

Salem Ben Nasser Al Ismaily,
Azzan Al-Busaidi, Miguel Cervantes
& Fred McMahon

Economic Freedom of the Arab World

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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2018 Annual Report

Salem Ben Nasser Al Ismaily, Azzan Al-Busaidi,
Miguel Cervantes & Fred McMahon

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
International Research Foundation of Oman
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About the Authors

Salem Ben Nasser Al Ismaily

Salem Ben Nasser Al Ismaily, Ph.D., holds degrees in Telecommunications, Liberal Arts, Industrial Engineering, Business Administration, Management, Philosophy, and Economy from universities in the United Kingdom and the United States. Al Ismaily worked at the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (PEIE) from 1984 to 1996 as the Managing Director. In 1996, he was appointed as a Deputy Chairman and Executive President of the Omani Centre for Investment Promotion and Export Development. In 2012, he was appointed as the Chairman of the Public Establishment for Investment Promotion and Export Development. He is the founder and chairman of International Research Foundation Oman, a member of the Fulbright Family for Global Peace USA, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Fraser Institute in Canada. Al Ismaily has published several papers on the subject of cross culture, management, and economy, and five books on corporate culture, religion, and history. Most recently, he published *Economic Freedom and Social Economic Outcomes in the Arab World*, for which he was awarded a Ph.D. from the University of Northumbria and Newcastle. He also serves as a board member of companies in the field of financial services and energy.

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Azzan bin Qassim Al-Busaidi

Azzan bin Qassim Al-Busaidi has worked as an economist at several departments relevant to research, investments, and marketing in Oman. He is the CEO of the International Research Foundation in Oman, which is an independent, non-profit think tank, and Director General of Planning and Studies for the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development. He holds a degree in Economics from Sultan Qaboos University in Oman and an M.B.A. from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland.

Miguel Cervantes

Miguel Angel Cervantes is an economist who undertakes international research for the Fraser Institute. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics from the University of Texas at El Paso and has lectured at Vanier College, HEC Montreal Business School, Audencia Business School, Nantes, EM Normandie, Sciences Po Nancy, Neoma Business School. He was the coordinator of the 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012, and 2013 editions of the *Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies*; the 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 editions of the *Fraser Institute Global Petroleum Survey*; and of the 2010,

2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 editions of *Economic Freedom of the Arab World*. He is currently a lecturer at the Burgundy School of Business, ESC Troyes; ESC Compiègne and and EM Lyon Business School in France.

Fred McMahon

Fred McMahon holds the Dr. Michael A. Walker Research Chair in Economic Freedom at the Fraser Institute. He manages the Institute's economic freedom project, which publishes or co-publishes the annual reports, *Economic Freedom of the World*, *Economic Freedom of North America*, and this publication, *Economic Freedom of the Arab World*; and coordinates the Economic Freedom Network of independent think tanks in nearly 90 nations and territories. He has written several books, including *Looking the Gift Horse in the Mouth: The Impact of Federal Transfers on Atlantic Canada*, which won the Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Award for public-policy books, *Road to Growth: How Lagging Economies Become Prosperous* (with a foreword by former Irish Prime Minister John Bruton), and *Retreat from Growth: Atlantic Canada and the Negative Sum Economy* (with a foreword by Nobel Laureate Robert Mundell).

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About the Co-publishers

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization that is committed to promoting liberal values and policies. Founded in Germany in 1958, the Foundation has won a reputation for promoting freedom worldwide.

To create an open society, FNF is guided by the principles of Liberalism and its message of mutual tolerance and acceptance of diversity. Its core concepts such as the protection of human rights, the application of the rule of law, liberal democracy, and a free-market economy have proven throughout the centuries that Liberalism offers appropriate solutions for the present and the future in public and personal life. Our intensive work in civic education, political consultancy, training, and international dialogue is carried out in Germany and in over 70 countries worldwide.

International Research Foundation

The International Research Foundation (IRF), Sultanate of Oman, was established in 2005 as a non-governmental, independent, non-profit “think tank” based in Oman to conduct research on domestic and international economic issues with emphasis on the Arab World. The IRF has set its research and public-affairs agenda on a collegial basis, relying on the input of its researcher staff, its editorial board, and its Senior Fellows. It maintains a working arrangement with governmental and non-governmental organizations in the region and other parts of the world. The IRF is the regional member of the Fraser Institute’s Economic Freedom Network.

The vision of IRF is to create wealth and jobs through promotion of economic freedom. Its mission is to measure, research, and communicate to a global audience the impact of competitive markets with free economic policies on the welfare of individuals.

The Board of Trustees of the IRF consists of high-profile private-sector members from different organizations. The IRF has initiated the establishment of a network of academic researchers to facilitate research projects, which will help in its endeavor to research economic issues affecting the daily life of individuals.

Fraser Institute

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for Canadians, their families and future generations by studying, measuring and broadly communicating the effects of government policies, entrepreneurship, and choice on their well-being. Founded in 1974, we are an independent research and educational organization with locations throughout North America and international partners in over 90 countries. Our work is financed by tax-deductible contributions from thousands of individuals, organizations, and foundations. In order to protect its independence, the Institute does not accept grants from government or contracts for research.

Introduction

Economic freedom—creating opportunity for all

Wherever true economic freedom takes root, it creates opportunity for all by eliminating obstacles to success. Economic freedom is simply the ability of individuals and families to make their own economic decisions and take advantage of opportunities and entrepreneurship, free of barriers imposed by overly powerful governments or greedy elites to protect their own dominance, whether foreign or domestic. All too often in the Arab world the less privileged and the excluded are deprived from finding meaningful employment or building new and creative businesses by onerous bureaucracy, red tape, restrictive regulations, complicated rules, corruption, and an uneven rule of law—all obstacles to economic freedom.

Increased economic freedom removes these barriers to create opportunity for all. It is the solution that will unleash the drive and ingenuity of the whole population and power Arab nations into a new era of prosperity and opportunity. This is a necessity for even resource-rich states as they move to diversify. To do this and achieve a broad participation of their population in economic activity, they must open the gates to opportunity for all.

Expanding economic freedom would also combat corruption. If the road to opportunity is open, no one can demand a bribe for entrance to that road. The Arab Spring was triggered by economic as much as by political reasons. The demonstrations across the Arab world were fueled especially by frustrated youth unable to find suitable employment or launch their own enterprises. The privileged and powerful have the connections and influence to navigate the complicated seas of red tape and favoritism to establish their own businesses and land the best jobs. But, if these opportunities were open to all, an economic miracle would unfold in the Arab World.

Measuring economic freedom

Economic Freedom of the Arab World aims to provide a reliable and objective metric of economic policy throughout the Arab World. It measures the extent to which citizens of the nations of the Arab League are able to make their own economic decisions without barriers to opportunity and limitations imposed by the government or by crony elites. The report provides sound empirical measurement of economic policy that can distinguish between phony reform that leaves

economic and political power in the hands of crony elites, and real reform that creates new prosperity, entrepreneurship, and jobs, by opening business and work opportunities for everyone no matter whom they know.

Arab and Islamic societies have a rich trading tradition, one that celebrates markets open even to the humblest members of society. Economic freedom is consistent with that proud history and provides a path to a more prosperous and freer tomorrow. Economic freedom is simply the ability of individuals and families to take charge of their fate and make their own economic decisions—to sell or buy in the marketplace without discrimination, to open or close a business, to work for whom they wish or hire whom they wish, to receive investment or invest in others. As discussed later in this report, economic freedom has a proven fact-based record of improving the lives of people, liberating them from dependence, and leading to other freedoms and democracy.

Benefits of economic freedom

Since the publication of the first edition of the *Economic Freedom of the World* in 1996 and, more recently, national and regional indexes, there have been about 600 scholarly and policy articles that have used the economic freedom indexes to explore the relationship between economic freedom and other socioeconomic outcomes. Fact-based studies in top academic journals have shown that economic freedom promotes growth, job creation, prosperity, and other positive outcomes. The relationship of economic freedom to prosperity is unsurprising. Individuals and families are best able to look after themselves when free to do so, without external constraints. Their drive and ingenuity have simply proved to be more productive than government planning or restricted markets and monopolies under crony capitalism.

However, the importance of economic freedom goes beyond mere economics. Economic freedom has intrinsic value and is inextricably linked to all other freedoms. Individuals and families should have the inherent right to make their own economic decisions. When they do, economic freedom liberates them from government dependence and opens the door to other freedoms. Economic freedom is thus vital for those seeking these freedoms and democracy in a peaceful, stable, and prosperous society, as evidence discussed later in this report shows. Economic freedom supports these goals directly and by boosting prosperity. Prosperity, in turn, supports both democracy, stability, and the further growth of freedom.

Over time, economic freedom itself directly supports other freedoms, democracy, and stability by changing the way societies function. When governments or crony capitalists control the ability of individuals to get a job, start a business, gain a promotion, feed, house, and clothe their families, and so on, then the government and its supporters have great tools to suppress freedom and democracy, until the anger grows too great, as it did in many parts of the Arab world. Economic freedom liberates people from dependence on government and the government's cronies and allows them the freedom to decide on their own actions and views.

Economic freedom transforms the dynamics of any society that had lacked it. When people make their own economic choices, they gain only when they produce products or services desired in free exchange—in other words, by making people better off. Those in other groups become customers, suppliers, clients. Over time, this builds tolerance and a common sense of citizenship. When governments—or government friends under crony capitalism—control the economy, the economy grows slowly or not at all. Individuals and groups battle each other for wealth and privilege. People gain by cultivating connections, suppressing the opportunities of others, and making them worse off. All too often, the individual gains not as an individual but as a member of rent-seeking group, whether economic, ethnic, or religious. Groups stand against groups, as is all too evident in much of the world.

With economic freedom, the biggest gains are achieved by people who increase the size of the economic pie for everyone; without economic freedom, the biggest gains are by those who cut a bigger slice of the pie for themselves to the disadvantage of others. This is a key reason that economic freedom has been shown to promote democracy, stability, and other freedoms, as discussed later in the report.

True economic freedom also combats corruption. When people are economically free, they may do what they like economically. Although some regulations are necessary, many things become possible without asking government permission, so there is no one capable of demanding a bribe. Also, as size of government decreases, government has fewer favors to hand out, so no one can demand a payment for a favor that government can't grant in the first place.

Economic freedom would also have a highly important benefit for the Arab world. A key driver of dissatisfaction in the region is the high unemployment rate among young people. Youth unemployment in the region averages nearly 30% (World Bank, 2014). Economic freedom has been shown to create jobs and reduce unemployment, particularly among young people (Feldmann, 2010), and hence could play an important role in increasing stability and thus the region's attractiveness to investors, leading to even more job creation.

Illustrative figures

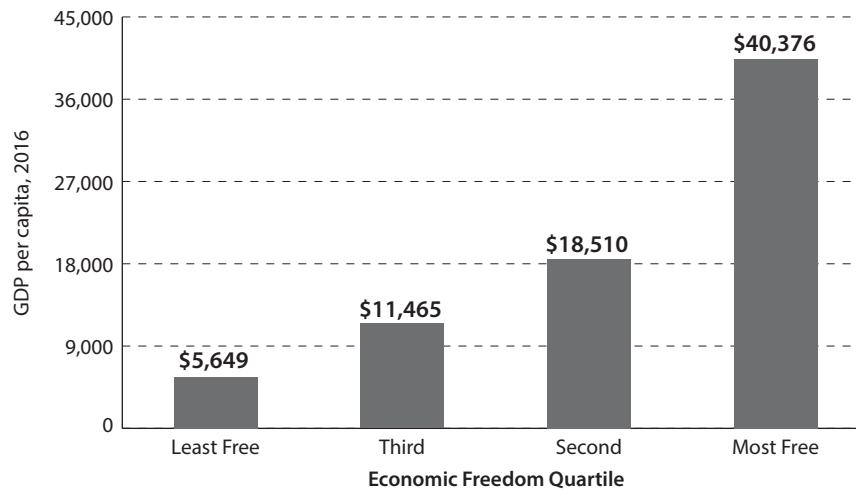
Quartile charts, like the following, can help illustrate important findings. To provide a global view, the figures are based on the 163 jurisdictions included in the index published in *Economic Freedom of the World: 2018 Annual Report*. (Much of this section comes directly from Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy, 2018, and other economic freedom documents.) The jurisdictions are broken down into four quartiles based on their level of economic freedom.

Figure A: Economic freedom and prosperity

This figure shows that nations in the top fourth of the economic freedom index have a per-capita GDP of about \$40,376 per year compared to GDP of \$5,649 in the least free nations. This probably overstates the per-capita GDP of the world's least free nations. There is not enough data available to include in the index many nations that appear to have abysmal levels of economic freedom and widespread misery, such as North Korea.

Figure A: Economic Freedom and Income per Capita

Countries with greater economic freedom have substantially higher per-capita incomes.



Note: Income = GDP per capita, (PPP constant US\$), 2016.
 Sources: Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2018), *Economic Freedom of the World: 2018 Annual Report*: Average Economic Freedom Panel Score, 1995–2016; World Bank (2017), *World Development Indicators*.

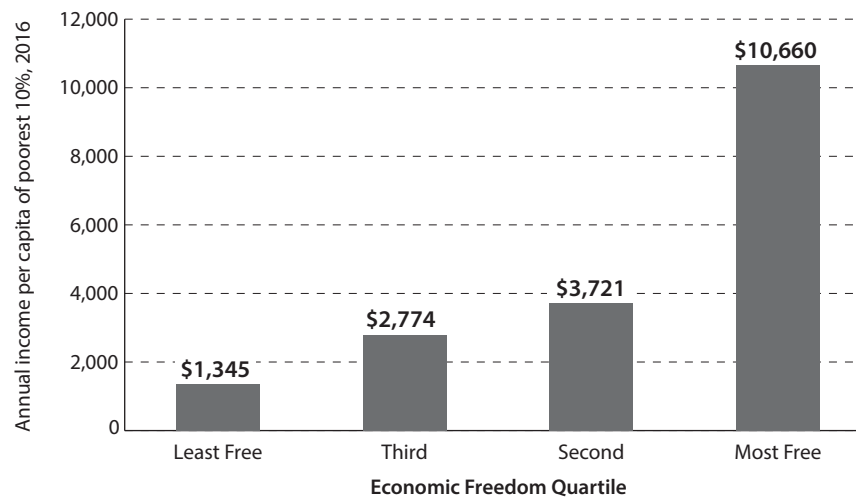
Figures Bi and Bii: Economic freedom and inequality

The poorest 10% in the least free nations have an average income of just \$1,345 a year (though this again overstates the average income in countries like North Korea and Cuba that are not included in the index because of a lack of data). The poorest 10% in the most free nations have an average income of \$10,660, eight times the income of the least free nations.

Economic freedom dramatically reduces poverty. In the least free nations, over 30% of the population suffers extreme poverty (defined as US\$1.90 a day) and over 50% suffers moderate poverty (US\$3.20 a day). In the freest nations, 1.48% of the population suffers \$1.90-a-day poverty and only 4.31% suffer \$3.20-a-day poverty.

Figure Bi: Economic Freedom and the Income Earned by the Poorest 10%

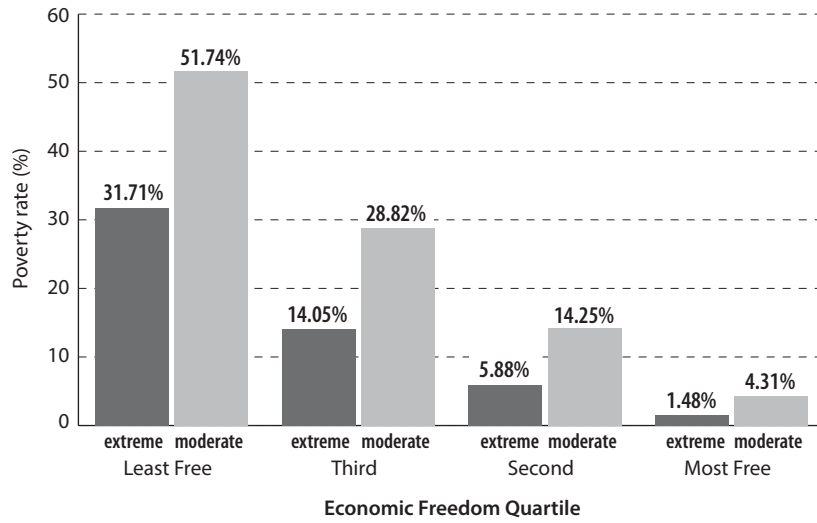
The amount of income, as opposed to the share, earned by the poorest 10% of the population is much higher in countries with higher economic freedom.



Note: Annual income per capita of poorest 10% (PPP constant US\$), 2016.
 Sources: Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2018), *Economic Freedom of the World: 2018 Annual Report*: Average Economic Freedom Panel Score, 1995–2016; World Bank (2017), *World Development Indicators*.

Figure Bii: Economic Freedom and Extreme and Moderate Poverty Rates

Extreme and moderate poverty are lower in countries with more economic freedom.



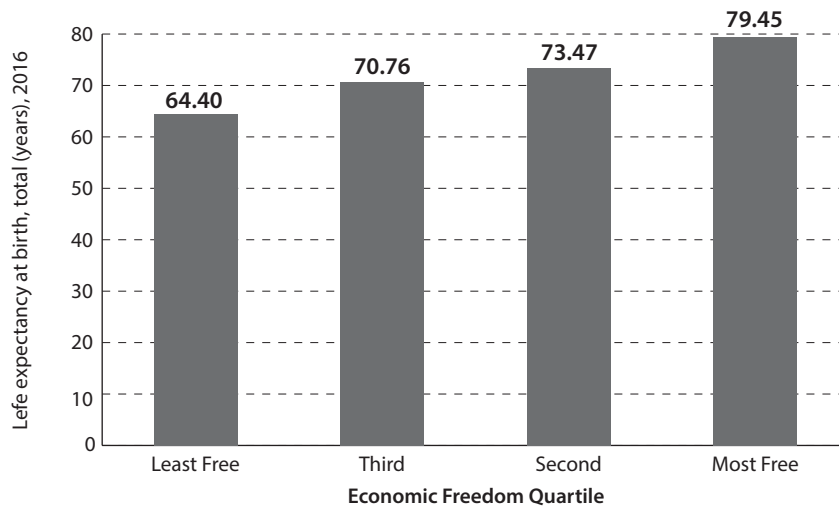
Note: The **extreme** poverty rate is the percentage of a country's population that lives on \$1.90 per day; the **moderate** poverty rate is the percentage that lives \$3.20 per day, in 2011 constant PPP-adjusted dollars. Sources: Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2018), *Economic Freedom of the World: 2018 Annual Report*; Average Economic Freedom Panel Score, 1995–2016; World Bank (2017), *World Development Indicators*; for details, see Connors, 2011.

Figure C: Economic freedom and life expectancy

Life expectancy is 79.5 years in the top quartile of economic freedom compared to 60.4 years in the bottom quartile. This reflects not only gains in prosperity created by economic freedom, and thus in health care, diet, and education, but also the fact that individuals can make the best choices for themselves when free to do so.

Figure C: Economic Freedom and Life Expectancy

Life expectancy is about 15 years longer in countries with the most economic freedom than it is in countries with the least.



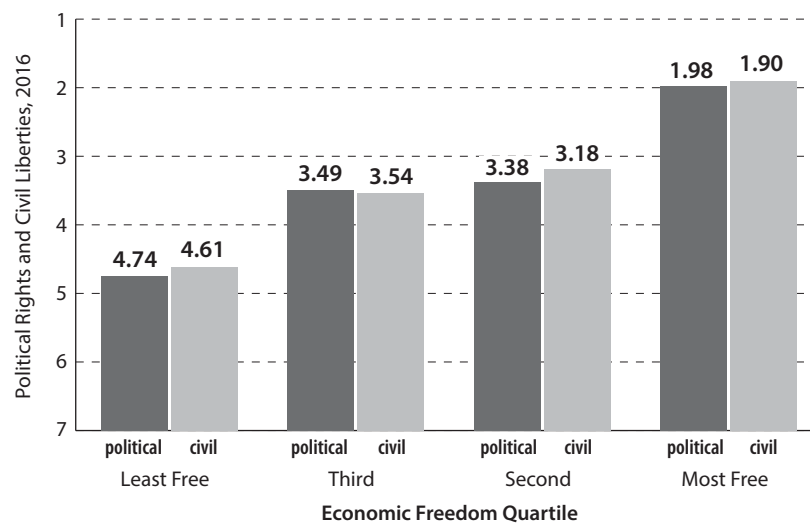
Sources: Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2018), *Economic Freedom of the World: 2018 Annual Report*; Average Economic Freedom Panel Score, 1995–2016; World Bank (2017), *World Development Indicators*.

Figure D: Economic freedom and other freedoms

When a government has the power to determine individuals' ability to feed, clothe, house, and educate their families; to hold a job and get a promotion; and to restrict their ability to move ahead in other ways, government has all the tools it needs to suppress other freedoms, at least until life becomes unbearable and recourse is made to violence. When economic freedom is lacking, individuals and families must depend on the kindness of government to get ahead. Economic freedom gives people economic independence and lessens dependence on government, opening the way for the growth of other freedoms. Empirical studies support the connection between economic freedom, other freedoms and democracy (Griswold, 2004; Dawson, 1998). The data used for this figure are from Freedom House, which measures freedom on a 1-to-7 scale, with 1 being the greatest amount of freedom and 7, the least.

Figure D: Economic Freedom and Political Rights and Civil Liberties

Greater economic freedom is associated with more political rights and civil liberties.



Note: **Political rights** and **civil liberties** are measured on a scale from 1 to 7: 1 = the highest degree of political rights and civil liberties; 7 = the lowest.

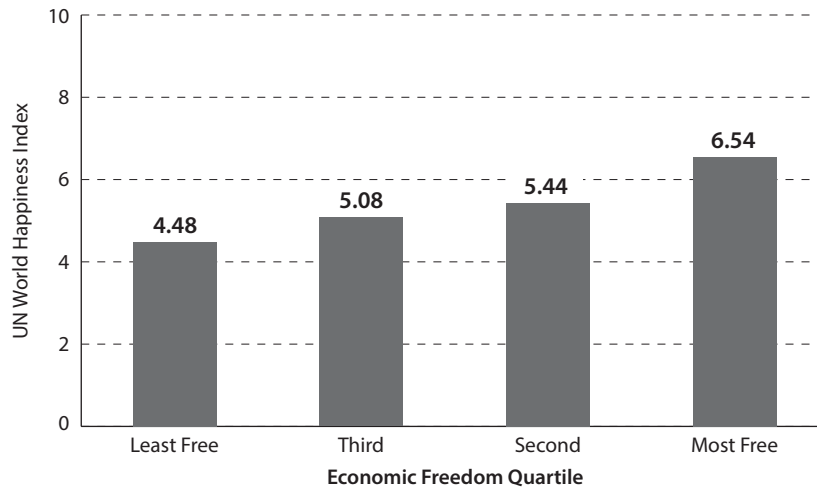
Sources: Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2018), *Economic Freedom of the World: 2018 Annual Report: Average Economic Freedom Panel Score, 1995–2016*; Freedom House (2017), *Freedom in the World 2017*.

Figure E: Economic freedom and happiness

Opponents of economic freedom have argued that the prosperity economic freedom creates is not a good measure of human well-being; that instead, we should be concerned about human happiness and that, they claim, is highest in socialist nations. This argument is typically made without any proof. Instead, a considerable body of research now shows that economic freedom “causes” happiness (or life satisfaction). Figure D shows happiness measured on the United Nations Happiness Index on a 0 to 10 scale. As it turns out, people like to be in control of their own lives (see Pitlik, Redín, and Rode, 2015).

Figure E: Economic Freedom and the UN World Happiness Index

People in countries with greater economic freedom tend to be happier about their lives.



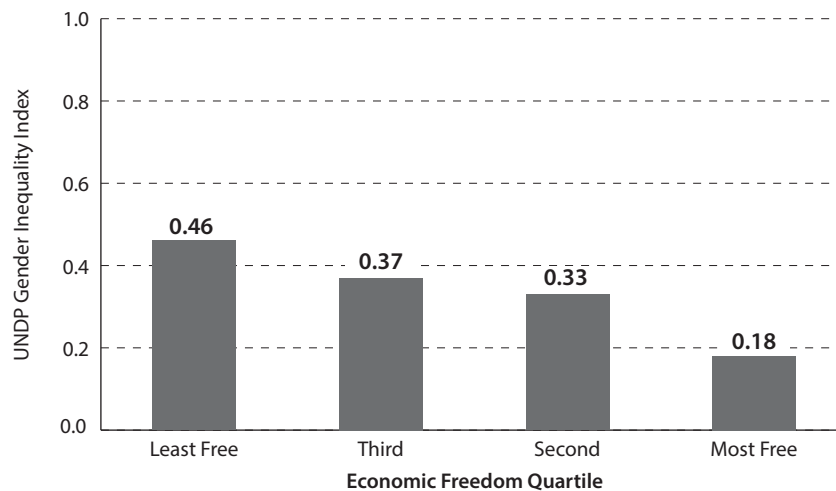
Note: "The rankings are based on answers to the main life evaluation question ... This is called the Cantril ladder: it asks respondents to think of a ladder, with the best possible life for them being a 10, and the worst ... a 0. They are then asked to rate their own current lives on that 0 to 10 scale". Data are for 2015. Sources: Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2018), *Economic Freedom of the World: 2018 Annual Report: Average Economic Freedom Panel Score, 1995–2016*; United Nations (2016), *World Happiness Report 2016 Update*.

Figure F: Economic freedom and gender inequality

In nations with true economic freedom, individuals are treated as equals, not as members of a privileged group—a tribe, religion, ethnic group, or sex. The United Nations *Gender Inequality Index* measures inequality on a scale of 0 (no gender inequality) to 1 (extreme inequality). The least economically free nations score 0.46, a relatively high level of gender inequality, while the most economically free score 0.18.

Figure F: Economic Freedom and the UN Gender Inequality Index

Men and women tend to fare equally in countries with greater economic freedom



Note: "The Gender Inequality Index (GII) reflects gender-based disadvantage in three dimensions—reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market—for as many countries as data of reasonable quality allow ... It ranges from 0, where women and men fare equally, to 1, where one gender fares as poorly as possible in all measured dimensions". Data is for 2015. Sources: Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2018), *Economic Freedom of the World: 2018 Annual Report: Average Economic Freedom Panel Score, 1995–2016*; United Nations Development Programme (2016), Table 5: Gender Inequality Index.

Economic Freedom of the Arab World

We hope that *Economic Freedom of the Arab World* will be a timely reminder of the importance of real reform in increasing economic freedom and prosperity throughout the region. More importantly, the report provides an objective, respected measure of actual reform. The people and governments of the region can use it as a reliable reference. This report separates the rhetoric of reform and crony capitalism from the reality of true reform. Gains in economic freedom will show in the index only when people's liberties are actually increased and put to shame rhetoric unaccompanied by reform.

Economic freedom is the extent to which one can pursue economic activity without interference from government. Economic freedom is built upon personal choice, voluntary exchange, the right to keep what you earn, and the security of one's property rights. The mechanics of economic freedom are easy to understand. Any transaction freely entered into must benefit both parties. Any transaction that does not benefit both parties would be rejected by the party that would come up short. This has consequences throughout the economy. Consumers who are free to choose will only be attracted by superior quality and price. A producer must constantly improve the price and quality of existing products or invent new products. Without this, customers will not freely enter into transactions with the producer. Many billions of mutually beneficial transactions occur every day, powering the dynamic that spurs increased productivity and prosperity throughout the economy.

This is our fourteenth report on economic freedom in the Arab world. The first was published in the *Arab World Competitiveness Report 2005* (Lopez-Claros and Schwab, 2005). The second and subsequent editions were published by the International Research Foundation (IRF) of Oman and the Fraser Institute. In 2008, the MENA Regional Office (formerly based in Cairo, now in Amman) of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom also became a co-publisher. *Economic Freedom of the Arab World* has gathered more attention every year since it was first published. Its importance comes from being a tool to measure how economically free Arab countries are.

The index in this edition adds data for 2016, the most recent year for which full data are available. Looking forward, we also present some early data for 2017 in both the country tables and the country summaries. As well, the scores for previous years have been re-calculated using revised data from the World Bank for its *Doing Business* and *World Development Indicators* databases. *Economic Freedom of the Arab World* is modeled on the annual reports in the series, *Economic Freedom of the World* (see Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy, 2018).

These results are important to investors and enterprises working, or even considering working, in this region. Development of investor-friendly climates in the Arab world could be structured around the areas this report examines, as best practices in the world of doing business.

Overview of scores and ranking

The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain tied for top spot, each with a score of 8.0 out of 10. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan came in third with a score of 7.9. The bottom three nations are the Libya, the least economically free nation in the Arab world with a score of 4.3, just behind the Syrian Arab Republic with a score of 4.4. Algeria was third from the bottom with a score of 5.3.

Over the past few years, the average score of Arab nations has exhibited a noticeable decline, from 7.0 in 2012 to 6.5 in 2016, the most recently available data. Since Somalia's score was not available in previous years, it was not used to calculate the average for 2016.

Research on Economic Freedom

Increases in economic freedom that are, in effect, a return to the classical Arab model of free trade and open markets would help meet the region's challenges and generate the economic dynamism needed to create the jobs and prosperity that the region requires for a successful future. The era of government-directed economies, import substitution, and other uses of government power to direct the economy did not produce prosperity. The rise of crony capitalism in many nations only looted the state, created divisions in society, and left most people as badly off as before or worse than ever.

Economic freedom is distinct from both crony socialism and crony capitalism. Its markets are open to all, not just the rich and powerful. Jobs and contracts go to those with the best abilities, not just the connected. Entrepreneurs are free to start their own businesses without facing unnecessary hurdles and corruption. An impartial rule of law and simple regulations that allow business activity to flourish and create jobs and prosperity are vital to economic freedom. A large body of empirical research has found that economic freedom is key to increasing prosperity, particularly among the emerging nations. Fact-based studies in top academic journals have shown that economic freedom promotes growth, prosperity, and other positive outcomes.

Intuitively, one would expect that economic freedom would have a positive impact on economic growth because economic freedom creates a climate that allows individuals and businesses to allocate their resources to the highest end use. However, the question is ultimately an empirical one. One of the first studies, Easton and Walker (1997) found that changes in economic freedom have a significant impact on the steady-state level of income even after the level of technology, the level of education of the work-force, and the level of investment are taken into account. De Haan and Sturm (2000) show empirically that positive (negative) changes in economic freedom lead to positive (negative) changes in economic growth rates. Using the economic freedom index published in Gwartney, Lawson, and Block (1996) and per-capita GDP data for 80 countries, their results indicate that, after educational level, investment, and population growth have been taken into account, changes in economic freedom have a significant impact on economic growth.

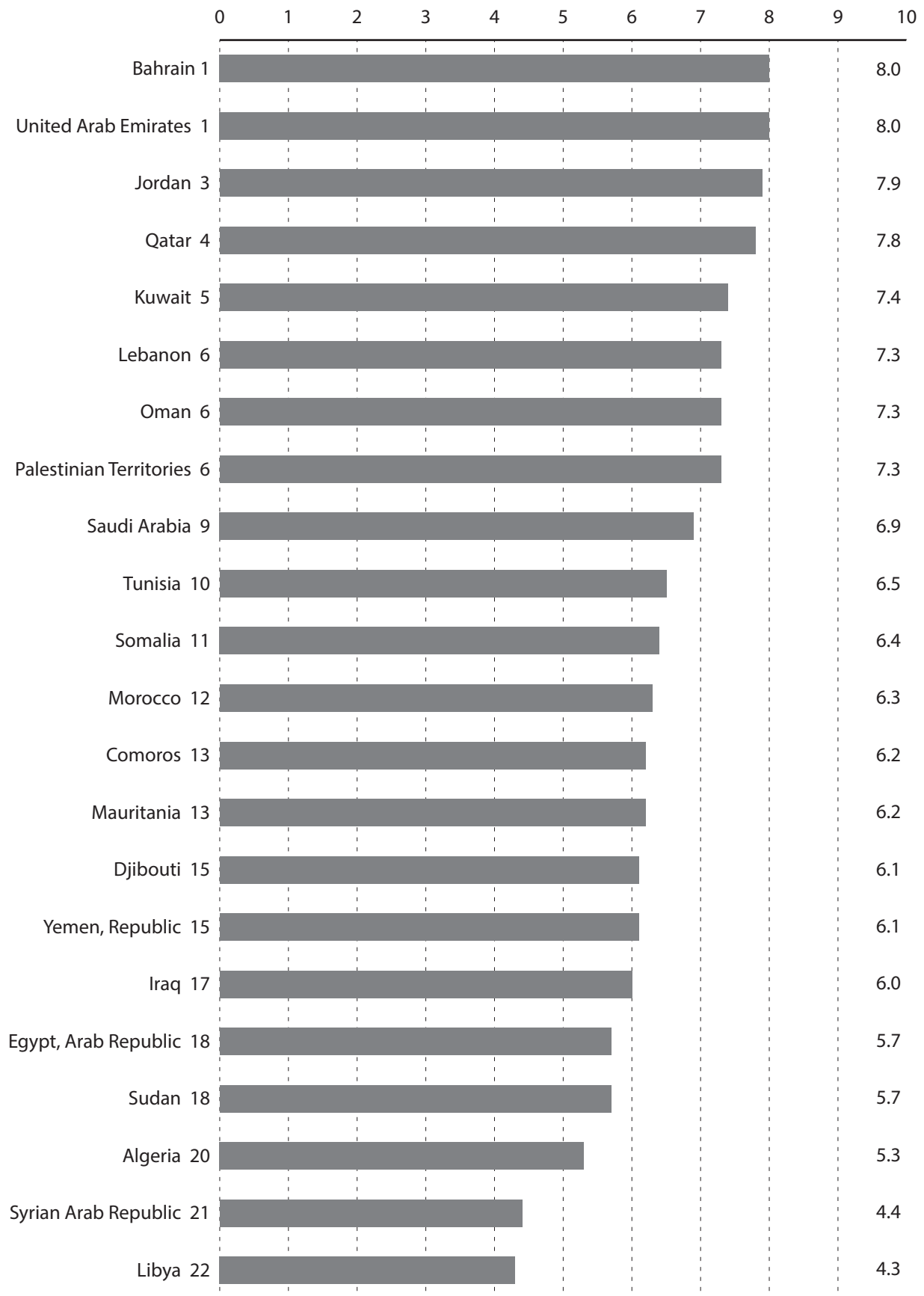
Gwartney and Lawson (2004) examined the impact of economic freedom on economic growth but with a specific focus on investment and productivity. They found that economic freedom strongly promotes investment. Nations with a score below 5 for economic freedom (on a scale from zero to 10, where a higher

value indicates a higher level of economic freedom) attracted US\$845 in investment per worker over the period from 1980 to 2000 and only US\$68 per worker in foreign direct investment. Nations with an economic freedom score above 7 attracted US\$10,871 in investment per worker, including US\$3,117 of foreign direct investment. Moreover, investment is more productive in economically free nations. Holding constant factors thought to affect growth and productivity, such as initial per-capita GDP, tropical location, coastal location, change in human investment, and public investment, Gwartney and Lawson found that an increase of one percentage point in the ratio of private investment to GDP leads to increases in the growth rate of per-capita GDP by 0.33 percentage point in an economically free country. The same increase in private investment in a less economically free country increases the growth rate of per-capita GDP by 0.19 percentage point. In other words, investment in economically free nations (with a score above 7) had a positive impact on growth that was 70% greater than investment in nations with poor levels of economic freedom (score below 5). Using the same regression model, Gwartney and Lawson also calculated the impact of economic freedom on overall growth through both direct and indirect effects. They found that, if a nation increased its economic freedom by one unit (on a scale from zero to 10) in the 1980s, it would have seen increased growth of 1.9 percentage points a year over the period from 1980 to 2000. Because of the high rates of growth associated with economic freedom, they also found that over the long term economic freedom explains over two thirds of the cross-country variation in GDP.

Increases in economic freedom also reduce poverty (Norton and Gwartney, 2008). Specifically, the weighted \$1-per-day poverty rate was 29.7% in 2004 for countries with EFW ratings of less than 5 but only 7.7% for countries with EFW ratings between 6 and 7; the \$2-per-day poverty rate declines from 51.5% to 46.2% to 38.9% as one moves from the least-free to the most-free economies. Moreover, a one-unit increase in the EFW rating between 1980 and 1995 was associated with a 5.21 percentage-point reduction in the \$1-per-day poverty rate and a 5.22 percentage-point reduction in the \$2-per-day poverty rate. Norton and Gwartney also examined the relationship between economic freedom and other measures of well-being. In the most unfree economies, only 72.6% of the population has access to safe water compared to nearly 100% in the most free economies. Life expectancy of people in the mostly free group is over 20 years greater than it is for those in mostly unfree economies. Mostly free economies have more than twice as many physicians per 1,000 population than mostly unfree economies. For every 1,000 births, 64 more babies survive in mostly free economies per year than in the mostly unfree countries. For every thousand children under age of five, 109 more children survive in mostly free countries each year than in those countries that are mostly unfree.

A study from the Fraser Institute by Indra de Soysa and Krishna Chaitanya Vadlamannati (2014) shows that economic freedom reduces conflict by creating more profitable alternatives. In nations that are not economically free, the most profitable venture may be looting through violent strife. With economic freedom, individuals have the opportunity to look after themselves and their families in the regular economy.

Figure G: Summary Economic Freedom Ratings for Countries in the Arab World for 2016



Country Summaries

In this section, we look at the country scores this year compared with previous years and examine the available data to get an indication of future scores. Countries are listed according to the level of economic freedom from the most free down to the least free. This year we were able to rank all 22 nations of the Arab League.

This index measures obstacles to economic freedom imposed on countries by their governments and elites. It does not measure the impact of external and internal violence. Also, note that statistical agencies update data over time as more information becomes available. The scores in this report are similarly updated and thus scores and ranks given in previous editions may differ from those reported this year by small margins. As well, changes in the structure of the index have affected some absolute scores but have had little impact on relative scores.

1 Bahrain

Bahrain tied with the UAE for first in this year's report, up from 2nd last year. Its score rose from 7.9 to 8.0. Its score for the size of government rose to 8.3 from 6.8 and climbed to 3rd place from 8th. Its rank for legal structure and security of property rose to 5th place from 6th last year, but its score stayed at 6.8. Bahrain remained 1st in access to sound money, and its score rose from 9.7 to 9.8. In the area of freedom to trade internationally, its score fell from 7.8 to 7.7 but it remained in 4th place. Finally, in the regulation of labor, credit and business area Bahrain's score fell from 8.3 to 7.6, and it ranked 3rd, down from 1st.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward.

1 The United Arab Emirates

In this year's report, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ties with Bahrain for first with a score of 8.0. Its score for size of government is down 0.4 point to 6.7 with a rank of 8th, down from 7th. Its score in this area has declined dramatically over the last decade, falling from 8.6 in 2007. Its score for legal structure and security of property rights remained 8.0; the UAE remained in 1st place for this area. Its score for sound money rose to 9.5 from 9.4, leaving the UAE in 9th place in the ranking, the same as last year. The UAE came in 1st place in freedom to trade, up from 2nd, with an improved score of 8.3 compared to 8.1 last year. For regulation of business, labor, and credit, the UAE scored 7.6, but rose from 5th to 3rd place in the rankings.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward.

3 Jordan

Jordan ranks 3rd this year with a score of 7.9, down from 8.1. For the size of government area, Jordan drops to 4th place from 3rd, and its score fell from 8.4 to 8.0. Its rank for legal structure and security of property rights stayed at 8th but its score fell to 7.0 from 7.1. In terms of access to sound money, Jordan still ranks 2nd, with a score of 9.7. Its score for freedom to trade internationally fell to 7.7 from 8.0 and its rank fell from 6th to 7th. Finally, its score in the business, labor, and credit regulation area dropped by 0.2 points to 7.2 but its rank moved up to 4th from 5th.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward.

4 Qatar

Qatar tied for 4th place up from 7th, though its score remained 7.6 points. Its score for the size of government area remained unchanged at 6.4, with a rank of 11th. Its score for legal structure remained unchanged at 7.5, with a rank of 6th, the same as last year. In the access to sound money area, its score was 9.7, up from 9.3, and it leapt from 11th to 2nd place in the rankings. The score in the freedom to trade internationally area was unchanged at 7.7 and its rank increased to 7th from 8th. Qatar's score in regulation of business, credit and labor fell to 6.9 from 7.1 and it came in 9th, down one from last year.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward.

5 Kuwait

Kuwait retained its position in 5th place, but its score fell from 7.5 to 7.4. Its rank in the size of government area was 13th, down from 10th, and its score fell from 6.5 to 6.2. It ranked 5th, the same as last year, in legal structure and security of property rights, and its score fell to 6.8 from 7.0. Kuwait's score in the area of access to sound money rose to 9.7 from 9.6, and its rank rose to 3rd from 6th. Kuwait's rank in freedom to trade internationally was 10th, same as last year, but its score rose from 6.5 to 6.6. For the regulation of business, credit and labor area, its score remained 7.8, but it ranked 1st, up from 2nd.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward.

6 Lebanon

Lebanon came in tied for 6th place in this year's report, up from 7th last year. Its score rose to 7.3, up from 7.2. Its score in size of government remained at 8.9, for a rank of 2nd. Its score for legal structure and security of property rights remained 5.1, rank went down one spot for a rank of 14th. In access to sound money, Lebanon's score improved from 9.3 to 9.4 and its rank went up to 10th place from 11th. Lebanon's score in the freedom to trade internationally area moved up from 5.8 to 5.9, as did its rank from 14th to 13th. For regulation of business, credit and labor, Lebanon had a score of 7.1, up from 7.0, with a rank of 8th, the same as last year.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward.

6 Oman

Oman tied in 6th place this year, up from 7th; its score rose to 7.3 from 7.2. The size of government is the area that most negatively affects the overall score of Oman: its score remained at 4.5, for a rank of 18th, the same as last year. On the other hand, Oman does well in legal structure and security of property rights. Its score remained 7.4, and its rank went up one spot to 3rd. In access to sound money, Oman's score rose to 9.6 from 9.5 and its rank rose from 8th to 5th. Oman's score rose 0.1 in the freedom to trade internationally area to 7.4, and its rank remained 6th. For regulation of business, credit and labor, Oman rose to 7.5, up from 7.4; its rank remained 6th.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward.

6 Palestinian Territories

The Palestinian Territories also tied for 6th place, with an overall score that remained 7.3. The Palestinian Territories' rank fell to 7th from 5th but its score remained 7.4 in the size of government area. The Territories' score in rule of law fell to 5.4 from 5.6, but its rank rose from 11th to 10th. The Palestinian Territories score remained 9.7 in sound money, and it ranked 3rd, down from 1st. In the area of freedom to trade internationally, the Palestinian Territories scored 8.0, up from 7.9, with a rank of 2nd, up from 3rd. Its score and ranking in regulation remained 6.2 and 13th.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward.

9 Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's rank, 9th, was unchanged from last year and its score also remained the same at 6.9. In the size of government area, Saudi Arabia's score rose to 4.2 from 4.0, and its rank rose to 19th from 21st. Saudi Arabia's score was 7.5, down 0.2 points, in legal system and property rights, but the country remained 2nd in the ranking. For access to sound money, Saudi Arabia scored 9.6, up from 9.4, and its rank was 5th, up from 9th. Its score in freedom to trade fell from 5.9 to 5.7 points, and its rank fell to 14th from 13th. Finally, its score for the area of regulation of business, credit and labor rose to 7.4 from 7.3, though its rank remained 7th.

- ▲ LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest future improvement.

10 Tunisia

Tunisia rose to 10th place from 11th and its overall score rose to 6.5 from 6.4. The size of government score and ranks fell to 6.4 from 6.5 and from 10th to 11th. Tunisia's score and rank for the legal structure also remained the same at 6.5 and 8th. In the access to sound money area, Tunisia's score and rank also remained the same at 7.0 and 17th. Tunisia's score in the area of freedom to trade internationally remained 5.5 but its rank rose to 16th from 17th. Finally, Tunisia's score in the area of regulation of business, credit and labor remained 6.8 and its rank remained 10th.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward.

11 Somalia

Somalia ranked 11th, down from 10th, and its score fell from 6.5 to 6.4. Its score in size of government remained 7.8, with a rank of 6th down from 4th. It ranks last in rule of law at 22nd, the same as last year, with a score of 3.3, down from 3.4. Somalia is 15th in sound money with a score of 7.4, both the same as last year. In freedom to trade, its score is 8.0, down 0.2 from last year, falling from 1st to 2nd place. In regulation, its score and rank remained unchanged at 5.5 and 18th.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward, although on-going conflict remains a danger to economic freedom.

12 Morocco

Morocco's remained in 12th place and its score remained 6.3. Its score in size of government remained 5.9 and it ranked 14th, as it did as last year. Its rank for legal structure and security of property was 9th, the same as last year, and its score fell to 6.3 from 6.4. Morocco's rank in the access to sound money area remained 16th, and its score remained 7.3. Morocco fell in the freedom to trade area by 0.1 points to 5.7, and its rank remained 14th. Finally, Morocco's score in the area of credit, labor and business regulation remained 6.1 and its rank remained 14th.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward.

13 Comoros

Comoros rose from 14th to a tie for 13th though its score remained 6.2. Its score for the size of government remained 5.9 and it again ranked 14th. In the legal structure area, Comoros' score rose by 0.1 point to 5.2; its rank rose to 11th from 13th. Its score in the access to sound money area remained 6.2 but its rank rose to 18th from 19th. In the freedom to trade area, Comoros' score stayed 6.8, and its rank remained 8th. Its score for the regulation area remained 6.8, raising its rank to 10th.

- LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward.

13 Mauritania

Mauritania tied for 13th, up from 16th, and its score rose to 6.2 from 6.1. In the size of government area, Mauritania's score rose from 4.8 to 5.0 but its rank remained 17th. Its score for legal structure fell to 4.5 from 4.6, and its rank fell to 17th from 16th. Its score in the access to sound money area rose to 8.3 from 8.2 and its rank rose from 13th to 12th. Mauritania's score rose to 6.3 from 6.2 in the freedom to trade area, coming in 11th, the same as last year. Finally, Mauritania's score rose to 6.8 from 6.4 in the area of regulation of business, credit and labor and it ranked 10th, down from 12th.

- ▲ LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest future improvement.

15 Djibouti

Djibouti fell to a tie at 15th in this year's report, down one in the rankings, with a score of 6.1, down 0.1 from its score in last year's report. It scored 4.1 points,

down from 4.2, in the size of government area and its rank fell to 21st from 19th. Its score fell to 4.2 from 4.4 in the legal structure area, with a rank of 19th, the same as last year. In the access to sound money area, Djibouti's score fell to 9.4 from 9.6 and it fell from 6th to 10th place. In freedom to trade internationally, its score rose 0.1 to 6.1 and its rank remained 12th. Finally, its score in the regulation of business, credit and labor remained 6.9 and its rank remained 9th.

▲ LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest future improvement.

15 Yemen

In this year's report, Yemen rose to a tie for 15th place from 18th with a score of 6.1, up from 5.8. In the size of government area, its score rose from 7.3 to 7.9 and its rank rose to 5th from 6th place. In the legal structure area, its score was 4.5 and its rank rose from 18th to 17th. In sound money, its score rose dramatically to 5.6 from 4.7 but its rank remained 21st. For freedom to trade, Yemen ranked 8th, up from 9th, and its score rose to 6.8 from 6.7. The regulation of business, credit and labor area had a score of 6.7, with a rank of 16th, both the same as last year.

▼ LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest deterioration going forward, with ongoing conflict posing additional risks.

17 Iraq

Iraq ranked 17th with a score of 6.0, both the same as last year. Iraq's score and rank in the size of government area remained the same at 5.5 and 16th. Its score for the legal structure area dropped to 3.8 from 3.9, and its rank dropped by one spot to 21st. Its score in the access to sound money area dropped to 9.6 from 9.7 and its rank dropped to 5th from 1st. Iraq's score in the freedom to trade area rose from 5.2 to 5.5 and its rank rose to 16th from 18th. Finally, its score fell to 5.3 from 5.7 in the area of credit, labour, and business, and its rank fell from 16th to 19th.

■ LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward, with continuing violence and disorder as a further risk to economic freedom.

18 Sudan

Sudan tied for 18th this year, the same rank as last year though its score fell to 5.7 from 5.8. Sudan remained in 1st place with a score of 10.0 in the size of government area. Its score in the legal structure area remained unchanged at 3.9, placing it in 20th place, the same as last year. Its score in the access to sound money area fell to 5.9 to 6.2 and its rank remained 19th. Its score in the area of freedom to trade internationally fell from 3.2 to 3.1 for a rank of 19th, up from 20th last year. Its score for business, credit and labor regulation fell by 0.1 to 5.8 points; its rank remained 15th.

▼ LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest deterioration going forward, with continuing violence and disorder as a further risk to economic freedom.

18 Egypt

Egypt tied for 18th, down from to 12th, and its score fell to 5.7 from 6.3. The size of government area rose from to 6.6 from 6.4; Egypt's rank in this area rose two places to 10th. For the legal structure area, Egypt's score rose to 5.2 from 5.1 and its rank rose 2 places to 11th. In the area of access to sound money, Egypt's performance fell from 8.9 to 8.2, and its rank fell from 12th to 13th. Its score in the freedom to trade area fell to 3.3 from 5.7 and it ranked 18th, down from 16th. Finally, Egypt's score in regulation was 5.3, same as last year, but its rank rose to 19th from 22nd.

▲ LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest future improvement.

20 Algeria

Algeria ranked 20th this year, the same as last year, but its score rose from 5.0 to 5.3. Its score in the size of government area moved up by 0.1 point to 4.2, putting Algeria in the 19th place, up from 20th last year. Algeria's score remained 5.2 for legal structure and security of property rights, with a rank of 11th, up from 12th. Its score for the access to sound money area rose to 8.0 from 7.9 points for a rank of 14th the same as last year. Algeria's score in freedom to trade internationally rose from 2.4 to 3.2, and its rank rose from 21st to 19th. Algeria is the third least-free country in the Arab world for this area. In the regulation area, its score rose from 5.5 to 5.7, for a rank of 16th, up two from last year.

▼ looking forward — preliminary data suggest deterioration in economic freedom.

21 Syrian Arab Republic

Syria's overall score was 4.4, down from 4.7, and its rank remained 21st. Its score for the size of government area remained 6.7, with a rank of 8th, up from 9th. Its score in the legal structure area fell to 5.0 from 5.7 for a rank of 15th, down by five. Its score remained 3.3 in the access to sound money area, leaving it last at 22nd, the same as last year. In the area of freedom to trade, Syria's score fell significantly to 1.9 from 2.3 and it ranked 22nd, remaining in last place. Finally, in the regulation area, Syria's score fell from 5.4 to 5.1 for a rank of 21st, down from 20th.

■ looking forward — initial data suggest little change going forward but violence and disorder continue to be a threat to economic freedom.

22 Libya

Libya had a score of 4.3, down from 4.7; its rank fell from 21st to 22nd. In the size of government area, Libya maintained its score of 3.3 and its rank of 22nd, putting it last for this area. Libya's score in the legal structure area remained at 4.6, and its rank stayed at 16th. In access to sound money its score fell from 6.9 to 5.7 and its rank from 18th to 20th. Its score in the freedom to trade dropped from 3.3 to 3.1 and its rank fell from 19th to 21st. Finally, in the business regulation area Libya scored 5.0, a decrease of 0.4, for a rank of 22nd, down to last place from 20th.

■ LOOKING FORWARD — initial data suggest little change going forward but violence and disorder continue to be a threat to economic freedom.

The Index of Economic Freedom in the Arab World

The structure of the index

The index published in *Economic Freedom of the Arab World* includes the same five areas as that found in *Economic Freedom of the World: 2018 Annual Report* (Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy, 2018) but has 45, rather than 42, components. Because underlying data for some of the components used in the world index were not broadly available for the Arab world, they were replaced by similar components with broader coverage of the Arab world. This year all members of the Arab League are ranked. The score for each of the five areas is derived by averaging the components within that area. The most recent comprehensive data available for this report are from 2016, though we also publish some data now available from 2017.

Areas of *Economic Freedom of the Arab World*

1. Size of Government: Expenditures, Taxes and Enterprises;
2. Commercial and Economic Law and Security of Property Rights;
3. Access to Sound Money;
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally;
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business.

The overall rating was computed by averaging the scores of the five areas. Each component was normalized on a scale of zero to 10. The Appendix: Explanatory Notes and Data Sources (p. 50) describes the procedures by which scores between zero and 10 were derived for each category as well as details about sources and methodology.

For consistency, the minimums and maximums used in previous reports are also used in this year's report. Global rather than regional minimums and maximums were used because some of the components show little variability among the Arab countries and in order to place the Arab nations in a broader context. Thus, a high score indicates that a nation is doing well, not only in comparison with its immediate regional neighbors but also in comparison with nations around the world whose economic practices encourage economic freedom.

The index published in *Economic Freedom of the Arab World* includes data and ranks for all 22 members of the League of Arab States. Sixteen of these nations also appear in *Economic Freedom of the World* and the relative rankings of these nations in both indexes are very similar, despite the slightly different menu of components used in the index published in *Economic Freedom of the Arab World*. The index is compiled only from third-party data: in order to ensure objectivity, none of the sponsoring institutions provides any original data. As well, the formulas used in the calculations have remained the same for each year of the report. Thus, the authors of the report are unable to influence the standings of the nations in the report. Moreover, any outside observer would be able to replicate the index in full, producing identical results.

Individual areas

Following is a description of the variables used to measure economic freedom and explanations of why they are relevant.¹

Area 1: Size of Government: Expenditures, Taxes and Enterprises

The four components of Area 1 indicate the extent to which countries rely on individual choice and markets rather than the political process to allocate resources and goods and services. When government spending increases relative to spending by individuals, households, and businesses, government decision-making is substituted for personal choice and thus economic freedom is reduced. The first two components address this issue: Government consumption as a share of total consumption (1A) and Transfers and subsidies as a share of GDP (1B).

Government consumption (1A) refers to the extent to which the government itself provides goods and services. If government employees build a road, it is included as government consumption; if the construction is contracted to a private company, it is no longer included in government consumption though it is categorized as government spending. Competitive contracting builds efficiency and lessens the politicization of the economy, if the contracting is done impartially. Transfers and subsidies (1B) weaken markets by rewarding political power and position rather than the ability to produce goods and services the world wants and will pay for.

The third component (1C) measures the extent to which countries use private enterprise and free markets rather than government enterprises to produce goods and services. The fourth component (1D) is based on the top marginal income-tax rate and the income threshold at which it applies. High marginal tax rates that apply at relatively low income levels increasingly deny individuals the fruits of their labor.

Area 2: Commercial and Economic Law and Security of Property Rights

Security of persons, contracts, and rightfully acquired property are central elements of both economic freedom and civil society. Indeed, the legal system

¹ This description closely follows Gwartney and Lawson, 2006: 10–12.

is the most important internal function of government. Security of property rights, protected by the rule of law, is essential to economic freedom. Freedom to exchange, for example, is meaningless if individuals do not have secure rights to property, including the fruits of their labor. Failure of a country's legal system to provide for the security of property rights, enforcement of contracts, and the mutually agreeable settlement of disputes will undermine the operation of a market-exchange system.

As is appropriate for an assessment of economic freedom, the index focuses on economic and commercial law. However, the first two components in this area—2A, Military interference in the rule of law and the political process and 2B, Integrity of the legal system—are measures of whether or not the rule of law is applied impartially and consistently, which is also essential for effective economic and commercial law. Component 2C, Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property, provides information on how easy it is to establish property rights and 2D, Legal enforcement of contracts, indicates whether agreements freely entered into are effectively protected by the rule of law. Both 2C and 2D are composites of other sub-components that measure the number of procedures, delays in judgments, and costs. Procedures that are too numerous, time consuming, or costly lead to deterioration of the legal system's ability to protect freely made agreements. Both 2E, Impartial courts, and 2F, Judicial independence, were added this year from the world report. They measure the ability of individuals to have the same access to justice regardless of their economic or political condition.

Area 3: Access to Sound Money

Money is essential to exchange. An absence of sound money undermines gains from trade and erodes the value of property held in monetary instruments. Sound money is essential to protect property rights and, thus, economic freedom. When governments print money to finance their expenditures, they are in effect expropriating the property and violating the economic freedom of their citizens. This (measured in component 3A) leads to inflation. High and volatile rates of inflation (components 3B and 3C) distort relative prices, alter the fundamental terms of long-term contracts, and make it virtually impossible for individuals and businesses to plan sensibly for the future. Component 3D is designed to measure the ease with which other currencies can be used via domestic and foreign bank accounts: that is, can one freely exchange and obtain differing currencies?

Area 4: Freedom to Trade Internationally

In a world of high technology and low costs for communication and transportation, freedom of exchange across national boundaries is a key ingredient of economic freedom. The components in this area are designed to measure a wide variety of restraints that affect international exchange: these include tariffs (4A and its sub-components), exchange rate distortions (4B), and exchange rate and capital controls (4C), and, added this year, non-tariff barriers such as customs and bureaucratic procedures hindering international trade (4D and its sub-components). Individuals in the Arab world should have the right to buy and

sell freely: Arab consumers should be able to buy the products they want from each other and from everyone in the world and Arab producers should be able to sell within the Arab world and to the world market.

Area 5: Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business

When regulations restrict entry into markets and interfere with the freedom to engage in voluntary exchange, they reduce economic freedom. Regulatory restraints that limit the freedom of exchange in credit, labor, and product markets are included in the index. Red tape can strangle business expansion, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

The first component (5A) reflects conditions in the domestic credit market. Individuals should be able to make their own decisions in credit markets and deal with institutions they choose freely. The components are designed to measure whether government allows free markets to determine credit or whether this is politically determined and whether credit is available in a timely, cost-efficient manner to credit-worthy individuals and businesses that freely seek it.

Many types of labor-market regulation (5B) infringe upon the economic freedom of employees and employers. Individuals should be able to work for whom they wish and employers should be able to hire whom they wish. Variables include difficulty in hiring, rigidity in hours, dismissal regulations and costs, and conscription.

Like the regulation of the credit markets and labor markets, the regulation of business activities (5C) inhibits economic freedom. Individuals should be able to open the business they wish when they wish and close it when they choose. The regulation-of-business sub-components are designed to identify the extent to which regulatory restraints and bureaucratic procedures limit establishing a business (5Ci) and closing it (5Cii), and, added this year, licensing requirements (5iii), complexity of paying taxes (5iv), extra payments (5v), and the regulatory quality (5vi).

Areas, components, and sub-components of the Index of Economic Freedom in the Arab World

1. Size of Government: Expenditures, Taxes and Enterprises

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. General government consumption spending | C. Government enterprises and investment |
| B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP | D. Top marginal tax rate |

2. Commercial and Economic Law and Security of Property Rights

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| A. Military interference in rule of law and the political process | D. Legal Enforcement of contracts |
| B. Integrity of the legal system | i. Quality of judicial processes |
| C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property | ii. Time (days) |
| i. Number of procedures | iii. Cost (% of claim) |
| ii. Time (days) | E. Impartial courts |
| iii. Cost (% of property value) | F. Judicial Independence |

3. Access to Sound Money

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| A. Money growth | C. Inflation: most recent year |
| B. Standard deviation of inflation | D. Freedom to own foreign-currency bank accounts |

4. Freedom to Trade Internationally

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. Taxes on international trade | C. Capital controls |
| i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector) | D. Regulatory trade barriers |
| ii. Mean tariff rate | i. Non-tariff trade barriers |
| iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates | ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting |
| B. Black market exchange rates | |

5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Credit market regulations | C. Business regulations |
| i. Ownership of banks | i. Starting a business |
| ii. Foreign bank competition | a. Number of procedures |
| iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates | b. Duration (days) |
| iv. Private sector credit | c. Cost (% of income per capita) |
| B. Labor market regulations | d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita) |
| i. Difficulty of hiring | ii. Closing a business |
| ii. Rigidity of hours | a. Time (years) |
| iii. Rigidity of dismissals | b. Cost (% of estate) |
| a. Difficulty of firing | c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar) |
| b. Firing costs (weeks of wages) | iii. Dealing with licenses |
| iv. Conscription | iv. Paying taxes |
| | v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism |
| | vi. Regulatory quality |



Country Data Tables

The index published in *Economic Freedom of the Arab World: 2018 Annual Report* ranks all 22 members of the League of Arab States. Sixteen of these nations also appear in *Economic Freedom of the World: 2018 Annual Report* and the relative rankings of these nations in both indexes are very similar, despite the slightly different menu of components used in the index published in *Economic Freedom of the Arab World*.

For a jurisdiction to be given an overall score and rank, it must have rankings and scores for each of the five areas in the index. To be ranked for Areas 1 to 5, a nation must have data for at least two components in each area. Likewise, for components 5A, 5B, and 5C, a nation must have data for at least two sub-components in each.

For all countries, we present scores for each of the five areas analyzed as well as scores for each component, where data were available. All the scores in the index are values out of 10: 10 is the highest possible score and zero (0) is the lowest. A higher score indicates a greater degree of economic freedom. An arrow in table of overall ratings and ranks (pp. 26–27) shows under “Trend” whether the data available from 2017 indicate a nation’s trend is uncertain or likely to improve, decline, or hold steady in future rankings.

A more complete description of each component, including the methodology used to calculate the scores, can be found in the Appendix: Explanatory Notes and Data Sources (p. 50).

Data available to Researchers

The following tables contain data for the years 2002, 2005, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016, and partial data for 2017. The full data-set, including all of the scores published in this report as well as all the annual data going back to 2002, can be freely downloaded at <<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/studies/economic-freedom-of-the-arab-world-2018-annual-report>>. If you have any difficulties retrieving the data, please feel free to contact us via e-mail: <freetheworld@fraserinstitute.org>.

Economic Freedom of the Arab World for 2016—Area Ratings and *Ranks*;

	Areas									
	1 Size of Government: Expenditures, Taxes and Enterprises		2 Commercial and Economic Law and Security of Property Rights		3 Access to Sound Money		4 Freedom to Trade Internationally		5 Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	
	Rating	Rank	Rating	Rank	Rating	Rank	Rating	Rank	Rating	Rank
Algeria	4.2	19	5.2	11	8.0	14	3.2	19	5.7	16
Bahrain	8.3	3	6.8	5	9.8	1	7.7	4	7.6	3
Comoros	5.9	14	5.2	11	6.2	18	6.8	8	6.8	10
Djibouti	4.1	21	4.2	19	9.4	10	6.1	12	6.9	9
Egypt, Arab Republic	6.6	10	5.2	11	8.2	13	3.3	18	5.3	19
Iraq	5.5	16	3.8	21	9.6	5	5.5	16	5.3	19
Jordan	8.2	4	6.6	7	9.6	5	7.3	7	7.6	3
Kuwait	6.2	13	6.8	5	9.7	3	6.6	10	7.8	1
Lebanon	8.9	2	5.1	14	9.4	10	5.9	13	7.1	8
Libya	3.3	22	4.6	16	5.7	20	3.1	21	5.0	22
Mauritania	5.0	17	4.5	17	8.3	12	6.3	11	6.8	10
Morocco	5.9	14	6.3	9	7.3	16	5.7	14	6.1	14
Oman	4.5	18	7.4	3	9.6	5	7.4	6	7.5	6
Palestinian Territories	7.4	7	5.4	10	9.7	3	8.0	2	6.2	13
Qatar	6.4	11	7.3	4	9.8	1	7.6	5	7.7	2
Saudi Arabia	4.2	19	7.5	2	9.6	5	5.7	14	7.4	7
Somalia	7.8	6	3.3	22	7.4	15	8.0	2	5.5	18
Sudan	10.0	1	3.9	20	5.9	19	3.2	19	5.8	15
Syrian Arab Republic	6.7	8	5.0	15	3.3	22	1.9	22	5.1	21
Tunisia	6.4	11	6.5	8	7.0	17	5.5	16	6.8	10
United Arab Emirates	6.7	8	8.0	1	9.5	9	8.3	1	7.6	3
Yemen, Republic	7.9	5	4.5	17	5.6	21	6.8	8	5.7	16

Overall Rating and *Rank*; Trend

	Components of Area 5						Overall Rating (<i>Rank</i>)		Trend*
	5A Credit Market Regulations		5B Labour Market Regulations		5C Business Regulations		Rating	Rank	
	Rating	Rank	Rating	Rank	Rating	Rank	Rating	Rank	
Algeria	5.8	16	4.9	21	6.3	11	5.3	20	▼
Bahrain	7.5	7	7.5	7	7.8	3	8.0	1	■
Comoros	7.6	6	7.5	7	5.5	15	6.2	13	■
Djibouti	7.0	13	7.0	11	6.8	8	6.1	15	▲
Egypt, Arab Republic	4.5	19	5.2	19	6.2	12	5.7	18	▲
Iraq	4.8	18	6.4	15	4.6	20	6.0	17	■
Jordan	7.5	7	8.1	3	7.3	5	7.9	3	■
Kuwait	9.0	1	7.8	5	6.5	9	7.4	5	■
Lebanon	7.3	11	7.9	4	6.1	13	7.3	6	■
Libya	5.7	17	7.1	10	2.3	22	4.3	22	■
Mauritania	8.5	2	6.6	12	5.2	18	6.2	13	▲
Morocco	7.9	4	3.6	22	6.9	7	6.3	12	■
Oman	7.2	12	7.4	9	7.7	4	7.3	6	■
Palestinian Territories	6.7	14	6.1	16	5.8	14	7.3	6	■
Qatar	8.3	3	6.6	12	8.2	2	7.8	4	■
Saudi Arabia	7.5	7	8.3	2	6.4	10	6.9	9	▲
Somalia			8.6	1	2.4	21	6.4	11	■
Sudan	6.7	14	5.1	20	5.5	15	5.7	18	▼
Syrian Arab Republic	4.4	20	5.3	18	5.4	17	4.4	21	■
Tunisia	7.4	10	5.8	17	7.1	6	6.5	10	■
United Arab Emirates	7.9	4	6.5	14	8.5	1	8.0	1	■
Yemen, Republic	4.3	21	7.6	6	5.1	19	6.1	15	▼

* Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Algeria

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	4.9 (15)	5.5 (15)	5.6 (16)	5.2 (20)	5.0 (20)	5.3 (20)	Trend ▼
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	4.7	5.0	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.2	
A. General government consumption spending	4.1 [26.0]	4.3 [25.3]	1.9 [33.4]	1.4 [35.2]	1.6 [34.5]	2.1 [32.7]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP	8.0 [7.8]	8.6 [5.5]	8.2 [7.1]	7.8 [8.5]	7.8 [8.5]	7.8 [8.5]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate			7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	3.8	5.4	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.2	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.2	4.2	4.2
B. Integrity of the legal system	3.3	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	6.8	6.8	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
i. Number of procedures		3.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
ii. Time (days)		9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
iii. Cost (% of property value)		7.6	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
i. Quality of judicial processes		2.5	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
ii. Time (days)		6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.3	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.4
E. Impartial courts	3.7	5.1	3.3	3.9	4.2	4.3	
F. Judicial independence	3.0	4.6	2.5	3.9	4.1	4.2	
3. Access to Sound Money	6.2	6.4	7.9	7.8	7.9	8.0	
A. Money growth	5.9 [20.5]	6.6 [16.8]	7.7 [11.4]	8.0 [10.2]	8.5 [7.7]	9.3 [3.7]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.2 [1.9]	9.4 [1.5]	9.5 [1.3]	9.0 [2.4]	9.0 [2.4]	9.0 [2.5]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.7 [1.4]	9.7 [1.4]	9.2 [3.9]	9.4 [2.9]	9.0 [4.8]	8.7 [6.4]	8.9 [5.6]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	4.7	5.3	5.1	3.6	2.4	3.2	
A. Taxes on international trade	5.2	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.9	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	5.0 [7.6]	8.2 [2.7]	8.6 [2.1]	8.5 [2.3]	8.5 [2.3]	8.5 [2.3]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	6.2 [18.8]	6.8 [15.8]	6.3 [18.6]	6.2 [18.8]	6.2 [18.8]	6.2 [18.9]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	4.3 [14.3]	5.8 [10.5]	5.8 [10.4]	5.8 [10.5]	5.8 [10.5]	5.9 [10.2]	
B. Black market exchange rates	8.1 [9.7]	8.1 [9.6]	8.3 [8.3]	4.8 [26.1]	0.0 [52.3]	3.8 [31.0]	0.0 [77.1]
C. Capital controls	0.8	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				2.6	2.6	2.0	2.0
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				5.2	5.2	4.1	4.1
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	5.1	5.4	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.7	
A. Credit market regulations	5.2	5.3	7.0	6.6	5.9	5.8	
i. Ownership of banks	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	2.7	3.3	10.0	8.5	5.6	5.3	
B. Labor market regulations	4.3	4.6	4.9	4.4	4.9	4.9	
i. Difficulty of hiring	4.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	
ii. Rigidity of hours	4.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	7.8	7.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	
a. Difficulty of firing		6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		9.5	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	
iv. Conscription	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	
C. Business Regulations	5.9	6.2	5.5	5.6	5.8	6.3	
i. Starting a business	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.3
a. Number of procedures		2.9	2.9	3.5	4.1	4.1	4.1
b. Duration (days)		8.9	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.1
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		9.9	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.9	7.9	7.9
a. Time (years)		7.8	7.8	7.8	9.1	9.1	9.1
b. Cost (% of estate)		9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		4.5	4.5	4.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
iii. Dealing with licenses	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.1	8.5	8.5
iv. Paying taxes	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.7	5.7	7.0	7.0
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	4.7	5.7	3.2	3.3	3.6	3.8	
vi. Regulatory quality	3.8	4.2	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.5	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Bahrain

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	8.1 [1]	7.9 [2]	8.1 [1]	7.8 [3]	7.9 [2]	8.0 [1]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	6.7	6.8	7.0	6.7	6.8	8.3	
A. General government consumption spending	3.4 [28.6]	4.1 [26.1]	4.7 [23.9]	3.4 [28.5]	3.5 [28.1]	3.7 [27.5]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP	9.5 [2.4]	9.0 [4.2]	9.4 [2.6]	9.6 [2.0]	9.6 [2.0]	9.6 [2.0]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	7.1	6.2	7.0	6.7	6.8	6.8	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
B. Integrity of the legal system	8.3	8.3	8.3	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	9.6	9.6	9.4	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
i. Number of procedures		9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
ii. Time (days)		9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7
iii. Cost (% of property value)		9.7	9.1	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.7
i. Quality of judicial processes		2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.5	1.5
ii. Time (days)		6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
E. Impartial courts	6.3	4.1	6.0	5.7	6.2	6.2	
F. Judicial Independence		4.1	7.2	6.2	6.8	6.8	
3. Access to Sound Money	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.6	9.7	9.8	
A. Money growth	8.9 [5.7]	8.9 [5.5]	7.6 [12.1]	9.7 [1.5]	9.9 [0.4]	9.9 [0.3]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.8 [0.4]	9.3 [1.7]	9.7 [0.7]	9.4 [1.4]	9.4 [1.4]	9.8 [0.5]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.9 [-0.5]	9.5 [2.6]	9.6 [2.0]	9.5 [2.7]	9.6 [1.8]	9.4 [2.8]	9.7 [1.4]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	8.5	8.2	8.4	7.8	7.8	7.7	
A. Taxes on international trade	8.5	8.4	8.2	8.7	8.6	8.5	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	9.3 [1.0]	8.8 [1.8]	9.4 [0.9]	9.5 [0.8]	9.5 [0.8]	9.5 [0.8]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	9.0 [5.1]	9.0 [5.1]	9.0 [5.1]	9.1 [4.7]	9.1 [4.7]	9.1 [4.7]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	7.3 [6.7]	7.3 [6.7]	6.3 [9.4]	7.4 [6.4]	7.3 [6.8]	7.0 [7.4]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	6.9	6.2	6.9	6.2	6.2	6.2	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				7.1	7.1	6.6	6.6
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				5.7	5.7	5.9	5.9
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	8.5	8.7	9.1	8.4	8.3	7.6	
A. Credit market regulations	8.8	9.1	9.1	8.5	8.1	7.5	
i. Ownership of banks	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	7.0	8.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	8.4	8.3	8.4	6.9	5.3	2.8	
B. Labor market regulations	8.9	8.9	10.0	8.8	8.8	7.5	
i. Difficulty of hiring	10.0	10.0	10.0	8.3	8.3	8.3	
ii. Rigidity of hours	8.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	7.4	7.4	10.0	9.0	8.8	3.5	
a. Difficulty of firing		5.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	7.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		9.9	10.0	10.0	9.6	0	
iv. Conscription	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations	7.9	8.1	8.2	7.8	7.9	7.8	
i. Starting a business	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
a. Number of procedures		7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.8
b. Duration (days)		9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		9.5	9.5	9.6	9.6	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
a. Time (years)		7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
b. Cost (% of estate)		8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		6.8	6.9	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5
iii. Dealing with licenses	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
iv. Paying taxes	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	5.6	7.5	7.7	6.4	6.6	6.6	
vi. Regulatory quality	7.1	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.5	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Comoros

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) >			6.2 [13]	6.2 [15]	6.2 [14]	6.2 [13]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government			5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	
A. General government consumption spending	7.0 [16.2]	8.3 [11.7]	7.7 [14.0]	7.7 [13.9]	7.8 [13.4]	7.6 [14.2]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP							
C. Government enterprises and investment	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate			8.0 [30]	8.0 [30]	8.0 [30]	8.0 [30]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	4.8	4.8	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.2	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process			6.7	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.2
B. Integrity of the legal system			5.0	4.2	5.0	5.0	5.0
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	7.0	7.0	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.9	8.5
i. Number of procedures		8.0	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
ii. Time (days)		9.8	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7
iii. Cost (% of property value)		3.2	6.6	6.6	6.5	8.5	7.3
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
i. Quality of judicial processes		3.4	3.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
ii. Time (days)		7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
iii. Cost (% of claim)		6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
E. Impartial courts	3.9	3.8	3.7	4.0	4.1	3.6	
F. Judicial Independence	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.2	2.9	3.3	
3. Access to Sound Money	5.6	6.8	6.7	6.9	6.2	6.2	
A. Money growth	7.5 [12.4]	8.3 [8.7]	7.7 [11.3]	8.2 [8.8]	8.3 [8.6]	8.2 [8.8]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation		9.6 [1.0]	9.6 [1.1]	9.6 [1.0]	8.2 [4.4]	8.2	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.3 [3.5]	9.4 [3.0]	9.3 [3.4]	9.9 [0.6]	8.4 [-8.1]	8.4	
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	5.1	5.1	6.9	6.7	6.8	6.8	
A. Taxes on international trade	2.1	2.1	6.7	7.3	7.4	7.4	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	0.0 [15.3]	0.0 [15.5]	4.7 [7.9]	8.2 [2.7]	8.6 [2.1]	8.6 [2.1]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	4.2 [28.9]	4.2 [28.9]	7.7 [11.3]	6.9 [15.4]	6.9 [15.3]	6.9 [15.3]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates			7.6 [6.0]	6.8 [8.0]	6.8 [8.0]	6.8 [8.0]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	3.1	3.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				5.5	5.5	5.6	5.7
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				6.2	6.2	6.2	6.4
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business			6.0	6.6	6.8	6.8	
A. Credit market regulations			6.2	7.6	7.6	7.6	
i. Ownership of banks			8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition							
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	
iv. Private sector credit	0.0	0.0	1.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	
B. Labor market regulations	5.6	5.6	6.7	6.7	7.5	7.5	
i. Difficulty of hiring	6.1	6.1	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	
ii. Rigidity of hours	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	6.6	6.6	4.3	4.3	7.2	7.2	
a. Difficulty of firing		6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		7.2	2.5	2.5	8.3	8.3	
iv. Conscription			10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.5	
i. Starting a business	7.7	7.7	7.8	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.5
a. Number of procedures			4.7	6.5	6.5	6.5	5.9
b. Duration (days)			8.9	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.3
c. Cost (% of income per capita)			7.9	8.6	8.6	8.8	9.0
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)			9.5	9.6	9.9	9.9	9.9
ii. Closing a business	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
a. Time (years)							
b. Cost (% of estate)							
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
iii. Dealing with licenses	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2
iv. Paying taxes	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.4	
vi. Regulatory quality	2.6	1.7	1.9	2.6	2.8	2.8	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Djibouti

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) >			6.6 [11]	6.5 [11]	6.2 [14]	6.1 [15]	Trend ▲
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government			5.1	5.0	4.2	4.1	
A. General government consumption spending	3.0 [29.7]	3.0 [29.7]	3.2 [29.3]	4.9 [23.2]	4.6 [24.2]	4.3 [25.3]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP							
C. Government enterprises and investment	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate			8.0 [30]	8.0 [30]	8.0 [30]	8.0 [30]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.2	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process			5.0	5.0	5.0	4.2	4.2
B. Integrity of the legal system			3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
i. Number of procedures			7.0	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
ii. Time (days)			9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
iii. Cost (% of property value)			5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	4.8	4.8	4.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.2
i. Quality of judicial processes			4.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7
ii. Time (days)			1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	3.2
iii. Cost (% of claim)			8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
E. Impartial courts	3.9	3.9	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.8	
F. Judicial Independence	2.6	2.6	2.6	3.1	3.1	2.7	
3. Access to Sound Money	9.7	9.1	8.9	9.7	9.6	9.4	
A. Money growth	9.2 [3.8]	7.6 [11.9]	7.9 [10.4]	9.5 [2.3]	9.4 [3.2]	8.8 [5.9]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.5 [1.2]	9.5 [1.2]	8.4 [4.0]	9.4 [1.4]	9.1 [2.3]	9.3 [1.7]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.9 [0.6]	9.4 [3.1]	9.2 [4.0]	9.7 [1.3]	9.8 [-.8]	9.5 [2.7]	9.9 [0.7]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	6.4	6.4	6.7	6.0	6.0	6.1	
A. Taxes on international trade	3.8	3.8	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)							
ii. Mean tariff rate	3.8 [30.9]	3.8 [30.9]	5.9 [20.6]	5.8 [20.9]	5.8 [20.9]	5.8 [20.9]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates			6.6 [8.6]	6.7 [8.4]	6.7 [8.4]	6.7 [8.4]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	5.4	5.4	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				3.8	3.8	4.1	4.1
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				3.5	3.5	4.1	4.1
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business			7.6	7.6	6.9	6.9	
A. Credit market regulations			9.2	8.6	7.0	7.0	
i. Ownership of banks			10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition							
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	
iv. Private sector credit			8.7	6.9	2.1	1.9	
B. Labor market regulations	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.5	7.0	7.0	
i. Difficulty of hiring	8.3	8.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	
ii. Rigidity of hours	6.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	7.7	7.7	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	
a. Difficulty of firing		7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		8.4	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Conscription	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.9	6.8	6.8	
i. Starting a business	7.3	7.3	7.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	9.0
a. Number of procedures			4.7	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
b. Duration (days)			8.3	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
c. Cost (% of income per capita)			8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	9.6
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)			9.2	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	4.9	4.9	4.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9
a. Time (years)		5.2	5.2	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
b. Cost (% of estate)		7.7	7.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		1.7	1.7	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0
iii. Dealing with licenses	8.4	8.4	8.4	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
iv. Paying taxes	9.3	9.3	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.4	
vi. Regulatory quality	3.9	3.3	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.5	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Egypt, Arab Republic

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) >	6.3 [11]	6.7 [10]	6.8 [10]	6.3 [13]	6.3 [12]	5.7 [18]	Trend ▲
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	5.7	5.8	7.2	6.4	6.4	6.6	
A. General government consumption spending	7.5 [14.6]	7.3 [15.1]	7.9 [13.0]	8.1 [12.5]	8.1 [12.5]	8.2 [12.1]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP	8.4 [6.5]	8.1 [7.6]	6.9 [12.0]	6.3 [13.9]	6.3 [13.9]	7.1 [11.3]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	0.0	0.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	7.0 [32]	8.0 [26]	10.0 [20]	9.0 [25]	9.0 [23]	9.0 [23]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	5.5	6.0	5.8	5.1	5.1	5.2	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	5.0	5.0	4.2	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
B. Integrity of the legal system	6.7	6.7	5.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	7.6	7.6	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5
i. Number of procedures		7.0	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
ii. Time (days)		8.0	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.2
iii. Cost (% of property value)		7.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.7
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.2	4.7	5.0
i. Quality of judicial processes		3.6	3.9	3.3	3.3	1.9	2.6
ii. Time (days)		3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
E. Impartial courts	4.0	5.1	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.1	
F. Judicial Independence	4.5	6.4	6.3	5.9	5.9	6.9	
3. Access to Sound Money	9.5	8.9	8.6	8.9	8.9	8.2	
A. Money growth	8.7 [6.4]	7.9 [10.6]	8.3 [8.4]	8.3 [8.7]	8.0 [9.9]	6.7 [16.5]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.8 [0.6]	8.6 [3.6]	8.4 [4.1]	9.4 [1.5]	9.5 [1.3]	9.0 [2.4]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.5 [2.7]	9.0 [4.9]	7.7 [11.3]	8.0 [10.1]	7.9 [10.4]	7.2 [13.8]	5.3 [23.5]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	5.1	7.0	6.5	5.8	5.7	3.3	
A. Taxes on international trade	4.4	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.9	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	6.9 [4.7]	8.5 [2.3]	8.3 [2.6]	8.6 [2.2]	8.3 [2.6]	8.3 [2.6]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	6.2 [18.9]	6.2 [18.9]	6.6 [17.0]	6.6 [16.8]	6.6 [16.8]	6.4 [17.9]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	0.0 [39.5]	0.0 [141.1]	0.0 [149.5]	0.0 [142.0]	0.0 [142.3]	0.0 [141.4]	
B. Black market exchange rates	5.5 [22.3]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	9.4 [2.8]	9.1 [4.5]	0.0 [52.4]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	5.4	6.2	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				4.0	4.0	3.7	3.7
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				5.7	5.7	5.3	5.3
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				2.4	2.4	2.0	2.0
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	5.6	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.3	5.3	
A. Credit market regulations	5.3	6.3	6.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	
i. Ownership of banks	2.0	2.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	3.0	6.0	6.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	6.3	7.0	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	
B. Labor market regulations	5.8	5.8	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	
i. Difficulty of hiring	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Rigidity of hours	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	5.3	5.2	2.3	2.8	2.8	2.8	
a. Difficulty of firing		4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		6.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	
iv. Conscription	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
C. Business Regulations	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	
i. Starting a business	7.3	7.9	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.6	8.9
a. Number of procedures		5.3	7.6	7.1	7.1	8.5	6.2
b. Duration (days)		9.0	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.4
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		8.7	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		8.6	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	5.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.9
a. Time (years)		6.0	6.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
b. Cost (% of estate)		7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		1.7	1.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8
iii. Dealing with licenses	7.2	7.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
iv. Paying taxes	4.4	4.4	5.1	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	5.6	6.4	4.4	5.1	5.2	4.8	
vi. Regulatory quality	4.0	4.2	4.7	3.4	3.2	3.0	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Iraq

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶			5.6 [16]	6.1 [16]	6.0 [17]	6.0 [17]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government			4.9	5.5	5.5	5.5	
A. General government consumption spending	2.4 [32.0]	4.8 [23.5]	4.7 [24.0]	4.1 [26.2]	3.7 [27.3]	4.0 [26.3]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP				7.8 [8.4]	8.1 [7.3]	8.0 [7.8]	
C. Government enterprises and investment		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate			10.0 [15]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
B. Integrity of the legal system	3.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.5
i. Number of procedures		8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
ii. Time (days)		9.9	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
iii. Cost (% of property value)		7.8	7.9	7.3	7.3	7.4	8.1
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.3	5.3
i. Quality of judicial processes		1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
ii. Time (days)		7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
iii. Cost (% of claim)		8.8	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
E. Impartial courts	2.9	2.5	2.8	3.2	3.1	3.0	
F. Judicial Independence							
3. Access to Sound Money	4.1	4.4	4.7	9.3	9.7	9.6	
A. Money growth	5.2 [24]	5.2 [24]	4.1 [29.6]	8.3 [8.3]	10.0 [0.2]	9.5 [-2.4]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	4.9 [12.7]	4.9 [12.7]	0.4 [23.9]	9.2 [2.0]	9.1 [2.3]	9.1 [2.1]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	6.1 [19.3]	2.6 [37.0]	9.4 [2.9]	9.6 [2.2]	9.7 [1.4]	9.9 [0.5]	10 [0.2]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	0.0	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	5.5	6.5	8.5	5.7	5.2	5.5	
A. Taxes on international trade		9.4	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.4	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)		9.8 [0.3]	9.8 [0.3]	9.8 [0.3]	9.7 [0.5]	9.7 [0.4]	
ii. Mean tariff rate		9.0 [5.0]	9.0 [5.0]	9.0 [5.0]	9.0 [5.0]	9.0 [5.0]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates							
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	9.4 [3.1]	7.4 [13.0]	8.8 [5.9]	7.8 [10.9]
C. Capital controls	0.9	0.0	6.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business			5.9	6.1	5.7	5.3	
A. Credit market regulations			5.5	6.0	4.8	4.8	
i. Ownership of banks			0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition				6.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	7.0	7.0	9.0	10.0	10.0	9.0	
iv. Private sector credit	10.0	10.0	7.5	8.1	3.2	4.2	
B. Labor market regulations	4.9	7.4	7.9	7.9	7.9	6.4	
i. Difficulty of hiring	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	3.3	
ii. Rigidity of hours	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	6.3	
a. Difficulty of firing		8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	6.5	
iv. Conscription	0.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.6	
i. Starting a business	7.6	7.6	7.4	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.6
a. Number of procedures		4.7	4.7	5.3	5.3	5.6	6.2
b. Duration (days)		6.3	6.3	8.7	8.7	8.4	8.8
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		9.5	8.7	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.5
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10
ii. Closing a business	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
a. Time (years)							
b. Cost (% of estate)							
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
iii. Dealing with licenses	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	8.2	8.2
iv. Paying taxes	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	
vi. Regulatory quality	0.6	1.7	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.6	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Jordan

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	7.7 [6]	7.8 [5]	7.8 [3]	8.0 [2]	7.9 [2]	7.9 [3]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	5.9	6.7	8.0	8.8	8.3	8.2	
A. General government consumption spending	5.0 [22.9]	6.4 [18.2]	5.5 [21.2]	7.4 [14.9]	7.4 [14.8]	7.0 [16.0]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP	9.5 [2.3]	6.4 [13.6]	8.4 [6.6]	7.8 [8.6]	7.8 [8.6]	7.8 [8.6]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	2.0	7.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	10.0 [14]	10.0 [14]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	7.0	7.0	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.6	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	8.3	8.3	8.3	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
B. Integrity of the legal system	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	7.7	7.7	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.9	8.1
i. Number of procedures		6.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.5
ii. Time (days)		9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8
iii. Cost (% of property value)		6.7	7.6	7.5	7.0	7.0	7.0
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.2
i. Quality of judicial processes		4.3	4.5	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.7
ii. Time (days)		5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.1
iii. Cost (% of claim)		8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
E. Impartial courts	6.2	6.3	4.7	5.6	5.4	5.1	
F. Judicial Independence	7.0	6.5	5.6	6.0	6.6	6.6	
3. Access to Sound Money	9.6	9.3	8.7	9.7	9.7	9.6	
A. Money growth	9.0 [4.9]	8.4 [8.1]	8.1 [9.5]	9.8 [1.1]	9.8 [0.9]	9.8 [0.9]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.6 [1.0]	9.6 [0.9]	7.8 [5.6]	9.7 [0.8]	9.1 [2.3]	8.9 [2.8]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.6 [1.8]	9.3 [3.5]	9.0 [5.0]	9.4 [2.9]	9.8 [-0.9]	9.8 [-0.8]	9.3 [3.3]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	7.9	8.1	8.0	7.5	7.3	7.3	
A. Taxes on international trade	6.1	6.5	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.1	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	7.8 [3.3]	8.2 [2.7]	9.1 [1.3]	9.2 [1.2]	9.1 [1.3]	9.1 [1.3]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	6.8 [16.2]	7.5 [12.4]	8.0 [10.0]	8.0 [10.2]	8.0 [10.0]	8.1 [9.7]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	3.8 [15.6]	3.9 [15.3]	3.7 [15.7]	4.1 [14.8]	4.0 [15.0]	4.1 [14.7]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	7.7	7.7	6.9	6.9	6.2	6.2	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				7.0	7.0	7.1	7.1
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.6	7.7	7.6	
A. Credit market regulations	8.2	7.5	7.4	6.8	7.6	7.5	
i. Ownership of banks	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	4.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	8.8	6.8	6.7	3.0	6.5	6.2	
B. Labor market regulations	8.5	8.5	9.0	8.6	8.1	8.1	
i. Difficulty of hiring	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	
ii. Rigidity of hours	8.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.5	7.5	7.5	
a. Difficulty of firing		4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Conscription	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	
i. Starting a business	6.4	7.7	8.8	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.0
a. Number of procedures		4.7	6.5	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.8
b. Duration (days)		9.2	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		9.0	9.5	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.7
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		8.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9
a. Time (years)		5.9	5.9	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3
b. Cost (% of estate)		8.9	8.9	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0
iii. Dealing with licenses	9.4	9.4	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
iv. Paying taxes	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.6
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	7.5	7.1	5.4	5.3	5.5	5.3	
vi. Regulatory quality	5.2	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.2	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Kuwait

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	8.1 [1]	7.9 [2]	7.6 [4]	7.6 [5]	7.5 [5]	7.4 [5]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	6.5	6.7	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.2	
A. General government consumption spending	1.8 [33.8]	2.1 [32.8]	0.8 [37.2]	0.6 [38.0]	0.9 [36.8]	1.1 [36.4]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP	7.1 [11.1]	7.8 [8.5]	7.0 [11.4]	7.9 [8.1]	7.9 [8.1]	6.9 [11.9]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	7.7	7.5	7.2	7.3	7.0	6.8	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
B. Integrity of the legal system	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	6.7	6.7	6.7
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5
i. Number of procedures		6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.0
ii. Time (days)		9.2	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.6
iii. Cost (% of property value)		9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.5
i. Quality of judicial processes		1.8	1.8	4.4	4.4	3.7	3.3
ii. Time (days)		6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.6	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
E. Impartial courts	7.5	6.8	5.1	5.2	5.5	4.9	
F. Judicial Independence		7.0	6.9	6.5	6.2	6.0	
3. Access to Sound Money	9.8	9.4	9.0	9.6	9.6	9.7	
A. Money growth	9.8 [-0.8]	9.0 [4.9]	8.0 [9.8]	9.4 [2.9]	9.3 [3.6]	9.4 [3.2]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.6 [1.1]	9.5 [1.4]	8.8 [2.9]	9.6 [1.0]	9.7 [0.9]	9.9 [0.2]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.8 [0.9]	9.2 [4.1]	9.1 [4.5]	9.4 [2.9]	9.3 [3.3]	9.4 [3.2]	9.7 [1.5]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	7.8	7.8	7.8	6.9	6.5	6.6	
A. Taxes on international trade	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.8	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	9.4 [0.9]	9.5 [0.8]	9.5 [0.7]	9.6 [0.6]	9.6 [0.6]	9.4 [0.9]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	9.3 [3.5]	9.1 [4.7]	9.1 [4.7]	9.1 [4.7]	9.1 [4.7]	9.1 [4.7]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	7.9 [5.2]	7.9 [5.2]	7.9 [5.2]	7.9 [5.3]	7.9 [5.3]	7.9 [5.3]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	3.1	3.1	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				4.1	4.1	4.6	4.6
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				5.1	5.1	5.6	5.6
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				3.1	3.1	3.6	3.6
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	8.4	8.1	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	
A. Credit market regulations	9.5	8.3	8.3	9.0	9.0	9.0	
i. Ownership of banks	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	8.0	3.0	3.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
B. Labor market regulations	8.7	8.7	8.3	8.3	7.8	7.8	
i. Difficulty of hiring	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Rigidity of hours	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	8.9	8.9	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	
a. Difficulty of firing		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		7.8	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	
iv. Conscription	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations	7.1	7.4	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.5	
i. Starting a business	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.1	8.2	7.7	8.4
a. Number of procedures		3.5	3.5	4.1	4.1	3.8	5.6
b. Duration (days)		8.4	8.4	8.6	8.6	7.0	8.2
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		9.7	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
a. Time (years)		6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
b. Cost (% of estate)		10.0	10.0	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		4.1	4.1	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5
iii. Dealing with licenses	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
iv. Paying taxes	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	5.9	7.1	5.4	4.2	4.1	4.0	
vi. Regulatory quality	5.9	6.2	5.5	4.8	4.7	4.9	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Lebanon

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	7.7 [6]	7.4 [7]	7.4 [7]	7.3 [8]	7.2 [7]	7.3 [6]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	8.3	8.8	9.3	8.9	8.9	8.9	
A. General government consumption spending	6.7 [17.1]	7.4 [15.0]	8.3 [11.8]	8.1 [12.5]	8.0 [12.8]	7.5 [14.3]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP	8.7 [5.5]	7.7 [8.9]	8.7 [5.2]	7.5 [9.6]	7.5 [9.6]	8.1 [7.4]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	8.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	5.9	5.9	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
B. Integrity of the legal system	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
i. Number of procedures		6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
ii. Time (days)		9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7
iii. Cost (% of property value)		8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	6.4	6.4	6.4	5.8	5.8	6.0	5.8
i. Quality of judicial processes		4.8	4.8	3.0	3.0	3.7	3.0
ii. Time (days)		5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
iii. Cost (% of claim)		8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
E. Impartial courts	5.0	5.0	2.9	3.3	3.4	2.9	
F. Judicial Independence			2.5	2.8	3.4	3.4	
3. Access to Sound Money	9.3	9.4	9.1	9.6	9.3	9.4	
A. Money growth	8.6 [7.0]	8.8 [6.0]	8.5 [7.5]	9.5 [2.4]	9.7 [1.3]	9.7 [1.6]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.1 [2.3]	9.1 [2.3]	8.6 [3.5]	9.1 [2.2]	8.3 [4.3]	8.3 [4.4]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.6 [1.8]	9.9 [-0.7]	9.2 [4.0]	9.9 [0.7]	9.3 [-3.7]	9.8 [-0.8]	9.1 [4.5]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	7.3	6.0	6.2	5.7	5.8	5.9	
A. Taxes on international trade	7.9	6.4	7.1	7.8	8.0	7.8	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	7.3 [4.0]	9.0 [1.6]	8.7 [2.0]	9.3 [1.0]	9.5 [0.8]	9.1 [1.3]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	8.6 [7.2]	8.6 [7.1]	8.7 [6.3]	8.9 [5.7]	8.9 [5.6]	8.9 [5.7]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates		1.8 [20.5]	3.9 [15.3]	5.3 [11.6]	5.6 [11.0]	5.5 [11.3]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	3.8	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				3.5	3.5	4.2	4.2
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				3.9	3.9	5.2	5.2
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	7.4	6.7	7.3	7.3	7.0	7.1	
A. Credit market regulations	9.5	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	
i. Ownership of banks	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	8.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
B. Labor market regulations	6.7	6.7	8.5	8.5	7.6	7.9	
i. Difficulty of hiring	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	
ii. Rigidity of hours	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.5	6.8	8.0	
a. Difficulty of firing		7.0	7.0	7.0	6.0	6.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		9.5	10.0	10.0	7.5	10.0	
iv. Conscription	3.0	3.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	
i. Starting a business	8.4	8.5	9.2	9.2	9.1	8.8	8.8
a. Number of procedures		7.6	8.2	8.2	7.6	6.5	6.5
b. Duration (days)		7.8	9.7	9.7	9.4	9.4	9.4
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		8.7	9.1	9.1	9.6	9.5	9.5
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
ii. Closing a business	5.1	5.2	5.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
a. Time (years)		6.3	6.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3
b. Cost (% of estate)		7.2	7.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		2.0	2.1	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4
iii. Dealing with licenses	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
iv. Paying taxes	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.0
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	3.7	3.6	2.9	2.2	2.6	2.4	
vi. Regulatory quality	4.3	4.7	5.2	4.5	4.4	4.3	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Libya

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) >				5.4 [19]	4.7 [21]	4.3 [22]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government			3.8	3.3	3.3	3.3	
A. General government consumption spending	5.7 [20.7]	5.6 [21.0]	1.3 [35.7]	0.0 [59.0]	0.0 [55.5]	0.0 [56.7]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP							
C. Government enterprises and investment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate			10.0 [14]	10.0 [14]	10.0 [14]	10.0 [14]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
B. Integrity of the legal system	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property							
i. Number of procedures							
ii. Time (days)							
iii. Cost (% of property value)							
D. Legal enforcement of contracts				5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4
i. Quality of judicial processes				2.2	2.2	1.5	1.5
ii. Time (days)				5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
iii. Cost (% of claim)				9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
E. Impartial courts	3.5	3.8	3.8	2.3	2.3	2.3	
F. Judicial Independence	2.8	2.7	2.1	3.4	3.4	3.4	
3. Access to Sound Money	5.5	6.0	7.4	7.5	6.9	5.7	
A. Money growth	6.4 [17.8]	6.4 [17.8]	6.4 [17.8]	7.8 [10.8]	6.9 [15.5]	6.8 [16.0]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	7.5 [6.3]	7.9 [5.2]	8.5 [3.7]	7.8 [5.6]	7.8 [5.5]	6.1 [9.7]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	8.0 [-9.8]	9.5 [2.7]	9.4 [2.8]	9.5 [2.4]	8.0 [9.8]	4.8 [25.9]	4.4 [28.0]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	4.5	6.0	7.0	5.8	3.3	3.1	
A. Taxes on international trade	7.7	8.0	9.5	8.3	8.3	8.3	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	8.8 [1.8]	9.4 [1.0]	9.1 [1.4]	9.9 [0.1]	9.9 [0.1]	9.9 [0.1]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	6.6 [17.0]	6.6 [17.0]	10.0 [0.0]	9.0 [5.0]	9.0 [5.0]	9.0 [5.0]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates				5.9 [10.4]	5.9 [10.4]	5.9 [10.4]	
B. Black market exchange rates	5.8 [20.8]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	0.0 [135.2]	0.0 [246.1]	0.0 [403.2]
C. Capital controls	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				4.2	4.2	3.4	3.4
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				4.2	4.2	2.5	2.5
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business				5.6	5.4	5.0	
A. Credit market regulations			6.7	6.7	6.7	5.7	
i. Ownership of banks			0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition							
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	7.0	
iv. Private sector credit	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
B. Labor market regulations				7.9	7.4	7.1	
i. Difficulty of hiring				8.3	7.2	6.1	
ii. Rigidity of hours				6.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals				7.1	6.2	6.2	
a. Difficulty of firing				8.0	8.0	8.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)				6.3	4.4	4.4	
iv. Conscription	1.0	1.0	1.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations				2.4	2.3	2.3	
i. Starting a business				8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
a. Number of procedures				5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3
b. Duration (days)				8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4
c. Cost (% of income per capita)				9.8	9.7	9.6	9.6
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)				9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
ii. Closing a business				0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
a. Time (years)							
b. Cost (% of estate)							
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)				0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
iii. Dealing with licenses							
iv. Paying taxes				0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	2.9	2.9	2.4	3.1	3.1	3.1	
vi. Regulatory quality	1.5	1.8	2.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Mauritania

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	6.5 [10]	6.4 [11]	5.4 [18]	5.7 [18]	6.1 [16]	6.2 [13]	Trend ▲
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	6.4	6.2	2.9	3.4	4.8	5.0	
A. General government consumption spending	4.1 [26.1]	3.6 [27.9]	3.6 [27.9]	3.3 [28.8]	3.3 [28.1]	4.0 [26.4]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP							
C. Government enterprises and investment	10.0	10.0	0.0	2.0	6.0	6.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	5.0 [40]	5.0 [40]	5.0 [40]	5.0 [40]	5.0 [40]	5.0 [40]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	6.6	6.2	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.5	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process			3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
B. Integrity of the legal system			3.3	4.2	3.3	3.3	4.2
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	8.6	8.6	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
i. Number of procedures		8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
ii. Time (days)		9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
iii. Cost (% of property value)		7.8	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.5
i. Quality of judicial processes		2.5	2.7	2.2	2.2	1.5	2.2
ii. Time (days)		7.8	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2
E. Impartial courts	4.6	5.1	4.2	2.4	2.3	2.0	
F. Judicial Independence	4.7	4.7	2.7	1.7	3.1	3.1	
3. Access to Sound Money	7.9	7.3	6.5	8.1	8.2	8.3	
A. Money growth	8.0 [10.1]	8.0 [10.1]	8.0 [10.1]	8.5 [7.4]	8.8 [5.8]	9.1 [4.7]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.2 [1.9]	8.5 [3.7]	9.2 [2.1]	9.6 [1.1]	9.2 [2.0]	9.3 [1.9]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.2 [3.9]	7.6 [12.1]	8.7 [6.3]	9.3 [3.5]	9.9 [0.5]	9.7 [1.5]	9.5 [2.3]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	5.0	5.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.0	6.2	6.3	
A. Taxes on international trade	7.8	8.0	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	8.3 [2.5]	8.9 [1.6]	8.6 [2.1]	8.6 [2.1]	8.6 [2.1]	8.6 [2.1]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	7.9 [10.7]	7.9 [10.7]	8.1 [9.6]	7.6 [12.0]	7.6 [12.0]	7.6 [12.0]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	7.1 [7.2]	7.1 [7.2]	7.2 [7.0]	7.2 [7.1]	7.2 [7.1]	7.2 [7.1]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	0.8	0.8	1.0	3.3	3.3	3.3	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				2.9	3.7	4.2	4.5
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				2.7	2.7	3.4	3.4
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				3.0	4.8	5.1	5.6
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	5.6	5.9	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.8	
A. Credit market regulations	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.5	
i. Ownership of banks			8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition							
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	
iv. Private sector credit	7.2	7.2	8.0	8.2	7.9	8.5	
B. Labor market regulations	4.2	5.5	6.4	6.6	6.6	6.6	
i. Difficulty of hiring	1.1	3.3	5.6	4.4	4.4	4.4	
ii. Rigidity of hours	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	6.6	7.6	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	
a. Difficulty of firing		6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		9.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	
iv. Conscription	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
C. Business Regulations	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4	5.2	
i. Starting a business	6.8	6.8	8.5	9.0	9.3	9.1	9.6
a. Number of procedures		4.7	5.9	7.1	7.6	7.1	8.8
b. Duration (days)		6.0	9.2	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.8
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		8.3	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		8.3	9.2	9.4	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
a. Time (years)							
b. Cost (% of estate)							
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
iii. Dealing with licenses	8.4	8.4	8.4	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2
iv. Paying taxes	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.8	6.6	7.0
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	4.3	3.8	2.7	2.3	2.8	2.7	
vi. Regulatory quality	5.9	4.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.4	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Morocco

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) >	6.1 [13]	6.2 [13]	6.2 [13]	6.3 [13]	6.3 [12]	6.3 [12]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	6.4	6.7	6.3	5.9	5.9	5.9	
A. General government consumption spending	4.9 [23.4]	4.6 [24.5]	4.9 [23.4]	4.4 [24.9]	4.4 [25.1]	4.4 [24.9]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP	8.7 [5.3]	8.4 [6.5]	8.1 [7.4]	7.3 [10.4]	7.3 [10.4]	7.3 [10.4]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	8.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	4.0 [44]	4.0 [44]	4.0 [44]	4.0 [44]	4.0 [44]	4.0 [44]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.3	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
B. Integrity of the legal system	10.0	8.3	8.3	7.5	7.5	6.7	6.7
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	8.5	8.4	8.0	8.1	8.6	8.4	8.4
i. Number of procedures		8.0	6.5	6.5	8.0	7.5	7.5
ii. Time (days)		9.5	9.2	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.8
iii. Cost (% of property value)		7.7	8.4	8.1	8.1	8.1	7.9
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	6.5	6.5	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
i. Quality of judicial processes		4.1	4.1	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
ii. Time (days)		6.3	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
E. Impartial courts	4.7	5.1	4.8	4.3	4.3	4.2	
F. Judicial Independence	3.5	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.6	
3. Access to Sound Money	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.3	7.3	
A. Money growth	8.6 [7.1]	8.6 [7.2]	8.6 [6.9]	9.9 [0.5]	9.9 [0.7]	9.8 [1.0]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.6 [1.1]	9.7 [0.8]	9.5 [1.3]	9.8 [0.5]	9.8 [0.6]	9.8 [0.6]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.4 [2.8]	9.8 [1.0]	9.8 [1.0]	9.9 [0.4]	9.7 [1.6]	9.7 [1.6]	9.8 [0.8]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	4.6	5.0	5.4	5.8	5.8	5.7	
A. Taxes on international trade	4.3	4.7	5.5	6.8	6.8	6.8	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	6.6 [5.2]	7.5 [3.7]	8.4 [2.3]	9.1 [1.3]	9.3 [1.1]	9.3 [1.1]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	4.5 [27.7]	6.1 [19.4]	6.4 [18.1]	7.8 [11.2]	7.7 [11.6]	7.7 [11.5]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	1.8 [20.5]	0.6 [23.5]	1.8 [20.5]	3.6 [16.0]	3.4 [16.6]	3.4 [16.6]	
B. Black market exchange rates	7.9 [10.3]	9.6 [1.8]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				5.8	5.8	5.3	5.3
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				5.0	5.0	3.6	3.6
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				6.6	6.7	7.1	7.1
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.1	
A. Credit market regulations	7.7	7.6	6.8	7.8	7.9	7.9	
i. Ownership of banks	5.0	8.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	8.0	3.0	3.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	9.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	8.9	9.2	9.2	8.3	8.7	8.4	
B. Labor market regulations	3.6	3.3	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.6	
i. Difficulty of hiring	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.0	1.1	
ii. Rigidity of hours	6.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	7.2	6.3	5.1	5.1	5.1	4.1	
a. Difficulty of firing		5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	3.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		7.6	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	
iv. Conscription	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	
C. Business Regulations	6.4	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	
i. Starting a business	7.8	8.9	9.2	9.4	9.6	9.6	9.6
a. Number of procedures		7.6	7.6	8.2	8.8	8.8	8.8
b. Duration (days)		9.5	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.7
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		8.6	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	6.7	6.7	6.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9
a. Time (years)		8.5	8.5	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
b. Cost (% of estate)		7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		3.8	4.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1
iii. Dealing with licenses	9.0	9.0	9.2	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.5
iv. Paying taxes	6.0	6.0	6.0	7.4	7.6	7.6	8.3
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	4.4	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.3	
vi. Regulatory quality	4.8	4.2	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Oman

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	7.9 [5]	7.6 [6]	7.6 [4]	7.4 [6]	7.2 [7]	7.3 [6]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	5.0	4.9	5.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	
A. General government consumption spending	0.1 [39.5]	0.0 [40.5]	1.1 [36.2]	0.0 [52.2]	0.0 [49.4]	0.0 [51.6]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP	9.7 [1.7]	9.4 [2.7]	9.6 [1.8]	8.1 [7.3]	8.1 [7.3]	8.1 [7.3]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	7.9	7.8	7.5	7.2	7.4	7.4	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
B. Integrity of the legal system	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.2
i. Number of procedures		9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
ii. Time (days)		9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8
iii. Cost (% of property value)		9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.4
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.4
i. Quality of judicial processes		1.6	1.6	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.3
ii. Time (days)		6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
E. Impartial courts	7.4	6.8	6.3	5.0	5.6	5.6	
F. Judicial Independence			6.8	5.9	6.1	6.1	
3. Access to Sound Money	9.7	9.5	8.7	9.5	9.5	9.6	
A. Money growth	9.4 [3.2]	8.7 [6.6]	6.8 [15.9]	8.7 [6.3]	8.7 [6.6]	9.1 [4.5]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.6 [1.0]	9.6 [1.0]	8.5 [3.8]	9.5 [1.3]	9.4 [1.6]	9.6 [1.0]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.9 [-0.3]	9.6 [1.9]	9.4 [3.2]	9.8 [1.0]	10.0 [0.1]	9.8 [1.1]	9.7 [1.6]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	8.6	8.1	7.9	7.5	7.3	7.4	
A. Taxes on international trade	9.1	7.7	7.9	8.8	8.1	8.0	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	9.5 [0.8]	9.4 [0.8]	9.4 [0.9]	9.6 [0.6]	9.6 [0.6]	9.6 [0.6]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	8.4 [8.0]	9.2 [3.8]	8.9 [5.5]	9.1 [4.7]	8.9 [5.5]	8.9 [5.5]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	9.5 [1.2]	4.4 [14.0]	5.4 [11.4]	7.6 [6.0]	5.7 [10.7]	5.6 [11.1]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	6.7	6.7	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.4	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				5.4	5.9	6.2	6.5
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				5.0	5.0	5.4	5.4
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				5.9	6.8	7.0	7.6
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	8.3	7.8	8.9	8.4	7.4	7.5	
A. Credit market regulations	9.5	8.3	9.0	9.4	7.0	7.2	
i. Ownership of banks	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	8.0	3.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	10.0	10.0	9.8	9.5	0.0	0.9	
B. Labor market regulations	7.9	7.9	10.0	8.2	7.7	7.4	
i. Difficulty of hiring	5.6	5.6	10.0	8.9	8.9	7.8	
ii. Rigidity of hours	6.0	6.0	10.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
a. Difficulty of firing		10.0	10.0	10.0			
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		9.9	10.0	10.0			
iv. Conscription	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations	7.4	7.2	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.7	
i. Starting a business	8.1	8.1	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.6	9.6
a. Number of procedures		5.3	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.5	8.5
b. Duration (days)		8.4	9.5	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		8.7	9.4	9.6	9.5	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
a. Time (years)		6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
b. Cost (% of estate)		9.6	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		3.7	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
iii. Dealing with licenses	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
iv. Paying taxes	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	5.8	5.0	7.8	5.9	6.0	6.0	
vi. Regulatory quality	6.7	6.3	6.1	6.7	6.4	6.5	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Palestinian Territories

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) >				7.4 [6]	7.3 [6]	7.3 [6]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government				7.7	7.4	7.4	
A. General government consumption spending	5.1 [22.5]	5.5 [21.2]	5.0 [23.0]	5.1 [22.7]	5.1 [22.6]	5.2 [22.4]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP							
C. Government enterprises and investment			8.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [15]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights			6.4	5.6	5.6	5.4	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process			5.8	4.2	4.2	4.2	5.0
B. Integrity of the legal system			5.8	4.2	4.2	3.3	4.2
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	8.6	8.6	8.8	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.5
i. Number of procedures		7.0	7.0	6.5	7.0	7.0	7.0
ii. Time (days)		9.3	9.5	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.5
iii. Cost (% of property value)		9.6	9.8	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	6.0	6.0	6.4	6.4	6.4	5.8	5.8
i. Quality of judicial processes		3.2	3.2	3.0	3.0	1.5	1.5
ii. Time (days)		5.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.0	9.0
E. Impartial courts	5.0	5.0	5.2	4.9	4.7	5.0	
F. Judicial Independence							
3. Access to Sound Money	9.4	9.5	9.1	9.7	9.7	9.7	
A. Money growth	9.6 [2.1]	9.6 [-2.1]	8.5 [7.4]	9.6 [2.0]	9.4 [2.9]	9.4 [3.2]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.2 [2.1]	9.3 [1.7]	8.7 [3.2]	9.7 [0.9]	9.7 [0.7]	9.6 [1.1]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	8.9 [5.7]	9.2 [4.1]	9.3 [3.7]	9.7 [1.7]	9.7 [1.4]	10.0 [-0.2]	10.0 [0.2]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally		8.9	8.2	7.7	7.9	8.0	
A. Taxes on international trade	9.6	7.5	7.1	7.8	7.8	8.1	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)		8.7 [2.0]	8.7 [2.0]	8.5 [2.3]	8.5 [2.3]	8.5 [2.3]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	9.6 [2.0]	9.5 [2.7]	8.7 [6.4]	9.1 [4.6]	9.1 [4.5]	9.2 [3.9]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates		4.4 [14.1]	3.8 [15.5]	5.8 [10.5]	5.9 [10.2]	6.6 [8.5]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	8.5	9.2	7.7	5.4	6.2	6.2	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
i. Non-tariff trade barriers							
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business			6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	
A. Credit market regulations			6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	
i. Ownership of banks			10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition							
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
B. Labor market regulations	7.6	7.6	7.0	6.1	6.1	6.1	
i. Difficulty of hiring	6.7	6.7	6.7	3.3	3.3	3.3	
ii. Rigidity of hours	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	7.7	7.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	
a. Difficulty of firing		8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		7.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	
iv. Conscription	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations	5.1	5.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	
i. Starting a business	6.7	6.7	7.7	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1
a. Number of procedures		4.1	4.7	5.9	5.9	5.0	5.0
b. Duration (days)		5.5	7.7	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		9.0	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.4	9.5
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		8.3	9.6	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
a. Time (years)							
b. Cost (% of estate)							
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
iii. Dealing with licenses	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
iv. Paying taxes	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	3.9	3.6	4.2	4.0	3.7	4.2	
vi. Regulatory quality	2.9	2.7	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.3	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Qatar

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	8.0 [3]	7.9 [2]	7.6 [4]	7.7 [4]	7.8 [4]	7.8 [4]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	
A. General government consumption spending	0.0 [47.6]	0.0 [47.2]	0.0 [46.4]	0.0 [49.5]	0.0 [47.4]	0.0 [47.2]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP	9.2 [3.6]	9.2 [3.4]	9.2 [3.5]	9.6 [1.9]	9.6 [1.9]	9.6 [1.9]	
C. Government enterprises and investment		7.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.3	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
B. Integrity of the legal system	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	8.4	8.4	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
i. Number of procedures			7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
ii. Time (days)			9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
iii. Cost (% of property value)			9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	6.4	6.4	6.4	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7
i. Quality of judicial processes			3.4	1.9	1.9	1.1	1.1
ii. Time (days)			6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
iii. Cost (% of claim)			9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3
E. Impartial courts	6.5	6.6	6.3	7.8	7.4	7.3	
F. Judicial Independence			8.4	8.2	7.6	7.2	
3. Access to Sound Money	9.2	8.5	8.2	9.3	9.7	9.8	
A. Money growth	7.2 [14.1]	7.2 [14.1]	7.2 [14.1]	8.8 [6.1]	9.5 [2.4]	10.0 [0.2]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.6 [1.0]	8.5 [3.7]	6.2 [9.5]	9.1 [2.3]	9.7 [0.7]	9.7 [0.6]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	10.0 [0.2]	8.2 [8.8]	9.5 [-2.4]	9.4 [3.1]	9.6 [1.9]	9.4 [2.9]	9.9 [0.4]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	9.0	9.0	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.6	
A. Taxes on international trade	9.2	9.2	8.3	8.6	8.5	8.4	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)		9.2 [1.1]	9.3 [1.0]	9.3 [1.0]	9.3 [1.0]	9.3 [1.0]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	9.2 [4.1]	9.2 [4.1]	9.0 [5.0]	9.1 [4.7]	9.1 [4.7]	9.1 [4.7]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates			6.7 [8.3]	7.4 [6.4]	7.2 [7.0]	6.9 [7.7]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	7.7	7.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				6.5	7.0	7.5	7.7
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				6.8	6.8	7.9	7.9
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				6.3	7.2	7.2	7.5
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	8.1	8.1	8.5	7.9	7.8	7.7	
A. Credit market regulations	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	
i. Ownership of banks	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition							
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
B. Labor market regulations	8.0	8.0	8.9	7.1	6.6	6.6	
i. Difficulty of hiring	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Rigidity of hours	4.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	8.0	8.0	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	
a. Difficulty of firing		8.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		8.1	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	
iv. Conscription	10.0	10.0	10.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
C. Business Regulations	7.9	7.9	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.2	
i. Starting a business	9.3	9.3	8.9	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.9
a. Number of procedures			6.5	6.5	6.5	6.2	6.2
b. Duration (days)			9.5	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7
c. Cost (% of income per capita)			9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)			9.8	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.0	6.0
a. Time (years)			7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
b. Cost (% of estate)			7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)			5.7	6.0	6.1	3.3	3.3
iii. Dealing with licenses	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
iv. Paying taxes	10.0	10.0	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	5.4	5.5	8.1	8.3	7.9	8.2	
vi. Regulatory quality	5.8	5.7	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.7	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Saudi Arabia

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	7.4 [8]	7.3 [8]	7.1 [8]	7.0 [9]	6.9 [9]	6.9 [9]	Trend ▲
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	5.0	4.7	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.2	
A. General government consumption spending	0.0 [41.5]	0.0 [44.8]	0.4 [38.5]	0.0 [44.8]	0.0 [42.0]	0.7 [37.6]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP		4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	
C. Government enterprises and investment							
D. Top marginal tax rate	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.5	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
B. Integrity of the legal system	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	9.5	9.5	9.8	9.3	9.7	9.7	9.8
i. Number of procedures		8.5	9.5	8.0	9.0	9.0	9.5
ii. Time (days)		10.0	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.9	10.0
iii. Cost (% of property value)		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.2	6.7
i. Quality of judicial processes		3.2	3.4	4.4	4.4	3.0	4.4
ii. Time (days)		6.1	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.5	6.5
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
E. Impartial courts	5.6	5.5	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.7	
F. Judicial Independence			7.6	7.1	7.2	7.0	
3. Access to Sound Money	9.6	9.4	8.9	9.4	9.4	9.6	
A. Money growth	8.7 [6.6]	8.2 [8.9]	7.7 [11.4]	8.6 [6.9]	8.7 [6.5]	9.2 [4.1]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.7 [0.7]	9.7 [0.7]	8.9 [2.8]	9.4 [1.4]	9.4 [1.4]	9.8 [0.6]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	10.0 [0.2]	9.9 [0.7]	8.9 [5.3]	9.5 [2.7]	9.6 [2.2]	9.3 [3.5]	9.8 [-0.9]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	7.0	6.9	6.7	5.9	5.9	5.7	
A. Taxes on international trade	8.8	9.1	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.2	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	8.9 [1.7]	9.2 [1.2]	9.4 [0.9]	9.4 [0.9]	9.4 [0.9]	9.4 [0.9]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	8.7 [6.3]	9.0 [4.8]	9.0 [4.8]	9.0 [5.1]	9.0 [5.1]	9.0 [5.1]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates			7.4 [6.6]	7.1 [7.3]	7.0 [7.6]	6.2 [9.6]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				3.6	3.6	3.3	3.4
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				5.7	5.7	5.1	5.1
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.3	7.4	
A. Credit market regulations	9.0	9.0	8.5	9.0	7.1	7.5	
i. Ownership of banks	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	10.0	10.0	7.8	9.9	2.3	3.8	
B. Labor market regulations	9.2	9.2	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	
i. Difficulty of hiring	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Rigidity of hours	8.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	8.9	8.9	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	
a. Difficulty of firing		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		7.8	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	
iv. Conscription	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations	5.7	5.8	6.9	6.5	6.5	6.4	
i. Starting a business	6.6	6.8	9.6	8.7	8.3	8.1	8.5
a. Number of procedures		3.5	8.8	5.9	4.1	3.2	4.7
b. Duration (days)		6.9	9.9	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.2
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		9.2	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.9
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		7.6	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
a. Time (years)							
b. Cost (% of estate)							
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
iii. Dealing with licenses	8.9	8.9	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.5
iv. Paying taxes	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.5
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	4.7	4.2	7.9	6.7	6.6	6.6	
vi. Regulatory quality	5.0	5.4	5.5	5.1	5.2	5.3	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Somalia

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) >					6.5 [10]	6.4 [11]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government				7.8	7.8	7.8	
A. General government consumption spending				8.6 [10.7]	8.6 [10.7]	8.6 [10.7]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP							
C. Government enterprises and investment							
D. Top marginal tax rate			7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	2.1	1.5	1.4	1.5	3.4	3.3	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
B. Integrity of the legal system	3.3	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property					8.5	8.5	8.5
i. Number of procedures					8.0	8.0	8.0
ii. Time (days)					8.0	8.0	8.0
iii. Cost (% of property value)					9.5	9.5	9.5
D. Legal enforcement of contracts					5.9	5.9	5.9
i. Quality of judicial processes					1.9	1.9	1.9
ii. Time (days)					6.5	6.5	6.5
iii. Cost (% of claim)					9.3	9.3	9.3
E. Impartial courts	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	
F. Judicial Independence	1.4	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.6	
3. Access to Sound Money				9.9	7.4	7.4	
A. Money growth							
B. Standard deviation of inflation							
C. Inflation: most recent year				9.7 [1.3]	9.7 [-1.5]	9.7 [1.3]	9.0 [5.2]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	5.0	5.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	5.0	5.0	5.0	7.6	8.2	8.0	
A. Taxes on international trade				9.1	9.0	9.0	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)				9.1 [1.4]	9.0 [1.5]	9.0 [1.5]	
ii. Mean tariff rate							
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates							
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	0.0 [371.5]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				1.5	4.0	2.8	2.8
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				2.9	2.9	0.6	0.6
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				0.0	5.1	5.1	5.1
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business					5.5	5.5	
A. Credit market regulations							
i. Ownership of banks				10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition							
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates							
iv. Private sector credit							
B. Labor market regulations					8.6	8.6	
i. Difficulty of hiring					10.0	10.0	
ii. Rigidity of hours					8.0	8.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals					6.3	6.3	
a. Difficulty of firing					10.0	10.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)					2.5	2.5	
iv. Conscription	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations					2.4	2.4	
i. Starting a business					7.6	7.6	7.5
a. Number of procedures					5.9	5.9	5.9
b. Duration (days)					6.6	6.6	6.6
c. Cost (% of income per capita)					7.9	7.9	7.6
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)					10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business					0.0	0.0	0.0
a. Time (years)							
b. Cost (% of estate)							
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)					0.0	0.0	0.0
iii. Dealing with licenses							
iv. Paying taxes							
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	2.8	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8	
vi. Regulatory quality	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Sudan

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶				5.8 [17]	5.8 [18]	5.7 [18]	Trend ▼
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government				9.9	10.0	10.0	
A. General government consumption spending	7.8 [13.5]	6.8 [17.0]	7.5 [14.3]	9.5 [7.0]	10.0 [5.3]	9.9 [6.4]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP							
C. Government enterprises and investment		7.0	8.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate				10.0 [15]	10.0 [15]	10.0 [15]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
B. Integrity of the legal system	5.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.9
i. Number of procedures		7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
ii. Time (days)		9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
iii. Cost (% of property value)		8.8	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.2
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1
i. Quality of judicial processes		0.9	1.1	1.9	1.9	1.1	1.1
ii. Time (days)		4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
E. Impartial courts	3.2	2.7	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.5	
F. Judicial Independence	1.5	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.6	
3. Access to Sound Money	6.6	6.9	7.0	5.0	6.2	5.9	
A. Money growth	5.3 [23.5]	5.0 [25.0]	7.0 [14.9]	6.5 [17.5]	6.7 [16.6]	6.1 [19.3]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	7.8 [5.4]	9.4 [1.5]	8.7 [3.1]	5.9 [10.3]	6.4 [9.0]	6.0 [10.0]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	8.3 [8.3]	8.3 [8.5]	7.4 [13.2]	2.6 [36.9]	6.6 [16.9]	6.4 [17.8]	3.5 [32.4]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	5.7	5.8	7.2	4.4	3.1	3.2	
A. Taxes on international trade	5.2	5.7	5.5	4.3	4.4	4.4	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	4.7 [8.0]	5.6 [6.6]	6.6 [5.2]	3.4 [10.0]	3.8 [9.3]	3.8 [9.3]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	5.8 [21.1]	5.8 [21.1]	6.0 [19.9]	5.8 [21.2]	5.8 [21.2]	5.8 [21.2]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates			4.0 [15.1]	3.6 [15.9]	3.6 [15.9]	3.6 [15.9]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	5.4 [23.0]	0.0 [63.9]	0.0 [148.8]	0.0 [184.1]
C. Capital controls	1.8	1.8	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				1.7	1.7	2.3	2.3
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				2.5	2.5	3.7	3.7
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.8	
A. Credit market regulations	7.0	7.4	7.3	6.8	7.4	6.7	
i. Ownership of banks	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates		10.0	10.0	7.0	10.0	9.0	
iv. Private sector credit	10.0	8.5	8.2	9.2	8.7	6.7	
B. Labor market regulations	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.9	5.1	
i. Difficulty of hiring	6.1	6.1	7.2	7.2	7.2	8.3	
ii. Rigidity of hours	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	5.9	5.9	3.8	4.3	4.3	4.3	
a. Difficulty of firing		5.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		6.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	
iv. Conscription	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
C. Business Regulations	4.6	4.5	4.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	
i. Starting a business	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.2
a. Number of procedures		5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.0
b. Duration (days)		8.2	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		9.2	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.7
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
a. Time (years)				8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
b. Cost (% of estate)				7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		0.0	0.0	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
iii. Dealing with licenses	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
iv. Paying taxes	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	2.8	2.3	2.6	2.2	2.1	1.9	
vi. Regulatory quality	2.3	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Syrian Arab Republic

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	5.7 [14]	5.8 [14]	5.9 [15]	5.0 [21]	4.7 [21]	4.4 [21]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	4.9	5.6	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	
A. General government consumption spending	6.8 [17.0]	6.9 [16.6]	6.8 [17.0]	6.8 [16.8]	6.8 [16.8]	6.8 [16.8]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP			9.0 [4.3]	9.0 [4.3]	9.0 [4.3]	9.0 [4.3]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	8.0 [27.5]	8.0 [27.5]	9.0 [22]	9.0 [22]	9.0 [22]	9.0 [22]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	5.4	5.4	4.8	5.7	5.7	5.0	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
B. Integrity of the legal system	8.3	8.3	8.3	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	6.1	6.1	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2
i. Number of procedures		8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
ii. Time (days)		9.7	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.5	9.5
iii. Cost (% of property value)		0.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.9
i. Quality of judicial processes		0.7	0.7	2.2	2.2	1.5	1.5
ii. Time (days)		4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
iii. Cost (% of claim)		8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
E. Impartial courts	4.6	4.8	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.2	
F. Judicial Independence			2.9	8.6	8.6		
3. Access to Sound Money	7.8	6.3	6.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	
A. Money growth	7.4 [12.8]	7.9 [10.6]	8.3 [8.3]				
B. Standard deviation of inflation	8.9 [2.8]	8.9 [2.8]	7.8 [5.4]	0.0 [166.0]	0.0 [205.5]	0.0 [243.7]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	10.0 [-0.1]	8.6 [7.2]	9.1 [4.4]	0.0 [354.4]	0.0 [481.9]	0.0 [693.5]	
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	5.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	3.5	5.5	5.7	4.2	2.3	1.9	
A. Taxes on international trade	5.2	5.4	6.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	7.6 [3.7]	8.3 [2.5]	8.4 [2.5]	8.4 [2.5]	8.4 [2.5]	8.4 [2.5]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	6.1 [19.6]	6.1 [19.6]	7.2 [14.2]	6.7 [16.5]	6.7 [16.5]	6.7 [16.5]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	1.9 [20.3]	1.9 [20.3]	3.2 [17.0]	0.6 [23.4]	0.6 [23.4]	0.6 [23.4]	
B. Black market exchange rates	5.3 [23.5]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	7.9 [10.7]	0.0 [77.7]	0.0 [142.7]	0.0 [123.8]
C. Capital controls	0.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				3.0	3.0	1.4	1.4
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	6.9	6.3	6.1	5.3	5.4	5.1	
A. Credit market regulations	9.6	8.0	7.0	4.7	4.9	4.4	
i. Ownership of banks			2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition				6.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	9.0	10.0	6.0	7.0	5.0	
iv. Private sector credit	9.2	7.0	8.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	
B. Labor market regulations	5.6	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.3	
i. Difficulty of hiring	10.0	8.9	6.1	6.1	7.2	7.2	
ii. Rigidity of hours	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	6.4	6.4	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
a. Difficulty of firing		5.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		7.8	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Conscription	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
C. Business Regulations	5.6	5.5	6.2	6.2	6.1	5.4	
i. Starting a business	5.4	5.4	8.8	9.0	9.0	8.9	9.0
a. Number of procedures		4.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.8
b. Duration (days)		8.0	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.3
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		9.6	9.5	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		0.0	9.3	9.5	9.8	9.8	9.8
ii. Closing a business	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.4	5.2	5.1
a. Time (years)		6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
b. Cost (% of estate)		8.9	8.9	8.9	8.0	8.0	8.0
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		3.1	3.0	2.9	1.9	1.4	1.2
iii. Dealing with licenses	9.5	9.5	9.5				
iv. Paying taxes	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	3.8	3.1	3.6	8.4	8.4		
vi. Regulatory quality	2.8	2.9	3.1	1.3	1.4	1.4	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Tunisia

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	6.3 [11]	6.3 [12]	6.6 [11]	6.5 [11]	6.4 [11]	6.5 [10]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	5.6	5.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	
A. General government consumption spending	5.4 [21.5]	5.4 [21.5]	5.5 [21.2]	5.5 [21.4]	5.4 [21.6]	5.3 [21.9]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP	8.1 [7.5]	7.4 [10.0]	7.0 [11.5]	6.4 [13.7]	6.4 [13.7]	6.4 [13.7]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	2.0	2.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	7.3	7.3	6.9	6.5	6.5	6.5	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
B. Integrity of the legal system	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
i. Number of procedures		8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
ii. Time (days)		9.5	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
iii. Cost (% of property value)		8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
i. Quality of judicial processes		4.3	4.3	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
ii. Time (days)		6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3
E. Impartial courts	6.8	6.6	6.0	4.3	4.3	4.1	
F. Judicial Independence	6.3	6.8	5.1	4.6	4.7	4.7	
3. Access to Sound Money	6.9	7.1	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.0	
A. Money growth	8.5 [7.7]	9.2 [4.2]	8.3 [8.4]	8.9 [5.3]	9.1 [4.3]	9.1 [4.4]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.8 [0.4]	9.7 [0.7]	9.7 [0.7]	9.7 [0.8]	9.7 [0.8]	9.7 [0.8]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.5 [2.7]	9.6 [2.0]	9.1 [4.4]	9.0 [4.9]	9.0 [4.9]	9.3 [3.7]	8.9 [5.3]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	4.7	4.8	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	
A. Taxes on international trade	5.7	4.4	6.9	7.2	7.0	7.3	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	8.1 [2.8]	8.7 [2.0]	8.9 [1.7]	8.8 [1.8]	8.8 [1.8]	8.8 [1.8]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	4.0 [30.2]	4.6 [26.8]	6.7 [16.5]	7.2 [14.1]	6.9 [15.5]	7.7 [11.6]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	5.0 [12.6]	0.0 [26.0]	5.2 [12.1]	5.5 [11.1]	5.2 [12.1]	5.3 [11.8]	
B. Black market exchange rates	7.8 [11.1]	9.3 [3.3]	7.4 [13.0]	10.0 [0.0]	9.0 [4.9]	9.0 [4.9]	8.3 [8.5]
C. Capital controls	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				4.2	5.1	5.0	5.0
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				3.0	3.0	2.8	2.8
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				5.5	7.3	7.3	7.3
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	7.0	7.0	7.4	6.9	6.8	6.8	
A. Credit market regulations	8.0	7.9	8.1	7.5	7.4	7.4	
i. Ownership of banks	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	9.0	8.6	9.4	7.0	6.6	6.7	
B. Labor market regulations	5.5	5.5	6.5	6.1	5.8	5.8	
i. Difficulty of hiring	7.2	7.2	8.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	
ii. Rigidity of hours	6.0	6.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	5.8	5.8	4.9	5.4	4.3	4.3	
a. Difficulty of firing		2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		9.5	7.8	7.8	5.5	5.5	
iv. Conscription	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	
C. Business Regulations	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.1	7.1	7.1	
i. Starting a business	8.5	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.8
a. Number of procedures		5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.9	5.9
b. Duration (days)		9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		9.9	9.9	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.9
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
a. Time (years)		9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
b. Cost (% of estate)		9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
iii. Dealing with licenses	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3
iv. Paying taxes	7.0	7.0	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	6.8	6.8	5.9	4.3	4.1	4.0	
vi. Regulatory quality	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.2	4.2	4.1	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

United Arab Emirates

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	8.0 [3]	8.0 [1]	8.0 [2]	8.1 [2]	8.0 [1]	8.0 [1]	Trend ■
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	6.8	8.0	7.9	7.3	7.1	6.7	
A. General government consumption spending	7.6 [14.2]	8.2 [12.3]	7.8 [13.5]	6.8 [16.9]	6.1 [19.3]	6.1 [19.3]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP	9.7 [1.6]	9.7 [1.6]	9.7 [1.6]	8.4 [6.5]	8.4 [6.5]	8.8 [4.8]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	0.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	7.5	7.1	7.2	7.8	8.0	8.0	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
B. Integrity of the legal system	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	9.4	9.4	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8
i. Number of procedures		9.0	10.0	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
ii. Time (days)		9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
iii. Cost (% of property value)		9.4	9.4	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	5.7	5.7	6.0	7.9	8.2	8.0	8.3
i. Quality of judicial processes		1.8	2.0	7.4	8.1	7.4	8.1
ii. Time (days)		6.3	6.8	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.5
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.1	9.1	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3
E. Impartial courts	7.5	6.3	5.7	6.6	6.9	7.2	
F. Judicial Independence		6.3	6.8	7.7	7.9	8.0	
3. Access to Sound Money	9.2	8.7	8.6	9.5	9.4	9.5	
A. Money growth	8.4 [7.9]	7.0 [14.8]	6.9 [15.5]	8.9 [5.3]	9.0 [5.1]	8.9 [5.4]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	9.0 [2.6]	9.0 [2.6]	7.8 [5.4]	9.7 [0.7]	9.4 [1.4]	9.5 [1.3]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	9.4 [2.9]	8.8 [6.2]	9.8 [0.9]	9.5 [2.3]	9.2 [4.1]	9.7 [1.6]	9.6 [2.0]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.3	
A. Taxes on international trade	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.7	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	9.2 [4.0]	9.0 [4.8]	9.0 [4.9]	9.1 [4.7]	9.1 [4.4]	9.1 [4.7]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	7.6 [6.1]	7.6 [6.1]	7.0 [7.5]	7.4 [6.4]	7.2 [7.1]	7.0 [7.5]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]
C. Capital controls	6.2	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				7.9	7.9	8.6	8.6
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				7.5	7.5	8.8	8.8
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting				8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	8.1	8.1	8.2	7.7	7.6	7.6	
A. Credit market regulations	7.9	7.8	7.7	8.3	7.8	7.9	
i. Ownership of banks	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Private sector credit	8.7	8.2	7.9	10.0	8.2	8.4	
B. Labor market regulations	8.7	8.7	9.0	6.5	6.5	6.5	
i. Difficulty of hiring	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
ii. Rigidity of hours	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	8.8	8.8	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
a. Difficulty of firing		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		7.7	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
iv. Conscription	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
C. Business Regulations	7.7	7.8	7.8	8.4	8.5	8.5	
i. Starting a business	8.6	8.6	8.9	9.3	9.3	9.5	9.5
a. Number of procedures		6.5	6.5	7.6	7.6	8.5	8.5
b. Duration (days)		9.3	9.4	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		9.6	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.8
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		9.2	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	4.1	4.2	4.1	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9
a. Time (years)		5.1	5.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
b. Cost (% of estate)		6.1	6.1	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		1.3	1.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
iii. Dealing with licenses	9.6	9.6	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
iv. Paying taxes	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	6.1	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.5	
vi. Regulatory quality	7.6	6.6	5.8	7.3	7.6	7.3	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Yemen, Republic of

	2002	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Summary Ratings (Rank) ▶	7.0 [9]	7.1 [9]	6.9 [9]	6.8 [10]	5.8 [18]	6.1 [15]	Trend ▼
	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]	Rating [Data]
1. Size of Government	5.2	5.4	6.7	7.8	7.3	7.9	
A. General government consumption spending	6.5 [18.1]	7.1 [16.0]	8.0 [12.8]	8.1 [12.3]	8.3 [11.9]	8.5 [11.1]	
B. Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP			7.8 [8.7]	9.0 [4.1]	9.0 [4.1]	9.0 [4.1]	
C. Government enterprises and investment	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	
D. Top marginal tax rate	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	7.0 [35]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	10.0 [20]	
2. Commercial, Economic Law & Property Rights	5.7	5.8	4.8	4.9	4.5	4.5	
A. Military interference in rule of law & the political process	6.7	6.7	6.7	5.8	4.2	4.2	4.2
B. Integrity of the legal system	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
C. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
i. Number of procedures		7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
ii. Time (days)		9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8
iii. Cost (% of property value)		8.7	8.8	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
D. Legal enforcement of contracts	7.1	7.1	7.2	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5
i. Quality of judicial processes		4.8	5.0	2.2	2.2	1.5	1.5
ii. Time (days)		7.0	7.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
iii. Cost (% of claim)		9.5	9.5	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
E. Impartial courts	2.8	3.3	1.8	3.5	2.7	2.8	
F. Judicial Independence			1.3	2.1	2.1	2.5	
3. Access to Sound Money	8.4	8.7	8.3	8.8	4.7	5.6	
A. Money growth	7.5 [12.4]	7.5 [12.3]	7.6 [11.8]	8.5 [7.3]	7.9 [10.7]	6.5 [17.6]	
B. Standard deviation of inflation	8.6 [3.4]	9.7 [0.6]	8.0 [5.1]	8.2 [4.4]	1.0 [22.5]	0.0 [29.5]	
C. Inflation: most recent year	7.6 [12.2]	7.6 [11.8]	7.8 [11.2]	8.4 [8.1]	0.0 [61.4]	5.9 [-20.3]	9.0 [4.9]
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0		
4. Freedom to Trade Internationally	8.4	8.7	8.5	6.7	6.7	6.8	
A. Taxes on international trade	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.1	8.1	8.4	
i. Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)	8.5 [2.3]	8.8 [1.9]	9.0 [1.5]	8.0 [3.1]	8.0 [3.1]	8.9 [1.6]	
ii. Mean tariff rate	8.6 [7.1]	8.6 [7.1]	8.6 [7.1]	8.5 [7.5]	8.5 [7.5]	8.5 [7.5]	
iii. Standard deviation of tariff rates	8.2 [4.5]	8.2 [4.5]	8.1 [4.7]	7.9 [5.3]	7.9 [5.3]	7.9 [5.3]	
B. Black market exchange rates	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	10.0 [0.0]	4.8 [26.0]
C. Capital controls	6.9	7.7	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	
D. Regulatory trade barriers				1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
i. Non-tariff trade barriers				1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
ii. Compliance cost of importing and exporting							
5. Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business	7.0	7.0	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.7	
A. Credit market regulations	9.7	9.7	6.4	4.3	3.5	4.3	
i. Ownership of banks			5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
ii. Foreign bank competition				3.0	3.0	3.0	
iii. Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.0	6.0	9.0	
iv. Private sector credit	9.5	9.5	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	
B. Labor market regulations	5.4	5.4	5.4	7.9	7.9	7.6	
i. Difficulty of hiring	10.0	10.0	8.9	8.9	8.9	7.8	
ii. Rigidity of hours	4.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	
iii. Rigidity of dismissals	7.8	7.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	
a. Difficulty of firing		6.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	
b. Firing costs (weeks of wages)		9.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	
iv. Conscription	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
C. Business Regulations	5.8	5.8	6.3	5.8	5.7	5.1	
i. Starting a business	6.0	5.7	9.0	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.6
a. Number of procedures		4.1	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.4
b. Duration (days)		7.0	9.5	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
c. Cost (% of income per capita)		7.1	9.0	9.2	9.2	9.0	9.0
d. Minimum capital (% of income per capita)		4.7	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ii. Closing a business	6.5	6.5	6.5	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8
a. Time (years)		7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3
b. Cost (% of estate)		9.1	9.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
c. Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)		3.0	3.1	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.1
iii. Dealing with licenses	9.1	9.1	9.1	7.9	7.9		
iv. Paying taxes	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2
v. Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	2.9	3.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.1	
vi. Regulatory quality	3.3	3.2	3.7	3.1	2.6	1.8	

Trend is based primarily on preliminary data for 2016. ▲ = up; ■ = unchanged, uncertain; ▼ = down.

Appendix: Explanatory Notes and Data Sources

The index published in *Economic Freedom of the Arab World* was derived from 45 distinct pieces of data (“components”). The overall rating was computed by averaging the five areas and area scores were derived by averaging the components within each area. Economic freedom is measured on a scale from zero to 10 where a higher value indicates a greater degree of economic freedom.

Note that the minimums and maximums used to compute the individual scores were taken from *Economic Freedom of the World* instead of the 22 countries included in the index. For those variables not used in *Economic Freedom of the World*, minimums and maximums were calculated using data for the countries included in the *Doing Business* database (World Bank). We used “global” instead of regional minimums and maximums because some of the components show little variability among the Arab countries.

Area 1 Size of Government: Expenditures, Taxes, and Enterprises

A General government consumption spending as a percentage of total consumption

This component measures general government final consumption expenditure as a percentage of final consumption expenditure (formerly known as total consumption). The rating for this component was derived using the following formula: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i is the country’s actual government consumption as a proportion of final consumption, while V_{\max} and V_{\min} were the maximum and minimum values set to 40% and 6%, respectively. The 1990 data in *Economic Freedom of the World* were used to derive maximum and minimum value for this component. Nations with higher government expenditure relative to final consumption receive lower scores.

Sources World Bank, *World Development Indicators*; United Nations, National Accounts Main Aggregates Database; International Monetary Fund, International Financial Statistics.

B Transfers and subsidies as a percentage of GDP

This component measures government subsidies and other transfers as a percentage of GDP. The rating for this component was derived using the following formula: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i is the country’s ratio of transfers and subsidies to GDP, while V_{\max} and V_{\min} were the maximum and

minimum set to 37.2% and 0.5%, respectively. The 1990 data in the *Economic Freedom of the World* were used to derive maximum and minimum values for this component. Countries with higher government subsidies and other transfers relative to GDP receive lower scores.

Source Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2018).

C Government enterprises and investment

The rating for this component was computed using (a) government investment as a share of total investment and (b) the number, composition, and share of output generated by State-Operated Enterprises (SOEs). Nations with lower government investment as proportion of total investment and fewer SOEs receive higher scores.

Source Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2018); IMF Djibouti (2017); IMF West Bank and Gaza (2016): 21; UNCTAD (2014): 24, (2015): 55; World Bank, *World Development Indicators*.

D Top marginal tax rate

This component measures the highest marginal income-tax rate (individual rate) and the threshold at which this rate applies. Countries with higher marginal income-tax rates that take effect at lower income thresholds received lower ratings based on the matrix found below.

Top Marginal Tax Rate	Income Threshold at Which the Top Marginal Rate Applies (1982–1984 US\$)			
	< \$25,000	\$25,000–\$50,000	\$50,000–\$150,000	> \$150,000
< 20%	10	10	10	10
21%–25%	9	9	10	10
26%–30%	8	8	9	9
31%–35%	7	7	8	9
36%–40%	5	6	7	8
41%–45%	4	5	6	7
46%–50%	3	4	5	5
51%–55%	2	3	4	4
56%–60%	1	2	3	3
61%–65%	0	1	2	2
66%–70%	0	0	1	1
> 70%	0	0	0	0

Sources Deloitte (2007, 2009–2018); Comoros, Ministère de Finances (1985): 14; Ernst & Young (various years, 2010).

Area 2 Commercial and Economic Law and Security of Property Rights

A Military interference in rule of law and the political process

This component is based on the Political Risk Component G (Military in Politics) from the *International Country Risk Guide* (ICRG), which measures the extent to which the military is involved in politics: “Since the military is not elected, involvement, even at a peripheral level, diminishes democratic accountability. Military involvement might stem from an external or internal threat, be

symptomatic of underlying difficulties, or be a full-scale military takeover. Over the long term, a system of military government will almost certainly diminish effective governmental functioning, become corrupt, and create an uneasy environment for foreign businesses”. The *International Country Risk Guide* measures military involvement on a scale from zero to 6 where a higher value indicates a lower potential risk. These values were then transformed into a zero-to-10 scale.

Source PRS Group (Various Years).

B Integrity of the legal system

This component is based on the Political Risk Component I (Law and Order) from the *International Country Risk Guide*. Component I is based on “two measures comprising one risk component. Each sub-component equals half of the total. The ‘law’ sub-component assesses the strength and impartiality of the legal system, and the ‘order’ sub-component assesses popular observance of the law”. The *International Country Risk Guide* measures law and order on a scale from zero to six, where a higher value indicates a lower potential risk. These values were then transformed into a zero-to-ten scale.

Source PRS Group (Various Years).

C Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property

This component is based on the World Bank’s *Doing Business* dataset and it measures the steps, time, and cost involved in registering property. The World Bank uses “a standardized case of an entrepreneur who wants to purchase land and a building in the largest business city—already registered and free of title dispute”. The cost includes such items “as fees, transfer taxes, stamp duties, and any other payment to the property registry, notaries, public agencies or lawyers. The cost is expressed as a percentage of the property value, assuming a property value of 50 times income per capita”.

The rating for this component was derived using the following formula: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the steps, time, and cost as a percentage of property value. V_{\max} was set to 21.0 procedures, 956 days, and 30.4% and V_{\min} to 1.0 procedure, 1.0 day, and 0.1%. Nations with values that fall below V_{\min} received a score of 10 whereas those nations that have values above V_{\max} received a score of zero.

- i number of procedures
- ii time (days)
- iii cost (% of property value)

Source World Bank (various years, 2004–2018), *Doing Business* database.

D Legal enforcement of contracts

This component is based on the World Bank’s *Doing Business* dataset. The component measures “the efficiency of contract enforcement by following the evolution of a sale of goods dispute and tracking the time, cost, and number of procedures involved from the moment the plaintiff files the lawsuit until actual payment”. The quality of judicial processes index, 2Di, is based on scores from 0 to 18. Scores for this index were derived using the following formula: $(V_i - V_{\min})$

$/(V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10; $V_{\max} = 15.5$ and $V_{\min} = 2.0$. Nations with values that fall below V_{\min} received a score of 10 whereas those nations that have values above V_{\max} received a score of zero. The ratings for the sub-components 2Dii and 2Diii were derived using the following formula: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the time and cost as a percentage of debt. V_{\max} was set at 1,459.0 days and 227.3% and V_{\min} to 109.0 days and 5.5%.

- i quality of judicial processes
- ii time (days)
- iii cost (% of claim)

Source World Bank (various years, 2004–2018), *Doing Business* database.

E Impartial courts

This component is from *Economic Freedom of the World*, which uses as a source the *Global Competitiveness Report* question: “The legal framework in your country for private businesses to settle disputes and challenge the legality of government actions and/or regulations is inefficient and subject to manipulation”. Note: the “Rule of Law” ratings from the World Bank’s Governance Indicators project are used to supply any values missing from the primary source

Source Gwartney and Lawson / Gwartney, Lawson, and Hall / Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2002–2018); Governance Indicators (2002–2016)

F Judicial independence

This component is from *Economic Freedom of the World*, which uses as a source the *Global Competitiveness Report* question: “Is the judiciary in your country independent from political influences of members of government, citizens, or firms?” Note: the “Judicial independence” ratings from the Ibrahim index project are used to supply any values missing from the primary source.

Source Gwartney and Lawson / Gwartney, Lawson, and Hall / Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2002–2018); Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2002–2017).

Area 3 Access to Sound Money

A Money growth

The broad money supply figures were used to measure the growth rate of the money supply. This component measures the growth of the money supply in the last five years minus the annual growth of real GDP in the last 10 years. The rating for this component was derived using the following formula: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the average annual growth rate of the money supply during the last five years adjusted for the growth of real GDP during the previous 10 years. The values for V_{\min} and V_{\max} were set at zero and 50%, respectively. If money growth equals the long-term growth of real output (i.e., growth of real GDP in the last 10 years), then a nation gets a rating of 10. If the growth of the money supply is greater than the long-run growth in real output, a nation gets a score less than 10. Nations with a value greater than 50% receive a rating of zero.

Source World Bank, *World Development Indicators*.

B Standard deviation of inflation

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was used as the measure of inflation for this component. The following formula was used to determine the zero-to-10 scale rating for each country: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the country's standard deviation of the annual rate of inflation during the last five years. The values for V_{\min} and V_{\max} were set at zero and 25%, respectively. If there is no variation in inflation rate over the past five years, a nation gets a score of 10. The higher the variability of inflation, the lower the rating a nation receives. Those nations that have a standard deviation greater than 25% get a score of zero.

Sources World Bank, *World Development Indicators*; International Monetary Fund (2006–2018a), *World Economic and Financial Surveys. Regional Economic Outlook: Middle East and Central Asia*; International Monetary Fund (2006–2018b), *World Economic and Financial Surveys. Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa*; International Monetary Fund (2018a), *International Financial Statistics*; Economist Intelligence Unit (2018).

C Inflation: most recent year

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was used as the measure of inflation for this component. The zero-to-10 country ratings were derived by the following formula: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the rate of inflation during the most recent year. The values for V_{\min} and V_{\max} were set at zero and 50%, respectively. The lower the rate of inflation, the higher the rating. Those nations that have an inflation rate higher than 50% get a score of zero.

Sources World Bank, *World Development Indicators*; International Monetary Fund (2006–2018a), *World Economic and Financial Surveys. Regional Economic Outlook: Middle East and Central Asia*; International Monetary Fund (2006–2018b), *World Economic and Financial Surveys. Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa*; International Monetary Fund (2018a), *International Financial Statistics*; International Monetary Fund (2018b), *Somalia*; Economist Intelligence Unit (2018).

D Freedom to own foreign-currency bank accounts

If foreign bank accounts are allowed both domestically and abroad without any restrictions, a nation gets a score of 10. If foreign bank accounts are allowed domestically but not abroad, or vice versa, a nation gets a rating of 5.

Source International Monetary Fund (2004–2016), *Annual Report on Exchange Arrangements and Exchange Restrictions*.

Area 4 Freedom to Trade Internationally

A Taxes on international trade

i Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)

This sub-component measures taxes on international trade as a percentage of imports and exports. The zero-to-10 country ratings were derived by the following formula: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the revenue derived from taxes on international trade as a share of imports and exports. The

values for V_{\min} and V_{\max} were set at zero and 15%, respectively. The greater the taxes on international trade as a share of exports and imports, the lower the score. Nations that have a value greater than 15% get a rating of zero.

Source Gwartney and Lawson / Gwartney, Lawson, and Hall / Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (various years); World Bank, *World Development Indicators*; International Center for Tax Development (2018); SAUDI National e-Government Portal (2018); Central Bank of Libya (2017): 62.

ii Mean tariff rate

This sub-component measures the unweighted average of tariff rates. The zero-to-10 country ratings were derived by the following formula: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the country's mean tariff rate. The values for V_{\min} and V_{\max} were set at zero and 50%, respectively. A higher mean tariff rate results in a lower rating. Nations with a mean tariff rate over 50% receive a score of zero.

Sources World Bank (various years, 2005–2017), *World Development Indicators*; World Trade Organization (various years 2006–2016); Deloitte (2015a), *Guide to Fiscal Information: Key Economies in Africa 2014/15*: 175; Deloitte (2015b), *Oil and Gas Taxation in Iraq*: 6.

iii Standard deviation of tariff rates

This sub-component measures the standard deviation of tariff rates. The zero-to-10 country ratings were derived by the following formula: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the standard deviation of the country's tariff rates. The values for V_{\min} and V_{\max} were set at zero and 25%, respectively. Countries with greater variation in their tariff rates get lower ratings. Nations with standard deviation of over 25% get a score of zero.

Sources World Trade Organization (various years 2006–2017); Deloitte (2015a), *Guide to Fiscal Information: Key Economies in Africa 2014/15*: 175.

B Black-market exchange rates

This component measures the difference between the official rate and parallel black-market exchange rate. The zero-to-10 country ratings were derived by the following formula: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i is the country's black-market premium on the exchange rate. The values for V_{\min} and V_{\max} were set at zero and 50%, respectively. If there is no black-market exchange rate, a nation gets a score of 10. The greater the difference between the two rates, the lower the rating. Nations with a value greater than 50% get a score of zero.

Source Monetary Research (2003–2017), *MRI Bankers' Guide to Foreign Currency*.

C Capital controls

This component measures restrictions on capital transactions, looking at 13 types of international capital controls reported by the International Monetary Fund. The zero-to-10 country ratings were derived by computing the number of controls not levied as a percentage of the total number of controls, and then multiplying the result by 10.

Source International Monetary Fund (2004–2016), *Annual Report on Exchange Arrangements and Exchange Restrictions*.

D Regulatory trade barriers

i Non-tariff trade barriers

This sub-component is based on the *Logistics Performance Index* survey question: “(1) Efficiency of the clearance process (i.e., speed, simplicity and predictability of formalities) by border control agencies, including customs; 1–5 (best)”.

Source World Bank, *Logistics Performance Index*.

ii Compliance cost of importing and exporting

This sub-component is based on the World Bank’s *Doing Business* data on the time (i.e., non-money) cost of procedures required to import a full 20-foot container of dry goods that contains no hazardous or military items. Countries where it takes longer to import or export are given lower ratings. Zero-to-10 ratings were constructed for (1) the time cost (in hours) associated with border compliance and documentary compliance when exporting; and (2) the time cost (in hours) associated with border compliance and documentary compliance when importing. These two ratings were then averaged to arrive at the final rating for this sub-component. The formula used to calculate the zero-to-10 ratings was: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the time cost value. The values for V_{\max} and V_{\min} were set, respectively, at 228.38 and 0 hours (1.5 standard deviations above average in 2014) for exporting; and 338.00 hours (1.5 standard deviations below average in 2014) and 0 hours for importing. Countries with values outside the V_{\max} and V_{\min} range received ratings of either zero or 10, accordingly.

Source World Bank, *Doing Business*.

Area 5 Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business

A Credit market regulations

i Ownership of banks

The rating for this sub-component is based on the percentage of bank deposits held in privately owned banks. When private deposits were between 95% and 100%, nations received a score of 10. When private deposits totaled between 75% and 95%, countries received a score of 8. When private deposits were between 40% and 75%, nations received a score of 5. When private deposits were between 10% and 40%, nations received a score of 2. Nations received a rating of zero if private deposits were less than 10% of total bank deposits.

Sources Bankscope (2011); Banque centrale de Comores (2012, 2014); Banque centrale de Djibouti (2018); Banque centrale de Mauritanie (2018); Central Bank of Somalia (2017); Mialy Ranaivoson, Responsable investissement Océan Indien, Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P) (2016): personal communication via e-mail (May 30); World Bank Group (2003, 2007, 2012).

ii Foreign bank competition

This sub-component is based on two variables: percentage of banking assets held by foreign-owned banks and the number of applications for commercial banking licenses from foreign entities denied as a percentage of the total number of applications for commercial banking licenses received from foreign entities. If

a country approved all or most applications for licenses from foreign banks and foreign banks held a large share of the banking sector's assets, then the country received a higher rating, according to table below.

		Foreign Bank License Denial Rate (Denials/Applications)		
		0%	0%–49%	50%–100%
Foreign bank assets as a share of total banking sector assets	80%–100%	10	8	5
	40%–79%	9	7	4
	0%–39%	8	6	3

Source World Bank Group (2003, 2007, 2012).

iii Interest rate controls/negative real interest rates

This sub-component is based on two variables: real interest rate (i.e., lending interest rate minus inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index) and the difference between the lending and deposit interest rates. When the real interest rate was positive and interest rates were determined primarily by market forces (i.e., the lending interest rate is less than 8% higher than the deposit interest rate), countries were given a rating of 10. When the real rates were sometimes slightly negative (less than 5%) and the differential between the deposit and lending rates was 8% or more, countries received a rating of 8. When the real lending interest rate was persistently negative by a single-digit amount and the differential between the lending and deposit interest rate was 16% or higher, nations received a score of 6. When the real rates were often negative by 10% or more and the lending and deposit interest rates differ by 24% or more, countries were assigned a rating of 4. When the real lending rate was persistently negative by a double-digit amount and the difference between the lending and deposit rate was 32% or more, countries received a rating of 2. A zero rating was assigned when the deposit and lending rates differ by 36% or more and real lending rates were persistently negative by double-digit amounts or hyperinflation had virtually eliminated the credit market.

Sources World Bank (various years, 2005–2018); Economist Intelligence Unit (2018).

iv Private sector credit

This sub-component measures the extent of government borrowing relative to borrowing by the private sector. Greater government borrowing indicates more central planning and results in lower ratings. If available, this sub-component is calculated as the government fiscal deficit as a share of gross saving. Since the deficit is expressed as a negative value, higher numerical values result in higher ratings. The formula used to derive the country ratings for this sub-component was $(-V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} + V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i is the ratio of deficit to gross investment, and the values for V_{\max} and V_{\min} are set at 0 and -100.0%, respectively. The formula allocates higher ratings as the deficit gets smaller (that is, closer to zero) relative to gross saving.

Source Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2018); International Monetary Fund, various MENA reports; World Bank, *World Development Indicators*.

B Labor market regulations

i Difficulty of hiring

“The difficulty of hiring index measures (i) whether term contracts can be used only for temporary tasks; (ii) the maximum cumulative duration of term contracts; and (iii) the ratio of the minimum wage for a trainee or first-time employee to the average value added per worker.” The index is measured on a scale from 0 to 100 (where higher values indicate more rigid regulation), which was transformed into a zero-to-10 scale, where a higher value indicates more flexible regulation.

ii Rigidity of hours

“The rigidity of hours index has 5 components: (i) whether night work is unrestricted; (ii) whether weekend work is unrestricted; (iii) whether the workweek can consist of 5.5 days; (iv) whether the workweek can extend to 50 hours or more (including overtime) for 2 months a year; and (v) whether paid annual vacation is 21 working days or fewer.” For each of these questions, the answer “no” indicates more rigid regulation. The index is measured on a scale from 0 and 100 (where higher values indicate more rigid regulation), which was then transformed into a zero-to-10 scale, where a higher value indicates more flexible regulation.

iii Rigidity of dismissals

a Difficulty of firing

“The difficulty of firing index has 8 components: (i) whether redundancy is disallowed as a basis for terminating workers; (ii) whether the employer needs to notify a third party (such as a government agency) to terminate one redundant worker; (iii) whether the employer needs to notify a third party to terminate a group of 25 redundant workers; (iv) whether the employer needs approval from a third party to terminate one redundant worker; (v) whether the employer needs approval from a third party to terminate a group of 25 redundant workers; (vi) whether the law requires the employer to consider reassignment or retraining options before redundancy termination; (vii) whether priority rules apply for redundancies; and (viii) whether priority rules apply for reemployment.” The index is measured on a scale from 0 to 100 (where higher values indicate more rigid regulation), which was transformed into a zero-to-10 scale, where a higher value indicates more flexible regulation.

b Firing costs (weeks of wages)

This sub-component measures “the cost of advance notice requirements, severance payments and penalties due when terminating a redundant worker, expressed in weeks of wages”. The rating for this component was equal to: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the cost of firing an employee. V_{\max} and V_{\min} were set to 57.91 weeks and 0.0 weeks, respectively. Nations with values that fall below V_{\min} received a score of 10 whereas those nations that have values above V_{\max} received a score of zero.

Source World Bank (2004–2018), *Doing Business* database, <<http://www.doingbusiness.org>>.

iv Conscription

This sub-component measures the duration of military conscription. Nations without military conscription received a rating of 10. If the duration of conscription was six months or less, nations were given a score of 5. When the length of the conscription was more than 6 months but not more than 18 months, countries were given a rating of 3. If the duration of conscription was more than 12 months but not more than 18 months, countries were given a score of 1. Nations with military conscription of over 18 months were given a score of zero.

Source Child Soldiers International (2012, 2018); International Institute for Strategic Studies (2007–2016); War Resisters' International (2018).

C Business regulations

i Starting a business

This sub-component measures how easy it is to start a business. It looks at the number of procedures, the time it takes to go through these procedures, the costs (such as fees) of starting a business, and minimum capital requirement needed to formally start a business. The rating for this component was equal to: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the number of procedures, time (in days), cost as a percentage of income per capita, and minimum capital requirement as a percentage of income per capita. V_{\max} was set to 19.0 procedures, 203.0 days, 835.4%, 5,111.9%; and V_{\min} to 2.0 procedures, 2.0 days, 0.0%, 0.0%. Nations with values that fall below V_{\min} received a score of 10 whereas those nations that have values above V_{\max} received a score of zero.

- a number of procedures
- b duration (days)
- c cost (% of income per capita)
- d minimum capital (% of income per capita)

Source World Bank (2004–2017), *Doing Business* database, <<http://www.doingbusiness.org>>.

ii Closing a business

This sub-component measures the time and costs (as a percentage of the estate) of closing a business as well as the recovery rate (cents on the dollar). The time and cost rating was equal to: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. For the recovery rate, the following formula was used: $(V_i - V_{\min}) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the time, cost, and the recovery rate. V_{\max} was set to 10.0 years, 76.0%, 92.6%; and V_{\min} to 0.4 years, 1.0%, 0.0%.

- a time (years)
- b cost (% of estate)
- c recovery rate (cents on the dollar)

Source World Bank (2004–2017), *Doing Business* database, <<http://www.doingbusiness.org>>.

iii Dealing with licenses

This sub-component is based on the World Bank's *Doing Business* data on the time in days and monetary costs required to obtain a license to construct a

standard warehouse. Zero-to-10 ratings were constructed for (1) the time cost (measured in the number of calendar days required to obtain a license) and (2) the monetary cost of obtaining the license (measured as a share of per-capita income). These two ratings were then averaged to arrive at the final rating for this sub-component. The formula used to calculate the zero-to-10 ratings was: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the time or money cost value. The values for V_{\max} and V_{\min} were set at 363 days and 2,763% (1.5 standard deviations above average in 2005) and 56 days (1.5 standard deviations below average in 2005) and 0%, respectively. Countries with values outside the V_{\max} and V_{\min} range received ratings of either zero or 10, accordingly.

Source World Bank, *Doing Business*.

iv Paying taxes

This sub-component is based on the World Bank's *Doing Business* data on the time required per year for a business to prepare, file, and pay taxes on corporate income, value added or sales taxes, and taxes on labor. The formula used to calculate the zero-to-10 ratings was: $(V_{\max} - V_i) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})$ multiplied by 10. V_i represents the time cost (measured in hours) of tax compliance. The values for V_{\max} and V_{\min} were set at 892 hours (1.5 standard deviations above average in 2005) and 0 hours, respectively. Countries with values outside the V_{\max} and V_{\min} range received ratings of either zero or 10, accordingly.

Source World Bank, *Doing Business*.

v Extra payments/bribes/favoritism

This sub-component is based on *Economic Freedom of the World*, which uses as a source the *Global Competitiveness Report*. Note: "The Control of Corruption" ratings from the World Bank's *Governance Indicators* project are used to supply any values missing from the primary data

Source Gwartney, Lawson, Hall, and Murphy (2018); World Bank, *Governance Indicators*.

vi Regulatory quality

This sub-component is based on the World Bank's *Governance Indicators*. This reflects perceptions of the ability of the government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that permit and promote private sector development. Estimate of governance ranges from approximately -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) governance performance

Source World Bank, *Governance Indicators*.

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Economic Freedom of the Arab World

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