



WORLD RANK: **172** | REGIONAL RANK: **46**

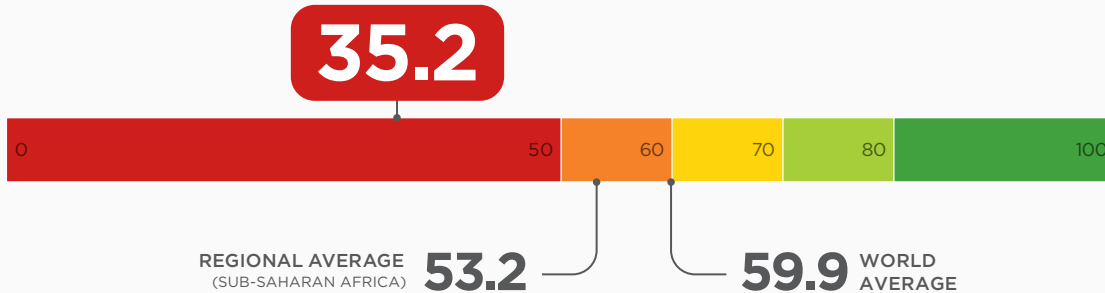
ECONOMIC FREEDOM STATUS: **REPRESSED**

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's economic freedom score is 35.2, making its economy the 172nd freest in the 2026 *Index of Economic Freedom*. Its rating is essentially unchanged from last year, and Zimbabwe is ranked 46th out of 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The country's economic freedom score is lower than the global and regional averages. Zimbabwe's economy is considered "repressed" according to the 2026 *Index*.

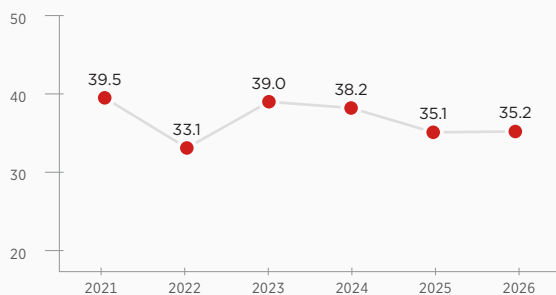
The instability and policy volatility that characterize Zimbabwe's economy are hallmarks of the excessive government interference and mismanagement that have undermined the country's economic potential. The fragile economic infrastructure has crumbled after years of neglect. The impacts of years of hyperinflation continue to impede entrepreneurial activity, and the overall regulatory environment remains opaque. Licensing requirements remain costly and burdensome. A corrupt and inefficient judicial system severely exacerbates entrepreneurial risk. Monetary stability is still very weak, and inflation is persistently high.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE



HISTORICAL INDEX SCORE CHANGE (SINCE 1995): -13.4

RECENT FREEDOM TREND



QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
16.6 million

GDP (PPP):
\$125.3 billion
6.0% growth in 2025
3-year average growth rate: 4.4%
\$7,843 per capita

UNEMPLOYMENT:
8.6%

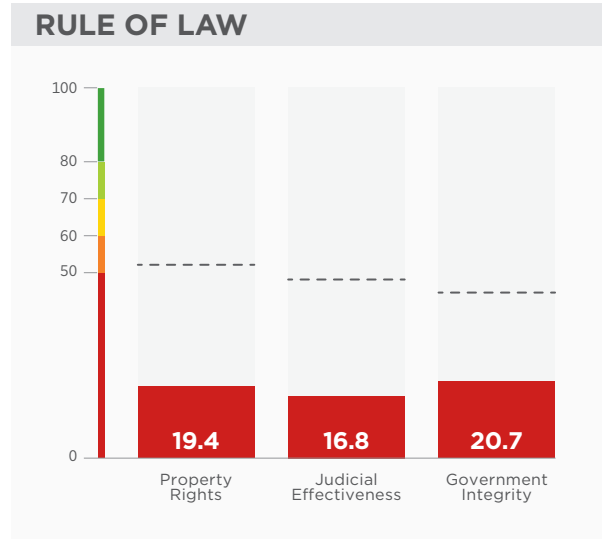
INFLATION (CPI):
736.1%

TRADE AS % OF GDP: 52.7%

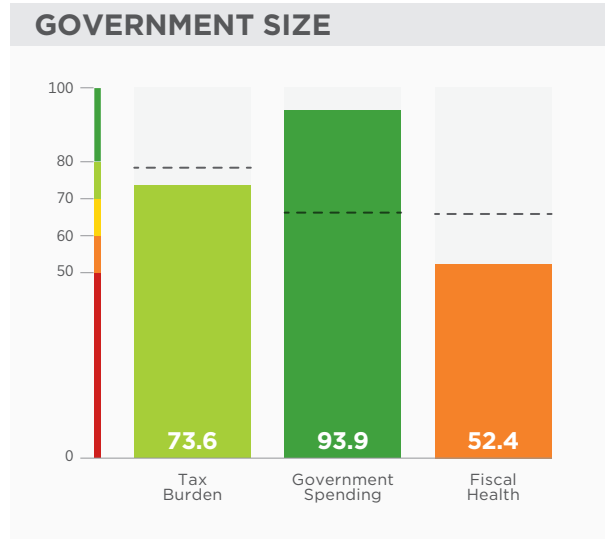
PUBLIC DEBT:
73.0% of GDP

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

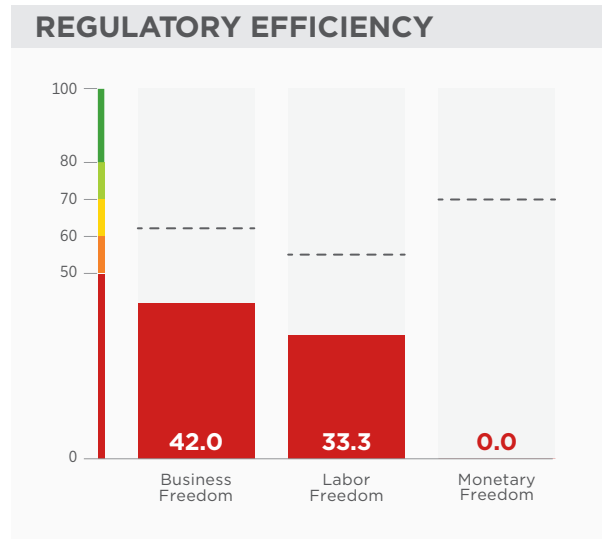
12 ECONOMIC FREEDOMS | ZIMBABWE



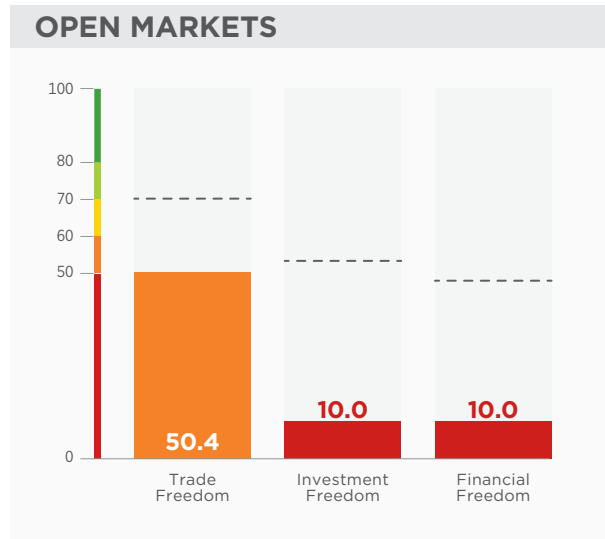
The overall rule of law is weak in Zimbabwe. The country's property rights score is below the world average; its judicial effectiveness score is below the world average; and its government integrity score is below the world average.



The top individual income tax rate is 41.2 percent, and the top corporate tax rate is 25.8 percent. The tax burden equals 16.8 percent of GDP. Three-year government spending and budget balance averages are, respectively, 14.3 percent and -4.8 percent of GDP. Public debt amounts to 73.0 percent of GDP.



Zimbabwe'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 14.8 percent, and pervasive nontariff barriers further limit trade freedom. Heavy government interference cripples investment opportunities. The financial sector remains underdeveloped because of extensive state involvement and ongoing political instability.