

WORLD RANK: **123** | REGIONAL RANK: **22**

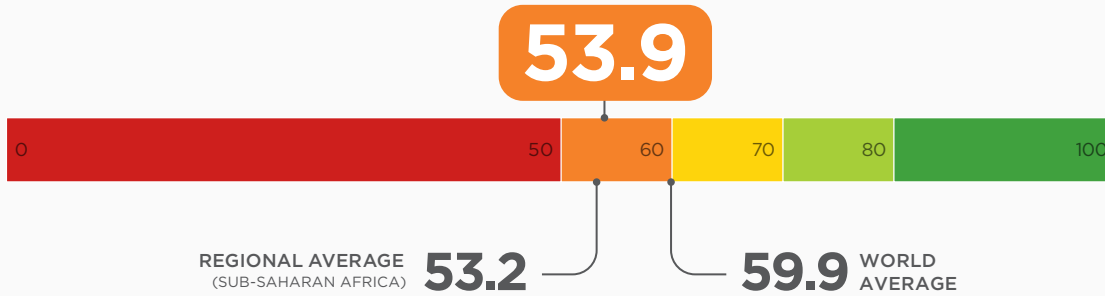
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **MOSTLY UNFREE**

MAURITANIA

Mauritania’s economic freedom score is 53.9, making its economy the 123rd freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 1.0 point from last year, and Mauritania is ranked 22nd 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. Mauritania’s economy is considered “mostly unfree” according to the 2026 *Index*.

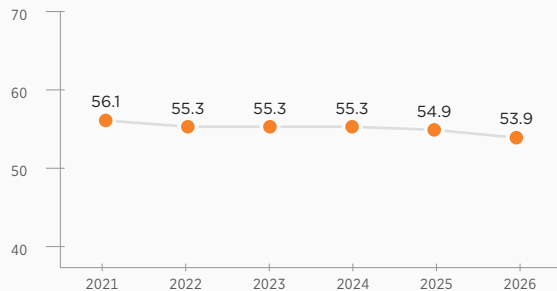
Serious institutional weaknesses continue to perpetuate a poor entrepreneurial environment and undercut prospects for long-term development. Protection of property rights is weak, and enforcement of the fragile rule of law remains limited and subject to political influence. Financial-sector shallowness and burdensome trade barriers continue to undermine overall economic efficiency. The regulatory environment imposes significant burdens on potential entrepreneurs. Outmoded labor regulations hinder job creation. The labor market functions poorly, and unemployment is chronically high.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1996): +8.4

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
4.4 million

GDP (PPP):
\$38.1 billion
4.0% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: 5.7%
\$8,775 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
10.4%

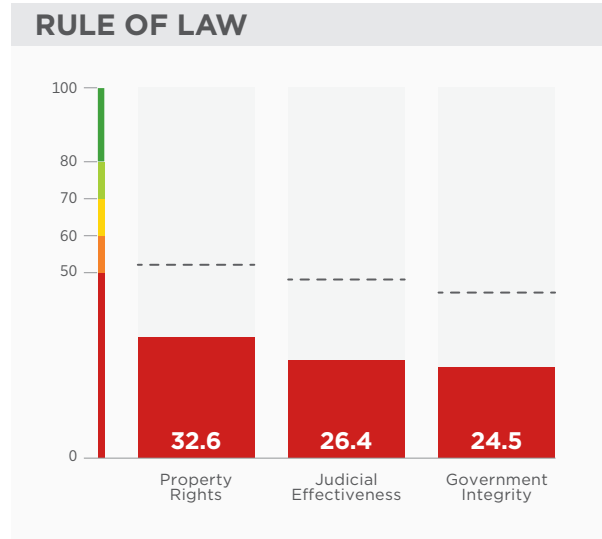
INFLATION (CPI):
2.5%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 91.5%

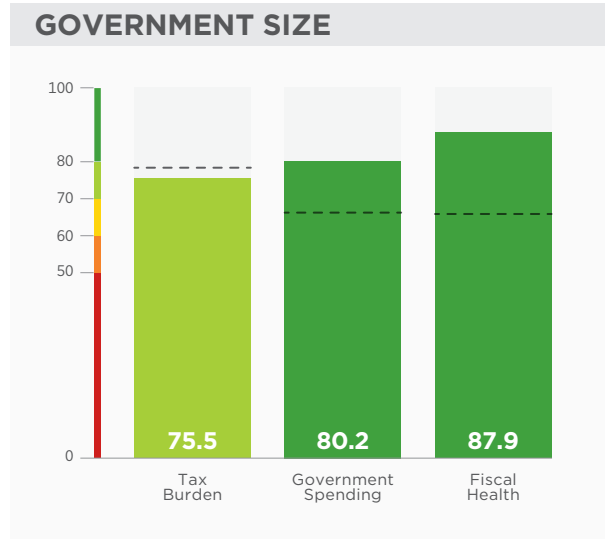
PUBLIC DEBT:
42.8% of GDP

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

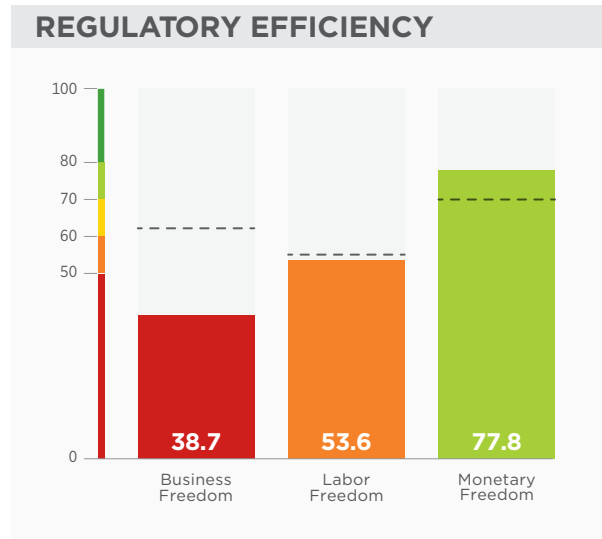
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | MAURITANIA



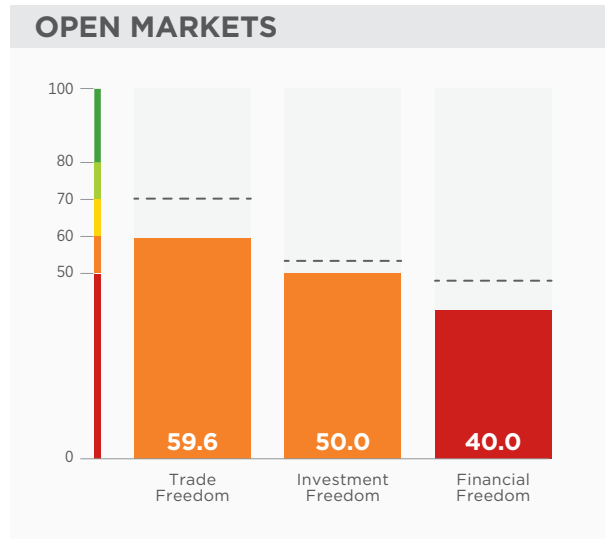
The overall rule of law is weak in Mauritania. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 15.1 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 25.7 percent and -2.3 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 42.8 percent of GDP.



Mauritania's overall regulatory environment is poorly institutionalized and inefficient. The country's business freedom score is far below the world average; its labor freedom score is below the world average; and its monetary freedom score is well above the world average.



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 10.2 percent. Nontariff barriers and other restrictions prevent entrepreneurs from participating in the global economy, and open-market policies to promote investment are not fully institutionalized. The financial sector is dominated by banking and lacks transparency and efficiency.