



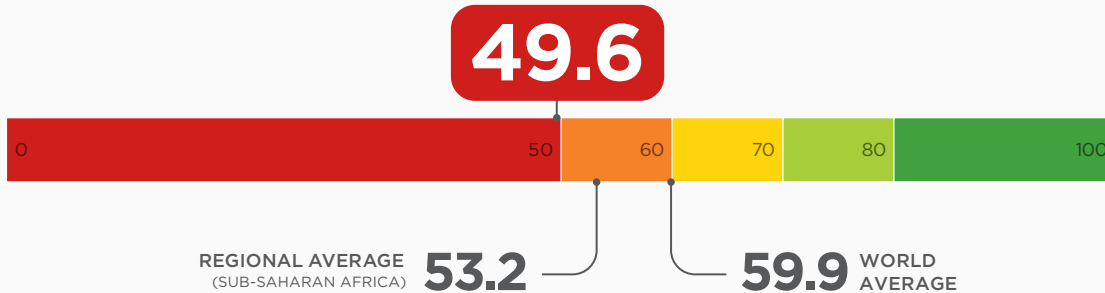
WORLD RANK: **148** | REGIONAL RANK: **35**  
 ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSED**

# SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone's economic freedom score is 49.6, making its economy the 148th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.6 points from last year, and Sierra Leone is ranked 35th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the global and regional averages. Sierra Leone's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2026 *Index*.

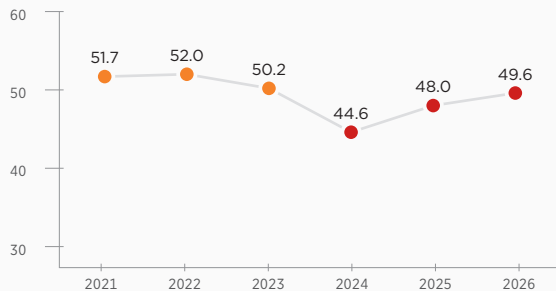
Sierra Leone is improving its legal and physical infrastructure, but multiple legislative, structural, institutional, and regulatory challenges threaten what otherwise could be the foundations of economic freedom. The rule of law is weak, and corruption continues to deter private-sector development. Inefficient regulatory enforcement impedes expansion and diversification of the productive base. Licensing requirements are time-consuming. Outmoded labor regulations have little practical impact because much of the labor force is employed in the informal sector. Inflation has been chronically high.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -0.2

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
8.5 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$30.5 billion  
4.4% growth in 2025  
3-year average growth rate: 4.8%  
\$3,699 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
3.2%

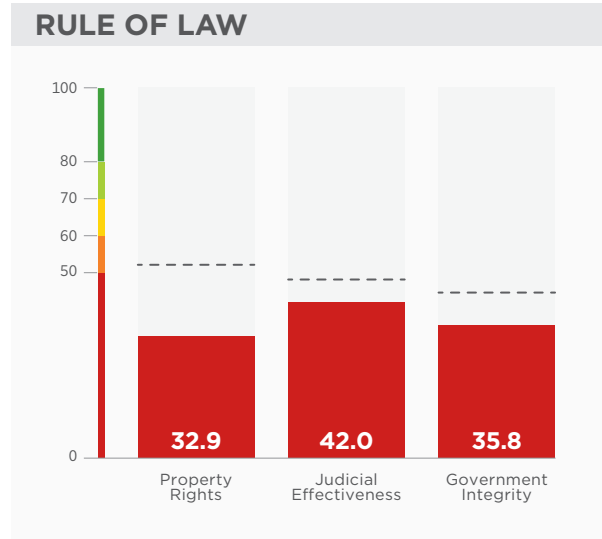
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
28.4%

**TRADE AS % OF GDP:**  
64.5%

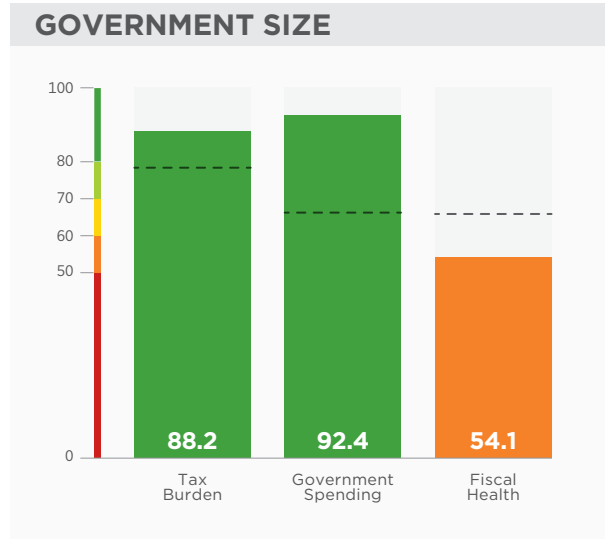
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
41.7% of GDP

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

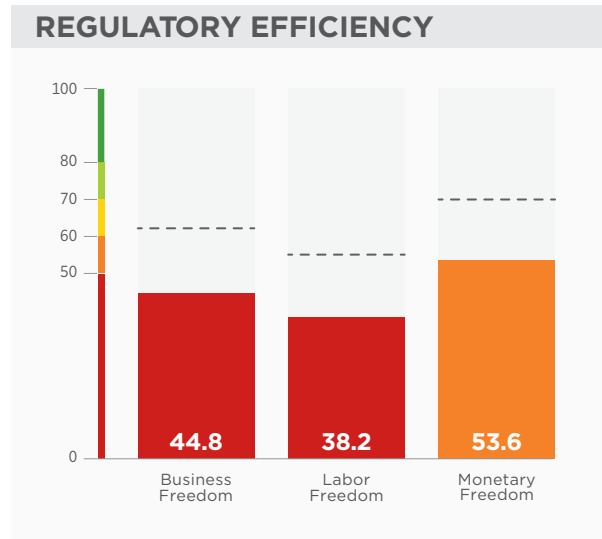
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SIERRA LEONE



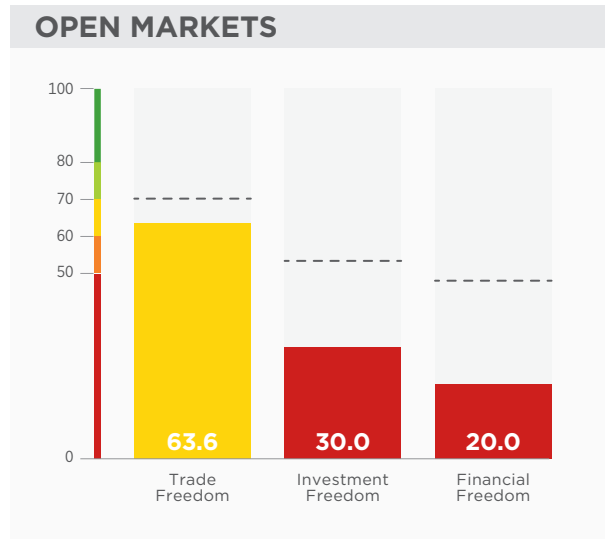
The overall rule of law is weak in Sierra Leone. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 15 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 7.4 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 15.9 percent and -5.1 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 41.7 percent of GDP.



Sierra Leone's overall regulatory environment is very inefficient and not conducive to entrepreneurial activity. 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 below the world average.



The trade-weighted average tariff rate is 13.2 percent, and nontariff barriers add to the cost of trade. Instability and the weak rule of law continue to discourage much-needed long-term investment. The state controls most bank assets.