



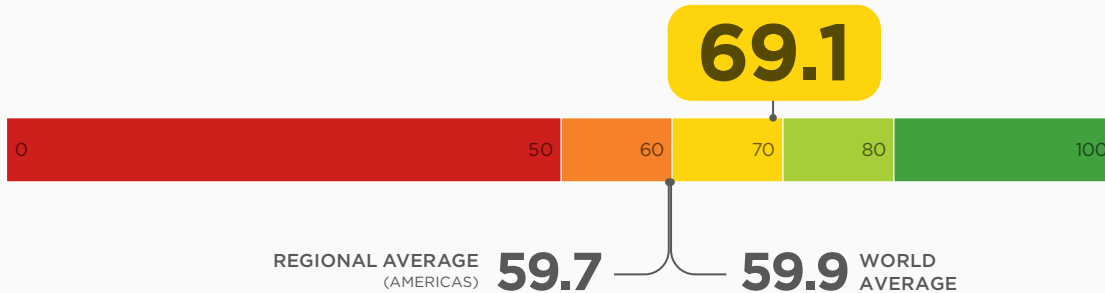
COSTA RICA

WORLD RANK:	REGIONAL RANK:
37	6
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:	
MODERATELY FREE	

Costa Rica's economic freedom score is 69.1, making its economy the 37th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.5 point from last year, and Costa Rica is ranked 6th out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Costa Rica's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2026 *Index*.

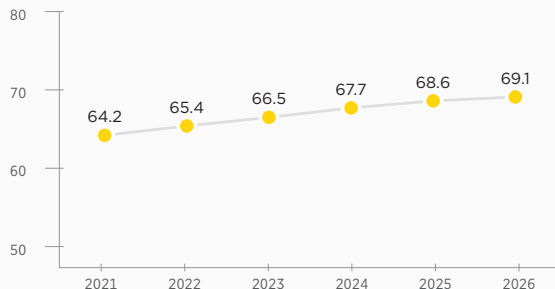
All four pillars of economic freedom are relatively well maintained in Costa Rica, although the rule of law shows some signs of vulnerability. The court system is inefficient, and enforcement of property rights can be weak. Progress in enhancing governmental effectiveness has been uneven, and inefficient government bureaucracy discourages dynamic entrepreneurial activity. Although licensing requirements have been reduced, procedures for launching a business remain time-consuming. The trade regime is open, but non-tariff barriers still undercut more vibrant economic expansion.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +1.1

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
5.3 million

GDP (PPP):
\$159.4 billion
3.6% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: 4.3%
\$31,485 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
7.9%

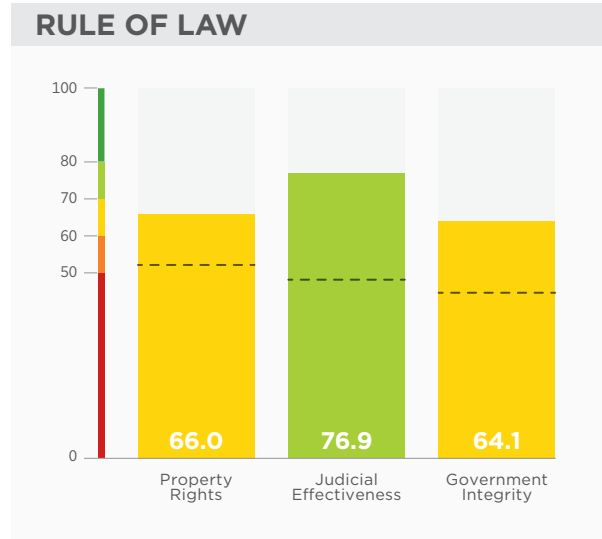
INFLATION (CPI):
-0.4%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 71.3%

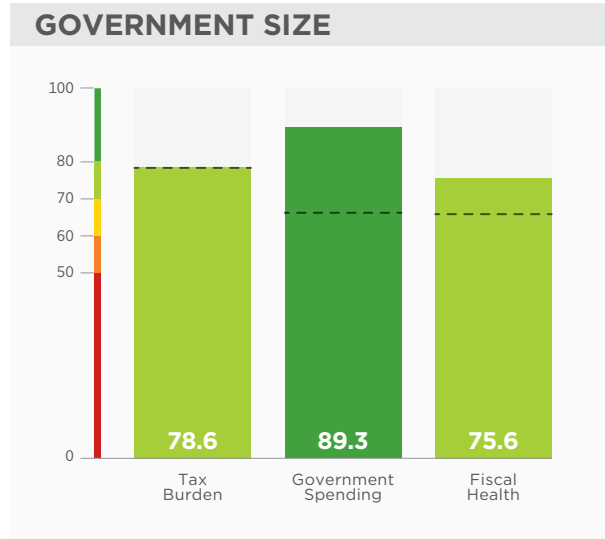
PUBLIC DEBT:
59.8% of GDP

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

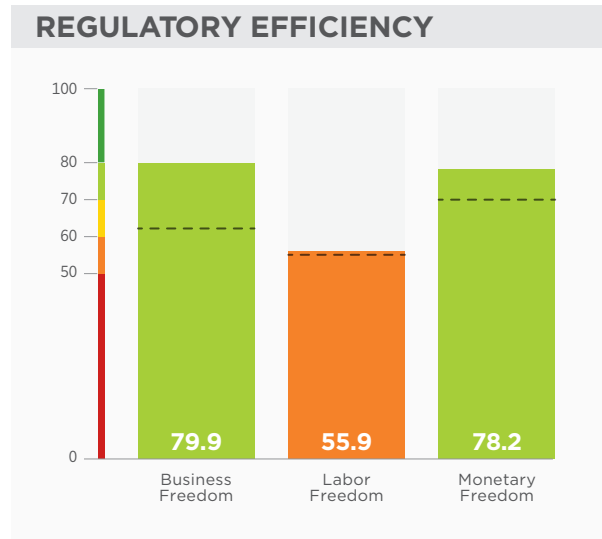
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | COSTA RICA



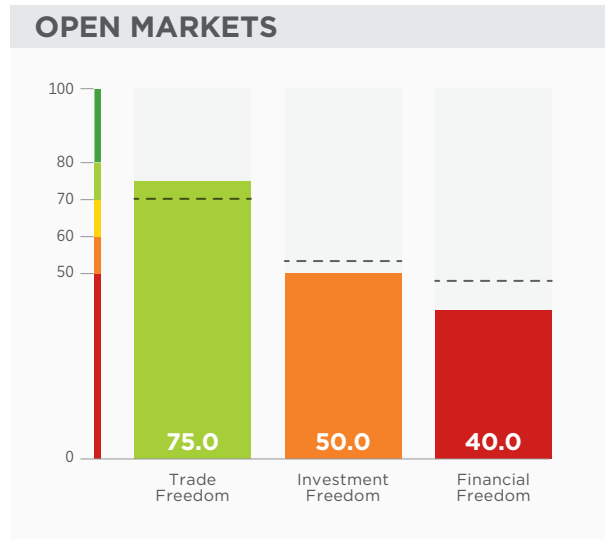
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Costa Rica. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 24.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 18.9 percent and -3.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 59.8 percent of GDP.



Costa Rica's overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and relatively efficient. The country's business freedom score is far above 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 5.0 percent, and more than 60 nontariff measures are in force. The government restricts investment in some sectors. The central bank responded to the pandemic by reducing state-owned banks' preferential interest rates and easing regulations on loan restructuring.