

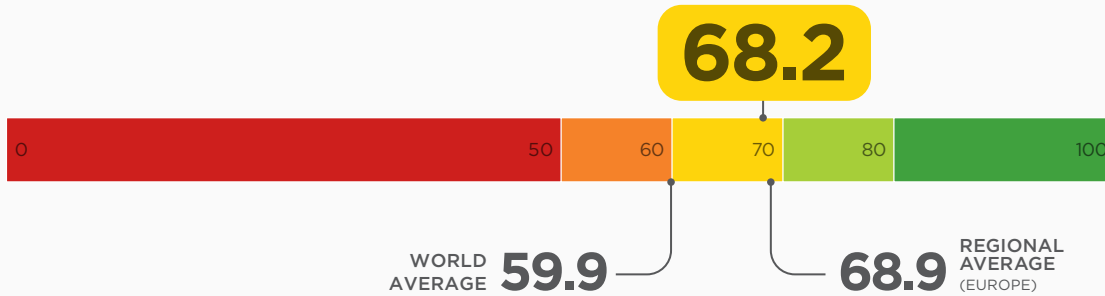
WORLD RANK:	REGIONAL RANK:
<b>43</b>	<b>24</b>
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS:	
<b>MODERATELY FREE</b>	

# MALTA

Malta's economic freedom score is 68.2, making its economy the 43rd freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.4 points from last year, and Malta is ranked 24th 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. Malta's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2026 *Index*.

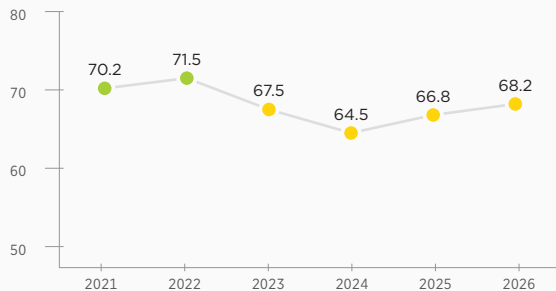
Malta's openness to international trade and investment has enhanced its competitiveness. Despite relatively good performance in many areas, some institutional foundations of economic freedom remain weak. The court system is transparent and relatively free of corruption but inefficient. Bureaucracy still discourages dynamic entrepreneurial activity. Malta has adopted transparent and effective regulations to foster competition, but the pace of reform has slowed. Business regulations are relatively straightforward. The labor market remains relatively rigid. The government mandates a minimum wage.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +11.9

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
0.5 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$41.6 billion  
3.9% growth in 2025  
3-year average growth rate: 7.1%  
\$78,711 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
2.8%

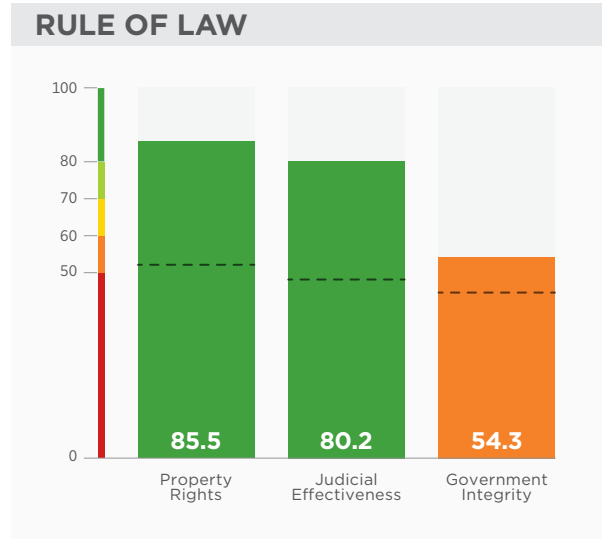
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
2.4%

**TRADE AS % OF GDP:** 229.5%

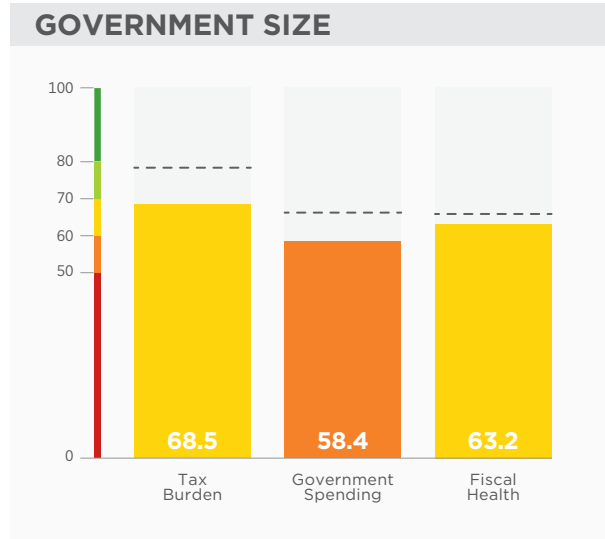
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
46.2% of GDP

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

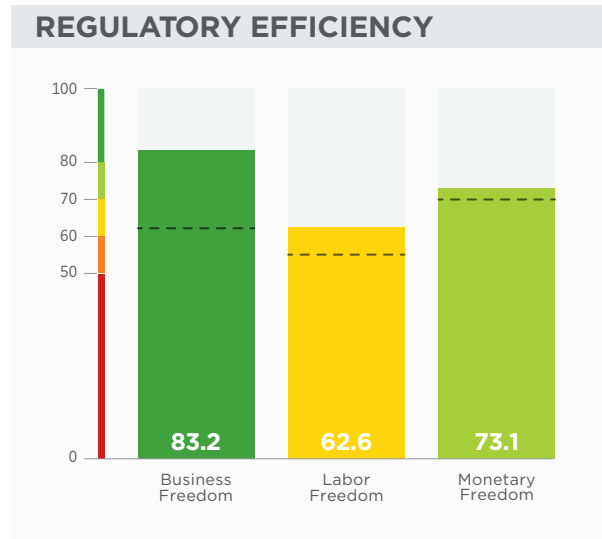
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MALTA



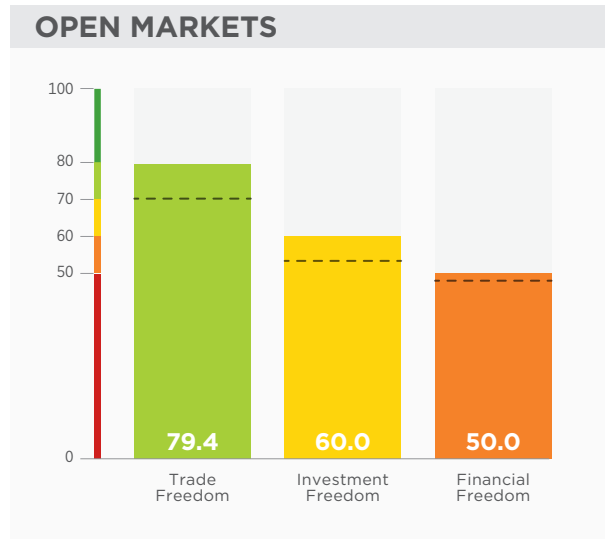
The overall rule of law is well respected in Malta. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 35 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 35 percent. The tax burden equals 26.5 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 37.2 percent and -4.5 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 46.2 percent of GDP.



Malta'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. Foreign investment is welcome, and investment regulations are generally transparent. The financial sector has undergone restructuring, and banking is more open to foreign banks.