

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

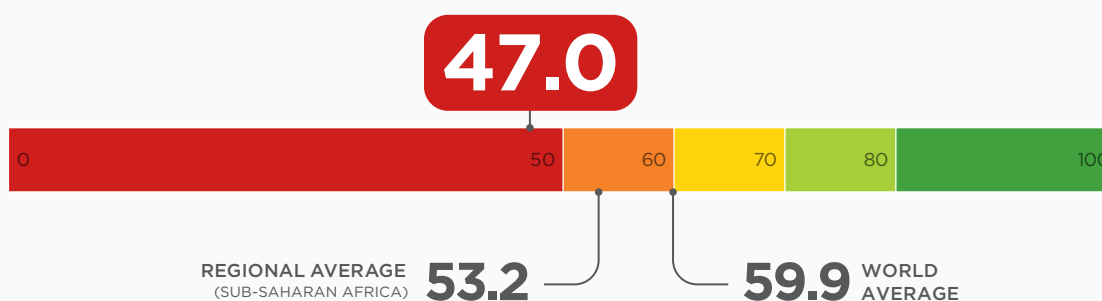
WORLD RANK: **161** | REGIONAL RANK: **41**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSED**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's economic freedom score is 47.0, making its economy the 161st freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.3 point from last year, and the DRC is ranked 41st out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the global and regional averages. The Democratic Republic of the Congo's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2026 *Index*.

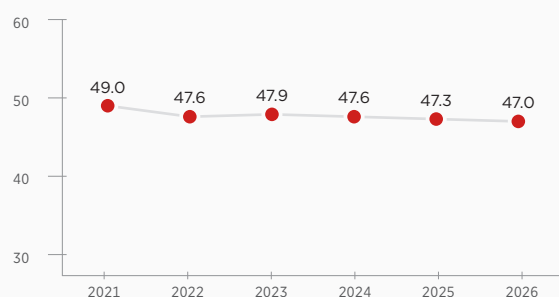
Instability and violence continue to undermine economic development, and the weak rule of law and marginal enforcement of property rights have driven many people and enterprises into the informal sector. Poor economic management has been made worse by repeated political crises. The DRC is Africa's largest producer of copper and the world's largest producer of cobalt. It is also one of the world's least-developed countries, and its political instability and high inflation discourage international investors.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +5.6

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
99.9 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$195.1 billion  
5.3% growth in 2025  
3-year average growth rate: 6.7%  
\$1,975 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.6%

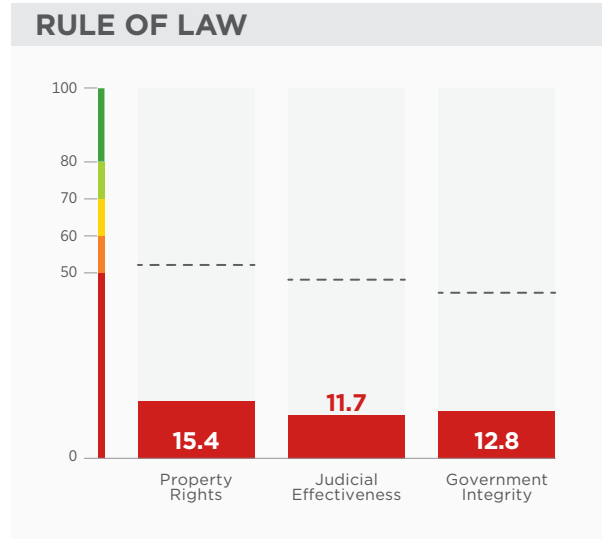
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
17.7%

**TRADE AS % OF GDP:** 97.5%

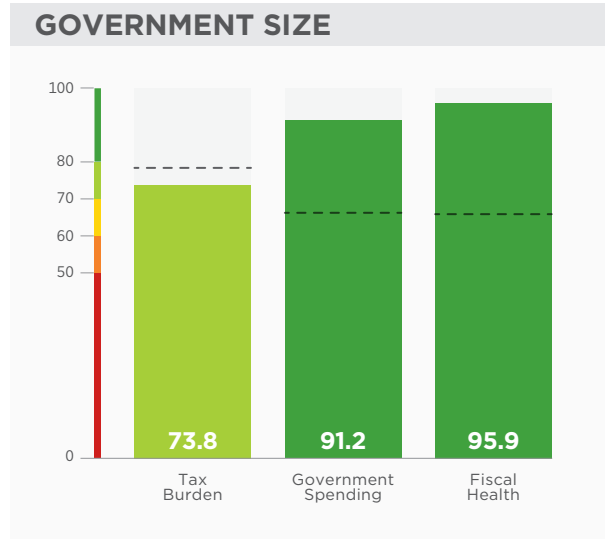
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
22.5% of GDP

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

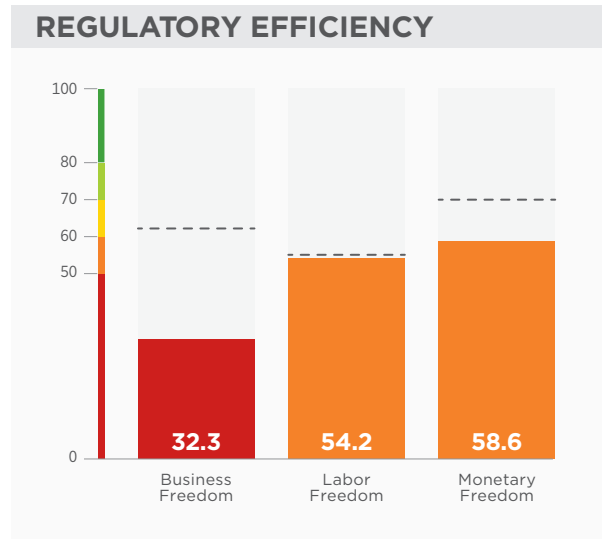
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



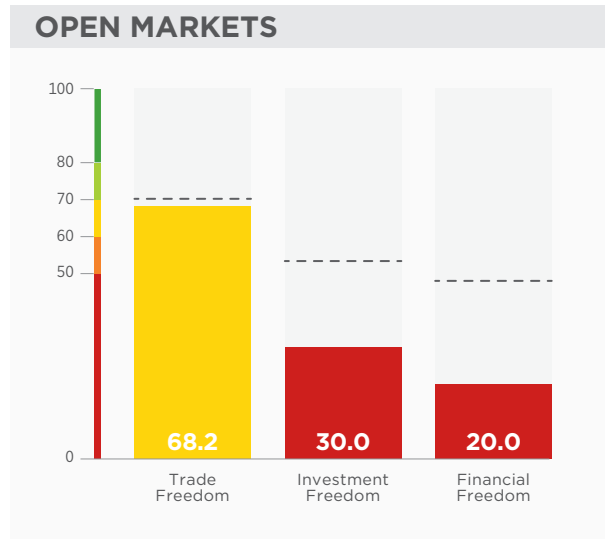
The overall rule of law is weak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 10.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 17.2 percent and -1.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 22.5 percent of GDP.



The Democratic Republic of the Congo'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 8.4 percent, and other barriers to dynamic trade flows persist. The government screens and regulates foreign investment. The financial system is underdeveloped, and access to financing for businesses remains very limited.