



WORLD RANK: **164** | REGIONAL RANK: **38**

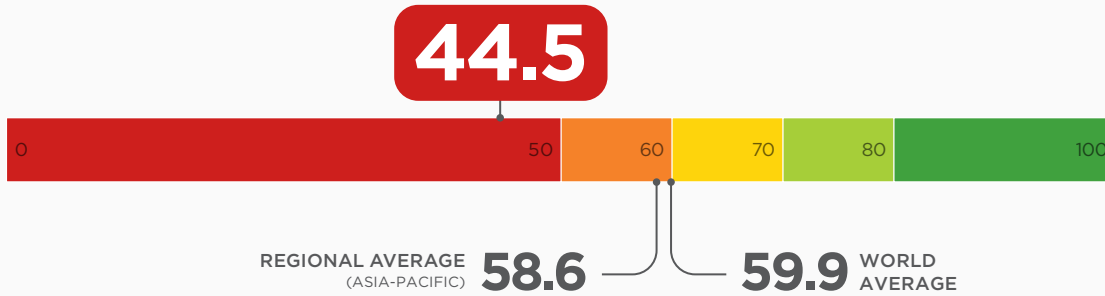
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSED**

BURMA

Burma's economic freedom score is 44.5, making its economy the 164th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.8 point from last year, and Burma is ranked 38th out of 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the global and regional averages. Burma's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2026 *Index*.

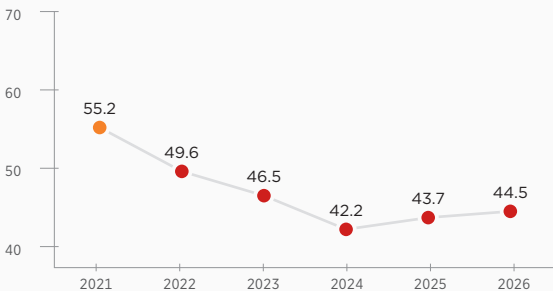
Historically scoring far below the world average, the foundations of economic freedom in Burma are fragile. Extensive state controls and structural problems that undermine private-sector development seriously impede productivity growth and dynamic economic expansion. The military's brutal crackdown on Burma's people has gutted business freedom. Mass detentions, extrajudicial killings, and violence that deliberately target civilians are a potentially lethal threat to labor freedom. The most recent available inflation rate is 16.2 percent. Other ongoing challenges include food and fuel shortages.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): -0.6

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
54.2 million

GDP (PPP):
\$274.1 billion
-2.7% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: -0.9%
\$4,951 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
3.1%

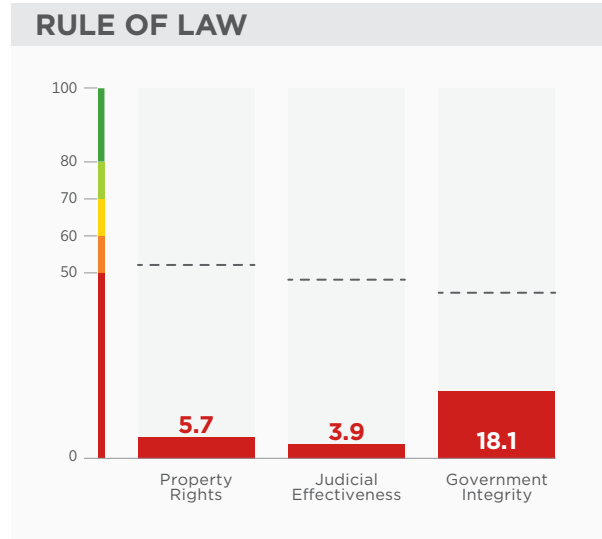
INFLATION (CPI):
26.5%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 0.0%

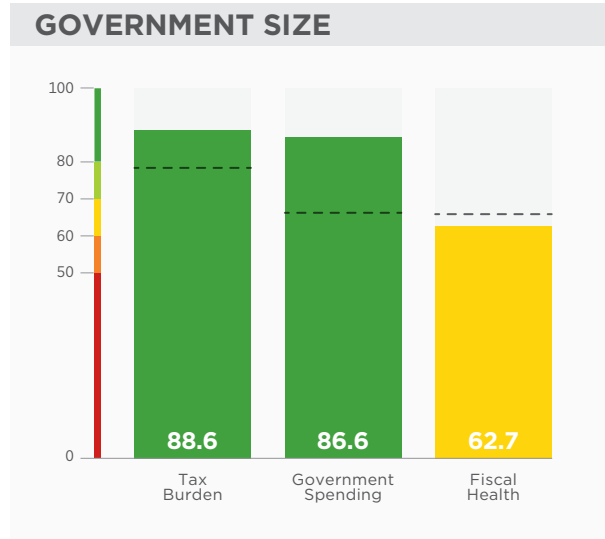
PUBLIC DEBT:
59.3% of GDP

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

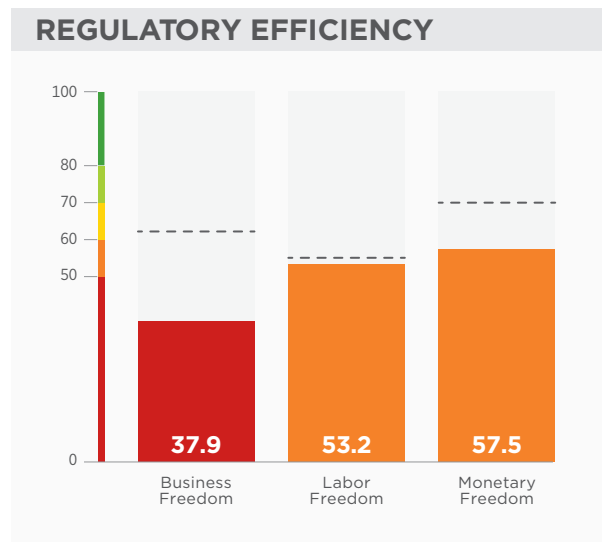
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BURMA



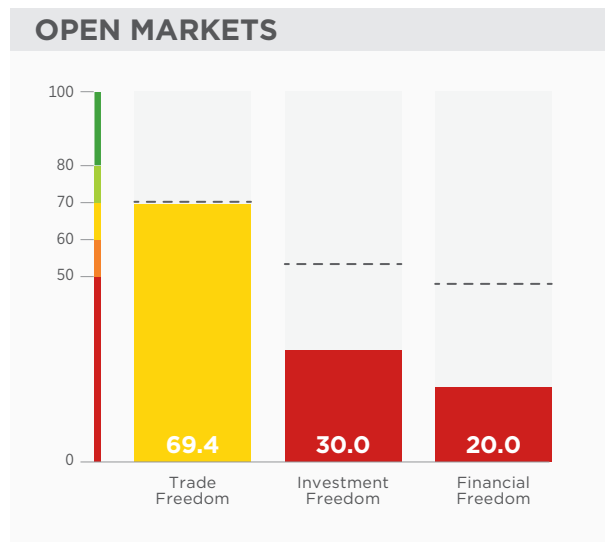
The overall rule of law is weak in Burma. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 22 percent. The tax burden equals 5.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 21.1 percent and -4.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 59.3 percent of GDP.



Burma's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activities. 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 5.3 percent, and other barriers to trade persist. State-owned enterprises undermine investment in the private sector. Approximately 30 percent of adult Burmese have access to an account with a formal banking institution.