

EXECUTIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Economic freedom is an essential aspect of human dignity, autonomy, and personal empowerment. Equally important, it provides a proven formula for economic progress and success. Economic freedom is about much more than a business environment in which entrepreneurship and prosperity can flourish.

With its far-reaching impacts on various aspects of human development, economic freedom empowers individuals and families with choice and opportunity, nourishes other liberties, advances national security, and ultimately improves the overall quality of life. Greater economic freedom really means better economic governance and greater security.

The blunt truth is that economic freedom is the cornerstone of a healthy society with growing families and vibrant markets. Free enterprise and well-functioning markets are as essential today as they were when Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher used them to rescue their nations' economies and win the Cold War.

Economic freedom is not just about economic efficiency for its own sake; it is a powerful means by which to further human flourishing. And work is more than a means of survival; it is a source of purpose and prosperity. Economic freedom is key to an industrious economy that rewards service and innovation, respects private ownership, and strengthens family formation and stability. A healthy economy should foster earned flourishing and remove obstacles that stifle opportunity.

As the country-by-country trends reported in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom* demonstrate, the need to revitalize and advance economic freedom has never been greater than it is today.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE 2026 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM

- The direction and orientation of policy are important for economic freedom because there is a robust relationship between improving economic freedom and achieving higher economic dynamism. Especially notable in this critical context is that among the world's fastest-growing large, advanced economies, the United States is the one whose economic freedom has improved the most in the past year.
- The United States' economic freedom score is 72.8, making its economy the 22nd freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 2.6 points from last year, ending the precipitous five-year decline of America's economic freedom. Gains in monetary freedom, government spending, fiscal health, and investment freedom have outpaced the lower score in trade freedom, reflecting the positive impact of major regulatory and tax reforms on economic growth, investment, and business confidence.
- This noteworthy improvement also marks America's biggest score advancement since 2001 and the second-best in the U.S.'s 32-year history in the *Index*. The Trump Administration's pragmatic pro-growth economic strategy—lowering the costs of doing business, advancing and spreading prosperity, and enhancing long-term competitiveness—has yielded the strongest economic growth rate recorded in recent years.
- However, many countries around the globe are now at a crossroads. A nation's true capacity for lasting growth and prosperity hinges on the quality of its institutions and economic system. The question is how soon and decisively they will recognize the paramount need to correct their current policy course and reinvigorate their commitment to preserving and advancing

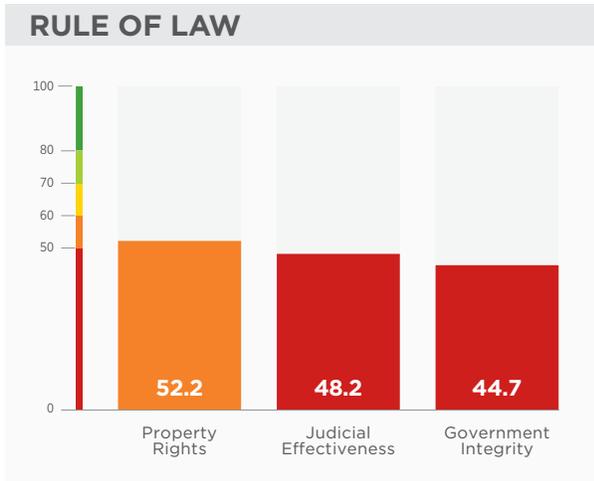
economic freedom, which has proven to be key to human flourishing and lasting prosperity.

- The 2026 *Index*, which considers economic policy developments and conditions in 184 sovereign countries over the past year, reveals a world economy that, taken as a whole, remains “mostly unfree.” Although the global average economic freedom score has bounced back from its score of 58.6 in 2024 (at that time the lowest since 2010), it has increased by only 0.2 point to 59.9 over the past year from the 59.7 recorded in the 2025 *Index*.
- Globally, fiscal soundness has continued to deteriorate. Rising deficits and mounting public debt in many countries have undermined and will likely further undercut their overall productivity growth and ultimately lead to economic sluggishness rather than vibrant growth. The impact of restrictive tariffs on the global economy has been far more muted than feared in light of increased investment in such critical sectors as, among others, energy and artificial intelligence (AI). The absence of tariff retaliation by most countries has also offset the impact of tariffs on trade flows and growth worldwide.
- A return to “business as usual” will not suffice. In addition to the impacts of ill-managed public finance, countries are facing many long-term structural challenges in the policy areas of transparency, efficiency, openness, and government effectiveness.
- As shown in the ranking table for the 176 countries rated in the 2026 *Index*, four countries (up from three in the previous year) recorded economic freedom scores of 80 or more, putting them in the ranks of the economically “free”; 27 countries earned a designation of “mostly free” by recording scores of 70.0 to 79.9; and an additional 58 countries were considered at least “moderately free” with scores of 60.0 to 69.9. Thus, a total of 89 countries, or slightly more than half of the 176 countries graded in the 2026 *Index*, have institutional environments in which individuals and private enterprises benefit from at least a moderate degree of economic freedom in the pursuit of greater economic development and prosperity.
- On the opposite side of the spectrum, about 50 percent of the countries graded in the 2026 *Index* (87 economies) have registered economic freedom scores below 60. Of those, 57 economies are considered “mostly unfree” (scores of 50.0 to 59.9), and 30 countries, including China and Iran, are in the economically “repressed” category.
- Within the top 10 rankings, a notable reshuffling has taken place. Singapore continues to be the world’s freest economy, demonstrating a consistently high level of economic resilience and prosperity. Switzerland is the world’s second freest economy, followed by Ireland, Australia, and Taiwan.
- Along with the impressive performance of the United States, Argentina’s economic freedom rating has increased by 3.2 points from last year, which makes Argentina the best-performing country in the 2026 *Index*. October 2025’s decisive midterm election victory provided reform-minded President Javier Milei with concrete support and greater momentum for continuing to transform Argentina’s economy. Milei’s reform agenda has yielded notable and measurable progress. Management of public finance has been improved and made more disciplined as various fiscal, monetary, and regulatory reforms have reduced the size and scope of government. Argentina’s overall economic freedom score has been improving significantly over the past three years under President Javier Milei compared to global and regional averages.
- China’s economic freedom score is 48.3, making its economy the 154th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.7 point from last year, and China’s economy continues to be classified as “repressed” according to the 2026 *Index*. The Chinese Communist Party directly controls economic activity. The regulatory framework remains complex and uneven. The state-controlled financial sector’s extensive use of subsidies and credit controls continues to undercut efficiency

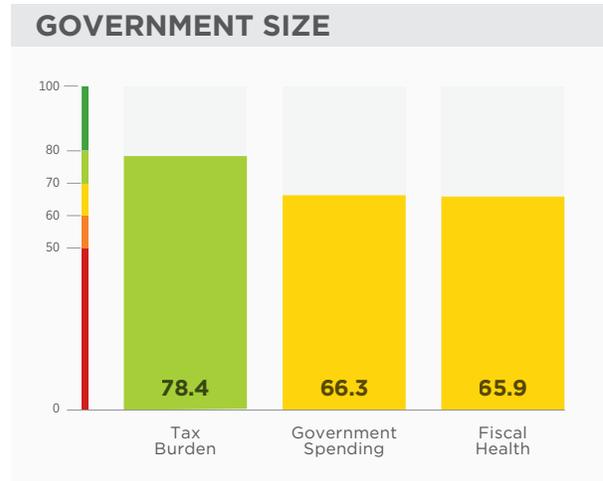
and productivity. Businesses and the government have been struggling with high youth unemployment, persistent deflationary pressures, and a real-estate crisis that continues to act as a significant drag on growth.

- There continues to be a clear relationship between improving economic freedom and achieving higher economic dynamism as well as greater overall well-being. No matter what their existing level of development may be, countries can measurably boost their economic growth by implementing steps to increase economic freedom through policies that reduce taxes, rationalize the regulatory environment, open the economy to greater competition, and fight corruption.
- The standard of living, measured by incomes per capita, is much higher in economically freer countries. Countries rated “free,” “mostly free,” or “moderately free” in the *2026 Index* generate incomes that are more than double the average levels in other countries and more than three times higher than the incomes of people living in economically “repressed” countries.
- As documented once again in the *2026 Index*, economic freedom also correlates significantly with overall well-being, which includes such factors as health, education, the environment, innovation, societal progress, and democratic governance. All in all, the ongoing recovery remains uneven and uncertain with strikingly different outcomes across countries, sectors, and demographic groups. Output and employment gaps persist in many countries, particularly in emerging markets and developing economies, suggesting that countries face vastly different policy challenges during recovery and beyond.

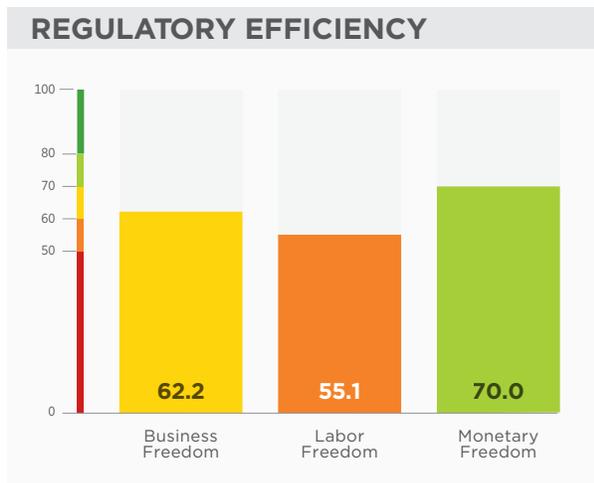
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS: A GLOBAL LOOK



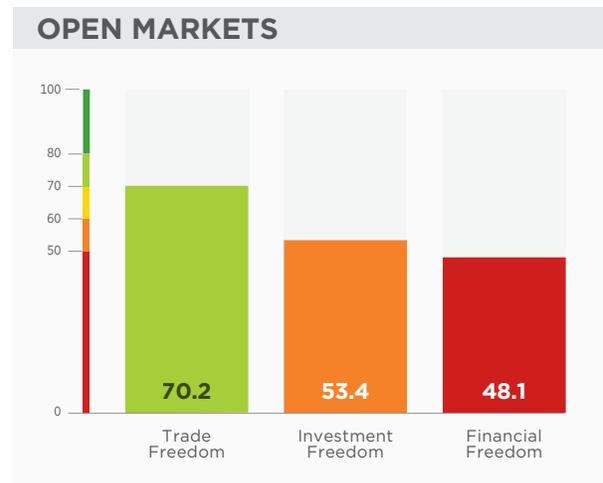
On average, of the four pillars of economic freedom on which *Index* grading is based, the rule of law indicator has the lowest scores on a scale of 0 to 100. This reflects the systemic corruption of government institutions in many countries. Without a robust rule of law, business owners and entrepreneurs find it difficult to know what to expect when making economic decisions.



The average top individual income tax rate for countries in the 2026 *Index* is about 30 percent. The average top corporate tax rate is about 25 percent. The average overall tax burden as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) is about 20 percent. Government spending continues to average more than 30 percent of GDP, but gross public debt now averages above 65 percent.



As with all other factors, the difference between high-scoring countries and low-scoring countries can be like the difference between night and day. The notable countries by average regulatory efficiency score include Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Denmark, and Finland. The worst offenders in descending order are Sierra Leone, Cuba, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Venezuela, and North Korea.



The fact that investment policy measures in many countries are geared toward promotion of sectoral investment rather than general market openness contributes to a global investment freedom score of just 53.4. The global score for financial freedom is the second lowest of the three open markets indicators at 48.1. Unfortunately, government interference in the financial sector has become pervasive in many countries.

2026 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS

World Rank	Region Rank	Country Name	2026 Score	SCORE CHANGE	Property Rights	Judicial Effectiveness	Gov't Integrity	Tax Burden	Gov't Spending	Fiscal Health	Business Freedom	Labor Freedom	Monetary Freedom	Trade Freedom	Investment Freedom	Financial Freedom
1	1	Singapore	84.4	0.3	89.2	58.3	86.1	89.5	93.4	80.0	90.6	77.0	83.5	95.0	90	80
2	1	Switzerland	83.7	0.0	94.4	98.3	93.3	70.9	69.5	97.2	86.3	60.0	82.3	87.0	85	80
3	2	Ireland	83.3	0.2	94.4	95.4	84.0	77.7	85.9	97.0	85.5	61.3	79.3	79.4	90	70
4	2	Australia	80.1	0.8	88.2	96.3	88.1	61.8	56.6	89.0	92.3	61.5	77.2	89.8	80	80
5	3	Taiwan	79.8	0.1	83.4	94.3	74.3	78.9	90.0	92.9	78.6	69.0	80.3	86.0	70	60
6	3	Luxembourg	79.7	0.2	96.6	99.1	88.7	62.3	36.9	98.6	89.5	56.7	74.1	79.4	95	80
7	4	Denmark	79.0	-0.1	99.9	89.3	98.0	43.4	34.8	98.0	90.4	65.0	80.1	79.4	90	80
8	5	Norway	78.8	0.5	99.6	96.4	94.3	63.3	42.0	96.4	91.2	69.3	72.4	85.6	75	60
9	6	Estonia	78.7	-0.2	93.6	92.4	86.3	77.9	46.0	93.1	82.8	59.0	73.9	79.4	90	70
10	7	The Netherlands	78.5	0.3	96.0	96.1	86.8	54.0	42.2	95.9	85.0	59.3	77.0	79.4	90	80
11	8	Sweden	77.8	-0.1	96.2	95.6	91.6	51.6	28.4	97.5	84.8	65.8	78.1	79.4	85	80
12	4	New Zealand	77.8	-0.3	85.4	95.9	90.0	66.1	48.0	72.2	89.1	68.6	77.4	90.6	70	80
13	9	Finland	76.6	-0.4	99.9	96.4	95.4	68.4	7.9	76.3	85.3	65.4	80.3	79.4	85	80
14	1	Canada	75.6	0.1	85.9	96.0	85.5	74.7	45.9	79.7	84.2	68.3	73.8	83.2	60	70
15	10	Lithuania	75.3	0.7	91.8	73.2	71.4	76.2	57.3	95.8	84.2	58.1	76.7	79.4	70	70
16	11	Iceland	75.0	2.2	94.9	95.2	85.0	72.2	37.0	76.2	86.8	59.3	73.5	79.8	70	70
17	2	Chile	74.3	1.1	69.7	90.3	67.8	72.5	78.2	94.1	78.5	56.8	75.1	78.0	60	70
18	12	Cyprus	74.1	0.9	85.1	89.8	59.7	80.8	52.1	91.5	82.3	60.3	78.7	79.4	70	60
19	5	South Korea	73.7	-0.3	89.6	77.5	70.9	61.5	82.6	93.5	81.5	55.0	79.3	73.0	60	60
20	13	Czech Republic	73.2	0.3	89.8	92.1	64.7	78.8	44.2	82.5	76.8	55.1	75.0	79.4	70	70
21	1	Mauritius	73.0	-2.0	83.9	80.7	53.4	89.6	73.8	45.5	81.5	69.6	70.7	87.0	70	70
22	3	United States	72.8	2.6	91.6	76.4	77.1	75.3	57.9	18.5	88.6	76.3	84.2	67.6	80	80
23	1	United Arab Emirates	71.9	0.3	62.9	34.4	65.3	99.9	85.1	97.6	84.5	63.2	81.2	78.6	50	60
24	14	Germany	71.7	0.1	95.5	94.6	84.5	60.5	28.8	83.1	79.8	52.2	72.5	79.4	60	70
25	15	Latvia	71.6	0.2	88.8	70.9	67.7	70.9	42.7	80.8	80.7	60.5	76.3	79.4	80	60
26	2	Cabo Verde	71.4	2.7	72.7	77.1	63.3	84.4	79.5	74.4	78.9	59.5	80.4	66.6	60	60
27	16	Portugal	71.2	0.7	88.9	90.1	63.4	60.6	44.6	82.0	83.1	54.8	77.7	79.4	70	60
28	4	Barbados	70.4	1.5	76.4	87.3	71.3	83.2	74.5	76.5	72.3	54.3	80.8	48.2	60	60
29	17	United Kingdom	70.4	1.1	93.6	83.1	83.0	61.7	41.1	32.4	83.6	61.2	71.9	82.8	70	80
30	6	Japan	70.3	0.1	94.2	97.9	81.1	63.0	52.0	41.7	77.8	65.9	74.3	76.2	60	60
31	2	Qatar	70.2	0.0	66.2	41.5	53.5	99.9	79.9	96.6	68.0	58.5	76.0	81.8	60	60
32	5	Uruguay	69.8	-0.4	87.4	80.9	79.0	73.3	72.0	76.6	83.8	61.7	70.2	73.2	50	30
33	18	Austria	69.8	0.1	95.7	94.8	75.0	45.7	12.8	67.1	78.7	81.6	76.4	79.4	60	70
34	19	Slovenia	69.7	1.4	87.6	91.6	66.1	55.5	34.1	83.5	78.7	62.7	77.5	79.4	70	50
35	20	Georgia	69.6	0.6	53.0	53.8	59.9	87.8	73.9	89.1	76.6	64.0	70.2	86.8	60	60
36	21	Belgium	69.2	0.2	91.1	91.6	78.2	50.6	14.6	53.4	82.5	57.5	76.8	79.4	85	70
37	6	Costa Rica	69.1	0.5	66.0	76.9	64.1	78.6	89.3	75.6	79.9	55.9	78.2	75.0	50	40
38	22	Bulgaria	68.9	0.1	75.8	58.5	48.4	89.1	58.4	90.4	78.2	62.4	75.8	79.4	60	50
39	3	Oman	68.5	3.1	71.8	28.0	49.4	97.6	74.7	97.5	67.8	47.7	79.2	78.4	70	60
40	23	Poland	68.5	1.4	71.8	62.5	60.7	72.7	35.1	74.8	77.5	53.7	73.8	79.4	80	80
41	4	Israel	68.4	-1.5	73.1	68.1	66.2	60.2	52.0	60.8	72.4	56.8	78.2	82.8	70	80
42	7	Jamaica	68.2	-0.5	66.8	75.6	49.4	76.3	76.0	92.2	68.5	59.2	74.2	70.4	60	50
43	24	Malta	68.2	1.4	85.5	80.2	54.3	68.5	58.4	63.2	83.2	62.6	73.1	79.4	60	50

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44	7	Samoa	68.0	1.4	77.1	77.6	64.1	79.3	75.2	98.7	63.7	73.7	69.4	67.2	40	30
45	8	Malaysia	68.0	0.9	62.7	63.4	52.9	83.5	82.0	62.5	79.6	55.4	80.8	83.0	60	50
46	25	Albania	68.0	1.4	57.6	59.9	41.9	89.3	74.3	88.0	76.6	46.2	78.6	83.0	60	60
47	26	Slovakia	67.7	-0.7	82.6	70.5	57.2	75.4	36.4	69.6	71.1	55.1	69.7	79.4	75	70
48	3	Botswana	67.7	-2.2	71.7	70.2	59.6	87.1	69.8	72.4	61.5	60.7	72.0	77.0	50	60
49	27	Croatia	67.5	-1.2	81.1	71.7	52.6	70.0	34.9	92.2	79.6	58.9	69.9	79.4	60	60
50	8	Saint Lucia	67.5	0.5	64.3	77.3	59.7	77.7	82.6	80.0	71.9	65.2	81.0	60.0	50	40
51	9	Brunei Darussalam	67.5	0.5	66.1	48.6	60.4	95.0	75.6	39.0	75.3	75.1	74.8	84.6	65	50
52	28	Armenia	67.1	1.7	48.6	31.4	51.8	87.2	77.5	84.1	72.9	59.2	77.2	75.0	70	70
53	29	Spain	66.8	0.5	88.0	74.3	64.2	58.2	37.3	57.3	82.6	61.7	78.2	79.4	60	60
54	4	Seychelles	66.5	0.1	82.6	61.7	71.7	77.3	68.0	92.2	71.3	52.0	79.8	81.2	30	30
55	9	Paraguay	66.4	1.2	44.2	38.4	27.3	95.9	86.9	83.0	72.0	44.1	76.5	78.4	80	70
56	10	Peru	66.3	0.4	44.0	47.8	35.0	79.4	84.8	87.4	73.1	64.7	77.6	81.6	60	60
57	5	Bahrain	65.7	0.1	60.9	30.0	45.9	99.9	75.0	0.0	75.9	55.5	88.8	86.8	90	80
58	30	Romania	65.4	-1.1	81.0	67.0	50.0	89.1	56.7	21.4	74.4	63.6	72.7	79.4	70	60
59	6	Saudi Arabia	65.4	1.0	51.4	38.2	52.7	99.2	77.0	97.9	71.2	41.8	81.2	73.8	50	50
60	10	Indonesia	65.1	-0.1	39.7	43.1	42.0	81.5	91.4	89.8	69.2	56.8	79.4	78.6	50	60
61	11	The Bahamas	65.1	1.9	62.7	79.8	67.1	96.1	83.8	9.1	69.4	66.5	77.2	59.4	50	60
62	31	Serbia	65.0	0.6	57.2	50.1	37.2	88.0	48.2	94.3	73.6	61.8	73.0	76.6	70	50
63	12	Panama	64.9	-0.6	56.7	49.6	37.4	86.1	85.5	51.8	72.6	60.9	78.2	80.2	60	60
64	13	Belize	64.7	0.5	46.3	73.9	46.2	81.8	81.0	87.5	67.2	57.6	72.6	57.8	55	50
65	32	France	64.6	0.2	91.2	84.7	73.4	54.6	0.9	34.8	78.4	59.1	73.2	79.4	75	70
66	11	Vietnam	64.4	-0.8	47.3	31.3	39.2	80.9	89.5	96.9	70.0	54.7	73.2	79.8	60	50
67	33	Azerbaijan	64.3	1.8	53.3	16.5	23.6	87.9	71.3	99.1	71.2	56.9	76.0	75.8	70	70
68	12	Kazakhstan	64.2	0.4	54.9	33.8	40.7	91.2	85.6	97.2	64.9	63.5	64.3	74.4	50	50
69	13	Mongolia	63.9	1.3	49.2	54.9	35.8	83.7	64.6	96.1	68.4	68.2	72.1	74.4	50	50
70	34	Montenegro	63.8	0	60.9	51.5	49.9	88.7	47.6	86.2	68.4	59.4	75.2	78.4	50	50
71	14	Dominican Republic	63.8	-0.5	53.9	58.0	39.8	84.4	89.1	76.6	71.4	53.2	72.1	67.4	60	40
72	15	Guatemala	63.5	0.1	39.1	26.1	25.2	91.3	94.3	95.9	65.7	52.5	77.3	74.6	70	50
73	35	Italy	63.3	2.4	84.8	80.9	60.8	57.5	15.3	17.2	74.5	70.6	79.1	79.4	80	60
74	36	North Macedonia	63.3	0.1	56.2	49.5	43.2	94.9	61.7	57.7	72.2	51.4	69.6	77.8	65	60
75	37	Greece	63.2	2.6	78.0	68.0	54.8	59.9	24.7	78.9	77.8	59.7	72.6	79.4	55	50
76	38	Bosnia and Herzegovina	63.1	-0.4	46.9	36.1	36.8	93.9	48.4	96.2	65.1	62.7	77.5	69.0	65	60
77	14	Philippines	62.9	2.3	45.8	41.8	35.4	78.3	81.0	60.5	69.2	57.8	72.1	83.0	70	60
78	15	Micronesia	62.9	0.7	75.3	82.0	54.2	92.1	7.3	99.8	56.7	72.5	75.0	75.0	35	30
79	39	Hungary	62.5	1.1	67.3	61.9	44.0	85.1	30.2	32.7	70.8	56.5	72.1	79.4	80	70
80	16	Trinidad and Tobago	62.4	-1.2	47.3	58.8	45.5	76.1	71.1	86.3	67.1	57.2	81.0	68.8	50	40
81	40	Kosovo	62.4	0.7	50.6	32.8	46.1	91.3	73.7	99.2	55.4	47.5	73.4	84.2	65	30
82	16	Thailand	62.2	1.6	41.8	35.0	38.9	80.8	83.6	81.0	69.9	56.4	73.3	70.2	55	60
83	7	Morocco	61.8	1.5	55.2	32.5	35.6	65.5	67.5	57.5	72.1	46.2	79.6	69.8	80	80
84	17	Vanuatu	61.1	-0.7	62.1	67.9	48.3	96.9	48.1	78.8	50.3	41.0	72.1	62.0	65	40
85	5	São Tomé and Príncipe	60.6	0.2	55.2	60.8	47.2	88.6	80.6	89.5	59.9	40.8	59.4	65.0	50	30
86	18	Uzbekistan	60.3	2.3	43.1	13.7	32.0	95.0	73.7	79.9	62.5	48.4	65.1	80.6	70	60
87	6	Namibia	60.2	1.5	63.1	67.2	51.5	66.4	57.1	60.5	58.0	62.7	76.1	69.8	50	40

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88	7	Benin	60.0	1.5	46.4	47.7	44.1	69.4	89.1	65.4	53.3	60.2	82.1	62.6	50	50
89	17	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	60.0	-0.1	65.2	76.9	63.3	82.0	56.2	2.8	67.3	60.1	77.3	58.8	70	40
90	8	Kuwait	59.9	0	42.0	43.4	47.9	97.7	36.2	99.9	57.4	49.2	68.7	75.8	50	50
91	18	Colombia	59.8	0	43.1	57.4	41.6	68.6	64.0	49.8	71.2	59.1	71.9	71.4	60	60
92	19	Mexico	59.8	-1.5	37.6	40.4	28.8	75.4	74.6	56.7	67.0	57.3	70.6	74.2	75	60
93	19	Fiji	59.5	0.4	59.9	53.2	55.4	87.8	70.0	7.5	69.5	66.9	72.4	66.6	55	50
94	9	Jordan	59.3	-0.1	52.3	44.0	51.0	84.1	67.2	5.2	62.7	51.3	81.2	82.0	70	60
95	20	Honduras	59.1	-0.5	35.7	27.6	24.6	83.1	80.3	95.2	59.4	37.9	70.1	69.8	65	60
96	8	Tanzania	59.0	-0.3	45.2	29.6	40.9	80.4	89.1	75.0	48.1	62.3	73.4	58.8	55	50
97	20	Tonga	58.9	0.4	71.1	64.9	45.1	85.6	31.0	97.3	59.2	55.9	61.0	75.4	40	20
98	21	Cambodia	58.7	0.5	38.1	21.2	18.9	90.3	89.9	92.7	60.8	48.3	77.0	67.8	50	50
99	21	Guyana	58.7	0.5	46.7	48.6	38.8	76.4	85.0	39.9	70.9	76.0	78.5	59.2	55	30
100	9	South Africa	58.6	1.3	48.8	64.6	46.7	65.4	68.4	45.3	67.9	70.8	75.8	68.8	40	40
101	41	Moldova	58.1	-0.2	40.4	32.4	45.1	87.9	57.2	70.3	68.3	48.1	66.0	76.8	55	50
102	10	Côte d'Ivoire	58.1	0.3	43.9	30.2	39.3	81.6	86.6	48.0	68.3	57.1	67.6	74.4	50	50
103	22	El Salvador	57.7	1.1	42.7	15.3	31.5	76.8	72.7	59.4	65.7	51.6	70.6	76.4	70	60
104	11	Eswatini	57.5	1.1	42.5	35.5	29.7	78.6	71.0	87.5	49.9	55.2	76.8	73.6	50	40
105	22	Bhutan	57.5	0	69.2	61.8	72.2	83.4	74.1	25.8	67.8	60.1	71.6	63.4	20	20
106	23	Argentina	57.4	3.2	41.2	58.2	41.2	67.8	62.3	72.2	56.8	53.5	28.9	67.4	70	70
107	12	Ghana	57.3	1.3	50.2	57.5	45.4	79.4	84.0	10.1	64.5	54.9	56.7	65.2	60	60
108	13	Madagascar	57.0	0	39.8	33.7	26.8	90.5	91.5	68.8	37.3	56.1	71.8	67.6	50	50
109	14	Gabon	56.6	0.3	30.0	19.9	22.6	76.5	85.5	87.9	63.6	55.4	80.9	57.4	60	40
110	15	Rwanda	56.5	1.7	60.3	27.5	53.9	80.6	75.7	37.5	60.1	49.1	72.3	61.8	60	40
111	16	Djibouti	56.3	0.6	30.4	28.6	27.9	83.5	86.7	87.7	52.9	57.5	70.6	49.8	50	50
112	17	The Gambia	56.3	-0.5	55.4	45.8	40.5	79.2	81.1	54.8	50.1	46.4	57.3	64.8	50	50
113	24	Dominica	56.1	0.8	65.8	77.3	61.2	76.1	0.0	45.6	66.2	49.8	77.7	53.2	60	40
114	23	Kyrgyz Republic	56.0	0.4	22.9	8.3	23.9	93.2	65.6	97.2	58.2	52.3	68.0	72.6	60	50
115	25	Ecuador	55.6	-0.2	33.2	48.1	33.0	74.2	54.9	90.3	64.3	56.9	76.3	66.4	30	40
116	18	Kenya	55.5	0.7	40.2	47.0	32.7	76.3	84.1	36.2	61.5	56.5	75.1	52.0	55	50
117	42	Türkiye	55.0	-1.1	36.4	23.5	35.3	72.0	71.8	77.8	61.6	44.3	36.5	71.0	70	60
118	19	Lesotho	54.9	0.8	41.7	43.6	39.6	76.4	21.3	93.5	50.6	57.0	74.8	65.4	55	40
119	20	Nigeria	54.8	1.4	29.7	34.4	23.5	84.6	96.3	83.5	50.3	75.4	56.1	64.4	30	30
120	24	Bangladesh	54.8	0.1	32.1	36.7	22.7	79.9	95.3	68.4	52.7	50.5	65.8	63.0	50	40
121	21	Angola	54.4	-0.6	36.9	26.3	28.3	86.9	89.3	91.9	42.8	50.8	59.0	70.4	30	40
122	25	Papua New Guinea	54.3	1.8	45.0	41.1	30.8	70.9	86.1	65.3	34.2	65.1	77.4	80.2	25	30
123	22	Mauritania	53.9	-1.0	32.6	26.4	24.5	75.5	80.2	87.9	38.7	53.6	77.8	59.6	50	40
124	26	Solomon Islands	53.7	-2.6	55.8	59.1	42.7	71.3	54.6	83.3	52.3	60.4	76.5	43.6	15	30
125	26	Nicaragua	53.6	-0.4	23.8	8.8	13.4	74.5	77.7	96.9	54.4	47.3	69.4	67.0	60	50
126	23	Senegal	53.2	-3.2	57.4	50.5	47.3	68.8	63.1	0	55.2	54.4	74.3	67.0	60	40
127	24	Guinea	53.1	-1.5	21.3	26.0	26.7	70.1	90.1	74.8	44.8	56.4	75.3	61.8	50	40
128	27	Suriname	53.0	2.1	40.5	46.5	41.0	69.1	74.3	76.6	56.9	69.0	56.4	65.2	20	20
129	27	Nepal	52.9	0.4	38.8	42.9	38.9	84.3	82.1	71.0	60.8	48.2	69.4	58.6	10	30

2026 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS

World Rank	Region Rank	Country Name	2026 Score	SCORE CHANGE	Property Rights	Judicial Effectiveness	Gov't Integrity	Tax Burden	Gov't Spending	Fiscal Health	Business Freedom	Labor Freedom	Monetary Freedom	Trade Freedom	Investment Freedom	Financial Freedom
130	25	Comoros	52.7	1.3	25.3	23.1	17.9	65.3	89.8	86.0	55.3	56.2	73.8	64.2	45	30
131	28	Tajikistan	52.5	1.0	28.4	10.1	18.5	94.2	77.0	98.6	60.6	43.4	72.6	72.2	25	30
132	29	India	52.5	-0.5	48.3	52.6	37.8	71.2	75.7	6.7	67.4	59.0	70.9	61.0	40	40
133	26	Uganda	52.4	1.1	42.2	29.4	25.1	73.4	89.0	58.3	50.2	55.9	77.1	58.0	30	40
134	28	Brazil	52.4	-2.7	49.2	55.6	37.2	70.6	39.8	28.0	65.7	57.0	76.0	69.0	40	40
135	27	Mali	52.1	-0.5	13.8	23.3	23.2	67.9	81.8	73.6	40.8	54.1	78.2	64.0	65	40
136	28	Cameroon	52.0	-0.1	28.1	10.1	21.0	72.2	91.4	94.5	48.6	45.6	75.3	57.2	30	50
137	29	Zambia	51.9	1.0	43.9	45.0	39.3	74.3	78.1	30.9	53.4	48.8	66.6	62.8	40	40
138	30	Togo	51.6	-0.7	43.6	34.0	33.3	68.9	79.2	9.6	60.1	51.9	72.5	65.8	60	40
139	31	Chad	51.2	-1.0	17.2	15.0	15.2	77.9	92.2	97.9	27.4	53.7	71.6	46.4	60	40
140	32	Niger	51.0	-0.5	16.6	28.0	33.9	78.2	91.4	47.6	32.4	54.7	67.9	65.8	55	40
141	30	Laos	50.9	-0.2	41.1	10.2	25.9	88.5	92.7	80.0	54.2	40.7	53.3	69.0	35	20
142	31	Kiribati	50.8	-0.1	69.6	54.6	50.5	72.6	0.0	19.8	60.2	65.3	76.7	80.0	30	30
143	33	Malawi	50.7	-0.2	49.5	51.8	35.0	77.0	77.8	4.7	34.1	55.2	55.1	68.6	50	50
144	32	Sri Lanka	50.3	0.9	47.3	47.2	37.3	77.0	89.0	0	60.1	54.3	65.9	65.6	30	30
145	43	Russia	50.3	-1.3	18.6	22.8	22.8	81.9	61.3	94.4	51.4	59.1	61.8	69.4	30	30
146	10	Egypt	50.3	-0.6	35.5	24.0	27.1	85.7	83.4	21.8	51.4	43.1	56.0	60.2	65	50
147	34	Liberia	49.8	1.3	40.4	23.4	25.8	86.1	79.5	56.9	38.0	43.4	71.4	57.4	55	20
148	35	Sierra Leone	49.6	1.6	32.9	42.0	35.8	88.2	92.4	54.1	44.8	38.2	53.6	63.6	30	20
149	36	Mozambique	49.6	-1.1	29.7	43.4	25.1	75.8	67.0	39.1	40.2	47.7	76.2	71.2	40	40
150	44	Belarus	49.1	0.2	20.0	11.5	28.3	93.5	52.6	96.8	50.3	48.0	69.0	69.2	30	20
151	37	Burkina Faso	49.1	-1.9	17.6	26.1	40.2	80.8	72.9	13.4	37.8	62.1	71.9	61.0	65	40
152	33	Pakistan	48.9	-0.2	25.7	27.6	26.3	78.2	88.5	10.1	54.4	51.7	54.1	70.4	60	40
153	38	Republic of Congo	48.6	0	28.7	15.4	13.9	73.7	85.8	80.8	35.8	52.4	78.4	52.8	35	30
154	34	China	48.3	-0.7	40.9	38.6	42.3	69.3	67.8	4.4	68.7	57.9	76.1	73.4	20	20
155	39	Ethiopia	48.1	0	22.1	19.1	33.2	78.6	96.4	84.3	44.5	37.8	53.7	57.4	30	20
156	11	Tunisia	48.1	-1.0	55.7	39.7	42.1	68.5	62.5	16.0	59.4	55.8	72.4	54.6	20	30
157	35	Timor-Leste	47.9	0	43.5	34.5	43.9	97.1	0	19.6	62.7	56.5	72.2	79.8	45	20
158	36	Maldives	47.6	-0.7	52.2	39.3	41.9	89.9	39.5	0.0	49.7	54.1	76.4	62.8	35	30
159	40	Equatorial Guinea	47.4	-0.3	16.9	7.2	6.9	81.0	90.8	97.3	35.9	45.2	73.5	43.6	40	30
160	37	Turkmenistan	47.0	-0.1	17.4	12.3	8.4	94.2	94.3	99.9	37.5	29.3	76.7	74.2	10	10
161	41	Democratic Republic of Congo	47.0	-0.3	15.4	11.7	12.8	73.8	91.2	95.9	32.3	54.2	58.6	68.2	30	20
162	29	Haiti	46.1	0	6.6	17.3	13.0	81.7	98.7	99.5	30.7	54.7	45.1	66.4	20	20
163	12	Algeria	45.8	-1.7	27.7	30.0	29.4	80.3	61.9	15.4	59.3	52.2	74.7	58.8	30	30
164	38	Burma	44.5	0.8	5.7	3.9	18.1	88.6	86.6	62.7	37.9	53.2	57.5	69.4	30	20
165	42	Guinea-Bissau	43.2	-0.4	28.4	13.2	21.0	89.0	86.5	6.5	34.6	55.9	75.9	47.0	30	30
166	13	Lebanon	43.1	-1.0	21.8	23.8	23.4	90.3	93.3	63.4	47.6	48.4	0.0	65.6	20	20
167	43	Central African Republic	43.1	0.3	5.6	4.0	19.2	65.5	90.1	59.0	26.5	48.5	75.6	47.6	45	30
168	30	Bolivia	42.4	-1.7	20.2	29.5	27.1	86.4	56.3	0.8	53.6	52.2	67.1	60.6	15	40
169	14	Iran	41.8	-0.7	20.2	18.7	16.2	81.3	94.7	83.3	37.4	41.8	42.2	55.8	5	5
170	44	Burundi	40.2	0.5	27.2	7.5	15.5	76.1	76.3	14.6	27.2	49.9	55.5	52.2	50	30
171	45	Eritrea	39.6	1.0	4.8	5.5	10.9	80.3	62.3	69.0	30.7	43.4	80.0	68.4	0	20

2026 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS

World Rank	Region Rank	Country Name	2026 Score	SCORE CHANGE	Property Rights	Judicial Effectiveness	Gov't Integrity	Tax Burden	Gov't Spending	Fiscal Health	Business Freedom	Labor Freedom	Monetary Freedom	Trade Freedom	Investment Freedom	Financial Freedom
172	46	Zimbabwe	35.2	0.1	19.4	16.8	20.7	73.6	93.9	52.4	42.0	33.3	0	50.4	10	10
173	47	Sudan	32.5	-2.8	6.5	2.4	13.8	84.7	96.5	64.6	27.3	33.6	6.2	29.6	5	20
174	31	Venezuela	27.3	-0.3	0	5.1	6.9	73.4	93.0	29.1	31.1	35.5	0	43.2	0	10
175	32	Cuba	25.2	-0.2	27.7	16.0	33.0	51.9	0	0	41.4	20.0	20.0	72.8	10	10
176	39	North Korea	3.1	0.1	16.3	6.3	4.3	0	0	0	5.0	5.0	0	0	0	0
N/A	N/A	Afghanistan	N/A	N/A	3.6	0.0	13.5	92.0	90.8	98.4	33.7	44.4	84.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Iraq	N/A	N/A	8.3	5.8	20.2	85.5	N/A	95.7	42.8	60.6	68.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Libya	N/A	N/A	6.3	4.9	10.3	95.0	N/A	N/A	32.4	48.2	75.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Liechtenstein	N/A	N/A	93.1	87.3	83.7	93.4	N/A	N/A	83.6	51.9	N/A	N/A	80.0	80.0
N/A	N/A	Somalia	N/A	N/A	0.8	1.7	9.6	99.9	N/A	N/A	25.9	26.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Syria	N/A	N/A	4.0	3.7	3.6	87.3	N/A	N/A	33.8	37.2	80	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Ukraine	N/A	N/A	21.6	28.2	35.0	83.7	0	3.9	57.4	46.9	65.7	73.0	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Yemen	N/A	N/A	3.5	9.9	6.2	93.7	N/A	71.2	31.3	31.2	48.1	N/A	N/A	N/A

ECONOMIC FREEDOM: REGIONAL VARIATIONS (REGIONAL AVERAGE)

Regional Ranking	The Americas (59.7)	Asia-Pacific (58.6)	Europe (68.9)	Middle East/North Africa (58.6)	Sub-Saharan Africa (53.2)
1	Canada	Singapore	Switzerland	United Arab Emirates	Mauritius
2	Chile	Australia	Ireland	Qatar	Cabo Verde
3	United States	Taiwan	Luxembourg	Oman	Botswana
4	Barbados	New Zealand	Denmark	Israel	Seychelles
5	Uruguay	South Korea	Norway	Bahrain	São Tomé and Príncipe
6	Costa Rica	Japan	Estonia	Saudi Arabia	Namibia
7	Jamaica	Samoa	The Netherlands	Morocco	Benin
8	Saint Lucia	Malaysia	Sweden	Kuwait	Tanzania
9	Paraguay	Brunei Darussalam	Finland	Jordan	South Africa
10	Peru	Indonesia	Lithuania	Egypt	Côte d'Ivoire
11	The Bahamas	Vietnam	Iceland	Tunisia	Eswatini
12	Panama	Kazakhstan	Cyprus	Algeria	Ghana
13	Belize	Mongolia	Czech Republic	Lebanon	Madagascar
14	Dominican Republic	Philippines	Germany	Iran	Gabon
15	Guatemala	Micronesia	Latvia	Iraq	Rwanda
16	Trinidad and Tobago	Thailand	Portugal	Libya	Djibouti
17	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Vanuatu	United Kingdom	Syria	The Gambia
18	Colombia	Uzbekistan	Austria	Yemen	Kenya
19	Mexico	Fiji	Slovenia		Lesotho
20	Honduras	Tonga	Georgia		Nigeria
21	Guyana	Cambodia	Belgium		Angola
22	El Salvador	Bhutan	Bulgaria		Mauritania
23	Argentina	Kyrgyz Republic	Poland		Senegal
24	Dominica	Bangladesh	Malta		Guinea
25	Ecuador	Papua New Guinea	Albania		Comoros
26	Nicaragua	Solomon Islands	Slovakia		Uganda
27	Suriname	Nepal	Croatia		Mali
28	Brazil	Tajikistan	Armenia		Cameroon
29	Haiti	India	Spain		Zambia
30	Bolivia	Laos	Romania		Togo
31	Venezuela	Kiribati	Serbia		Chad
32	Cuba	Sri Lanka	France		Niger
33		Pakistan	Azerbaijan		Malawi
34		China	Montenegro		Liberia
35		Timor-Leste	Italy		Sierra Leone
36		Maldives	North Macedonia		Mozambique
37		Turkmenistan	Greece		Burkina Faso
38		Burma	Bosnia and Herzegovina		Republic of Congo
39		North Korea	Hungary		Ethiopia
40		Afghanistan	Kosovo		Equatorial Guinea
41			Moldova		Democratic Republic of Congo
42			Türkiye		Guinea-Bissau
43			Russia		Central African Republic
44			Belarus		Burundi
45			Liechtenstein		Eritrea
46			Ukraine		Zimbabwe
47					Sudan
48					Somalia

Economic Freedom Scores

- 80–100 Free
- 70–79.9 Mostly Free
- 60–69.9 Moderately Free
- 50–59.9 Mostly Unfree
- 0–49.9 Repressed
- Not Graded