

WORLD RANK: **65** | REGIONAL RANK: **32**

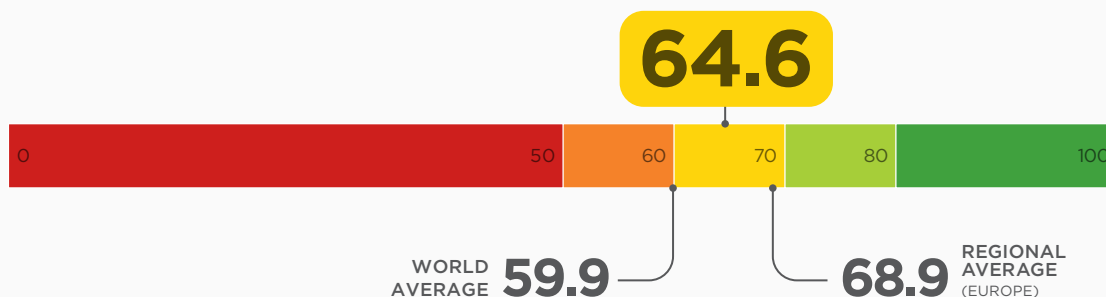
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **MODERATELY FREE**

FRANCE

France’s economic freedom score is 64.6, making its economy the 65th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.2 point from last year, and France is ranked 32nd out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country’s economic freedom score is higher than the world average and lower than the regional average. France’s economy is considered “moderately free” according to the 2026 *Index*.

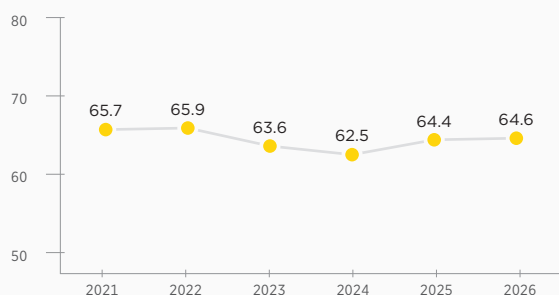
The French economy remains diversified and relatively resilient, and such institutional strengths as strong protection of property rights and a fairly efficient regulatory framework facilitate entrepreneurial activity. Reforms to increase economic competitiveness and flexibility have yielded only marginal progress. Labor regulations are rigid, and the labor market lacks the capacity to generate more vibrant employment growth. The government has partially or fully privatized many large companies but maintains a strong presence in such sectors as power, public transport, and defense.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +0.2

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
65.9 million

GDP (PPP):
\$4.4 trillion
0.7% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: 1.1%
\$66,061 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
7.4%

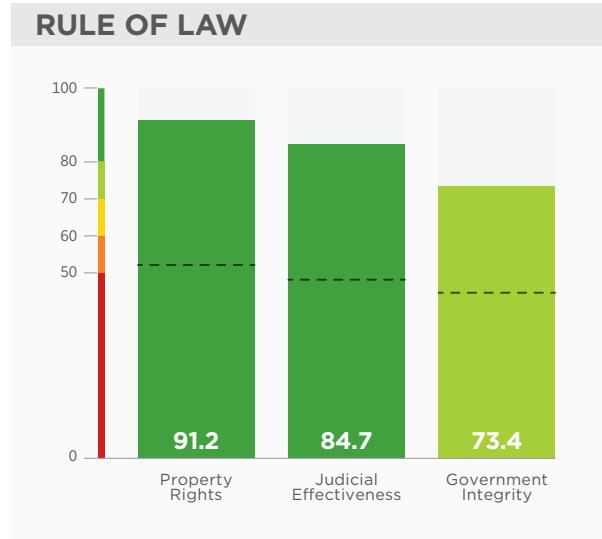
INFLATION (CPI):
2.3%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 67.2%

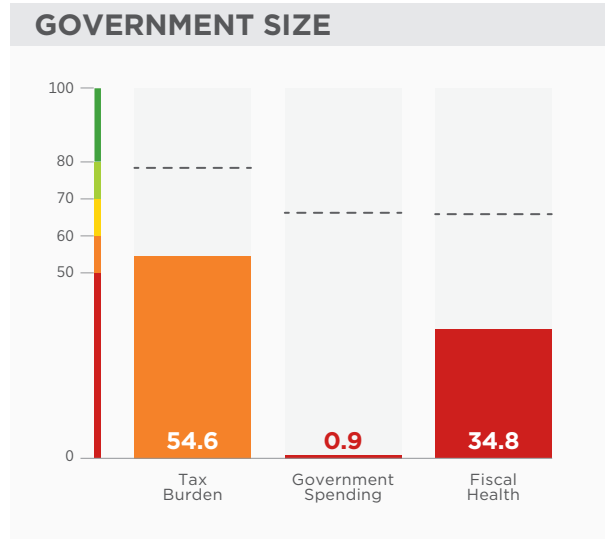
PUBLIC DEBT:
113.1% of GDP

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

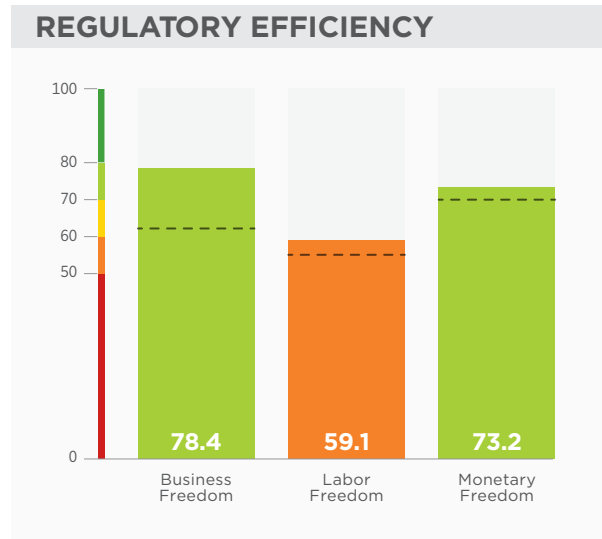
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | FRANCE



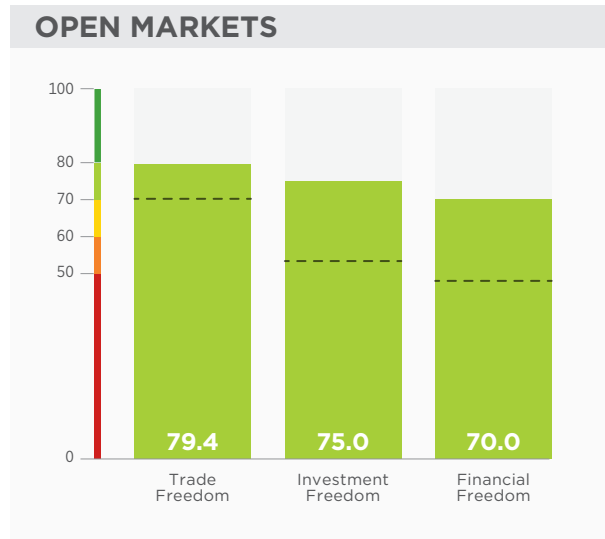
The overall rule of law is well respected in France. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 45 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 43.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 57.5 percent and -5.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 113.1 percent of GDP.



France'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 above the world average.



The trade-weighted average tariff rate (common among EU members) is 2.8 percent, and more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force along with additional country-specific nontariff barriers. Investment in some sectors is restricted. The financial sector is modern and mostly in private hands.