WORLD RANK: **159** | REGIONAL RANK: **40**

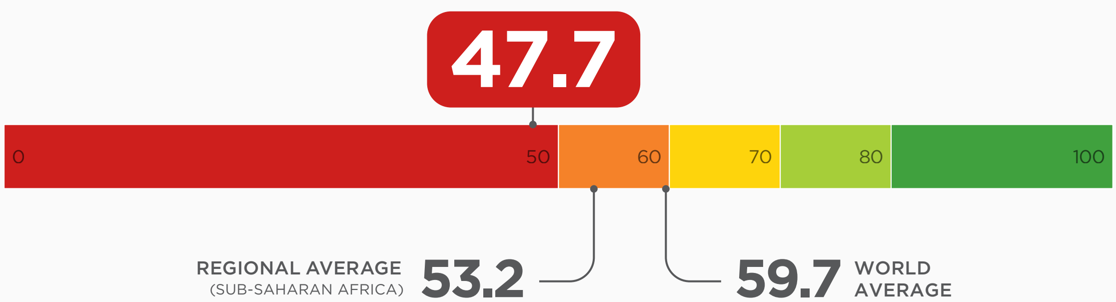
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSED**

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Equatorial Guinea's economic freedom score is 47.7, making its economy the 159th freest in the 2025 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is unchanged from last year, and Equatorial Guinea 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. Equatorial Guinea's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2025 *Index*.

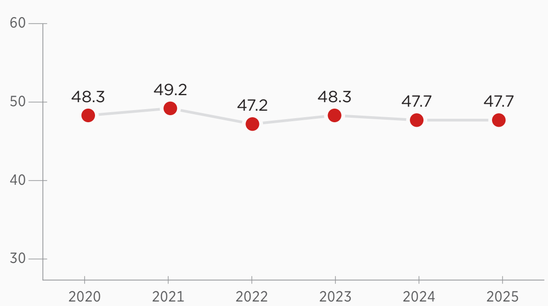
Persistent institutional weaknesses impede the emergence of a vibrant private sector. Improving the investment and business climate to generate more broadly based economic expansion remains a priority. Despite some progress, administrative procedures are cumbersome, and the costs of complying with licensing requirements are relatively high. 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:
1.5 million

GDP (PPP):
$31.9 billion
−6.2% growth in 2023
3-year average growth rate: −0.6%
$20,676 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
8.7%

INFLATION (CPI):
2.5%

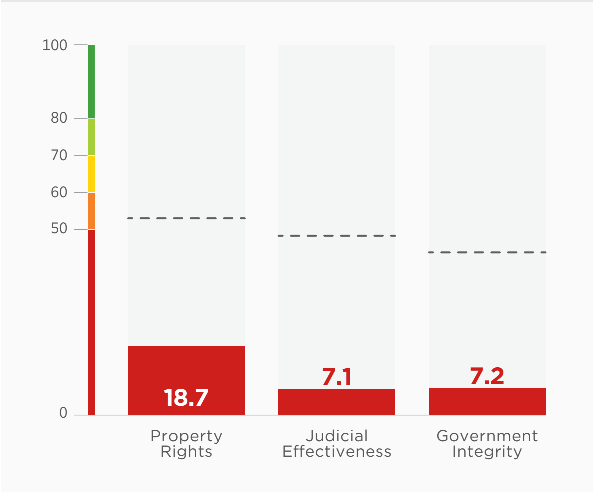
FDI INFLOW:
$459.0 million

PUBLIC DEBT:
37.4% of GDP

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

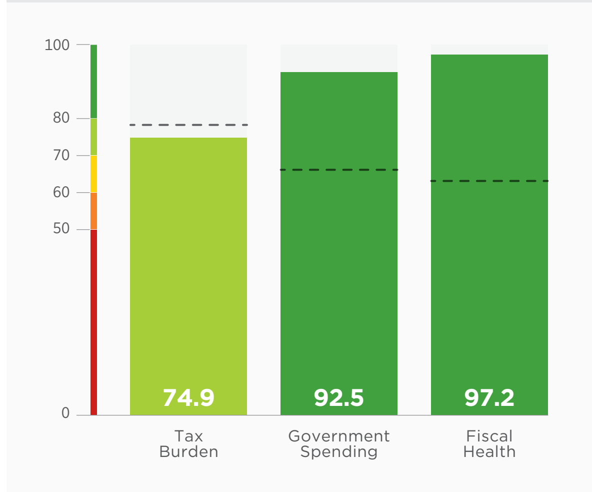
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | EQUATORIAL GUINEA

RULE OF LAW



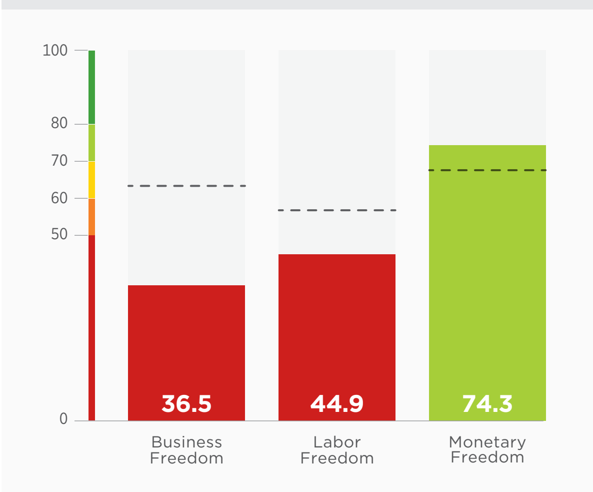
The overall rule of law is weak in Equatorial Guinea. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.

GOVERNMENT SIZE



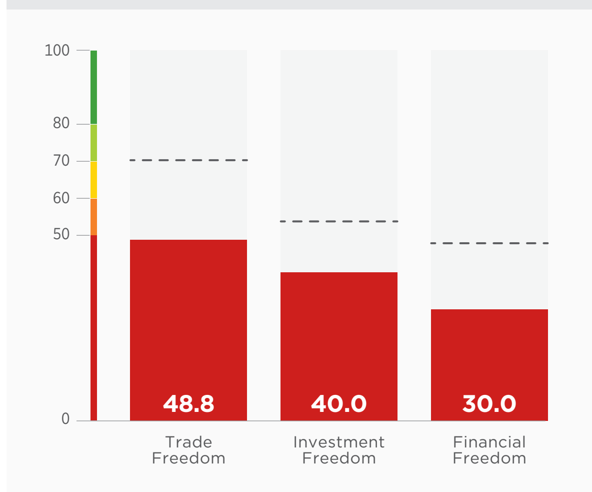
The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 7.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 15.9 percent and 5.7 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 37.4 percent of GDP.

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.