

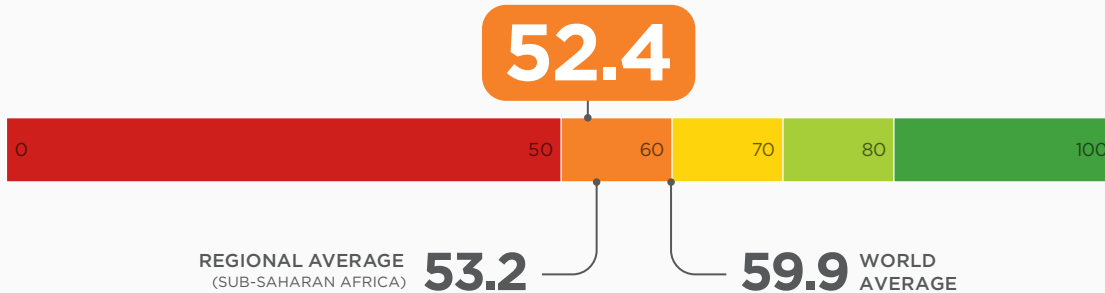
WORLD RANK: **133** | REGIONAL RANK: **26**
 ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **MOSTLY UNFREE**

UGANDA

Uganda’s economic freedom score is 52.4, making its economy the 133rd freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 1.1 points from last year, and Uganda is ranked 26th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country’s economic freedom score is lower than the global and regional averages. Uganda’s economy is considered “mostly unfree” according to the 2026 *Index*.

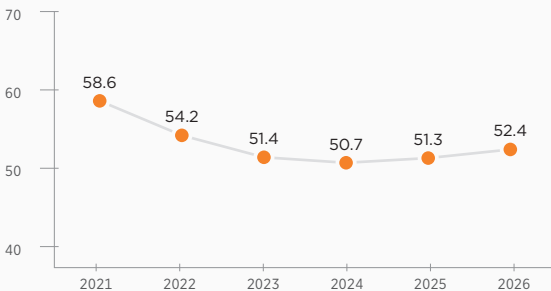
Uganda has attempted to update various commercial laws to reduce administrative delays and the cost of conducting business, but the overall regulatory framework remains poor, and institutional shortcomings still undermine prospects for long-term economic expansion. A well-functioning labor market is not fully developed. Monetary stability is weak. An inefficient judicial system and pervasive corruption continue to erode governmental effectiveness. Uganda’s significant natural wealth includes gold, oil, and rich agricultural lands from which more than two-thirds of Ugandans derive employment.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -10.5

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
45.5 million

GDP (PPP):
\$172.0 billion
6.4% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: 5.9%
\$3,904 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
3.0%

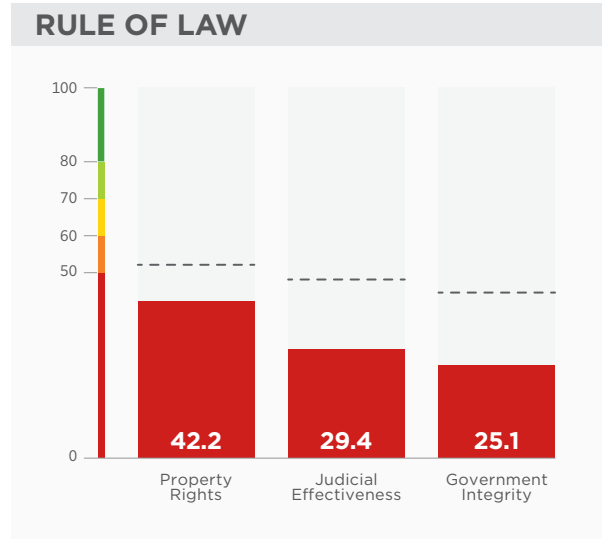
INFLATION (CPI):
3.3%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 41.5%

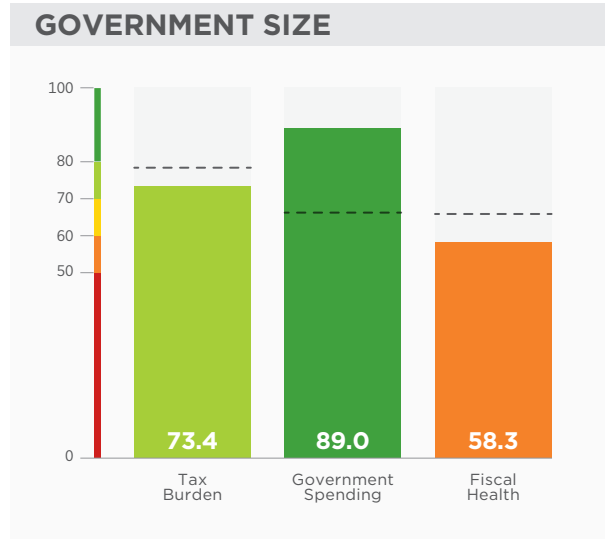
PUBLIC DEBT:
51.5% of GDP

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

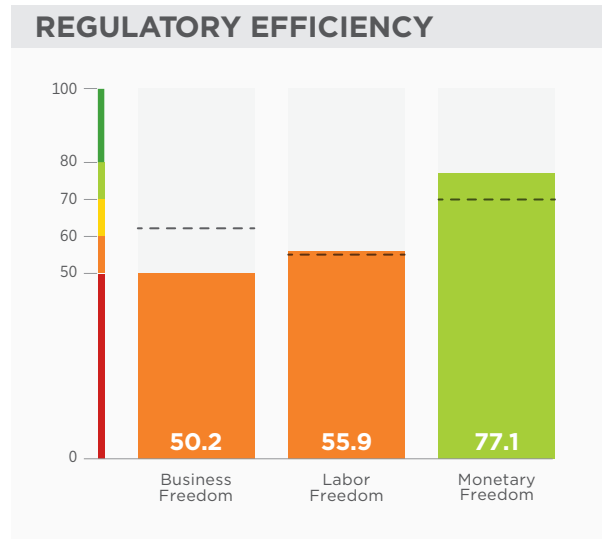
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | UGANDA



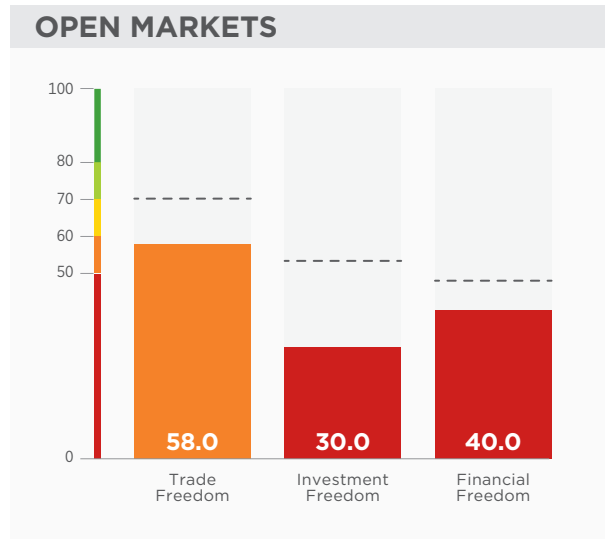
The overall rule of law is weak in Uganda. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 40 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 percent. The tax burden equals 12.7 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 19.1 percent and -4.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 51.5 percent of GDP.



Uganda's overall regulatory environment is relatively well institutionalized but lacks efficiency. The country's business freedom score is below 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 is 13.5 percent, and nontariff barriers further limit trade freedom. The investment regime is complex and nontransparent, but foreign investment is allowed in most sectors. The financial system is dominated by banking and not fully developed.