WORLD RANK: **153** | REGIONAL RANK: **36**

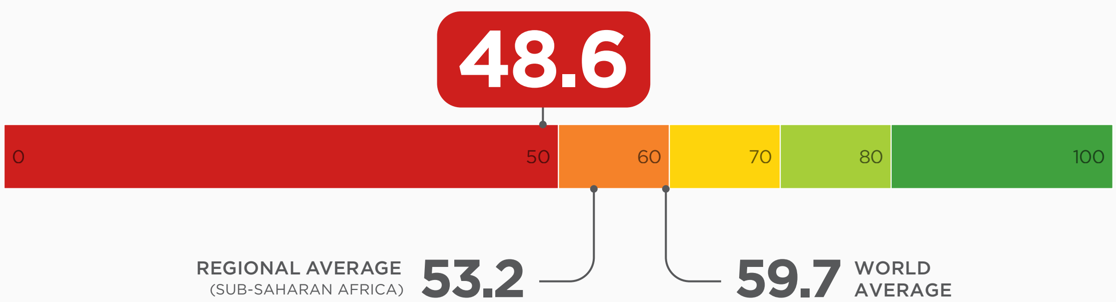
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSED**

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Republic of the Congo's economic freedom score is 48.6, making its economy the 153rd freest in the 2025 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.8 point from last year, and Congo 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. The Republic of the Congo's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2025 *Index*.

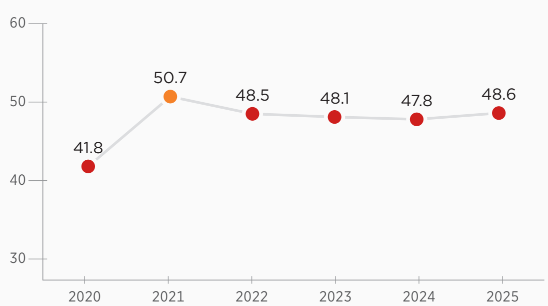
Economic freedom remains fragile in Congo because of repressive governance that is exacerbated by the weak rule of law. The judiciary's weakness fuels corruption, and state control is extensive. Political instability and the slow pace of reform have left the nation's institutional capacity inadequate. 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.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL *INDEX* SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +8.3

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
6.1 million

GDP (PPP):
$38.4 billion
2.0% growth in 2023
3-year average growth rate: 1.6%
$6,252 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
20.1%

INFLATION (CPI):
4.3%

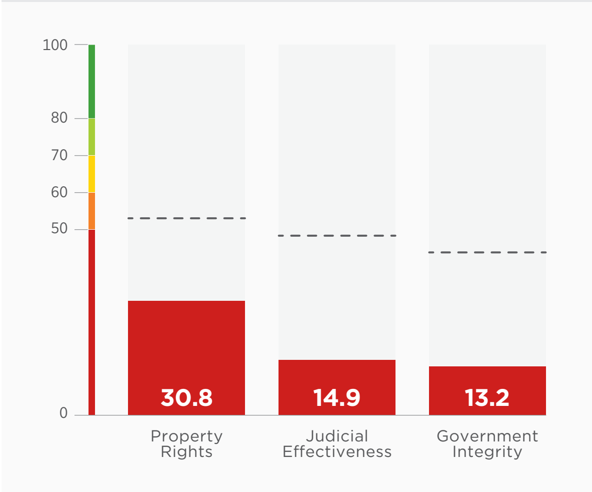
FDI INFLOW:
$532.0 million

PUBLIC DEBT:
99.0% of GDP

2023 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of November 2024.

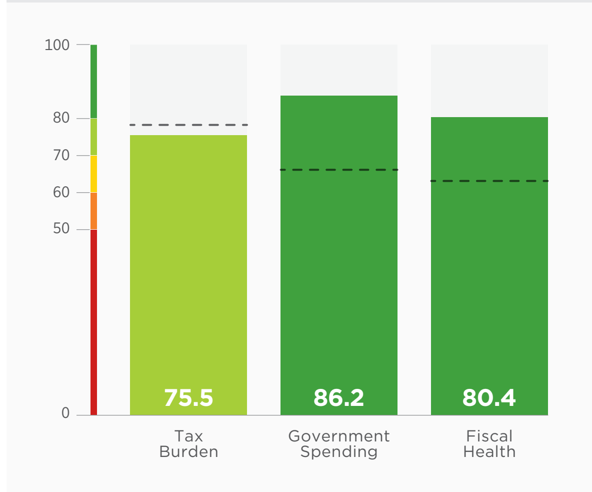
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | REPUBLIC OF CONGO

RULE OF LAW



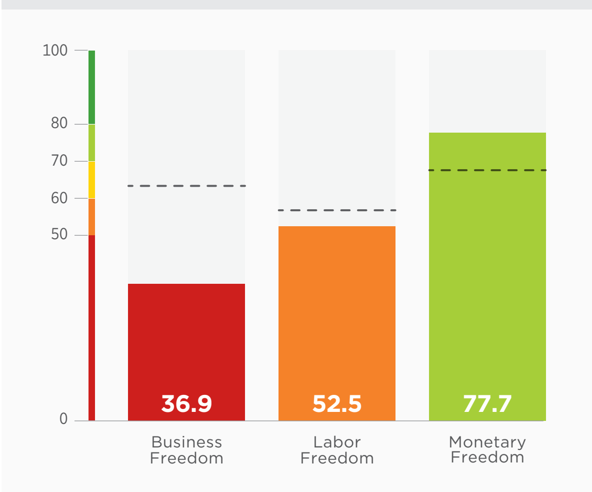
The overall rule of law is weak in the Republic of the Congo. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

GOVERNMENT SIZE



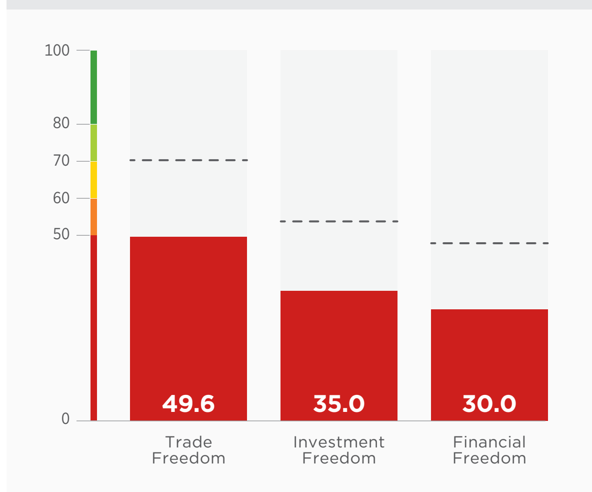
The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 28 percent. The tax burden equals 7.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 21.5 percent and 5.5 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 99.0 percent of GDP.

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.