

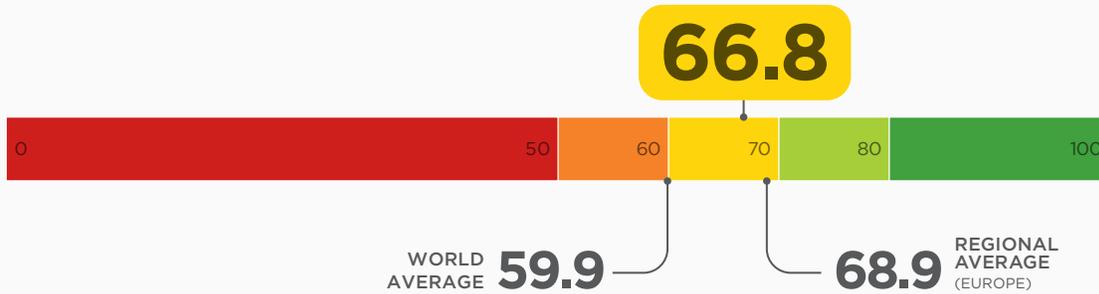
WORLD RANK: 53	REGIONAL RANK: 29
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: MODERATELY FREE	

SPAIN

Spain's economic freedom score is 66.8, making its economy the 53rd freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 0.5 point from last year, and Spain is ranked 29th 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. Spain's economy is considered "moderately free" according to the 2026 *Index*.

Progress toward greater economic freedom in Spain has been uneven. Regulatory efficiency and the rule of law are relatively well maintained, but long-term gains have been modest. Challenges to fiscal freedom, government spending, and financial freedom are significant. Fiscal deficits and high public debt reflect a need to reform financial management. Regulations are transparent. Business start-up procedures have been streamlined, and there are now fewer licensing requirements. Despite some progress, labor regulations remain restrictive and burdensome.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): +4.0

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
47.8 million

GDP (PPP):
\$2.7 trillion
2.9% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: 2.9%
\$56,888 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
11.4%

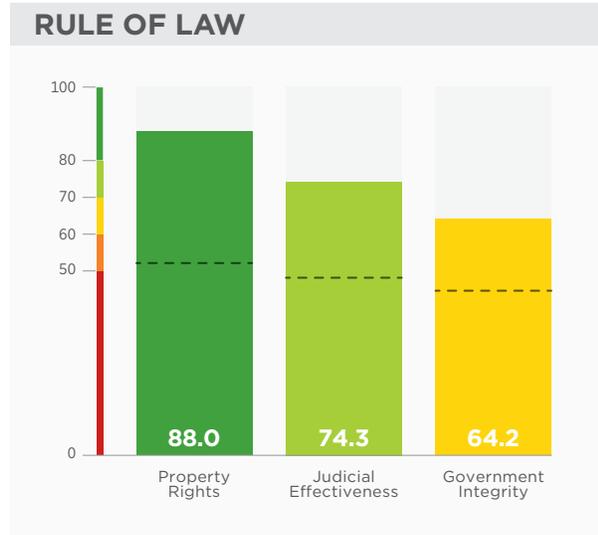
INFLATION (CPI):
2.9%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 70.3%

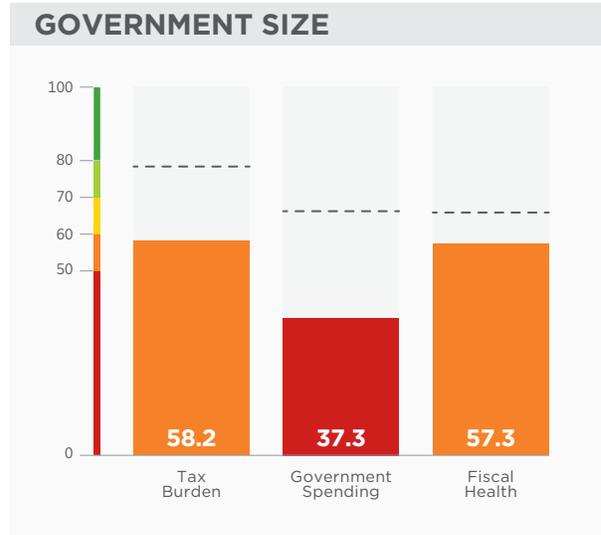
PUBLIC DEBT:
101.6% of GDP

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

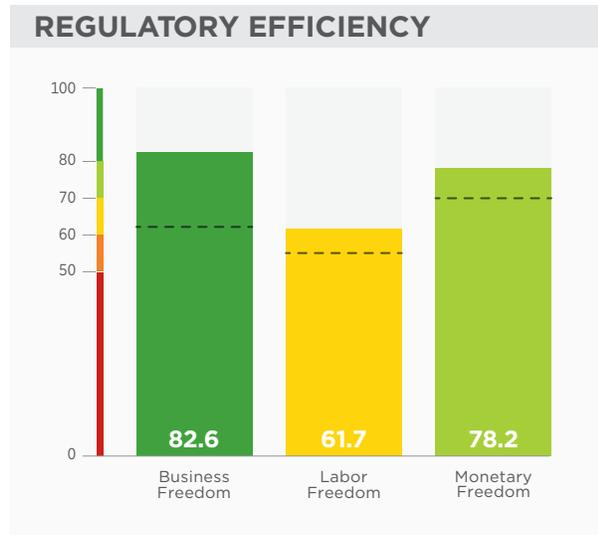
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | SPAIN



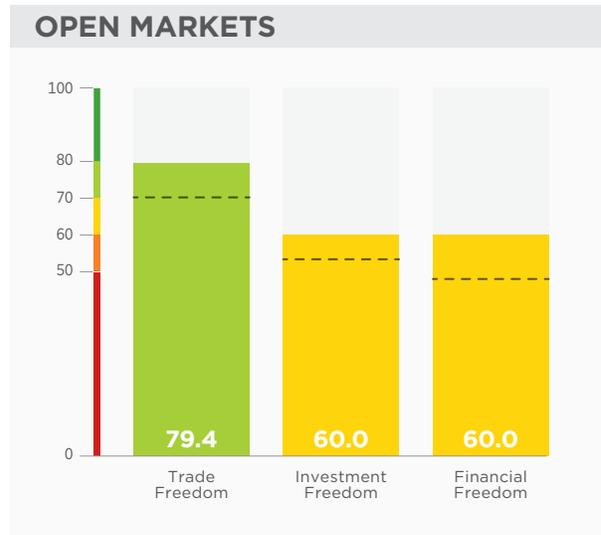
The overall rule of law is relatively well respected in Spain. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 47 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25 percent. The tax burden equals 36.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 45.7 percent and -3.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 101.6 percent of GDP.



Spain'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 more than 600 EU-mandated nontariff measures are in force. Many sectors of the economy are open to foreign investment. The banking sector has been relatively stable.