



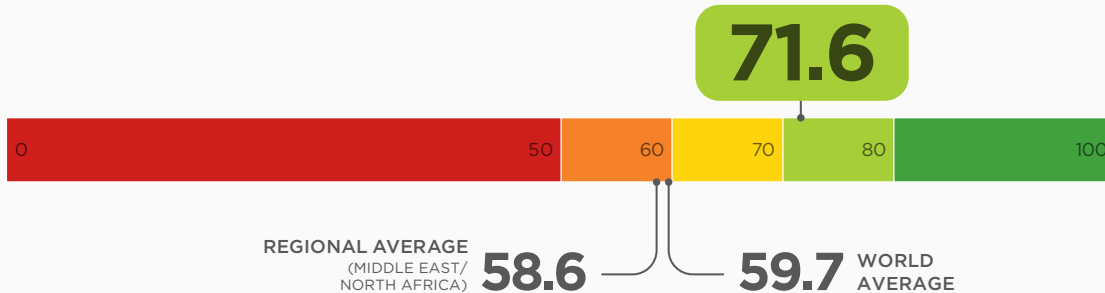
WORLD RANK:	REGIONAL RANK:
<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>MOSTLY FREE</b>	

# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The United Arab Emirates' economic freedom score is 71.6, making its economy the 23rd freest in the 2025 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.5 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 2025 *Index*.

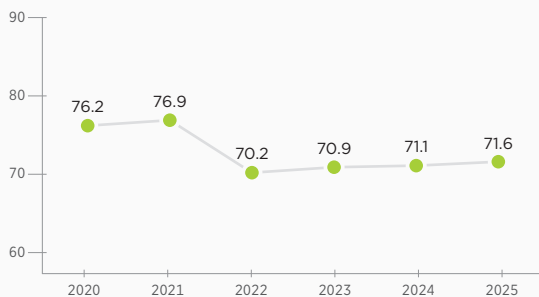
Economic development is underpinned by efforts to strengthen the business climate, boost investment, and cultivate a more vibrant private sector. The generally open trade regime sustains momentum for growth. The modern financial sector is competitive. No minimum capital is required to establish a business, 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.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): 0 (NO CHANGE)

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
10.7 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$797.9 billion  
3.6% growth in 2023  
3-year average growth rate: 5.2%  
\$74,714 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
2.7%

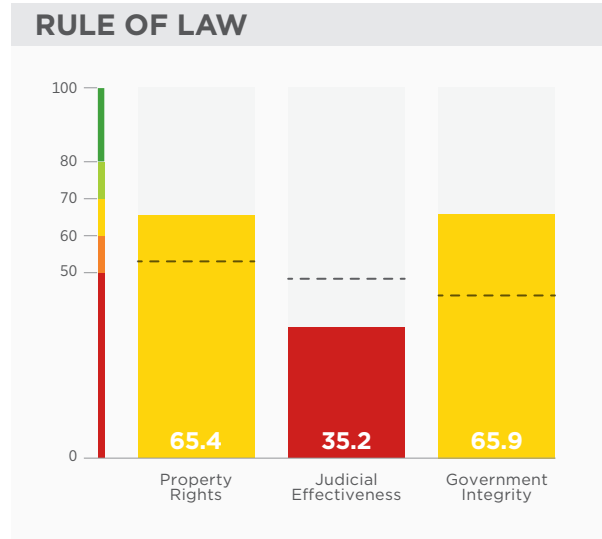
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
1.6%

**FDI INFLOW:**  
\$22.7 billion

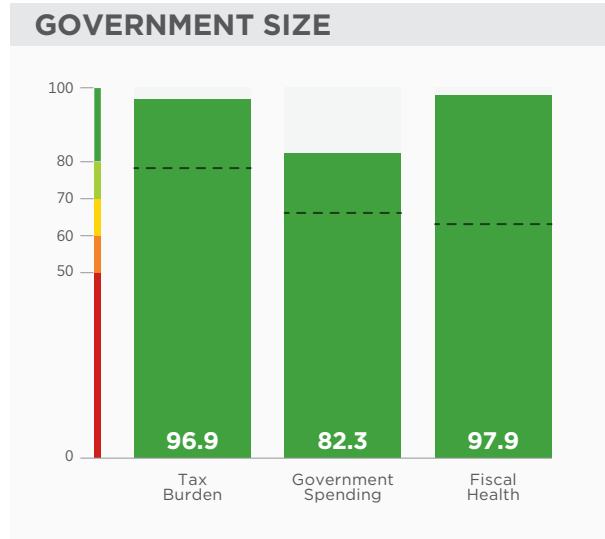
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
32.4% of GDP

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

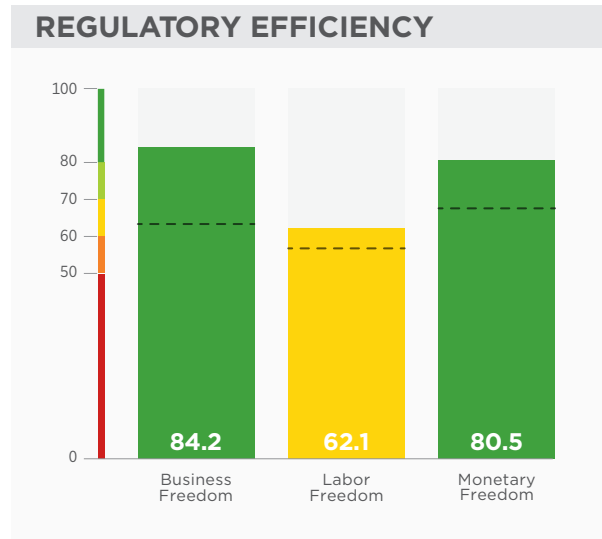
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



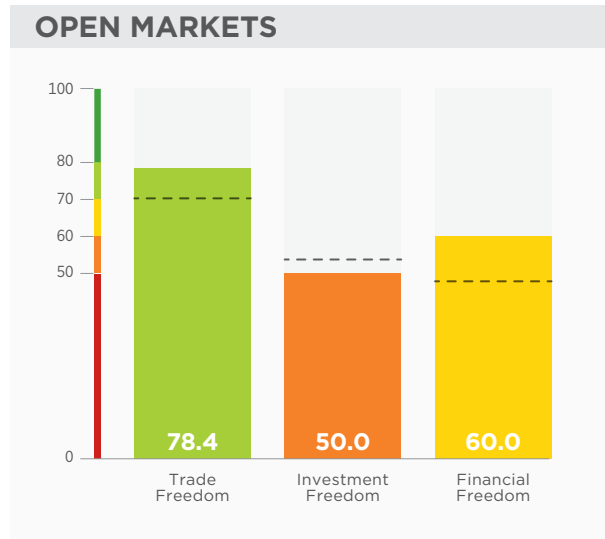
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in the United Arab Emirates. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 0 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 0 percent. The tax burden equals 17.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 24.3 percent and 6.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 32.4 percent of GDP.



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.



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.