

Institutions and Governance

Sources: Freedom House, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, World Bank, Privacy International, International Telecommunications Union, Transparency International

| | Freedom Indices (1-7, 1=most free) | | Regulatory Barriers to Registering Property, 2007 | | Government Expenditures (as a percent of gross domestic product) | | | Access to Information | | | Corruption Perceptions Index (0-10, 10= least corrupt) |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|--|-------------------------|------------|---|---|--|--|
| | Civil Liberties Index | Political Rights Index | Average Number of Days to Register | Average Cost to Register (percent of property value) | Public Health | Public Education (a) | Military | Press Freedom Index (0-100, 0= most free) | Status of Freedom of Information Legislation | Digital Access Index (1-100, 100= most access) | |
| | 2006 | 2006 | | | 2004 | 2000-2005 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2002 | |
| World | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5.9 | 4.7 | 2.5 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Asia (excl. Middle East) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4.3 | .. | 1.5 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Armenia | 4 | 5 | 4 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 64 | Law Enacted | 30 | 2.9 |
| Azerbaijan | 5 | 6 | 61 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 73 | Pending Effort | 24 | 2.4 |
| Bangladesh | 4 | 4 | 425 | 10.3 | 0.9 | 2.5 | 1.1 | 68 | Pending Effort | 18 | 2.0 |
| Bhutan | 5 | 6 | 64 | 0 | 3.0 | 5.6 | .. | 65 | .. | 13 | 6.0 |
| Cambodia | 5 | 6 | 56 | 4.4 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 61 | .. | 17 | 2.1 |
| China | 6 | 7 | 29 | 3.6 | 1.8 | .. | 2.0 | 83 | .. | 43 | 3.3 |
| Georgia | 3 | 3 | 5 | 0.1 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 57 | Law Enacted | 37 | 2.8 |
| India | 3 | 2 | 62 | 7.7 | 0.9 | 3.7 | 2.9 | 37 | Law Enacted | 32 | 3.3 |
| Indonesia | 3 | 2 | 42 | 10.5 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 58 | Pending Effort | 34 | 2.4 |
| Japan | 2 | 1 | 14 | 5 | 6.3 | 3.7 | 1.0 | 20 | Law Enacted | 75 | 7.6 |
| Kazakhstan | 5 | 6 | 52 | 0.9 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 1.1 | 75 | .. | 41 | 2.6 |
| Korea, Dem People's Rep | 7 | 7 | .. | .. | 3.0 | .. | .. | 97 | .. | .. | .. |
| Korea, Rep | 2 | 1 | 11 | 6.3 | 2.9 | 4.6 | 2.6 | 30 | Law Enacted | 82 | 5.1 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4.1 | 2.3 | 4.4 | 2.8 b | 64 | .. | 32 | 2.2 |
| Lao People's Dem Rep | 6 | 7 | 135 | 4.2 | 0.8 | 2.3 | .. | 81 | .. | 15 | 2.6 |
| Malaysia | 4 | 4 | 144 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 8.0 | 1.9 | 65 | .. | 57 | 5.0 |
| Mongolia | 2 | 2 | 11 | 2.2 | 4.0 | 5.3 | 1.7 b | 34 | .. | 35 | 2.8 |
| Myanmar | 7 | 7 | .. | .. | 0.3 | 1.3 | .. | 96 | .. | 17 | 1.9 |
| Nepal | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6.4 | 1.5 | 3.4 | 2.0 | 77 | Pending Effort | 19 | 2.5 |
| Pakistan | 5 | 6 | 50 | 5.3 | 0.4 | 2.3 | 3.4 | 61 | Law Enacted | 24 | 2.2 |
| Philippines | 3 | 3 | 33 | 4.2 | 1.4 | 3.2 | 0.8 | 40 | Pending Effort | 43 | 2.5 |
| Singapore | 4 | 5 | 9 | 2.8 | 1.3 | 3.7 | 4.7 | 66 | .. | 75 | 9.4 |
| Sri Lanka | 4 | 4 | 83 | 5.1 | 2.0 | .. | 2.7 | 58 | Pending Effort | 38 | 3.1 |
| Tajikistan | 5 | 6 | 37 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 3.5 | 2.2 b | 76 | Law Enacted | 21 | 2.2 |
| Thailand | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6.3 | 2.3 | 4.2 | 1.1 | 50 | Law Enacted | 48 | 3.6 |
| Turkmenistan | 7 | 7 | .. | .. | 3.3 | .. | .. | 96 | .. | 37 | 2.2 |
| Uzbekistan | 7 | 7 | 78 | 1.4 | 2.4 | .. | .. | 90 | Law Enacted | 31 | 2.1 |
| Viet Nam | 5 | 7 | 67 | 1.2 | 1.5 | .. | .. | 79 | .. | 31 | 2.6 |
| Europe | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7.0 | 5.3 | 1.9 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Albania | 3 | 3 | 47 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 1.4 | 50 | Law Enacted | 39 | 2.6 |
| Austria | 1 | 1 | 32 | 4.5 | 7.8 | 5.5 | 0.7 | 21 | Law Enacted | 75 | 8.6 |
| Belarus | 6 | 7 | 231 | 0.1 | 4.6 | 6.0 | 1.2 | 88 | .. | 49 | 2.1 |
| Belgium | 1 | 1 | 132 | 12.7 | 6.9 | 6.2 | 1.2 | 11 | Law Enacted | 74 | 7.3 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 3 | 3 | 331 | 5 | 4.1 | .. | 1.8 | 45 | Law Enacted | 46 | 2.9 |
| Bulgaria | 2 | 1 | 19 | 2.3 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 2.4 | 34 | Law Enacted | 53 | 4.0 |
| Croatia | 2 | 2 | 174 | 5 | 6.2 | 4.7 | 1.6 | 39 | Law Enacted | 59 | 3.4 |
| Czech Rep | 1 | 1 | 123 | 3 | 6.5 | 4.5 | 1.8 | 20 | Law Enacted | 66 | 4.8 |
| Denmark | 1 | 1 | 42 | 0.6 | 7.1 | 8.4 | 1.4 | 10 | Law Enacted | 83 | 9.5 |
| Estonia | 1 | 1 | 51 | 0.5 | 4.0 | 5.7 | 1.6 | 16 | Law Enacted | 67 | 6.7 |
| Finland | 1 | 1 | 14 | 4 | 5.7 | 6.5 | 1.2 | 9 | Law Enacted | 79 | 9.6 |
| France | 1 | 1 | 123 | 6.1 | 8.2 | 5.9 | 2.5 | 21 | Law Enacted | 72 | 7.4 |
| Germany | 1 | 1 | 40 | 5.2 | 8.2 | 4.7 | 1.4 | 16 | Pending Effort | 74 | 8.0 |
| Greece | 2 | 1 | 23 | 4 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 28 | Law Enacted | 66 | 4.4 |
| Hungary | 1 | 1 | 63 | 11 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 1.3 | 21 | Law Enacted | 63 | 5.2 |
| Iceland | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2.4 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 0.0 | 9 | Law Enacted | 82 | 9.6 |
| Ireland | 1 | 1 | 38 | 10.2 | 5.7 | 4.5 | 0.6 | 15 | Law Enacted | 69 | 7.4 |
| Italy | 1 | 1 | 27 | 0.6 | 6.5 | 4.9 | 1.8 | 35 | Law Enacted | 72 | 4.9 |
| Latvia | 1 | 1 | 54 | 2 | 4.0 | 5.3 | 1.7 | 19 | Law Enacted | 54 | 4.7 |
| Lithuania | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0.7 | 4.9 | 5.2 | 1.8 | 18 | Law Enacted | 56 | 4.8 |
| Macedonia, FYR | 3 | 3 | 98 | 3.5 | 5.7 | 3.4 | 2.2 | 49 | Pending Effort | 48 | 2.7 |
| Moldova, Rep | 4 | 3 | 48 | 0.9 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 0.3 | 65 | Law Enacted | 37 | 3.2 |
| Netherlands | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6.2 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 1.6 | 11 | Law Enacted | 79 | 8.7 |
| Norway | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2.5 | 8.1 | 7.7 | 1.6 | 10 | Law Enacted | 79 | 8.8 |
| Poland | 1 | 1 | 197 | 0.5 | 4.3 | 5.6 | 1.8 | 21 | Law Enacted | 59 | 3.7 |
| Portugal | 1 | 1 | 42 | 7.4 | 7.0 | 5.9 | 2.1 | 14 | Law Enacted | 65 | 6.6 |
| Romania | 2 | 2 | 150 | 2.8 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 2.1 | 44 | Law Enacted | 48 | 3.1 |
| Russian Federation | 5 | 6 | 52 | 0.3 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 72 | Pending Effort | 50 | 2.5 |
| Serbia (c) | 2 | 3 | .. | .. | 7.3 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 40 | Pending Effort | 45 | 3.0 |
| Slovakia | 1 | 1 | 17 | 0.1 | 5.3 | 4.4 | 1.8 | 20 | Law Enacted | 59 | 4.7 |
| Slovenia | 1 | 1 | 391 | 2 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 1.7 | 20 | Law Enacted | 72 | 6.4 |
| Spain | 1 | 1 | 18 | 7.1 | 5.7 | 4.3 | 1.0 | 21 | Law Enacted | 67 | 6.8 |
| Sweden | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 1.6 | 10 | Law Enacted | 85 | 9.2 |
| Switzerland | 1 | 1 | 16 | 0.4 | 6.7 | 6.1 | 1.0 | 11 | Pending Effort | 76 | 9.1 |
| Ukraine | 2 | 3 | 93 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 6.4 | 2.4 | 53 | Law Enacted | 43 | 2.8 |
| United Kingdom | 1 | 1 | 21 | 4.1 | 7.0 | 5.5 | 2.6 | 19 | Law Enacted | 77 | 8.6 |
| Middle East & N. Africa | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3.5 | .. | 4.8 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Afghanistan | 5 | 5 | 250 | 7 | 0.7 | .. | .. | 69 | .. | .. | .. |
| Algeria | 5 | 6 | 51 | 7.5 | 2.6 | .. | 2.8 | 61 | .. | 37 | 3.1 |
| Egypt | 5 | 6 | 193 | 1 | 2.2 | .. | 2.8 | 61 | .. | 40 | 3.3 |
| Iran, Islamic Rep | 6 | 6 | 36 | 10.6 | 3.2 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 84 | .. | 43 | 2.7 |
| Iraq | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6.3 | 4.2 | .. | .. | 71 | .. | .. | 1.9 |
| Israel | 2 | 1 | 144 | 7.5 | 6.1 | 7.3 | 7.9 | 28 | Law Enacted | 70 | 5.9 |
| Jordan | 4 | 5 | 22 | 10 | 4.7 | .. | 7.7 | 61 | .. | 45 | 5.3 |
| Kuwait | 4 | 4 | 55 | 0.5 | 2.2 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 56 | .. | 51 | 4.8 |
| Lebanon | 4 | 5 | 25 | 5.9 | 3.2 | 2.6 | 3.8 b | 60 | .. | 48 | 3.6 |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 7 | 7 | .. | .. | 2.8 | .. | 1.9 b | 96 | .. | 42 | 2.7 |
| Morocco | 4 | 5 | 47 | 4.9 | 1.7 | 6.7 | 4.3 | 61 | .. | 33 | 3.2 |
| Oman | 5 | 6 | 16 | 3 | 2.4 | 3.6 | 12.2 b | 70 | .. | 43 | 5.4 |
| Saudi Arabia | 6 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 2.5 | 6.8 | 8.2 | 79 | .. | 44 | 3.3 |
| Syrian Arab Rep | 6 | 7 | 34 | 28.1 | 2.2 | .. | 6.2 b | 84 | .. | 28 | 2.9 |
| Tunisia | 5 | 6 | 49 | 6.1 | .. | 8.1 | 1.5 | 83 | .. | 41 | 4.6 |
| Turkey | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3.1 | 5.6 | 4.0 | 3.2 | 48 | Law Enacted | 48 | 3.8 |
| United Arab Emirates | 5 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 1.9 | 65 | .. | 64 | 6.2 |
| Yemen | 5 | 5 | 21 | 3.9 | 1.9 | 9.6 | 5.6 | 81 | .. | 18 | 2.6 |

| | Freedom Indices (1-7, 1=most free) | | Regulatory Barriers to Registering Property, 2007 | | Government Expenditures (as a percent of gross domestic product) | | | Access to Information | | | Corruption Perceptions Index (0-10, 10= least corrupt) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|---|--|--|
| | Civil Liberties Index 2006 | Political Rights Index 2006 | Average Number of Days to Register | Average Cost to Register (percent of property value) | Public Health 2004 | Public Education (a) 2000-2005 | Military 2005 | Press Freedom Index (0-100, 0= most free) 2006 | Status of Freedom of Information Legislation 2004 | Digital Access Index (1-100, 100= most access) 2002 | |
| | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2.6 | .. | 1.6 b | .. | .. | .. | |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2.6 | .. | 1.6 b | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Angola | 5 | 6 | 334 | 11.1 | 1.5 | 2.6 | 5.0 | 65 | Pending Effort | 11 | 2.2 |
| Benin | 2 | 2 | 118 | 11.4 | 2.5 | 3.5 | .. | 30 | .. | 12 | 2.5 |
| Botswana | 2 | 2 | 30 | 5 | 4.0 | 10.7 | 2.5 | 35 | Pending Effort | 43 | 5.6 |
| Burkina Faso | 3 | 5 | 182 | 12.2 | 3.3 | 4.7 | 1.5 | 38 | .. | 8 | 3.2 |
| Burundi | 5 | 4 | 94 | 11.5 | 0.8 | 5.1 | 6.5 b | 74 | .. | 10 | 2.4 |
| Cameroon | 6 | 6 | 93 | 17.8 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 65 | .. | 16 | 2.3 |
| Central African Rep | 4 | 5 | 69 | 11.7 | 1.5 | .. | 1.1 | 61 | .. | 10 | 2.4 |
| Chad | 6 | 6 | 44 | 21.2 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 0.9 | 73 | .. | 10 | 2.0 |
| Congo | 5 | 6 | 137 | 27.3 | 1.2 | 2.2 | .. | 51 | .. | 17 | 2.2 |
| Congo, Dem Rep | 6 | 5 | 57 | 9.4 | 1.1 | .. | 2.1 | 81 | .. | 12 | 2.0 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 6 | 7 | 62 | 16.9 | 0.9 | 4.6 | .. | 65 | .. | 13 | 2.1 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 6 | 7 | 23 | 6.3 | 1.2 | 0.6 | .. | 88 | .. | 20 | 2.1 |
| Eritrea | 6 | 7 | 101 | 5.3 | 1.8 | 5.4 | .. | 91 | .. | 13 | 2.9 |
| Ethiopia | 5 | 5 | 43 | 7.5 | 2.7 | 5.0 | 3.1 | 75 | Pending Effort | 10 | 2.4 |
| Gabon | 4 | 6 | 60 | 10.5 | 3.1 | 3.9 | 1.4 | 67 | .. | 34 | 3.0 |
| Gambia | 4 | 5 | 371 | 7.6 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 73 | .. | 13 | 2.5 |
| Ghana | 2 | 1 | 34 | 1.3 | 2.8 | 5.4 | 0.7 | 28 | Pending Effort | 16 | 3.3 |
| Guinea | 5 | 6 | 104 | 15.3 | 0.7 | 2.0 | .. | 67 | .. | 10 | 1.9 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 4 | 4 | 211 | 5.4 | 1.3 | .. | .. | 47 | .. | 10 | .. |
| Kenya | 3 | 3 | 64 | 4.2 | 1.8 | 6.7 | 1.5 | 58 | Pending Effort | 19 | 2.2 |
| Lesotho | 3 | 2 | 101 | 8.2 | 5.5 | 13.4 | 2.4 | 42 | Pending Effort | 19 | 3.2 |
| Liberia | 4 | 3 | 50 | 14.9 | 3.6 | .. | .. | 64 | .. | .. | .. |
| Madagascar | 3 | 4 | 134 | 11.6 | 1.8 | 3.2 | .. | 49 | .. | 15 | 3.1 |
| Malawi | 3 | 4 | 88 | 3.3 | 9.6 | 5.8 | .. | 55 | Pending Effort | 15 | 2.7 |
| Mali | 2 | 2 | 29 | 21.2 | 3.2 | 4.3 | 1.9 | 24 | .. | 9 | 2.8 |
| Mauritania | 4 | 5 | 49 | 5.2 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 1.0 | 57 | .. | 14 | 3.1 |
| Mozambique | 4 | 3 | 42 | 8.1 | 2.7 | 3.7 | 1.4 | 43 | Pending Effort | 12 | 2.8 |
| Namibia | 2 | 2 | 23 | 9.9 | 4.7 | 6.9 | 3.0 | 30 | Pending Effort | 39 | 4.1 |
| Niger | 3 | 3 | 32 | 9 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 1.1 b | 56 | .. | 4 | 2.3 |
| Nigeria | 4 | 4 | 82 | 22.2 | 1.4 | .. | 0.9 | 54 | Pending Effort | 15 | 2.2 |
| Rwanda | 5 | 6 | 371 | 9.4 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 2.2 | 85 | .. | 15 | 2.5 |
| Senegal | 3 | 2 | 114 | 19.5 | 2.4 | 5.4 | 1.5 | 44 | .. | 14 | 3.3 |
| Sierra Leone | 3 | 4 | 235 | 14.9 | 1.9 | 3.8 | 1.1 | 59 | .. | 10 | 2.2 |
| Somalia | 7 | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 83 | .. | .. | .. |
| South Africa | 2 | 2 | 24 | 8.8 | 3.5 | 5.4 | 1.4 | 27 | Law Enacted | 45 | 4.6 |
| Sudan | 7 | 7 | 9 | 3.2 | 1.5 | .. | .. | 85 | .. | 13 | 2.0 |
| Tanzania, United Rep | 3 | 4 | 119 | 5.3 | 1.7 | .. | 1.1 | 50 | Pending Effort | 15 | 2.9 |
| Togo | 5 | 6 | 295 | 13.9 | 1.1 | 2.6 | 1.5 | 78 | .. | 18 | 2.4 |
| Uganda | 4 | 5 | 227 | 4.6 | 2.5 | 5.2 | 2.5 b | 52 | Pending Effort | 17 | 2.7 |
| Zambia | 4 | 3 | 70 | 9.6 | 3.4 | 2.0 | .. | 64 | Pending Effort | 17 | 2.6 |
| Zimbabwe | 6 | 7 | 30 | 25 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 3.4 b | 90 | Law Enacted | 29 | 2.4 |
| North America | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6.9 | 5.9 | 3.9 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Canada | 1 | 1 | 17 | 1.8 | 6.8 | 5.2 | 1.1 | 18 | Law Enacted | 78 | 8.5 |
| United States | 1 | 1 | 12 | 0.5 | 6.9 | 5.9 | 4.1 | 16 | Law Enacted | 78 | 7.3 |
| C. America & Caribbean | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3.1 | 5.5 | 0.4 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Belize | 2 | 1 | 60 | 4.7 | 2.7 | 5.4 | .. | 21 | Law Enacted | 47 | 3.5 |
| Costa Rica | 1 | 1 | 21 | 3.3 | 5.1 | 4.9 | .. | 18 | .. | 52 | 4.1 |
| Cuba | 7 | 7 | .. | .. | 5.5 | 9.8 | .. | 96 | .. | 38 | 3.5 |
| Dominican Rep | 2 | 2 | 60 | 5.1 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 37 | Pending Effort | 42 | 2.8 |
| El Salvador | 3 | 2 | 31 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 0.6 | 43 | Pending Effort | 38 | 4.0 |
| Guatemala | 4 | 3 | 30 | 1 | 2.3 | .. | 0.4 | 58 | Pending Effort | 38 | 2.6 |
| Haiti | 5 | 4 | 405 | 6.5 | 2.9 | .. | .. | 68 | .. | 15 | 1.8 |
| Honduras | 3 | 3 | 24 | 5.8 | 4.0 | .. | 0.6 | 52 | Pending Effort | 29 | 2.5 |
| Jamaica | 3 | 2 | 54 | 13.5 | 2.8 | 4.5 | 0.7 | 17 | Law Enacted | 53 | 3.7 |
| Mexico | 3 | 2 | 74 | 4.7 | 3.0 | 5.8 | 0.4 | 48 | Law Enacted | 50 | 3.3 |
| Nicaragua | 3 | 3 | 124 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 0.7 | 44 | Pending Effort | 19 | 2.6 |
| Panama | 2 | 1 | 44 | 2.4 | 5.2 | 3.8 | .. | 43 | Law Enacted | 47 | 3.1 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 2 | 2 | 162 | 7 | 1.4 | 4.2 | .. | 26 | Law Enacted | 53 | 3.2 |
| South America | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4.2 | 4.1 | 1.7 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Argentina | 2 | 2 | 65 | 7.6 | 4.3 | 3.5 | 1.0 | 45 | Pending Effort | 53 | 2.9 |
| Bolivia | 3 | 3 | 92 | 4.9 | 4.1 | 6.4 | 1.9 | 33 | Pending Effort | 38 | 2.7 |
| Brazil | 2 | 2 | 45 | 2.8 | 4.8 | 4.1 | 1.6 | 39 | Pending Effort | 50 | 3.3 |
| Chile | 1 | 1 | 31 | 1.3 | 2.9 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 26 | Pending Effort | 58 | 7.3 |
| Colombia | 3 | 3 | 23 | 2.5 | 6.7 | 4.8 | 3.7 | 61 | Law Enacted | 45 | 3.9 |
| Ecuador | 3 | 3 | 17 | 3 | 2.2 | .. | 2.4 | 41 | Law Enacted | 41 | 2.3 |
| Guyana | 3 | 2 | 34 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 8.5 | .. | 27 | .. | 43 | 2.5 |
| Paraguay | 3 | 3 | 46 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 4.3 | 0.8 | 57 | Pending Effort | 39 | 2.6 |
| Peru | 3 | 2 | 33 | 3.3 | 1.9 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 39 | Law Enacted | 44 | 3.3 |
| Suriname | 2 | 2 | 193 | 13.7 | 3.6 | .. | .. | 23 | .. | 46 | 3.0 |
| Uruguay | 1 | 1 | 66 | 7.1 | 3.6 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 28 | Pending Effort | 54 | 6.4 |
| Venezuela | 4 | 4 | 47 | 2.2 | 2.0 | .. | 1.1 | 72 | .. | 47 | 2.3 |
| Oceania | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6.4 | 5.0 | 1.7 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Australia | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4.9 | 6.5 | 4.8 | 1.8 | 19 | Law Enacted | 74 | 8.7 |
| Fiji | 4 | 6 | 48 | 12 | 2.9 | 6.4 | 1.2 b | 28 | Pending Effort | 43 | .. |
| New Zealand | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.1 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 1.0 | 13 | Law Enacted | 72 | 9.6 |
| Papua New Guinea | 3 | 3 | 72 | 5.1 | 3.0 | .. | 0.5 | 29 | Pending Effort | 26 | 2.4 |
| Solomon Islands | 3 | 4 | 297 | 4.9 | 5.6 | .. | .. | 30 | .. | 17 | .. |

a. May include subsidies for private or religious schools. Data are for the most recent year available between 2000 and 2005. b. 2004 value. c. Data for Serbia include the country of Montenegro.

Key to Indices:

Freedom Indices (Freedom House): Scaled from 1 to 7, 1 represents a completely free nation, 7 represents a nation with virtually no freedom.

Press Freedom Index (Freedom House): Scaled from 1 to 100. 1-30 = Free, 31-60 = Partly Free, 61-100 = Not Free.

Status of Freedom of Information Legislation (Privacy International): Legislation is classified as either enacted or pending.

".." indicates that either no data are available for this country, or, more likely, that FOI legislation does not exist.

Digital Access Index (International Telecommunications Union): Scaled from 0 to 100, 100 represents highest access.

Corruption Perceptions Index (Transparency International): Scaled from 0 (most corrupt) to 10 (least corrupt).

Institutions and Governance: Technical Notes

DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

Freedom Indices, compiled by the nonprofit organization Freedom House, range from 1 to 7, with 1 representing the most free and 7 representing the least free. To determine each rating, researchers answer a series of survey questions, making small adjustments for factors such as extreme violence. Freedom House notes that a poor rating for a country "is not necessarily a comment on the intentions of the government, but may indicate real restrictions on liberty caused by non-governmental terror."

The **Civil Liberties Index** measures freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion. Countries with a rating of 1 generally have an established and equitable rule of law with free economic activity. A rating of 2 indicates some deficiencies, while a rating of 3, 4, or 5 indicates varying degrees of censorship, political terror, and prevention of free association. Countries with a rating of 6 experience severely restricted freedom of expression and association coupled with political terror (for example, political prisoners). A rating of 7 indicates virtually no freedom.

The **Political Rights Index** measures the degree of freedom in the electoral process, political pluralism and participation, and functioning of government. A rating of 1 indicates free and fair elections, political competition, and autonomy for all citizens, including minority groups. A rating of 2 indicates some corruption, violence, political discrimination, and military influence. These same factors play a progressively larger role in countries with a ranking of 3, 4, or 5. Countries and territories with political rights rated 6 are ruled by military juntas, one-party dictatorships, religious hierarchies, or autocrats. A rating of 7 indicates nonexistent political rights due to extremely oppressive regimes, civil war, extreme violence, or warlord rule.

Regulatory Barriers to Registering Property, published by the World Bank's *Doing Business* database, are compiled via survey in conjunction with academic advisers, using a simple business case to ensure comparability across countries and over time. Surveys are administered through more than 5,000 local experts, including lawyers, business consultants, accountants, government officials, and other professionals routinely administering or advising on legal and regulatory requirements. Broadly speaking, higher values here represent regulatory environments that stifle the formalization of property rights.

Average Number of Days to Register measures the time, in calendar days, necessary for a business to complete the legal and bureaucratic procedures required for registering property. Governments differ significantly in the requirements for this process. Data for registering property are produced assuming a standardized case of an entrepreneur who wants to purchase land and a building in the country's largest business city.

Average Cost to Register measures the cost to a business, expressed as a percent of the property value, needed to complete the legal and bureaucratic procedures required for registering property. Cost includes fees, transfer taxes, stamp duties, and any other payment to the property registry, notaries, public agencies, or lawyers. Other taxes, such as capital gains tax or value added tax, are excluded from the cost measure. Data are produced assuming a standardized case of an

entrepreneur who wants to purchase land and a building in the country's largest business city.

Government Expenditures as a percent of gross domestic product roughly indicate the economic importance of public health, public education, and military activities in national economies.

Public Health Expenditure consists of recurrent and capital spending from government (both central and local) budgets, external borrowings and grants (including donations from international agencies and NGOs), and social (or compulsory) health insurance funds. The estimates of health expenditure come mostly from the World Health Organization's (WHO) *World Health Report 2003* and its subsequent updates, and from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for its member countries, supplemented by World Bank poverty assessments and country-sector studies. Data are also drawn from the International Monetary Fund.

Public Education Expenditure consists of public spending on public education plus subsidies to private education at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. Foreign aid for education is excluded. Education expenditure estimates are provided to the World Bank by the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO compiles its data from annual financial reports of central or federal governments and state or regional administrations.

Military Expenditure is defined by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) as "all current and capital expenditure on: (a) the armed forces, including peacekeeping forces; (b) defense ministries and other government agencies engaged in defense projects; (c) paramilitary forces, when judged to be trained and equipped for military operations; and (d) military space activities." Expenditures include the cost of procurements, personnel, research and development, construction, operations, maintenance, and military aid to other countries. Civil defense, veterans' benefits, demobilization, and destruction of weapons are not included as military expenditures. The World Bank uses data collected by SIPRI for its annual *World Development Indicators* military expenditure dataset.

Press Freedom is "the degree to which each country permits the free flow of information," according to Freedom House, ranked on a scale of 1 to 100. Countries with a score between 1 and 30 are considered to have a "Free" media; 31 to 60, "Partly Free"; and 61 to 100, "Not Free." This survey does not measure press responsibility; rather, it measures the degree of freedom in the flow of information. Press freedom data are collected from overseas correspondents, staff travel, international visitors, the findings of human rights organizations, specialists in geographic and geopolitical areas, the reports of governments, and a variety of domestic and international news media. The final index is a sum of three separate components that reflect the legal, political, and economic environments that press in each country operate within.

Status of Freedom of Information (FOI) Legislation measures a government's guarantee of public access to information by placing each country in one of three categories: *In Effect*: 57

countries legally guarantee public access to government records through comprehensive FOI laws; *Pending*: 39 additional countries are considering adopting freedom of information acts; *None*: countries not listed have no pending FOI legislation (represented by “..” in the data table, which could indicate that no data are available for this country). Access to information about government activities increases transparency and allows citizens to more effectively combat corruption. Data are compiled by Privacy International by author David Banisar on a country-by-country basis. The specifics of each country's legislation and constitutional guarantees are explained in detail in the source publications.

The **Digital Access Index** is a composite score, developed by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), which reflects the ability of each country's population to take advantage of internet communication technologies. It ranges from 1 to 100, where 100 equals the most access. The Index is calculated as a weighted average of eight variables describing infrastructure, affordability, educational level of the population, quality of information and communication technology services, and Internet usage.

The **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** measures the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians. Ratings range in value from 10 (least corrupt) to 0 (most corrupt). The survey measures public sector corruption or the abuse of public office for private gain. It measures local and national governments, not domestic and foreign corporations doing business in these countries. The CPI is compiled from 12 surveys originating from nine different independent institutions. A country is included in the CPI only if there are data available from 3 or more surveys. The surveys measure the perceptions of local residents, expatriates, business people, academics, and risk analysts. Survey results are combined in three-year periods to reduce abrupt variations that could potentially be caused by errors. Thus, figures for 2006 are based on surveys taken not only in 2006, but in 2004 and 2005 as well.

FREQUENCY OF UPDATE BY DATA PROVIDERS

All of the data sets in this table are updated annually by the original providers, with the exception of the Digital Access Index, Public Education Expenditures, and the Status of FOI Legislation, which are updated intermittently.

DATA RELIABILITY AND CAUTIONARY NOTES

Freedom Indices: Data and methodologies are subject to rigorous internal and external reviews, the data are reproducible, the index components are clear, and ratings are assigned by a centralized team of researchers. Thus, the data are considered to be reliable. Nonetheless, this index is measuring ideas and behaviors and not a discrete physical quantity, and, as such, rigid score comparisons and rankings are discouraged. To ensure comparability of the ratings from year to year, any changes to the methodology are introduced incrementally.

Regulatory Barriers to Registering Property: Data are very reliable, but the limited definition of this indicator may restrict its applicability. For example, collected data refer to only businesses in the country's most populous city. In addition, data often focus on a specific business form—a limited liability company of a specified size—and may not be representative of

the regulation on other businesses. The methodology also assumes that a business has full information on what is required and does not waste time when completing procedures. In practice, completing a procedure may take longer if the business lacks information or is unable to follow up promptly.

Public Health Expenditure: The values reported here represent the product of an extensive effort by WHO, OECD, and the World Bank to produce a comprehensive data set on national health accounts. Nonetheless, few developing countries have health accounts that are methodologically consistent with national accounting procedures. Data on public spending at the sub-national level are not aggregated in all countries, making total public expenditure on health care difficult to measure. WHO cautions that these data should only be used for an "order of magnitude" estimate and that specific cross-country comparisons should be avoided.

Public Education Expenditure: In some cases data refer only to a ministry of education's expenditures, excluding other ministries and local authorities that spend a part of their budget on educational activities. Spending on religious schools, which constitutes a large portion of educational spending in some developing countries, may be included. The World Bank cautions that these data do not measure the effectiveness or levels of attainment in a particular educational system.

Military Expenditure: The entire data set has been carefully compiled with extensive analysis by a single provider, SIPRI, which makes these data fairly reliable. When a time series is not available or a country's definition of military expenditure differs from SIPRI's, estimates are made based on analysis of official government budget statistics. Estimates are always based on empirical evidence, not assumptions or extrapolations. SIPRI cautions that military expenditure does not relate directly to military capability or security.

Status of FOI Legislation: While the FOI data have been thoroughly researched, there are unavoidable difficulties in assigning each country to one of three categories. Some countries have laws guaranteeing access, but the laws are not enforced. Still others guarantee access to government documents in specific categories, excluding access in other categories.

Digital Access Index: The variables selected to build this indicator are from a number of reputable sources including ITU's quarterly survey of information and communication technologies around the world. However, as with any complex global dataset, complete accuracy is difficult to ensure.

Corruption Perceptions Index: Overall, the data are considered to be reliable. Survey responses from residents in each country correlate well with responses from experts abroad. The data are reproducible and the index components are clear. Nonetheless, while the CPI can illustrate rough comparisons, rigid international score comparisons are discouraged. While year-to-year variation in scores is affected by changes in survey samples and methodology, findings indicate that in general, trends in the data over time are reasonably accurate. Confidence intervals are published in tabular format by Transparency International.

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