



WORLD RANK: **170** | REGIONAL RANK: **44**

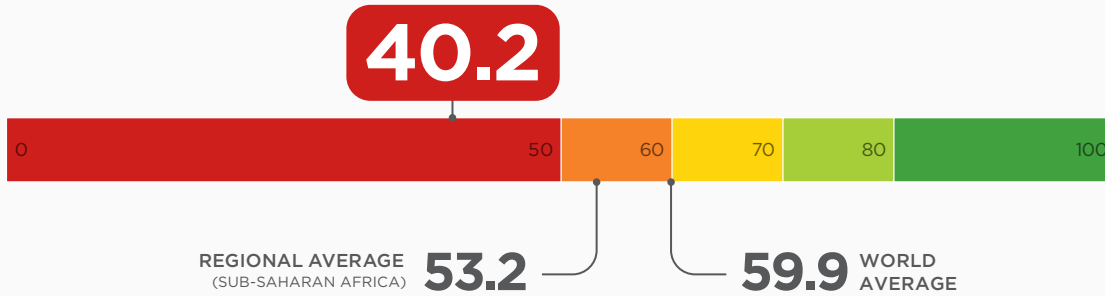
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPPRESSED**

# BURUNDI

**B**urundi’s economic freedom score is 40.2, making its economy the 170th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.5 point from last year, and Burundi is ranked 44th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country’s economic freedom score is lower than the global and regional averages. Burundi’s economy is considered “repressed” according to the 2026 *Index*.

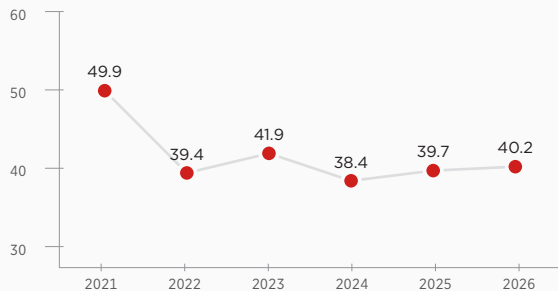
Burundi performs below world averages in many of the 12 economic freedoms. Very low scores for property rights and for corruption that undermines the rule of law reflect the fragile foundations of economic freedom in Burundi. The entrepreneurial framework is subject to state interference, and improving the business environment while battling institutional challenges will be an uphill fight. Skilled labor is scarce, and formal employment is not widespread. The most recent available inflation rate is 18.9 percent. Subsistence agriculture dominates the economy.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1997): -5.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
13.0 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$13.4 billion  
4.4% growth in 2025  
3-year average growth rate: 3.5%  
\$989 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
1.0%

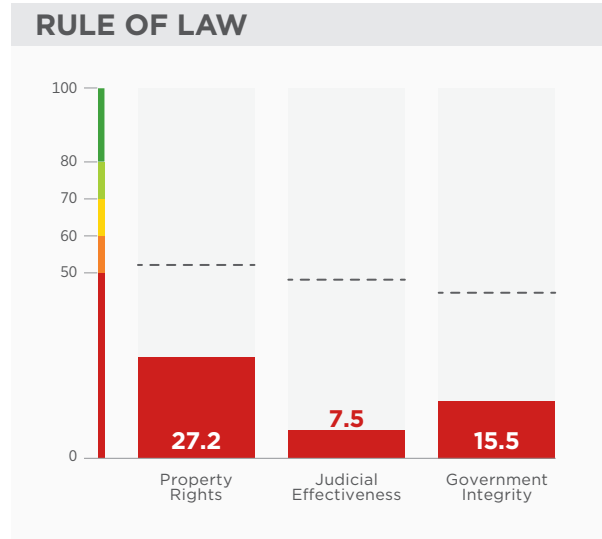
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
20.2%

**TRADE AS % OF GDP:** 29.7%

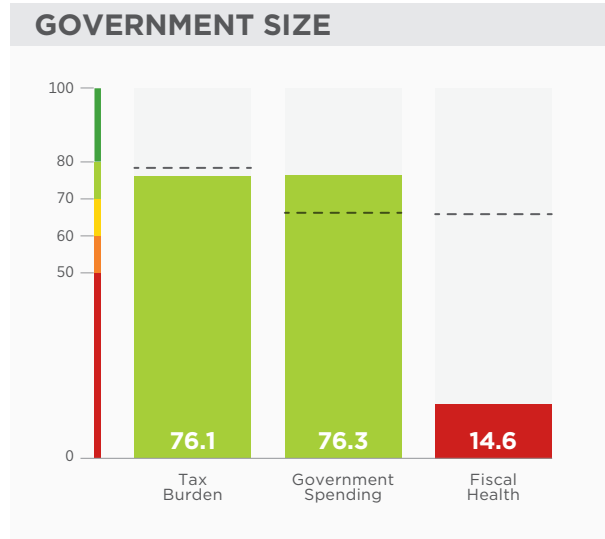
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
52.0% of GDP

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

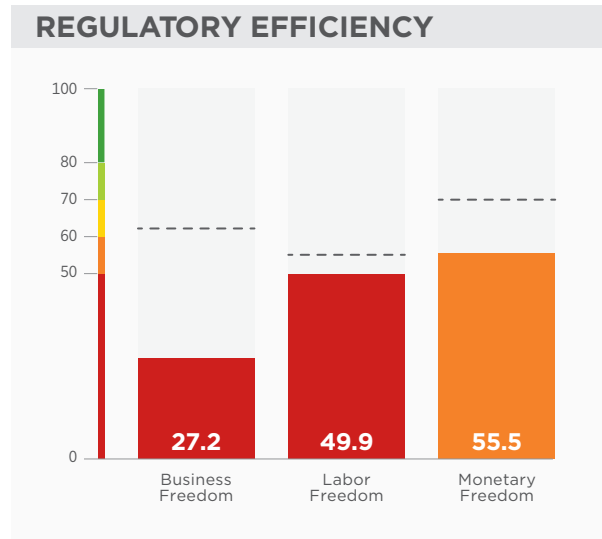
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | BURUNDI



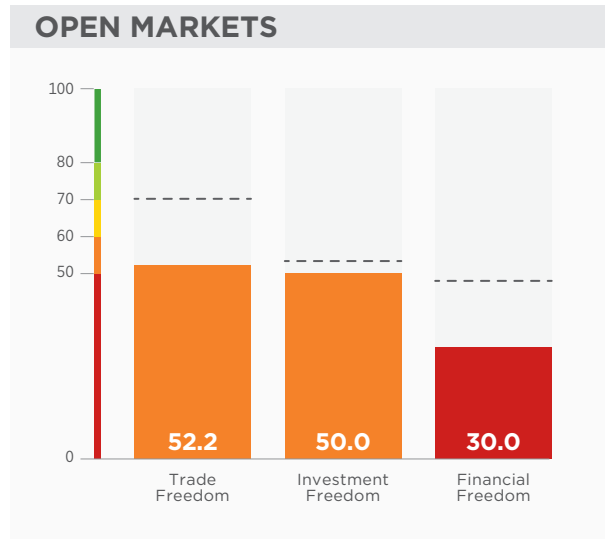
The overall rule of law is weak in Burundi. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 16.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 28.1 percent and -7.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 52.0 percent of GDP.



Burundi'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 13.9 percent, and nontariff measures are in force. Bureaucratic barriers interfere with foreign and domestic investment. The financial system remains underdeveloped. Banks have increased their domestic assets, but access to credit remains limited.