

BENIN

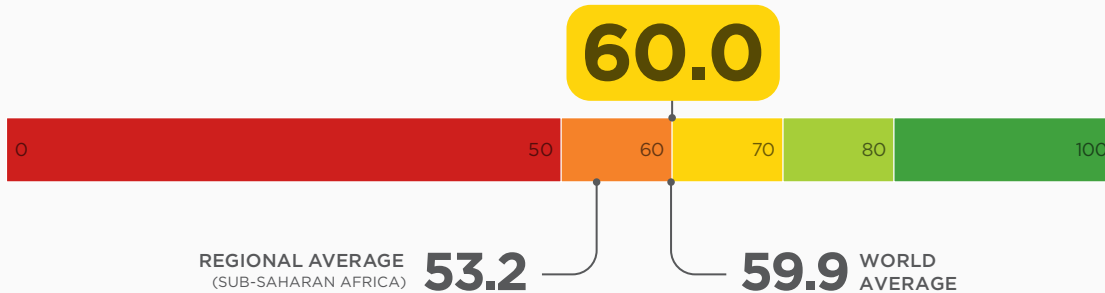
WORLD RANK: **88** | REGIONAL RANK: **7**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **MODERATELY FREE**

Benin's economic freedom score is 60, making its economy the 88th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.5 points from last year, and Benin is ranked 7th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Benin's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2026 *Index*.

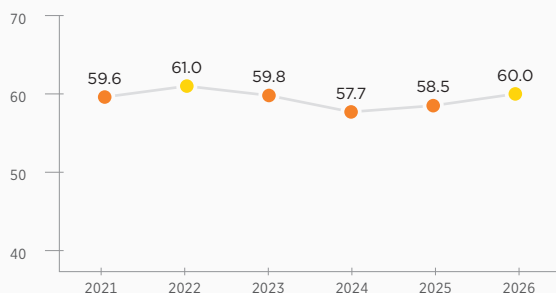
The lack of political momentum continues to impede necessary reform. The most visible constraints on private-sector development are related to the weak rule of law. Bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption affect much of the economy and undermine the foundations of economic freedom. Efforts to increase power generation capacity are intended partly to stimulate economic growth. Expansion of the privately managed port of Cotonou, which accounts for approximately 60 percent of GDP, could encourage growth by increasing port services to regional neighbors.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +5.5

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
13.7 million

GDP (PPP):
\$64.2 billion
7.0% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: 6.9%
\$4,719 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
1.8%

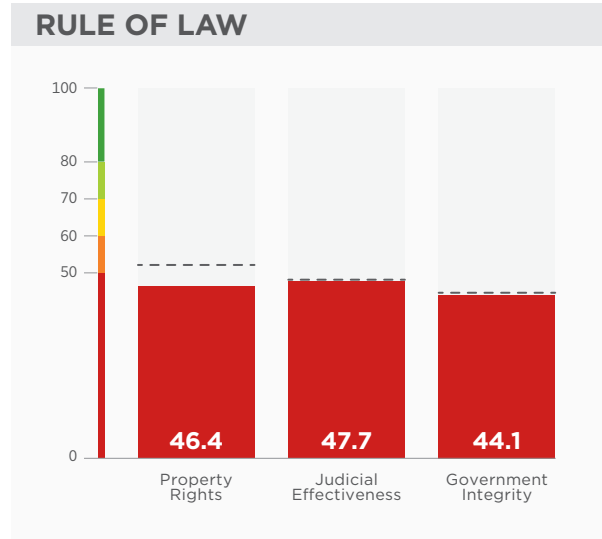
INFLATION (CPI):
1.2%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 40.6%

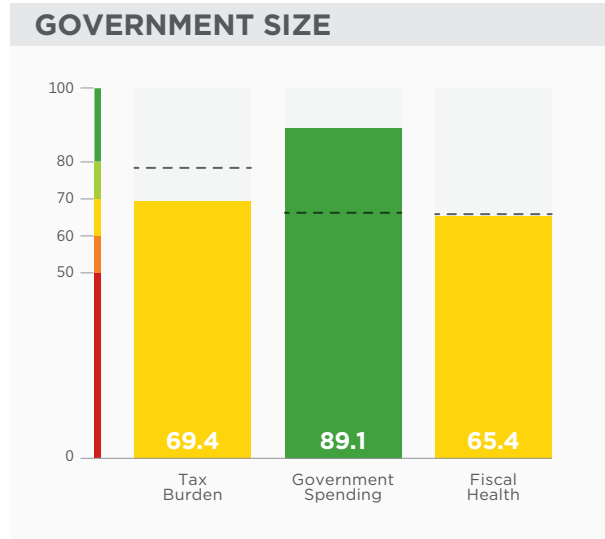
PUBLIC DEBT:
53.4% of GDP

2025 data unless otherwise noted. Data compiled as of January 2026.

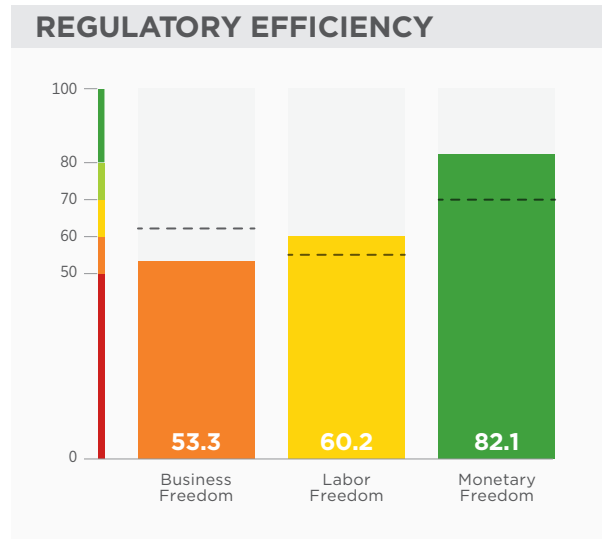
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BENIN



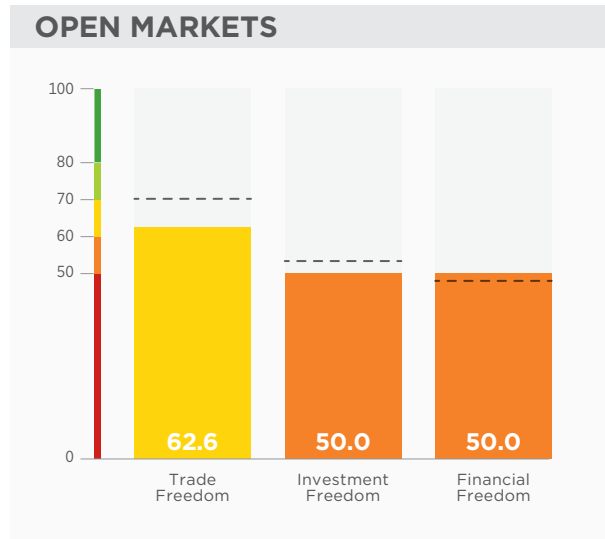
The overall rule of law is weak in Benin. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 45 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 11.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 19 percent and -4.2 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 53.4 percent of GDP.



Benin's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is below 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 11.2 percent, and nontariff measures are in force. Persistent policy and institutional weaknesses constrain dynamic flows of foreign investment. Despite the development of microfinance institutions, overall access to credit remains low.