

## CHAPTER 3

# ECONOMIC FREEDOM BY REGION AND COUNTRY

The *Index of Economic Freedom* chronicles and benchmarks the many factors underpinning economic freedom in countries throughout the world.

The country profiles in the *Index*, organized regionally in five groupings (the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa), provide many real-world examples of the impact, both positive and negative, of government economic policies. Those that enhance economic freedom tend to be associated with greater economic and social progress and can be emulated by other countries that are willing to reform. Successful countries are those that chart not just one path to development, but as many as the ingenuity of humans can produce when they are free to experiment and innovate.

Of the 186 countries included in this edition, 180 are fully scored and ranked. Because of insufficient data, six countries (Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, and Liechtenstein) are evaluated but not graded. In the 2017 *Index*, Afghanistan has been graded and ranked for the first time, and Sudan has returned to the rankings for the first time since 2000.

For analytical understanding and presentational clarity, the 12 economic freedoms are grouped into four pillars of economic freedom:

- **Rule of law** (property rights, judicial effectiveness, and government integrity);
- **Government size** (tax burden, government spending, and fiscal health);
- **Regulatory efficiency** (business freedom, labor freedom, and monetary freedom); and
- **Market openness** (trade freedom, investment freedom, and financial freedom).

Ranked countries are given a score ranging from 0 to 100 on each of the 12 components of economic freedom, and these scores are then averaged (using equal weights) to compute a country's final economic freedom score.

In addition to the scores, the country pages include a brief overview describing economic strengths and weaknesses and providing the political and economic background that may have influenced the country's performance. A statistical profile includes the country's main economic and demographic indicators.

## ECONOMIC FREEDOM: REGIONAL VARIATIONS (REGIONAL AVERAGE)

Regional Ranking	The Americas (60.0)	Asia-Pacific (60.3)	Europe (68.0)	Middle East + North Africa (61.9)	Sub-Saharan Africa (55.0)
1	Canada	Hong Kong	Switzerland	United Arab Emirates	Mauritius
2	Chile	Singapore	Estonia	Qatar	Botswana
3	United States	New Zealand	Ireland	Israel	Rwanda
4	Colombia	Australia	United Kingdom	Bahrain	Côte d'Ivoire
5	Uruguay	Taiwan	Georgia	Jordan	Namibia
6	Jamaica	South Korea	Luxembourg	Kuwait	South Africa
7	Peru	Malaysia	Netherlands	Saudi Arabia	Seychelles
8	Panama	Macau	Lithuania	Oman	Swaziland
9	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Brunei Darussalam	Denmark	Morocco	Uganda
10	Costa Rica	Japan	Sweden	Tunisia	Burkina Faso
11	Saint Lucia	Kazakhstan	Latvia	Lebanon	Benin
12	El Salvador	Vanuatu	Iceland	Egypt	Mali
13	Dominica	Thailand	Finland	Iran	Gabon
14	Mexico	Philippines	Norway	Algeria	Tanzania
15	Guatemala	Azerbaijan	Germany	Iraq	Madagascar
16	Dominican Republic	Fiji	Czech Republic	Libya	Nigeria
17	Paraguay	Tonga	Austria	Syria	Cabo Verde
18	Trinidad and Tobago	Indonesia	Macedonia	Yemen	Congo, Dem. Rep. of
19	Bahamas	Kyrgyz Republic	Armenia		Ghana
20	Nicaragua	Cambodia	Romania		Guinea-Bissau
21	Honduras	Bhutan	Poland		Senegal
22	Belize	Samoa	Kosovo		Comoros
23	Guyana	Tajikistan	Bulgaria		Zambia
24	Barbados	China	Cyprus		São Tomé and Príncipe
25	Brazil	Sri Lanka	Belgium		Mauritania
26	Argentina	Nepal	Malta		Lesotho
27	Haiti	Solomon Islands	Hungary		Kenya
28	Ecuador	Bangladesh	Slovak Republic		Gambia
29	Suriname	Mongolia	Turkey		Togo
30	Bolivia	Micronesia	Albania		Burundi
31	Cuba	Laos	Spain		Ethiopia
32	Venezuela	Pakistan	France		Sierra Leone
33		India	Portugal		Malawi
34		Burma	Italy		Cameroon
35		Vietnam	Montenegro		Central African Republic
36		Uzbekistan	Bosnia and Herzegovina		Niger
37		Papua New Guinea	Croatia		Mozambique
38		Kiribati	Slovenia		Liberia
39		Maldives	Serbia		Chad
40		Afghanistan	Belarus		Sudan
41		Turkmenistan	Moldova		Angola
42		Timor-Leste	Russia		Guinea
43		North Korea	Greece		Djibouti
44			Ukraine		Equatorial Guinea
45			Liechtenstein		Zimbabwe
46					Eritrea
47					Congo, Rep. of
48					Somalia

### 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
- Not Graded