

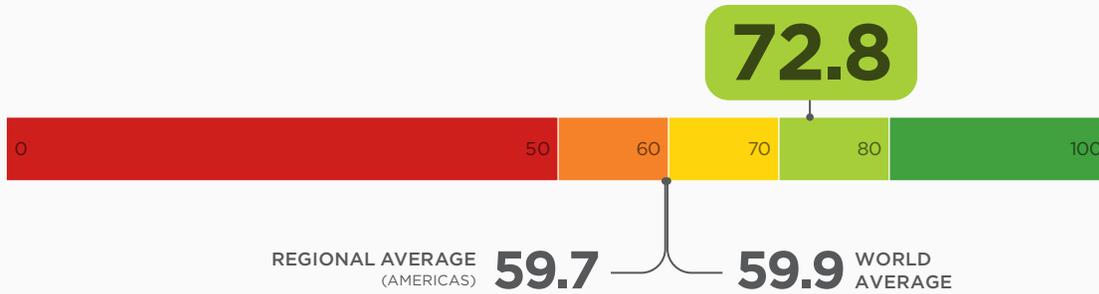


# UNITED STATES

The United States' economic freedom score is 72.8, making its economy the 22nd freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has increased by 2.6 points from last year, ending the precipitous five-year decline of America's economic freedom. The Trump Administration's pragmatic pro-growth economic strategy—lowering the costs of doing business, advancing and spreading prosperity, and enhancing long-term competitiveness—has yielded the strongest economic growth rate recorded in recent years.

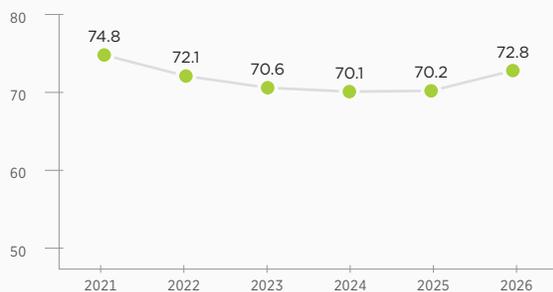
The American economy has achieved the largest score improvement among the major advanced economies and the third largest among all of the countries graded in the 2026 *Index*. Gains in monetary freedom, government spending, fiscal health, and investment freedom have outpaced the lower score in trade freedom, reflecting the positive impact of major regulatory and tax reforms on economic growth, investment, and business confidence. This improvement also marks America's biggest score advancement since 2001 and the second-best in the U.S.'s 32-year history in the *Index*.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -4.4

## RECENT FREEDOM TREND



## QUICK FACTS

**POPULATION:**  
340.1 million

**GDP (PPP):**  
\$29.3 trillion  
2.1% growth in 2025  
3-year average growth rate: 2.6%  
\$89,599 per capita

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**  
4.2%

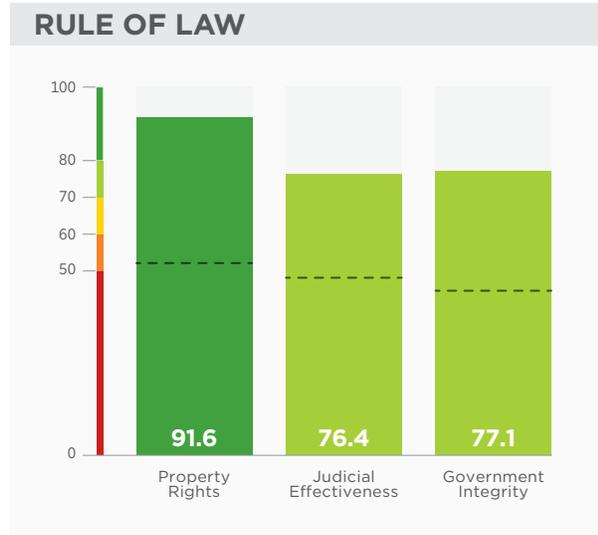
**INFLATION (CPI):**  
2.6%

**TRADE AS % OF GDP:** 24.9%

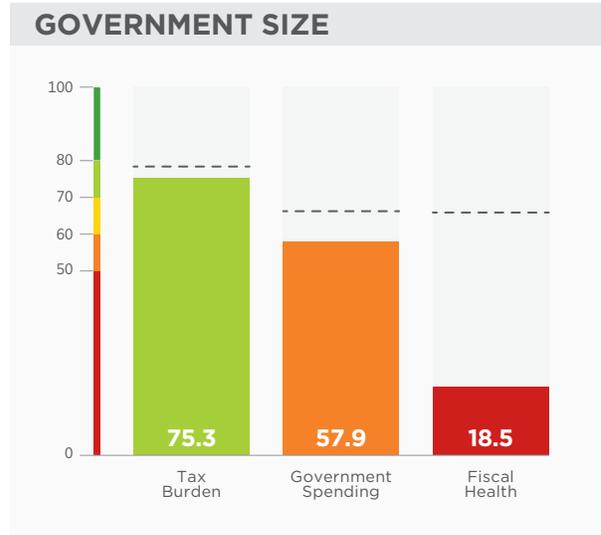
**PUBLIC DEBT:**  
122.3% of GDP

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

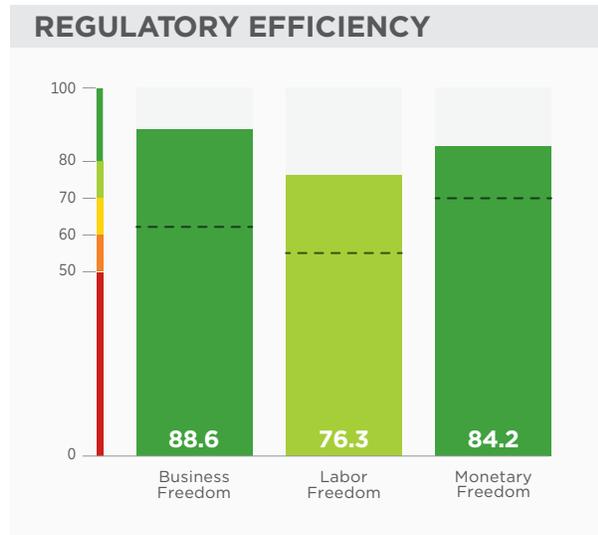
# 12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | UNITED STATES



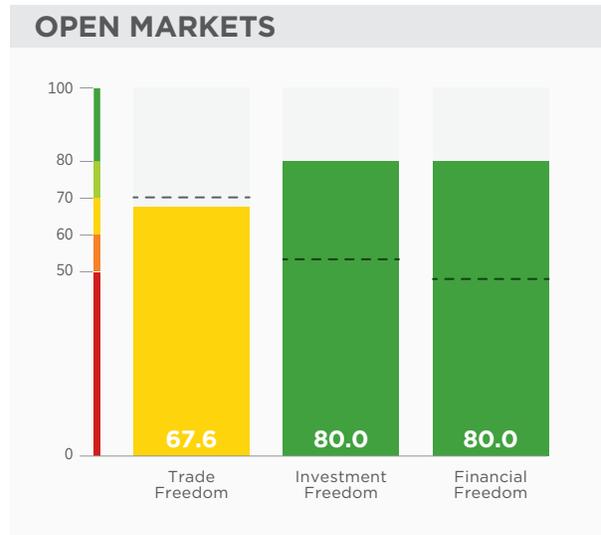
The overall rule of law is well respected in the United States. The country's property rights score is above the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is above the world average; and its government integrity score is above the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 37 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 21 percent. The tax burden equals about 26 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 37.5 percent and -6.5 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to more than 120 percent of GDP.



The United States' overall regulatory environment is well institutionalized and 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 effective average tariff rate is estimated to be above 11 percent, and nontariff barriers are in force. The pro-investment and pro-growth agenda has generated strong economic momentum and elevated private-sector engagements, both domestic and foreign. The financial sector is one of the world's most competitive and remains resilient.