

The   
*Heritage Foundation*

# 2019 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM

25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION

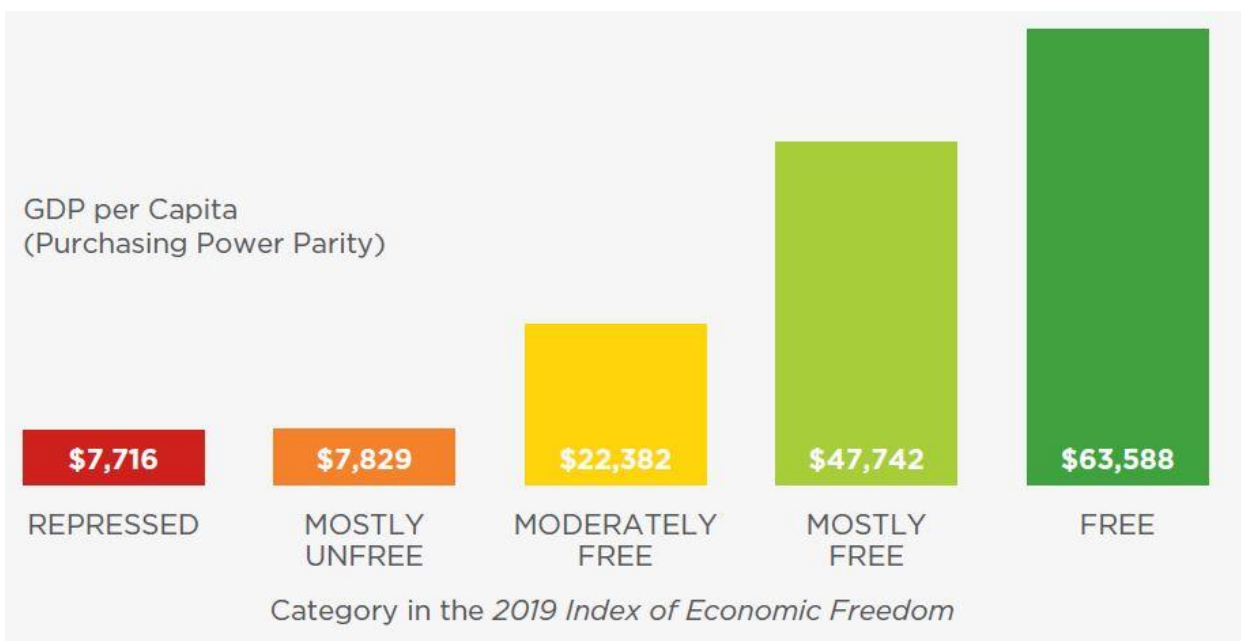
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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Index of Economic Freedom is an annual index and ranking created by The Heritage Foundation to measure the degree of economic freedom in the world's nations. The Heritage Foundation's Center for International Trade and Economics (CITE) leads the Index production effort and is responsible for the grading and ranking of all countries.

Now in its 25th edition, the Index analyzes economic policy developments in 180 economies. Countries are graded and ranked on 12 measures of economic freedom that evaluates the rule of law, size of government, regulatory efficiency, and the openness of markets, and each of which is graded on a scale from 0 to 100. Of the 180 economies graded in the 2019 Index, six countries (Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, Australia and Ireland) earned the designation of 'free' with scores above 80 and 88 countries with scores above 60, while 86 economies have registered economic freedom scores of below 60.

**Figure 1: Category in the 2019 Index of Economic Freedom**



## 2.0 MALAYSIA'S PERFORMANCE

### 2.1 Malaysia's Overall Performance

Malaysia remains to be the 22nd freest economy in the 2019 Index. Its overall score has decreased by 0.5 point to 74.0 from 74.5 from the previous year 2018, with declines in scores for monetary freedom and trade freedom exceeding improvements in judicial effectiveness, government spending, and fiscal health. Malaysia is ranked 6th among 43 countries in the Asia–Pacific region, and its overall score is above the regional average at 60.6 and world average at 60.8. The top 25 performers in the 2019 Index is shown in Table 1.













Malaysia has become an upper-middle-income country that hopes to consolidate high public debt and attract additional investments in value-added production of high technology, knowledge-based goods, and services. To enhance competitiveness, the government has liberalized some services subsectors, tax reform, and subsidy reductions. Malaysia's economic freedom performance in 2019 as compared to 2018 is shown in Table 2. Malaysia's ranking for the past five years is shown in Figure 2.

**Table 1: Top 25 Performers in the 2019 Index of Economic Freedom**

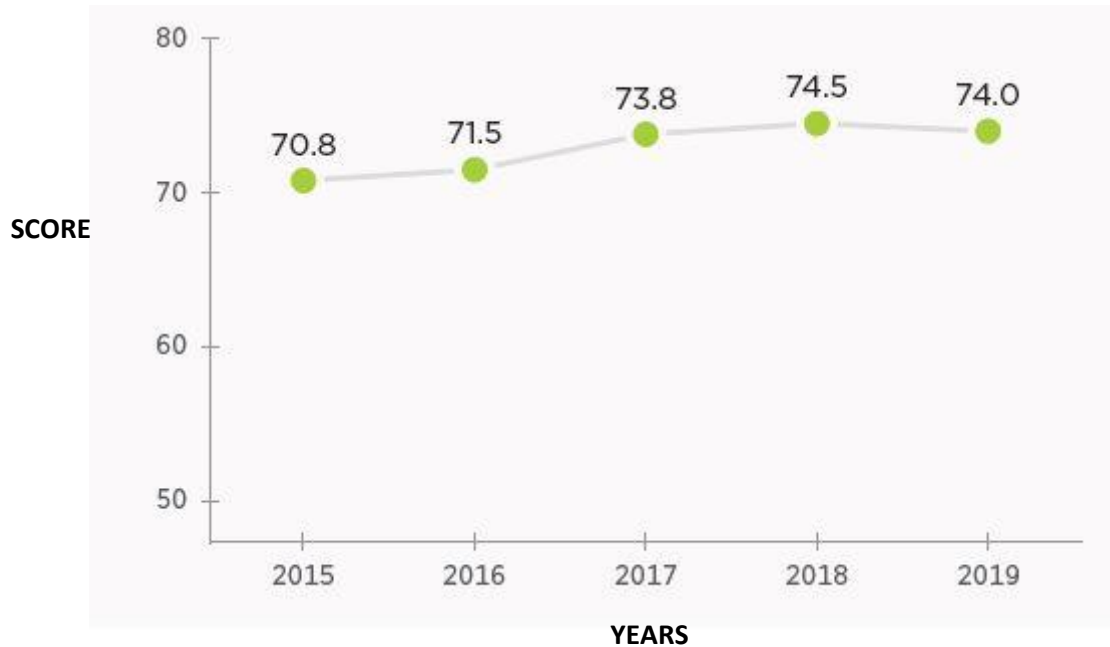
COUNTRY	RANK 2019	SCORE 2019
Hong Kong	1	90.2
Singapore	2	89.4
New Zealand	3	84.4
Switzerland	4	81.9
Australia	5	80.9
Ireland	6	80.5
United Kingdom	7	78.9
Canada	8	77.7
United Arab Emirates	9	77.6
Taiwan	10	77.3
Iceland	11	77.1
United States	12	76.8
Netherlands	13	76.8
Denmark	14	76.7
Estonia	15	76.6
Georgia	16	75.9
Luxembourg	17	75.9
Chile	18	75.4

COUNTRY	RANK 2019	SCORE 2019
Sweden	19	75.2
Finland	20	74.9
Lithuania	21	74.2
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>74.0</b>
Czech Republic	23	73.7
Germany	24	73.5
Mauritius	25	73.0

**Table 2: Malaysia's Economic Freedom Performance 2019 and 2018**

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	CHANGES	2019 SCORE	2018 SCORE
<b>RULE OF LAW</b>	Property Rights	 0.3	84.1	83.8
	Judicial Effectiveness	 3.0	68.2	65.2
	Government Integrity	 0.6	55.4	54.8
<b>GOVERNMENT SIZE</b>	Tax Burden	 0.0	85.6	85.6
	Government Spending	 1.9	83.2	81.3
	Fiscal Health	 1.7	82.4	80.7
<b>REGULATORY EFFICIENCY</b>	Business Freedom	 0.0	83.9	83.9
	Labor Freedom	 -1.4	74.4	75.8
	Monetary Freedom	 -7.0	78.6	85.6
<b>OPEN MARKETS</b>	Trade Freedom	 -5.4	82.0	87.4
	Investment Freedom	 0.0	60.0	60.0
	Financial Freedom	 0.0	50.0	50.0

**Figure 2: Malaysia's 5-year Performance in Index of Economic Freedom**



## 2.2 Malaysia among the Asia Pacific Economies

The Asia Pacific region continues to lead worldwide economic growth, with average annual expansion of approximately 6.3 percent over the past five years driven largely by China, India, and other trade-oriented economies. The region also has one of the lowest average unemployment rates (4 percent) and the second-lowest average inflation rate (3 percent). The region's overall economic freedom score is 60.6 just below the world average 60.8 in the 2019 Index.

Four of the world's six truly "free" economies (Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, and Australia) call the region home. Another five of the region's 43 economies (Taiwan, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, and Macau) are rated "mostly free." The majority of the other countries remain "mostly unfree." Four countries (Kiribati, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, and North Korea) have economies that are considered "repressed".

Malaysia ranks at 6<sup>th</sup> out of 43 economies in the Asia Pacific and its overall score is above the regional and world averages. The Index of Economic Freedom for Asia Pacific Economies is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: 2018 Index of Economic Freedom for Asia Pacific Economies

COUNTRY	WORLD RANK	2019		2018	
		RANK	SCORE	RANK	SCORE
Hong Kong	1	1	90.2	1	90.2
Singapore	2	2	89.4	2	88.8
New Zealand	3	3	84.4	3	84.2
Australia	5	4	80.9	4	80.9
Taiwan	10	5	77.3	5	76.6
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>74.5</b>
Korea, South	29	7	72.3	7	73.8
Japan	30	8	72.1	8	72.3
Macau	34	9	71	9	70.9
Thailand	43	10	68.3	12	67.1
Indonesia	56	11	65.8	15	64.2
Kazakhstan	59	12	65.4	11	69.1
Azerbaijan	60	13	65.4	14	64.3
Brunei Darussalam	63	14	65.1	16	64.2
Philippines	70	15	63.8	13	65.0
Bhutan	74	16	62.9	20	61.8
Kyrgyz Republic	79	17	62.3	18	62.8
Fiji	81	18	62.2	19	62.0
Samoa	82	19	62.2	21	61.5
China	100	20	58.4	24	57.8
Papua New Guinea	101	21	58.4	28	55.7
Cambodia	105	22	57.8	22	58.7
Tonga	108	23	57.7	17	63.1
Laos	110	24	57.4	34	53.6
Sri Lanka	115	25	56.4	25	57.8
Vanuatu	116	26	56.4	10	69.5
Bangladesh	121	27	55.6	29	55.1
Tajikistan	122	28	55.6	23	58.3
Mongolia	126	29	55.4	27	55.7
Vietnam	128	30	55.3	35	53.1
India	129	31	55.2	30	54.5
Pakistan	131	32	55	31	54.4
Solomon Islands	133	33	54.6	26	57.5
Nepal	136	34	53.8	32	54.1

COUNTRY	WORLD RANK	2019		2018	
		RANK	SCORE	RANK	SCORE
Burma	139	35	53.6	33	53.9
Uzbekistan	140	36	53.3	37	51.5
Maldives	141	37	53.2	39	51.1
Micronesia	149	38	51.9	36	52.3
Afghanistan	152	39	51.5	38	51.3
Turkmenistan	164	40	48.4	42	47.1
Kiribati	168	41	47.3	40	50.8
Timor-Leste	172	42	44.2	41	48.1
Korea, North	180	43	5.9	43	5.8

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

The Index of Economic Freedom focuses on four key aspects of the economic and entrepreneurial environment over which governments typically exercise policy control:

- Rule of law,
- Government size,
- Regulatory efficiency, and
- Market openness.

In assessing conditions in these four categories, the Index measures 12 specific components of economic freedom, each of which is graded on a scale from 0 to 100. Scores on these 12 components of economic freedom, which are calculated from a number of sub-variables, are equally weighted and averaged to produce an overall economic freedom score for each economy.

#### 3.1 Rule of Law

##### 3.1.1 Property rights

The property rights component measures the degree of a country's legal protection of private property rights and degree of enforcement of those laws. It is divided into the following sub-factors:

- physical property rights
- intellectual property rights
- strength of investor protection
- risk of expropriation
- quality of land administration



### 3.1.2 Judicial effectiveness

The judicial effectiveness components measures the degree of the judiciary's efficiency and fairness, especially dealing with property laws. It is divided into the following sub-factors:

- judicial independence
- quality of the judicial process
- favoritism in decisions of government officials

### 3.1.3 Government integrity

Analyzes how prevalent are forms of political corruption and practices such as bribery, extortion, nepotism, cronyism, patronage, embezzlement, and graft. It is divided into the following sub-factors:

- public trust in politicians
- irregular payments and bribes
- transparency of government policymaking
- absence of corruption
- perceptions of corruption
- governmental and civil service transparency

## 3.2 Government Size

### 3.2.1 Tax burden

Analyzes marginal tax rates on personal and corporate income and the overall taxation level (including direct and indirect taxes imposed by all levels of government) as a percentage of the GDP. Its sub-factors are:

- top marginal tax rate on individual income
- top marginal tax rate on corporate income
- total tax burden as a percentage of GDP

### 3.2.2 Government spending

Quantifies the burden imposed by government expenditures, which includes consumption by the state and all transfer payments related to various entitlement programs. The ideal level varies from country to country, but zero expenditure is used as a benchmark.

### 3.2.3 Fiscal health

Analyzes how well a country manages its budget by quantifying the growing debt and deficit. It is divided into the following sub-factors:

- average deficits as a percentage of GDP for the most recent three years (80 percent of score)
- debt as a percentage of GDP (20 percent of score)



### 3.3 Regulatory Efficiency

#### 3.3.1 Business freedom

Analyses the cost, time and freedom to open, operate and close a business, taking into consideration factors such as electricity. It is divided into thirteen sub-factors:

- starting a business—procedures (number);
- starting a business—time (days);
- starting a business—cost (% of income per capita);
- starting a business—minimum capital (% of income per capita);
- obtaining a license—procedures (number);
- obtaining a license—time (days);
- obtaining a license—cost (% of income per capita);
- closing a business—time (years);
- closing a business—cost (% of estate);
- closing a business—recovery rate (cents on the dollar);
- getting electricity—procedures (number);
- getting electricity—time (days); and
- getting electricity—cost (% of income per capita).

#### 3.3.2 Labor freedom

Quantifies the intrusiveness of labor rights such as minimum wage, laws inhibiting layoffs, severance requirements, and measurable regulatory restraints on hiring and hours worked, plus the labor force participation rate as an indicative measure of employment opportunities in the labor market. It is divided into the following sub-factors:

- ratio of minimum wage to the average value added per worker
- hindrance to hiring additional workers
- rigidity of hours
- difficulty of firing redundant employees
- legally mandated notice period
- mandatory severance pay
- labor force participation rate

#### 3.3.3 Monetary freedom

Analyses how stable are prices and how much microeconomy intervenes the ideal state for the free market. It is divided into the following sub-factors:

- weighted average inflation rate for the most recent three years
- price controls

### 3.4 Market Openness

### **3.4.1 Trade freedom**

Quantifies the extent to which tariff and nontariff barriers that affect imports and exports of goods and services into and out of the country. Its sub-factors are:

- trade-weighted average tariff rate
- nontariff barriers (NTBs)

### **3.4.2 Investment freedom**

Analyses how free or constrained are the flow of investment capital for individuals and firms.

### **3.4.3 Financial freedom**

Analyses the banking efficiency as to how independent the financial sector is from the government's control and interferences. This aspect looks at five broad areas:

- extent of government regulation of financial services
- degree of state intervention in banks and other financial firms through direct and indirect ownership
- government influence on the allocation of credit
- extent of financial and capital market development
- openness to foreign competition

2019 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS																
World Rank	Regional Rank	Country	Overall Score	Change from 2018	Property Rights	Judicial Effectiveness	Government Integrity	Tax Burden	Government Spending	Fiscal Health	Business Freedom	Labor Freedom	Monetary Freedom	Trade Freedom	Investment Freedom	Financial Freedom
1	1	Hong Kong	90.2	0.0	93.3	75.3	85.8	95.1	90.3	100.0	96.4	89.2	86.4	95.0	90.0	90.0
2	2	Singapore	89.4	0.6	97.4	92.4	95.1	90.4	90.7	80.0	90.8	91.0	85.3	94.8	85.0	80.0
3	3	New Zealand	84.4	0.2	95.0	83.5	96.7	71.0	50.4	98.6	91.0	86.7	87.5	92.4	80.0	80.0
4	1	Switzerland	81.9	0.2	85.3	82.0	88.0	70.5	64.8	96.3	75.4	72.5	85.2	87.4	85.0	90.0
5	4	Australia	80.9	0.0	79.1	86.5	79.9	62.8	60.1	86.2	88.3	84.1	86.6	87.6	80.0	90.0
6	2	Ireland	80.5	0.1	85.8	68.4	78.0	76.3	77.4	89.0	83.1	75.3	87.0	86.0	90.0	70.0
7	3	United Kingdom	78.9	0.9	92.3	85.9	85.8	64.7	48.2	68.6	92.9	75.5	81.2	86.0	90.0	80.0
8	1	Canada	77.7	0.0	87.0	69.4	84.6	76.8	51.3	83.1	81.9	75.7	77.2	86.8	80.0	80.0
9	1	United Arab Emirates	77.6	0.0	81.8	87.1	78.8	99.2	68.8	88.9	79.9	81.1	80.9	84.4	40.0	60.0
10	5	Taiwan	77.3	0.7	85.4	70.1	69.2	75.0	90.6	91.6	93.2	60.9	84.4	87.0	60.0	60.0
11	4	Iceland	77.1	0.1	87.4	63.8	85.8	72.7	44.0	96.7	88.4	64.1	81.7	87.0	85.0	70.0
12	2	United States	76.8	1.1	79.3	78.6	77.4	75.1	57.1	53.1	83.8	89.4	76.6	86.6	85.0	80.0
13	5	Netherlands	76.8	0.6	88.0	74.7	89.1	51.6	42.9	93.3	81.4	60.3	84.0	86.0	90.0	80.0
14	6	Denmark	76.7	0.1	86.2	77.8	85.8	42.0	14.4	96.7	90.7	86.4	84.1	86.0	90.0	80.0
15	7	Estonia	76.6	-2.2	81.5	76.0	75.1	79.9	51.1	99.8	75.3	57.2	79.6	86.0	90.0	70.0
16	8	Georgia	75.9	-0.3	65.9	54.6	58.5	87.1	73.6	93.9	85.8	76.6	76.0	88.6	80.0	70.0
17	9	Luxembourg	75.9	-0.5	83.0	72.4	85.8	65.4	46.6	98.9	68.8	45.9	82.6	86.0	95.0	80.0
18	3	Chile	75.4	0.2	68.7	56.3	62.3	77.3	81.0	89.0	76.6	65.0	84.5	88.8	85.0	70.0
19	10	Sweden	75.2	-1.1	89.5	84.0	88.0	43.2	26.7	96.6	88.0	53.9	82.0	86.0	85.0	80.0
20	11	Finland	74.9	0.8	89.6	81.2	92.5	66.8	7.2	86.4	89.4	50.3	84.8	86.0	85.0	80.0
21	12	Lithuania	74.2	-1.1	73.6	61.2	47.8	86.4	65.1	97.3	75.2	63.6	84.6	86.0	80.0	70.0
22	6	Malaysia	74.0	-0.5	84.1	68.2	55.4	85.6	83.2	82.4	83.9	74.4	78.6	82.0	60.0	50.0
23	13	Czech Republic	73.7	-0.5	74.8	47.6	52.1	82.6	52.1	97.6	72.4	78.1	81.5	86.0	80.0	80.0
24	14	Germany	73.5	-0.7	79.9	75.4	81.3	60.8	42.3	91.8	83.3	52.8	77.9	86.0	80.0	70.0
25	1	Mauritius	73.0	-2.1	69.5	62.1	40.3	92.1	80.3	73.6	79.8	60.8	79.4	88.4	80.0	70.0
26	15	Norway	73.0	-1.3	86.1	81.2	92.5	57.4	25.3	97.3	89.4	53.7	75.4	83.2	75.0	60.0
27	2	Israel	72.8	0.6	80.0	73.4	67.9	61.9	52.4	85.3	71.4	65.1	86.2	84.4	75.0	70.0
28	3	Qatar	72.6	0.0	64.5	60.0	77.4	99.7	56.8	94.0	71.2	65.9	78.4	83.2	60.0	60.0
29	7	South Korea	72.3	-1.5	79.3	57.5	50.5	64.2	68.6	96.8	91.3	57.4	82.0	80.4	70.0	70.0
30	8	Japan	72.1	-0.2	84.1	68.5	78.0	68.2	55.0	55.7	80.5	79.0	85.9	80.0	70.0	60.0
31	16	Austria	72.0	0.2	84.2	71.3	77.4	50.5	24.5	85.5	74.9	68.7	81.5	86.0	90.0	70.0
32	2	Rwanda	71.1	2.0	72.2	83.2	67.9	79.8	79.4	86.3	56.2	82.2	76.1	70.4	60.0	40.0
33	17	Macedonia	71.1	-0.2	65.1	60.7	44.7	91.8	70.0	82.9	80.2	71.5	78.7	82.0	65.0	60.0
34	9	Macau	71.0	0.1	60.0	60.0	33.2	77.1	90.4	100.0	60.0	50.0	76.5	90.0	85.0	70.0
35	18	Latvia	70.4	-3.2	67.3	48.4	35.5	77.0	57.1	96.9	77.5	75.3	81.1	86.0	85.0	60.0
36	3	Botswana	69.5	-0.4	58.1	45.7	52.4	82.7	65.9	94.6	68.7	68.2	78.8	83.8	65.0	70.0
37	19	Bulgaria	69.0	0.7	62.5	41.9	35.1	90.2	63.9	98.8	62.7	68.4	88.0	86.0	70.0	60.0
38	4	Saint Lucia	68.7	1.1	65.9	63.8	50.3	76.2	79.3	81.3	76.3	69.2	83.9	73.2	65.0	40.0

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39	5	Jamaica	68.6	-0.5	60.7	49.2	45.0	80.2	76.0	80.0	78.0	73.6	82.6	68.4	80.0	50.0
40	6	Uruguay	68.6	-0.6	68.3	58.9	69.2	77.2	67.5	69.9	74.3	71.9	72.9	78.6	85.0	30.0
41	20	Malta	68.6	0.1	69.8	50.4	50.3	64.2	56.1	94.5	67.1	61.3	78.2	86.0	85.0	60.0
42	21	Romania	68.6	-0.8	66.7	51.9	39.8	89.7	69.0	89.3	63.1	64.5	82.7	86.0	70.0	50.0
43	10	Thailand	68.3	1.2	53.7	45.9	36.4	81.3	85.8	96.5	82.5	63.9	75.2	83.0	55.0	60.0
44	22	Cyprus	68.1	0.3	73.1	48.1	43.7	74.9	55.2	80.3	76.9	59.5	84.0	86.0	75.0	60.0
45	7	Peru	67.8	-0.9	56.1	34.0	31.8	80.6	86.1	88.5	67.8	63.5	85.9	86.4	75.0	60.0
46	23	Poland	67.8	-0.7	62.3	44.0	49.8	74.9	48.8	86.4	65.4	63.9	82.1	86.0	80.0	70.0
47	24	Armenia	67.7	-1.0	57.2	46.3	38.6	84.7	79.0	53.0	78.3	71.4	77.8	80.8	75.0	70.0
48	25	Belgium	67.3	-0.2	81.3	61.6	72.5	47.1	15.2	73.4	78.1	61.0	76.1	86.0	85.0	70.0
49	8	Colombia	67.3	-1.6	59.2	34.3	33.5	74.3	75.0	79.2	71.4	78.5	75.6	76.0	80.0	70.0
50	9	Panama	67.2	0.2	60.4	30.1	34.1	85.0	85.3	91.3	73.6	43.4	79.4	79.2	75.0	70.0
51	26	Kosovo	67.0	0.4	57.2	53.5	44.7	92.5	77.7	96.0	73.8	64.9	78.3	70.8	65.0	30.0
52	27	Albania	66.5	2.0	54.8	30.6	40.4	86.3	73.9	80.6	69.3	52.7	81.5	87.8	70.0	70.0
53	4	Jordan	66.5	1.6	58.4	52.6	50.3	91.4	73.4	60.6	61.8	52.7	85.0	81.4	70.0	60.0
54	5	Bahrain	66.4	-1.3	63.5	50.7	53.6	99.7	62.7	3.7	71.4	71.1	81.6	83.8	75.0	80.0
55	10	St. Vincent and The Grenadines	65.8	-1.9	36.5	63.8	50.5	71.2	74.3	85.0	76.5	73.5	82.2	66.6	70.0	40.0
56	11	Indonesia	65.8	1.6	52.2	53.5	39.5	83.7	91.4	88.1	69.3	49.3	77.4	79.8	45.0	60.0
57	28	Spain	65.7	0.6	72.9	51.4	51.9	62.3	46.2	51.1	66.8	57.8	87.5	86.0	85.0	70.0
58	29	Slovenia	65.5	0.7	76.4	46.5	53.6	58.4	38.3	82.6	79.3	61.2	83.6	86.0	70.0	50.0
59	12	Kazakhstan	65.4	-3.7	59.3	56.1	40.3	93.4	83.7	41.0	73.9	86.2	70.9	80.0	50.0	50.0
60	13	Azerbaijan	65.4	1.1	59.1	53.1	44.7	87.5	59.5	89.4	69.5	63.9	63.0	74.6	60.0	60.0
61	11	Costa Rica	65.3	-0.3	58.3	54.0	54.5	79.2	88.4	42.5	67.2	55.2	83.2	81.4	70.0	50.0
62	30	Portugal	65.3	1.9	71.5	64.3	59.5	59.9	35.6	69.8	79.7	44.3	83.0	86.0	70.0	60.0
63	14	Brunei	65.1	0.9	64.0	56.0	43.7	90.7	59.9	20.0	80.2	90.8	76.5	84.0	65.0	50.0
64	31	Hungary	65.0	-1.7	60.9	45.2	35.3	78.6	31.7	85.0	61.1	64.7	81.8	86.0	80.0	70.0
65	32	Slovakia	65.0	-0.3	68.5	37.2	37.7	78.6	46.1	87.2	61.3	53.4	78.6	86.0	75.0	70.0
66	12	Mexico	64.7	-0.1	59.1	34.9	26.3	75.8	78.2	83.2	67.8	58.6	75.9	81.4	75.0	60.0
67	13	Barbados	64.7	7.7	52.9	59.9	53.8	70.1	65.0	79.5	69.8	59.9	78.3	56.6	70.0	60.0
68	33	Turkey	64.6	-0.8	55.8	49.8	41.2	76.4	65.1	92.2	66.0	49.2	70.0	79.6	70.0	60.0
69	34	Serbia	63.9	1.4	50.1	44.8	37.2	82.0	45.1	90.1	72.9	67.4	80.0	77.0	70.0	50.0
70	15	Philippines	63.8	-1.2	48.7	36.4	30.9	76.9	88.7	97.1	61.3	57.9	69.6	78.2	60.0	60.0
71	35	France	63.8	-0.1	82.5	66.1	67.9	48.4	3.9	64.9	81.2	45.2	79.1	81.0	75.0	70.0
72	14	Dominica	63.6	-0.9	49.2	63.8	54.5	72.1	53.5	84.7	70.7	60.4	85.7	68.2	70.0	30.0
73	4	Cabo Verde	63.1	3.1	44.1	49.0	43.7	76.4	71.2	59.7	65.2	55.7	84.1	68.2	80.0	60.0
74	16	Bhutan	62.9	1.1	62.5	55.4	54.5	83.0	71.6	77.6	68.7	79.5	72.6	79.4	20.0	30.0
75	6	Morocco	62.9	1.0	57.2	47.1	39.2	72.2	72.7	66.9	70.3	33.1	85.5	77.4	65.0	70.0



2019 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS

World Rank	Regional Rank	Country	Overall Score	Change from 2018	Property Rights	Judicial Effectiveness	Government Integrity	Tax Burden	Government Spending	Fiscal Health	Business Freedom	Labor Freedom	Monetary Freedom	Trade Freedom	Investment Freedom	Financial Freedom
76	15	The Bahamas	62.9	-0.4	42.2	46.9	45.7	97.3	86.8	65.7	68.5	67.5	78.1	47.8	50.0	60.0
77	16	Guatemala	62.6	-0.8	40.3	32.3	26.4	79.2	95.6	96.2	53.6	48.7	77.0	82.2	70.0	50.0
78	5	Côte d'Ivoire	62.4	0.4	40.9	47.8	38.1	77.5	83.9	74.3	61.0	52.5	74.2	73.6	75.0	50.0
79	17	Kyrgyz Republic	62.3	-0.5	49.9	27.9	27.2	94.1	54.2	78.4	73.4	79.8	74.4	78.6	60.0	50.0
80	36	Italy	62.2	-0.3	71.7	49.8	45.7	55.6	26.5	71.5	71.7	51.1	84.0	86.0	85.0	50.0
81	18	Fiji	62.2	0.2	67.3	42.9	25.4	81.1	71.7	82.4	65.0	72.9	73.5	62.8	55.0	50.0
82	19	Samoa	62.2	0.7	53.8	31.0	37.7	79.9	62.3	93.6	77.0	78.2	83.5	63.8	55.0	50.0
83	37	Bosnia and Herzegovina	61.9	0.5	40.2	37.9	30.2	84.3	46.1	96.6	49.7	67.0	83.1	82.6	65.0	60.0
84	17	El Salvador	61.8	-1.4	37.6	29.1	25.4	78.1	86.3	81.9	57.2	53.1	79.0	81.4	75.0	60.0
85	18	Paraguay	61.8	-0.3	39.5	30.0	25.5	96.3	78.9	96.5	61.5	29.2	72.8	76.6	75.0	60.0
86	38	Croatia	61.4	0.4	66.0	42.9	38.6	66.4	33.4	85.4	60.7	44.0	78.5	86.0	75.0	60.0
87	6	Seychelles	61.4	-0.2	58.2	37.5	39.2	76.3	60.3	92.0	63.3	63.2	80.0	81.4	55.0	30.0
88	7	Oman	61.0	0.0	58.1	51.6	53.8	97.8	32.5	16.1	75.2	57.3	77.7	87.0	65.0	60.0
89	19	Dominican Republic	61.0	-0.6	50.6	18.1	23.2	84.6	90.3	89.9	51.9	57.6	79.7	75.8	70.0	40.0
90	8	Kuwait	60.8	-1.4	52.9	43.3	35.3	97.7	17.3	99.1	57.4	61.7	70.6	79.0	55.0	60.0
91	9	Saudi Arabia	60.7	1.1	55.0	62.7	49.8	99.8	57.5	19.4	72.3	63.3	78.1	76.0	45.0	50.0
92	39	Montenegro	60.5	-3.8	55.4	51.8	39.5	85.3	32.6	23.2	73.3	73.4	81.6	84.7	75.0	50.0
93	20	Honduras	60.2	-0.4	43.4	31.0	25.3	82.8	78.2	95.9	56.9	52.0	73.0	79.4	65.0	60.0
94	7	Tanzania	60.2	0.3	35.4	41.4	33.2	80.5	90.3	85.2	46.6	66.2	70.4	67.8	55.0	50.0
95	8	Uganda	59.7	-2.3	42.2	38.5	25.4	73.3	88.7	68.6	46.3	83.2	80.1	75.4	55.0	40.0
96	9	Burkina Faso	59.4	-0.6	49.1	42.9	36.6	81.9	80.0	61.8	51.6	52.3	86.2	65.2	65.0	40.0
97	40	Moldova	59.1	0.7	55.2	29.6	25.4	85.4	59.1	92.0	67.0	39.0	73.5	78.0	55.0	50.0
98	41	Russia	58.9	0.7	52.4	45.1	36.6	89.4	62.3	86.6	78.4	52.5	65.1	77.8	30.0	30.0
99	10	Namibia	58.7	0.2	55.9	54.7	49.8	66.5	48.9	15.7	65.8	85.1	74.4	83.0	65.0	40.0
100	20	China	58.4	0.6	49.9	75.2	49.1	70.4	70.1	76.0	56.2	64.2	71.9	73.0	25.0	20.0
101	21	Papua New Guinea	58.4	2.7	37.4	49.0	37.2	71.8	89.1	75.2	62.2	72.6	70.0	80.9	25.0	30.0
102	11	South Africa	58.3	-4.7	58.8	39.3	39.7	62.1	67.6	62.6	64.3	59.1	75.2	76.0	45.0	50.0
103	12	Mali	58.1	0.5	33.7	33.4	29.6	68.7	85.4	84.2	53.8	52.2	81.6	69.8	65.0	40.0
104	42	Belarus	57.9	-0.2	55.2	51.7	37.7	89.4	41.3	85.4	75.0	75.3	67.0	76.4	30.0	10.0
105	22	Cambodia	57.8	-0.9	37.4	27.6	16.7	89.7	85.9	89.1	29.9	63.0	79.4	65.4	60.0	50.0
106	45	Greece	57.7	0.4	52.4	49.5	37.7	59.1	23.3	79.0	74.1	52.5	79.1	81.0	55.0	50.0
107	21	Nicaragua	57.7	-1.2	33.4	18.7	20.3	76.9	79.1	93.9	56.0	55.8	72.7	76.0	60.0	50.0
108	25	Tonga	57.7	-5.4	59.2	26.6	38.1	85.5	40.9	93.4	75.3	69.9	69.4	73.6	40.0	20.0
109	13	Ghana	57.5	1.5	49.1	44.2	35.5	78.8	82.0	23.9	56.5	59.9	66.3	63.4	70.0	60.0
110	24	Laos	57.4	3.8	38.8	42.5	33.5	86.9	85.3	66.5	60.1	60.1	78.5	81.8	35.0	20.0
111	14	Nigeria	57.3	-1.2	36.5	34.3	20.5	85.0	96.5	68.2	51.2	83.3	65.0	62.4	45.0	40.0
112	22	Trinidad and Tobago	57.0	-0.7	52.3	40.6	32.9	82.3	61.9	16.6	67.8	75.6	75.1	68.4	60.0	50.0
113	23	Guyana	56.8	-1.9	41.7	42.9	33.2	67.0	69.4	77.6	59.3	62.0	76.9	66.8	55.0	30.0



## 2019 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS

World Rank	Regional Rank	Country	Overall Score	Change from 2018	Property Rights	Judicial Effectiveness	Government Integrity	Tax Burden	Government Spending	Fiscal Health	Business Freedom	Labor Freedom	Monetary Freedom	Trade Freedom	Investment Freedom	Financial Freedom
114	15	Madagascar	56.6	-0.2	33.2	24.4	14.3	91.0	91.8	85.5	47.3	44.6	72.4	69.2	55.0	50.0
115	25	Sri Lanka	56.4	-1.4	44.7	39.4	28.9	84.9	88.3	30.4	75.1	58.8	70.1	76.2	40.0	40.0
116	26	Vanuatu	56.4	-13.1	65.9	36.4	51.9	97.3	54.1	15.3	52.4	58.8	75.0	64.4	65.0	40.0
117	16	Senegal	56.3	0.6	47.8	40.4	40.3	70.8	73.3	60.0	53.3	39.4	78.2	72.0	60.0	40.0
118	17	Gabon	56.3	-1.7	28.1	30.6	35.5	75.8	86.6	82.1	52.1	53.0	80.0	51.2	60.0	40.0
119	18	Mauritania	55.7	1.7	27.5	30.6	30.6	78.0	74.2	80.6	61.9	51.5	81.2	62.6	50.0	40.0
120	19	Guinea	55.7	3.5	34.7	32.6	25.5	69.4	89.8	87.2	54.6	54.9	66.4	65.2	50.0	40.0
121	27	Bangladesh	55.6	0.5	36.1	34.5	24.4	72.7	94.5	77.6	50.9	68.2	69.9	65.6	45.0	30.0
122	28	Tajikistan	55.6	-2.7	47.8	52.1	36.4	91.8	64.6	60.3	67.3	49.2	68.5	73.6	25.0	30.0
123	24	Belize	55.4	-1.7	41.7	46.9	27.2	79.9	65.9	39.1	61.8	54.8	78.7	64.0	55.0	50.0
124	20	Comoros	55.4	-0.8	36.5	29.6	24.4	65.9	73.4	91.7	57.2	60.3	82.8	70.0	45.0	30.0
125	10	Tunisia	55.4	-3.5	49.2	42.7	36.6	74.4	74.4	37.9	76.7	50.3	76.0	71.4	45.0	30.0
126	29	Mongolia	55.4	-0.3	48.2	23.8	29.8	88.5	63.1	6.2	66.0	75.0	77.8	75.8	50.0	60.0
127	21	Benin	55.3	-1.4	37.2	32.8	28.1	69.3	83.4	27.9	62.4	53.8	86.4	61.8	70.0	50.0
128	30	Vietnam	55.3	2.2	49.8	40.3	34.0	79.7	74.1	40.7	63.5	62.8	68.9	79.2	30.0	40.0
129	31	India	55.2	0.7	57.3	61.6	47.8	79.4	77.3	14.7	57.1	41.8	72.4	72.4	40.0	40.0
130	22	Kenya	55.1	0.4	53.8	46.9	32.1	79.5	77.8	13.8	55.8	63.4	72.7	60.4	55.0	50.0
131	32	Pakistan	55.0	0.6	41.5	40.2	30.6	80.5	87.6	49.2	56.1	41.8	72.6	64.8	55.0	40.0
132	23	Eswatini	54.7	-1.2	41.7	42.9	35.0	74.8	65.6	18.3	59.2	67.5	73.7	87.6	50.0	40.0
133	33	Solomon Islands	54.6	-2.9	49.9	51.7	33.5	65.5	36.5	89.4	68.6	72.0	86.0	56.8	15.0	30.0
134	24	São Tomé and Príncipe	54.0	0.4	37.4	26.6	35.5	87.2	67.0	62.3	65.1	42.7	70.5	64.2	60.0	30.0
135	25	Guinea-Bissau	54.0	-2.9	32.6	42.9	25.3	88.8	86.7	81.4	35.9	61.2	78.1	55.6	30.0	30.0
136	34	Nepal	53.8	-0.3	39.2	34.7	26.2	84.0	83.7	96.5	61.8	47.9	69.4	60.4	10.0	30.0
137	26	Ethiopia	53.6	0.8	32.6	40.9	35.1	77.2	90.4	83.3	48.6	58.0	60.8	60.8	35.0	20.0
138	27	Zambia	53.6	-0.7	45.0	35.6	32.3	72.3	80.1	12.3	71.1	46.0	70.3	72.6	55.0	50.0
139	35	Burma	53.6	-0.3	34.7	18.1	30.6	86.6	85.4	78.3	52.8	65.7	69.6	70.8	30.0	20.0
140	36	Uzbekistan	53.3	1.8	49.8	34.3	25.2	91.3	67.4	98.7	72.5	58.7	58.9	62.6	10.0	10.0
141	37	Maldives	53.2	2.1	43.9	36.4	33.5	95.8	60.8	10.7	78.3	70.8	81.0	62.6	35.0	30.0
142	28	Lesotho	53.1	-0.8	41.5	45.7	30.9	59.4	33.0	63.5	53.3	58.8	75.0	81.0	55.0	40.0
143	25	Haiti	52.7	-3.1	10.4	25.3	20.3	79.9	88.3	95.9	36.2	62.6	66.5	72.0	45.0	30.0
144	11	Egypt	52.5	-0.9	37.0	48.3	29.2	85.2	68.1	0.0	65.9	51.6	62.3	71.8	60.0	50.0
145	29	Cameroon	52.4	0.5	42.5	31.3	25.5	74.4	87.5	58.4	44.4	47.8	84.0	53.4	30.0	50.0
146	30	The Gambia	52.4	0.1	39.9	42.5	41.2	74.3	70.7	0.0	54.0	67.4	62.4	61.6	65.0	50.0
147	44	Ukraine	52.3	0.4	43.9	31.5	29.6	81.8	46.9	82.6	66.1	46.7	58.6	75.0	35.0	30.0
148	26	Argentina	52.2	-0.1	47.8	44.5	33.5	69.3	49.5	33.0	56.4	46.9	60.2	70.0	55.0	60.0
149	38	Micronesia	51.9	-0.4	7.6	26.6	36.6	92.8	0.0	98.8	57.4	71.9	85.8	80.6	35.0	30.0
150	27	Brazil	51.9	0.5	57.3	51.7	28.1	70.5	55.2	5.9	57.9	51.9	75.5	69.0	50.0	50.0
151	31	Niger	51.6	2.1	37.2	31.0	34.1	76.9	75.6	22.2	56.3	48.2	76.7	65.8	55.0	40.0



2019 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM WORLD RANKINGS																
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152	39	Afghanistan	51.5	0.2	19.6	29.6	25.2	91.7	80.3	99.3	49.2	60.4	76.7	66.0	10.0	10.0
153	32	Malawi	51.4	-0.6	35.8	40.1	25.2	79.8	70.3	19.1	41.7	64.0	65.5	75.4	50.0	50.0
154	12	Lebanon	51.1	-2.1	39.5	26.6	18.2	91.8	75.6	0.0	47.9	46.5	78.1	79.0	60.0	50.0
155	13	Iran	51.1	0.2	33.5	41.3	35.0	80.9	89.8	89.5	62.2	50.7	60.1	54.6	5.0	10.0
156	33	Angola	50.6	2.0	35.9	26.6	20.5	83.9	80.7	58.2	55.7	58.8	55.4	61.2	30.0	40.0
157	34	Democratic Republic of Congo	50.3	-1.8	25.3	30.7	26.2	73.8	93.9	96.9	53.2	41.9	49.1	62.6	30.0	20.0
158	35	Togo	50.3	2.5	35.5	29.6	28.1	67.8	77.0	24.5	50.4	46.7	79.1	69.4	65.0	30.0
159	36	Chad	49.9	0.6	26.7	24.6	25.2	46.1	92.4	85.2	28.1	43.2	82.3	47.2	60.0	40.0
160	37	Liberia	49.7	-1.2	26.7	39.0	24.2	82.7	62.1	69.1	50.6	38.3	68.9	60.1	55.0	20.0
161	38	Central African Republic	49.1	-0.1	19.6	29.6	25.2	65.2	94.2	94.3	24.2	40.1	72.3	51.0	45.0	50.0
162	39	Burundi	48.9	-2.0	20.6	31.0	26.2	74.0	83.3	23.3	50.3	67.5	62.2	68.2	50.0	50.0
163	40	Mozambique	48.6	2.3	33.9	35.2	28.1	75.5	66.9	16.6	57.1	42.0	65.4	78.0	35.0	50.0
164	40	Turkmenistan	48.4	1.3	31.6	29.8	20.3	95.9	92.0	92.3	30.0	20.0	73.4	76.0	10.0	10.0
165	28	Suriname	48.1	0.0	49.1	22.2	35.5	70.9	77.2	9.6	48.3	75.5	56.0	64.6	40.0	30.0
166	41	Sudan	47.7	-1.7	27.5	22.2	26.2	86.3	96.6	76.1	52.1	59.0	56.9	45.0	5.0	20.0
167	42	Sierra Leone	47.5	-4.3	35.5	34.5	26.2	87.3	84.4	13.2	44.9	29.3	65.0	69.4	60.0	20.0
168	41	Kiribati	47.3	-3.5	44.1	34.3	35.1	73.0	0.0	98.6	41.9	50.7	81.1	53.2	25.0	50.0
169	43	Djibouti	47.1	2.0	29.7	18.1	28.1	76.2	27.3	18.1	54.7	60.4	72.7	50.4	80.0	50.0
170	29	Ecuador	46.9	-1.6	35.9	20.2	25.3	77.0	55.5	32.1	54.1	48.2	75.5	66.4	35.0	40.0
171	14	Algeria	46.2	1.5	31.6	36.2	28.9	76.4	48.7	18.7	61.6	49.9	74.9	67.4	30.0	30.0
172	42	Timor-Leste	44.2	-3.9	29.7	13.1	32.1	96.3	0.9	20.0	60.5	58.8	79.5	75.0	45.0	20.0
173	30	Bolivia	42.3	-1.8	20.5	12.3	19.7	82.4	49.3	17.6	58.8	52.9	68.8	70.4	15.0	40.0
174	44	Equatorial Guinea	41.0	-1.0	29.7	18.1	15.8	71.3	67.6	16.4	37.6	52.7	83.7	48.8	40.0	50.0
175	45	Zimbabwe	40.4	-3.6	29.7	24.8	15.8	62.3	74.5	23.7	33.4	43.3	72.4	70.0	25.0	10.0
176	46	Republic of Congo	39.7	0.8	33.2	29.6	25.3	59.5	40.6	0.0	38.2	35.8	82.6	56.8	45.0	50.0
177	47	Eritrea	38.9	-2.8	35.5	18.1	19.7	81.4	73.9	0.0	17.7	70.0	61.0	69.2	0.0	20.0
178	31	Cuba	27.8	-4.1	31.6	10.0	37.7	48.8	0.0	15.6	20.0	20.0	65.6	64.0	10.0	10.0
179	32	Venezuela	25.9	0.7	7.6	13.1	7.9	74.7	58.1	17.6	33.9	28.0	0.0	60.0	0.0	10.0
180	43	North Korea	5.9	0.1	31.6	5.0	24.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
N/A		Iraq	N/A		37.0	12.3	20.3	N/A	52.8	13.3	54.4	53.1	81.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A		Libya	N/A		7.6	24.4	15.8	N/A	0.0	20.0	40.2	51.3	52.8	N/A	5	N/A
N/A		Liechtenstein	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	85	80
N/A		Somalia	N/A		33.7	26.6	7.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A		Syria	N/A		37.0	24.4	20.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	49.6	58.2	48.3	47.0	0	N/A
N/A		Yemen	N/A		19.6	22.2	20.3	N/A	83.7	0.0	45.1	49.8	61.5	71.4	50	N/A