

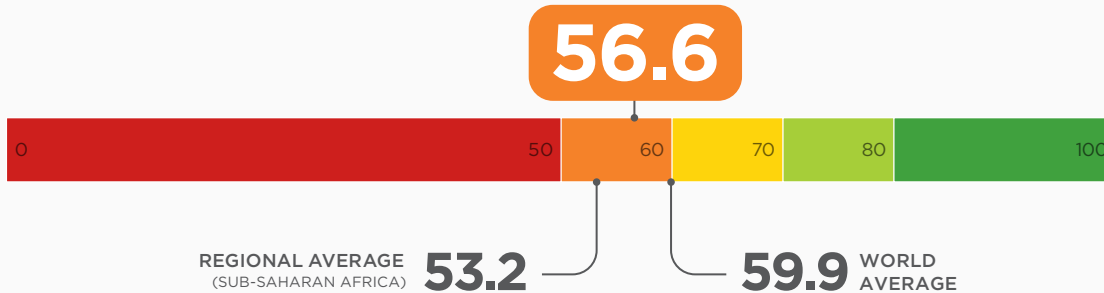
GABON

WORLD RANK: **109** REGIONAL RANK: **14**
 ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **MOSTLY UNFREE**

Gabon's economic freedom score is 56.6, making its economy the 109th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.3 point from last year, and Gabon is ranked 14th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the global average and higher than the regional average. Gabon's economy is considered "mostly unfree" according to the 2026 *Index*.

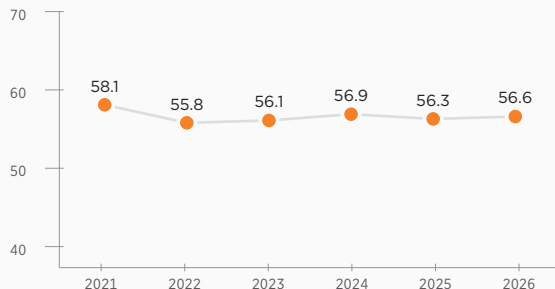
Poor fiscal management and overreliance on oil have stifled Gabon's economy. Institutional weaknesses undercut the foundations of economic freedom, undermine much-needed progress on reform, and constrain long-term economic development. Corruption continues to raise the cost of doing business. Open-market policies related to free trade and the free flow of capital are not deeply rooted in the economic system. Time-consuming administrative procedures discourage more dynamic entrepreneurship. Labor regulations are outmoded, and the labor market does not function well.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -0.9

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
2.2 million

GDP (PPP):
\$54.7 billion
1.9% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: 2.6%
\$24,739 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
20.1%

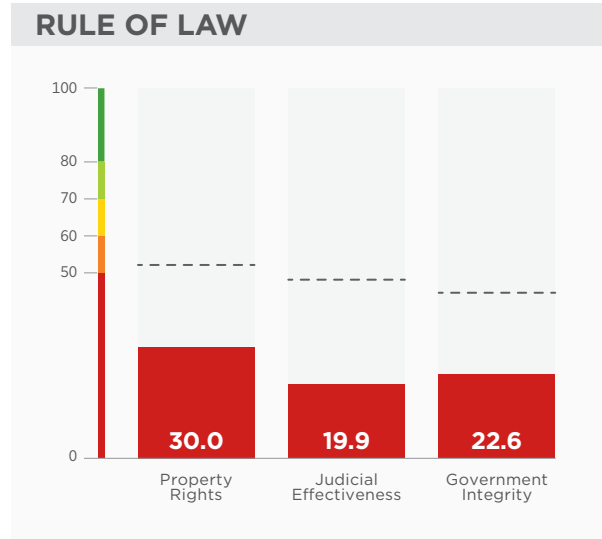
INFLATION (CPI):
1.2%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 94.5%

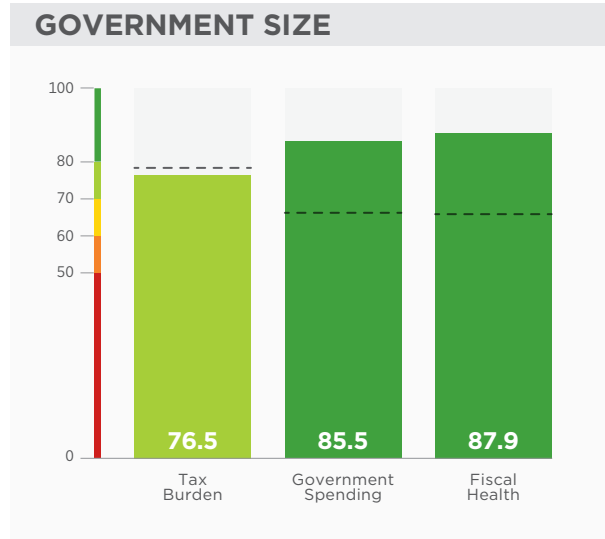
PUBLIC DEBT:
72.7% of GDP

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

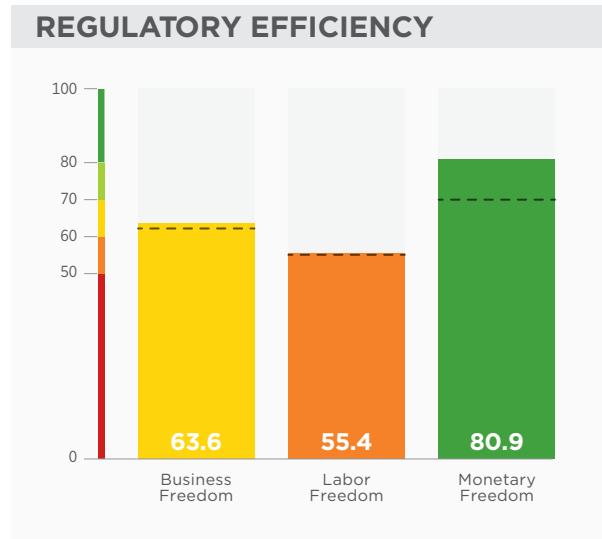
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | GABON



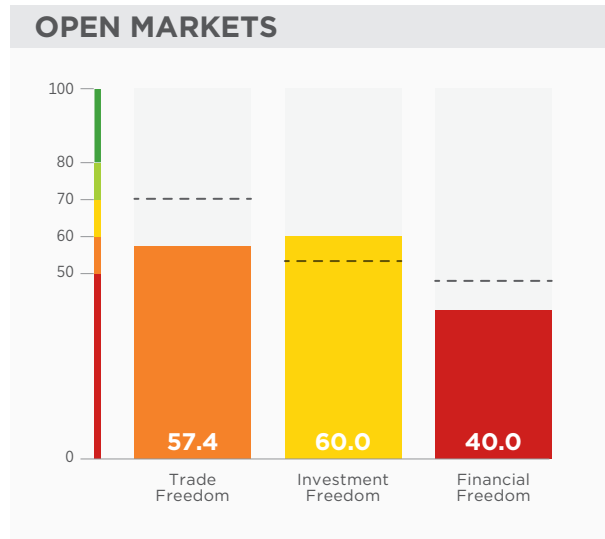
The overall rule of law is weak in Gabon. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 15.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 22.0 percent and -1.0 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 72.7 percent of GDP.



Gabon's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is 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 13.8 percent, and nontariff measures persist. The government screens foreign investment, and inefficient regulatory regimes discourage both foreign and domestic investment. The state-controlled financial sector remains underdeveloped. Credit costs are high, and access to financing is scarce.