

WORLD RANK: **48** | REGIONAL RANK: **3**

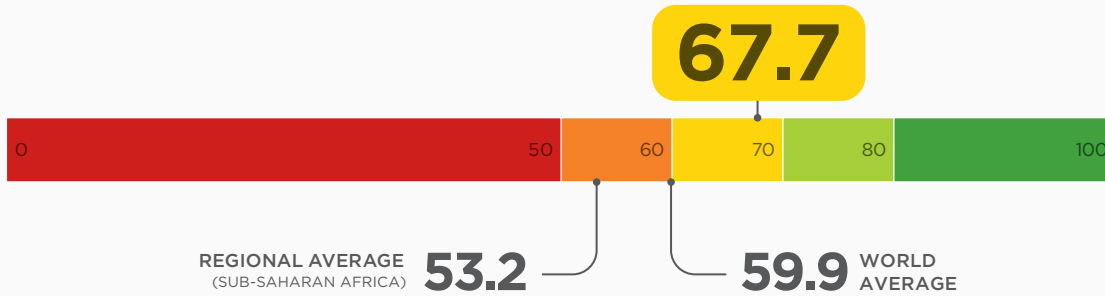
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **MODERATELY FREE**

BOTSWANA

Botswana's economic freedom score is 67.7, making its economy the 48th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 2.2 points from last year, and Botswana is ranked 3rd out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Botswana's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2026 *Index*.

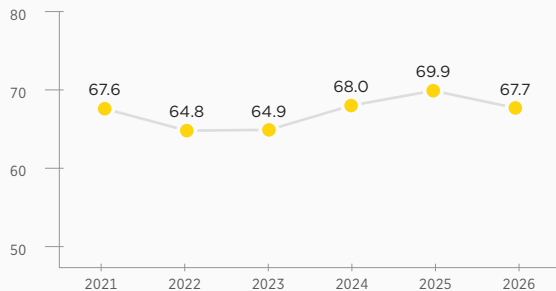
Botswana continues to maintain a dynamic economy and performs relatively well in many of the four pillars of economic freedom. The foundations of economic freedom are among the region's strongest. The independent judiciary provides strong protection of property rights. The government has implemented numerous measures that are designed to enhance business freedom and private-sector opportunities, but progress has been uneven. Risks to political stability remain low. Botswana has abundant diamonds and other natural resources and one of Africa's highest sovereign credit ratings.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +10.9

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
2.7 million

GDP (PPP):
\$51.9 billion
-0.9% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: -0.2%
\$19,053 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
23.2%

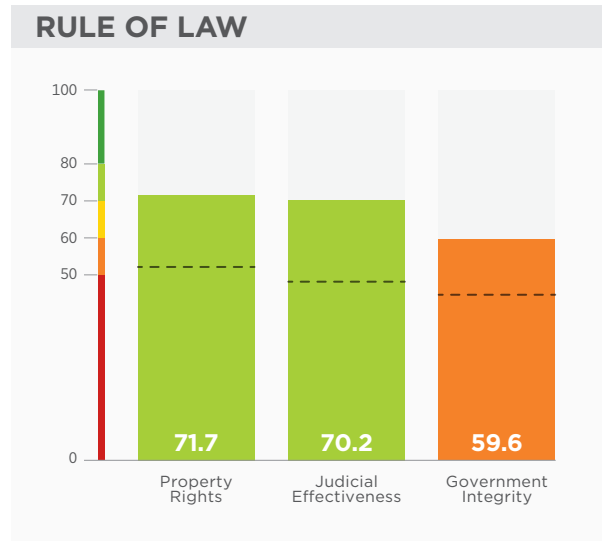
INFLATION (CPI):
2.8%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 67.0%

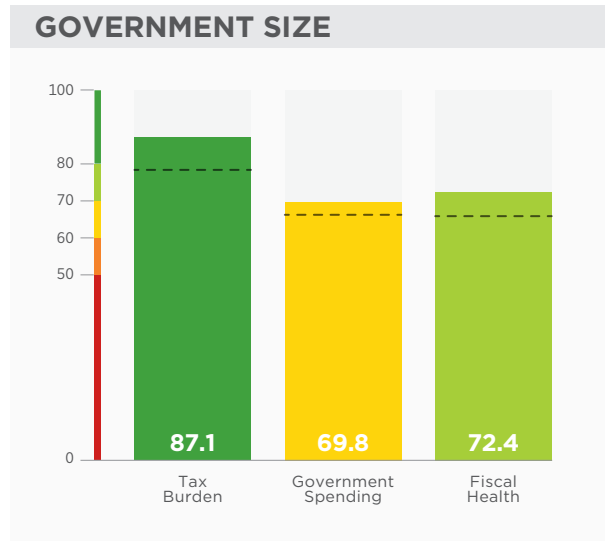
PUBLIC DEBT:
29.9% of GDP

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

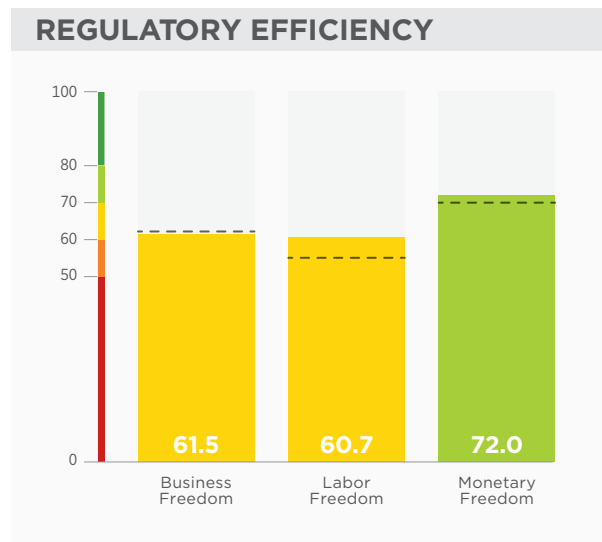
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BOTSWANA



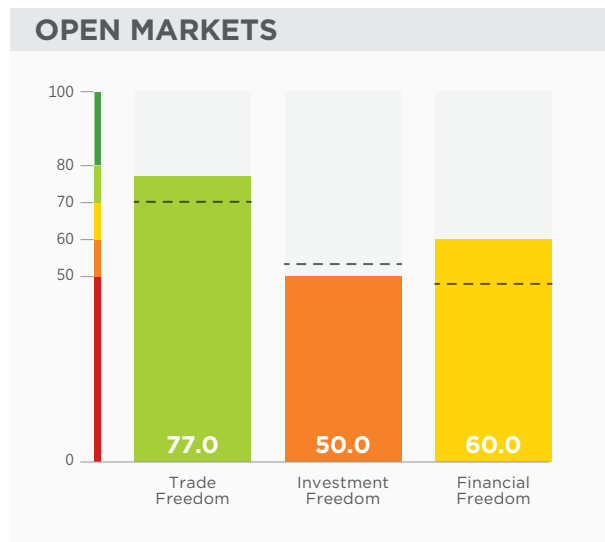
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Botswana. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 22 percent. The tax burden equals 13.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 31.7 percent and -4.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 29.9 percent of GDP.



Botswana'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 above the world average.



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 6.5 percent, and nontariff measures are in force. Foreign investment in some sectors is restricted. The financial sector generally adheres to global standards in the transparency of banking supervision and provides considerable access to credit.