



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
2022 INDEX OF
**ECONOMIC
FREEDOM**

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RANKING THE WORLD BY ECONOMIC FREEDOM

Rank	Country	Overall Score	Rank	Country	Overall Score	Rank	Country	Overall Score
1	Singapore	84.4	65	Saint Lucia	64.3	129	Guinea	54.2
2	Switzerland	84.2	66	Mongolia	63.9	130	Ukraine	54.1
3	Ireland	82.0	67	Mexico	63.7	131	India	53.9
4	New Zealand	80.6	68	Bosnia and Herzegovina	63.4	132	Sri Lanka	53.3
5	Luxembourg	80.6	69	Guatemala	63.2	133	Brazil	53.3
6	Taiwan	80.1	70	Thailand	63.2	134	Malawi	53.0
7	Estonia	80.0	71	Dominican Republic	63.0	135	Belarus	53.0
8	Netherlands	79.5	72	Vanuatu	62.9	136	Cameroon	52.9
9	Finland	78.3	73	Paraguay	62.9	137	Bangladesh	52.7
10	Denmark	78.0	74	Bahrain	62.0	138	Kenya	52.6
11	Sweden	77.9	75	Azerbaijan	61.6	139	Angola	52.6
12	Australia	77.7	76	Côte d'Ivoire	61.6	140	Sierra Leone	52.0
13	Iceland	77.0	77	Greece	61.5	141	Eswatini	51.4
14	Norway	76.9	78	Moldova	61.3	142	Mozambique	51.3
15	Canada	76.6	79	Seychelles	61.1	143	Comoros	50.4
16	Germany	76.1	80	Philippines	61.1	144	Argentina	50.1
17	Lithuania	75.8	81	Benin	61.0	145	Haiti	50.0
18	Latvia	74.8	82	Micronesia	61.0	146	Chad	49.8
19	Korea, South	74.6	83	Tonga	60.8	147	Tajikistan	49.7
20	Chile	74.4	84	Vietnam	60.6	148	Nepal	49.7
21	Czech Republic	74.4	85	São Tomé and Príncipe	60.3	149	Burma	49.6
22	Austria	73.8	86	Kosovo	60.1	150	Ethiopia	49.6
23	Cyprus	72.9	87	Jordan	60.1	151	Laos	49.2
24	United Kingdom	72.7	88	Senegal	60.0	152	Egypt	49.1
25	United States	72.1	89	Ghana	59.8	153	Pakistan	48.8
26	Georgia	71.8	90	El Salvador	59.6	154	Zambia	48.7
27	Malta	71.5	91	Guyana	59.5	155	Congo, Rep.	48.5
28	Barbados	71.3	92	Honduras	59.5	156	Suriname	48.1
29	Bulgaria	71.0	93	Tanzania	59.5	157	Lesotho	48.1
30	Mauritius	70.9	94	Bhutan	59.3	158	China	48.0
31	Portugal	70.8	95	Namibia	59.2	159	Liberia	47.9
32	Slovenia	70.5	96	Kiribati	59.2	160	Congo, Dem. Rep.	47.6
33	United Arab Emirates	70.2	97	Morocco	59.2	161	Maldives	47.3
34	Uruguay	70.0	98	Madagascar	58.9	162	Lebanon	47.3
35	Japan	69.9	99	Trinidad and Tobago	58.8	163	Equatorial Guinea	47.2
36	Slovakia	69.7	100	Burkina Faso	58.3	164	Timor-Leste	46.3
37	Belgium	69.6	101	Kuwait	58.3	165	Turkmenistan	46.2
38	Bahamas	68.7	102	Gambia	58.0	166	Guinea-Bissau	46.0
39	Poland	68.7	103	Montenegro	57.8	167	Algeria	45.8
40	Samoa	68.3	104	Togo	57.2	168	Central African Republic	45.7
41	Spain	68.2	105	Rwanda	57.1	169	Bolivia	43.0
42	Malaysia	68.1	106	Cambodia	57.1	170	Iran	42.4
43	Israel	68.0	107	Turkey	56.9	171	Eritrea	39.7
44	Qatar	67.7	108	Oman	56.6	172	Burundi	39.4
45	Croatia	67.6	109	Belize	56.6	173	Zimbabwe	33.1
46	Jamaica	67.4	110	Solomon Islands	56.5	174	Sudan	32.0
47	Romania	67.1	111	Fiji	56.4	175	Cuba	29.5
48	Hungary	66.9	112	South Africa	56.2	176	Venezuela	24.8
49	Cabo Verde	66.7	113	Russia	56.1	177	Korea, North	3.0
50	Albania	66.6	114	Mali	55.9			
51	Peru	66.5	115	Gabon	55.8			
52	France	66.5	116	Kyrgyz Republic	55.8			
53	North Macedonia	65.7	117	Uzbekistan	55.7			
54	St. Vincent & Grenadines	65.7	118	Saudi Arabia	55.5			
55	Costa Rica	65.4	119	Mauritania	55.3			
56	Panama	65.4	120	Djibouti	55.3			
57	Italy	65.4	121	Niger	54.9			
58	Armenia	65.3	122	Nicaragua	54.8			
59	Serbia	65.2	123	Papua New Guinea	54.6			
60	Colombia	65.1	124	Nigeria	54.4			
61	Botswana	64.8	125	Dominica	54.4			
62	Brunei Darussalam	64.8	126	Ecuador	54.3			
63	Indonesia	64.4	127	Uganda	54.2			
64	Kazakhstan	64.4	128	Tunisia	54.2			

Economic Freedom Scores

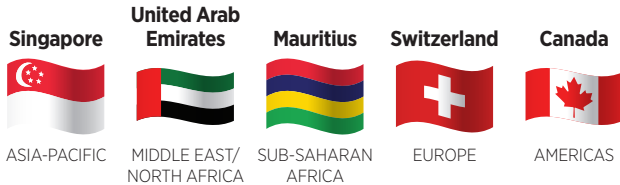
- 80-100 Free
- 70-79.9 Mostly Free
- 60-69.9 Moderately Free
- 50-59.9 Mostly Unfree
- 0-49.9 Repressed

KEY FINDINGS OF THE 2022 INDEX

SEVEN “FREE” NATIONS



REGIONAL LEADERS

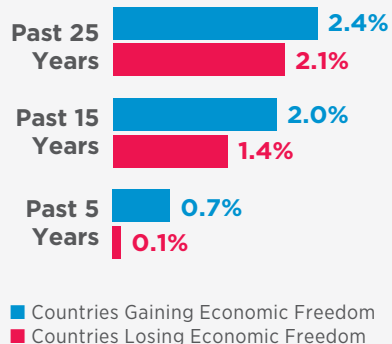


Since early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and particularly the many restrictions on economic activity and the movement of people that governments have imposed in response to it have wreaked havoc on the world economy. Almost every economy included in this *Index* experienced negative growth in 2020, which is not surprising given that so many of the actions that governments have taken in the name of protecting public health have also had the effect of reducing economic freedom. These restrictions have exacted a cost in terms of human well-being that must be added to the enormous cost of the death toll from the disease itself. The result is a worldwide catastrophe.

- The 2022 *Index*, which considers economic policies and conditions in 184 sovereign countries from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, reveals a world economy that, taken as a whole, remains “moderately free.” However, the global average economic freedom score is now 60—a loss of 1.6 points from the previous year’s 61.6.
- The standard of living, measured by incomes per capita, is much higher in economically freer countries. Economies rated “free” or “mostly free” in the 2022 *Index* enjoy incomes that on average are more than three

ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND GROWTH

Average Annual Growth of GDP per Capita (PPP)



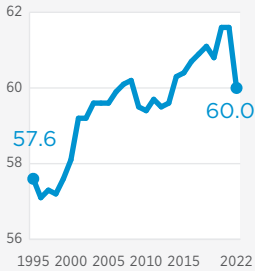
times higher than those in other countries and almost seven times higher than the average incomes of “repressed” economies.

- As documented once again in the 2022 *Index*, economic freedom also correlates highly with overall well-being, which includes such factors as health, education, the environment, innovation, societal progress, and democratic governance.
- Seven countries recorded economic freedom scores of 80 or more, putting them in the ranks of the economically “free.” Twenty-seven countries earned a designation as “mostly free” by recording scores of 70.0 to 79.9, and an additional 54 countries were considered at least “moderately free” with scores of 60.0 to 69.9. Thus, a total of 88 countries, or about half of the 177 countries graded in the 2022 *Index*, have institutional environments in which individuals and private enterprises benefit from at least a moderate degree of economic freedom in the pursuit of greater economic development and prosperity.
- On the opposite side of the spectrum, 50 percent of the countries graded in the 2022 *Index* (89 economies) have registered economic freedom scores below 60. Of those, 57 economies are considered “mostly unfree” (scores of 50.0 to 59.9), and 32 countries, including China, are in the economically “repressed” category.
- A notable reshuffling has taken place at the top of the rankings. Singapore maintained its status as the world’s freest economy, but Australia dropped out of the free category, and New Zealand dropped to fourth place, behind Switzerland and Ireland. Luxembourg, Taiwan, and Estonia joined the “free” category for the first time.
- The global average trade-freedom score has declined from 70.9 to 69.5. This is the fourth straight year that the global average has dropped. Trade freedom declined in 98 of the 177 countries ranked in the *Index*. Scores improved in only 37 countries and were unchanged in 42 countries.

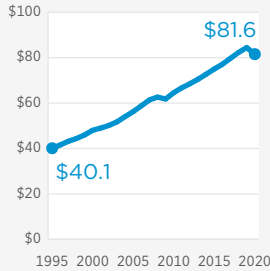
The benefits of economic freedom—greater income and wealth, better health, and cleaner environments, among many others—are evident in each of the five global regions covered by the *Index*, but there are substantial differences among the regions in terms of their levels of development and social and economic culture that affect the relative importance of the various factors that influence an economic freedom score. Scores this year also appear to have been affected significantly by government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the stringency of those responses differed markedly among the regions.

AS ECONOMIC FREEDOM RISES, THE GLOBAL ECONOMY EXPANDS AND POVERTY FALLS

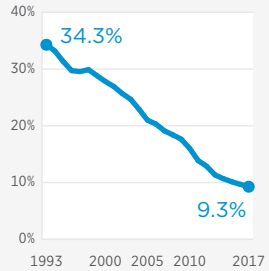
Average Score in the *Index of Economic Freedom*



Global GDP, in Trillions of 2015 U.S. Dollars



Percentage of Global Population in Poverty

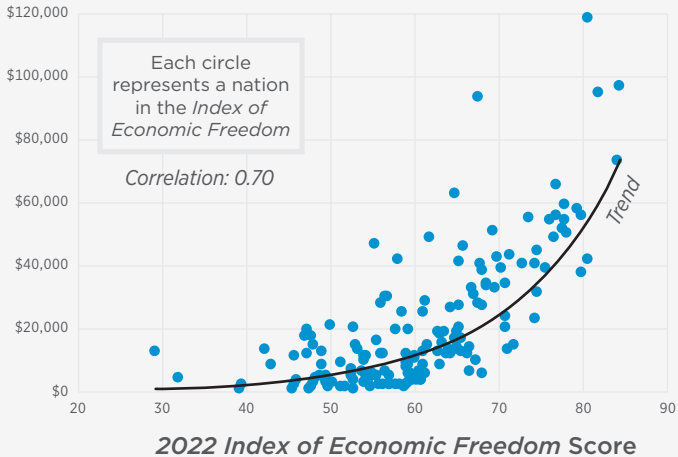


SOURCES: 2022 *Index of Economic Freedom* and World Bank.

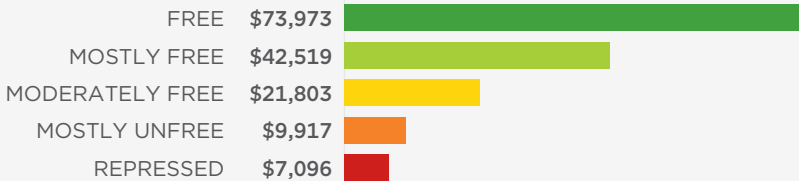
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ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND THE STANDARD OF LIVING

GDP per Capita (PPP)



Average GDP per Capita (PPP), by Economic Freedom Category

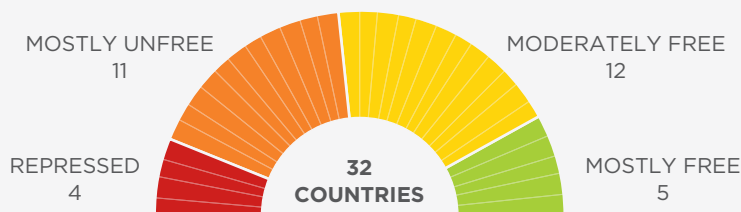


SOURCES: 2022 *Index of Economic Freedom* and IMF.

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THE AMERICAS: SUMMARY

Number of Countries in Each Economic Freedom Category



Average GDP per Capita, by Economic Freedom Category



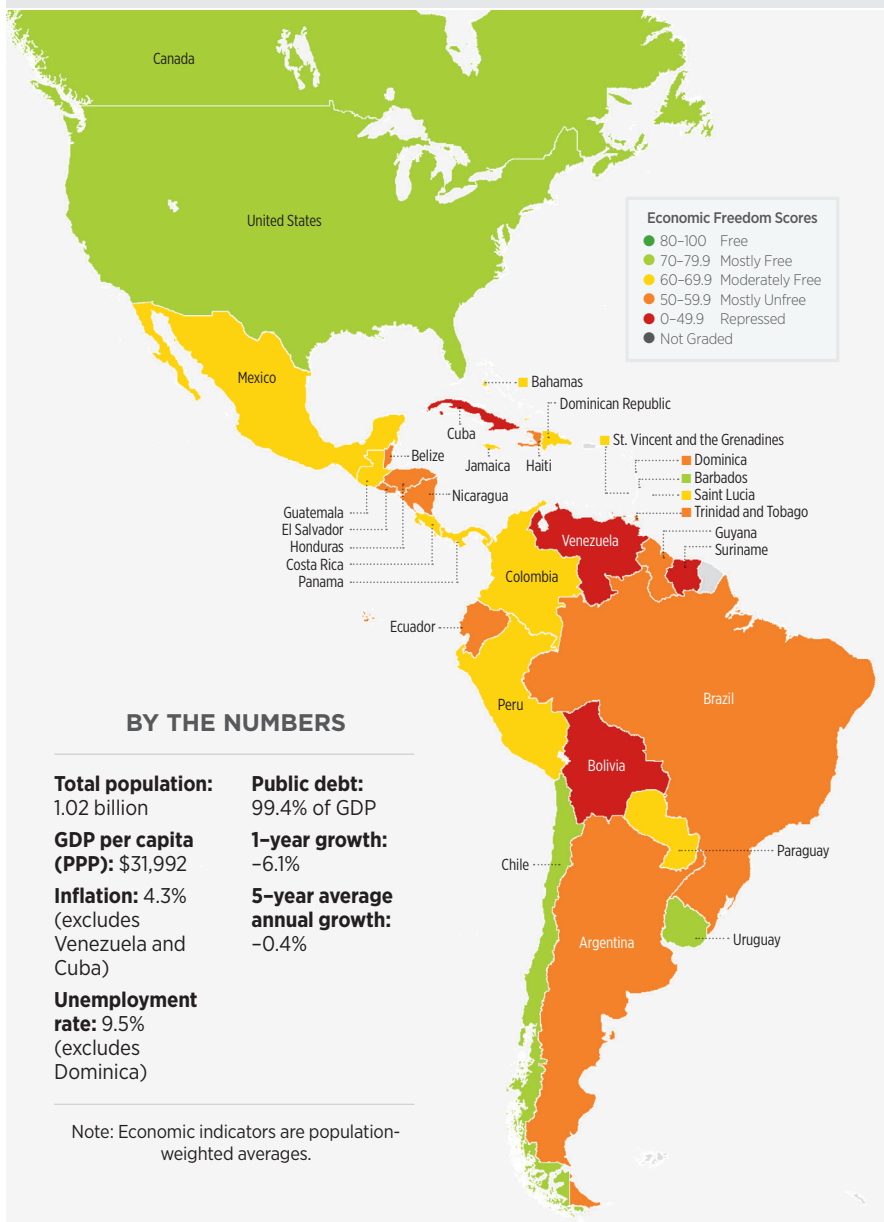
The Americas region covers more than one-quarter of the globe’s landmass and is one of the world’s most economically diverse regions. With a population of just over 1 billion, it has the second-highest population-weighted gross domestic product (GDP) per capita (\$31,992 at purchasing power parity). Within the region, economies have contracted at an average rate of –0.4 percent over the past five years. The regional average rate of unemployment has risen to 9.5 percent, although the regional average rate of inflation (excluding Venezuela) has dropped a bit to 4.3 percent. The region’s average level of public debt—already the world’s highest—is now 99.4 percent of GDP.

The foundations of a well-functioning free market remain shallow in many Latin American countries, with widespread corruption and weak protection of property rights exacerbating such systemic shortcomings as regulatory inefficiency and monetary instability that is caused by various government-driven market distortions. Business freedom, labor freedom, investment freedom, and financial freedom are generally consistent with world standards. Aggravated by much higher deficit spending during the pandemic, however, fiscal health is deteriorating. Unfortunately, many countries that historically have been economically free such as Chile, Peru, and Colombia are at risk of sliding into another period of populist–leftist political resurgence. Not coincidentally, Communist China has become a dominant foreign power in Latin America.

Notable Countries

- **Barbados**, an economic freedom standout in recent years, has made it into the ranks of “mostly free” countries.
- The **United States** continued to decline in the “mostly free” category. Its 0.0 fiscal health score this year is unprecedented.

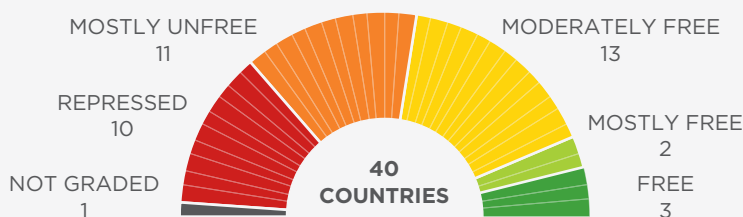
THE AMERICAS: COUNTRIES



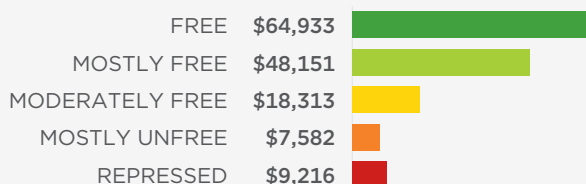
- **Guyana's** economic growth has accelerated as a result of the offshore oil boom, and economic freedom has begun to improve in 2022.
- **Mexico's** leftist President Andrés Manuel López Obrador promised but failed to solve problems such as crime, corruption, and poverty. He is lurching further left in an attempt to reimpose 1970s-style statist controls.

ASIA-PACIFIC: SUMMARY

Number of Countries in Each Economic Freedom Category



Average GDP per Capita, by Economic Freedom Category



The **Asia-Pacific** region has more than half of the world's population and spans its largest surface area. The region has continued to lead worldwide economic growth, expanding by an average annual rate of about 4.1 percent over the past five years, driven largely by China, India, and other trade-oriented economies. It also has the world's lowest average rate of unemployment (5.3 percent) and lowest average rate of inflation (3.8 percent). However, the Asia-Pacific region also has the second-lowest population-weighted GDP per capita (\$16,807 at purchasing power parity).

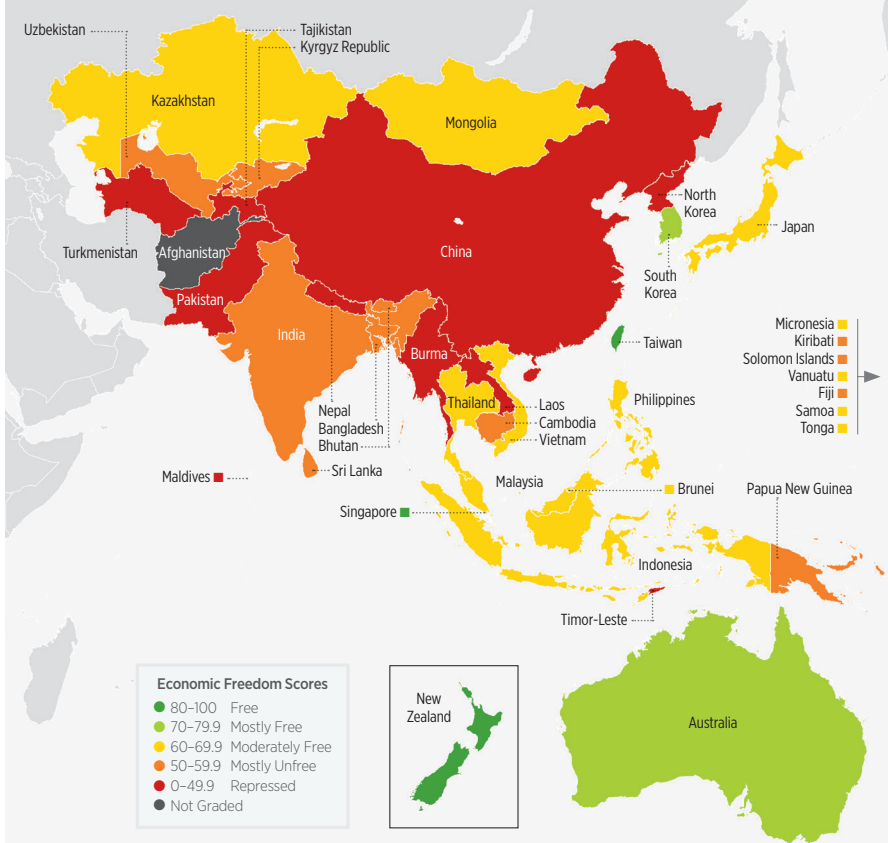
The Asia-Pacific is unique in its extraordinary variations of economic freedom, well-illustrated by the huge gap in living standards between North Korea, at last place ("repressed") in the *Index*, and South Korea, at 19th place ("mostly free"). Many Asia-Pacific countries fall short on maintaining strong and independent rule-of-law institutions. The region as a whole has done relatively well in controlling government spending and regulating economic activity efficiently but places second to last on financial freedom and last in the world on investment freedom.

Notable Countries

- Economic freedom in **Japan** has stagnated during the past five years, and the country has dipped back into the "moderately free" category.
- **Australia** has fallen to "mostly free" for the first time since 2006.
- Economic growth in **India** slowed during the past half-decade, and the country remains in the "mostly unfree" category.
- **Taiwan** has crossed the threshold into the top, "free" *Index* category for the first time.

Economic freedom remains very weak in authoritarian **China**, and the economy is repressed. The lack of investment freedom and financial freedom

ASIA-PACIFIC: COUNTRIES



BY THE NUMBERS

Total population:
4.63 billion

GDP per capita (PPP): \$16,807 (excludes North Korea)

Inflation: 3.8% (excludes North Korea)

Unemployment rate:
5.3% (excludes Kiribati and Micronesia)

Public debt: 72% of GDP (excludes North Korea)

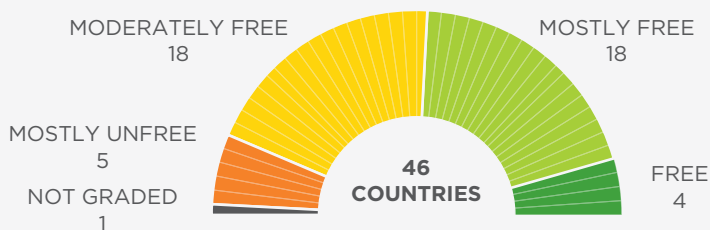
1-year growth: -2.0%
5-year average annual growth: 4.1%

Note: Economic indicators are population-weighted averages.

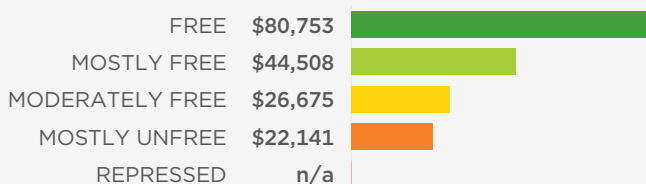
impedes productivity growth and development. Restrictions on Hong Kong's autonomy, threats to Taiwan, the persecution of China's Uyghur minority, and Beijing's cyberwarfare activities have led to a broad decline in trust and continue to destabilize global relationships.

EUROPE: SUMMARY

Number of Countries in Each Economic Freedom Category



Average
GDP per
Capita, by
Economic
Freedom
Category



It was in **Europe** that the ideas of democratic free markets, the rule of law, private property, and individual liberty were shaped, but it was also in Europe that the collectivist philosophies of socialism and Communism took root. That tension remains characteristic of the region’s economic policy mix. Nevertheless, thanks to long-established free-market institutions, robust rule of law, and exceptionally strong investment freedom, nearly two-thirds of the world’s 34 economically freest countries (with overall scores above 70) are in Europe.

The European region encompasses nations as diverse as Russia, Ukraine, Switzerland, Iceland, and Greece. Its population-weighted average GDP per capita is the highest in the world (\$37,331 at purchasing power parity), and inflation (2.6 percent) is generally under control. Unfortunately, the region has long been plagued by high unemployment rates (7.8 percent) and heavy levels of public debt (71.1 percent of GDP on average). Europe still struggles with a variety of policy barriers to vigorous economic expansion such as overly protective and costly labor regulations, high tax burdens, various market-distorting subsidies, and continuing problems in public finance caused by years of public-sector expansion—now exacerbated by the pandemic.

Notable Countries

- Five European countries are rated “mostly unfree” this year: **Montenegro**, **Turkey**, and **Russia** have now joined **Belarus**—in the grip of an ironfisted autocrat—and **Ukraine**, which suffers from political and security turmoil.
- The **United Kingdom** retained its standing in the ranks of the “mostly free,” but the U.K. economy has lost some ground, mainly because of excessive government spending.

EUROPE: COUNTRIES



BY THE NUMBERS

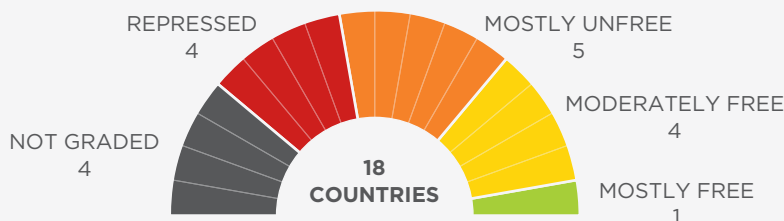
Total population: 848.3 million	Unemployment rate: 7.8% (excludes Kosovo)	1-year growth: -4.9%
GDP per capita (PPP): \$37,331	Public debt: 71.1% of GDP	5-year average annual growth: 0.9%
Inflation: 2.6%		

Note: Economic indicators are population-weighted averages.

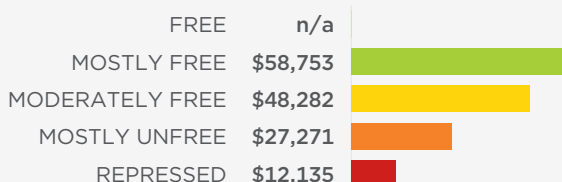
- Economic freedom in **France** has gradually expanded during the past five years, although its longtime “moderately free” ranking remains unchanged.
- **Germany**, the European Union’s most politically and economically influential member nation, remains “mostly free.”
- **Croatia** has gained economic freedom since 2017 and has moved from the lower half to the upper half of the “moderately free” category.

MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA: SUMMARY

Number of Countries in Each Economic Freedom Category



Average GDP per Capita, by Economic Freedom Category



Relatively few **Middle East and North Africa** (MENA) countries are enjoying the benefits of economic freedom so far in the 21st century. At once blessed and cursed by enormous mineral resources, most countries in the region are defined by extreme concentrations of wealth and widespread poverty. Most worrisome is the region’s ongoing notoriety as the world’s most acute hot spot for economic, political, and security vulnerabilities, which its authoritarian governments have tried to address with costly subsidies. This instability is illustrated by the fact that four (Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Yemen) of the seven countries in the 2022 *Index* that cannot be graded or ranked because of the lack of reliable data are in the MENA region.

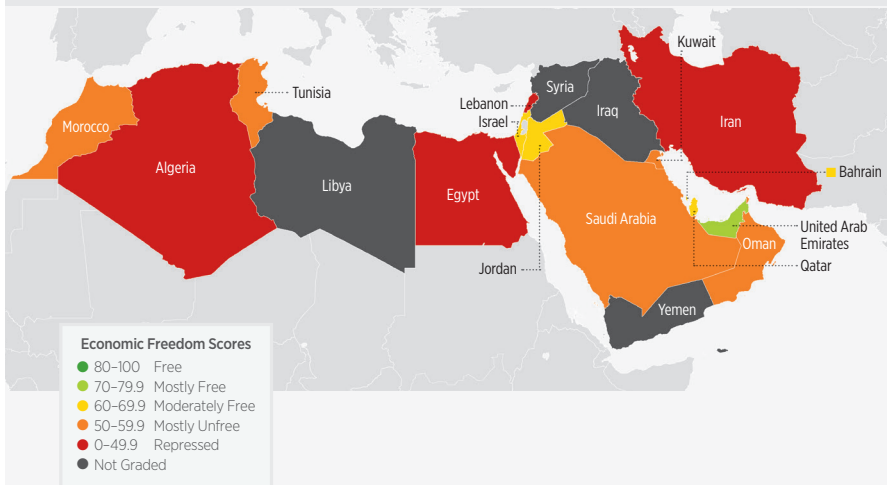
The region’s population-weighted average GDP per capita remains the third highest among the five *Index* global regions (approximately \$18,547), although it fell substantially again this year. Inflation is still very high at 12.5 percent, and economic growth has weakened to 1.6 percent. The region continues to suffer from high levels of unemployment (10.5 percent), particularly among the young.

The results of the 2022 *Index* reflect that the region’s underlying political and economic architecture, dominated by authoritarian governments, continues to repress economic freedom a decade after the exhilarating promises of the Arab Spring.

Notable Countries

- **Israel’s** normalization agreements in 2020 with Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Sudan should clear the way for greater regional trade, investment, tourism, and technological and strategic cooperation. Regrettably, however, Israel has fallen from the “mostly free” category in 2017 into the “moderately free” category.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA: COUNTRIES



BY THE NUMBERS

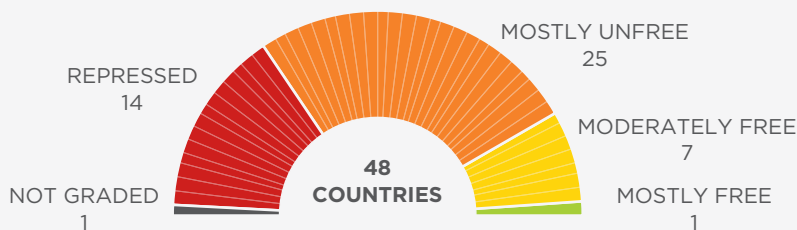
Total population: 458.2 million	Unemployment rate: 10.5%	1-year growth: -1.7%
GDP per capita (PPP): \$18,547	Public debt: 66% of GDP	5-year average annual growth: 1.6%
Inflation: 12.5%		

Note: Economic indicators are population-weighted averages.

- In a region where economic freedom has waned, **Tunisia** has fared relatively better than most other countries, although it remains in the lower half of the “mostly unfree” category.
- **Egypt** has lost economic freedom in the past five years and has fallen into the “repressed” category.
- Dragged down by poor fiscal health, judicial effectiveness, and property rights, **Saudi Arabia** has dropped to the middle of the “mostly unfree” category.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: SUMMARY

Number of Countries in Each Economic Freedom Category



Average GDP per Capita, by Economic Freedom Category	FREE	n/a
MOSTLY FREE	\$20,292	
MODERATELY FREE	\$9,263	
MOSTLY UNFREE	\$4,522	
REPPRESSED	\$3,418	

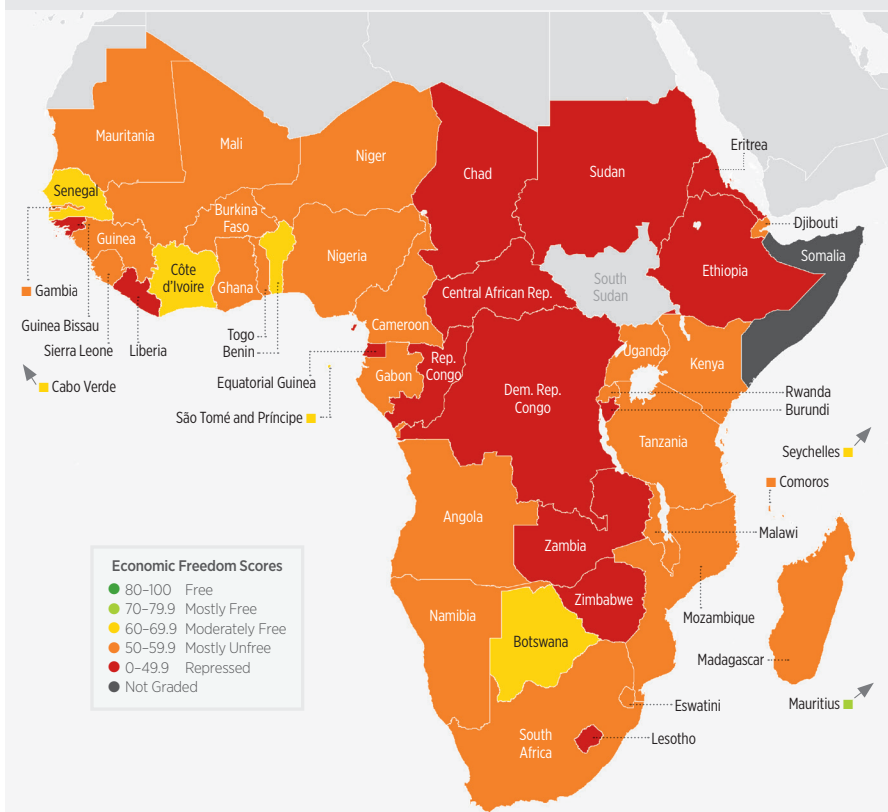
The countries of **Sub-Saharan Africa** were woefully unprepared for the challenges of Covid-19 and the worldwide economic slowdown that has stressed economies everywhere. The region also needs to resist COP26-imposed limits on its fossil fuel energy sources. Since 2017, the number of “repressed” countries has risen, reflecting the region’s decline in economic freedom, although Sub-Saharan Africa was able to record overall positive economic growth during those five years. For this region, the results of the 2022 *Index* depict dozens of nations characterized by uneven economic playing fields that are further pockmarked by weak rule of law, inadequate protection of property rights, cronyism, and endemic corruption. The region’s scores on property rights, judicial effectiveness, government integrity, and business freedom are all lower than world averages by 10 points or more.

Average GDP per capita (\$4,217 at purchasing power parity) is the lowest for any of the five global *Index* regions. The unemployment rate reported in the 2022 *Index* rose to 7.5 percent, and inflation shot up to 14.8 percent. Economic development remains limited by underemployment and the region’s large informal sectors.

Notable Countries

- **Mauritius** remains Sub-Saharan Africa’s economically freest nation and is the only one of the region’s 47 graded countries in the “mostly free” category.
- **Rwanda** has suffered a steep drop of economic freedom in the past five years because of deficiencies in judicial effectiveness, fiscal health, and financial freedom. The country has fallen into the “mostly unfree” category.
- Highly developed **South Africa** still faces high rates of formal-sector unemployment and crime. Dragged down by poor fiscal health, the country

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: COUNTRIES



BY THE NUMBERS

Total population: 1.18 billion	Unemployment rate: 7.5% (excludes Seychelles)	1-year growth: -1.0%
GDP per capita (PPP): \$4,217	Public debt: 62.8% of GDP	5-year average annual growth: 2.7%
Inflation: 14.8% (excludes Zimbabwe)		

Note: Economic indicators are population-weighted averages.

has lost economic freedom since 2017 and remains in the middle ranks of “mostly unfree” countries.

- Benefiting from strong rule of law, **Cabo Verde** has gained economic freedom since 2017 and has risen into the top half of the “moderately free” category.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM: POLICIES FOR PROSPERITY

The *Index of Economic Freedom* evaluates the extent and effectiveness of government activity in 12 areas that are known to have a significant impact on levels of economic growth and prosperity. Policies that allow for greater freedom in any of the areas measured tend to spur growth. Growth, in turn, is an essential element in generating more opportunities for people to advance themselves economically, thereby reducing poverty and building lasting prosperity.

Some aspects of economic freedom concern a country's interactions with the rest of the world (for example, the extent of an economy's openness to global investment or trade). Most, however, focus on policies within a country, assessing the liberty of individuals to use their labor or finances without undue restraint and government interference.

These metrics of economic freedom play a vital role in promoting and sustaining personal and national prosperity. All are complementary in their impact, and progress in one area is often likely to reinforce or even inspire progress in another. Similarly, repressed economic freedom in one area (for example, a lack of respect for property rights) may make it much more difficult to achieve high levels of freedom in other categories.

- **Property Rights.** The ability to accumulate private property and wealth is a central motivating force for workers and investors in a market economy and a primary factor in the accumulation of capital for production and investment. Secure titling unlocks wealth that is embodied in land and real property, providing collateral for investment financing. Another key aspect of the protection of property rights is the evenhanded enforcement of contracts.
- **Judicial Effectiveness.** Well-functioning legal frameworks protect the rights of all citizens against infringement of the law by others, including by governments, monopolies, and other powerful parties.
- **Government Integrity.** Both the systemic corruption of government institutions by such practices as bribery, nepotism, cronyism, patronage, embezzlement, and graft and the toleration by society of the ability of some individuals or special interests to gain government benefits at the expense of others are grossly incompatible with the principles of fair and equal treatment that are essential ingredients of an economically free society.
- **Tax Burden.** The higher the government's share of income or wealth as a percentage of total gross domestic product (GDP) is, the lower the individual's reward for his or her economic activity and the lower the incentive to undertake work at all will be. Higher tax rates reduce the ability of individuals and firms to pursue their goals in the marketplace and thereby also reduce the level of overall private-sector activity.
- **Government Spending.** Taken together, the cost, size, and intrusiveness of government represent a central economic freedom issue that is measured in the *Index* in a variety of ways. Some government spending (for example, investments in infrastructure, research, or human capital) can be positive. All government spending, however, must eventually be

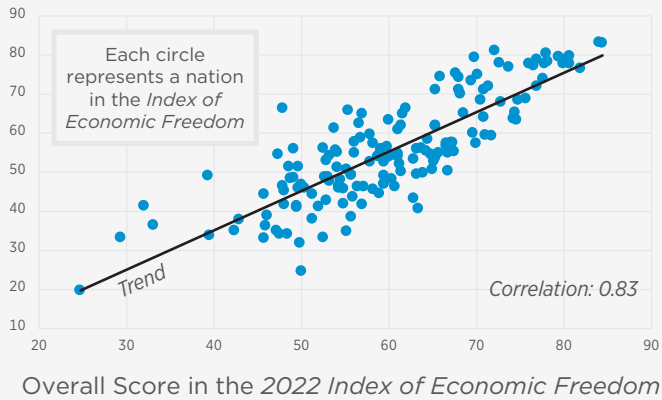
financed by higher taxation and entails an opportunity cost. This cost is the value of the consumption or investment that would have occurred had the resources involved been left in the private sector.

- **Fiscal Health.** A government's budget is one of the clearest indicators of the extent to which the principle of limited government is respected. Budget deficits are direct consequences of poor government budget management. Debt is an accumulation of budget deficits over time and a central issue in considerations of intergenerational equity.
- **Business Freedom.** An individual's ability to establish and run an enterprise without undue state interference and burdensome government regulations is one of the most fundamental indicators of economic freedom.
- **Labor Freedom.** The ability of individuals to find employment opportunities and work is a key component of economic freedom. Similarly, the ability of businesses to contract freely for labor and dismiss redundant workers when they are no longer needed is essential to the enhancement of productivity and sustenance of overall economic growth. Intervention by the state distorts those transactions.
- **Monetary Freedom.** Monetary freedom requires a stable currency and market-determined prices. Without it, the creation of long-term value or private capital formation is difficult.
- **Trade Freedom.** Government restrictions on trade can manifest themselves in the form of tariffs, export taxes, trade quotas, or outright trade bans. Trade can also be hampered by nontariff barriers that are related to various licensing, standard-setting, and other regulatory actions. Together, they impede overall economic efficiency and growth and raise prices for both individuals and businesses.
- **Investment Freedom.** A free and open investment environment provides maximum entrepreneurial opportunities and incentives for expanded economic activity, greater productivity, and job creation. Restrictions on the movement of capital, both domestic and international, distort economic decision-making by undermining the efficient allocation of resources and reducing productivity.
- **Financial Freedom.** An accessible and efficiently functioning formal financial system ensures that diversified savings, credit, payment, and investment services will be available to individuals and businesses. By expanding financing opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship, an open banking environment encourages competition in order to provide the most efficient financial intermediation between households and firms as well as between investors and entrepreneurs.

Economic freedom is about much more than a business environment in which entrepreneurship and prosperity can flourish. With its far-reaching impacts on various aspects of human development, economic freedom empowers people, unleashes powerful forces of choice and opportunity, nourishes other liberties, and improves the overall quality of life.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND ENTERPRISE CONDITIONS

Enterprise
Conditions
from the
2021
Legatum
Prosperity
Index



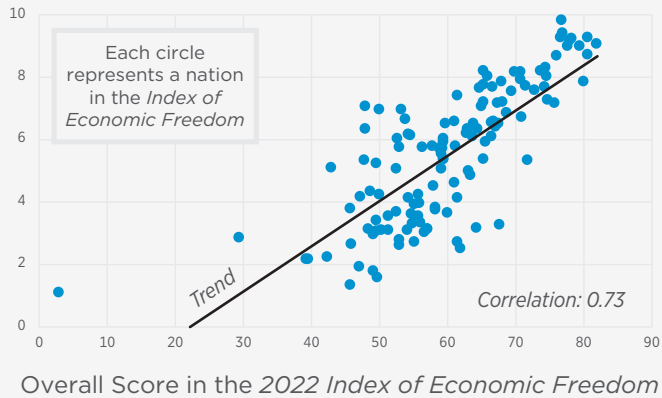
NOTE: Represented are the 159 nations that are in both datasets.

SOURCES: 2022 *Index of Economic Freedom* and Legatum Institute.

heritage.org

ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Democracy
Index 2020
Score



NOTE: Represented are the 159 nations that are in both datasets.

SOURCES: 2022 *Index of Economic Freedom* and Economist Intelligence Unit. heritage.org

No other system—and many have been tried—comes close to the record of market-based capitalism in promoting growth and enhancing the human condition. The undeniable link between economic freedom and prosperity is a striking demonstration of what people can do when they have maximum opportunity to pursue their own interests within the rule of law.

THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION'S **STEVEN M. SASS ECONOMIC FREEDOM AWARD**

The Heritage Foundation's Steven M. Sass Economic Freedom Award was established in 2020 to recognize and encourage individuals and organizations that make notable contributions to the promotion of free-market principles and policies.

The recipient of The Heritage Foundation Steven M. Sass Economic Freedom Award for 2021 is Marcin Nowacki.

Mr. Nowacki has been a leading voice promoting market-oriented reform and policy discussions in Poland and throughout Central and Eastern Europe. He is a member of the board of the Warsaw Enterprise Institute, a think tank that advocates such free-market policies as removing bureaucratic barriers, providing equal conditions for companies to start up and compete, fighting monopolies, and ensuring an efficient judiciary and law enforcement.

As Vice President of the Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers, he coordinates departments that are responsible for law and legislation and oversees the organization's representation at the European Union in Brussels. Mr. Nowacki also chairs the e-commerce working group of the SME Connect, Brussels-based SME platform, which is an integral part of the European Enterprise Alliance, an organization of entrepreneurs from Central and Eastern Europe that he helped found and currently leads as its president.

We are delighted to recognize Marcin Nowacki as the recipient of this year's Steven M. Sass Economic Freedom Award.

Building
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and civil society
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