

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

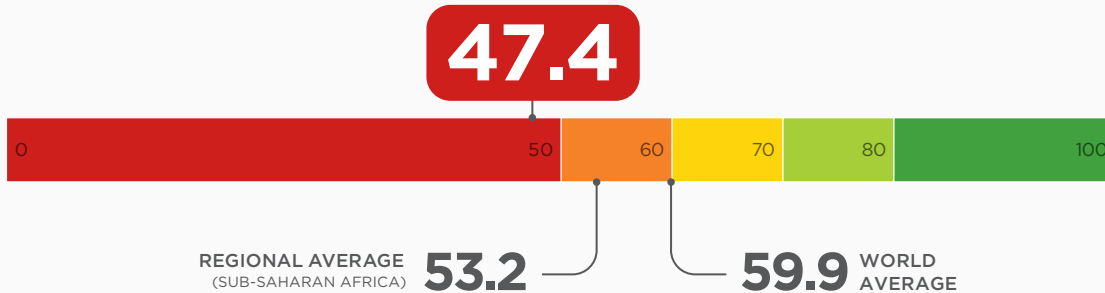
WORLD RANK: **159** | REGIONAL RANK: **40**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSED**

Equatorial Guinea's economic freedom score is 47.4, making its economy the 159th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.3 point from last year, and Equatorial Guinea is ranked 40th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the global and regional averages. Equatorial Guinea's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2026 *Index*.

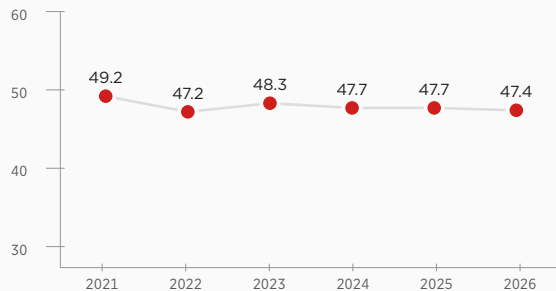
Persistent institutional weaknesses impede the emergence of a vibrant private sector. Improving the investment and business climate to generate more broadly based economic expansion remains a priority. Despite some progress, constraints include cumbersome administrative procedures and the relatively high costs of complying with licensing requirements. In the absence of private-sector employment opportunities, an efficient labor market has not emerged. Pervasive corruption further undermines the weak rule of law, and limited economic reform has led to overreliance on natural resource-driven investment.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1999): +2.3

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
1.5 million

GDP (PPP):
\$33.3 billion
-1.6% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: -1.9%
\$20,494 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
7.9%

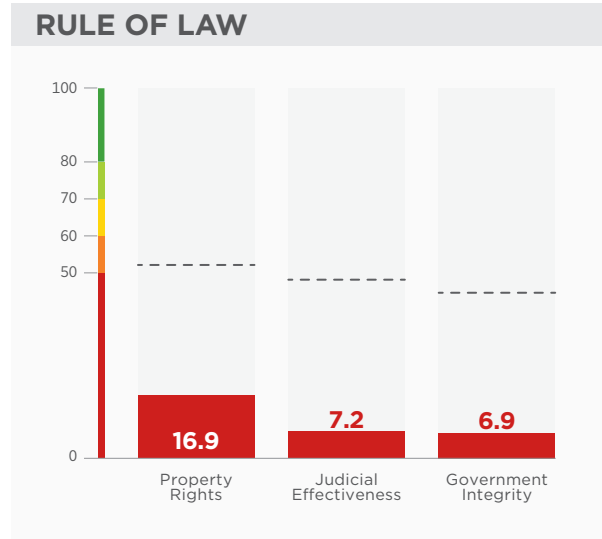
INFLATION (CPI):
3.4%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 60.5%

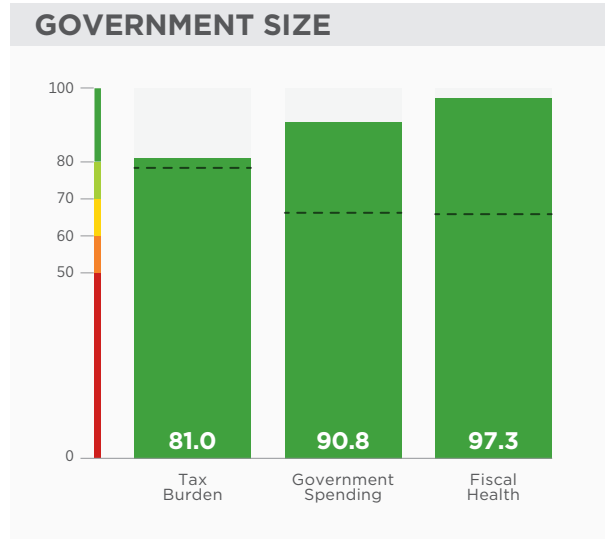
PUBLIC DEBT:
36.4% of GDP

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

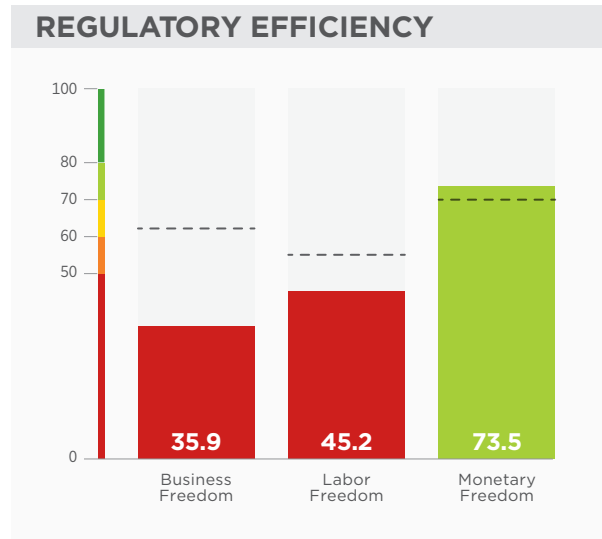
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | EQUATORIAL GUINEA



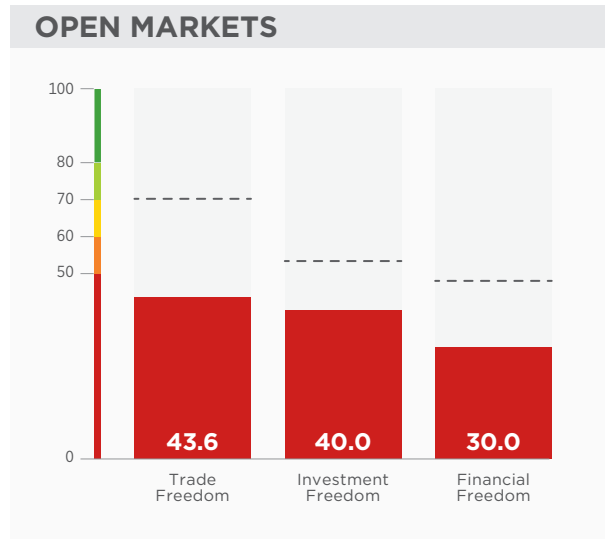
The overall rule of law is weak in Equatorial Guinea. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 25 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 6.9 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 17.5 percent and 4.5 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 36.4 percent of GDP.



Equatorial Guinea's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. 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 above the world average.



The most recent available average tariff rate is 18.2 percent. Onerous regulations, exacerbated by other institutional shortcomings, impede trade and foreign investment flows. High credit costs limit access to financing. The government controls long-term lending through the state-owned development bank.