



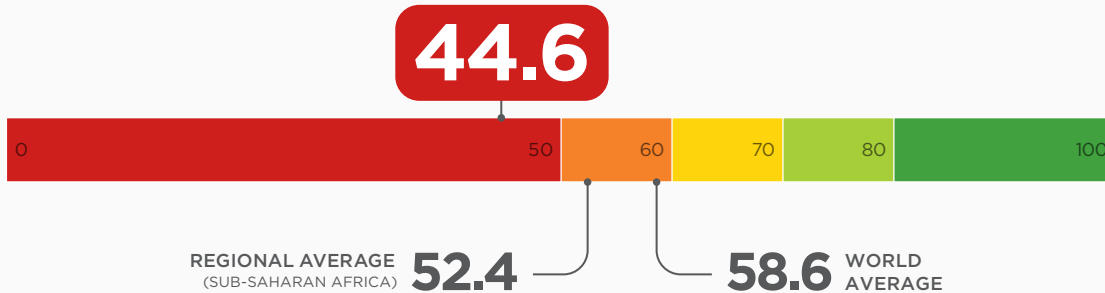
WORLD RANK: **163** | REGIONAL RANK: **41**
 ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSED**

SIERRA LEONE

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*.

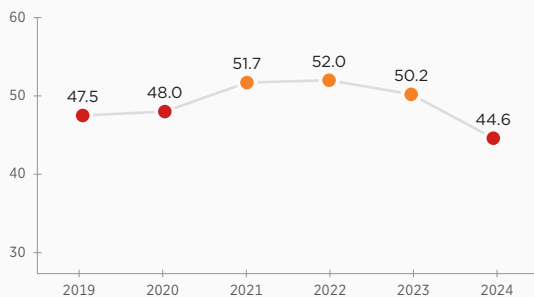
Sierra Leone is improving its legal and physical infrastructure, but the foundations of economic freedom remain beset by structural and institutional problems. The rule of law is weak, and corruption continues to deter private-sector development. Inefficient regulatory enforcement impedes expansion and 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%

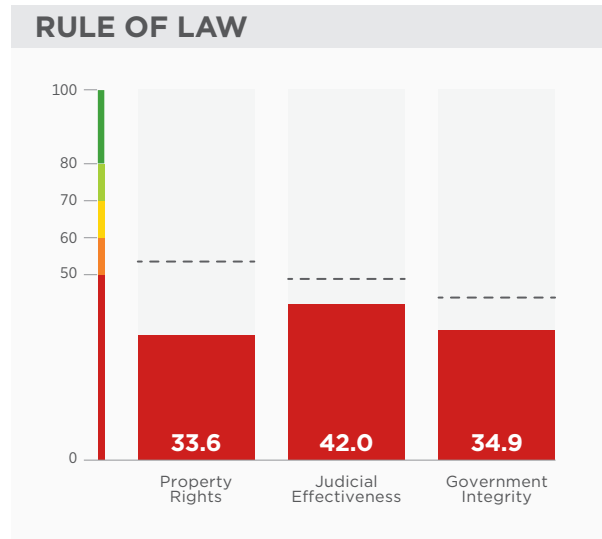
INFLATION (CPI):
27.2%

FDI INFLOW:
\$250.0 million

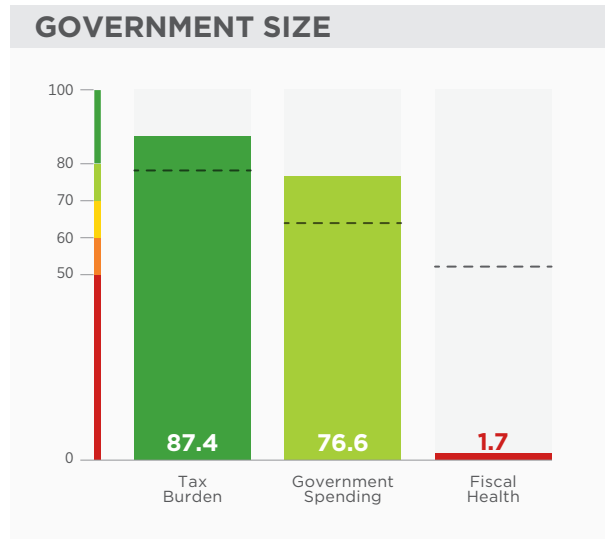
PUBLIC DEBT:
95.8% of GDP

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

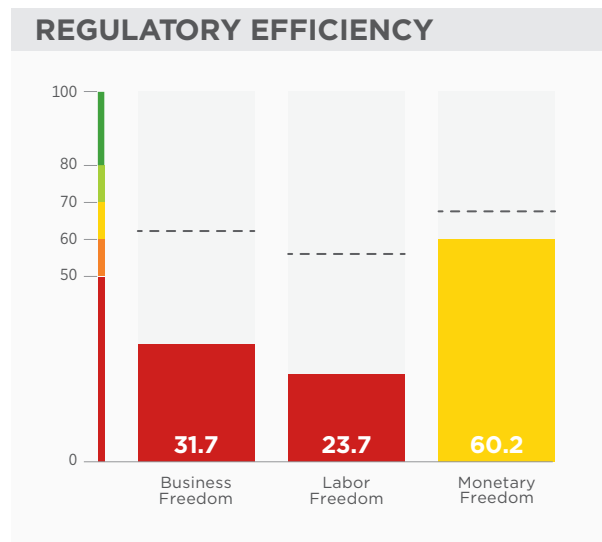
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SIERRA LEONE



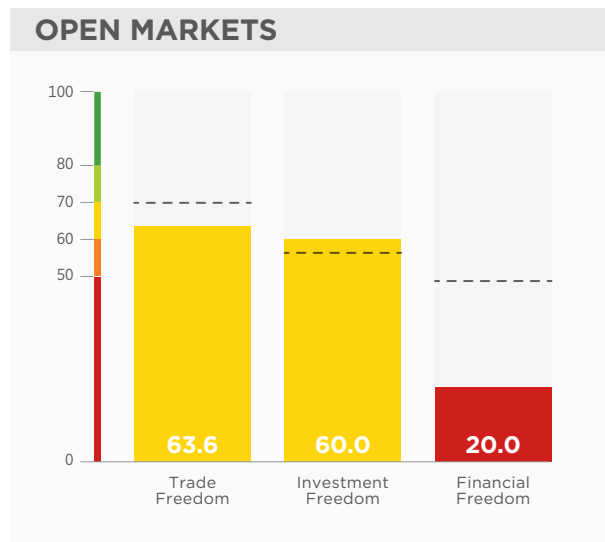
The overall rule of law is weak in Sierra Leone. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



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.



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.



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.