

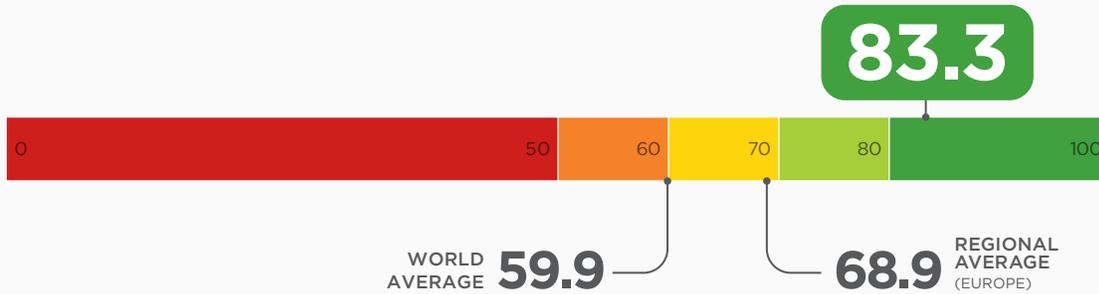
WORLD RANK: <b>3</b>	REGIONAL RANK: <b>2</b>
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: <b>FREE</b>	

# IRELAND

Ireland's economic freedom score is 83.3, making its economy the 3rd freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.2 point from last year, and Ireland is ranked 2nd out of 44 countries in the Europe region. The country's economic freedom score is higher than the world and regional averages. Ireland's economy is considered "free" according to the 2026 *Index*.

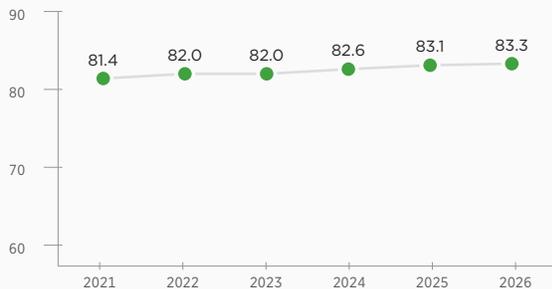
The Irish economy has many solid institutional strengths and continues to be a global leader in economic freedom. Regulatory efficiency and openness to global trade and investment support Ireland's competitiveness. With no minimum capital requirement, the streamlined regulatory process is very conducive to dynamic investment. The labor market remains relatively flexible, and labor costs are moderate. Monetary stability has been well maintained. Strong economic fundamentals are undergirded by reliable protection of property rights and an independent judiciary that safeguards the rule of law.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +14.8

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
5.3 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$726.2 billion  
9.1% growth in 2025  
3-year average growth rate: 3.1%  
\$147,878 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.4%

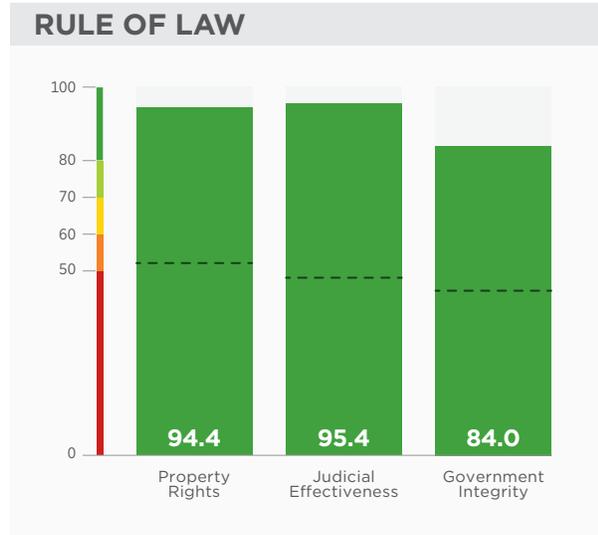
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
1.3%

**TRADE AS % OF GDP:** 253.0%

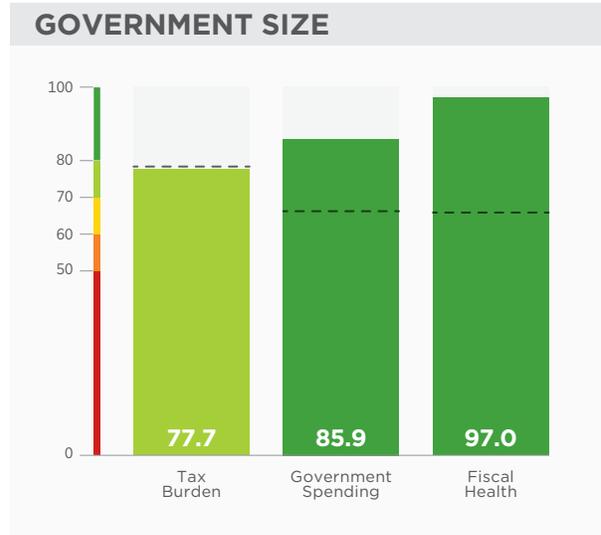
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
38.8% of GDP

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

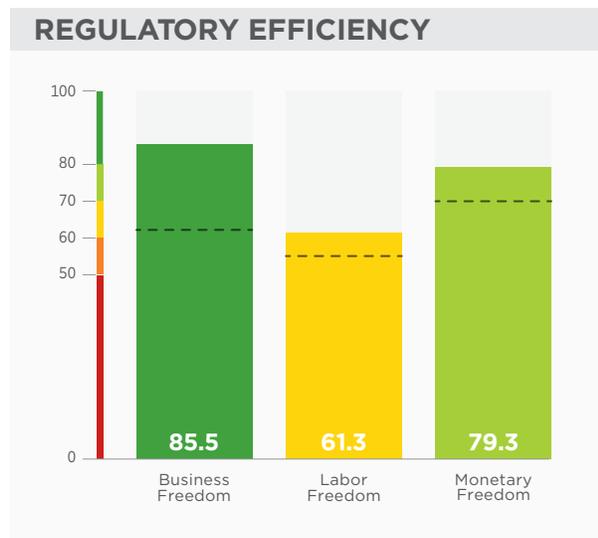
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | IRELAND



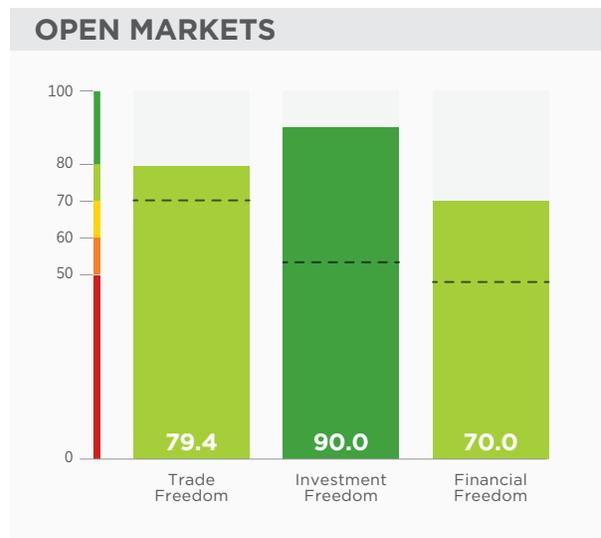
The overall rule of law is very well respected in Ireland. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 12.5 percent. The tax burden equals 21.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 21.7 percent and 2.4 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 38.8 percent of GDP.



Ireland'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 (common among EU members) is 2.8 percent, and numerous EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Commitment to facilitating global investment is well institutionalized. Recapitalization and restructuring have restored financial-sector stability, but the number of nonperforming loans remains relatively high.