

WORLD RANK: **174** | REGIONAL RANK: **31**

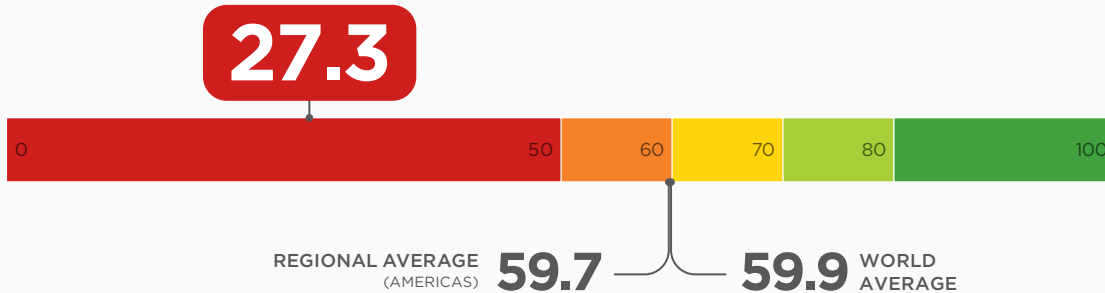
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSED**

VENEZUELA

Venezuela’s economic freedom score is 27.3, making its economy the 174th freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating has decreased by 0.3 point from last year, and Venezuela is ranked 31st out of 32 countries in the Americas region. The country’s economic freedom score is lower than the global and regional averages. Venezuela’s economy is considered “repressed” according to the 2026 *Index*.

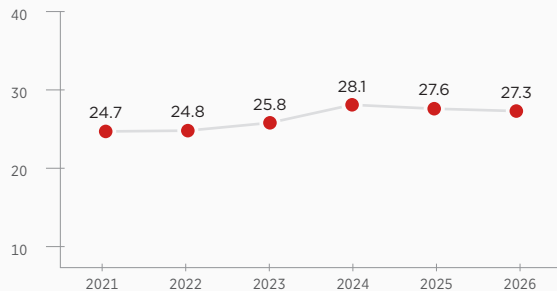
Severely hampered by state interference, Venezuela’s formal economy remains stagnant as informal activity expands. Prices of almost all goods and services are controlled. Because of rampant corruption and the legal framework’s deficiencies, the rule of law remains fragile and uneven. Heavy government control and inconsistent enforcement of regulations limit the freedom to engage in entrepreneurial activity. So far, the violent power struggle that some thought would be triggered by the removal of President Nicolás Maduro on January 3, 2026, has not materialized.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -32.5

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
26.5 million

GDP (PPP):
\$227.6 billion
0.5% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: 3.3%
\$8,785 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
5.5%

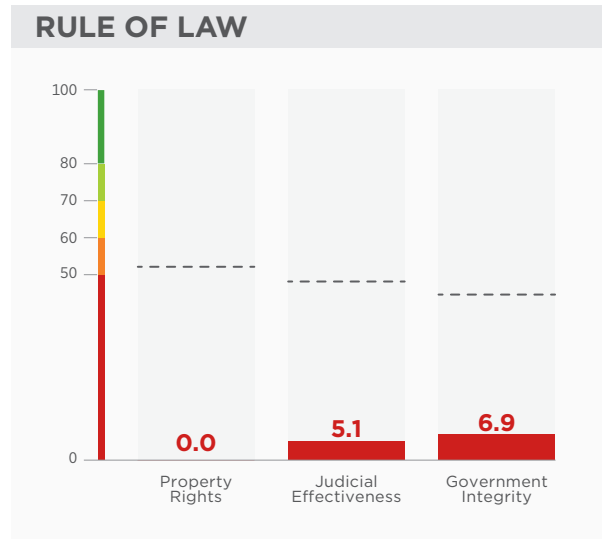
INFLATION (CPI):
49.0%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 26.0%

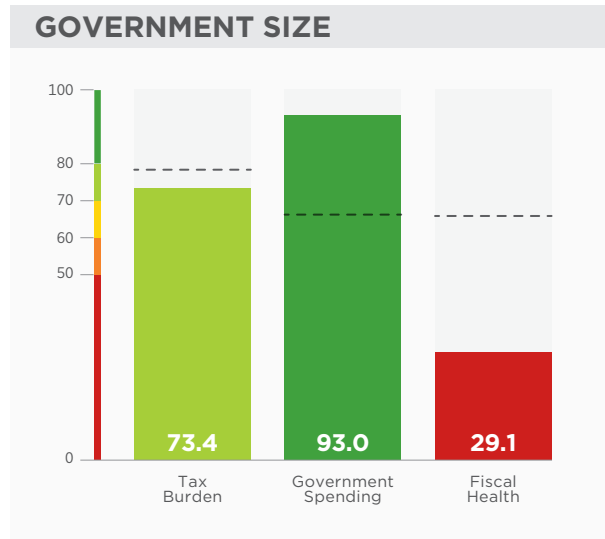
PUBLIC DEBT:
164.3% of GDP

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

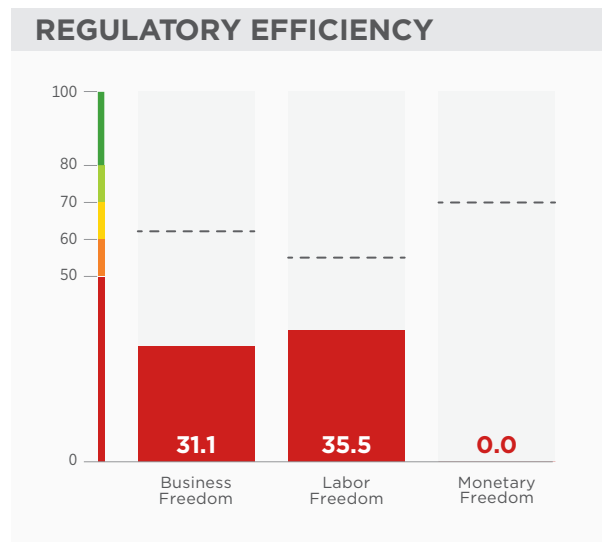
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | VENEZUELA



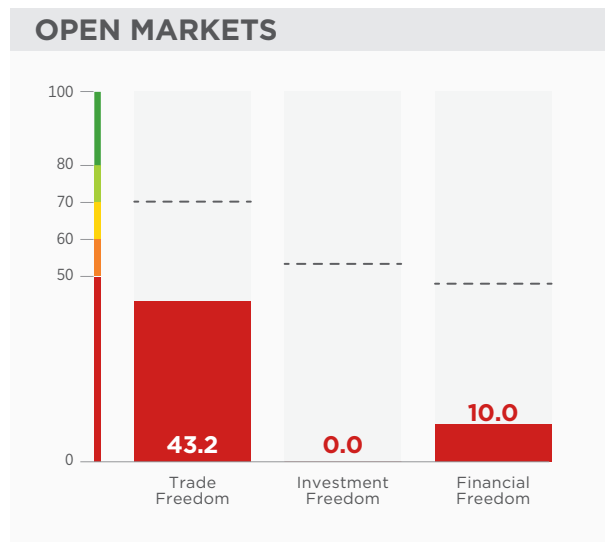
The overall rule of law is weak in Venezuela. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 34 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 34 percent. The tax burden equals 18.6 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 15.3 percent and -5.6 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 164.3 percent of GDP.



Venezuela'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 18.4 percent, and extensive nontariff barriers further distort trade flows. State interference in the economy continues to deter private investment, and threats of expropriation persist. The financial sector is tightly controlled by the state.