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Luigi Einaudi



## NEWS RELEASE

### Global economic freedom up slightly—Italy ranks 54 among 162 jurisdictions

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**Turin, Italy — Italy** ranks 54 out of 162 countries and territories included in the *Economic Freedom of the World: 2018 Annual Report*, released today by the **Centro Einaudi** in conjunction with Canada's **Fraser Institute**.

Last year, Italy ranked 55 out of 159.

**Italy**, with a global score of 7.27, scores in key components of economic freedom (from 1 to 10 where a higher value indicates a higher level of economic freedom):

- Size of government: changed to 5.45 from 5.41 in the last year's report
- Legal system and property rights: changed to 5.71 from 5.66
- Access to sound money: changed to 9.44 from 9.74
- Freedom to trade internationally: changed to 8.25 from 8.26
- Regulation of credit, labour and business: changed to 7.49 from 7.45

Hong Kong and Singapore again top the index, continuing their streak as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively. New Zealand, Switzerland, Ireland, the United States, Georgia, Mauritius, the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada (tied for 10<sup>th</sup>) round out **the top 10**.

The 2018 report was prepared by James Gwartney, Florida State University; Robert A. Lawson and Ryan Murphy of Southern Methodist University; and Joshua Hall, West Virginia University.

It's based on data from 2016 (the most recent year of available comparable data) and measures the economic freedom (levels of personal choice, ability to enter markets, security of privately owned property, rule of law, etc.) by analysing the policies and institutions of 162 countries and territories.

**The 10 lowest-ranked countries** are Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Syria, Algeria, Argentina, Libya and last-place Venezuela. Some despotic countries such as North Korea and Cuba can't be ranked due to lack of data.

Other notable countries include Germany (20<sup>th</sup>), Japan (41<sup>st</sup>), France (57<sup>th</sup>), Russia (87<sup>th</sup>) and China (108<sup>th</sup>).

According to research in top peer-reviewed academic journals, people living in countries with high levels of economic freedom enjoy greater prosperity, more political and civil liberties, and longer lives.

For example, countries in the top quartile (25 per cent) of economic freedom (such as the U.K., Japan and Ireland) had an average per-capita income of US\$40,376 in 2016 compared to US\$5,649 for the bottom quartile countries (such as Venezuela, Iran and Zimbabwe).

And life expectancy is 79.5 years in the top quartile of countries compared to 64.4 years in the bottom quartile.

"Where people are free to pursue their own opportunities and make their own choices, they lead more prosperous, happier and healthier lives," said Fred McMahon, Dr. Michael A. Walker Research Chair in Economic Freedom with the Fraser Institute.



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The Fraser Institute produces the annual *Economic Freedom of the World* report in cooperation with the Economic Freedom Network, a group of independent research and educational institutes in nearly 100 countries and territories. It's the world's premier measurement of economic freedom, measuring and ranking countries in five areas: size of government, legal structure and security of property rights, access to sound money, freedom to trade internationally and regulation of credit, labour and business.

See the full report at [www.fraserinstitute.org/economic-freedom](http://www.fraserinstitute.org/economic-freedom).

### About the Economic Freedom Index

*Economic Freedom of the World* measures the degree to which the policies and institutions of countries support economic freedom. This year's publication ranks 162 countries and territories. The report also updates data in earlier reports in instances where data has been revised.

For more information on the Economic Freedom Network, datasets, and previous *Economic Freedom of the World* reports, visit [www.fraserinstitute.org](http://www.fraserinstitute.org). And you can 'Like' the Economic Freedom Network on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/EconomicFreedomNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/EconomicFreedomNetwork).

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The **Centro Einaudi** is a non-profit research institute based in Turin and founded in 1963. Its mission is to conduct independent research and to provide innovative recommendations for local and national policy makers. The Centro's research areas are political economy, social politics and welfare, liberal theory, politics and comparative public policy, Italian policies and reforms, regional development, bioethics.

The Centro trains young scholars and researchers, organizes seminars, conferences and lectures; publishes books, monographs, a quarterly journal and other on-line periodicals. Visit [www.centroeinaudi.it](http://www.centroeinaudi.it)

The **Fraser Institute** is an independent Canadian public policy research and educational organization, founded in 1974. The Institute is headquartered in Vancouver, with offices also located in Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, and ties to a global network of almost 100 think-tanks through the Economic Freedom Network.

Its 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. To protect the Institute's independence, it does not accept grants from governments or contracts for research.

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