ranked 13th out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Algeria's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

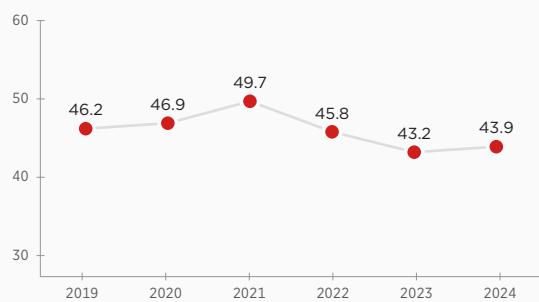
The foundations of economic freedom are not well institutionalized. The judiciary's vulnerability to political interference and corruption undermines sustainable economic development. Despite some progress, the government still needs to improve fiscal governance. Structural reforms to diversify the economic base have achieved only marginal success. Protectionist measures have been used to encourage domestic production. Algeria is one of the world's leading natural gas exporters. Oil and gas account for almost 95 percent of export revenues and more than 30 percent of GDP.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -11.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

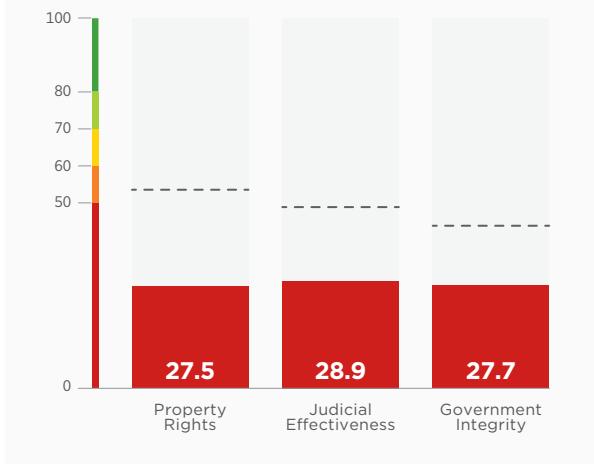
**POPULATION:**  
44.6 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$584.3 billion  
3.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.7%  
\$12,900 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
12.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
9.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$89.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
55.6% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

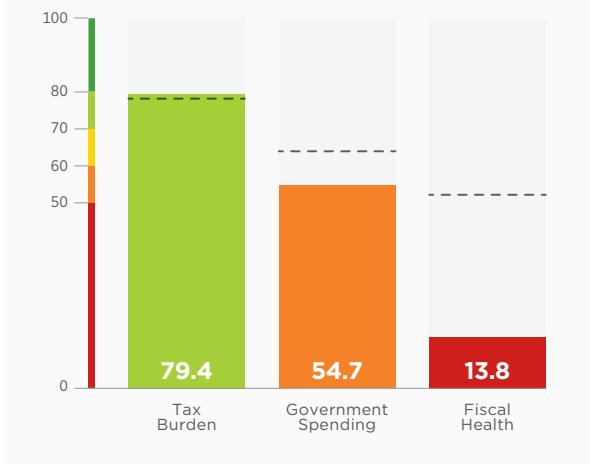
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ALGERIA

## RULE OF LAW



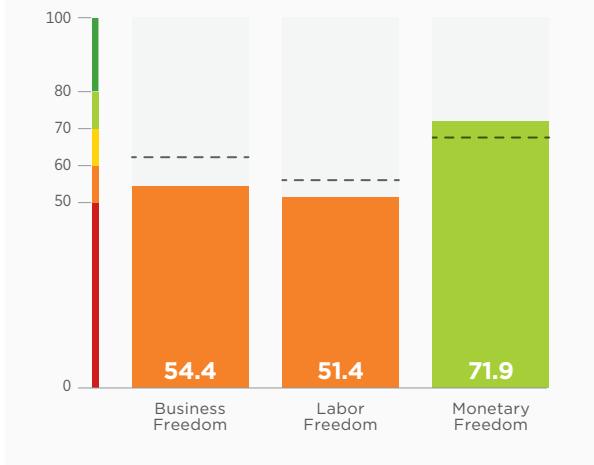
The overall rule of law is weak in Algeria. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



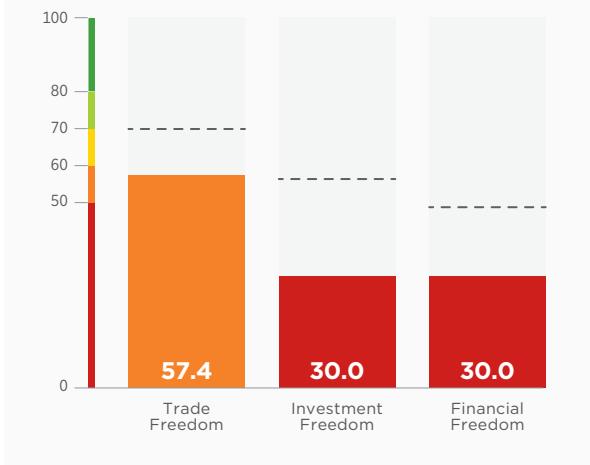
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 26 percent. The tax burden equals 12.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 38.9 percent and -7.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 55.6 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Algeria's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 13.8 percent, and layers of nontariff barriers are in place. Foreign investors generally enjoy only minority status, and restrictions on foreign ownership still limit dynamic investment. Capital markets are underdeveloped, and the financial sector remains dominated by public banks.

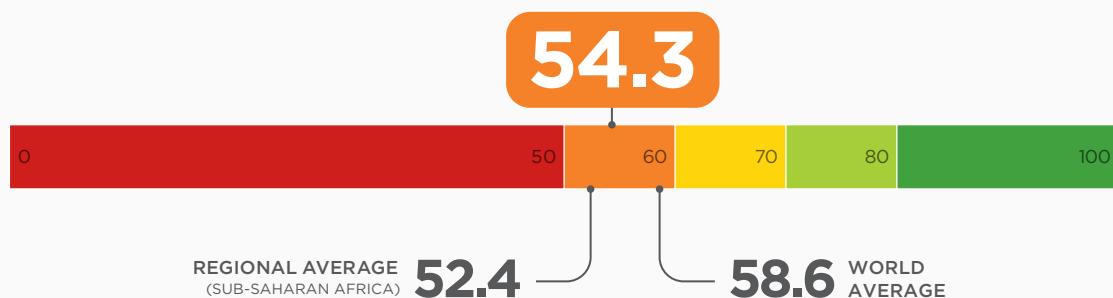


# ANGOLA

Angola's economic freedom score is 54.3, making its economy the 118th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.3 points from last year, and Angola is ranked 19th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Angola's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

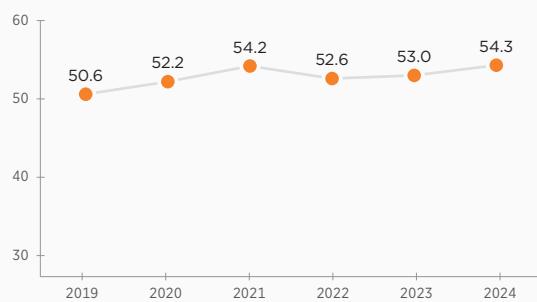
The government of Angola is highly dependent on oil and diamond revenues, and its domination of the economy undermines efficiency. Monopolies and quasi-monopolies are common in the leading sectors. Pervasive corruption and a lack of judicial independence from political interference continue to undermine the foundations of economic freedom. The overall regulatory environment remains constrained by a lack of commitment to policies that support open markets. Non-tariff barriers and burdensome investment regulations hamper development of a dynamic private sector.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +26.9

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

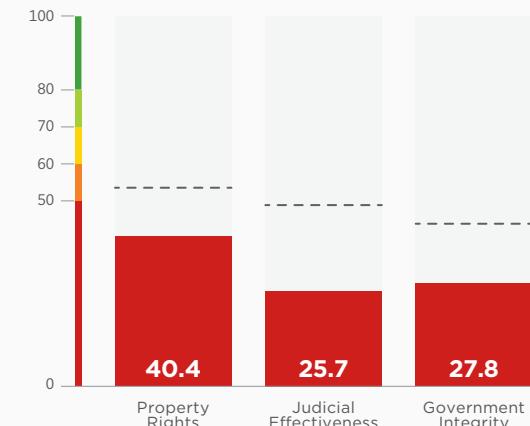
**POPULATION:**  
33.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$248.0 billion  
3.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -0.7%  
\$6,944 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
8.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
21.4%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$6.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
66.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

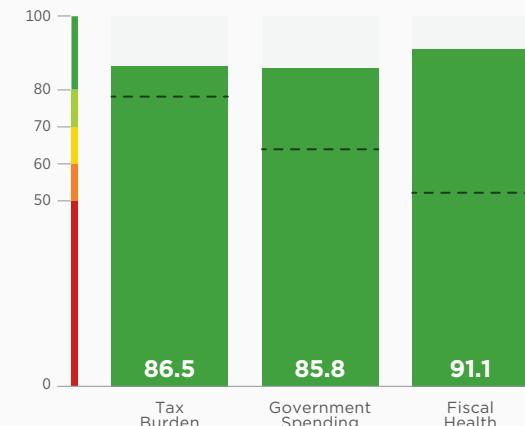
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ANGOLA

## RULE OF LAW



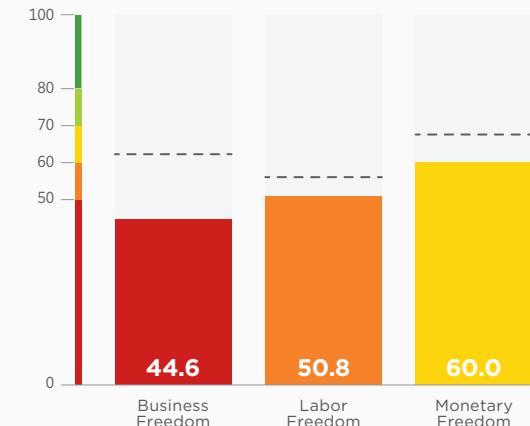
The overall rule of law is weak in Angola. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 10.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 21.8 percent and 0.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 66.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Angola's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.2 percent, and nontariff measures further undermine trade flows. The government's sectoral restrictions on foreign ownership continue to limit foreign investment. Access to credit remains difficult despite some progress, and the equity market is underdeveloped.



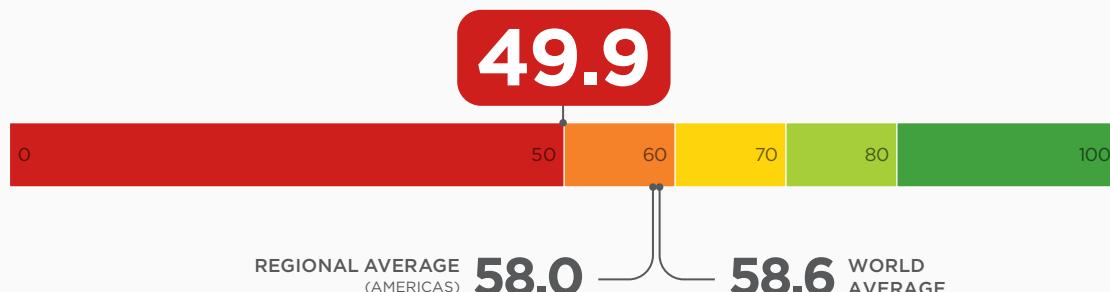
# ARGENTINA



**A**rgentina's economic freedom score is 49.9, making its economy the 145th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.1 points from last year, and Argentina is ranked 27th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Argentina's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

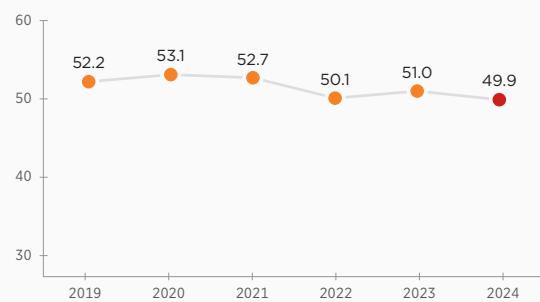
Argentina has vast natural resources, a highly educated population, and a history of political and economic instability. Aggravated by corruption and political interference, the lack of judicial independence has severely eroded limits on government. Populist spending measures and price controls distort markets, and government interference still hobbles the financial sector. High inflation fueled by statist policies and out-of-control spending have prolonged the country's economic crisis. The November 2023 election of Javier Milei as Argentina's president could provide an opportunity to reform and revitalize the economy.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -18.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

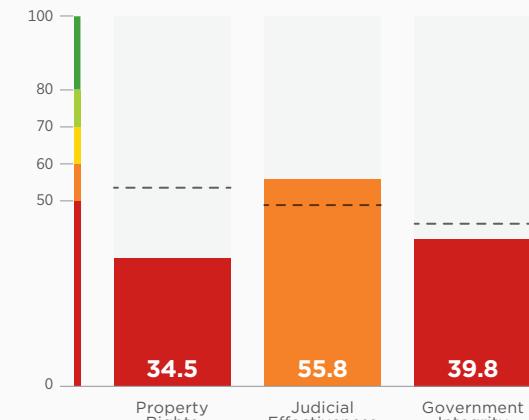
**POPULATION:**  
45.8 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.2 trillion  
5.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.2%  
\$26,484 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
10.9%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
72.4%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$15.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
84.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

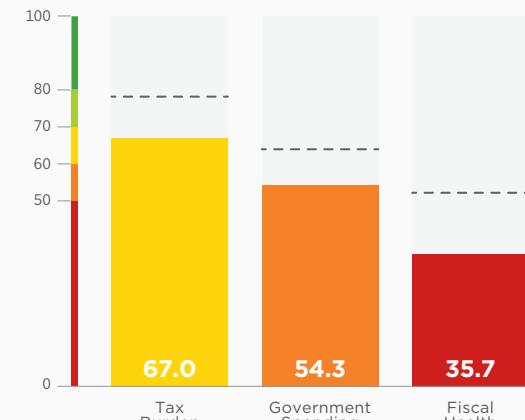
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ARGENTINA

## RULE OF LAW



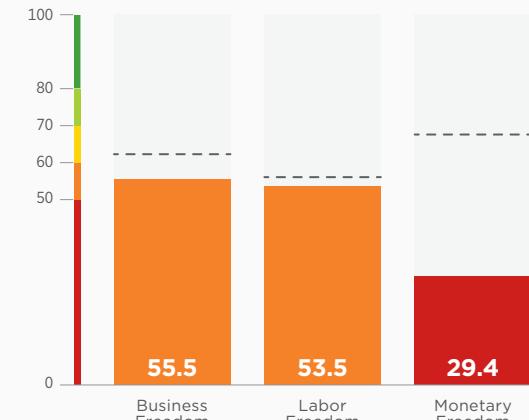
The overall rule of law is weak in Argentina. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



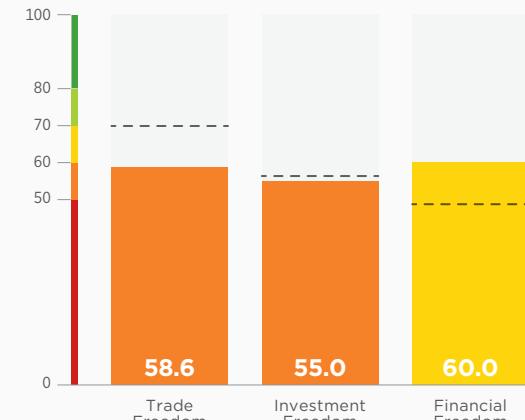
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 29.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 39.0 percent and -5.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 84.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Argentina's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 10.7 percent, and more than 140 nontariff measures are in effect. The state's heavy involvement in the economy slows the investment approval process. State interference in the financial sector includes policies that limit financial account transactions.



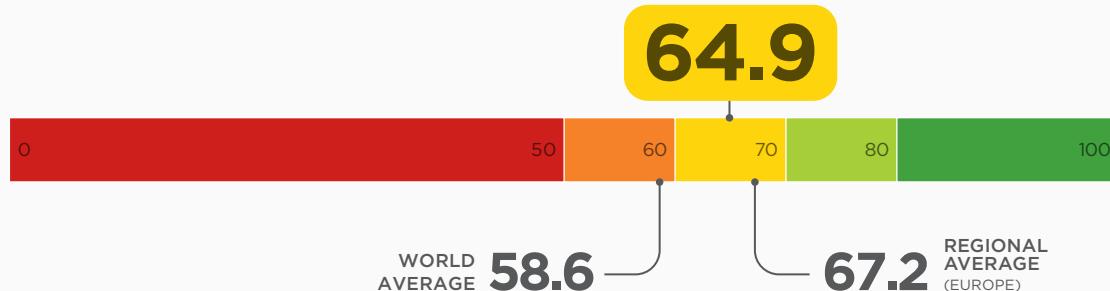
WORLD RANK: **47** | REGIONAL RANK: **26**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# ARMENIA

Armenia's economic freedom score is 64.9, making its economy the 47th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.2 point from last year, and Armenia is ranked 26th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Armenia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

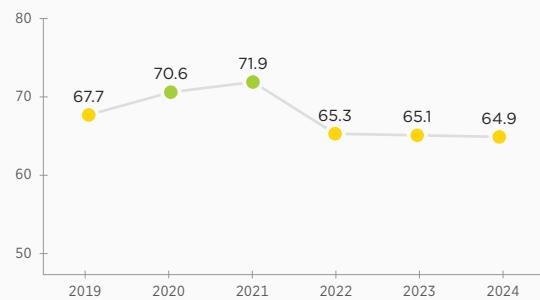
The overall regulatory framework remains efficient, and policies that support open markets are in place. Armenia performs relatively well in many of the four pillars of economic freedom, but the foundations of economic freedom are not strongly sustained by an independent judiciary. Lingering corruption undermines opportunities for more vibrant economic development. Russia is Armenia's principal export market. Armenia joined Russia's Eurasian Economic Union in 2015 and signed a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with the European Union in 2017.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +22.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
3.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$52.7 billion  
12.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.8%  
\$17,795 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
20.9%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.6%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$998.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
49.2% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

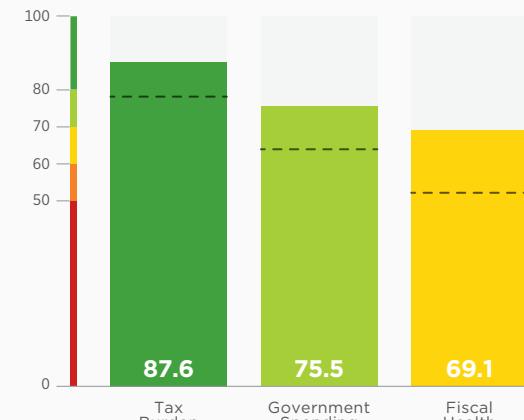
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ARMENIA

## RULE OF LAW



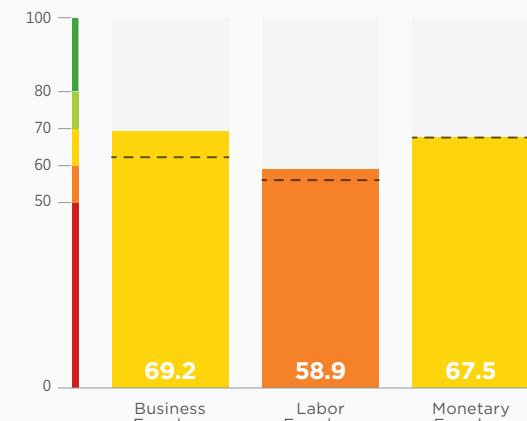
The overall rule of law is weak in Armenia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



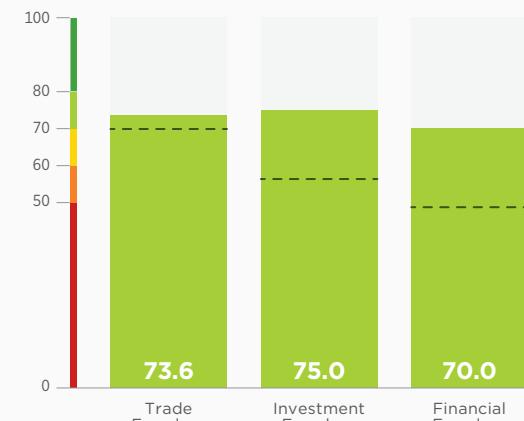
The top individual income tax rate is 20 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 18 percent. The tax burden equals 22.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 28.6 percent and -4.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 49.2 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Armenia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



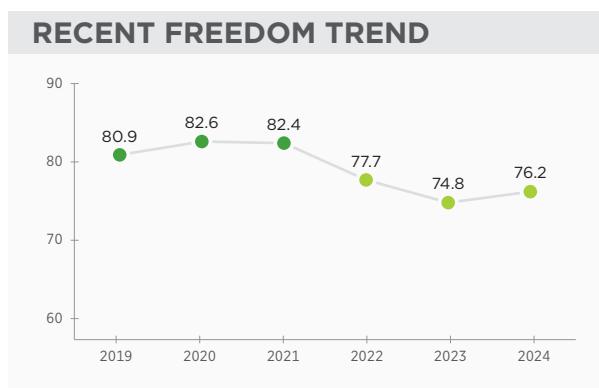
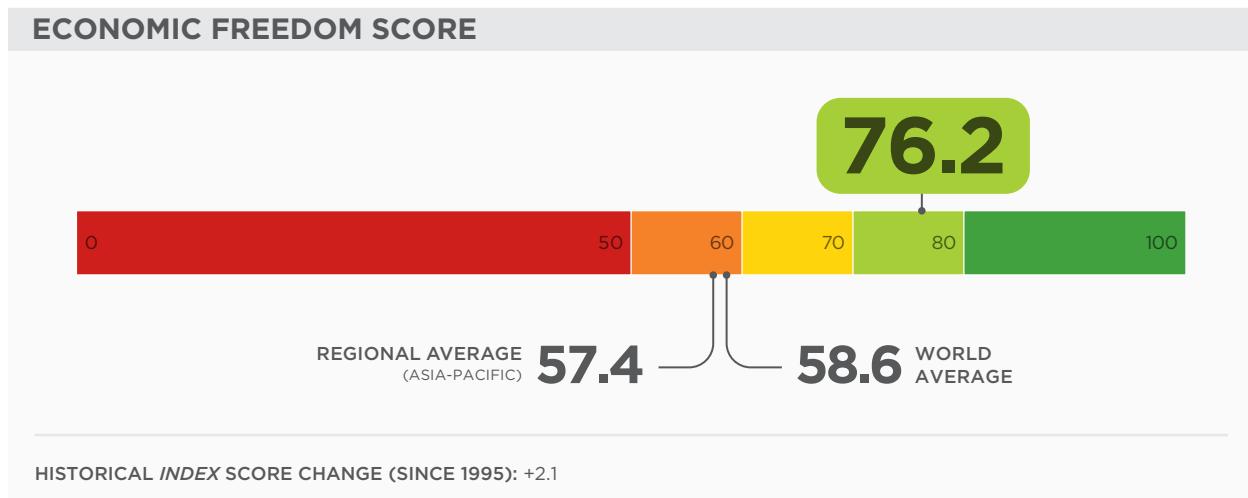
The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.7 percent, and nontariff measures are in effect. Foreign investment in various sectors remains regulated. The overall financial sector is not fully developed, is subject to state control, and is dominated by fairly well-capitalized banks.



# AUSTRALIA

**A**ustralia's economic freedom score is 76.2, making its economy the 13th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.4 points from last year, and Australia is ranked 4th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Australia's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

The competitive Australian economy benefits from a strong commitment to open-market policies that facilitate global trade and investment. The foundations of economic freedom are strong and supported by the widely respected rule of law. Transparent and efficient regulations are generally applied evenly and encourage dynamic private-sector entrepreneurial activity. Australia is internationally competitive in financial and insurance services, technologies, and high-value-added manufactured goods and has free-trade agreements with the U.S., China, Japan, South Korea, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the United Kingdom.



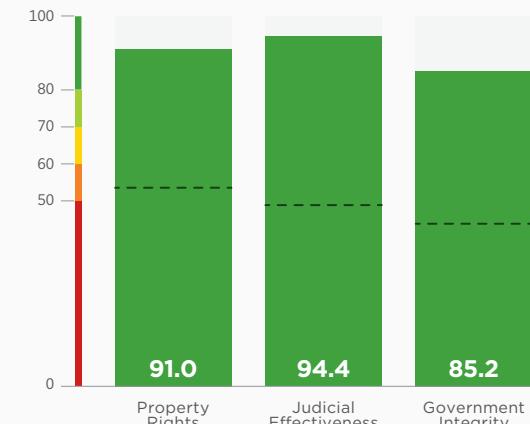
### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 25.7 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 5.1%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$1.6 trillion 3.7% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 2.4% \$62,026 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 6.6%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$61.6 billion	
<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 50.7% of GDP	

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

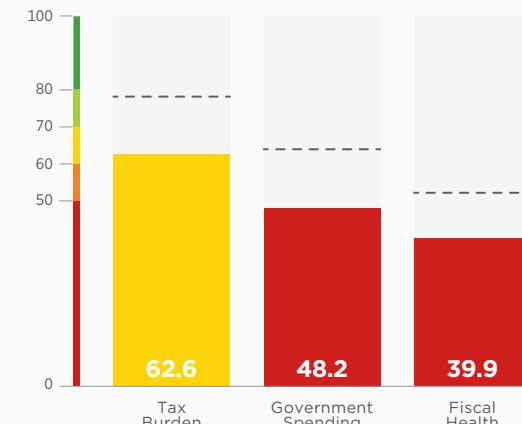
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | AUSTRALIA

## RULE OF LAW



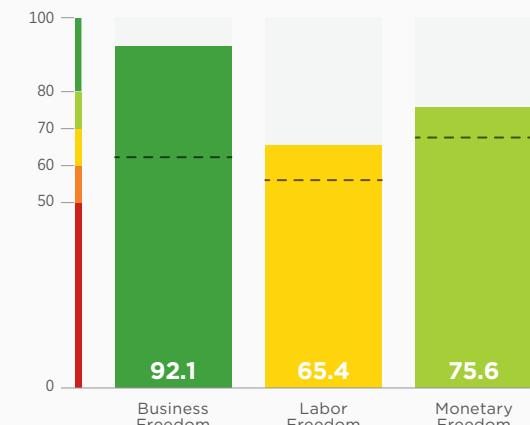
The overall rule of law is very well respected in Australia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



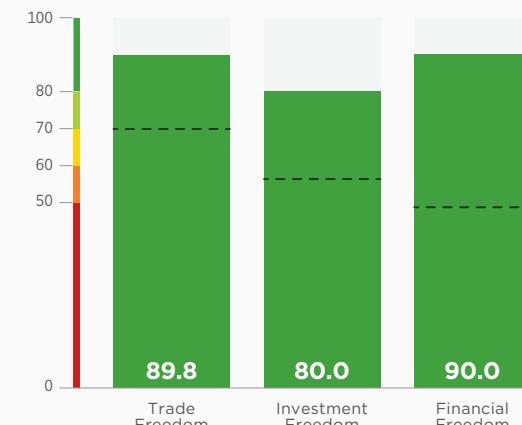
The top individual income tax rate is 45 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 28.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 41.6 percent and -5.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 50.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Australia's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 2.6 percent, and more than 300 nontariff measures are in effect. Government policies do not significantly interfere with foreign investment. The competitive financial sector is well developed, and all banks are privately owned.

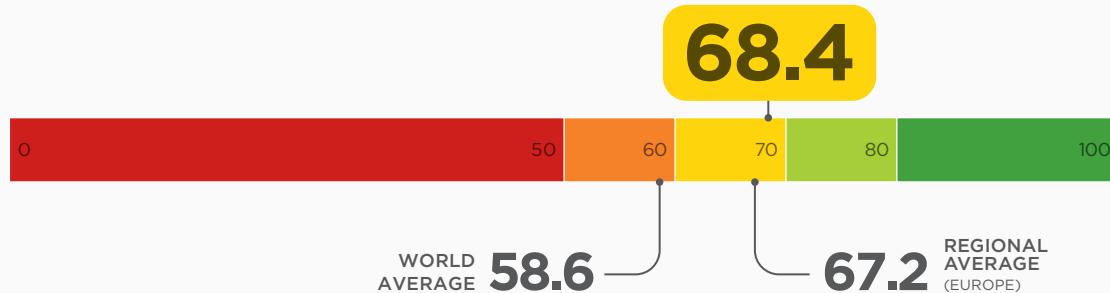


# AUSTRIA

Austria's economic freedom score is 68.4, making its economy the 33rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.7 points from last year, and Austria is ranked 20th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Austria's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

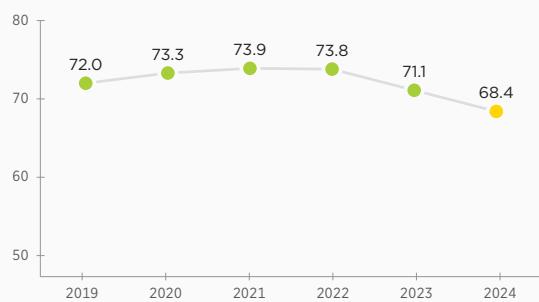
The overall business environment is transparent and competitive. Austria has large services and industrial sectors and a small, highly developed agricultural sector. The country's high scores for property rights and judicial effectiveness reflect its strong rule of law and maintenance of economic freedom. Institutional strength, however, is not matched by a commitment to limited government. Expansionary public spending has generated budgetary pressure. Ongoing challenges include the assimilation of migrants and the strains on labor markets and public finances caused by an aging population.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -1.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

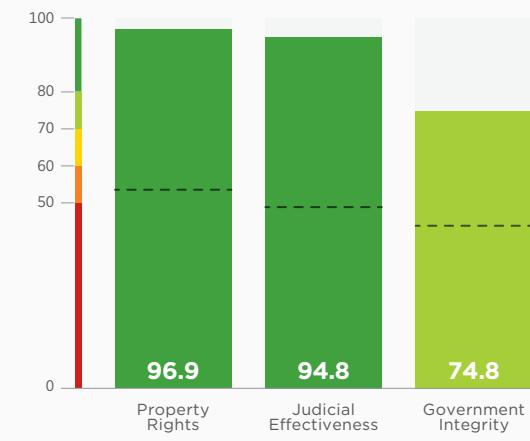
**POPULATION:**  
9.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$603.7 billion  
4.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.4%  
\$66,889 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.3%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.6%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.9 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
78.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

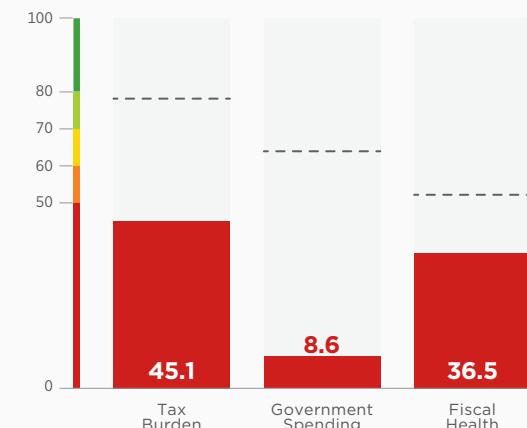
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | AUSTRIA

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is well respected in Austria. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



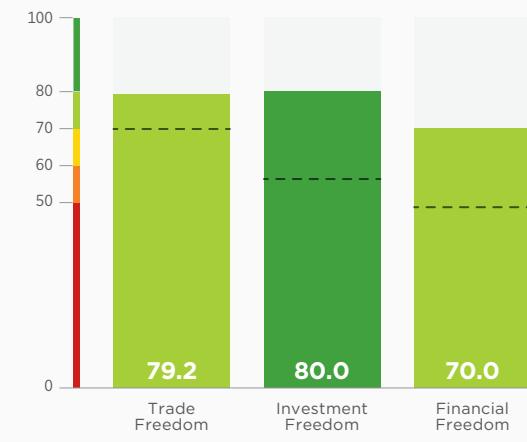
The top individual income tax rate is 55 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 24 percent. The tax burden equals 43.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 55.2 percent and -5.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 78.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Austria's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. In general, government policies do not significantly interfere with foreign investment. The relatively well-capitalized banking sector offers a wide range of financial services.

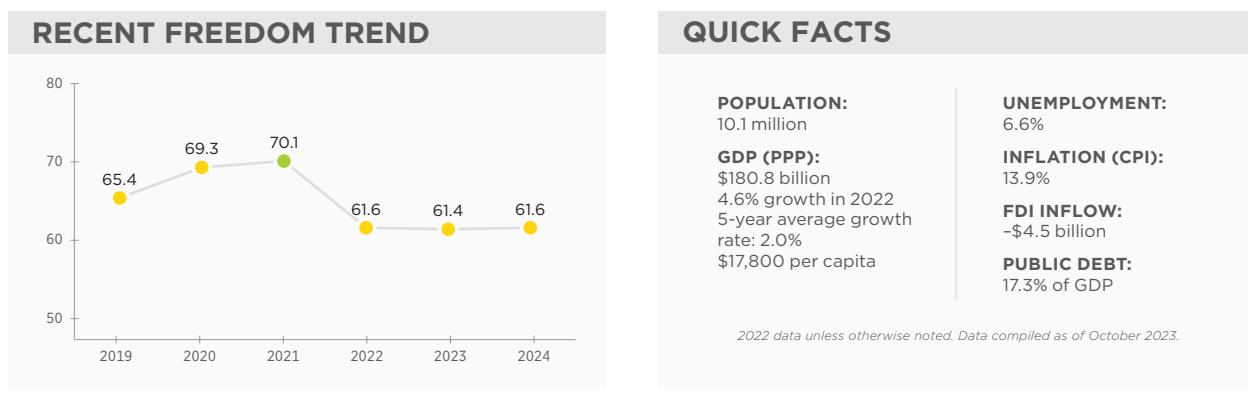
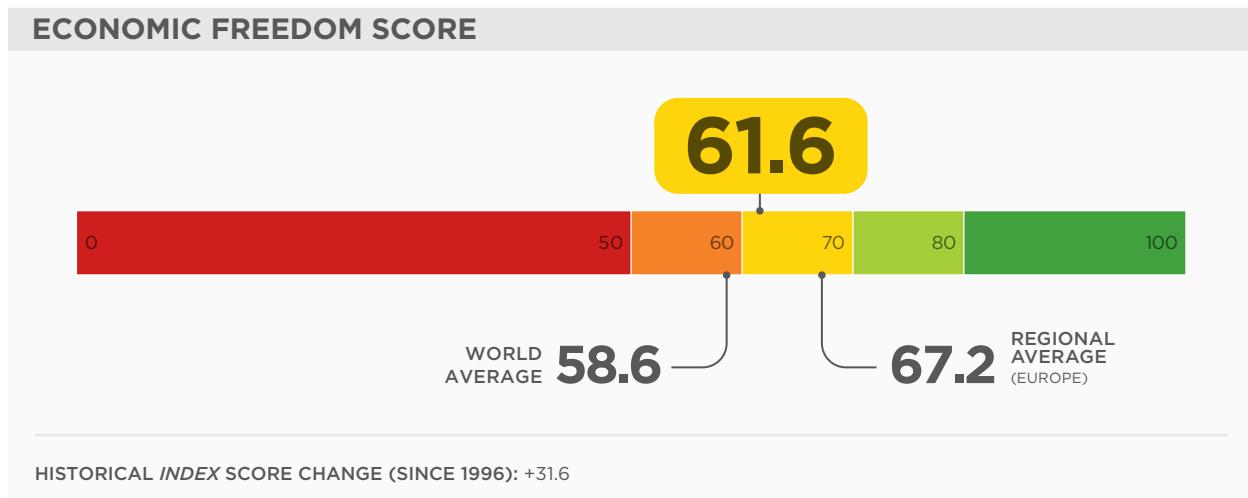


# AZERBAIJAN



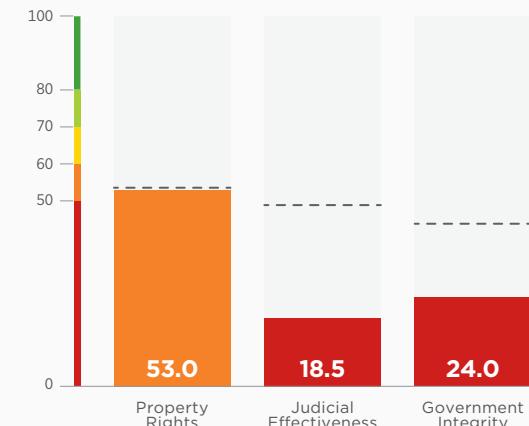
Azerbaijan's economic freedom score is 61.6, making its economy the 70th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.2 point from last year, and Azerbaijan is ranked 34th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Azerbaijan's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Wide-ranging reforms have led to measurable progress in economic modernization and diversification, improving Azerbaijan's overall macroeconomic and entrepreneurial competitiveness. Openness to global trade and investment has aided the transition to a more market-based system, but deeper institutional and systemic reforms are needed to strengthen the foundations of economic freedom. Efforts to boost energy production are underway. The Southern Gas Corridor, a pipeline transporting gas from Azerbaijan to European markets, has been in operation since its completion in 2020.



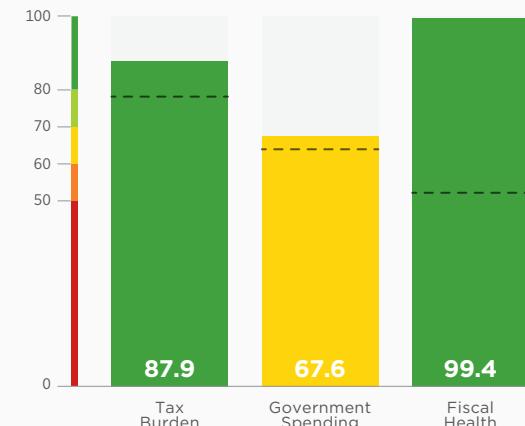
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | AZERBAIJAN

## RULE OF LAW



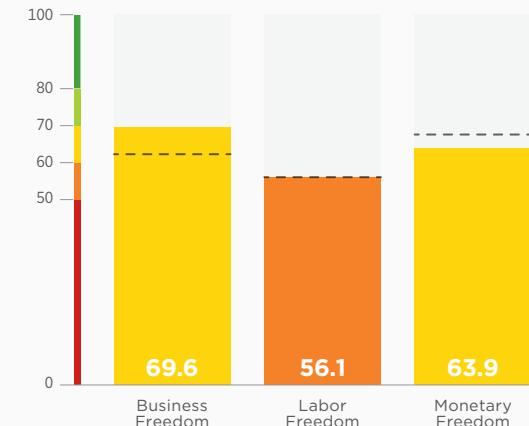
The overall rule of law is weak in Azerbaijan. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 13.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 32.9 percent and 1.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 17.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Azerbaijan's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.0 percent, and nontariff barriers continue to restrict trade. Azerbaijan has been moving gradually toward greater diversification of its economy. The financial sector is dominated by state-owned banks but remains stable.



WORLD RANK:

**61**

REGIONAL RANK:

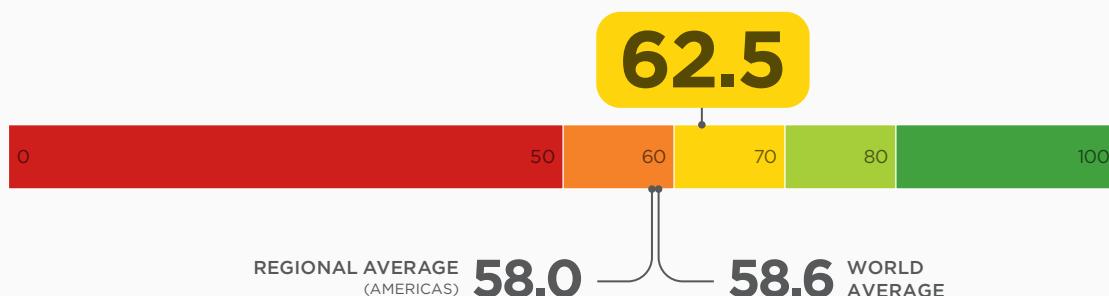
**11**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# BAHAMAS

The Bahamas' economic freedom score is 62.5, making its economy the 61st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.1 point from last year, and the Bahamas is ranked 11th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. The Bahamas' economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

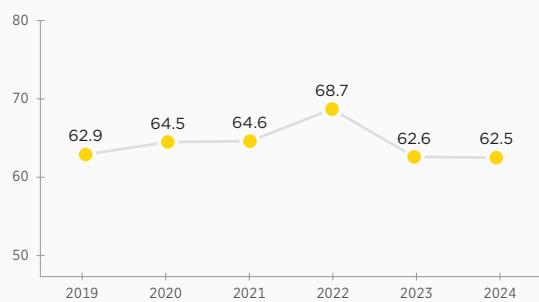
Relatively sound macroeconomic management has contributed to steady economic growth, but overall economic freedom has been declining modestly. The economy has been fluctuating within the "moderately free" range. The country's overall regulatory system is conducive to entrepreneurial activity, and there are no individual or corporate income taxes. The foundations of economic freedom remain relatively sound, with freedom from corruption and property rights scoring above world averages. However, further improvements in these two areas will be critical to improving institutional efficiency.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -9.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



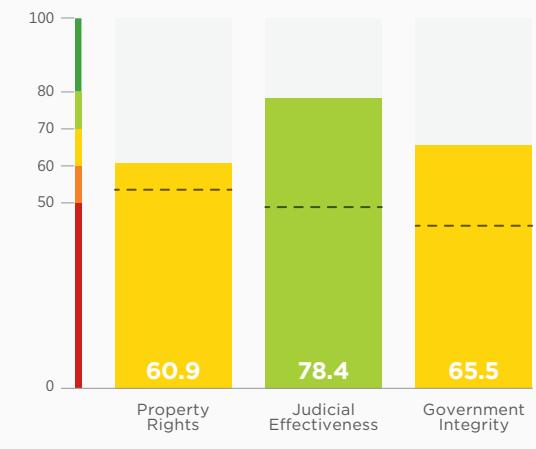
## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
0.4 million**GDP (PPP):**  
\$16.8 billion  
14.4% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.0%  
\$42,023 per capita**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
13.2%**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.6%**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.3 billion**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
88.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

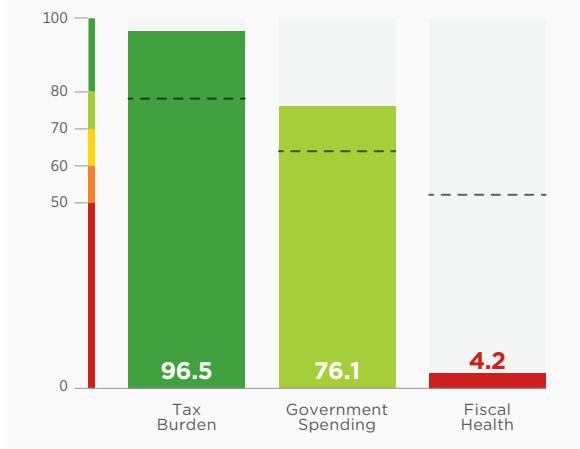
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BAHAMAS

## RULE OF LAW



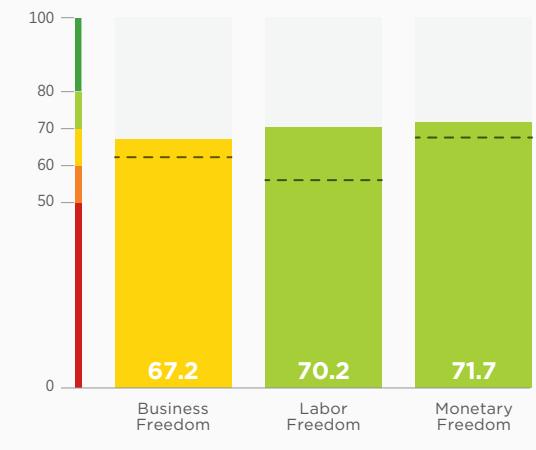
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in the Bahamas. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



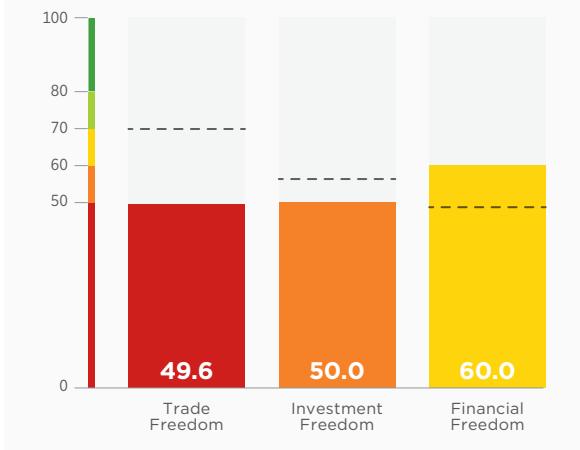
The top individual income tax rate is 0 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 0 percent. The tax burden equals 18.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 28.2 percent and -8.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 88.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

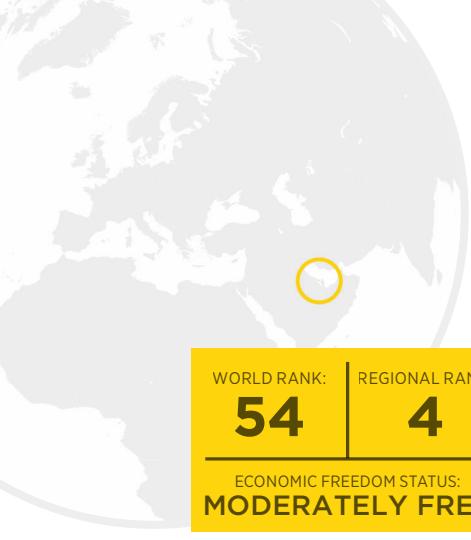


The Bahamas' overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



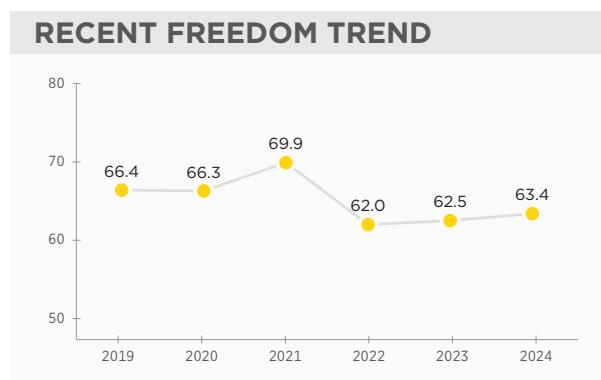
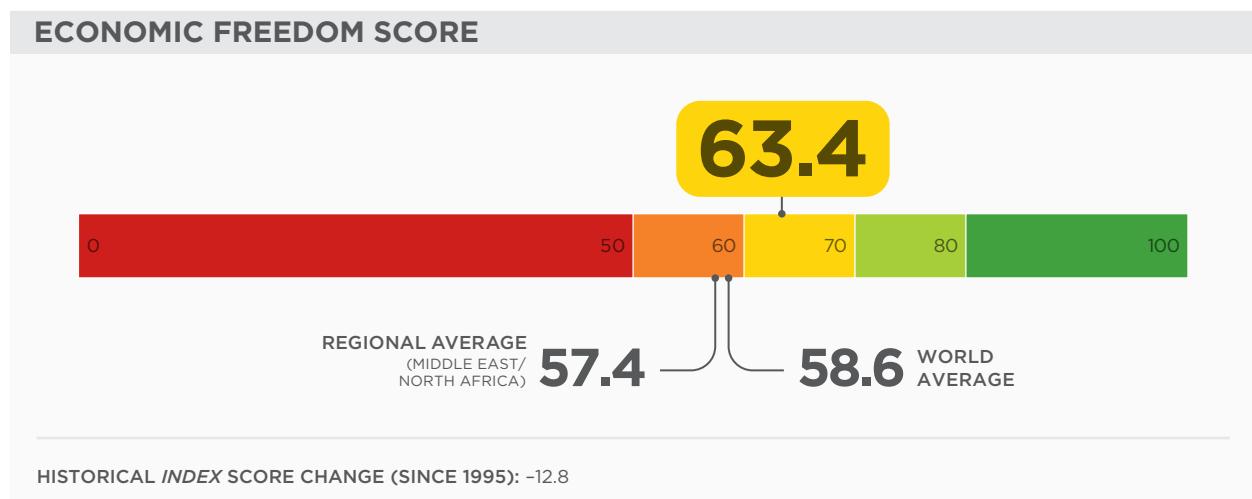
The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 17.7 percent, and nontariff measures further impede trade flows. New foreign investment is subject to a lengthy review process. The financial sector is fairly competitive and the second most important contributor to the economy.



# BAHRAIN

Bahrain's economic freedom score is 63.4, making its economy the 54th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.9 point from last year, and Bahrain is ranked 4th out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Bahrain's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Bahrain performs quite well in many of the four pillars of economic freedom. The overall investment framework is streamlined, and the commercial law system is relatively straightforward. Despite the challenging global economic environment, the country continues to be a dynamic business hub. Its openness to global commerce is sustained by a competitive regulatory environment. Enhancing the foundations of economic freedom by further improving the rule of law and fiscal policy remains critical to ensuring the country's ongoing evolution.



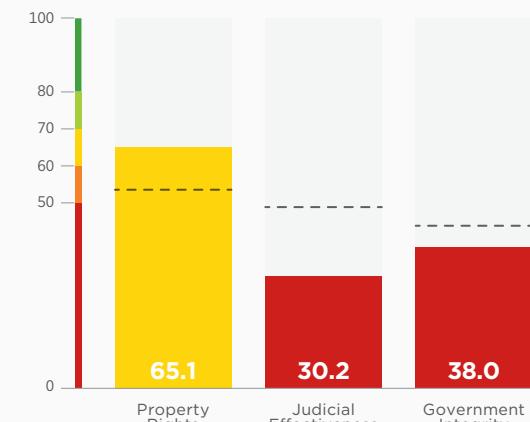
### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 1.7 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 1.9%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$90.1 billion 4.9% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 1.4% \$58,426 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 3.6%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$2.0 billion	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 117.6% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

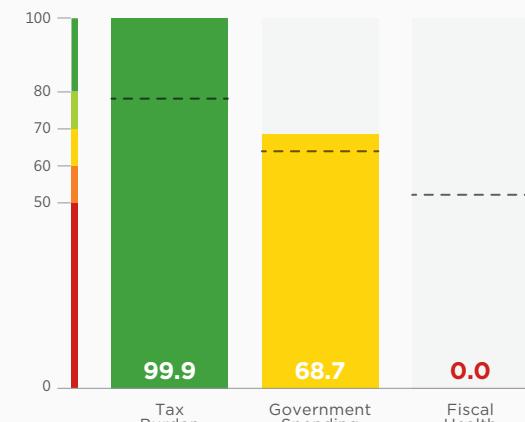
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BAHRAIN

## RULE OF LAW



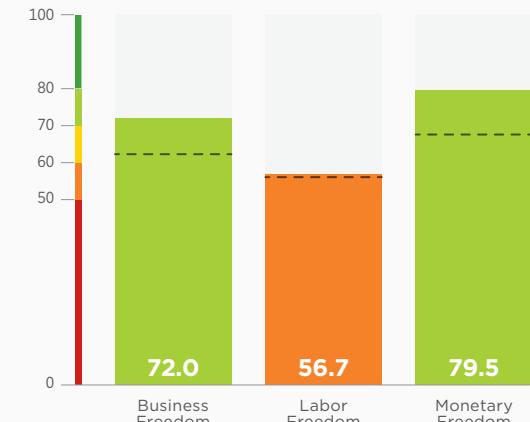
The overall rule of law is relatively weak in Bahrain. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



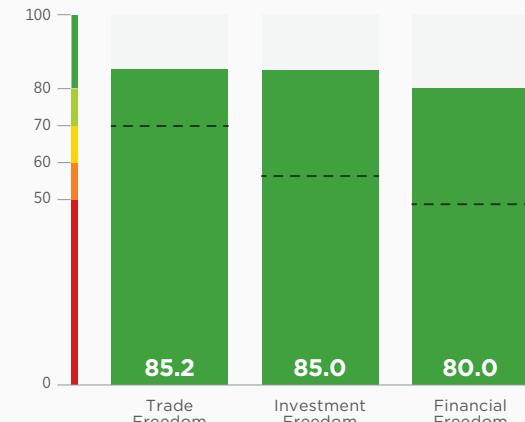
The top individual income tax rate is 0 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 0 percent. The tax burden equals 2.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 32.3 percent and -11.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 117.6 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Bahrain's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized and efficient. The country's business freedom score is greater than the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 4.9 percent, and nontariff measures are in effect. The overall investment framework is generally positive and has remained transparent. Foreign and domestic investors have access to a wide range of financial services.

WORLD RANK:

**116**

REGIONAL RANK:

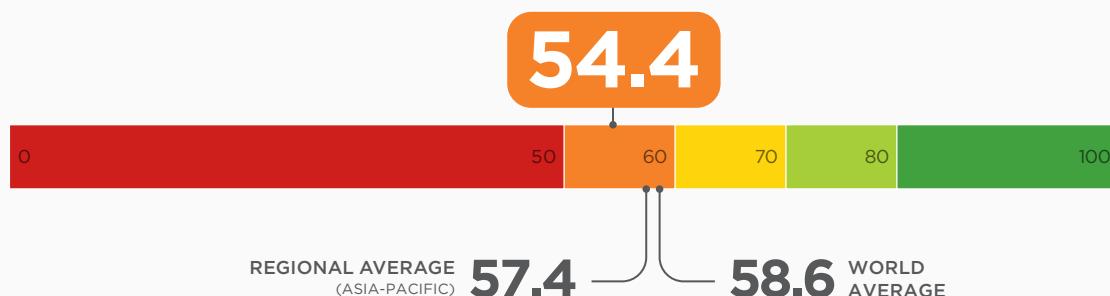
**25**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# BANGLADESH

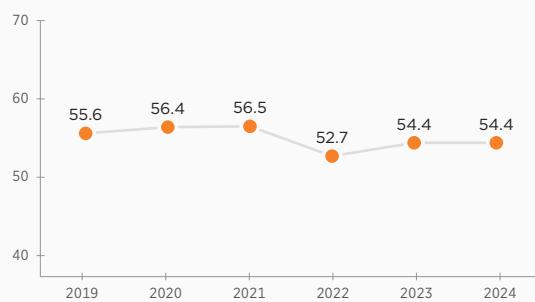
**B**angladesh's economic freedom score is 54.4, making its economy the 116th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has not changed from last year, and Bangladesh is ranked 25th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Bangladesh's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

The foundations of economic freedom remain fragile. Corruption and judicial inefficiency undermine the rule of law, and structural problems and weak governance constrain development. Policies needed to sustain open markets are undercut by government interference in the economy. The many obstacles to business include poor infrastructure, unreliable electricity, inaccessible financing, and a bloated bureaucracy. Labor laws are not enforced well. Inflation and rising fuel prices have sparked popular discontent. The underdeveloped financial sector impedes investment and the growth of a more dynamic private sector.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
166.3 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.3 trillion  
7.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 6.5%  
\$7,971 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.2%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.2%

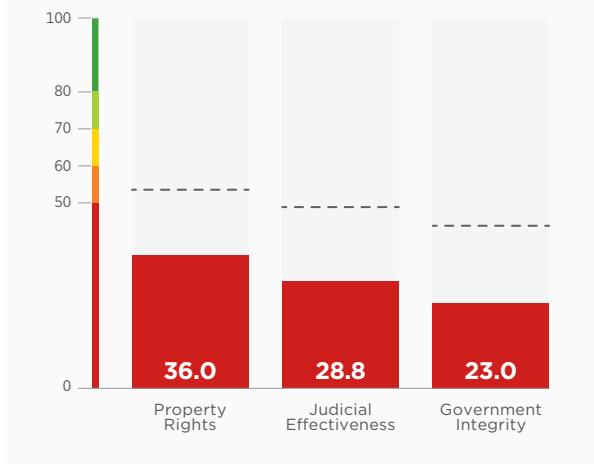
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$3.5 billion

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
37.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

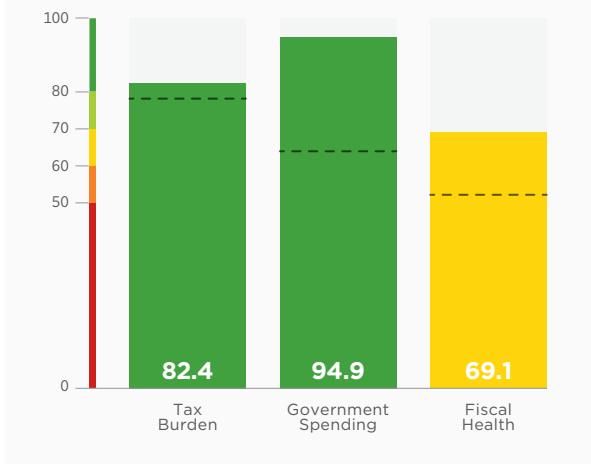
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BANGLADESH

## RULE OF LAW



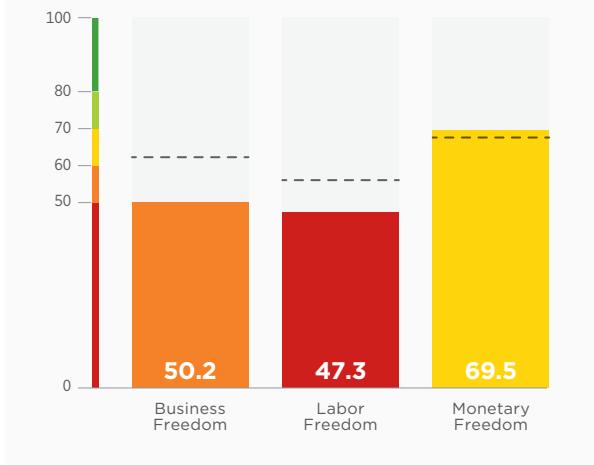
The overall rule of law is weak in Bangladesh. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



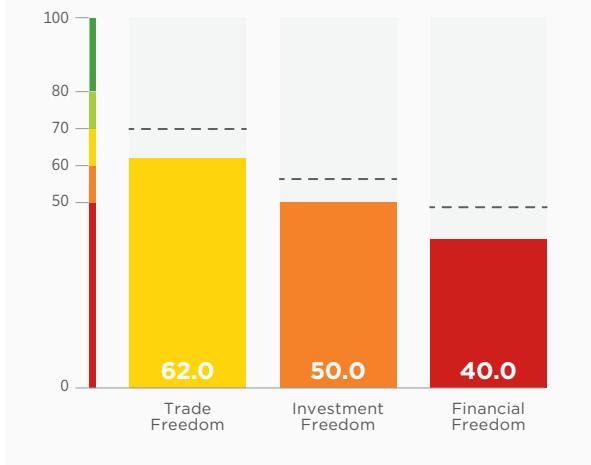
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 32.5 percent. The tax burden equals 8.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 13.1 percent and -4.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 37.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

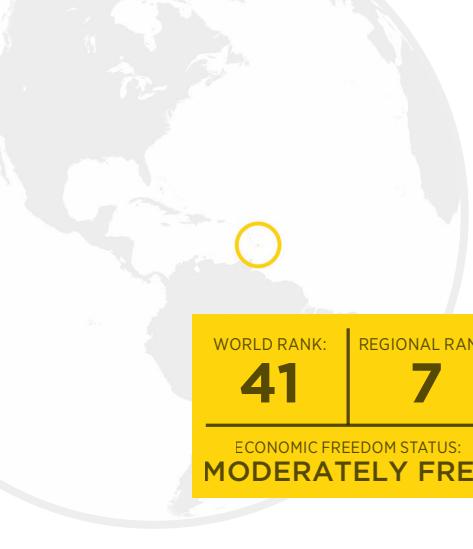


Bangladesh's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 11.5 percent, and layers of nontariff barriers continue to impede dynamic flows of trade and investment. The financial sector is dominated by banks, and state interference is considerable.



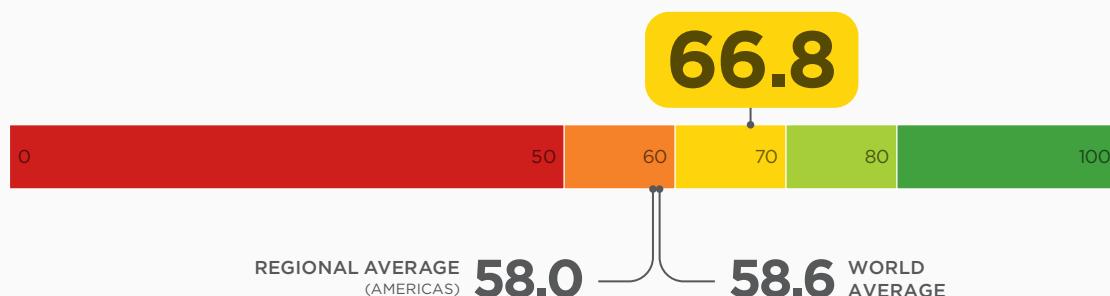
# BARBADOS

WORLD RANK:	41	REGIONAL RANK:	7
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>MODERATELY FREE</b>			

Barbados's economic freedom score is 66.8, making its economy the 41st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 3 points from last year, and Barbados is ranked 7th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Barbados's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

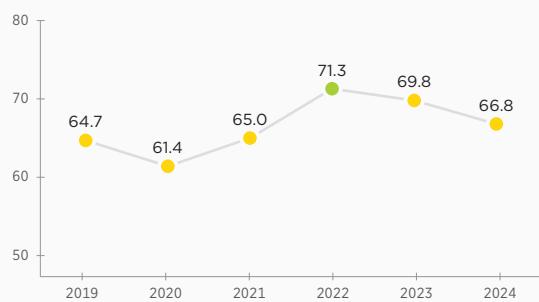
A middle-income country with a diversified economy built on tourism and offshore banking, Barbados has one of the Caribbean's highest incomes per capita. Relatively strong foundations of economic freedom are supported by transparency and efficiency, but the government's economic policies are focused on attracting international companies. The overall business and investment framework is relatively clear. However, due to a fiscal deficit, government debt has become larger than the size of the economy. Tourism has rebounded, but Barbados still faces challenges to medium-term growth.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +4.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
0.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$5.0 billion  
9.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -1.0%  
\$17,339 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
10.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$200.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
122.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

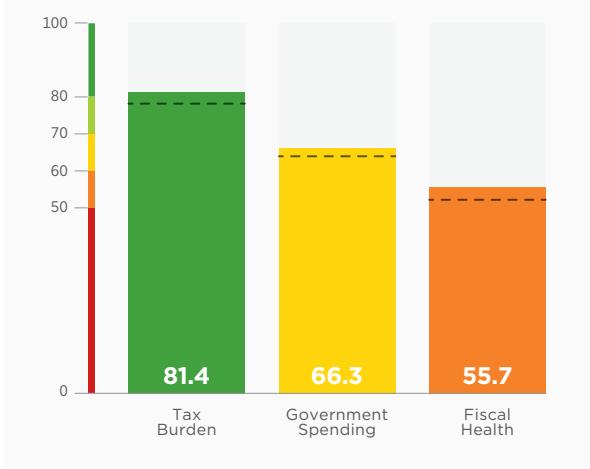
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BARBADOS

## RULE OF LAW



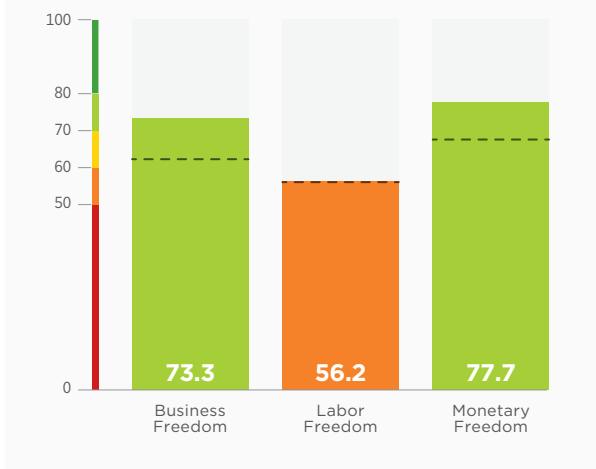
The overall rule of law is well respected in Barbados. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



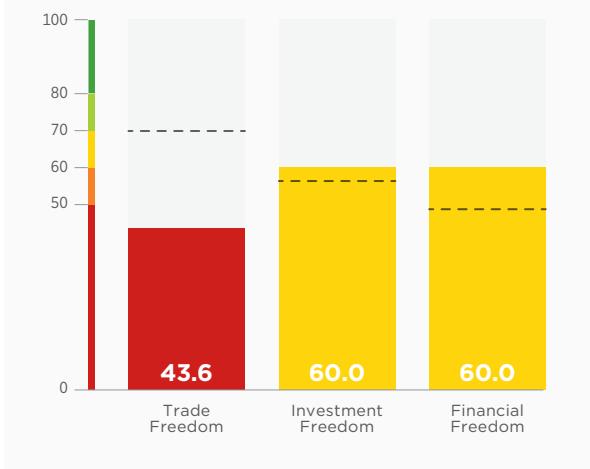
The top individual income tax rate is 28.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 5.5 percent. The tax burden equals 31.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 33.5 percent and -3.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 122.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Barbados's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 20.7 percent, and more than 100 nontariff measures are in effect. There are no limits on foreign investment, although some sectors require a government license. The banking sector provides a wide range of services for investors.

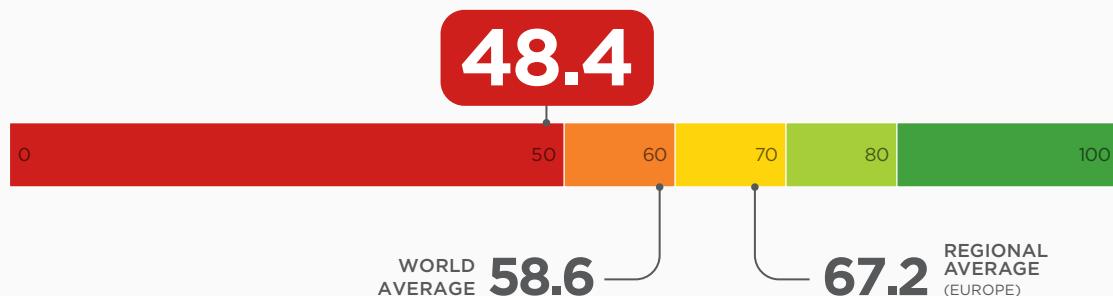
WORLD RANK: 153 | REGIONAL RANK: 44  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: REPRESSIVE

# BELARUS

**B**elarus's economic freedom score is 48.4, making its economy the 153rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.6 points from last year, and Belarus is ranked 44th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Belarus's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

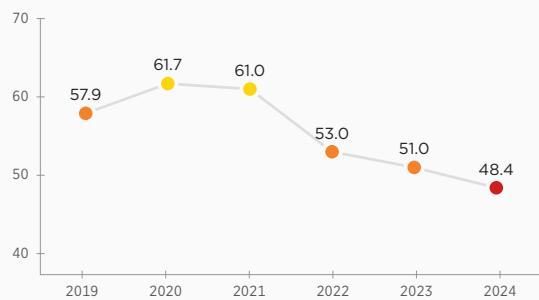
The Belarusian economy remains repressed. Poor scores for property rights and freedom from corruption reflect weak foundations of economic freedom. Corruption remains widespread, and an ineffective judiciary and time-consuming bureaucracy affect the enforcement of property rights. State control and involvement in the economy are pervasive, and Belarus lacks regulatory efficiency and flexibility. Overall progress in business reform has been uneven, and the small private sector remains marginalized. The lack of policies designed to open markets and improve productivity undermines competitiveness and dynamic investment growth.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +8.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

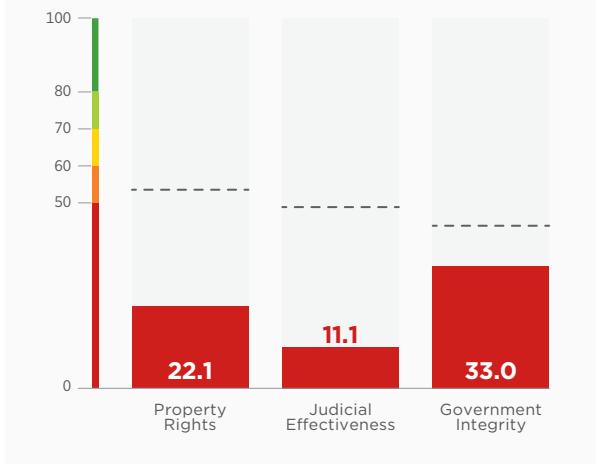
**POPULATION:**  
9.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$209.9 billion  
-3.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.5%  
\$22,679 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
15.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.6 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
41.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

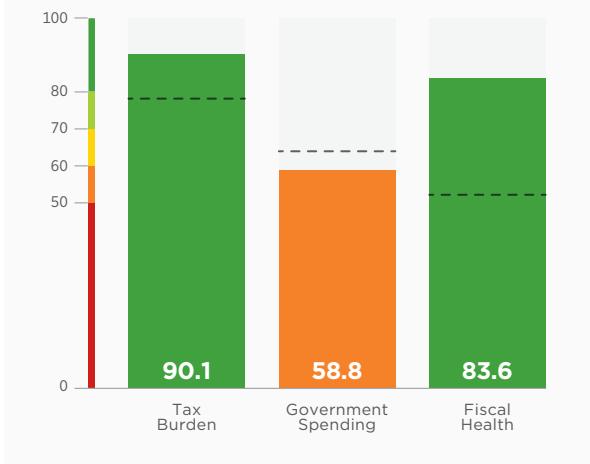
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BELARUS

## RULE OF LAW



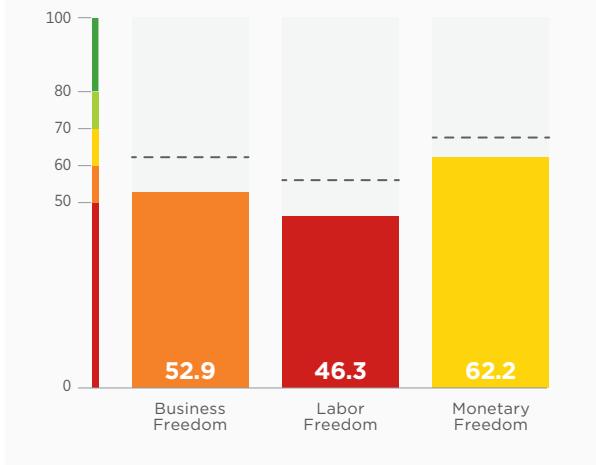
The overall rule of law is weak in Belarus. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



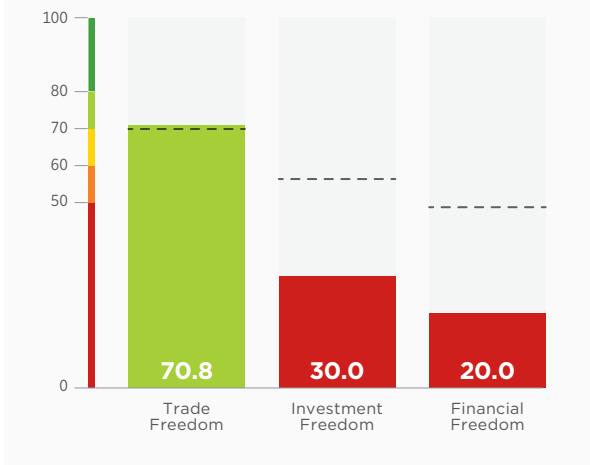
The top individual income tax rate is 13 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 18 percent. The tax burden equals 22.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 37.1 percent and -2.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 41.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

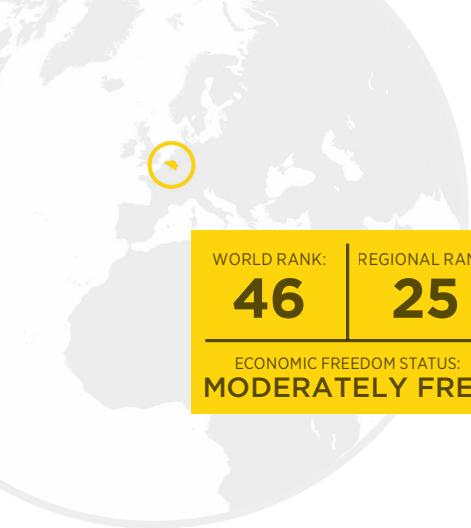


Belarus's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 4.6 percent, but trade flows remain restricted by various nontariff barriers. Belarus is not a member of the World Trade Organization. Extensive state ownership and government control severely limit investment and financial activity.



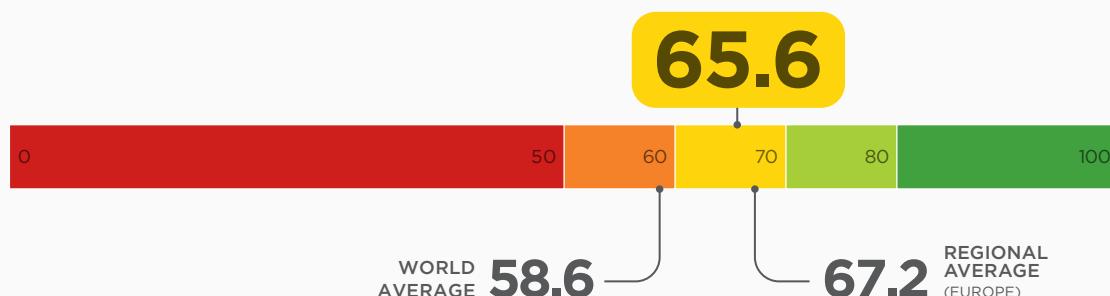
WORLD RANK: **46** | REGIONAL RANK: **25**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# BELGIUM

**B**elgium's economic freedom score is 65.6, making its economy the 46th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.5 points from last year, and Belgium is ranked 25th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Belgium's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

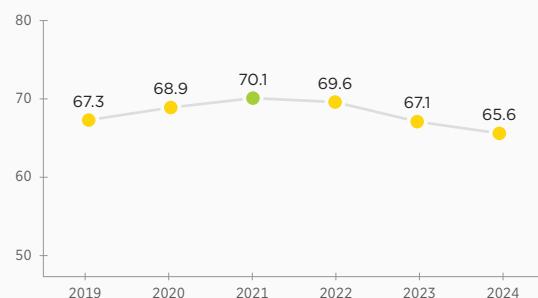
With strong foundations of economic freedom, Belgium's economy has long benefited from open-market policies that support global trade and investment. Clear and transparent laws and regulations are well enforced. However, the tax system is relatively burdensome, and the extensive welfare state is costly. Labor market rigidities remain a major barrier to productivity and job growth. Services account for a large portion of GDP. Belgium has a dense network of rails and roadways and one of Europe's busiest ports, Antwerp.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): -0.4

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
11.6 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$735.0 billion  
3.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.6%  
\$63,268 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
10.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$1.7 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
105.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

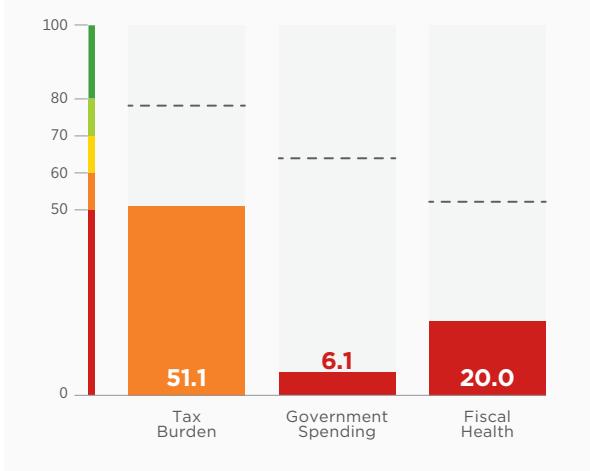
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BELGIUM

## RULE OF LAW



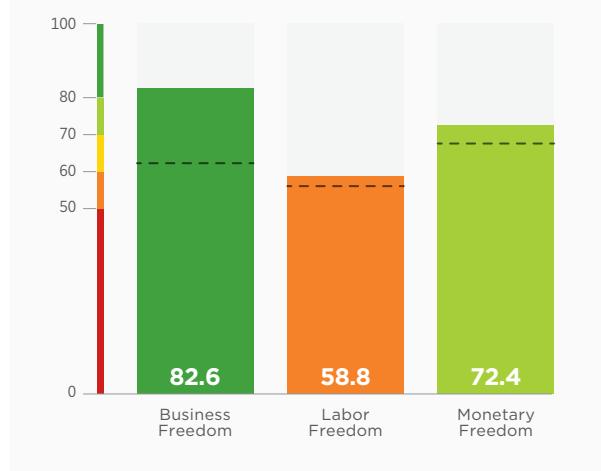
The overall rule of law is well respected in Belgium. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



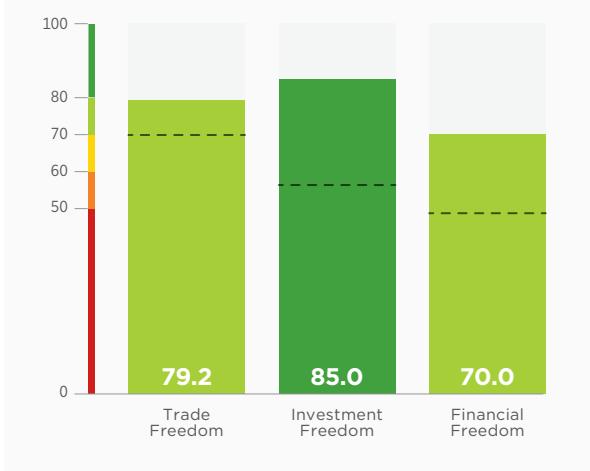
The top individual income tax rate is 50 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 42.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 56.0 percent and -6.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 105.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

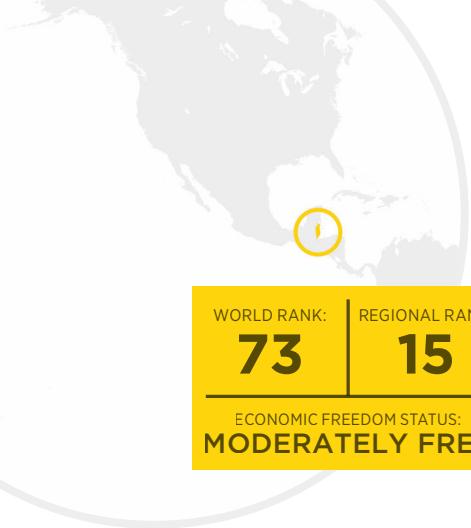


Belgium's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Foreign and domestic investors are treated equally. The financial system remains vibrant and generally free from government involvement.



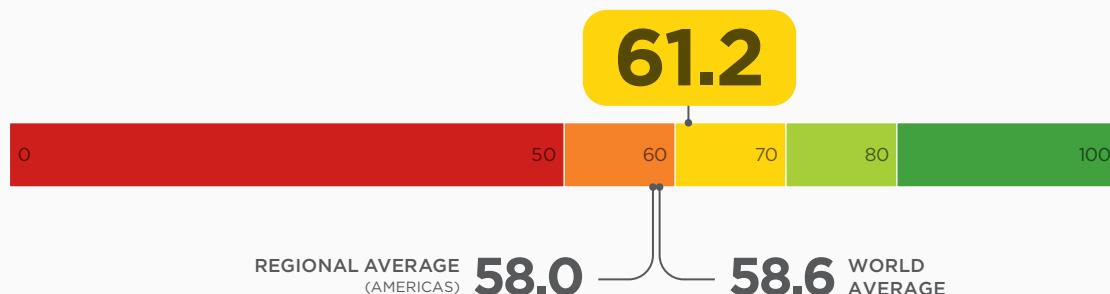
# BELIZE



**B**elize's economic freedom score is 61.2, making its economy the 73rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.4 points from last year, and Belize is ranked 15th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Belize's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

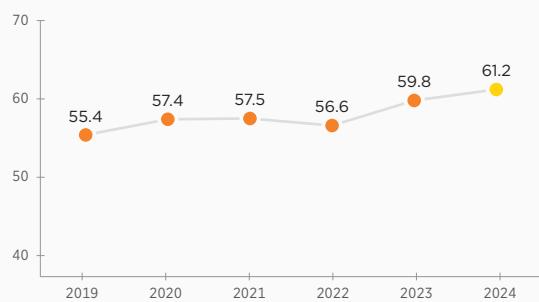
Institutional weaknesses that undermine the foundations of economic freedom constrain vibrant economic growth. Despite a streamlined process for completing regulatory requirements, entrepreneurial activity often faces inefficiency and a lack of transparency. The judicial system is vulnerable to political interference, and corruption is common. Entrepreneurial activity is limited, and recovery from the recent economic slowdown has been narrowly based. The overall investment framework remains inefficient, and there is no fully developed formal labor market. The most recent available inflation rate is 6.3 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -1.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

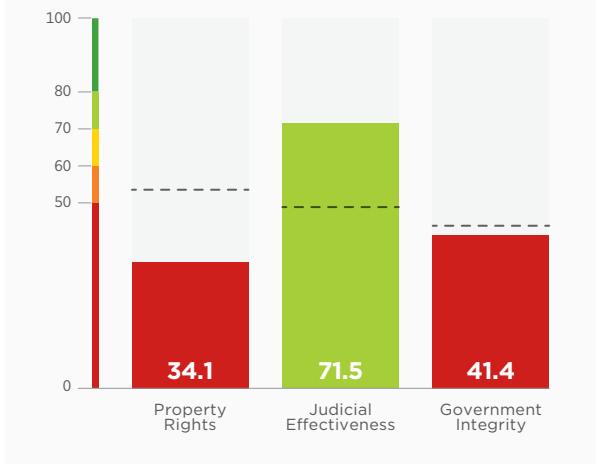
**POPULATION:**  
0.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$4.7 billion  
12.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.0%  
\$10,564 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
8.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$134.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
63.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

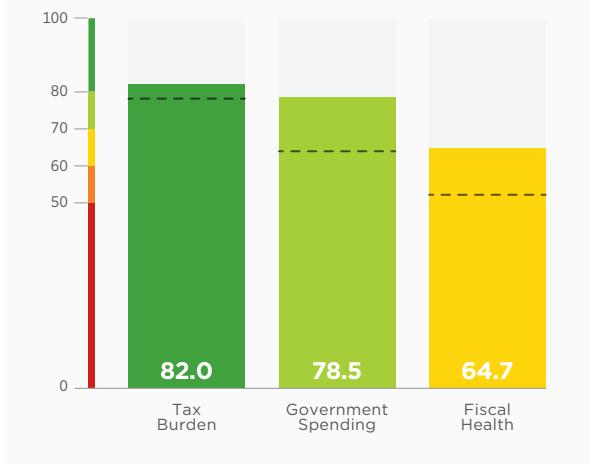
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BELIZE

## RULE OF LAW



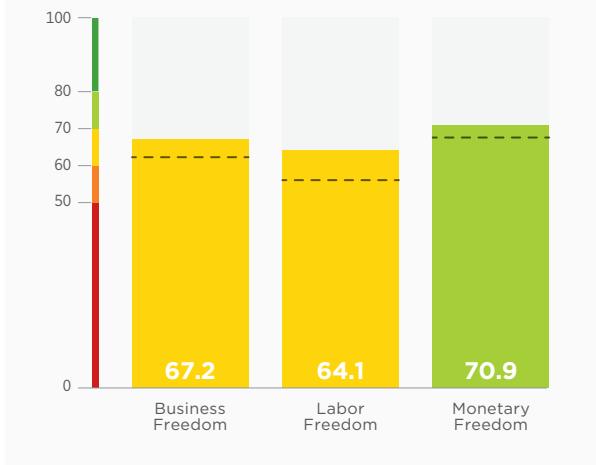
The overall rule of law is weak in Belize. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



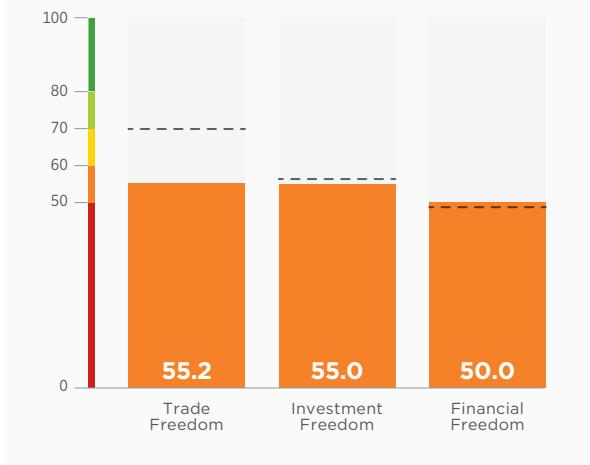
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 23.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 26.8 percent and -4.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 63.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Belize's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 17.4 percent, and two nontariff measures are in effect. Bureaucratic barriers may discourage foreign investment. The state influences credit allocation through quasi-government banks. The financial sector is not fully developed.



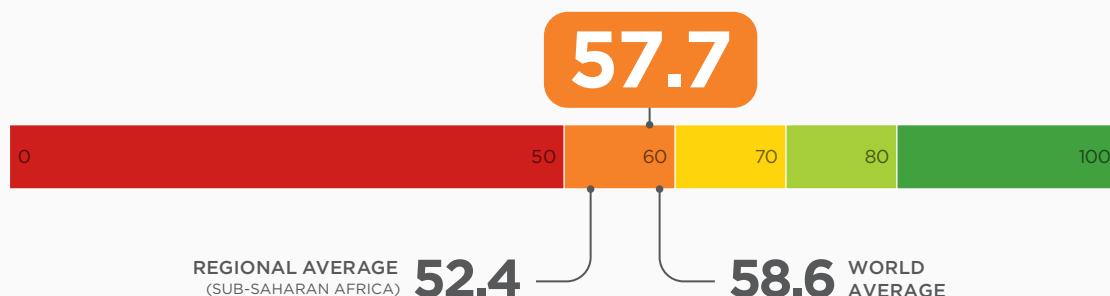
# BENIN

WORLD RANK: **95** | REGIONAL RANK: **9**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

**B**enin's economic freedom score is 57.7, making its economy the 95th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.1 points from last year, and Benin is ranked 9th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Benin's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

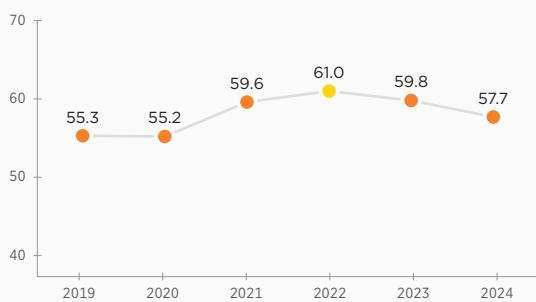
The lack of political momentum continues to impede necessary reform. The most visible constraints on private-sector development are related to the weak rule of law. Bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption affect much of the economy, undermining the foundations of economic freedom. Efforts to increase power generation capacity have aimed to stimulate economic growth. Expansion of the privately managed port of Cotonou, which accounts for approximately 60 percent of GDP, could encourage growth by increasing port services to regional neighbors.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +3.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

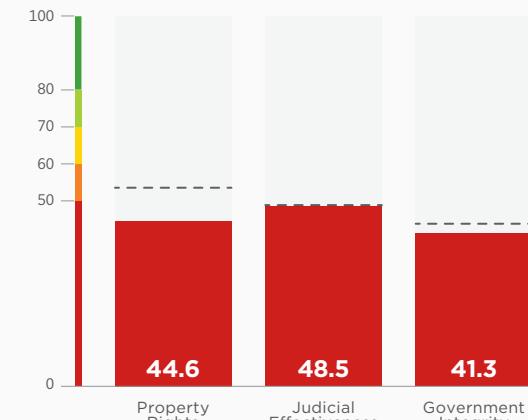
**POPULATION:**  
12.5 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$54.2 billion  
6.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 6.2%  
\$4,048 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
1.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
1.4%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$267.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
54.2% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BENIN

## RULE OF LAW



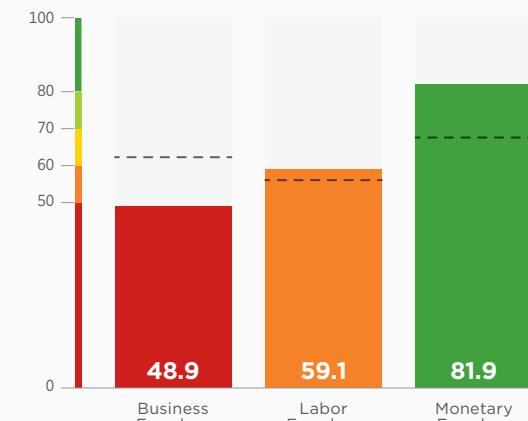
The overall rule of law is weak in Benin. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



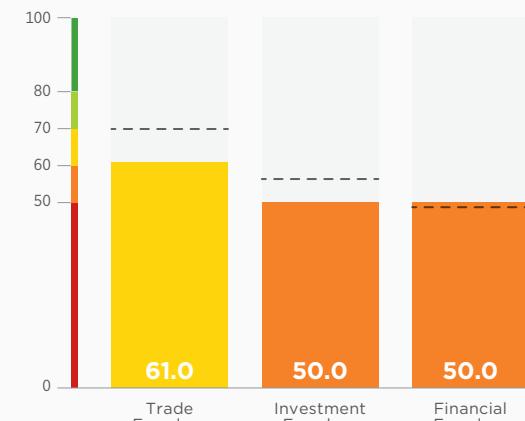
The top individual income tax rate is 45 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 10.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 19.6 percent and -5.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 54.2 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Benin's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 12.0 percent, and nontariff measures are in effect. Dynamic flows of foreign investment are constrained by persistent policy and institutional weaknesses. Despite the development of microfinance institutions, overall access to credit remains low.

WORLD RANK: 108 | REGIONAL RANK: 22  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
MOSTLY UNFREE

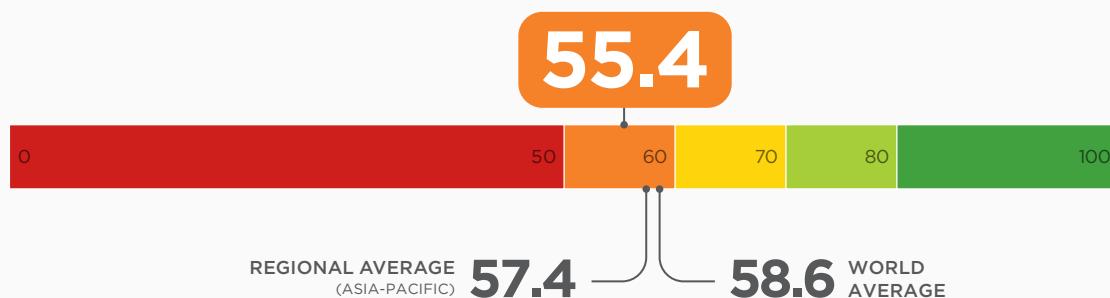


# BHUTAN

Bhutan's economic freedom score is 55.4, making its economy the 108th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 3.6 points from last year, and Bhutan is ranked 22nd out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Bhutan's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

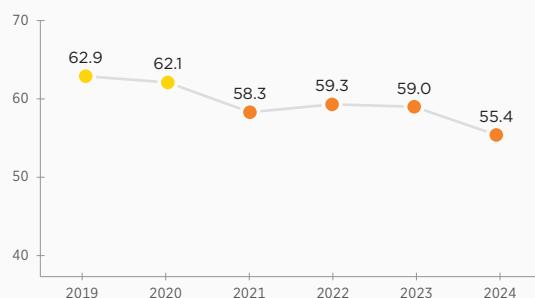
Bhutan is modernizing its economic structure. The public sector has long been the main source of economic growth, but the government now recognizes the importance of private-sector development and has assigned a higher priority to economic diversification, particularly in light of demographic shifts that will bring more young people into the labor market. A modern regulatory framework has not been fully developed. Despite recent efforts, enforcement of regulations remains inconsistent. The government has responded to labor shortages by initiating several skilling and reskilling programs.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): -2.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
0.8 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$10.0 billion  
4.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.5%  
\$13,219 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.3%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$11.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
127.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

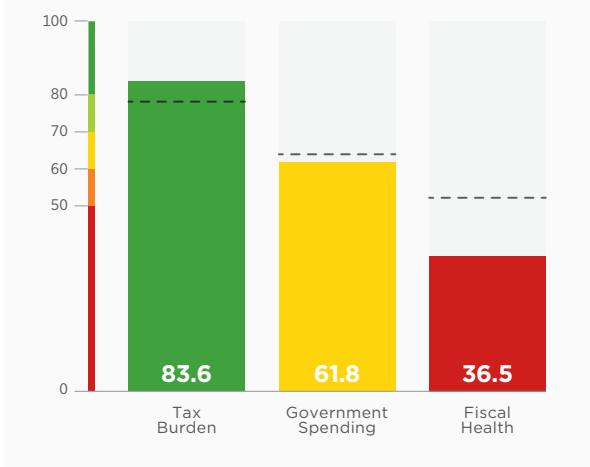
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BHUTAN

## RULE OF LAW



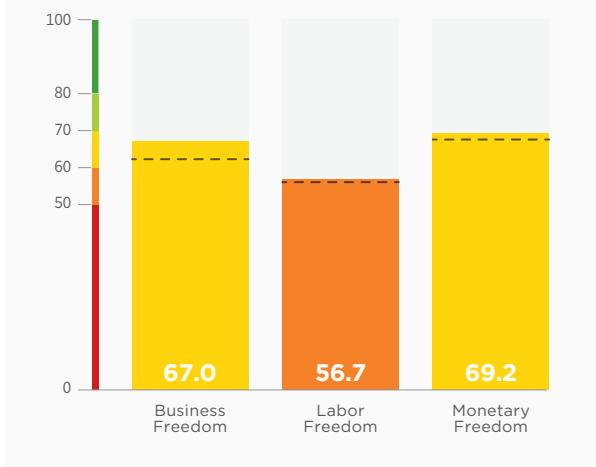
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Bhutan. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



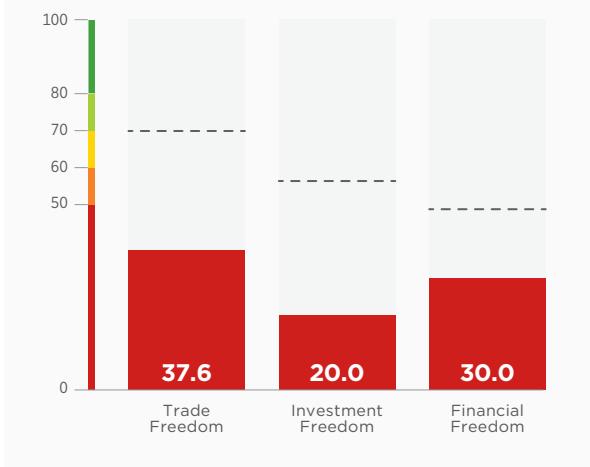
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 10.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 35.7 percent and -5.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 127.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Bhutan's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 23.7 percent, and layers of nontariff barriers significantly impede dynamic flows of trade. The underdeveloped investment framework limits opportunities to attract foreign investment. The financial sector is rudimentary.



# BOLIVIA

WORLD RANK:

**165**

REGIONAL RANK:

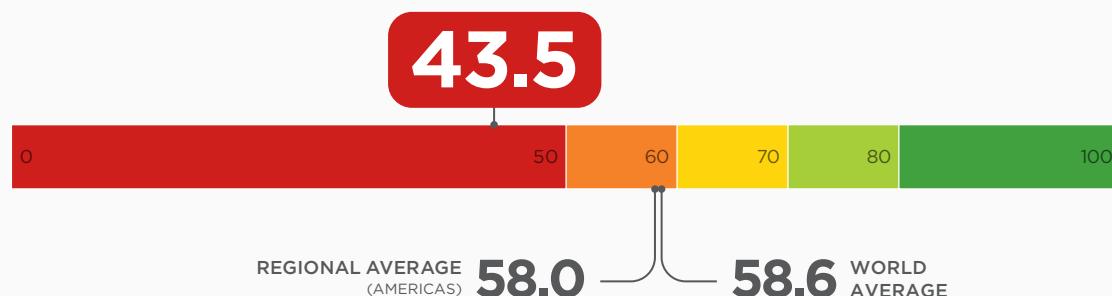
**30**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSIVE**

Bolivia's economic freedom score is 43.5, making its economy the 165th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.1 point from last year, and Bolivia is ranked 30th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Bolivia's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

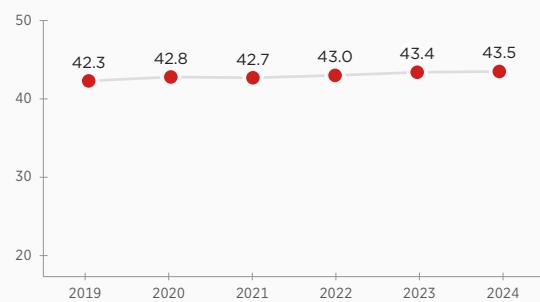
The foundations of economic freedom in Bolivia remain severely hampered by structural and institutional problems. The judicial system is vulnerable to political interference, corruption is prevalent, and the rule of law is weak. The state's growing presence in economic activity has moved the economy ever farther from free-market openness. Overall business freedom remains mostly unchanged and at a low level. The labor code is outdated and burdensome. The government maintains controls on the prices of such products as sugar, maize, and bread.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -13.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
11.8 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$118.8 billion  
3.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.5%  
\$9,936 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
8.5%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
1.7%

**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$26.0 million

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
80.0% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

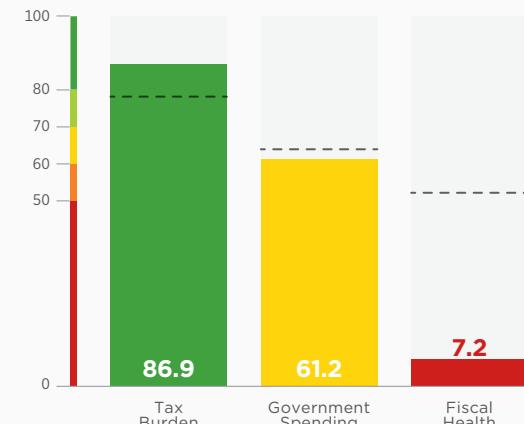
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BOLIVIA

## RULE OF LAW



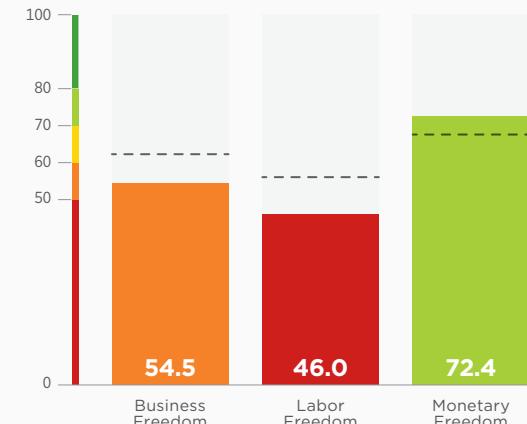
The overall rule of law is weak in Bolivia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



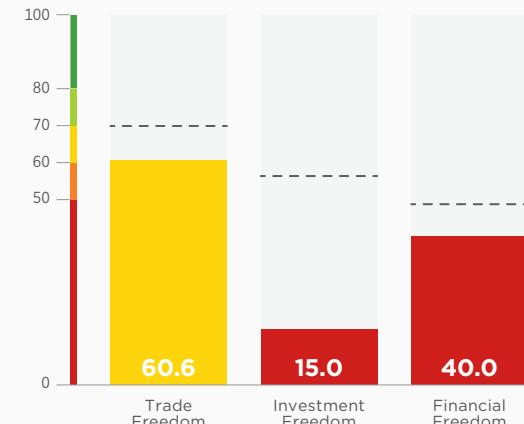
The top individual income tax rate is 13 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 22.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 36.0 percent and -9.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 80.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

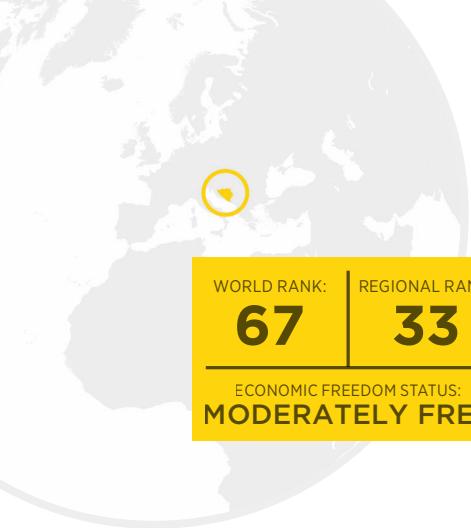


Bolivia's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 9.7 percent, and four nontariff measures are in effect. The overall investment framework is opaque, and the government prioritizes domestic investment over foreign investment. The financial sector is vulnerable to state interference and not fully developed.

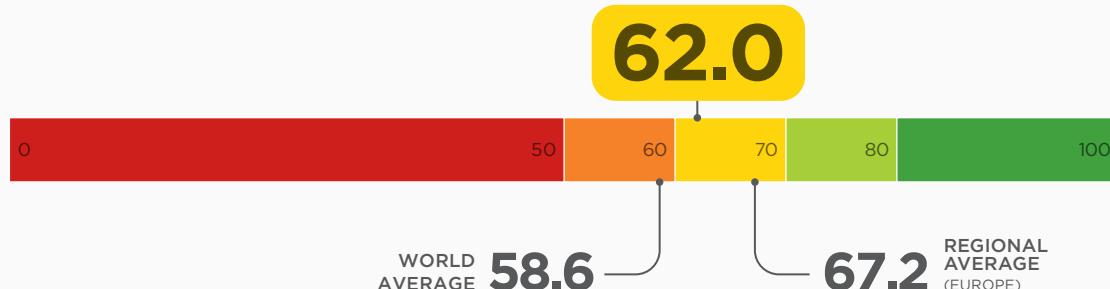


# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina's economic freedom score is 62, making its economy the 67th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.9 point from last year, and Bosnia and Herzegovina is ranked 33rd out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Bosnia and Herzegovina's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

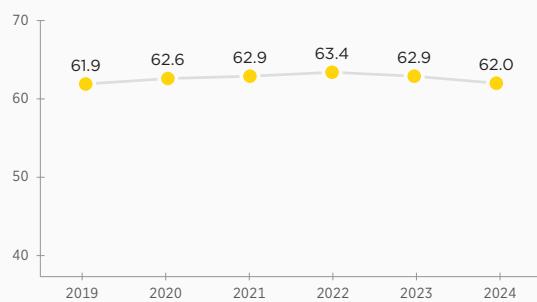
The foundations of economic freedom in Bosnia and Herzegovina are fragile and uneven. Poor protection of property rights and widespread corruption discourage entrepreneurial activity. The government's generally slow transition to regulatory efficiency and open-market policies discourages economic dynamism. The fragmentary regulatory framework undermines business freedom. The economy relies heavily on exports of metals as well as remittances and foreign aid. Challenges include political uncertainty, high unemployment, high energy and food prices, and poor infrastructure.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1998): +32.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

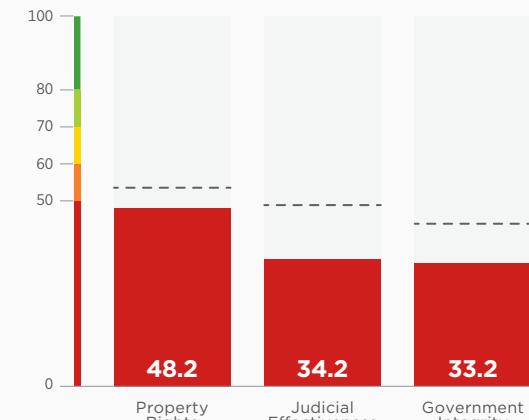
**POPULATION:**  
3.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$64.3 billion  
4.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.0%  
\$18,518 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
15.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
14.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$661.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
29.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

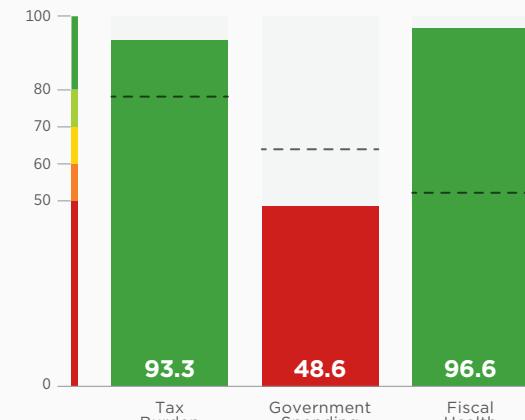
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## RULE OF LAW



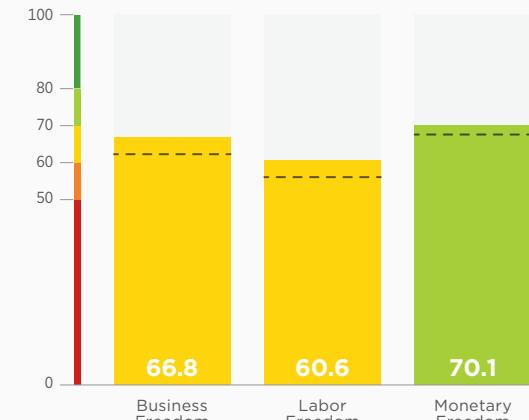
The overall rule of law is weak in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 10 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 10 percent. The tax burden equals 21.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 41.4 percent and -1.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 29.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Bosnia and Herzegovina's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.5 percent, and multiple nontariff barriers further restrict trade flows. Complex regulatory frameworks discourage new foreign investment. The banking sector remains stable, but the number of nonperforming loans is sizable.

WORLD RANK: 36 | REGIONAL RANK: 2  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

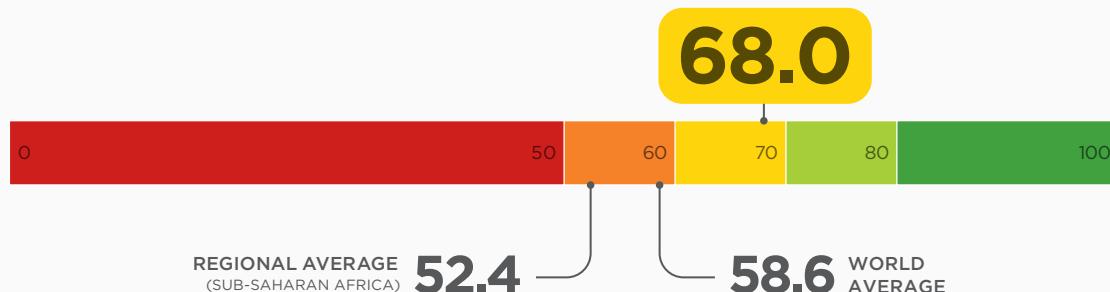


# BOTSWANA

**B**otswana's economic freedom score is 68, making its economy the 36th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 3.1 points from last year, and Botswana is ranked 2nd out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Botswana's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

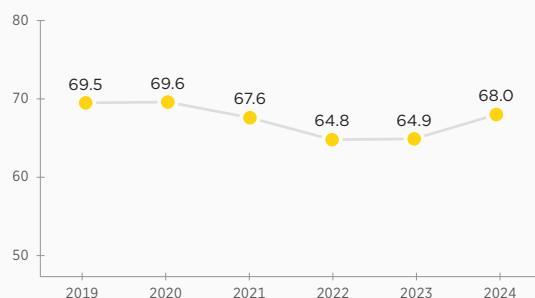
Botswana continues to maintain a dynamic economy and performs relatively well in many of the four pillars of economic freedom. The foundations of economic freedom are among the region's strongest. The independent judiciary provides strong protection of property rights. The government has implemented numerous measures that are designed to enhance business freedom and private-sector opportunities, but progress has been uneven. Risks to political stability remain low. Botswana has abundant diamonds and other natural resources and one of Africa's highest sovereign credit ratings.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +11.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

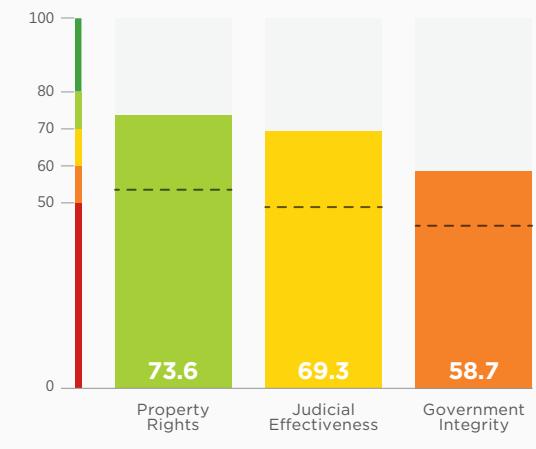
**POPULATION:**  
2.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$48.2 billion  
5.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.2%  
\$18,323 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
24.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
12.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$216.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
18.0% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

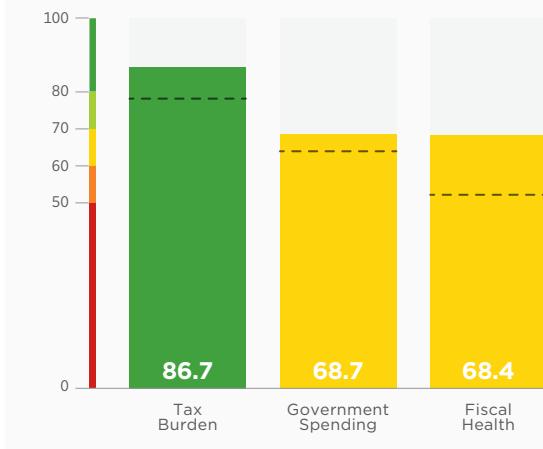
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BOTSWANA

## RULE OF LAW



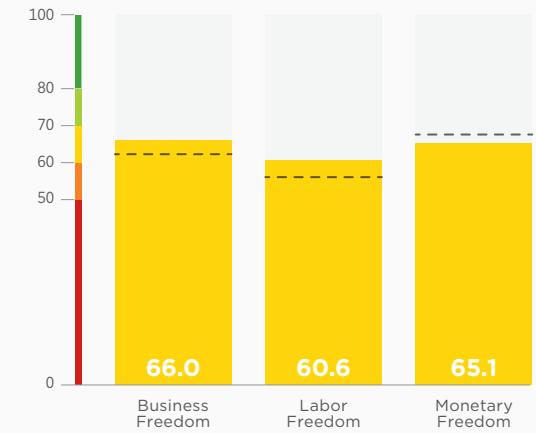
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Botswana. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



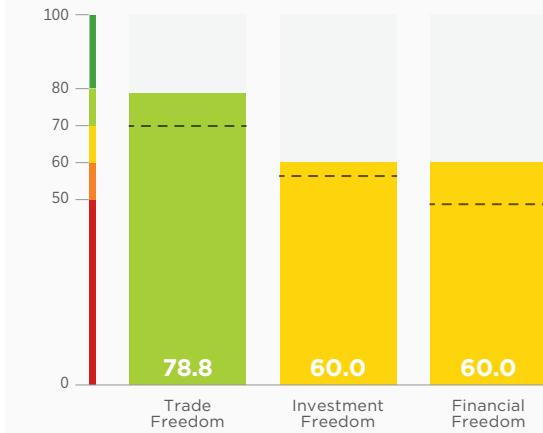
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 22 percent. The tax burden equals 15.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 32.3 percent and -4.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 18.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Botswana's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



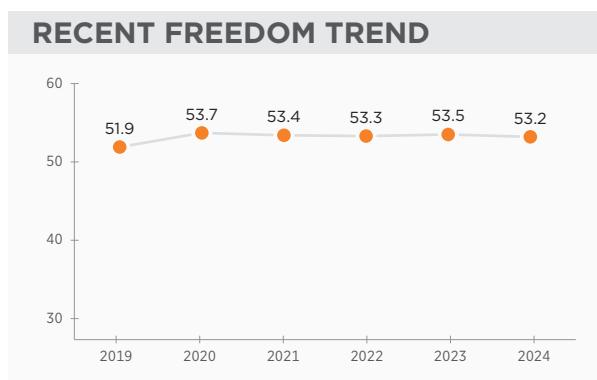
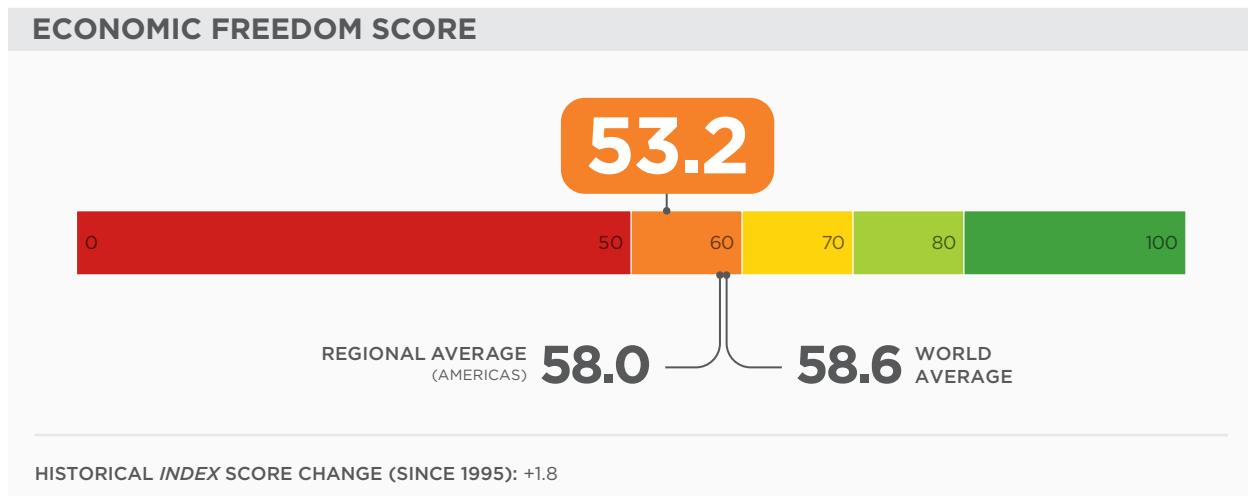
The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.6 percent, and nontariff measures are in effect. Foreign investment in some sectors is restricted. The financial sector generally adheres to global standards in the transparency of banking supervision and provides considerable access to credit.



# BRAZIL

**B**razil's economic freedom score is 53.2, making its economy the 124th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.3 point from last year, and Brazil is ranked 26th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Brazil's economy continues to be considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Stronger foundations of economic freedom remain critical to ensuring a greater economic future. Brazil's corruption and property rights scores are relatively low, and its judicial system remains vulnerable to political influence. The state's presence in the economy remains considerable, undercutting development of a more vibrant private sector. Despite some progress, organizing new investment and production remains a cumbersome and bureaucratic process. Launching or closing a business is both costly and time-consuming. Stifling labor regulations continue to undermine employment and productivity growth.

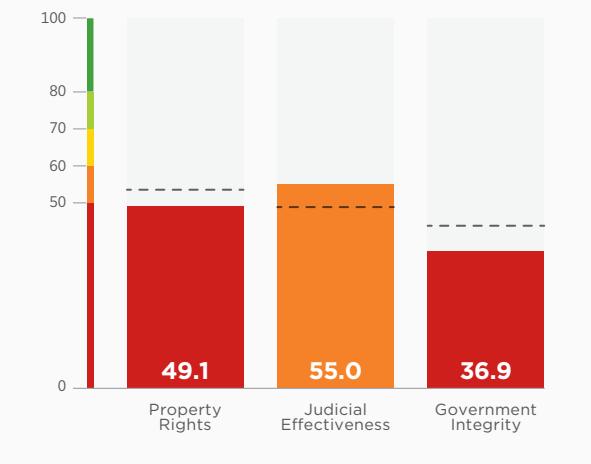


### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 214.0 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 14.4%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$3.8 trillion 2.9% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 1.5% \$18,897 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 9.3%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$86.1 billion	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 85.3% of GDP
2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.	

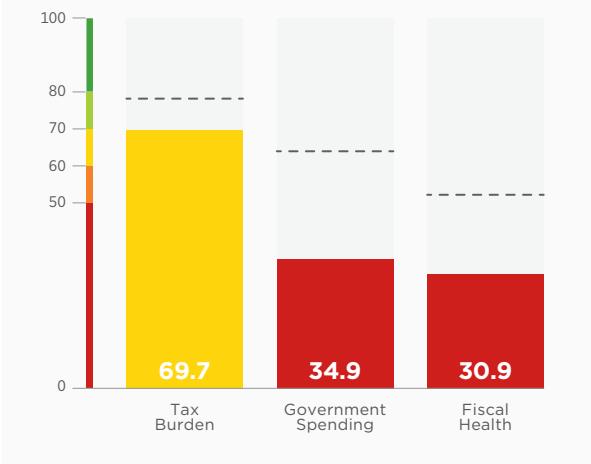
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BRAZIL

## RULE OF LAW



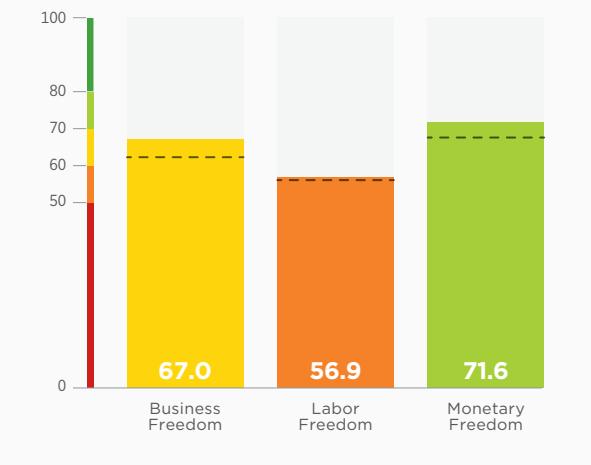
The overall rule of law is weak in Brazil. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



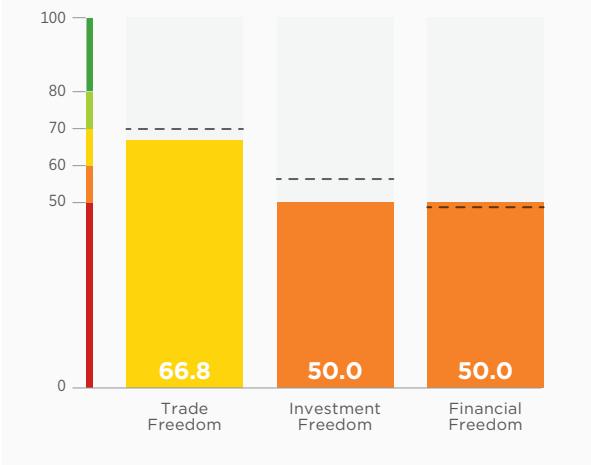
The top individual income tax rate is 27.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 34 percent. The tax burden equals 33.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 46.6 percent and -5.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 85.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Brazil's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 9.1 percent, and more than 600 nontariff measures are in effect. Foreign investment faces bureaucratic hurdles. The financial sector is competitive, but state involvement remains considerable, and public banks account for more than 50 percent of loans to the private sector.

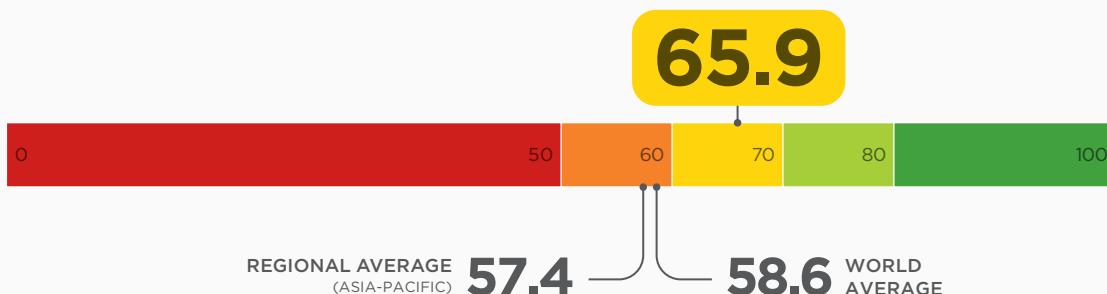


# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Brunei Darussalam's economic freedom score is 65.9, making its economy the 43rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.2 point from last year, and Brunei Darussalam is ranked 8th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Brunei Darussalam's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

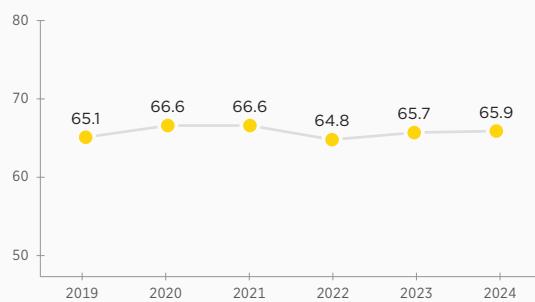
Brunei's economy continues to maintain a relatively high degree of market openness that facilitates trade and investment. The legal system generally secures private property and macroeconomic stability. The investment environment is relatively efficient and transparent, although the regulatory framework needs to be more streamlined to enhance overall economic competitiveness. Oil and gas production provides 90 percent of government revenue and more than half of GDP but relatively few jobs for locals. Brunei imports most of its manufactured goods and food.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2014): -3.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

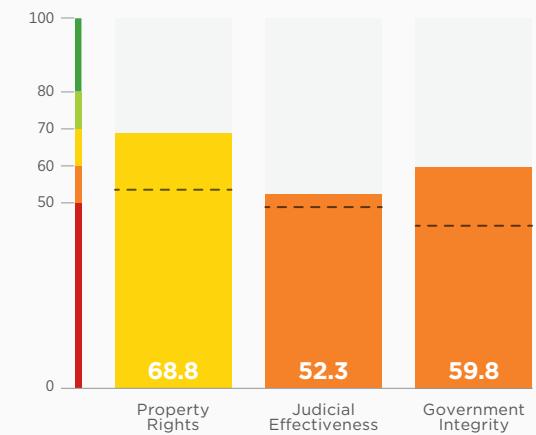
**POPULATION:**  
 0.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
 \$31.1 billion  
 -1.6% growth in 2022  
 5-year average growth rate: 0.4%  
 \$70,576 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
 7.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
 3.7%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
 -\$292.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
 2.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

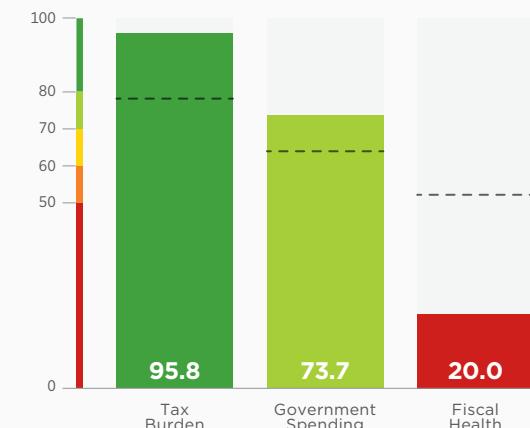
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

## RULE OF LAW



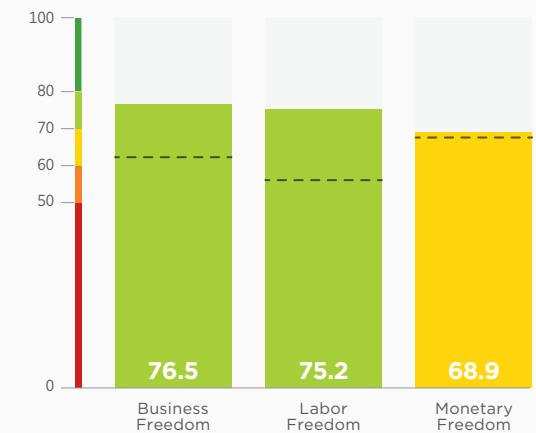
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Brunei Darussalam. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



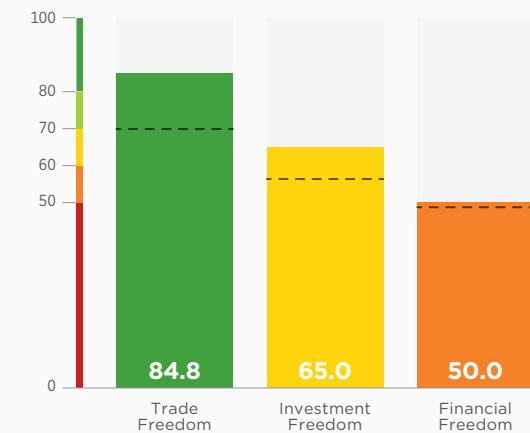
The top individual income tax rate is 0 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 18.5 percent. The tax burden equals 8.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 29.6 percent and -7.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 2.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Brunei's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 0.1 percent, but nontariff measures are in force, and other impediments to trade flows persist. State-owned enterprises distort the economy, and foreign ownership of land is restricted. The small financial sector remains dominated by banks.



WORLD RANK:

**31**

REGIONAL RANK:

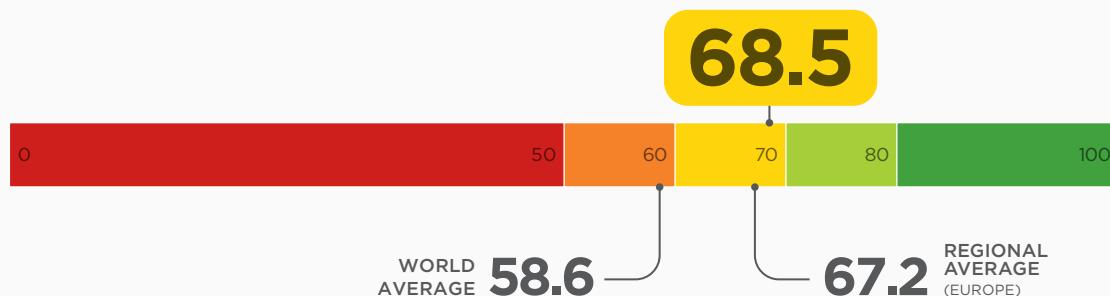
**18**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# BULGARIA

**B**ulgaria's economic freedom score is 68.5, making its economy the 31st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.8 point from last year, and Bulgaria is ranked 18th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Bulgaria's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

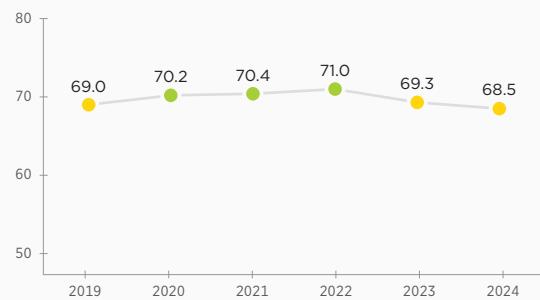
A decade of restructuring has enabled Bulgaria to make considerable progress in its transition to a more market-oriented economy while maintaining macroeconomic stability. Continued reform to strengthen the foundations of economic freedom will be critical. Despite some progress, persistent corruption and the weak rule of law add to the cost of conducting business. Bulgaria remains outside the Schengen Area but is closer to qualifying for eurozone membership. Challenges in the EU's poorest nation include corruption and Russian penetration in the energy and media sectors.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +18.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

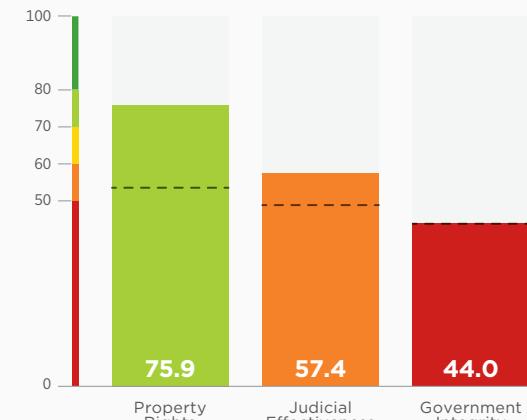
**POPULATION:**  
6.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$205.4 billion  
3.4% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.8%  
\$31,857 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
13.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$2.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
21.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

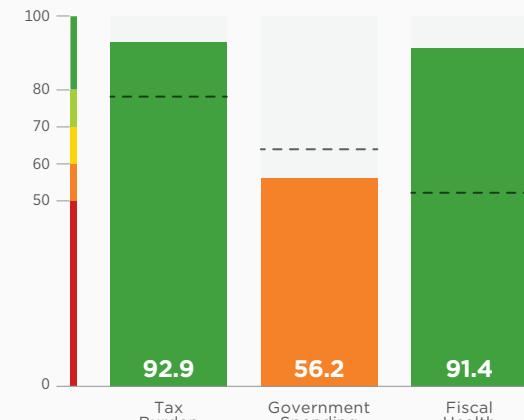
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BULGARIA

## RULE OF LAW



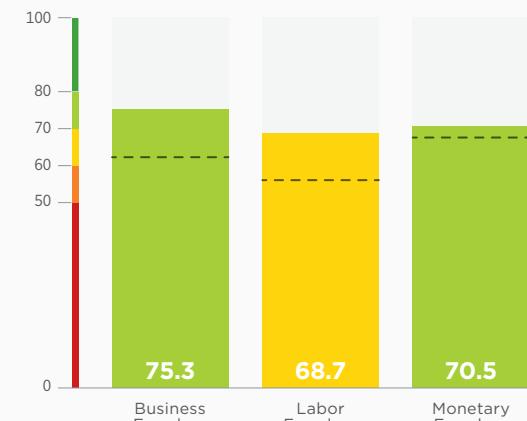
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Bulgaria. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



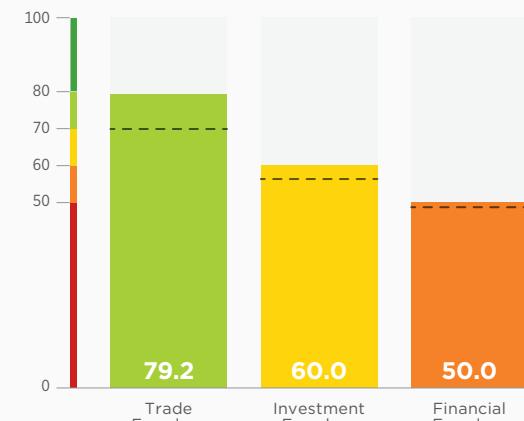
The top individual income tax rate is 10 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 10 percent. The tax burden equals 22.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 38.2 percent and -2.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 21.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Bulgaria's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



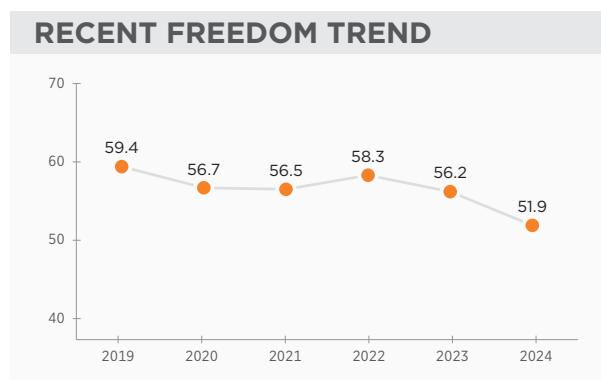
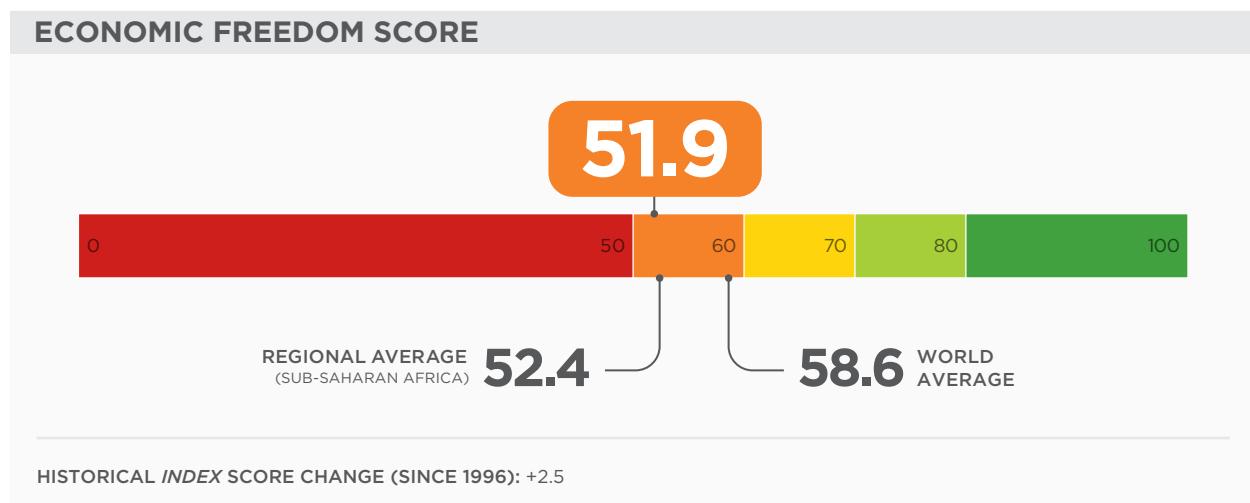
The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force along with 116 country-specific nontariff barriers. In general, foreign and domestic investors are treated equally. Measures to support financial-sector liquidity have been introduced.



# BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso's economic freedom score is 51.9, making its economy the 134th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 4.3 points from last year, and Burkina Faso is ranked 29th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Burkina Faso's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Sustained efforts and pro-growth investments have resulted in reduced poverty and some positive human development trends, but systemic economic challenges persist. The foundations of economic freedom remain fragile. The regulatory burden and a lack of transparency continue to prevent the emergence of a more dynamic private sector. Other challenges include lingering political instability, unreliable energy supplies, and poor transportation links. More than 80 percent of the population is engaged in subsistence farming, and cotton is the principal cash crop.



### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 21.5 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 4.8%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$58.0 billion 1.5% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 4.5% \$2,549 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 14.1%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$121.0 million	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 58.3% of GDP
2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.	

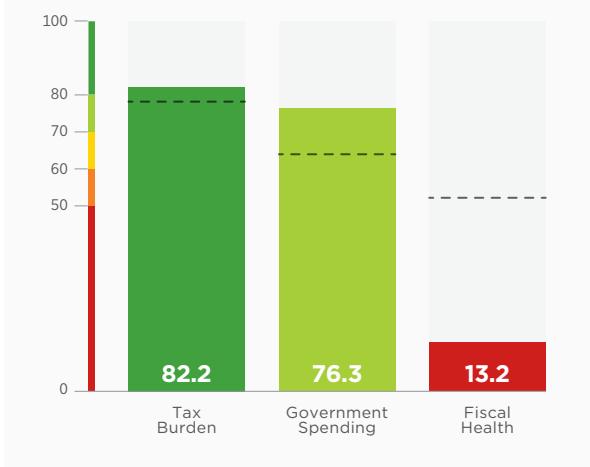
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BURKINA FASO

## RULE OF LAW



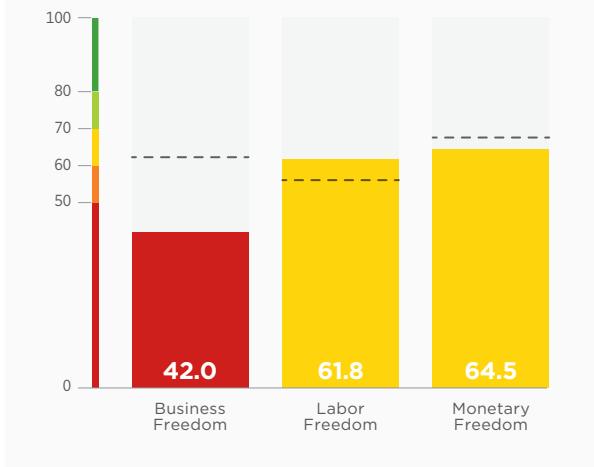
The overall rule of law is weak in Burkina Faso. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



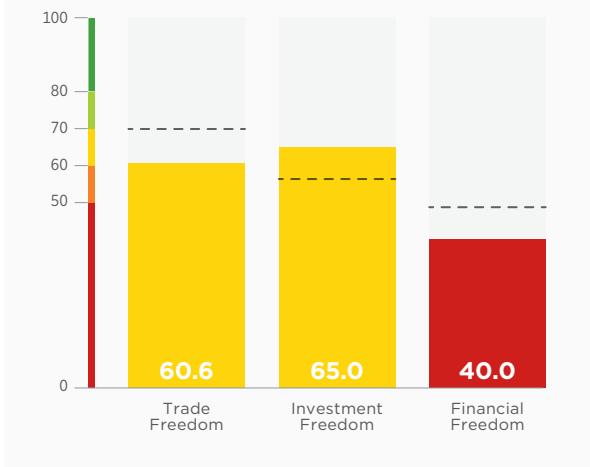
The top individual income tax rate is 27.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 28 percent. The tax burden equals 15.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 28.1 percent and -7.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 58.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Burkina Faso's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 9.7 percent. Nontariff barriers are considerable, and foreign investment remains hindered by bureaucracy. Despite an effort to modernize the financial system, the sector still lacks the capacity to provide a full range of modern services.



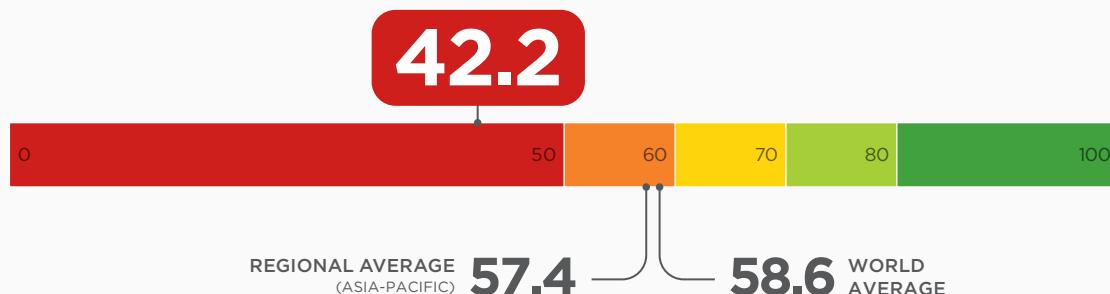
# BURMA



**B**urma's economic freedom score is 42.2, making its economy the 167th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 4.3 points from last year, and Burma is ranked 38th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Burma's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

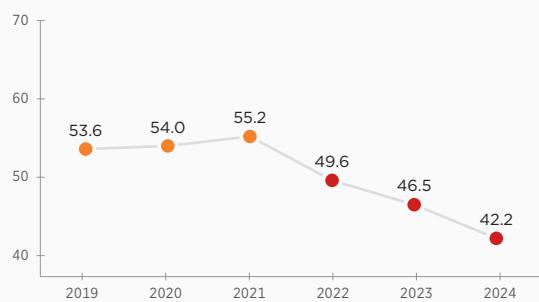
Historically scoring far below the world average, the foundations of economic freedom in Burma are fragile. The economy, hampered by extensive state controls and structural problems that severely undermine private-sector development, lags in productivity growth and dynamic economic expansion. The military's brutal crackdown on Burma's people has decimated business freedom. Mass detentions, extrajudicial killings, and violence that deliberately target civilians are a potentially lethal threat to labor freedom. The most recent available inflation rate is 16.2 percent. Other challenges include food and fuel shortages.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): -2.9

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

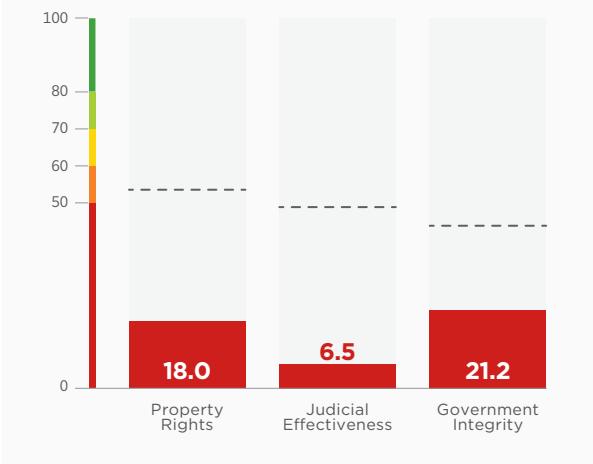
**POPULATION:**  
54.8 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$261.2 billion  
2.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.1%  
\$4,847 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
2.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
16.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.2 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
60.0% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

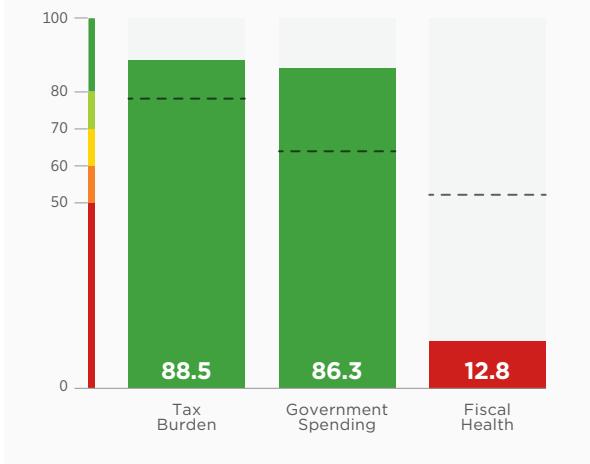
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BURMA

## RULE OF LAW



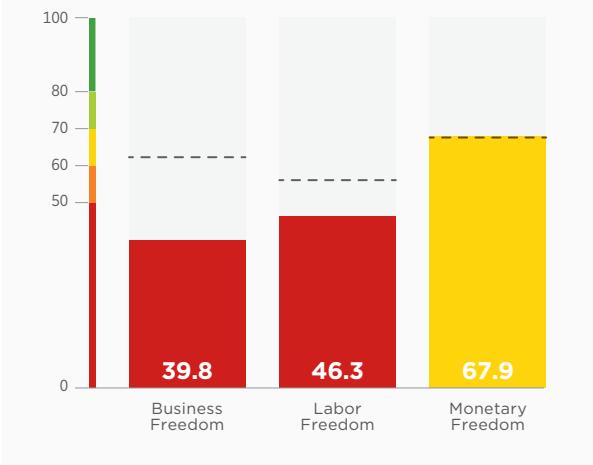
The overall rule of law is weak in Burma. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



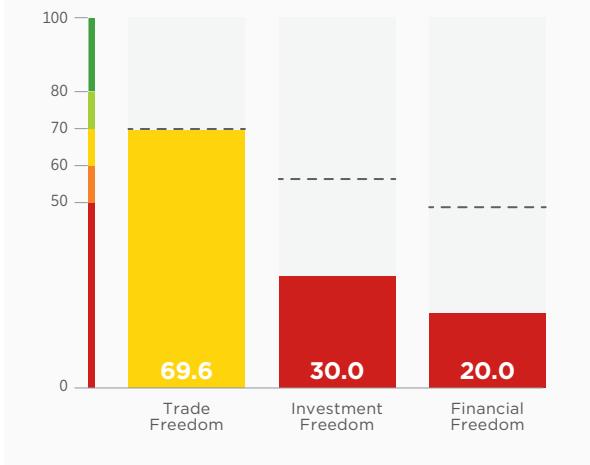
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 22 percent. The tax burden equals 6.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 21.4 percent and -7.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 60.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Burma's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.2 percent, and other barriers to trade persist. State-owned enterprises undermine investment in the private sector. Approximately 30 percent of adult Burmese have access to an account with a formal banking institution.



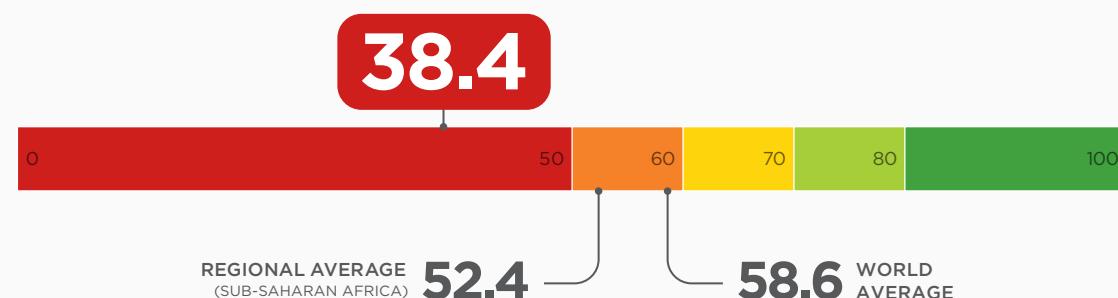
# BURUNDI



**B**urundi's economic freedom score is 38.4, making its economy the 171st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 3.5 points from last year, and Burundi is ranked 45th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Burundi's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

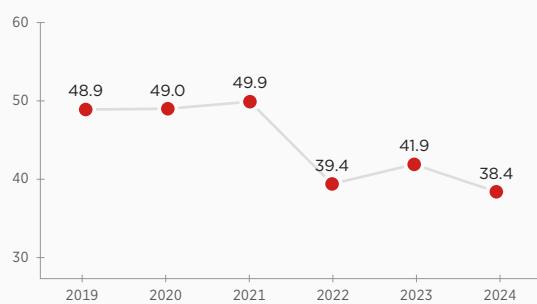
Burundi performs below world averages in many of the 10 economic freedoms. Very low scores for property rights and for corruption that undermines the rule of law reflect the fragile foundations of economic freedom. Many aspects of the entrepreneurial framework are subject to state interference. Burundi faces an uphill fight to improve the business environment while battling institutional challenges. Skilled labor is scarce, and formal employment is not widespread. The most recent available inflation rate is 18.9 percent. Subsistence agriculture dominates the economy.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1997): -7.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

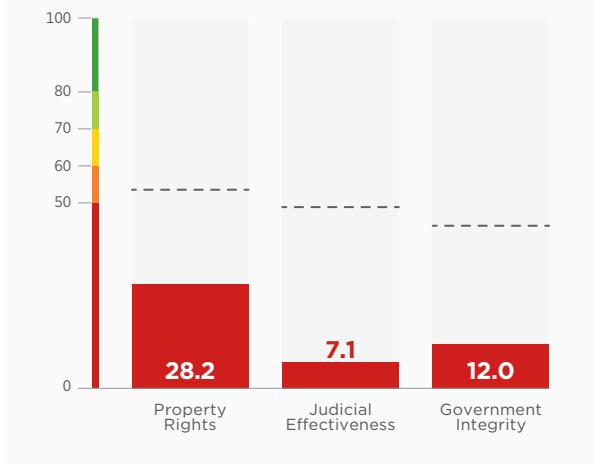
**POPULATION:**  
12.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$10.8 billion  
1.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.7%  
\$856 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
1.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
18.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$13.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
68.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

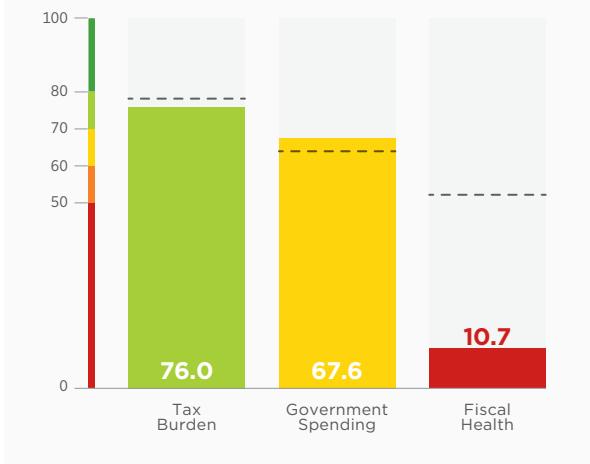
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BURUNDI

## RULE OF LAW



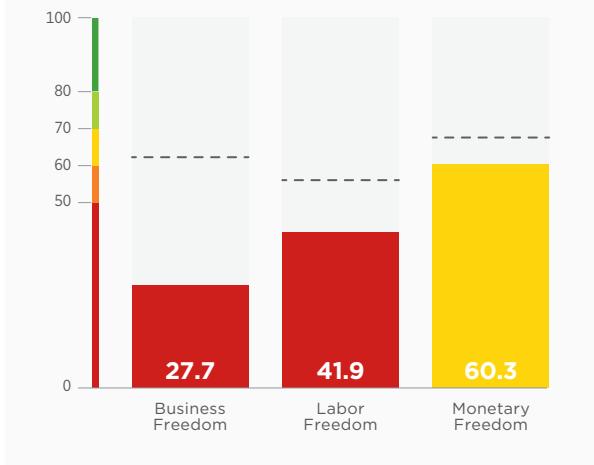
The overall rule of law is weak in Burundi. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



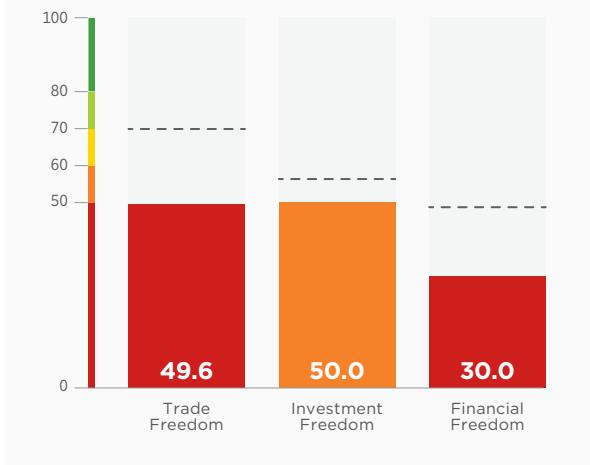
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 16.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 32.9 percent and -7.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 68.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

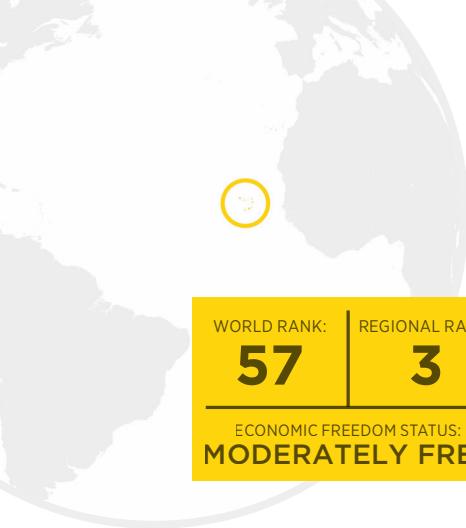


Burundi's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 15.2 percent, and nontariff measures are in effect. Bureaucratic barriers interfere with foreign and domestic investment. The financial system remains underdeveloped. Banks have increased their domestic assets, but access to credit remains limited.

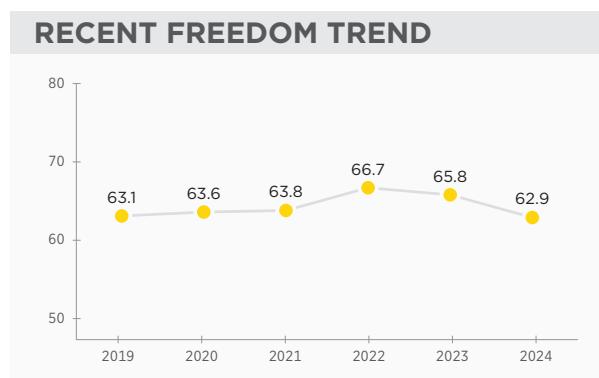
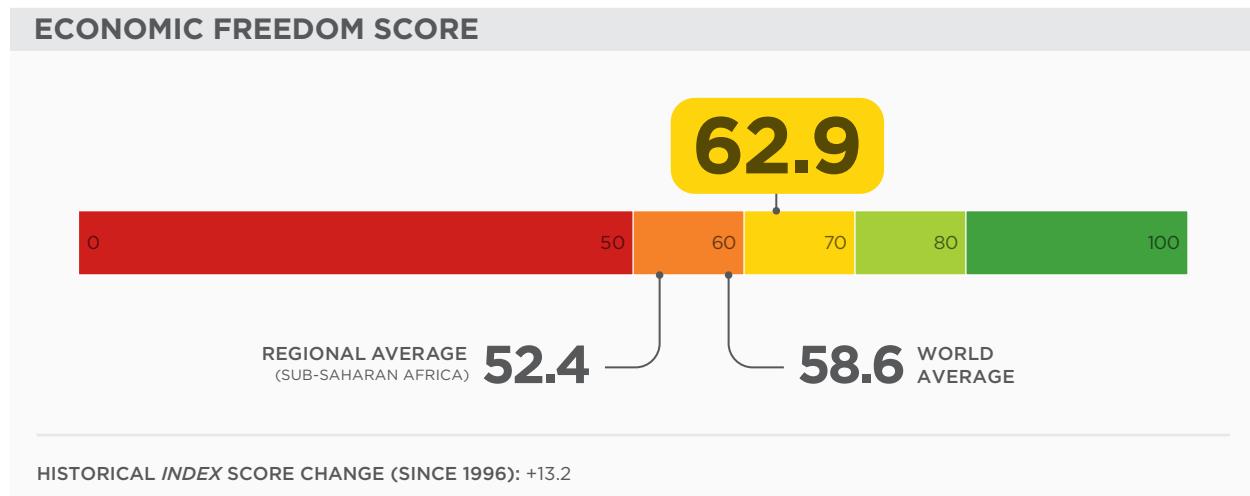


WORLD RANK:	57	REGIONAL RANK:	3
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>MODERATELY FREE</b>			

# CABO VERDE

Cabo Verde's economic freedom score is 62.9, making its economy the 57th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.9 points from last year, and Cabo Verde is ranked 3rd out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Cabo Verde's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

The small island economy has performed relatively well in many of the four pillars of economic freedom, the foundations of which are solid. Property rights are strongly protected in comparison to other economies in the region. However, expansionary public spending has led to widening deficits. Services account for more than 70 percent of GDP. Foreign aid finances the high trade deficit. The business environment has become more efficient, and licensing requirements are less burdensome. Inflation is above 7 percent.



### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 0.6 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 15.4%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$5.3 billion 17.0% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 2.9% \$9,263 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 7.9%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$136.0 million	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 127.3% of GDP
<small>2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.</small>	

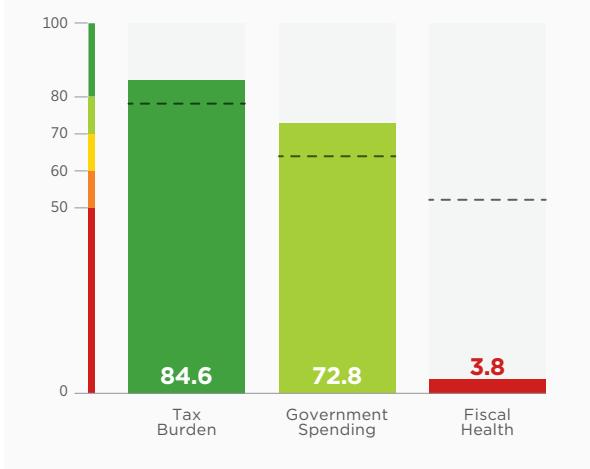
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CABO VERDE

## RULE OF LAW



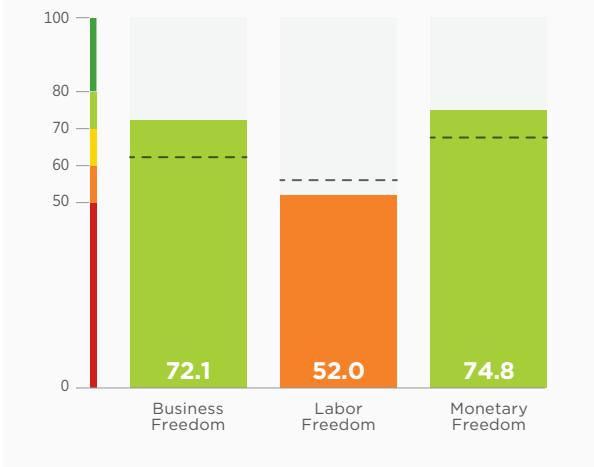
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Cabo Verde. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



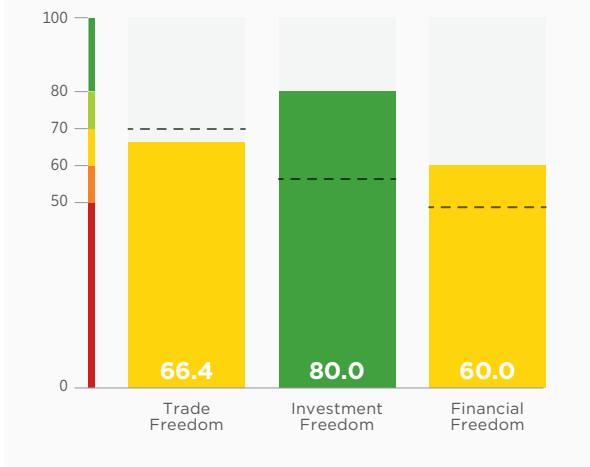
The top individual income tax rate is 27.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 22.44 percent. The tax burden equals 16.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 30.1 percent and -6.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 127.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Cabo Verde's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 11.8 percent, and nontariff measures are in effect. Foreign and domestic investors are generally treated equally under the law. The number of nonperforming loans in the banking system has decreased. Credit is generally allocated on market terms.



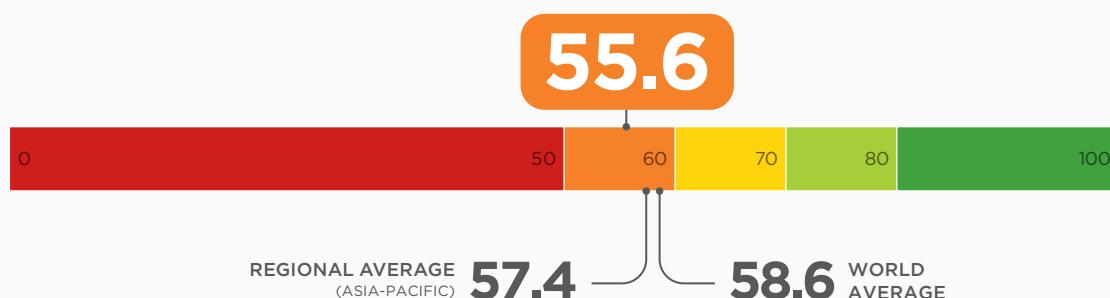
# CAMBODIA



**C**ambodia's economic freedom score is 55.6, making its economy the 106th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.9 point from last year, and Cambodia is ranked 21st out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Cambodia's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

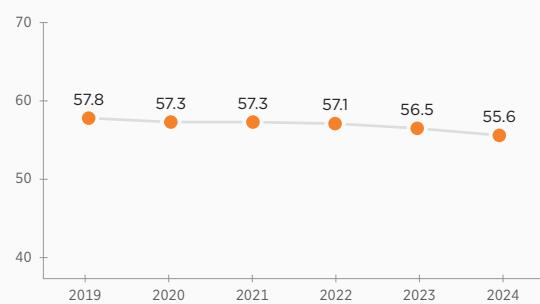
Institutional weaknesses restrict economic freedom and prevent more dynamic growth. The rule of law remains fragile because of corruption and political interference in the inefficient judicial system. Government tariffs and other restrictions reduce the benefits of international trade. Measures to modernize commercial codes and facilitate private-sector development have been adopted in recent years. The non-salary cost of employing a worker is low, but enforcement of the labor codes is not always effective. The economy is heavily dependent on tourism revenues and garment exports.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1997): +2.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
16.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$89.8 billion  
5.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.9%  
\$5,613 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
0.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$3.6 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
34.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

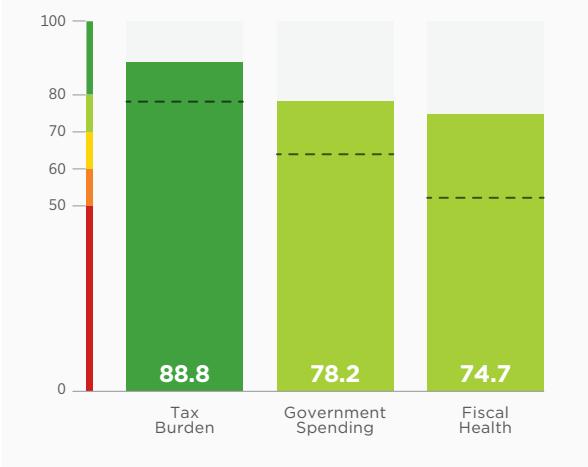
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CAMBODIA

## RULE OF LAW



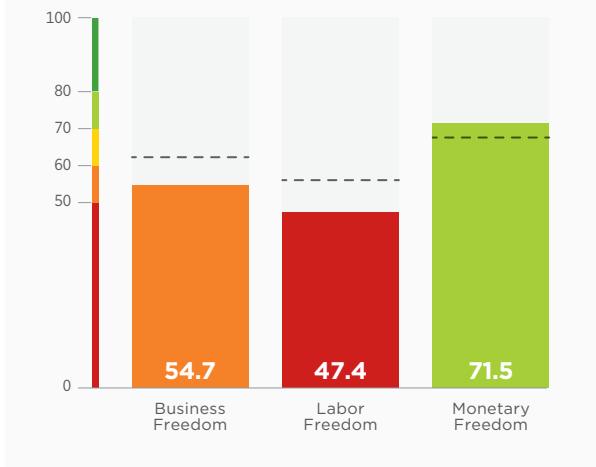
The overall rule of law is weak in Cambodia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



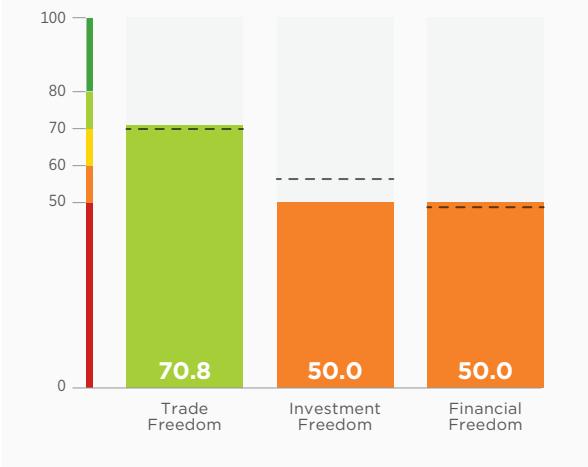
The top individual income tax rate is 20 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 18.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 26.9 percent and -3.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 34.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Cambodia's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 7.1 percent. One formal nontariff measure is in force, but other impediments to trade flows persist. The lack of transparency in approval processes undermines inflows of new foreign investment. Banking has become more market-oriented.



# CAMEROON

WORLD RANK:  
**121**

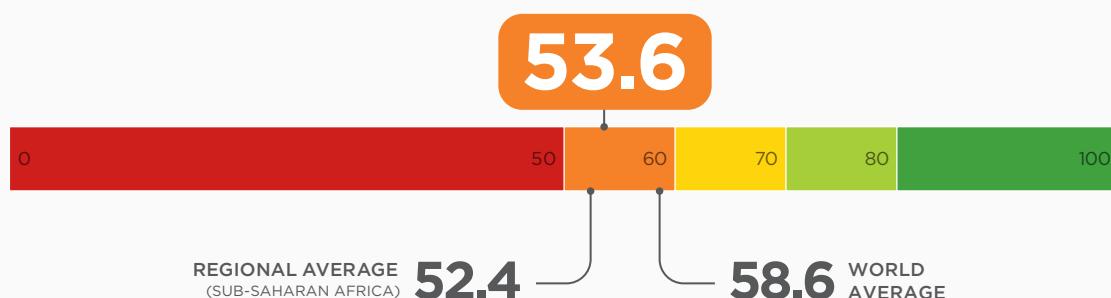
REGIONAL RANK:  
**21**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

**C**ameroon's economic freedom score is 53.6, making its economy the 121st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.7 points from last year, and Cameroon is ranked 21st out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average but higher than the regional average. Cameroon's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

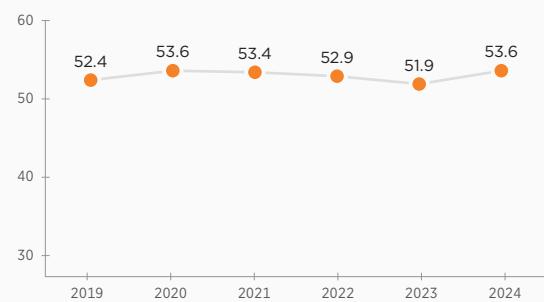
The lack of a dynamic private sector holds back Cameroon's economic development. An unreliable legal system provides little protection for property rights and engenders widespread corruption. Structural reform has progressed only marginally, and the entrepreneurial environment, hampered by inefficiency and a lack of transparency, is not conducive to the creation of economic opportunity. The labor market remains underdeveloped. Informality in labor arrangements is widespread. The economy depends on oil, which accounts for about 40 percent of export earnings.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +2.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
27.2 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$123.7 billion  
3.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.1%  
\$4,431 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.9%

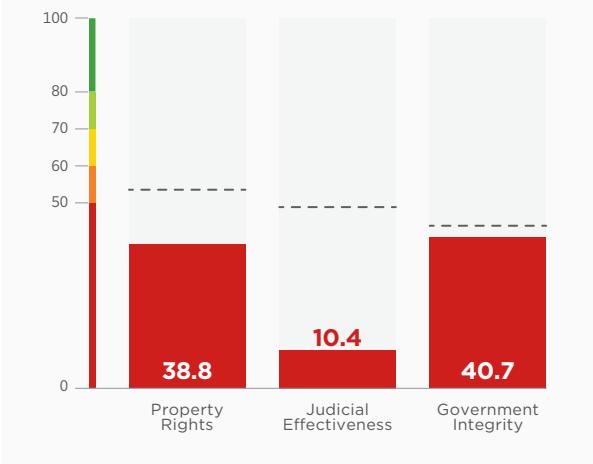
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.3%

**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$889.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
45.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

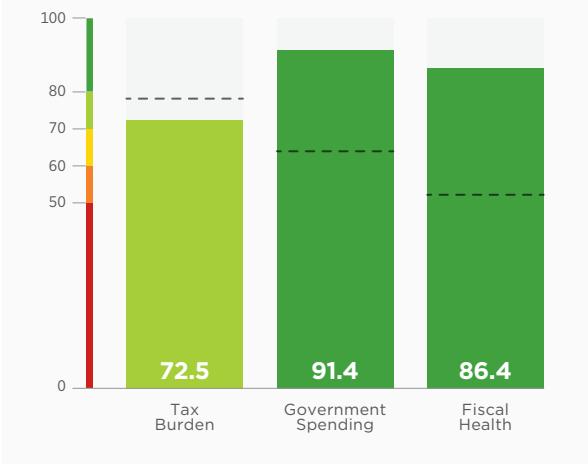
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CAMEROON

## RULE OF LAW



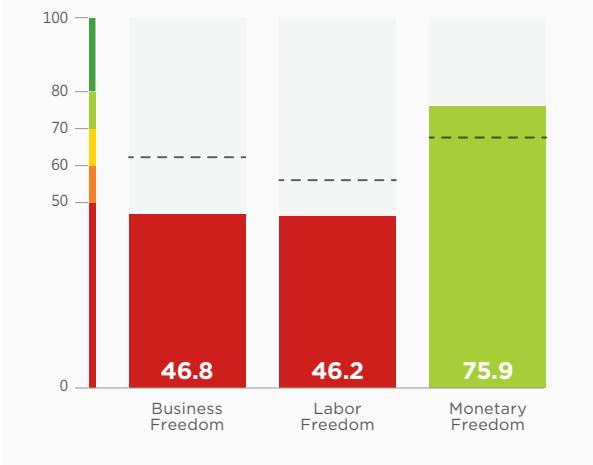
The overall rule of law is weak in Cameroon. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



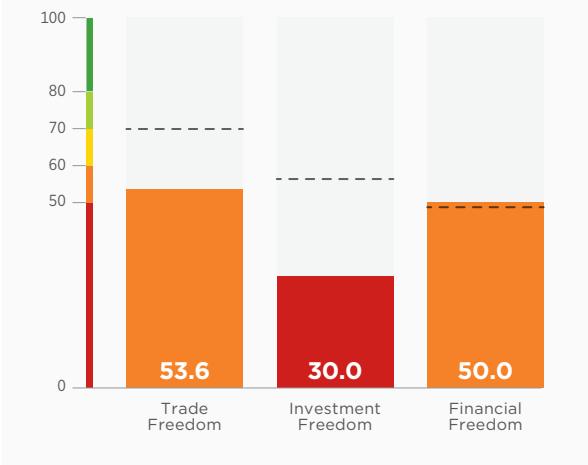
The top individual income tax rate is 38.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 33 percent. The tax burden equals 13.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 16.9 percent and -2.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 45.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Cameroon's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 15.7 percent, and layers of nontariff measures hold back more dynamic trade flows. The investment code includes several general minimum and local content requirements. The cost of financing remains high, and access to credit remains limited in rural areas.



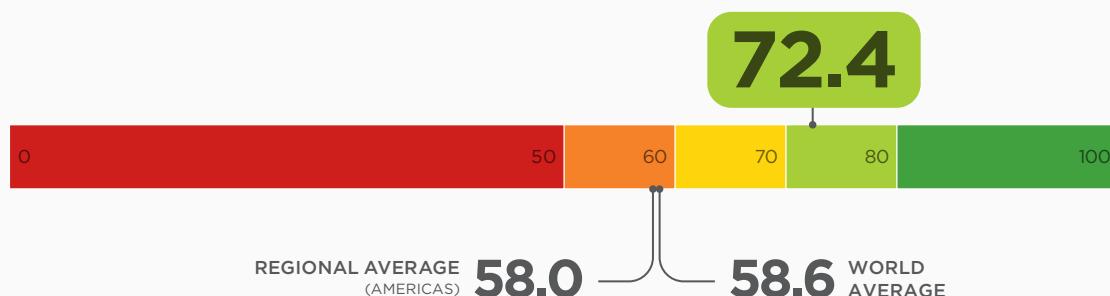
# CANADA

WORLD RANK: **16** | REGIONAL RANK: **1**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY FREE**

**C**anada's economic freedom score is 72.4, making its economy the 16th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.3 points from last year, and Canada is ranked 1st out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Canada's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

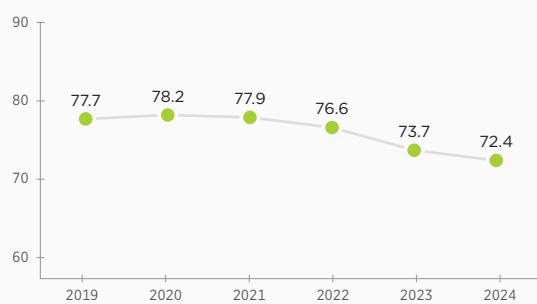
The foundations of economic freedom in Canada are strong. The economy has emerged from the global economic slowdown relatively unscathed and maintains its resilience. An effective court system sustains the rule of law, ensuring protection of property rights and application of the commercial code. The regulatory framework is highly conducive to business formation and operation, and the average cost of necessary licenses is not burdensome. Flexible labor regulations enhance employment growth. Leading sectors include automotive and other manufactures, forest products, minerals, and petroleum.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +3.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
38.2 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$2.3 trillion  
3.4% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.6%  
\$58,316 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
7.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$52.6 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
107.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

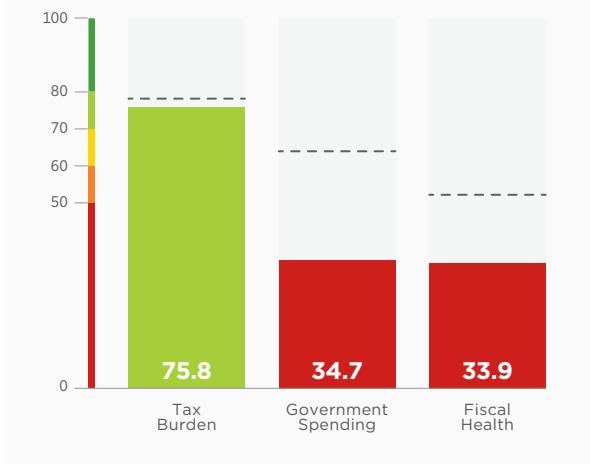
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CANADA

## RULE OF LAW



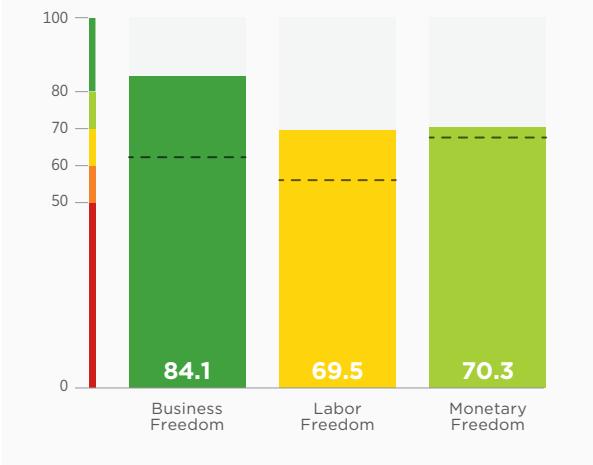
The overall rule of law is well respected in Canada. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 33 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 33.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 46.7 percent and -5.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 107.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Canada's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 3.2 percent, and more than 400 nontariff measures are in effect. Foreign investment in some sectors is capped by the government. The banking sector, dominated by six major banks, remains sound and offers a wide range of financial services.



# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

WORLD RANK:  
**168**

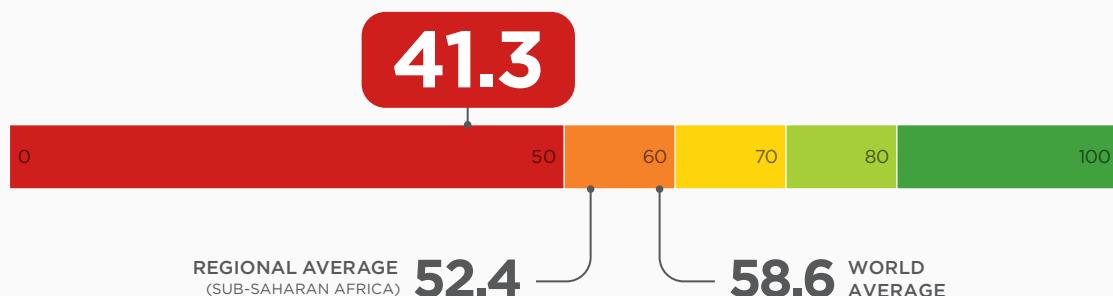
REGIONAL RANK:  
**43**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSIVE**

The Central African Republic's economic freedom score is 41.3, making its economy the 168th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.5 points from last year, and the CAR is ranked 43rd out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. The CAR's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

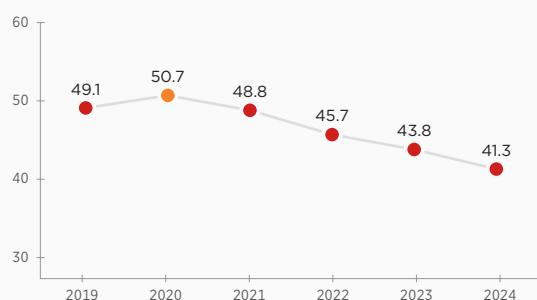
The Central African Republic performs poorly in many of the four pillars of economic freedom. The foundations of economic freedom, for example, remain fragile because of pervasive corruption and a deficient judicial system, both of which erode the effectiveness of government. The process for establishing a business has become less time-consuming, but other regulatory requirements remain opaque, increasing the cost of conducting business. The underdeveloped labor market hinders employment growth. The CAR has abundant timber, gold, diamonds, and uranium.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2002): -18.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
4.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$5.4 billion  
0.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.8%  
\$1,081 per capita

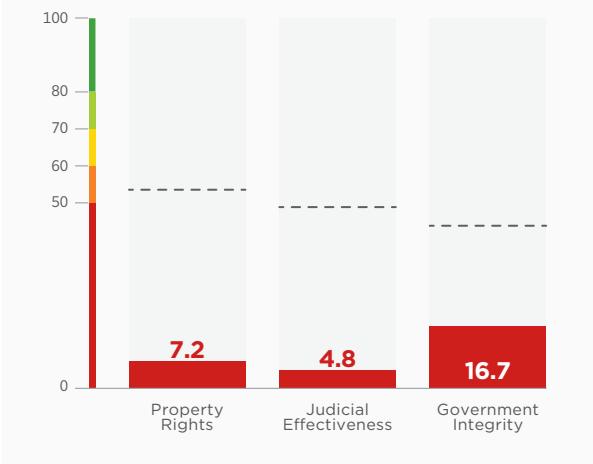
**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$24.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
51.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS

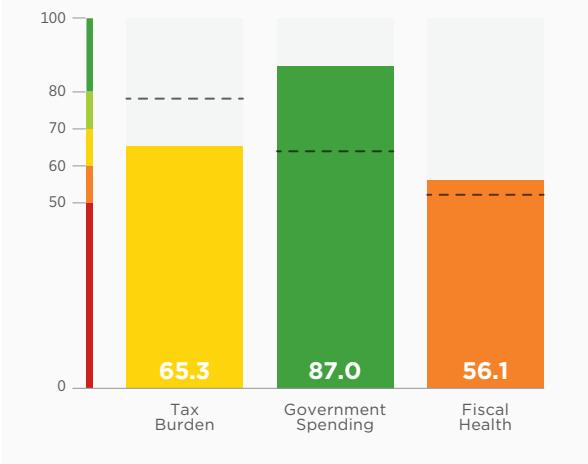
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

## RULE OF LAW



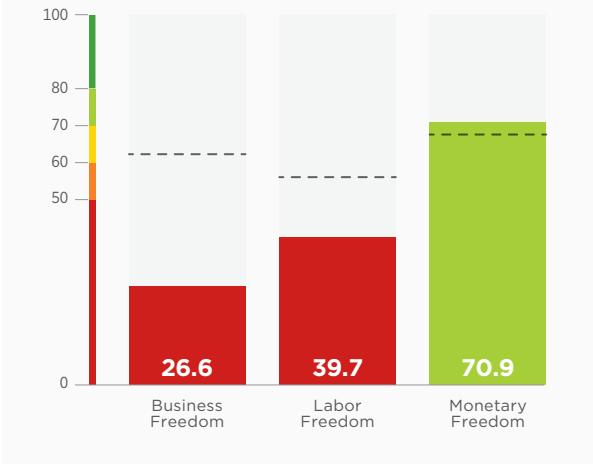
The overall rule of law is weak in the Central African Republic. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



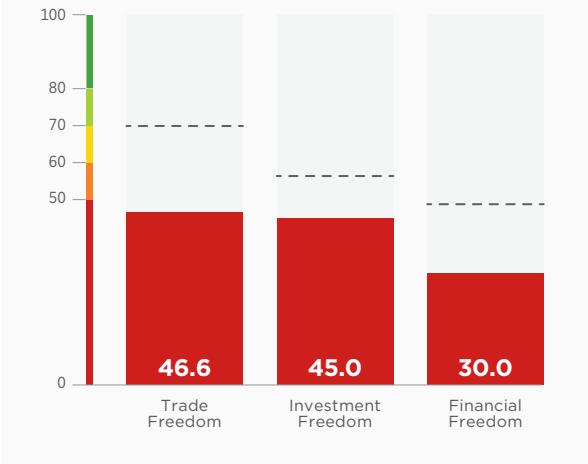
The top individual income tax rate is 50 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 8.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 20.8 percent and -4.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 51.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The Central African Republic's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 16.7 percent. Persistent nontariff barriers and impediments to investment are worsened by political instability. The financial system is underdeveloped. Fewer than 20 percent of adult Central Africans have access to an account with a formal banking institution.



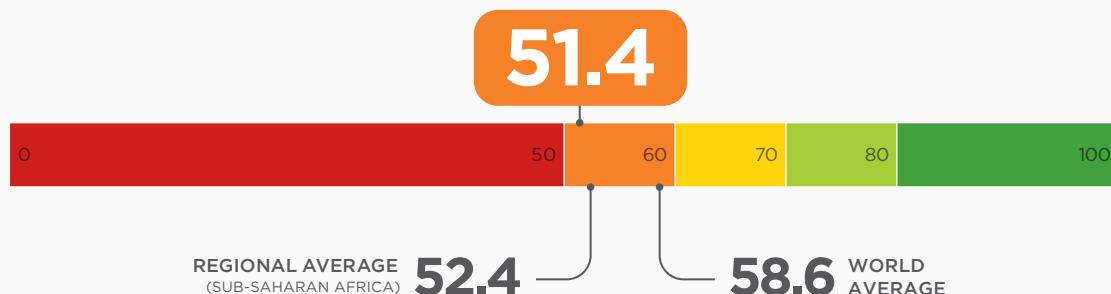
# CHAD

WORLD RANK: **136** | REGIONAL RANK: **31**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

**C**had's economic freedom score is 51.4, making its economy the 136th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.6 point from last year, and Chad is ranked 31st out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Chad's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

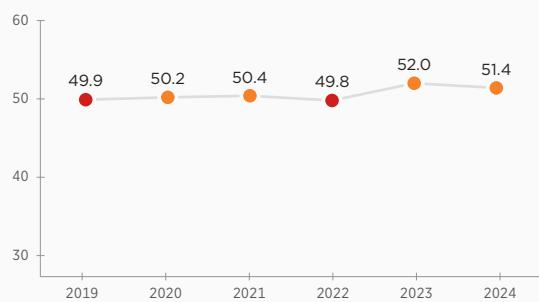
Chad performs poorly in many of the four pillars of economic freedom. The fragile rule of law cannot sustain meaningful economic progress, protection of property rights remains weak, and corruption is rampant. Private-sector development is held back by an inefficient regulatory system. Business freedom is severely restricted by poor infrastructure, lack of transportation, unreliable electricity, and poor contract enforcement. Landlocked Chad's oil sector accounts for approximately 60 percent of export revenues. Cotton, cattle, and livestock account for the largest portion of non-oil exports.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1997): +6.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

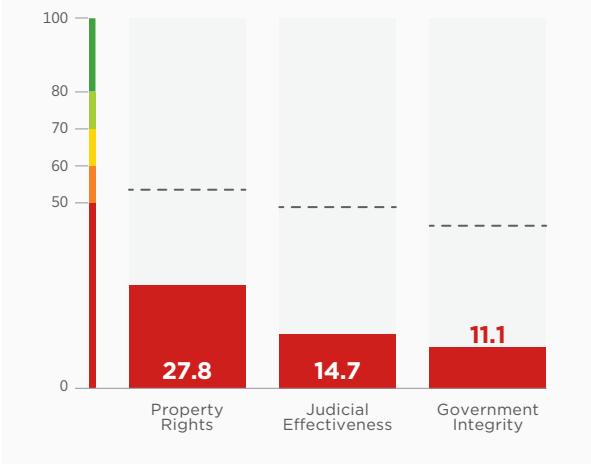
**POPULATION:**  
16.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$30.0 billion  
3.4% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.2%  
\$1,724 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
1.9%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$614.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
48.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

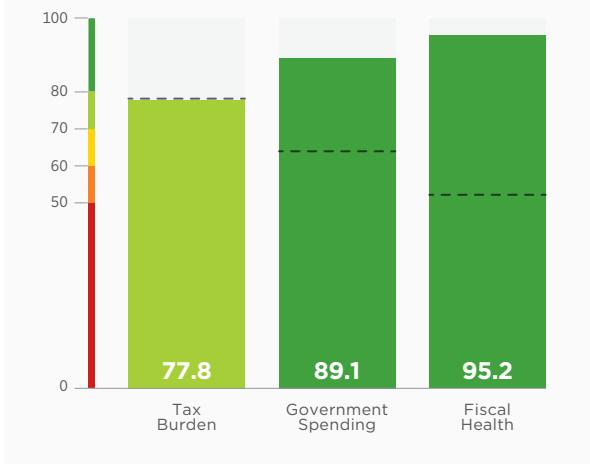
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CHAD

## RULE OF LAW



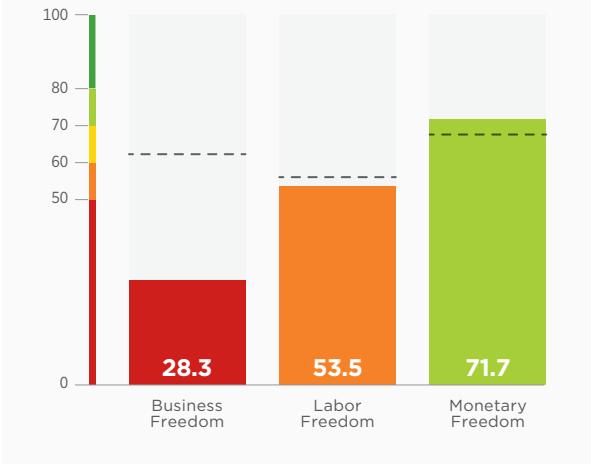
The overall rule of law is weak in Chad. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



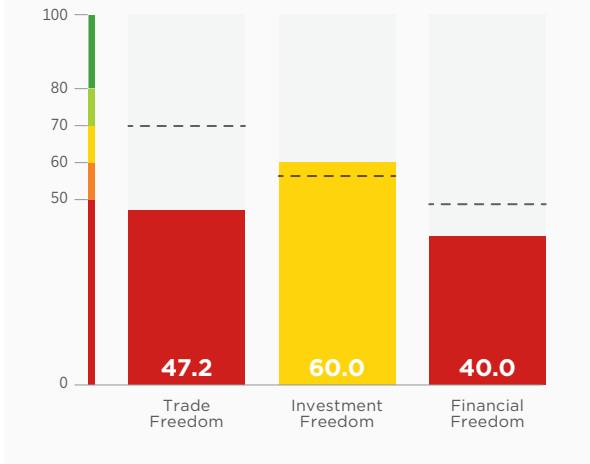
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 10.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 19.0 percent and 1.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 48.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Chad's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 16.4 percent, and nontariff barriers further impede trade. Openness to foreign investment remains significantly constrained by institutional weakness. The high cost of credit and scarce access to financing deter private-sector development.

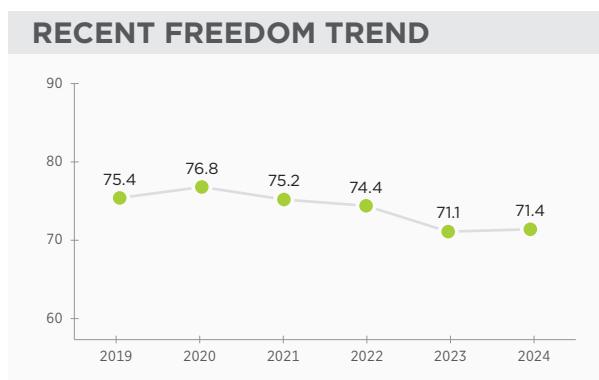
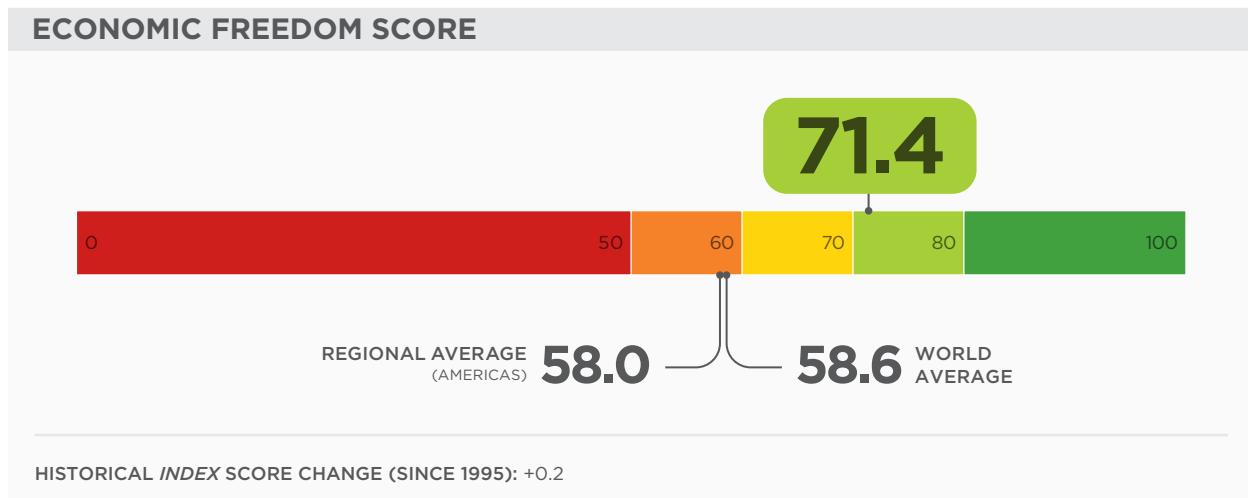


# CHILE



**C**hile's economic freedom score is 71.4, making its economy the 21st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is largely unchanged from last year, and Chile is ranked 2nd out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Chile's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Many pillars of economic freedom remain relatively well maintained in Chile. The overall regulatory framework is conducive to entrepreneurial activity, and efficient regulations support open-market policies. However, along with lingering policy uncertainty and high inflation, increased crime rates and the lack of overall economic dynamism have been key issues. In a sharp reversal from the initial attempt to rewrite Chile's constitution, Chileans voted in referenda held in September 2022 and December 2023 to retain the existing constitution, which enshrines a free-market approach to economic policy.

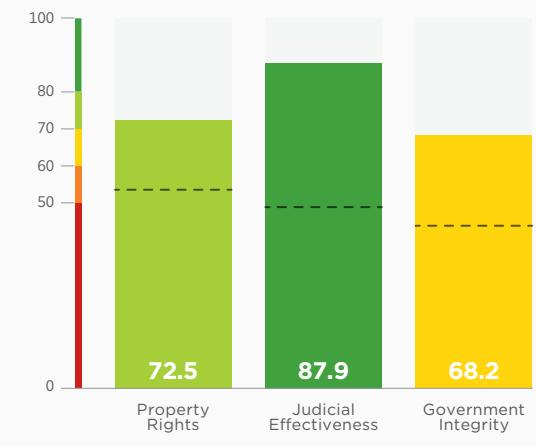


### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 19.2 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 9.1%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$579.4 billion 2.4% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 2.6% \$29,221 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 11.6%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$19.8 billion	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 38.0% of GDP
2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.	

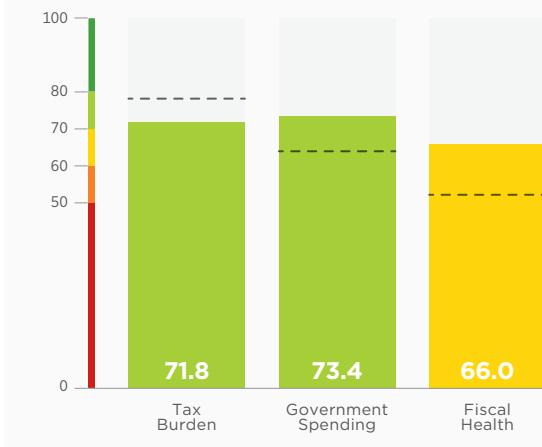
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CHILE

## RULE OF LAW



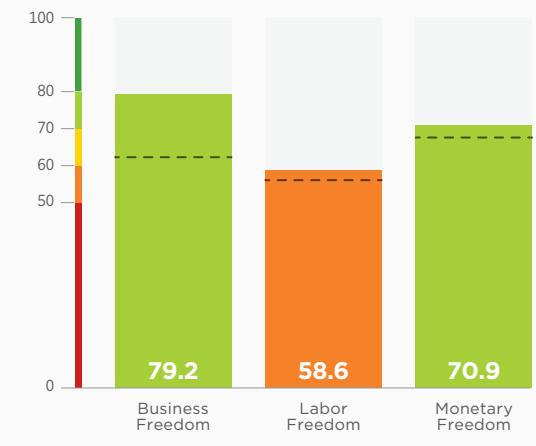
The overall rule of law is well respected in Chile. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



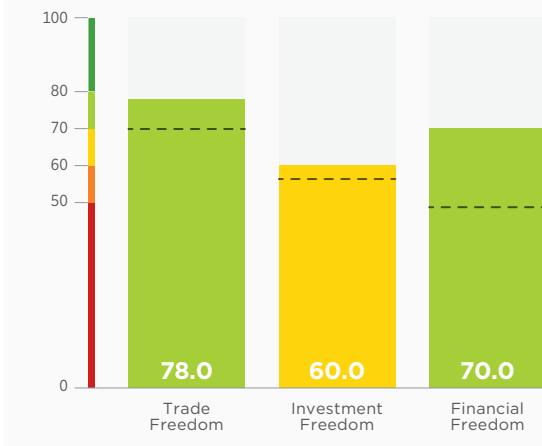
The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 27 percent. The tax burden equals 22.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 29.8 percent and -4.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 38.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Chile's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.0 percent, and more than 100 nontariff measures are in effect. Market-oriented policies, facilitated by a sound and transparent investment framework, have attracted significant foreign investment. The open, resilient, and relatively competitive financial sector offers a wide range of services.



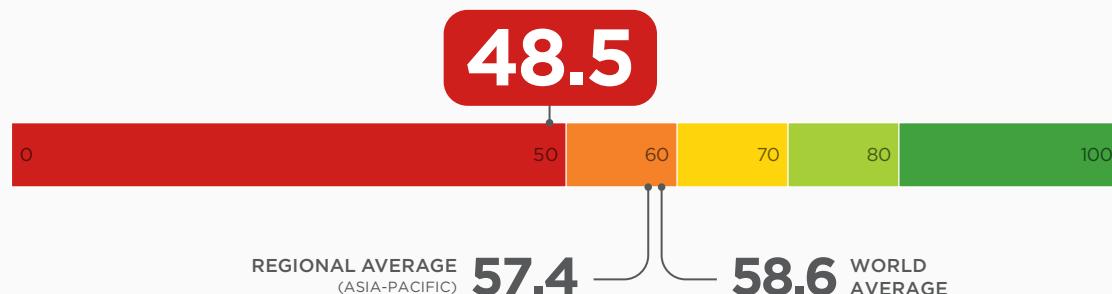
WORLD RANK:	151	REGIONAL RANK:	35
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>REPRESSIVE</b>			

# CHINA

**C**hina's economic freedom score is 48.5, making its economy the 151st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.2 point from last year, and China is ranked 35th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. China's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

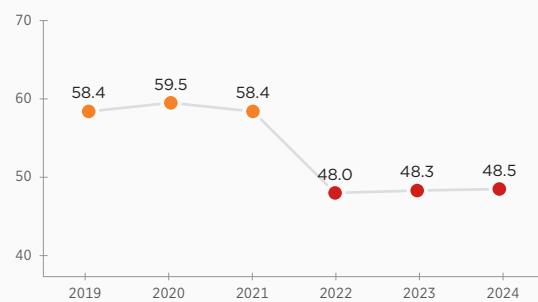
The Chinese Communist Party leadership holds ultimate authority and directly controls economic activity. The regulatory framework remains complex and uneven. China's arbitrary and often-revised business-related rules and labor codes subject the private sector to the whims of the Communist government. The state-controlled financial sector continues to undercut efficiency and productivity through extensive use of subsidies and credit controls. A post-COVID slowdown in economic growth may be more severe than officials acknowledge. Additional pressure on real estate and banking has contributed to worsening economic forecasts.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -3.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

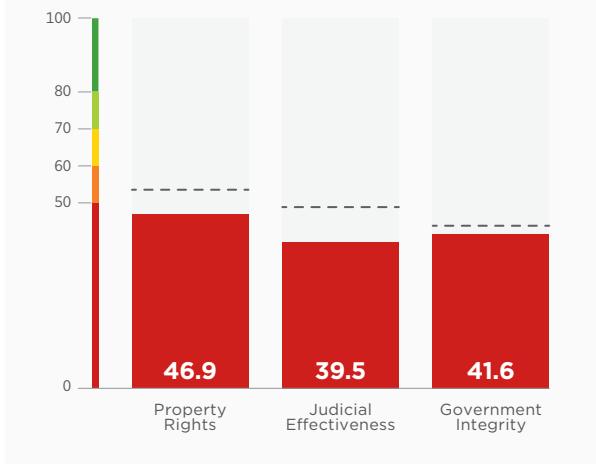
**POPULATION:**  
1.4 billion  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$30.2 trillion  
3.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 5.3%  
\$21,404 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
1.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$189.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
77.0% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

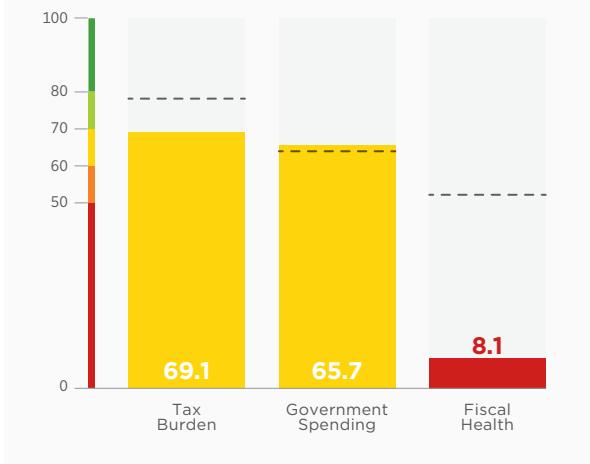
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CHINA

## RULE OF LAW



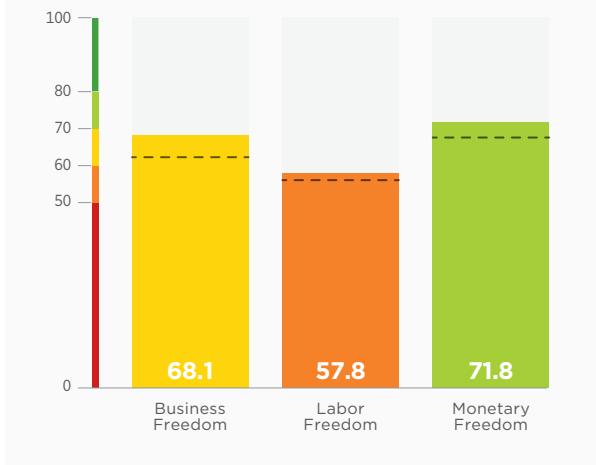
The overall rule of law is weak in China. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



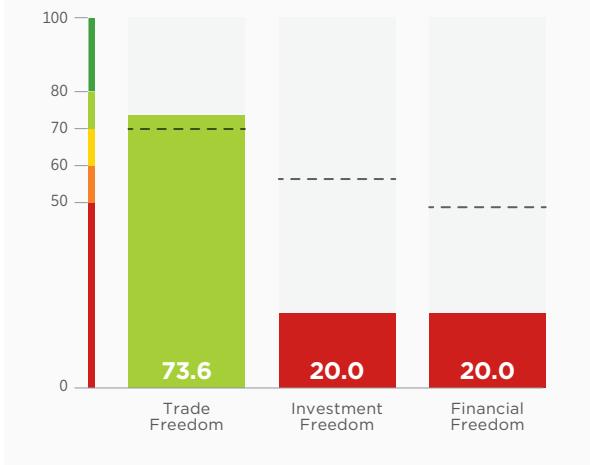
The top individual income tax rate is 45 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 21.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 33.8 percent and -7.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 77.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The pace of genuinely liberalizing economic reform has slowed or stopped. The overall regulatory framework remains arbitrary and uneven, subject to the influence of the state. The labor regime remains repressive. Inflation has been monitored intensely, with the government often relying on price controls.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 3.2 percent, and layers of nontariff measures are in effect. China's protectionist approval system for foreign investment remains restrictive and lacking in transparency. The government continues to maintain its tight grip on the financial system.



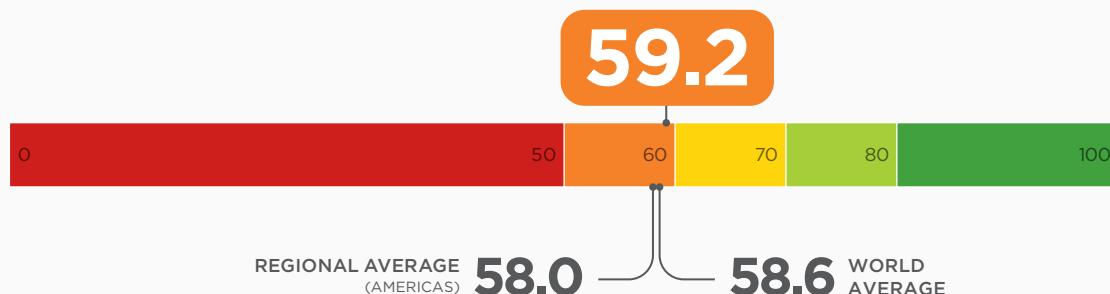
WORLD RANK: **84** | REGIONAL RANK: **19**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# COLOMBIA

**C**olombia's economic freedom score is 59.2, making its economy the 84th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 3.9 points from last year, and Colombia is ranked 19th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Colombia's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

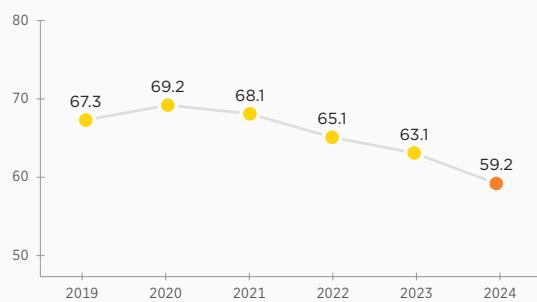
Colombia's economy has shown moderate resilience in the face of a challenging economic environment, but increasingly statist policies have created uncertainty and undermined the foundations of economic freedom. The judicial system remains vulnerable to political interference, and corruption further undermines the country's economic freedom. The regulatory framework has become more efficient, and business procedures have been streamlined. The non-salary cost of employing a worker remains somewhat burdensome, and informal labor market activity is rampant. The most recent available inflation rate is 10.2 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -5.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

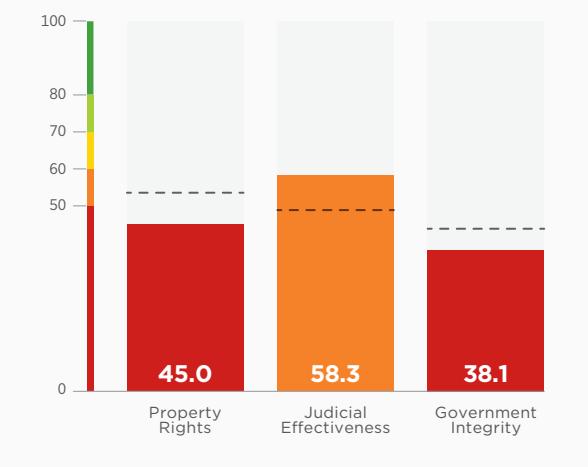
**POPULATION:**  
51.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$966.2 billion  
7.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.4%  
\$18,720 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
14.3%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
10.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$17.0 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
60.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

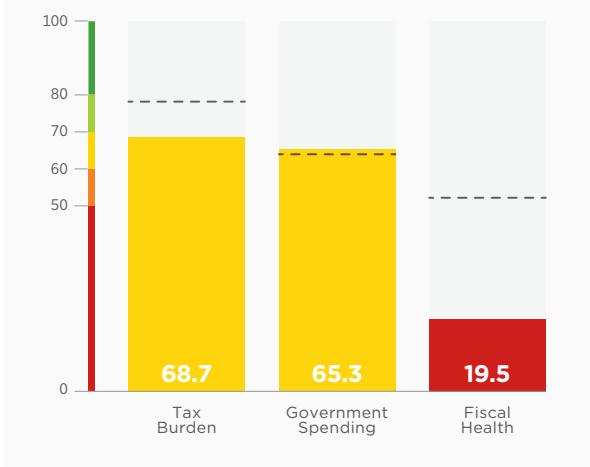
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | COLOMBIA

## RULE OF LAW



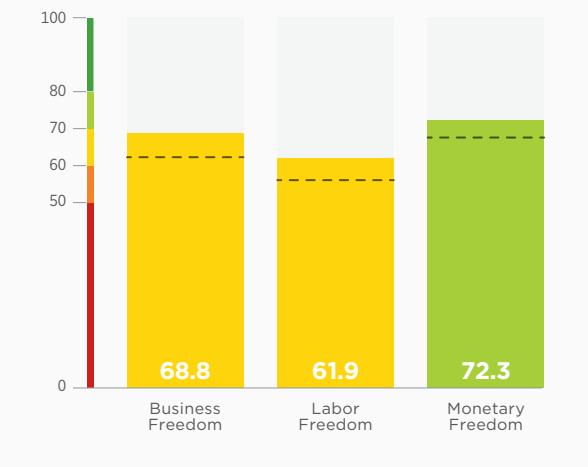
The overall rule of law is weak in Colombia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



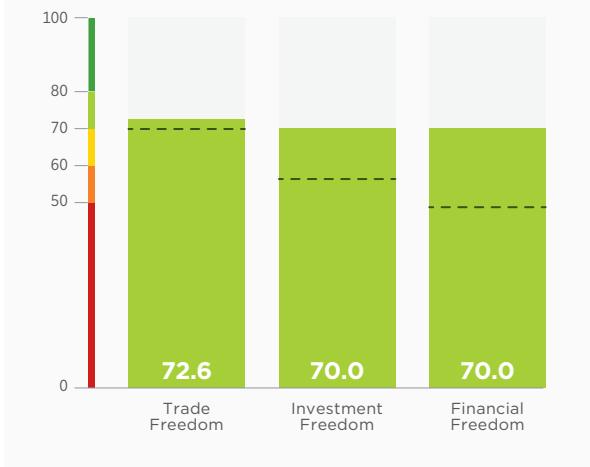
The top individual income tax rate is 39 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 19.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 34.0 percent and -6.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 60.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Colombia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.2 percent, and more than 150 nontariff measures are in effect. Foreign investment in some sectors is subject to investment registration and concession agreements with the government. Credit is generally allocated on market terms.



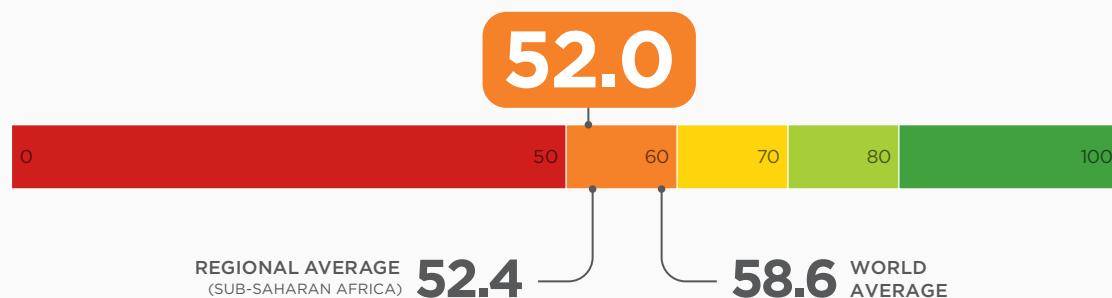
# COMOROS

WORLD RANK:	REGIONAL RANK:
132	27
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>MOSTLY UNFREE</b>	

Comoros's economic freedom score is 52, making its economy the 132nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.5 points from last year, and Comoros is ranked 27th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Comoros's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

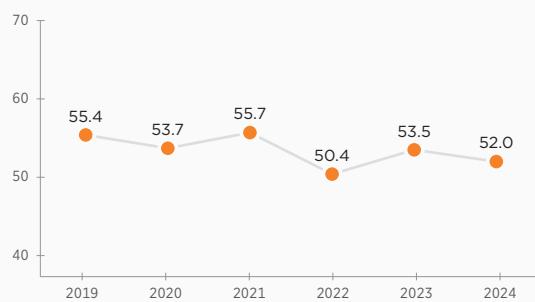
The foundations of economic freedom in Comoros are fragile. Scores for property rights and freedom from corruption are low. The public sector is inefficient and lacks transparency. Poor management of macroeconomic policies, coupled with a decade of political crises, has undermined economic development. The business environment remains severely constrained, and the inefficient regulatory environment limits the freedom to establish and run private enterprises. Much of the workforce is employed in the small retail services sector, and informal labor activity is widespread.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): +8.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



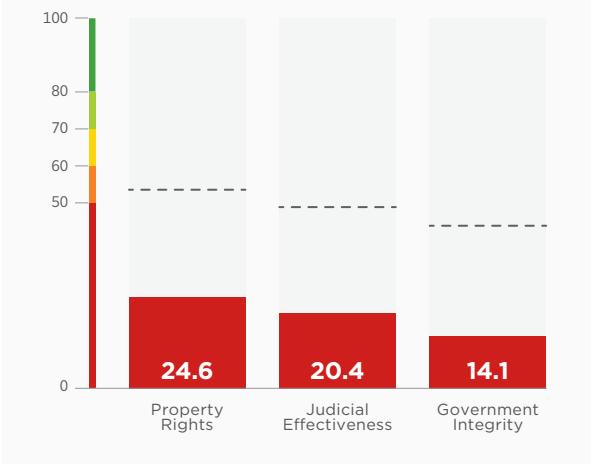
## QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 0.9 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 9.5%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$3.2 billion 2.6% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 2.0% \$3,363 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 12.4%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$4.0 million	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 27.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

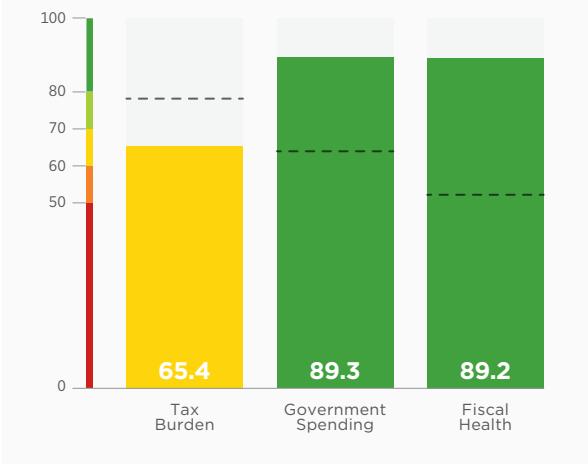
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | COMOROS

## RULE OF LAW



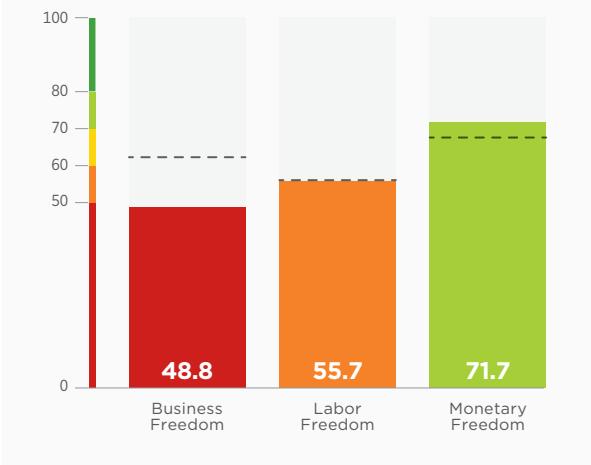
The overall rule of law is weak in Comoros. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



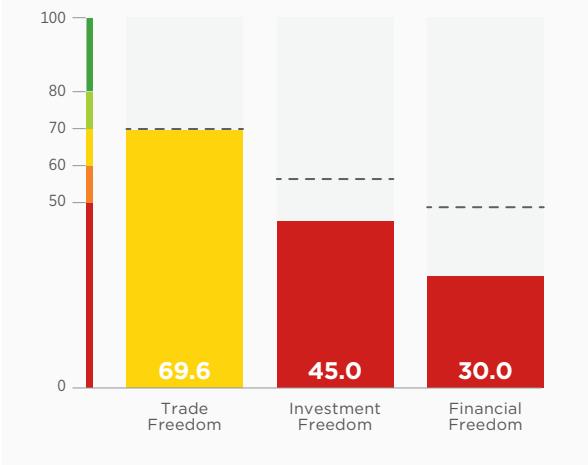
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 50 percent. The tax burden equals 7.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 18.9 percent and -2.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 27.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Comoros's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.2 percent, and nontariff barriers further restrict trade. The law generally treats foreign and domestic investors equally. The small financial sector still lacks adequate regulation or supervision, and many Comorans are without bank accounts and rely on informal lending.

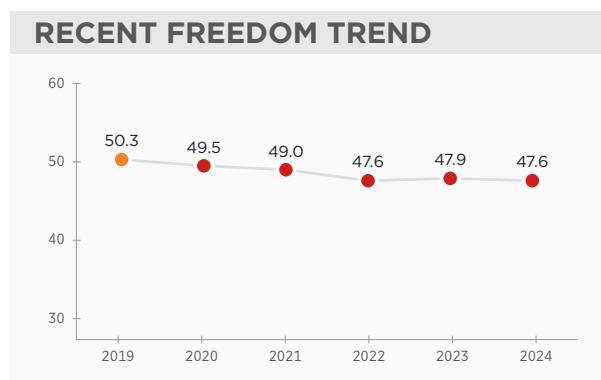
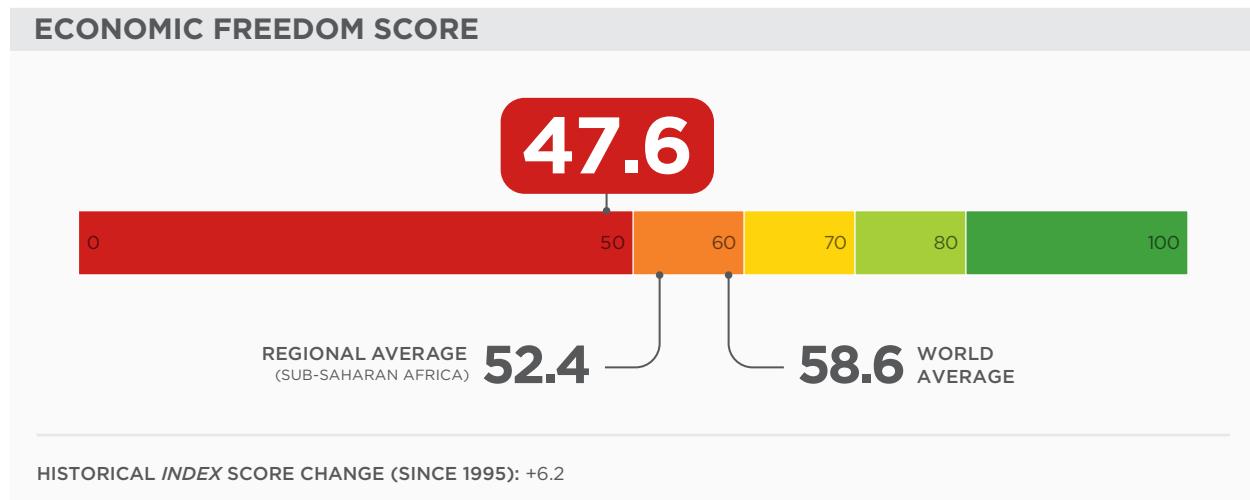


# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



The Democratic Republic of the Congo's economic freedom score is 47.6, making its economy the 160th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.3 point from last year, and the DRC is ranked 40th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. The DRC's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Economic development remains hampered by instability and violence, and the weak rule of law and marginal enforcement of property rights have driven many people and enterprises into the informal sector. Poor economic management has been made worse by repeated political crises. The DRC is Africa's largest producer of copper and the world's largest producer of cobalt. It is also one of the world's least-developed countries, and its political instability and high inflation discourage international investors.



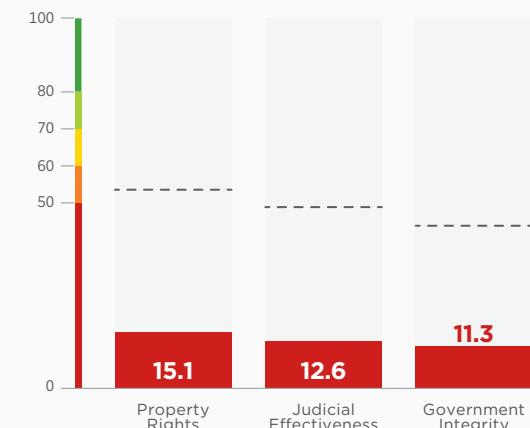
### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 92.4 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 5.4%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$136.3 billion 8.9% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 5.2% \$1,409 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 9.3%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$1.8 billion	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 14.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

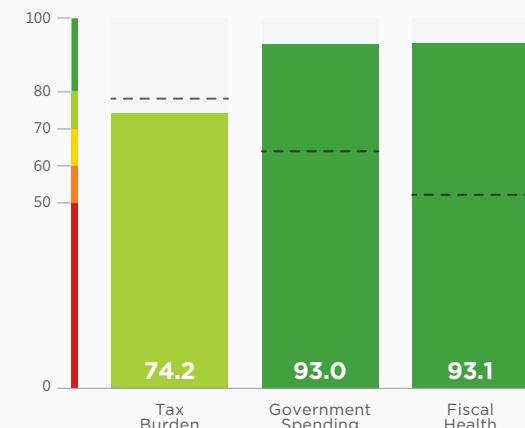
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## RULE OF LAW



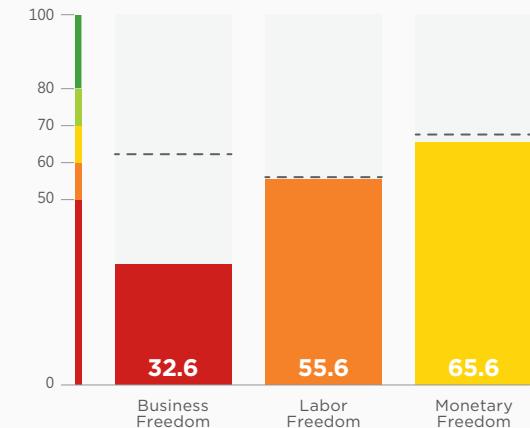
The overall rule of law is weak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



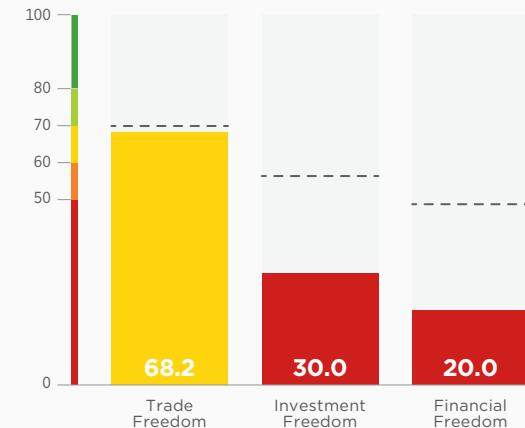
The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 9.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 15.3 percent and -2.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 14.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The Democratic Republic of the Congo's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.4 percent, and other barriers to dynamic trade flows persist. The government screens and regulates foreign investment. The financial system is underdeveloped, and access to financing for businesses remains very limited.

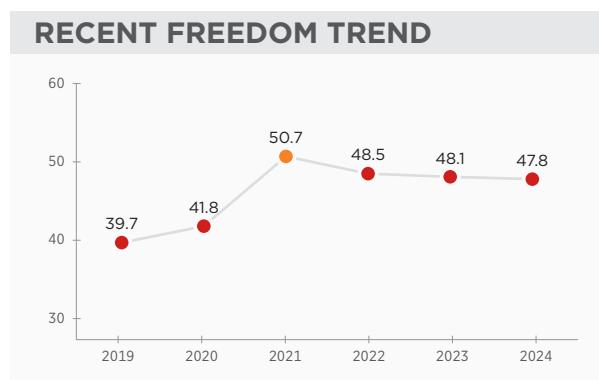
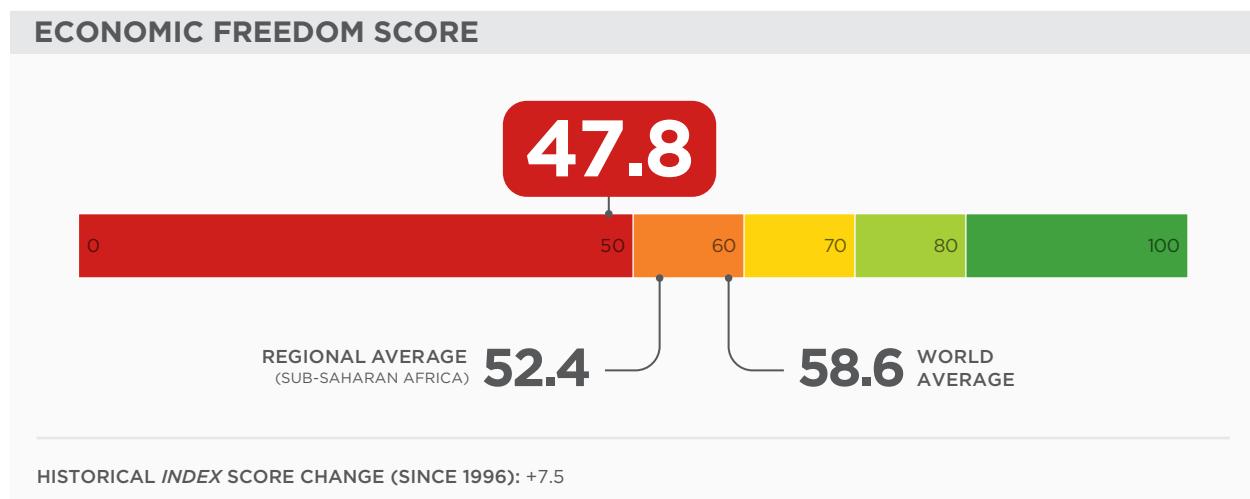


# REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



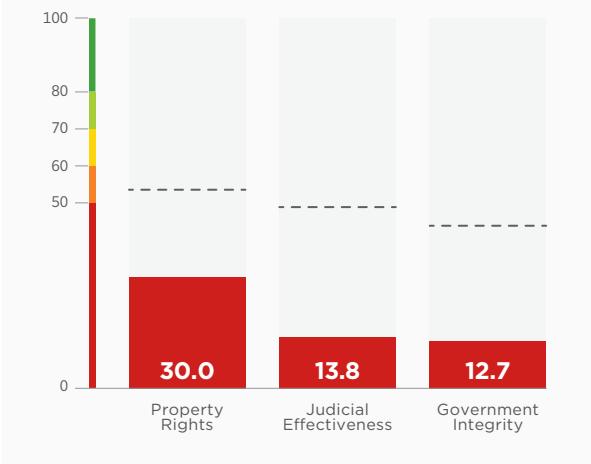
The Republic of the Congo's economic freedom score is 47.8, making its economy the 157th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.3 point from last year, and the Republic of the Congo is ranked 38th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. The Republic of the Congo's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Economic freedom remains fragile in Congo because of repressive governance that is exacerbated by weak rule of law. The weak judiciary fuels corruption, and state control is extensive. Political instability and the slow pace of reform have left the nation's institutional capacity inadequate. The formal labor market is not well developed. Congo is one of sub-Saharan Africa's largest producers of oil but lacks the infrastructure needed to exploit its energy potential.

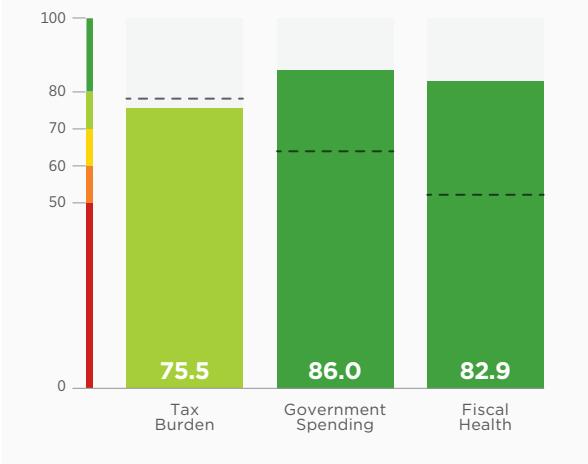


### QUICK FACTS

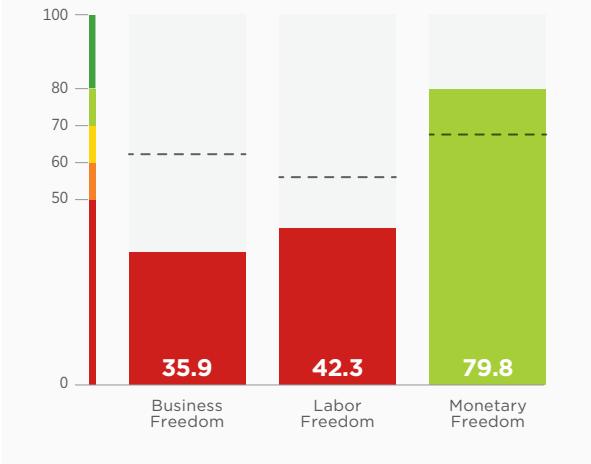
<b>POPULATION:</b> 5.7 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 23.0%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$26.0 billion 1.8% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: -0.9% \$5,276 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 3.0%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$532.0 million	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 92.5% of GDP
<small>2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.</small>	

**RULE OF LAW**

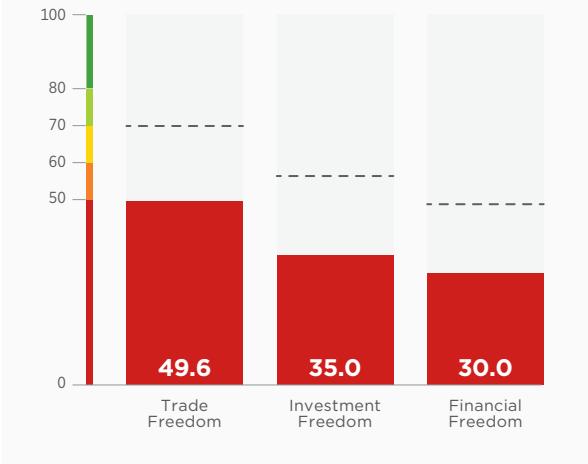
The overall rule of law is weak in the Republic of the Congo. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

**GOVERNMENT SIZE**

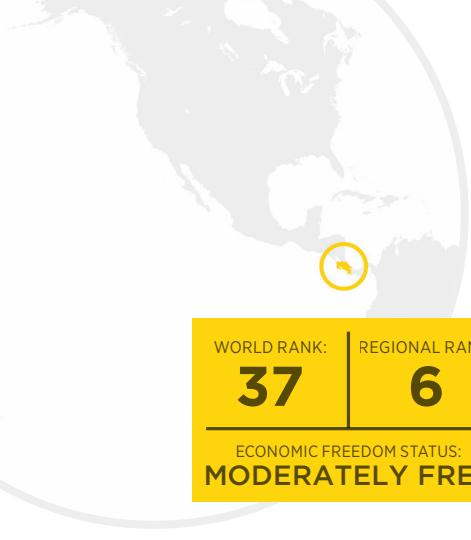
The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 28 percent. The tax burden equals 8.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 21.6 percent and 3.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 92.5 percent of GDP.

**REGULATORY EFFICIENCY**

The Republic of the Congo's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

**OPEN MARKETS**

The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 15.2 percent, and nontariff barriers persist. Poor economic management aggravated by political instability has constrained the growth of much-needed domestic and foreign investment. Companies have very limited access to financial services.



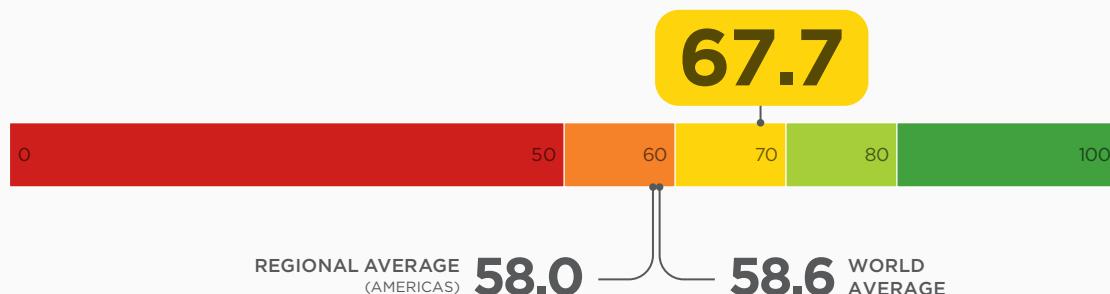
# COSTA RICA

WORLD RANK: **37** | REGIONAL RANK: **6**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

**C**osta Rica's economic freedom score is 67.7, making its economy the 37th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.2 points from last year, and Costa Rica is ranked 6th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Costa Rica's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

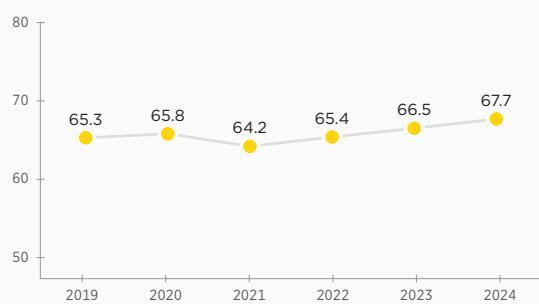
All four pillars of economic freedom are relatively well maintained in Costa Rica, although the rule of law shows signs of vulnerability. The court system is inefficient, and enforcement of property rights can be weak. Progress in enhancing the effectiveness of government has been uneven, with inefficient government bureaucracy undermining dynamic entrepreneurial activity. Although licensing requirements have been reduced, procedures for launching a business remain time-consuming. The trade regime is open, but non-tariff barriers still undercut more vibrant economic expansion.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -0.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

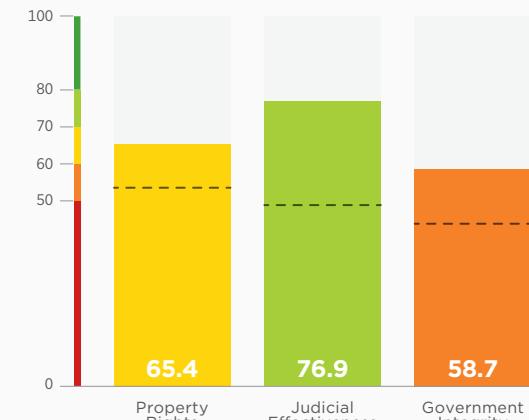
**POPULATION:**  
5.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$130.7 billion  
4.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.6%  
\$25,000 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
18.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$3.0 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
63.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

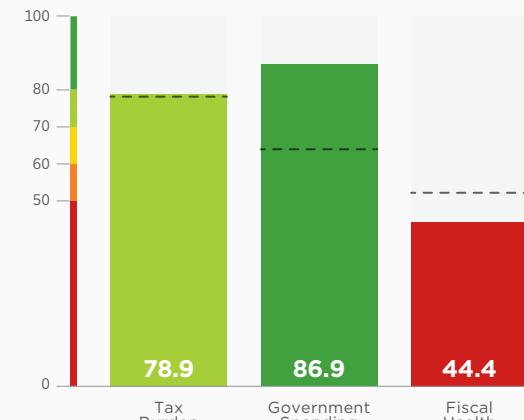
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | COSTA RICA

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Costa Rica. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



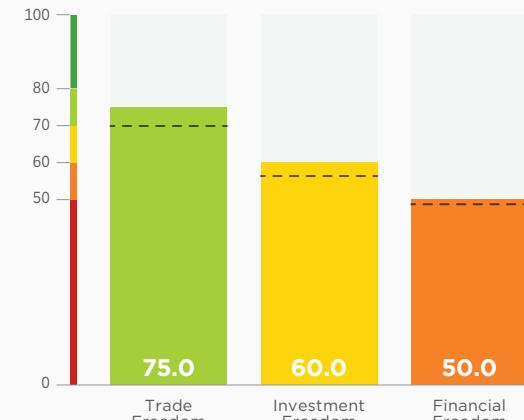
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 24.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 20.9 percent and -5.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 63.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Costa Rica's overall regulatory environment is generally well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.0 percent, and more than 60 nontariff measures are in effect. The government restricts investment in some sectors. In response to the pandemic, the central bank reduced state-owned banks' preferential interest rates and eased regulations on loan restructuring.



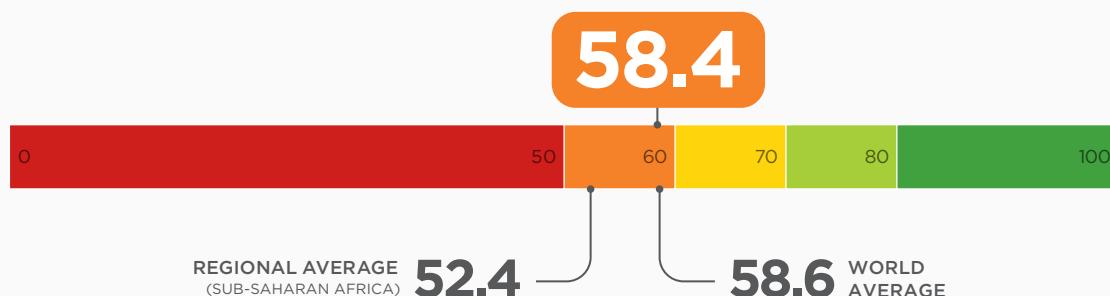
# CÔTE D'IVOIRE

WORLD RANK:	91	REGIONAL RANK:	7
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: MOSTLY UNFREE			

Côte d'Ivoire's economic freedom score is 58.4, making its economy the 91st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2 points from last year, and Côte d'Ivoire is ranked 7th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Côte d'Ivoire's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

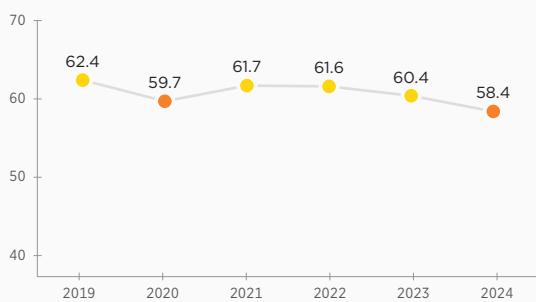
Investment in such areas as agriculture, agribusiness, mining, light manufacturing, housing, and services has driven robust economic growth in recent years. However, overall progress in strengthening the four pillars of economic freedom in Côte d'Ivoire has been limited despite efforts to improve macroeconomic stability and growth potential. Property rights are significantly undercut by a weak judiciary, and corruption persists. With development of a modern labor market lagging, the informal sector is an important source of employment.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +5.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

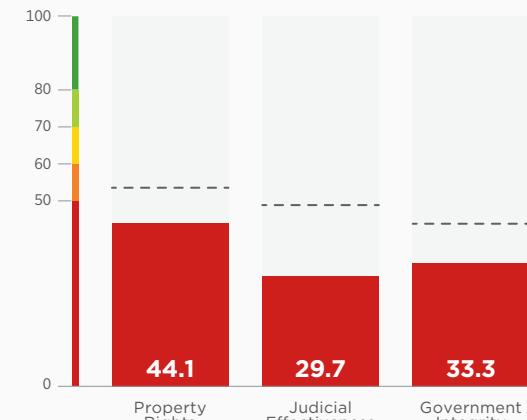
**POPULATION:**  
27.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$184.0 billion  
6.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 5.4%  
\$6,486 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.6 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
56.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

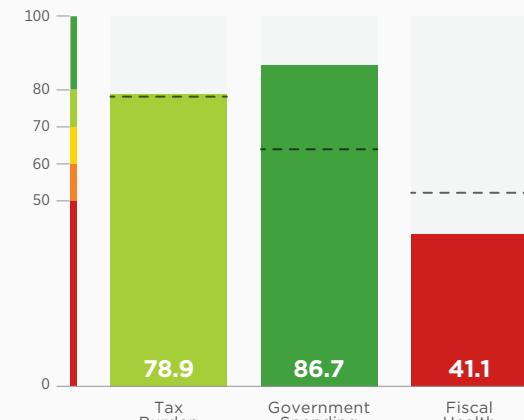
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CÔTE D'IVOIRE

## RULE OF LAW



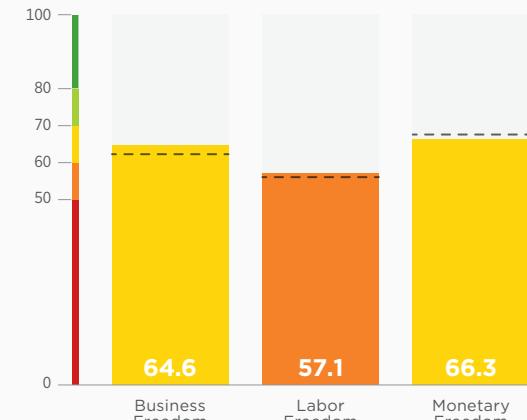
The overall rule of law is weak in Côte d'Ivoire. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



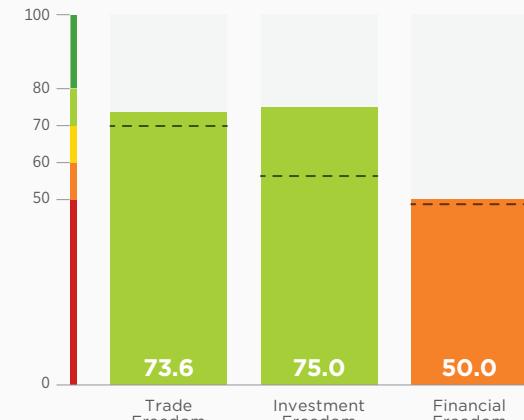
The top individual income tax rate is 36 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 13.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 21.1 percent and -5.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 56.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

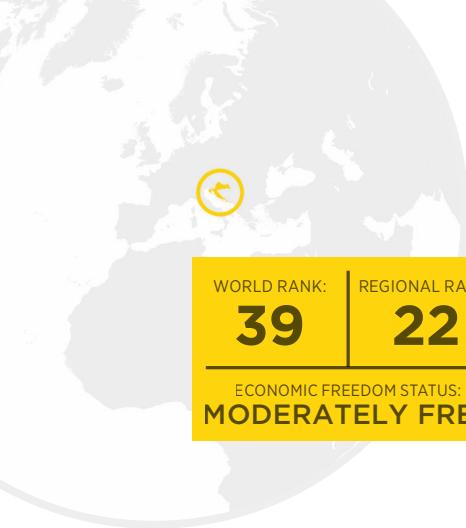


Côte d'Ivoire's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.2 percent, and nontariff measures remain in force. In most sectors, there are no laws that limit foreign investment. The financial sector is relatively stable. Credit allocation is based on market terms and supports the private sector.



WORLD RANK:

**39**

REGIONAL RANK:

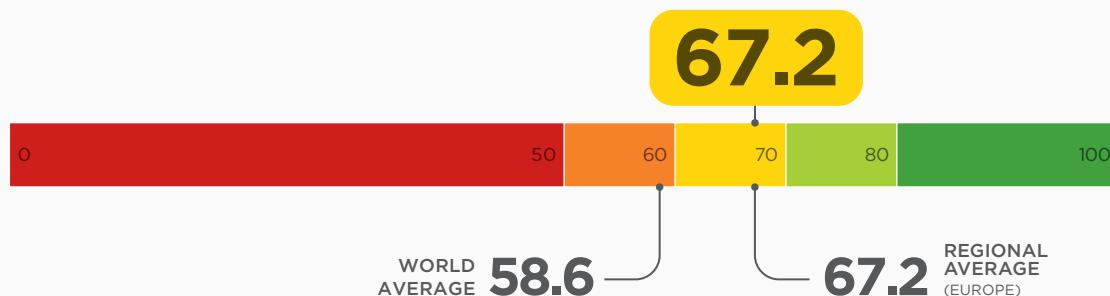
**22**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# CROATIA

Croatia's economic freedom score is 67.2, making its economy the 39th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.8 point from last year, and Croatia is ranked 22nd out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and equal to the regional average. Croatia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

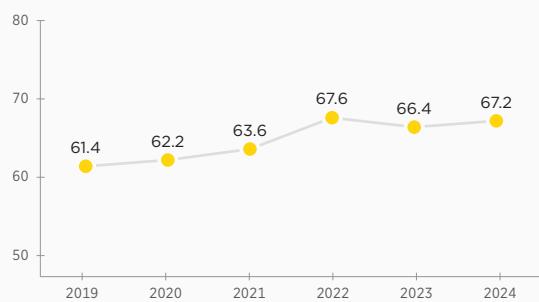
Croatia's scores on most components of economic freedom remain average. Earlier competitive reforms and trade liberalization have encouraged economic modernization and the emergence of a vibrant private sector, but overall progress has lagged behind that of other emerging markets, and further reform is critical. Despite reform measures that have streamlined the procedures for establishing a business, Croatia's overall regulatory environment remains burdensome and inefficient. Similarly, the labor market remains relatively rigid. Inflation has been relatively high in recent years.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +19.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
3.9 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$154.7 billion  
6.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.4%  
\$40,128 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
8.7%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
10.7%

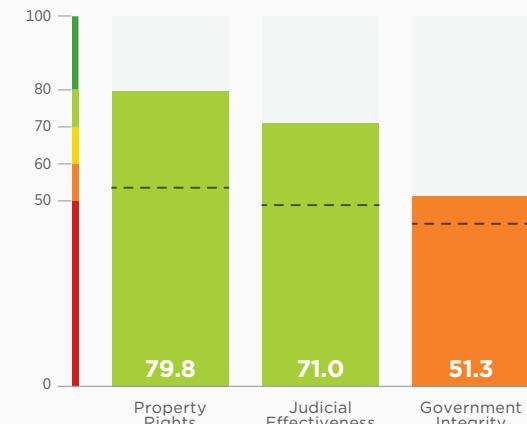
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$3.7 billion

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
68.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

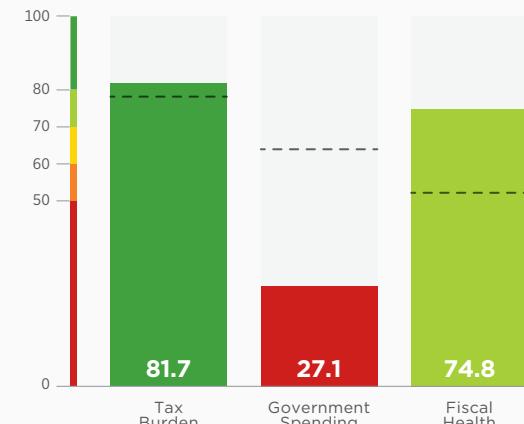
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CROATIA

## RULE OF LAW



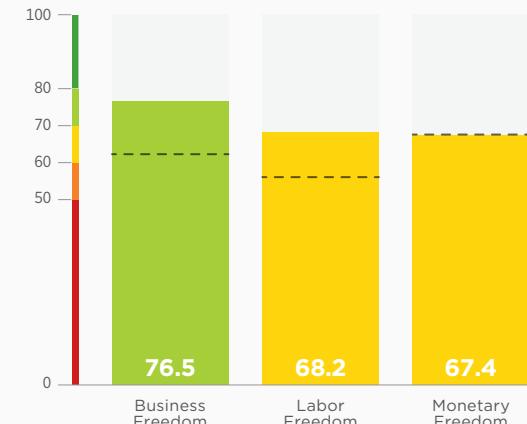
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Croatia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 18 percent. The tax burden equals 24.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 49.3 percent and -3.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 68.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Croatia's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force along with an additional eight country-specific nontariff barriers. Foreign investment faces no restrictive screening mechanisms. Financial markets are open to foreign investment.



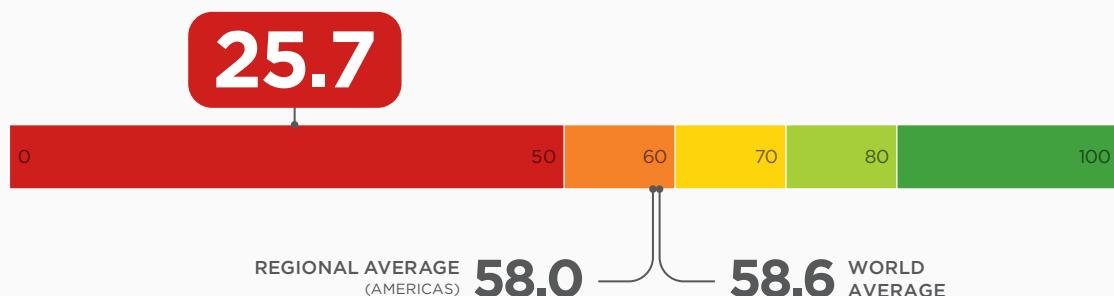
WORLD RANK: **175** | REGIONAL RANK: **32**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSSED**

# CUBA

**C**uba's economic freedom score is 25.7, making its economy the 175th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.4 points from last year, and Cuba is ranked 32nd out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Cuba's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

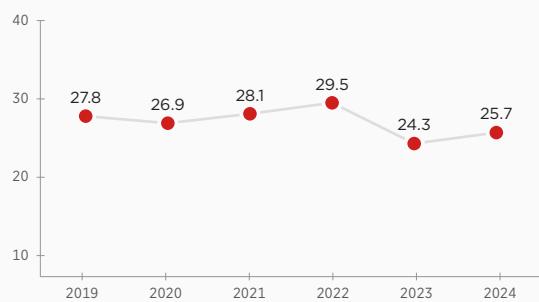
Cuba's inefficient state-run economy performs very poorly, and its component scores are far below world averages in many categories. The absence of an independent and fair judiciary weakens the rule of law. The private sector has long been shackled by tight state control. Regulatory efficiency remains poor, and private entrepreneurship is limited. The application of regulations is inconsistent and nontransparent. The state-controlled labor market has resulted in a large informal sector. Monetary stability is vulnerable to state interference, and prices are subject to controls.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -2.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

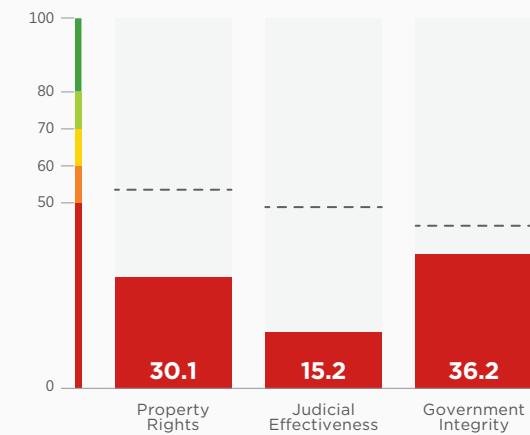
**POPULATION:**  
11.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
n/a  
n/a growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: n/a  
n/a per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
n/a  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
76.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
n/a  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
119.0% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

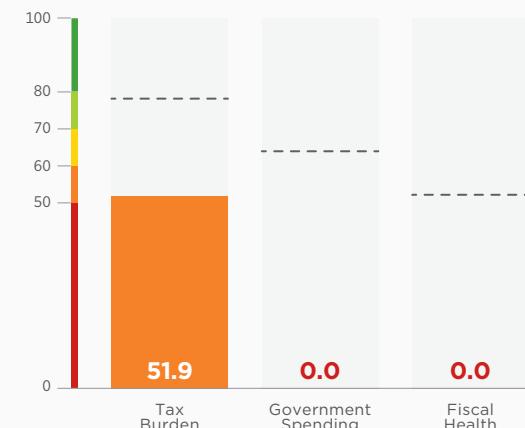
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CUBA

## RULE OF LAW



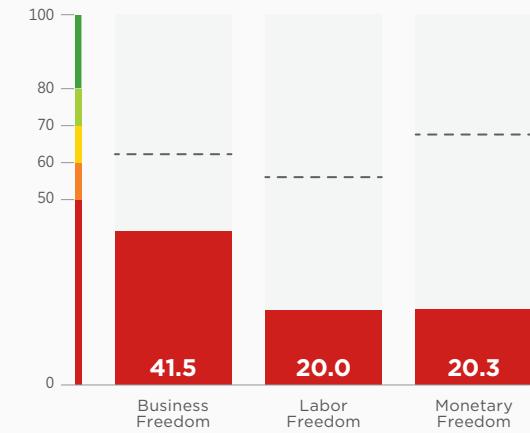
The overall rule of law is weak in Cuba. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



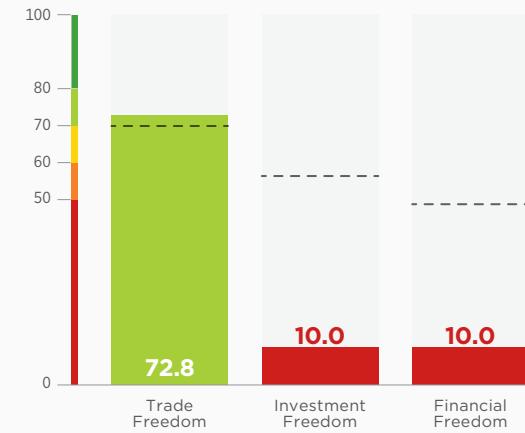
The top individual income tax rate is 50 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 37.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 63.9 percent and -12.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 119.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Cuba's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 3.6 percent, and layers of nontariff measures are in effect. State-owned enterprises significantly distort the economy. Access to credit for private-sector activity is severely impeded by the shallow financial market. The state remains firmly in control.



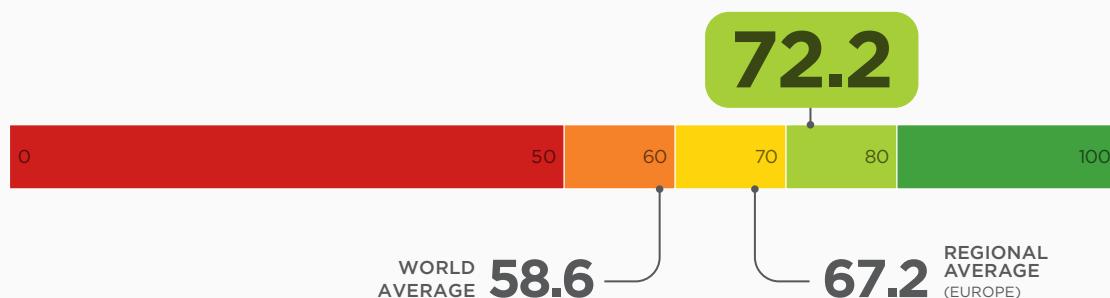
# CYPRUS

WORLD RANK: **17** | REGIONAL RANK: **11**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY FREE**

Cyprus's economic freedom score is 72.2, making its economy the 17th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.1 point from last year, and Cyprus is ranked 11th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Cyprus's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

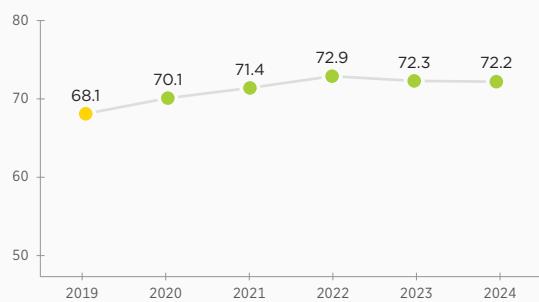
Cyprus's relatively sound foundations of economic freedom are sustained by a generally well-functioning judicial system. The overall freedom to start, operate, and close a business is relatively well maintained within the regulatory framework, and there is no minimum capital requirement. Public debt is moderate compared to that of other European economies, but an increasing level of public spending is eroding respect for the principle of limited government. Services such as tourism, finance, shipping, and real estate account for more than 80 percent of GDP.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +4.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

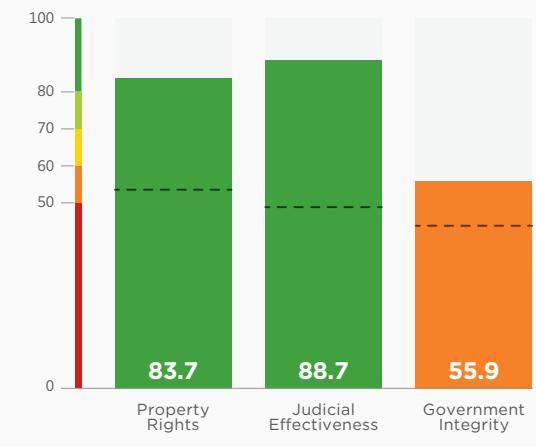
**POPULATION:**  
1.2 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$46.8 billion  
5.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.8%  
\$51,774 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.1%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$4.9 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
86.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

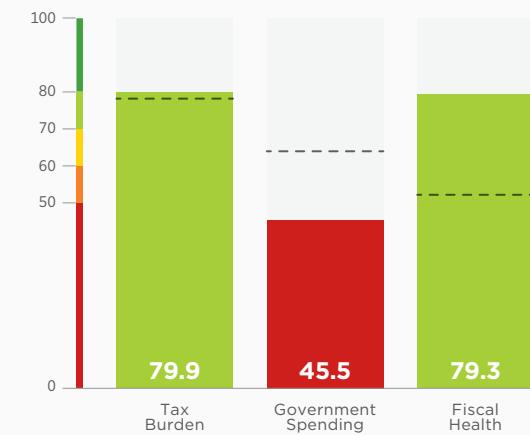
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CYPRUS

## RULE OF LAW



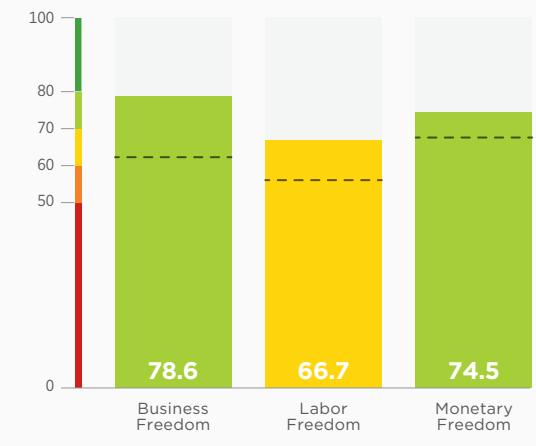
The overall rule of law is well respected in Cyprus. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



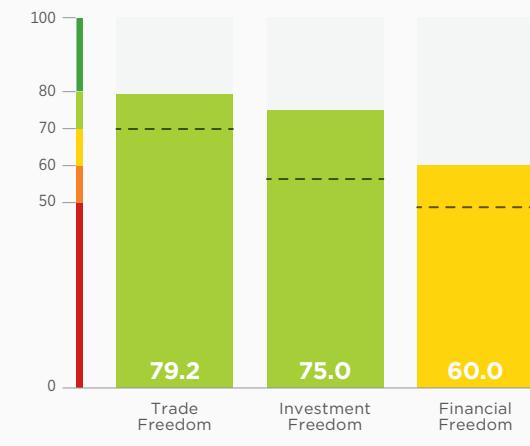
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 12.5 percent. The tax burden equals 25.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 42.6 percent and -1.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 86.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Cyprus's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force along with nine country-specific nontariff barriers. There is no restrictive screening of foreign investment. The small financial markets are stable, and banking is well capitalized.



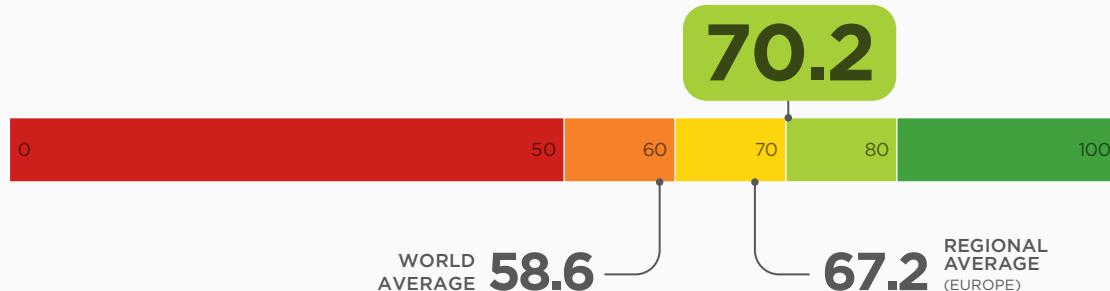
WORLD RANK: **24** | REGIONAL RANK: **15**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY FREE**

# CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic's economic freedom score is 70.2, making its economy the 24th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.7 points from last year, and the Czech Republic is ranked 15th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. The Czech Republic's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

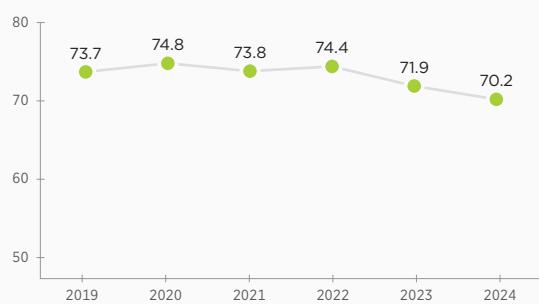
Strongly committed to economic and structural reform, the Czech Republic has developed a modern and flexible economy and performs above world averages in many of the four pillars of economic freedom. Open-market policies have enabled the economy to capitalize on the results of earlier regulatory reforms. The regulatory framework governing businesses is straightforward, and all interested parties can participate in the process of enacting new regulations. The labor market is relatively flexible. Inflation has been relatively high.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +2.4

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
10.7 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$519.2 billion  
2.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.3%  
\$47,955 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
2.9%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
15.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$9.9 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
44.2% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

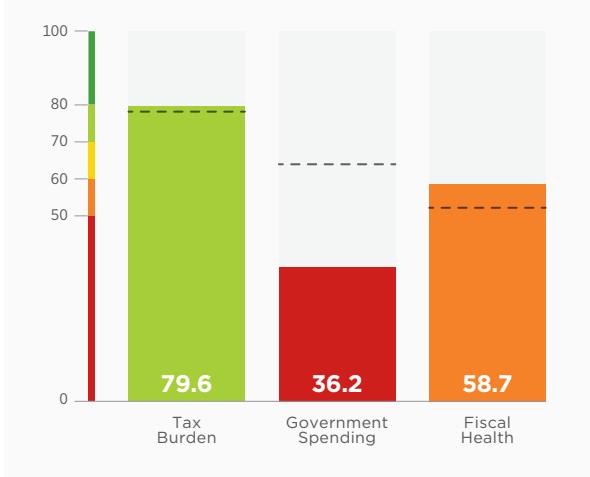
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | CZECH REPUBLIC

## RULE OF LAW



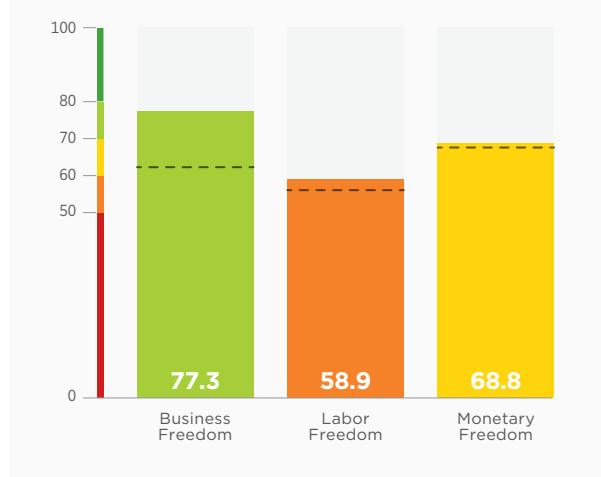
The overall rule of law is well respected in the Czech Republic. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



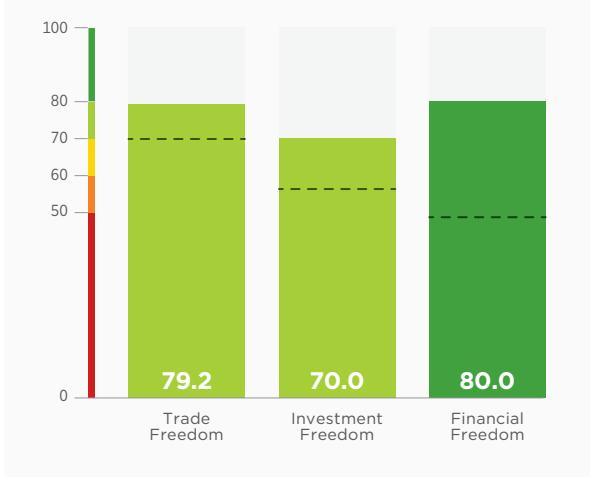
The top individual income tax rate is 23 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 19 percent. The tax burden equals 33.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 46.1 percent and -4.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 44.2 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The Czech Republic's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade weighted average tariff (common among EU members) rate is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force along with 116 country-specific nontariff barriers. The government has reduced bureaucratic barriers to investment. The financial sector remains resilient.

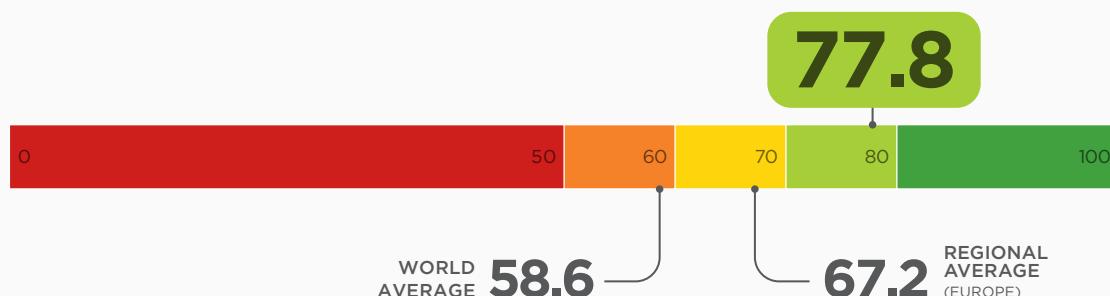


# DENMARK

Denmark's economic freedom score is 77.8, making its economy the 7th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.2 point from last year, and Denmark is ranked 4th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Denmark's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

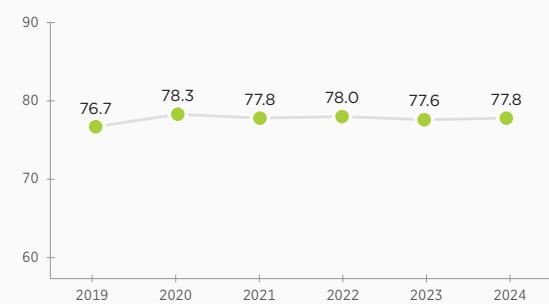
The independent and corruption-free legal system provides strong protection of property rights. Although the corporate tax rate is competitive, the overall tax burden remains heavy. Government spending accounts for about half of GDP, but the level of public debt is relatively low. With its economy open to global trade and investment, Denmark benefits from high degrees of business freedom. The regulatory environment remains one of the world's most transparent and efficient, encouraging entrepreneurial activity. Flexible and modern employment regulations sustain the labor market.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +10.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

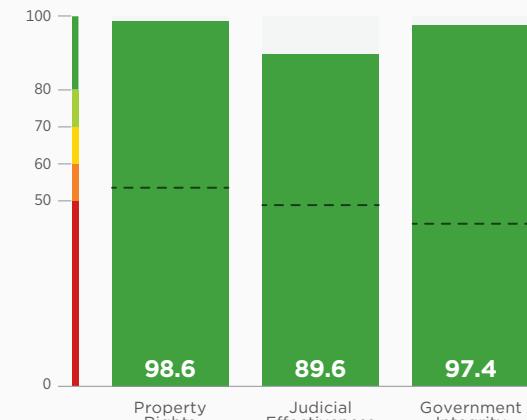
**POPULATION:**  
5.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$419.0 billion  
2.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.1%  
\$71,332 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$4.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
29.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

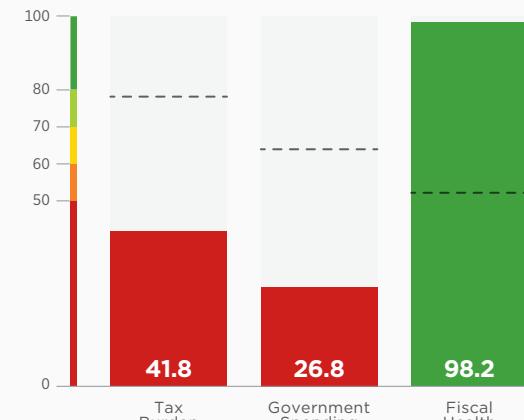
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | DENMARK

## RULE OF LAW



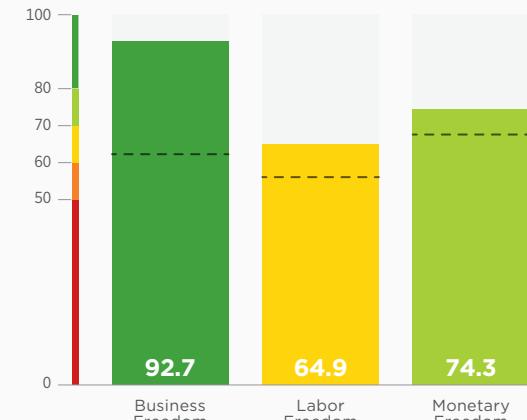
The overall rule of law is very well respected in Denmark. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 56 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 22 percent. The tax burden equals 46.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 49.4 percent and 2.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 29.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Denmark's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force along with 15 country-specific nontariff barriers. Openness to foreign investment is well institutionalized. The overall financial system remains stable.



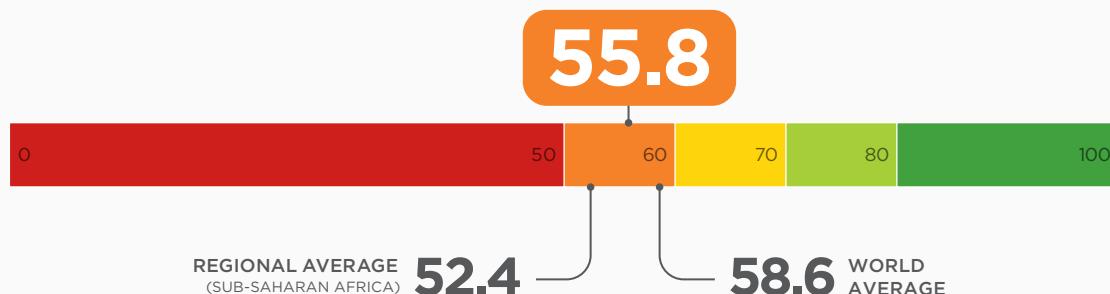
WORLD RANK: **105** | REGIONAL RANK: **14**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# DJIBOUTI

Djibouti's economic freedom score is 55.8, making its economy the 105th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.3 point from last year, and Djibouti is ranked 14th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Djibouti's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

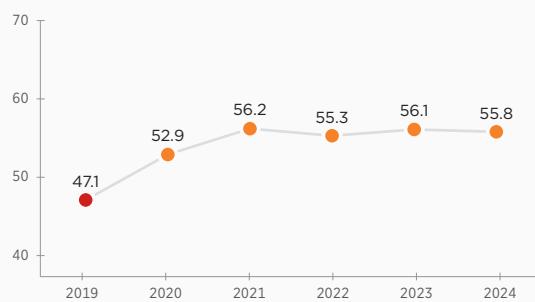
Systemic weaknesses in the economy persist in the protection of property rights and effective enforcement of anticorruption measures. Implementation of deeper institutional reforms is critical to inspiring more dynamic economic growth. The judiciary remains vulnerable to political influence. The regulatory system's lack of transparency and clarity injects considerable uncertainty into entrepreneurial decision-making. Labor laws are inefficient and complicated. Women work predominantly in the informal sector. The most recent available inflation rate is 5.2 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1997): +1.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

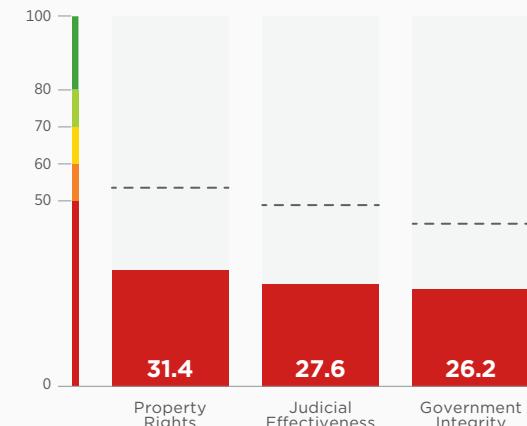
**POPULATION:**  
1.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$6.6 billion  
3.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.9%  
\$6,502 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
28.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$191.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
40.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

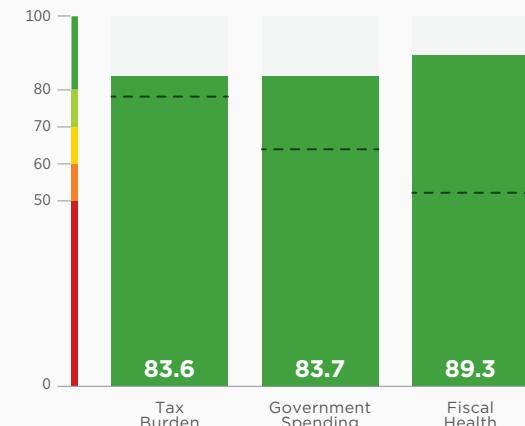
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | DJIBOUTI

## RULE OF LAW



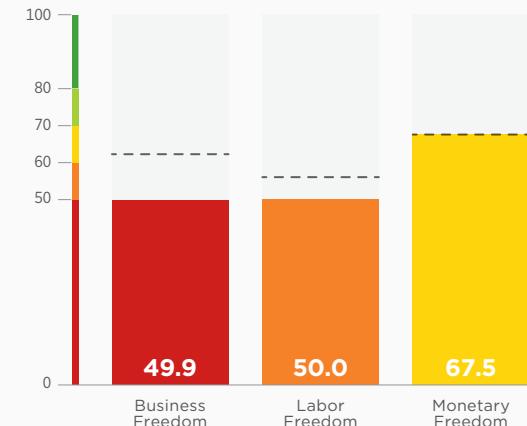
The overall rule of law is weak in Djibouti. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



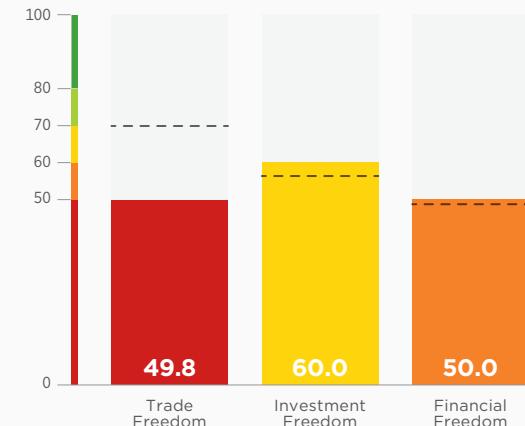
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 10.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 23.3 percent and -2.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 40.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

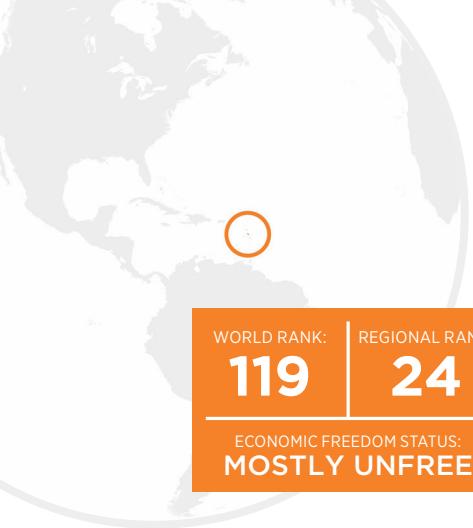


Djibouti's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 17.6 percent, and nontariff barriers further restrict trade. State-owned enterprises distort the economy, preventing dynamic private investment from taking place. Credit for entrepreneurial activity is limited by high costs and the lack of access to financing instruments.



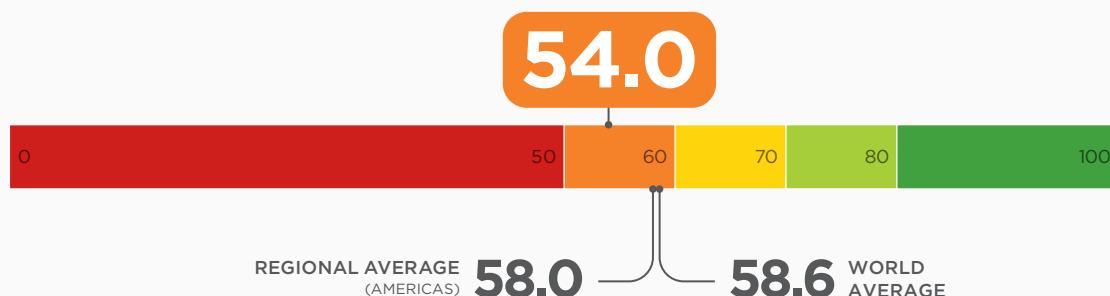
WORLD RANK: 119 | REGIONAL RANK: 24  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: MOSTLY UNFREE

# DOMINICA

**D**ominica's economic freedom score is 54, making its economy the 119th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 5.7 points from last year, and Dominica is ranked 24th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Dominica's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

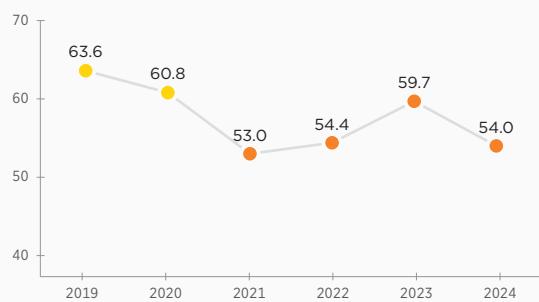
Institutional reform has been uneven, and structural weaknesses still undercut economic freedom and constrain economic growth. Dominica has made some progress in eliminating regulatory bottlenecks and reducing the cost of conducting business. The non-salary cost of employing a worker is moderate, but the labor market lacks flexibility in other areas. The most recent available inflation rate is 6.8 percent. Inefficient and high public spending has imposed a considerable fiscal burden on the population. The overall pace of reform has slowed in recent years.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): -8.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

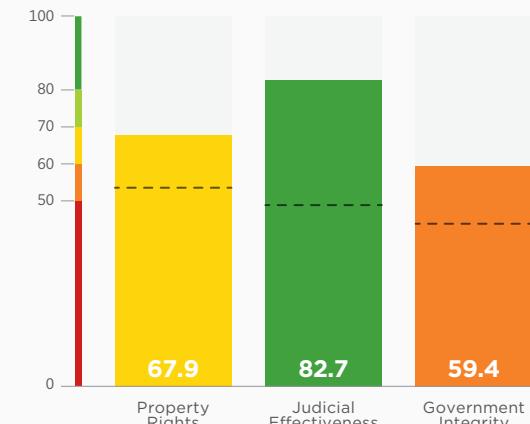
**POPULATION:**  
0.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.0 billion  
5.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.0%  
\$13,293 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
23.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$28.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
98.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

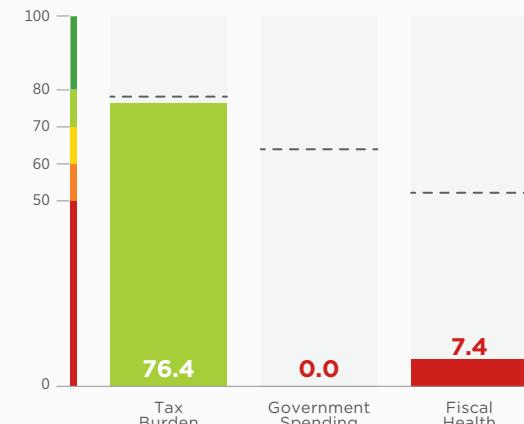
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | DOMINICA

## RULE OF LAW



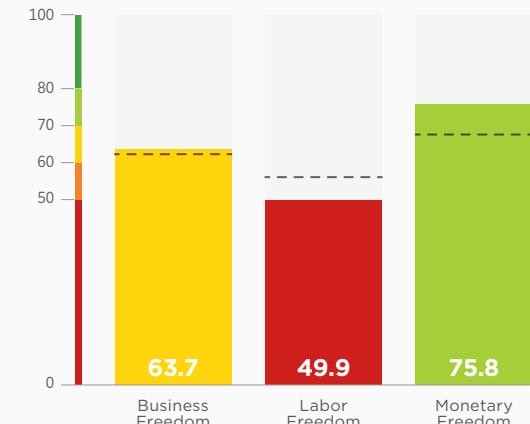
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Dominica. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 22.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 59.9 percent and -6.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 98.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

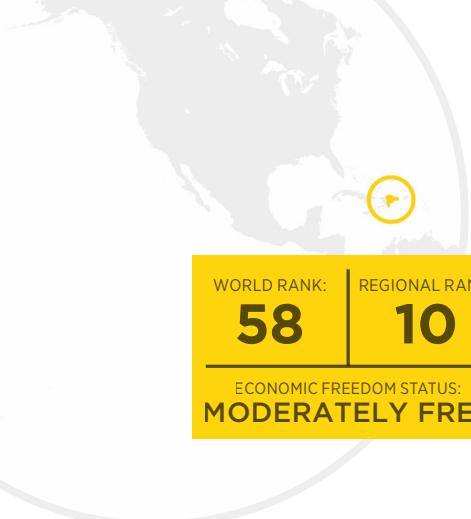


Dominica's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 15.1 percent, and myriad nontariff measures are in force. The government may screen foreign investment. Investment-facilitating measures have been implemented. The financial sector remains underdeveloped, but the banking system is stable and growing, albeit gradually.



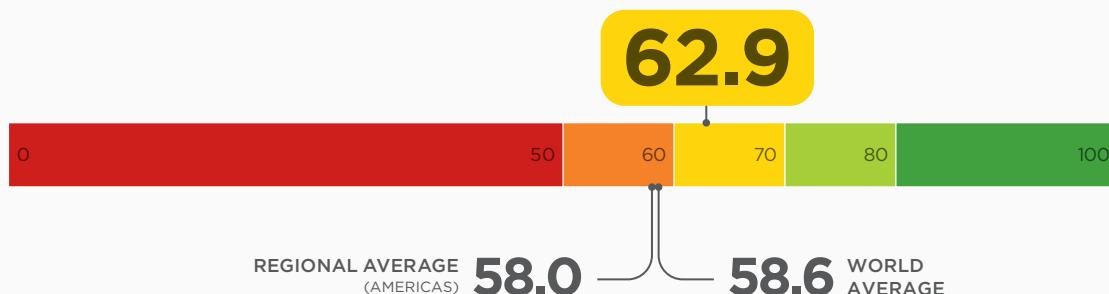
# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

WORLD RANK: **58** | REGIONAL RANK: **10**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

The Dominican Republic's economic freedom score is 62.9, making its economy the 58th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.3 point from last year, and the Dominican Republic is ranked 10th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Dominican Republic's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

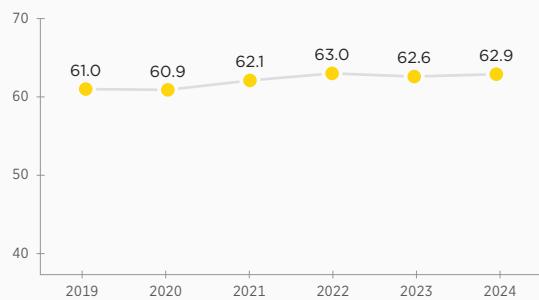
A relatively high degree of openness to global commerce has aided the ongoing transition to a more vibrant economy. The entrepreneurial environment is relatively streamlined, and launching a business has become less time-consuming. However, overall regulatory efficiency remains inefficient. The most recent available inflation rate is 8.8 percent. Challenges remain, particularly in implementing deeper institutional reforms that are critical to strengthening the foundations of economic freedom, which include the protection of property rights, judicial effectiveness, and government integrity.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +7.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

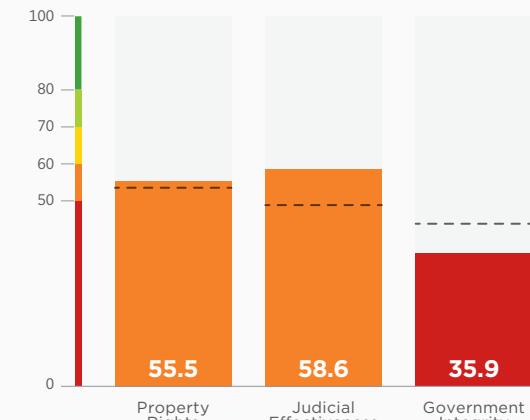
**POPULATION:**  
11.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$256.4 billion  
4.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.5%  
\$24,117 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
8.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$4.0 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
59.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

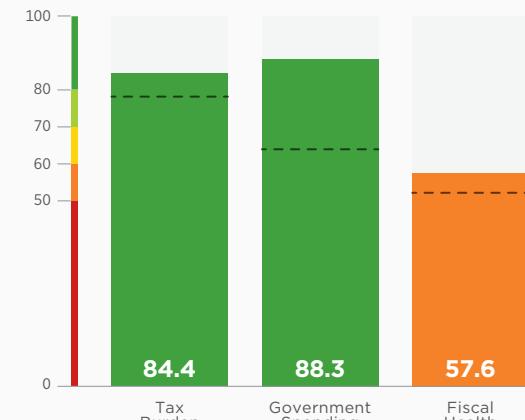
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## RULE OF LAW



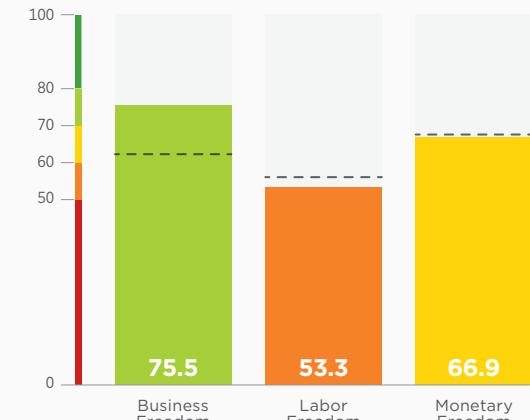
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in the Dominican Republic. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



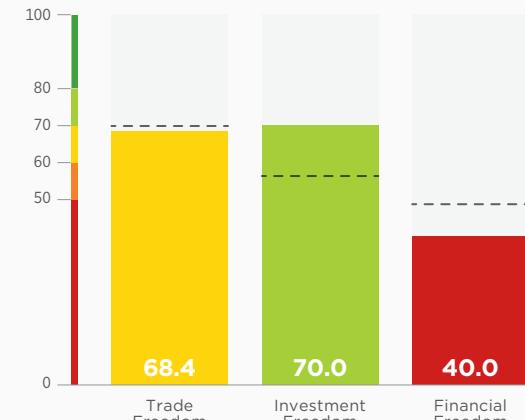
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 27 percent. The tax burden equals 14.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 19.7 percent and -4.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 59.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The Dominican Republic's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.3 percent, and more than 80 nontariff measures are in force. In general, the government does not discriminate against or screen foreign investment. The financial sector has been growing, and the stock market continues to expand.



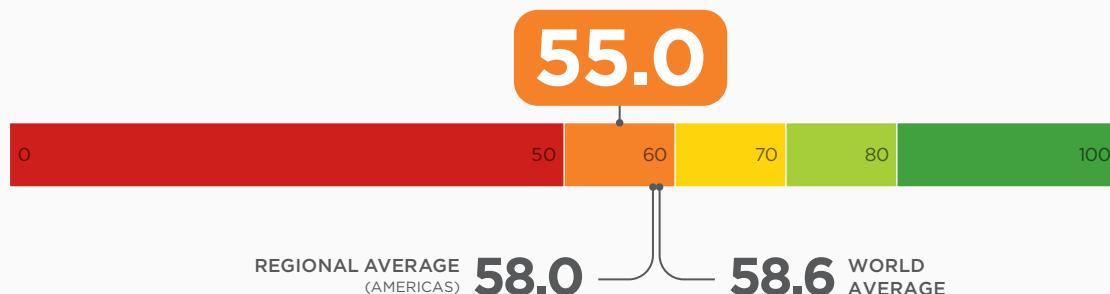
WORLD RANK: **115** | REGIONAL RANK: **22**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# ECUADOR

Ecuador's economic freedom score is 55, making its economy the 115th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is unchanged from last year, and Ecuador is ranked 22nd out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Ecuador's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

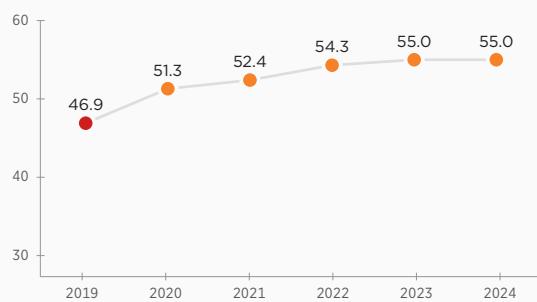
The reach of Ecuador's government continues to expand to economic sectors beyond the petroleum industry. The rule of law is undermined by pervasive corruption that weakens property rights. The private sector is struggling to operate in what is now a restrictive entrepreneurial environment. The inconsistent application of commercial laws increases the cost of doing business. Nontransparency and unfair competition from state-backed firms persist. Outdated labor regulations create a disincentive for new hiring, and employers resort to short-term outsourcing contracts. Price controls are often imposed by the state.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -2.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

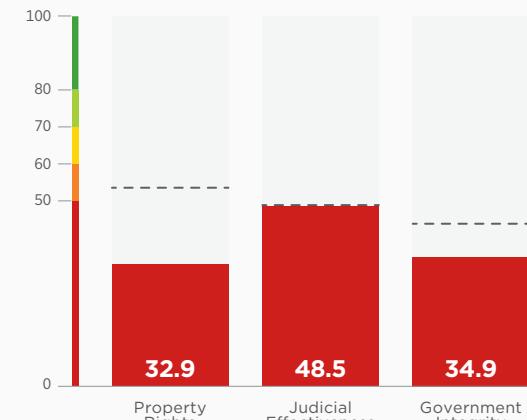
**POPULATION:**  
17.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$230.8 billion  
2.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.1%  
\$12,818 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
3.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$788.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
57.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ECUADOR

## RULE OF LAW



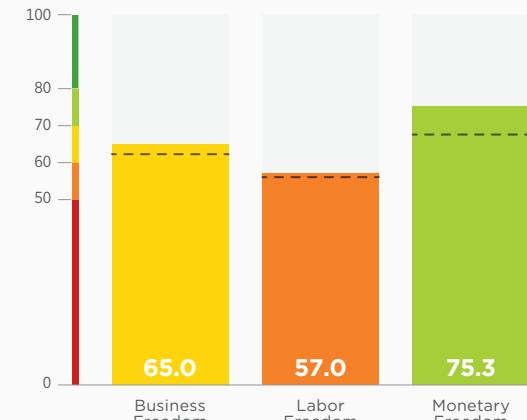
The overall rule of law is weak in Ecuador. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



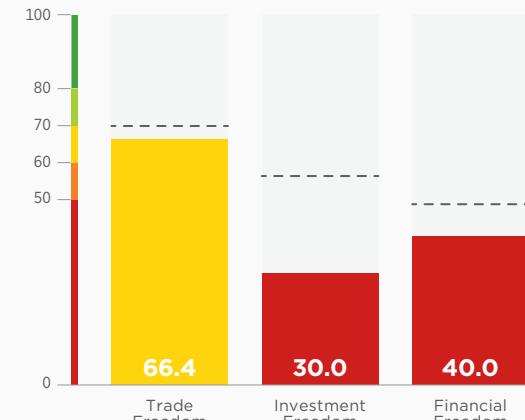
The top individual income tax rate is 37 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 28 percent. The tax burden equals 19.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 38.7 percent and -2.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 57.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Ecuador's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.8 percent, and more than 200 nontariff measures are in force. The investment climate remains uncertain. The underdeveloped and state-controlled financial sector limits access to credit. About 50 percent of adults have access to accounts with a formal banking institution.



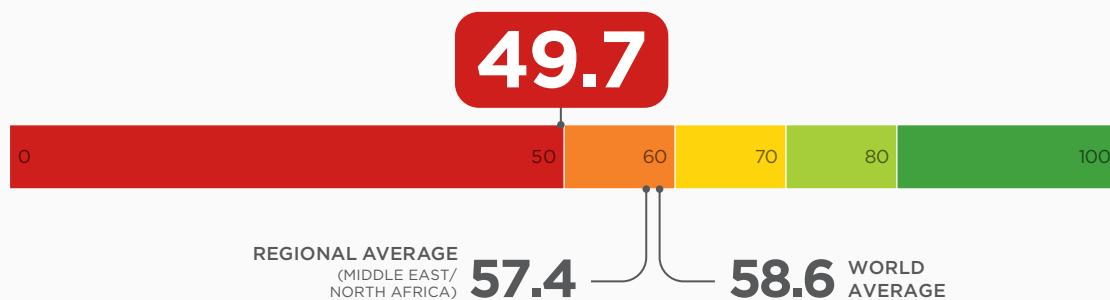
# EGYPT

WORLD RANK: **146** | REGIONAL RANK: **10**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSIVE**

Egypt's economic freedom score is 49.7, making its economy the 146th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is largely unchanged from last year, and Egypt is ranked 10th out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Egypt's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

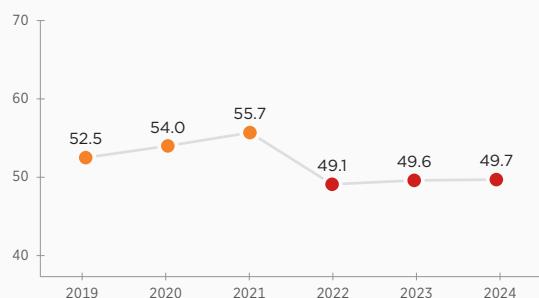
Deeper institutional reforms needed to sustain Egypt's long-term growth and stable economic development include strengthening of the judicial system, better protection of property rights, and more effective eradication of corruption. Policies that might have helped to open markets have been undercut by the state's heavy presence in the economy. There have been reforms aimed at reducing regulatory overhang and improving the ease of doing business in recent years. In the absence of a well-functioning labor market, informal labor activity persists in many sectors.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +4.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

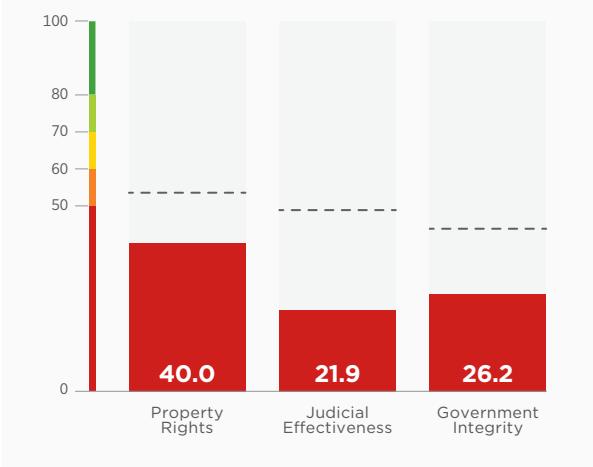
**POPULATION:**  
104.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.7 trillion  
6.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.9%  
\$16,174 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
9.3%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$11.4 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
88.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

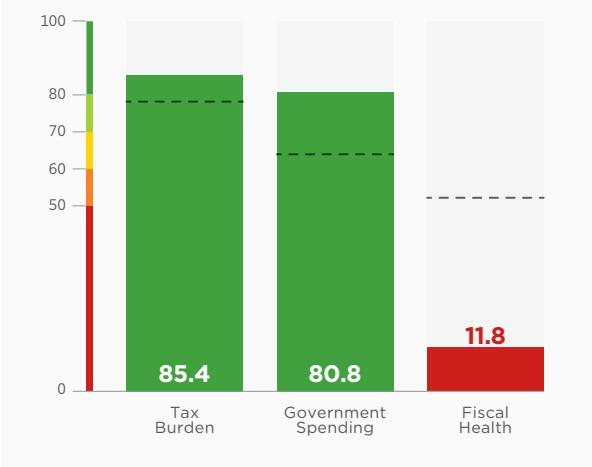
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | EGYPT

## RULE OF LAW



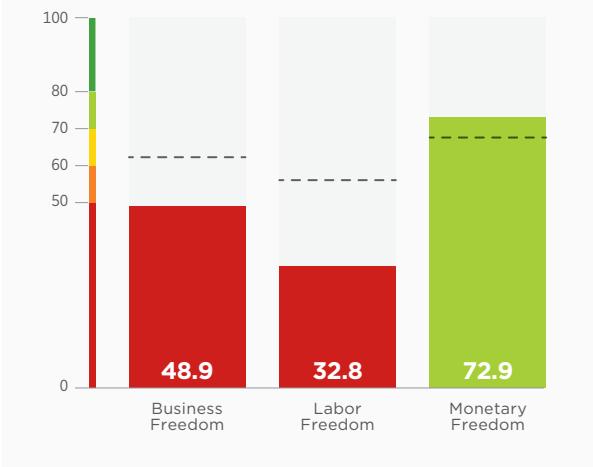
The overall rule of law is weak in Egypt. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



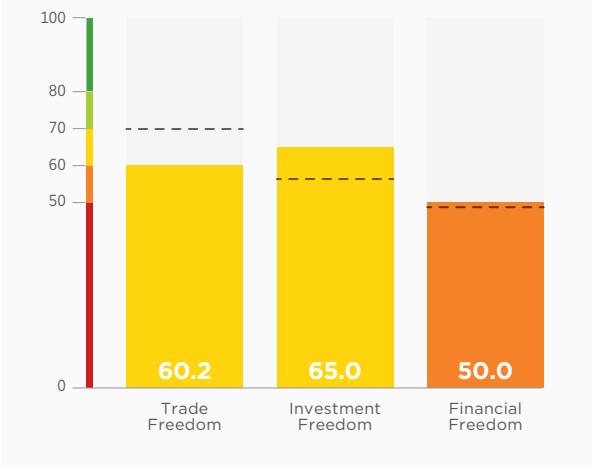
The top individual income tax rate is 27.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 22.5 percent. The tax burden equals 14.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 25.3 percent and -6.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 88.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Egypt's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 12.4 percent, and more than 150 nontariff measures are in force. Investment in several sectors remains restricted. The banking sector is well capitalized and stable, and local banks are attaining continued profitability. The overall financial market is relatively vibrant and open to foreigners.



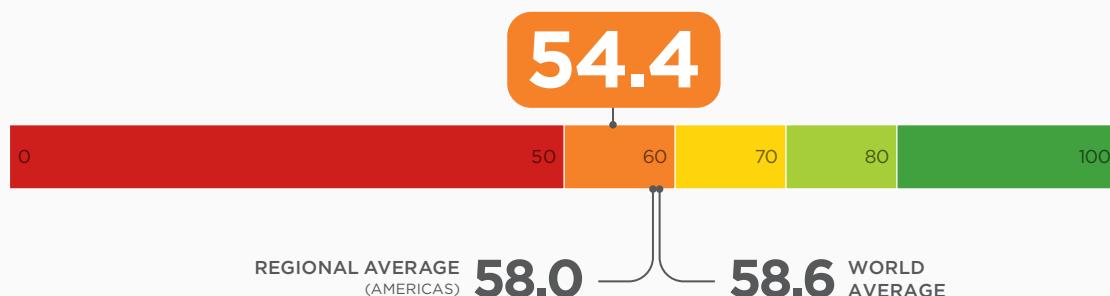
# EL SALVADOR

WORLD RANK: **117** | REGIONAL RANK: **23**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

El Salvador's economic freedom score is 54.4, making its economy the 117th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.6 points from last year, and El Salvador is ranked 23rd out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. El Salvador's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

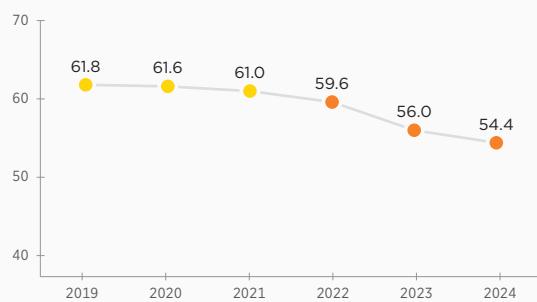
El Salvador's regulatory environment generally supports trade, investment, and competitiveness, but institutional weaknesses continue to slow the transition to a more dynamic economy. Property rights are only moderately well protected, and the judicial system is relatively inefficient. Improved management of public finance is needed to deal with chronic fiscal deficits. Progress in easing constraints on the business environment lags behind progress in other countries. The labor market lacks flexibility, and imbalances in the demand and supply of skilled workers persist.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -14.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

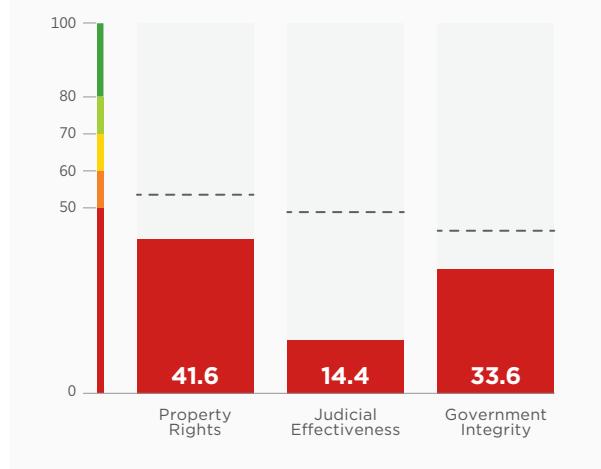
**POPULATION:**  
6.5 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$70.3 billion  
2.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.2%  
\$11,097 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.9%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
7.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$99.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
75.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

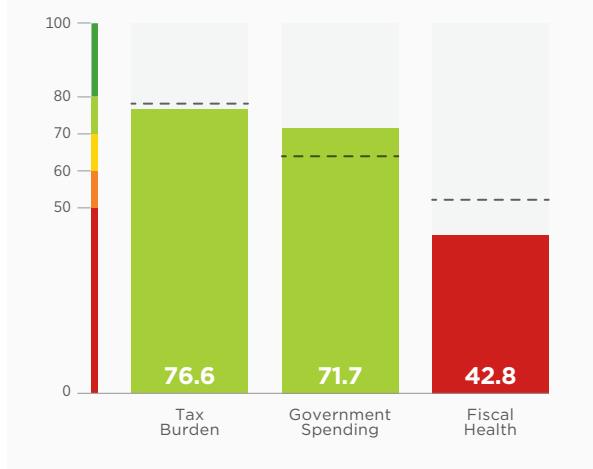
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | EL SALVADOR

## RULE OF LAW



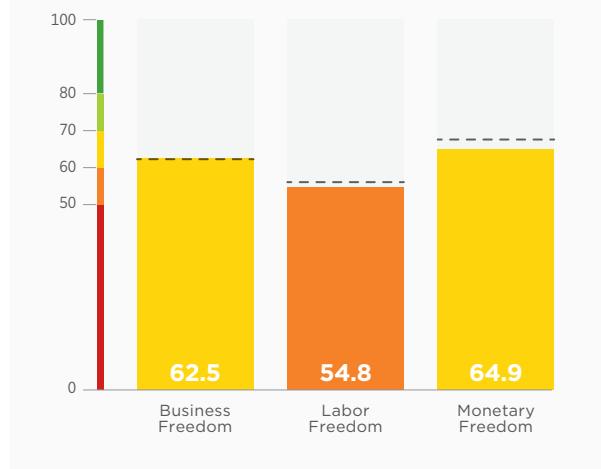
The overall rule of law is weak in El Salvador. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



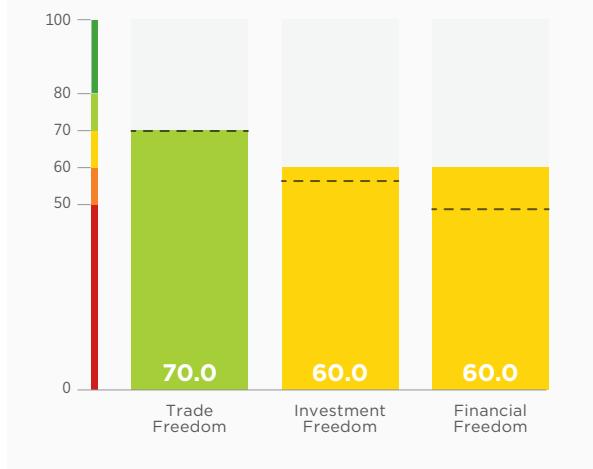
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 23.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 30.7 percent and -5.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 75.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



El Salvador's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 7.5 percent, and layers of nontariff measures are in force. In general, foreign and domestic investors are treated equally. Banking is highly concentrated, and foreign banks can offer all of the services that domestic banks offer.



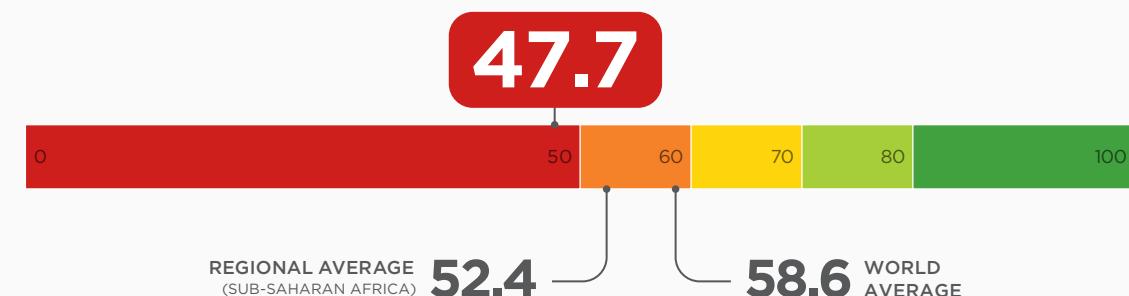
# EQUATORIAL GUINEA



Equatorial Guinea's economic freedom score is 47.7, making its economy the 159th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.6 point from last year, and Equatorial Guinea is ranked 39th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Equatorial Guinea's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

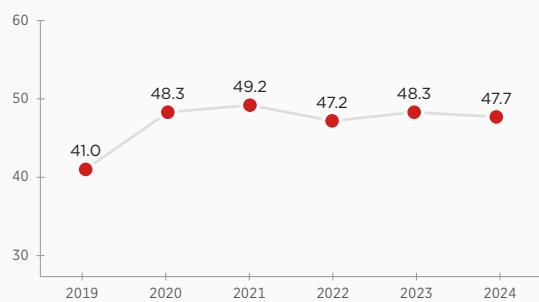
Persistent institutional weaknesses impede the emergence of a vibrant private sector. Improving the investment and business climate to generate more broadly based economic expansion remains a priority. Despite some progress, constraints include cumbersome administrative procedures and the relatively high costs of complying with licensing requirements. In the absence of private-sector employment opportunities, an efficient labor market has not emerged. Pervasive corruption further undermines the weak rule of law, and limited economic reform has led to overreliance on natural resource-driven investment.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1999): +2.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

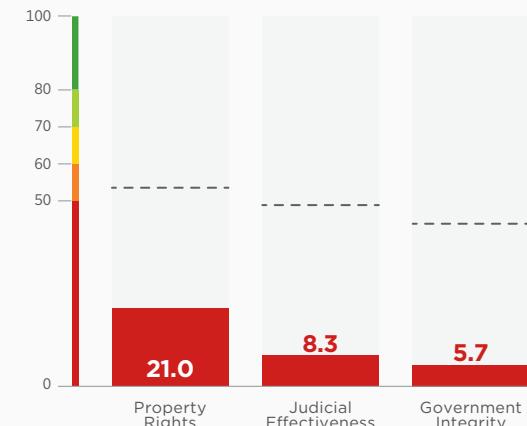
**POPULATION:**  
1.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$29.2 billion  
3.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -2.7%  
\$19,465 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
9.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
4.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$459.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
34.6% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

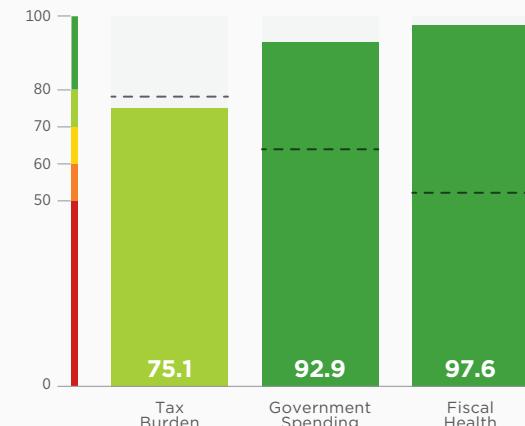
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | EQUATORIAL GUINEA

## RULE OF LAW



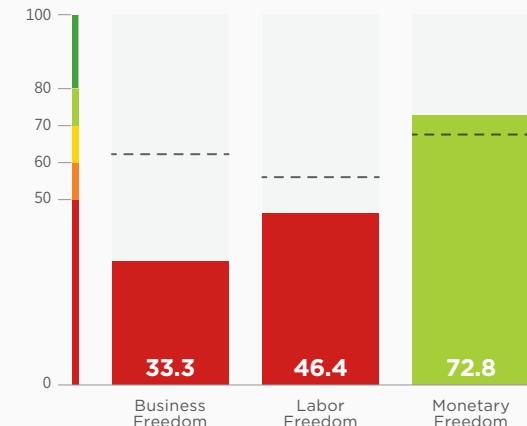
The overall rule of law is weak in Equatorial Guinea. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



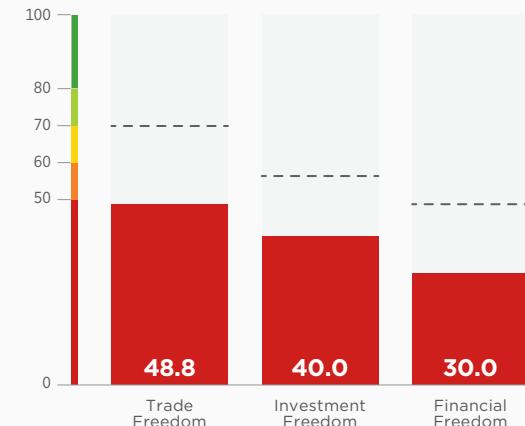
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 5.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 15.3 percent and 4.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 34.6 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Equatorial Guinea's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The most recent available average tariff rate is 15.6 percent. Onerous regulations, exacerbated by other institutional shortcomings, impede trade and foreign investment flows. High credit costs limit access to financing. The government controls long-term lending through the state-owned development bank.



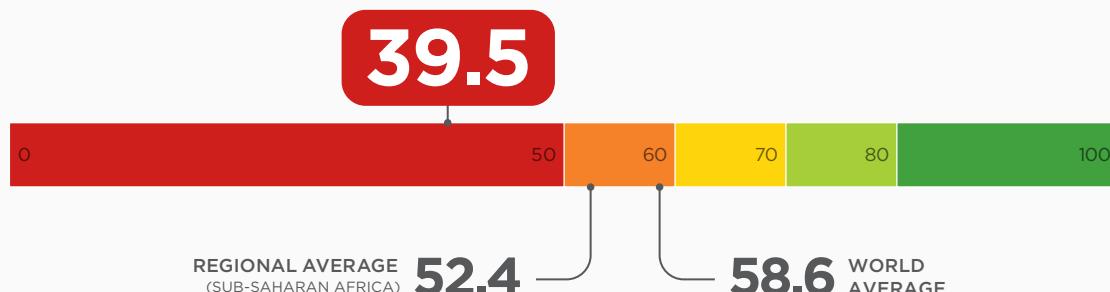
WORLD RANK: **170** | REGIONAL RANK: **44**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSIVE**

# ERITREA

Eritrea's economic freedom score is 39.5, making its economy the 170th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is unchanged from last year, and Eritrea is ranked 44th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Eritrea's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

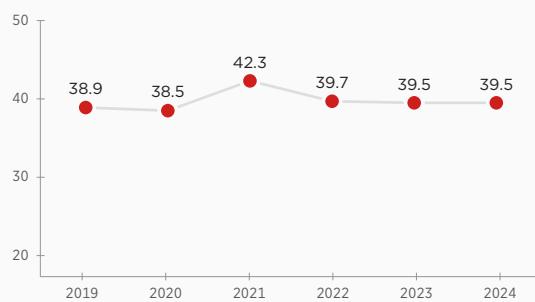
Eritrea's long-standing problems include poor governance, a lack of commitment to structural reform, poor management of public finance, and underdeveloped legal and regulatory frameworks. Weak enforcement of property rights and fragile rule of law have driven many people into the informal sector. Businesses face the constant threat of government interference. Few sizable private businesses exist, and employment opportunities are limited. Reliable economic and labor statistics are difficult or impossible to find. Monetary stability is fragile, and the most recent available inflation rate is 7.5 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): +1.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

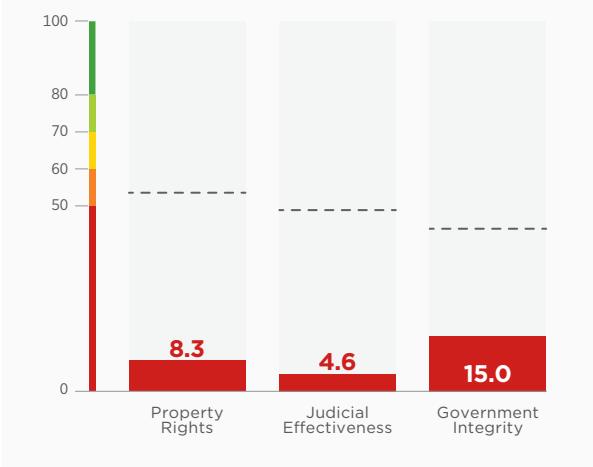
**POPULATION:**  
3.6 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$6.9 billion  
2.9% growth in 2021  
5-year average growth rate: 8.4%  
\$1,921 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
8.1%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
7.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$32.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
176.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

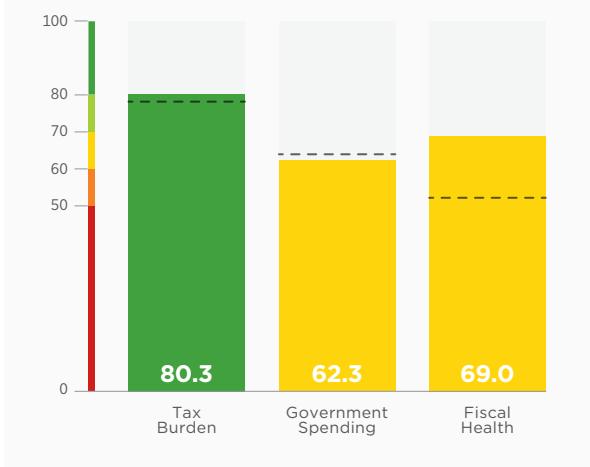
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ERITREA

## RULE OF LAW



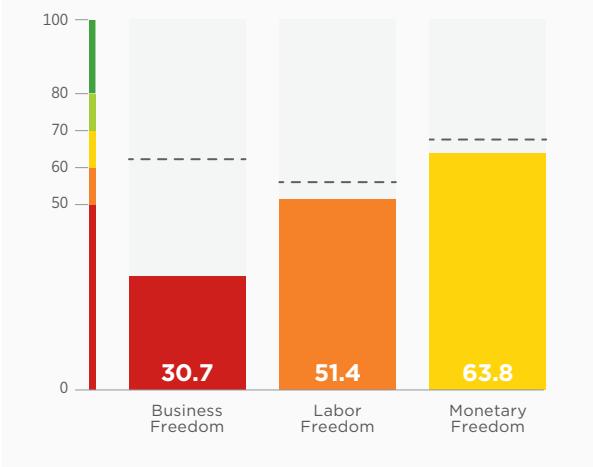
The overall rule of law is weak in Eritrea. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



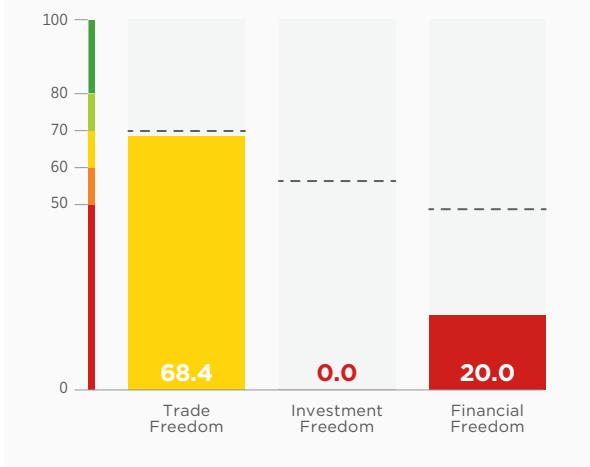
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 12.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 35.5 percent and -2.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 176.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Eritrea's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



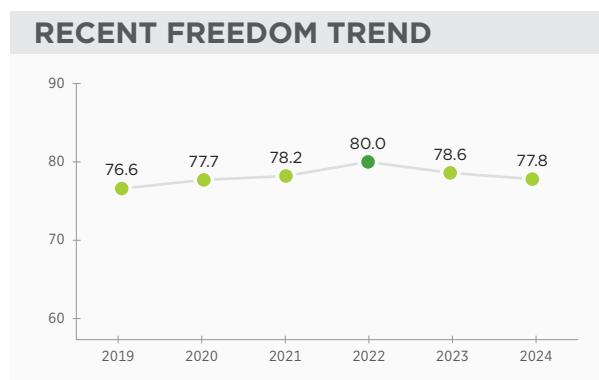
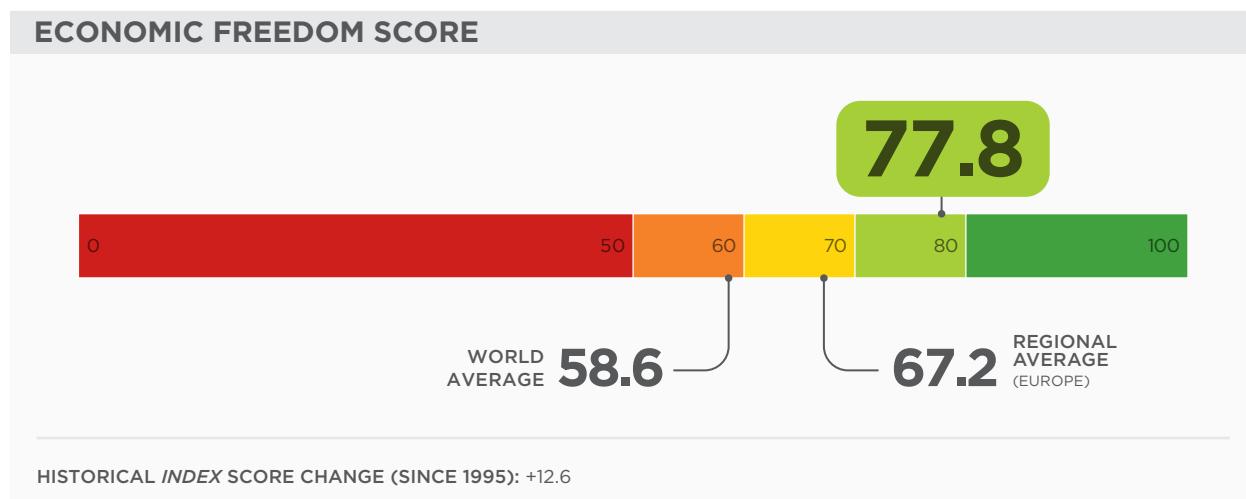
The most recent publicly available average tariff rate is 5.8 percent, but layers of nontariff barriers severely restrict trade flows. Foreign investment in several economic sectors is restricted, and state-owned enterprises distort markets. The financial system remains underdeveloped, and capital markets are nonexistent.



# ESTONIA

Estonia's economic freedom score is 77.8, making its economy the 8th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is largely unchanged from last year, and Estonia is ranked 5th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Estonia's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Estonia upholds all four pillars of economic freedom and continues to be a strong defender of liberty. An independent and efficient judicial system enforces the rule of law effectively. The debt burden remains quite low and has not undermined long-term economic competitiveness. Flexibility and openness have enabled the economy to adjust to external shocks. The overall regulatory framework is efficient and competitive, encouraging private-sector entrepreneurial dynamism. A modern labor market is in place, and enhancing the flexibility of the market has been a key goal.



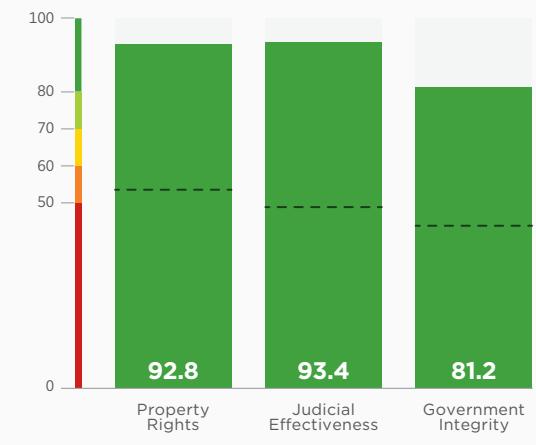
### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 1.3 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 6.3%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$60.2 billion -0.5% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 2.7% \$44,630 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 19.4%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$1.2 billion	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 18.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

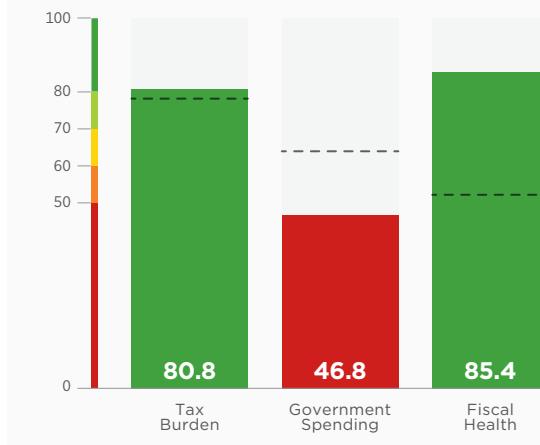
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ESTONIA

## RULE OF LAW



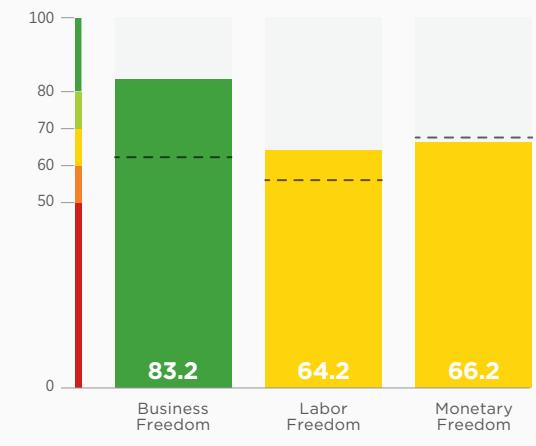
The overall rule of law is well respected in Estonia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



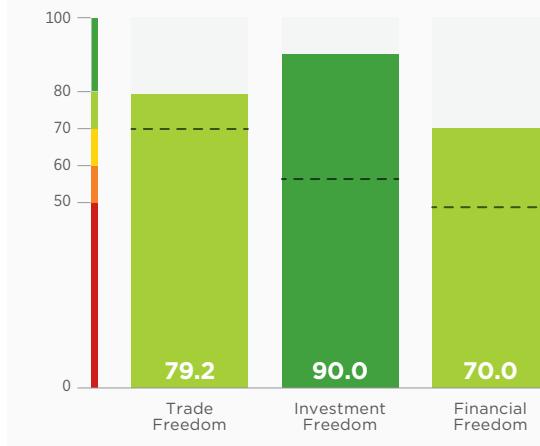
The top individual income tax rate is 20 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 33.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 42.1 percent and -3.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 18.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Estonia's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force along with six country-specific nontariff barriers. The transparent investment regime facilitates openness to foreign investment. The financial sector remains stable.



**WORLD RANK:** **107** | **REGIONAL RANK:** **15**

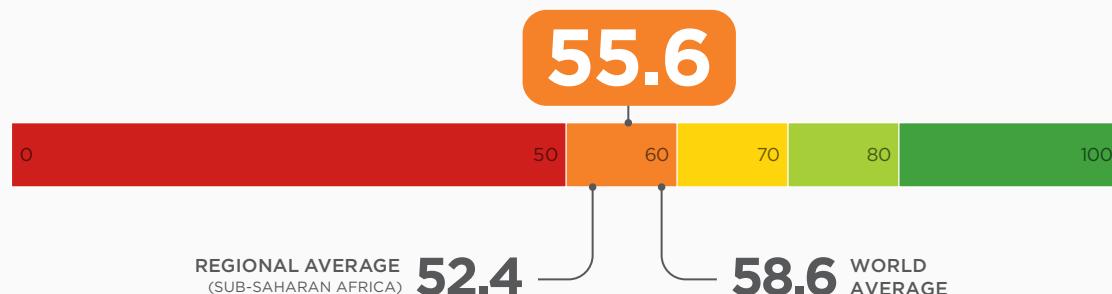
**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:** **MOSTLY UNFREE**

# ESWATINI

Eswatini's economic freedom score is 55.6, making its economy the 107th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.7 point from last year, and Eswatini is ranked 15th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Eswatini's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

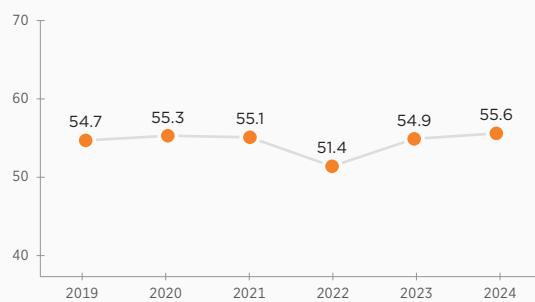
Eswatini's progress toward greater economic freedom has been uneven. Annual growth has averaged 3.0 percent over the past five years. The economic base is fairly diversified, but inefficient regulatory and legal frameworks undermine the development of private investment and production. The inefficient regulatory environment includes many requirements that increase the cost of entrepreneurial activity. In the absence of a fully developed formal labor market, informal labor activity remains substantial. The most recent available inflation rate is 4.8 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -7.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
1.2 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$12.9 billion  
3.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth  
rate: 3.0%  
\$11,217 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
25.8%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
4.8%

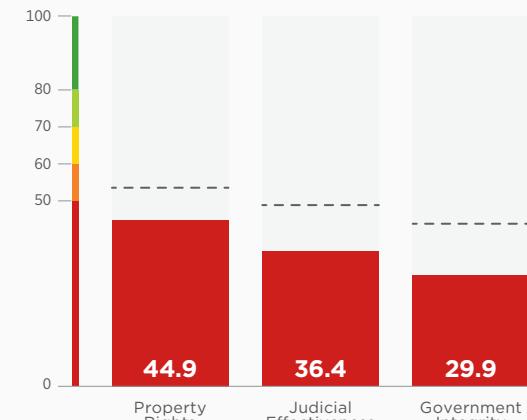
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$21.0 million

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
42.0% of GDP

*2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.*

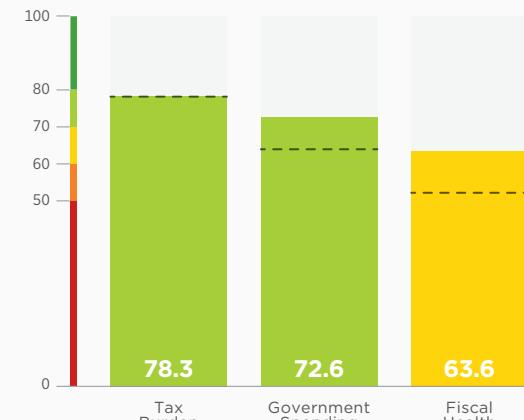
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ESWATINI

## RULE OF LAW



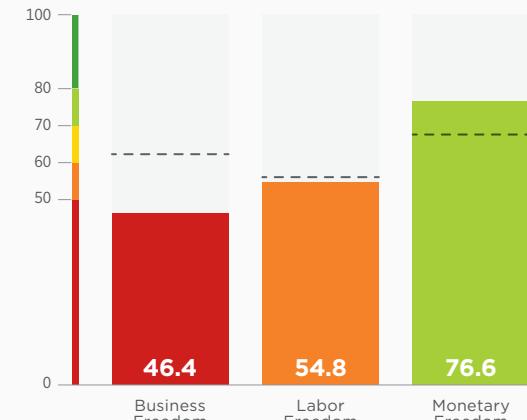
The overall rule of law is weak in Eswatini. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



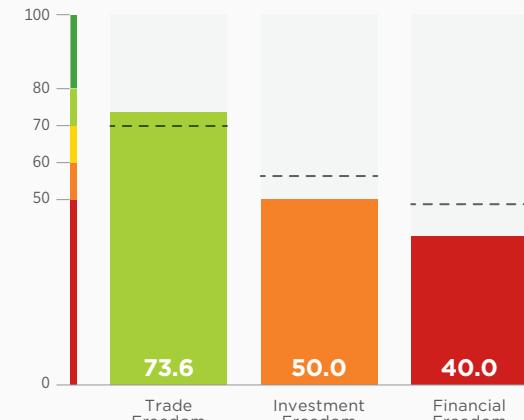
The top individual income tax rate is 33 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 27.5 percent. The tax burden equals 18.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 30.2 percent and -4.5 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 42.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

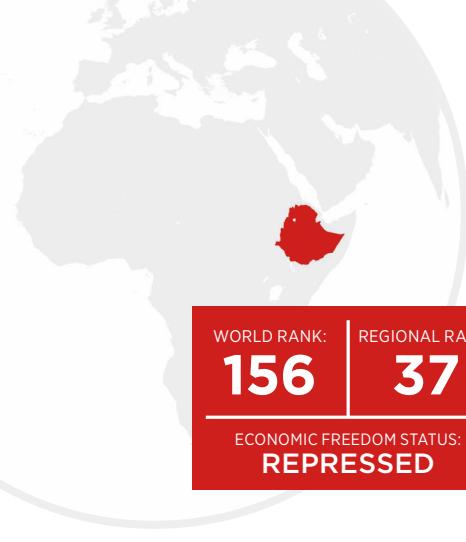


Eswatini's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.2 percent, and nontariff barriers deter the development of more dynamic trade activity. Foreign investment is screened, and state-owned enterprises distort the economy. The financial sector remains subject to government influence.



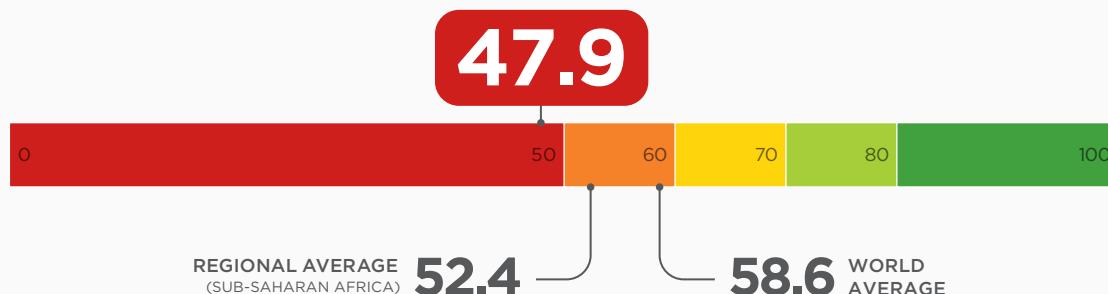
# ETHIOPIA

WORLD RANK: **156** | REGIONAL RANK: **37**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSIVE**

Ethiopia's economic freedom score is 47.9, making its economy the 156th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.4 point from last year, and Ethiopia is ranked 37th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Ethiopia's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

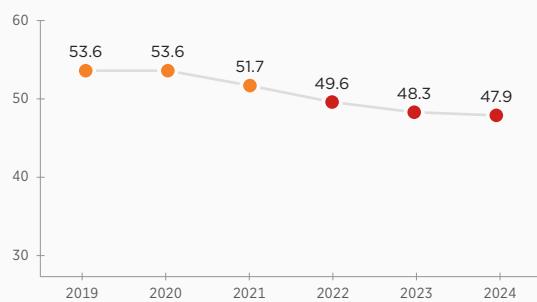
Progress toward greater economic freedom has been very uneven, and Ethiopia underperforms in many critical policy areas. The absence of an independent and fair judiciary weakens the rule of law and undermines prospects for long-term economic development. Open-market policies have advanced only marginally. The weak and uncertain regulatory framework impedes expansion and diversification of the productive base. The formal labor market is underdeveloped. Employment regulations remain outmoded, but enforcement is not stringent. The most recent available inflation rate is almost 40 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +5.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

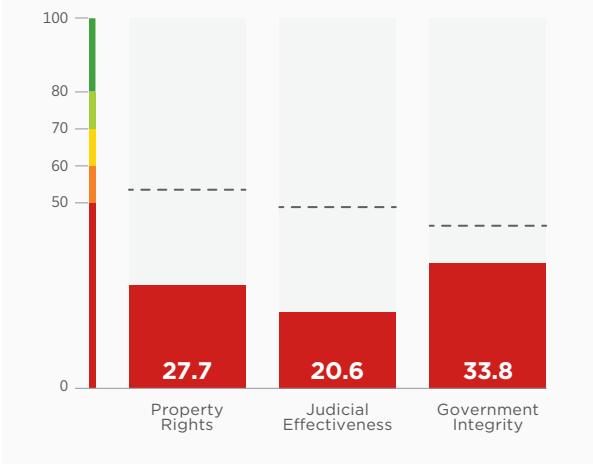
**POPULATION:**  
117.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$357.5 billion  
6.4% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 7.1%  
\$3,435 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
33.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$3.7 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
46.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

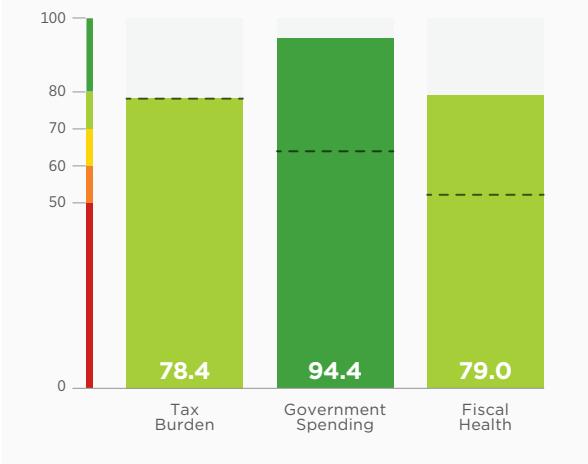
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ETHIOPIA

## RULE OF LAW



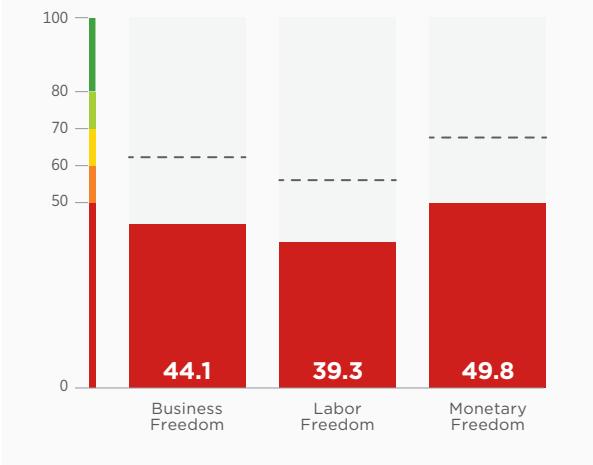
The overall rule of law is weak in Ethiopia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



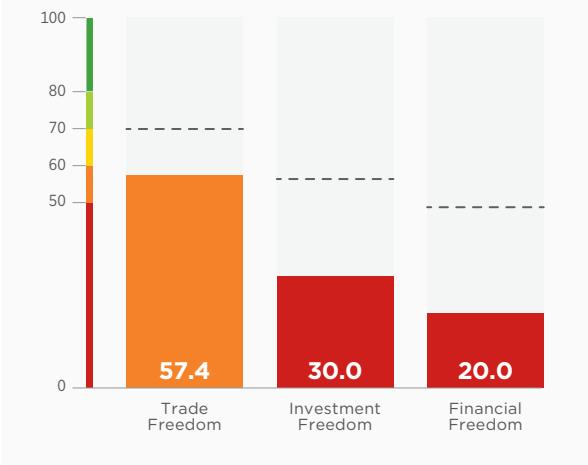
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 6.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 13.7 percent and -3.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 46.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



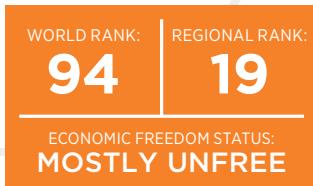
Ethiopia's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 11.3 percent, and nontariff barriers further undermine the freedom to trade. Lack of access to financing precludes entrepreneurial growth, and the investment environment is undermined by political and security challenges and lacks transparency.

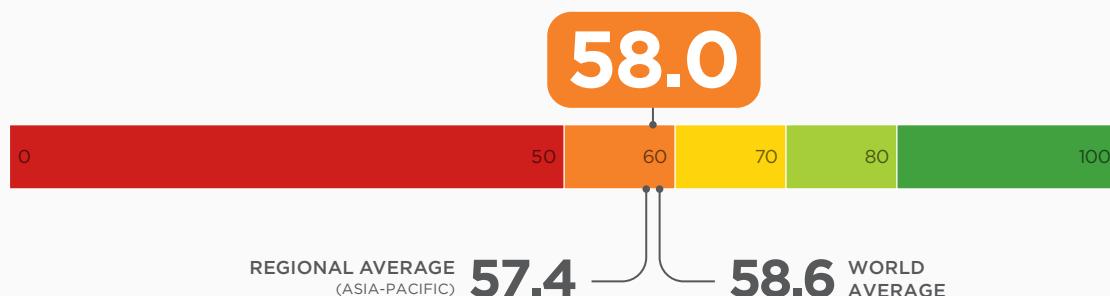
# FIJI



Fiji's economic freedom score is 58, making its economy the 94th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is unchanged from last year, and Fiji is ranked 19th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Fiji's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

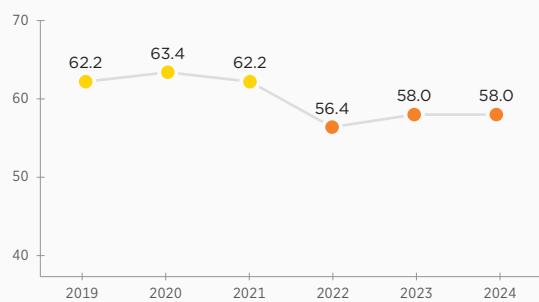
The foundations for long-term economic development in Fiji are weak. An independent and effective legal system is not deeply institutionalized. The overall regulatory framework is not conducive to dynamic economic expansion. Public debt as a percentage of GDP is higher than it is in most regional neighbors. Inefficient government-owned sugar, electricity, and transportation enterprises significantly impede fiscal stability. Procedures for establishing and running a company are time-consuming and costly. Labor regulations remain rigid, and an efficient labor market is not fully developed.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +3.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
0.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$13.6 billion  
20.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.3%  
\$14,950 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
4.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$104.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
91.0% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

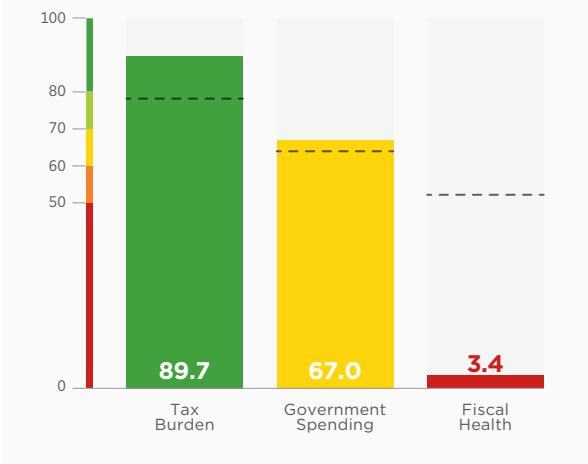
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | FIJI

## RULE OF LAW



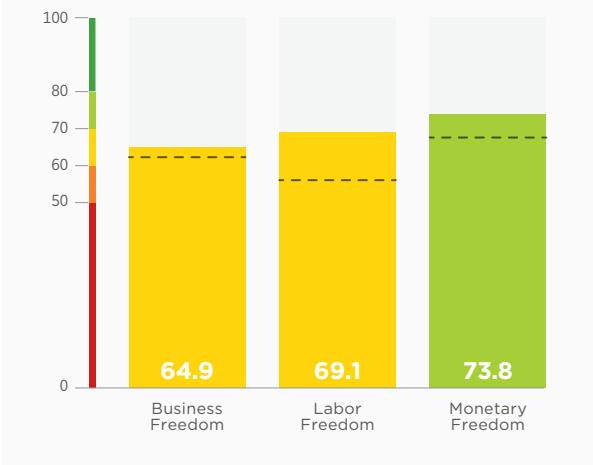
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Fiji. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



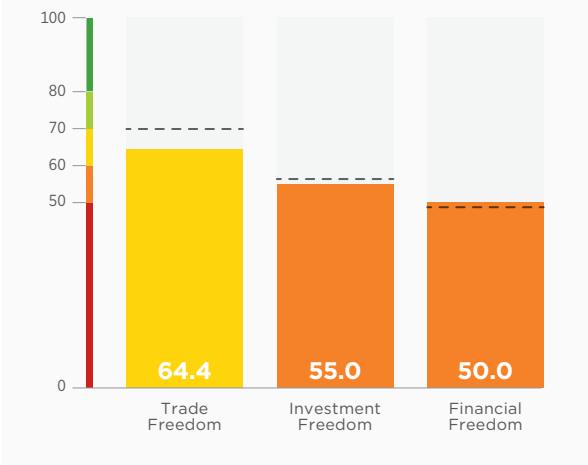
The top individual income tax rate is 20 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 15.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 33.1 percent and -11.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 91.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Fiji's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 10.3 percent, and myriad nontariff barriers further restrict trade flows. Foreign investment is screened, and investment in land remains restricted. The government has gradually withdrawn from commercial banking, and foreign participation has gradually been growing.

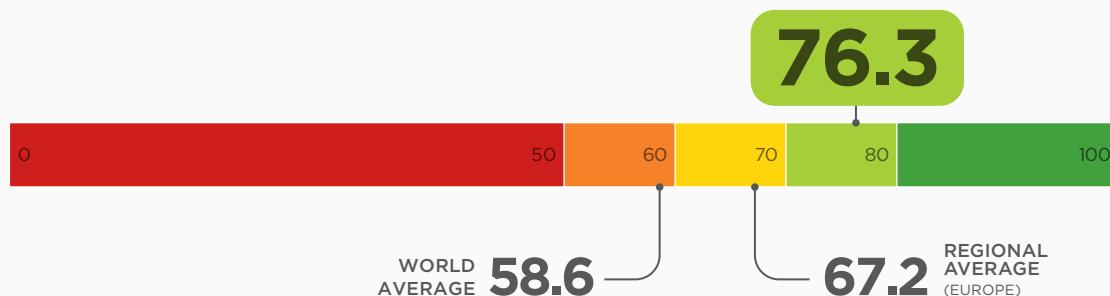


# FINLAND

Finland's economic freedom score is 76.3, making its economy the 12th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.8 point from last year, and Finland is ranked 9th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Finland's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

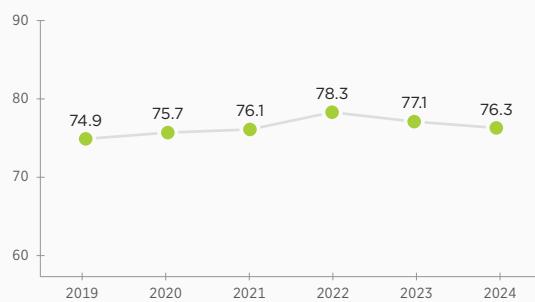
Finland's economy is open and transparent. The legal framework is among the world's best, and property rights are protected. The rule of law is respected, and a strong tradition of minimum tolerance of corruption continues. Finland has long benefited from open-market policies that support dynamic trade and investment. The business framework encourages innovation and productivity growth. The labor market is characterized by high costs and burdensome regulations. The non-salary cost of employing a worker is high, and the severance payment system remains costly.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +12.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

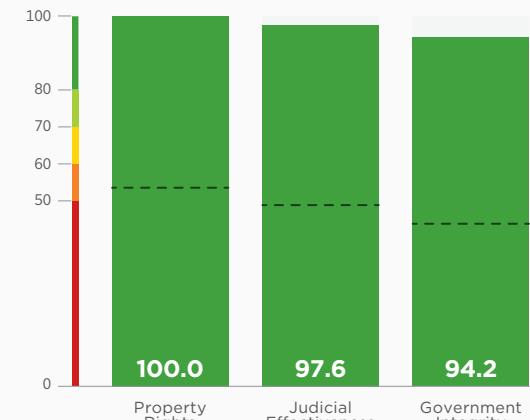
**POPULATION:**  
5.5 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$324.3 billion  
1.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.0%  
\$58,445 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
7.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
7.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$9.4 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
72.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

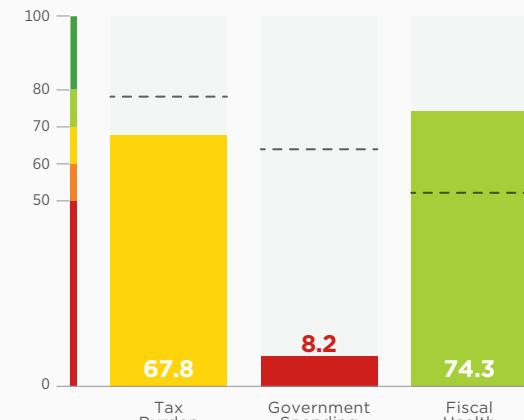
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | FINLAND

## RULE OF LAW



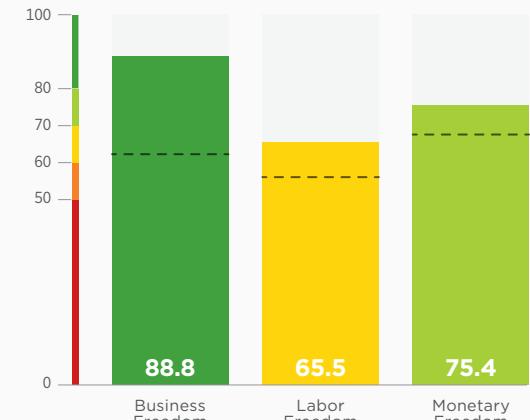
The overall rule of law is very well respected in Finland. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



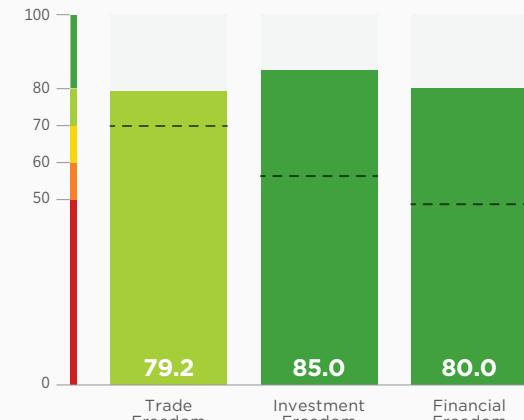
The top individual income tax rate is 31.25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 43.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 55.3 percent and -3.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 72.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

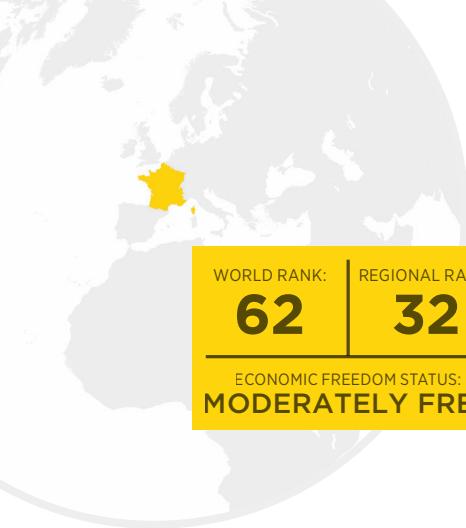


Finland's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force along with nine country-specific nontariff barriers. Sound and transparent frameworks facilitate investment. The financial sector provides a wide range of services.



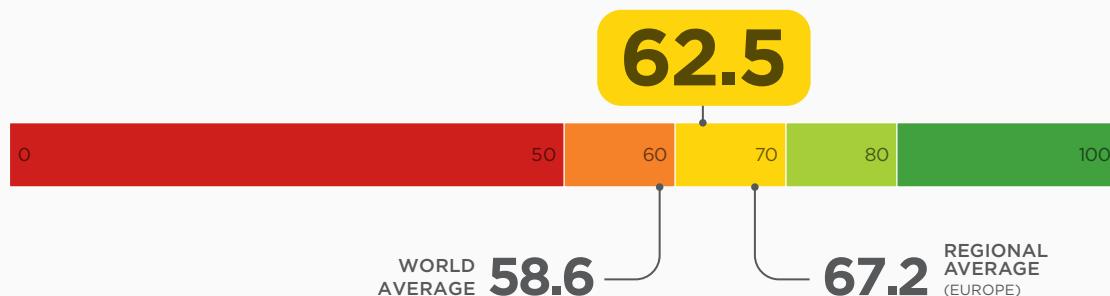
WORLD RANK: **62** | REGIONAL RANK: **32**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# FRANCE

France's economic freedom score is 62.5, making its economy the 62nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.1 points from last year, and France is ranked 32nd out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. France's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

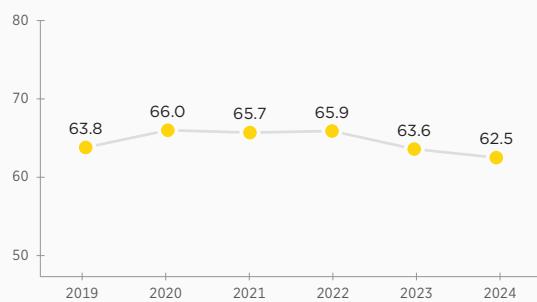
The French economy remains diversified and relatively resilient with such institutional strengths as strong protection of property rights and a fairly efficient regulatory framework facilitating entrepreneurial activity. Reforms to increase economic competitiveness and flexibility have yielded marginal progress. Labor regulations are rigid, and the labor market lacks the capacity to generate more vibrant employment growth. The government has partially or fully privatized many large companies but maintains a strong presence in such sectors as power, public transport, and defense.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -1.9

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

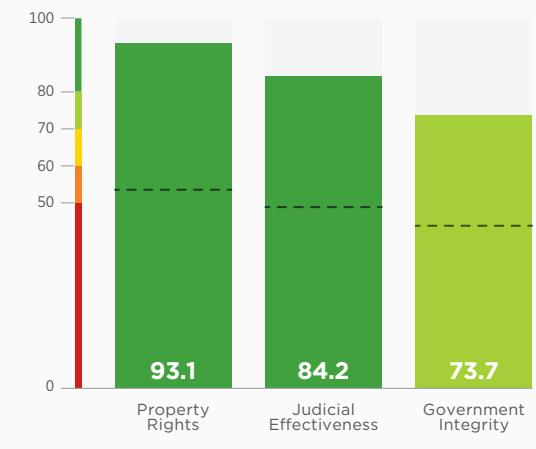
**POPULATION:**  
67.5 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$3.7 trillion  
2.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.0%  
\$56,305 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
8.1%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$36.4 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
111.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

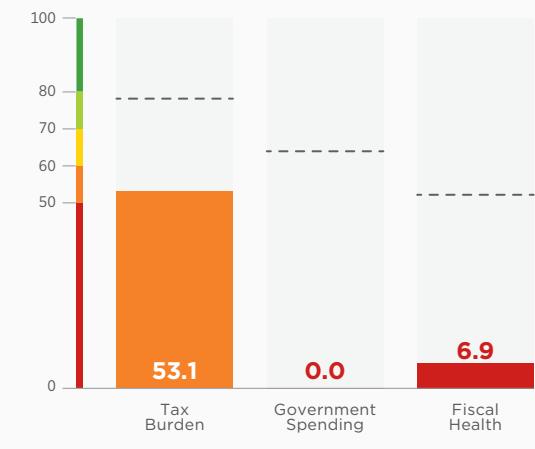
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | FRANCE

## RULE OF LAW



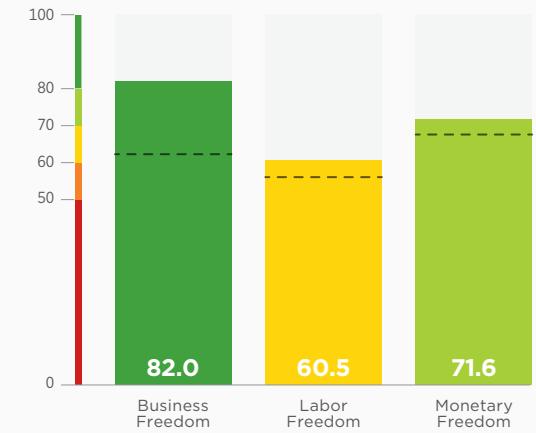
The overall rule of law is well respected in France. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



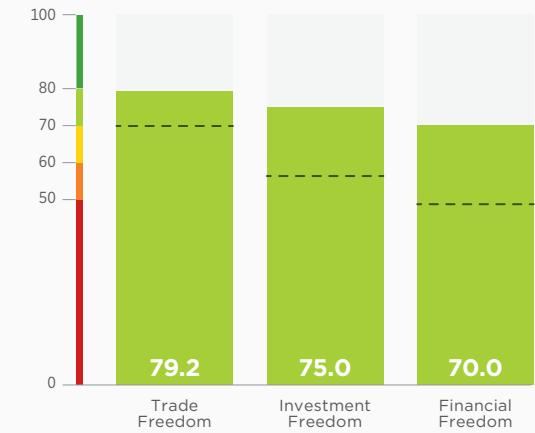
The top individual income tax rate is 45 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 45.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 59.6 percent and -6.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 111.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



France's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force along with country-specific nontariff barriers. Investment in some sectors is restricted. The financial sector is modern and mostly in private hands.



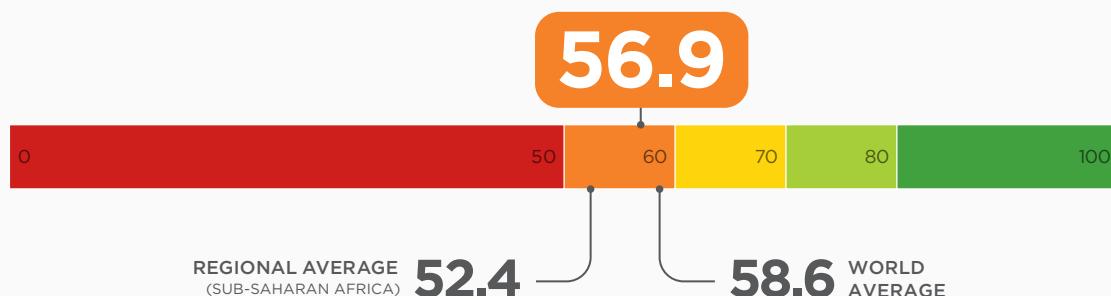
# GABON



**G**abon's economic freedom score is 56.9, making its economy the 100th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.8 point from last year, and Gabon is ranked 12th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Gabon's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

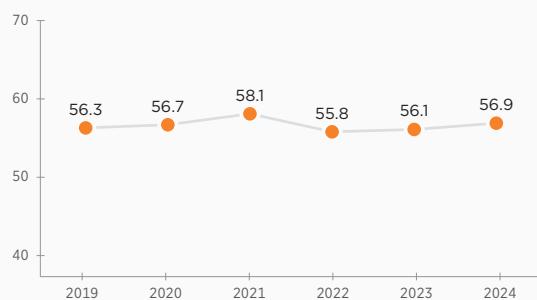
Poor fiscal management and overreliance on oil have stifled Gabon's economy. Undermining much-needed progress on reform, institutional weaknesses severely undercut the foundations of economic freedom and constrain long-term economic development. Corruption continues to raise the cost of doing business. Open-market policies related to free trade and the free flow of capital are not deeply rooted in the economic system. Time-consuming administrative procedures discourage more dynamic entrepreneurship. Labor regulations are outmoded, and the labor market does not function well.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -0.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

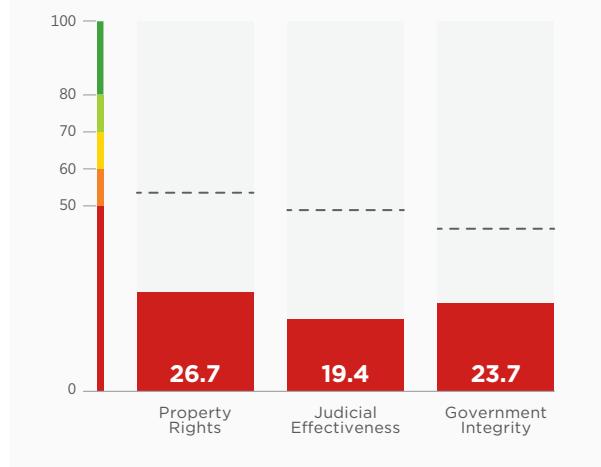
**POPULATION:**  
2.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$39.3 billion  
3.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.5%  
\$18,206 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
22.3%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
4.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
57.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

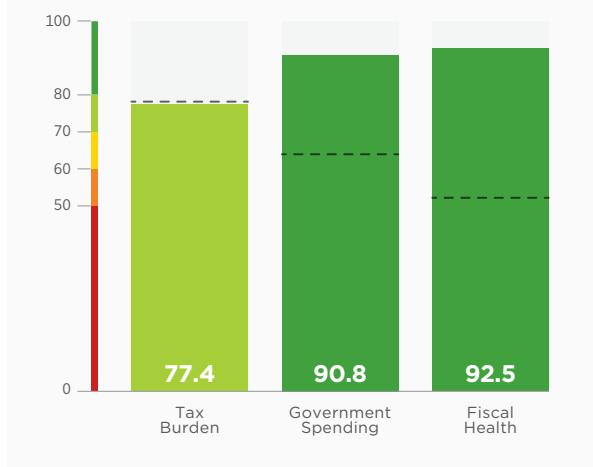
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | GABON

## RULE OF LAW



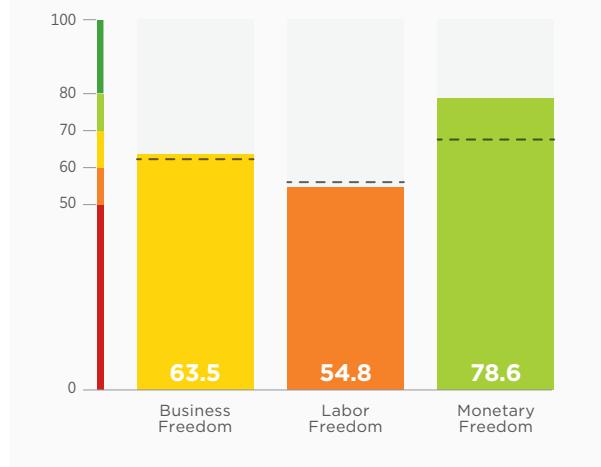
The overall rule of law is weak in Gabon. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



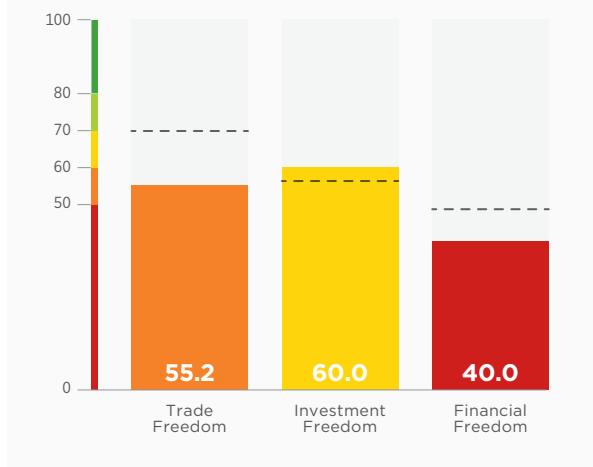
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 11.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 17.5 percent and -0.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 57.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Gabon's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 14.9 percent, and nontariff measures persist. The government screens foreign investment, and investment is discouraged by inefficient regulatory regimes. The state-controlled financial sector remains underdeveloped. Credit costs are high, and access to financing is scarce.



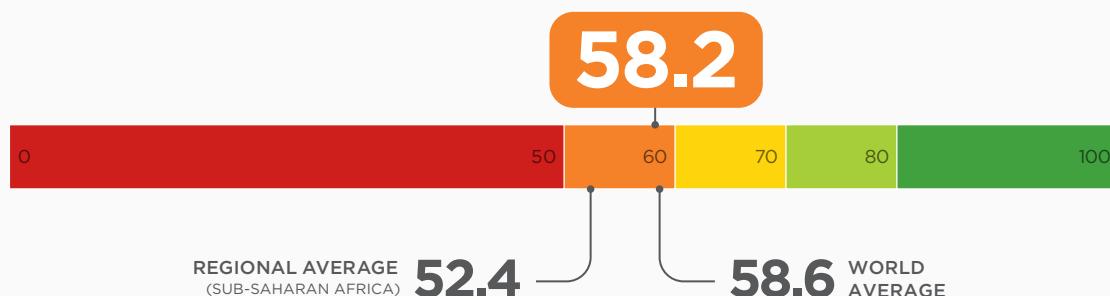
# THE GAMBIA

WORLD RANK: **93** | REGIONAL RANK: **8**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

The Gambia's economic freedom score is 58.2, making its economy the 93rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.3 point from last year, and the Gambia is ranked 8th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. The Gambia's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

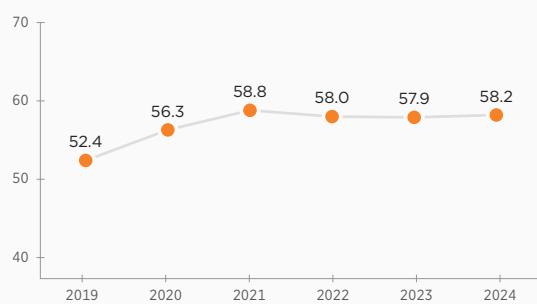
Despite much-needed economic reforms to improve macroeconomic stability and enhance economic growth, institutional weaknesses continue to constrain overall economic freedom in the Gambia. The judicial system lacks the capacity to defend property rights effectively. Corruption undermines prospects for long-term economic development. The overall regulatory framework remains characterized by red tape and a lack of transparency. Inconsistent application of regulations remains a major impediment. The labor market remains stagnant and burdened with high unemployment and underemployment.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1997): +5.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

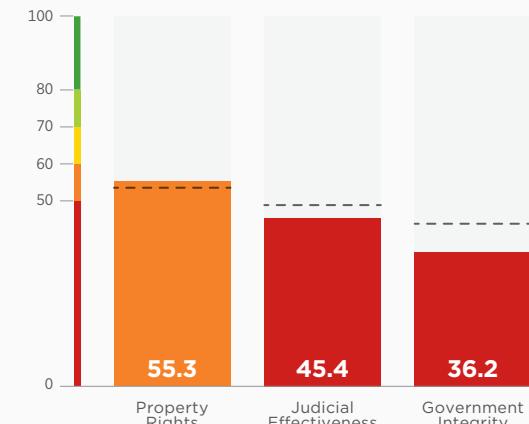
**POPULATION:**  
2.5 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$6.9 billion  
4.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.8%  
\$2,670 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
11.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
11.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$236.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
82.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | THE GAMBIA

## RULE OF LAW



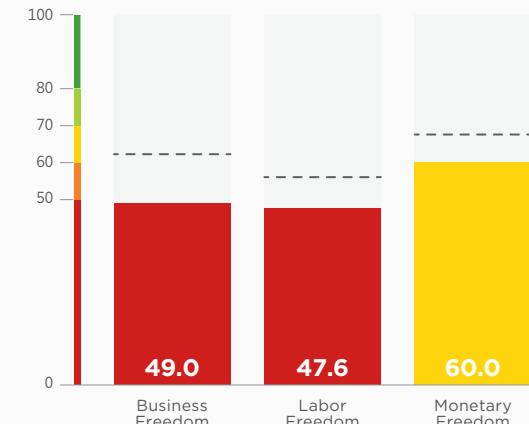
The overall rule of law is weak in the Gambia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



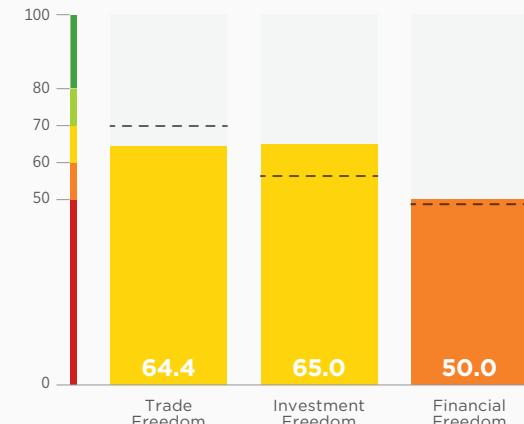
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 27 percent. The tax burden equals 11.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 22.9 percent and -3.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 82.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The Gambia's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 12.8 percent, and layers of nontariff barriers further deter trade flows. Foreign and domestic investors are generally treated equally under the law. Credit to the private sector has increased, but the overall financial system remains underdeveloped.

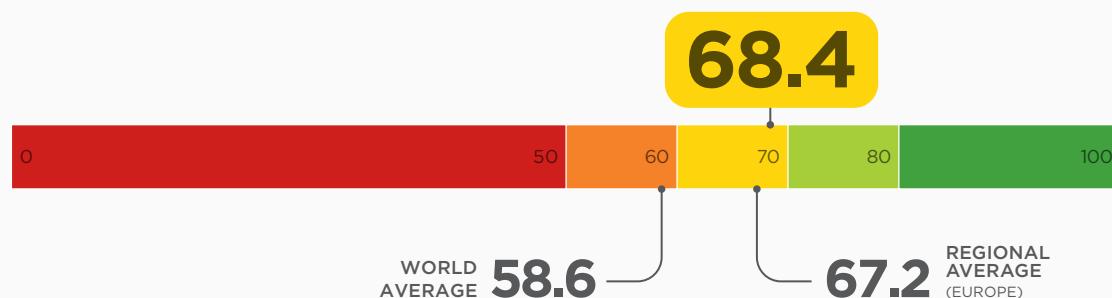


# GEORGIA

Georgia's economic freedom score is 68.4, making its economy the 32nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.3 point from last year, and Georgia is ranked 19th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Georgia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

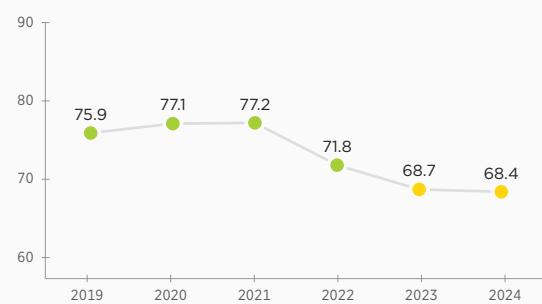
Despite a challenging external and political environment, Georgia's economy performs quite well in key policy areas. Reforms to enhance regulatory efficiency have been implemented, and open-market policies are maintained along with low tax rates. The economy has demonstrated a high level of resilience. However, institutional weaknesses still require much more committed reforms because marginal reforms have not generated much improvement. Public spending has been growing as a share of GDP, and the budget balance has been negative. Inflation has been relatively high.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +24.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

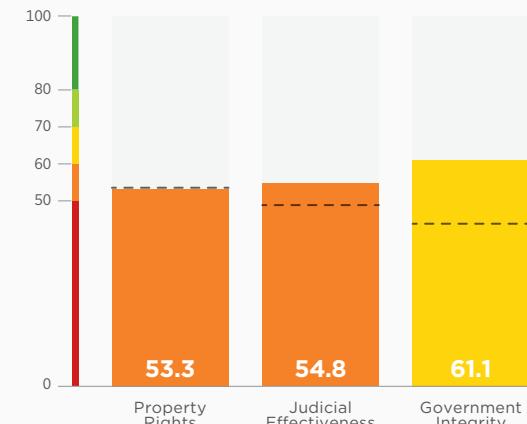
**POPULATION:**  
3.7 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$74.7 billion  
10.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.7%  
\$20,243 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
10.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
11.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$2.0 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
39.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

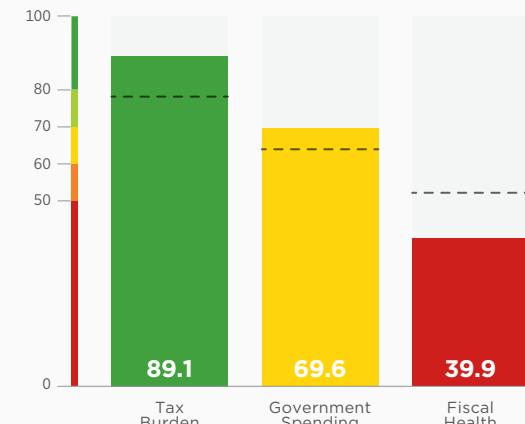
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | GEORGIA

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Georgia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



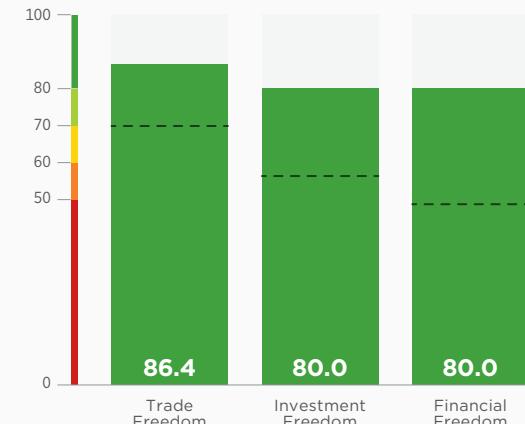
The top individual income tax rate is 20 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 22.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 31.8 percent and -6.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 39.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Georgia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 1.8 percent, and more than 60 nontariff measures are in force. Foreign ownership of agricultural land faces some restrictions. Access to financing has improved in the growing banking sector. Capital markets continue to evolve, but the stock exchange remains small.



WORLD RANK:  
**18**

REGIONAL RANK:  
**12**

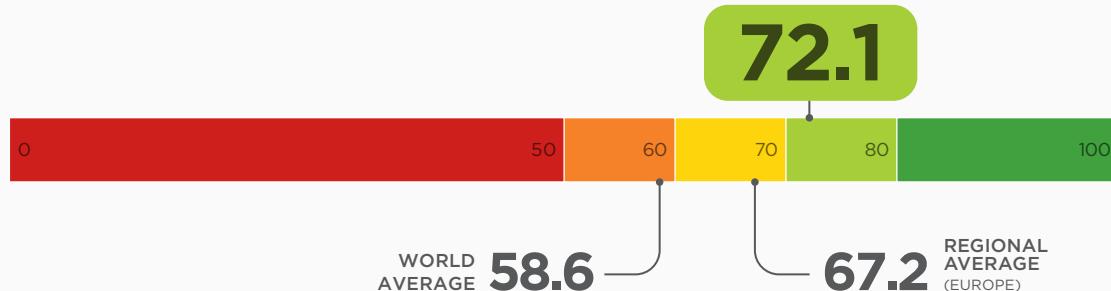
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY FREE**

# GERMANY

Germany's economic freedom score is 72.1, making its economy the 18th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.6 points from last year, and Germany is ranked 12th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Germany's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

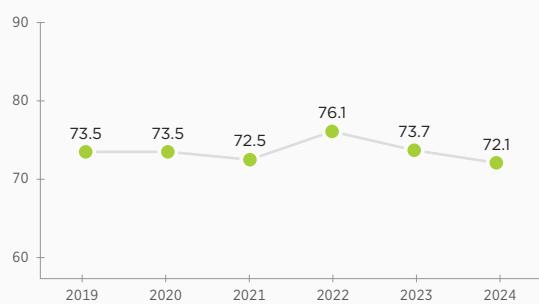
Despite a challenging external economic environment, Germany remains one of the world's most powerful and dynamic economies. The foundations for long-term competitiveness and dynamic growth are rooted in the quality of the judicial regime, which upholds a strong rule of law. Government transparency is high, and anticorruption measures are enforced effectively. Open-market policies enhance the benefits of Germany's engagement in global commerce. The regulatory regime allows dynamic and innovative business formation and operation. The competitive financial sector offers a full range of services.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +2.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

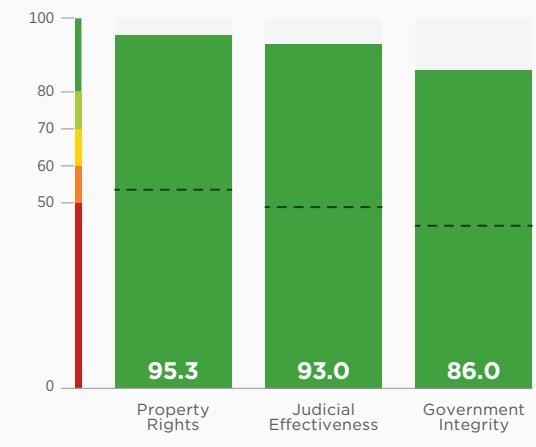
**POPULATION:**  
83.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$5.4 trillion  
1.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.6%  
\$64,086 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.7%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$11.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
66.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

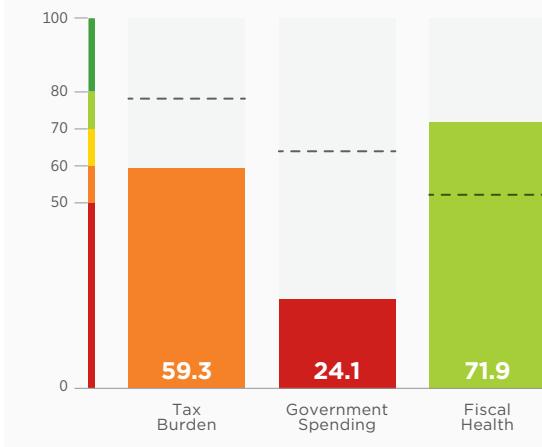
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | GERMANY

## RULE OF LAW



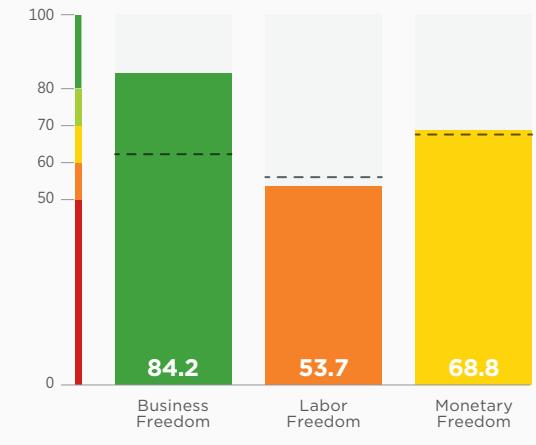
The overall rule of law is very well respected in Germany. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



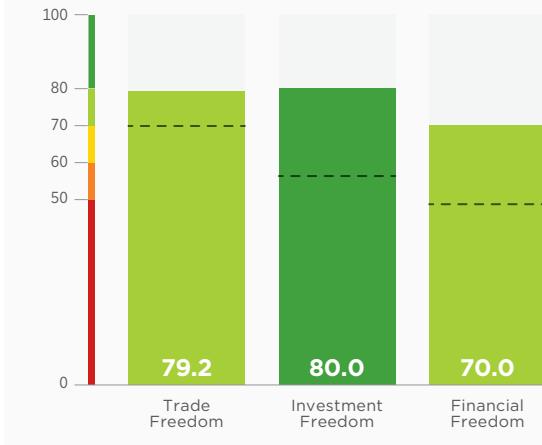
The top individual income tax rate is 47.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15.8 percent. The tax burden equals 39.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 50.3 percent and -3.5 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 66.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Germany's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and efficient, facilitating entrepreneurial growth and economic resilience. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force along with two country-specific nontariff barriers. Openness to global commerce supports competitiveness and investment. The financial sector offers a full range of services.



# GHANA

WORLD RANK:  
**104**

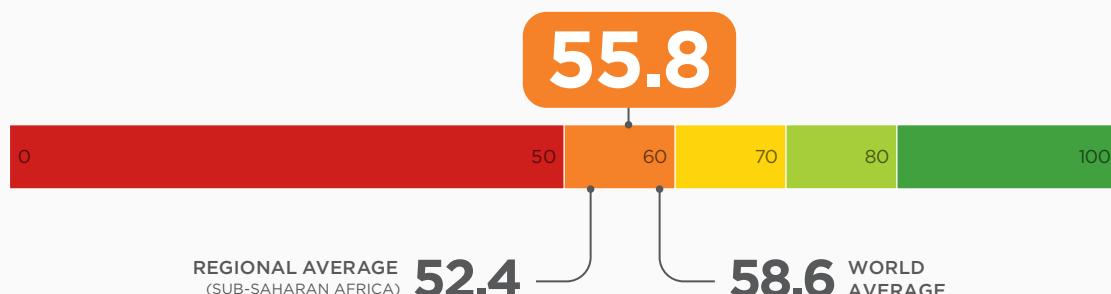
REGIONAL RANK:  
**13**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

Ghana's economic freedom score is 55.8, making its economy the 104th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.2 points from last year, and Ghana is ranked 13th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Ghana's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

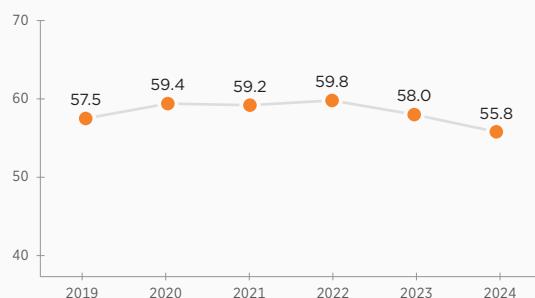
Ghana's economic freedom continues to be limited by inefficient protection of property rights. Despite progress, corruption still deters sustained and broad-based economic development. Maintaining the momentum for reform remains vital to solidifying an entrepreneurial framework that can sustain long-term economic growth and seriously reduce poverty. Enhancement of overall regulatory efficiency has lagged compared to other economies. Labor regulations have been modernized, but informal labor activity remains significant. The most recent available inflation rate is more than 25 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +0.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
31.7 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$216.6 billion  
3.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.3%  
\$6,752 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
31.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
92.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

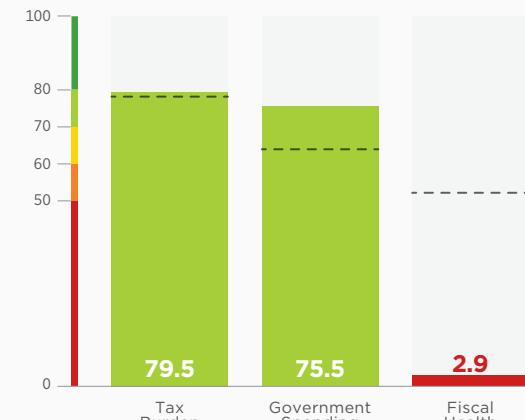
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | GHANA

## RULE OF LAW



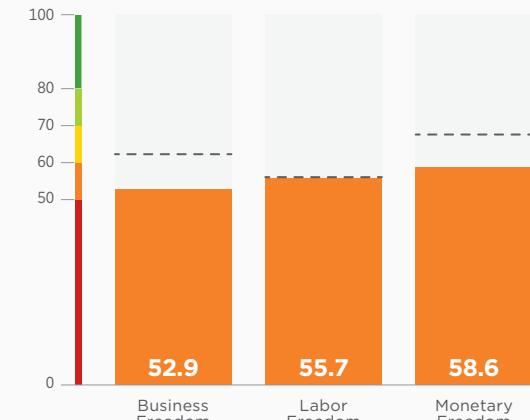
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Ghana. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is the same as the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 14.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 28.6 percent and -13.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 92.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

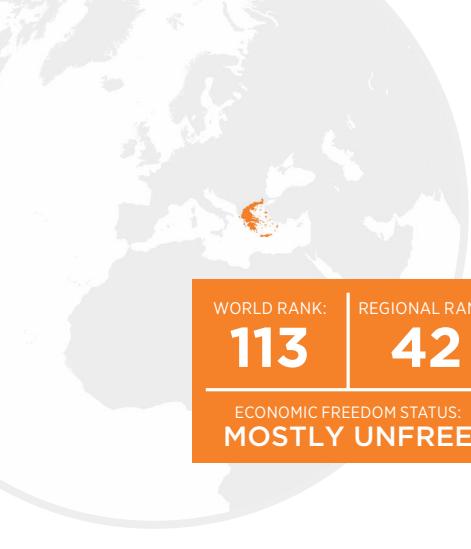


Ghana's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 11.0 percent. Ghana's economy is one of the more open to foreign investment in sub-Saharan Africa, although investment in some sectors is restricted. The financial system has undergone restructuring, and the supervisory framework is relatively strong.



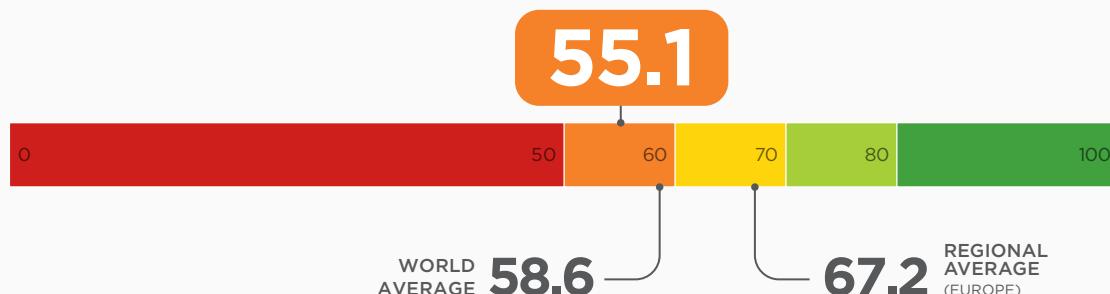
# GREECE

WORLD RANK: **113** | REGIONAL RANK: **42**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

**G**reece's economic freedom score is 55.1, making its economy the 113th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.8 points from last year, and Greece is ranked 42nd out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Greece's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

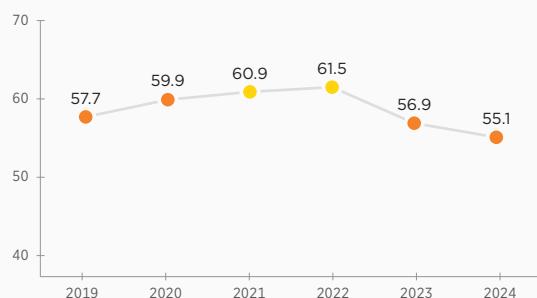
The Greek economy has been rebounding, supported by positive changes that include labor market reforms and stabilization of the banking sector. However, debt and the weakness of institutional competitiveness remain challenges. Decades of overspending, insufficient structural reform, and persistent corruption have contributed to a lack of economic dynamism and entrepreneurial growth. The public sector still consumes too much GDP, and the rigid labor market impedes productivity and job growth. Tourism and shipping are Greece's most important industries. Unemployment and public debt remain high.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -6.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

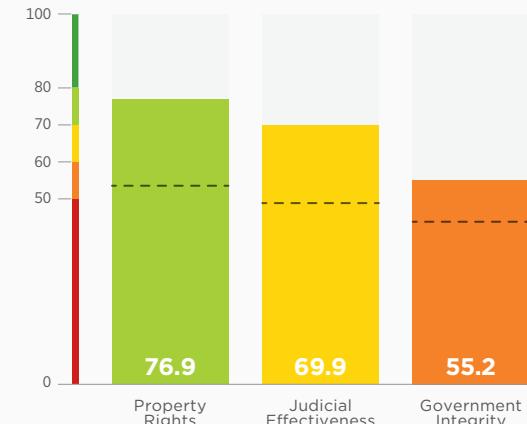
**POPULATION:**  
10.7 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$392.5 billion  
5.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.8%  
\$37,526 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
14.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
9.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$7.6 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
178.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

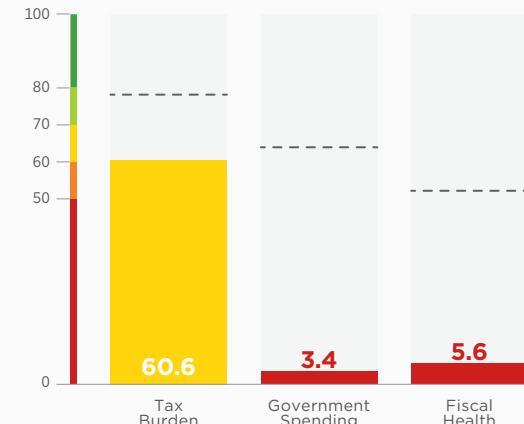
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | GREECE

## RULE OF LAW



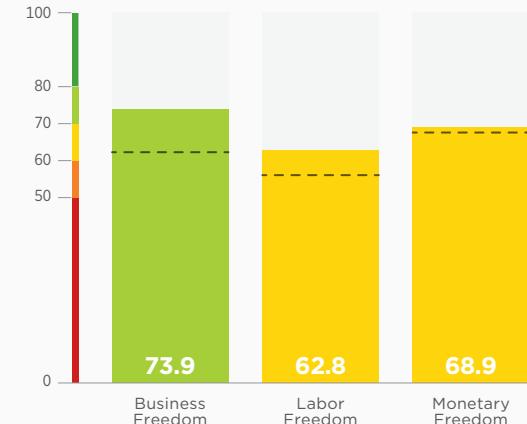
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Greece. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 44 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 22 percent. The tax burden equals 39.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 56.8 percent and -6.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 178.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

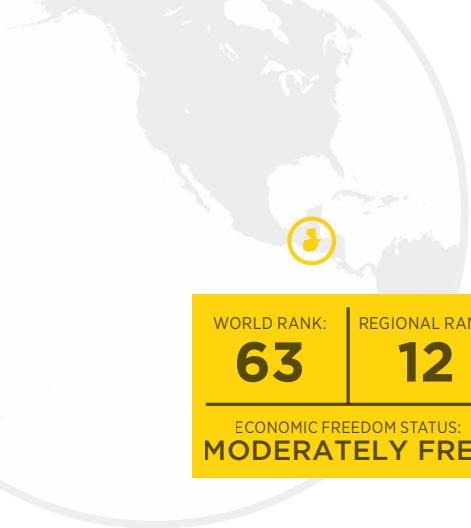


Greece's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Foreign and domestic investors are generally treated equally, but investment faces bureaucratic barriers. Banking has become stable, and the number of non-performing loans is declining.



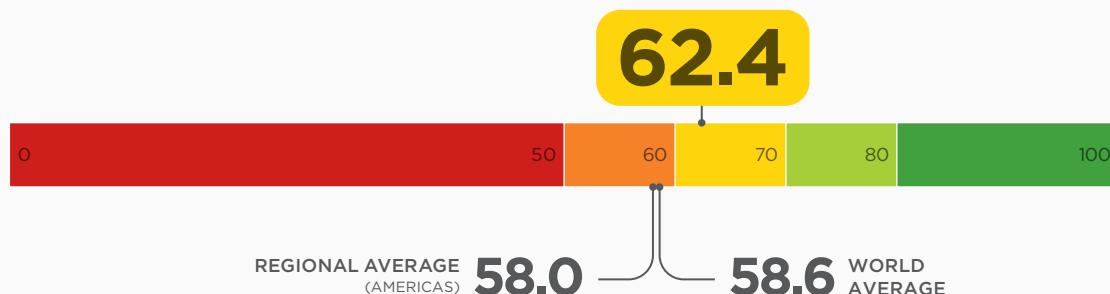
# GUATEMALA



Guatemala's economic freedom score is 62.4, making its economy the 63rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.3 point from last year, and Guatemala is ranked 12th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Guatemala's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

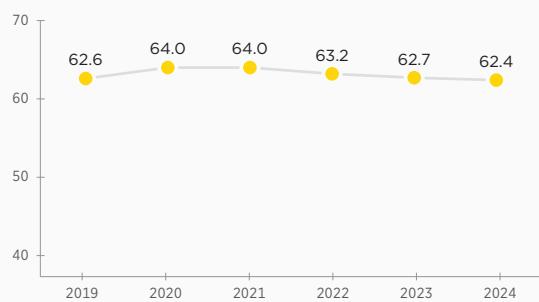
Guatemala's structural reform record has been uneven, and institutional weaknesses still constrain long-term economic development. The judicial system remains inefficient and vulnerable to political interference. Guatemala enjoys relatively high trade freedom, but dynamic economic development is undercut by the absence of progress in other key policy areas that are critical to sustaining and advancing economic freedom. Corruption is perceived as widespread. More than half of the population lives in poverty; remittances account for nearly 10 percent of GDP; and unemployment remains challenging.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +0.4

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

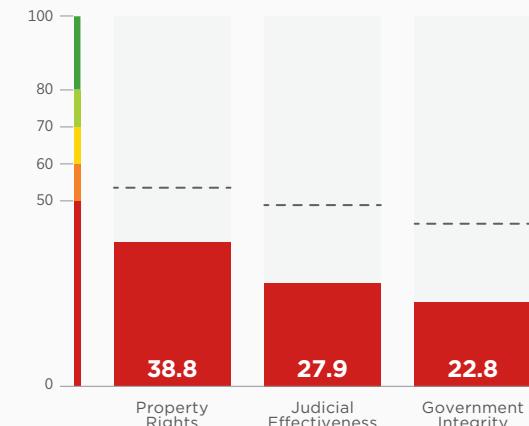
**POPULATION:**  
17.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$187.8 billion  
4.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.6%  
\$10,076 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.4 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
29.2% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

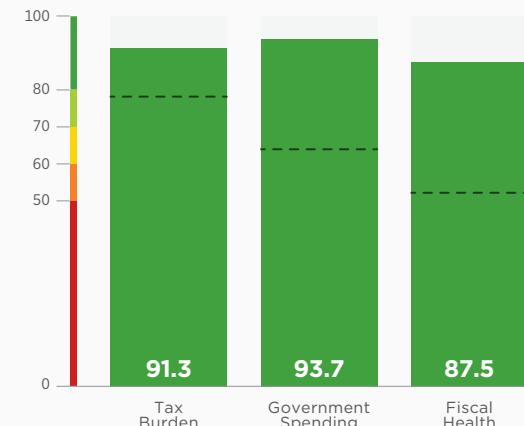
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | GUATEMALA

## RULE OF LAW



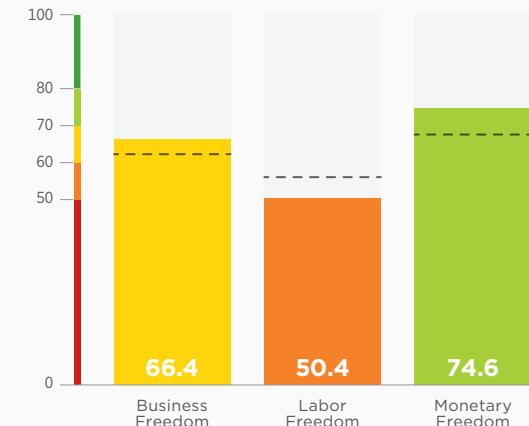
The overall rule of law is weak in Guatemala. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



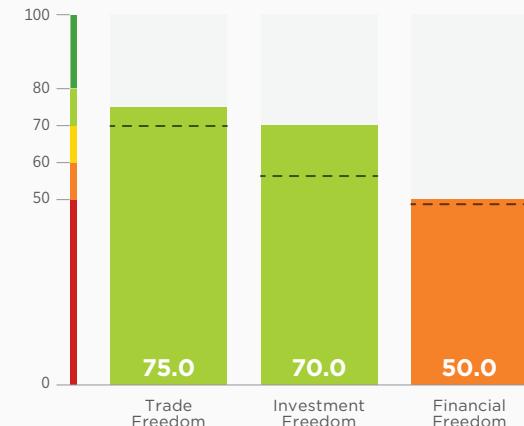
The top individual income tax rate is 7 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 14.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 14.5 percent and -2.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 29.2 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Guatemala's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.0 percent. There are no impediments to the formation of joint ventures or the purchase of local companies by foreign investors, but the inefficient regulatory systems discourage investment. The overall financial sector is underdeveloped.



# GUINEA

WORLD RANK:  
**123**

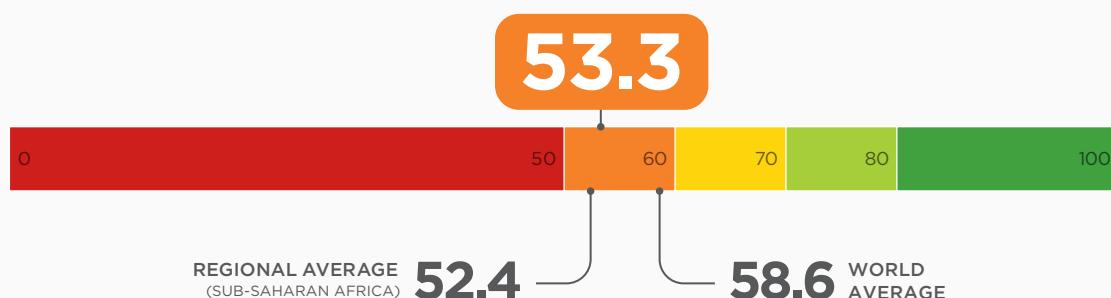
REGIONAL RANK:  
**22**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

**G**uinea's economic freedom score is 53.3, making its economy the 123rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.1 point from last year, and Guinea is ranked 22nd out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Guinea's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

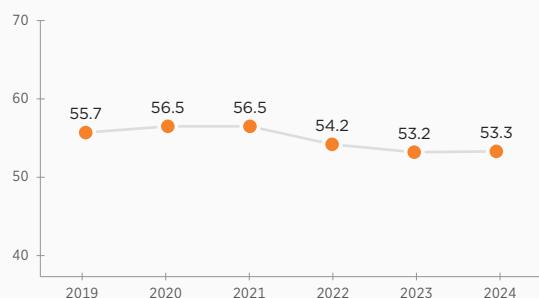
Underdevelopment, the "resource curse," and a long history of undemocratic government have undermined economic development. Instability and weak rule of law also continue to constrain economic development in Guinea. Marginal enforcement of property rights and high levels of corruption have driven many people into the informal sector. The judicial system is weak and vulnerable to political interference. The labor market suffers from a lack of workers with specialized skills. The most recent available inflation rate is 10.5 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -6.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
13.5 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$44.4 billion  
4.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 5.2%  
\$3,025 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.3%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
10.5%

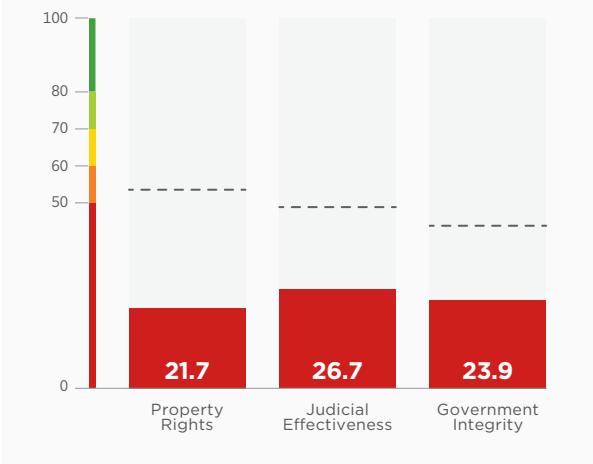
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$139.0 million

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
33.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

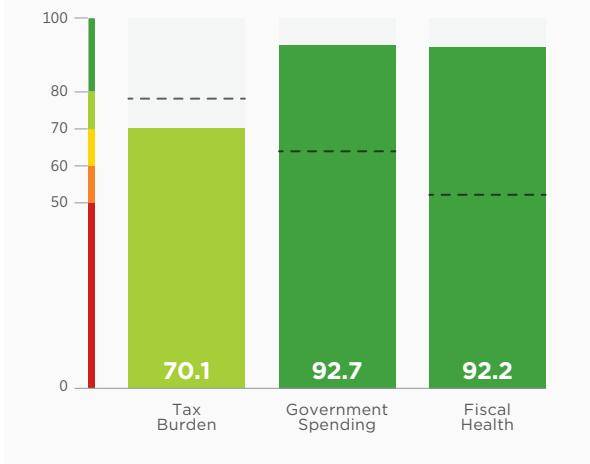
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | GUINEA

## RULE OF LAW



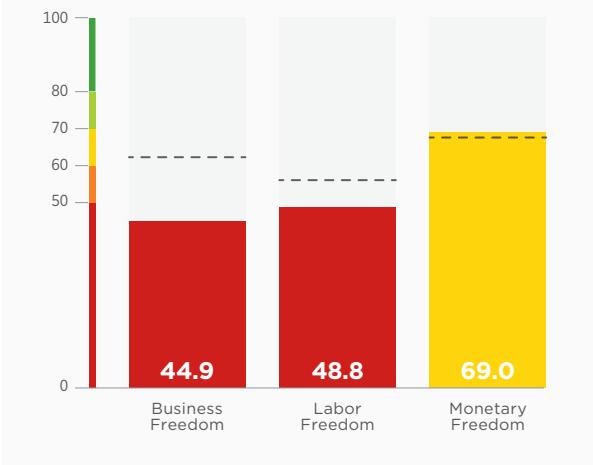
The overall rule of law is weak in Guinea. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



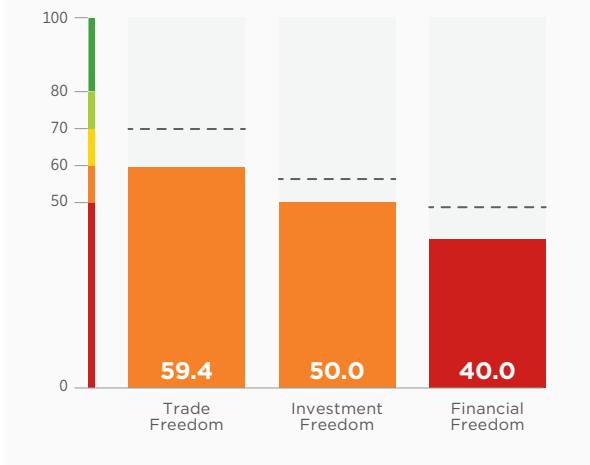
The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 12.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 15.6 percent and -1.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 33.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Guinea's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 12.8 percent, and nontariff barriers prevent more dynamic trade from taking place. The inefficient regulatory system discourages foreign investment. The underdeveloped financial sector continues to provide a very limited range of services.



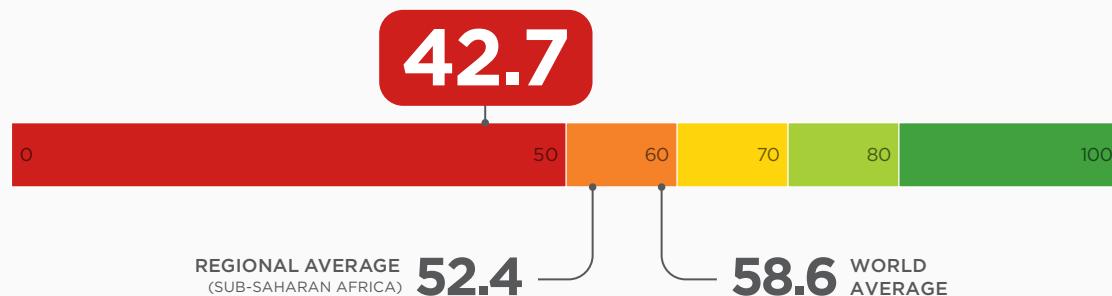
WORLD RANK: **166** | REGIONAL RANK: **42**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSIVE**

# GUINEA-BISSAU

Guinea-Bissau's economic freedom score is 42.7, making its economy the 166th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.9 points from last year, and Guinea-Bissau is ranked 42nd out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Guinea-Bissau's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

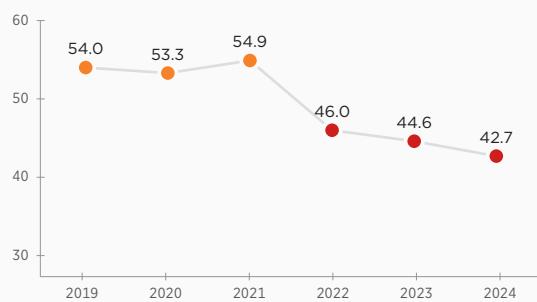
Guinea-Bissau's property rights and corruption scores are far below world averages, and its judicial system is inefficient and nontransparent. A lack of commitment to open-market policies holds back trade and investment growth and the emergence of a more dynamic private sector. Guinea-Bissau is highly dependent on subsistence agriculture, exports of cashew nuts, and foreign assistance, which normally accounts for about 80 percent of its budget. The incomes of approximately two-thirds of the population are below the extreme-poverty line.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1999): +9.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

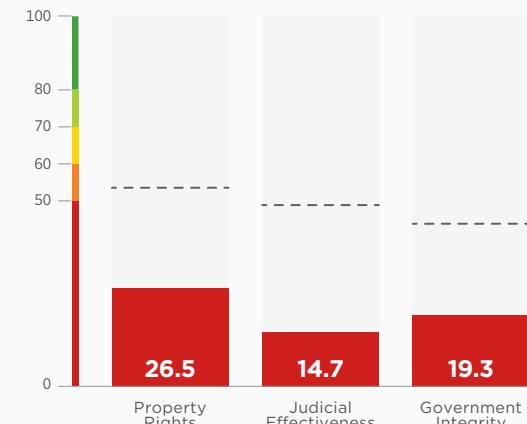
**POPULATION:**  
2.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$5.5 billion  
4.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.1%  
\$2,911 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
7.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$22.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
80.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

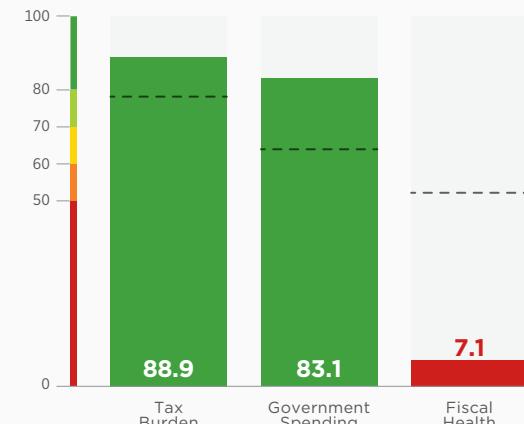
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | GUINEA-BISSAU

## RULE OF LAW



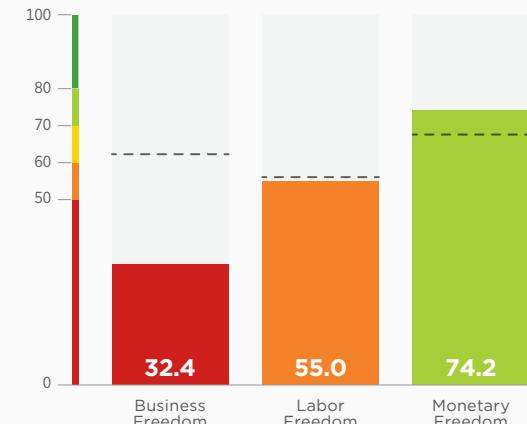
The overall rule of law is weak in Guinea-Bissau. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 20 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 9.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 23.7 percent and -7.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 80.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Guinea-Bissau's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 14.7 percent, and nontariff barriers continue to impede trade. The law treats foreign and domestic investment equally, but government openness to foreign investment is below average. High credit costs and scarce access to financing hinder entrepreneurial activity.

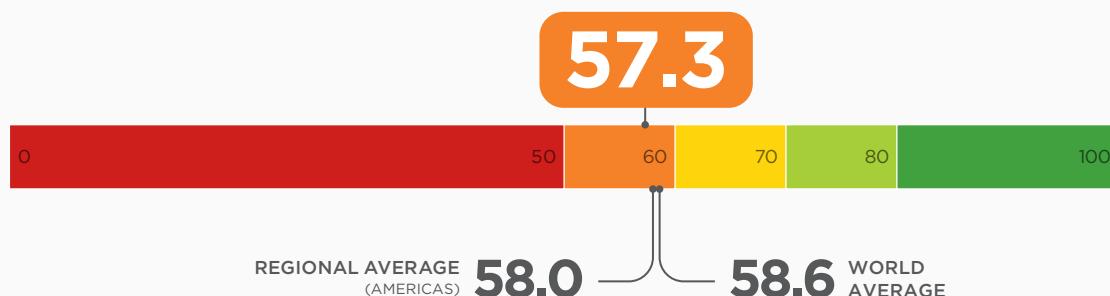
WORLD RANK:  
**98**REGIONAL RANK:  
**21**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# GUYANA

**G**uyana's economic freedom score is 57.3, making its economy the 98th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.4 point from last year, and Guyana is ranked 21st out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Guyana's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

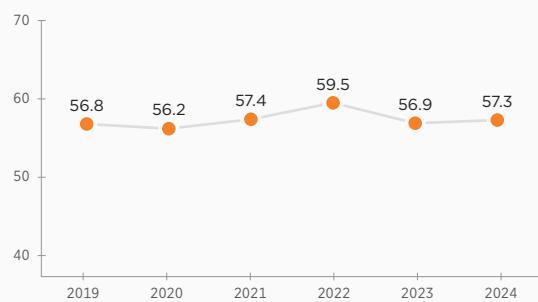
To sustain, advance, and capitalize on economic freedom, Guyana will have to strengthen the foundations of that freedom. Broad-based, long-term economic development remains constrained by structural weaknesses that stem from an inefficient legal framework and widespread corruption. Reform measures in recent years have streamlined the procedures for establishing a business, but the overall pace of regulatory reform has lagged behind the pace in other countries. A well-functioning private labor market has not yet emerged. The most recent available inflation rate is 6.5 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +11.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
0.8 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$33.8 billion  
62.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 27.1%  
\$42,699 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
16.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$4.4 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
26.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

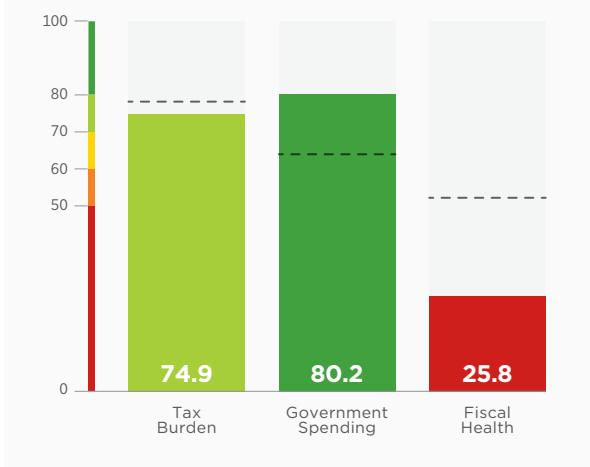
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | GUYANA

## RULE OF LAW



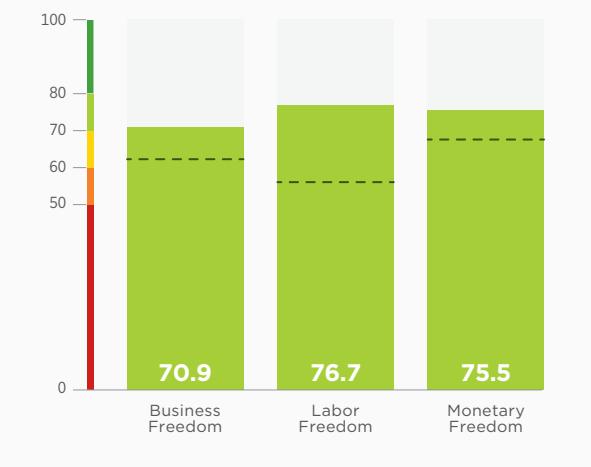
The overall rule of law is weak in Guyana. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



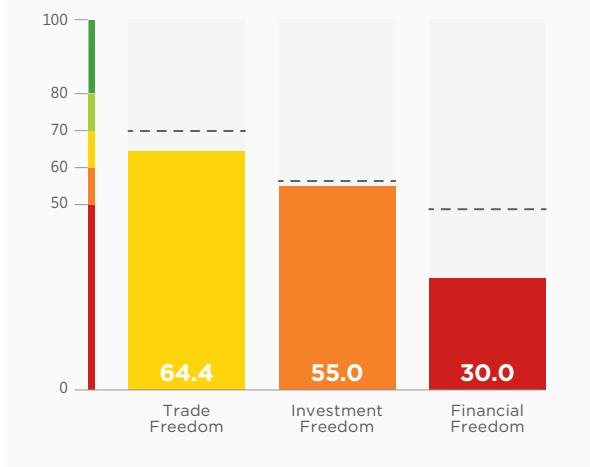
The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 16.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 25.7 percent and -6.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 26.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Guyana's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade weighted average tariff rate is 7.8 percent, and myriad nontariff measures are in effect. Foreign and domestic investors are generally treated equally under the law. The financial sector is underdeveloped, and limited access to financing impedes long-term growth of entrepreneurial activity.



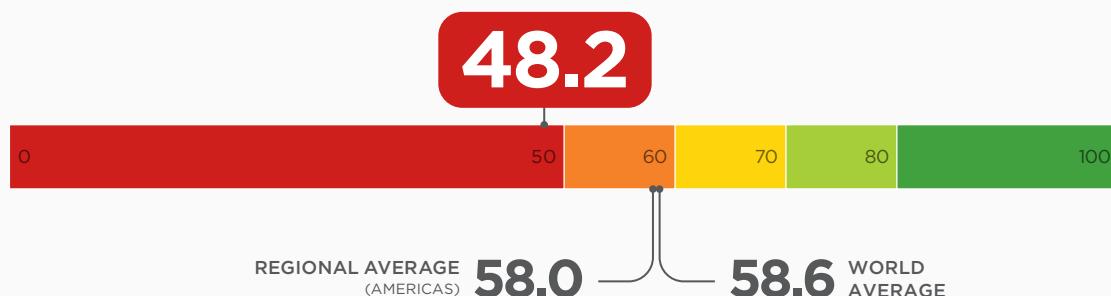
# HAITI

WORLD RANK: **155** | REGIONAL RANK: **28**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSIVE**

Haiti's economic freedom score is 48.2, making its economy the 155th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.7 points from last year, and Haiti is ranked 28th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Haiti's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

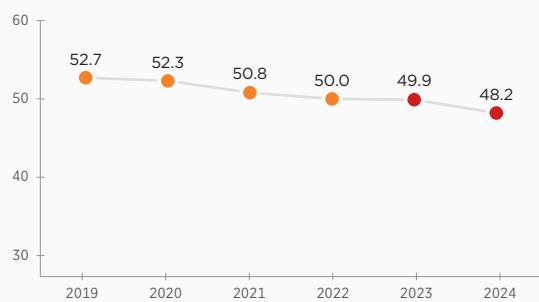
Reforms to improve Haiti's economy and business climate have had little effect. Corruption remains pervasive, and the judicial framework remains inefficient. Investment is deterred by bureaucracy and red tape, both of which are exacerbated by the weak rule of law. Political uncertainty and unstable security continue to undermine the business environment, which has never been efficient or conducive to sustainable entrepreneurial activity. The formal labor market is not fully developed. Labor laws are loosely enforced. The most recent available inflation rate is 27.6 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +5.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
11.5 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$38.1 billion  
-1.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -1.4%  
\$3,161 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
15.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
27.6%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$39.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
23.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

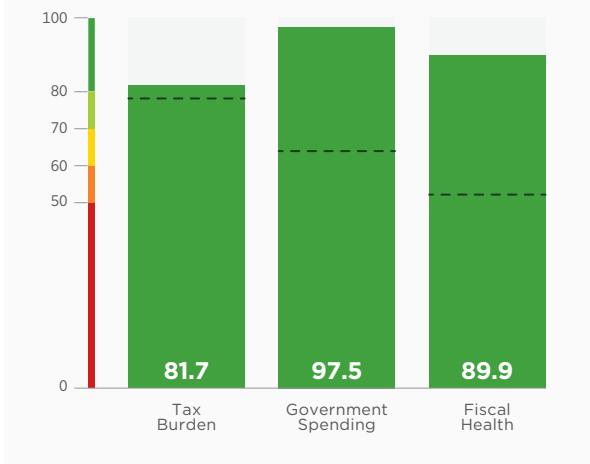
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | HAITI

## RULE OF LAW



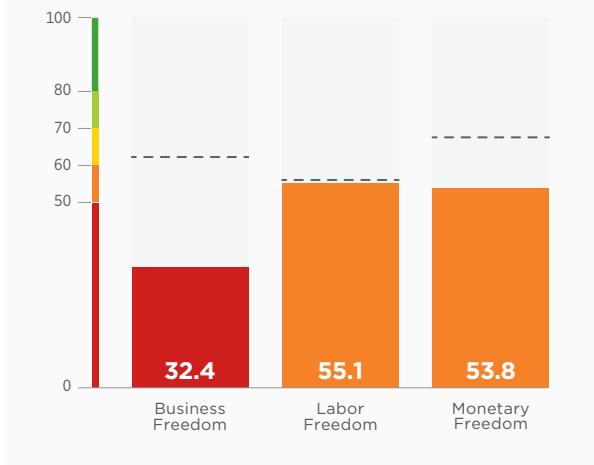
The overall rule of law is weak in Haiti. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



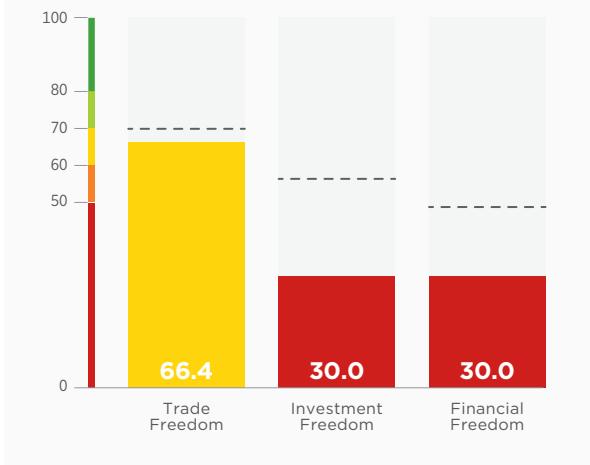
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 5.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 9.2 percent and -2.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 23.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

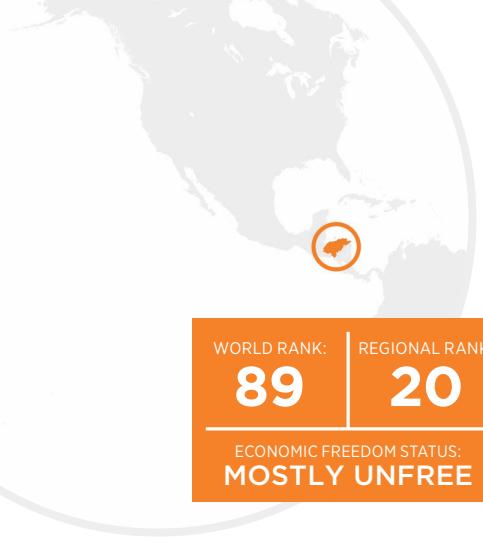


Haiti's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.8 percent, and other barriers to trade freedom are extensive. Bureaucratic impediments, made worse by institutional shortcomings, discourage foreign investment. The strained financial infrastructure remains fragile. Many economic transactions are conducted outside of the formal banking sector.



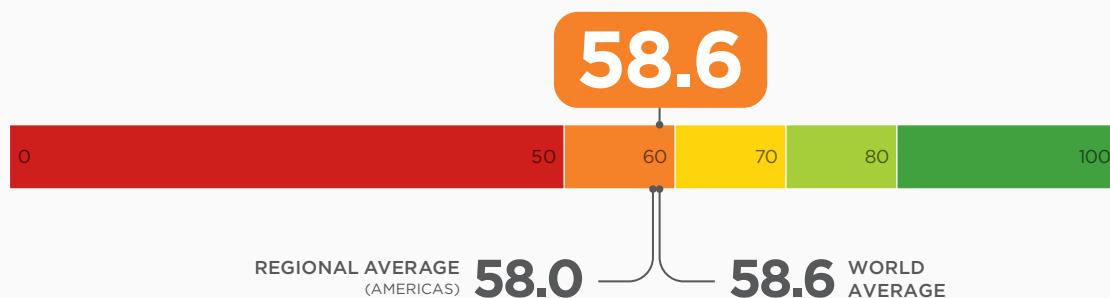
# HONDURAS

WORLD RANK: **89** | REGIONAL RANK: **20**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

Honduras's economic freedom score is 58.6, making its economy the 89th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is essentially unchanged from last year, and Honduras is ranked 20th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is the same as the world average and above the regional average. Honduras's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

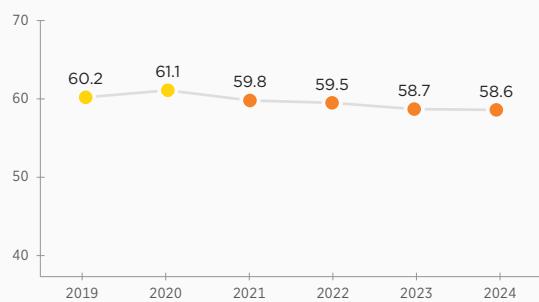
Broader implementation of deeper institutional reforms remains critical to spurring more dynamic growth and sustainable development throughout the Honduran economy. Systemic weaknesses persist in the protection of property rights and enforcement of anticorruption measures. The judicial system is vulnerable to political influence. The regulatory environment continues to evolve, but the pace of reform is sluggish. Labor regulations are burdensome and outmoded. Much of the labor force is employed in the informal sector. The most recent available inflation rate is 9.1 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +1.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

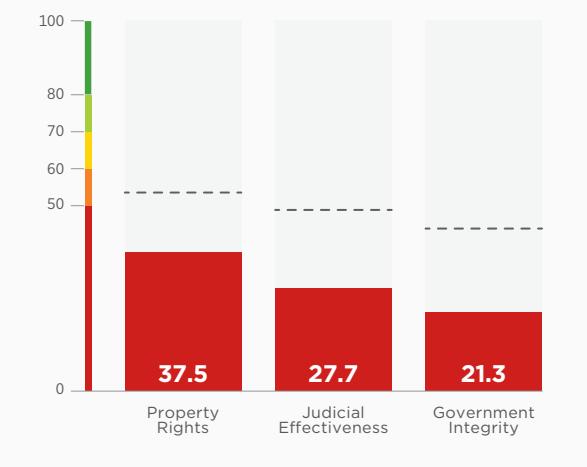
**POPULATION:**  
10.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$70.3 billion  
4.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.8%  
\$6,832 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
8.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
9.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$823.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
49.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

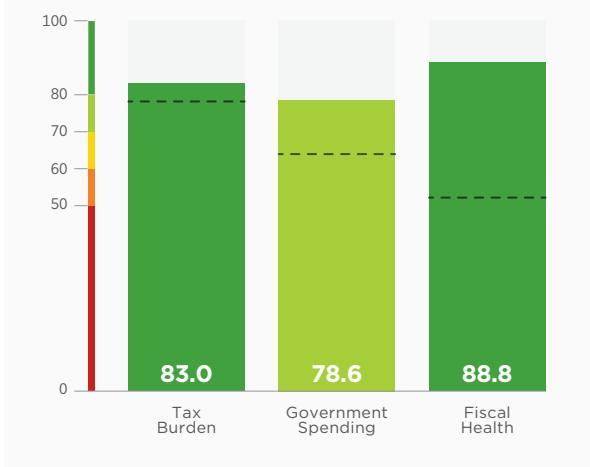
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | HONDURAS

## RULE OF LAW



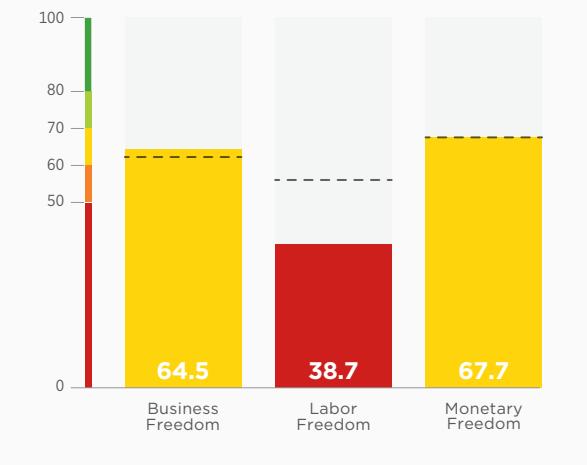
The overall rule of law is weak in Honduras. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



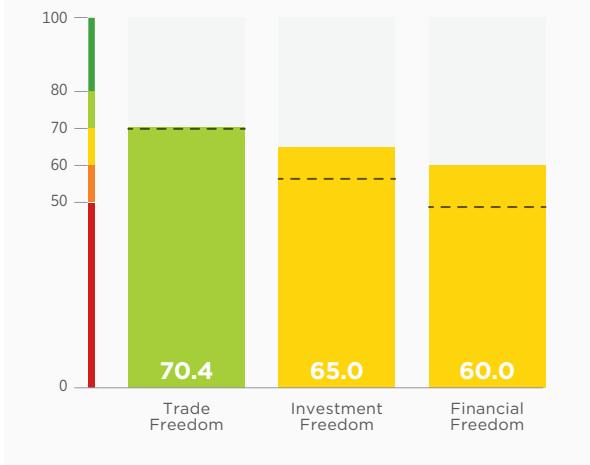
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 21.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 26.7 percent and -2.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 49.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

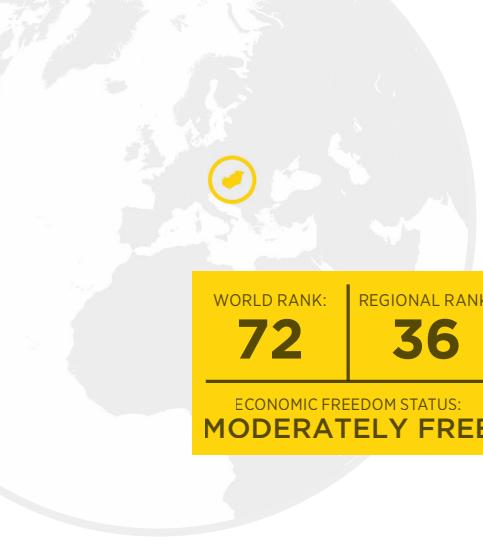


Honduras's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 7.3 percent, and regulatory systems may act as barriers to foreign investment. The financial sector remains relatively stable and continues to expand. Approximately 50 percent of adults have access to an account with a formal banking institution.



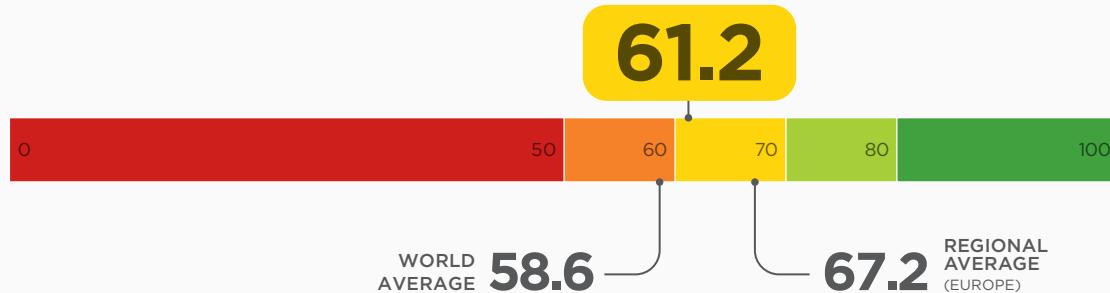
WORLD RANK: **72** | REGIONAL RANK: **36**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# HUNGARY

**H**ungary's economic freedom score is 61.2, making its economy the 72nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.9 points from last year, and Hungary is ranked 36th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Hungary's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

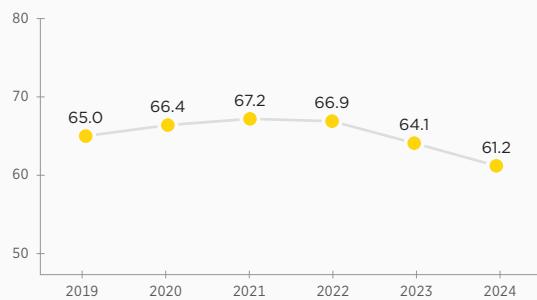
The Hungarian economy has implemented critical reforms in many areas and has a vibrant private sector. Overall regulatory efficiency is further enhanced by open-market policies. A relatively sound judicial framework that sustains the rule of law and the protection of property rights has contributed to economic stability and long-term development. However, fiscal consolidation and better management of public finance are needed to curb a growing debt burden. The most recent available inflation rate is more than 10 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +6.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

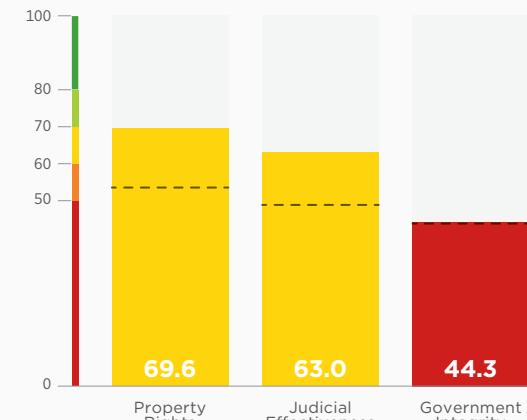
**POPULATION:**  
9.7 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$408.1 billion  
4.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.5%  
\$42,121 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.1%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
14.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$8.6 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
73.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

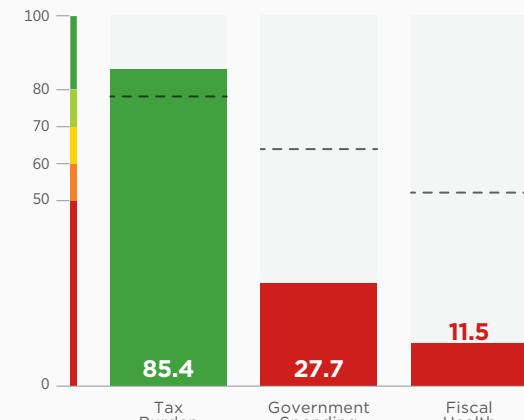
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | HUNGARY

## RULE OF LAW



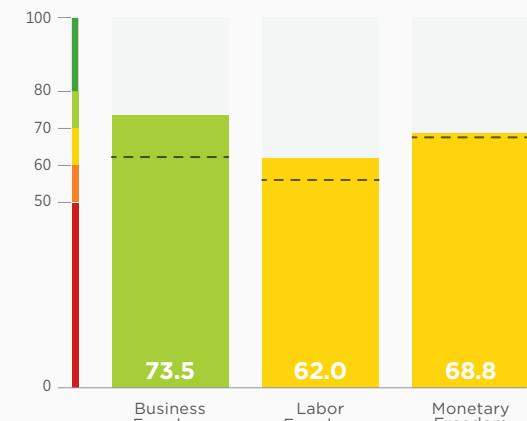
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Hungary. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 15 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 9 percent. The tax burden equals 34.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 49.1 percent and -7.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 73.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

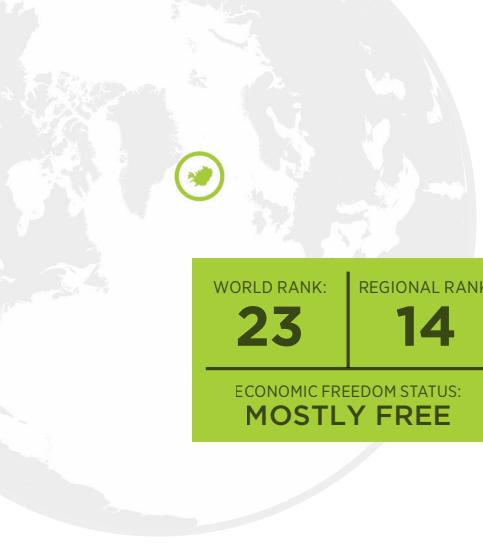


Hungary's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. The investment framework is efficient but not sufficiently transparent. The government has largely withdrawn from banking, and the financial sector offers a range of services.

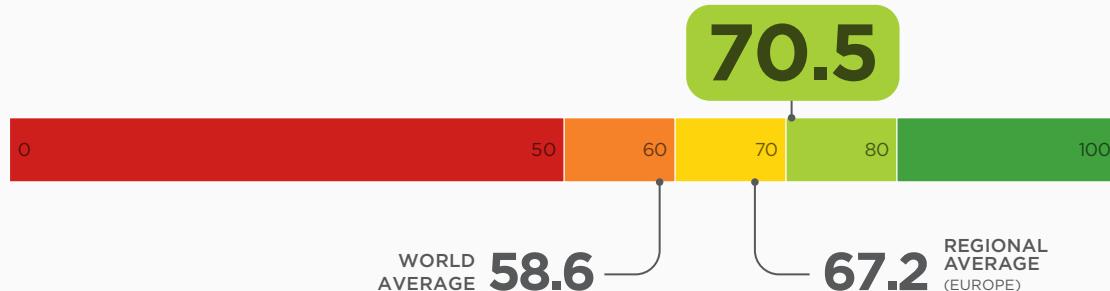


# ICELAND

Iceland's economic freedom score is 70.5, making its economy the 23rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.7 points from last year, and Iceland is ranked 14th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Iceland's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

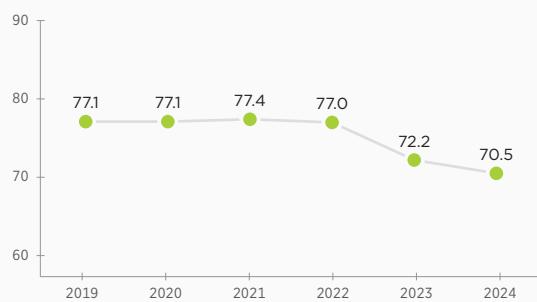
Despite the challenging global economic situation, Iceland's economy has been resilient, bolstered by regulatory efficiency and open-market policies. The legal framework remains among the world's best and provides effective protection of property rights. The rule of law is well maintained, and a minimum tolerance for corruption is a strong tradition. Iceland's modern, transparent regulatory environment encourages entrepreneurial activity by allowing business formation and operation to be both efficient and dynamic. Labor regulations are relatively rigid with broad wage settlements and high unionization.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1997): -0.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

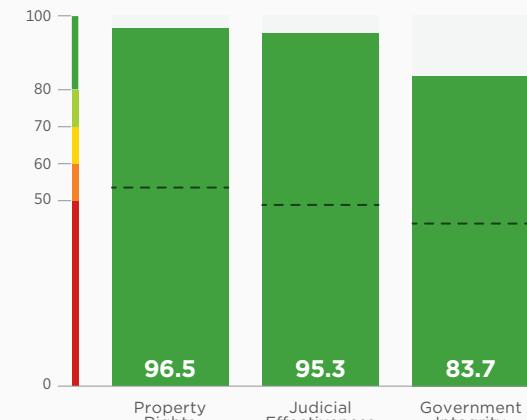
**POPULATION:**  
0.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$25.3 billion  
7.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.3%  
\$67,176 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$620.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
68.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

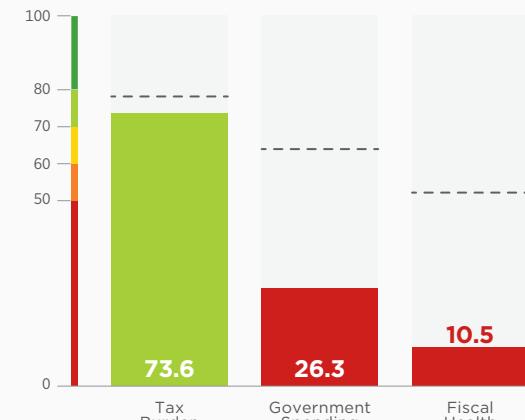
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ICELAND

## RULE OF LAW



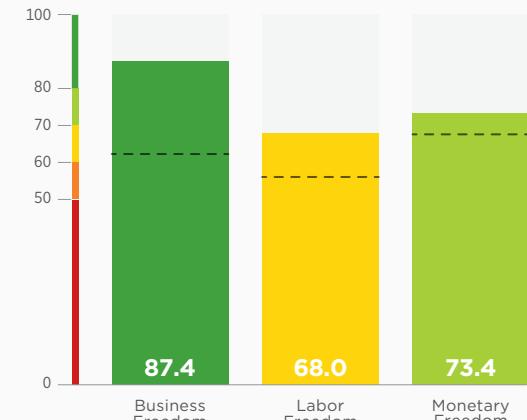
The overall rule of law is very well respected in Iceland. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



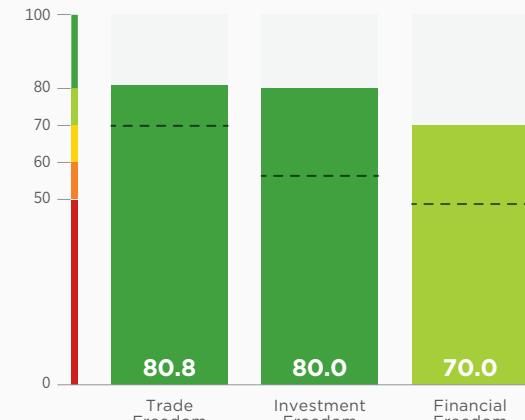
The top individual income tax rate is 31.8 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 35.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 49.6 percent and -7.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 68.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Iceland's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 2.1 percent, and more than 80 nontariff measures are in force. Transparent and efficient regulations, applied evenly in most cases, encourage investment. The financial sector has regained stability with capital controls removed. Commercial banks offer a variety of services.

WORLD RANK:

**126**

REGIONAL RANK:

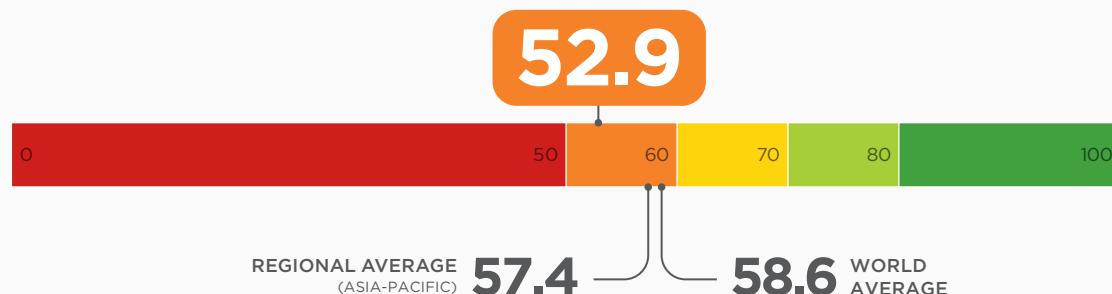
**26**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# INDIA

India's economic freedom score is 52.9, making its economy the 126th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is unchanged from last year, and India is ranked 26th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. India's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

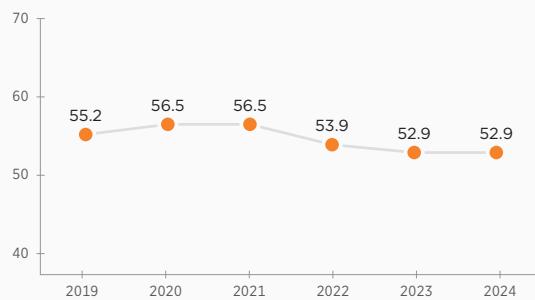
India's overall progress with market-oriented reforms has been uneven. The foundations for long-term economic development remain fragile in the absence of an efficiently functioning legal framework. State-owned enterprises are an extensive presence in many sectors, and the legacy of decades of failed socialist policies includes a substantial tolerance for government meddling in economic activity. Entrepreneurs continue to face serious challenges. The regulatory framework is burdensome. The labor regulatory framework is still evolving, and the informal economy remains an important source of employment. Monetary stability has weakened.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +7.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
1.4 billion

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$11.9 trillion  
7.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.2%  
\$8,398 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.0%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.7%

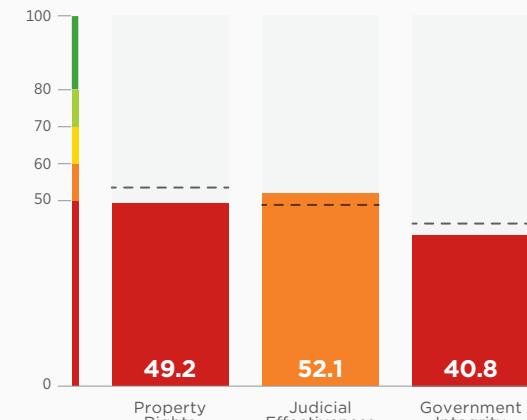
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$49.4 billion

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
81.0% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

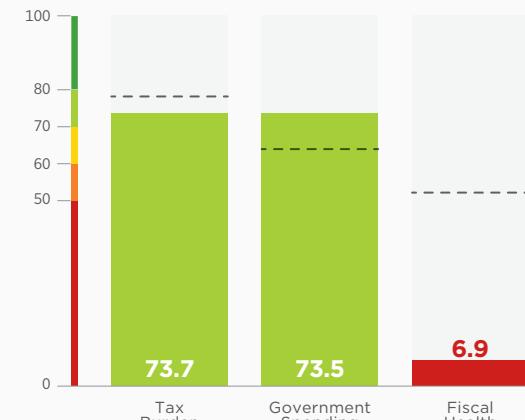
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | INDIA

## RULE OF LAW



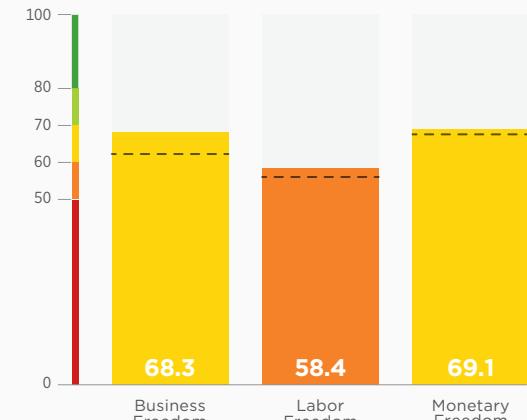
The overall rule of law is weak in India. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



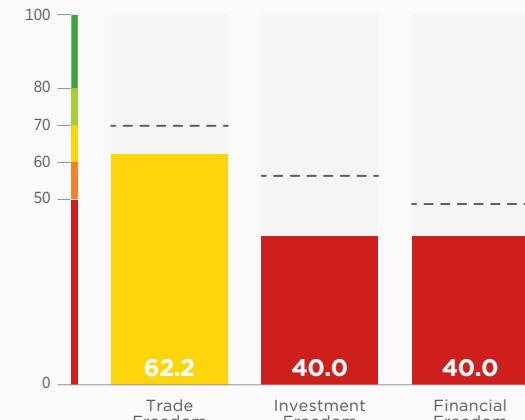
The top individual income tax rate is 39 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 32.4 percent. The tax burden equals 7.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 29.7 percent and -10.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 81.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



India's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 11.4 percent, and more than 300 nontariff measures are in force. Foreign investment is screened, although ownership restrictions in some sectors have been reduced. The government has recapitalized state-owned banks, but the number of their nonperforming loans remains high.

WORLD RANK: **53** | REGIONAL RANK: **10**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

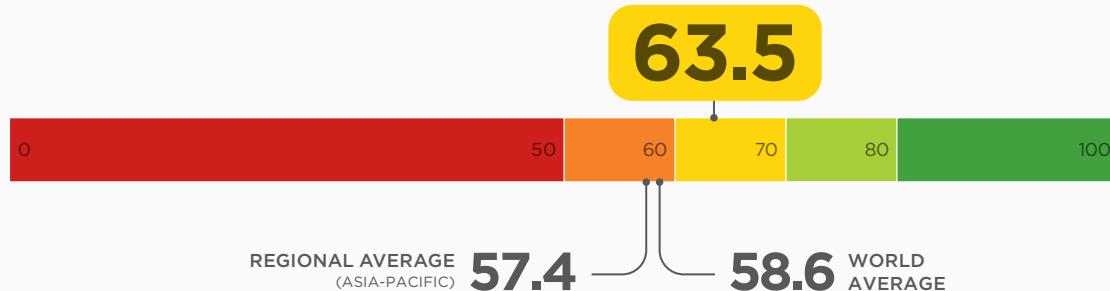


# INDONESIA

Indonesia's economic freedom score is 63.5, making its economy the 53rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is unchanged from last year, and Indonesia is ranked 10th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Indonesia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

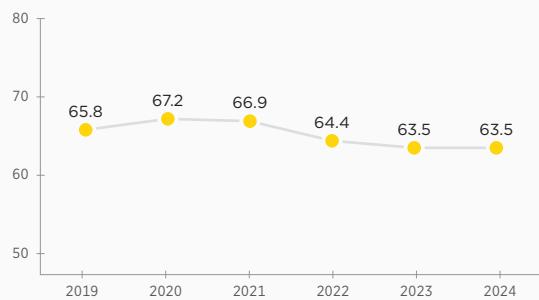
Indonesia has undertaken wide-ranging reforms to address structural weaknesses in the economy and improve competitiveness. The economy has shown considerable resilience, weathering the global economic slowdown relatively well. Recent reforms have put greater emphasis on improving regulatory efficiency, enhancing regional competitiveness, and creating a more vibrant private sector through decentralization. However, institutional shortcomings continue to undercut momentum for more dynamic economic development. In the absence of a well-functioning legal and regulatory framework, corruption remains a serious impediment to the emergence of a more dynamic private sector.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +8.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

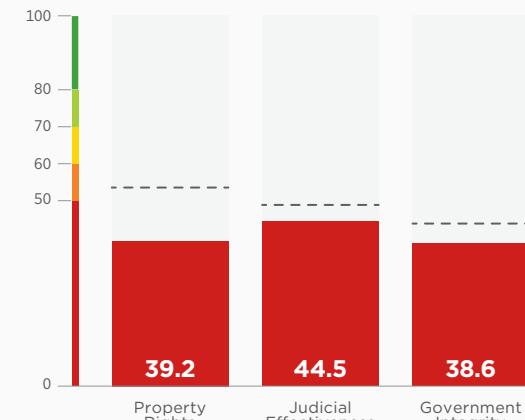
**POPULATION:**  
276.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$4.0 trillion  
5.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.4%  
\$14,687 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
4.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$22.0 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
40.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | INDONESIA

## RULE OF LAW



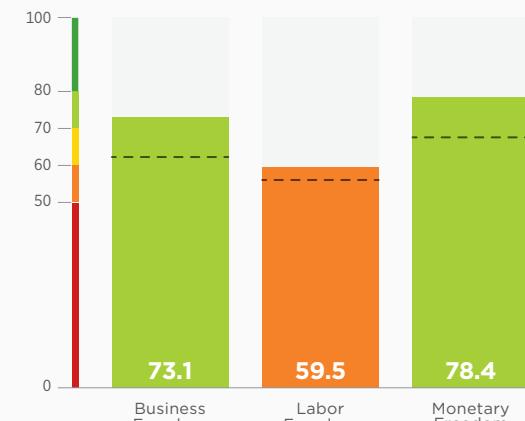
The overall rule of law is weak in Indonesia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



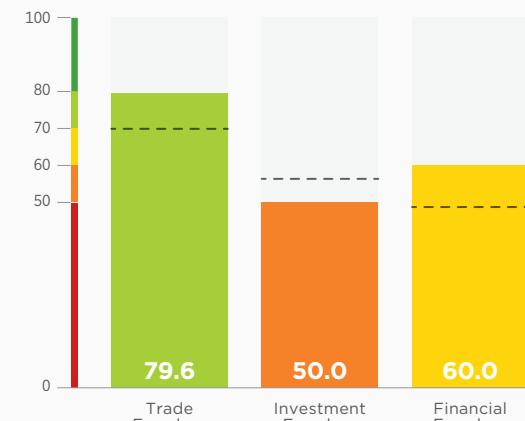
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 22 percent. The tax burden equals 10.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 18.1 percent and -4.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 40.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Indonesia's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.2 percent, and more than 100 nontariff measures are in force. The government has moved to dismantle some of its previously imposed barriers to foreign investment. Overall, the financial system's efficiency has increased. The state still owns several banks.



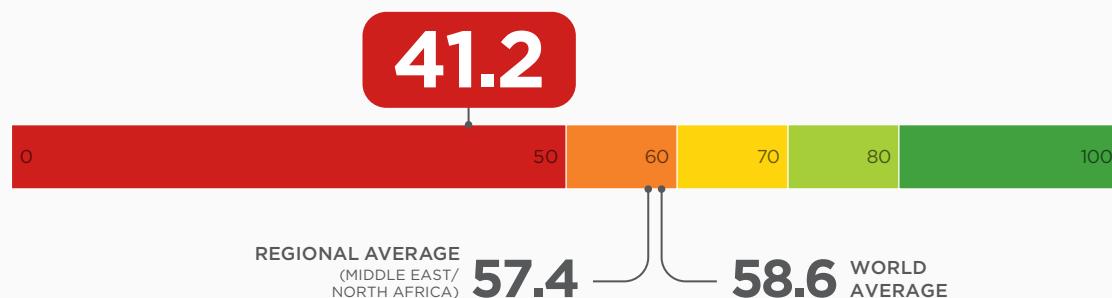
# IRAN

WORLD RANK:	169	REGIONAL RANK:	14
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>REPRESSIVE</b>			

Iran's economic freedom score is 41.2, making its economy the 169th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1 point from last year, and Iran is ranked 14th out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Iran's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

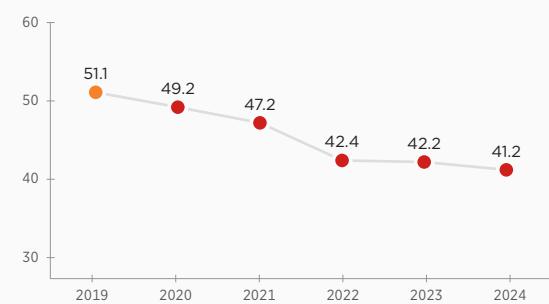
State interference undermines every pillar of economic freedom measured in the *Index*. Corruption and institutional deficiencies in the legal framework undermine the rule of law. The government dictates production activity and derives most of its revenue from the oil sector. The private sector remains constrained by a restrictive and burdensome regulatory environment. Employment regulations are restrictive, and the labor market remains stagnant. Monetary stability is weak, and tight government controls distort price levels. The most recent available inflation rate is 45.8 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +5.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

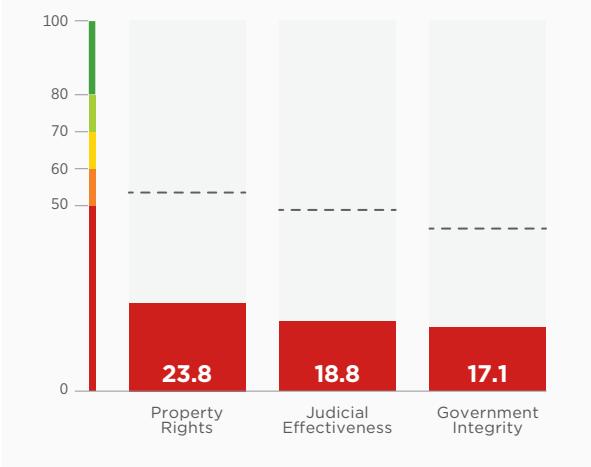
**POPULATION:**  
85.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.6 trillion  
3.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.4%  
\$18,865 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
11.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
45.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
34.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

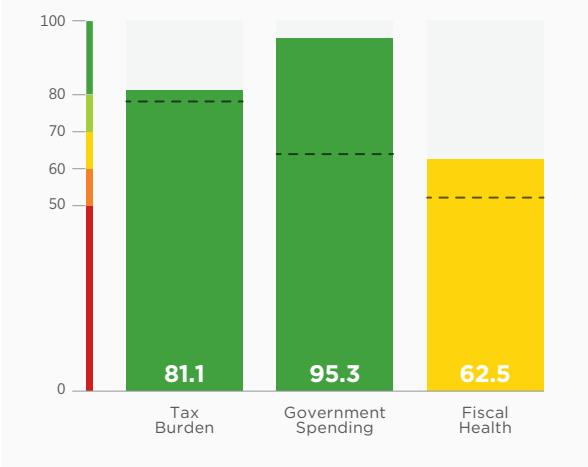
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | IRAN

## RULE OF LAW



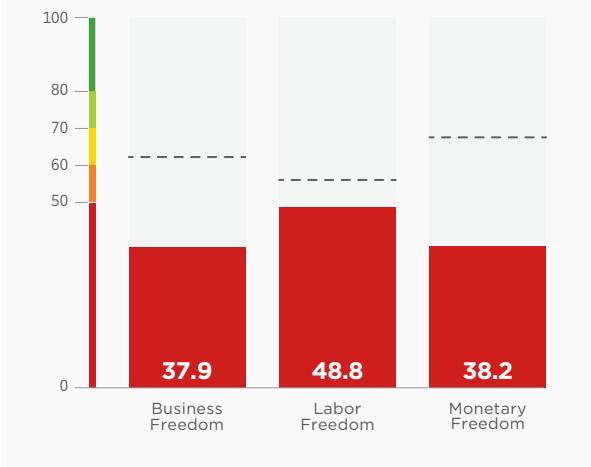
The overall rule of law is weak in Iran. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



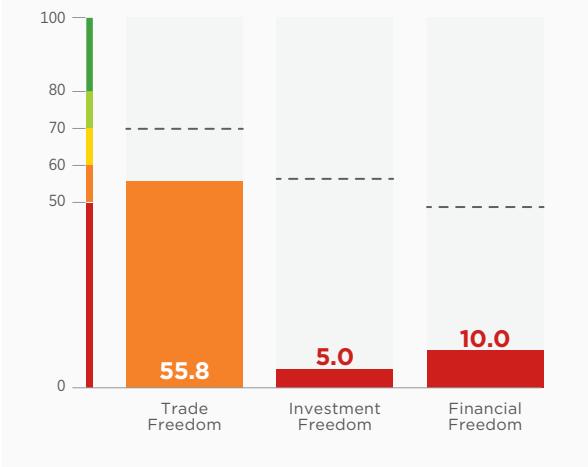
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 6.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 12.5 percent and -4.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 34.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Iran's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 12.1 percent. The state continues to hold back economic development, undermining trade and investment flows. Government controls limit access to financing for businesses. State-owned commercial banks and specialized financial institutions account for a majority of banking-sector assets.



WORLD RANK: <b>N/A</b>	REGIONAL RANK: <b>N/A</b>
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>NOT GRADED</b>	

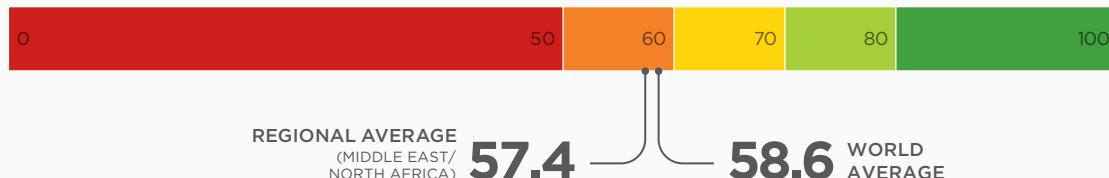
# IRAQ

Iraq remains unranked in the 2024 *Index* because of the lack of sufficiently reliable data. Iraq's economy was last rated in the 2002 *Index*, when it received an overall score of 15.6 and was rated "repressed." The Iraqi economy has slowly recovered over the past decade, but progress has been uneven. The country faces continuing tension among different ethnic and religious factions.

Iraq's economic growth is highly volatile, and its ongoing economic reconstruction has been fragile at best. Political instability and pervasive corruption continue to undermine the limited progress that has been achieved. Operating well below potential, the economy lacks effective monetary and fiscal policies. The state-dominated economy is led by the oil sector, which provides over 80 percent of government revenue. The weak state of the financial system, coupled with its limited role in the economy, also makes development of a much-needed dynamic private sector extremely difficult.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE

**N/A**



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): N/A

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND

NOT GRADED

2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

## QUICK FACTS

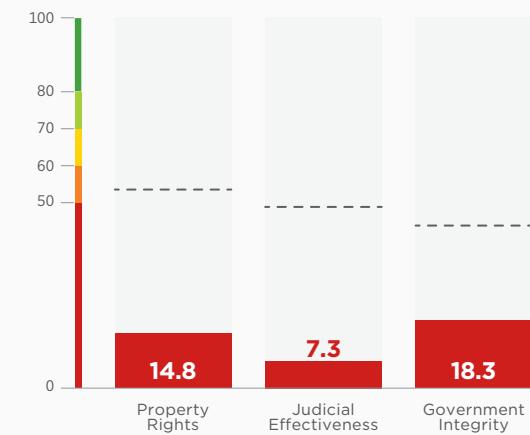
**POPULATION:**  
41.2 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$504.7 billion  
7.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.3%  
\$11,948 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
14.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$2.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
44.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

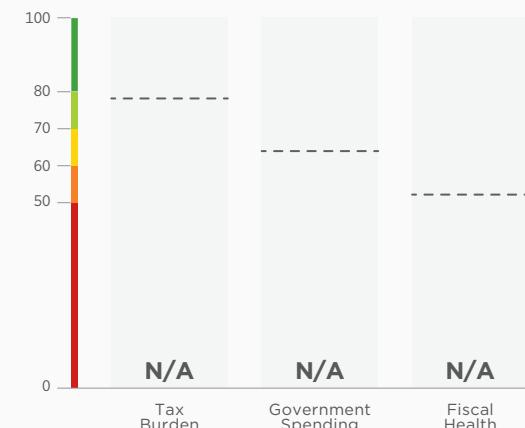
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | IRAQ

## RULE OF LAW



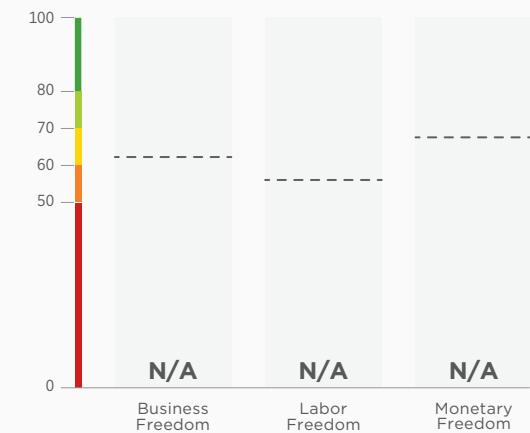
The overall rule of law is weak in Iraq. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



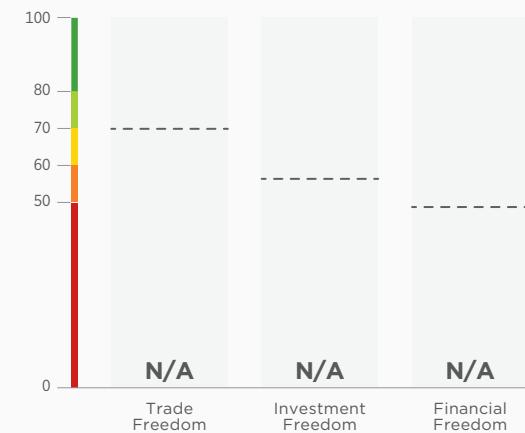
The top individual income tax rate is 15 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 1.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 39.3 percent and -1.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 44.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Despite some enhancement of the business environment, significant impediments to entrepreneurial activity persist. Enforcement of existing commercial regulations is overly bureaucratic and inconsistent. A formal labor market is not fully developed, and most private-sector jobs are short-term and informal. Monetary stability is weak.

## OPEN MARKETS



Security challenges and institutional shortcomings continue to deter foreign trade and investment. Political instability undermines the economy. Iraq's cash-based economy lacks the infrastructure of a fully functioning financial system. The banking regulation frameworks are not yet strong enough to deepen financial intermediation.



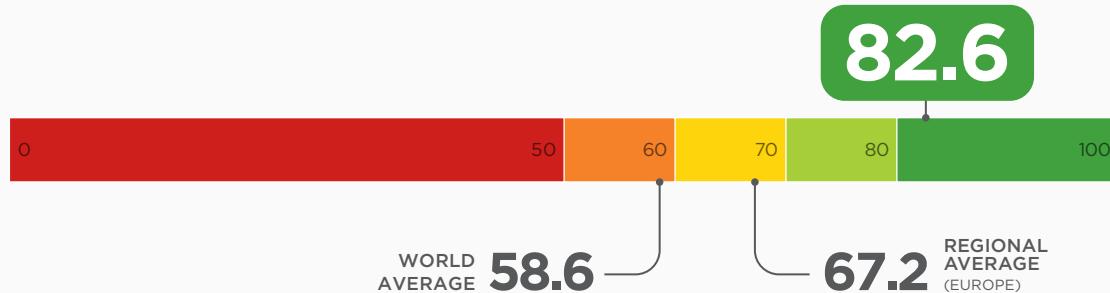
WORLD RANK: **3** | REGIONAL RANK: **2**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**FREE**

# IRELAND

Ireland's economic freedom score is 82.6, making its economy the 3rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.6 point from last year, and Ireland is ranked 2nd out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Ireland's economy is considered "free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

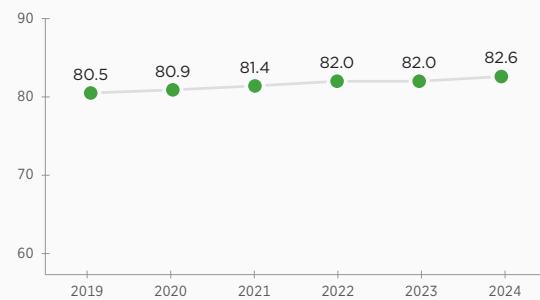
The Irish economy has many firmly established institutional strengths and remains a world leader in economic freedom. Regulatory efficiency and openness to global trade and investment support Ireland's competitiveness. With no minimum capital requirement, the streamlined regulatory process is very conducive to dynamic investment. The labor market remains relatively flexible, and labor costs are moderate. Monetary stability has been relatively well maintained. Strong economic fundamentals are undergirded by solid protection of property rights and an independent judiciary that safeguards the rule of law.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +14.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

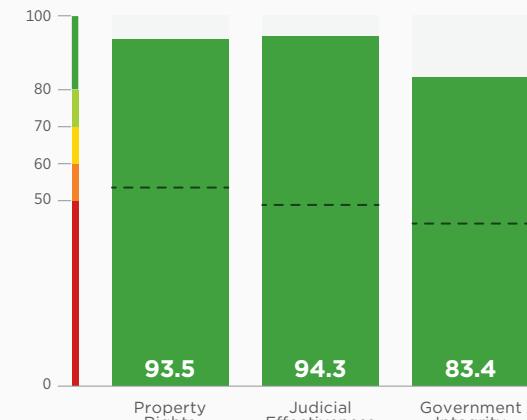
**POPULATION:**  
5.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$683.6 billion  
9.4% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 9.0%  
\$132,359 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
44.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

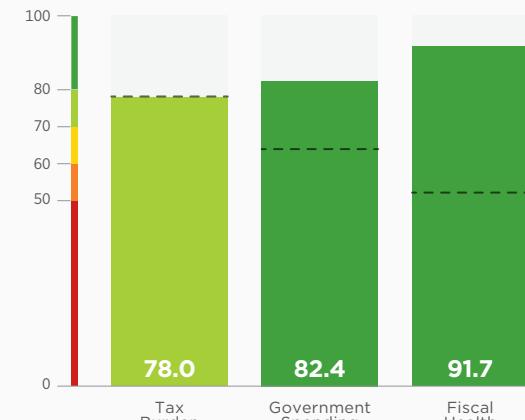
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | IRELAND

## RULE OF LAW



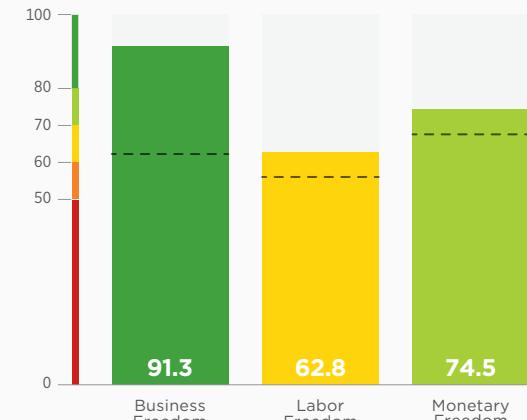
The overall rule of law is very well respected in Ireland. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 12.5 percent. The tax burden equals 21.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 24.3 percent and -1.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 44.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Ireland's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Commitment to facilitating global investment flows is institutionalized. Recapitalization and restructuring have restored financial-sector stability. The number of nonperforming loans remains relatively high.

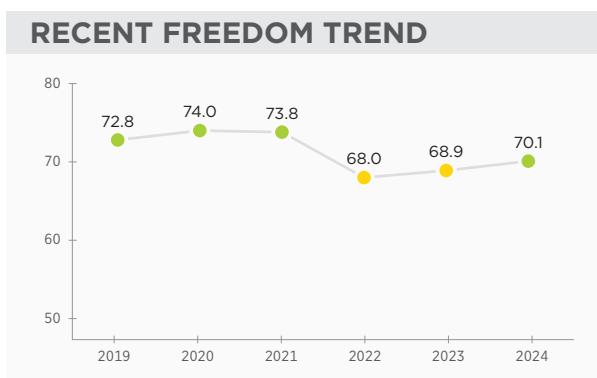
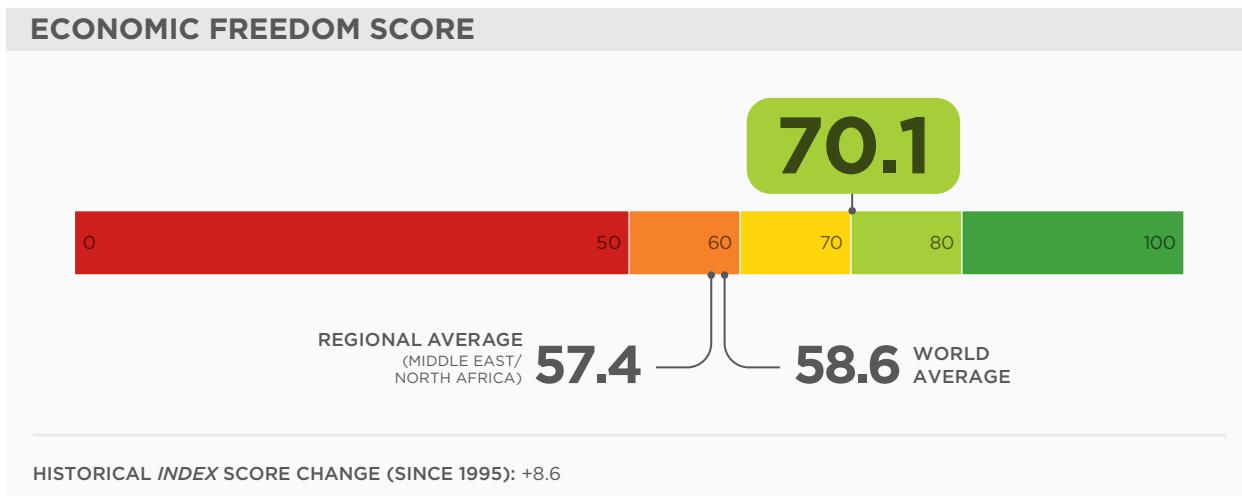


# ISRAEL



Israel's economic freedom score is 70.1, making its economy the 26th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.2 points from last year, and Israel is ranked 2nd out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Israel's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Despite an increasingly challenging security environment, Israel's economic competitiveness is anchored in strong protection of property rights and relatively low levels of corruption. The management of public finance still needs to be improved. Israel's overall regulatory framework promotes entrepreneurial activity, and its openness to global commerce supports productivity growth. The pace of regulatory reform is slightly behind that of other emerging economies. The labor market needs more flexibility to accommodate rapid economic transformation. Inflation has been modest, but upward pressures persist.



### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 9.4 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 5.0%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$502.3 billion 6.5% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 4.4% \$51,990 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 4.4%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$27.8 billion	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 60.7% of GDP
<small>2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.</small>	

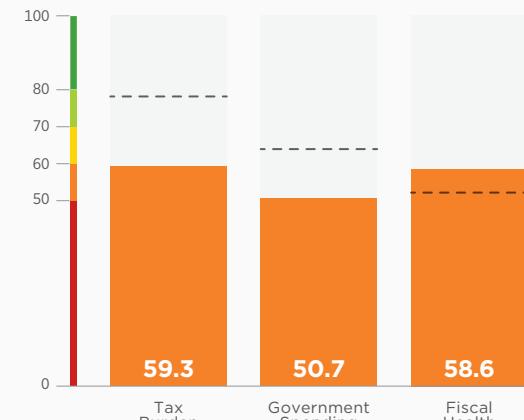
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ISRAEL

## RULE OF LAW



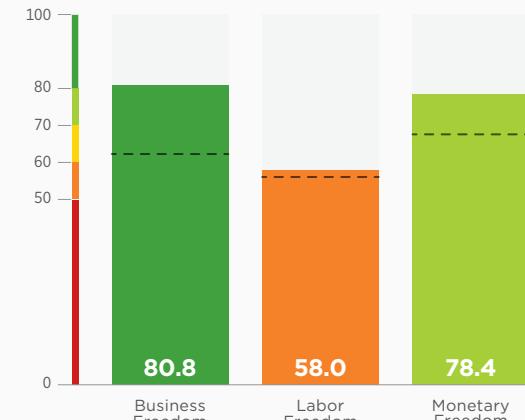
The overall rule of law is well respected in Israel. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



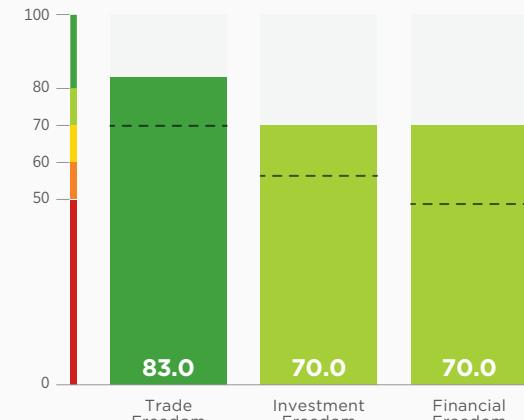
The top individual income tax rate is 50 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 23 percent. The tax burden equals 32.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 40.5 percent and -4.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 60.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

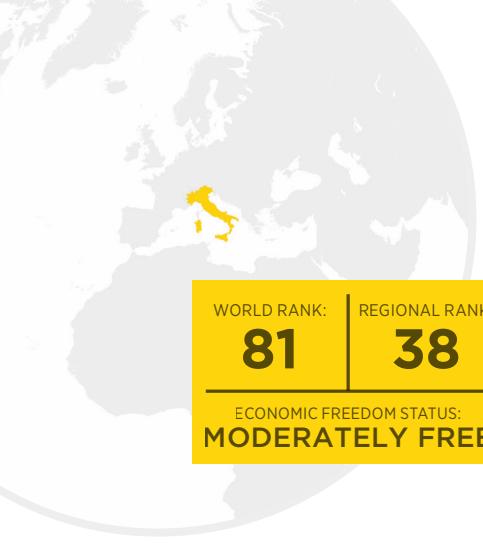


Israel's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 3.5 percent, and more than 90 nontariff measures are in force. Economic competitiveness is generally facilitated by openness to foreign investment. Banking remains concentrated, but commercial banks offer a range of financial services that support the private sector.

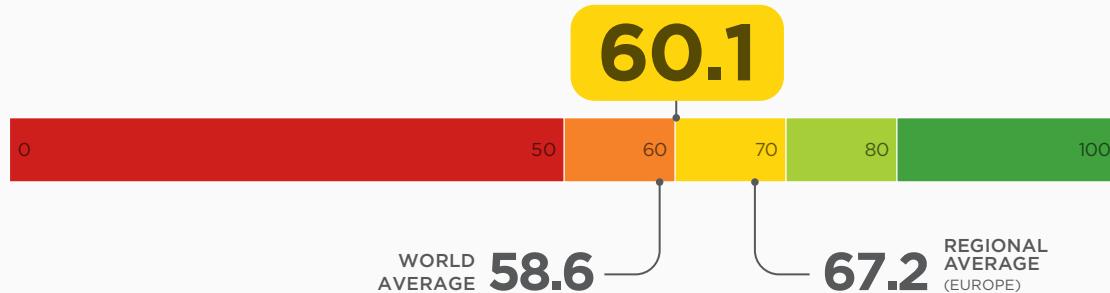


# ITALY

Italy's economic freedom score is 60.1, making its economy the 81st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.2 points from last year, and Italy is ranked 38th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Italy's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

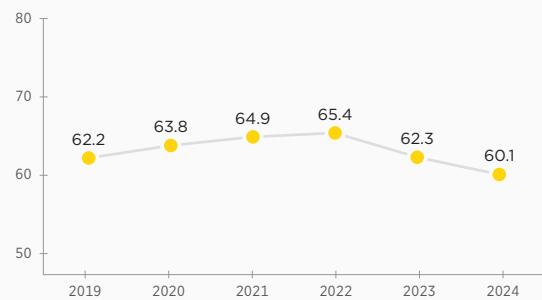
The Italian economy has been mired in a protracted slowdown. Despite repeated attempts at reform, economic competitiveness has flagged. Much-needed structural reforms have not been implemented effectively, and the economy is still burdened by poor management of public finance and other institutional issues. Public debt, which is more than 140 percent and growing, undermines prospects for long-term development. Because of the regulatory framework's complexity, the informal sector still accounts for a significant portion of economic activity in Italy.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -1.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

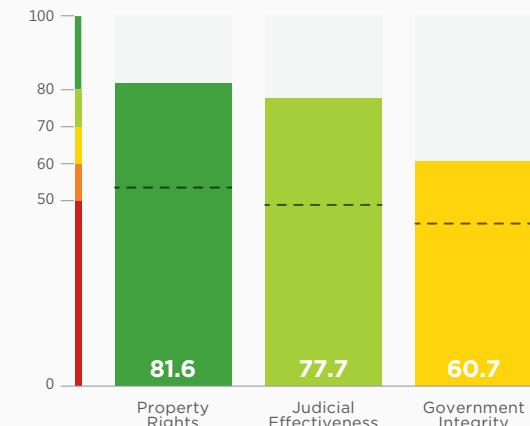
**POPULATION:**  
59.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$3.1 trillion  
3.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.6%  
\$51,827 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
9.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.7%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$19.9 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
144.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

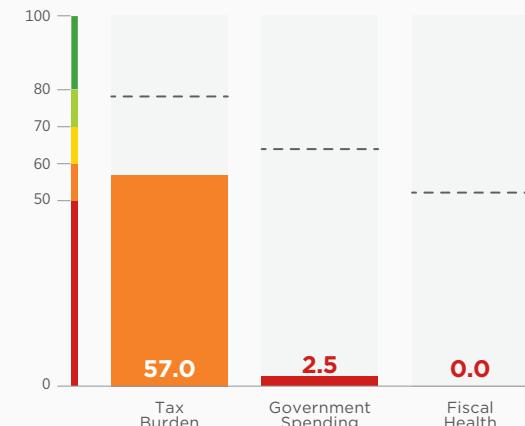
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ITALY

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is well respected in Italy. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 43 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 24 percent. The tax burden equals 43.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 57.0 percent and -8.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 144.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

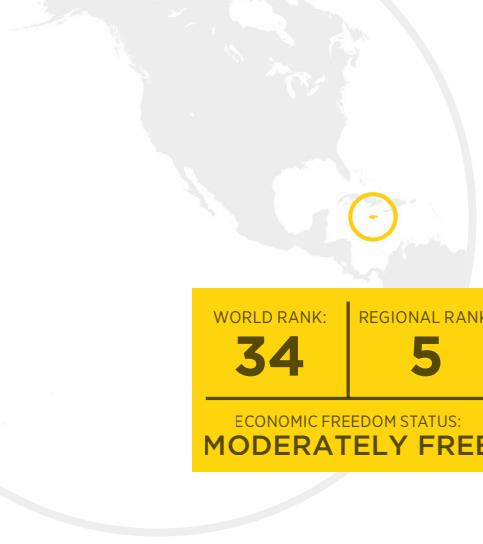


Italy's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Foreign investment is not generally screened, and the economy is largely open. The financial sector is stable, but nonperforming loans remain a problem.



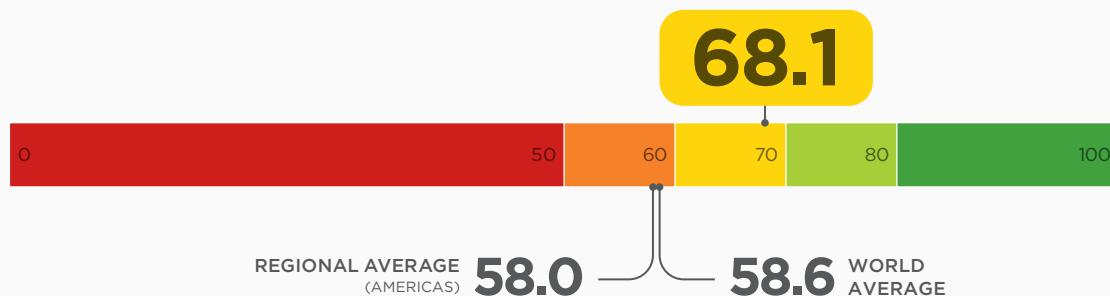
# JAMAICA



Jamaica's economic freedom score is 68.1, making its economy the 34th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is unchanged from last year, and Jamaica is ranked 5th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Jamaica's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

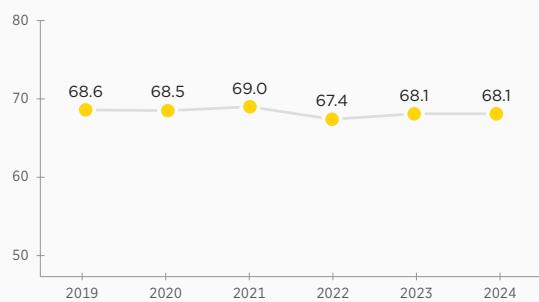
Jamaica has taken steps to enhance regulatory efficiency and better integrate its economy into the global marketplace. The economy performs relatively well in investment freedom and business freedom, but persistent corruption, relatively high government spending, a bloated public sector, and the need to enforce expenditure restraint remain critical challenges. The overall process for starting a business has been streamlined, but licensing requirements remain burdensome. The labor market is relatively constraining and not fully developed. The most recent available inflation rate is slightly above 10 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +3.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

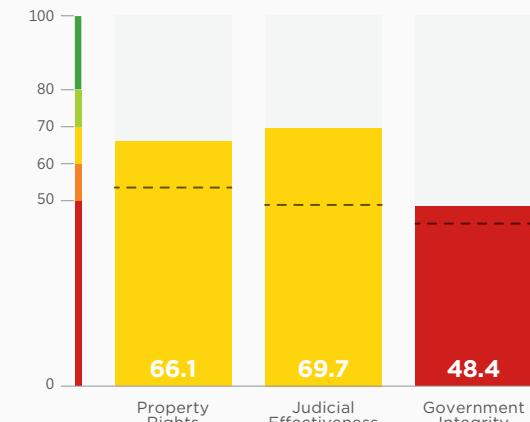
**POPULATION:**  
3.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$33.8 billion  
5.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.5%  
\$12,302 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
9.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
10.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$360.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
77.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

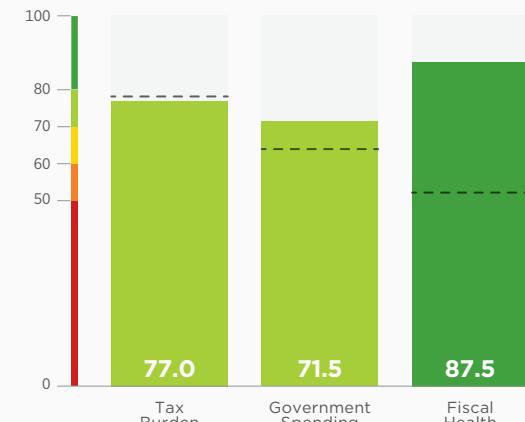
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | JAMAICA

## RULE OF LAW



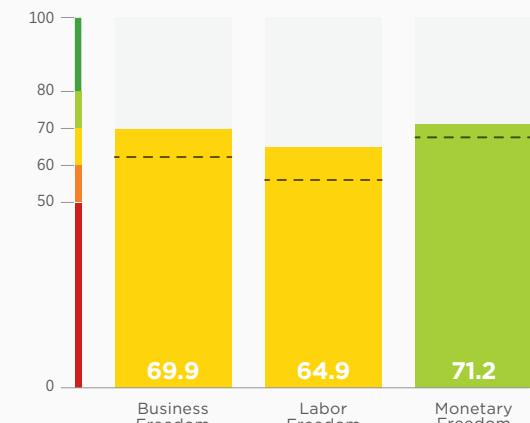
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Jamaica. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 27.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 30.8 percent and -0.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 77.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

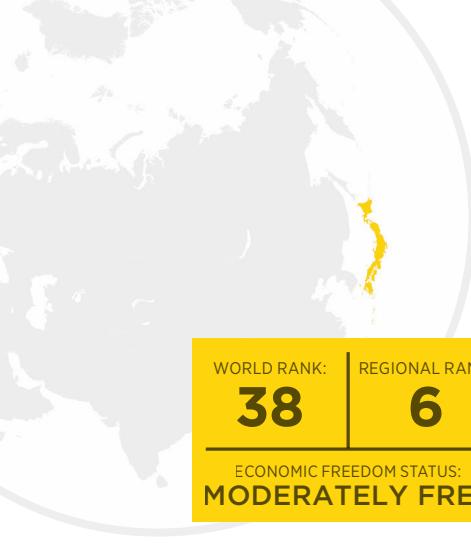


Jamaica's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 9.2 percent. Jamaica is relatively open to foreign investment, but state-owned enterprises distort the economy. High financing costs deter private-sector growth. Approximately 80 percent of adult Jamaicans have an account with a formal banking institution.



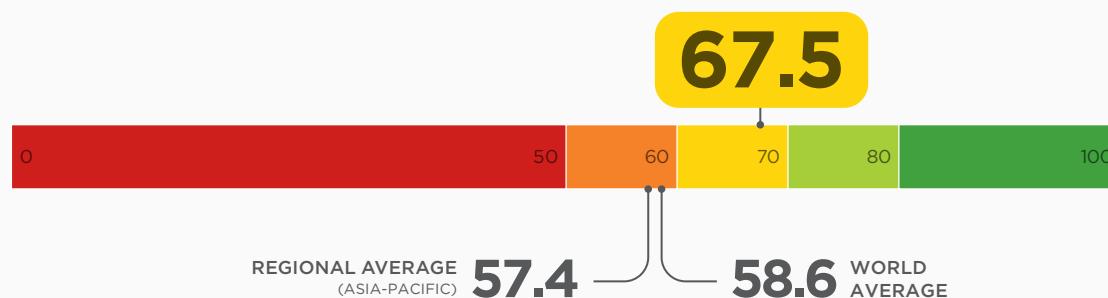
# JAPAN



Japan's economic freedom score is 67.5, making its economy the 38th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.8 points from last year, and Japan is ranked 6th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Japan's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

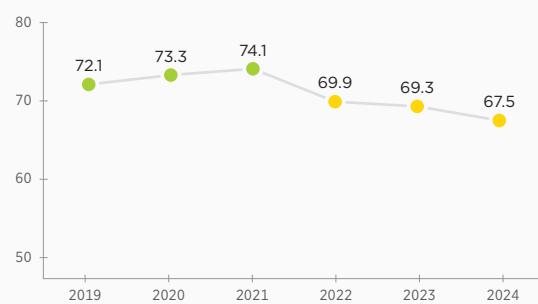
The Japanese economy benefits from relatively good levels of economic freedom in all areas. The foundations of economic freedom are supported by an effective judicial framework and the absence of corruption. However, overall progress in moving toward greater economic freedom has been uneven, and the economy remains stagnant. Although the regulatory framework is relatively streamlined, structural problems discourage entrepreneurial growth. The labor market functions well, but a propensity for lifetime employment guarantees and seniority-based wages is a barrier to greater labor market flexibility.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -7.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

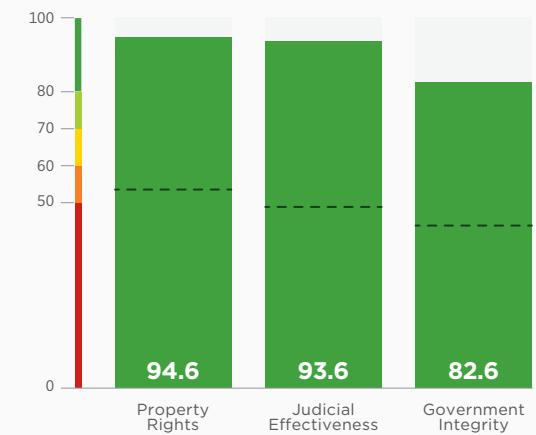
**POPULATION:**  
125.7 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$6.1 trillion  
1.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -0.1%  
\$49,090 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
2.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
2.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$32.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
260.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

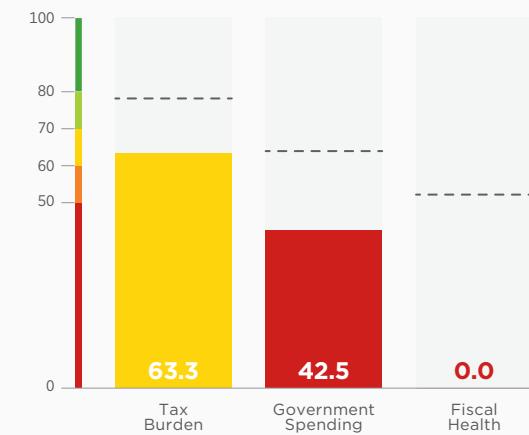
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | JAPAN

## RULE OF LAW



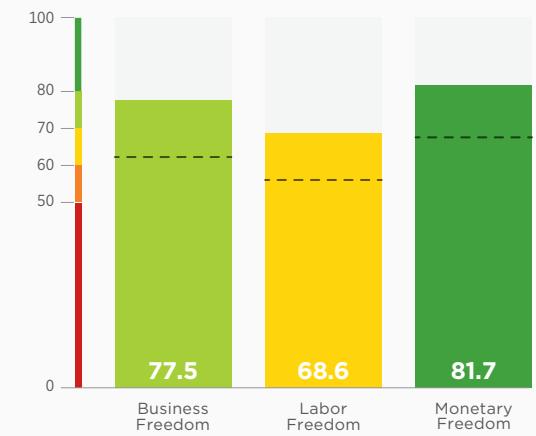
The overall rule of law is very well respected in Japan. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.<sup>1</sup>

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



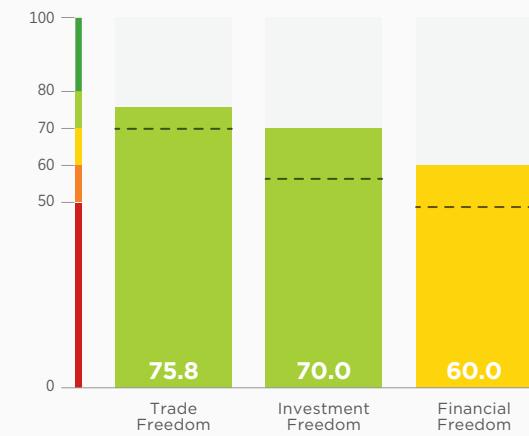
The top individual income tax rate is 45 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 23.2 percent. The tax burden equals 33.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 43.8 percent and -7.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 260.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Japan's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 2.1 percent, and more than 300 nontariff measures are in force. The government screens foreign investment in some sectors. The financial sector is competitive and offers a wide range of modern financial services, but the state still maintains a presence.



# JORDAN

WORLD RANK:

**92**

REGIONAL RANK:

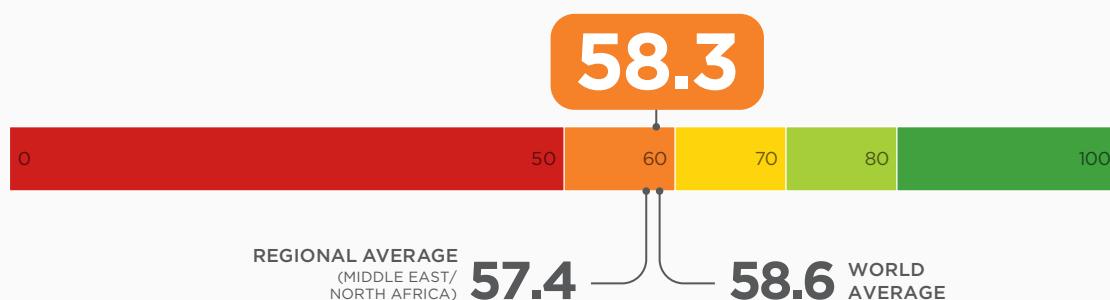
**8**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

Jordan's economic freedom score is 58.3, making its economy the 92nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.5 point from last year, and Jordan is ranked 8th out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Jordan's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

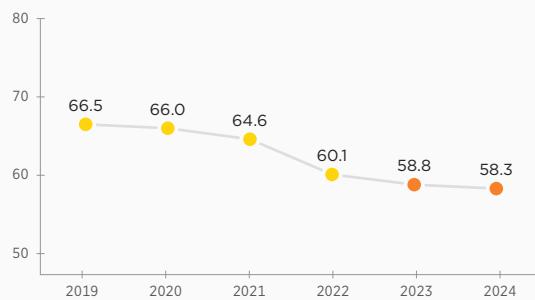
Structural weaknesses constrain more vibrant economic growth. The rule of law is not strongly supported by the judicial system. Despite the challenging global economic situation, however, Jordan's openness to international trade and investment is relatively intact. Business formation and operation are now more efficient and dynamic. Progress toward reforming bloated public-sector employment has been slow, and the labor market is very rigid. Most price controls have been eliminated, but the government sets prices for some services.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -4.4

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
10.3 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$124.2 billion  
2.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.4%  
\$12,055 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
19.3%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
4.2%

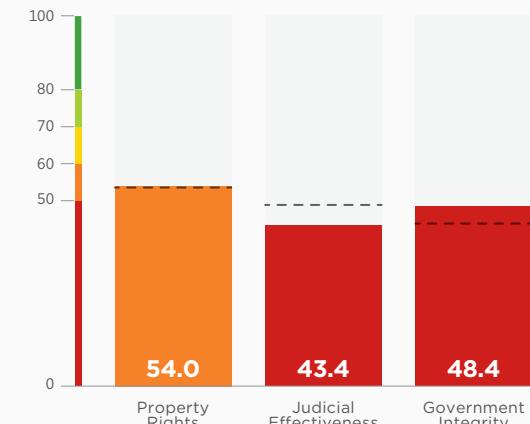
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.1 billion

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
94.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

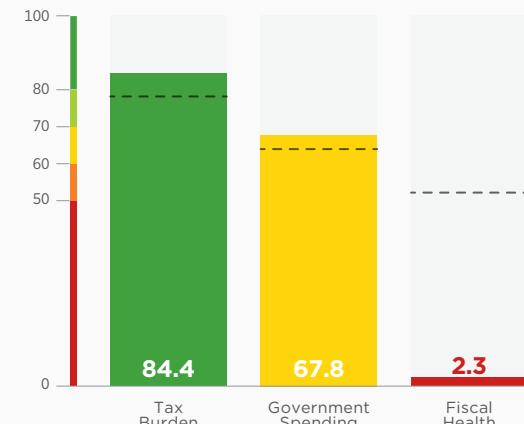
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | JORDAN

## RULE OF LAW



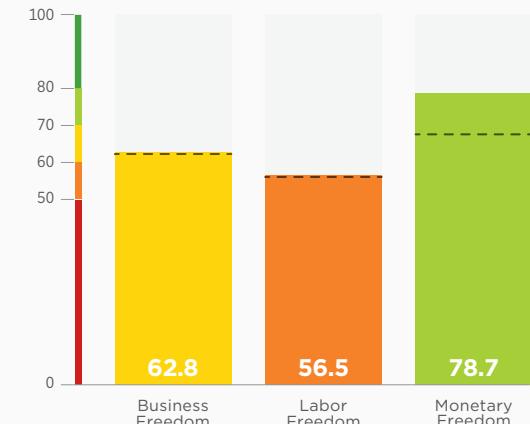
The overall rule of law is weak in Jordan. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 16.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 32.8 percent and -7.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 94.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

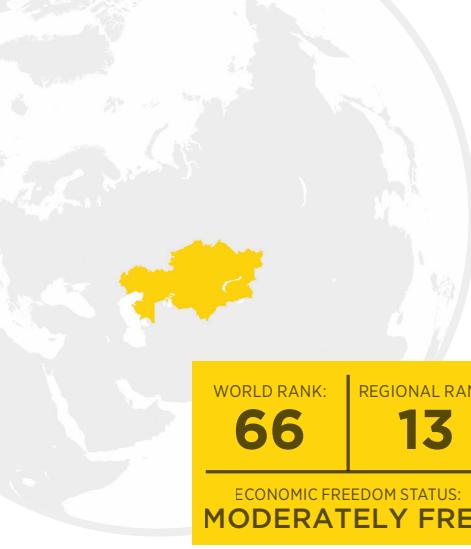


Jordan's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 9.3 percent, and nontariff barriers continue to be in force. In general, foreign and local investors are treated equally under the law. Banking regulations generally conform to international standards.



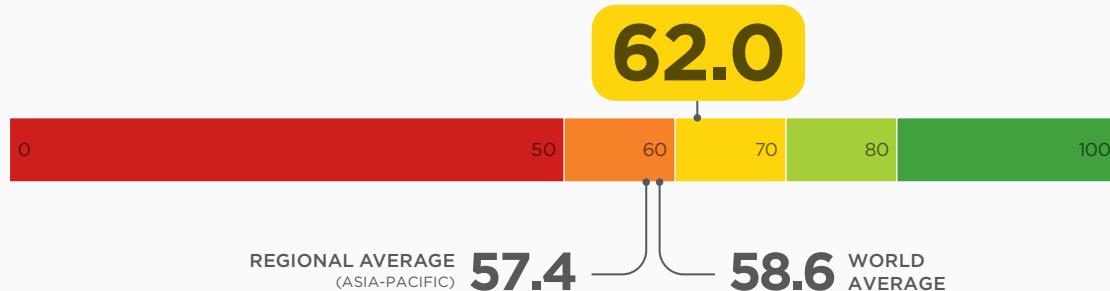
# KAZAKHSTAN



Kazakhstan's economic freedom score is 62, making its economy the 66th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is essentially unchanged from last year, and Kazakhstan is ranked 13th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Kazakhstan's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

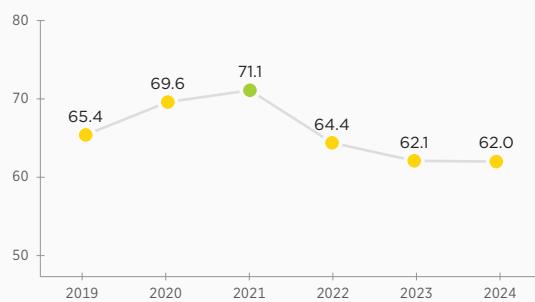
Despite a decade of progress, institutional shortcomings such as a weak judicial system and persistent corruption discourage diversification and modernization in Kazakhstan. The regulatory framework has undergone reform. The procedures for establishing a business, while streamlined, are still costly. Labor regulations are relatively flexible, but enforcement of the labor code remains inefficient. Substantial oil revenues enable a high degree of fiscal freedom. Broader and stronger foundations of economic freedom are even more critical to the country's long-term economic prospects and overall competitiveness. Inflationary pressures continue.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1998): +20.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

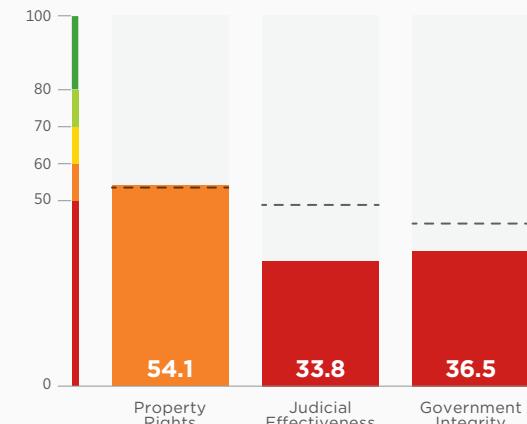
**POPULATION:**  
19.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$603.3 billion  
3.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.7%  
\$30,523 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.9%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
15.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$6.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
23.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

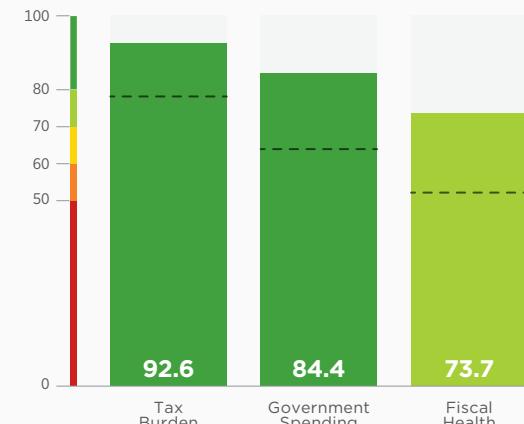
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | KAZAKHSTAN

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is weak in Kazakhstan. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 10 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 15.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 22.8 percent and -4.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 23.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

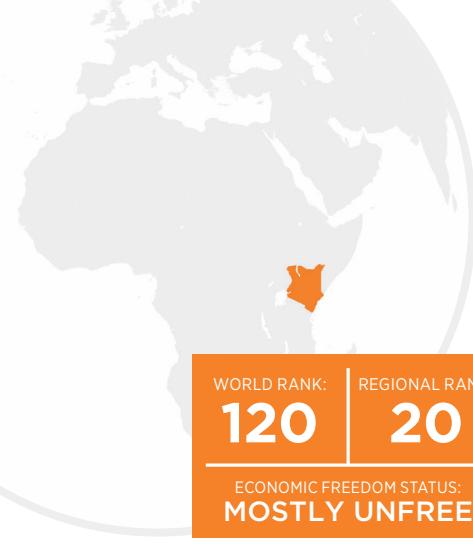


Kazakhstan's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.2 percent, and layers of nontariff measures are in force. Foreign investment in some sectors is restricted, and state-owned enterprises distort the economy. The financial sector is relatively stable but subject to state influence.



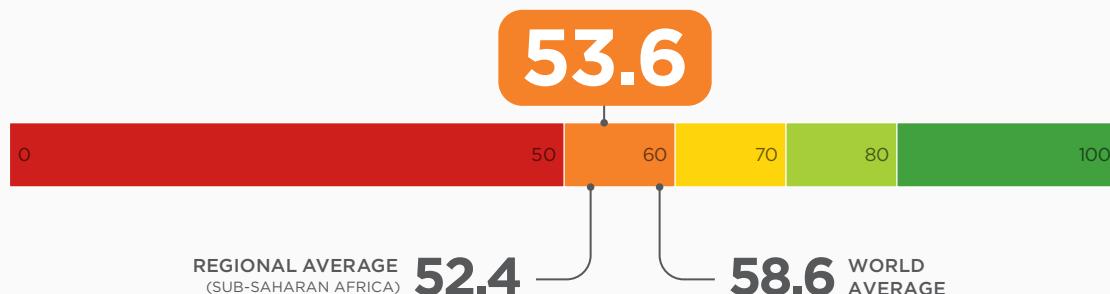
# KENYA

WORLD RANK: **120** | REGIONAL RANK: **20**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **MOSTLY UNFREE**

**K**enya's economic freedom score is 53.6, making its economy the 120th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.1 points from last year, and Kenya is ranked 20th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Kenya's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

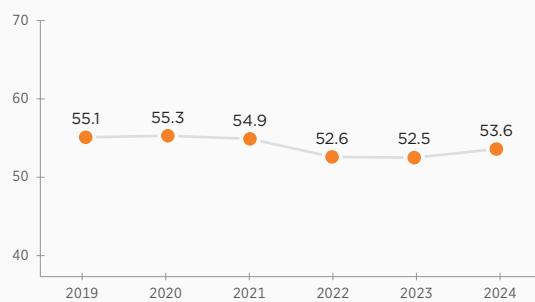
Despite some progress, the foundations of economic freedom are fragile and uneven. The rule of law is weak, and local courts are subject to substantial political interference. Poor protection of property rights and widespread corruption discourage entrepreneurial activity. Progress in reforming management of public finance has been marginal. Implementation and enforcement of reforms to enhance regulatory efficiency have been uneven. The informal economy employs a large portion of the labor force. Monetary stability has weakened with rising inflation.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -0.9

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

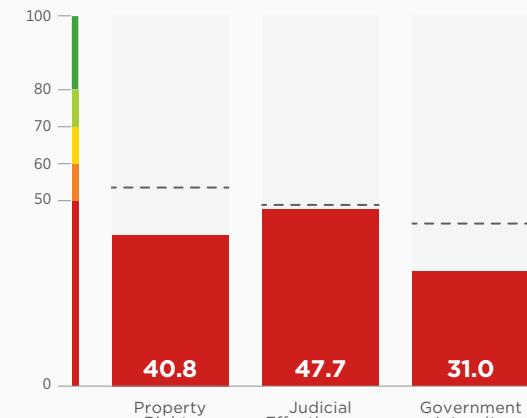
**POPULATION:**  
55.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$311.5 billion  
4.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.6%  
\$6,151 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
7.6%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$759.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
68.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

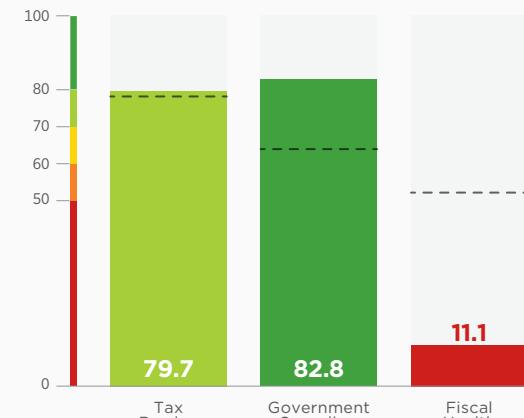
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | KENYA

## RULE OF LAW



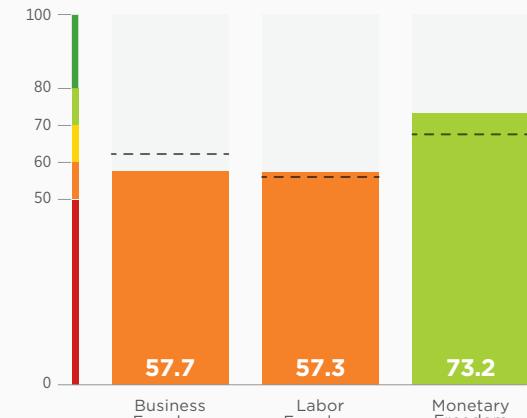
The overall rule of law is weak in Kenya. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



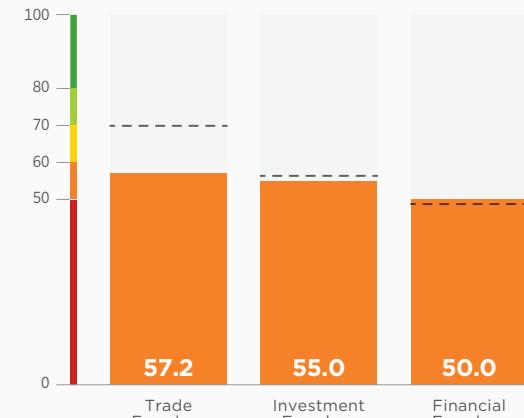
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 15.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 23.9 percent and -7.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 68.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Kenya's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 11.4 percent. Foreign ownership in some sectors is restricted, and state-owned enterprises undermine more dynamic private-sector development. The financial sector has become more open to competition, and its overall stability is maintained relatively well.

WORLD RANK:

**138**

REGIONAL RANK:

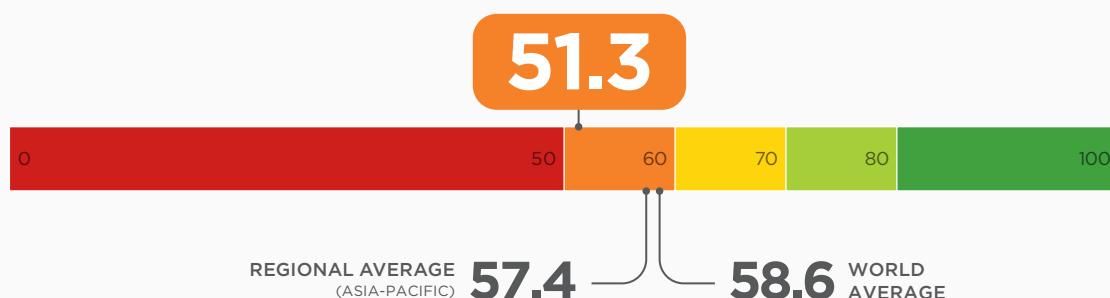
**29**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# KIRIBATI

**K**iribati's economic freedom score is 51.3, making its economy the 138th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 7.5 points from last year, and Kiribati is ranked 29th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Kiribati's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

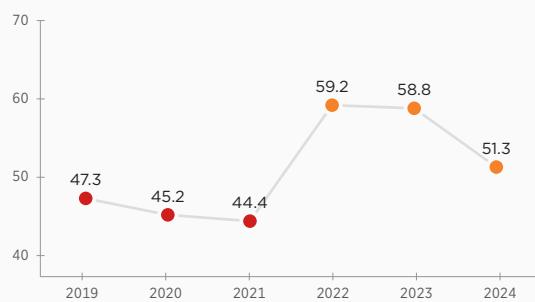
Economic activity is still dominated by the public sector, which accounts for two-thirds of employment and more than half of the economy. The economy relies heavily on foreign assistance and remittances. The absence of firmly institutionalized open-market policies that are critical to private-sector development continues to discourage economic dynamism. The regulatory environment is rudimentary. Commercial regulations are not enforced consistently and lack the capacity to spur more dynamic entrepreneurial growth. Only a small share of the labor force participates in the formal economy.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): +5.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

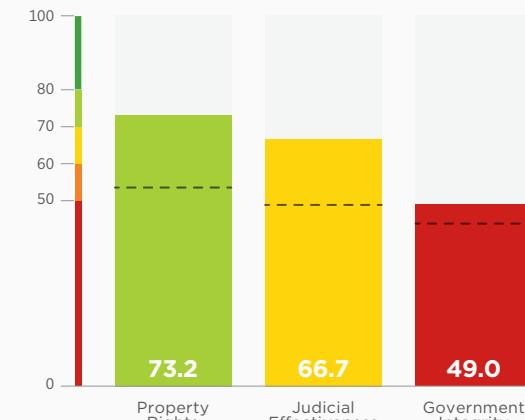
**POPULATION:**  
0.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$279.0 million  
1.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.2%  
\$2,271 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
30.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
15.2% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | KIRIBATI

## RULE OF LAW



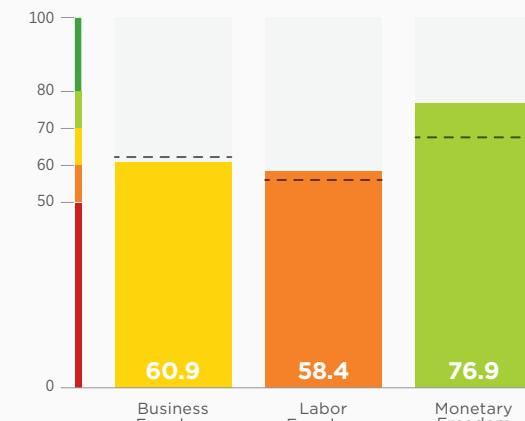
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Kiribati. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



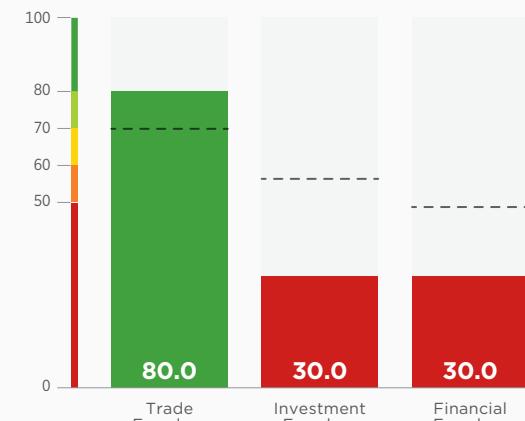
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 22.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 116.6 percent and -8.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 15.2 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Kiribati's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 0.0 percent, but nontariff barriers persist. Kiribati is not a member of the World Trade Organization. Inefficient state-owned enterprises and regulations that hinder private-sector development continue to discourage investment. High credit costs undermine the private sector.



# NORTH KOREA

WORLD RANK:

**176**

REGIONAL RANK:

**39**

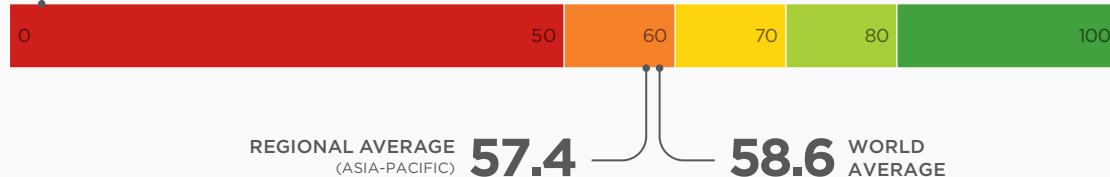
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSIVE**

Based on limited available information, North Korea's economic freedom score is 2.9, making its economy the world's least free in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is unchanged from last year, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is ranked 39th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. North Korea's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

North Korea is still largely isolated from the rest of the world, and its dictatorial leadership remains unwilling to open or restructure the economy. Despite some experimentation with a few market reforms, the economy is still controlled by the state. The Communist Party dictates every aspect of the economy through central planning, and entrepreneurial activity is virtually impossible. After decades of financial mismanagement, relative autarky, and resource misallocation, North Korea has faced chronic food shortages.

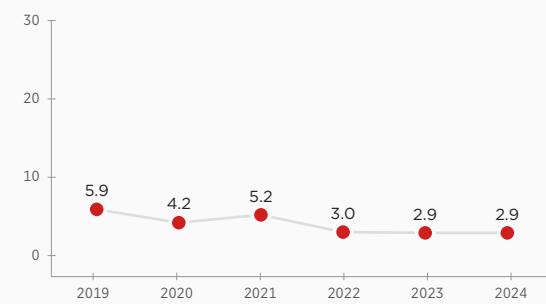
## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE

**2.9**



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -6.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
25.9 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
n/a  
n/a growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: n/a  
n/a per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
n/a

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
n/a

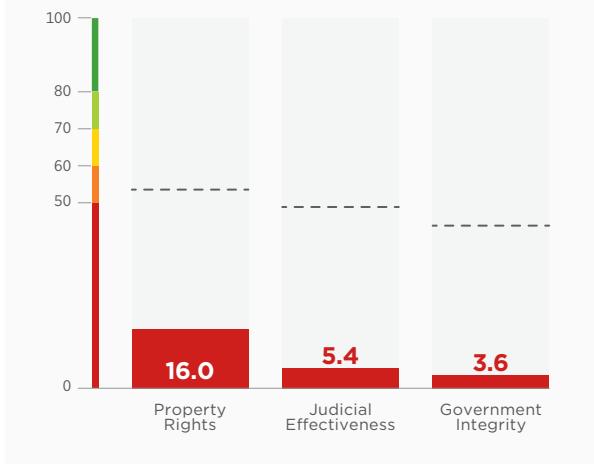
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$10.0 million

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
n/a

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

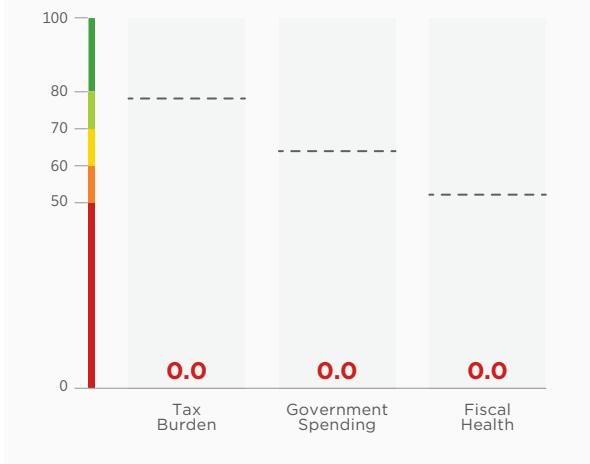
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | NORTH KOREA

## RULE OF LAW



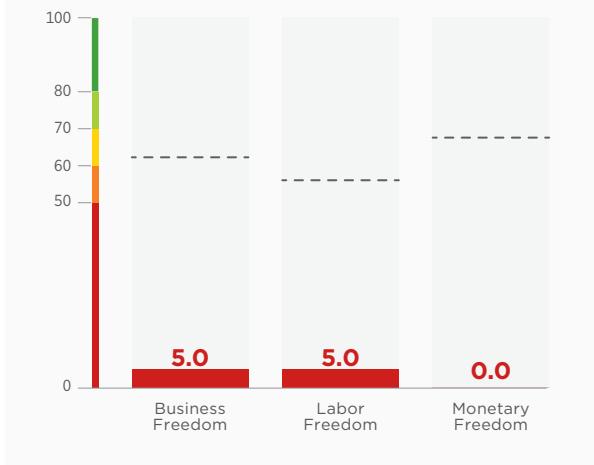
The overall rule of law is weak in North Korea. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



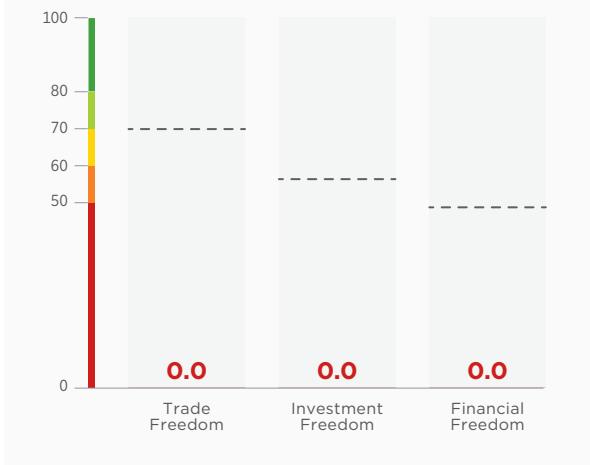
There is no effective tax system. The government controls all significant activity. The state sets production levels for most products, and state-owned industries account for nearly 100 percent of the country's GDP. The magnitude of North Korea's military spending further drains scarce resources.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



North Korea's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



Trade and investment flows are controlled by the government. The dominant influence of the military establishment makes any meaningful near-term change unlikely. Access to financing is very limited and constrained by the repressive economic system, which remains firmly controlled by the state.

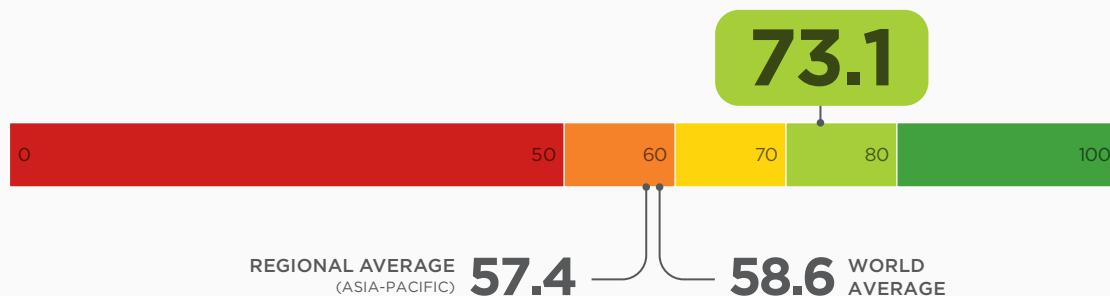


# SOUTH KOREA

**S**outh Korea's economic freedom score is 73.1, making its economy the 14th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased slightly from last year, and South Korea is ranked 5th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. South Korea's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

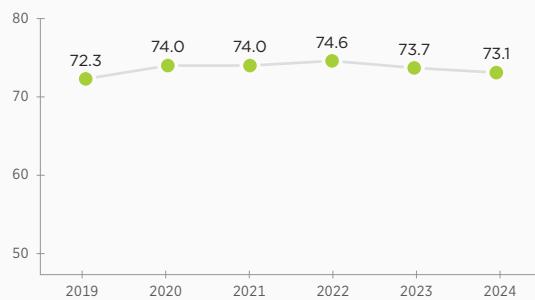
South Korea's dynamic economy has demonstrated notable resilience. A vibrant private sector bolstered by a well-educated labor force and high capacity for innovation has capitalized on the country's openness to global commerce. The legal framework is sound, but corruption undermines government integrity. The regulatory framework facilitates entrepreneurial activity and innovation. The labor market is dynamic, but regulatory rigidities are still present, and powerful trade unions add to the cost of conducting business. Monetary stability has been relatively well maintained despite inflationary pressures.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +1.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

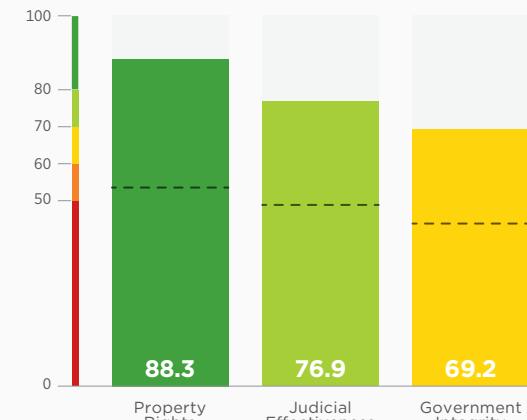
**POPULATION:**  
51.7 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$2.8 trillion  
2.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.3%  
\$53,845 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$18.0 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
53.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

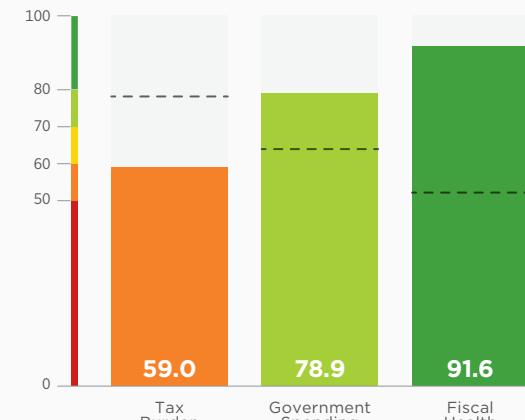
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SOUTH KOREA

## RULE OF LAW



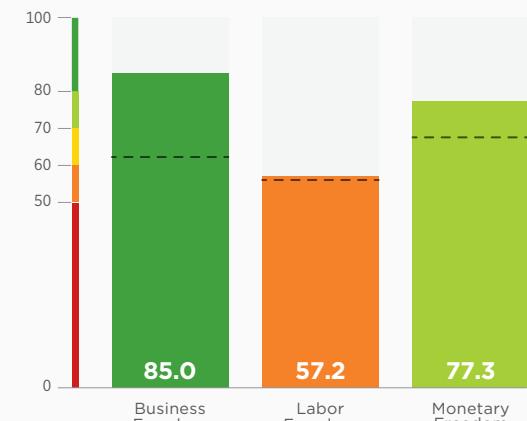
The overall rule of law is well respected in South Korea. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 49.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 27.5 percent. The tax burden equals 29.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 26.5 percent and -1.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 53.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

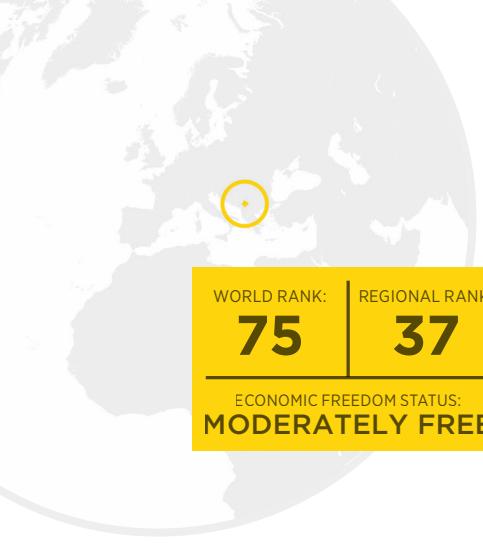


South Korea's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.3 percent, and more than 400 nontariff measures are in force. Foreign investment is facilitated by an efficient and modern regulatory framework. The financial sector is competitive, but business start-ups still struggle to obtain financing.



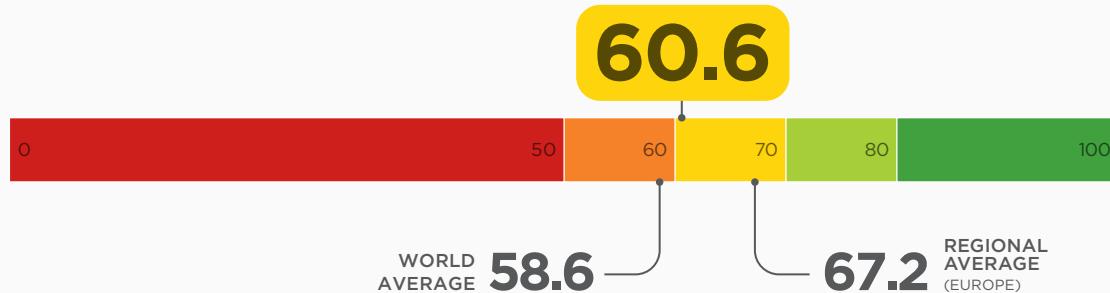
WORLD RANK: **75** | REGIONAL RANK: **37**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# KOSOVO

Kosovo's economic freedom score is 60.6, making its economy the 75th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.1 point from last year, and Kosovo is ranked 37th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Kosovo's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

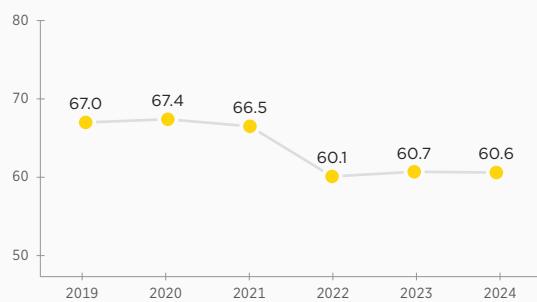
Kosovo's transition to a more market-driven economy remains a work in progress. Despite positive growth rates, the economy is characterized by political instability, corruption, an unreliable energy supply, a large informal economy, and a tenuous rule of law. Kosovo has implemented business-friendly reforms, but the overall regulatory framework remains burdensome. Informal market activity remains sizable. The formal labor market is not fully developed. Monetary stability has been weakened, and recent inflation rates have risen by more than 7 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2016): -0.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

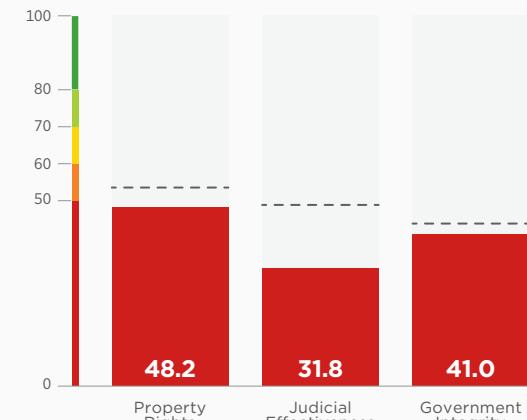
**POPULATION:**  
1.8 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$25.9 billion  
3.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.4%  
\$14,658 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
30.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
11.7%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
n/a  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
19.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

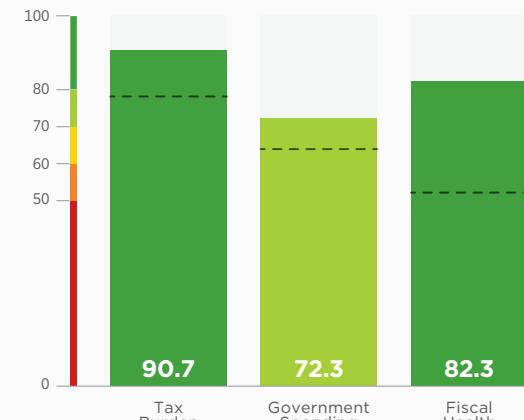
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | KOSOVO

## RULE OF LAW



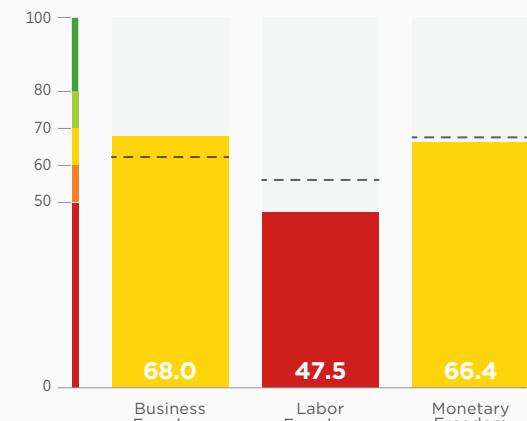
The overall rule of law is weak in Kosovo. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



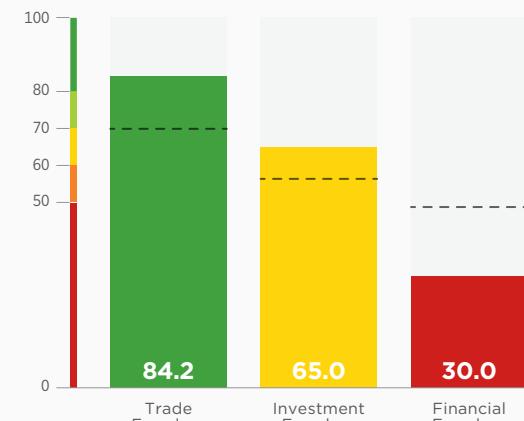
The top individual income tax rate is 10 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 10 percent. The tax burden equals 27.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 30.4 percent and -3.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 19.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

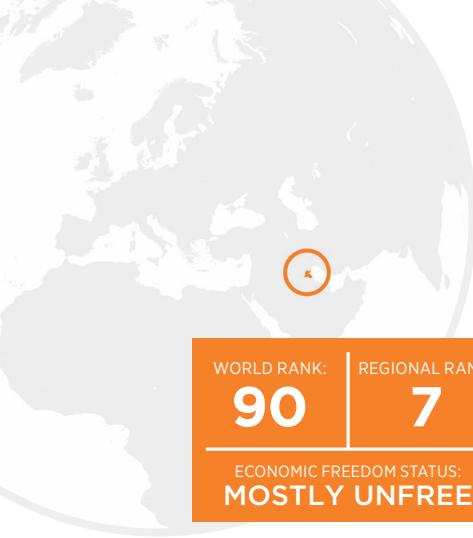


Kosovo's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

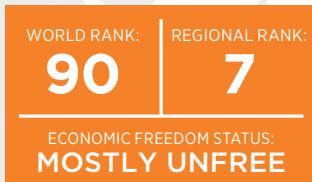
## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 2.9 percent. Efforts to dismantle nontariff barriers continue. In general, foreign and domestic investors are treated equally under the law. State-owned enterprises distort the economy. The financial system is dominated by banking and continues to evolve.



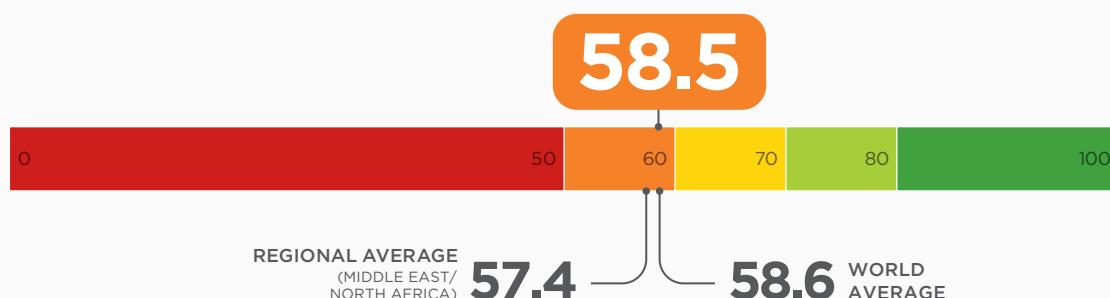
# KUWAIT



Kuwait's economic freedom score is 58.5, making its economy the 90th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.8 points from last year, and Kuwait is ranked 7th out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Kuwait's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

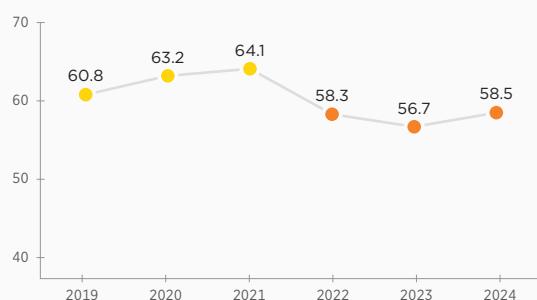
Institutional weaknesses continue to constrain overall economic freedom and competitiveness. The judicial system lacks the capacity to defend property rights effectively. Despite some progress, corruption continues to undermine prospects for long-term economic development. Kuwait has taken steps to improve its regulatory framework, but progress has been gradual and uneven. Overall, labor regulations lack flexibility. The government provides numerous subsidies and controls prices through state-owned utilities and enterprises. The most recent available inflation rate is 4.0 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): -7.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

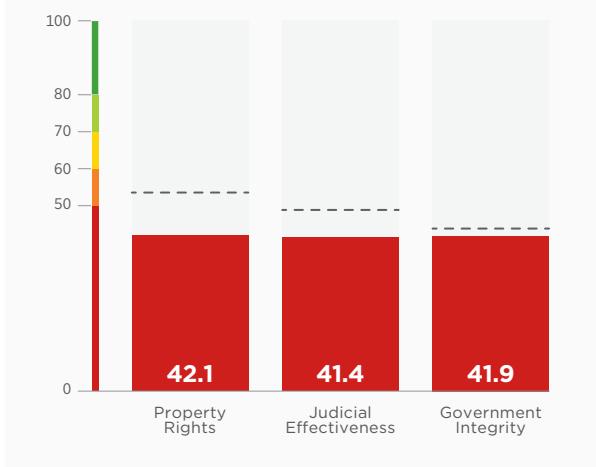
**POPULATION:**  
4.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$249.0 billion  
8.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.6%  
\$51,238 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
4.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$758.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
3.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

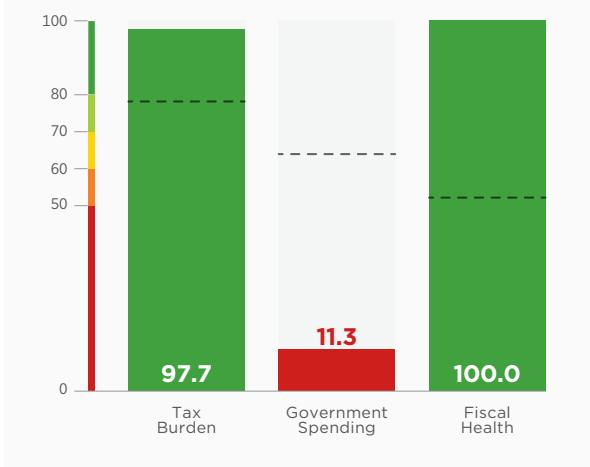
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | KUWAIT

## RULE OF LAW



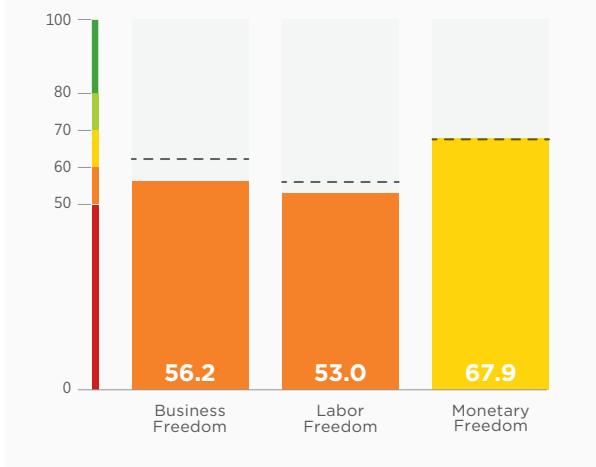
The overall rule of law is weak in Kuwait. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



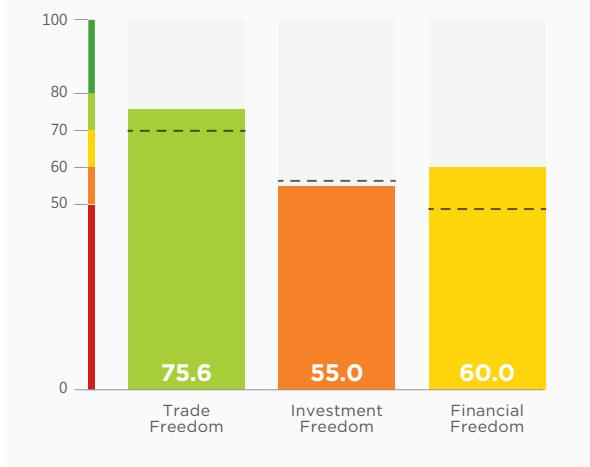
The top individual income tax rate is 0 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 1.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 54.4 percent and 2.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 3.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Kuwait's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 4.7 percent, and nontariff barriers remain in force. The economy is generally open to foreign investment, but some sectors are restricted. A modern financial regulatory system facilitates portfolio investment. The banking sector remains well capitalized.



# KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

WORLD RANK:

**112**

REGIONAL RANK:

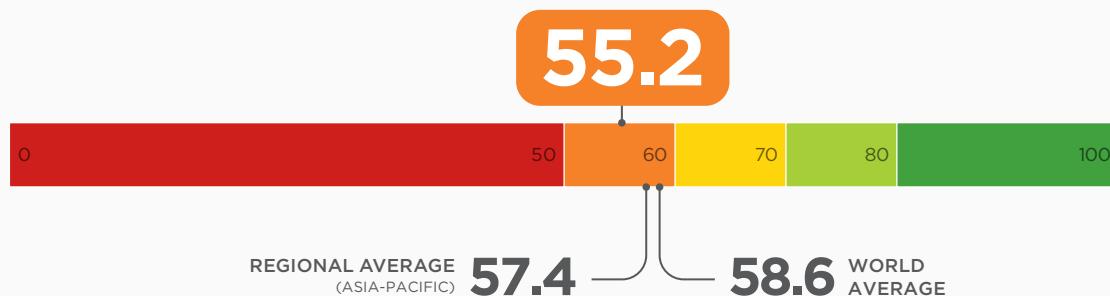
**23**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

The Kyrgyz Republic's economic freedom score is 55.2, making its economy the 112th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.6 point from last year, and the Kyrgyz Republic is ranked 23rd out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. The Kyrgyz Republic's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

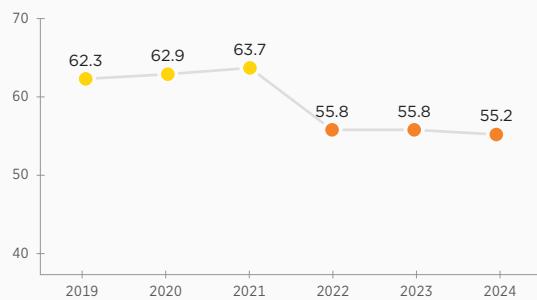
The Kyrgyz Republic's foundations of economic freedom are weak, and the power of vested interests continues to hold back implementation of any meaningful institutional reforms. Policies needed to support open markets remain deficient, and corruption continues to undermine the rule of law. Overall improvement in the entrepreneurial environment has been slow and uneven, and bureaucratic impediments to private-sector production and investment persist. Monetary stability has been weak. The most recent available inflation rate is 13.9 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1998): +3.4

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
6.7 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$41.6 billion  
6.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.6%  
\$6,127 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
9.1%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
13.9%

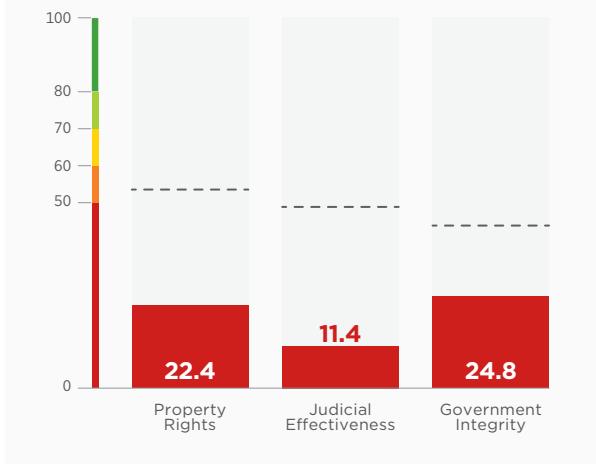
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$291.0 million

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
49.2% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

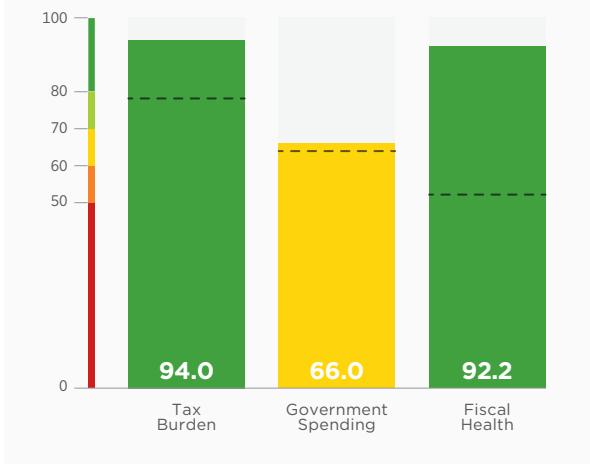
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## RULE OF LAW



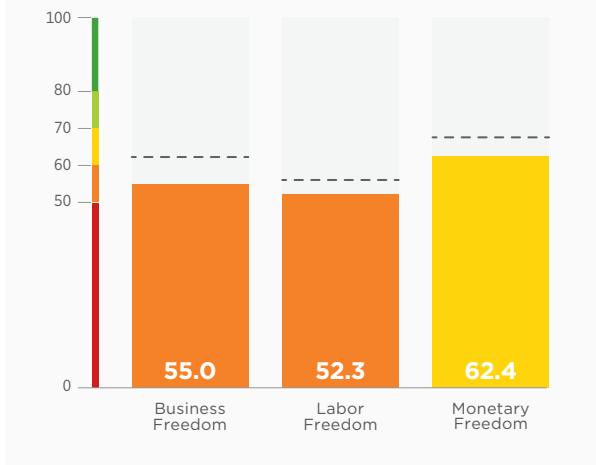
The overall rule of law is weak in the Kyrgyz Republic. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



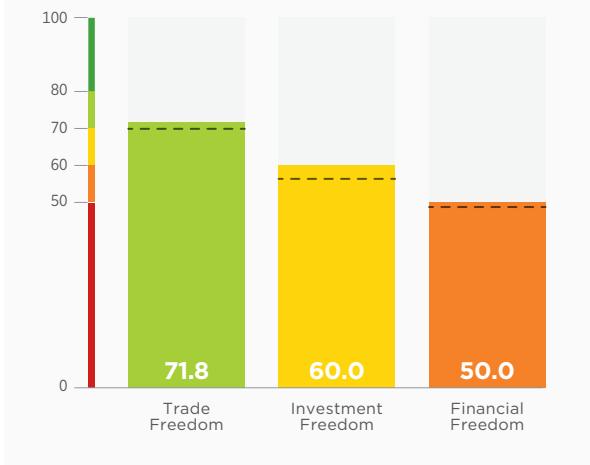
The top individual income tax rate is 10 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 10 percent. The tax burden equals 20.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 33.6 percent and -1.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 49.2 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

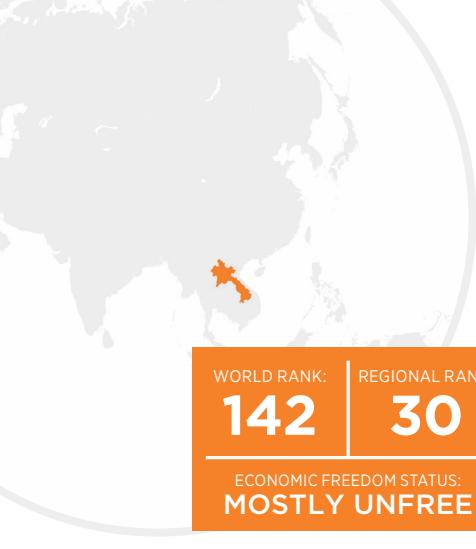


The Kyrgyz Republic's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.6 percent, and layers of nontariff measures are in force. The overall investment climate is subject to considerable risk and uncertainty. The financial sector, dominated by banking, is underdeveloped and lacks effective regulatory infrastructure. Credit costs remain high.



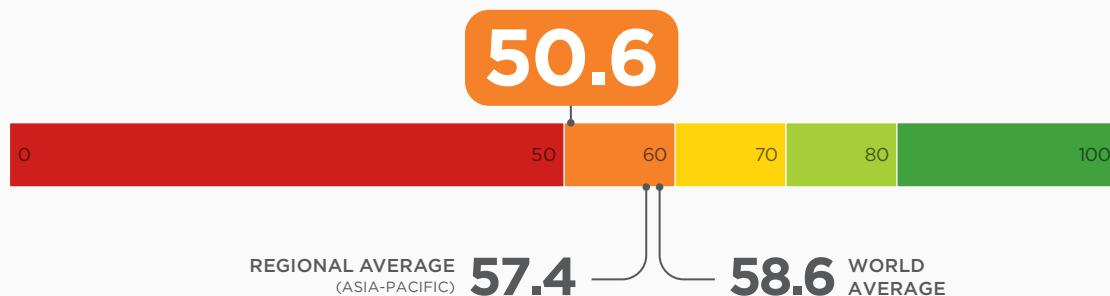
# LAOS

WORLD RANK: **142** | REGIONAL RANK: **30**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

Laos's economic freedom score is 50.6, making its economy the 142nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.3 point from last year, and Laos is ranked 30th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Laos's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

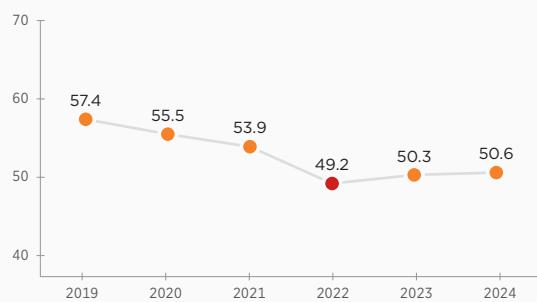
Deeper institutional reforms are needed in many areas of the economy to encourage broad-based long-term development. As low scores for property rights and freedom from corruption indicate, the legal framework is inefficient and lacks transparency. Corruption and political interference undermine the rule of law. The transition to a more market-friendly economy has been slow. Despite some progress, the underdeveloped labor market does not provide dynamic employment opportunities for the growing supply of labor. The government influences many prices through state-owned enterprises and utilities.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +12.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

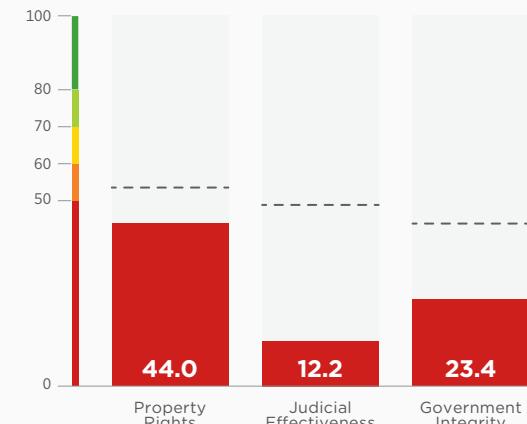
**POPULATION:**  
7.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$68.8 billion  
2.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.0%  
\$9,207 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
1.3%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
23.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$528.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
128.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

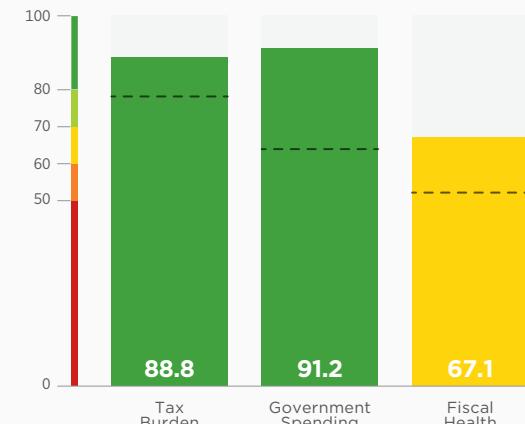
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | LAOS

## RULE OF LAW



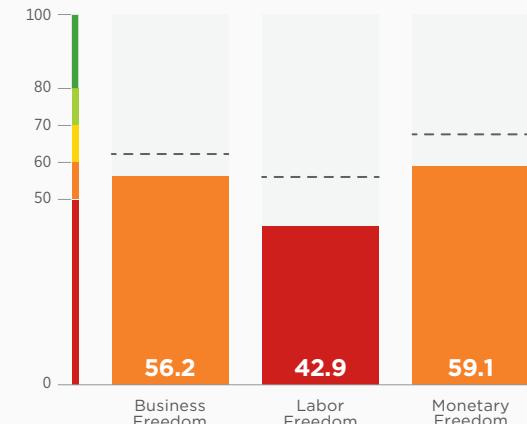
The overall rule of law is weak in Laos. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



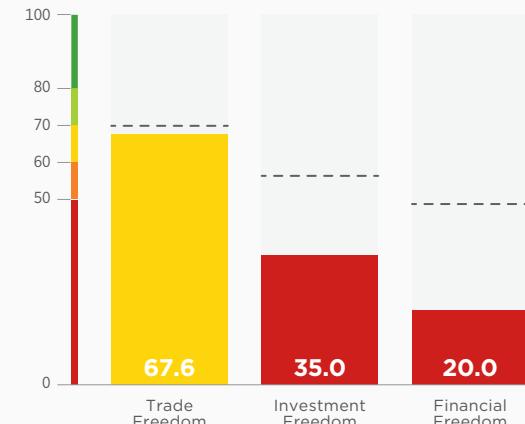
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 9.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 17.1 percent and -2.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 128.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Laos's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.7 percent, and myriad nontariff measures are in force. State-owned enterprises distort the economy, and layers of restrictions discourage more dynamic foreign investment. The financial sector is subject to state involvement and undermined by political vested interests.

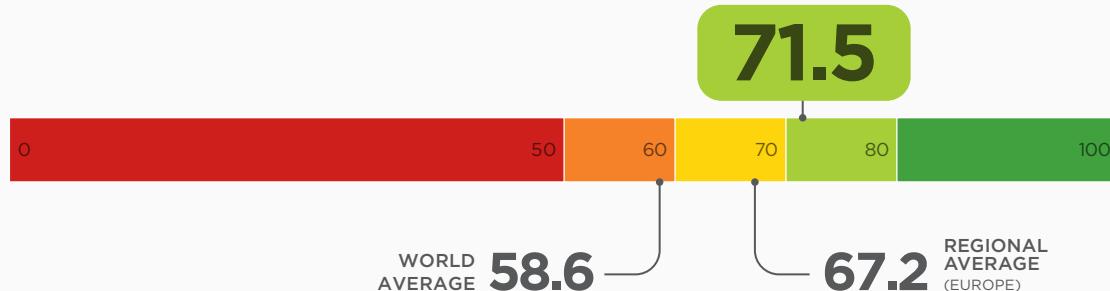


# LATVIA

Latvia's economic freedom score is 71.5, making its economy the 20th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.3 points from last year, and Latvia is ranked 13th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Latvia's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

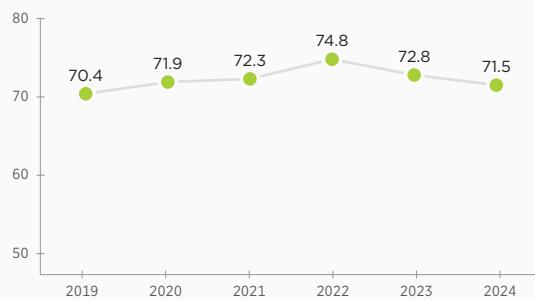
Latvia's ongoing transition to a more vibrant and market-oriented economy has been facilitated by openness to foreign trade and the efficiency of business regulations that promote entrepreneurial dynamism. With overall institutional competitiveness and committed political leadership in place, Latvia is well positioned for long-term economic development. The overall regulatory framework is relatively efficient and transparent. Rules regarding the formation and operation of private enterprises have been streamlined. Monetary stability has weakened, and the most recent available inflation rate is slightly above 17 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +16.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

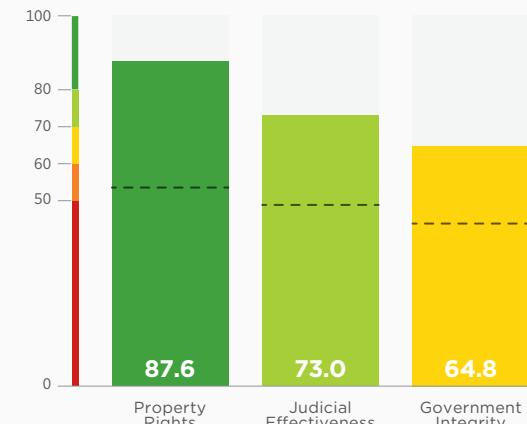
**POPULATION:**  
1.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$73.5 billion  
2.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.3%  
\$39,167 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
7.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
17.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
40.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

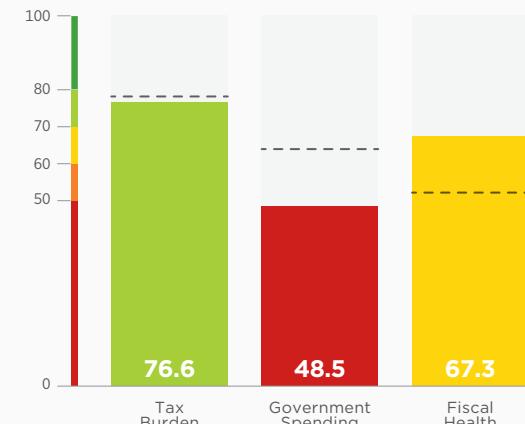
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | LATVIA

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is well respected in Latvia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 31 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 31.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 41.4 percent and -4.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 40.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Latvia's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. The investment regulatory framework is relatively efficient. In general, rules regarding foreign investment are not burdensome. The financial sector is resilient and well capitalized.

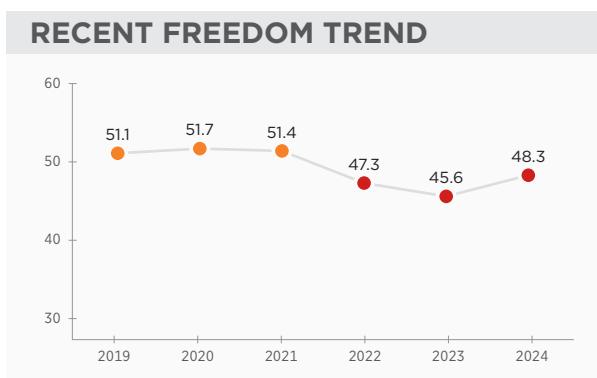
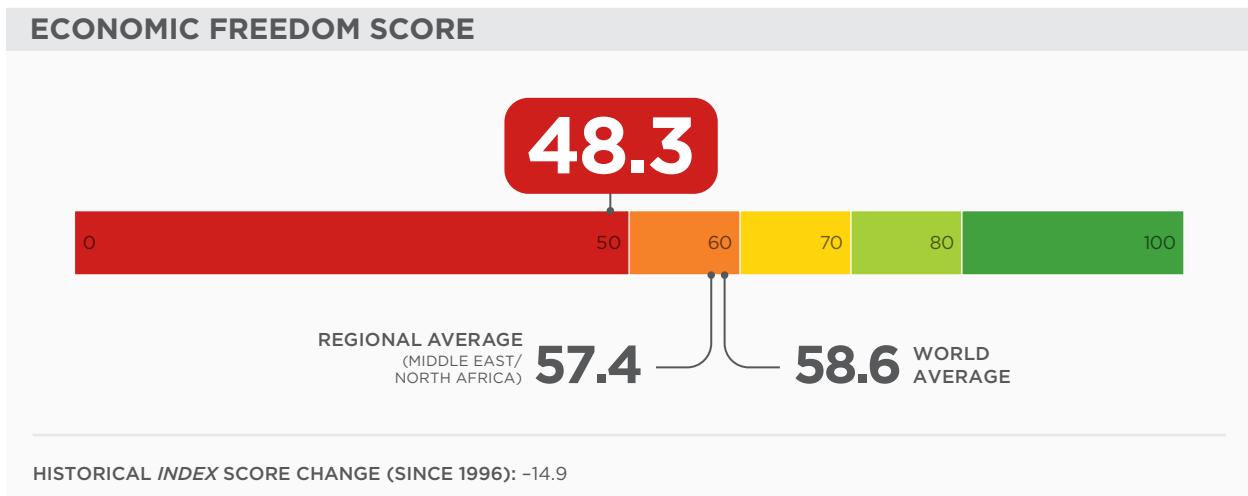


# LEBANON

WORLD RANK:	154	REGIONAL RANK:	12
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>REPRESSIVE</b>			

Lebanon's economic freedom score is 48.3, making its economy the 154th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 2.7 points from last year, and Lebanon is ranked 12th out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Lebanon's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

The foundations of Lebanon's economic freedom have been significantly undermined. The entrepreneurial environment, characterized by political instability and regulatory inefficiency, discourages more dynamic growth of private investment. Commercial regulations are still burdensome. In the absence of a well-functioning legal framework, protection of property rights remains weak, and corruption is widespread. Fiscal and financial crises exacerbate a bleak economic picture. The labor market has been undermined by political instability and uncertainty. The most recent available inflation rate is slightly above 171 percent.



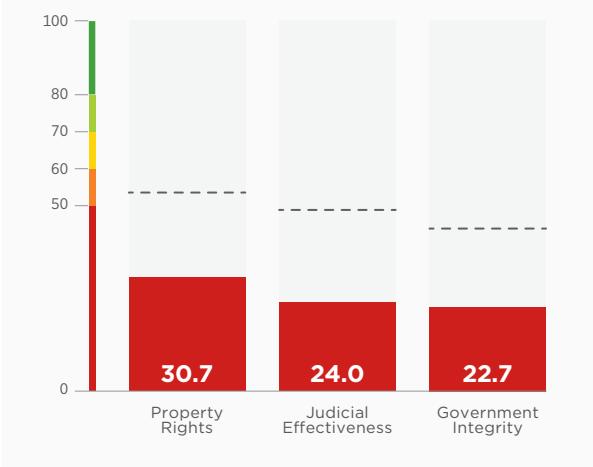
### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 6.8 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 14.5%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$78.2 billion -5.4% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: -11.2% \$11,794 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 171.2%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$458.0 million	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 283.2% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

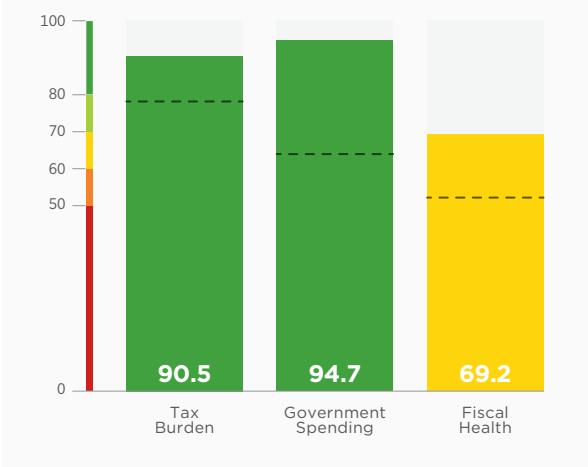
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | LEBANON

## RULE OF LAW



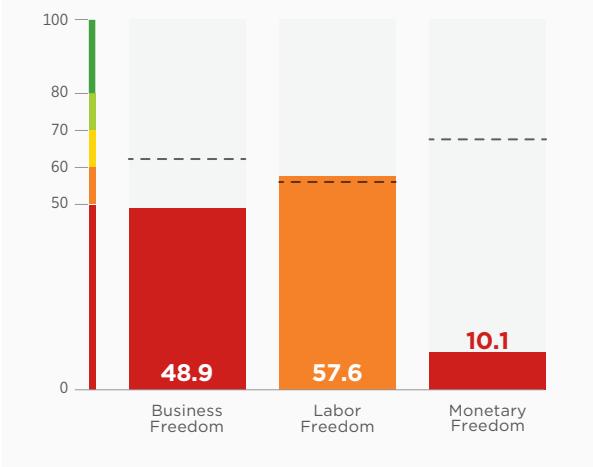
The overall rule of law is weak in Lebanon. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



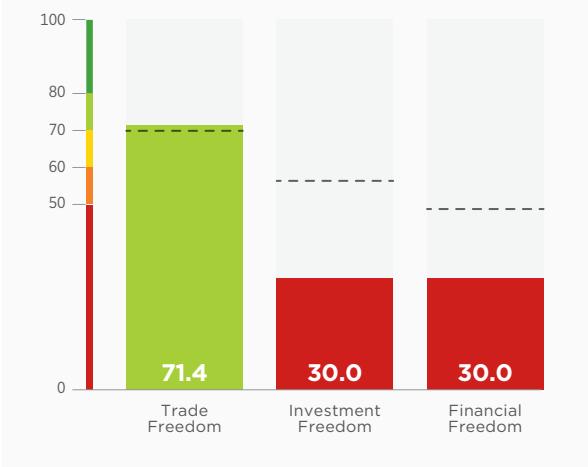
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 17 percent. The tax burden equals 5.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 13.3 percent and -2.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 283.2 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Lebanon's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 4.3 percent, but poor regulatory systems discourage dynamic trade and investment flows. Lebanon's financial sector used to be a regional hub, but ongoing political insecurity has subjected it to a high degree of uncertainty and strain.

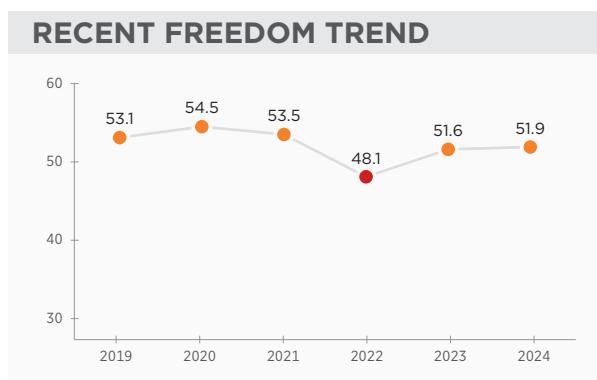
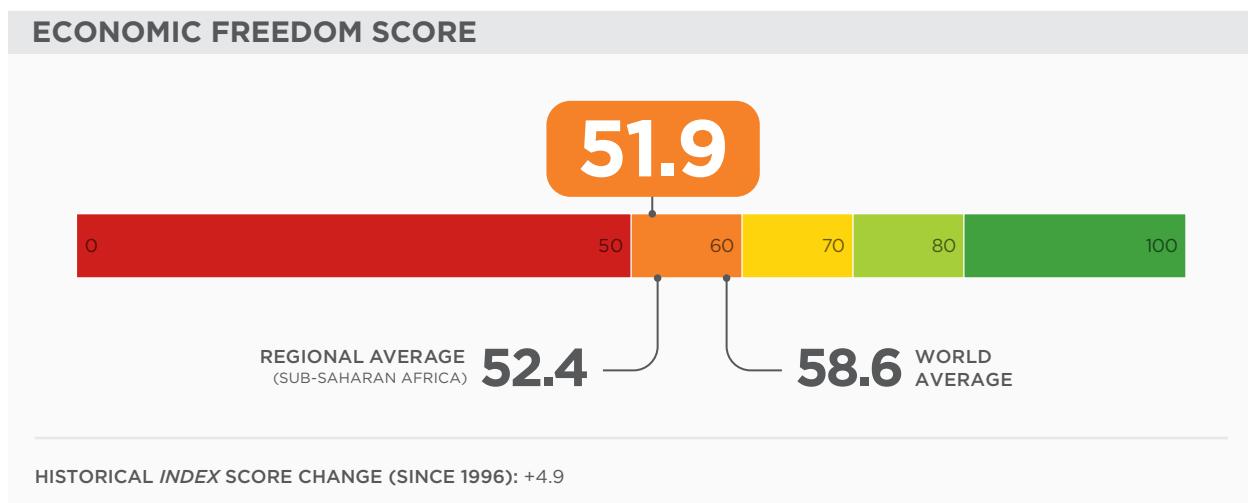


# LESOTHO



Lesotho's economic freedom score is 51.9, making its economy the 133rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.3 point from last year, and Lesotho is ranked 28th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Lesotho's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Lesotho lags far behind many other developing countries in its economic development, largely because of its failure to institute needed institutional reforms. The economy performs poorly in many of the four pillars of economic freedom. The rule of law is not strong enough to sustain meaningful economic progress, and the regulatory system's overall efficiency remains limited. The labor market's rigidity continues to drive much of the labor force into the informal economy. Inflation has moderated. The government influences prices through state-owned enterprises.

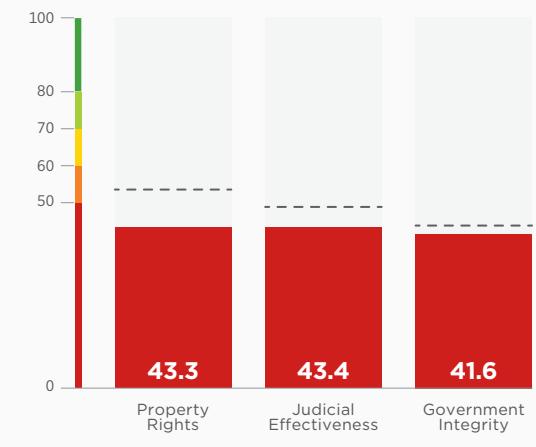


### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 2.2 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 24.6%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$6.5 billion 2.1% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: -0.7% \$3,092 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 8.2%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> -\$8.0 million	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 59.9% of GDP
2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.	

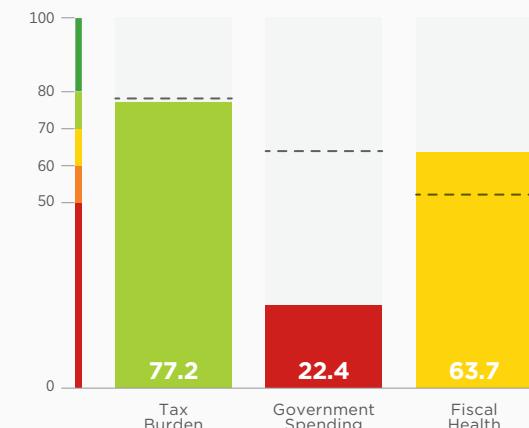
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | LESOTHO

## RULE OF LAW



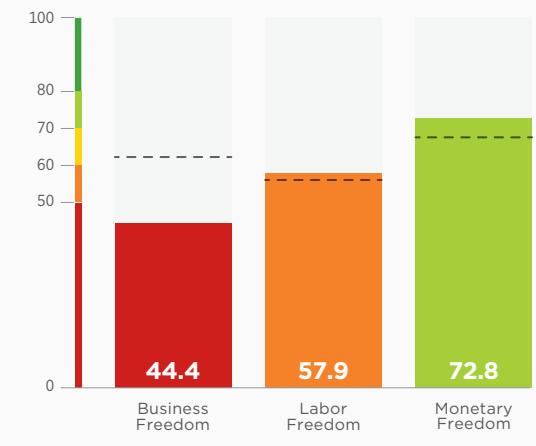
The overall rule of law is weak in Lesotho. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



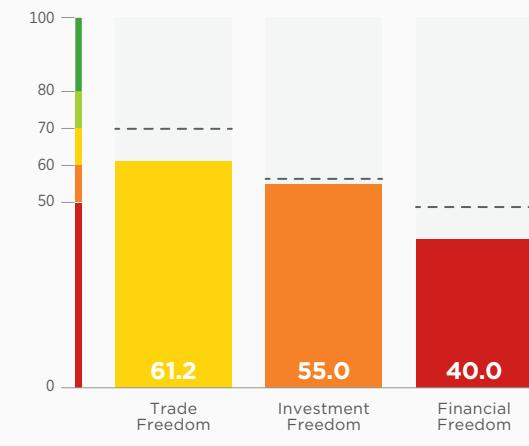
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 20.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 50.8 percent and -4.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 59.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

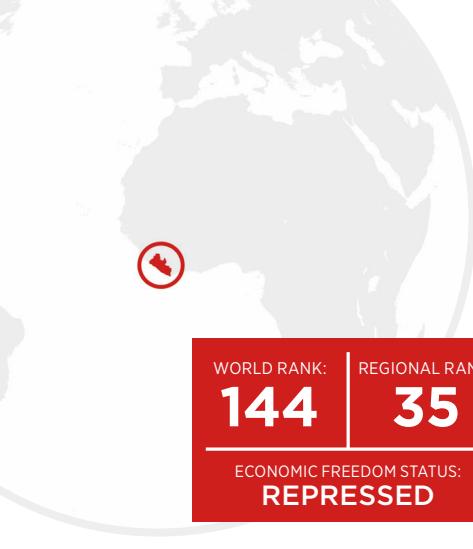


Lesotho's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 11.9 percent, and various nontariff barriers remain in force. Political fragmentation has stymied efforts to facilitate economic diversification, and investment inflows remain constrained. The high cost of credit discourages the development of a vibrant private sector.



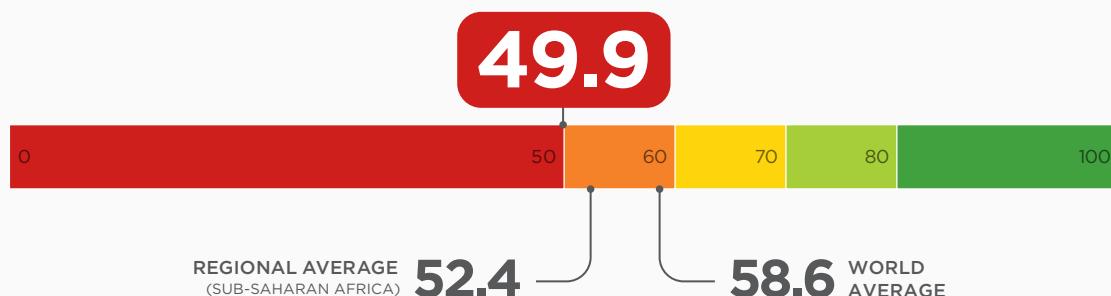
# LIBERIA

WORLD RANK:	144	REGIONAL RANK:	35
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>REPRESSIVE</b>			

Liberia's economic freedom score is 49.9, making its economy the 144th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.3 point from last year, and Liberia is ranked 35th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Liberia's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

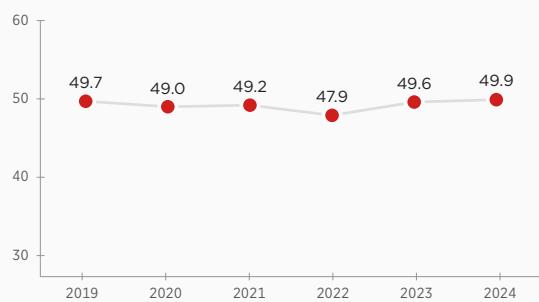
Liberia faces significant challenges in furthering its transition to a modern, open, market-based system. The foundations of economic freedom are fragile, and although the security situation has become more stable, the absence of an effectively functioning legal system undermines the protection of property rights and discourages efforts to eradicate corruption. Despite efforts to modernize the regulatory framework, various regulatory hurdles remain in force. The labor market is underdeveloped, and more than 60 percent of the workforce is engaged in informal activity.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): +1.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

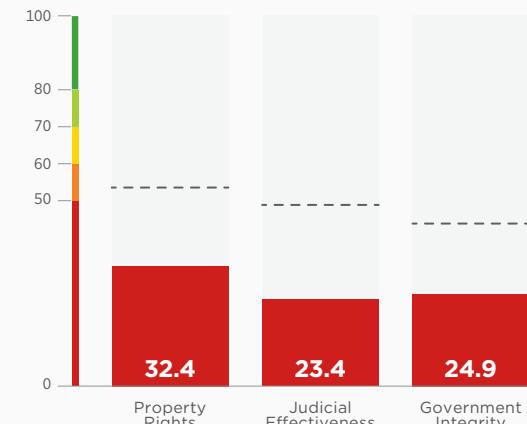
**POPULATION:**  
5.2 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$9.0 billion  
4.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.1%  
\$1,690 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.1%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
7.6%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$73.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
53.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

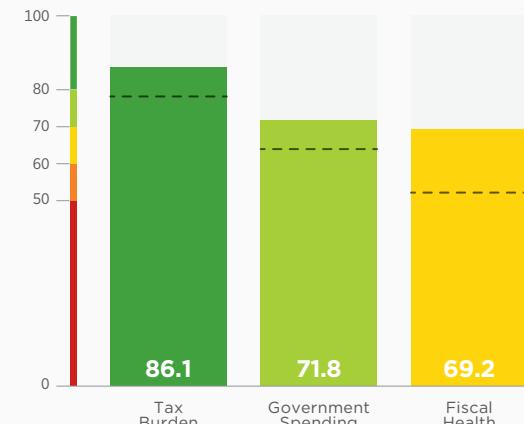
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | LIBERIA

## RULE OF LAW



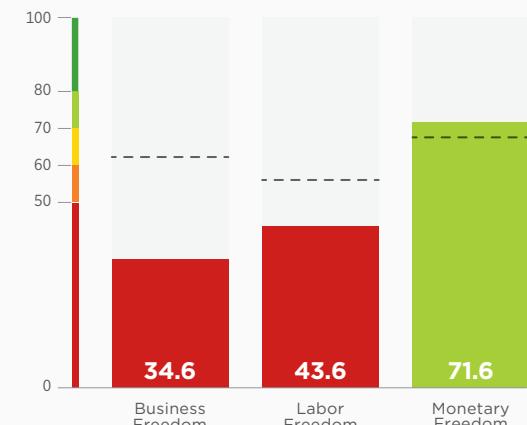
The overall rule of law is weak in Liberia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



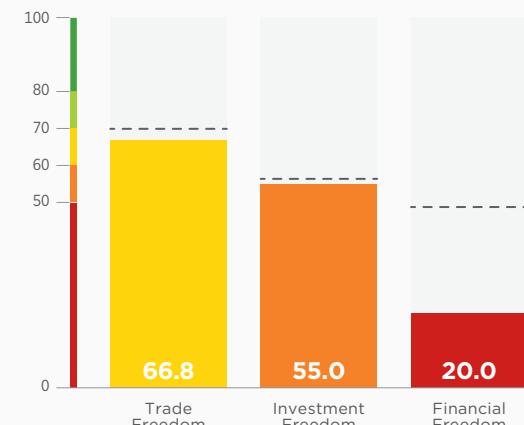
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 12.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 30.7 percent and -4.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 53.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

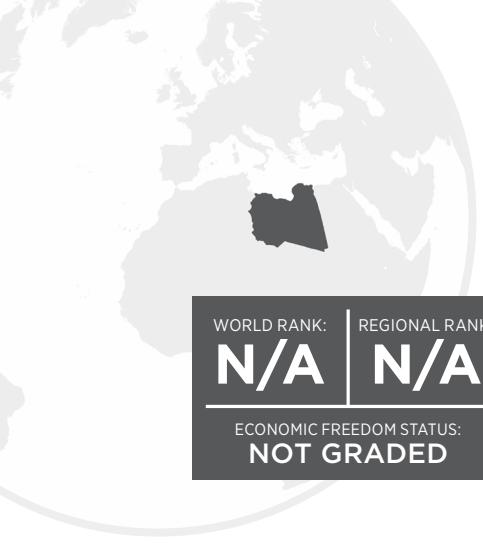


Liberia's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The average tariff rate is 6.6 percent. Reforms have dismantled some nontariff barriers, but a lack of transparency persists. Foreign investment in several sectors is restricted. The financial system is underdeveloped, and much of the population remains outside of the formal banking sector.



WORLD RANK: **N/A** REGIONAL RANK: **N/A**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**NOT GRADED**

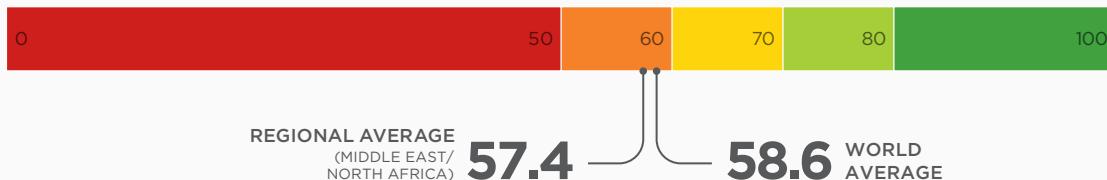
# LIBYA

**L**ibya is not ranked in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom* because of the lack of reliable data. Official government reporting of economic data is insufficient, and data reported by many of the international organizations on which *Index* grading depends are incomplete.

Aggravated by systemic corruption and the weak rule of law, substantial structural rigidities marginalize the private sector and undermine productivity growth, employment, and attempted modernization. The economic infrastructure was significantly degraded during the civil war, and economic uncertainty remains very high as Libya struggles to restore the rule of law and establish a new system of governance. The existing regulatory framework is severely undermined by ongoing political instability and turmoil. The labor market remains destabilized, and the large informal sector is an important source of employment. Oil and natural gas dominate the economy and provide almost all of Libya's export revenues.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE

**N/A**



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): N/A

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND

**NOT GRADED**

2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

## QUICK FACTS

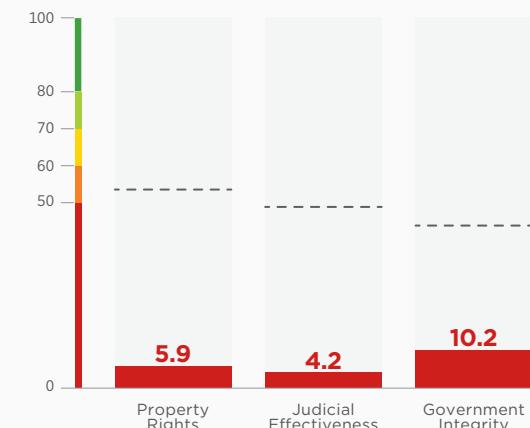
**POPULATION:**  
7.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$143.0 billion  
-9.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -2.8%  
\$21,104 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
19.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
4.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
n/a  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
n/a

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

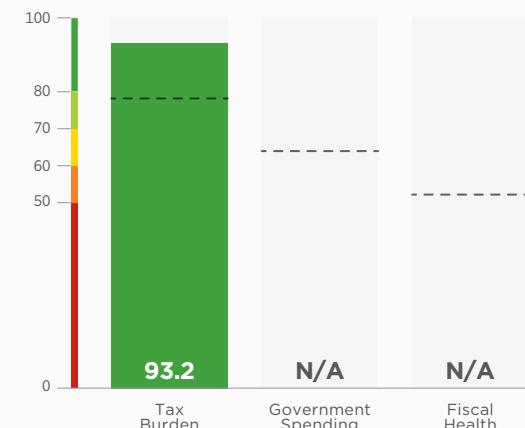
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | LIBYA

## RULE OF LAW



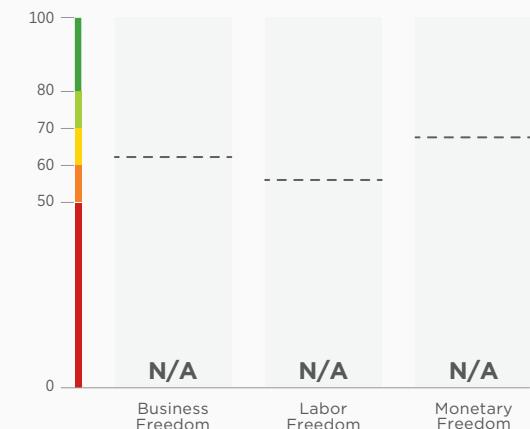
The overall rule of law is weak in Libya. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



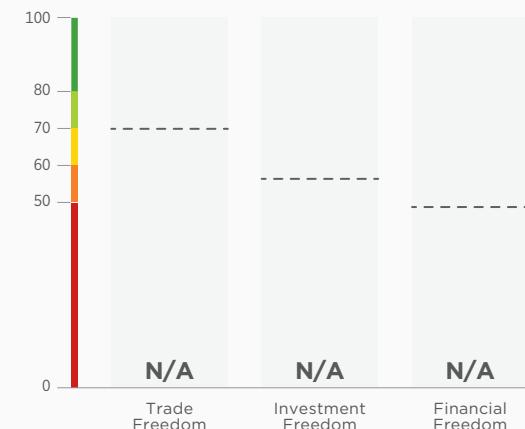
Taxation has not been enforced effectively for years because of political and economic instability. The government, overly dependent on the oil sector, has undertaken very sluggish and limited reforms to diversify the economy, much of which remains tightly controlled by the state.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



State meddling in business decisions is extensive, and the application of existing regulations is inconsistent and nontransparent. The state-controlled labor market functions poorly, and the informal sector is large. Unemployment and underemployment are chronically high. Monetary stability has been fragile.

## OPEN MARKETS



Political instability, exacerbated by security threats, is a significant impediment to foreign trade and investment. The financial infrastructure has been significantly degraded by Libya's unstable political and economic conditions. Limited access to financing severely impedes any meaningful private business development.



WORLD RANK:

**N/A**

REGIONAL RANK:

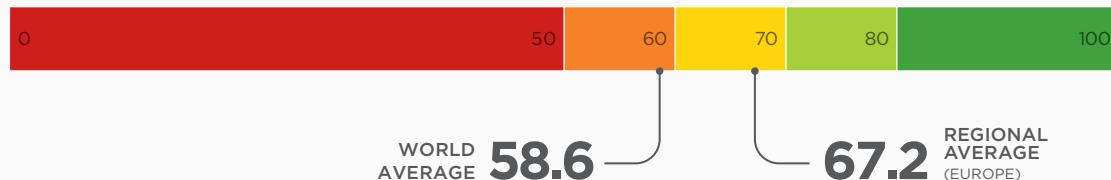
**N/A**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**NOT GRADED**

# LIECHTENSTEIN

The Principality of Liechtenstein is not graded in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Liechtenstein has a vibrant free-enterprise economy that is closely linked to Switzerland, whose currency it shares, and the European Union. Liechtenstein is a member of the European Free Trade Association, the Schengen Area, and the European Economic Area, but the lack of readily available comparable statistics precludes ranking of its economy.

Flexibility and openness to global commerce have been the cornerstones of Liechtenstein's modern economy. With an independent and impartial judiciary firmly institutionalized, the rule of law is very well respected. The vigorous defense of property rights and contracts, coupled with a well-established tradition of minimum tolerance for corruption, sustains the foundations of economic freedom and keeps the dynamic economy competitive. A straightforward, transparent, and streamlined regulatory system supports an innovative entrepreneurial sector. Banking has benefited from Liechtenstein's high levels of political and social stability.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE

**N/A**

HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): N/A

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



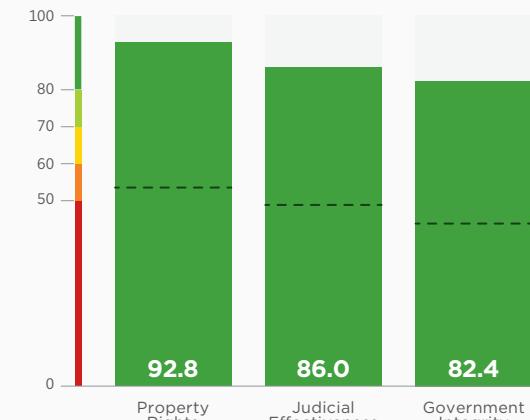
## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
Approximately  
40,000**GDP (PPP):**  
n/a  
n/a growth in 2022  
5-year compound  
annual growth n/a  
n/a per capita**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
n/a**INFLATION (CPI):**  
n/a**FDI INFLOW:**  
n/a**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
n/a

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

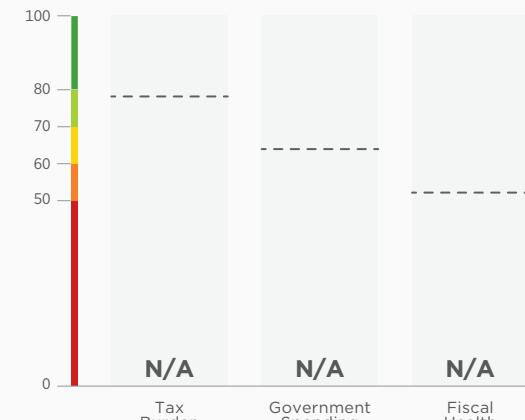
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | LIECHTENSTEIN

## RULE OF LAW



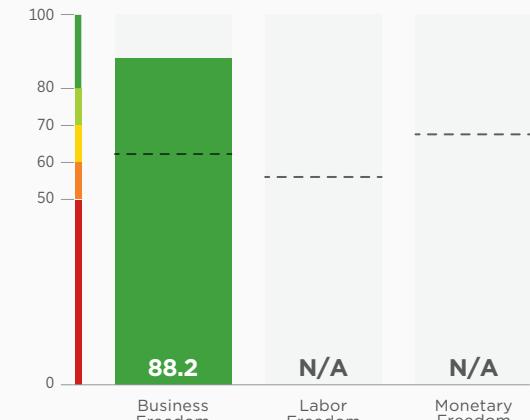
The overall rule of law is well respected in Liechtenstein. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



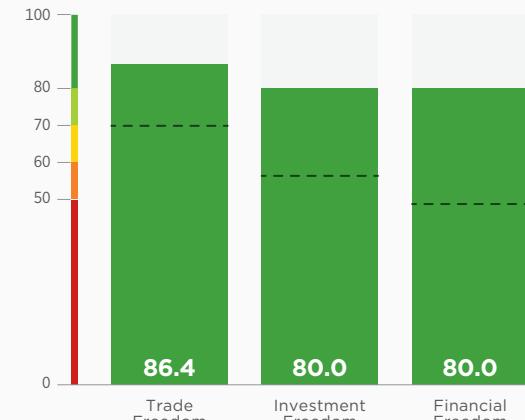
Liechtenstein has a competitive tax system and imposes relatively low taxes. The corporate tax rate is 12.5 percent, and the capital gains, inheritance, and gift taxes have been abolished. Although the fiscal system lacks some transparency, fiscal management has been relatively sound.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The overall freedom to conduct a business is well protected under an efficient and transparent regulatory environment. Administrative procedures are straightforward and applied consistently. The labor market is stable, and unemployment has traditionally been very low. Monetary stability is well maintained.

## OPEN MARKETS



Minimal barriers to trade and investment foster vibrant economic activity. Nontariff barriers are relatively minimal. Foreign and domestic investors are generally treated equally. The banking sector benefits from the country's high degree of political stability and its sound and transparent judicial system.



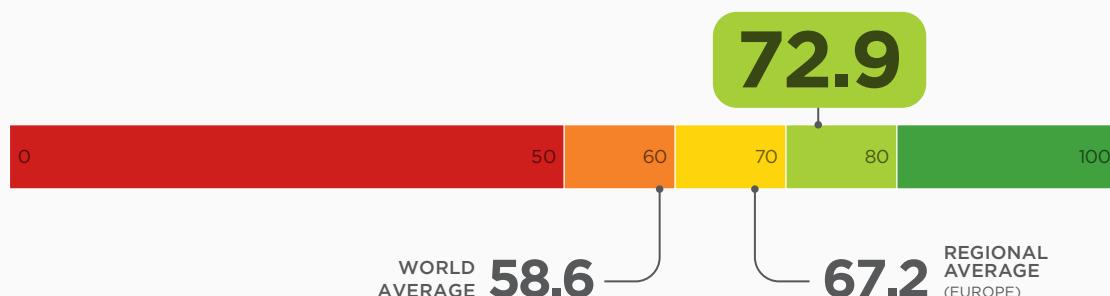
# LITHUANIA



Lithuania's economic freedom score is 72.9, making its economy the 15th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.7 point from last year, and Lithuania is ranked 10th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Lithuania's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

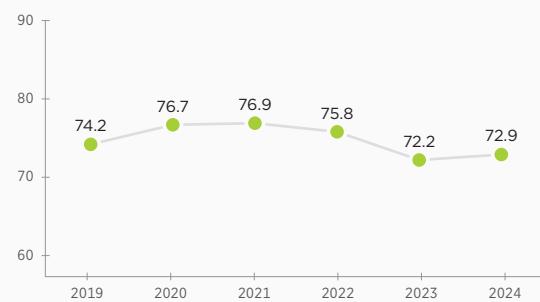
Lithuania's transition to a free-market economy is facilitated by the rule of law, structural reforms, and an increasingly vibrant private sector. Competitive taxation, a relatively efficient regulatory system, and policies that open Lithuania to global commerce and trade encourage more dynamic and broadly based economic expansion. The entrepreneurial framework is fairly streamlined and efficient. Business formation and operation take place without bureaucratic interference. Despite some reform, the labor market remains relatively rigid. The most recent available inflation rate is slightly above 18 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +23.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

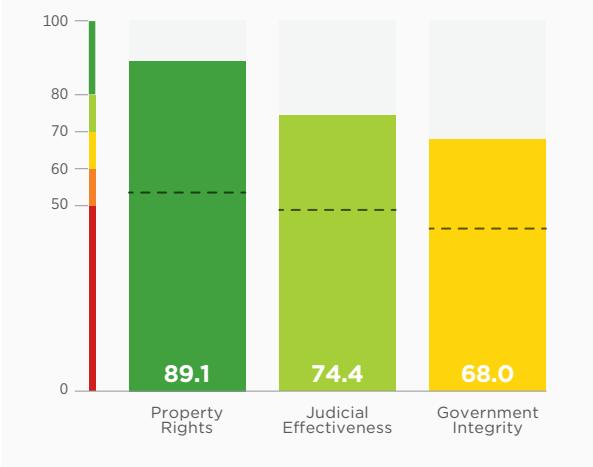
**POPULATION:**  
2.8 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$132.7 billion  
1.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.3%  
\$47,107 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
7.9%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
18.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$2.2 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
38.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

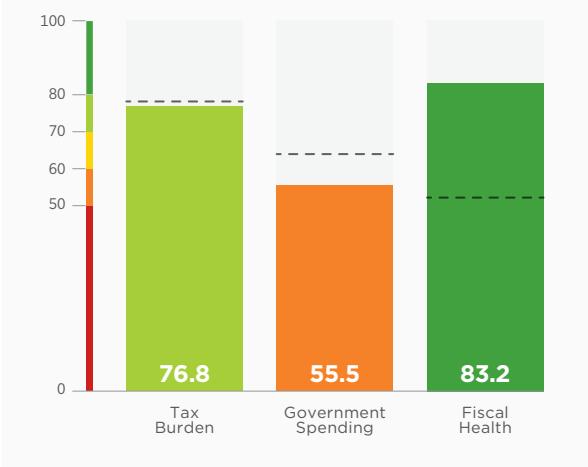
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | LITHUANIA

## RULE OF LAW



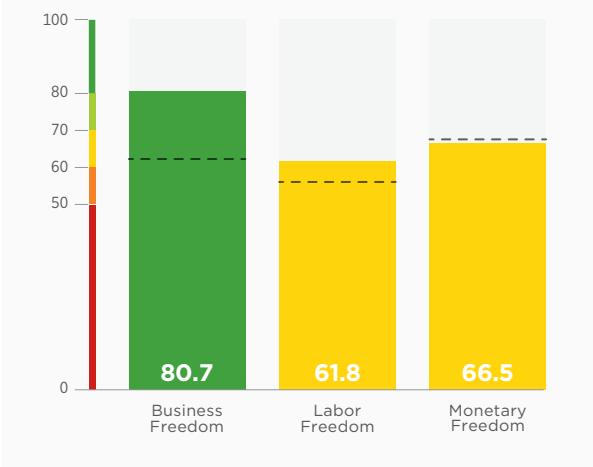
The overall rule of law is well respected in Lithuania. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 32 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 32.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 38.5 percent and -2.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 38.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Lithuania's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. The relatively sound regulatory framework facilitates foreign investment flows. The financial sector offers a full range of services, and the banking system is stable.



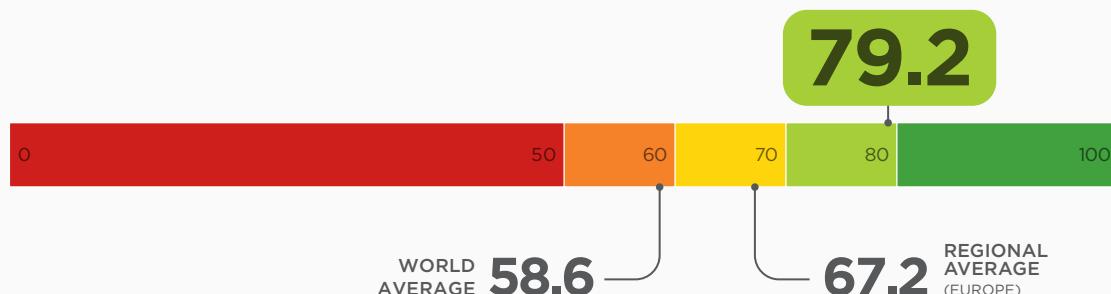
WORLD RANK: **5** | REGIONAL RANK: **3**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY FREE**

# LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg's economic freedom score is 79.2, making its economy the 5th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.8 point from last year, and Luxembourg is ranked 3rd out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Luxembourg's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

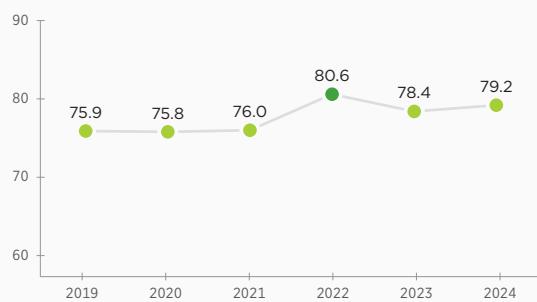
Luxembourg has long benefited from a favorable climate for entrepreneurial activity and high levels of openness and flexibility. Prudent financial regulations support its position as a global financial hub. The judiciary, independent of politics and corruption free, provides strong protection for property rights. Institutional support for open markets is similarly strong. Regulation is transparent and efficient. The labor market is competitive but lacks flexibility. Unemployment benefits are notably higher than those in neighboring countries, and the minimum wage is among the region's highest.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +6.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

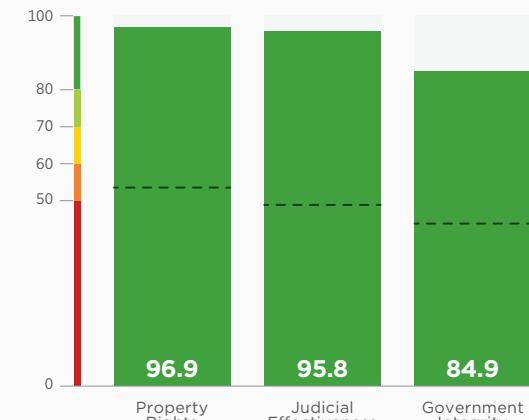
**POPULATION:**  
0.6 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$91.2 billion  
1.4% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.4%  
\$141,333 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$322.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
24.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

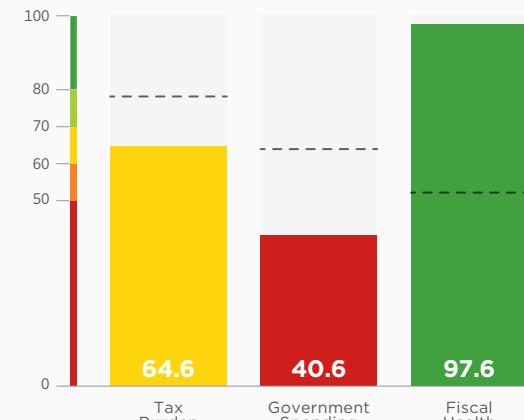
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | LUXEMBOURG

## RULE OF LAW



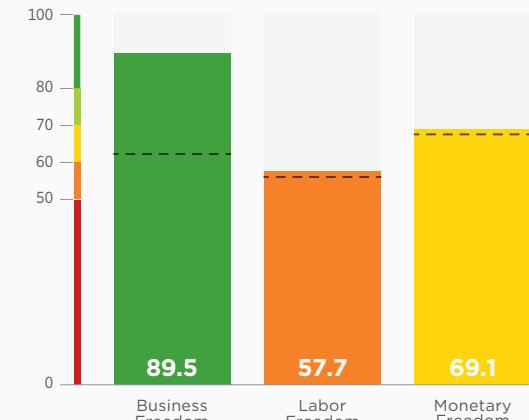
The overall rule of law is very well respected in Luxembourg. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 42 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 17 percent. The tax burden equals 38.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 44.5 percent and -0.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 24.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Luxembourg's overall regulatory environment is very well institutionalized and efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Investment activity is sustained by the solid institutional foundations of an open-market system. The sophisticated financial sector is well capitalized and competitive.

WORLD RANK: **97** | REGIONAL RANK: **11**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

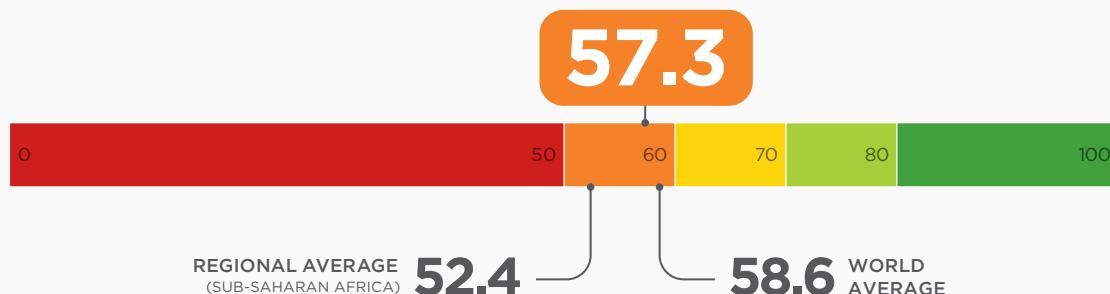


# MADAGASCAR

**M**adagascar's economic freedom score is 57.3, making its economy the 97th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.6 points from last year, and Madagascar is ranked 11th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Madagascar's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

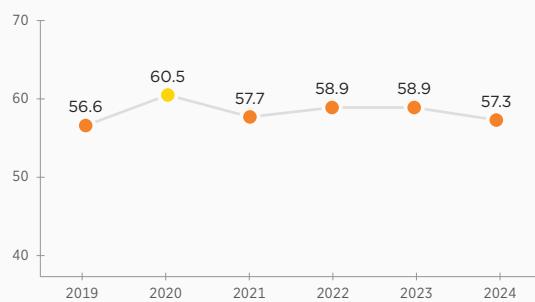
A still-deficient institutional framework and the ongoing risk of political instability continue to undermine efforts to reduce poverty. The judicial system is underdeveloped, and convoluted administrative procedures facilitate corruption, weakening the foundations of free economic activity. Policies needed to sustain open markets are not firmly institutionalized. Regulations often reflect historical customs and unwritten rules. The labor laws are outmoded, restrictive, and not conducive to the development of a dynamic labor market. The government influences prices through state-owned enterprises.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +5.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

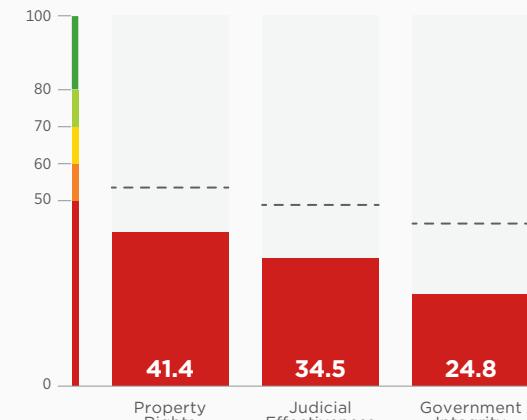
**POPULATION:**  
28.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$52.6 billion  
4.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.0%  
\$1,817 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
2.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$396.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
55.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

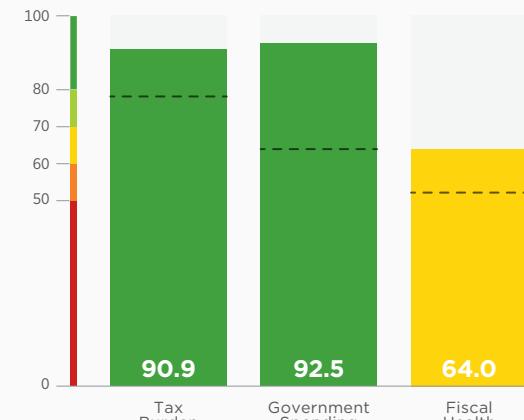
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MADAGASCAR

## RULE OF LAW



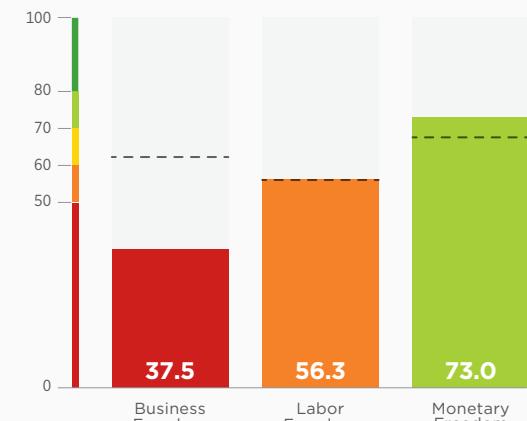
The overall rule of law is weak in Madagascar. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



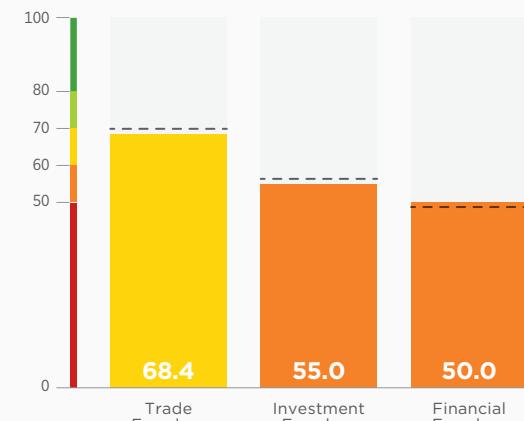
The top individual income tax rate is 20 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 10.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 15.8 percent and -4.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 55.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Madagascar's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.3 percent, and layers of nontariff measures are in force. Judicial and regulatory barriers deter foreign investment. State-owned enterprises distort the economy. Less than 20 percent of adult Malagasy have access to an account with a formal banking institution.

WORLD RANK:

**129**

REGIONAL RANK:

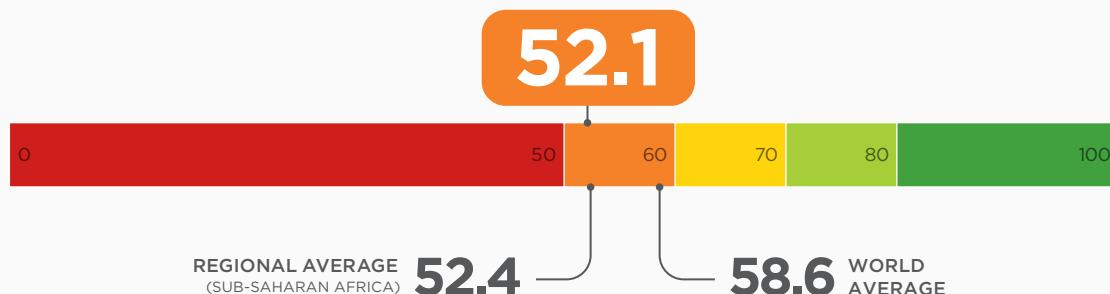
**26**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# MALAWI

**M**alawi's economic freedom score is 52.1, making its economy the 129th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.7 point from last year, and Malawi is ranked 26th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Malawi's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

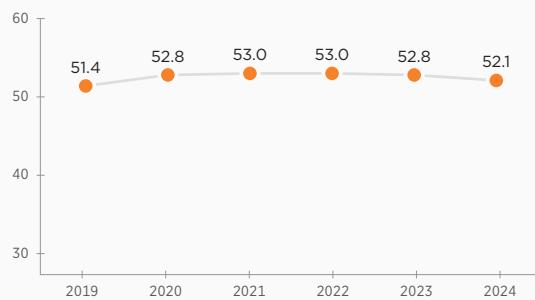
Malawi lags in competitiveness and promotion of the broad-based economic activity that is needed to reduce poverty. The poor quality of physical and legal infrastructure, exacerbated by the government's inefficiency, has been a serious impediment to long-term economic development. The inefficient business framework is slowly being improved. Labor regulations are not generally enforced, and the labor market remains poorly developed. Most Malawians are still employed outside of the formal sector, primarily in agriculture. The most recent available inflation rate is 20.8 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -2.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
19.6 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$36.0 billion  
0.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.2%  
\$1,628 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
7.0%

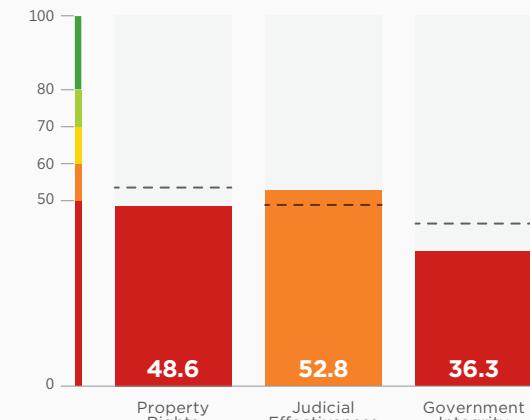
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
20.8%

**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$189.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
75.2% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MALAWI

## RULE OF LAW



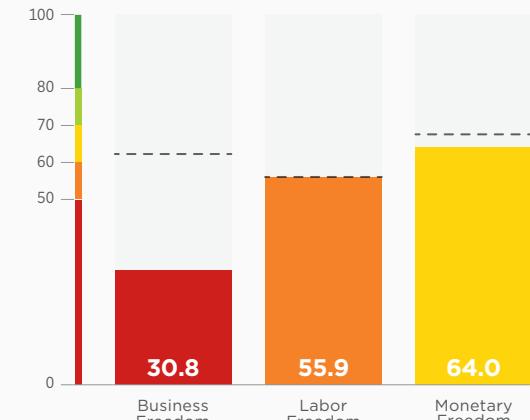
The overall rule of law is weak in Malawi. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 10.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 24.3 percent and -8.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 75.2 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Malawi's regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.3 percent. The lack of transparency, often made worse by bureaucratic delays, is a major impediment to foreign trade and investment. Poor access to finance continues to discourage more dynamic foreign investment inflows and private-sector development.

WORLD RANK: 45 | REGIONAL RANK: 9  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
MODERATELY FREE

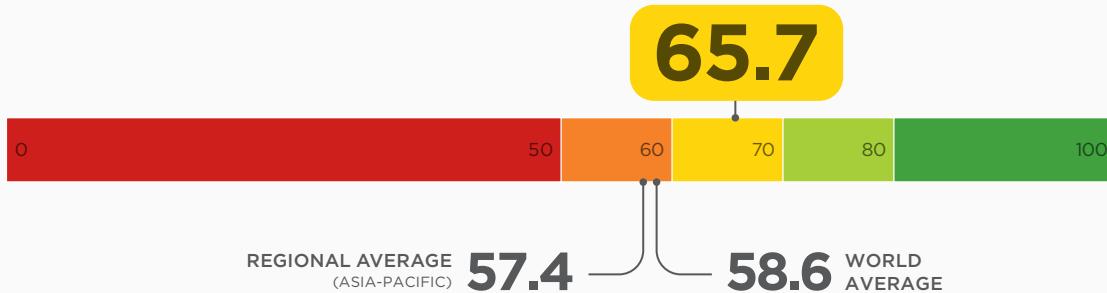


# MALAYSIA

Malaysia's economic freedom score is 65.7, making its economy the 45th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.6 points from last year, and Malaysia is ranked 9th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Malaysia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

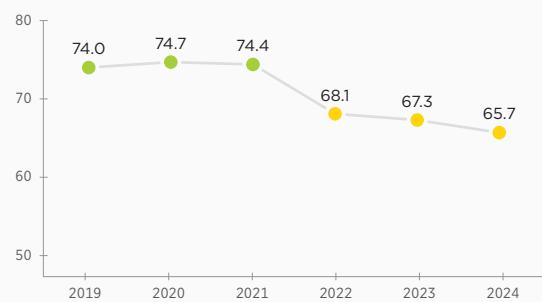
The Malaysian economy has shown notable resilience. Implementation of policies to support open markets and encourage a vibrant private sector has enhanced investment flows and entrepreneurial vitality. Greater regulatory efficiency has gradually been implemented, and licensing requirements are now less time-consuming and bureaucratic. Better management of public finance needs to be a policy priority. The judicial system's vulnerability to political influence is a significant challenge to the effective and evenhanded rule of law and undermines government integrity. Monetary stability is relatively well-maintained.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -6.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

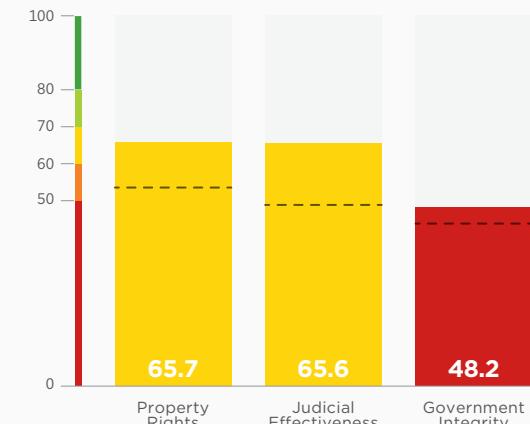
**POPULATION:**  
32.8 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.1 trillion  
8.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.1%  
\$34,834 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
3.4%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$16.9 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
65.6% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

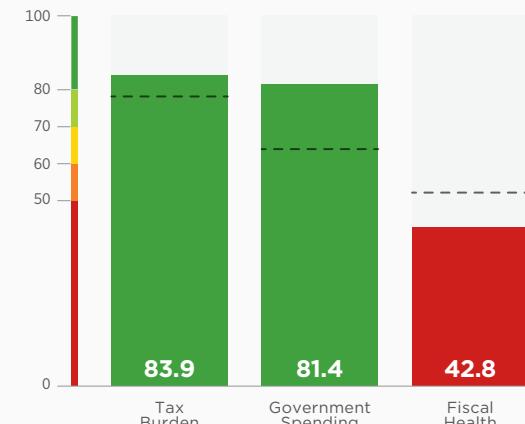
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MALAYSIA

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Malaysia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



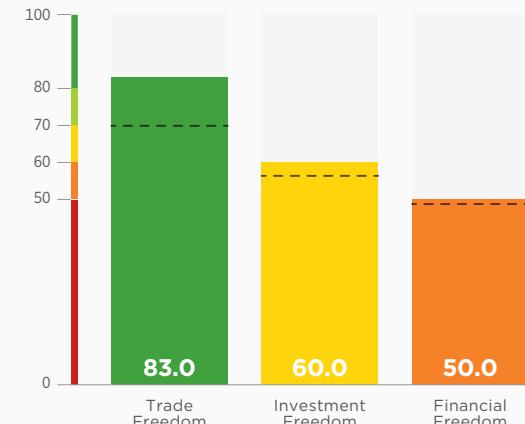
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 24 percent. The tax burden equals 11.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 24.9 percent and -5.5 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 65.6 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Malaysia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 3.5 percent. The government has taken steps to liberalize foreign investment policies, but for some sectors, restrictions are still in place. Regulatory adjustments in the financial sector include the easing of limits on foreign ownership.



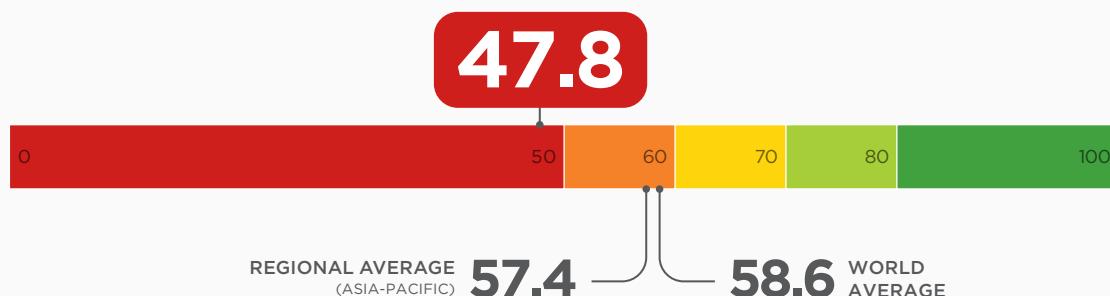
WORLD RANK: **158** | REGIONAL RANK: **36**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSIVE**

# MALDIVES

Maldives' economic freedom score is 47.8, making its economy the 158th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.2 points from last year, and Maldives is ranked 36th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Maldives's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

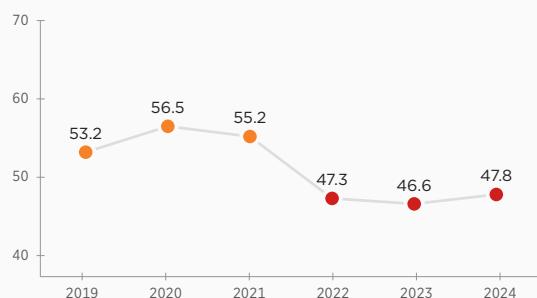
Reform to enhance prospects for long-term sustainable development remains vital. Impediments to sustained private-sector growth and diversification are still considerable, largely because of such institutional deficiencies as corruption and weak protection of property rights. State-owned enterprises still play a large role in the economy. The regulatory framework remains relatively underdeveloped. Enforcement of labor regulations is not effective, and the large public sector employs much of the labor force. Lack of competition in the market has affected price levels, but monetary stability has been maintained.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): -3.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

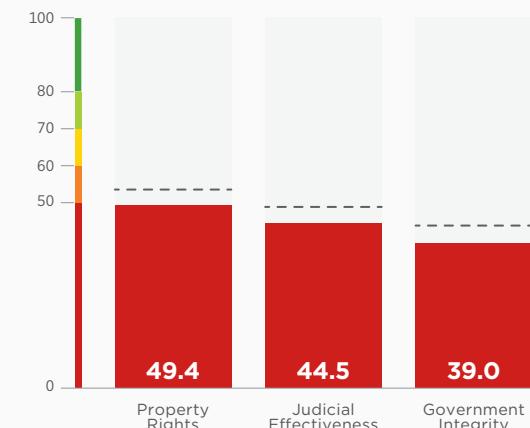
**POPULATION:**  
0.5 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$13.2 billion  
13.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 7.5%  
\$33,663 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.1%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
2.6%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$722.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
114.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

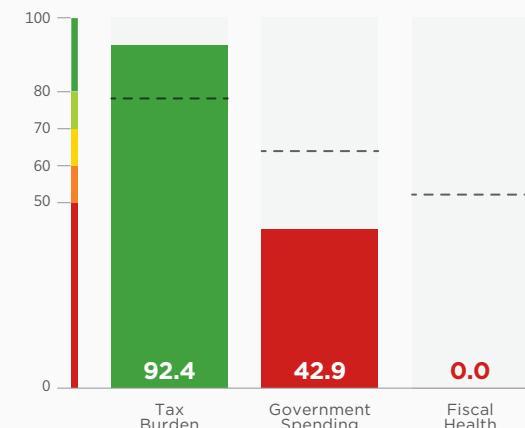
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MALDIVES

## RULE OF LAW



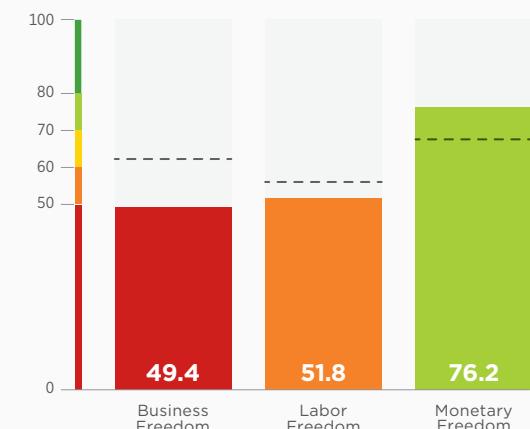
The overall rule of law is weak in Maldives. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 15 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 17.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 43.6 percent and -16.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 114.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Maldives's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 11.2 percent, and nontariff barriers are in force. Foreign participation and ownership remain limited and restricted in some sectors. The shallow financial sector is dominated by banking. Costly credit and limited access to financial services discourage vibrant private-sector development.



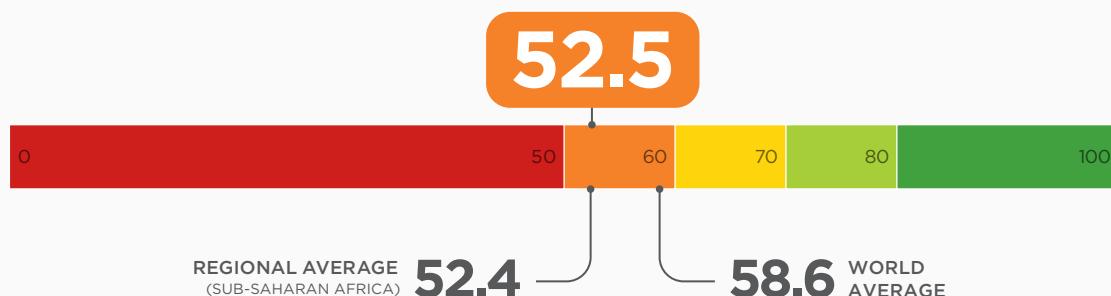
# MALI



**M**ali's economic freedom score is 52.5, making its economy the 127th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2 points from last year, and Mali is ranked 24th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Mali's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

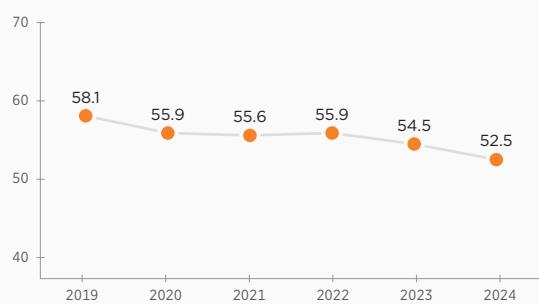
Mali has shown little progress in expanding economic freedom and remains mired in the "mostly unfree" category. A lack of dynamism leaves the domestic economy highly vulnerable to external economic conditions. Institutional weaknesses broadly restrict economic freedom and prevent the dynamic growth of economic activity. The regulatory framework for business does not efficiently encourage economic diversification or private-sector development. Much private-sector activity takes place outside of the formal economy. Labor regulations are relatively rigid but not fully enforced.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +0.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

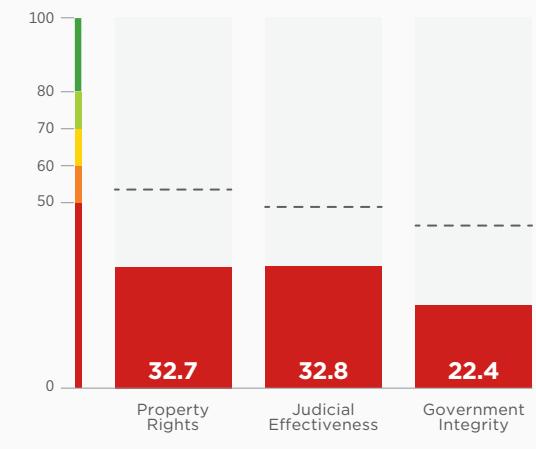
**POPULATION:**  
20.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$56.9 billion  
3.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.0%  
\$2,514 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
7.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
9.7%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$253.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
51.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

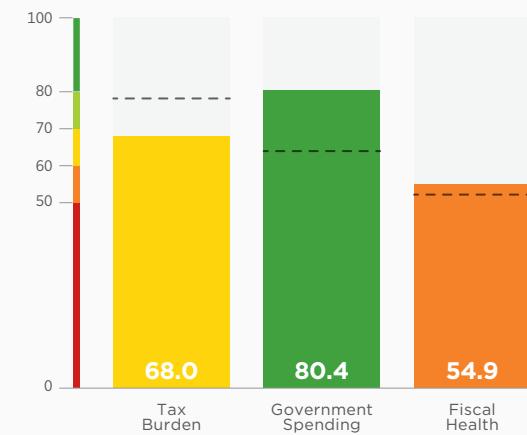
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MALI

## RULE OF LAW



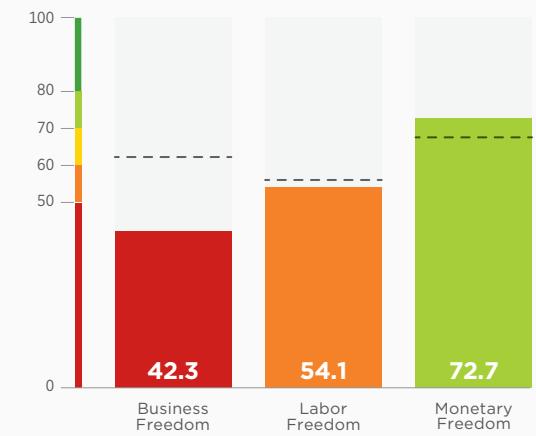
The overall rule of law is weak in Mali. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



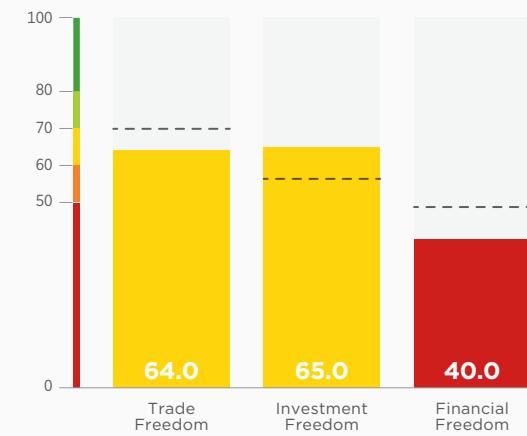
The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 19.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 25.6 percent and -5.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 51.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

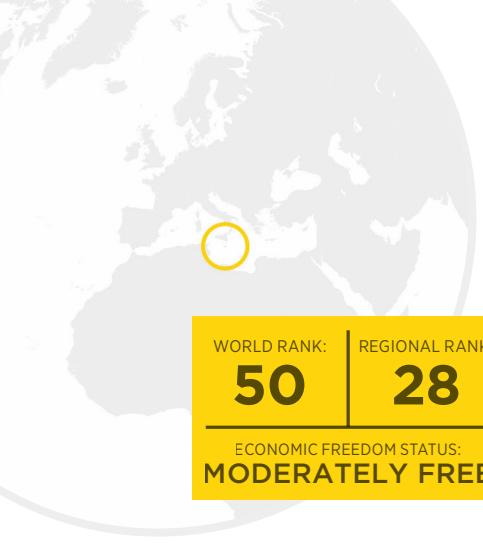


Mali's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 10.5 percent, and 20 nontariff measures are in force. The government is trying to encourage economic diversification and broader economic development, but progress is constrained by inadequate financial infrastructure and Mali's fragile security situation.



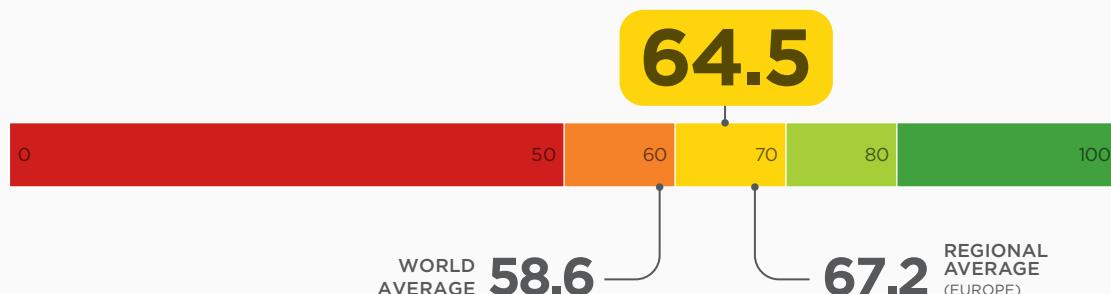
# MALTA



Malta's economic freedom score is 64.5, making its economy the 50th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 3 points from last year, and Malta is ranked 28th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Malta's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

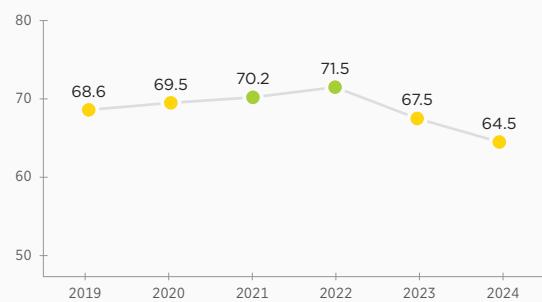
Malta's openness to international trade and investment enhances its competitiveness. Despite relatively good performance in many areas of economic freedom, some of its institutional foundations remain weak. The court system is transparent and relatively free of corruption but inefficient. Bureaucracy still discourages dynamic entrepreneurial activity. Malta has adopted transparent and effective regulations to foster competition, but the pace of reform has slowed. Business regulations are relatively straightforward. The labor market remains relatively rigid. The government mandates a minimum wage.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +8.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

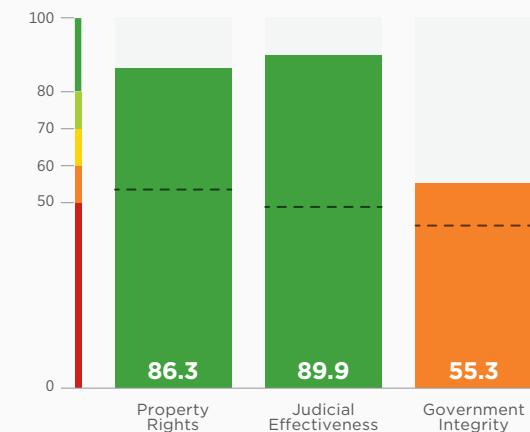
**POPULATION:**  
0.5 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$31.0 billion  
6.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 5.1%  
\$59,408 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$4.2 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
52.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

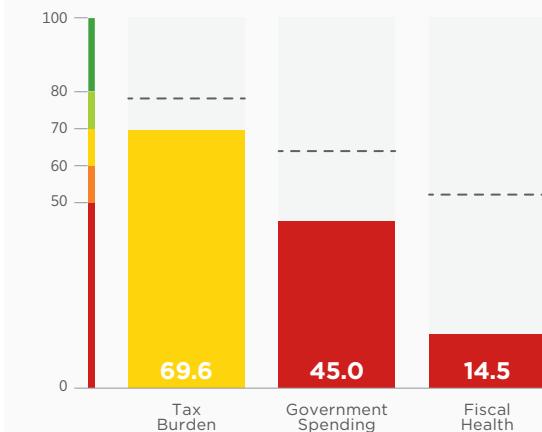
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MALTA

## RULE OF LAW



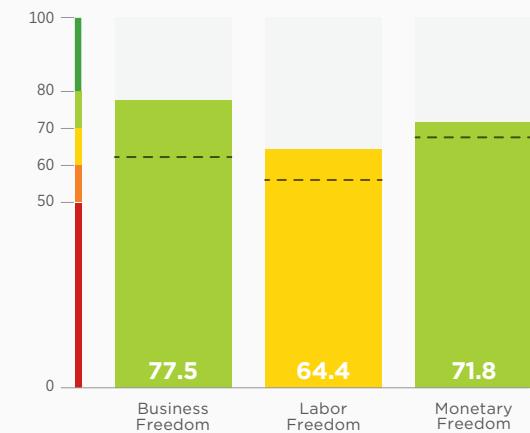
The overall rule of law is well respected in Malta. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 24.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 42.8 percent and -7.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 52.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Malta's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Foreign investment is welcome, and investment regulations are generally transparent. The financial sector has undergone restructuring, and banking is more open to foreign banks.



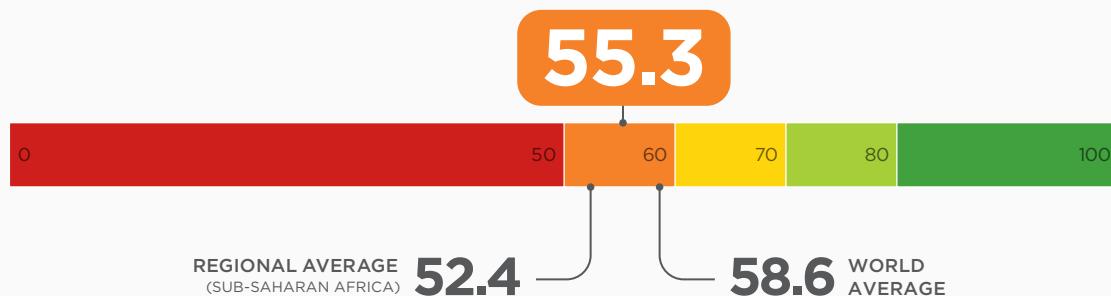
WORLD RANK: **110** | REGIONAL RANK: **17**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# MAURITANIA

Mauritania's economic freedom score is 55.3, making its economy the 110th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is unchanged from last year, and Mauritania is ranked 17th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Mauritania's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

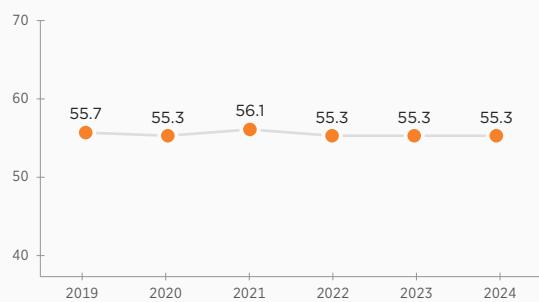
Serious institutional weaknesses continue to perpetuate a poor entrepreneurial environment and undercut prospects for long-term development. The protection of property rights is weak, and enforcement of the fragile rule of law remains limited and subject to political influence. Financial-sector shallowness and burdensome barriers to trade continue to undermine overall economic efficiency. The overall regulatory environment places significant burdens on potential entrepreneurs. Outmoded labor regulations hinder job creation, and the absence of a well-functioning labor market has led to chronically high unemployment.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +9.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

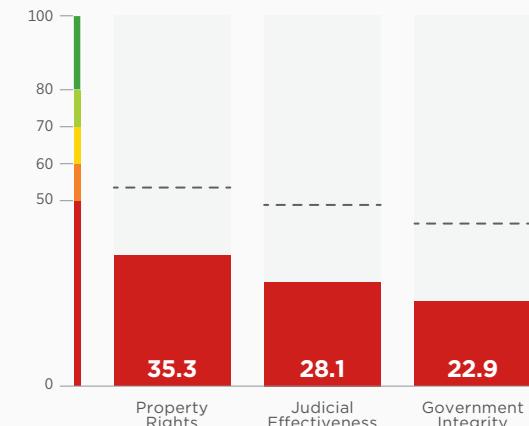
**POPULATION:**  
4.8 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$30.8 billion  
6.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.6%  
\$7,113 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
11.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
9.6%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
50.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

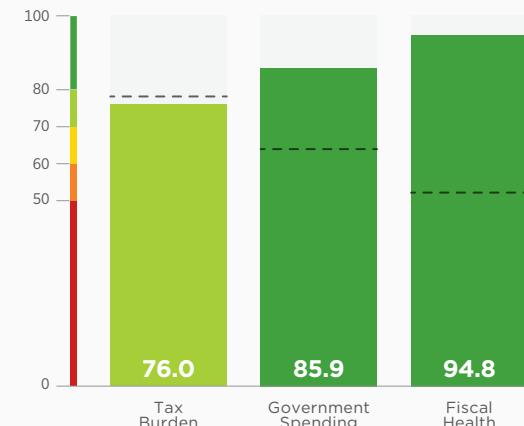
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MAURITANIA

## RULE OF LAW



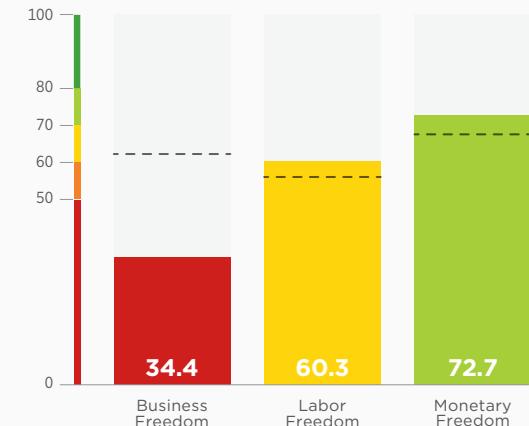
The overall rule of law is weak in Mauritania. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



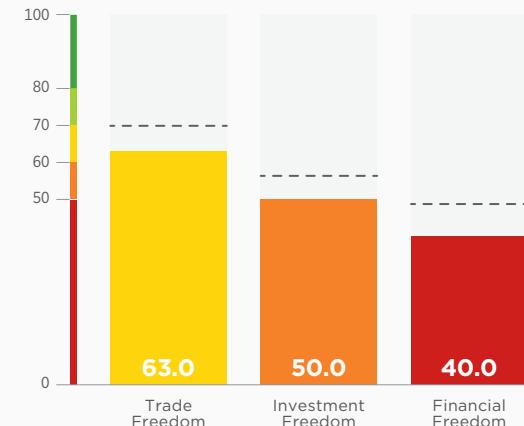
The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 13.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 21.7 percent and 0.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 50.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Mauritania's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 9.0 percent. Nontariff barriers and other restrictions prevent entrepreneurs from participating in the global economy, and open-market policies to promote investment are not fully institutionalized. The financial sector, dominated by banking, lacks transparency and efficiency.

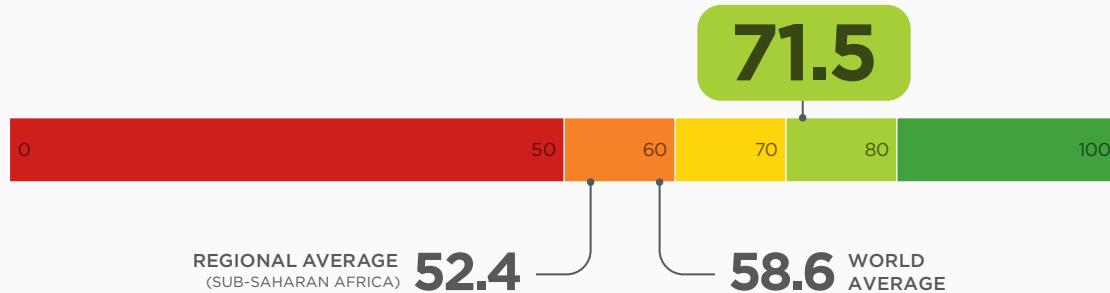
WORLD RANK: 19 | REGIONAL RANK: 1  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY FREE**

# MAURITIUS

**M**auritius's economic freedom score is 71.5, making its economy the 19th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.9 point from last year, and Mauritius is ranked 1st out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Mauritius's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

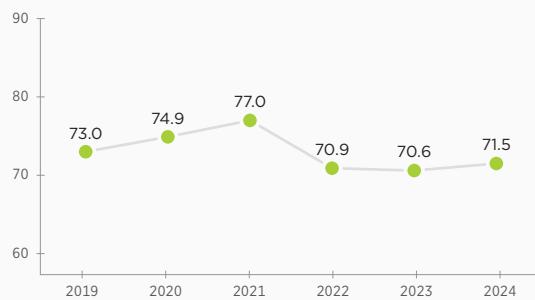
Committed to structural reforms and policies that promote integration into the global marketplace, Mauritius continues to be a leader in economic freedom. A sound and transparent legal framework strongly upholds the rule of law, and the country's efficient regulatory environment and open-market policies encourage broad-based and diversified economic development. The start-up process has been simplified, and labor regulations are relatively flexible. Overall monetary stability has been relatively well maintained. Services and tourism remain important economic drivers, and maritime security is a priority.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1999): +3.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

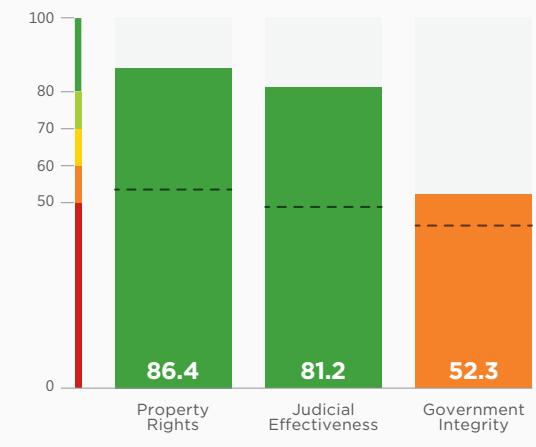
**POPULATION:**  
1.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$34.0 billion  
8.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.9%  
\$26,934 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
7.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
10.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$252.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
83.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

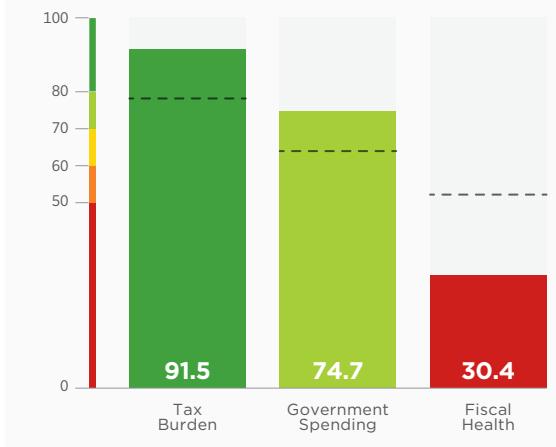
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MAURITIUS

## RULE OF LAW



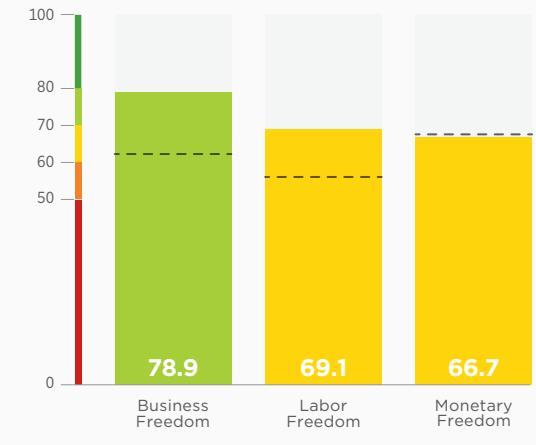
The overall rule of law is well respected in Mauritius. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



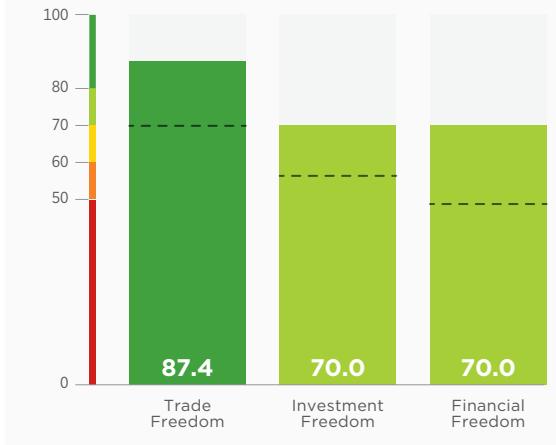
The top individual income tax rate is 15 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 20.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 29.0 percent and -5.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 83.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

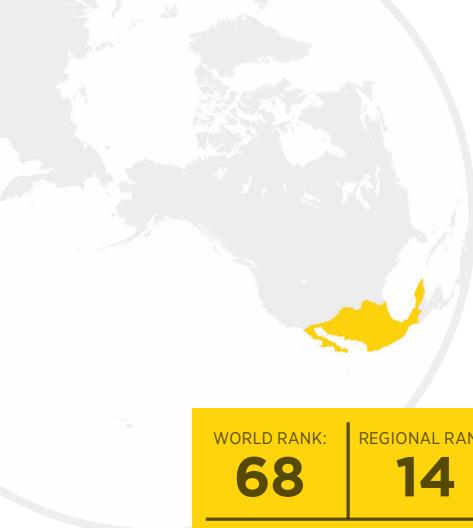


Mauritius's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 1.3 percent, and a number of nontariff measures are in force. An efficient and transparent investment framework supports foreign investment inflows. The open investment regime is underpinned by a nondiscriminatory legal system. Private banks dominate the financial sector.



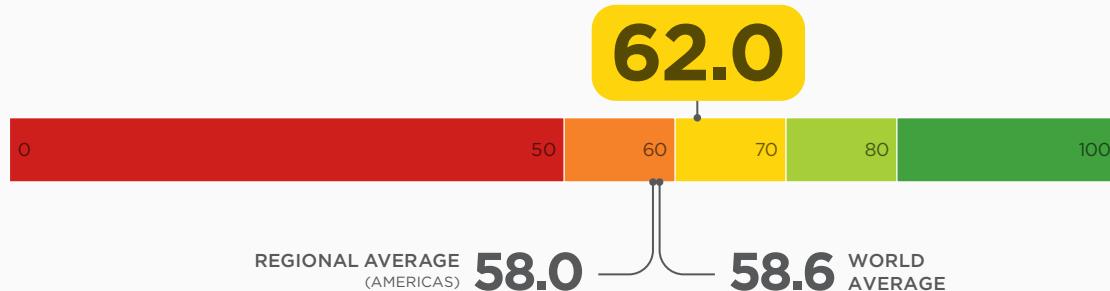
# MEXICO



**M**exico's economic freedom score is 62, making its economy the 68th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.2 points from last year, and Mexico is ranked 14th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Mexico's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

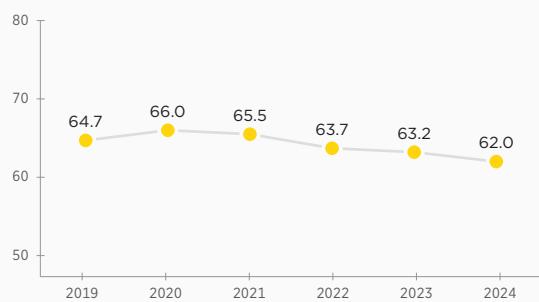
Violence and instability have significantly undercut the rule of law in Mexico. Other institutional weaknesses include rampant corruption and poor protection of private property rights. The government has an extensive agenda of reforms to address these deficiencies, but progress has been marginal. Uncertain enforcement of contracts, precarious security, and informality undermine business freedom. The pace of reform has slowed in comparison to other emerging economies. Labor market reforms have largely stalled, and the informal sector accounts for a large portion of economic activity.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -1.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

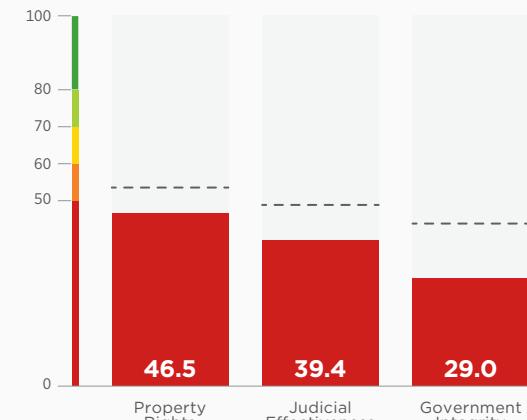
**POPULATION:**  
130.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$3.1 trillion  
3.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.6%  
\$23,548 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
7.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$35.3 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
54.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

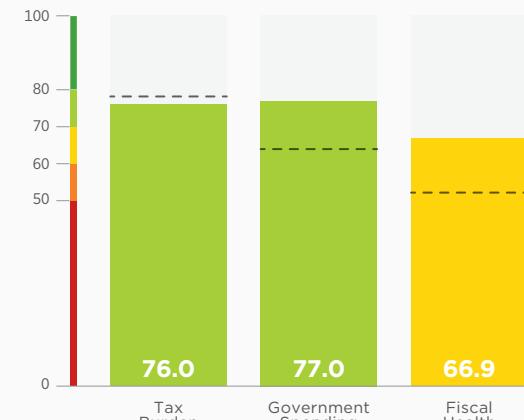
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MEXICO

## RULE OF LAW



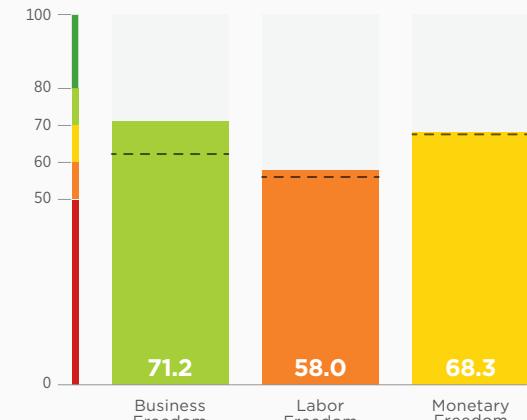
The overall rule of law is weak in Mexico. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



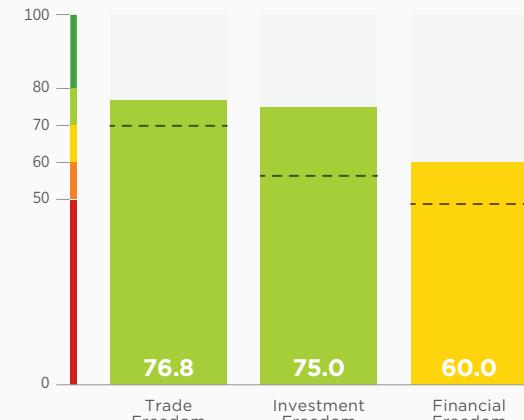
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 16.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 27.7 percent and -4.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 54.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

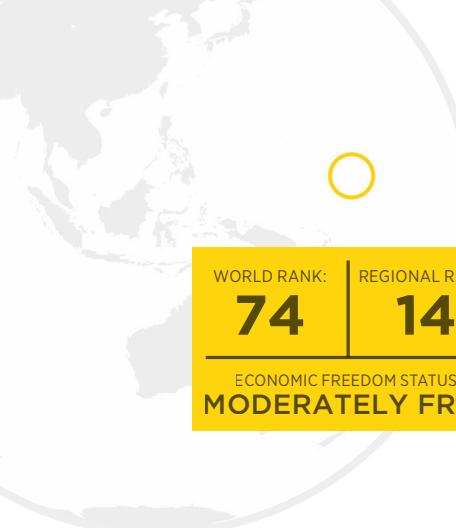


Mexico's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 4.1 percent, and more than 200 nontariff measures are in force. Foreign direct investment in most of the economy is permitted, but certain key sectors are still reserved for the state. Much of the well-capitalized banking sector is foreign-owned.



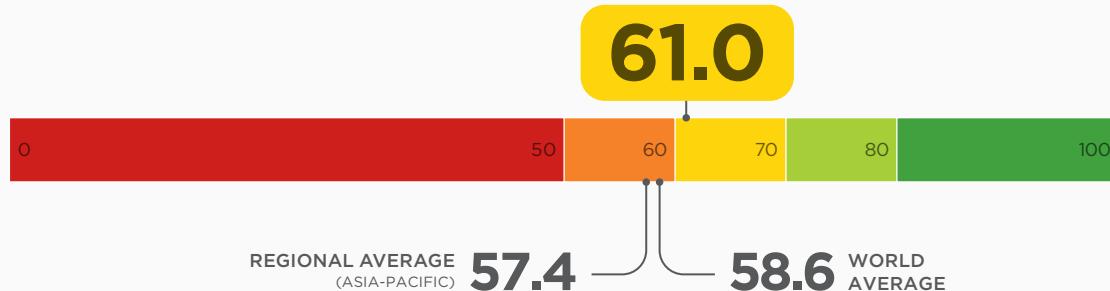
WORLD RANK: **74** | REGIONAL RANK: **14**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# MICRONESIA

**M**icronesia's economic freedom score is 61, making its economy the 74th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.6 points from last year, and Micronesia is ranked 14th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Micronesia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

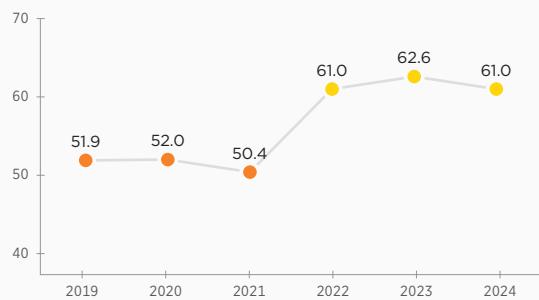
Poor governance and a lack of commitment to structural reform continue to discourage economic development in Micronesia. Long-standing problems include poor management of public finance and underdeveloped regulatory frameworks. The fragile rule of law and weak enforcement of property rights have driven many people into the informal sector. Micronesia is primarily a subsistence economy, and commercial fishing is the key industry. Private-sector jobs lag far behind public-sector jobs. Under a Compact of Free Association, the U.S. has provided economic assistance to Micronesia.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): +9.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

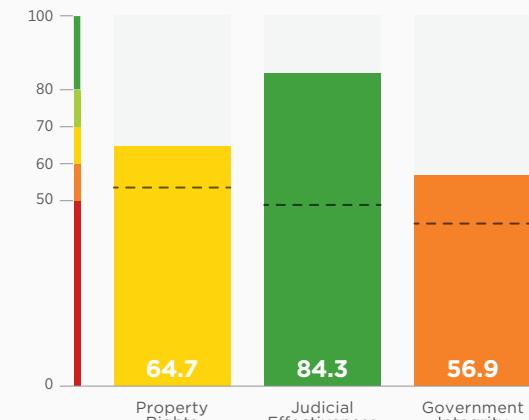
**POPULATION:**  
0.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$388.0 million  
-0.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -0.8%  
\$3,693 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
16.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
n/a  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
14.0% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

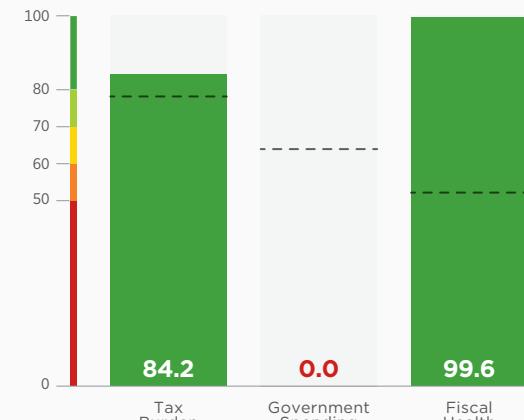
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MICRONESIA

## RULE OF LAW



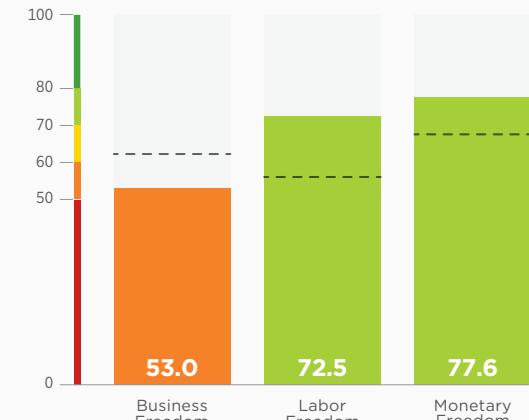
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Micronesia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 10 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 21 percent. The tax burden equals 32.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 58.8 percent and 6.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 14.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

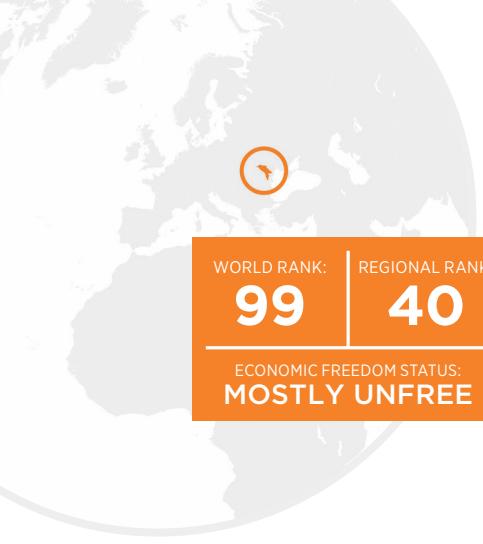


Micronesia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The average tariff rate is 5.1 percent, but nontariff barriers and poor trade infrastructure limit trade freedom. Numerous impediments discourage foreign investment. High credit costs and scarce access to financing constrain the small private sector. Much of the population does not use formal banking.



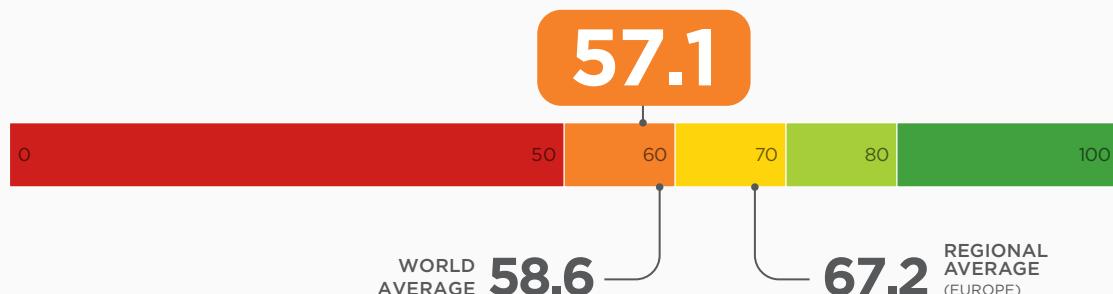
WORLD RANK: **99** | REGIONAL RANK: **40**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# MOLDOVA

Moldova's economic freedom score is 57.1, making its economy the 99th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.4 points from last year, and Moldova is ranked 40th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Moldova's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

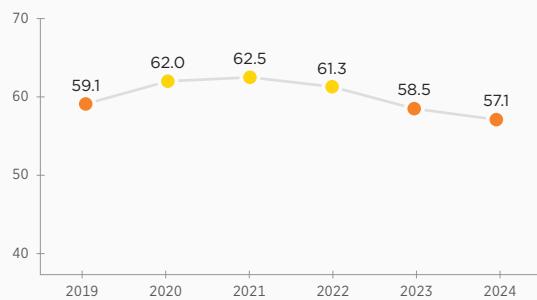
The foundations of economic freedom are neither well-established nor strongly protected in Moldova. Progress in achieving sound macroeconomic management and enhancing the entrepreneurial climate has been uneven. The country's economic performance is below potential, and the weak rule of law undermines prospects for more significant and dynamic long-term economic development. Moldova has adopted some regulatory reforms, but bureaucracy and a lack of transparency still make the formation and operation of private enterprises burdensome. The most recent available inflation rate is 28.6 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +24.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

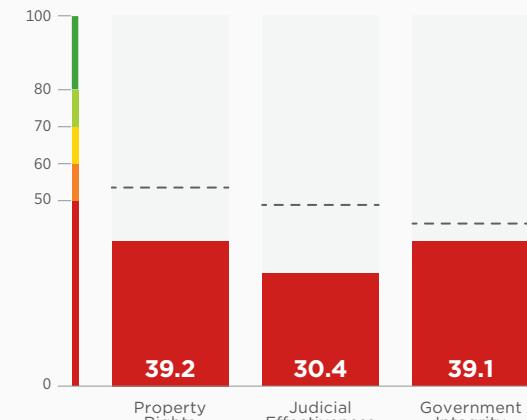
**POPULATION:**  
2.6 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$39.9 billion  
-5.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.7%  
\$15,710 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
28.6%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$587.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
32.6% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MOLDOVA

## RULE OF LAW



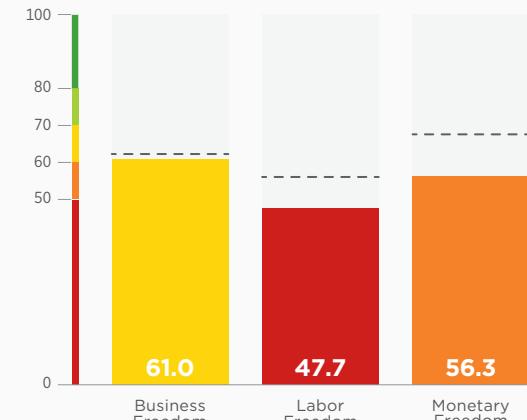
The overall rule of law is weak in Moldova. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



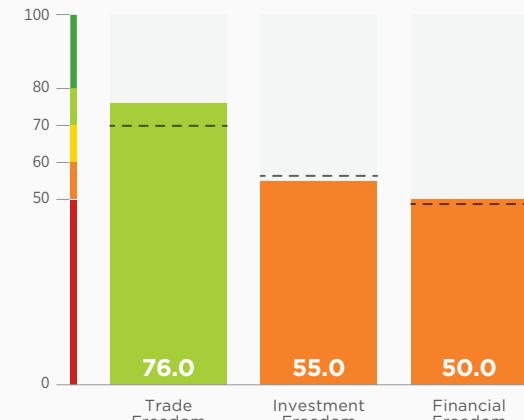
The top individual income tax rate is 12 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 12 percent. The tax burden equals 20.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 35.9 percent and -3.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 32.6 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

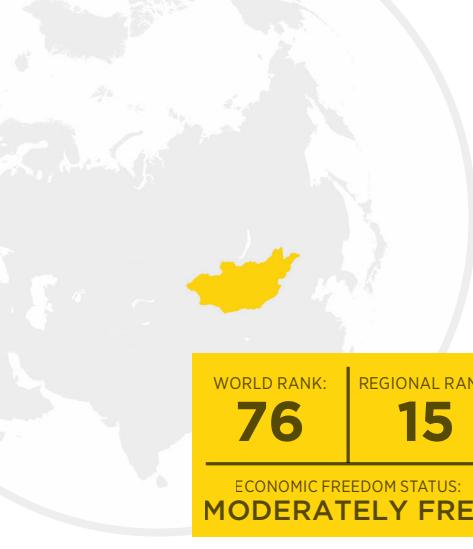


Moldova's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 4.5 percent, and eight nontariff measures are in force. The investment framework lacks transparency and efficiency. Long-term financing remains difficult. Approximately 45 percent of adult Moldovans have access to an account with a formal banking institution.



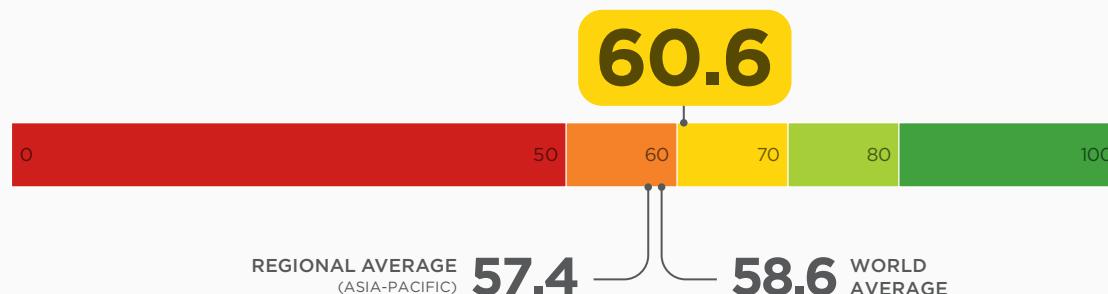
# MONGOLIA



Mongolia's economic freedom score is 60.6, making its economy the 76th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.1 points from last year, and Mongolia is ranked 15th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Mongolia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

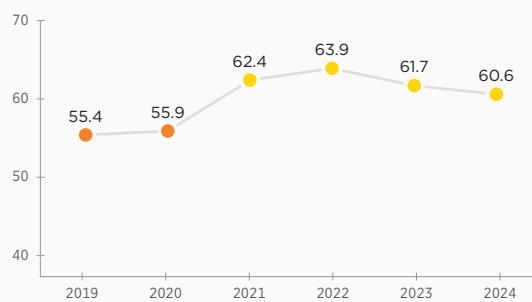
Mongolia's entrepreneurial sector benefits from a relatively open trade regime, and reforms have supported economic expansion and reductions in poverty. However, corruption and the weak rule of law discourage economic development. Judicial reforms and more streamlined public administration would help to sustain economic growth and broaden the improvement of living standards. The regulatory framework is evolving slowly. Employment regulations are relatively flexible, but the labor market lacks dynamism. Inflation has been volatile, and the most recent available rate is slightly above 15 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +12.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

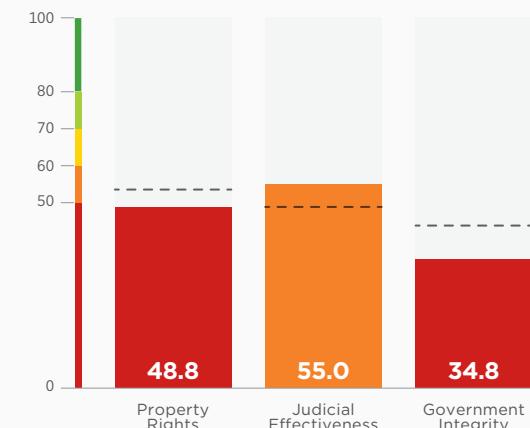
**POPULATION:**  
3.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$48.4 billion  
5.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.1%  
\$13,996 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
7.1%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
15.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$2.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
76.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

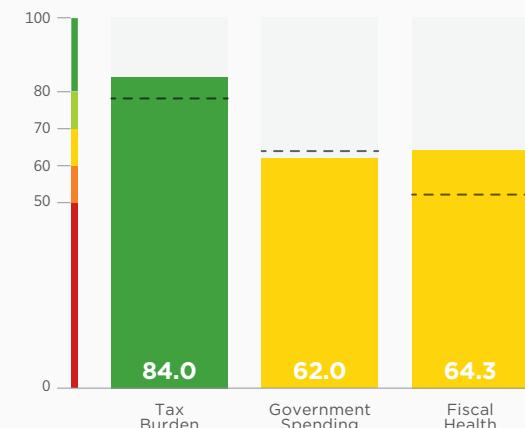
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MONGOLIA

## RULE OF LAW



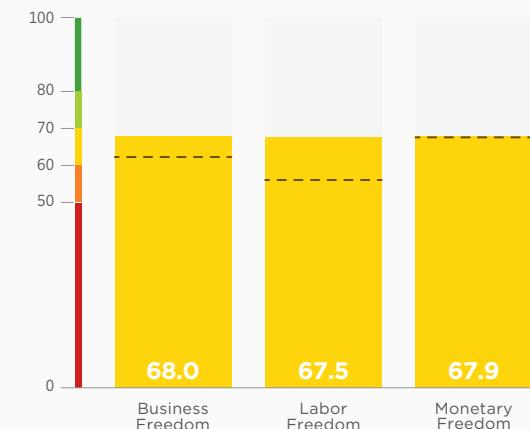
The overall rule of law is weak in Mongolia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 20 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 24.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 35.6 percent and -3.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 76.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

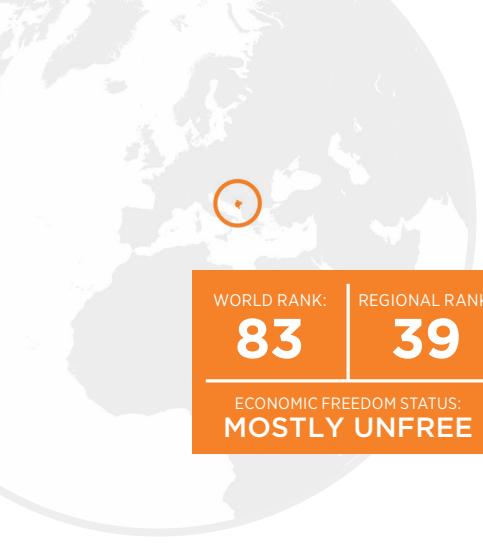


Mongolia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.3 percent, and other barriers to trade undermine trade flows. In an effort to attract more dynamic investment, Mongolia has pursued measures to liberalize markets and develop a competitive financial sector, but progress has been uneven.



WORLD RANK:

**83**

REGIONAL RANK:

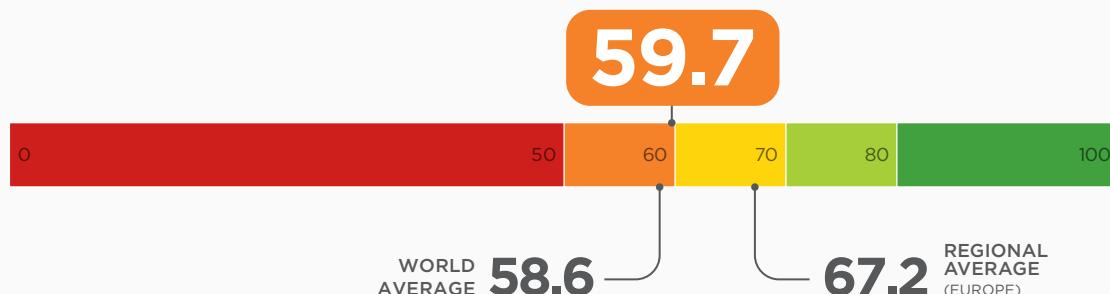
**39**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# MONTENEGRO

Montenegro's economic freedom score is 59.7, making its economy the 83rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.2 points from last year, and Montenegro is ranked 39th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Montenegro's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

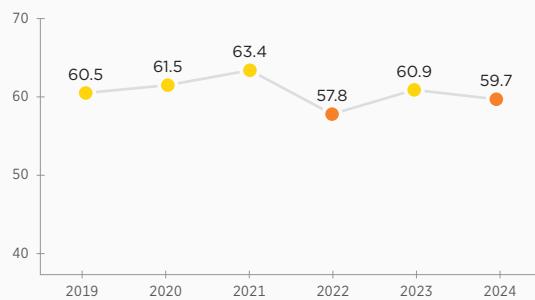
Montenegro's prospects for long-term economic growth are affected by a lack of institutional commitment to the strong protection of property rights and ineffectiveness in fighting corruption. The judicial framework remains vulnerable to political interference. Major challenges include political instability, corruption, and a lack of more sustainable investment. The number of licensing requirements has been reduced, but the pace of reform has slowed. Inflexible labor regulations discourage more dynamic job creation. Inflationary pressures persist, and overall price levels have increased.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2002): +13.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
0.6 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$16.1 billion  
6.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.6%  
\$25,862 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
18.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
13.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$877.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
72.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

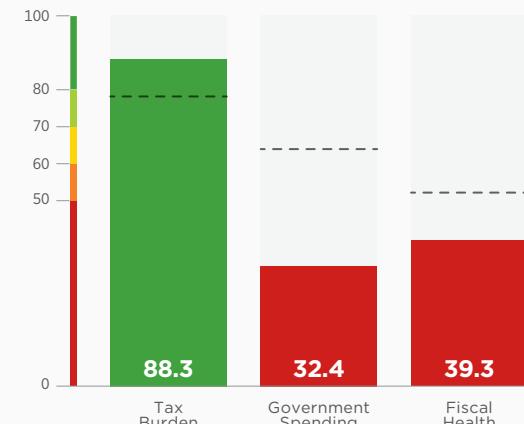
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MONTENEGRO

## RULE OF LAW



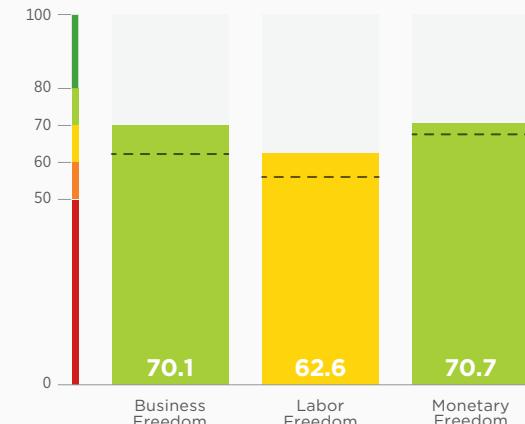
The overall rule of law is weak in Montenegro. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 15 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 26.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 47.5 percent and -5.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 72.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Montenegro's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.6 percent. The regulatory and legal frameworks that govern foreign investment generally facilitate the development of a growing private sector. The financial sector is small, but the level of participation and investment by foreign banks is significant.



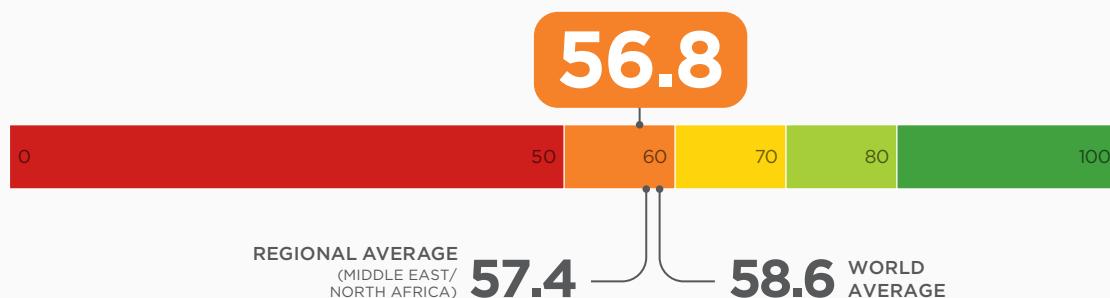
# MOROCCO

WORLD RANK: **101** | REGIONAL RANK: **9**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

**M**orocco's economic freedom score is 56.8, making its economy the 101st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.6 points from last year, and Morocco is ranked 9th out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Morocco's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

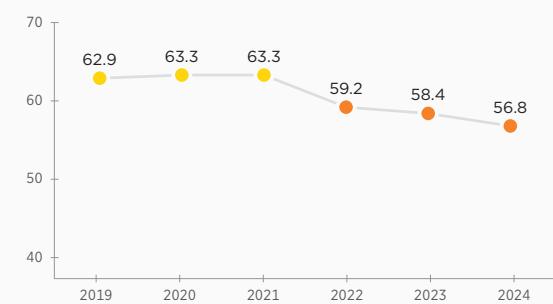
Morocco's gradual but notable progress is due partly to economic reforms that encourage private-sector dynamism. Competitiveness has improved, and the productive base has diversified. Some challenges require deeper institutional reforms. Procedures for setting up and registering private enterprises are now more streamlined. The cost of completing licensing requirements is still relatively high. Labor market rigidity still discourages dynamic job growth, and much of the labor force remains marginalized in the informal sector. Monetary stability has been maintained with relatively modest inflation.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -6.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



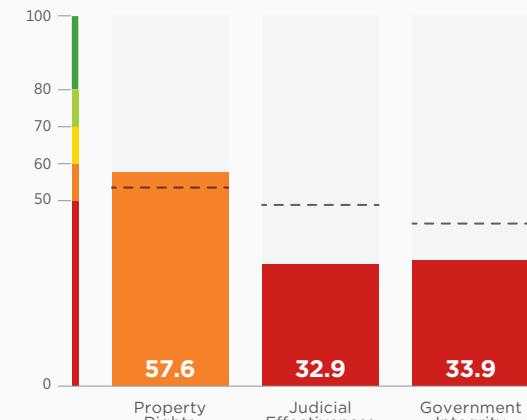
## QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 37.3 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 11.5%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$363.0 billion 1.3% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 1.6% \$9,900 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 6.6%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$2.1 billion	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 71.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

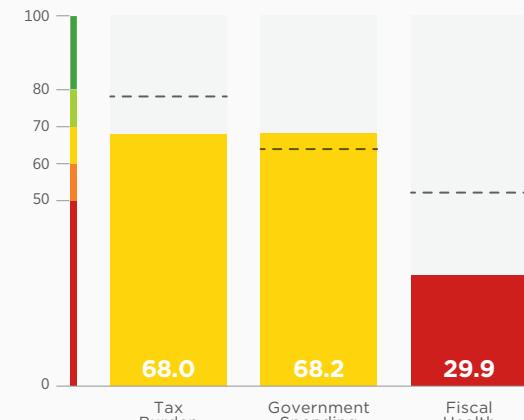
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MOROCCO

## RULE OF LAW



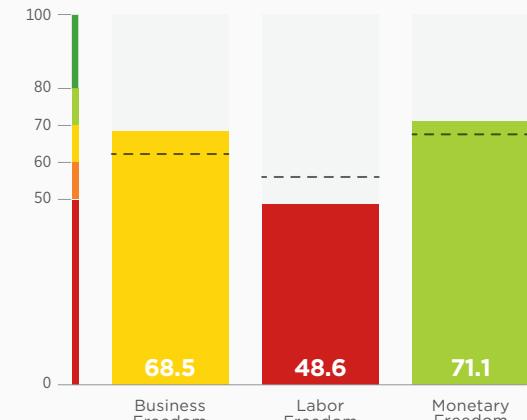
The overall rule of law is weak in Morocco. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 38 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 32 percent. The tax burden equals 27.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 32.6 percent and -6.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 71.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Morocco's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 11.3 percent. Foreign and domestic investors are generally treated equally under the law. The competitive financial sector continues to grow and offers a range of financing options. The stock exchange does not restrict foreign participation.

WORLD RANK:

**141**

REGIONAL RANK:

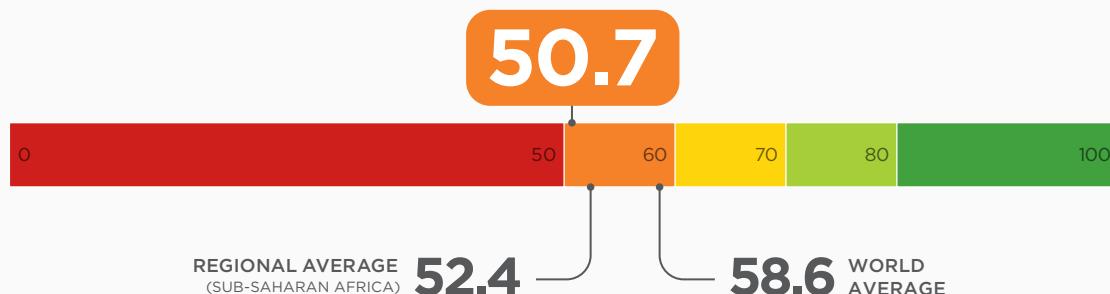
**34**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# MOZAMBIQUE

**M**ozambique's economic freedom score is 50.7, making its economy the 141st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.8 points from last year, and Mozambique is ranked 34th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Mozambique's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

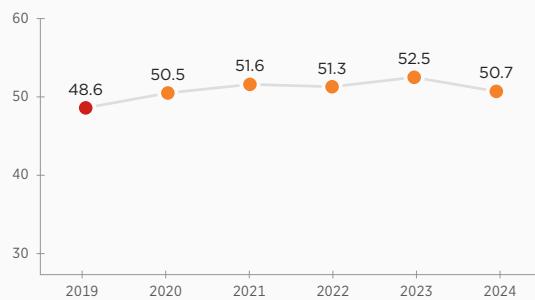
Mozambique has undertaken reforms to encourage economic development, although progress has been very gradual. Private-sector involvement in the economy is substantial, but privatization of state-owned enterprises has slowed. Persistent institutional and fiscal shortcomings have a negative effect on long-term economic development. Judicial enforcement is subject to corruption and political influence. The regulatory environment remains inefficient and burdensome. In recent years, the government has focused on restoring macroeconomic stability, particularly with an increasingly burdensome external debt and liquidity risks confronting the country.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +5.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
32.2 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$48.4 billion  
4.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.2%  
\$1,469 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.0%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
9.8%

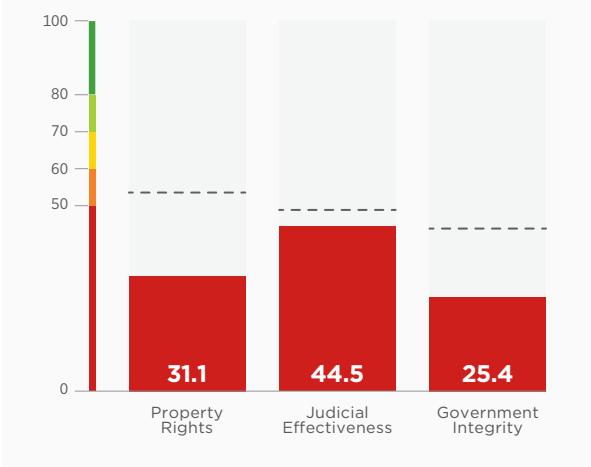
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$2.0 billion

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
95.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

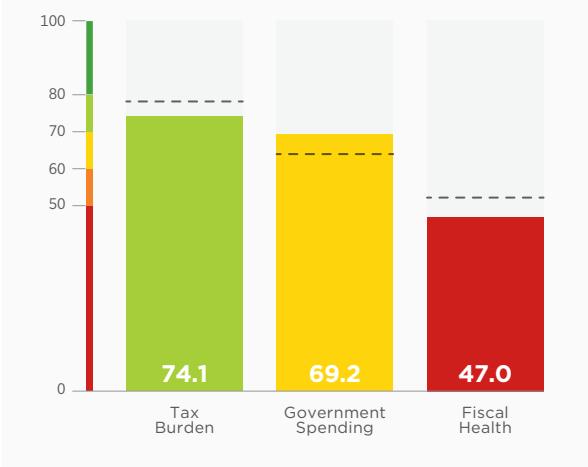
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MOZAMBIQUE

## RULE OF LAW



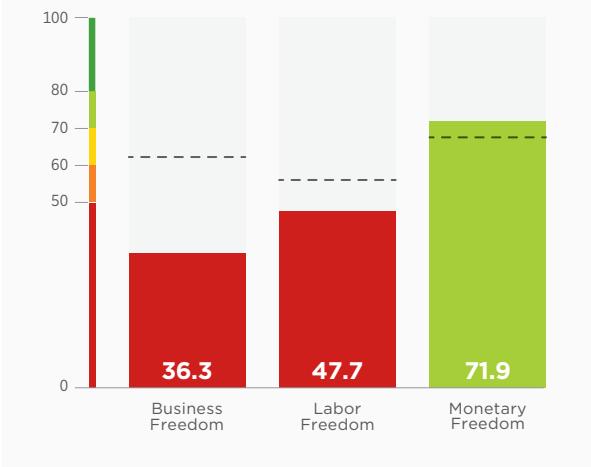
The overall rule of law is weak in Mozambique. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



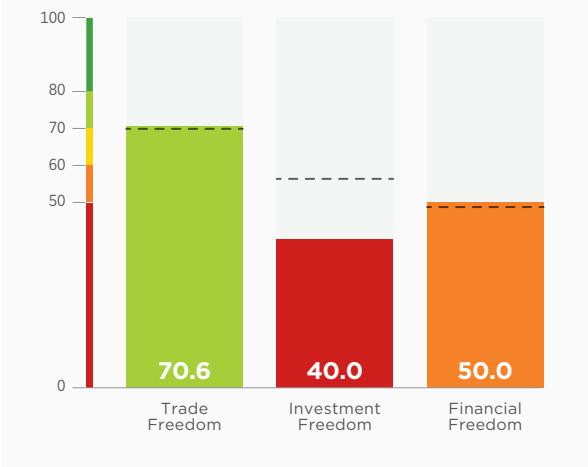
The top individual income tax rate is 32 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 32 percent. The tax burden equals 23.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 32.0 percent and -4.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 95.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Mozambique's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 7.2 percent. The government approves investments depending on their size. Institutional and regulatory shortcomings continue to undermine expansion of the private sector. The financial sector is dominated by banking and remains underdeveloped.



WORLD RANK:

**96**

REGIONAL RANK:

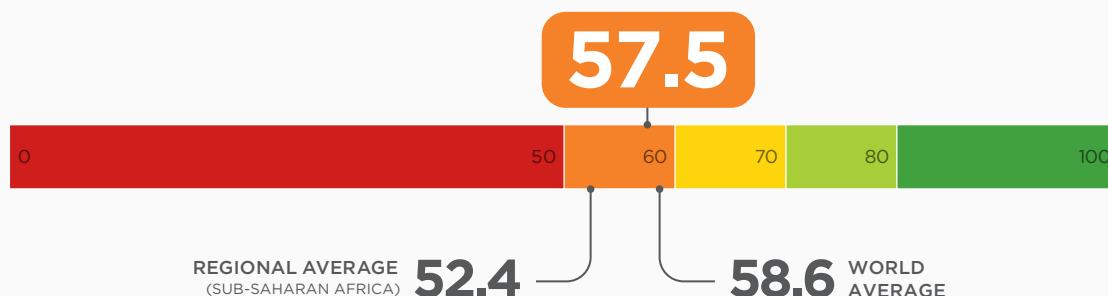
**10**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# NAMIBIA

**N**amibia's economic freedom score is 57.5, making its economy the 96th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.2 point from last year, and Namibia is ranked 10th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Namibia's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

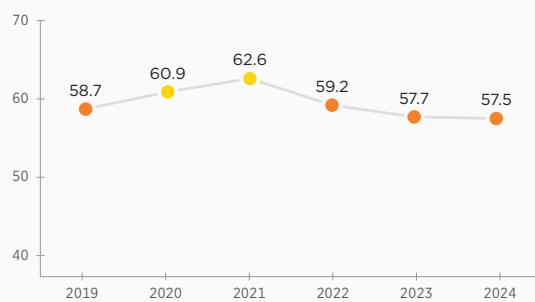
Economic expansion in Namibia is not strongly sustained by government policies or institutions. Overall economic freedom is constrained by deficiencies in the judicial framework. Protection of property rights is weak, and the government has not been effective in fighting corruption. Business regulations are enacted by the government without input from private-sector stakeholders. Labor regulations are not rigid, but the labor market lacks dynamism. Mining accounts for more than 50 percent of foreign exchange earnings.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1997): -4.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

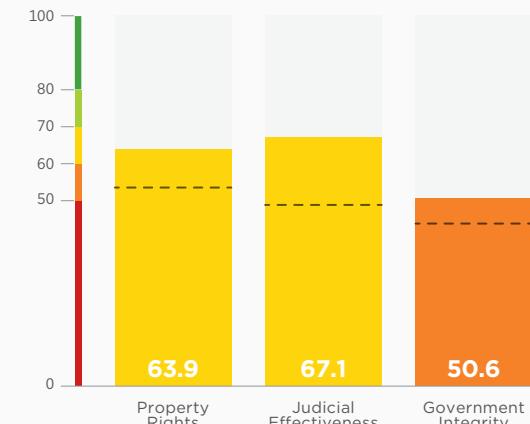
**POPULATION:**  
2.6 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$28.8 billion  
4.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.0%  
\$11,080 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
21.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$945.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
69.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

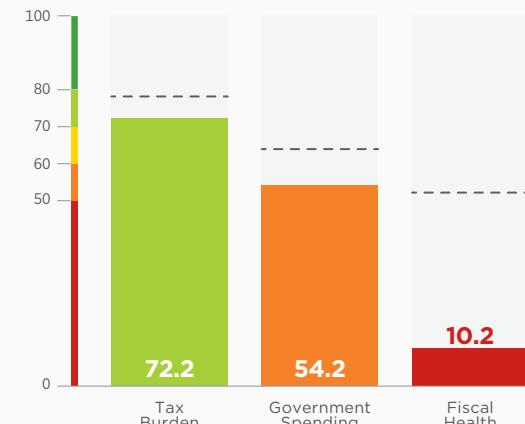
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | NAMIBIA

## RULE OF LAW



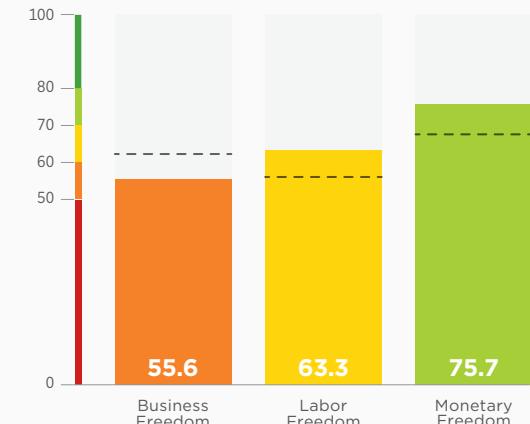
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Namibia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



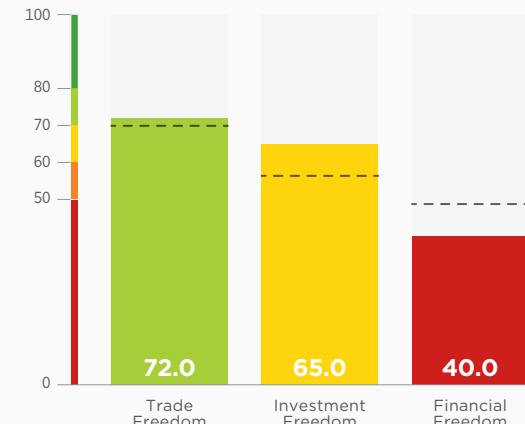
The top individual income tax rate is 37 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 32 percent. The tax burden equals 19.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 39.1 percent and -7.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 69.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Namibia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.5 percent, and other barriers undermine trade freedom. There are no formal limits on foreign ownership, but some sectors are subject to joint local ownership requirements. Despite some progress, financial intermediation is uneven across the country.

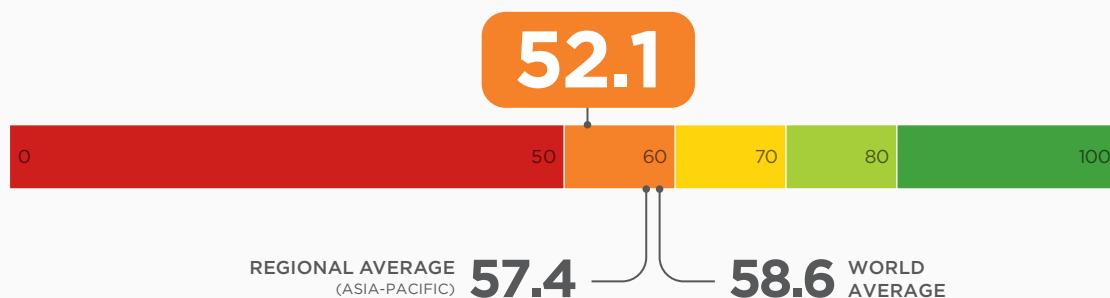
WORLD RANK: 130 | REGIONAL RANK: 27  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: MOSTLY UNFREE

# NEPAL

**N**epal's economic freedom score is 52.1, making its economy the 130th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.7 point from last year, and Nepal is ranked 27th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Nepal's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

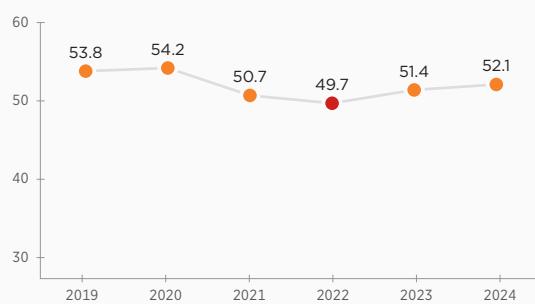
The government's statist approach to the economy seriously weakens economic freedom and development in Nepal. Corruption, a lack of transparency, and a burdensome business approval process impede much-needed expansion of private investment and production. Property rights are poorly protected by the inefficient judicial system, which is subject to substantial political influence. Despite some streamlining of the process for launching a business, other time-consuming and costly requirements reduce regulatory efficiency. Labor laws are restrictive. There is a talent drain, especially among educated youth.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +1.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

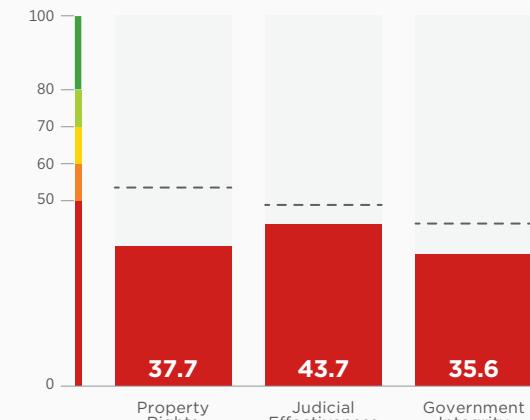
**POPULATION:**  
3.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$144.3 billion  
5.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.5%  
\$4,787 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$65.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
43.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

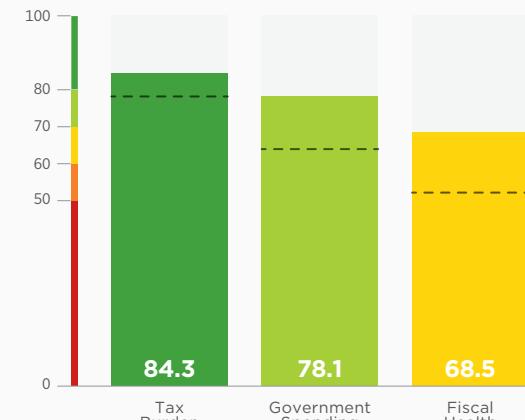
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | NEPAL

## RULE OF LAW



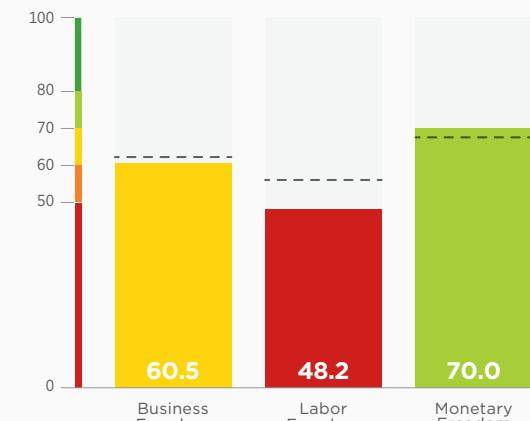
The overall rule of law is weak in Nepal. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



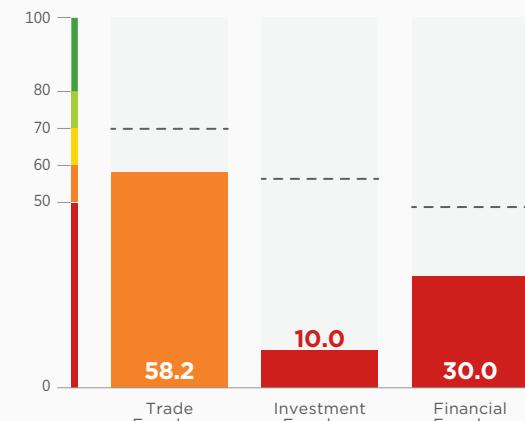
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 17.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 27.0 percent and -4.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 43.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Nepal's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 13.4 percent. The government's statist approach to economic management and development has been a serious drag on trade and investment activities. The financial sector is dominated by banking and remains underdeveloped and vulnerable to state interference.

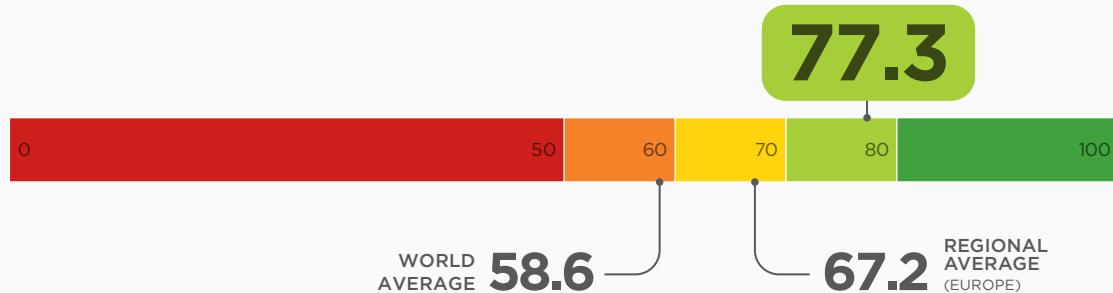


# NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands' economic freedom score is 77.3, making its economy the 11th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.7 point from last year, and the Netherlands is ranked 8th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. The Netherlands' economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

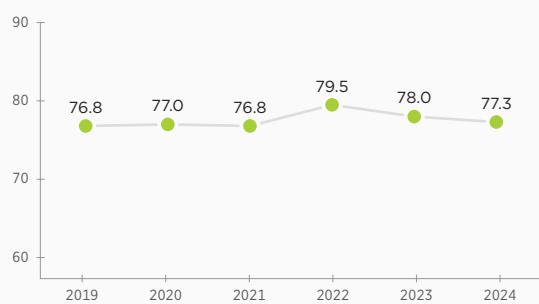
The Dutch economy benefits from a traditional emphasis on the rule of law and an efficient legal framework. The independent and corruption-free judicial system provides strong protection of property rights. Openness to global trade and investment is well established, and the regulatory and entrepreneurial environment remains transparent and efficient. Highly competitive logistics and stable political conditions enhance business freedom. Labor regulations are relatively rigid, and the non-salary cost of employing a worker is high. Monetary stability is maintained despite inflationary pressures.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +7.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

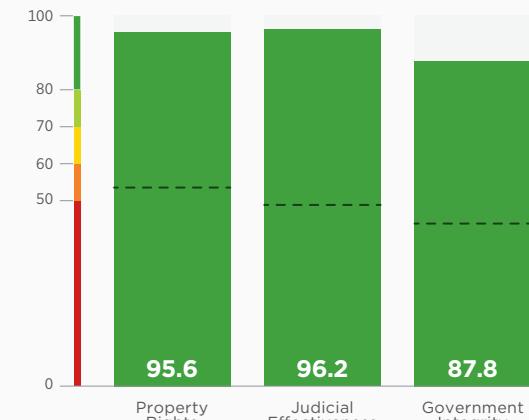
**POPULATION:**  
17.5 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.2 trillion  
4.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.2%  
\$70,728 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
11.6%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$67.3 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
50.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

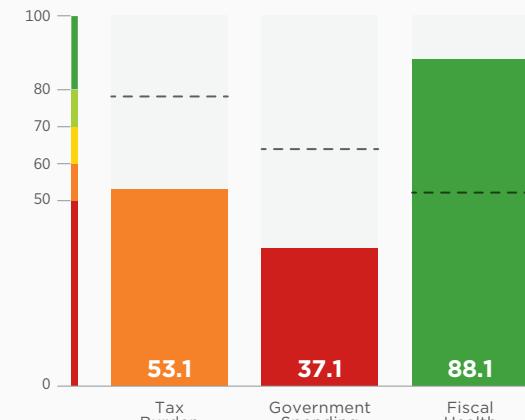
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | NETHERLANDS

## RULE OF LAW



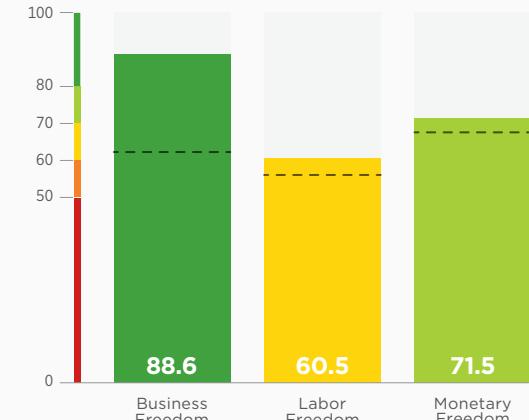
The overall rule of law is very well respected in the Netherlands. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 49.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25.8 percent. The tax burden equals 39.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 45.8 percent and -2.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 50.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The Netherlands' overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. There is no restrictive screening of foreign investment, and investment in most sectors is not restricted. Sensible banking regulations facilitate entrepreneurial growth.

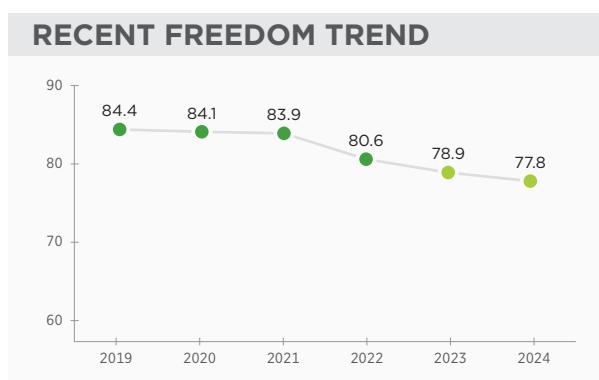
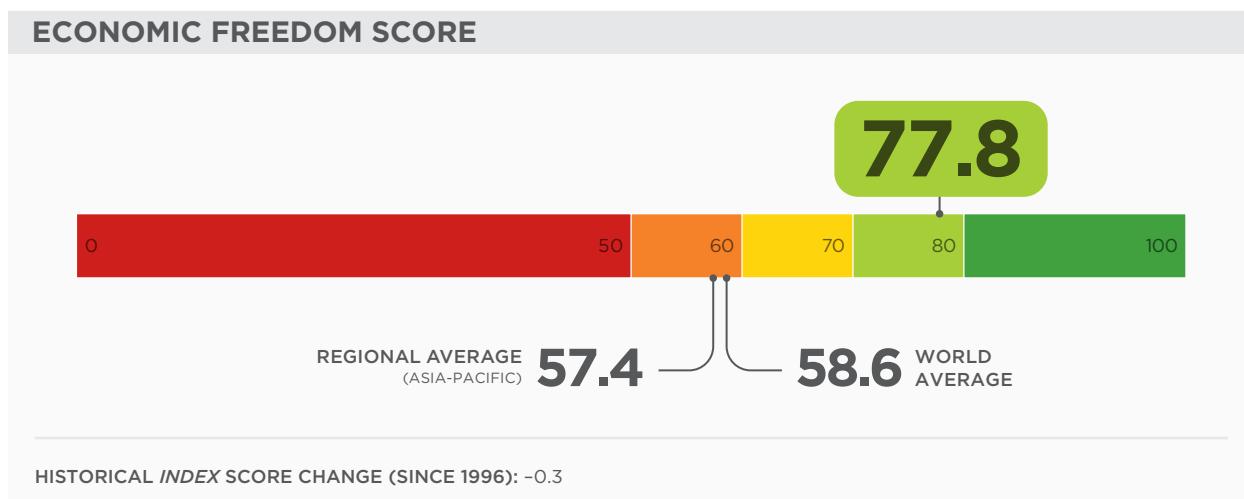


# NEW ZEALAND



New Zealand's economic freedom score is 77.8, making its economy the 6th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.1 points from last year, and New Zealand is ranked 3rd out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. New Zealand's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

New Zealand's commitment to economic freedom has generally resulted in a policy framework that sustains a high degree of economic resilience. The rule of law and openness to global trade and investment are firmly institutionalized. New Zealand's investment climate is transparent and stable. Traditionally high business freedom veered in the other direction during the COVID-19 pandemic as the government adopted a more top-down approach. Flexible labor regulations facilitate a dynamic labor market, increasing overall productivity. Inflationary pressures have not abated.



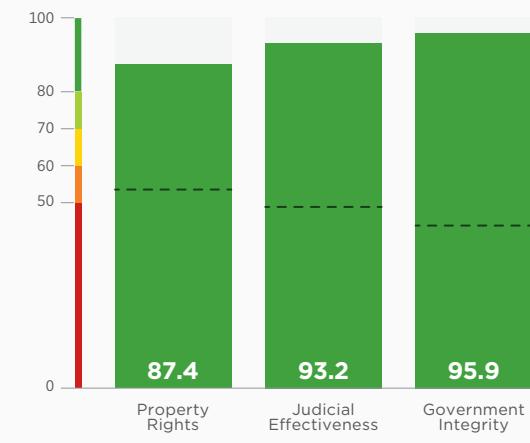
### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 5.1 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 4.1%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$266.3 billion 2.7% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 2.8% \$51,962 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 7.2%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$7.5 billion	
<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 46.4% of GDP	

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

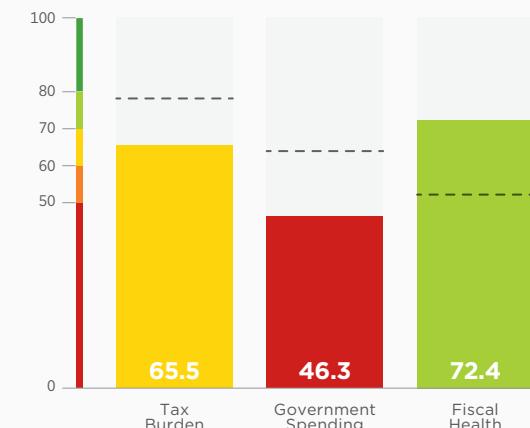
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | NEW ZEALAND

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is very well respected in New Zealand. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



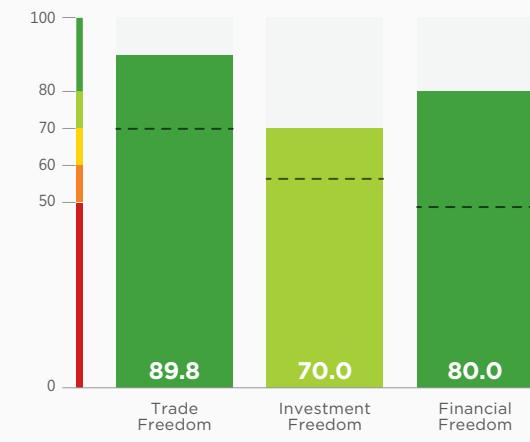
The top individual income tax rate is 39 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 28 percent. The tax burden equals 33.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 42.3 percent and -3.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 46.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

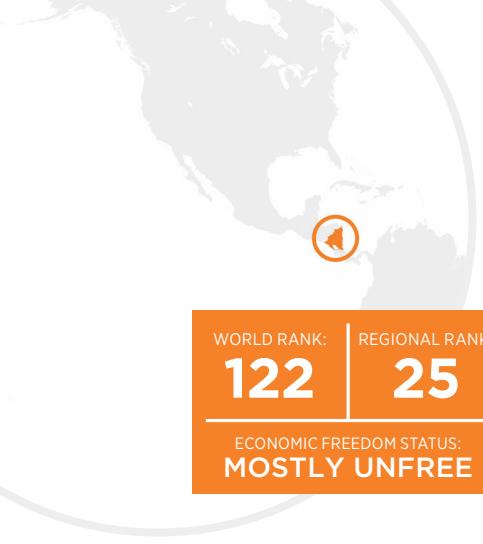


New Zealand's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 2.6 percent, and more than 200 nontariff measures are in force. Openness to global trade and investment is firmly institutionalized. The financial sector is well developed and offers a wide range of services. Banking is well established and competitive.



WORLD RANK:

**122**

REGIONAL RANK:

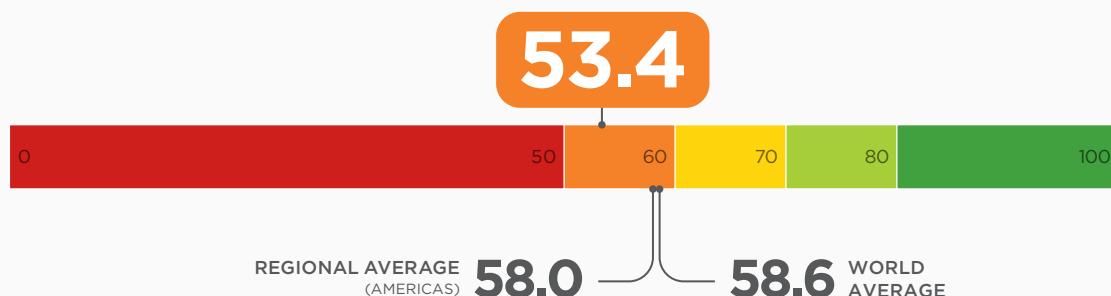
**25**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# NICARAGUA

Nicaragua's economic freedom score is 53.4, making its economy the 122nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.5 points from last year, and Nicaragua is ranked 25th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Nicaragua's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

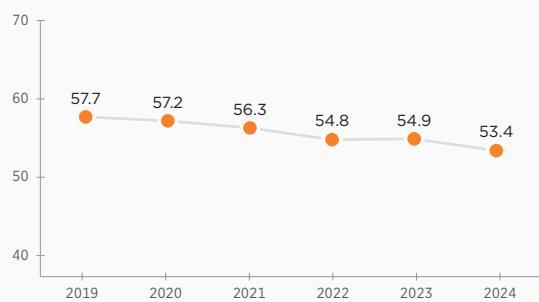
Efforts to improve macroeconomic stability and economic growth have been modest. Inefficiency and uncertainty in such areas as the regulatory and investment frameworks have held back dynamic growth, and institutional weaknesses also constrain economic development. The judicial system lacks the capacity to defend property rights effectively. The regulatory system is not transparent, and regulations are not always enforced consistently. The labor market remains rigid, and the lack of employment opportunities has caused chronic underemployment. The most recent available inflation rate is 10.5 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +10.9

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

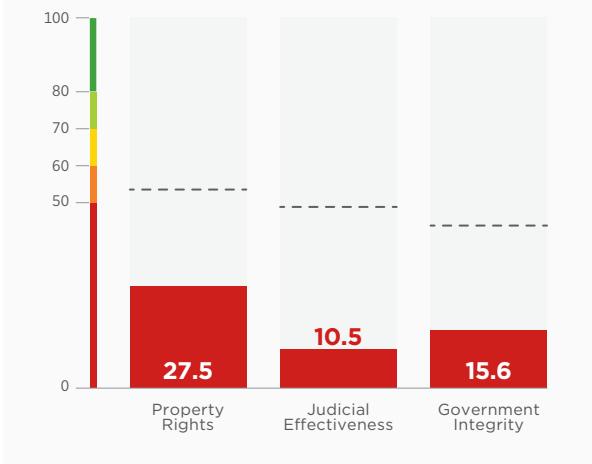
**POPULATION:**  
6.7 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$47.8 billion  
3.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.2%  
\$7,229 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
10.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.3 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
43.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

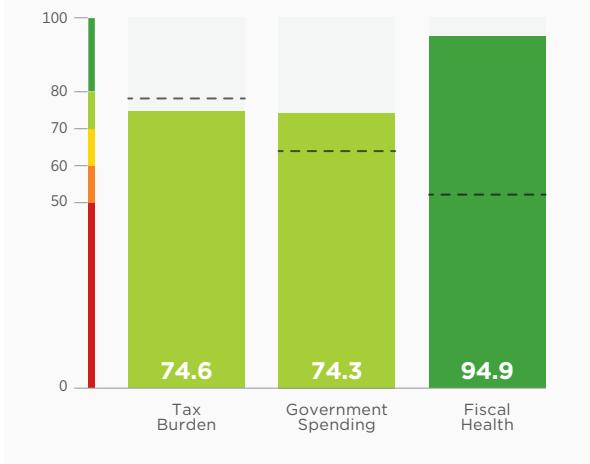
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | NICARAGUA

## RULE OF LAW



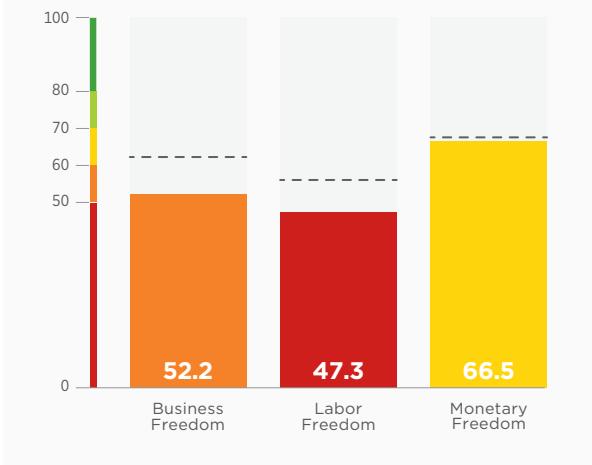
The overall rule of law is weak in Nicaragua. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



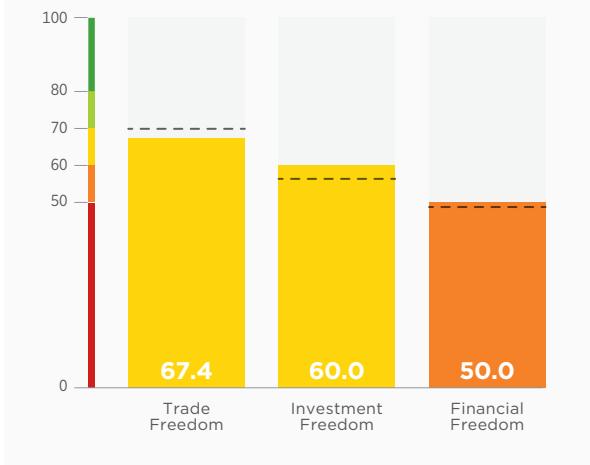
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 27.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 29.3 percent and -0.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 43.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

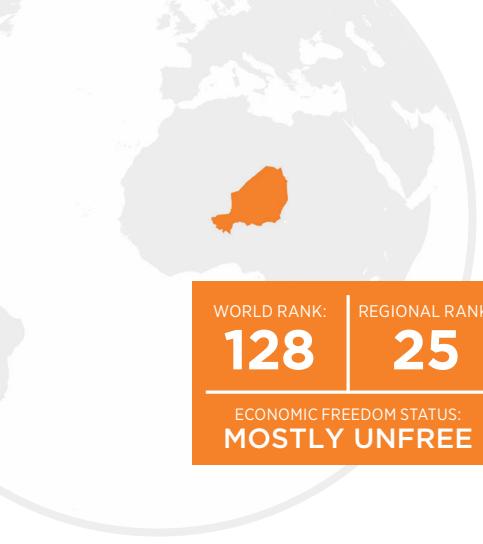


Nicaragua's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.3 percent, and layers of nontariff measures are in force. The judicial and regulatory systems favor state-owned enterprises and undermine foreign investment inflows. The low level of financial intermediation continues to discourage private-sector growth.



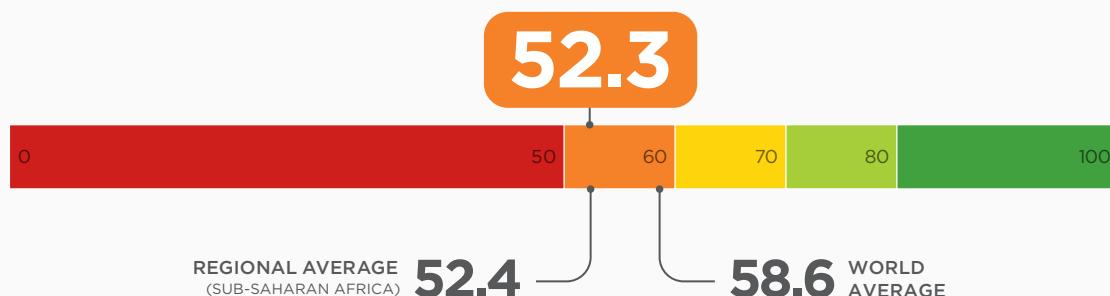
# NIGER

WORLD RANK: **128** | REGIONAL RANK: **25**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

**N**iger's economic freedom score is 52.3, making its economy the 128th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.4 points from last year, and Niger is ranked 25th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Niger's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

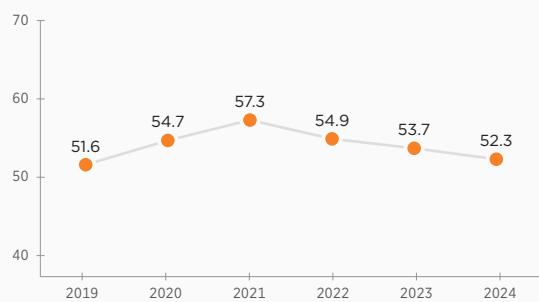
Progress toward greater economic freedom has been uneven and sluggish. Institutional weaknesses still discourage macroeconomic stability and poverty reduction. The rule of law, one of the key foundations of economic freedom, remains fragile because of corruption and a judicial system that is inept and subject to political interference. The inadequate regulatory framework hampers private-sector development. Onerous and inconsistent regulations impose substantial costs on business operations. The labor market is poorly developed, and much of the labor force works in the informal sector.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +6.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

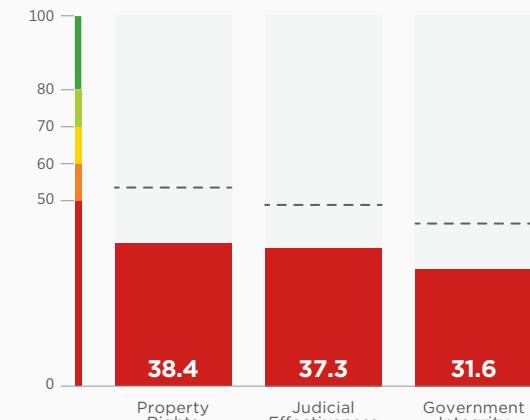
**POPULATION:**  
25.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$39.6 billion  
11.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 6.0%  
\$1,518 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
0.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
4.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$581.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
50.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

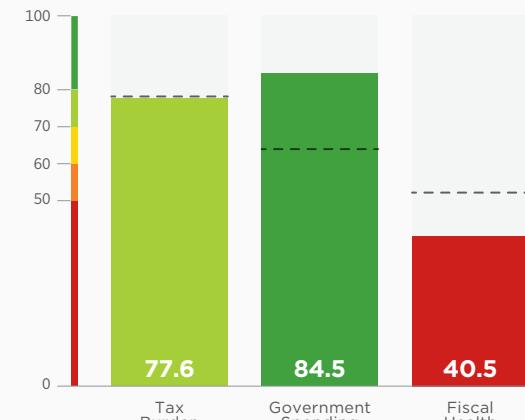
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | NIGER

## RULE OF LAW



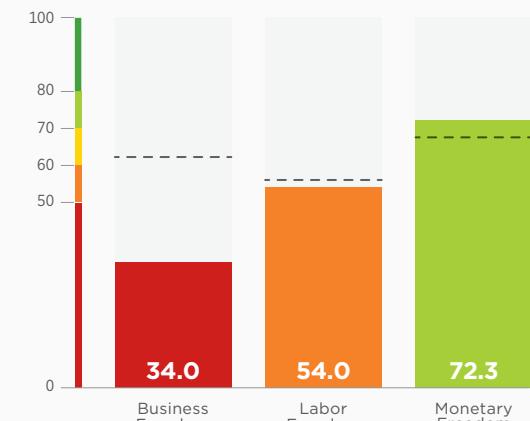
The overall rule of law is weak in Niger. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



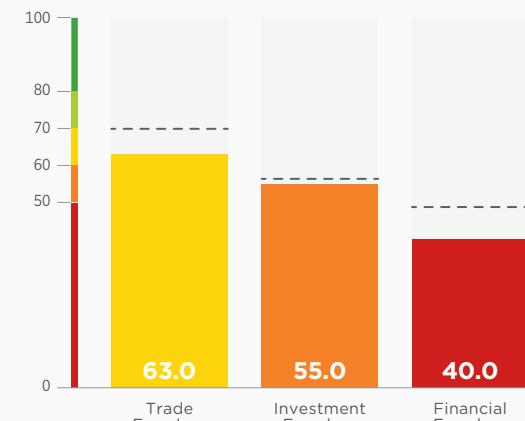
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 10.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 22.7 percent and -5.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 50.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

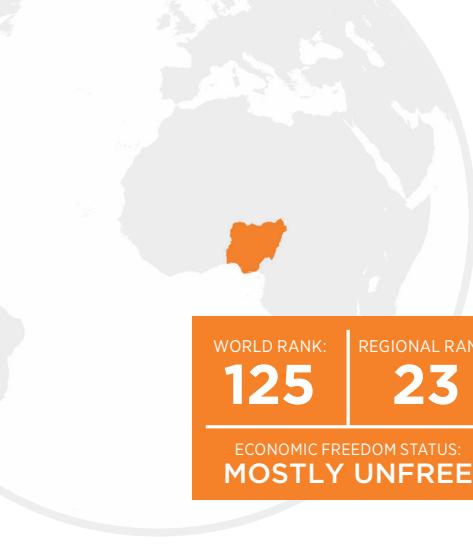


Niger's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 11.0 percent. The inefficient regulatory and legal environment constrains trade and investment. The underdeveloped, weak, and fragmented financial system reflects the small size of the formal economy. Financial inclusion is low.



# NIGERIA

WORLD RANK:  
**125**

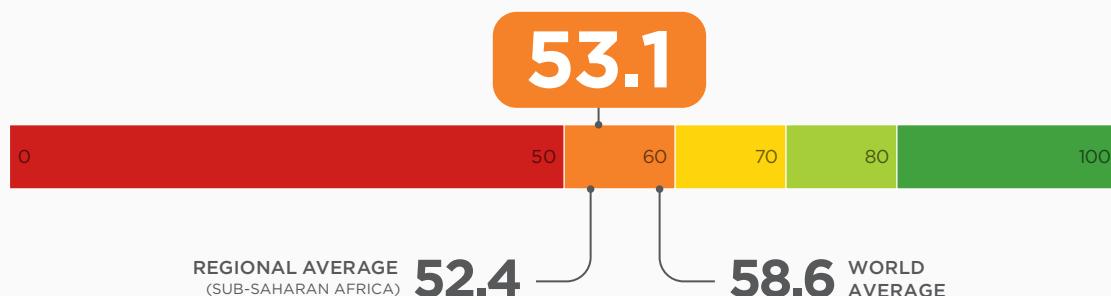
REGIONAL RANK:  
**23**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

**N**igeria's economic freedom score is 53.1, making its economy the 125th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.8 point from last year, and Nigeria is ranked 23rd out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Nigeria's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

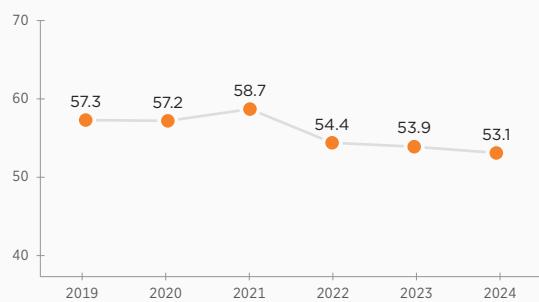
Structural changes that are needed to develop a more vibrant private sector or achieve more broadly based growth have not emerged. Oil continues to dominate the economy. The judicial system is susceptible to political interference, corruption is prevalent, and the rule of law is weak. Time-consuming and costly regulatory procedures still burden the entrepreneurial environment. Much of the formal labor force is employed in the public or energy sectors. The most recent available inflation rate is 18.8 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +5.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

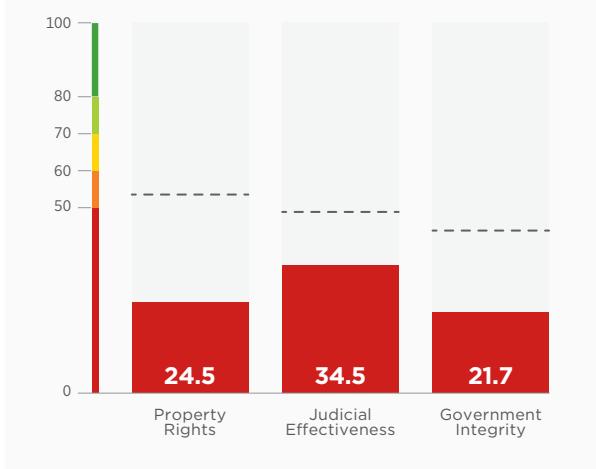
**POPULATION:**  
211.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.3 trillion  
3.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.8%  
\$5,909 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
9.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
18.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$187.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
39.6% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

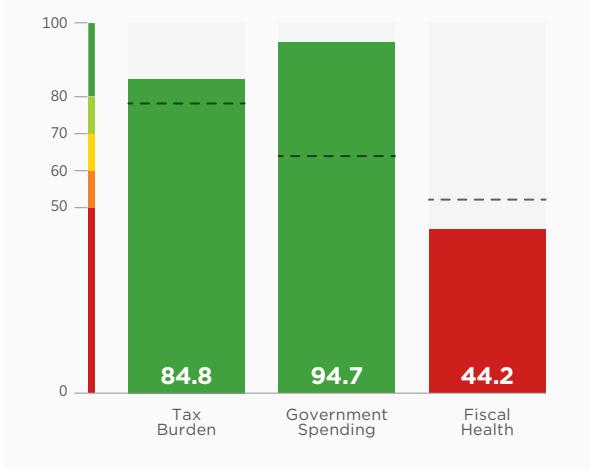
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | NIGERIA

## RULE OF LAW



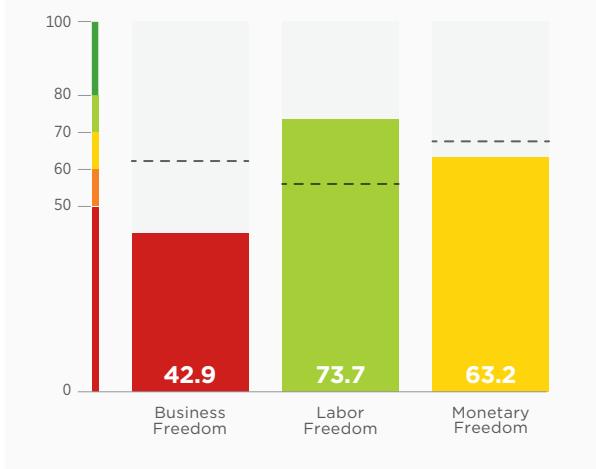
The overall rule of law is weak in Nigeria. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



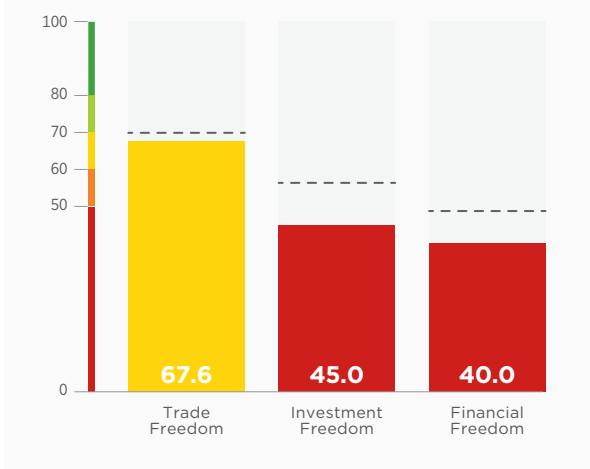
The top individual income tax rate is 24 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 6.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 13.3 percent and -5.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 39.6 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

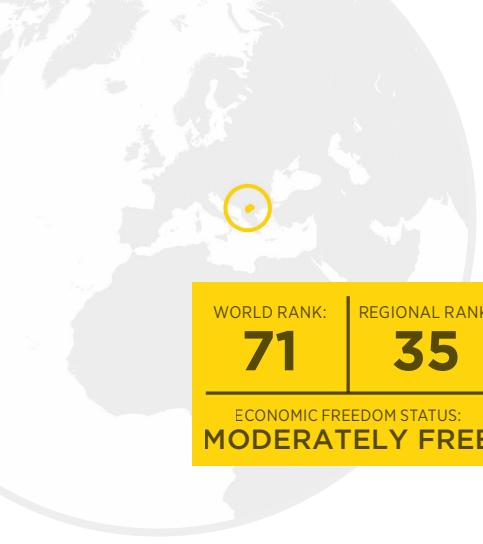


Nigeria's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.7 percent. Bureaucratic delays continue to serve as barriers to trade and investment. The financial sector is dominated by banking and growing unevenly across the country. Nonperforming loans continue to be a problem.

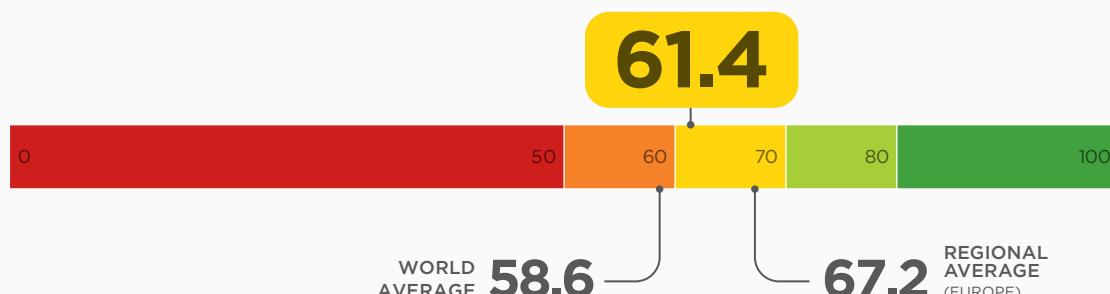


# NORTH MACEDONIA

North Macedonia's economic freedom score is 61.4, making its economy the 71st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.3 points from last year, and North Macedonia is ranked 35th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. North Macedonia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

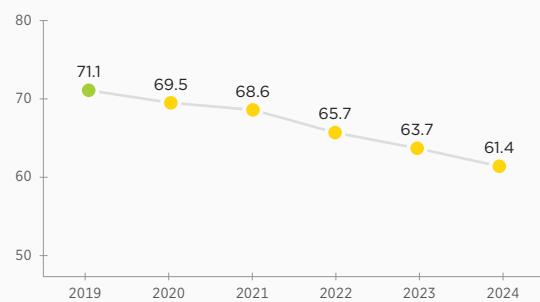
Relative openness to global commerce has encouraged private-sector dynamism. Despite some progress, the development of a more vibrant private sector is still constrained. Corruption remains a concern. The inefficient legal framework does not provide effective protection of property rights. Streamlined processes for business formation and operation provide an environment that is fairly conducive to entrepreneurial growth. Progress in reforming the labor market has been limited. The most recent available inflation rate is slightly above 14 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2002): +3.4

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

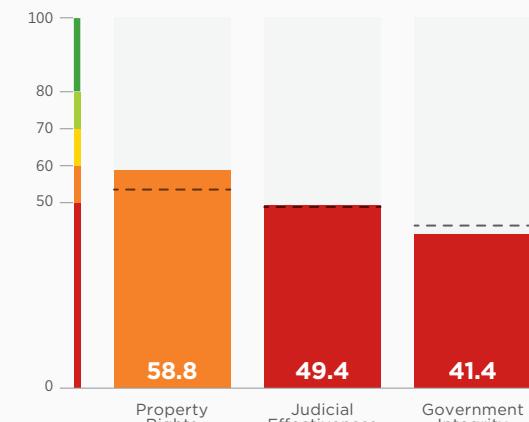
**POPULATION:**  
2.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$41.5 billion  
2.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.6%  
\$20,129 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
16.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
14.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$794.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
52.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

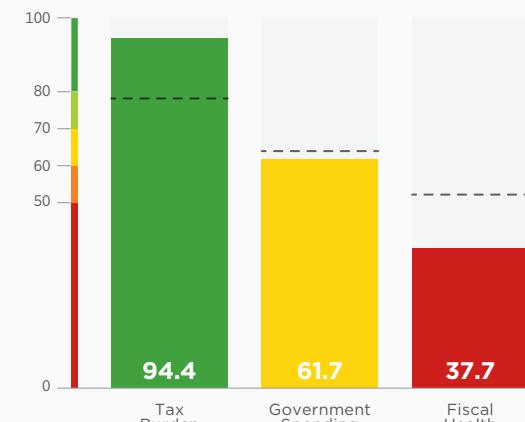
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | NORTH MACEDONIA

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is weak in North Macedonia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 10 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 10 percent. The tax burden equals 19.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 35.7 percent and -6.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 52.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



North Macedonia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.1 percent, and nontariff barriers are still in force. A streamlined regulatory framework facilitates investment, but political instability undercuts more vibrant investment inflows. The financial system continues to evolve, and the banking sector is relatively stable.



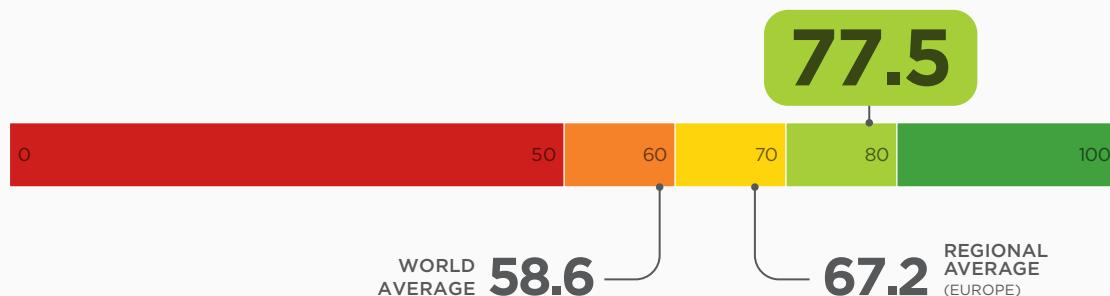
WORLD RANK: **10** | REGIONAL RANK: **7**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY FREE**

# NORWAY

**N**orway's economic freedom score is 77.5, making its economy the 10th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.6 point from last year, and Norway is ranked 7th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Norway's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

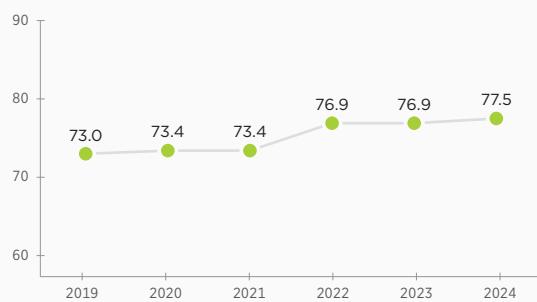
The diversified and modern Norwegian economy benefits from high levels of flexibility and institutional strengths that include strong protection of property rights and an efficient legal framework. Together with openness to global commerce, prudent and transparent regulations sustain economic dynamism and a commercial environment that is innovative and resilient. Business registration and other business-related processes are straightforward and transparent. Supply and demand of labor skills are well matched. The labor market lacks flexibility, but the non-salary cost of employment is not excessively high.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +12.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

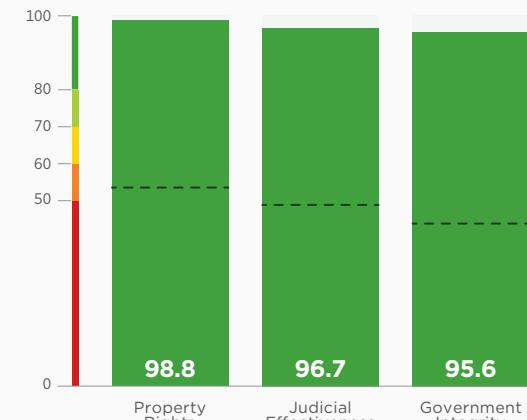
**POPULATION:**  
5.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$427.1 billion  
3.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.6%  
\$78,014 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$3.4 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
37.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

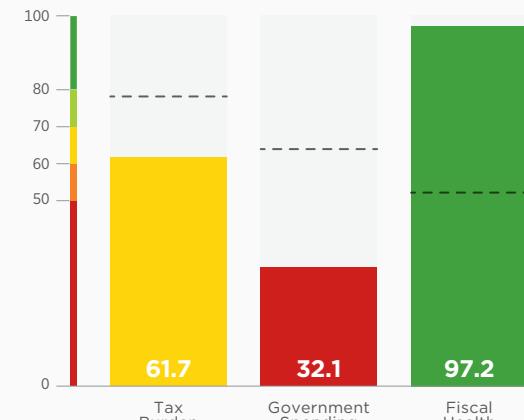
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | NORWAY

## RULE OF LAW



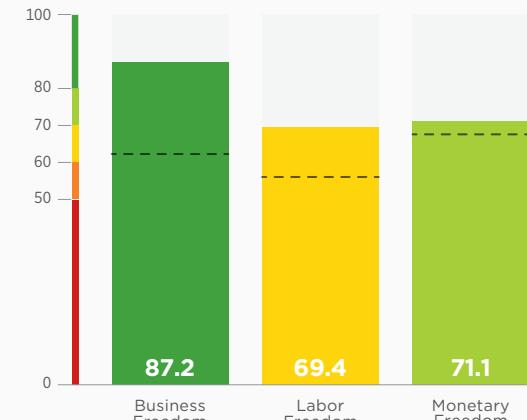
The overall rule of law is very well respected in Norway. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



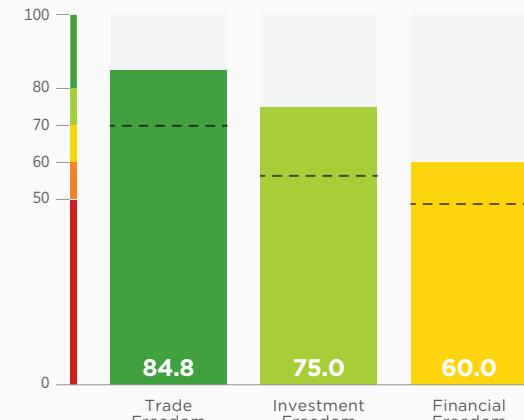
The top individual income tax rate is 39.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 22 percent. The tax burden equals 42.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 47.6 percent and 10.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 37.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

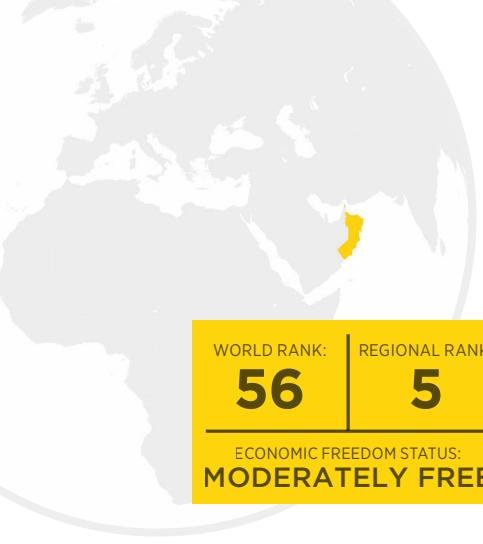


Norway's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. The economy benefits from openness to foreign investment. The financial sector is competitive and open. The state still owns the largest financial institution.



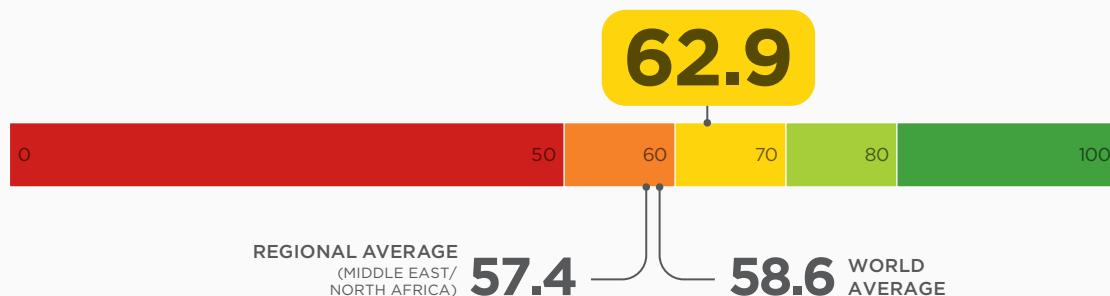
# OMAN



Oman's economic freedom score is 62.9, making its economy the 56th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 4.4 points from last year, and Oman is ranked 5th out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Oman's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

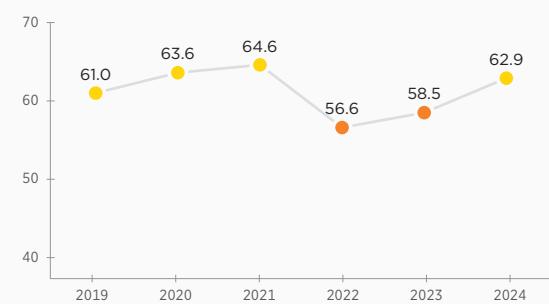
Oman's economy is being modernized. Although the rule of law has been relatively well maintained, the judiciary remains vulnerable to political interference. Economic freedom remains limited by state involvement in the private sector. Recognizing the importance of a dynamic entrepreneurial environment, the government has acted to diversify economic activity and stimulate more broadly based development. The evolving regulatory framework's efficiency is improving, and tax rates are competitive. Foreign investment is welcome in many sectors, although the approval process can be time-consuming.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -7.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

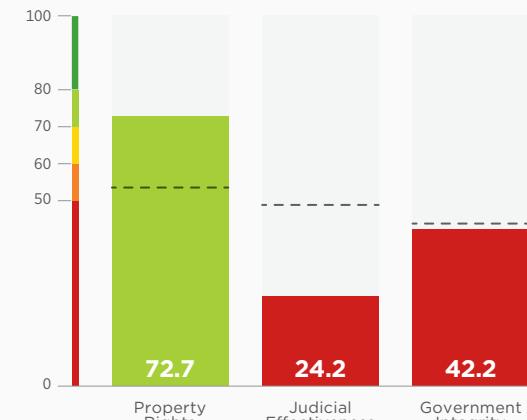
**POPULATION:**  
5.2 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$190.9 billion  
4.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.8%  
\$38,699 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.1%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
2.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$3.7 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
40.0% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | OMAN

## RULE OF LAW



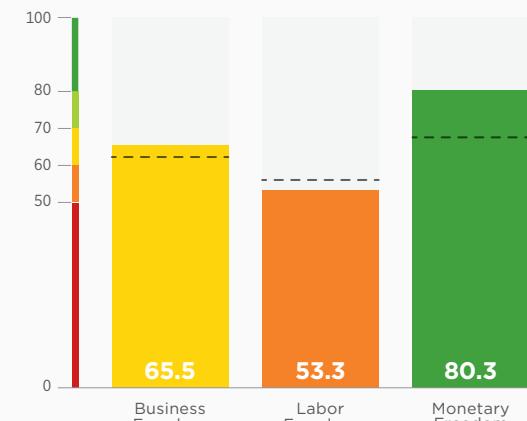
The overall rule of law is weak in Oman. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 0 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 3.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 36.8 percent and -3.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 40.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Oman's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 4.4 percent. Efforts to increase transparency and streamline the investment framework are ongoing. Most credit is offered at market rates, but the government uses subsidized loans to promote investment. The Muscat Securities Market is open to foreign investors.

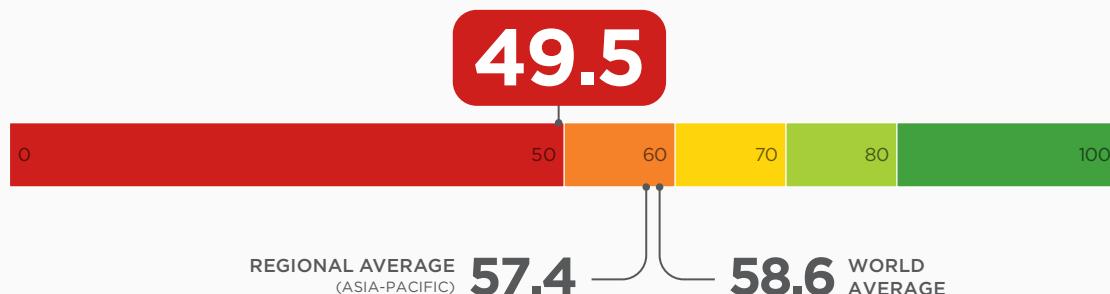


# PAKISTAN

Pakistan's economic freedom score is 49.5, making its economy the 147th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is essentially unchanged from last year, and Pakistan is ranked 32nd out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Pakistan's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

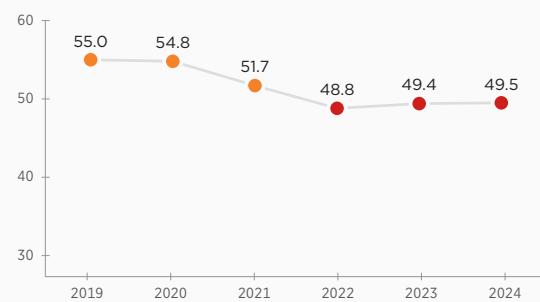
The government has demonstrated little commitment to much-needed economic reform. Efforts in key areas have been marginal at best. Measures to strengthen the management of public finance and reform outmoded economic structures have met institutional resistance. Property rights are undercut by a judiciary that is susceptible to political interference and corruption. Little progress has been made in improving either the entrepreneurial environment or private-sector dynamism. The labor market remains stagnant. Much of the workforce is underemployed in the informal sector. High inflation has disrupted monetary stability.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -8.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

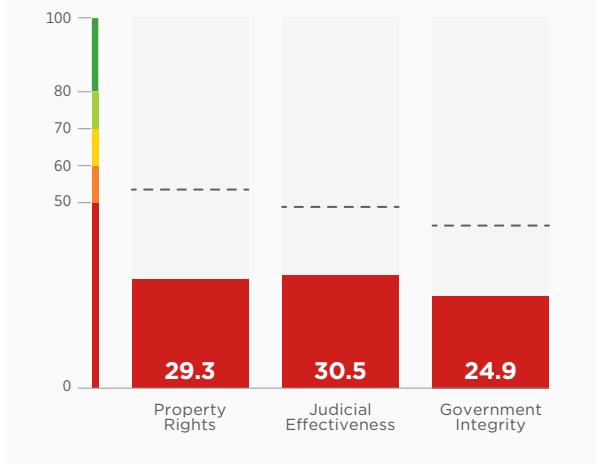
**POPULATION:**  
225.2 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.5 trillion  
6.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.0%  
\$6,695 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
12.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.3 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
76.2% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

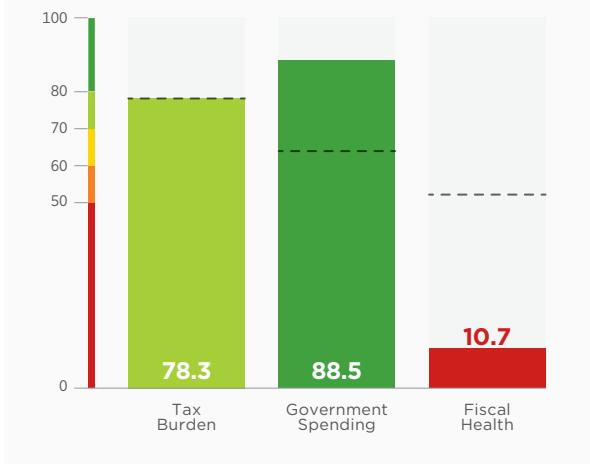
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | PAKISTAN

## RULE OF LAW



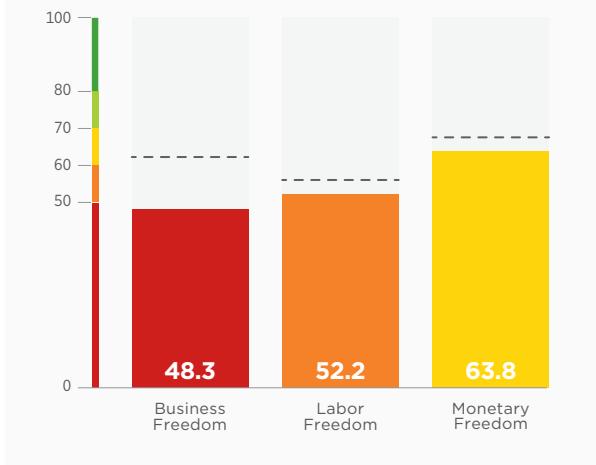
The overall rule of law is weak in Pakistan. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



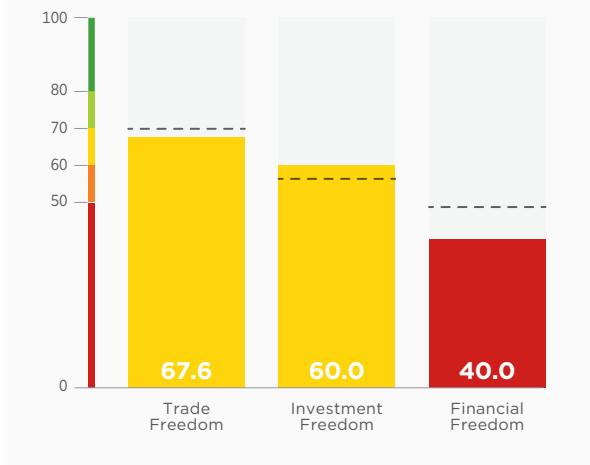
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 29 percent. The tax burden equals 10.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 19.6 percent and -7.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 76.2 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Pakistan's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

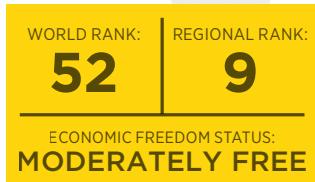
## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.7 percent. State involvement in the economy and restrictions on foreign investment are serious drags on economic dynamism. The financial sector remains underdeveloped, and foreign participation is limited. Financial inclusion is low.



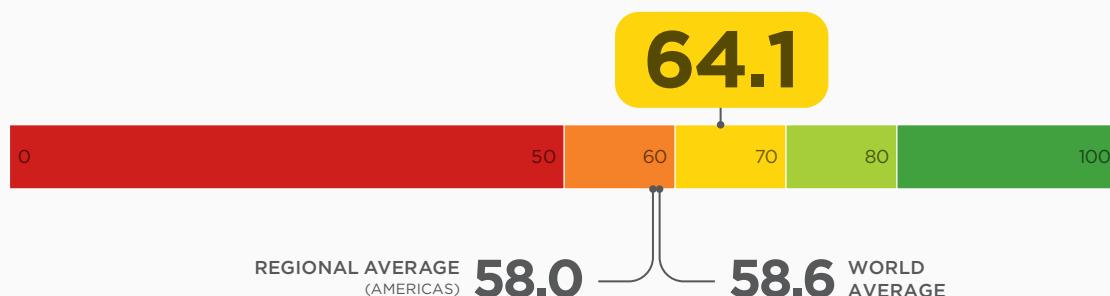
# PANAMA



**P**anama's economic freedom score is 64.1, making its economy the 52nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.3 point from last year, and Panama is ranked 9th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Panama's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

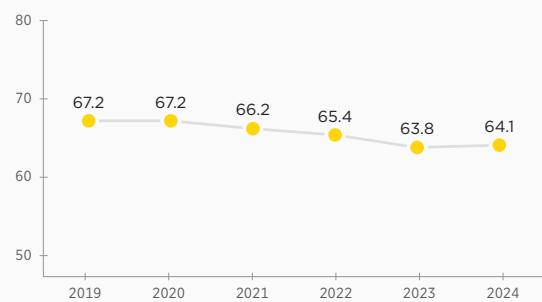
Despite some progress, institutional shortcomings still undermine long-term economic expansion and limit economic freedom. The judicial system remains vulnerable to political interference. The regulatory environment is efficient, but the pace of reform has slowed. The labor market lacks flexibility. Restrictions on work hours are rigid, and the non-salary cost of hiring a worker is relatively high. Monetary stability has been fairly well maintained. Panama's service-oriented economy continues to be an international business hub for such activities as maritime transport, distribution services, and banking.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -7.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

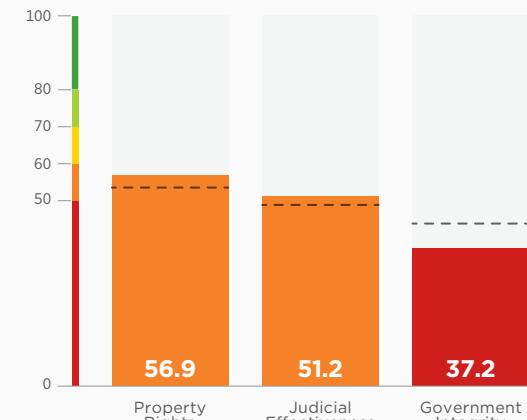
**POPULATION:**  
4.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$173.2 billion  
10.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.2%  
\$39,397 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
12.1%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
2.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$2.6 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
53.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

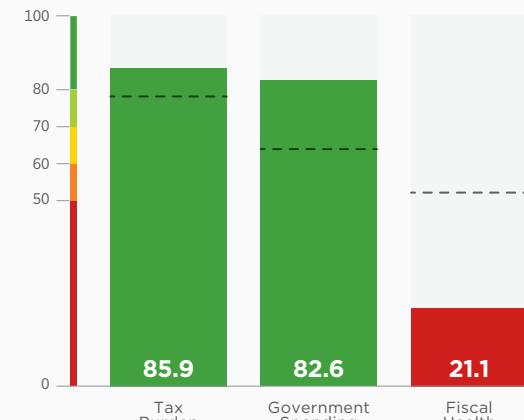
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | PANAMA

## RULE OF LAW



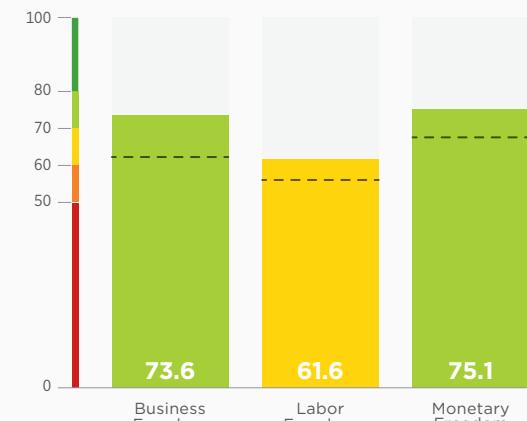
The overall rule of law is weak in Panama. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



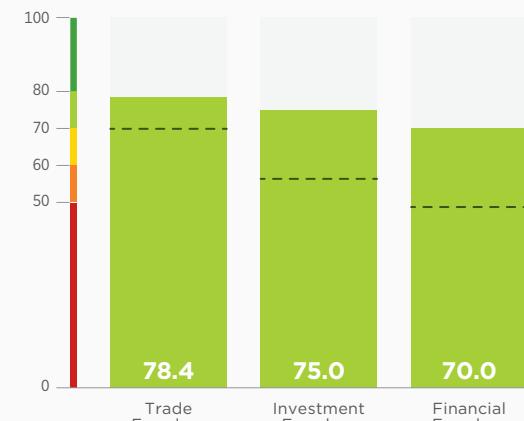
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 12.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 24.1 percent and -6.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 53.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

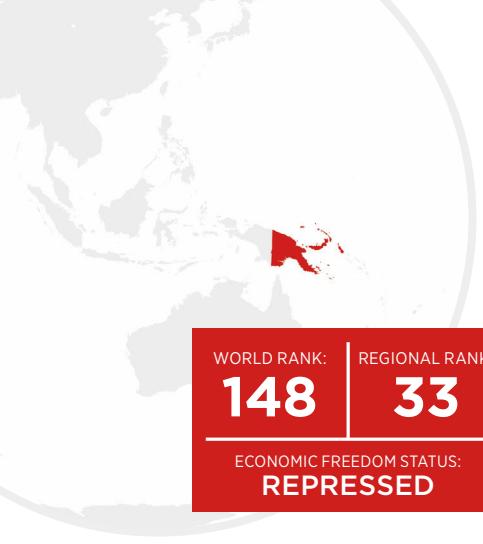


Panama's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.8 percent, and layers of nontariff measures are in force. The government generally does not screen or discriminate against foreign investment. The financial sector provides a wide range of services. Efforts to strengthen laws against money laundering continue.



# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

WORLD RANK:  
**148**

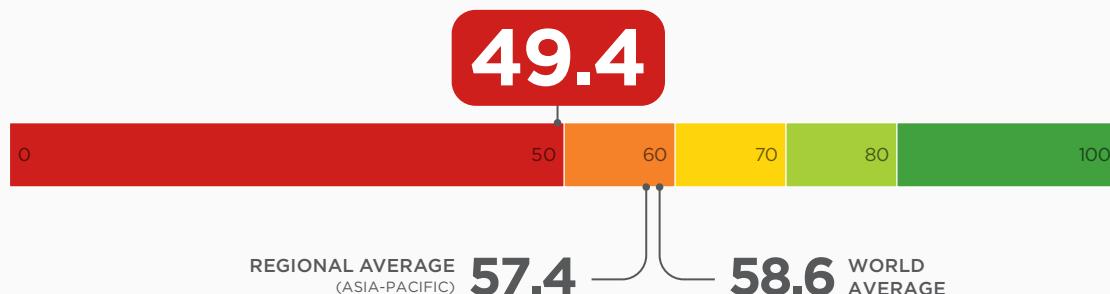
REGIONAL RANK:  
**33**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSIVE**

**P**apua New Guinea's economic freedom score is 49.4, making its economy the 148th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.3 points from last year, and Papua New Guinea is ranked 33rd out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Papua New Guinea's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

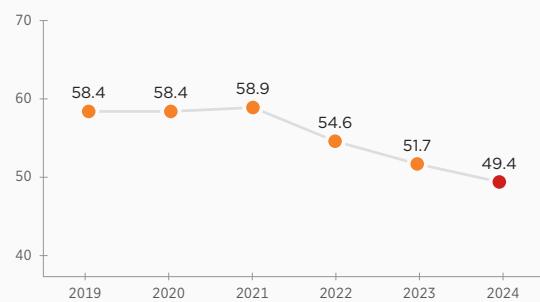
The formal economy is based on exports of natural resources, and the large informal economy relies on subsistence farming and other small-scale activity. A low property rights score and a level of corruption that undermines the rule of law reflect challenges to long-term development. The overall regulatory framework remains poor. Progress toward making the structural changes needed to promote entrepreneurial activity has been limited. The formal labor market is not fully developed, and informal labor activity is substantial.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): -9.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

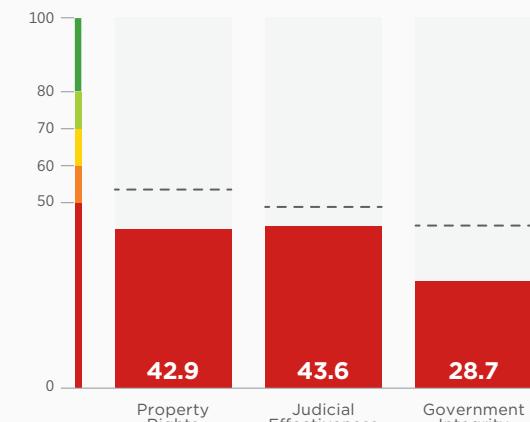
**POPULATION:**  
9.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$39.1 billion  
4.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.1%  
\$3,252 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
2.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$327.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
48.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

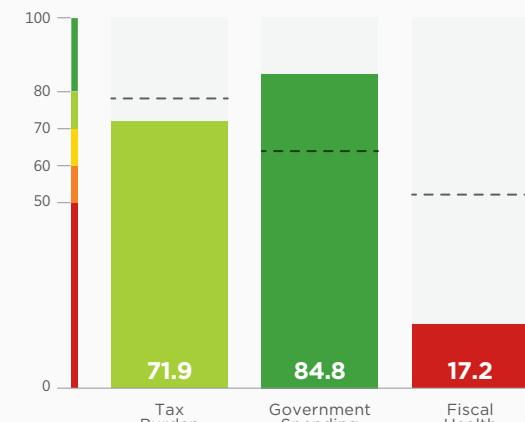
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## RULE OF LAW



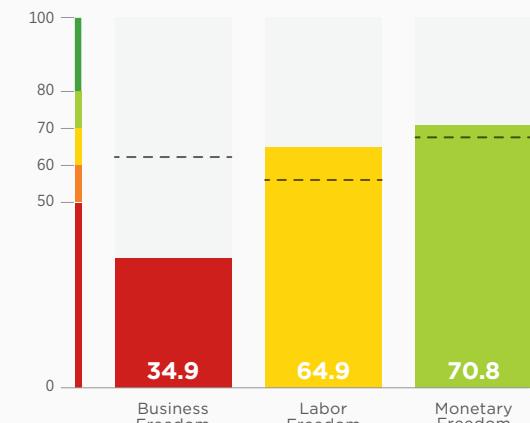
The overall rule of law is weak in Papua New Guinea. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 42 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 12.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 22.5 percent and -7.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 48.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Papua New Guinea's regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 3.6 percent, but numerous nontariff barriers undercut trade flows. Foreign investment in several sectors is restricted. Financial intermediation varies across the country, and a large portion of the population remains unconnected to the banking system.



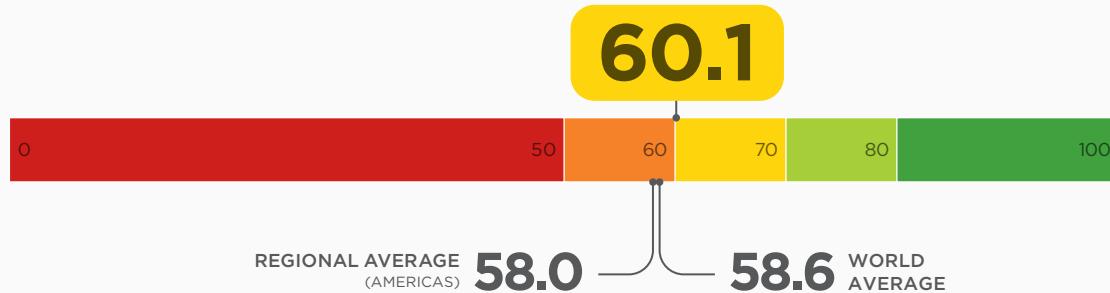
# PARAGUAY

WORLD RANK:	REGIONAL RANK:
<b>80</b>	<b>17</b>
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>MODERATELY FREE</b>	

Paraguay's economic freedom score is 60.1, making its economy the 80th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.9 point from last year, and Paraguay is ranked 17th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Paraguay's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

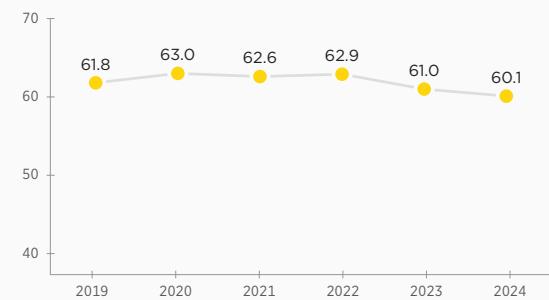
The agriculture, retail, and construction sectors continue to drive economic growth in Paraguay. One of the region's lowest tax burdens enhances businesses' competitiveness. However, the informal economy remains large, and institutional weaknesses that undermine the rule of law limit entrepreneurial growth. Foreign investment is not screened, and foreign entities may own property. Despite some improvement, a lack of transparency hurts investor confidence and slows the emergence of a more broadly based private sector. State-owned enterprises are present in several sectors of the economy.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -5.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

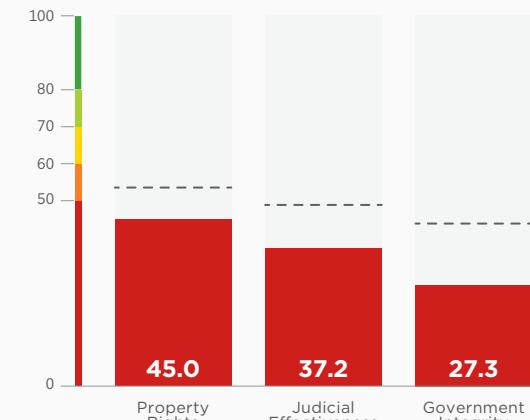
**POPULATION:**  
7.2 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$108.3 billion  
0.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.2%  
\$14,535 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
7.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
9.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$474.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
40.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

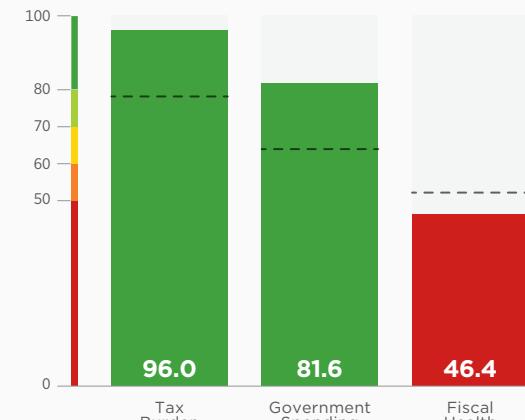
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | PARAGUAY

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is weak in Paraguay. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 10 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 10 percent. The tax burden equals 14.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 24.8 percent and -5.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 40.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Paraguay's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.4 percent. Foreign investment is not subject to restrictive screening, and foreign entities may own property. The informal economy remains large, and institutional weaknesses deter more dynamic investment growth. The financial sector is driven by banking.



# PERU

WORLD RANK:

**49**

REGIONAL RANK:

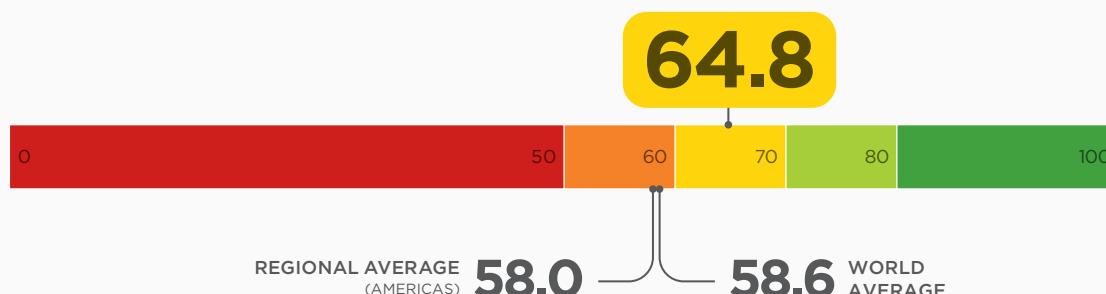
**8**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

**P**eru's economic freedom score is 64.8, making its economy the 49th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.7 points from last year, and Peru is ranked 8th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Peru's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

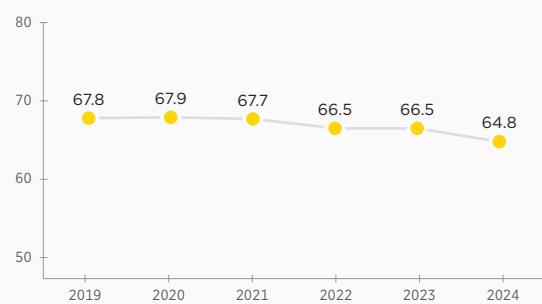
Economic reforms have supported economic expansion and gradual reductions in poverty. Open-market policies that support trade and investment have been institutionalized, but corruption and the weak rule of law continue to undermine prospects for long-term economic development. Peru's evolving entrepreneurial sector benefits from increased access to financing and improved regulatory efficiency. Recent reforms have dismantled barriers to launching and running private enterprises, but political instability and social unrest have a negative impact on business freedom. Employment regulations are gradually becoming more flexible.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +7.9

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
33.4 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$523.1 billion  
2.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.3%  
\$15,310 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.8%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
7.9%

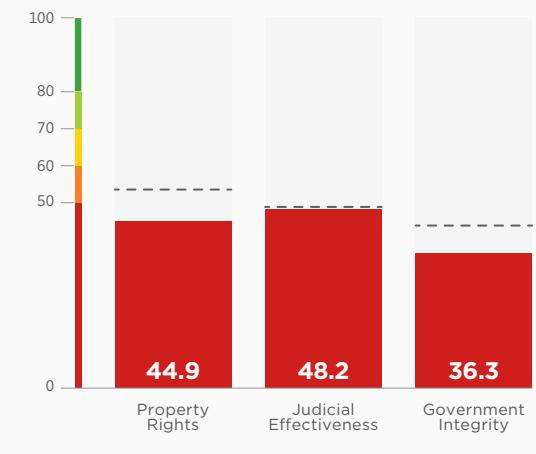
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$11.7 billion

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
34.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

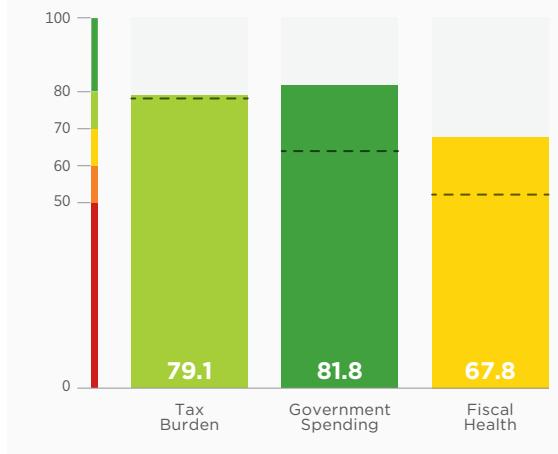
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | PERU

## RULE OF LAW



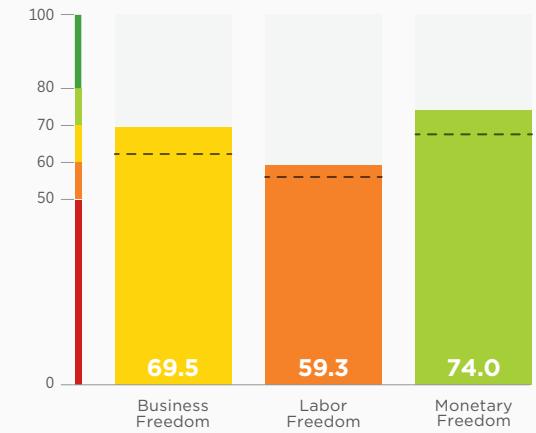
The overall rule of law is weak in Peru. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



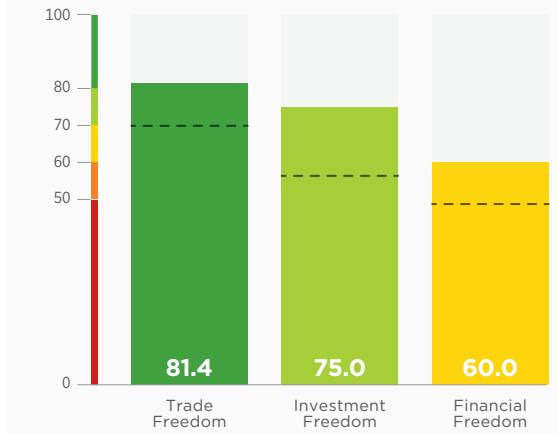
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 29.5 percent. The tax burden equals 17.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 24.6 percent and -4.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 34.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Peru's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 1.8 percent, and approximately 400 nontariff measures are in force. The economy is relatively open to foreign investment, but regulatory unpredictability impedes dynamic investment. About 50 percent of adult Peruvians have an account with a formal banking institution.



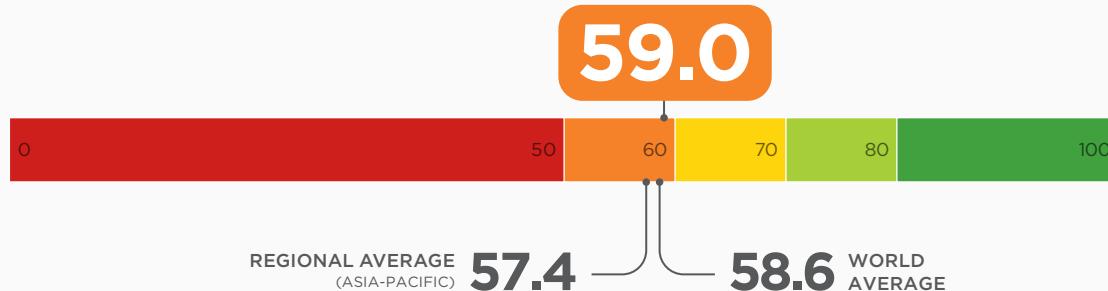
# PHILIPPINES

WORLD RANK: **88** | REGIONAL RANK: **18**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **MOSTLY UNFREE**

The Philippines' economic freedom score is 59, making its economy the 88th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.3 point from last year, and the Philippines is ranked 18th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. The Philippines' economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

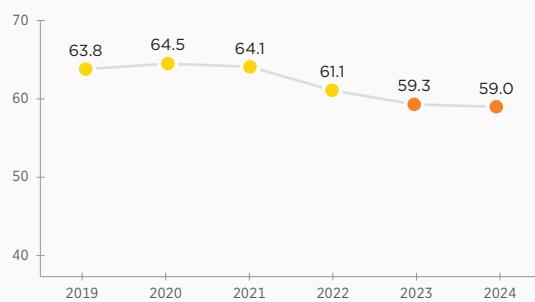
Despite the challenging global economic environment, the Philippine economy has expanded and maintained notable resilience. The government has pursued legislative reforms to enhance the entrepreneurial environment and increase job growth. Nevertheless, there still are institutional challenges. Despite some progress, corruption continues to undermine long-term economic development. The business regulatory environment has generally been streamlined. The time and cost involved in dealing with licensing requirements have been reduced. The labor market remains structurally rigid, but regulations are not particularly burdensome.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +4.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

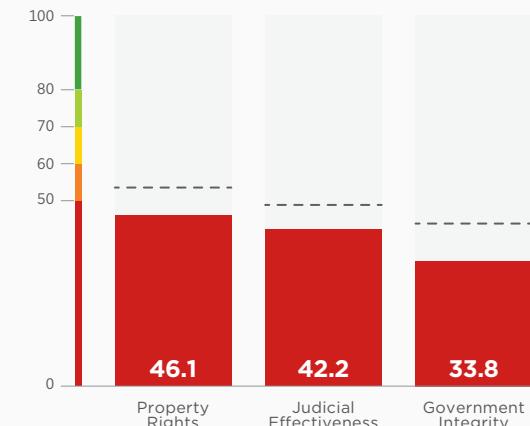
**POPULATION:**  
111.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.2 trillion  
7.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.2%  
\$10,495 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
2.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$9.2 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
57.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

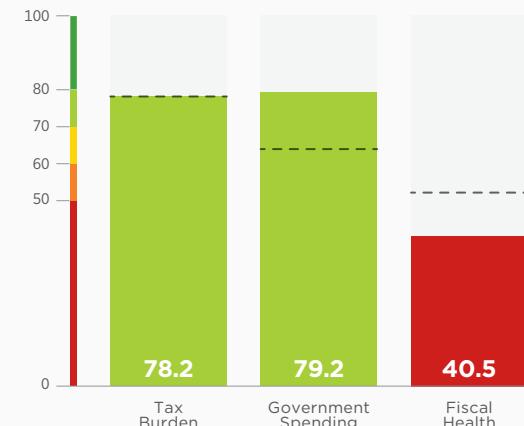
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | PHILIPPINES

## RULE OF LAW



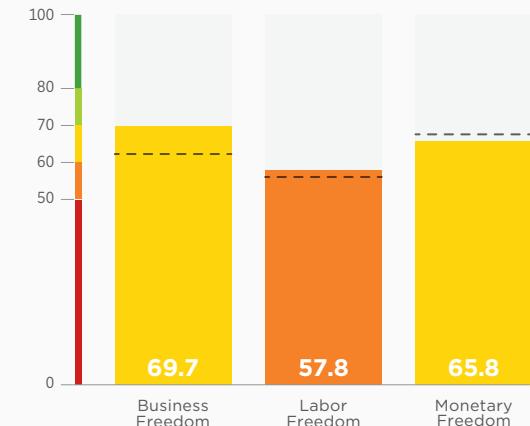
The overall rule of law is weak in the Philippines. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 18.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 26.3 percent and -5.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 57.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

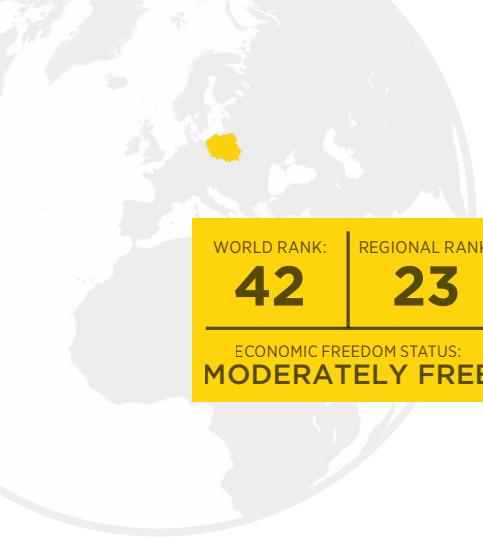


The Philippines' regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.3 percent. Foreign investment is generally welcome, and the investment code treats foreign investors the same as domestic investors. The financial sector is dominated by banking and relatively stable, but capital markets are underdeveloped.



WORLD RANK:

**42**

REGIONAL RANK:

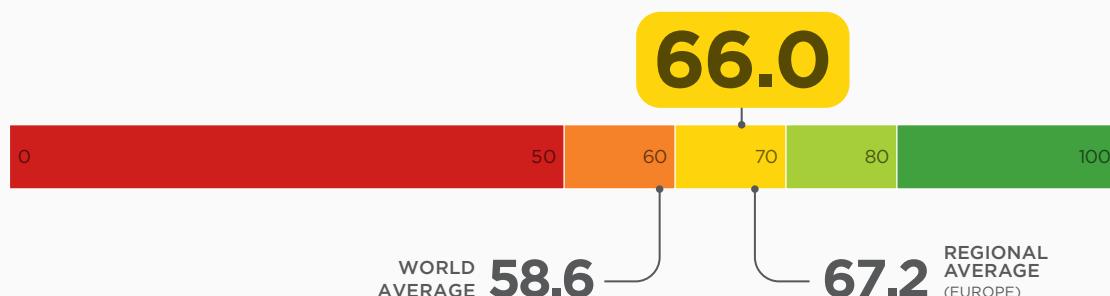
**23**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# POLAND

**P**oland's economic freedom score is 66, making its economy the 42nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.7 points from last year, and Poland is ranked 23rd out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Poland's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

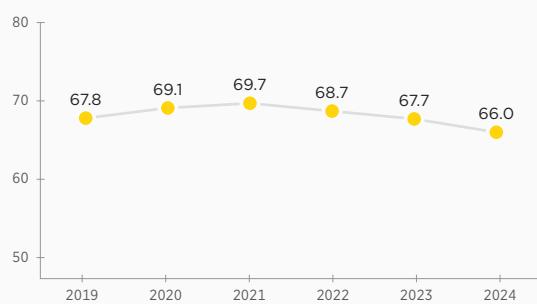
The Polish economy performs relatively well in many areas of economic freedom. With a competitive business climate supported by political stability, Poland has a dynamic business environment. Commercial operations are aided by regulations that support open-market policies. However, institutional weaknesses still prevent more dynamic growth. The accumulation of large fiscal deficits could undermine long-term competitiveness. Measures have been taken to make business start-up procedures easier and facilitate private-sector development, but the pace of reform has slowed. Inflationary pressures persist.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +15.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
37.8 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.6 trillion  
5.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.1%  
\$43,624 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
14.4%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$29.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
49.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

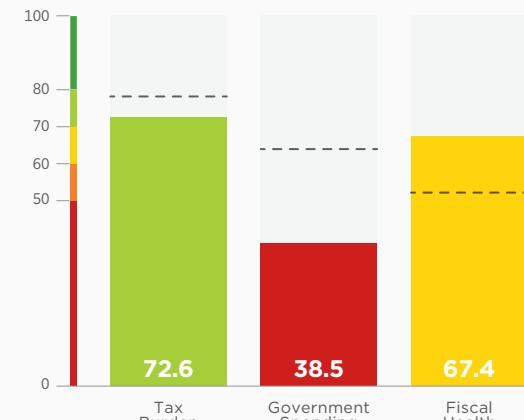
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | POLAND

## RULE OF LAW



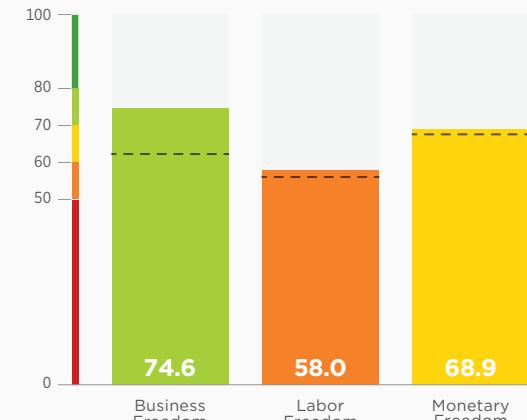
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Poland. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 32 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 19 percent. The tax burden equals 36.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 45.3 percent and -4.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 49.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Poland's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Foreign investment is welcome, but foreign ownership in selected strategic sectors is limited. The financial sector continues to expand.



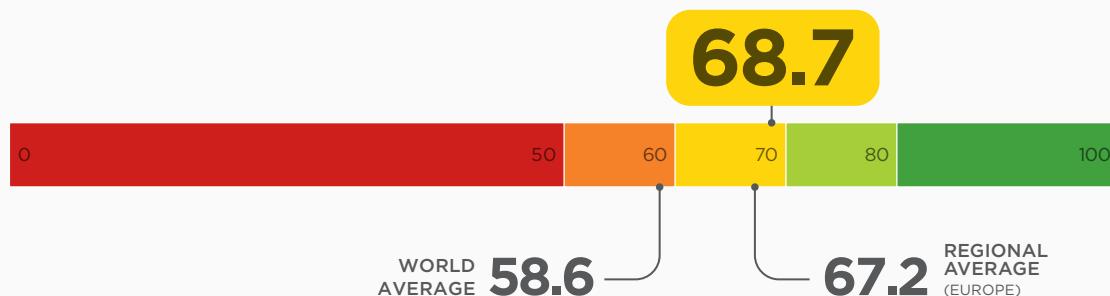
# PORTUGAL



Portugal's economic freedom score is 68.7, making its economy the 29th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.8 point from last year, and Portugal is ranked 16th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Portugal's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

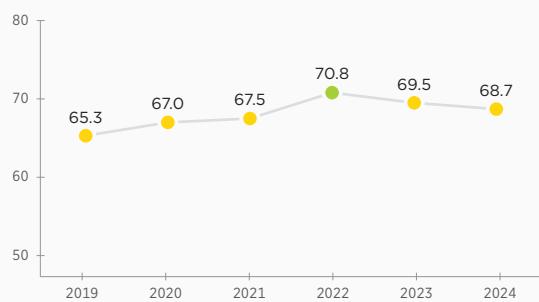
The Portuguese economy has been undergoing challenging economic adjustments. Despite relatively sound institutional processes such as an efficient business framework and a well-functioning judicial system, the debt-burdened public sector undermines private-sector dynamism and overall competitiveness. Comprehensive public-sector reform and greater labor market flexibility to improve competitiveness and productivity are needed to revitalize the economy. The overall entrepreneurial and investment framework is efficient. Rules on forming and operating private enterprises are now more straightforward. Monetary stability is relatively well maintained, but inflationary pressures persist.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +6.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
10.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$438.6 billion  
6.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.9%  
\$42,692 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$9.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
113.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

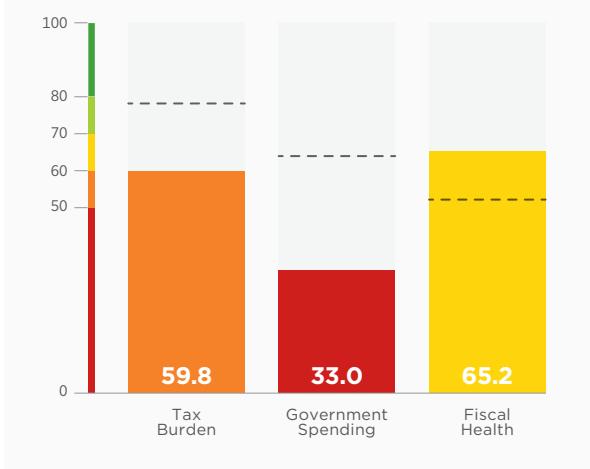
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | PORTUGAL

## RULE OF LAW



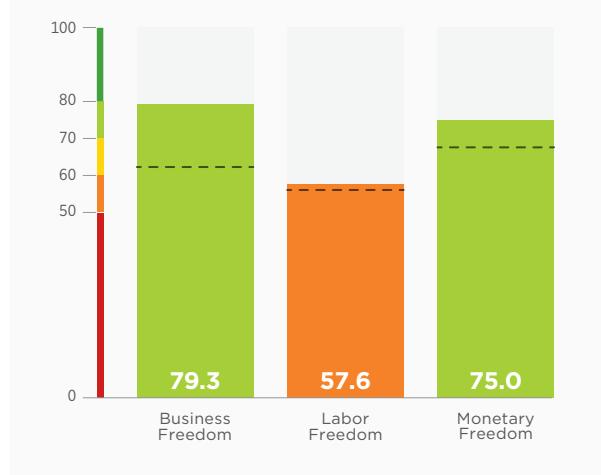
The overall rule of law is well respected in Portugal. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



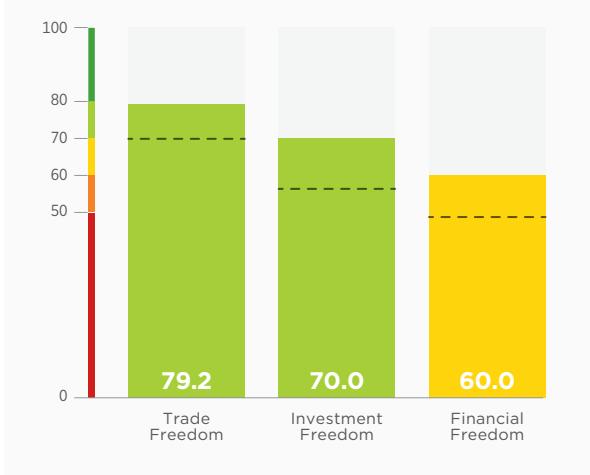
The top individual income tax rate is 48 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 21 percent. The tax burden equals 35.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 47.2 percent and -3.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 113.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Portugal's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. The investment regime is conducive to new investment. The financial sector, dominated by banking, has regained stability and offers a range of financial services.



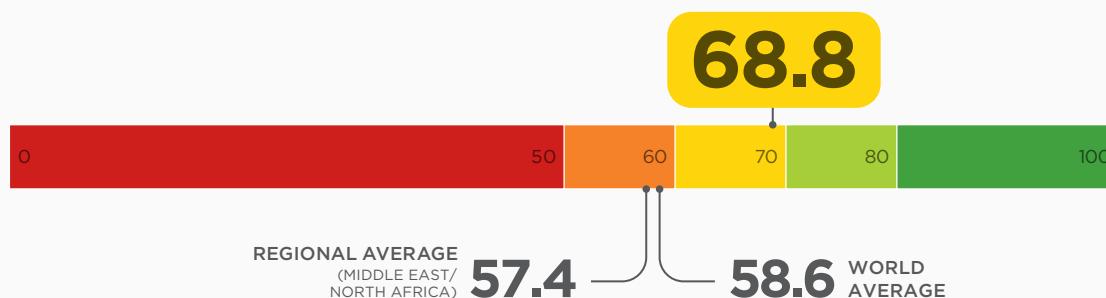
# QATAR



**Q**atar's economic freedom score is 68.8, making its economy the 28th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.2 point from last year, and Qatar is ranked 3rd out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Qatar's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

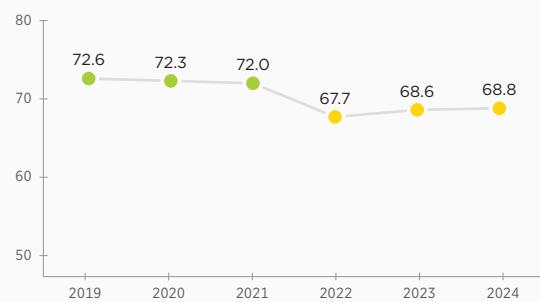
Qatar is trying to improve its entrepreneurial environment and broaden its economic base. The foundations of economic freedom are relatively solid. The regulatory system is flexible. The country's open trade regime and growing status as a regional financial hub have encouraged more diversified private-sector growth. Procedures for launching a business and completing licensing requirements have been made easier, but the pace of reform has slowed. The labor force consists primarily of expatriate workers, and immigration and employment rules are tightly managed.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1999): +6.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

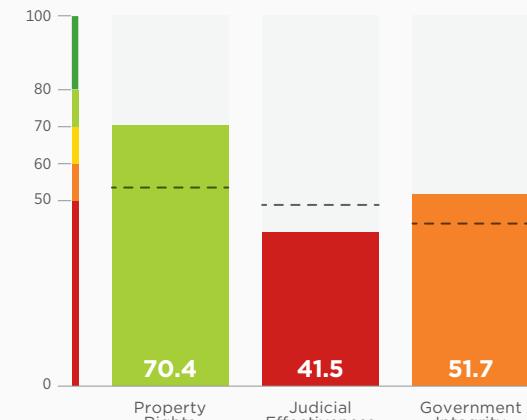
**POPULATION:**  
2.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$309.0 billion  
4.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.0%  
\$109,160 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
0.3%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$76.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
42.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

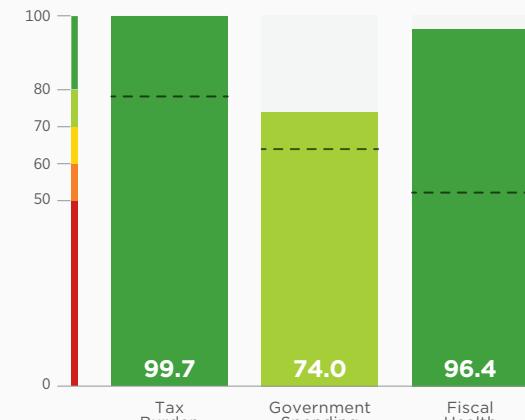
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | QATAR

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Qatar. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



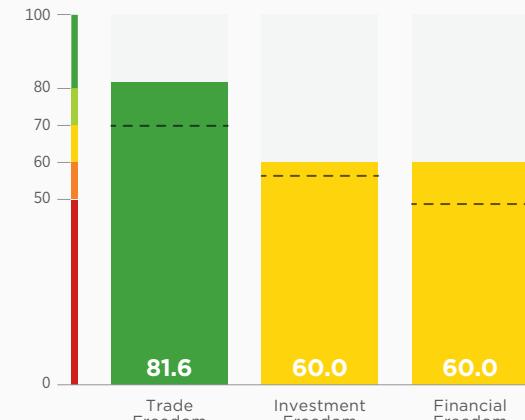
The top individual income tax rate is 0 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 0 percent. The tax burden equals 5.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 29.4 percent and 6.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 42.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Qatar's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 4.2 percent. Openness to global commerce through trade and investment underpins Qatar's competitiveness. Foreign investment in several sectors of the economy is capped. Banking remains stable and competitive. Growth in financial services has contributed to economic diversification.



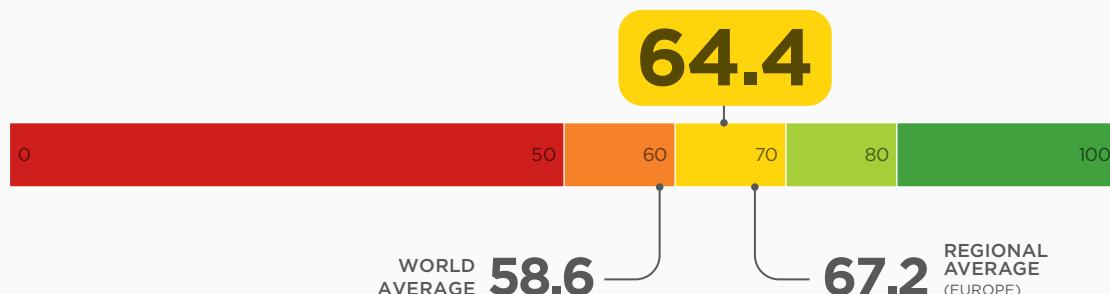
WORLD RANK: **51** | REGIONAL RANK: **29**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# ROMANIA

Romania's economic freedom score is 64.4, making its economy the 51st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.1 point from last year, and Romania is ranked 29th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Romania's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

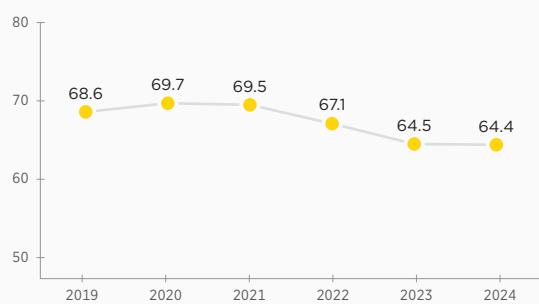
The Romanian economy has benefitted substantially from its openness and flexibility over the past decade, but deeper institutional and structural reforms in such areas as the labor market and management of public finance are still needed. The judiciary remains inefficient and vulnerable to political interference, and corruption still undermines long-term economic development. The process for business registration and operation has been streamlined, but efficient bankruptcy procedures have not been fully implemented. Relatively high inflation has weakened overall monetary stability.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +21.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

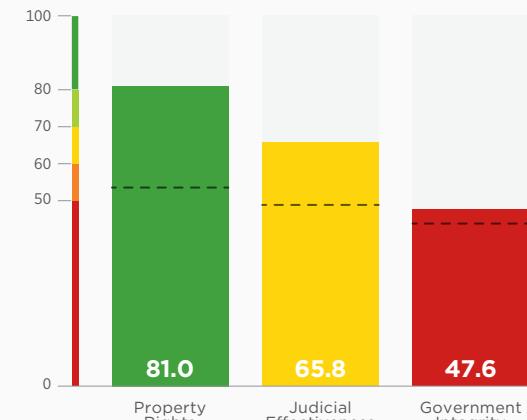
**POPULATION:**  
19.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$737.0 billion  
4.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.4%  
\$38,703 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
13.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$11.3 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
50.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ROMANIA

## RULE OF LAW



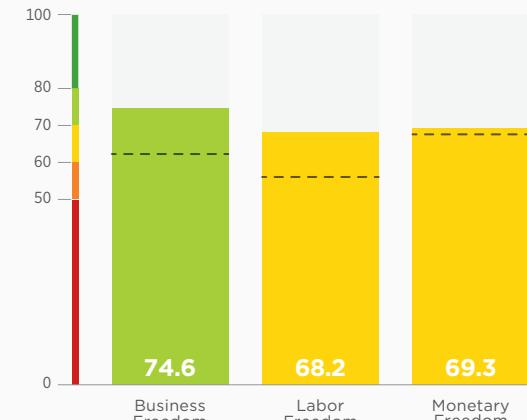
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Romania. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 10 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 16 percent. The tax burden equals 15.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 37.4 percent and -7.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 50.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Romania's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Despite progress, the regulatory system tends to discourage more dynamic foreign investment. The financial sector continues to grow, driven primarily by banking.



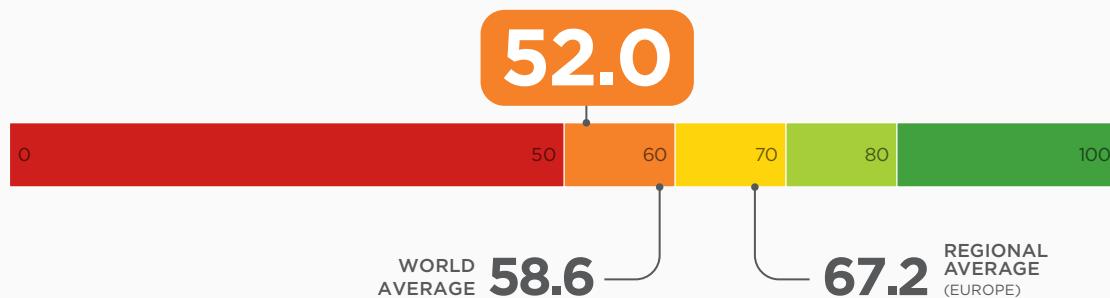
WORLD RANK:	131	REGIONAL RANK:	43
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: MOSTLY UNFREE			

# RUSSIA

Russia's economic freedom score is 52, making its economy the 131st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.8 points from last year, and Russia is ranked 43rd out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Russia's economy continues to be at the lower end of the "mostly unfree" category according to the 2024 *Index*.

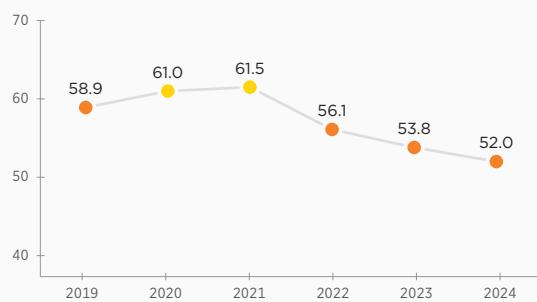
Pervasive corruption and limited respect for property rights has long undermined the rule of law, increasing uncertainty and investor risk. Extensive state interference discourages private-sector dynamism. The business environment continues to be repressive, and regulations remain burdensome and inconsistently enforced. The outmoded labor code continues to limit employment and productivity growth. The state's influence on prices is extensive, and overall monetary stability has been fragile.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +0.9

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

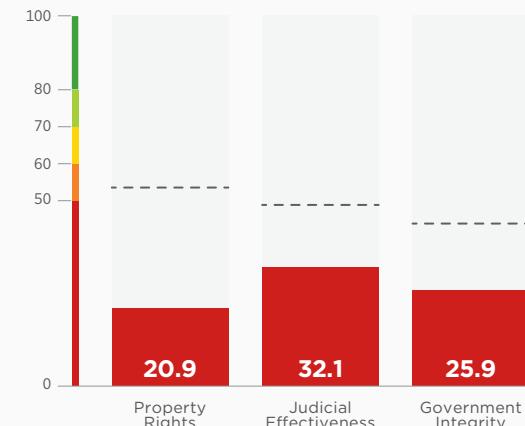
**POPULATION:**  
143.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$4.8 trillion  
-2.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.2%  
\$33,253 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
13.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$18.7 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
18.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

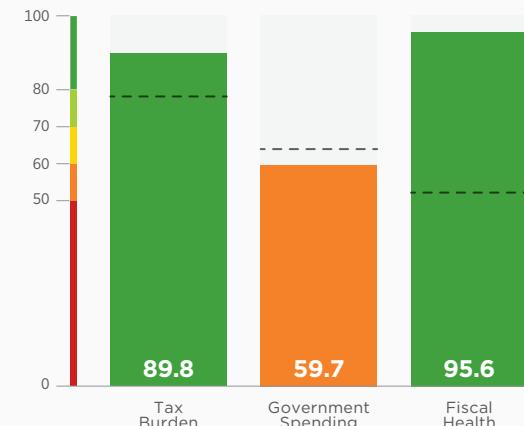
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | RUSSIA

## RULE OF LAW



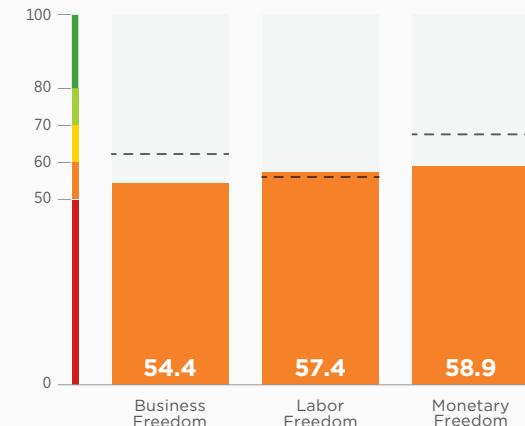
The overall rule of law is weak in Russia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



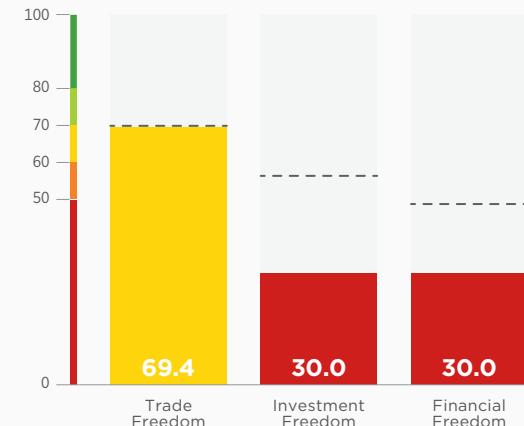
The top individual income tax rate is 13 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 21.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 36.6 percent and -1.5 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 18.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Russia's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.3 percent. Private-sector trade and investment activities are undercut by structural and institutional constraints caused by state interference in the marketplace. Foreign investment is screened, and the financial sector is subject to government influence.



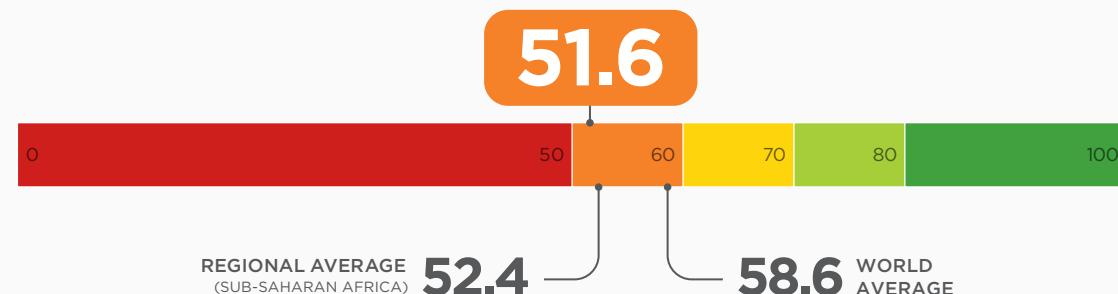
# RWANDA

WORLD RANK: **135** | REGIONAL RANK: **30**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

Rwanda's economic freedom score is 51.6, making its economy the 135th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.6 point from last year, and Rwanda is ranked 30th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Rwanda's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

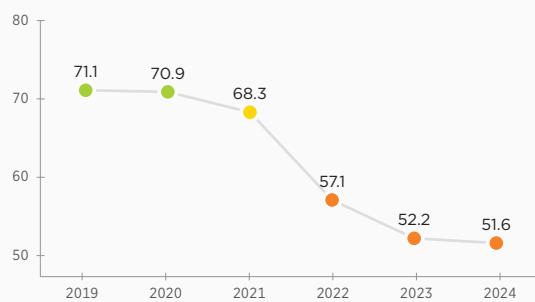
Reforms have supported economic expansion and gradual reduction of poverty, but weak rule of law and persistent corruption discourage long-term economic development. Accelerating judicial reforms and continued efforts to streamline public administration would help to sustain economic growth and further broaden improvements in living standards. Legislative actions have helped to improve the business environment, but the pace of reform is slower than in previous years. Despite relatively flexible labor regulations, a more vibrant formal labor market has not developed. Inflationary pressures continue.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1997): +13.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

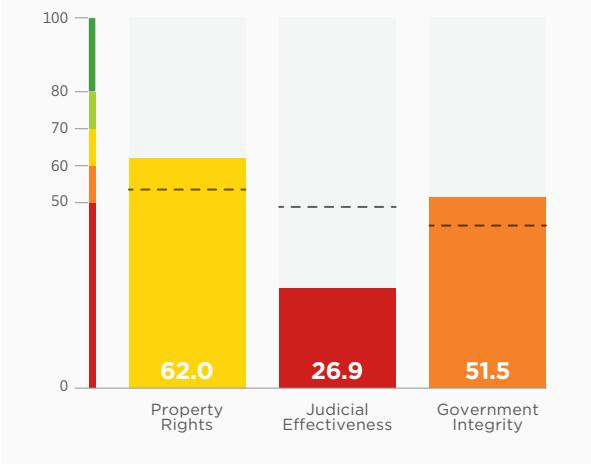
**POPULATION:**  
13.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$38.5 billion  
8.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 6.7%  
\$2,904 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
1.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
13.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$399.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
61.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

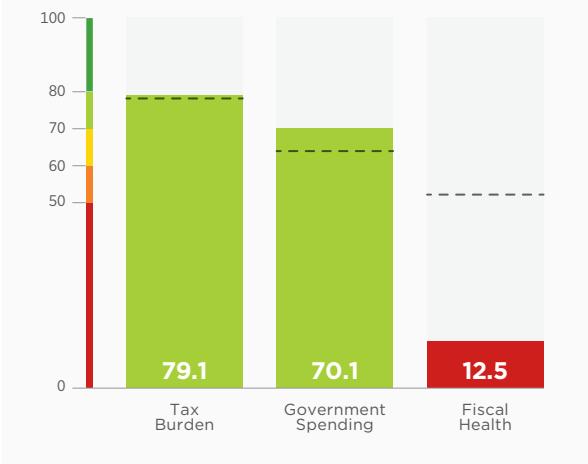
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | RWANDA

## RULE OF LAW



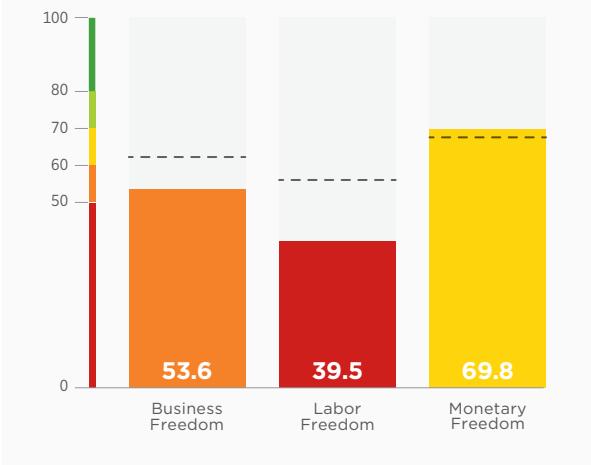
The overall rule of law is weak in Rwanda. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



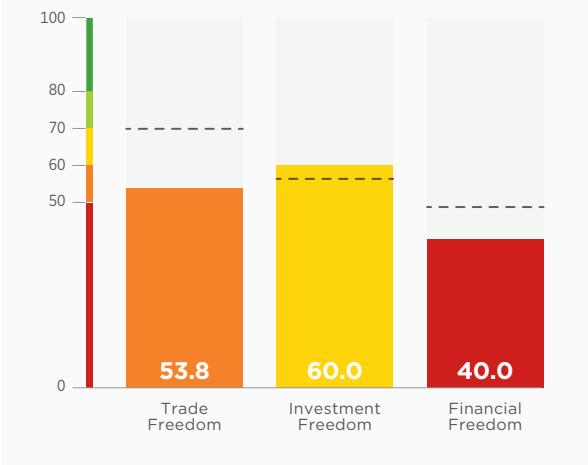
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 17.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 31.6 percent and -7.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 61.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

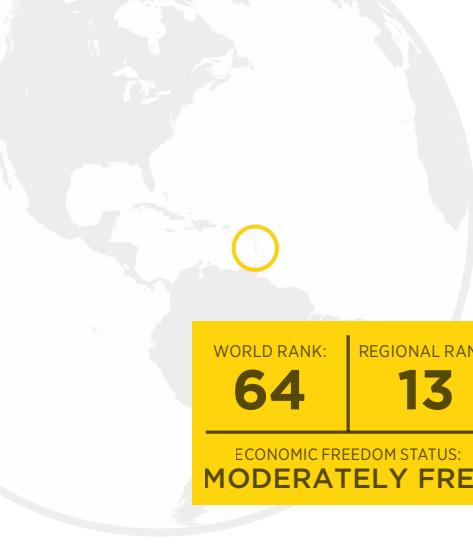


Rwanda's overall regulatory environment is not well institutionalized and lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 15.6 percent. Foreign investment is generally welcome, and the investment code provides for equal treatment of foreigners and nationals for many types of activity. The financial sector is dominated by banking and expanding, albeit slowly.



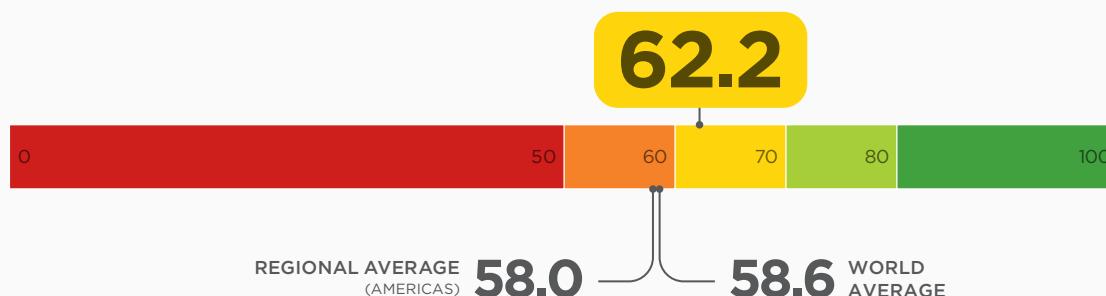
# SAINT LUCIA



Saint Lucia's economic freedom score is 62.2, making its economy the 64th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.5 points from last year, and Saint Lucia is ranked 13th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Saint Lucia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

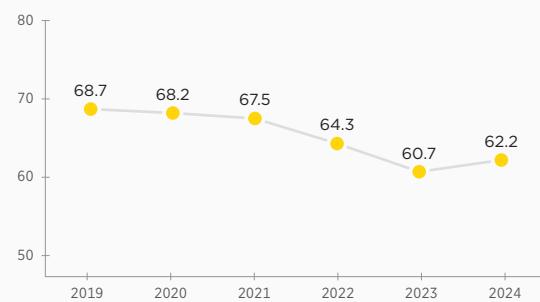
The Saint Lucian economy has long benefited from a well-developed legal and commercial infrastructure and a tradition of private-sector dynamism. The business environment is generally efficient and transparent, and the regulatory framework has become more streamlined. Greater access to financing opportunities is needed to encourage private-sector development and attract foreign investment. The government is working to diversify from bananas into other commodities and is prioritizing communications and information technology. Saint Lucia remains one of five Caribbean nations to recognize Taiwan.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): -6.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
0.2 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$3.2 billion  
15.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.2%  
\$17,840 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
16.9%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.4%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$67.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
74.2% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

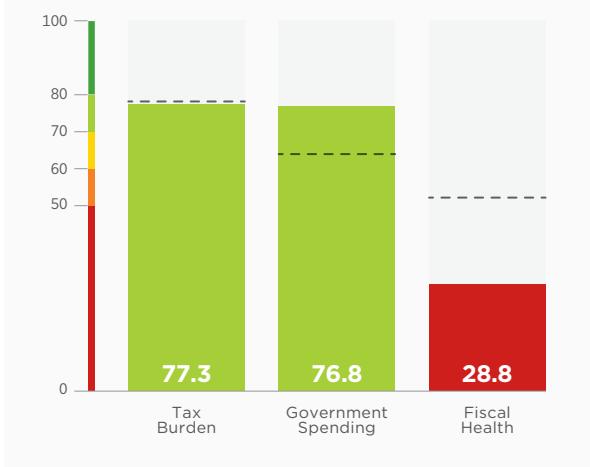
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SAINT LUCIA

## RULE OF LAW



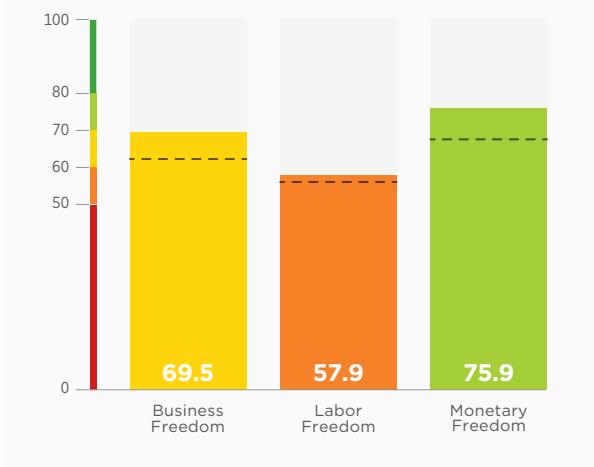
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Saint Lucia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



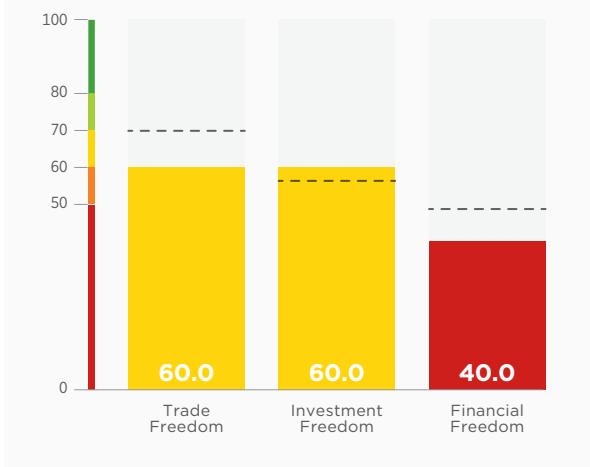
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 21.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 27.8 percent and -6.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 74.2 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Saint Lucia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 12.5 percent, and layers of nontariff measures are in force. Foreign investment is welcome, and the investment code provides for equal treatment of foreigners and nationals for many types of activity. The financial sector is dominated by banking and expanding slowly.



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

WORLD RANK:  
**82**

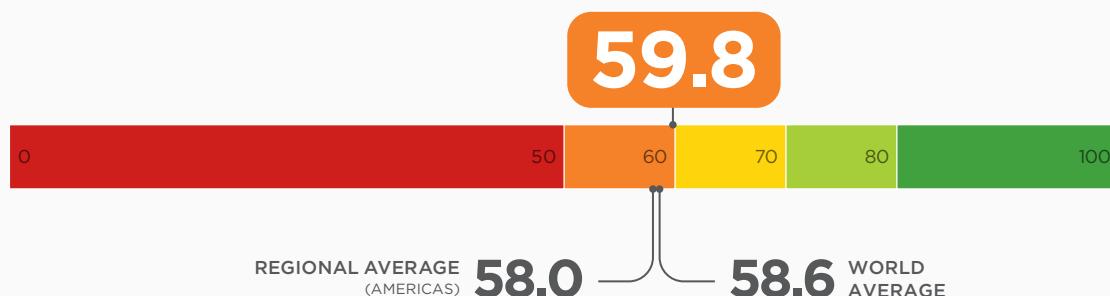
REGIONAL RANK:  
**18**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' economic freedom score is 59.8, making its economy the 82nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 3.7 points from last year, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is ranked 18th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

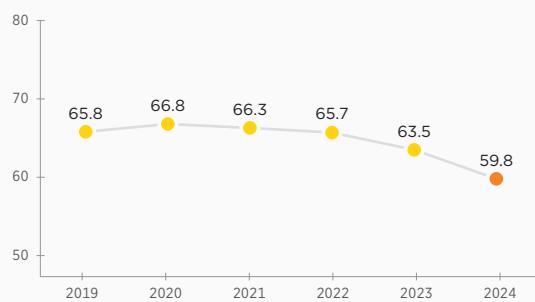
The Saint Vincentian economy is characterized by flexible regulations, an efficient legal system that secures private property, and macroeconomic stability. Tourism is the primary economic driver and principal draw for foreign investment. More vibrant entrepreneurial activity remains stifled by limited access to financing, although enforcement of regulations is relatively effective. A well-functioning labor market is not fully developed, and much of the labor force is employed in agriculture and tourism.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): -4.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

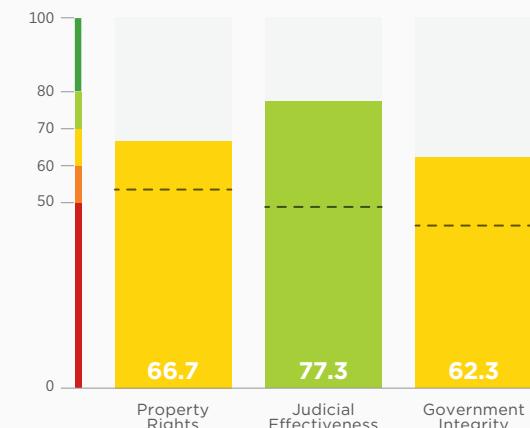
**POPULATION:**  
0.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.8 billion  
5.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.3%  
\$16,216 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
21.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.7%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$86.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
87.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

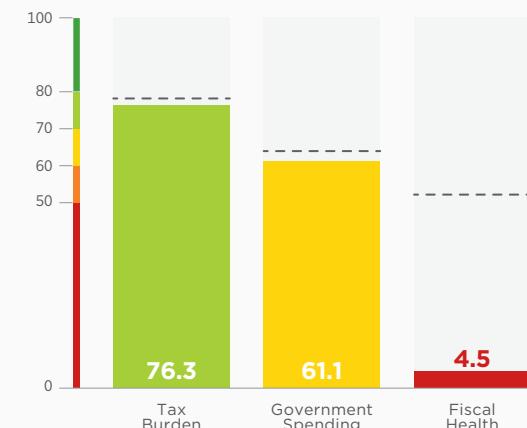
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## RULE OF LAW



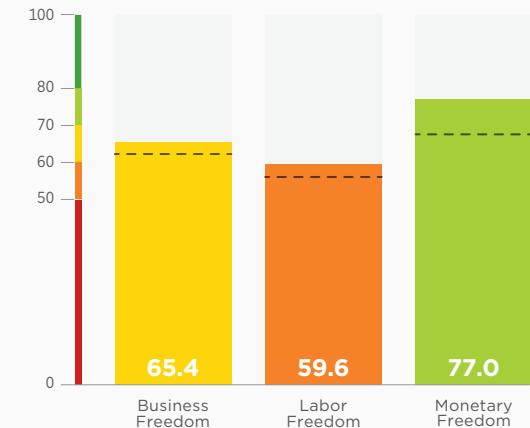
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



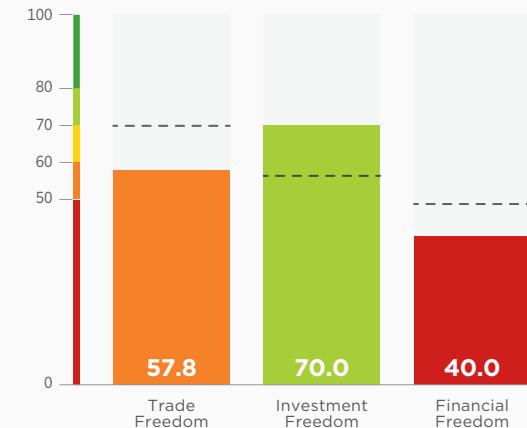
The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 23.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 36.0 percent and -7.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 87.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

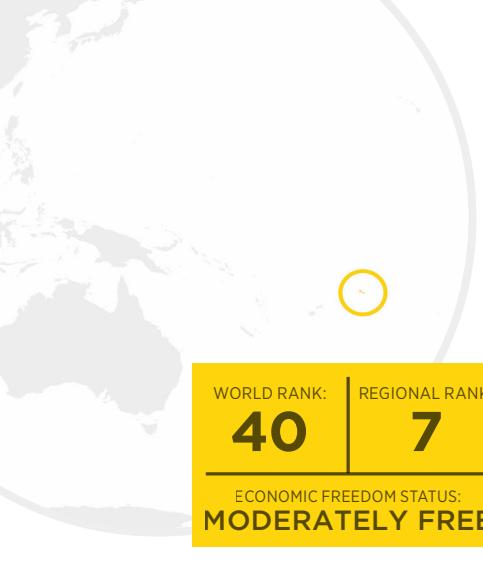


Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 13.6 percent, and nontariff barriers further undermine overall trade freedom. In general, foreign and domestic investors are treated equally, but the government screens foreign investment. Businesses lack adequate access to a wide variety of financing instruments.

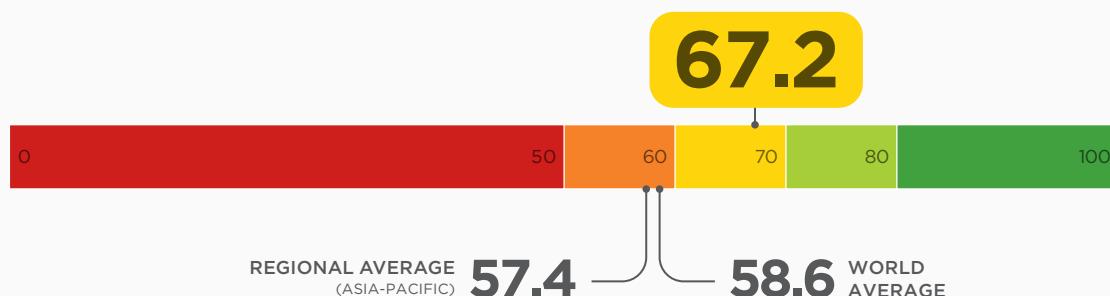


# SAMOA

**S**amoas economic freedom score is 67.2, making its economy the 40th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.1 points from last year, and Samoa is ranked 7th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Samoa's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

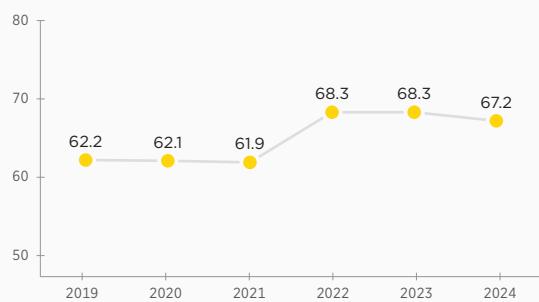
Structural and institutional reform in Samoa has progressed unevenly. More vibrant economic growth is constrained by structural weaknesses that continue to undermine the private sector. The pace of reform has slowed in recent years. The regulatory framework supports entrepreneurial activity, but application of the commercial codes is not always straightforward. A modern labor market is not fully developed, and informal labor activity remains substantial. Two-thirds of the workforce is employed in fishing and agriculture, and the economy relies heavily on remittances from emigrants.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +19.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
0.2 million  
  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.2 billion  
-5.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -2.3%  
\$5,883 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
9.8%  
  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.7%  
  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$5.0 million  
  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
43.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

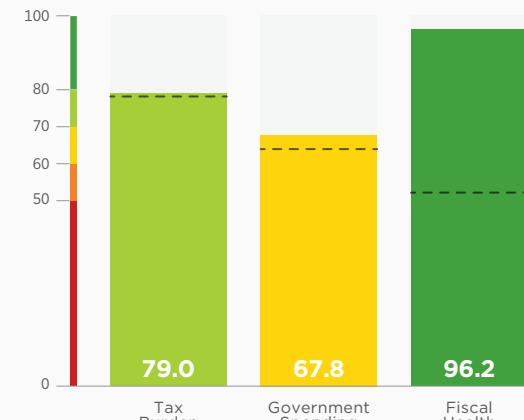
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SAMOA

## RULE OF LAW



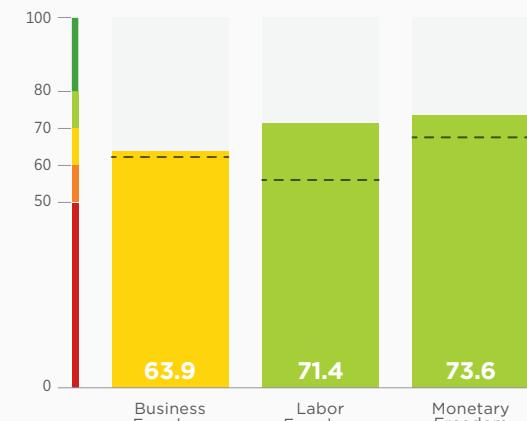
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Samoa. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



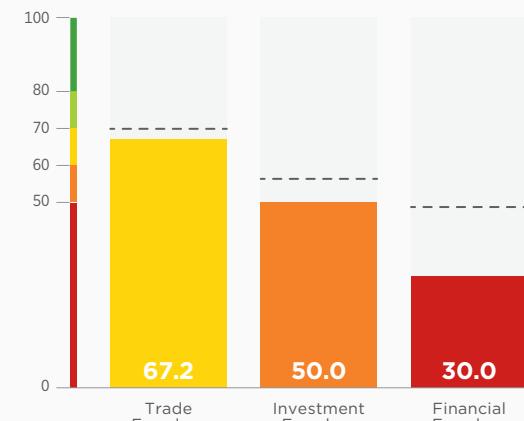
The top individual income tax rate is 27 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 27 percent. The tax burden equals 25.3 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 32.8 percent and 4.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 43.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

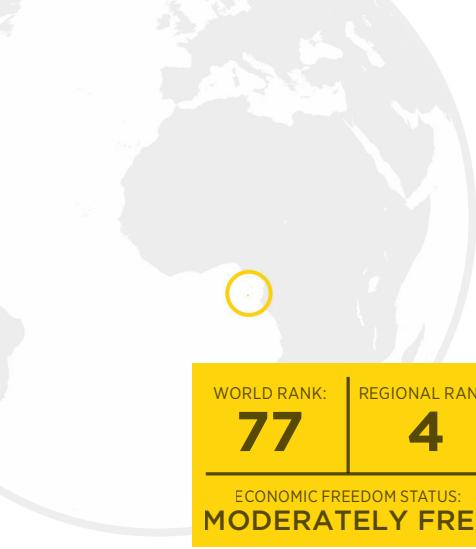


Samoa's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.9 percent. Other barriers persist, and policies critical to market openness have not advanced. The small and underdeveloped financial sector is dominated by banking, but a significant portion of the population remains unconnected to the formal banking system.

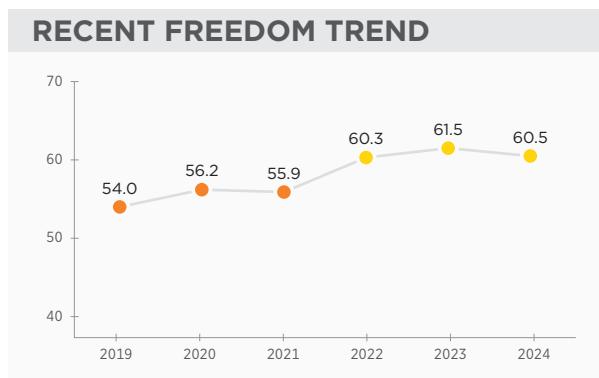
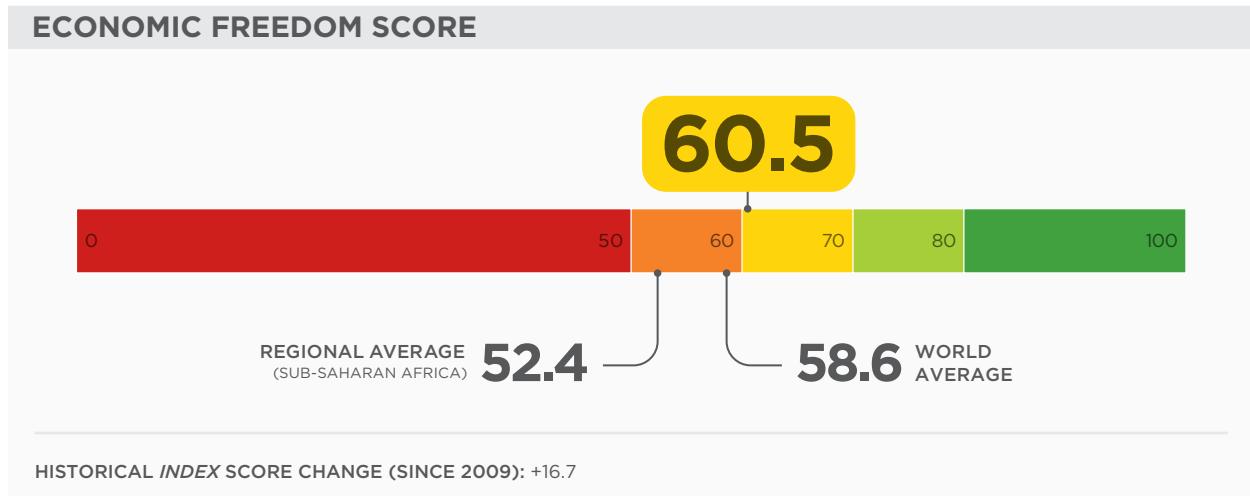


# SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE



São Tomé and Príncipe's economic freedom score is 60.5, making its economy the 77th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1 point from last year, and São Tomé and Príncipe is ranked 4th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. São Tomé and Príncipe's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

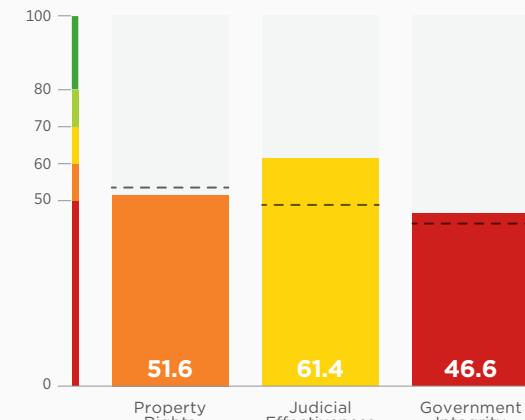
Institutional weaknesses continue to limit the country's economic freedom, undercutting the enhancement of private-sector dynamism. The judicial system's lack of capacity to defend property rights effectively undermines prospects for more sustainable economic development. The time needed to start a company has been reduced, and licensing requirements have been simplified, but overall regulatory efficiency remains weak. In the absence of a well-functioning labor market, informal labor activity remains significant. Monetary stability has been weak.



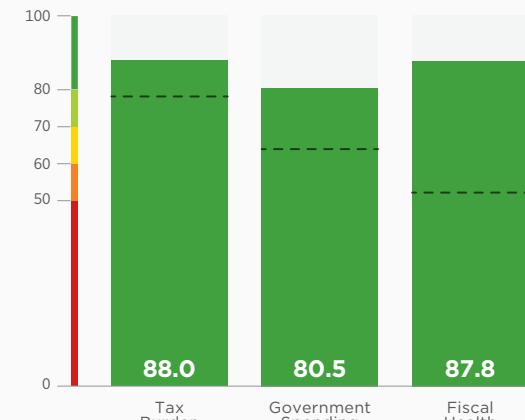
### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 0.2 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 15.9%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$923.0 million 0.1% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 2.2% \$4,067 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 18.0%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$127.0 million	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 77.7% of GDP

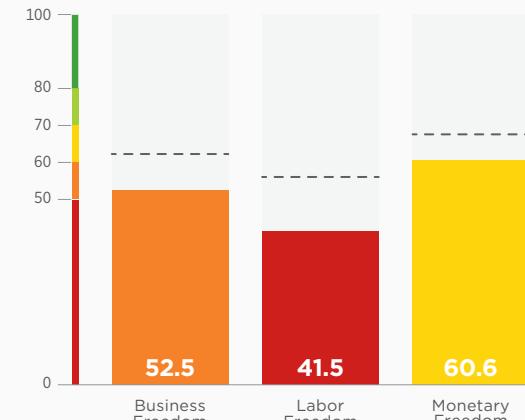
2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

**RULE OF LAW**

The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in São Tomé and Príncipe. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

**GOVERNMENT SIZE**

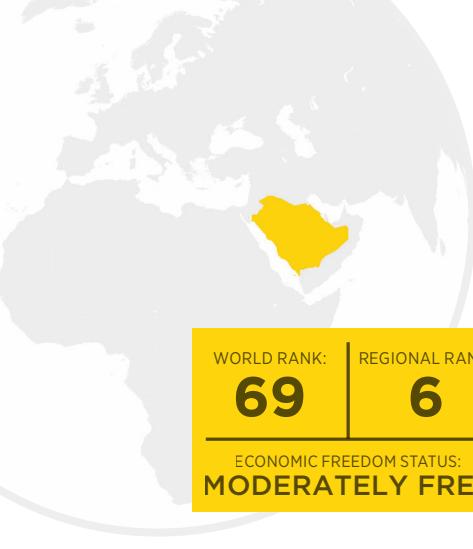
The top individual income tax rate is 20 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 13.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 25.5 percent and -0.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 77.7 percent of GDP.

**REGULATORY EFFICIENCY**

São Tomé and Príncipe's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

**OPEN MARKETS**

The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 10.0 percent, and layers of nontariff barriers further limit trade freedom. Investment laws are outmoded, and bureaucracy is slow and inefficient. Banking dominates the underdeveloped financial sector, and access to credit, particularly long-term credit, remains very limited.



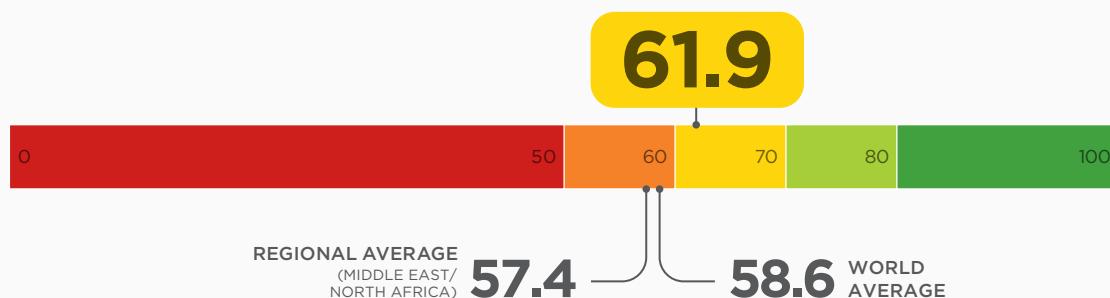
# SAUDI ARABIA

WORLD RANK:	69	REGIONAL RANK:	6
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>MODERATELY FREE</b>			

Saudi Arabia's economic freedom score is 61.9, making its economy the 69th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 3.6 points from last year, and Saudi Arabia is ranked 6th out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Saudi Arabia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

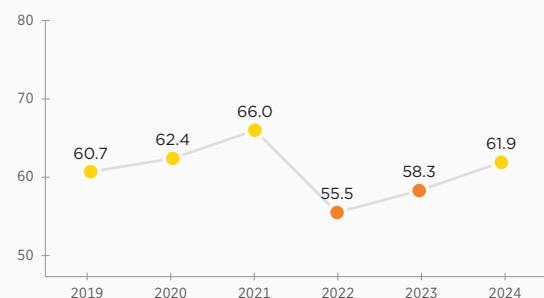
Overall economic freedom in Saudi Arabia remains modest and evolving. Recent years have seen some progress in tackling corruption and enhancing regulatory efficiency. The judicial system remains susceptible to political influence. Bureaucracy and a lack of transparency still limit investment freedom. Forming a business has become less time-consuming, and licensing requirements have been eased. Government subsidies and state-owned enterprises influence prices. The financial sector has undergone gradual transformation with some restrictions on foreign investment in financial services eased.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): -6.4

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

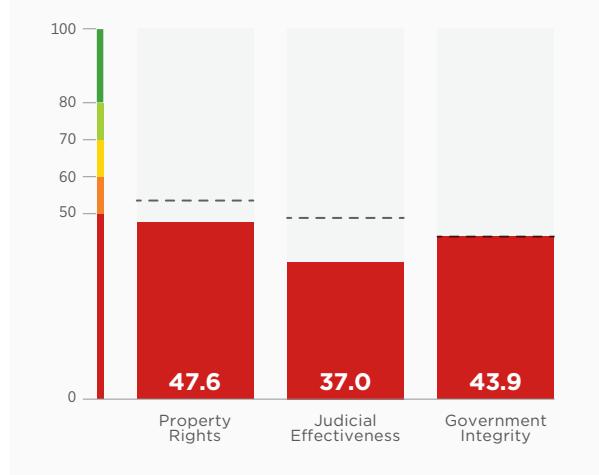
**POPULATION:**  
35.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$2.2 trillion  
8.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.4%  
\$66,836 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
7.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
2.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$7.9 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
23.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

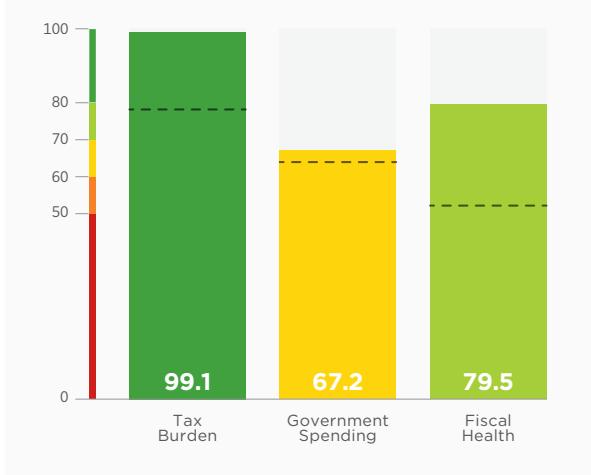
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SAUDI ARABIA

## RULE OF LAW



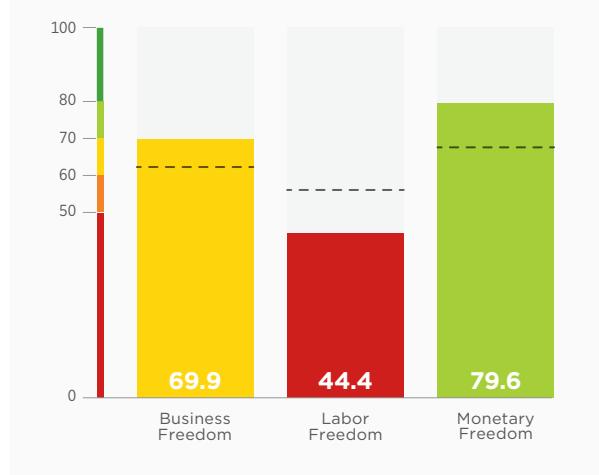
The overall rule of law is weak in Saudi Arabia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is the same as the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



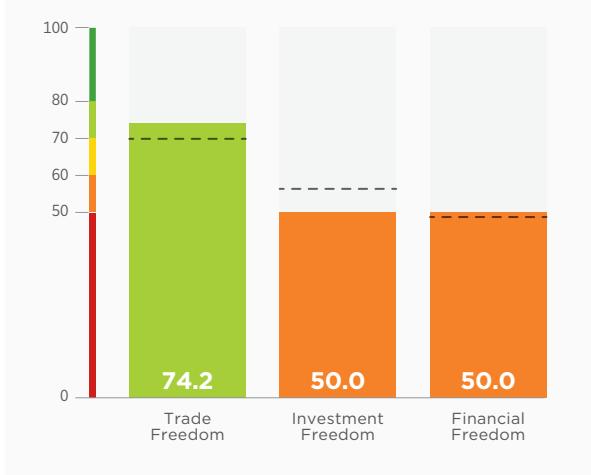
The top individual income tax rate is 2.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 2.5 percent. The tax burden equals 8.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 33.1 percent and -3.5 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 23.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

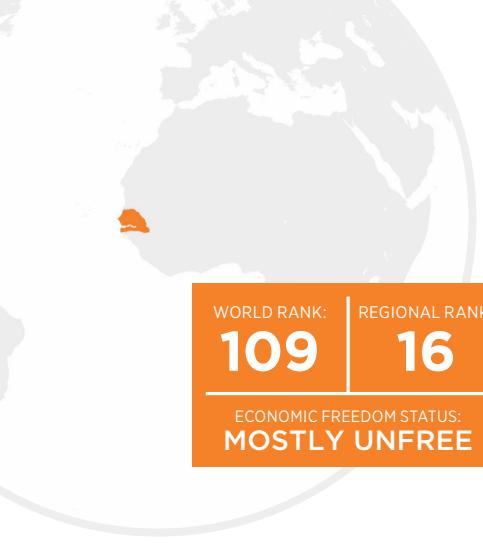


Saudi Arabia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.4 percent, and more than 100 nontariff measures are in force. Regulatory reforms allow foreign investors to own controlling stakes. Despite progress, the overall investment regime remains restrictive with controls in some sectors. The financial sector offers a range of options.



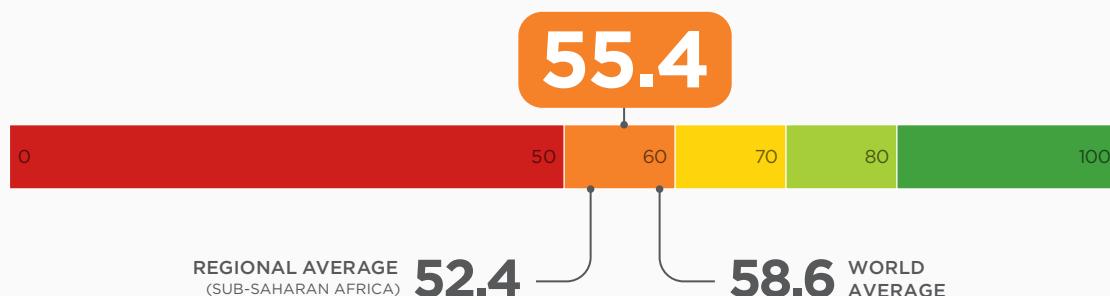
WORLD RANK: **109** | REGIONAL RANK: **16**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# SENEGAL

Senegal's economic freedom score is 55.4, making its economy the 109th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.3 points from last year, and Senegal is ranked 16th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. Senegal's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

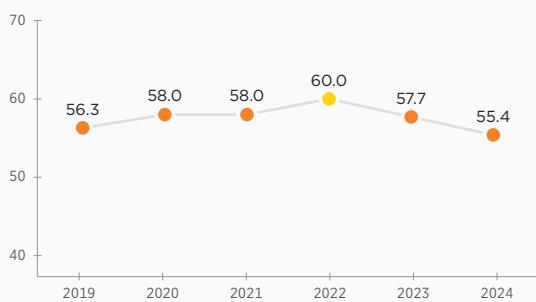
Progress toward greater economic freedom in Senegal has been uneven. The regulatory framework discourages dynamism and tends to curb private-sector development. Despite some streamlining of business formation, deeper institutional reforms are needed to improve the foundations of economic freedom and encourage long-term economic development and greater poverty reduction. The large agricultural sector employs about 70 percent of working Senegalese, and a formal urban labor market has been slow to emerge. Inflationary pressures remain a problem.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): -2.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

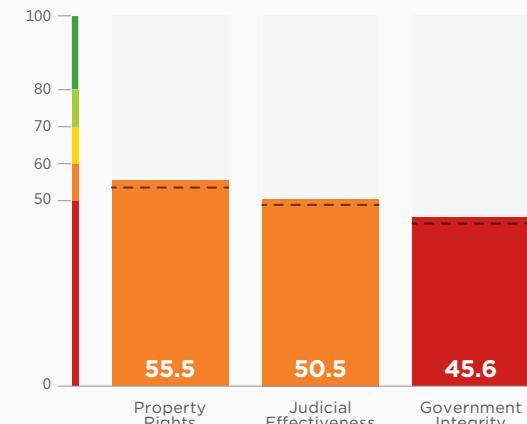
**POPULATION:**  
17.2 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$72.8 billion  
4.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.5%  
\$4,117 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
9.7%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$2.6 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
76.6% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

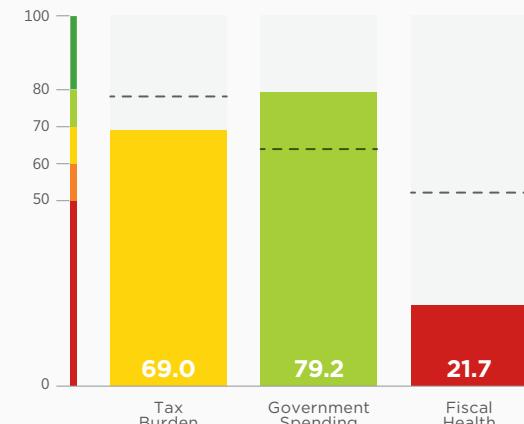
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SENEGAL

## RULE OF LAW



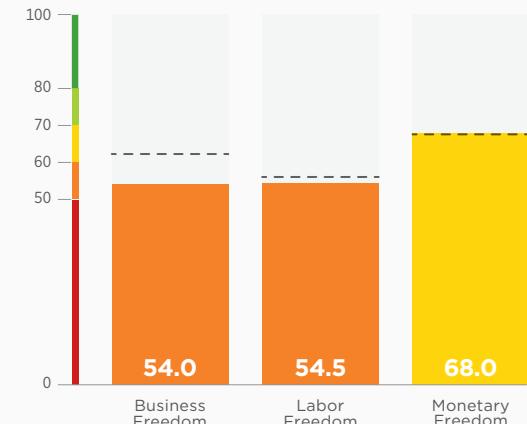
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Senegal. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



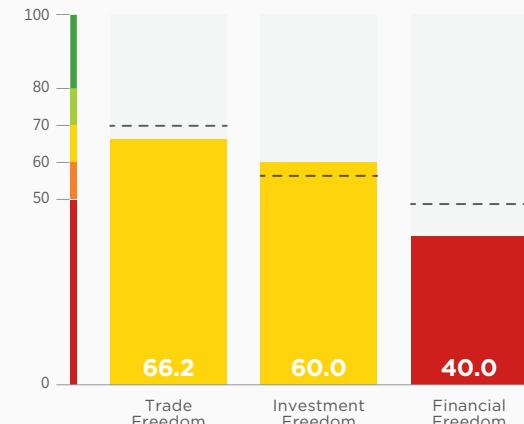
The top individual income tax rate is 43 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 18.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 26.3 percent and -6.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 76.6 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

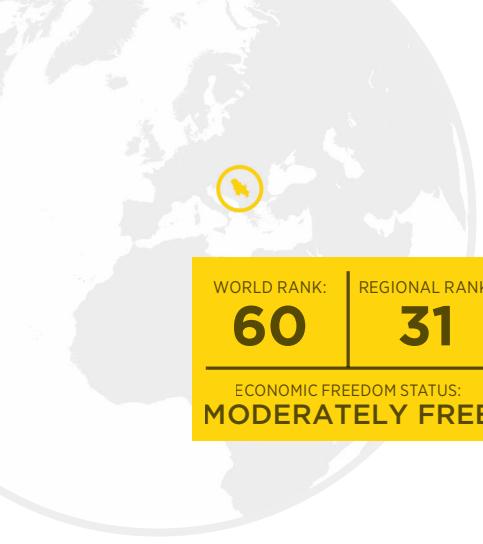


Senegal's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 9.4 percent, and layers of complex nontariff barriers are in force. The bureaucratic approval process and poor investment infrastructure can discourage investors. High credit costs and scarce access to financing continue to constrain the small private sector.

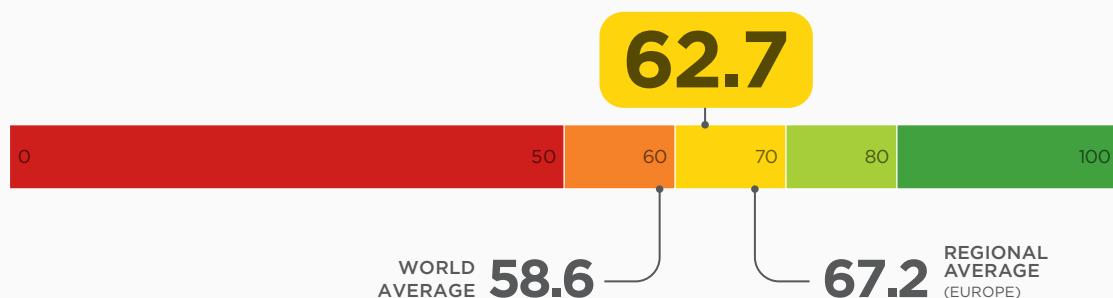


# SERBIA

Serbia's economic freedom score is 62.7, making its economy the 60th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.8 point from last year, and Serbia is ranked 31st out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Serbia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

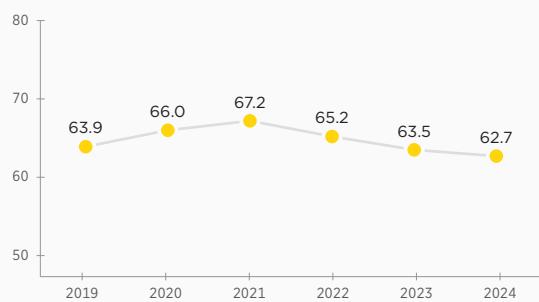
The Serbian economy's competitiveness is supported by relative openness to global trade and ongoing regulatory reform. The banking sector continues to evolve. However, there is a lack of political will to undertake bolder institutional reforms to reduce corruption and strengthen the judicial system, which is vulnerable to political interference. Energy, historical, and political ties to Russia are strong, and links with China are growing. State-owned companies remain a significant presence in certain sectors of Serbia's economy. Inflationary pressures continue.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2002): +16.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

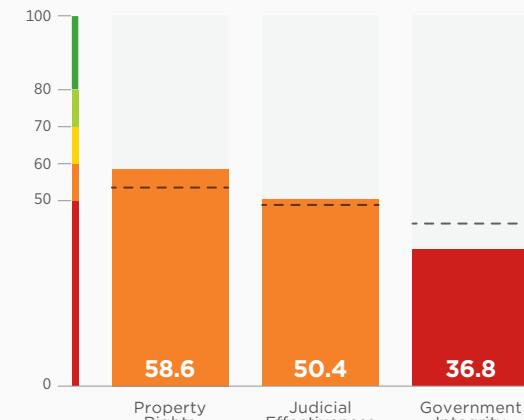
**POPULATION:**  
6.8 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$163.7 billion  
2.3% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.5%  
\$24,564 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
11.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
12.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$5.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
53.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SERBIA

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is weak in Serbia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



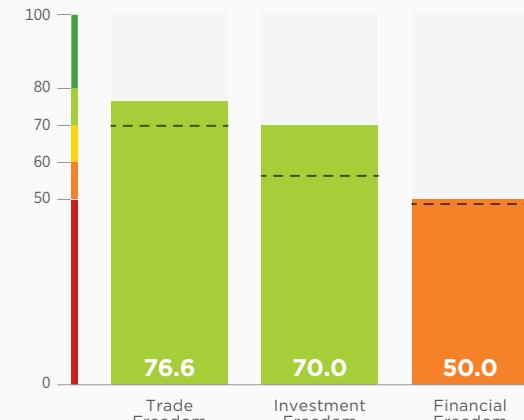
The top individual income tax rate is 20 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 25.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 46.1 percent and -3.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 53.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

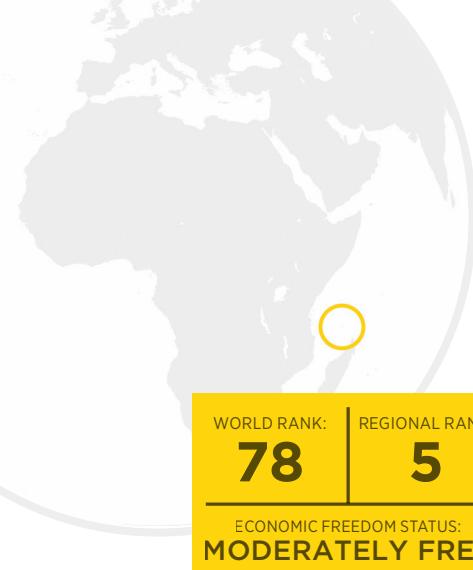


Serbia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized and efficient. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.7 percent, and layers of non-tariff barriers are in force. Most sectors are open to foreign investment, but regulatory uncertainty and lack of transparency deter growth. The private sector now has access to a wider range of credit instruments.



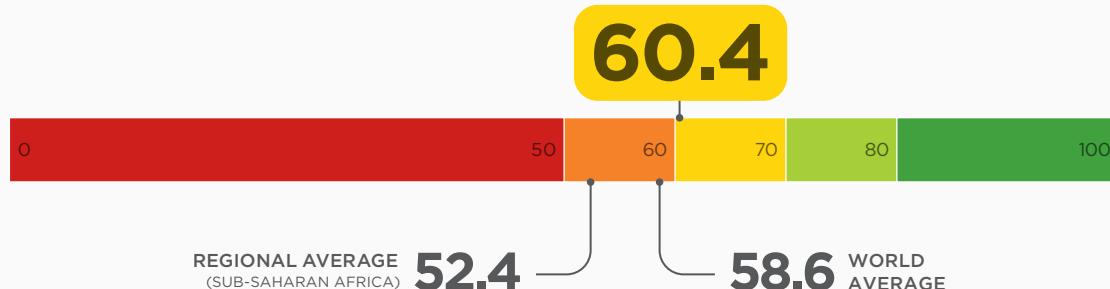
# SEYCHELLES

WORLD RANK:	78	REGIONAL RANK:	5
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>MODERATELY FREE</b>			

Seychelles' economic freedom score is 60.4, making its economy the 78th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.9 point from last year, and Seychelles is ranked 5th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Seychelles' economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

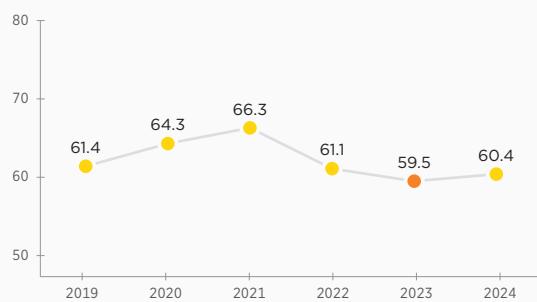
Efforts to enhance the Seychelles economy's efficiency and competitiveness continue. With a relatively stable macroeconomic environment, the island economy has welcomed foreign investment. However, the overall entrepreneurial climate remains hampered by an inefficient regulatory framework, poor access to financing, and the state's pervasive presence in the economy. Despite some progress, institutional weaknesses stemming from an inefficient legal framework and corruption still hamper the emergence of a dynamic private sector beyond the tourism industry. The formal labor market is not fully developed.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): +12.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
0.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$3.9 billion  
8.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.9%  
\$39,079 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
2.6%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$212.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
61.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

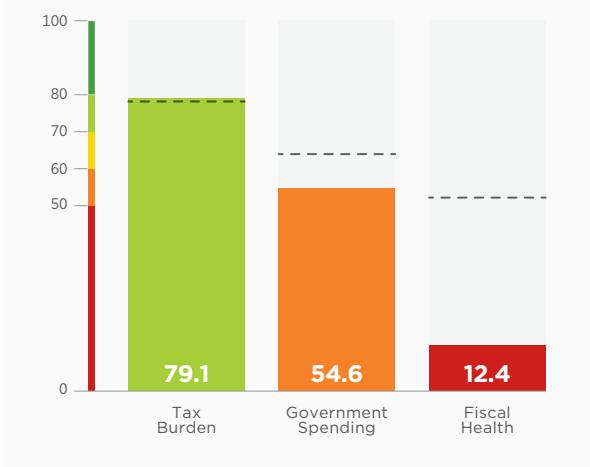
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SEYCHELLES

## RULE OF LAW



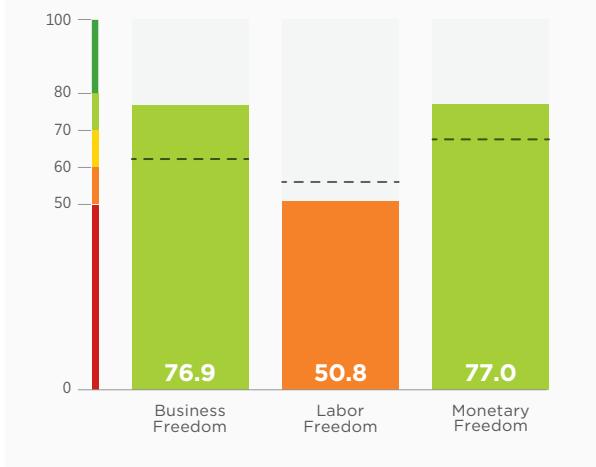
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Seychelles. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



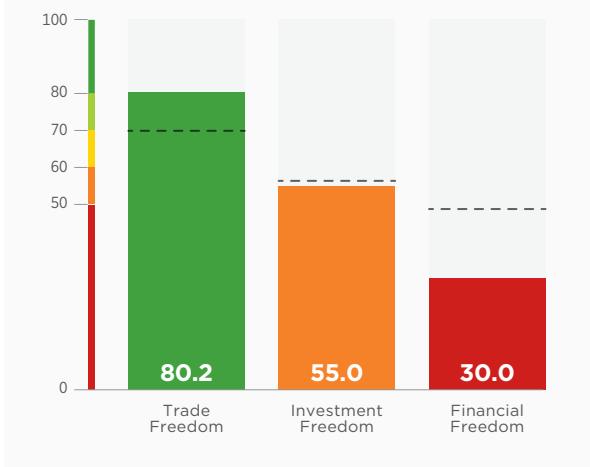
The top individual income tax rate is 15 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 33 percent. The tax burden equals 27.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 38.9 percent and -7.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 61.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Seychelles' overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 4.9 percent, and nontariff barriers add to the cost of trade. Investment is hindered by bureaucracy. A large part of the population lacks access to formal banking services, and limited capacity for lending to the private sector inhibits growth.



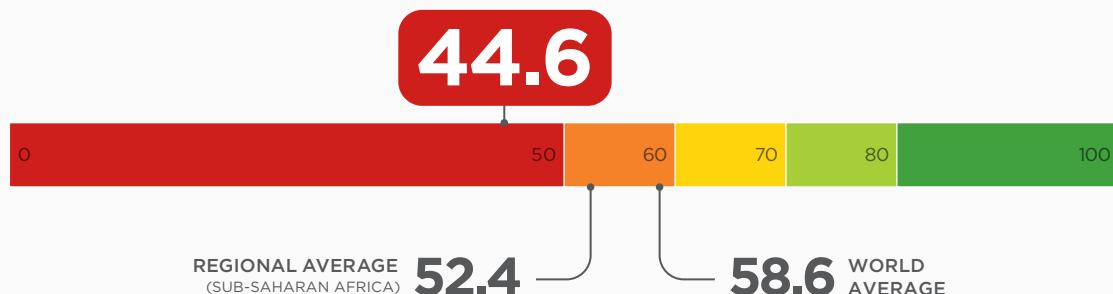
# SIERRA LEONE

WORLD RANK:	REGIONAL RANK:
<b>163</b>	<b>41</b>
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>REPRESSIVE</b>	

Sierra Leone's economic freedom score is 44.6, making its economy the 163rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 5.6 points from last year, and Sierra Leone is ranked 41st out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Sierra Leone's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

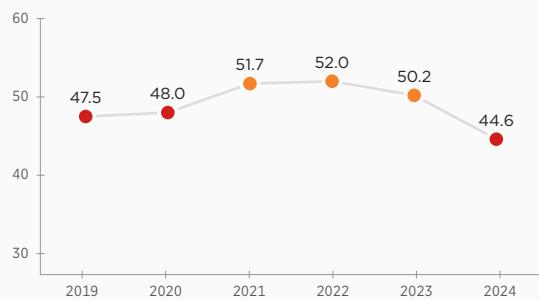
Sierra Leone is improving its legal and physical infrastructure, but the foundations of economic freedom remain beset by structural and institutional problems. The rule of law is weak, and corruption continues to deter private-sector development. Inefficient regulatory enforcement impedes expansion and diversification of the productive base. Legislative, institutional, and regulatory challenges abound. Licensing requirements are time-consuming. Outmoded labor regulations have little practical impact because much of the labor force is employed in the informal sector. Inflation has been chronically high.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -5.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

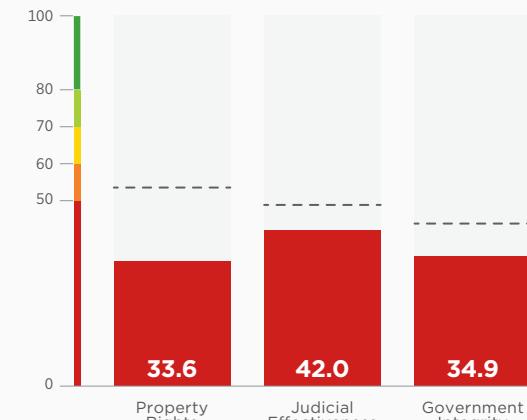
**POPULATION:**  
8.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$16.7 billion  
4.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.0%  
\$2,009 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.3%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
27.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$250.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
95.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

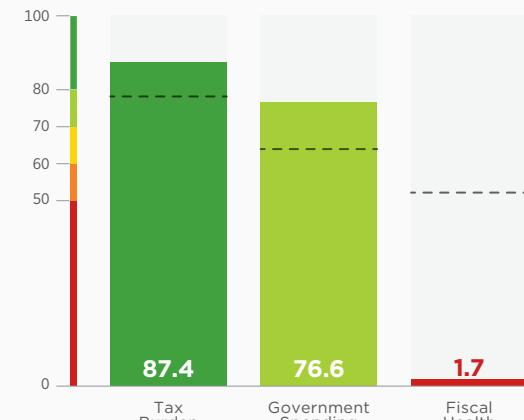
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SIERRA LEONE

## RULE OF LAW



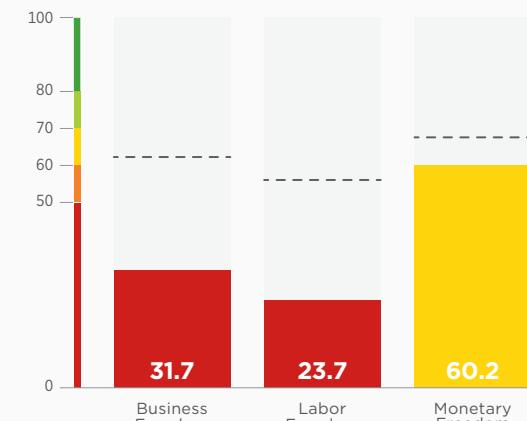
The overall rule of law is weak in Sierra Leone. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 15 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 11.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 27.9 percent and -7.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 95.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

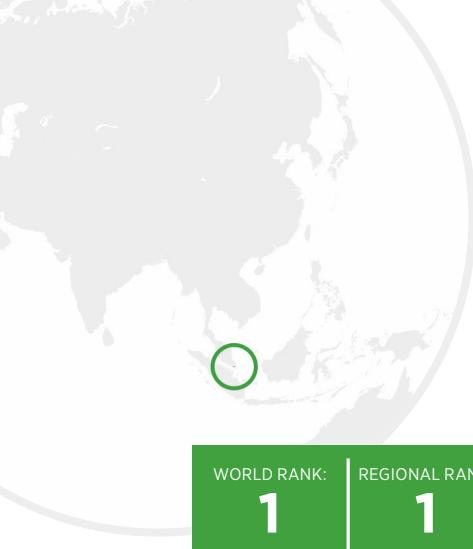


Sierra Leone's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 13.2 percent, and nontariff barriers add to the cost of trade. Instability and the weak rule of law continue to discourage much-needed long-term investment. The state controls the majority of bank assets.

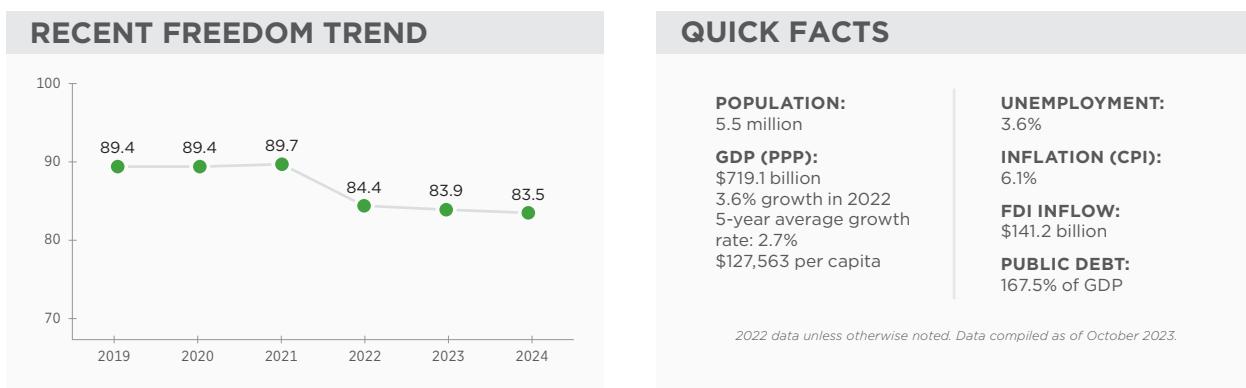
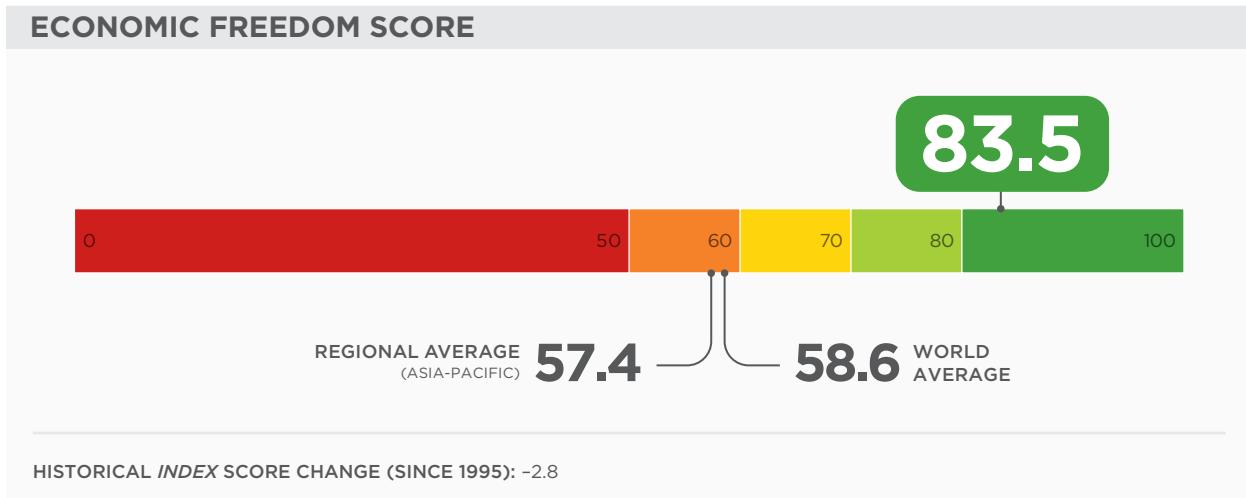


# SINGAPORE



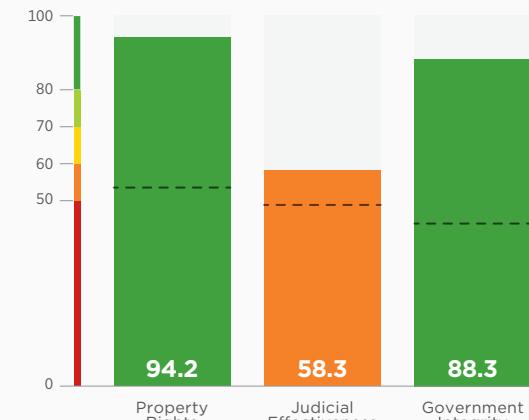
**S**ingapore's economic freedom score is 83.5, making its economy the world's freest once again in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.4 point from last year, and Singapore is ranked 1st out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Singapore's economy continues to be considered "free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

The foundations of Singapore's economic freedom are sustained by strong protection of property rights and effective enforcement of anticorruption laws. Tax rates are competitive, and a transparent regulatory environment encourages vibrant economic activity. Openness to global commerce encourages both productivity and the emergence of a more dynamic and competitive financial sector. The business start-up process is straightforward. There is no statutory minimum wage, but the National Wage Council guides wage adjustments. Inflation is under control despite the challenging external environment.



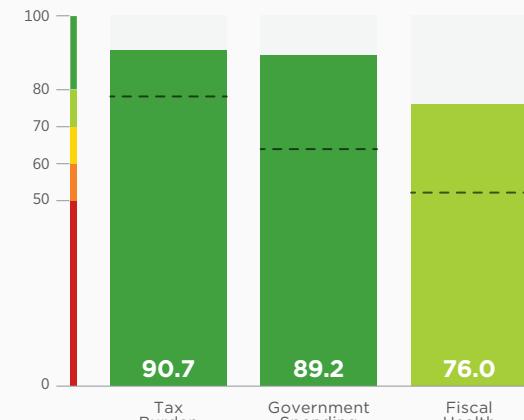
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SINGAPORE

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is well respected in Singapore. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



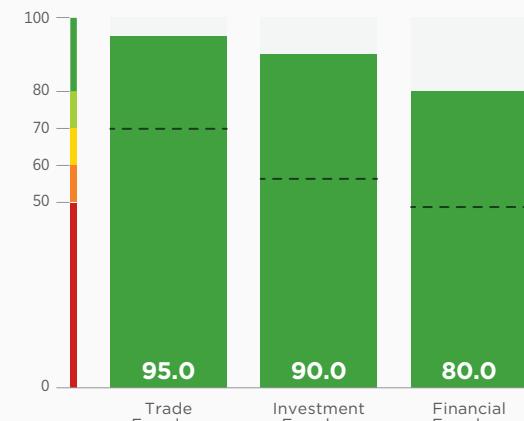
The top individual income tax rate is 22 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 17 percent. The tax burden equals 12.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 19.0 percent and -1.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 167.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

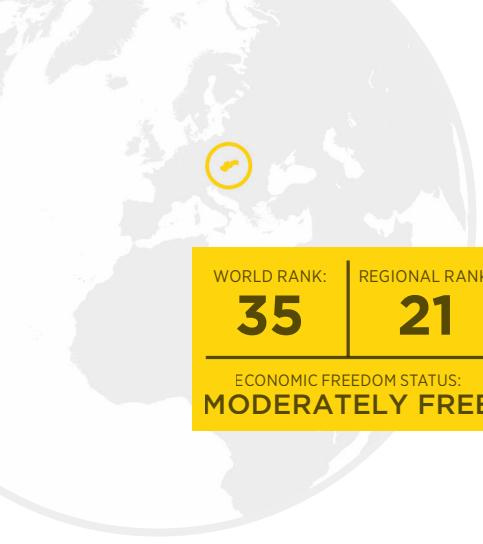


Singapore's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and highly efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade regime is open and competitive, and no tariffs are imposed on imports. Foreign and domestic businesses are treated equally under the law, and nearly all sectors of the economy are open to 100 percent foreign ownership. The financial sector is highly competitive and resilient.

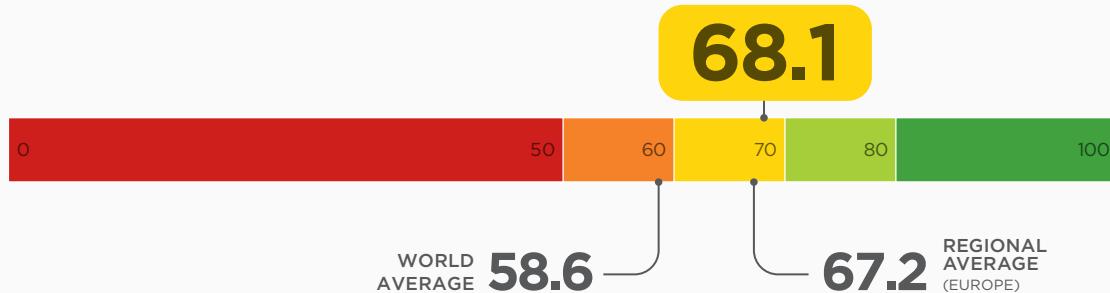


# SLOVAKIA

Slovakia's economic freedom score is 68.1, making its economy the 35th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.9 point from last year, and Slovakia is ranked 21st out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Slovakia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

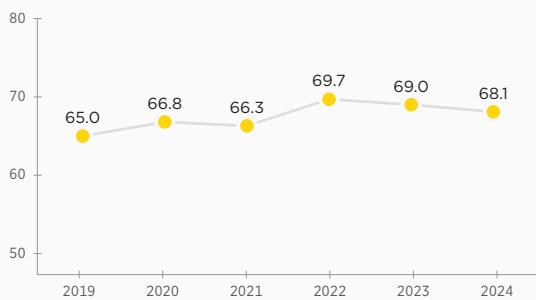
The pillars of economic freedom are relatively well maintained in Slovakia. The entrepreneurial environment is transparent and stable. Barriers to trade are low, and commercial operations are aided by regulations that generally support open-market policies. Foreign investment is welcome, and the financial sector is relatively sound. The regulatory framework has undergone a series of reforms to facilitate entrepreneurial activity, but the pace of reform has slowed in comparison to other emerging economies. The labor market lacks flexibility. Inflationary pressure remains a concern.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +7.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

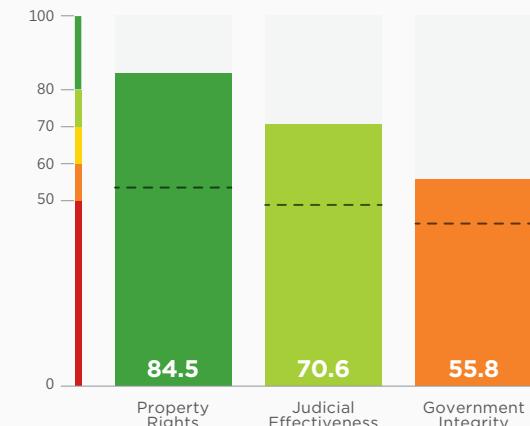
**POPULATION:**  
5.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$218.5 billion  
1.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.9%  
\$40,211 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
12.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$2.9 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
57.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

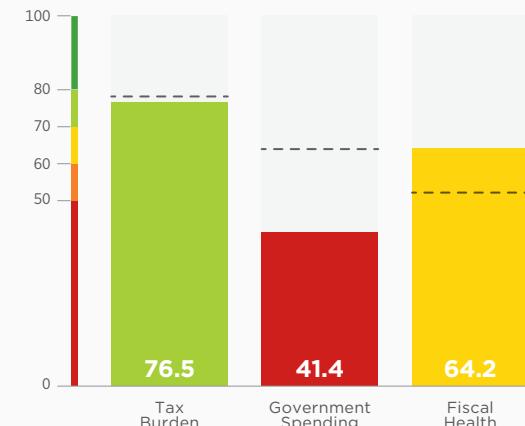
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SLOVAKIA

## RULE OF LAW



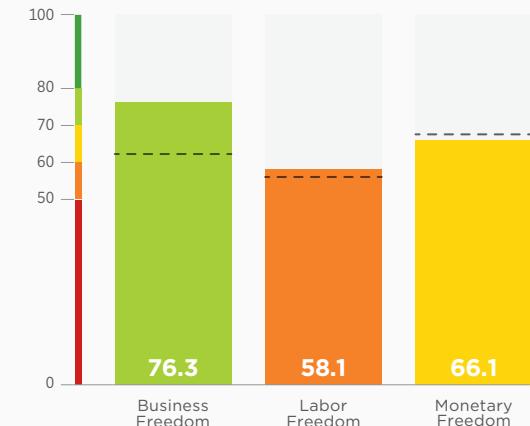
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Slovakia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



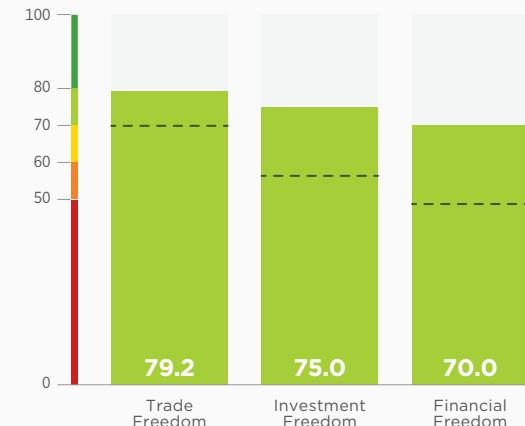
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 21 percent. The tax burden equals 35.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 44.2 percent and -4.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 57.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

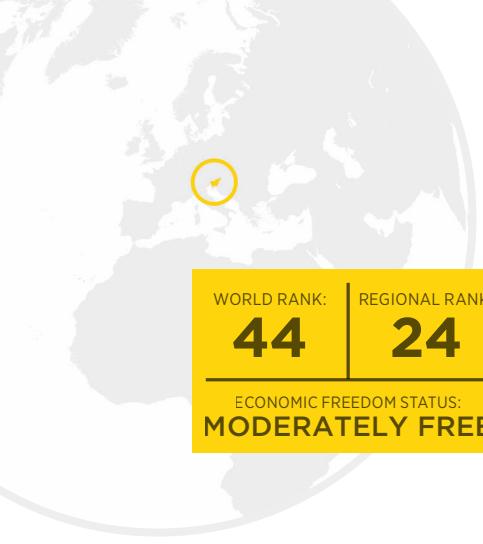


Slovakia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Full foreign ownership is permitted in most sectors. The banking sector continues to be relatively sound.



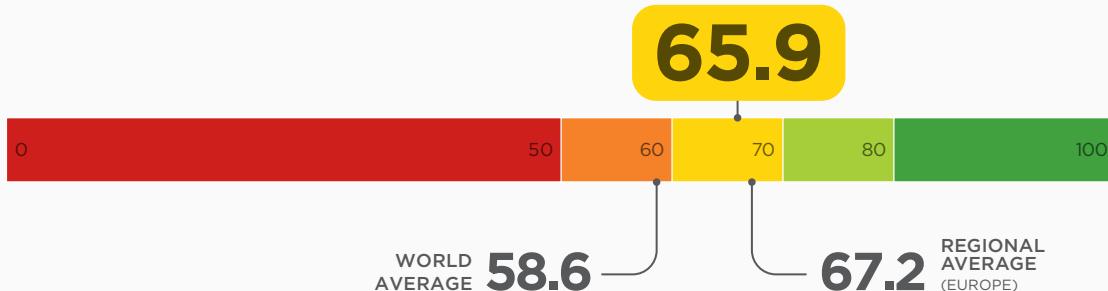
WORLD RANK: **44** | REGIONAL RANK: **24**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# SLOVENIA

Slovenia's economic freedom score is 65.9, making its economy the 44th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.6 points from last year, and Slovenia is ranked 24th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Slovenia's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

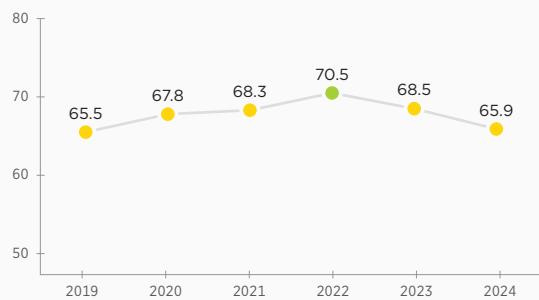
The overall regulatory framework has been evolving to promote the emergence of a more vibrant private sector and encourage broad-based employment growth. The Slovenian economy has benefitted from a comparatively high degree of market openness and regulatory efficiency. However, economic dynamism remains constrained by institutional weaknesses that undermine prospects for long-term development. The judicial system remains inefficient and vulnerable to political interference, and corruption, perceived as widespread, continues to be an issue despite some progress in tackling it.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +15.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

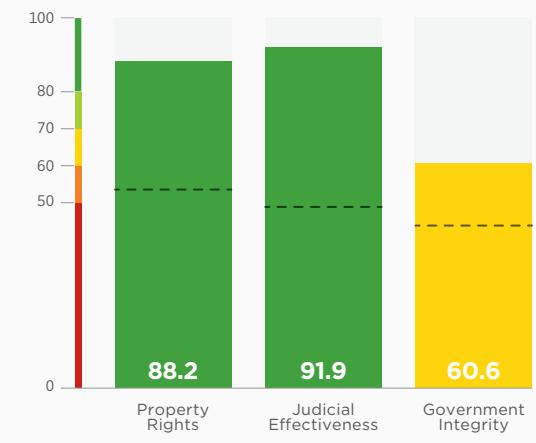
**POPULATION:**  
2.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$102.7 billion  
2.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.9%  
\$48,757 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.6 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
72.6% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

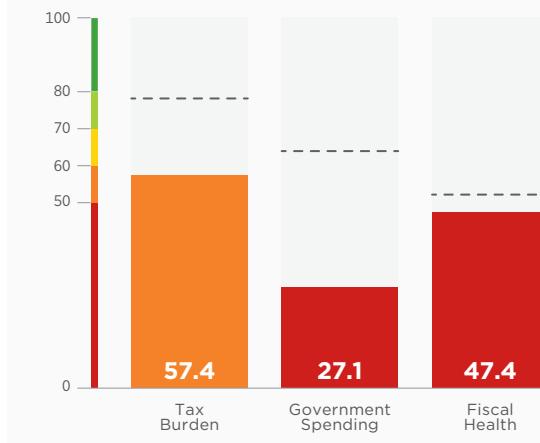
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SLOVENIA

## RULE OF LAW



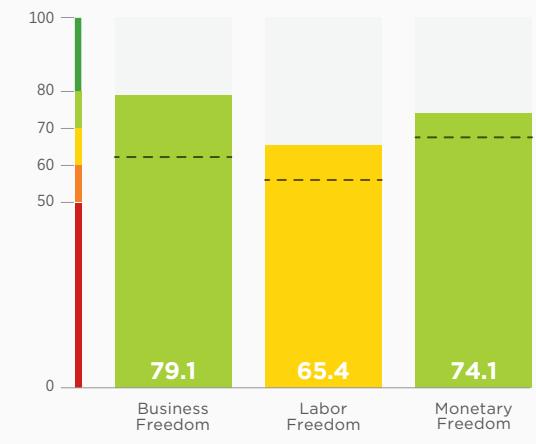
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Slovenia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 50 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 19 percent. The tax burden equals 37.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 49.3 percent and -5.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 72.6 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Slovenia's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Most sectors of the economy are open to foreign investment, but the overall investment regime lacks efficiency. The financial sector is relatively stable.



# SOLOMON ISLANDS

WORLD RANK:  
**114**

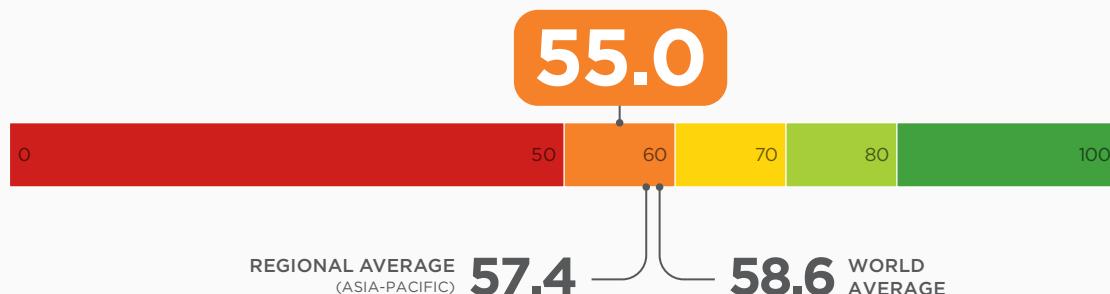
REGIONAL RANK:  
**24**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

The Solomon Islands' economic freedom score is 55, making its economy the 114th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.9 points from last year, and the Solomon Islands is ranked 24th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. The Solomon Islands' economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

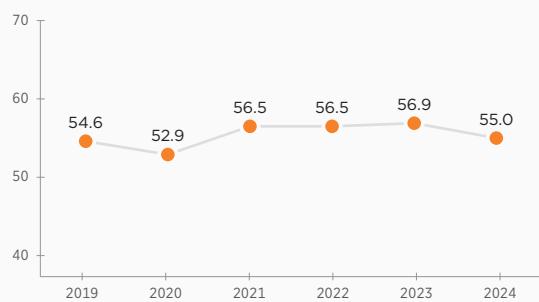
Economic dynamism and development remain stifled by deficiencies that include public-sector inefficiency and poor governance. Underdeveloped legal and physical infrastructure discourages the emergence of a vibrant private sector. Implementation of a simplified registration process has marginally improved the business environment. Uneven enforcement of existing laws continues to undermine the regulatory process. The labor market is underdeveloped. Despite abundant timber and undeveloped mineral resources, much of the population depends on subsistence farming, fishing, and artisanal forestry.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): +9.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

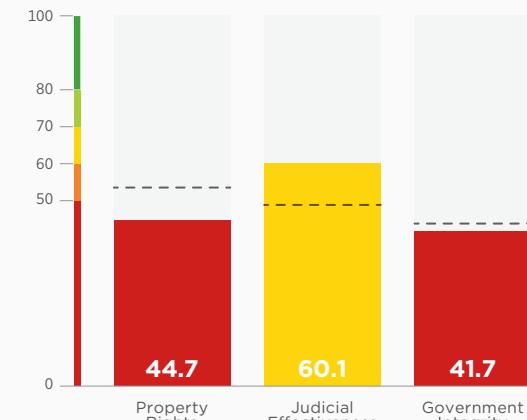
**POPULATION:**  
0.7 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.7 billion  
-4.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -0.7%  
\$2,325 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
1.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$41.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
16.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

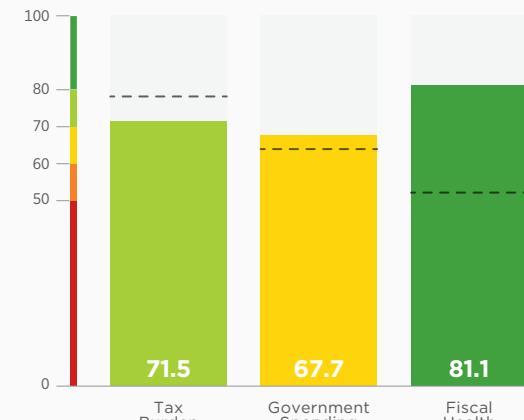
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SOLOMON ISLANDS

## RULE OF LAW



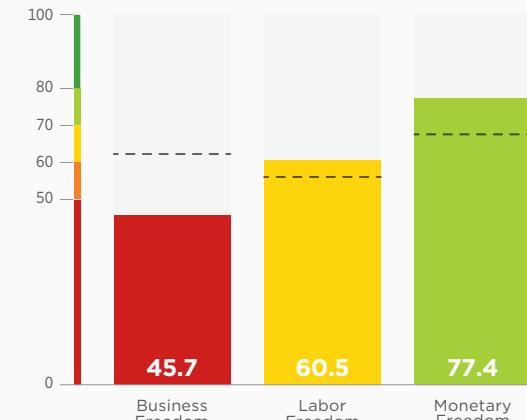
The overall rule of law is weak in the Solomon Islands. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 18.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 32.8 percent and -3.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 16.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The Solomon Islands' overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff is 9.9 percent, and extensive layers of nontariff barriers further limit trade freedom. Investment laws are outmoded, and bureaucracy is slow and inefficient. Banking dominates the underdeveloped financial sector, and access to credit remains limited.



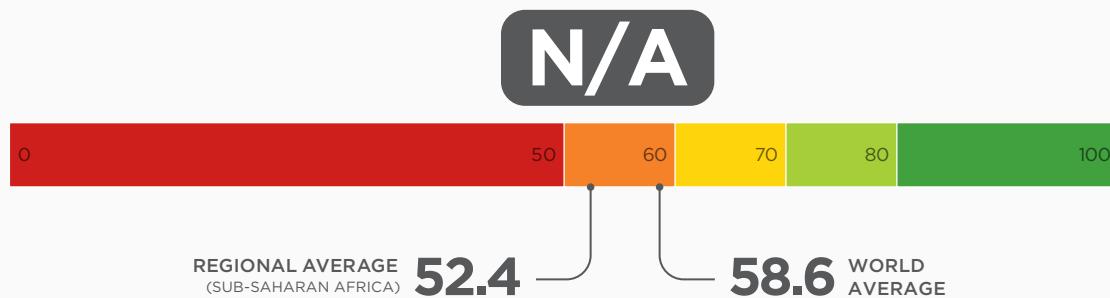
# SOMALIA

WORLD RANK: **N/A** | REGIONAL RANK: **N/A**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**NOT GRADED**

**S**omalia's economic freedom is not graded because of the lack of reliable data. Somalia is a failed state. Over the past decade, extreme violence and civil war, political instability, and famine have ravaged an already fragile living situation. The result is an utterly devastated economy and a country that lacks a functioning national government with the ability to provide even basic services.

Decades of lawlessness have destroyed any foundation of economic freedom on which a developing economy might be built. Somalia remains mired in corruption, violence, and political intrigue. The country's nearly complete economic collapse has resulted in massive human migrations, and a humanitarian catastrophe has been unfolding in the devastated economy. Somalia's GDP and living standards are among the world's lowest, and many Somalis depend on remittances from abroad. Livestock, agriculture, and fishing are economic mainstays.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): N/A

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

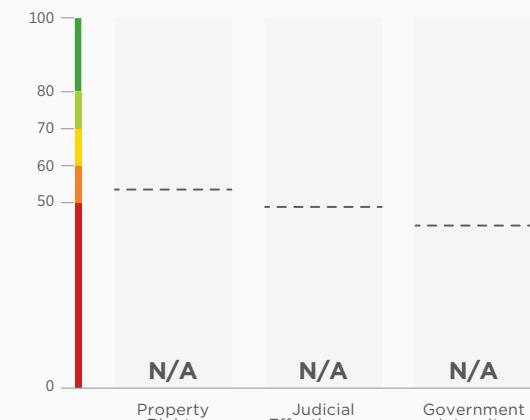
**POPULATION:**  
16.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$30.1 billion  
2.4% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.0%  
\$1,928 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
19.9%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$636.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
n/a

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

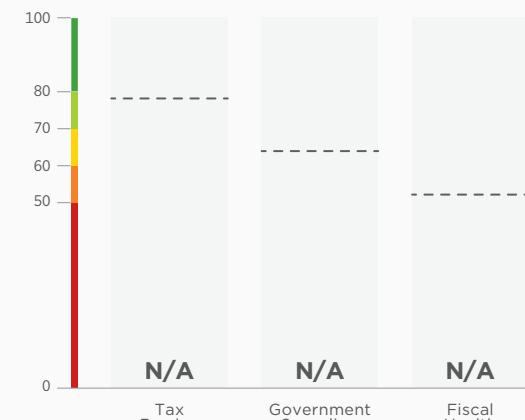
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SOMALIA

## RULE OF LAW



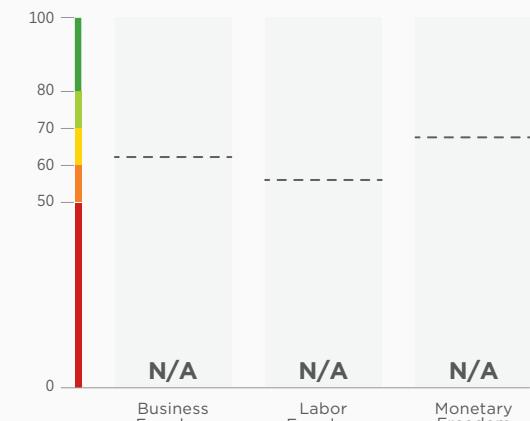
The overall rule of law is extremely weak in Somalia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



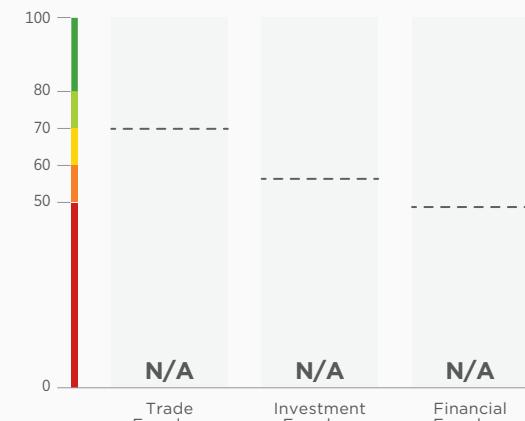
There is no fully effective national government that can provide even basic services to Somalis. Other than the collection of very limited duties and taxes, little formal fiscal policy is in place. In southern Somalia, taxes are often levied by local warlords or clan leaders.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Political instability, an outmoded regulatory environment, and inadequate infrastructure significantly deter the formation and operation of businesses. The labor market is dominated by the agricultural sector and informal hiring practices. There is no effective regulatory or monetary framework.

## OPEN MARKETS



Much of the population is still outside of the formal trade and banking sectors, and private investment remains extremely limited. Somalia and its economy have been ravaged by violence, civil war, and famine, and there is no functioning national government.



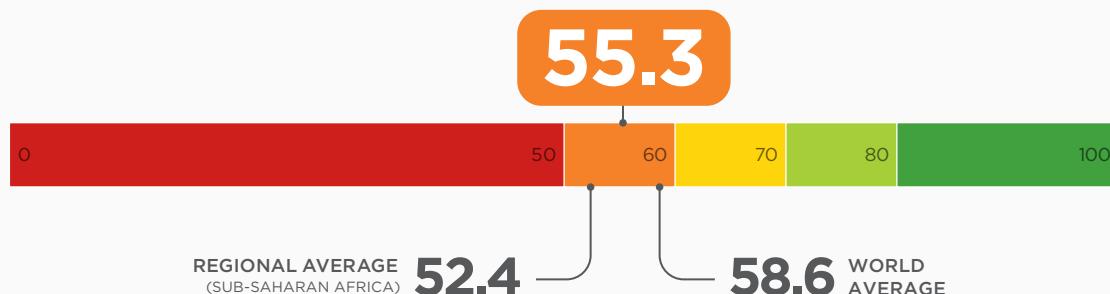
WORLD RANK: **111** | REGIONAL RANK: **18**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# SOUTH AFRICA

**S**outh Africa's economic freedom score is 55.3, making its economy the 111th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.4 point from last year, and South Africa is ranked 18th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world average and higher than the regional average. South Africa's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

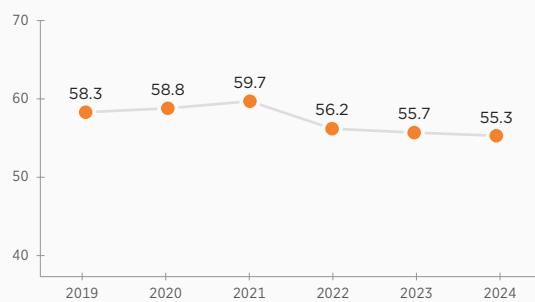
A relatively competitive trade regime has encouraged development of a growing entrepreneurial sector. To ensure long-term economic development, however, the foundations of economic freedom will need to be strengthened. Corruption and the weak rule of law add to the cost of doing business and erode economic competitiveness. The regulatory framework remains costly, and the labor market lacks flexibility. Undermining macroeconomic stability, a combination of rising public debt and spending pressures contributes to increasing fiscal vulnerability.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -5.4

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

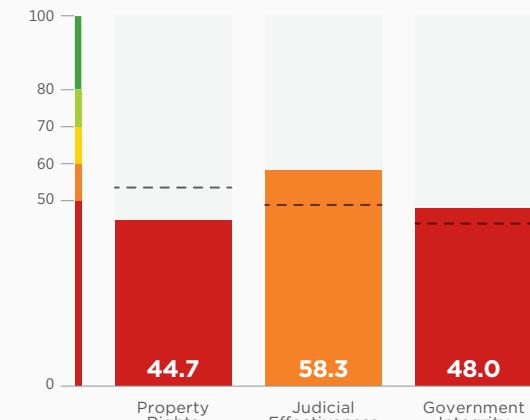
**POPULATION:**  
60.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$953.2 billion  
1.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.5%  
\$15,728 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
33.6%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$9.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
71.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

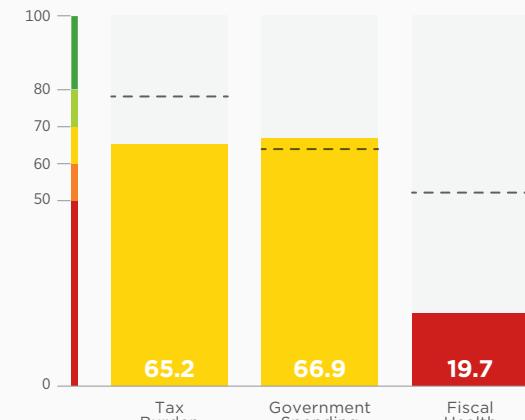
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SOUTH AFRICA

## RULE OF LAW



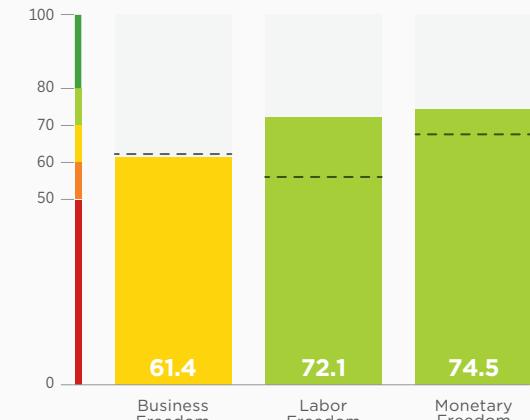
Performing far below its potential, South Africa's economy has been stifled by political instability and a weakening rule of law. The judicial system has become vulnerable to political interference, and numerous scandals and frequent political infighting have severely undermined government integrity.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 45 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 27 percent. The tax burden equals 27.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 33.2 percent and -6.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 71.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

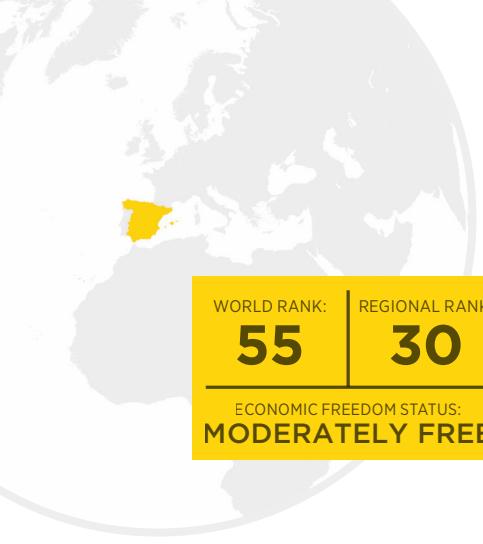


South Africa's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.3 percent, but extensive nontariff barriers limit trade freedom. Nontransparent laws discourage private investment, and foreign investment is subject to additional inefficiency. The financial sector has undergone modernization, and the banking sector is regarded as resilient.

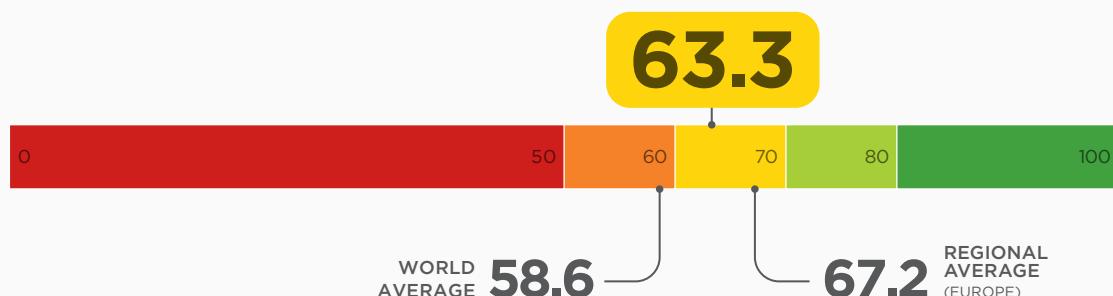


# SPAIN

Spain's economic freedom score is 63.3, making its economy the 55th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.7 points from last year, and Spain is ranked 30th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. Spain's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

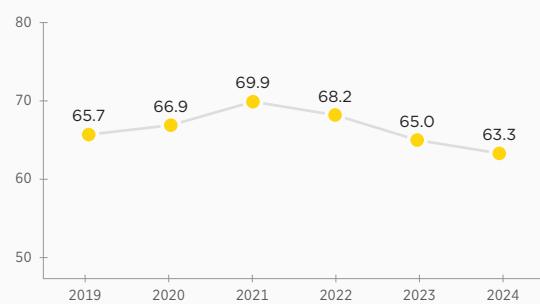
Spain's progress toward greater economic freedom has been uneven. Regulatory efficiency and the rule of law are relatively well maintained, but long-term gains have been modest. Fiscal freedom, government spending, and financial freedom challenges are significant. Fiscal deficits and high public debt reflect a need to reform financial management. Regulations are transparent. Business start-up procedures have been streamlined, and there are now fewer licensing requirements. Despite some progress, labor regulations remain restrictive and burdensome. Inflationary pressure remains a concern.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +0.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

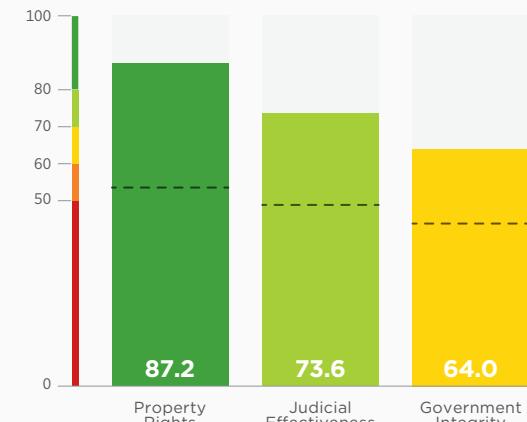
**POPULATION:**  
47.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$2.3 trillion  
5.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.1%  
\$47,711 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
14.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$34.8 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
111.6% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

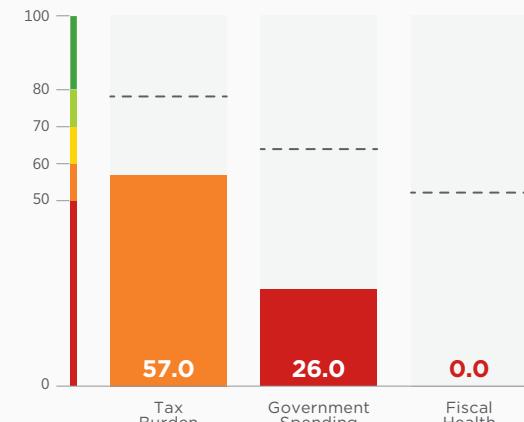
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SPAIN

## RULE OF LAW



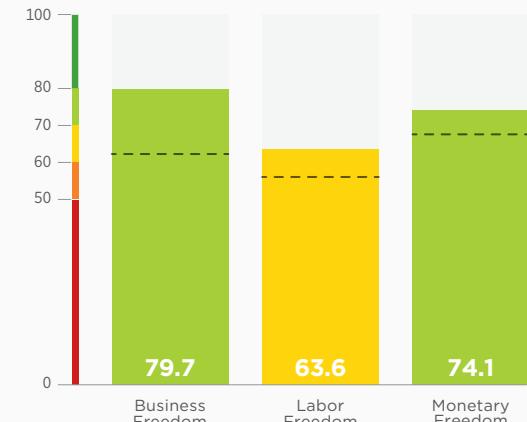
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Spain. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 47 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 38.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 49.7 percent and -7.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 111.6 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

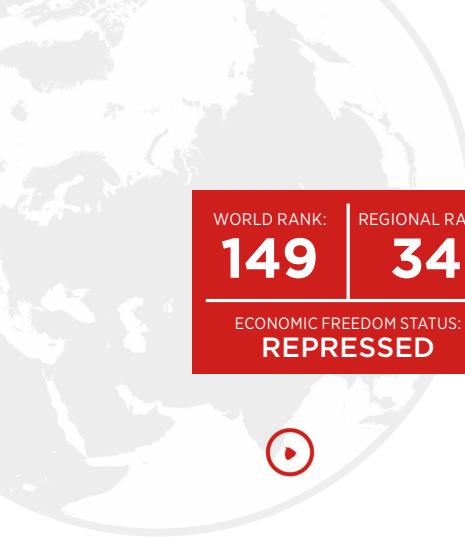


Spain's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized and efficient. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Many sectors are open to foreign investment. The banking sector has been relatively stable.

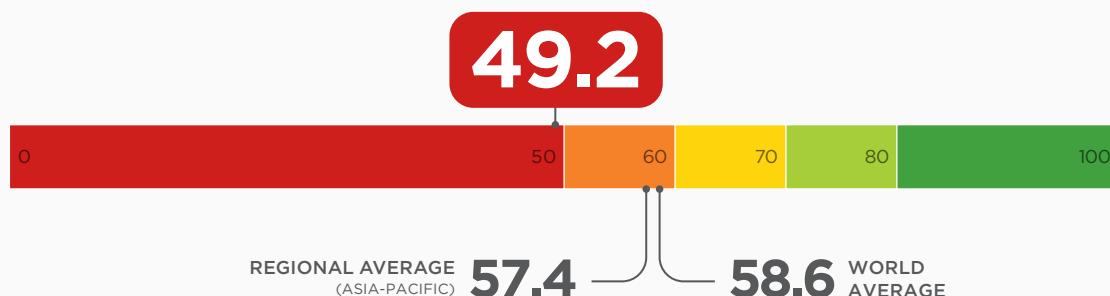
WORLD RANK:  
**149**REGIONAL RANK:  
**34**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSIVE**

# SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's economic freedom score is 49.2, making its economy the 149th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 3 points from last year, and Sri Lanka is ranked 34th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Sri Lanka's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

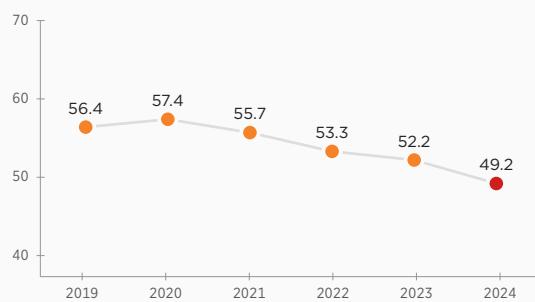
In a period of instability and uncertainty, challenges to economic freedom in Sri Lanka are considerable. The inefficient judicial system remains susceptible to corruption and political influence, undermining property rights. The heavy state presence in the economy discourages private-sector development. The regulatory framework is burdensome, and the unpredictable economic policy environment and state interference further increase the cost of conducting business. Labor regulations are rigid, and the labor market is underdeveloped. Monetary stability has been weakened, and inflationary pressure persists.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -11.4

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

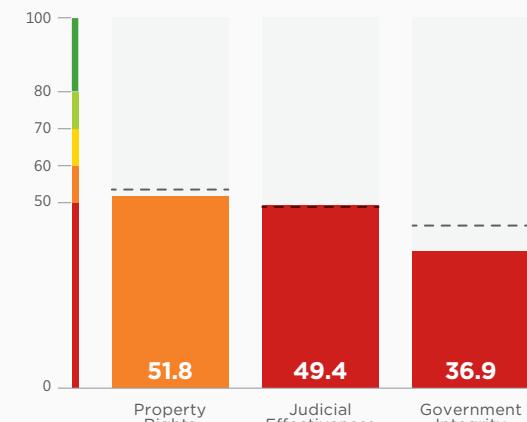
**POPULATION:**  
22.2 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$319.5 billion  
-7.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -1.4%  
\$14,267 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
45.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$898.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
115.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SRI LANKA

## RULE OF LAW



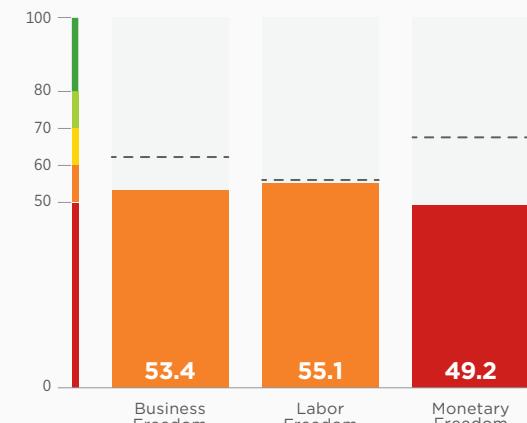
The overall rule of law is weak in Sri Lanka. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 36 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 7.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 19.8 percent and -11.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 115.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Sri Lanka's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.4 percent, and extensive nontariff barriers are in force. Bureaucracy and inadequate infrastructure discourage the dynamic growth of private investment. Nonperforming loans remain a problem in the banking system, and the state continues to influence credit allocation.



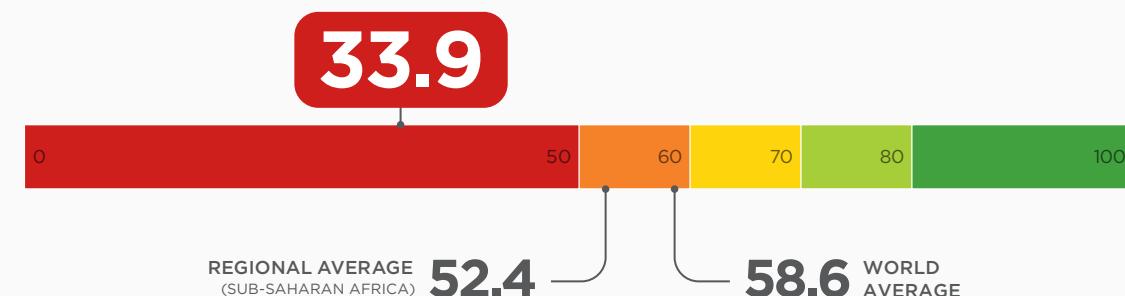
# SUDAN

WORLD RANK: **173** | REGIONAL RANK: **47**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSIVE**

**S**udan's economic freedom score is 33.9, making its economy the 173rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 2.4 points from last year, and Sudan is ranked 47th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Sudan's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

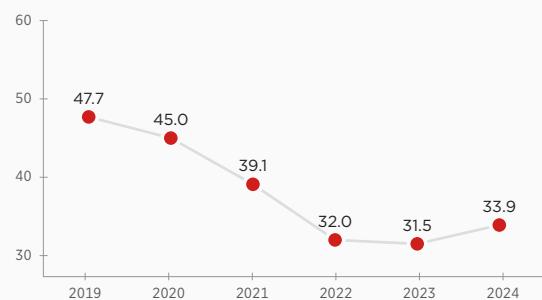
The large informal economy has been an important source of employment. Outside of the hydrocarbon sector, economic development is limited by the region's ongoing political instability. Attempts to develop and diversify the economy are constrained by a lack of institutional capacity. Rampant corruption and insufficient respect for private property rights are serious impediments to long-term private-sector development. Oil has driven much of Sudan's GDP growth. Approximately half of the population is at or below the poverty line and dependent on subsistence agriculture.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -5.5

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



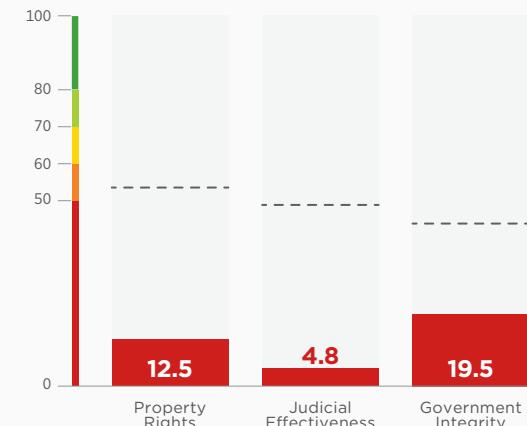
## QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 44.9 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 19.8%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$203.8 billion -2.5% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: -2.1% \$4,366 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 138.8%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$574.0 million	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 186.2% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

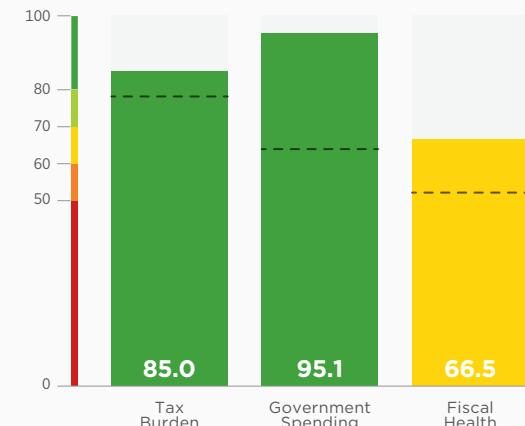
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SUDAN

## RULE OF LAW



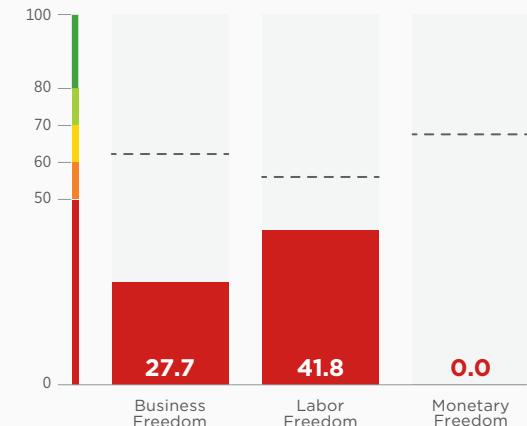
The overall rule of law is weak in Sudan. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



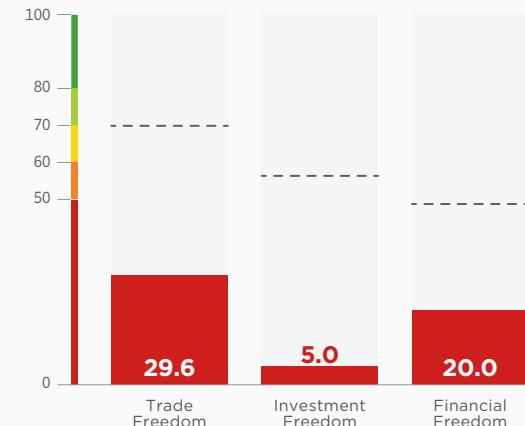
The top individual income tax rate is 15 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 7.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 12.7 percent and -2.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 186.2 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

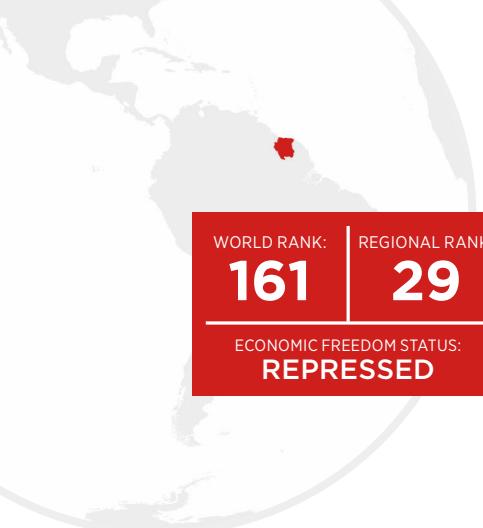


Sudan's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 25.2 percent, and extensive nontariff barriers significantly constrain the freedom to trade. Political instability and an outmoded regulatory environment are major deterrents to private investment. Access to credit remains limited.



WORLD RANK:

**161**

REGIONAL RANK:

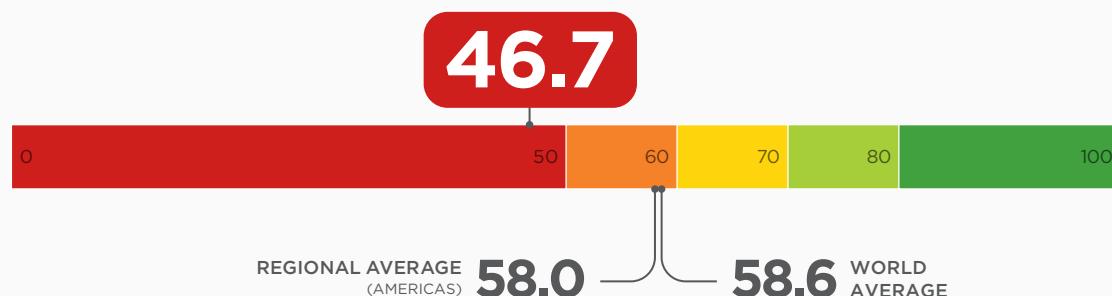
**29**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSIVE**

# SURINAME

**S**uriname's economic freedom score is 46.7, making its economy the 161st freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.6 point from last year, and Suriname is ranked 29th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Suriname's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

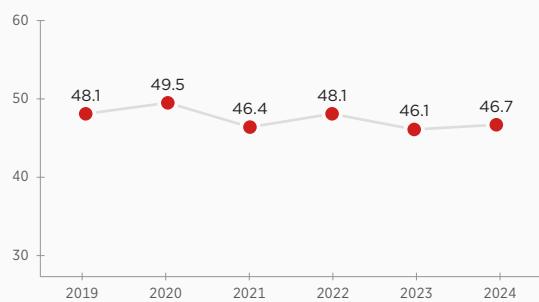
Poor policy choices and uncertainty generated by the weak rule of law have severely weakened prospects for long-term economic development. Pervasive corruption undermines the judicial system, making it harder to establish a foundation for economic freedom. Little has been done to develop a more dynamic private sector. Suriname's regulatory code limits the freedom to launch and run a business. The formal labor market is not fully developed, and the public sector remains a major source of employment. Regulations and state-owned enterprises influence prices.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +10.0

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
0.6 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$10.8 billion  
1.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -2.3%  
\$17,498 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
10.1%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
52.4%

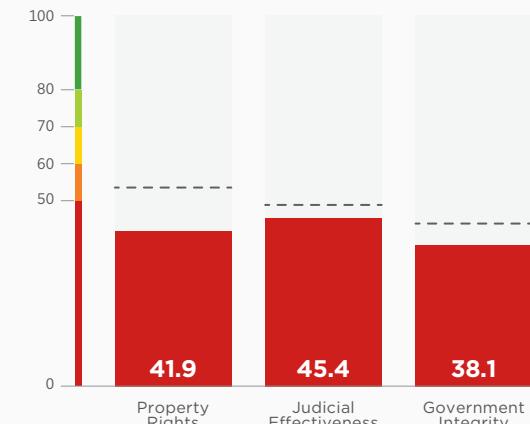
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$7.0 million

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
120.1% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

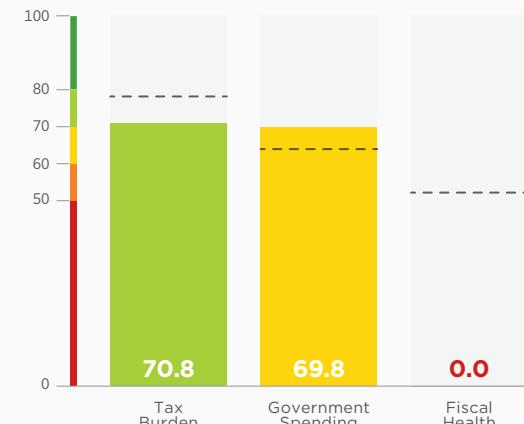
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SURINAME

## RULE OF LAW



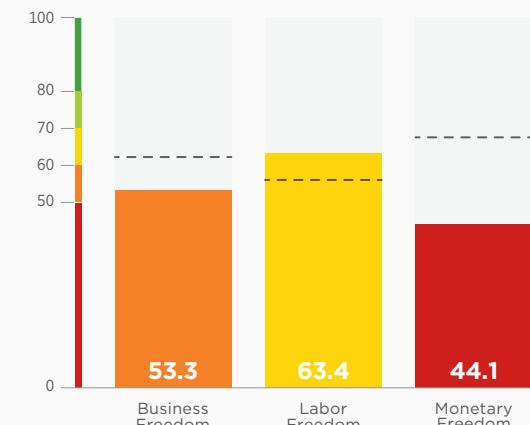
The overall rule of law is weak in Suriname. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 38 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 36 percent. The tax burden equals 13.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 31.7 percent and -7.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 120.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Suriname's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 10.4 percent, and pervasive nontariff barriers further limit trade freedom. The onerous and nontransparent investment regime continues to deter long-term foreign investment. The financial sector is underdeveloped, and credit decisions are subject to state influence.



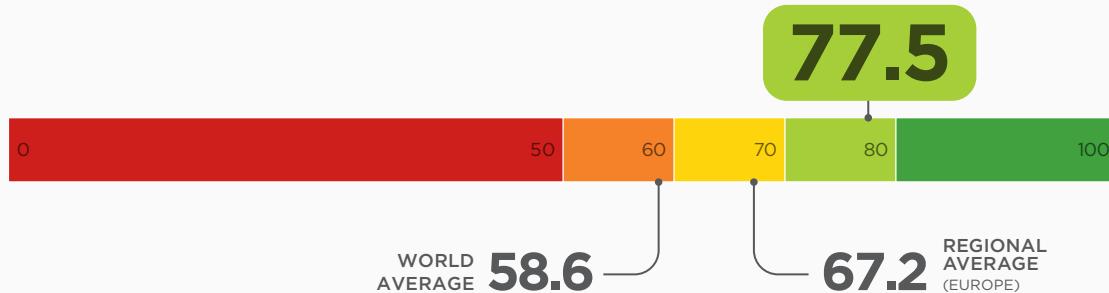
WORLD RANK: **9** | REGIONAL RANK: **6**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY FREE**

# SWEDEN

**S**weden's economic freedom score is 77.5, making its economy the 9th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is unchanged from last year, and Sweden is ranked 6th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Sweden's economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

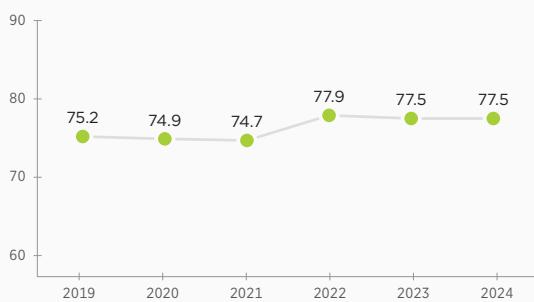
The Swedish economy performs well in the key economic freedom pillars of rule of law and regulatory efficiency, facilitated by open-market policies that sustain dynamic trade and investment flows. The well-institutionalized regulatory and legal environment encourages entrepreneurial activity, but labor regulations are among Europe's most rigid. Monetary stability has been well maintained, but inflationary pressure continues. Banking regulations are sensible, and lending practices have been prudent. The influx of large numbers of migrants since 2015 and rising gang violence have made immigration a central issue.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +16.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

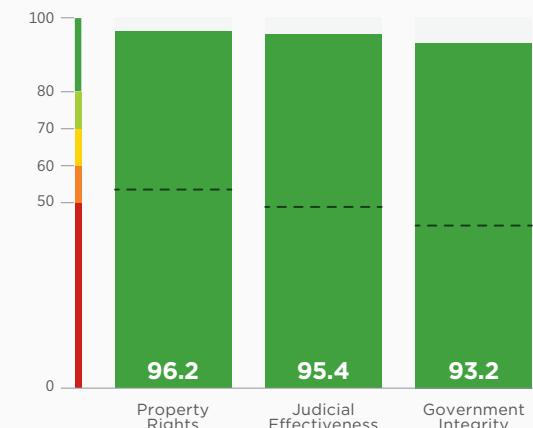
**POPULATION:**  
10.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$695.4 billion  
2.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.1%  
\$66,091 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
8.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$46.0 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
32.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

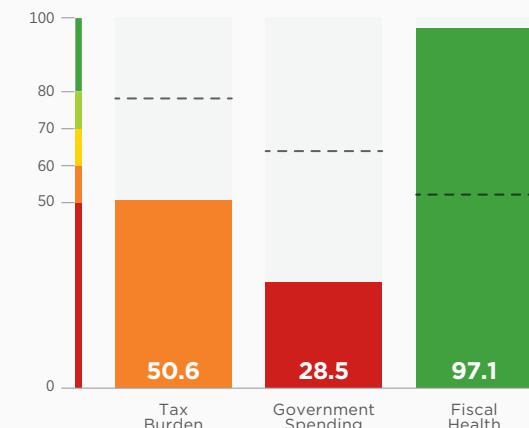
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SWEDEN

## RULE OF LAW



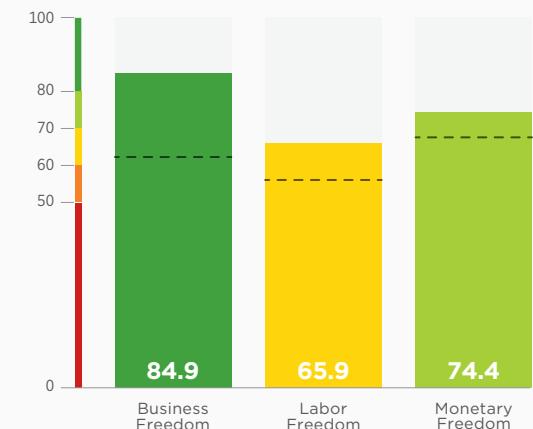
The overall rule of law is very well respected in Sweden. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



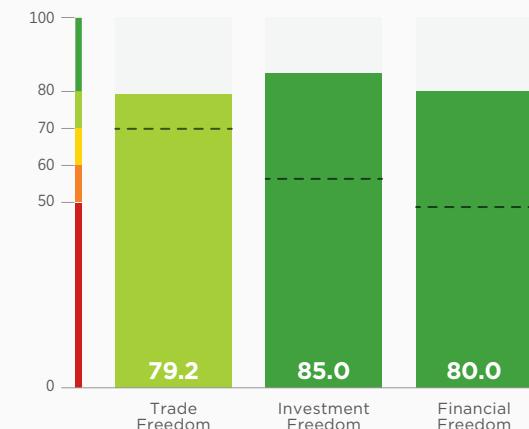
The top individual income tax rate is 52 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20.6 percent. The tax burden equals 42.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 48.8 percent and -0.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 32.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

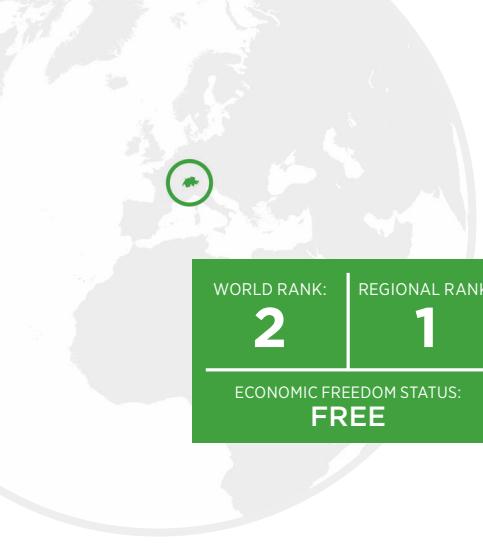


Sweden's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.9 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. The modern investment regime is open and generally transparent, and regulations are applied consistently. The financial sector is competitive and stable.



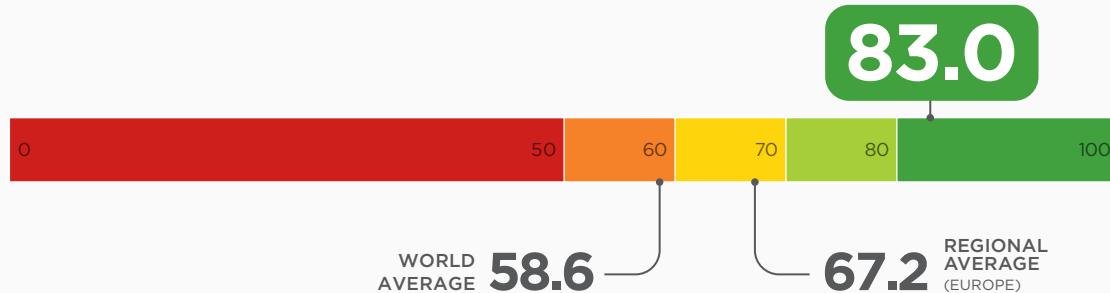
WORLD RANK: 2 | REGIONAL RANK: 1  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: FREE

# SWITZERLAND

**S**witzerland's economic freedom score is 83, making its economy the 2nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.8 point from last year, and Switzerland is ranked 1st out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Switzerland remains one of the world's four "free" economies according to the 2024 *Index*.

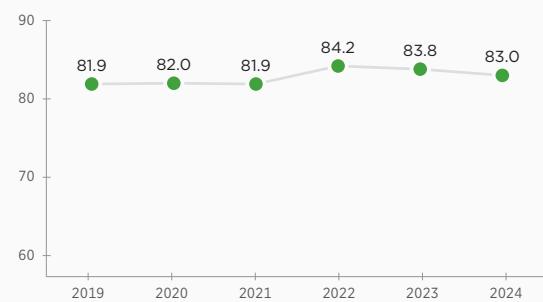
Well-secured property rights, including for intellectual property, promote vibrant entrepreneurship and productivity. Minimum tolerance for corruption is institutionalized in an efficient legal framework. The judicial system, independent of political influence, ensures effective and transparent enforcement of contracts. Switzerland's openness to foreign trade and investment continues to encourage a dynamic and resilient economy. The competitive and modern regulatory framework allows business formation and operation to be efficient and dynamic. Labor regulations are relatively flexible. Overall monetary stability has been well maintained.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +6.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

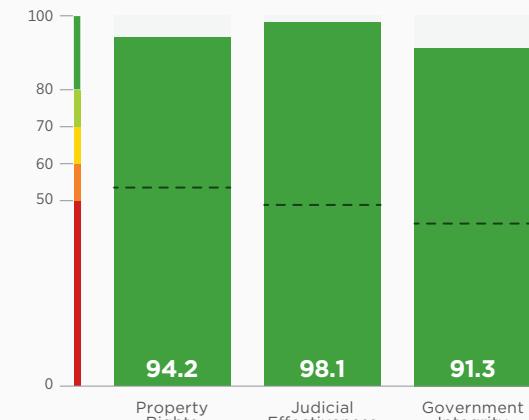
**POPULATION:**  
8.7 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$753.8 billion  
2.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.0%  
\$86,262 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.3%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
2.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$13.3 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
40.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

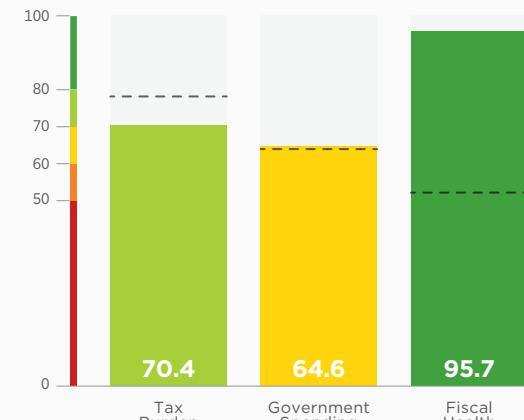
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SWITZERLAND

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is very well respected in Switzerland. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



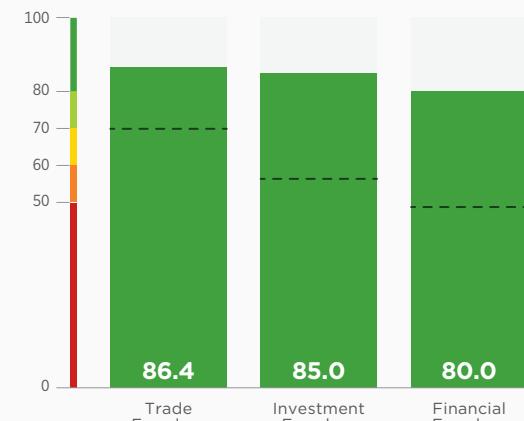
The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 24 percent. The tax burden equals 28.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 34.4 percent and -0.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 40.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Switzerland's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 1.8 percent. Switzerland's economy continues to be open to foreign investment, and the investment code is transparent and efficiently administered. The modern and highly developed financial sector provides a wide range of financing instruments.



WORLD RANK: <b>N/A</b>	REGIONAL RANK: <b>N/A</b>
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>NOT GRADED</b>	

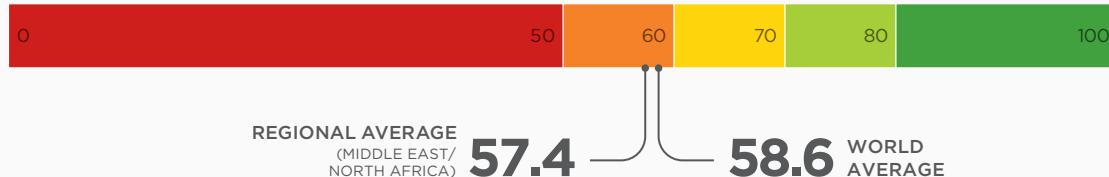
# SYRIA

Ongoing instability and the devastation caused by more than a decade of conflict again preclude any ranking of Syria in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Syria's civil war has resulted in a horrific death toll and caused the collapse of the economy.

Even before the ongoing conflict, very low scores for property rights and corruption reflected the fragility of the foundations of economic freedom. Politically motivated enforcement undermines the rule of law, and state intervention in many aspects of the economy persists. The Assad family has ruled since Hafez al-Assad's coup in 1970. Bashar al-Assad succeeded his father in 2000 but failed to fulfill promises to open the socialist economy and ease repression. A sectarian civil war has killed countless Syrians and driven about 5.7 million refugees out of the country. Assad's regime, supported by Iran, Russia, and the terrorist Hezbollah, has largely defeated its fractured armed opposition.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE

**N/A**



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): N/A

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND

NOT GRADED

2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
18.3 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
n/a  
n/a growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: n/a  
n/a per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
n/a

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
n/a

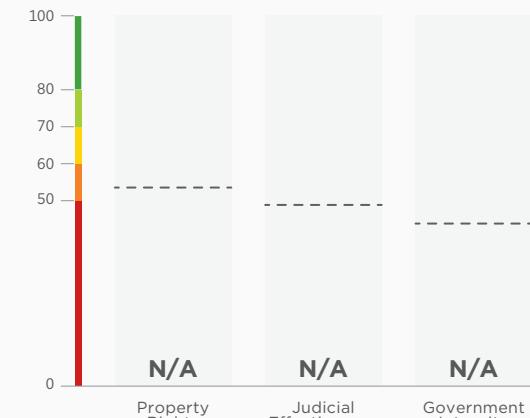
**FDI INFLOW:**  
n/a

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
n/a

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

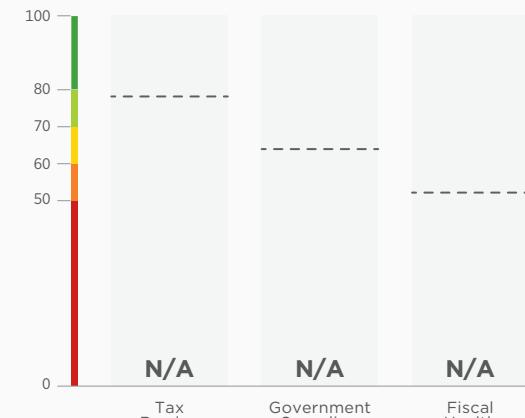
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SYRIA

## RULE OF LAW



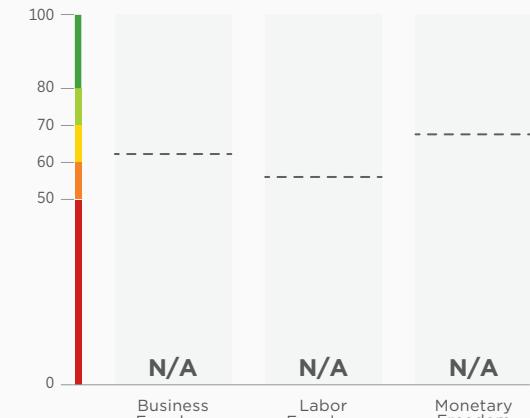
Syria's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



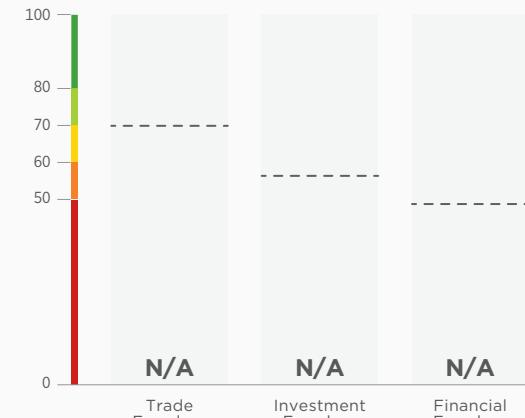
The civil conflict has caused mounting damage to the economy. Economic policy has focused on protecting the regime and maintaining the military's fighting capacity. Government spending is driven by political concerns. Economic mismanagement has brought the economy to the brink of collapse.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The repressive and fragile business environment, already burdened by heavy state intervention and gravely exacerbated by the civil war and severely damaged infrastructure, continues to affect entrepreneurial activity. Functioning labor markets do not exist in many war-torn locations. Monetary stability has long been eroded.

## OPEN MARKETS



Political instability, exacerbated by significant security threats, is a significant impediment to trade and investment. The investment environment lacks transparency and efficiency. The financial infrastructure has been significantly degraded. Severely limited access to financing impedes any meaningful private business development.



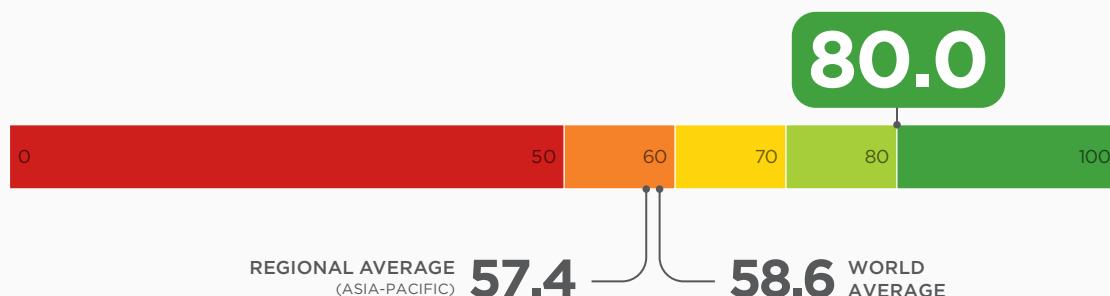
# TAIWAN

WORLD RANK:	REGIONAL RANK:
<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>FREE</b>	

Taiwan's economic freedom score is 80, making its economy the 4th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.7 point from last year, and Taiwan is ranked 2nd out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Taiwan continues to be one of the world's four "free" economies according to the 2024 *Index*.

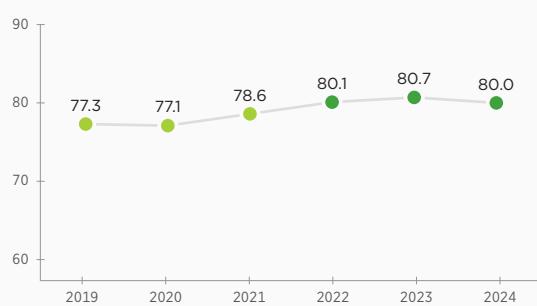
Taiwan is an exemplary free-market democracy. A strong commitment to the rule of law and openness to global commerce have enabled it to become a global leader in economic freedom. The dynamic economy has benefitted from well-functioning institutional and regulatory frameworks with small and medium-size enterprises the backbone of economic growth and resilience. A sound legal framework provides strong protection of property rights and upholds the rule of law. Monetary stability has been well maintained despite inflationary pressure.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +5.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

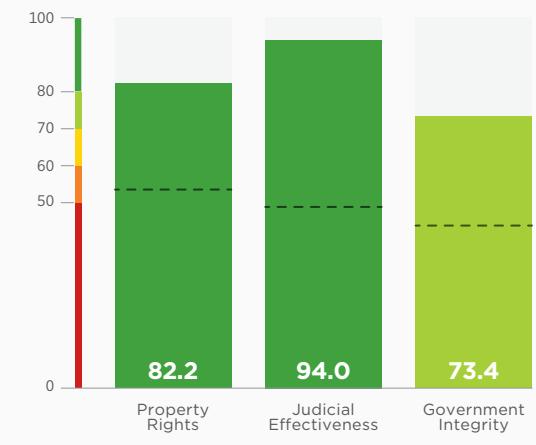
**POPULATION:**  
23.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.6 trillion  
2.4% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 3.6%  
\$69,290 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
2.9%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$10.2 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
29.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

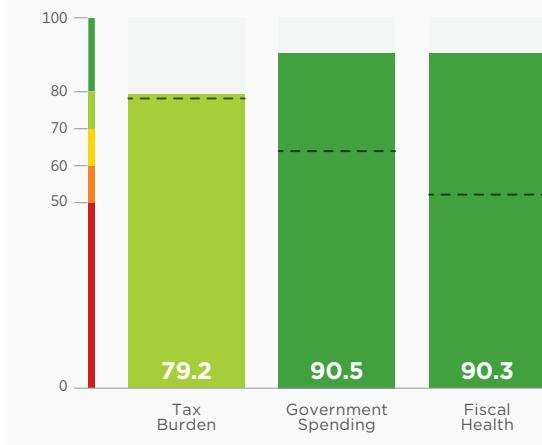
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | TAIWAN

## RULE OF LAW



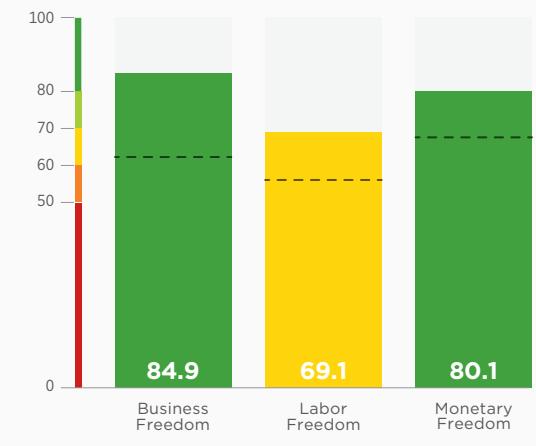
The overall rule of law is well respected in Taiwan. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



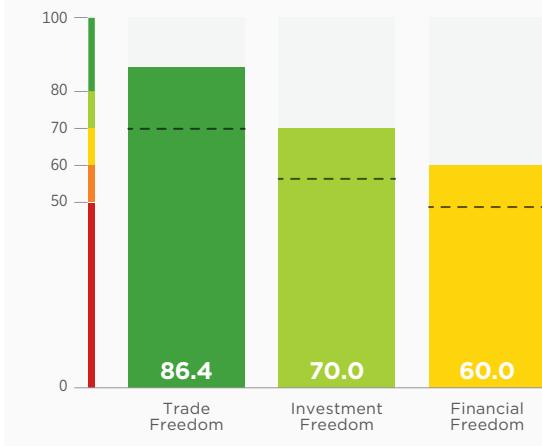
The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 9.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 17.8 percent and -2.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 29.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Taiwan's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 1.8 percent, but nontariff barriers add to the cost of trade. Foreign investment is welcome, and the overall investment framework has become more streamlined. The financial sector continues to evolve and provides a wide range of financial services.

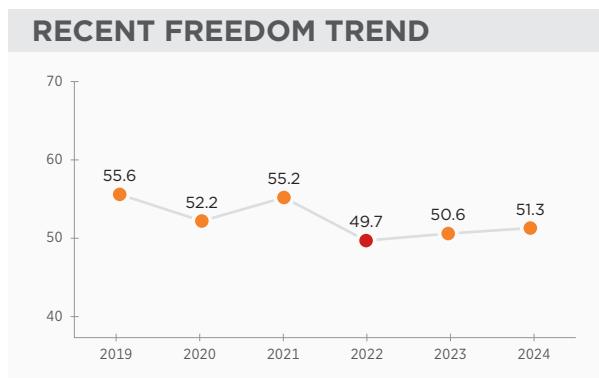
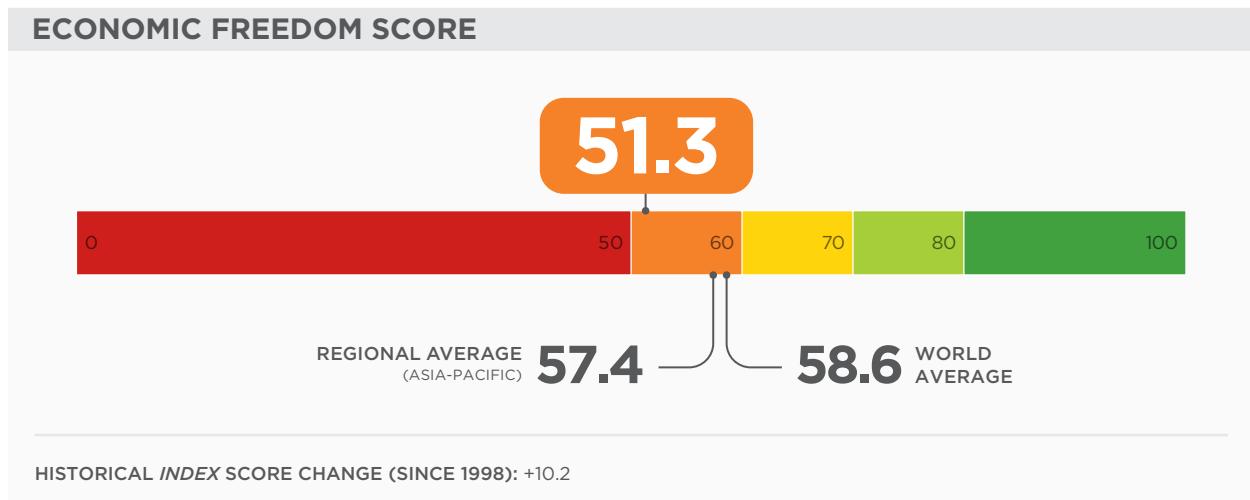


# TAJIKISTAN



Tajikistan's economic freedom score is 51.3, making its economy the 137th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.7 point from last year, and Tajikistan is ranked 28th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Tajikistan's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Tajikistan lags far behind many other developing countries in its economic development. The economy is overly dependent on commodity export earnings and remains vulnerable to market volatility. Corruption persists, and the rule of law is too weak to sustain meaningful economic progress. The business environment has improved only marginally. Inconsistent bureaucracy and state interference that increases regulatory costs limit entrepreneurial activity. The labor market remains underdeveloped. Government regulation, subsidies, and numerous state-owned enterprises influence prices. Tajikistan remains one of Asia's poorest countries.



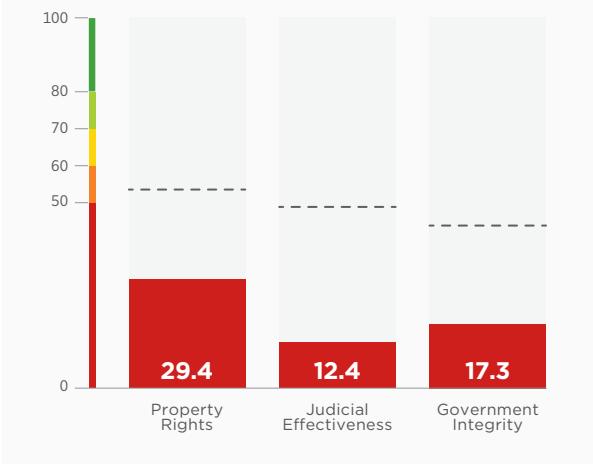
### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 9.7 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 7.8%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$48.6 billion 8.0% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 7.4% \$4,943 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 6.6%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$174.0 million	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 32.6% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

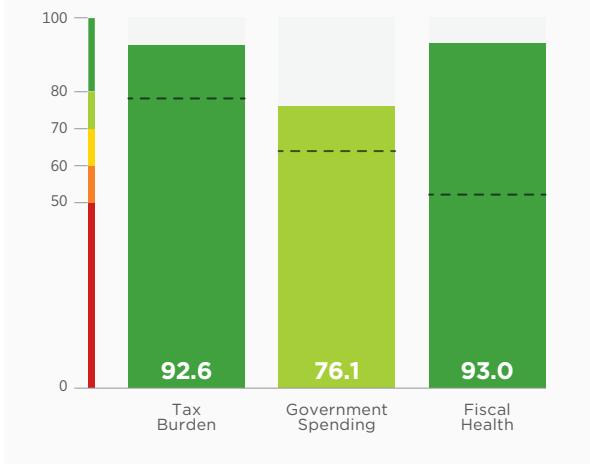
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | TAJIKISTAN

## RULE OF LAW



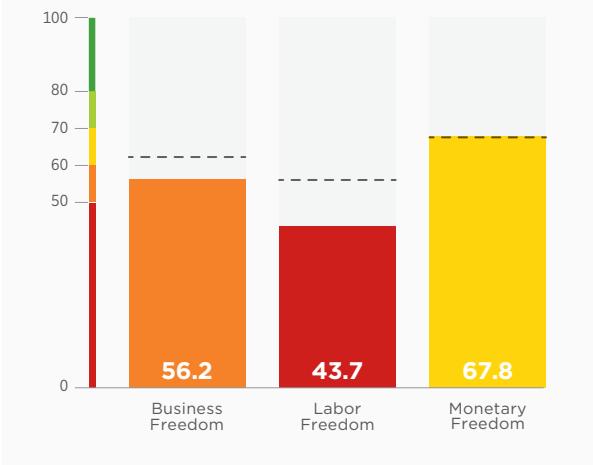
The overall rule of law is weak in Tajikistan. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



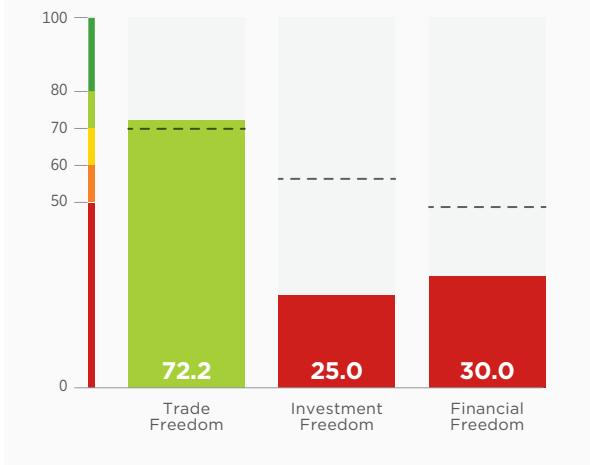
The top individual income tax rate is 12 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 18 percent. The tax burden equals 16.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 28.3 percent and -1.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 32.6 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Tajikistan's regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.4 percent, but onerous and pervasive nontariff barriers severely limit trade freedom. All private investment is screened and requires government approval. Financial-sector assets have grown, but the state's continuing interference seriously handicaps private-sector development.



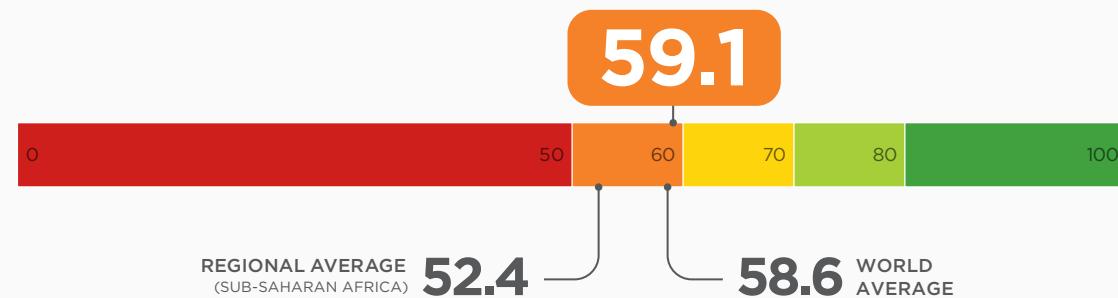
# TANZANIA

WORLD RANK: **86** | REGIONAL RANK: **6**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

Tanzania's economic freedom score is 59.1, making its economy the 86th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.9 point from last year, and Tanzania is ranked 6th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Tanzania's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

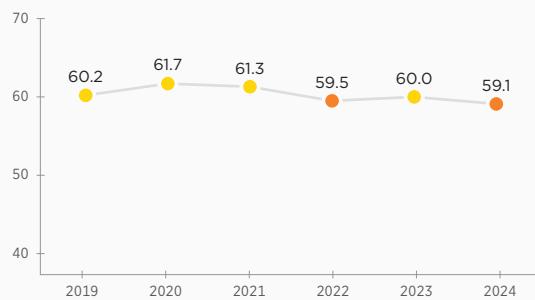
Tanzania has achieved some income growth and poverty reduction over the past decade. While small in size, the financial sector has undergone modernization, and credit is increasingly allocated at market rates, supporting the development of a more vibrant entrepreneurial sector. Nevertheless, deeper institutional reforms remain critical to the country's broader long-term economic development. Long-standing structural problems include poor management of public finance and an underdeveloped legal framework that interferes with regulatory efficiency. Corruption further undermines the weak rule of law.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +1.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

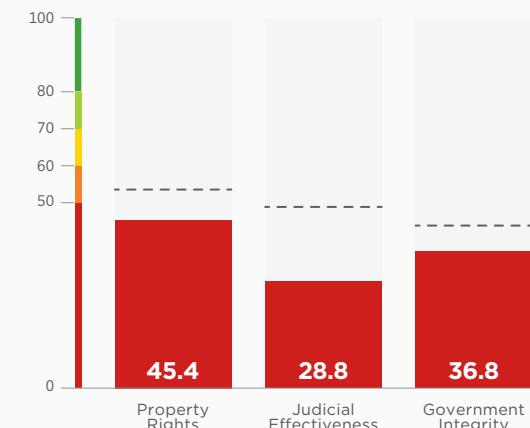
**POPULATION:**  
61.5 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$208.8 billion  
4.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 5.7%  
\$3,394 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
2.7%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
4.4%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
42.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

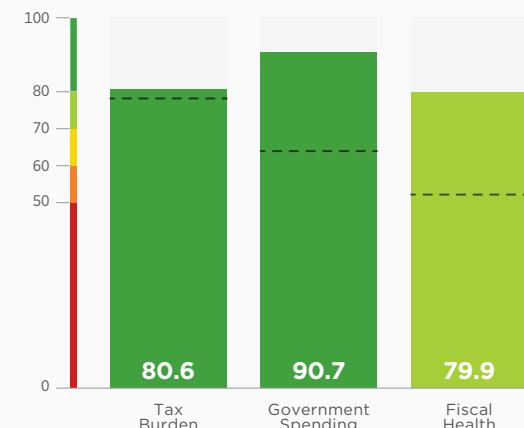
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | TANZANIA

## RULE OF LAW



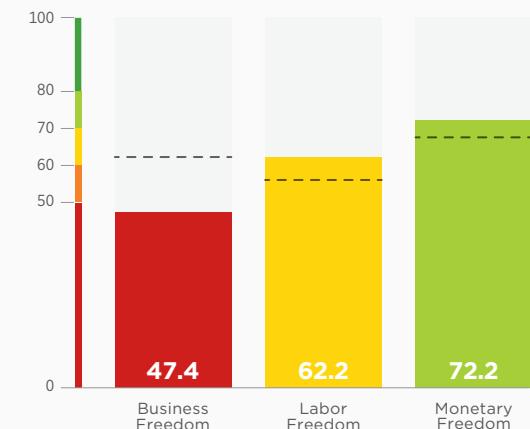
The overall rule of law is weak in Tanzania. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 30 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 11.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 17.6 percent and -3.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 42.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Tanzania's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 9.7 percent, and costly nontariff barriers further inhibit trade. Investment regulations are outmoded, and burdensome bureaucracy is an ongoing deterrent to investment growth. A range of commercial credit instruments is available to the private sector.



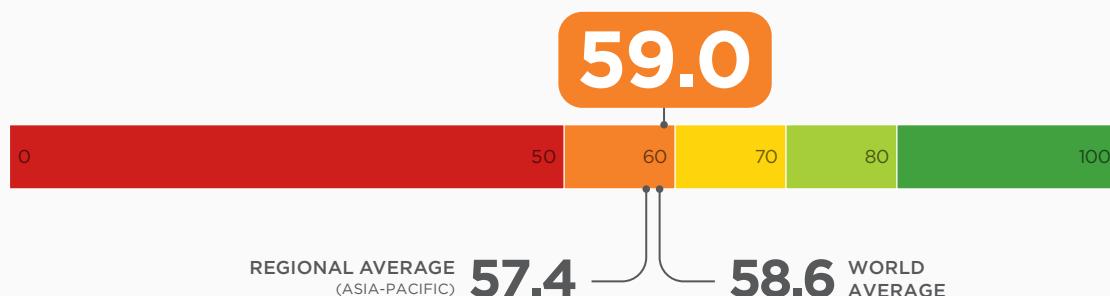
WORLD RANK: **87** | REGIONAL RANK: **17**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# THAILAND

Thailand's economic freedom score is 59, making its economy the 87th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.6 points from last year, and Thailand is ranked 17th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Thailand's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

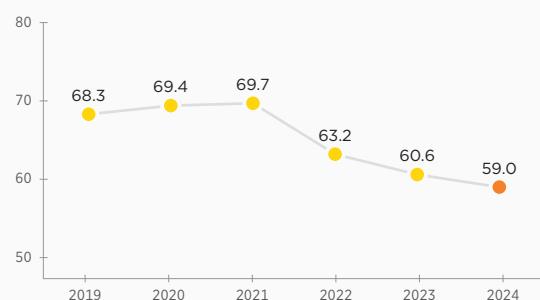
Economic fundamentals remain relatively solid, but Thailand's economic freedom still faces challenges that include the need to advance institutional reform. A major concern is political instability, which undermines the country's investment climate and economic potential. The judicial system remains inefficient and vulnerable to political interference, and corruption persists. With no minimum capital requirement, the process for starting a business has been made easier. Labor regulations are relatively flexible, but informal labor activity remains substantial. Monetary stability has been maintained despite inflationary pressure.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -12.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

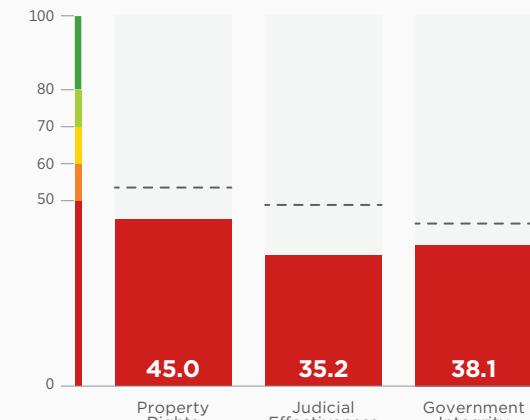
**POPULATION:**  
70.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.5 trillion  
2.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.9%  
\$21,154 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
1.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
6.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$10.0 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
60.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

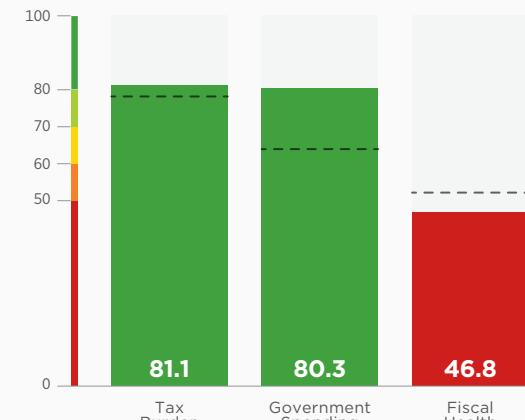
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | THAILAND

## RULE OF LAW



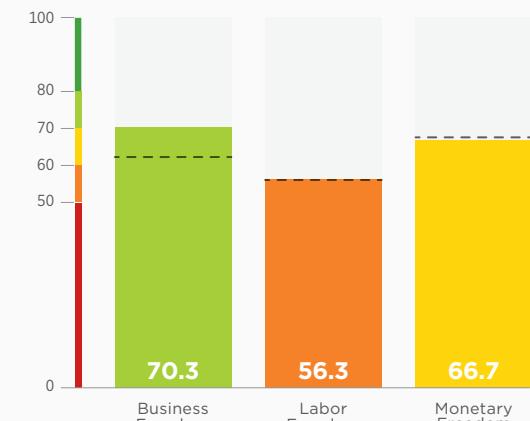
The overall rule of law is weak in Thailand. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



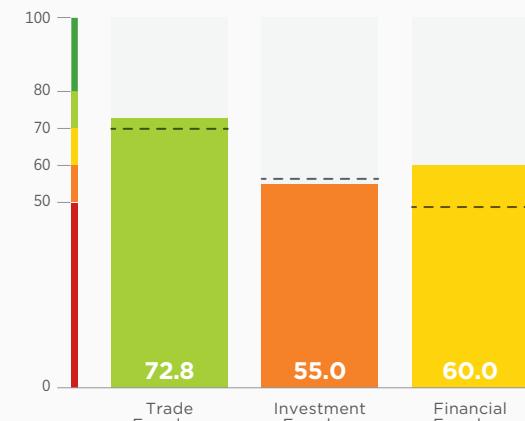
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 16.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 25.6 percent and -5.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 60.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

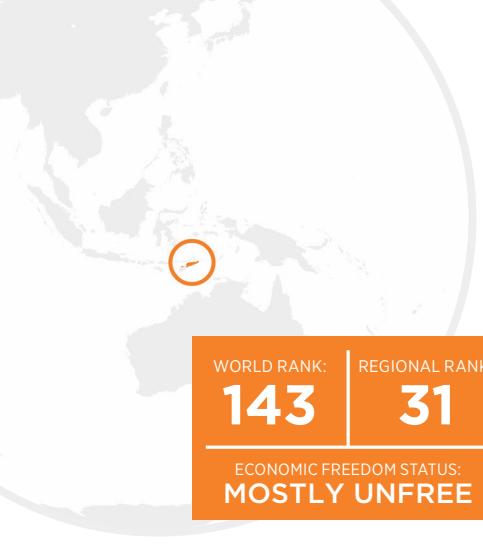


Thailand's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.1 percent, and onerous nontariff barriers add to the cost of trade. Although foreign direct investment is officially welcome, the overall investment framework lacks efficiency and transparency. The financial system is relatively well developed and dynamic.



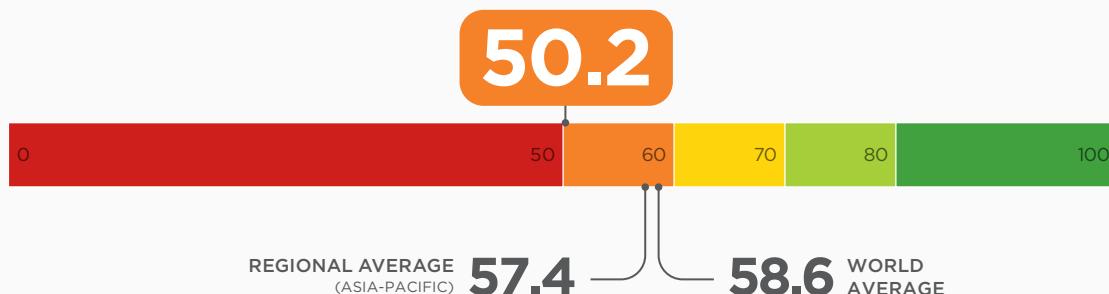
# TIMOR-LESTE

WORLD RANK: **143** | REGIONAL RANK: **31**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

**T**imor-Leste's economic freedom score is 50.2, making its economy the 143rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 3 points from last year, and Timor-Leste is ranked 31st out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Timor-Leste's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

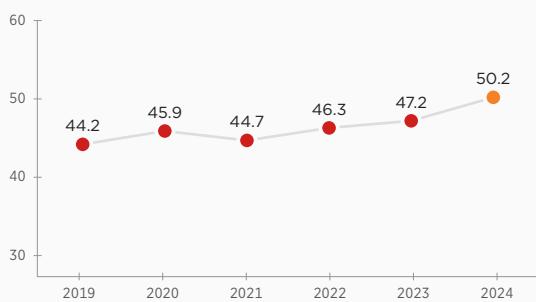
Timor-Leste's economic base is narrow, and political instability discourages lasting economic development. The state plays an outsized role in the economy. Private-sector development is also limited by burdensome regulation and an underdeveloped financial sector. The public sector accounts for about half of non-agricultural employment, and the formal labor market remains underdeveloped. Timor-Leste remains one of East Asia's poorest countries and is heavily dependent on foreign aid. Oil and gas account for more than 90 percent of GDP and 70 percent of government revenue.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): -0.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

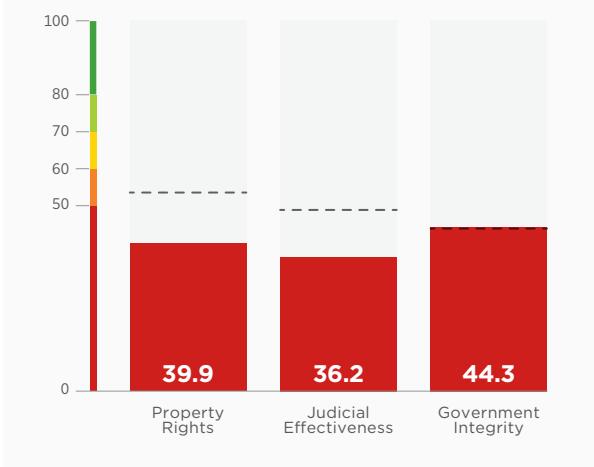
**POPULATION:**  
1.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$9.4 billion  
3.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.0%  
\$7,064 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.1%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
7.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$262.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
5.6% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

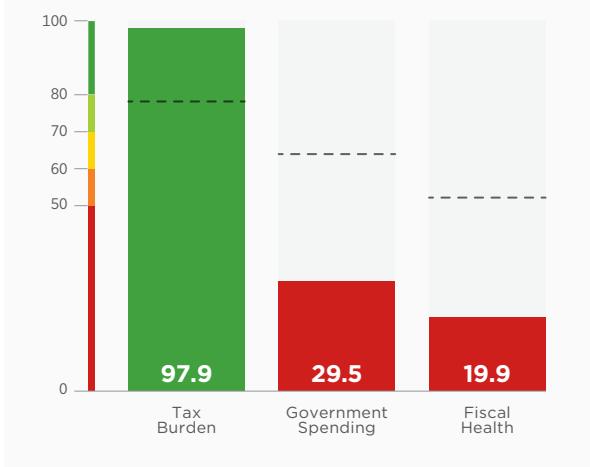
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | TIMOR-LESTE

## RULE OF LAW



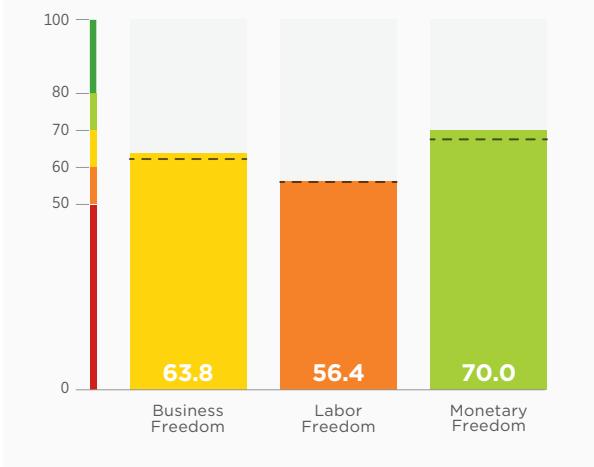
The overall rule of law is weak in Timor-Leste. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



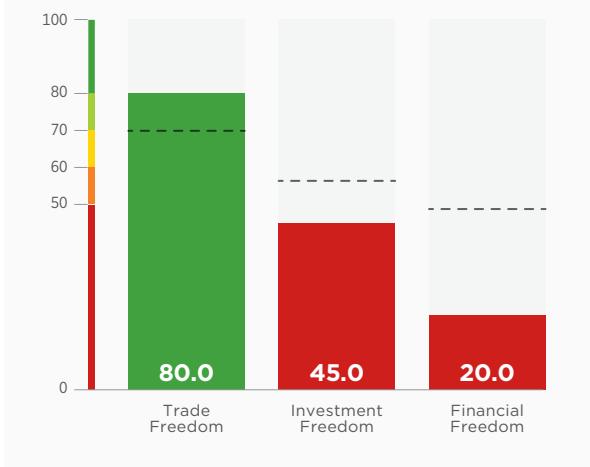
The top individual income tax rate is 10 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 10 percent. The tax burden equals 3.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 48.5 percent and -19.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 5.6 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Timor-Leste's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 2.5 percent, and nontariff barriers distort trade flows. The investment environment is significantly limited by inadequate institutional capacity and poor infrastructure. The financial sector is very small and underdeveloped. The population has limited access to financial services.



# TOGO

WORLD RANK:

**139**

REGIONAL RANK:

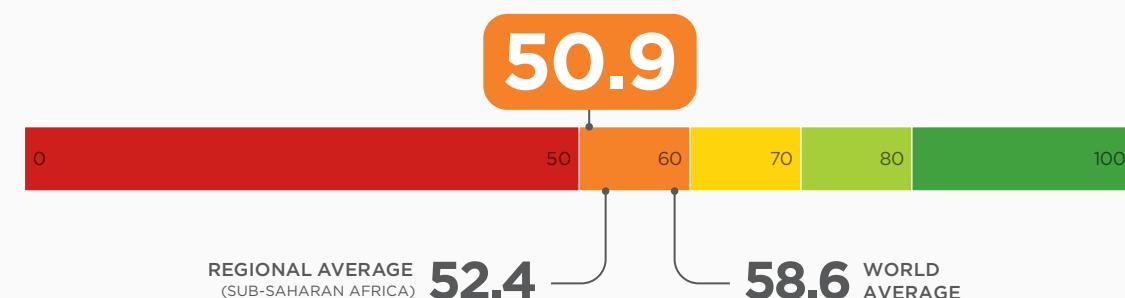
**32**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

Togo's economic freedom score is 50.9, making its economy the 139th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 4.4 points from last year, and Togo is ranked 32nd out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Togo's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

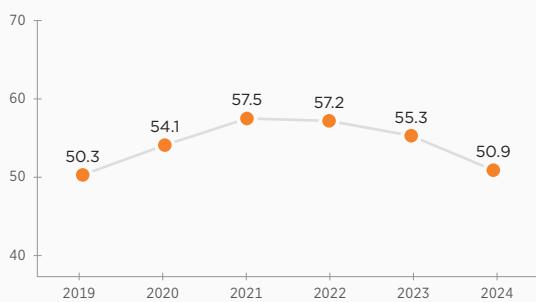
Togo has undertaken a series of economic reforms, restructuring its key sectors. The government has also taken steps to divest public enterprises. However, an inefficient business environment continues to undermine overall competitiveness. The informal sector accounts for a significant portion of economic activity. Togo depends on foreign aid, and its judicial system is still vulnerable to political interference. Togo has one of West Africa's few natural deep-water ports, and its secure territorial waters are a relatively safe zone for international shippers.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1999): +2.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
8.5 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$23.0 billion  
5.8% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.7%  
\$2,594 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.0%

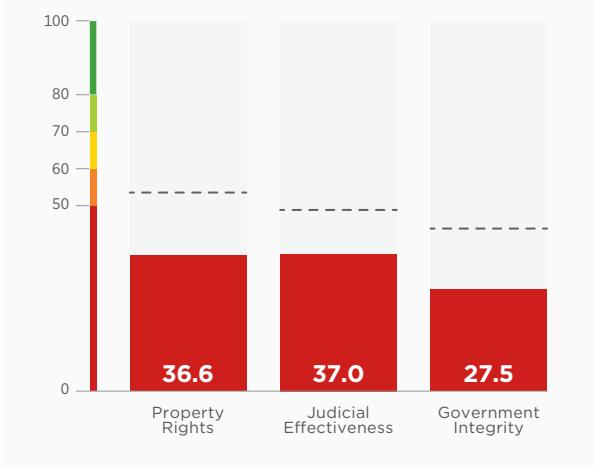
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
7.6%

**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$227.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
66.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

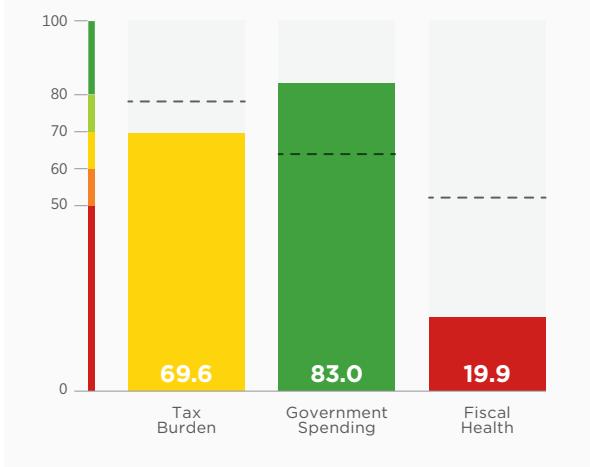
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | TOGO

## RULE OF LAW



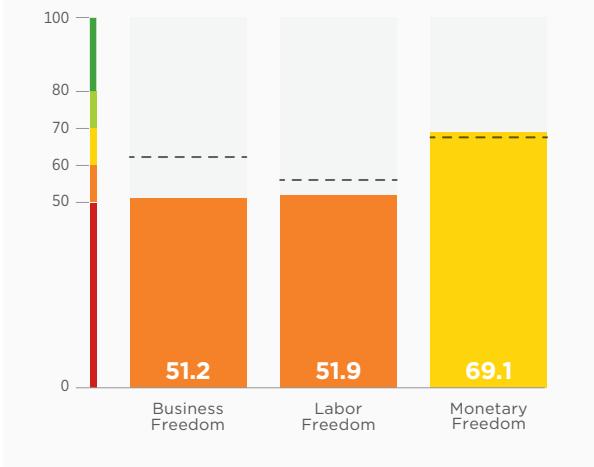
The overall rule of law is weak in Togo. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



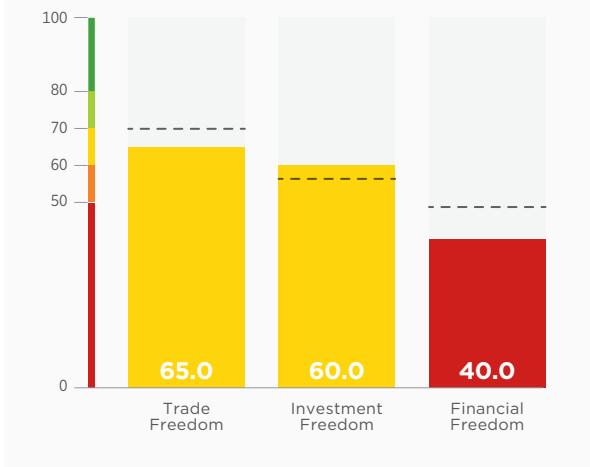
The top individual income tax rate is 45 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 27 percent. The tax burden equals 17.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 23.8 percent and -6.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 66.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Togo's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 12.5 percent, and nontariff barriers further limit trade. Investment is permitted in certain sectors and screened on a case-by-case basis. The underdeveloped banking system remains subject to government influence and suffers from a lack of liquidity.

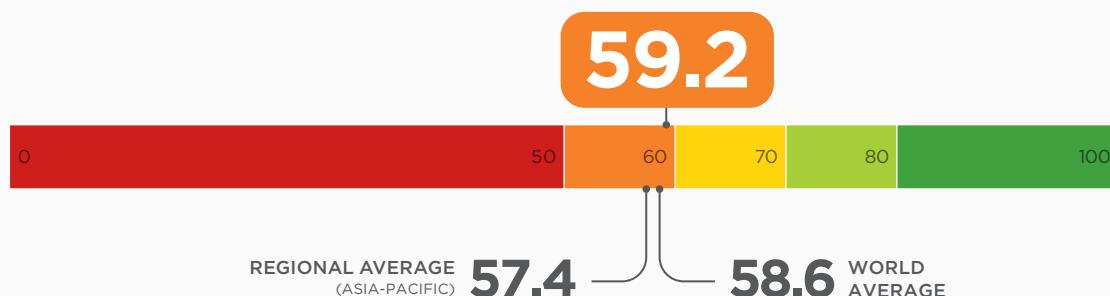
# TONGA



Tonga's economic freedom score is 59.2, making its economy the 85th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.8 point from last year, and Tonga is ranked 16th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Tonga's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

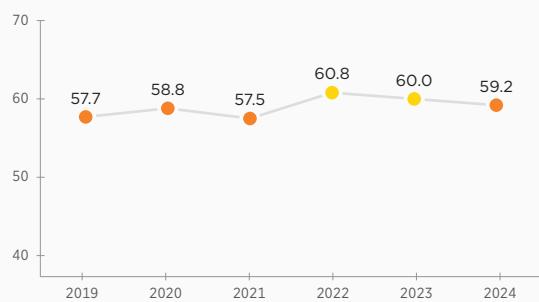
The institutional capacity for long-term economic development remains weak. The judicial system is inefficient and lacks transparency. A lack of commitment to opening markets deters investment growth and the emergence of a dynamic private sector. Implementation of relatively sound regulations remains ineffective. No minimum capital is needed to establish a business, but the process can be time-consuming. The labor market is not fully developed, and informal labor is considerable. Inflationary pressure continues. Tonga's economy remains heavily dependent on foreign aid and overseas remittances.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 2009): +5.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

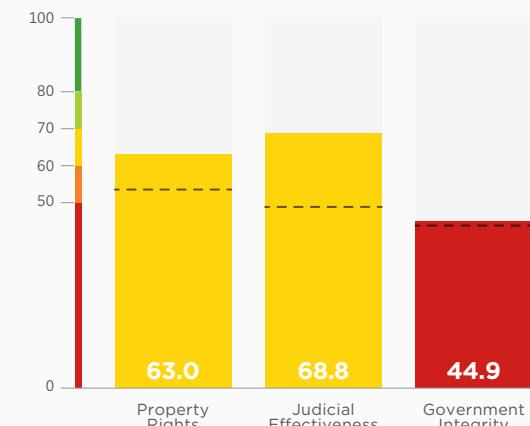
**POPULATION:**  
0.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$668.0 million  
-2.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -0.6%  
\$6,686 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$3.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
45.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

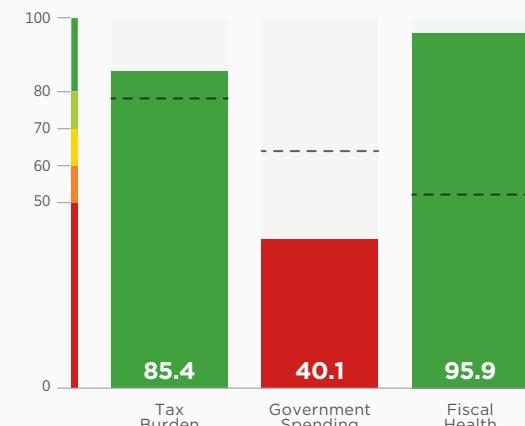
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | TONGA

## RULE OF LAW



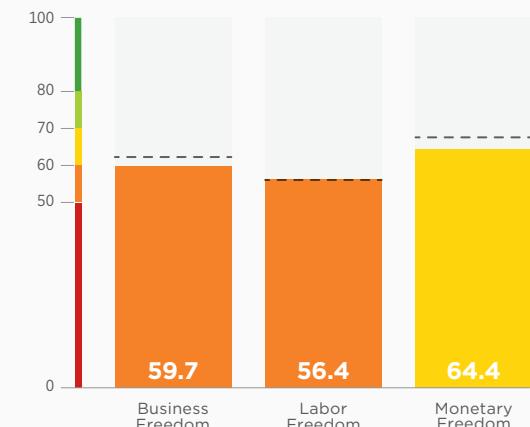
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Tonga. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 20 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 20.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 44.7 percent and 1.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 45.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

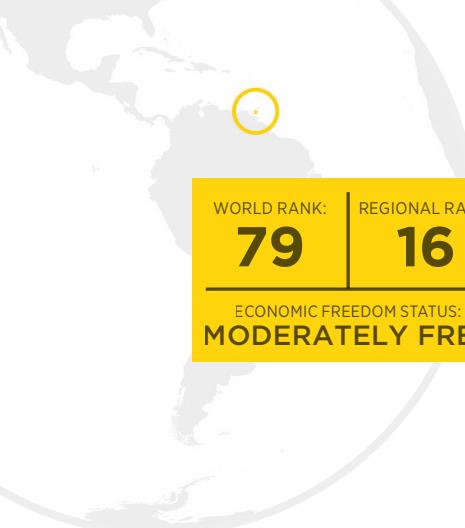


Tonga's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.6 percent, and nontariff barriers further raise the cost of trade. Regulation of many investment activities is stringent. The legal system impedes efficient lending, and the lack of reliable information on creditworthiness increases credit costs. There are no capital markets.



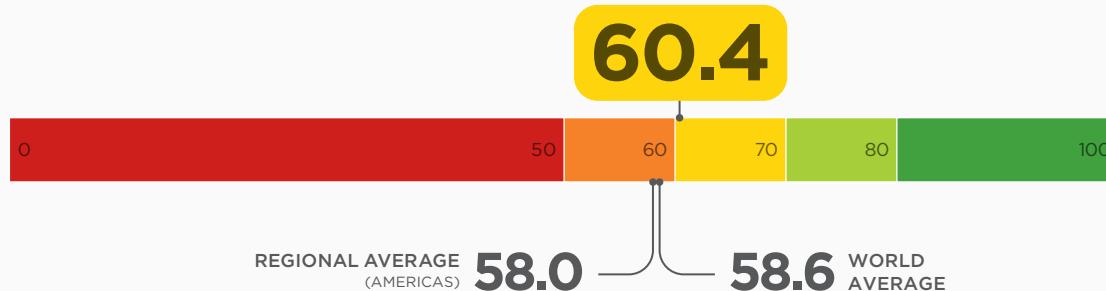
WORLD RANK: 79 | REGIONAL RANK: 16  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago's economic freedom score is 60.4, making its economy the 79th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.9 point from last year, and Trinidad and Tobago is ranked 16th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Trinidad and Tobago's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

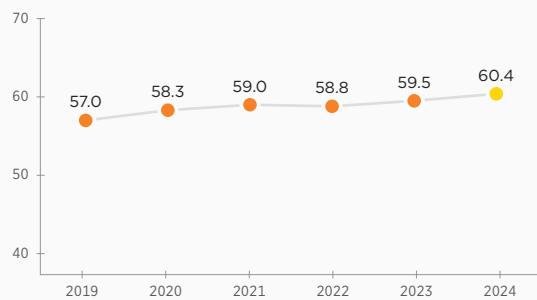
Trinidad and Tobago's record in advancing economic freedom and enhancing its entrepreneurial climate has been mixed in recent years. Overdependence on oil and gas continues to discourage private-sector development, although there has been some progress in diversifying the economic base, including the financial sector. Overall, however, despite the country's relatively independent judiciary and a tradition of institutional stability, corruption and ineffective protection of private property rights continue to undermine prospects for more dynamic long-term economic development.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): -8.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

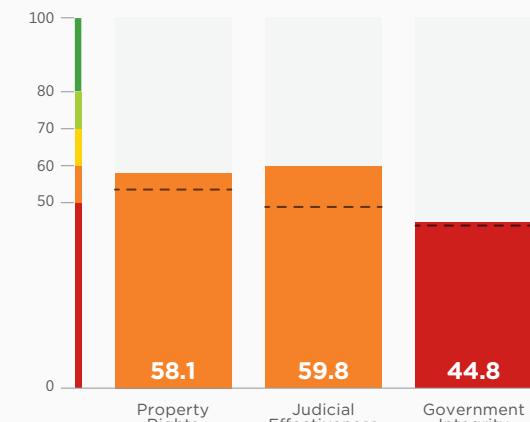
**POPULATION:**  
1.4 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$41.1 billion  
1.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -1.8%  
\$29,050 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.8%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
5.8%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
-\$493.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
51.0% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

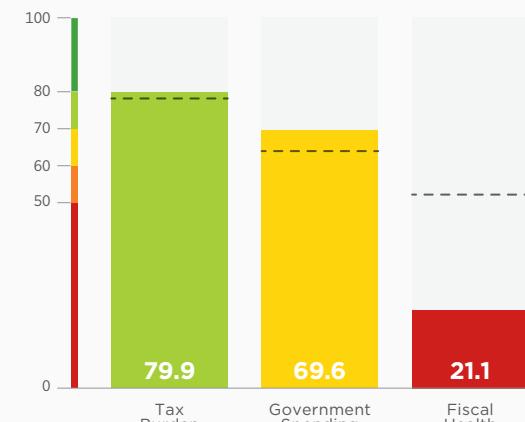
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Trinidad and Tobago. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



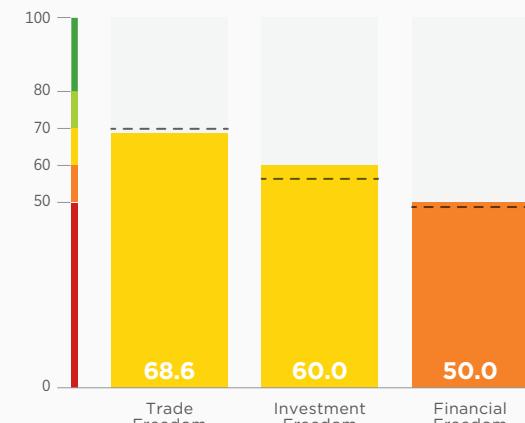
The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 22.0 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 31.8 percent and -6.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 51.0 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Trinidad and Tobago's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 8.2 percent, and cumbersome nontariff barriers further increase the cost of trade. Foreign investment in private business is not subject to limits, but the overall investment regime lacks efficiency. The financial sector is relatively well developed.



WORLD RANK:

**150**

REGIONAL RANK:

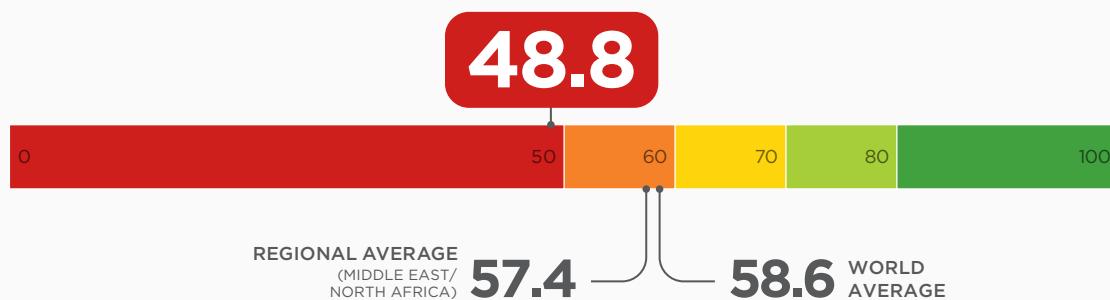
**11**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSIVE**

# TUNISIA

Tunisia's economic freedom score is 48.8, making its economy the 150th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 4.1 points from last year, and Tunisia is ranked 11th out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Tunisia's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

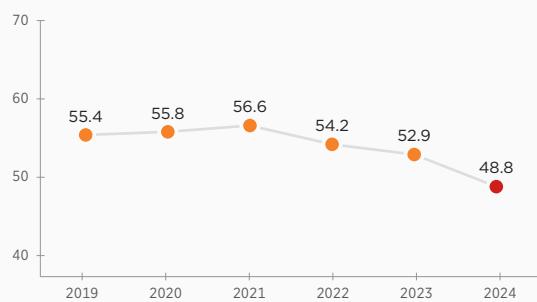
Tunisia has been undergoing a challenging transition, and deeper reforms designed to enhance political and economic governance and strengthen the critical pillars of economic freedom as part of this transition are critically needed. These essential reforms include strengthening of the judicial system and the more effective eradication of corruption. The regulatory framework remains nontransparent and inefficient. The labor market, rigid and stagnant, has failed to generate dynamic job growth. The government continues to influence prices through state-owned enterprises.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -14.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
11.9 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$154.3 billion  
2.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.5%  
\$12,723 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
16.8%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
8.3%

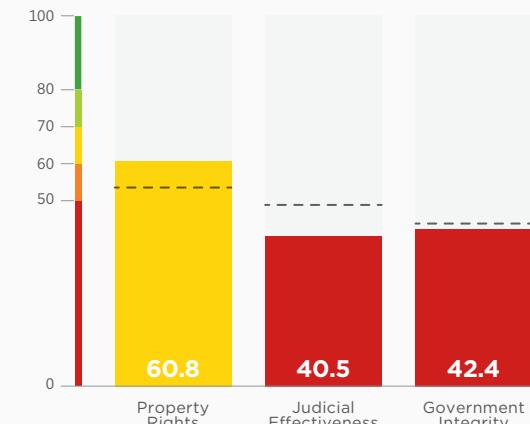
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$713.0 million

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
79.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

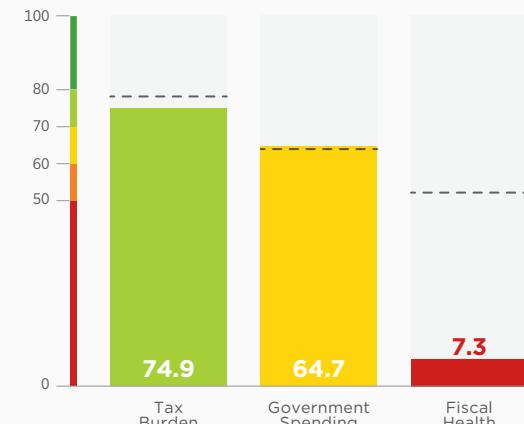
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | TUNISIA

## RULE OF LAW



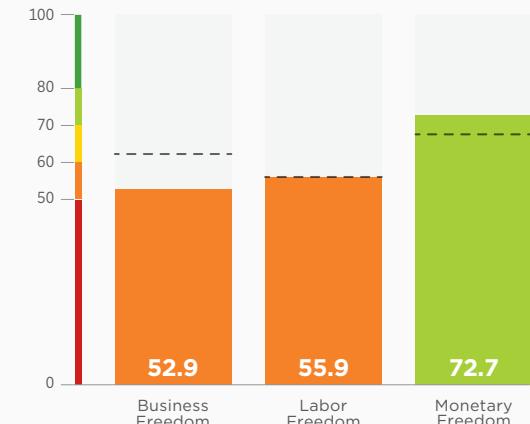
The overall rule of law is weak in Tunisia. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 32.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 34.3 percent and -7.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 79.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

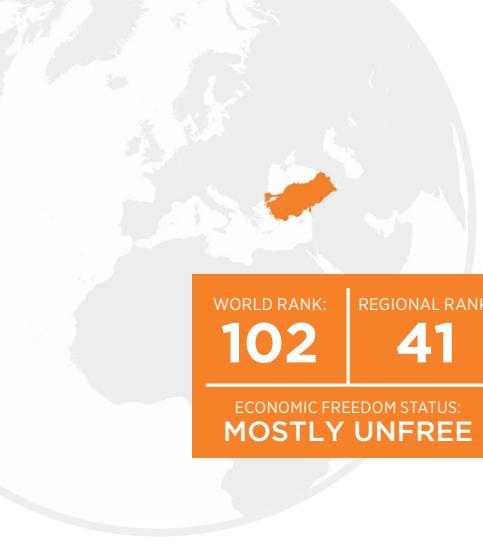


Tunisia's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 15.9 percent, and nontariff barriers further increase the cost of trade. Despite efforts to attract foreign investment, bureaucracy and political uncertainty discourage long-term investment growth. The weak financial sector is fragmented and dominated by the state.



WORLD RANK:

**102**

REGIONAL RANK:

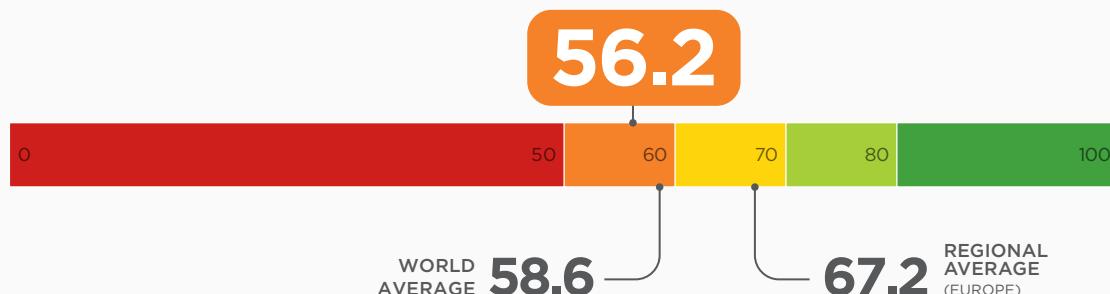
**41**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MOSTLY UNFREE**

# TÜRKİYE

Türkiye's economic freedom score is 56.2, making its economy the 102nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.7 point from last year, and Türkiye is ranked 41st out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Türkiye's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

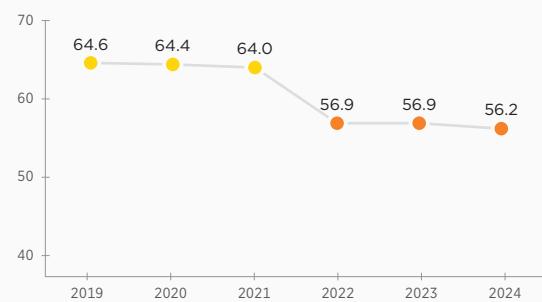
The Turkish economy is one of the region's most dynamically developing markets. Despite heavy state involvement in the economy, the private sector is expanding rapidly. However, institutional shortcomings still limit economic freedom. The inefficient judicial system is ineffective in combating corruption. The process for establishing private enterprises has become less time-consuming, but bureaucratic red tape and ineffective enforcement of regulations still discourage entrepreneurship. The informal sector is large, partly because of labor market rigidity. Monetary stability remains fragile, and inflation remains high.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -2.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

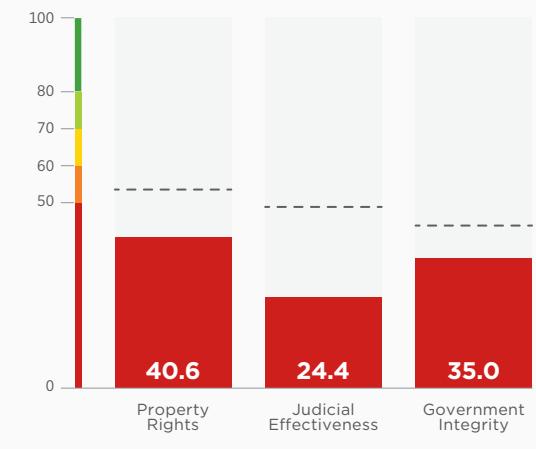
**POPULATION:**  
85.0 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$3.4 trillion  
5.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.5%  
\$39,314 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
13.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
72.3%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$12.9 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
31.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

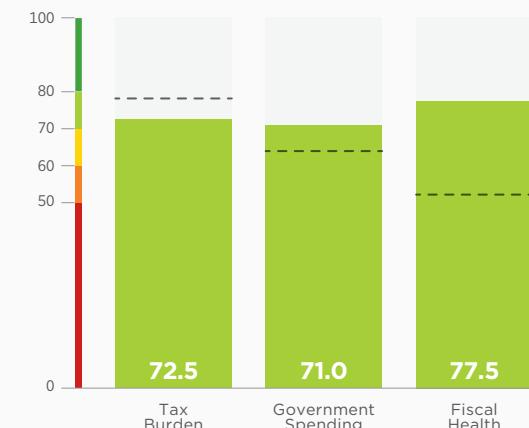
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | TÜRKİYE

## RULE OF LAW



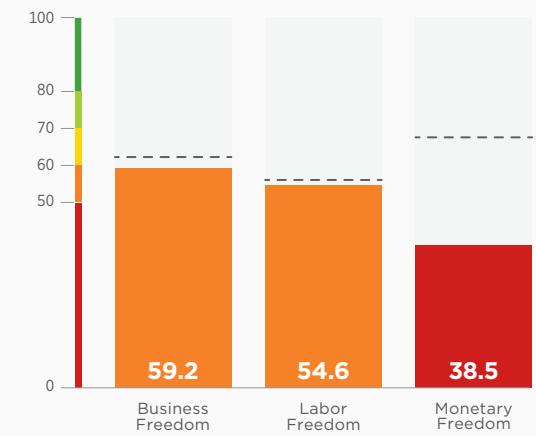
The overall rule of law is weak in Türkiye. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 22.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 31.1 percent and -3.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 31.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Türkiye's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 7.1 percent, and nontariff barriers further limit trade freedom. Foreign investment is officially welcome, but restrictions remain in force in several sectors. The financial system has undergone a rapid transformation and is now more transparent and competitive.



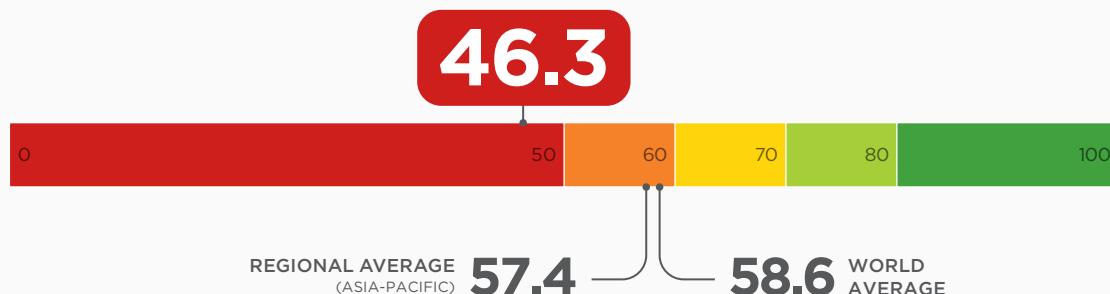
# TURKMENISTAN

WORLD RANK: **162** | REGIONAL RANK: **37**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSIVE**

Turkmenistan's economic freedom score is 46.3, making its economy the 162nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.2 point from last year, and Turkmenistan is ranked 37th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Turkmenistan's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

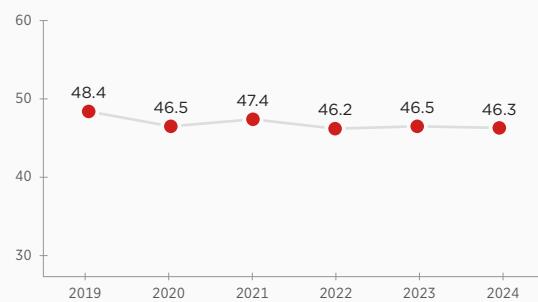
Turkmenistan has performed dismally with respect to structural reform, and institutional weaknesses constrain much-needed economic growth. The inefficient legal framework remains vulnerable to political interference, and heavy state involvement in the leading economic sectors has damped private-sector dynamism. The regulatory system is nontransparent, and enforcement is inconsistent. The informal sector remains an important source of employment. The economy remains dominated by state-owned monopolies and is based on intensive agriculture, sizable oil resources, and one of the world's largest reserves of natural gas.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1998): +11.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

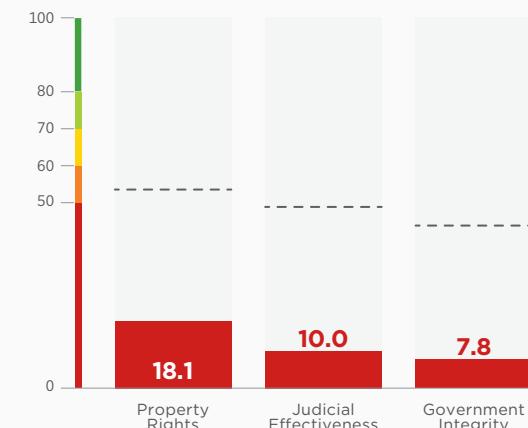
**POPULATION:**  
6.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$118.7 billion  
1.6% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.2%  
\$19,028 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.1%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
11.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$936.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
5.8% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

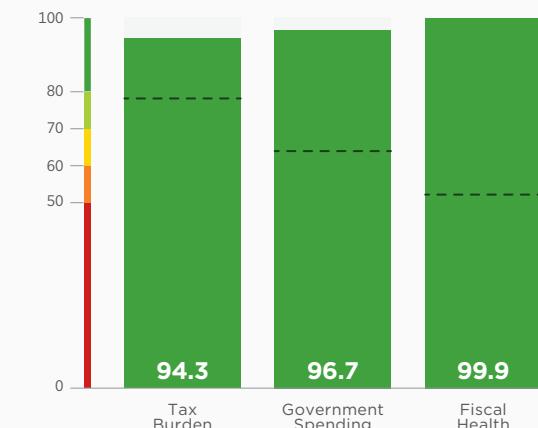
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | TURKMENISTAN

## RULE OF LAW



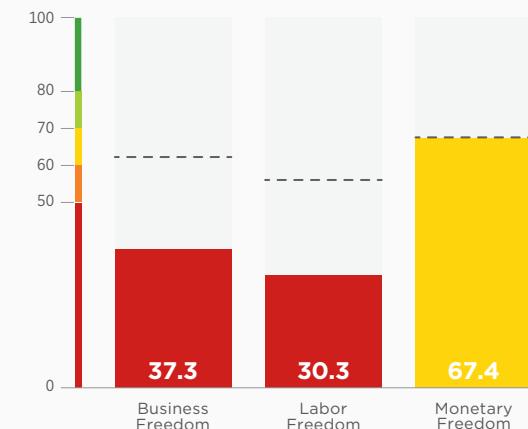
The overall rule of law is weak in Turkmenistan. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



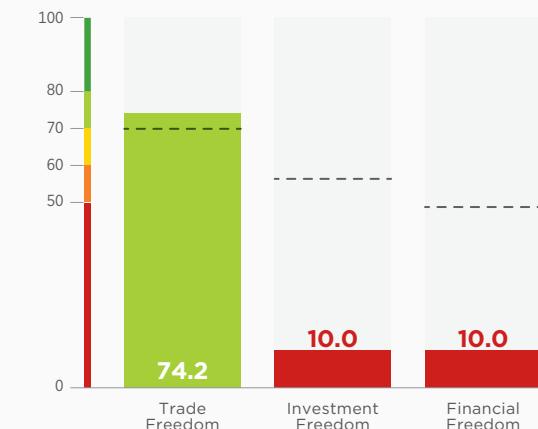
The top individual income tax rate is 10 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 8.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 10.5 percent and 0.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 5.8 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Turkmenistan's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

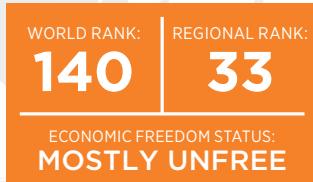
## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 2.9 percent, but extensive nontariff barriers severely undermine trade freedom. The government controls most of the economy and limits foreign participation to a few sectors. Foreign exchange accounts require government approval, and the financial system remains government-controlled.



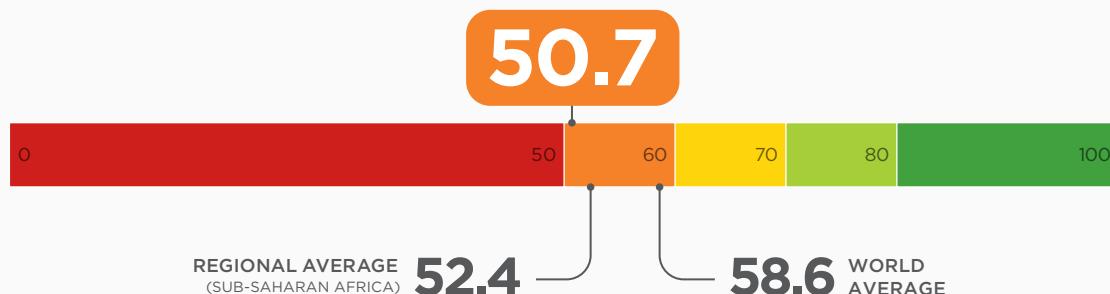
# UGANDA



**U**ganda's economic freedom score is 50.7, making its economy the 140th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.7 point from last year, and Uganda is ranked 33rd out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Uganda's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

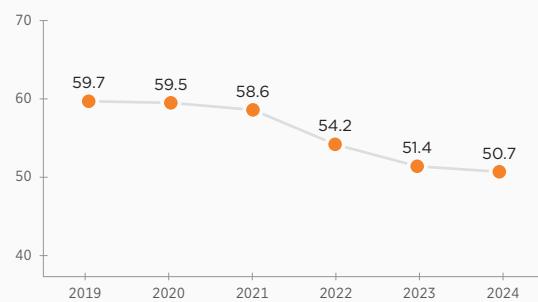
Uganda has attempted to update various commercial laws to reduce administrative delays and the cost of conducting business, but the overall regulatory framework remains poor, and institutional shortcomings still undermine prospects for dynamic long-term economic expansion. A well-functioning labor market is not fully developed. Monetary stability is weak. An inefficient judicial system and pervasive corruption continue to erode the effectiveness of government. Uganda's significant natural wealth includes gold, oil, and rich agricultural lands from which more than two-thirds of the workforce derive employment.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -12.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

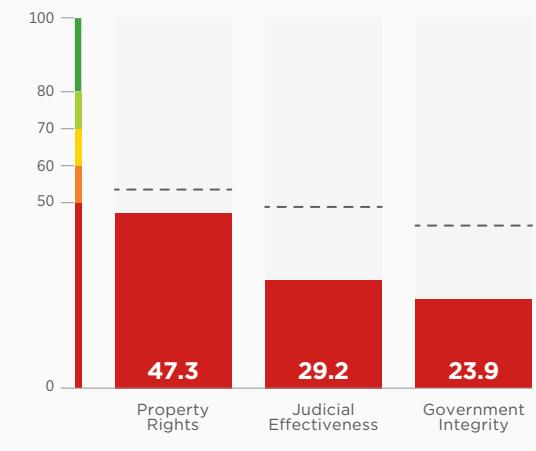
**POPULATION:**  
47.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$133.9 billion  
6.4% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 4.8%  
\$3,062 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
2.9%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
7.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$1.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
48.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

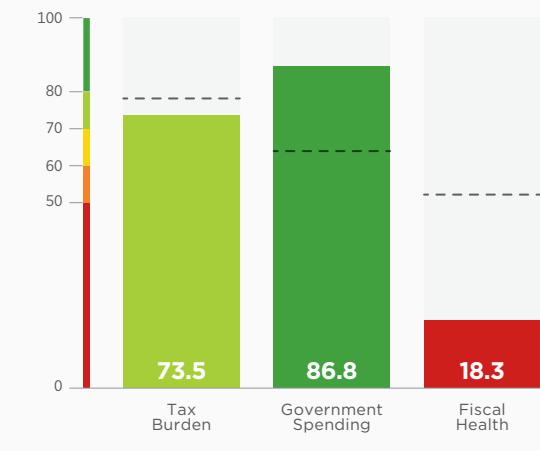
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | UGANDA

## RULE OF LAW



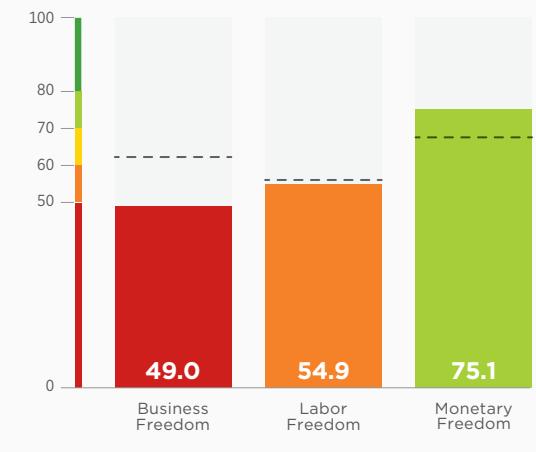
The overall rule of law is weak in Uganda. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



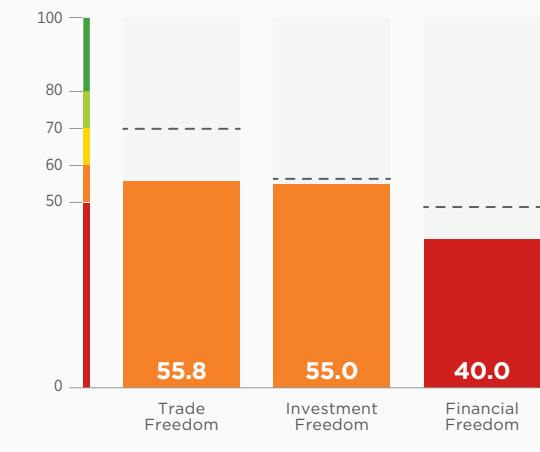
The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 12.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 20.9 percent and -6.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 48.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Uganda's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 14.6 percent, and nontariff barriers further limit trade freedom. The investment regime is complex and nontransparent, but foreign investment is allowed in most sectors. The financial system is dominated by banking and not fully developed.



WORLD RANK:

**N/A**

REGIONAL RANK:

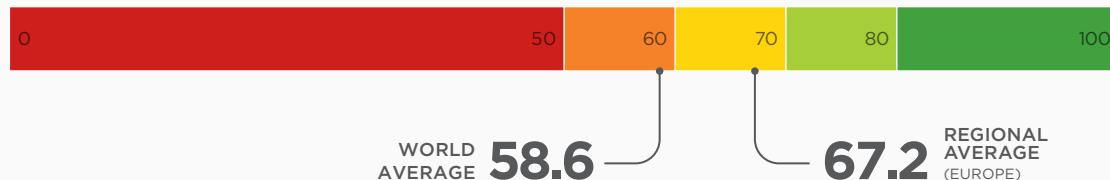
**N/A**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**NOT GRADED**

# UKRAINE

**A**sessment of Ukraine's economic freedom has been temporarily suspended due to Russia's ongoing invasion since February 24, 2022. A vibrant and resilient economy is essential for Ukrainian freedom and independence. Ukraine's economic potential has long been suppressed by poor economic governance. Before the war, the foundations of economic freedom were fragile and unevenly established across the country.

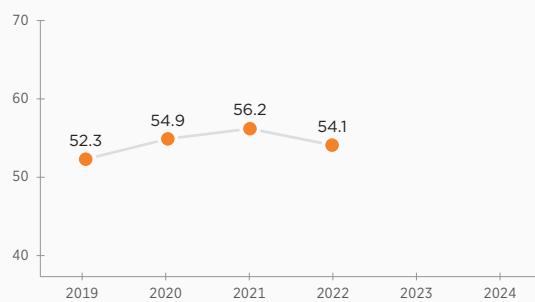
Before the war, Ukraine's economy was considered economically "repressed." Low rankings in the *Index of Economic Freedom* and other international studies offered unambiguous indications of systemic shortcomings in the key areas of transparency, efficiency, and openness. Deeper institutional and structural reforms were critical for the achievement of more broadly based development. The inefficient legal framework was highly vulnerable to political interference, preventing full realization of the country's economic potential. Corruption further undermined the fragile rule of law. Russia's illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and second invasion continue to damage Ukraine's economy.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE

**N/A**

HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): N/A

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



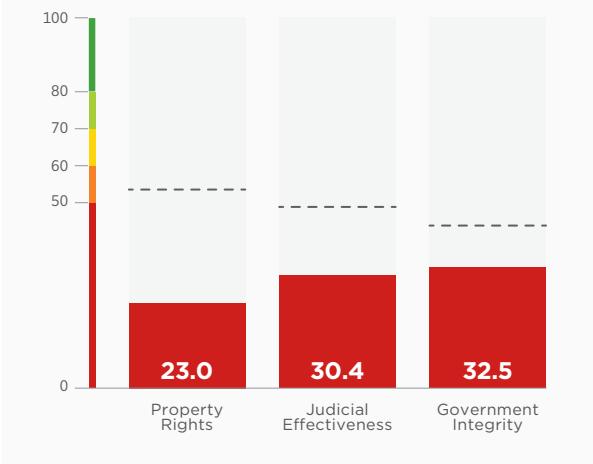
## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
43.8 million**GDP (PPP):**  
\$449.0 billion  
-29.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -4.5%  
\$12,886 per capita**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
8.9%**INFLATION (CPI):**  
20.2%**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$848.0 million**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
78.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

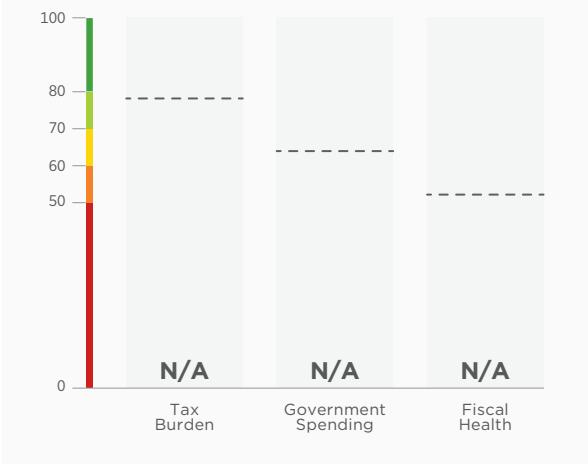
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | UKRAINE

## RULE OF LAW



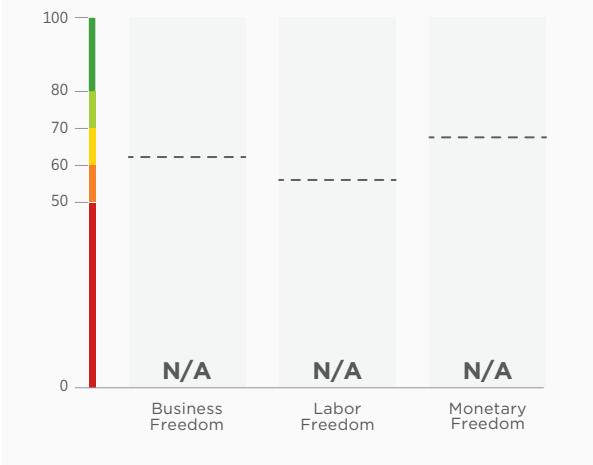
The overall rule of law is weak in Ukraine. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



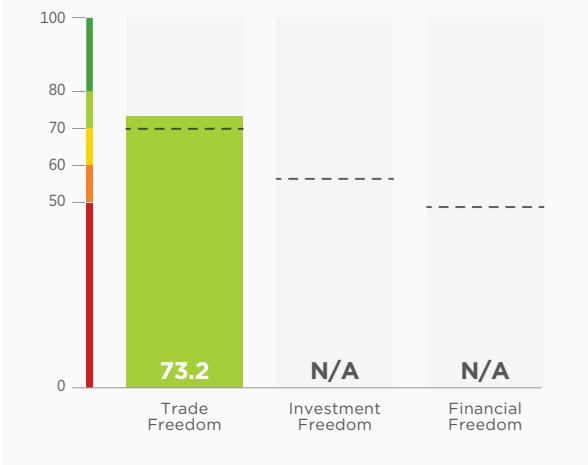
The top individual income tax rate is 18 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 18 percent. The tax burden equals 24.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 50.7 percent and -8.5 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 78.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Before the war, regulatory complexity often created uncertainty in commercial transactions despite some reform. The business start-up process had been streamlined, but licensing requirements were still time-consuming. The labor code lacked flexibility. The government influenced prices through state-owned enterprises.

## OPEN MARKETS



Before Russia's invasion, Ukraine's tariff rate was about 3 percent, and nontariff barriers severely limited trade freedom. The investment framework was underdeveloped, and bureaucratic requirements deterred much-needed private investment growth. The banking system was burdened by a large number of nonperforming loans.

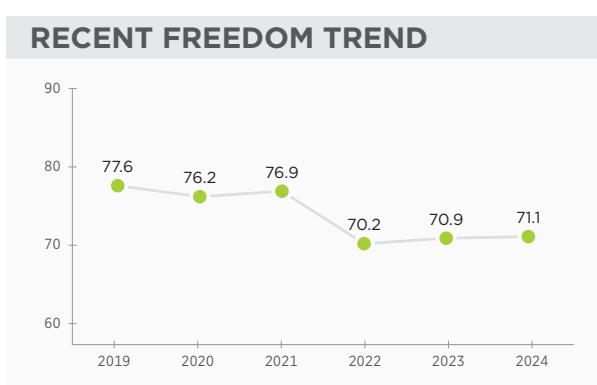
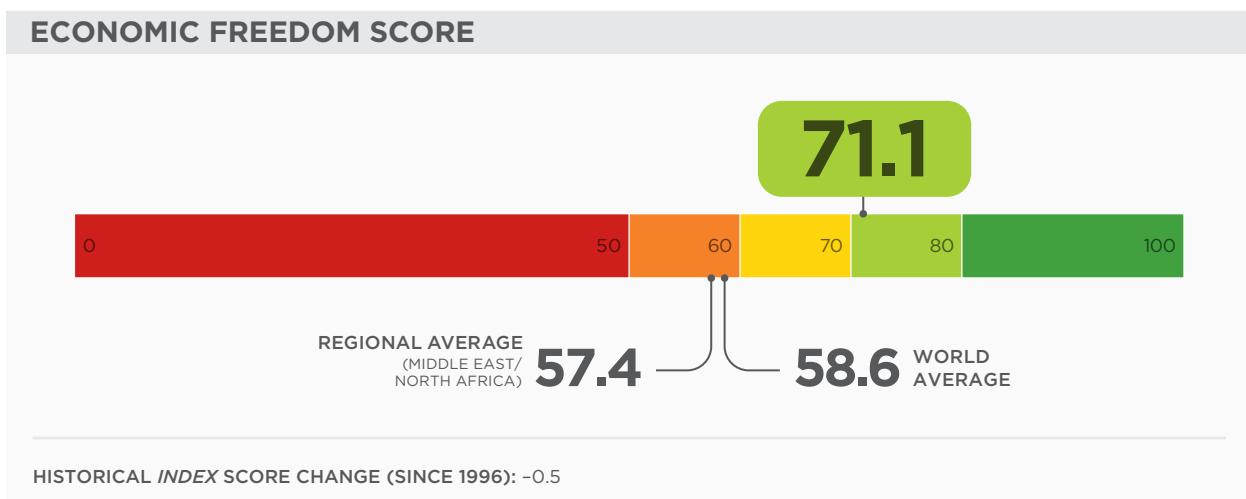


# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



The United Arab Emirates' economic freedom score is 71.1, making its economy the 22nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.2 point from last year, and the UAE is ranked 1st out of 14 countries in the Middle East/North Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. The United Arab Emirates' economy is considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Economic development has been underpinned by efforts to strengthen the business climate, boost investment, and cultivate a more vibrant private sector. The generally open trade regime sustains momentum for growth. The modern financial sector is competitive. No minimum capital is required to establish a business, and licensing has been streamlined. Employment regulations are relatively flexible, and the non-salary cost of employing a worker is moderate. Monetary stability has been maintained with inflationary pressure under control.

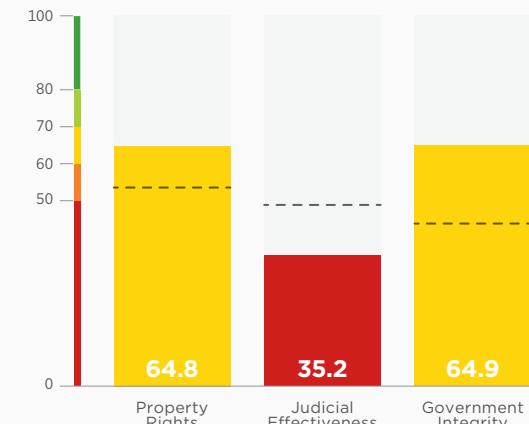


### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 10.0 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 3.4%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$835.1 billion 7.9% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 1.9% \$84,657 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 4.8%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> \$22.7 billion	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 31.1% of GDP
<small>2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.</small>	

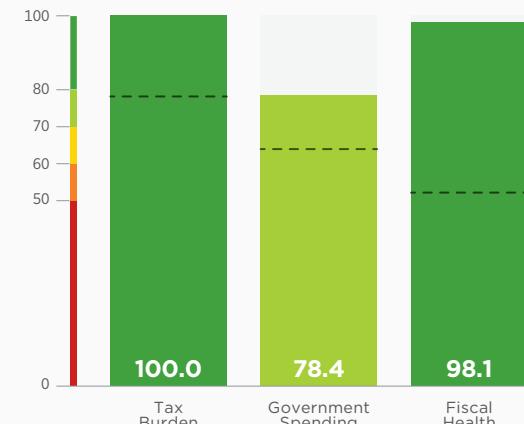
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in the United Arab Emirates. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



The top individual income tax rate is 0 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 0 percent. The tax burden equals 0.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 26.8 percent and 3.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 31.1 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

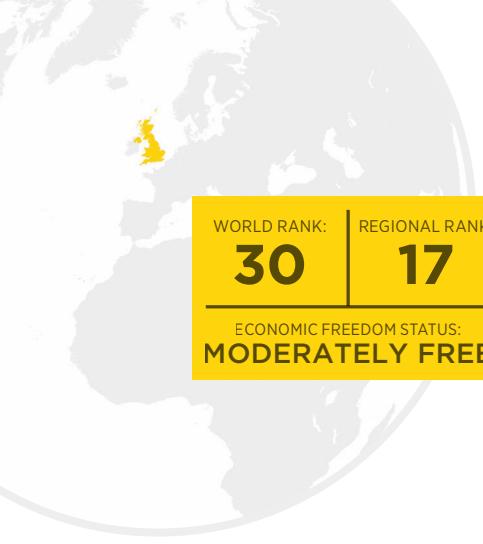


The United Arab Emirates' overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 3.5 percent, and nontariff barriers add to the cost of trade. The overall investment framework has been made more streamlined and open. The financial sector provides a full range of services, but the state's presence is considerable.



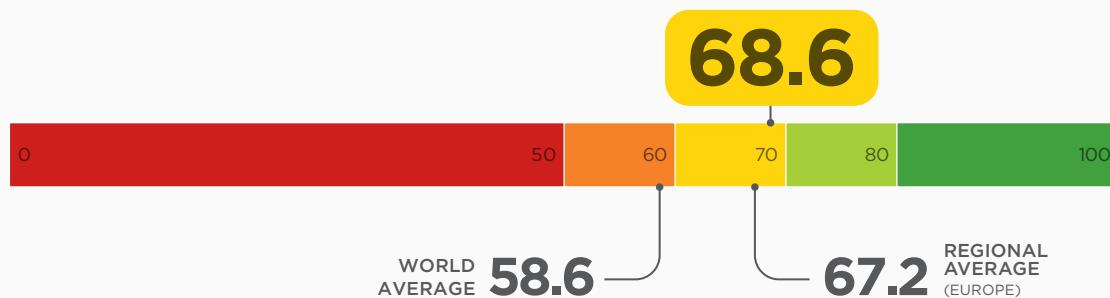
WORLD RANK: 30 | REGIONAL RANK: 17  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**MODERATELY FREE**

# UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom's economic freedom score is 68.6, making its economy the 30th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.3 points from last year, and the U.K. is ranked 17th out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. The United Kingdom's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

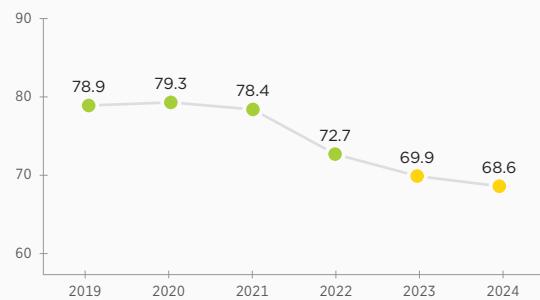
Britain's economy has been going through a challenging period. The state's scope has expanded dramatically, and more committed reforms are needed for the economy to recover. Restoration of sound public finance remains the most critical issue. The significant growth in government spending has damaged Britain's competitive edge. Public debt has risen to almost 102 percent of GDP, and budget deficits continue. The efficient regulatory framework encourages entrepreneurial growth. Despite inflationary pressures, monetary stability has been relatively well maintained.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -9.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

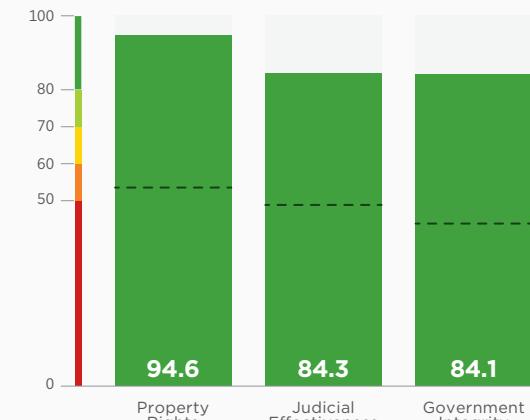
**POPULATION:**  
67.3 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$3.7 trillion  
4.1% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 0.8%  
\$54,824 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.5%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
9.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$14.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
101.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

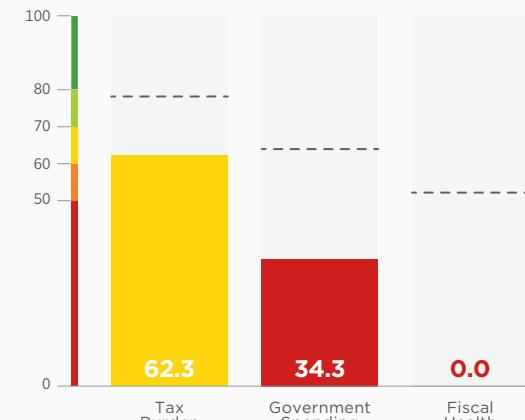
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | UNITED KINGDOM

## RULE OF LAW



The overall rule of law is well respected in the United Kingdom. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



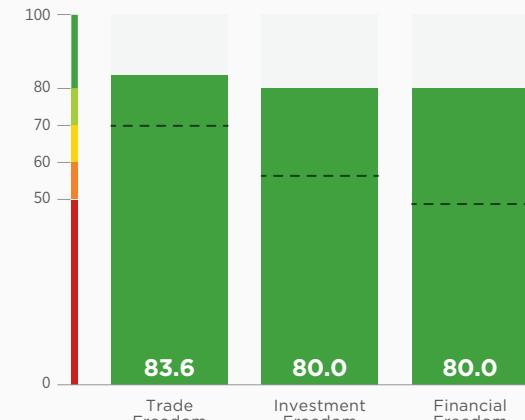
The top individual income tax rate is 45 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 33.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 46.8 percent and -8.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 101.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The United Kingdom's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 3.2 percent. The U.K. has signed three new trade agreements since leaving the EU and is negotiating additional agreements with various countries. The investment regime is efficient, and foreign investment is welcomed. The resilient financial sector is competitive.

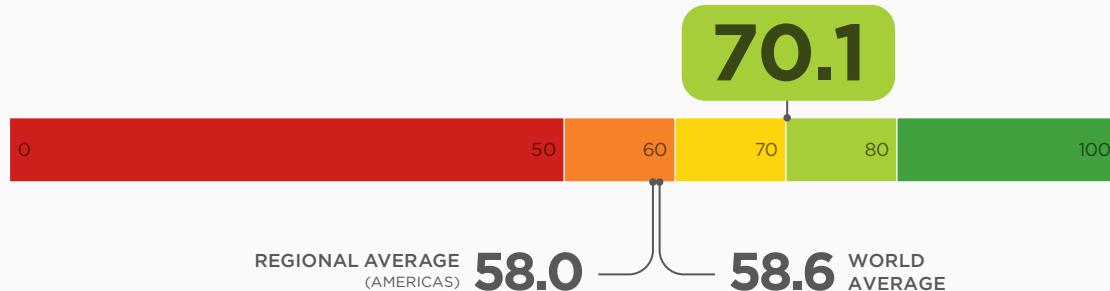


# UNITED STATES

The United States' economic freedom score is 70.1, making its economy the 25th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.5 point from last year, and the U.S. is ranked 3rd out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. The United States' economy continues to be considered "mostly free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

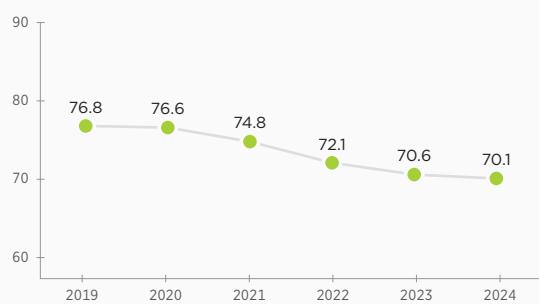
Enormous policy challenges undermine long-term U.S. economic competitiveness. Big-government policies have eroded limits on government, public spending continues to rise, and the regulatory burden on business has increased. Restoring the U.S. economy to "free" status will require significant changes to reduce the size and scope of government. Over the years, unchecked deficit spending and government debt have accelerated, and inflation has undercut economic livelihood. Uncertainty and poor policy choices have left the U.S. economic outlook in flux.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -6.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
 331.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
 \$25.5 trillion  
 2.1% growth in 2022  
 5-year average growth rate: 2.1%  
 \$76,343 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
 5.5% (2021)  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
 8.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
 \$285.1 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
 121.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | UNITED STATES

## RULE OF LAW



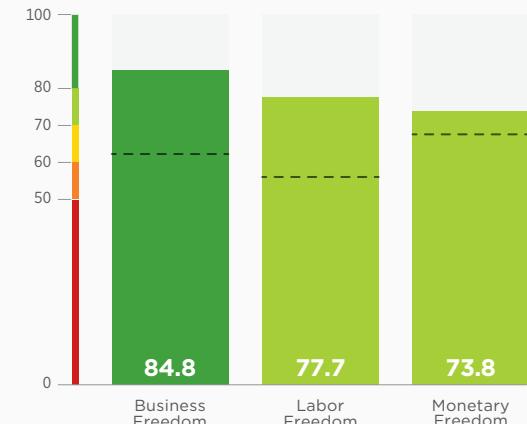
The overall rule of law is well respected in the United States. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



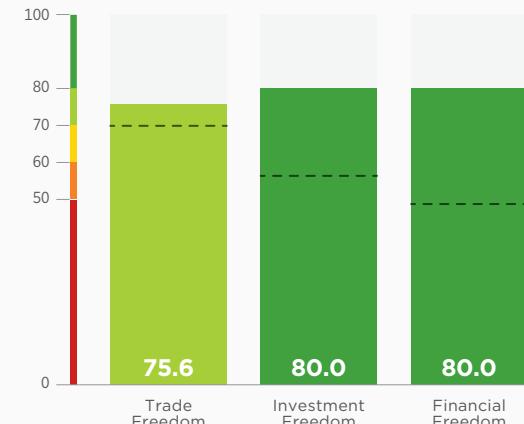
The top individual income tax rate is 37 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 21 percent. The tax burden equals 26.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 41.4 percent and -9.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 121.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The overall U.S. regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 2.2 percent, and layers of nontariff barriers add to the cost of trade. Investment freedom is hampered by protectionist restrictions and uncertainty. The financial sector is one of the world's most developed and competitive and remains resilient.



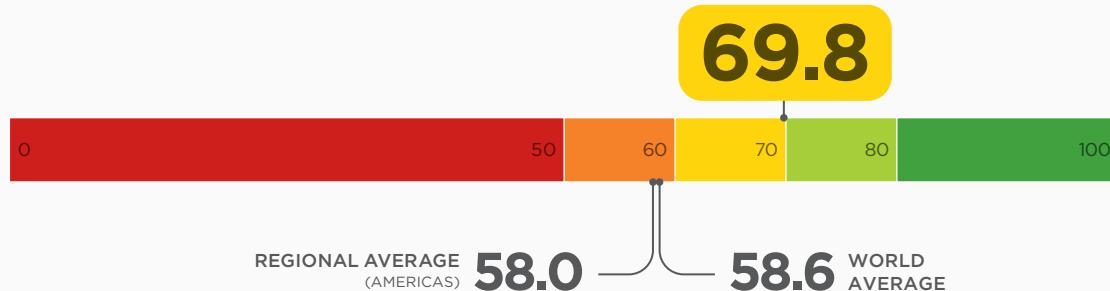
# URUGUAY



Uruguay's economic freedom score is 69.8, making its economy the 27th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.4 point from last year, and Uruguay is ranked 4th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Uruguay's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

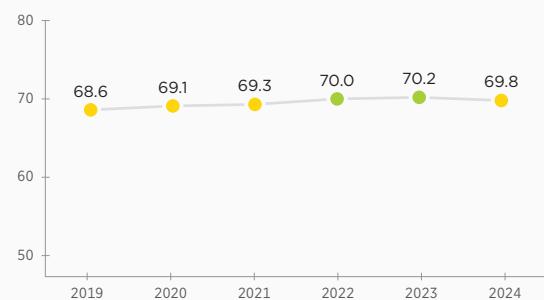
The relative openness of Uruguay's economy is supported by a strong commitment to maintaining the rule of law. Uruguay is considered Latin America's least corrupt country. Its modern entrepreneurial environment encourages the development of a more robust private sector. Recent reforms have enhanced regulatory efficiency, and the cost of completing licensing requirements has been reduced. Budget deficits and public debt have remained around 3 percent and 60 percent of GDP, respectively, in recent years. Monetary stability has been maintained despite relatively high inflation.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +7.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

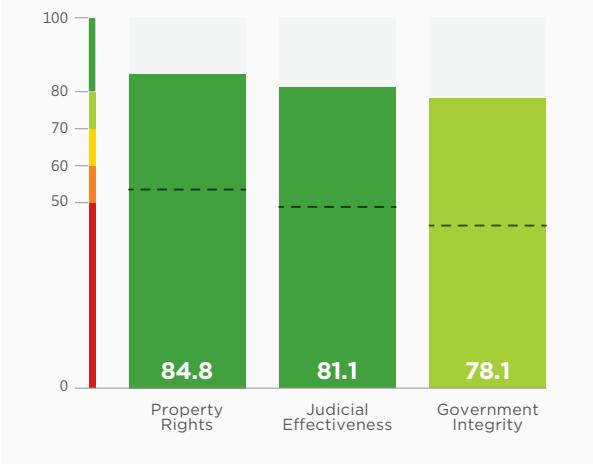
**POPULATION:**  
3.5 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$98.7 billion  
4.9% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.0%  
\$27,770 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
10.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
9.1%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$3.8 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
59.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

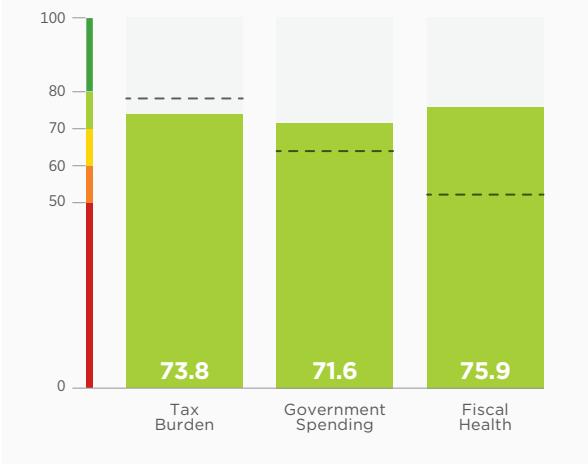
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | URUGUAY

## RULE OF LAW



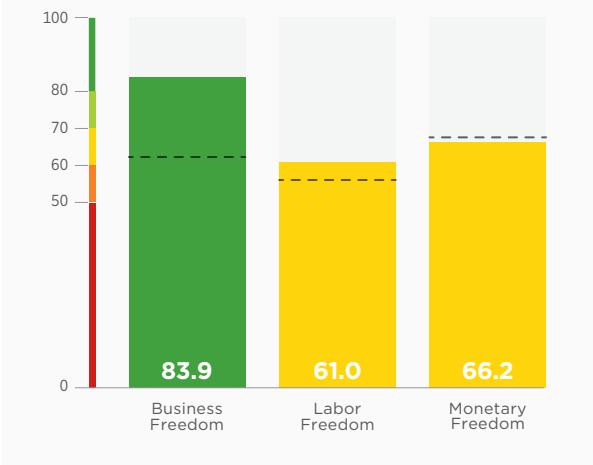
The overall rule of law is well respected in Uruguay. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



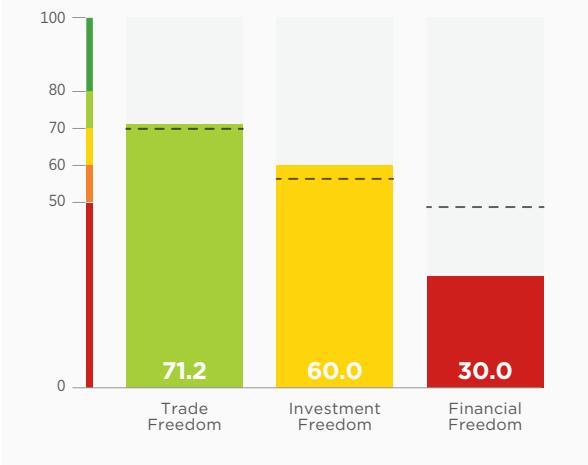
The top individual income tax rate is 36 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 26.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 30.8 percent and -3.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 59.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Uruguay's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above the world average; its labor freedom score is above the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 9.4 percent, and nontariff barriers add to the cost of trade. Foreign investments do not need prior authorization or registration, and the investment regime is efficient. The financial sector has become more modernized, but the government's presence remains significant.



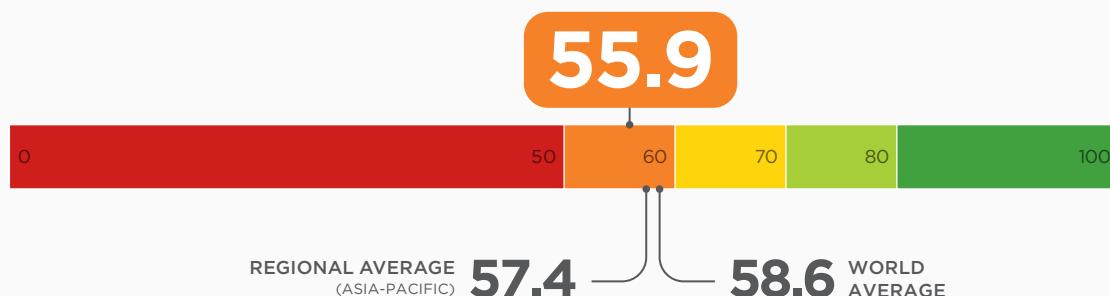
# UZBEKISTAN



**U**zbekistan's economic freedom score is 55.9, making its economy the 103rd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.6 point from last year, and Uzbekistan is ranked 20th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Uzbekistan's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2024 *Index*.

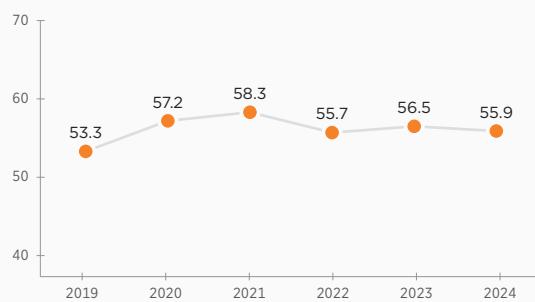
Uzbekistan has pursued critical reforms to build a competitive market economy, adopting policies that advance its economic freedom and transitioning to greater openness and modernization. Institutional shortcomings continue to limit political and other fundamental freedoms, but positive changes have been taking root. Despite progress, however, the overall regulatory system lacks transparency and clarity. The business start-up process has been streamlined. A modern labor market continues to evolve, but informal-sector employment remains substantial. Monetary stability has been relatively well maintained, but inflationary pressure continues.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1998): +24.4

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

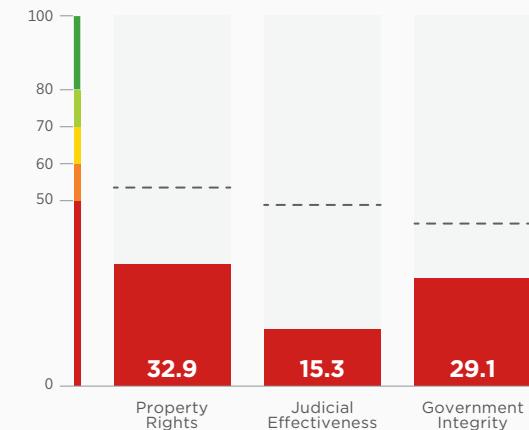
**POPULATION:**  
34.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$339.8 billion  
5.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 5.4%  
\$9,634 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
7.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
11.4%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$2.5 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
34.9% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

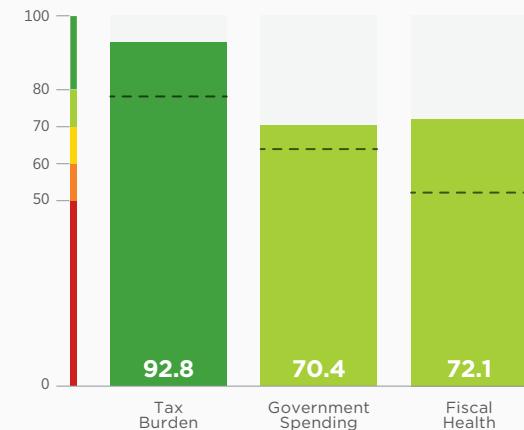
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | UZBEKISTAN

## RULE OF LAW



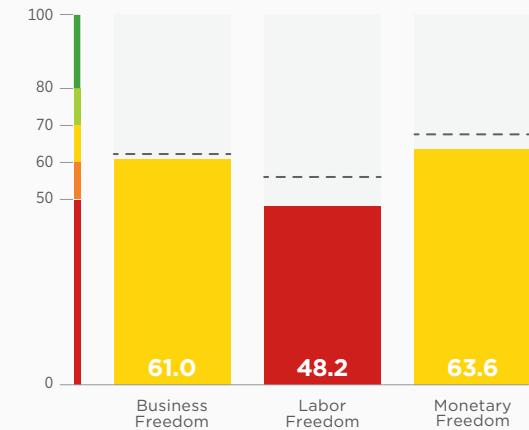
The overall rule of law is weak in Uzbekistan. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



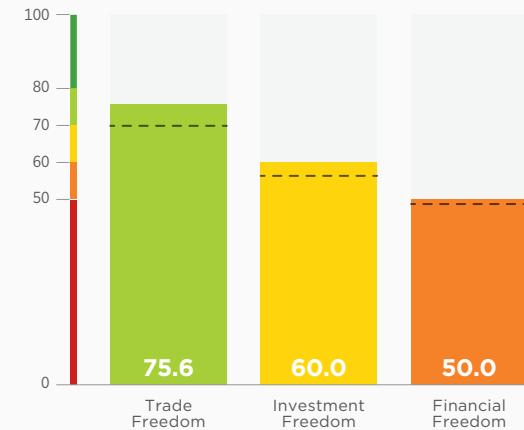
The top individual income tax rate is 12 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 15 percent. The tax burden equals 18.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 31.4 percent and -4.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 34.9 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Uzbekistan's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 4.7 percent, and nontariff barriers further increase the cost of trade. Reforms to enhance the overall investment framework have been implemented. The financial sector has undergone modernization, but state-owned banks remain dominant.

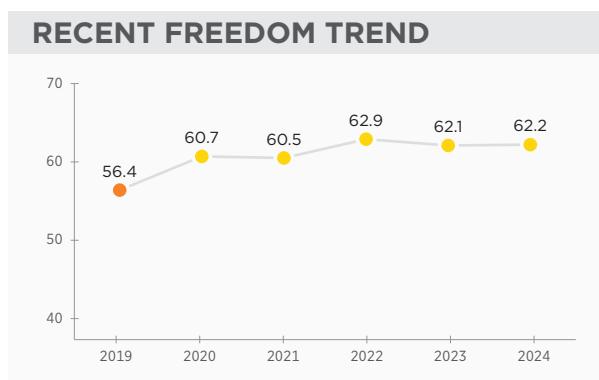
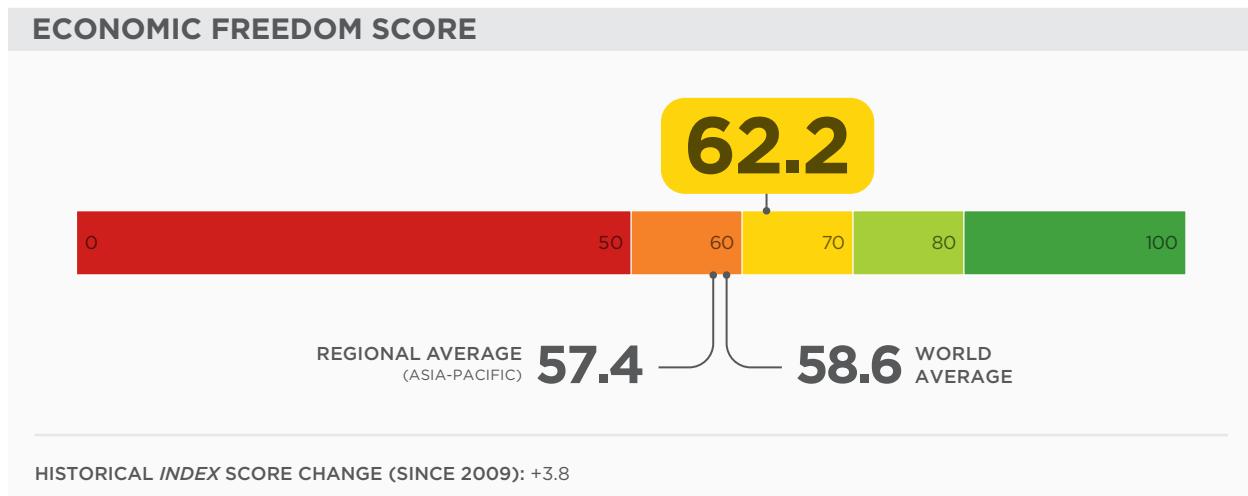


# VANUATU



Vanuatu's economic freedom score is 62.2, making its economy the 65th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is essentially unchanged from last year, and Vanuatu is ranked 12th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Vanuatu's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

Vanuatu has taken steps to integrate its economy more thoroughly into the global marketplace but needs to improve its investment and business climate to generate more broadly based economic expansion. The lack of political will to undertake institutional reforms continues to discourage development of a dynamic private sector. Bureaucratic procedures are complex and nontransparent, and starting a business remains time-consuming. Labor codes are rigid and outmoded, and the formal labor market is not fully developed. Monetary stability has been relatively well maintained despite inflationary pressure.



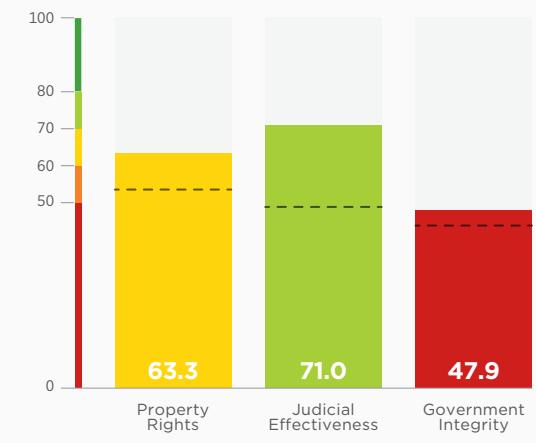
### QUICK FACTS

<b>POPULATION:</b> 0.3 million	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT:</b> 2.2%
<b>GDP (PPP):</b> \$933.0 million 1.9% growth in 2022 5-year average growth rate: 0.7% \$2,890 per capita	<b>INFLATION (CPI):</b> 7.0%
<b>FDI INFLOW:</b> -\$4.0 million	<b>PUBLIC DEBT:</b> 42.7% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

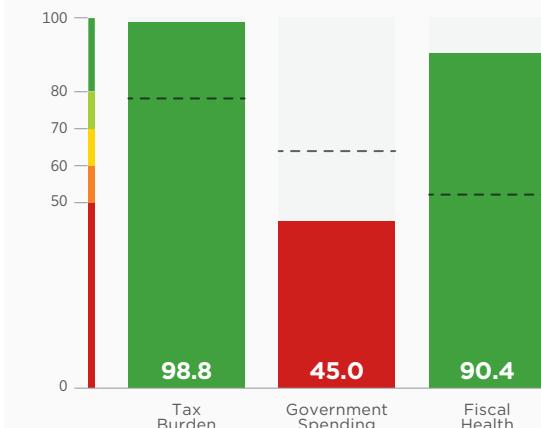
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | VANUATU

## RULE OF LAW



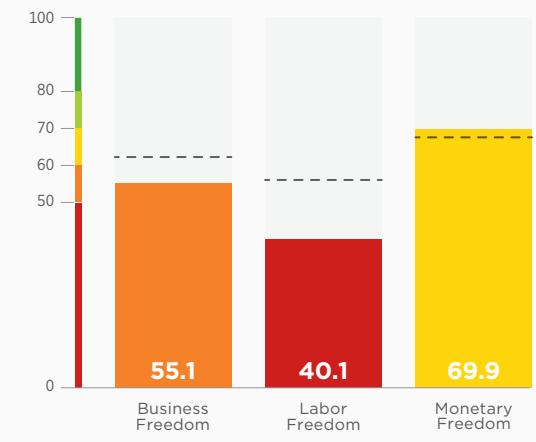
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Vanuatu. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



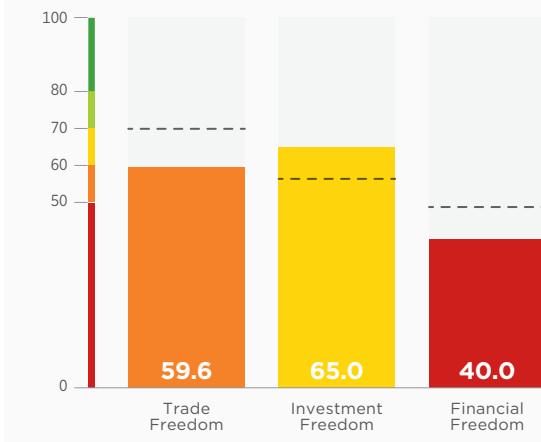
The top individual income tax rate is 0 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 0 percent. The tax burden equals 10.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 42.8 percent and -1.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 42.7 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Vanuatu's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 12.7 percent, and myriad nontariff barriers distort trade flows. Inadequate infrastructure and heavy state involvement deter long-term investment. Access to financing remains poor with formal banking services available to a limited number of rural adults.

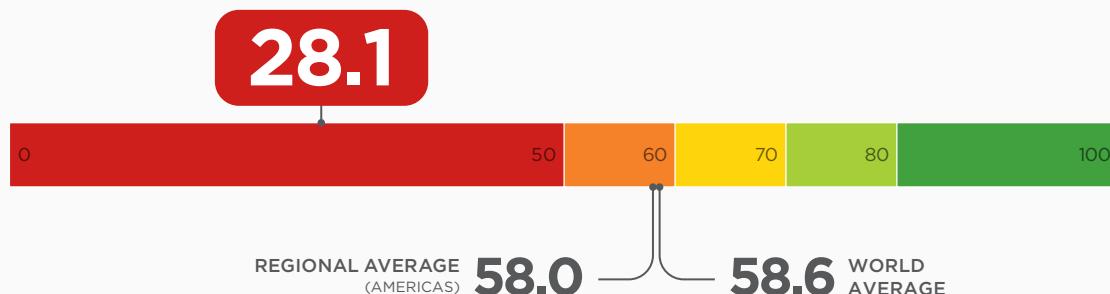
WORLD RANK:  
**174**REGIONAL RANK:  
**31**ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:  
**REPRESSIVE**

# VENEZUELA

Venezuela's economic freedom score is 28.1, making its economy the 174th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 2.3 points from last year, and Venezuela is ranked 31st out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Venezuela's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

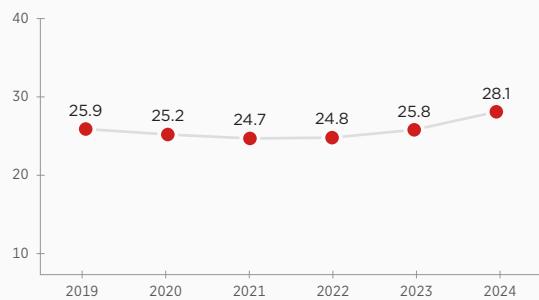
Venezuela's increasingly stagnant formal economy is undermined by state interference, and informal activity is expanding. Prices of almost all goods and services are controlled. Because of rampant corruption and the legal framework's deficiencies, the rule of law remains fragile and uneven. The freedom to engage in entrepreneurial activity is constrained by heavy government control and inconsistent enforcement of regulations. There is little decision-making transparency, and most contracts are awarded without competition. The labor market remains controlled by the state. Inflation is almost 187 percent.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -31.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
28.7 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$196.5 billion  
8.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -13.7%  
\$7,302 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
6.4%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
186.5%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$941.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
159.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

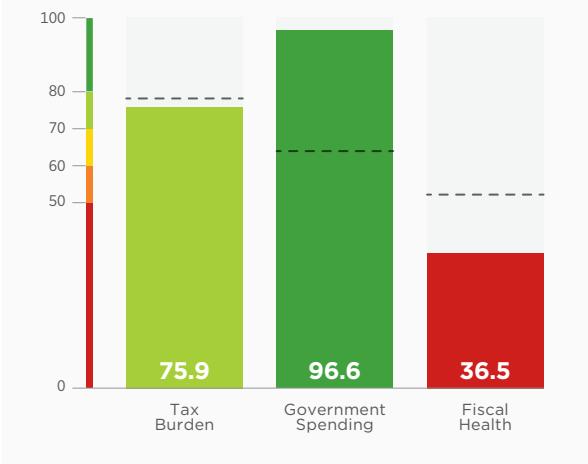
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | VENEZUELA

## RULE OF LAW



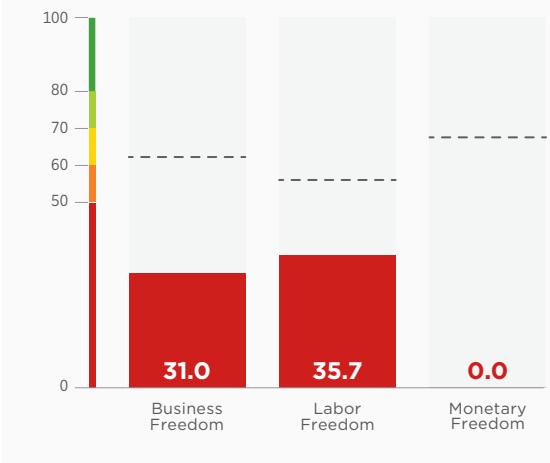
The overall rule of law is weak in Venezuela. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



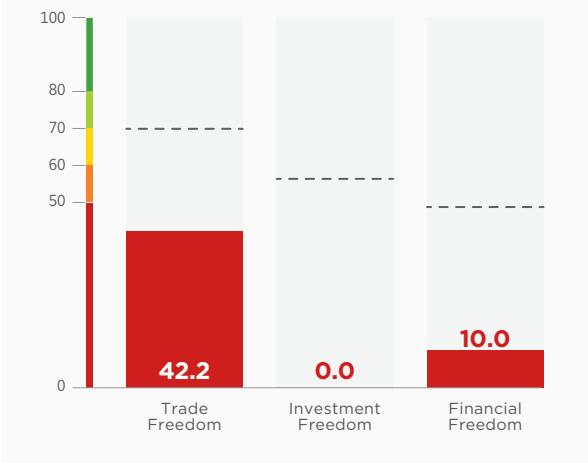
The top individual income tax rate is 34 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 34 percent. The tax burden equals 9.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 10.6 percent and -5.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 159.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

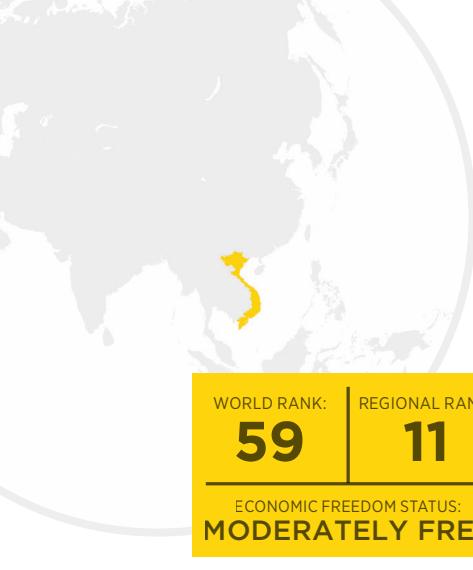


Venezuela's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 18.9 percent, and extensive nontariff barriers further distort trade flows. Private investment remains hampered by state interference in the economy, and threats of expropriation persist. The financial sector is tightly controlled by the state.

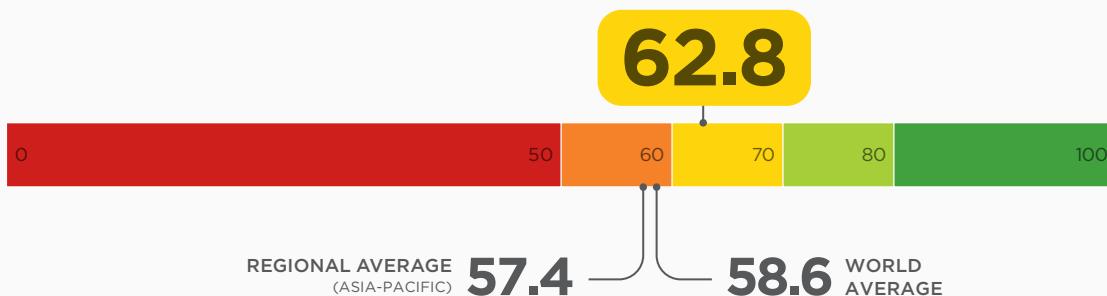


# VIETNAM

Vietnam's economic freedom score is 62.8, making its economy the 59th freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1 point from last year, and Vietnam is ranked 11th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Vietnam's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2024 *Index*.

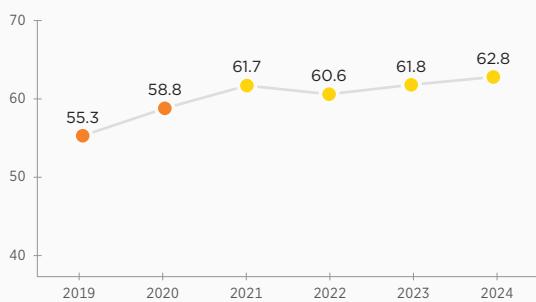
Capitalizing on its gradual integration into the global trade and investment system, Vietnam's economy is becoming more market-oriented. However, despite partial privatization of state-owned enterprises, liberalization of the trade regime, and increasing recognition of private property rights, institutional shortcomings still discourage more sustained development. The regulatory framework remains inefficient. There is no minimum capital requirement, but starting a business is costly. The labor market remains rigid and controlled, and informal labor activity is considerable. Monetary stability is relatively well maintained despite inflationary pressure.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +21.1

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

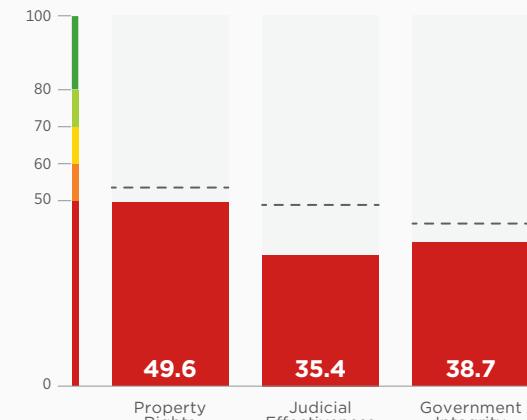
**POPULATION:**  
98.2 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$1.3 trillion  
8.0% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 5.7%  
\$13,284 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
2.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
3.2%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$17.9 billion  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
35.3% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

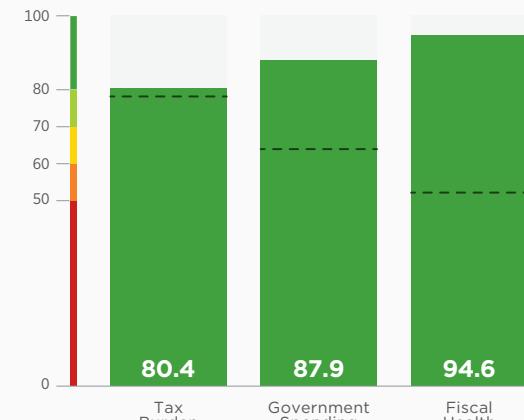
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | VIETNAM

## RULE OF LAW



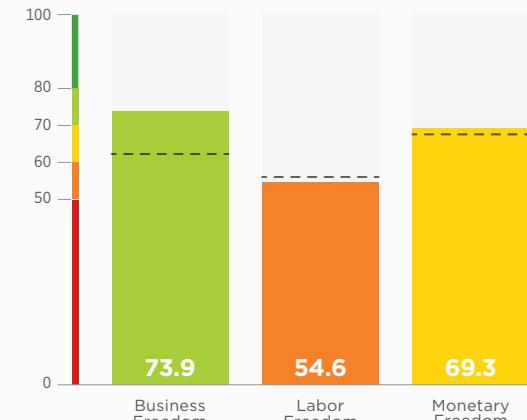
The overall rule of law is weak in Vietnam. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



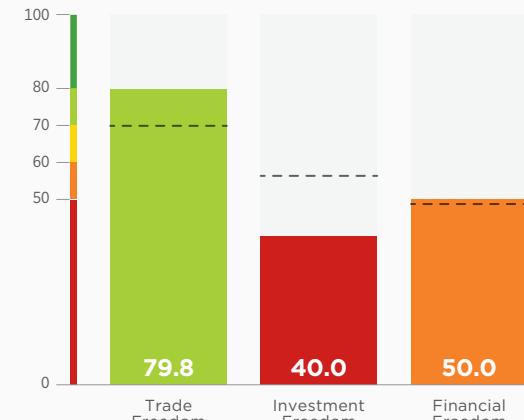
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 20 percent. The tax burden equals 18.2 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 20.1 percent and -1.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 35.3 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Vietnam's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is above the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is above the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 5.1 percent, and layers of nontariff barriers prevent more dynamic gains from trade. Despite progress, the overall investment regime lacks efficiency. The financial sector continues to evolve, and state-owned commercial banks have scaled back directed lending.



# YEMEN

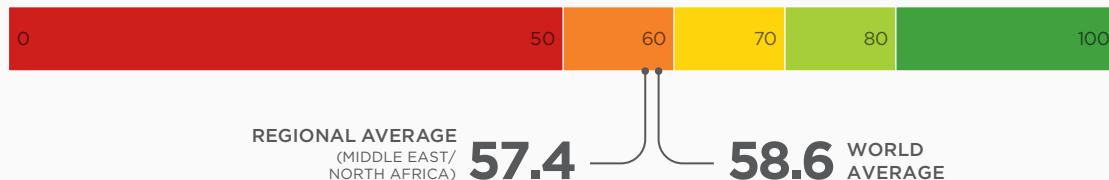
WORLD RANK: <b>N/A</b>	REGIONAL RANK: <b>N/A</b>
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>NOT GRADED</b>	

**N**umerical grading of Yemen's overall economic freedom was suspended in 2015, and the continuing lack of reliable economic statistics for the country has prevented its grading in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Prospects for an end to Yemen's civil war and a peaceful rebuilding of its economy remain bleak.

Yemen's daunting economic challenges are aggravated by ongoing political turmoil. The civil conflict has devastated the economy and destroyed critical infrastructure. Even before the current conflict, years of mismanagement and corruption, compounded by the depletion of natural resources, had resulted in chronic poverty and underdevelopment. The absence of a dynamic private sector has led to chronic underemployment and a large informal sector. Yemen's limited production of oil and gas has been disrupted, and the prolonged conflict continues to take a heavy toll on the already fragile economy.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE

**N/A**



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): N/A

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND

**NOT GRADED**

2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
30.5 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$67.8 billion  
1.5% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: -1.0%  
\$2,035 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
13.6%

**INFLATION (CPI):**  
29.5%

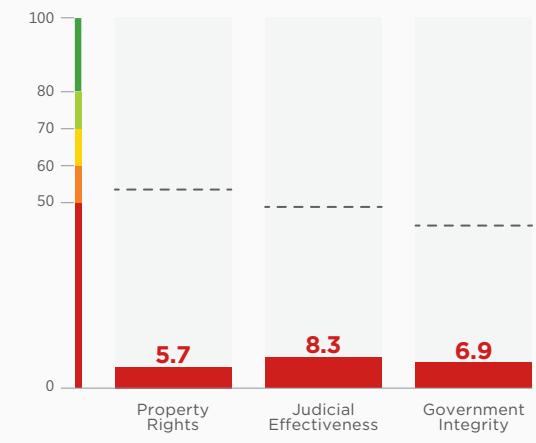
**FDI INFLOW:**  
n/a

**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
66.0% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

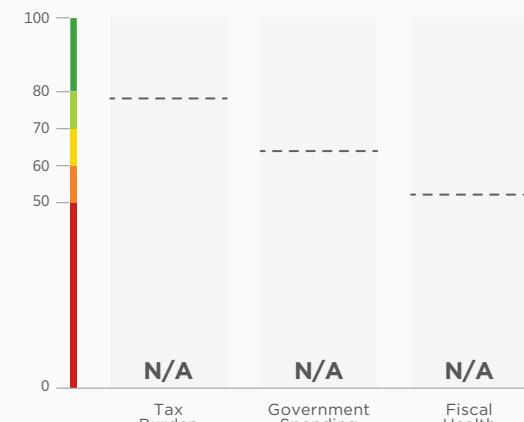
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | YEMEN

## RULE OF LAW



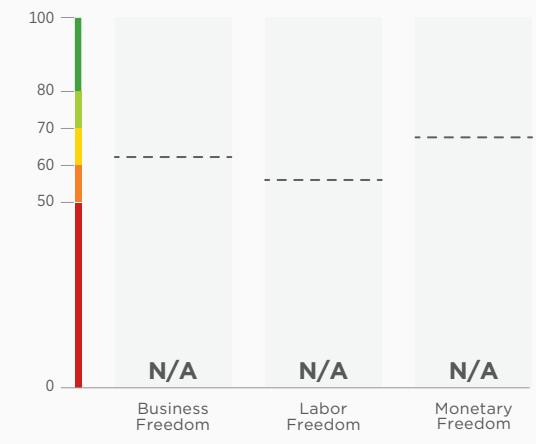
The overall rule of law is weak in Yemen. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



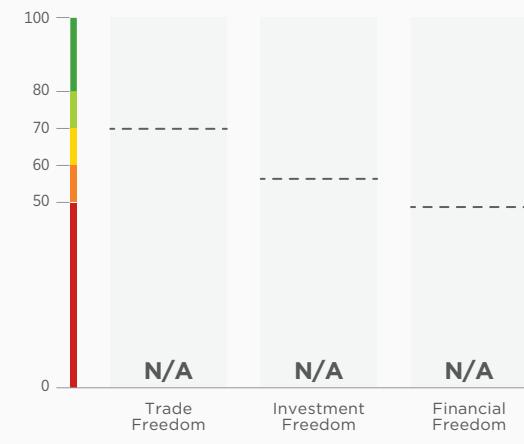
Political turmoil and civil conflict have severely damaged the overall fiscal situation, and the collapse of oil and tax revenue compounds the impact of the conflict's escalating cost. Economic policymaking is focused largely on marshalling limited fiscal resources to finance the conflict.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



The overall business environment has been severely undermined by the ongoing civil war. Even before the conflict, the private sector's weakness resulted in chronic underemployment and widespread informal economic activity. A functional labor market does not exist. Monetary stability has been very weak.

## OPEN MARKETS



The civil war has severely degraded Yemen's capacity and infrastructure as they relate to international trade and investment. The economy is largely cash-based. The limited financial system is dominated by the state, and the banking system is very fragile.



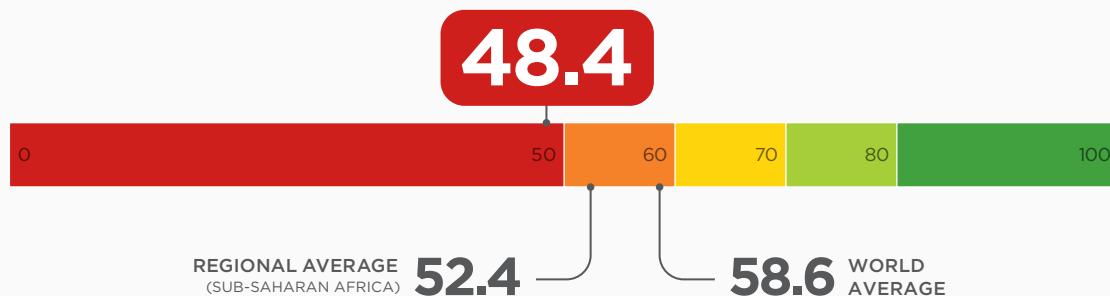
# ZAMBIA

WORLD RANK: **152** | REGIONAL RANK: **36**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSIVE**

**Z**ambia's economic freedom score is 48.4, making its economy the 152nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.6 point from last year, and Zambia is ranked 36th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Zambia's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

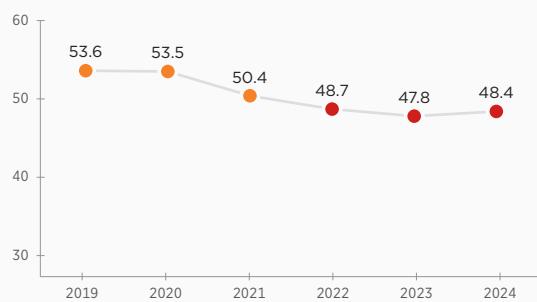
Zambia needs institutional and structural reform. The legal framework, which is characterized by inefficiency and lack of transparency, discourages long-term economic development. The overall rule of law is fragile and undermined by political interference, and corruption is rampant. Despite some reforms, the regulatory environment is not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. Businesses can be established with no minimum capital required, but commercial licensing requirements are both time-consuming and costly. Labor regulations are outdated and not consistently applied. Monetary stability has been weak.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -6.7

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

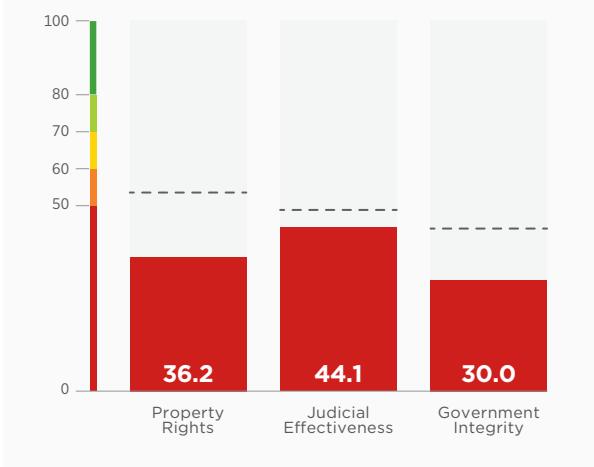
**POPULATION:**  
18.9 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$77.9 billion  
4.7% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 2.4%  
\$3,894 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
13.0%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
11.0%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$116.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
98.5% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

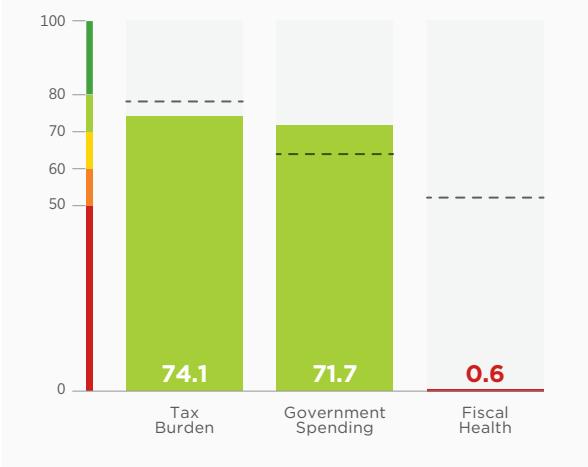
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ZAMBIA

## RULE OF LAW



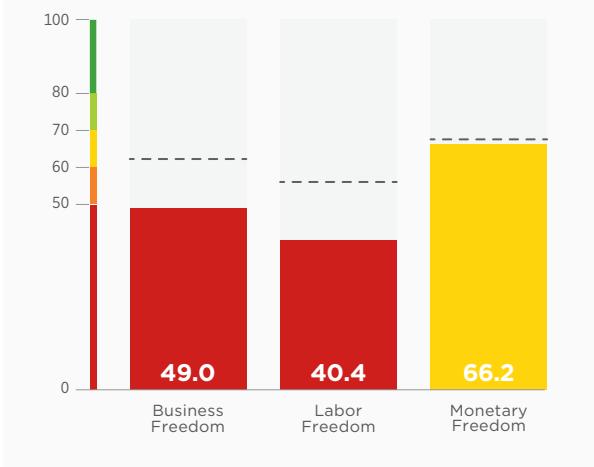
The overall rule of law is weak in Zambia. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



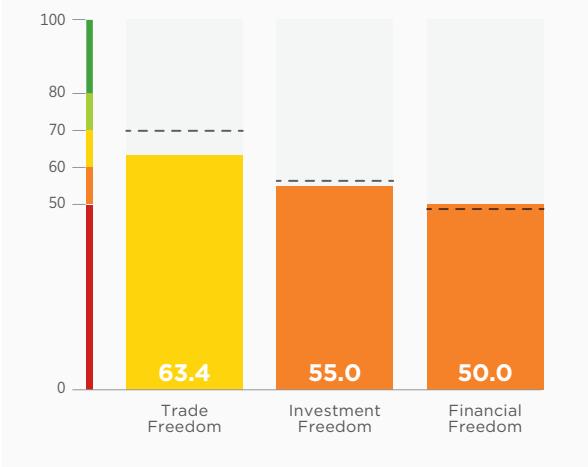
The top individual income tax rate is 37.5 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 16.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 30.7 percent and -9.9 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 98.5 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Zambia's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 10.8 percent, and extensive nontariff barriers distort trade flows. Zambia has no modern investment framework. The financial system is dominated by banking, and financial intermediation and credit to the private sector have gradually expanded.



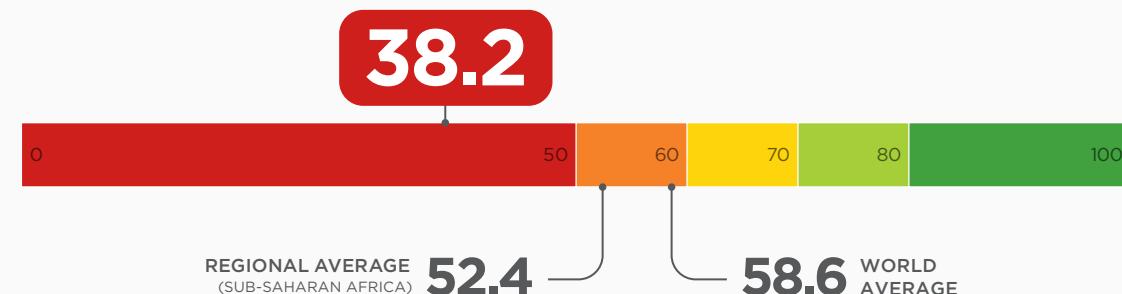
# ZIMBABWE

WORLD RANK: **172** | REGIONAL RANK: **46**  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSIVE**

Zimbabwe's economic freedom score is 38.2, making its economy the 172nd freest in the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.8 point from last year, and Zimbabwe is ranked 46th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the world and regional averages. Zimbabwe's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2024 *Index*.

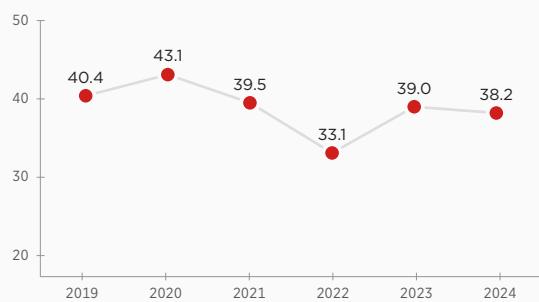
The Zimbabwean economy is characterized by instability and policy volatility, both of which are hallmarks of the excessive government interference and mismanagement that have undermined the country's economic potential. The fragile economic infrastructure has crumbled after years of neglect. The impacts of years of hyperinflation continue to impede entrepreneurial activity, and the regulatory environment remains opaque. Licensing requirements remain costly and burdensome. A corrupt and inefficient judicial system exacerbates entrepreneurial risk. Monetary stability continues to be very weak, and inflation is persistently high.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -10.3

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
15.1 million  
**GDP (PPP):**  
\$41.2 billion  
6.2% growth in 2022  
5-year average growth rate: 1.1%  
\$2,603 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
5.2%  
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
193.4%  
**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$342.0 million  
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
98.4% of GDP

2022 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of October 2023.

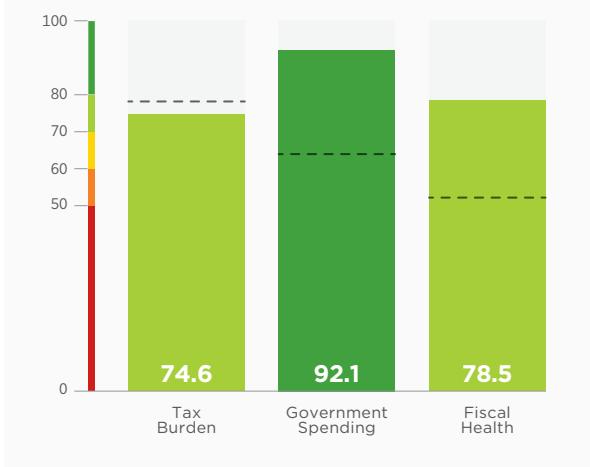
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ZIMBABWE

## RULE OF LAW



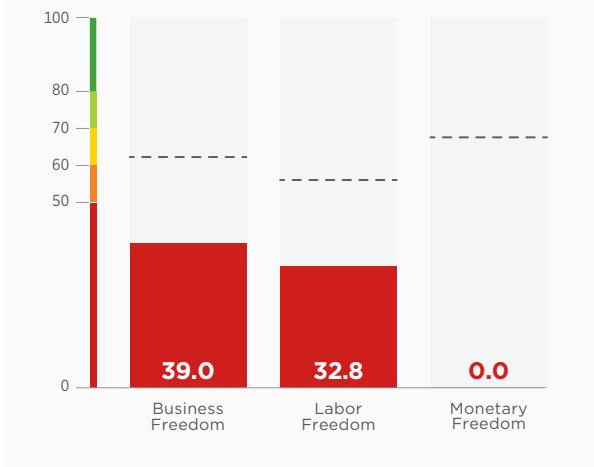
The overall rule of law is weak in Zimbabwe. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE



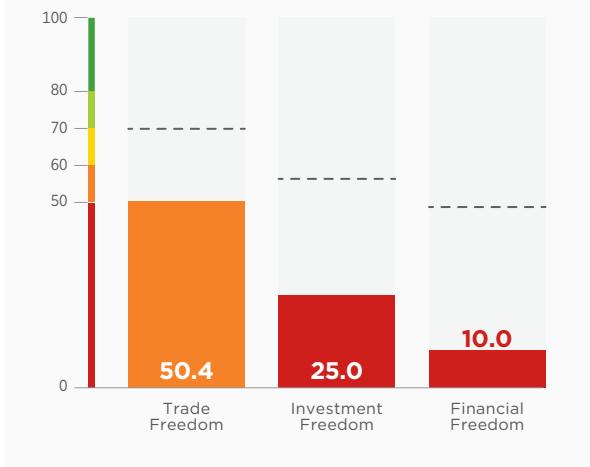
The top individual income tax rate is 41.2 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 24 percent. The tax burden equals 16.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 16.2 percent and -1.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 98.4 percent of GDP.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY



Zimbabwe's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well below the world average.

## OPEN MARKETS



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 14.8 percent, and pervasive nontariff barriers further limit trade freedom. Heavy government interference cripples investment opportunities. The financial sector remains underdeveloped because of extensive state involvement and ongoing political instability.



# **APPENDIX**

## INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORES, 1995–2024

Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024				
Afghanistan	N/A																																	
Albania	49.7	53.8	54.8	53.9	53.4	53.6	56.6	56.8	56.8	58.5	57.8	60.3	61.4	62.4	63.7	66.0	64.0	65.1	65.2	66.9	65.7	65.9	64.4	64.5	66.5	66.6	66.6	65.3	64.8					
Algeria	55.7	54.5	54.9	55.8	57.2	56.8	57.3	61.0	57.7	58.1	53.2	55.7	55.4	56.2	56.6	56.9	52.4	51.0	49.6	50.8	48.9	50.1	46.5	44.7	46.2	46.9	49.7	45.8	43.2	43.9				
Angola	27.4	24.4	24.2	24.9	23.7	24.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	43.5	44.7	46.9	47.0	48.4	46.2	46.7	47.3	47.7	47.9	48.9	48.5	48.6	50.6	52.0	52.2	52.6	53.0	54.3					
Argentina	68.0	74.7	73.3	70.9	70.6	70.0	68.6	65.7	56.3	53.9	51.7	53.4	54.0	54.2	52.3	51.2	51.7	48.0	46.7	44.6	44.1	43.8	50.4	52.3	52.2	53.1	52.7	50.1	51.0	49.9				
Armenia	N/A	42.2	46.7	49.6	56.4	63.0	66.4	68.0	67.3	70.3	69.8	70.6	68.6	69.9	69.9	69.2	69.7	68.8	69.4	68.9	67.1	67.0	70.3	68.7	67.7	70.6	71.9	65.3	65.1	64.9				
Australia	74.1	74.0	75.5	75.6	76.4	77.1	77.4	77.3	77.4	79.0	79.9	81.1	82.2	82.6	82.5	82.5	83.1	82.6	82.0	81.4	80.3	81.0	80.9	80.9	82.6	82.4	77.7	74.8	76.2					
Austria	70.0	68.9	65.2	65.4	64.0	68.4	68.1	67.4	67.6	67.6	68.8	71.1	71.6	71.4	71.2	71.6	71.9	70.3	71.8	72.4	71.2	71.7	72.3	71.8	72.0	73.3	73.9	73.8	71.1	68.4				
Azerbaijan	N/A	30.0	34.0	43.1	47.4	49.8	50.3	53.3	54.1	53.4	54.4	53.2	54.6	55.3	58.0	58.8	59.7	58.9	59.7	61.3	61.0	60.2	63.6	64.3	65.4	69.3	70.1	61.6	61.4	61.6				
Bahamas	71.8	74.0	74.5	74.7	73.9	74.8	74.4	73.5	72.1	72.6	72.3	72.0	71.1	70.3	67.3	68.0	68.0	70.1	69.8	68.7	70.9	61.1	63.3	62.9	64.5	66.6	68.7	62.6	62.5					
Bahrain	76.2	76.4	76.1	75.6	75.2	75.7	75.9	75.6	76.3	75.1	71.2	71.6	72.2	74.8	76.3	77.7	75.2	75.5	75.1	73.4	74.3	88.5	67.7	66.4	66.3	69.9	62.0	62.5	63.4					
Bangladesh	40.9	51.1	49.9	52.0	50.0	48.9	51.2	51.9	49.3	50.0	47.5	52.9	46.7	44.2	47.5	51.1	53.0	53.2	52.6	54.1	53.9	53.3	55.0	55.1	55.6	56.4	56.5	52.7	54.4	54.4				
Barbados	N/A	62.3	64.5	67.9	66.7	69.5	71.5	73.6	71.3	69.4	70.1	71.9	70.0	71.3	71.5	68.3	68.5	69.0	69.3	68.3	67.9	68.3	54.5	57.0	64.7	61.4	65.0	71.3	69.8					
Belarus	40.4	38.7	39.8	38.0	35.4	41.3	38.0	39.0	39.7	43.1	46.7	47.5	47.0	45.3	45.0	48.7	47.9	49.0	48.0	50.1	49.8	48.8	58.6	58.1	57.9	61.0	53.0	51.0	48.4					
Belgium	N/A	66.0	64.6	64.7	62.9	63.5	63.8	63.8	67.6	68.1	68.7	69.0	71.8	72.5	71.7	72.2	71.2	72.2	74.8	76.3	77.7	75.2	75.5	75.1	68.8	68.4	67.8	67.5	67.3	69.6	67.1	65.6		
Belize	62.9	61.6	64.3	59.1	60.7	63.3	65.9	65.6	63.5	62.8	64.5	64.7	65.3	63.0	63.0	61.5	63.8	61.9	57.3	56.7	56.8	57.4	58.6	57.1	55.4	57.4	57.5	56.6	59.7	61.2				
Benin	N/A	54.5	61.3	61.7	60.6	61.5	60.1	57.3	54.9	54.6	52.3	54.0	55.1	55.2	55.4	56.0	55.4	56.0	55.7	57.6	57.1	58.8	59.3	56.7	55.3	55.2	59.6	61.0	59.8	57.7				
Bhutan	N/A	57.7	57.0	57.6	56.6	55.0	56.7	57.4	59.5	58.4	61.8	62.9	62.1	58.3	59.3	59.0	55.4																	
Bolivia	56.8	65.2	65.1	68.8	65.6	65.0	68.0	65.1	64.3	64.5	58.4	57.8	54.2	53.1	53.6	49.4	50.0	50.2	47.9	48.4	46.8	47.4	47.7	44.1	42.3	42.8	42.7	43.0	43.4	43.5				
Bosnia and Herzegovina	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.4	29.4	45.1	36.6	37.4	40.6	44.7	48.8	55.6	54.4	53.9	53.1	56.2	57.5	57.3	57.3	58.4	59.0	58.6	60.2	61.4	61.9	62.6	62.9	63.4	62.8	62.0				
Botswana	56.8	61.6	59.1	62.8	62.9	65.8	66.8	66.2	68.6	69.3	68.8	68.1	68.2	69.7	70.3	68.8	69.6	70.6	72.0	69.8	71.1	70.1	69.9	69.5	69.6	67.6	64.8	64.9	68.0					
Brazil	51.4	48.1	52.6	52.3	61.3	61.1	61.9	61.5	63.4	62.0	61.7	60.9	56.2	56.7	55.6	56.3	57.9	57.7	56.9	56.6	56.5	56.5	52.9	51.4	53.7	53.4	53.3	53.5	53.2					
Brunei Darussalam	N/A	68.9	67.3	69.8	64.2	65.1	66.6	64.5	65.9																									
Bulgaria	50.0	48.6	47.6	45.7	46.2	47.3	51.9	57.1	57.0	59.2	62.3	64.1	62.7	63.7	64.6	64.2	65.0	65.7	66.8	67.3	69.7	68.3	69.0	70.2	70.4	71.0	69.3	68.5						
Burkina Faso	N/A	49.4	54.0	54.5	55.0	55.7	56.7	58.8	58.0	56.6	55.8	55.1	55.7	59.5	59.4	60.6	59.9	58.9	59.1	59.6	59.4	60.0	59.6	59.5	60.5	56.5	58.3	56.2	51.9					
Burma	N/A	45.1	45.4	45.7	46.4	47.9	46.1	45.5	44.9	43.6	40.5	41.0	39.5	37.7	36.7	37.8	39.2	37.9	46.5	48.7	52.5	53.9	53.6	54.0	55.2	49.6	46.5	42.2						
Butundi	N/A	45.4	44.7	41.1	42.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	48.7	46.9	46.2	48.8	47.5	49.6	48.1	49.0	51.4	53.7	55.9	53.2	50.9	48.9	49.0	49.9	39.4	41.9	38.4						
Cabo Verde	N/A	49.7	47.7	48.0	50.7	51.9	56.3	57.6	58.1	57.8	58.6	57.9	61.3	61.8	64.6	63.5	63.7	66.1	66.4	66.5	66.9	60.0	63.1	63.6	63.8	66.7	65.8	62.9						
Cambodia	N/A	52.8	59.8	59.9	59.3	59.6	60.7	63.7	61.1	60.0	56.7	55.9	56.6	57.9	57.6	58.5	57.4	57.5	57.9	59.5	58.7	57.8	57.3	57.1	56.5	55.6	55.6							
Cameroon	51.3	45.7	44.6	48.0	50.3	49.9	53.3	52.8	52.7	53.0	54.6	55.6	54.3	53.0	52.3	51.8	52.3	52.6	51.9	54.2	51.8	51.9	52.4	53.6	53.4	52.9	51.9	53.6	53.2					
Canada	69.4	70.3	67.9	68.5	69.3	70.5	71.2	74.6	74.8	75.3	75.8	77.4	78.0	80.2	80.5	80.4	80.8	79.9	79.4	80.2	79.1	78.0	78.5	77.7	77.7	78.2	77.9	76.6	73.7	72.4				
Central African Republic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46.7	45.9	45.2	51.8	49.2	50.7	48.8	45.7	43.8	41.3		
Chad	N/A	45.1	46.6	47.2	46.8	46.4	49.2	52.6	53.1	52.1	50.0	50.1	47.8	47.5	45.3	44.8	45.2	44.5	45.9	46.3	49.0	49.3	49.9	50.2	50.4	49.8	52.0	51.4						
Chile	71.2	72.6	75.9	74.9	74.1	74.7	75.1	77.8	76.0	76.9	77.8	78.0	77.7	78.6	77.2	77.4	78.3	79.0	78.7	78.5	77.7	76.5	75.4	76.8	75.2	74.4	71.1	71.4						
China	52.0	51.3	51.7	53.1	54.8	56.4	52.6	52.8	52.5	53.7	53.3	52.0	51.0	52.0	51.2	51.9	52.5	52.7	52.0	51.4	57.8	54.4	59.5	58.4	59.5	58.4	48.0	48.3	48.5					
Colombia	64.5	64.3	66.4	65.5	65.3	63.3	65.6	64.2	64.2	61.2	59.6	60.4	59.9	62.2	62.3	65.5	68.0	68.0	69.6	70.7	71.7	69.7	68.9	67.3	69.2	68.1	65.1	63.1	59.2					
Comoros	N/A	43.3	44.9	45.3	47.5	51.4	52.4	55.8	56.2	55.4	53.7	50.4	53.5	52.0																				
Congo, Dem. Rep.	41.4	39.5	39.0	40.6	34.0	34.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	42.8	41.4	40.7	41.1	39.6	40.6	45.0	46.4	56.4	52.1	50.3	49.5	49.0	47.6	47.9			
Congo, Rep.	N/A	40.3	42.2	33.8	41.6	40.6	44.3	45.3	47.7	45.9	46.2	43.8	44.4	45.3	45.4	43.2	43.6	43.8	43.5	43.7	42.7	42.8	40.0	38.9	39.7	41.8	50.7	48.5	48.1	47.8				

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Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Costa Rica	68.0	66.4	65.6	65.6	67.4	68.4	67.6	67.5	67.0	66.4	66.1	65.9	64.0	64.2	66.4	65.9	67.3	68.0	67.0	66.9	67.2	67.4	65.6	65.3	65.8	64.2	65.4	66.5	67.7		
Côte d'Ivoire	53.4	49.9	50.5	51.3	51.7	50.2	54.8	57.3	56.7	57.8	56.6	56.2	54.9	53.9	55.0	54.1	55.4	54.3	54.1	57.7	58.5	60.0	63.0	62.0	62.4	59.7	61.7	61.6	60.4	58.4	
Croatia	N/A	48.0	46.7	51.7	53.1	53.6	50.7	51.1	53.3	53.1	51.9	53.6	53.4	54.1	55.1	59.2	61.1	60.9	61.3	60.4	61.5	59.1	59.4	61.0	61.4	62.2	63.6	67.6	66.4	67.2	
Cuba	27.8	27.8	27.8	29.2	31.3	31.6	32.4	35.1	34.4	35.5	29.3	28.6	27.5	27.9	26.7	27.7	28.5	28.7	29.6	29.8	33.9	31.9	27.8	26.9	28.1	29.5	24.3	25.7			
Cyprus	N/A	67.7	67.9	68.2	67.8	67.2	71.0	73.0	73.3	74.1	71.9	71.8	71.7	71.3	70.8	70.9	73.3	71.8	69.0	67.6	67.9	68.7	67.8	68.1	70.1	71.4	72.9	72.3	72.2		
Czech Republic	67.8	68.1	68.8	69.4	69.7	68.6	69.6	70.2	66.5	67.5	67.0	64.6	66.4	67.4	68.1	69.4	69.8	70.4	69.9	70.9	72.2	72.5	73.2	73.3	74.2	73.7	74.8	73.8	74.4	71.9	70.2
Denmark	N/A	67.3	67.5	67.5	68.1	68.3	68.3	68.3	71.1	73.2	72.4	75.3	75.4	77.0	79.2	79.6	77.9	78.6	76.2	76.1	76.3	75.3	75.1	76.6	76.7	78.3	77.8	78.0	77.6	77.8	
Djibouti	N/A	N/A	54.5	55.9	57.1	55.1	58.3	57.8	55.7	55.6	55.2	53.2	52.4	51.2	51.3	51.0	54.5	53.9	53.9	55.9	57.5	56.0	46.7	47.1	52.9	56.2	55.3	56.1	55.8		
Dominica	N/A																														
Dominican Republic	55.8	58.1	53.5	58.1	58.1	59.0	59.1	58.6	57.8	54.6	55.1	56.3	56.8	57.7	59.2	60.3	60.0	60.2	59.7	61.3	61.0	61.0	61.6	61.0	61.0	61.0	62.1	63.0	62.6	62.9	
Ecuador	57.7	60.1	61.0	62.8	62.9	59.8	55.1	53.1	54.1	54.4	52.9	54.6	55.3	55.2	52.5	49.3	47.1	48.3	46.9	46.9	48.0	49.2	48.6	49.3	48.5	46.9	51.3	52.4	54.3	55.0	55.0
Egypt	45.7	52.0	54.5	55.8	58.0	51.7	51.5	54.1	55.3	55.5	55.8	53.2	54.4	58.5	58.0	59.0	59.1	57.9	54.8	52.9	55.2	56.0	52.6	53.4	52.5	54.0	55.7	49.1	49.5	49.7	
El Salvador	69.1	70.1	70.5	70.2	75.1	76.3	73.0	73.0	71.5	71.2	69.6	68.9	68.5	69.8	69.9	68.8	68.7	66.7	66.2	65.7	65.1	64.1	63.2	61.8	61.6	59.6	56.0	54.4			
Equatorial Guinea	N/A																														
Eritrea	N/A																														
Estonia	65.2	65.4	69.1	72.5	73.8	69.9	69.9	76.1	77.6	77.7	77.4	75.2	74.9	78.0	77.9	76.4	74.7	75.2	73.2	75.3	75.9	76.8	77.2	79.1	78.8	76.6	77.7	78.0	78.6	77.8	
Eswatini	63.3	58.6	59.4	62.0	62.1	62.6	63.6	60.9	59.6	58.6	59.4	61.4	60.1	58.4	59.1	57.4	59.1	57.2	61.2	59.9	59.7	61.1	55.9	54.7	55.3	55.1	54.9	55.6			
Ethiopia	42.6	45.9	48.1	49.2	46.7	50.2	48.9	49.8	48.8	54.5	51.1	50.9	53.6	52.5	53.0	51.2	50.5	52.0	49.4	50.0	51.5	51.5	52.7	52.8	53.6	51.7	49.6	48.3	47.9		
Fiji	54.7	57.4	58.0	58.2	58.4	57.8	53.9	54.7	58.0	58.2	58.4	60.8	61.8	61.0	60.3	60.4	57.3	57.2	58.7	59.0	58.8	63.4	62.0	62.2	63.4	62.2	56.4	58.0	58.0		
Finland	N/A	63.7	65.2	63.5	63.9	64.3	69.7	73.6	73.7	73.4	71.0	72.9	74.0	74.6	73.8	73.8	74.5	73.8	72.3	72.3	74.0	73.4	73.4	72.6	74.9	75.7	76.1	76.1	77.1	76.3	
France	64.4	63.7	59.1	58.9	59.1	57.4	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.0	59.2	60.9	61.5	62.1	64.7	63.3	64.2	64.6	64.6	63.5	62.5	62.3	63.3	63.9	63.8	66.0	65.7	65.9	63.6	62.5	
Gabon	57.5	55.7	58.8	59.2	60.5	58.2	58.0	55.0	58.7	57.1	56.1	54.8	54.2	55.0	55.4	56.7	57.8	57.8	57.8	58.3	59.0	59.6	56.3	56.7	56.1	56.9	56.6	56.7			
Gambia	N/A	N/A	52.9	53.4	52.1	52.7	56.6	57.7	56.3	55.3	56.5	57.3	57.7	56.9	55.8	55.1	57.4	57.4	58.8	59.5	57.5	57.1	55.4	52.3	52.4	52.3	52.4	52.2	52.2		
Georgia	N/A	44.1	46.5	47.9	52.5	54.3	58.3	56.7	58.6	58.9	57.1	64.5	69.3	69.2	69.8	70.4	70.4	70.4	70.4	69.4	72.2	72.6	73.0	73.0	72.6	72.6	75.9	77.1	78.3	78.3	
Germany	69.8	69.1	67.5	64.3	65.6	65.7	69.5	70.4	69.7	69.5	68.1	70.8	70.8	70.6	70.5	71.1	71.8	72.8	73.4	73.8	74.4	73.8	73.5	73.5	72.5	72.5	72.1	73.7	72.1		
Ghana	55.6	57.7	56.7	57.0	57.9	58.1	58.0	57.2	58.2	59.1	56.5	55.6	57.6	57.0	58.1	60.2	59.4	60.7	61.3	64.2	63.0	63.5	62.6	56.0	57.5	59.2	59.8	58.0			
Greece	61.2	60.5	59.6	60.6	61.0	63.4	63.4	59.1	59.8	59.1	60.1	58.7	60.6	60.8	62.7	60.3	55.4	55.4	54.0	54.5	53.2	55.0	57.3	57.7	59.9	60.9	61.5	56.8	55.1		
Guatemala	62.0	63.7	65.7	65.8	66.2	64.3	65.1	62.3	59.6	59.5	59.1	60.5	59.8	59.4	61.0	61.9	60.9	60.0	61.8	63.0	63.4	62.6	64.0	64.0	64.0	64.0	63.2	62.7	62.4		
Guinea	59.4	58.5	52.9	61.0	59.4	58.2	58.4	52.9	54.6	57.4	52.8	54.5	52.8	51.0	51.8	51.7	50.8	51.2	53.5	52.1	53.3	47.6	52.2	55.7	56.5	54.2	53.2	53.3			
Honduras	57.0	56.6	56.0	56.2	56.7	57.6	57.0	58.7	60.4	55.3	55.3	57.4	59.1	58.9	58.7	58.3	58.6	58.8	58.4	57.1	57.4	57.7	58.8	60.6	60.2	61.1	59.8	58.7	58.6		
Hong Kong	88.6	90.5	88.6	88.0	89.5	89.9	89.8	90.0	89.5	88.6	89.9	89.7	90.0	89.7	89.9	89.9	89.3	90.1	89.6	88.6	89.8	90.2	90.2	89.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Hungary	55.2	56.8	55.3	56.9	59.6	64.4	65.6	64.5	63.0	62.7	63.5	65.0	64.8	67.6	66.8	66.1	66.6	67.1	67.3	67.0	66.8	66.0	65.8	66.7	66.4	67.2	66.9	64.1	61.2		
Iceland	N/A	70.5	71.2	71.4	74.0	73.4	73.1	73.5	72.1	76.6	75.8	76.0	75.8	75.9	73.7	68.2	70.9	72.1	72.4	72.0	73.3	74.4	77.0	77.1	77.2	73.0	70.5				
India	45.1	47.4	49.7	49.7	50.2	47.4	49.0	51.2	51.5	54.2	52.2	55.9	54.1	54.4	53.8	54.6	55.0	55.2	55.7	54.6	56.2	52.6	54.5	55.2	56.5	55.5	52.9	52.9			
Indonesia	54.9	61.0	62.0	63.4	61.5	55.2	52.5	54.8	55.8	52.1	52.9	51.9	53.2	53.4	55.5	56.0	56.4	56.9	58.5	58.1	59.4	61.9	64.2	65.8	67.6	67.2	66.9	64.4	63.5	63.5	
Iran	N/A	36.1	34.5	36.0	36.8	36.1	35.9	36.4	43.2	42.8	50.5	45.0	45.0	44.6	43.4	42.1	43.2	40.3	41.8	43.5	50.5	50.9	51.1	49.2	47.2	42.4	42.2	41.2			
Iraq	N/A	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2		
Ireland	68.5	72.6	73.7	74.6	76.1	81.2	80.9	80.3	80.8	82.2	82.5	82.2	81.3	81.2	80.9	80.5	80.8	82.2	82.6	82.5	82.2	82.6	82.0	82.2	82.6	82.0	82.2	82.6			

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Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Israel	61.5	62.0	62.7	68.0	68.3	65.5	66.1	66.9	62.7	61.4	62.6	64.4	64.8	66.3	67.6	68.5	67.8	68.4	70.5	70.7	69.7	72.2	72.8	74.0	73.8	68.0	68.9	70.1				
Italy	61.2	60.8	58.1	59.1	61.6	61.9	63.0	65.6	64.3	64.2	64.9	62.0	62.8	62.6	61.4	62.7	60.3	58.8	60.6	60.9	61.7	61.2	62.5	62.2	63.8	64.9	65.4	62.3	60.1			
Jamaica	64.4	66.7	67.7	67.1	64.7	65.5	63.7	61.7	67.0	66.7	67.0	66.4	65.5	65.7	65.2	65.5	65.7	66.8	66.7	67.7	67.5	69.5	69.1	68.6	68.5	69.0	67.4	68.1	68.1			
Japan	75.0	72.6	70.3	70.2	69.1	70.7	70.9	66.7	67.6	64.3	67.3	73.3	72.7	73.0	72.8	72.9	71.6	71.8	72.4	73.3	75.1	69.6	72.3	72.1	73.3	74.1	69.9	69.3	67.5			
Jordan	62.7	60.8	63.6	66.8	67.4	67.5	68.3	66.2	65.3	66.1	66.7	63.7	64.5	64.1	65.4	66.1	68.9	69.9	70.4	69.2	69.3	68.3	66.7	64.9	66.5	66.0	64.6	60.1	58.7	58.3		
Kazakhstan	N/A	N/A	N/A	41.7	47.3	50.4	51.8	52.4	52.3	49.7	53.9	60.2	59.6	61.1	60.1	61.0	62.1	63.6	63.0	63.7	63.3	63.6	69.0	69.1	65.4	69.6	71.1	64.4	62.1	62.0		
Kenya	54.5	56.4	60.1	58.4	58.2	59.7	57.6	58.2	58.6	57.7	57.9	59.7	59.6	59.3	58.7	57.5	57.4	57.5	57.5	55.9	57.1	55.6	57.5	55.5	54.7	55.1	55.3	54.9	52.6	52.5	53.6	
Kiribati	N/A																															
Korea, North	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	
Korea, South	72.0	73.0	69.8	73.3	69.7	69.7	69.1	69.5	68.3	67.8	66.4	67.5	67.8	68.6	68.1	69.9	69.9	70.3	71.2	71.5	71.7	74.3	73.8	72.3	74.0	74.0	74.6	73.7	73.1			
Kosovo	N/A																															
Kuwait	N/A	66.1	64.8	66.3	69.5	69.7	68.2	65.4	66.7	63.6	64.6	66.5	66.4	68.1	65.6	67.7	64.9	62.5	63.1	62.3	62.5	62.7	65.1	62.2	60.8	63.2	64.1	58.3	56.7	58.5	51.3	
Kyrgyz Republic	N/A	N/A	N/A	51.8	54.8	55.7	53.7	51.7	56.8	58.0	56.6	61.0	60.2	61.1	61.8	61.3	61.1	60.2	59.6	61.1	61.3	59.6	61.1	62.8	62.3	63.7	55.8	55.7	55.2			
Laos	N/A	38.5	35.1	35.2	35.2	35.8	33.5	36.8	41.0	42.0	44.4	47.5	50.3	50.4	51.1	51.3	50.0	50.1	51.2	51.4	49.8	50.0	53.6	57.4	55.5	53.9	49.2	50.2	50.6			
Latvia	N/A	55.0	62.4	63.4	64.2	63.4	66.4	65.0	66.0	67.4	66.3	66.9	67.9	68.3	66.6	66.2	65.9	65.2	66.5	68.7	69.7	70.4	74.8	73.6	70.4	71.9	72.3	74.8	72.8	71.5		
Lebanon	N/A	63.2	63.9	59.0	59.1	56.1	61.0	57.1	56.7	56.9	57.2	57.5	60.4	60.0	58.1	59.5	60.1	59.5	59.4	59.3	59.5	59.3	53.3	53.2	51.1	51.7	51.4	47.3	45.6	48.3		
Lesotho	N/A	47.0	47.2	48.4	48.2	48.4	50.6	48.9	52.0	50.3	53.9	54.7	53.2	52.1	49.7	48.1	47.5	46.6	47.9	49.5	49.6	50.6	53.9	53.9	53.1	54.5	53.5	48.1	51.6	51.9		
Liberia	N/A																															
Libya	N/A	31.7	28.9	32.0	32.3	34.7	34.0	35.4	34.6	31.5	31.5	32.8	33.2	37.0	38.7	43.5	40.2	38.6	40.2	38.6	35.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Liechtenstein	N/A																															
Lithuania	N/A	49.7	57.3	59.4	61.5	61.9	65.5	66.1	69.7	72.4	70.5	71.8	71.5	70.9	70.0	70.3	71.3	71.5	72.1	73.0	74.7	75.2	75.8	75.3	74.2	76.7	76.9	75.8	72.2	72.9		
Luxembourg	N/A	72.5	72.8	72.7	72.4	76.4	80.1	79.4	79.9	78.9	76.3	75.3	74.6	74.7	75.2	75.4	76.2	74.5	74.2	73.2	73.9	75.9	76.4	75.9	75.8	76.0	80.6	78.4	79.2			
Macao	N/A																															
Madagascar	51.6	52.2	53.8	51.8	52.8	54.4	53.9	56.8	56.8	62.8	60.9	63.1	61.0	61.1	62.4	62.2	63.2	61.2	62.4	62.0	61.7	61.1	57.4	56.8	56.6	60.5	57.7	58.9	57.3			
Malawi	54.7	56.2	53.4	54.1	54.0	57.4	56.2	56.9	53.2	53.6	55.4	52.9	52.7	53.7	54.1	55.8	56.4	55.3	55.4	54.8	51.8	52.2	52.0	51.4	52.8	53.0	52.8	52.1				
Malaysia	71.9	69.9	66.8	68.2	68.9	66.0	60.2	60.1	61.1	59.9	61.9	61.6	63.8	63.9	64.6	64.8	66.3	66.4	66.1	69.6	70.8	71.5	73.8	74.5	74.7	74.4	68.1	67.3	65.7			
Maldives	N/A																															
Mali	52.4	57.0	56.4	57.3	58.4	60.3	60.1	58.6	56.6	57.3	54.1	54.7	55.6	55.5	56.3	56.5	56.4	56.4	56.5	56.5	56.5	58.6	57.6	58.1	55.9	55.6	54.5	52.5				
Malta	56.3	55.8	57.9	61.2	59.3	58.3	62.9	62.1	63.3	68.9	67.3	66.1	66.0	66.1	67.2	65.7	67.0	67.5	66.4	66.5	66.7	68.5	68.6	69.5	70.2	71.5	67.5	64.5				
Mauritania	N/A	45.5	47.0	43.7	42.8	46.0	48.5	52.5	59.0	61.8	59.4	55.7	53.6	55.2	53.9	52.0	52.1	53.0	52.3	53.2	53.3	54.8	54.4	54.0	55.7	55.3	55.3	55.3				
Mauritius	N/A																															
Mexico	63.1	61.2	57.1	57.9	58.5	59.3	60.6	63.0	65.3	66.0	65.2	64.7	66.0	66.2	65.8	68.3	67.8	65.3	67.0	66.8	66.4	64.7	64.9	64.7	64.3	65.4	63.7	62.0	62.6	61.0	61.0	
Micronesia	N/A																															
Morocco	62.8	64.3	61.1	63.8	63.9	59.0	57.8	56.7	52.2	51.5	56.4	55.6	57.7	59.2	59.6	60.2	59.6	58.3	60.1	49.8	49.6	51.8	54.1	52.3	51.9	52.0	50.4	61.0	62.6	61.0		
Mozambique	45.5	48.4	44.0	43.0	48.9	53.5	56.1	59.6	54.9	57.4	60.0	57.1	57.9	54.6	51.9	54.7	55.4	55.7	56.0	56.8	57.1	55.0	55.5	53.2	49.9	46.3	48.6	50.5	51.6	52.5	50.7	
Namibia	N/A	61.6	66.1	66.7	64.8	65.1	67.3	62.4	61.4	60.7	63.5	61.4	62.4	62.2	62.7	61.9	60.3	59.4	59.6	61.9	62.5	58.5	58.7	60.9	62.6	59.2	57.8	57.5				
Nepal	N/A	50.3	53.6	53.5	53.1	51.3	51.6	52.3	51.5	51.2	51.4	53.7	54.4	54.1	53.2	52.7	50.1	50.4	50.1	51.3	50.9	55.1	54.1	53.8	54.2	50.7	49.7	51.5	52.1			
Netherlands	N/A	69.7	70.4	69.2	70.2	70.4	73.0	75.1	74.6	74.5	72.9	75.5	77.0	75.0	74.7	73.3	73.5	74.2	73.7	74.6	75.8	76.2	76.8	77.0	76.8	79.5	78.0	77.3				
New Zealand	N/A	78.1	79.0	79.2	81.7	80.9	81.1	81.5	82.3	82.0	81.4	80.7	82.0	82.1	81.4	81.2	82.1	81.6	83.7	84.2	84.4	84.1	83.9	80.6	78.9	77.8						

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Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Nicaragua	42.5	54.1	53.3	53.8	54.0	56.9	58.0	61.1	62.6	61.4	62.5	63.8	62.7	60.8	59.8	58.3	58.8	57.9	56.6	58.4	57.6	58.6	59.2	57.7	56.3	54.8	54.9	53.4		
Niger	N/A	45.8	46.6	47.5	48.6	45.9	48.9	48.2	54.2	54.6	54.1	52.5	53.2	52.9	54.3	54.3	53.9	55.1	54.6	54.3	50.8	49.5	51.6	54.7	57.3	54.9	53.6	52.3		
Nigeria	47.3	47.4	52.8	52.5	55.7	53.1	49.6	50.9	49.5	49.2	48.4	48.7	55.6	55.1	55.1	56.8	56.7	56.3	55.1	54.3	55.6	57.5	57.3	57.2	58.7	54.7	53.9	53.1		
North Macedonia	N/A																													
Norway	N/A	65.4	65.1	68.0	68.6	70.1	67.1	67.4	67.2	66.2	64.5	67.9	67.0	68.6	70.2	69.4	70.3	68.8	70.5	70.9	71.8	70.8	74.0	74.3	73.0	73.4	73.4	76.9	77.5	
Oman	70.2	65.4	64.5	64.9	64.1	67.1	64.0	64.6	66.9	66.5	63.7	65.8	67.3	67.0	67.7	69.8	67.9	68.1	67.4	66.7	67.1	62.1	61.0	63.6	64.6	56.6	58.5	62.9		
Pakistan	57.6	58.4	56.0	55.2	53.0	56.4	56.0	55.8	55.0	54.9	53.3	57.9	57.2	55.6	57.0	55.2	55.1	54.7	55.1	55.2	55.6	55.9	52.8	54.4	55.0	54.8	51.7	48.8	49.4	49.5
Panama	71.6	71.8	72.4	72.6	72.6	71.6	70.6	68.5	68.4	65.3	64.3	65.6	64.6	64.7	64.8	64.9	64.7	62.5	63.4	64.1	64.8	65.3	67.0	67.2	66.2	65.4	63.8	64.1		
Papua New Guinea	N/A	58.6	56.7	55.2	56.3	55.8	57.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Paraguay	65.9	67.1	67.3	65.2	63.7	64.0	60.3	59.6	58.2	56.7	53.4	55.6	58.3	60.0	61.0	61.3	62.3	61.8	61.1	62.0	61.1	61.5	62.4	62.1	61.8	63.0	62.6	62.9	61.0	60.1
Peru	56.9	62.5	63.8	65.0	69.2	68.7	69.6	64.8	64.6	64.7	61.3	60.5	62.7	63.8	64.6	67.6	68.6	68.7	68.2	67.4	67.4	67.7	68.7	67.8	67.9	67.7	66.5	66.5	64.8	
Philippines	55.0	60.2	62.2	62.8	61.9	62.5	60.9	60.7	61.3	59.1	54.7	56.3	56.0	56.8	56.3	56.2	57.1	58.2	60.1	62.2	65.1	65.6	65.0	63.8	64.5	64.1	61.1	59.3	59.0	
Poland	50.7	57.8	56.8	58.2	59.6	60.0	61.8	65.0	61.8	58.7	59.6	59.3	58.1	60.3	60.3	63.2	64.1	64.2	66.0	67.0	68.6	69.3	68.3	67.8	69.1	69.7	68.7	67.7	66.0	
Portugal	62.4	64.5	63.6	65.0	65.6	66.0	64.9	64.9	64.9	62.4	62.9	64.0	63.9	64.9	64.4	64.0	63.9	65.0	65.1	63.1	63.5	65.3	65.1	62.6	63.4	65.3	67.0	70.8	69.5	68.7
Qatar	N/A																													
Romania	42.9	46.2	50.8	54.4	50.1	52.1	50.0	48.7	50.6	50.0	52.1	58.2	61.2	61.7	63.2	64.2	64.7	64.6	65.1	65.5	66.6	65.6	69.7	69.4	68.6	69.7	67.1	64.5	64.4	
Russia	51.1	51.6	48.6	52.8	54.5	51.8	49.8	48.7	50.8	52.8	51.3	52.4	52.2	49.8	50.8	50.3	50.5	50.5	51.1	51.9	52.1	50.6	57.1	58.2	58.9	61.0	61.5	56.1	53.8	52.0
Rwanda	N/A	38.3	39.1	39.8	42.3	45.4	50.4	47.8	53.3	51.7	52.8	52.4	54.2	59.1	62.7	64.9	64.1	64.7	64.8	63.1	67.6	69.1	71.1	70.9	68.3	57.1	52.2	51.6		
Saint Lucia	N/A																													
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Samoa	N/A	47.6	51.5	49.9	58.7	60.8	63.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
São Tomé and Príncipe	N/A																													
Saudi Arabia	N/A	68.3	68.7	69.3	65.5	66.5	62.2	65.3	63.0	60.4	63.0	60.9	62.5	64.3	64.1	66.2	62.5	60.6	62.2	62.1	64.4	59.6	60.7	62.4	66.0	55.5	58.3	61.9		
Senegal	N/A	58.2	58.1	59.7	60.6	58.9	58.7	58.6	58.1	58.9	57.9	56.2	58.1	58.3	56.3	54.6	55.7	55.4	55.5	54.7	58.1	55.9	55.7	56.3	58.0	58.0	57.7	55.4		
Serbia	N/A																													
Seychelles	N/A																													
Sierra Leone	49.8	52.3	45.0	47.7	47.2	44.2	N/A	N/A	42.2	43.6	44.8	45.2	47.0	48.3	47.8	47.9	49.6	49.1	48.3	50.5	51.7	52.3	52.6	51.8	47.5	48.0	51.7	52.0	44.6	
Singapore	86.3	86.5	87.3	87.0	86.9	87.7	87.8	87.4	88.2	88.9	88.6	88.0	87.1	87.3	87.1	86.1	87.2	87.5	88.0	89.4	87.8	88.8	89.4	89.4	89.7	84.4	83.9	83.5		
Slovakia	60.4	57.6	55.5	57.5	54.2	53.8	58.5	59.8	59.0	64.6	66.8	69.8	69.6	70.0	69.4	69.7	69.5	67.0	68.7	66.4	67.2	66.6	65.7	65.3	65.0	66.8	69.7	69.1		
Slovenia	N/A	50.4	55.6	60.7	61.3	58.3	61.8	57.8	57.7	59.2	59.6	60.2	62.9	64.7	64.6	62.9	62.7	60.3	60.6	59.2	64.8	53.3	56.7	54.0	53.6	54.0	53.5	61.5	60.5	
Solomon Islands	N/A																													
Somalia	N/A	25.6	63.2	64.3	63.3	63.7	63.8	64.0	67.1	66.3	62.9	63.7	63.4	63.8	62.8	62.7	62.7	61.8	62.5	62.6	61.9	62.3	63.0	58.3	58.8	59.7	56.2	55.3		
South Africa	60.7	62.5	63.2	64.3	63.3	63.7	63.8	64.0	67.1	66.3	64.0	67.1	66.3	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1		
Spain	62.8	59.6	62.6	65.1	65.9	68.1	68.8	68.8	67.0	68.2	69.2	68.0	67.2	69.1	70.1	69.6	70.2	69.1	68.0	67.2	67.6	68.5	63.6	65.1	65.7	66.9	69.2	65.0	63.3	
Sri Lanka	60.6	62.5	64.6	64.0	63.2	66.0	64.0	62.5	61.6	61.0	58.7	59.4	58.6	54.6	57.1	58.3	60.7	60.0	58.6	59.9	57.4	57.8	56.4	57.7	55.7	55.3	52.2	49.2		
Sudan	39.4	39.2	39.9	38.3	39.6	47.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Suriname	N/A	36.7	35.9	39.9	40.1	45.8	44.3	48.0	46.9	47.9	51.9	54.3	54.8	51.9	54.3	54.1	52.5	53.1	52.6	52.0	54.2	53.8	48.0	48.1	49.5	46.4	48.1	46.7		
Sweden	61.4	61.8	63.3	64.0	64.2	65.1	66.6	70.8	70.0	70.1	69.8	70.9	69.3	70.8	70.5	72.4	71.9	72.7	73.1	72.7	74.9	76.3	75.2	74.7	77.9	77.5	77.5			
Switzerland	N/A	76.8	78.6	79.0	79.1	76.8	76.0	79.3	79.0	79.5	78.9	78.0	79.5	79.4	81.1	81.9	81.0	80.5	81.0	81.5	81.7	82.0	83.9	84.2	83.8	83.0	N/A	N/A		
Syria	N/A	42.3	43.0	42.2	39.0	37.2	36.6	36.3	41.3	40.6	46.3	51.2	48.3	47.2	51.3	49.4	51.3	51.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

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Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024												
Taiwan	74.2	74.1	70.0	70.4	71.5	72.5	72.8	71.3	71.7	69.6	71.3	69.7	69.4	70.3	69.5	70.4	70.8	71.9	72.7	73.9	75.1	74.7	76.5	76.6	77.3	77.1	78.6	80.1	80.7	80.0												
Tajikistan	N/A	N/A	41.1	41.2	44.8	46.8	47.3	46.5	48.7	50.4	52.6	53.6	54.4	54.6	53.0	53.5	53.4	52.0	52.7	51.3	58.2	58.3	55.6	52.2	55.2	49.7	50.6	51.3														
Tanzania	57.3	57.5	59.3	59.6	60.0	56.0	54.9	58.3	56.9	60.1	56.3	58.5	56.8	58.3	58.3	57.0	57.0	57.9	57.8	57.5	58.5	58.6	59.9	60.2	61.7	61.3	59.5	60.0	59.1													
Thailand	71.3	71.0	66.1	67.3	66.9	66.6	68.9	69.1	65.8	63.7	62.5	63.3	63.5	62.3	63.0	64.1	64.7	64.9	64.1	63.3	62.4	63.9	66.2	67.1	68.3	69.4	69.7	63.2	60.6	59.0												
Timor-leste	N/A	50.5	45.8	42.8	43.7	43.2	45.5	45.8	46.3	48.1	44.2	45.9	44.7	46.3	47.2	50.2																										
Togo	N/A	48.2	46.8	47.0	48.2	47.3	49.7	48.9	48.7	47.1	49.1	48.3	48.8	49.9	53.0	53.6	53.2	47.8	50.3	54.1	57.5	57.2	55.3	50.9																		
Tonga	N/A	53.4	55.8	57.0	56.0	58.2	59.3	59.6	63.0	63.1	57.7	58.8	57.5	60.8	60.0	59.2																										
Trinidad and Tobago	N/A	69.2	71.3	72.0	72.4	74.5	71.8	70.1	68.8	71.3	71.5	70.4	70.6	69.5	68.0	65.7	66.5	64.4	62.3	62.7	64.1	62.9	61.2	57.7	57.0	58.3	59.0	58.8	59.5	60.4												
Tunisia	63.4	63.9	63.8	63.9	61.1	61.3	60.8	60.2	58.1	58.4	55.4	57.5	60.3	60.1	58.0	58.9	58.5	58.6	57.0	57.3	57.7	57.6	55.7	58.9	55.4	55.8	56.6	54.2	52.9	48.8												
Türkçe	58.4	56.7	60.8	60.9	59.2	63.4	60.6	54.2	51.9	52.8	50.6	57.0	57.4	59.9	61.6	63.8	64.2	62.5	62.9	64.9	63.2	62.1	65.2	65.4	64.6	64.4	64.0	56.9	56.9	56.2												
Turkmenistan	N/A	N/A	35.0	36.1	37.6	41.8	43.2	51.3	50.7	47.6	43.8	43.0	43.4	44.2	42.5	43.6	43.8	42.6	42.2	41.4	41.9	47.4	47.1	48.4	46.5	47.4	46.2	46.5	46.3													
Uganda	62.9	66.2	66.6	64.7	64.8	58.2	60.4	61.0	60.1	64.1	62.9	63.9	63.1	63.8	63.5	62.2	61.7	61.9	61.1	59.9	59.7	59.3	60.9	62.0	59.7	59.5	58.6	54.2	51.4	50.7												
Ukraine	39.9	40.6	43.5	40.4	43.7	47.8	48.5	48.2	51.1	53.7	55.8	54.4	51.5	51.0	48.8	46.4	45.8	46.1	46.3	49.3	46.9	46.8	48.1	51.9	52.3	54.9	56.2	54.1	N/A	N/A												
United Arab Emirates	N/A	71.6	71.9	72.2	71.5	74.2	74.9	73.6	73.4	67.2	65.2	62.2	62.6	64.7	67.3	67.8	69.3	71.1	71.4	72.4	72.6	76.9	77.6	77.6	76.2	76.9	70.2	70.9	71.1													
United Kingdom	77.9	76.4	76.4	76.5	76.2	77.3	77.6	78.5	77.5	77.2	80.4	79.9	79.4	79.0	76.5	74.5	74.1	74.8	74.9	75.8	76.4	76.4	78.0	78.9	79.3	78.4	72.7	69.9	68.6													
United States	76.7	76.7	75.6	75.4	75.5	76.4	79.1	78.4	78.2	78.7	79.9	81.2	81.0	80.7	78.0	77.8	76.3	76.0	75.5	76.2	75.4	75.1	75.7	76.8	76.6	74.8	72.1	70.6	70.1													
Uruguay	62.5	63.7	67.5	68.6	68.5	69.3	70.7	68.7	69.8	66.7	66.9	65.3	68.4	67.9	69.1	69.8	70.0	69.9	69.7	69.3	68.6	68.8	69.2	69.6	69.1	69.2	70.0	70.2	69.8													
Uzbekistan	N/A	N/A	31.5	33.8	38.1	38.2	38.5	39.1	45.8	48.7	51.5	51.9	50.5	47.5	45.8	46.0	45.8	46.0	52.3	51.5	53.3	57.2	58.3	55.7	56.5	55.9	55.9	55.9	55.9													
Vanuatu	N/A	58.4	56.4	56.7	56.6	56.6	59.5	61.1	60.8	67.4	69.5	64.4	60.7	60.5	62.9	62.1	62.2																									
Venezuela	59.8	54.5	52.8	54.0	56.1	57.4	54.6	54.7	54.8	46.7	45.2	44.6	47.9	44.7	39.9	37.1	37.6	38.1	36.1	36.3	34.3	33.7	27.0	25.2	25.9	25.2	24.7	24.8	25.8	28.1												
Vietnam	41.7	40.2	38.6	40.4	42.7	43.7	44.3	45.6	46.2	46.1	48.1	50.5	49.8	51.0	49.8	51.6	51.3	51.0	50.8	51.7	54.0	52.4	53.1	55.3	58.8	61.7	60.6	61.8	62.8													
Yemen	49.8	49.6	48.4	46.1	43.3	44.5	44.3	48.6	50.3	50.5	53.8	52.6	54.1	53.8	56.9	54.4	54.2	55.3	55.9	55.5	53.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A												
Zambia	55.1	59.6	62.1	62.7	64.2	62.8	59.5	55.3	54.9	55.0	56.8	56.2	56.6	58.0	59.7	58.3	58.7	60.4	58.7	58.8	54.3	53.6	53.3	50.4	48.7	47.7	48.4															
Zimbabwe	48.5	46.7	48.0	44.6	47.2	48.7	38.8	36.7	35.2	33.5	32.0	29.5	22.7	21.4	22.1	26.3	28.6	35.5	37.6	38.2	44.0	44.0	40.4	43.1	39.5	33.1	39.0	38.2														

# METHODOLOGY

The *Index of Economic Freedom* focuses on four key aspects of the economic and entrepreneurial environment:

- **Rule of law,**
- **Government size,**
- **Regulatory efficiency, and**
- **Market openness.**

In assessing conditions in these four categories, the *Index* measures 12 specific components of economic freedom, each of which is graded on a scale from 0 to 100. Scores on these 12 components of economic freedom are calculated from a number of sub-variables and then equally weighted and averaged to produce an overall economic freedom score for each economy.

The following sections explain the formulas and methodology used to compute the scores for each of the 12 components of economic freedom.

## RULE OF LAW

### Property Rights

The property rights component assesses the extent to which a country's legal framework allows individuals to acquire, hold, and utilize private property and the extent to which these rights are secured by applicable laws that the government enforces effectively. Relying on a mix of survey data and independent assessments, it provides a quantifiable measure of the degree to which a country's laws protect private property rights and the extent to which those laws are respected. It also assesses the level of state expropriation of private property. The more effective the legal protection of property is, the higher a country's score will be, and the greater the chances of government expropriation of property are, the lower a country's score will be.

The score for this component is derived by averaging scores for three equally weighted sub-factors:

- Risk of expropriation,
- Respect for intellectual property rights, and
- Quality of contract enforcement, property rights, and law enforcement.

Each sub-factor is converted to a scale of 0 to 100 using the following equation:

$$\text{Sub-factor Score}_i = 100 \times (\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}} - \text{Sub-factor}_i) / (\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}} - \text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}})^1$$

where  $\text{Sub-factor}_i$  represents the original data for country  $i$ ,  $\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}}$  and  $\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}}$  represent the upper and lower bounds for the corresponding data set, and  $\text{Sub-factor Score}_i$  represents the computed sub-factor score for country  $i$ .

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent available versions of the following sources in assessing property rights: Credendo, *Country Risk and Insights*; U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Global Innovation Policy Center, *International IP Index*; and World Bank, *Worldwide Governance Indicators*.

### Judicial Effectiveness

Properly functioning legal frameworks are essential for protecting the rights of all citizens against unlawful acts by others, including governments and powerful private parties. Judicial effectiveness requires efficient and fair judicial systems to ensure that laws are fully respected and appropriate legal actions are taken against violations.

The score for the judicial effectiveness component is derived by averaging scores for three equally weighted sub-factors:

- Judicial independence,
- Quality of the judicial process, and
- Perceptions of the quality of public services and the independence of the civil service.

Each sub-factor is converted to a scale of 0 to 100 using the following equation:

$$\text{Sub-factor Score}_i = 100 \times (\text{Sub-factor}_i - \text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}}) / (\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}} - \text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}})$$

where  $\text{Sub-factor}_i$  represents the original data for country  $i$ ,  $\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}}$  and  $\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}}$  represent the upper and lower bounds for the corresponding data set, and  $\text{Sub-factor Score}_i$  represents the computed sub-factor score for country  $i$ .

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent available versions of the following sources in assessing judicial effectiveness: Freedom House, *Freedom in the World*, and World Bank, *Worldwide Governance Indicators*.

### Government Integrity

Corruption erodes economic freedom by introducing insecurity and coercion into economic relations. Of greatest concern is the systemic corruption of government institutions and decision-making by such practices as bribery, extortion, nepotism, cronyism, patronage, embezzlement, and graft. The lack of government integrity that such practices cause reduces public trust and economic vitality by increasing the costs of economic activity.

The score for this component is derived by averaging scores for three equally weighted sub-factors:

- Perceptions of corruption,
- Bribery risk, and
- Control of corruption including “capture” of the state by elites and private interests.

Each sub-factor is converted to a scale of 0 to 100 using the following equation:

$$\text{Sub-factor Score}_i = 100 \times (\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}} - \text{Sub-factor}_i) / (\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}} - \text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}})^2$$

where  $\text{Sub-factor}_i$  represents the original data for country  $i$ ,  $\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}}$  and  $\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}}$  represent the upper and lower bounds for the corresponding data set, and  $\text{Sub-factor Score}_i$  represents the computed sub-factor score for country  $i$ .

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent versions of the following sources in assessing government integrity: Transparency International, *Corruption Perceptions Index*; TRACE International, *Trace Bribery Risk Matrix®*; and World Bank, *Worldwide Governance Indicators*.

## GOVERNMENT SIZE

### Tax Burden

Tax burden is a composite measure that reflects marginal tax rates on both personal and corporate income and the overall level of taxation (including direct and indirect taxes imposed by all levels of government) as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).

The component score is derived from three equally weighted quantitative sub-factors:

- The top marginal tax rate on individual income,
- The top marginal tax rate on corporate income, and
- The total tax burden as a percentage of GDP.

The equal weighting of these numerical variables allows a country to achieve a score as high as 67 based on two of the sub-factors even if it receives a score of zero on the third.

Tax burden scores are calculated with a quadratic cost function to reflect the diminishing revenue returns from very high rates of taxation. The data for each sub-factor are converted to a 100-point scale using the following equation:

$$\text{Tax Burden}_{ij} = 100 - \alpha (\text{Sub-factor}_{ij})^2$$

where  $\text{Tax Burden}_{ij}$  represents the tax burden in country  $i$  for Sub-factor  $j$ ;  $\text{Sub-factor}_{ij}$  represents the value (a percentage expressed on a scale of 0 to 100) in country  $i$  for Sub-factor  $j$ ; and  $\alpha$  is a coefficient set equal to 0.03. The minimum score for each sub-factor is zero, which is not represented in the printed equation but is used because it means that no single high tax burden will make the other two sub-factors irrelevant.

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent available data from the following sources for information on tax rates, in order of priority: KPMG International; Deloitte, *Tax Guides and Highlights*; International Monetary Fund, *Staff Country Report*, “Selected Issues and Statistical Appendix,” and *Staff Country Report*, “Article IV Consultation”; PricewaterhouseCoopers, *Worldwide Tax Summaries*; countries’ investment agencies; and other government authorities (embassy confirmations and/or the country’s treasury or tax authority).

For information on the tax burden as a percentage of GDP, the primary sources are World Bank, *World Development Indicators*; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development data; Eurostat, Government Finance Statistics; African Development Bank Group, *African Economic Outlook*; International Monetary Fund, *Government Finance Statistics (GFS)* database, *Staff Country Report*, “Selected Issues,” and *Staff Country Report*, “Article IV Consultation”; Asian Development Bank, *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific*; and United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America, *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

### Government Spending

The government spending component captures the burden imposed by government expenditures, which includes consumption by the state and all transfer payments related to various entitlement programs.

The *Index* does not identify an optimal level of government spending. The ideal level will vary from country to country, depending on factors that range from culture to geography to level of economic development. At some point, however, government spending becomes an unavoidable burden as growth in the public sector’s size and scope leads inevitably to misallocation of resources and loss of economic efficiency. As volumes of research have shown, excessive government spending that causes chronic budget deficits and the accumulation of public debt is one of the most serious drags on economic dynamism.

The *Index* methodology treats zero government spending as the benchmark. As a result, underdeveloped countries—especially those with little government capacity—may receive artificially high scores. However, such governments can provide few if any public goods and will probably receive low scores on some of the other components of economic freedom (such as property rights, financial freedom, and investment freedom) that measure aspects of government effectiveness.

Government spending has a major impact on economic freedom, but it is just one of many important components. The scale for scoring government spending is nonlinear, which means that spending that is close to zero is lightly penalized and spending that exceeds 30 percent of GDP leads to much worse scores in a quadratic fashion (for example, twice as much spending yields four times less freedom). Only extraordinarily high levels of government spending (for example, more than 58 percent of GDP) receive a score of zero.

The equation used to compute a country's government spending score is:

$$GE_i = 100 - \alpha (\text{Expenditures}_i)^2$$

where  $GE_i$  represents the government expenditure score in country  $i$ ;  $\text{Expenditures}_i$  represents the average total government spending at all levels as a percentage of GDP for the most recent three years; and  $\alpha$  is a coefficient to control for variation among scores (set at 0.03). The minimum component score is zero.

For most countries, the *Index* uses general government expenditure data for all levels of government, from national to local. In cases where data on general government spending are not available, data on central government expenditures are used.

For several countries—and especially for developing countries—statistics related to government spending as a percentage of GDP are subject to frequent revisions by such data sources as the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent versions of the following sources for information on government intervention in the economy, in order of priority: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development data; Eurostat data; African Development Bank Group, *African Economic Outlook*; International Monetary Fund, *Staff Country Report*, “Selected Issues and Statistical Appendix,” *Staff Country Report*, “Article IV Consultation,” and *World Economic Outlook* database; Asian Development Bank, *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific*; African Development Bank, *AfDB Statistics Pocketbook*; official government publications of each country; and United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America, *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

## Fiscal Health

Widening deficits and a growing debt burden, both of which are caused by poor government budget management, lead to the erosion of a country's overall fiscal health, and deteriorating fiscal health is associated with macroeconomic instability and economic uncertainty.

Debt is an accumulation of budget deficits over time. In theory, debt financing of public spending could contribute to productive investment and ultimately to economic growth. However, mounting public debt driven by persistent budget deficits—and especially by spending that merely boosts government consumption or transfer payments—often undermines overall productivity growth and leads ultimately to economic stagnation rather than growth.

The score for the fiscal health component is based on two sub-factors, which are weighted as follows in calculating the overall component score:

- Average deficits as a percentage of GDP for the most recent three years (80 percent of score)<sup>3</sup> and
- Debt as a percentage of GDP (20 percent of score).

The equation used to compute a country's fiscal health score is:

$$\text{Sub-factor Score}_i = 100 - \alpha (\text{Sub-factor}_i)^2$$

where  $\text{Sub-factor Score}_i$  represents the deficit or debt score in country  $i$ ;  $\text{Sub-factor}_i$  represents the factor value as a portion of GDP; and  $\alpha$  is a coefficient to control for variation among scores (set at 2 for deficit and 0.01 for debt). The minimum sub-factor score is zero.

For most countries, the *Index* uses general government deficit and debt data for all levels of government, from national to local. In cases where such general government data are not available, data on central government expenditures are used.

For several countries, particularly developing countries, statistics related to budget balance as a percentage of GDP are subject to frequent revisions by such data sources as the IMF.

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent available versions of the following sources for information on government intervention in the economy, in order of priority: International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook* database, *Staff Country Report*, “Selected Issues and Statistical Appendix,” and *Staff Country Report*, “Article IV Consultation”; Asian Development Bank, *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific*; African Development Bank, *AfDB Statistics Pocketbook*; and official government publications of each country.

## REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

### Business Freedom

The business freedom component measures the extent to which a country’s regulatory and infrastructure environments constrain the efficient operation of businesses. The quantitative score is derived from an array of factors that affect the ease of starting, operating, and closing a business.

The business freedom score for each country is a number between 0 and 100, with 100 indicating the freest business environment, and is based on four equally weighted sub-factors:

- Access to electricity,
- Business environment risk,
- Regulatory quality, and
- Women’s economic inclusion.

Except for the women’s economic inclusion variable, which is readily available in a scale of 0 to 100, each sub-factor is converted to a scale of 0 to 100 using the following equation:

$$\text{Sub-factor Score } i = 100 \times (\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}} - \text{Sub-factor}_i) / (\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}} - \text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}})^4$$

where Sub-factor<sub>i</sub> represents the original data for country *i*, Sub-factor<sub>Max</sub> and Sub-factor<sub>Min</sub> represent the upper and lower bounds for the corresponding data set, and Sub-factor Score *i* represents the computed sub-factor score for country *i*.

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent available versions of the following sources in determining business freedom scores: World Bank, *Worldwide Governance Indicators*; World Bank, *World Development Indicators*; Credendo, *Country Risk and Insights*; and World Bank, *Women, Business and the Law*.

### Labor Freedom

The labor freedom component is a quantitative measure that considers various aspects of the legal and regulatory framework of a country’s labor market, including regulations concerning minimum wages, associational rights, laws inhibiting layoffs, severance requirements, and measurable regulatory restraints on hiring and hours worked, in addition to the labor force participation rate and labor productivity as an indicative measure of employment opportunities in the labor market.

The score for the labor freedom component is based on nine equally weighted sub-factors:

- Minimum wage,
- Associational right,
- Paid annual leave,
- Notice period for redundancy dismissal,

- Severance pay for redundancy dismissal,
- Labor productivity,
- Labor force participation rate,
- Restrictions on overtime work, and
- Redundancy dismissal permitted by law.

In constructing the labor freedom score, the first seven of the nine sub-factors are converted to a scale of 0 to 100 based on the following equation:

$$\text{Sub-factor Score}_i = 50 \times (\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{average}} / \text{Sub-factor}_i)$$

where country  $i$  data are calculated relative to the world average and then multiplied by 50. The seven sub-factor scores are then averaged for each country, yielding a labor freedom score in comparison to scores for other countries.

For the existence of overtime restrictions, 100 is assigned to a country whose value is No, and 0 is assigned to a country whose value is Yes. For the question of redundancy dismissal permitted by law, 100 is assigned to a country whose value is Yes, and 0 is assigned to a country whose value is No.

The simple average of the converted values for the nine sub-factors is computed to obtain the country's overall labor freedom score.

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent data available from the following sources for data on labor freedom: World Bank, *Worldwide Governance Indicators*; World Bank, *World Development Indicators*; Freedom House, *Freedom in the World*; International Labour Organization, statistics and databases; and World Bank, Employing Workers project.

## Monetary Freedom

Monetary freedom combines a measure of inflation with an assessment of various government activities that distort prices. Price stability without microeconomic intervention is the ideal state for the free market.

The score for the monetary freedom component is based on two sub-factors:

- The weighted average rate of inflation for the most recent three years and
- A qualitative judgement about the extent of government manipulation of prices through direct controls or subsidies.

The weighted average rate of inflation for the most recent three years serves as the primary input into an equation that generates the base score for monetary freedom. The extent of price controls is then assessed as a penalty deduction of 0–20 points from the base score. The two equations used to convert rates of inflation into the final monetary freedom score are:

$$\text{Weighted Avg. Inflation}_i = \theta_1 \text{Inflation}_{it} + \theta_2 \text{Inflation}_{it-1} + \theta_3 \text{Inflation}_{it-2}$$

$$\text{Monetary Freedom}_i = 100 - \alpha \sqrt{\text{Weighted Avg. Inflation}_i} - \text{PC penalty}_i$$

where  $\theta_1$  through  $\theta_3$  (thetas 1–3) represent three numbers that sum to 1 and are exponentially smaller in sequence (in this case, values of 0.665, 0.245, and 0.090, respectively);  $\text{Inflation}_{it}$  is the absolute value of the annual rate of inflation in country  $i$  during year  $t$  as measured by the Consumer Price Index;  $\alpha$  represents a coefficient that stabilizes the variance of scores; and the price control (PC) penalty is an assigned value of 0–20 penalty points based on the extent of price controls.

The convex (square root) functional form was chosen to create separation among countries with low rates of inflation. A concave functional form would essentially treat all hyperinflations as equally bad, whether they were price increases of 100 percent annually or 100,000 percent annually, whereas the square root

provides much more gradation. The  $\alpha$  coefficient is set to equal 6.333, which converts a 10 percent inflation rate into a monetary freedom score of 80.0 and a 2 percent inflation rate into a score of 91.0.

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent versions of the following sources for data on monetary policy, in order of priority: International Monetary Fund, *International Financial Statistics Online*; International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook* database and *Staff Country Report*, “Article IV Consultation”; various World Bank country reports; various news and magazine articles; and official government publications of each country.

## OPEN MARKETS

### Trade Freedom

Trade freedom is a composite measure of the extent of tariff and nontariff barriers that affect imports and exports of goods and services. The trade freedom score is based on two inputs:

- The trade-weighted average tariff rate and
- A qualitative evaluation of nontariff barriers (NTBs).

Different imports entering a country can be (and often are) subject to different tariff rates. The weighted average tariff uses weights for each tariff based on the share of imports for each good. Weighted average tariffs are a purely quantitative measure and account for the calculation of the base trade freedom score using the following equation:

$$\text{Trade Freedom}_i = 100(\text{Tariff}_{\max} - \text{Tariff}_i)/(\text{Tariff}_{\max} - \text{Tariff}_{\min}) - \text{NTB}_i$$

where  $\text{Trade Freedom}_i$  represents the trade freedom in country  $i$ ;  $\text{Tariff}_{\max}$  and  $\text{Tariff}_{\min}$  represent the upper and lower bounds for tariff rates (%); and  $\text{Tariff}_i$  represents the weighted average tariff rate (%) in country  $i$ . The minimum tariff is naturally 0 percent, and the upper bound was set at 50 percent.

We determine the extent of NTBs in a country’s trade policy regime using both qualitative and quantitative information. Restrictive rules that hinder trade vary widely, and their overlapping and shifting nature makes their complexity hard to measure. The types of NTBs considered in our scoring include:

- **Quantity restrictions:** import quotas; export limitations; voluntary export restraints; import-export embargoes and bans; countertrade; etc.
- **Regulatory restrictions:** licensing; domestic content and mixing requirements; sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPSs); safety and industrial standards regulations; packaging, labeling, and trademark regulations; advertising and media regulations.
- **Customs restrictions:** advance deposit requirements; customs valuation procedures; customs classification procedures; customs clearance procedures.
- **Direct government intervention:** subsidies and other aid; government industrial policies; government-financed research and other technology policies; competition policies; government procurement policies; state trading, government monopolies, and exclusive franchises.
- In addition, where possible, we consider and report the number of nontariff measures in force as calculated by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Gathering tariff statistics to make a consistent cross-country comparison is a challenging task. Unlike data on inflation, for instance, some countries do not report their weighted average tariff rate or simple average tariff rate every year.

To preserve consistency in grading the trade freedom component, the *Index* uses a country’s most recently reported most favored nation (MFN)<sup>5</sup> trade-weighted average tariff rate from our primary source.

The most comprehensive and consistent information on MFN trade-weighted average tariff rates is published by the WTO. When the MFN trade-weighted average applied tariff rate is not available, the *Index*

uses the country's simple average of MFN tariff rates; when the country's simple average MFN tariff rate is not available, the weighted average or the simple average of applied tariff rates is used. In the very few cases for which tariff rates are not available from the WTO or the World Bank, data on international trade taxes or an estimated effective tariff rate are used.

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent versions of the following sources in determining scores for trade policy, in order of priority: World Trade Organization, *World Tariff Profiles*; World Bank, *World Development Indicators*; World Trade Organization, *Trade Policy Review*; Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, *National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers*; U.S. Department of Commerce, *Country Commercial Guide*; and official government publications of each country.

## Investment Freedom

In an economically free country, there would be no constraints on the flow of investment capital. Individuals and firms would be able to move their resources into and out of specific activities, both internally and across the country's borders, without restriction. Such an ideal country would receive a score of 100 on the *Index*'s investment freedom component.

In practice, however, most countries impose a variety of restrictions on investment. Some have different rules for foreign and domestic investment. Some restrict access to foreign exchange. Some impose restrictions on payments, transfers, and capital transactions. In some, certain industries are closed to foreign investment.

The *Index* evaluates a variety of regulatory restrictions that typically are imposed on investment. Points, as indicated below, are deducted from the ideal score of 100 for each of the restrictions in a country's investment regime. It is not necessary for a government to impose all of the listed restrictions at the maximum level to eliminate investment freedom. The scores for the few governments that impose so many restrictions that they total more than 100 points in deductions are set at zero.

## Investment Restrictions

### *National treatment of foreign investment*

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| • No national treatment; investment prescreened | 25 points deducted |
| • Some national treatment and some prescreening | 15 points deducted |
| • Some national treatment or prescreening       | 5 points deducted  |

### *Foreign investment code*

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • Burdensome bureaucracy and no transparency                                     | 20 points deducted |
| • Inefficient policy implementation and bureaucracy                              | 10 points deducted |
| • Some investment laws and practices nontransparent or inefficiently implemented | 5 points deducted  |

### *Restrictions on land ownership*

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| • All real estate purchases restricted          | 15 points deducted |
| • No foreign purchases of real estate           | 10 points deducted |
| • Some restrictions on purchases of real estate | 5 points deducted  |

### *Sectoral investment restrictions*

- |                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Multiple sectors restricted   | 20 points deducted |
| • Few sectors restricted        | 10 points deducted |
| • One or two sectors restricted | 5 points deducted  |

### *Expropriation of investments without fair compensation*

- |                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Common with no legal recourse   | 25 points deducted |
| • Common with some legal recourse | 15 points deducted |
| • Uncommon but does occur         | 5 points deducted  |

#### *Foreign exchange controls*

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| • No access by foreigners or residents    | 25 points deducted |
| • Access available but heavily restricted | 15 points deducted |
| • Access available with few restrictions  | 5 points deducted  |

#### *Capital controls*

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • No repatriation of profits; all transactions require government approval                   | 25 points deducted |
| • Inward and outward capital movements require approval and are subject to some restrictions | 15 points deducted |
| • Most transfers approved with some restrictions   | 5 points deducted  |

As many as 20 additional points may be deducted for security problems, a lack of basic investment infrastructure, or other government policies that inject a considerable degree of uncertainty and indirectly burden the investment process and limit investment freedom.

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent versions of the following sources for data on capital flows and foreign investment, in order of priority: official government publications of each country; U.S. Department of State, *Investment Climate Statements*; Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, *National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers*; World Bank, *Investing Across Borders*; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Services Trade Restrictiveness Index*; and U.S. Department of Commerce, *Country Commercial Guide*.

## Financial Freedom

Financial freedom is both an indicator of banking efficiency and a measure of independence from government control and interference in the financial sector. State ownership of banks and other financial institutions such as insurers and capital markets reduces competition and generally lowers the level of access to credit.

In an ideal banking and financing environment characterized by a minimum level of government interference, independent central bank supervision and regulation of financial institutions are limited to enforcing contractual obligations and preventing fraud; credit is allocated on market terms; the government does not own financial institutions; financial institutions provide various types of financial services to individuals and companies; banks are free to extend credit, accept deposits, and conduct operations in foreign currencies; and foreign financial institutions operate freely and are treated the same as domestic institutions.

To assess the overall level of financial freedom that ensures easy and effective access to financing opportunities for people and businesses in a country's economy, the *Index* takes account of five broad areas:

- The extent of government regulation of financial services,
- The degree of state intervention in banks and other financial firms through direct and indirect ownership,
- Government influence on the allocation of credit,
- The extent of financial and capital market development, and
- Openness to foreign competition.

Based on this assessment, an economy receives an overall financial freedom score on a scale of 0 to 100 according to the following criteria:

- **100—No government interference.** Government oversight is limited solely to the enforcement of contractual obligations and prevention of fraud.
- **90—Minimal government interference.** Regulation of financial institutions is minimal but may extend beyond the enforcement of contractual obligations and prevention of fraud to capitalization or reserve requirements.

- **80—Nominal government interference.** Government ownership of financial institutions represents a small share of overall sector assets. Financial institutions face almost no restrictions on their ability to offer financial services.
- **70—Limited government interference.** The government influences the allocation of credit, but private allocation of credit is subject to almost no restrictions. Government ownership of financial institutions is sizeable. Foreign financial institutions are subject to few restrictions.
- **60—Moderate government interference.** Banking and financial regulations are somewhat burdensome. The government exercises ownership and control of financial institutions with a significant share of overall sector assets. The ability of financial institutions to offer financial services is subject to some restrictions.
- **50—Considerable government interference.** The government significantly influences the allocation of credit, and private allocation of credit faces significant barriers. The ability of financial institutions to offer financial services is subject to significant restrictions. Foreign financial institutions are subject to some restrictions.
- **40—Strong government interference.** The central bank is subject to government influence, its supervision of financial institutions is heavy-handed, and its ability to enforce contracts and prevent fraud is weak. The government exercises active ownership and control of financial institutions with a large minority share of overall sector assets.
- **30—Extensive government interference.** The government influences the allocation of credit extensively. The government owns or controls a majority of financial institutions or is in a dominant position. Financial institutions are heavily restricted, and bank formation faces significant barriers. Foreign financial institutions are subject to significant restrictions.
- **20—Heavy government interference.** The central bank is not independent, and its supervision of financial institutions is repressive. Foreign financial institutions are discouraged or highly constrained.
- **10—Near-repressive.** The government controls the allocation of credit. Bank formation is restricted. Foreign financial institutions are prohibited.
- **0—Repressive.** Supervision and regulation are designed to prevent private financial institutions from functioning. Private financial institutions are nonexistent.

**Sources.** The *Index* relies on the most recent versions of the following sources for data on banking and finance, in order of priority: International Monetary Fund, *Staff Country Report*, “Selected Issues,” and *Staff Country Report*, “Article IV Consultation”; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Economic Surveys*; official government publications of each country; U.S. Department of Commerce, *Country Commercial Guide*; Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, *National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers*; U.S. Department of State, *Investment Climate Statements*; World Bank, *World Development Indicators*; and various news and magazine articles on banking and finance.

## GENERAL METHODOLOGICAL PARAMETERS

**Period of Study.** Scores for the 2024 *Index of Economic Freedom* are generally based on data for the period covering the second half of 2022 through the first half of 2023. To the extent possible, the information considered for each variable was current as of June 30, 2023. It should be noted, however, that some component scores are based on historical information. For example, the monetary freedom component uses a three-year weighted average rate of inflation from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2022.

**Equal Weight.** In the *Index of Economic Freedom*, the 12 components of economic freedom are weighted equally so that the overall score will not be biased in favor of any one component or policy direction. The 12 economic freedoms obviously interact, but the exact mechanisms of this interaction are not clearly definable: Is a minimum threshold for each one essential? Is it possible for one to maximize if others are minimized? Are they dependent or exclusive, complementary or supplementary?

These questions, while valid, are beyond the scope of our fundamental mission. The *Index of Economic Freedom* is designed to reflect the economic and entrepreneurial environment in every country studied in

as balanced a way as possible, not specifically to explain economic growth or any other dependent variable; that is ably done by researchers elsewhere. The raw data for each component are provided so that others can study, weight, and integrate as they see fit.

**Most Recent Available Information.** By analyzing economic freedom annually, the *Index* can include the most recent information as it becomes available country by country. Using a data cutoff date ensures that all countries are treated fairly. As described above, each year's *Index* considers all information as of the last day of June of the previous year (in this case, June 30, 2023). Any new legislative changes or policy actions that take effect after that date have no positive or negative impact on scores or rankings.<sup>6</sup>

## DEFINING THE COUNTRY PAGES' "QUICK FACTS"

The "Quick Facts" section of each country page is a statistical profile that includes the country's principal economic and demographic indicators. To facilitate comparisons among countries, the GDP and GDP per capita figures in the "Quick Facts" section are adjusted to reflect purchasing power parity (PPP). Caution should be used in interpreting changes in these figures over time because PPP conversion rates are subject to regular revision by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. To provide accurate estimates of annual and five-year GDP growth rates, these figures have been calculated using constant U.S. dollars for the most recent available years.

Exact definitions and sources for each category of data reported are as follows:

**Population:** 2022 data from World Bank, *World Development Indicators* database midyear estimates, which count all residents regardless of legal status or citizenship. In some cases, other sources include the country's statistical agency and/or central bank.

**GDP:** Gross domestic product (total production of goods and services) adjusted to reflect PPP. The primary source is International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook* database, October 2023. Other sources include a country's statistical agency and/or central bank.

**GDP growth rate:** Annual percentage growth rate of real GDP derived from constant currency units. Annual percentage changes are year over year. The primary source is International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook* database, October 2023. Secondary sources include U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook 2022*, and a country's statistical agency and/or central bank.

**GDP five-year average annual growth:** Average growth rate measured over a specified period of time. The five-year annual growth rate is measured using data from 2018 through 2022 based on real GDP growth rates. The primary source is International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook* database, October 2023. Secondary sources are U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook 2022*, and a country's statistical agency and/or central bank.

**GDP per capita:** Gross domestic product (adjusted for PPP) divided by total population. The sources for these data are International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook* database, October 2023; U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook 2023*; and a country's statistical agency and/or central bank.

**Unemployment rate:** A measure of the portion of the workforce that is not employed but is actively seeking work. Data are from International Labour Organization, *World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2023*.

**Inflation:** Annual percentage change in consumer prices as measured for 2022 (or the most recent available year). The primary source for 2022 data is International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook* database, October 2023. The secondary source is a country's statistical agency and/or central bank.

**Foreign direct investment (FDI) inward flow:** Total annual inward flow of FDI in current 2020 U.S. dollars, reported in millions. FDI flows are defined as investments that acquire a lasting management interest (10 percent or more of voting stock) in a local enterprise by an investor operating in another country. Such investment is the sum of equity capital, reinvestment of earnings, other long-term capital, and short-term capital as shown in the balance of payments and both short-term and long-term international loans. Data are from United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *World Investment Report 2023: International Tax Reforms and Sustainable Investment*.

**Public debt:** Gross government debt as a percentage of GDP, which indicates the cumulative total of all government borrowings less repayments that are denominated in a country's currency. Public debt is different from external debt, which reflects the foreign currency liabilities of both the private and public sectors and must be financed out of foreign exchange earnings. The primary sources for 2022 data are the International Monetary Fund and the IMF DataMapper.

## COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS

**EU:** European Union, founded in 1963 and self-described as “a unique economic and political union between 27 European countries.”<sup>7</sup> Its 27 member countries currently include Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden. (The United Kingdom completed its withdrawal from the EU on January 31, 2020.)

**IMF:** International Monetary Fund, established in 1945 and self-described as “an organization of 190 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.”<sup>8</sup>

**WTO:** World Trade Organization, founded in 1995 and self-described as “the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.”<sup>9</sup> Specifically, it “is an organization for trade opening,” “is a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements,” “is a place for them to settle trade disputes,” “operates a system of trade rules,” and “[e]ssentially...is a place where member governments try to sort out the trade problems they face with each other.” As of the time this edition of the *Index* was being prepared, the WTO included 164 member economies.<sup>10</sup>

## ENDNOTES

1. The following equation is used where values of sub-factor data are ranked in ascending order: Sub-factor Score  $i = 100 \times (\text{Sub-factor}_i - \text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}}) / (\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}} - \text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}})$ .
2. The following equation is used where values of sub-factor data are ranked in ascending order: Sub-factor Score  $i = 100 \times (\text{Sub-factor}_i - \text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}}) / (\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}} - \text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}})$ .
3. The maximum sub-factor score of 100 is assigned to balanced budgets or budget surpluses.
4. The following equation is used where values of sub-factor data are ranked in ascending order: Sub-factor Score  $i = 100 \times (\text{Sub-factor}_i - \text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}}) / (\text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Max}} - \text{Sub-factor}_{\text{Min}})$ .
5. Known since 1998 as permanent normal trade relations (PNTR).
6. Because the *Index* is published several months after the cutoff date for evaluation, more recent events cannot be factored into the scores. As in past editions, however, such events may be noted in the text. The impact of policy changes and macroeconomic statistics available in the second half of 2022 has not affected the rankings for the 2023 *Index* but almost certainly will affect scores in the next edition.
7. European Commission, *The European Union: What It Is and What It Does* (Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2022), p. 7, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ac0a88a6-4369-11ea-b81b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/> (accessed January 4, 2024).
8. International Monetary Fund, “IMF Country Information,” <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries> (accessed January 4, 2024). This source also includes a list of the IMF’s 190 member countries.
9. World Trade Organization, “What Is the WTO?” [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/whatis\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/whatis_e.htm) (accessed January 4, 2024).
10. For a list of the WTO’s 164 member countries, see World Trade Organization, “Members and Observers,” [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/tif\\_e/org6\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/org6_e.htm) (accessed January 4, 2024).



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