



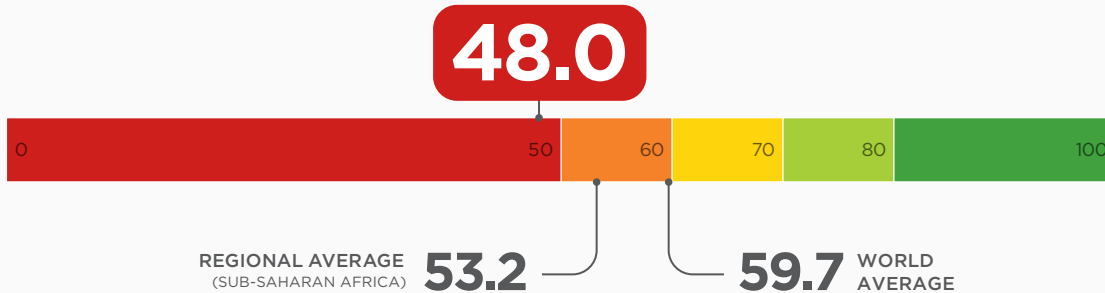
WORLD RANK: **157** | REGIONAL RANK: **39**
 ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSED**

SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone’s economic freedom score is 48.0, making its economy the 157th freest in the 2025 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 3.4 points from last year, and Sierra Leone 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. Sierra Leone’s economy is considered “repressed” according to the 2025 *Index*.

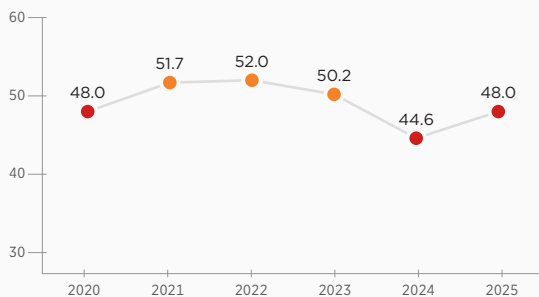
Sierra Leone is improving its legal and physical infrastructure, but multiple legislative, structural, institutional, and regulatory challenges threaten what otherwise could be the foundations of economic freedom. The rule of law is weak, and corruption continues to deter private-sector development. Inefficient regulatory enforcement impedes expansion and diversification of the productive base. 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): -1.8

RECENT FREEDOM TREND

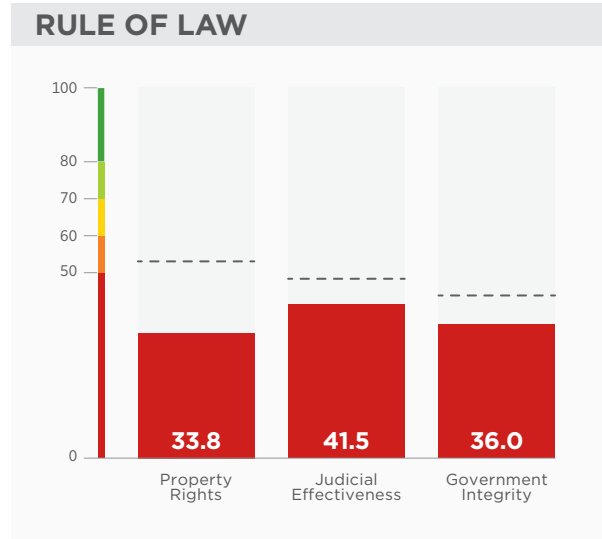


QUICK FACTS

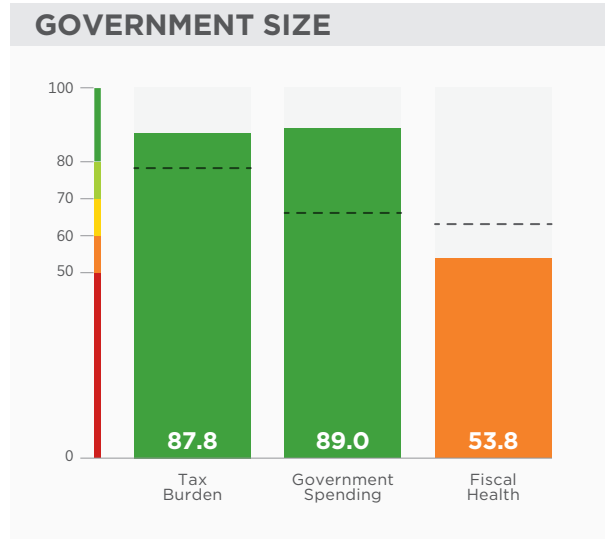
POPULATION: 8.5 million	UNEMPLOYMENT: 3.2%
GDP (PPP): \$28.5 billion 5.7% growth in 2023 3-year average growth rate: 5.6% \$3,360 per capita	INFLATION (CPI): 47.7%
	FDI INFLOW: \$250.0 million
	PUBLIC DEBT: 49.2% of GDP

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

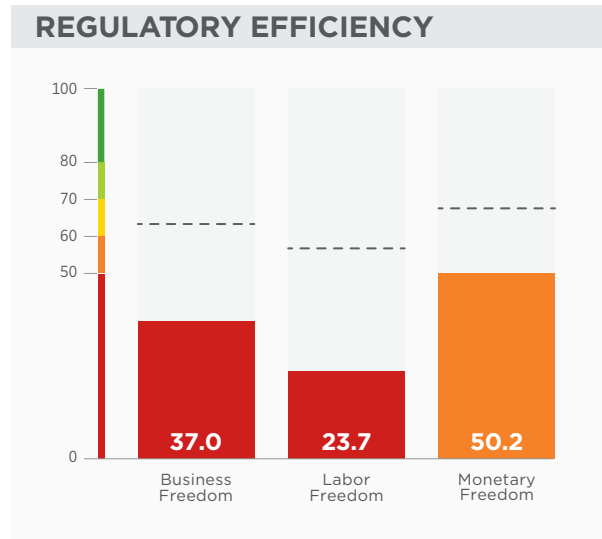
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SIERRA LEONE



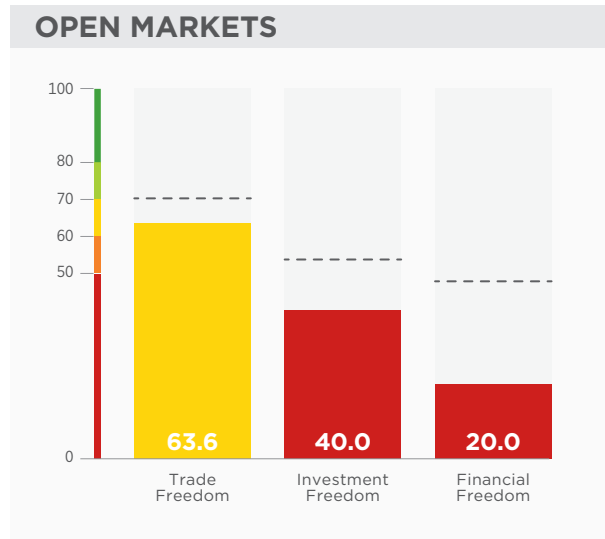
The overall rule of law is weak in Sierra Leone. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 15 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 9.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 19.2 percent and -5.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 49.2 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 well 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 most bank assets.