

Bahrain leaps ahead in Economic Freedom index

● The report terms Bahrain as “one of the region’s most improved countries this year”

● Bahrain’s overall score on the 2021 index is 69.9

● 2021 global average economic freedom score is 61.6

● The index also ranks Bahrain 4th among 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region

● Bahrain scores high on “Judicial Effectiveness” indicator

TDT | Manama

Bahrain made a qualitative leap of 23 ranks globally on the Economic Freedom Index to become the 40th freest economy in the world amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report, terming Bahrain as “one of the region’s most improved countries this year”, said, “economic freedom has rebounded” in the Kingdom.

Based on this, the ranking of 178 countries by The “Heritage Foundation” gives Bahrain a 3.6 point increase in its overall score to 69.9 in the 2021 index, due pri-

marily to the improvement in judicial effectiveness.

To bring this into perspective, know that the 2021 global average economic freedom score is 61.6, which is unchanged from last year and remains the highest score recorded in the 27-year history of the index.

The index also ranks Bahrain 4th among 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, with an overall score above the regional and world averages.

The ranking, which confirms the importance of economic freedom in promoting rapid growth and sustainable social progress, determines Economic Freedom by measuring performances in 12 sub-indicators falling

“After five years in the moderately free category, Bahrain’s economic freedom score has rebounded, and the country is now poised to make it back over the threshold into the ranks of the freest

THE REPORT

under four pillars. These include ‘Rule of law’, ‘Government Size’, ‘Regulatory efficiency’ and ‘Open Markets’.

Bahrain recorded a substantial improvement in the “Judicial Effectiveness” indicator. The Kingdom bagged a 17.4 points jump on the gauge, which

assesses the effectiveness of legal frameworks and judicial systems.

Among other factors, the report praises Bahrain for its property rights, government integrity, government spending, business, labour and monetary freedom, and trade, investment and financial freedom.

The index confirms Bahrain enhanced the processes for dealing with construction permits, obtaining electricity and credit, registering property, enforcing contracts, and resolving insolvency.

It also praises Bahrain for the protection the government offers to minority owners.

“After five years in the moderately free category, Bahrain’s economic freedom score has rebounded, and the

country is now poised to make it back over the threshold into the ranks of the freest,” said the report.

The foundation also highlights Bahrain as a banking and financial services hub and the regional home for many multinational firms.

The ranking identifying Bahrain’s banking sector as “well capitalised” said, “Over 80 per cent of adult Bahrainis have access to an account with a formal banking institution.”

The report also said the peace agreement with Israel signed in September 2020 should clear the way for the normalisation of trade, investment, technological cooperation, and tourism between the two countries.

OVERALL SCORE **69.9**

WORLD RANK **40**

RULE OF LAW

Property Rights	71.5 ▲
Judicial Effectiveness	65.8 ▲
Government Integrity	64.4 ▲

GOVERNMENT SIZE

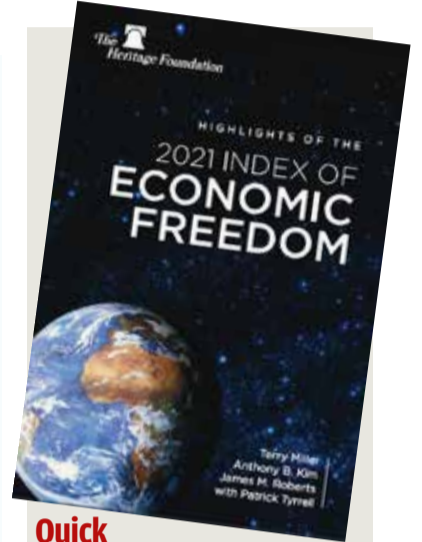
Tax Burden	100.0 ▲
Government Spending	67.1 ▲
Fiscal Health	0.0 ▼

REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

Business Freedom	76.7 ▲
Labor Freedom	71.4 ▲
Monetary Freedom	82.8 ▲

OPEN MARKETS

Trade Freedom	83.6 ▲
Investment Freedom	75.0 —
Financial Freedom	80.0 —



Quick facts

Population:

1.6 million

GDP (PPP):

\$76.9 billion
1.8% growth
2.8% 5-year compound annual growth
\$46,892 per capita

Unemployment:

0.7%

Inflation (CPI):

1.0%

FDI Inflow:

\$941.8 million

Government bond public issue opens Sunday

The BD 200 m issue offers 4% return

TDT | Manama

Bahraini and Non-Bahraini investors can directly subscribe through the primary market of BHB in the Government Development Bond Issue 23 (BHD 200 million) by executing their orders through registered brokers at Bahrain Bourse.

The Central Bank of Bahrain, on behalf of the Government of Bahrain, issues the bond.

The bond issued at a par value of BHD 1, each on 14 March 2021, for six years, matures on 14 March 2027.

The annual fixed return of 4.00% is paid bi-annually



on 14 March and 14 September every year throughout this issue.

The minimum subscription size is 500 bond per subscriber.

The first 10,000 bonds are for subscribers, while the remaining allocation will be on a pro-rata basis.

Investors can trade the bond on the secondary market at BHB after listing, which is expected to be on 28 March 2021.

The subscription period through the registered brokers begins on Sunday.

The subscription will be open on Sunday until Tuesday from 09:30 am to 1:00 pm, then on Wednesday from 09:30 am to 10:15 am.

19-year-old cyclist dies in accident

TDT | Manama

A cyclist died after involving in a tragic accident on Dry Dock Street in the Al-Hidd area yesterday.

Interior Ministry, in a tweet, identified the deceased as a “19-year-old Asian” national.

Reports say the mishap occurred when the victim was fatally struck by a car while riding on Dry Dock street.

No further information is available on what caused the accident.

Police reached the scene immediately and are investigating the matter.

Sources told Tribune that the deceased is the son of one of the well-known businessmen in the Kingdom. They also identified the deceased as Muhammad Hanin, son of MM Hanif, hailing from Kannur, the South Indian



Police at the accident scene



Muhammad Hanin

state of Kerala. MM Hanif is the director of the Peace Real Estate group and business forum organiser.

Reports say the deceased parents had flown back to India a few days ago and are currently there.

Preparations are ongoing to repatriate the body, currently, at Salmaniya morgue, the sources said.