

Economic Freedom In the Land of Enchantment

Matthew Mitchell

Senior Fellow

Centre For Human Freedom





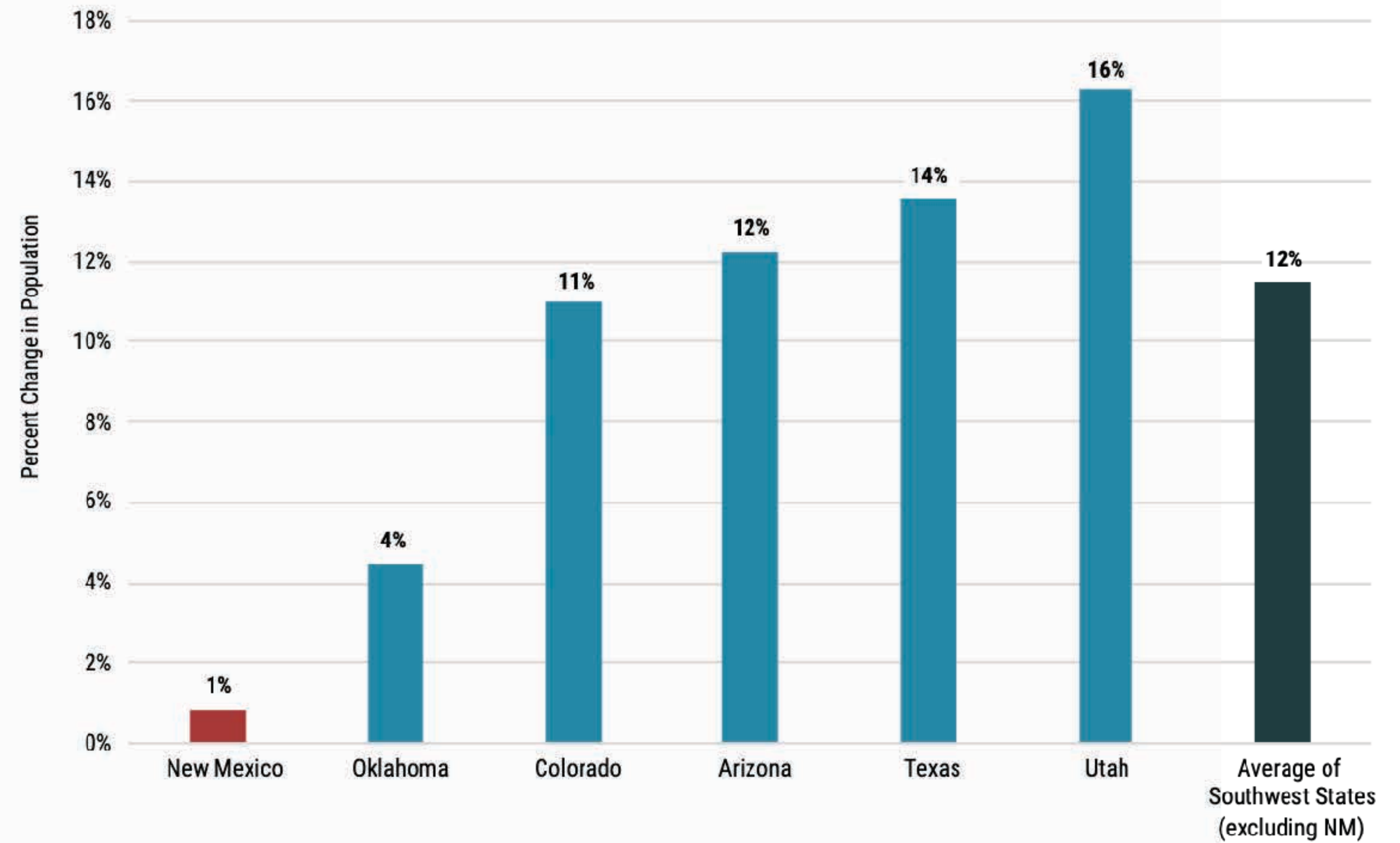








Figure 1: Population Growth in the Southwest (2013–2022)



JOBS

VACANCY

**WE ARE
HIRING**

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

PhD degree or his
experience within the pharm
cal field.
experience in the pharm
industry, including exper
in
therapeutic areas with small mo
and

EXPERIENCE: 7+ years work exper
SERVING STORES
COORDINATION

QUALIFICATION: Ability to comm
with staff and residents. 3-5
on construction job site
of General handyman repairs, L
Electrical, Comfortable with technol
EXPERIENCE: 7+ years work experience in a
ative environment.

COURSE

To perform this job
must be able to perform
The

QUALITY/ASSISTANT

QUALITY

EXECUTIVES PRODUCTION
QUALIFICATION: Bachelor's
5+ years of experience required
communication skills in dealing with high
strategic partners and outside
time management and organiza

EXPERIENCE: Bachelor's
ad oral
in exper
organized, detail oriented
and follow up skills
making skills

COUR



Figure 2: Employment Growth In the Southwest (2013–2022)

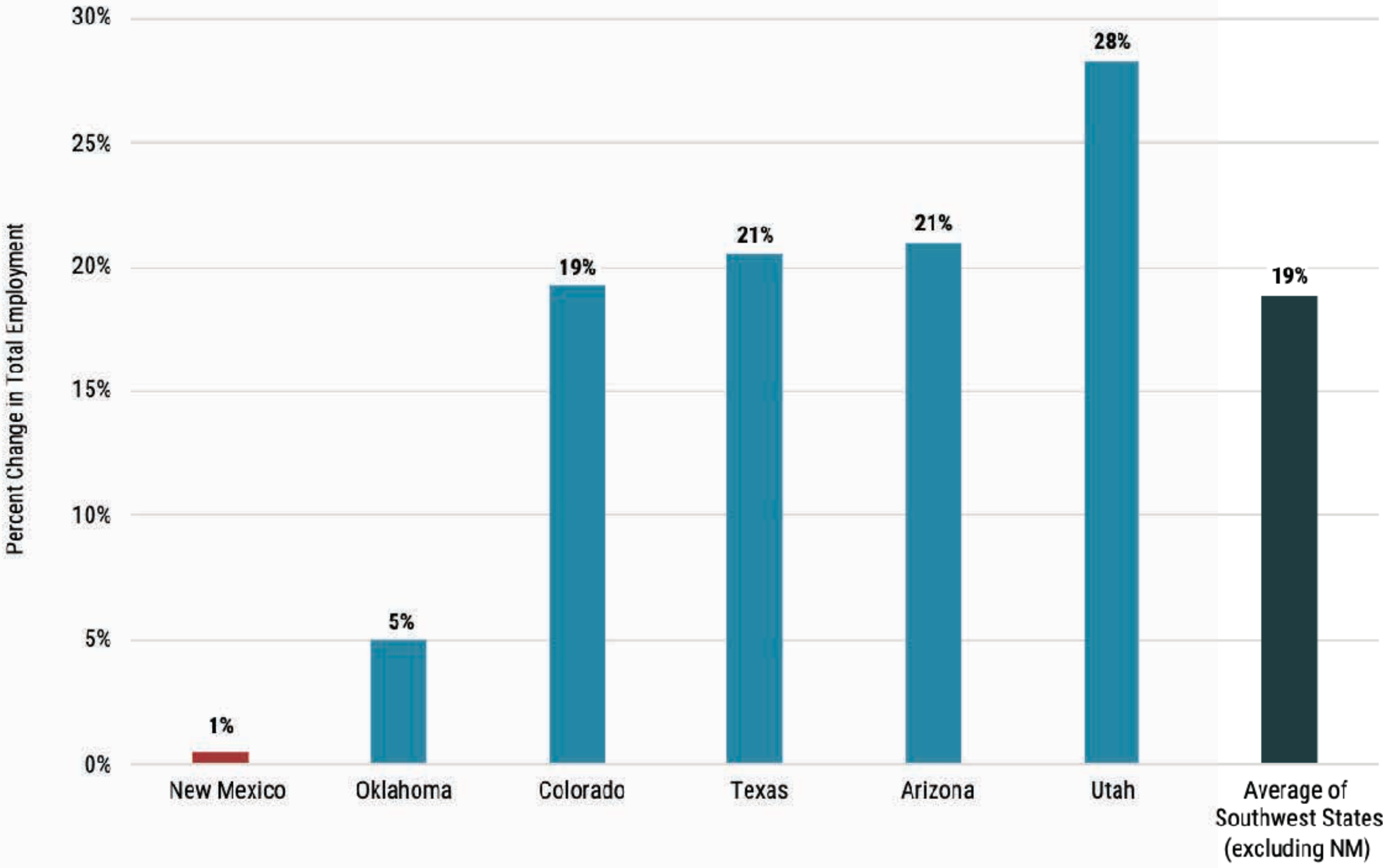
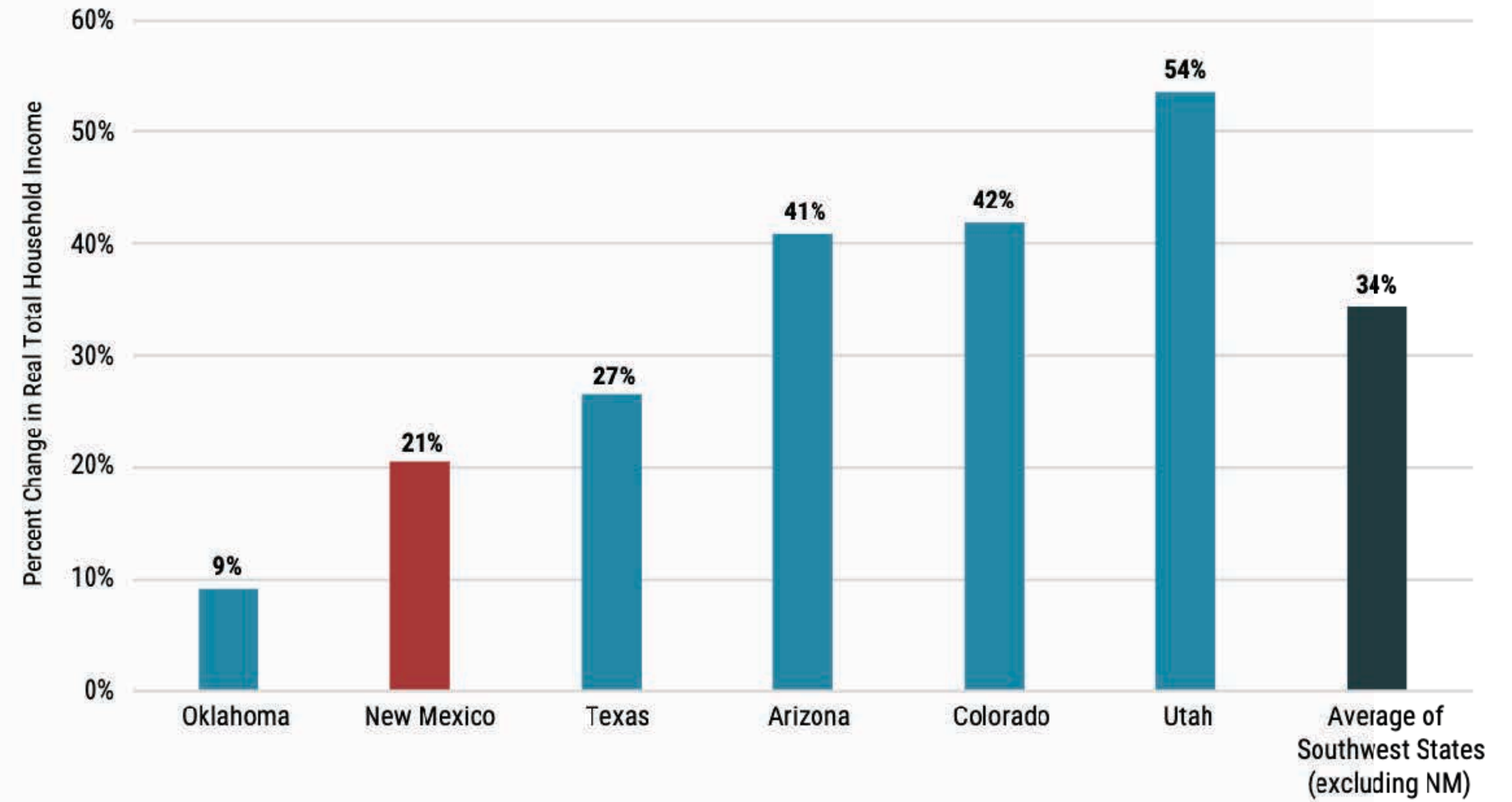






Figure 3: Income Growth in the Southwest (2013–2022)





GOVERNMENT FOOD CARRY GIFTS BOOKS

MERCANTILE CAFE

KULANTRO

KULANTRO



Figure 4: Real GDP Growth in the Southwest (2013–2022)

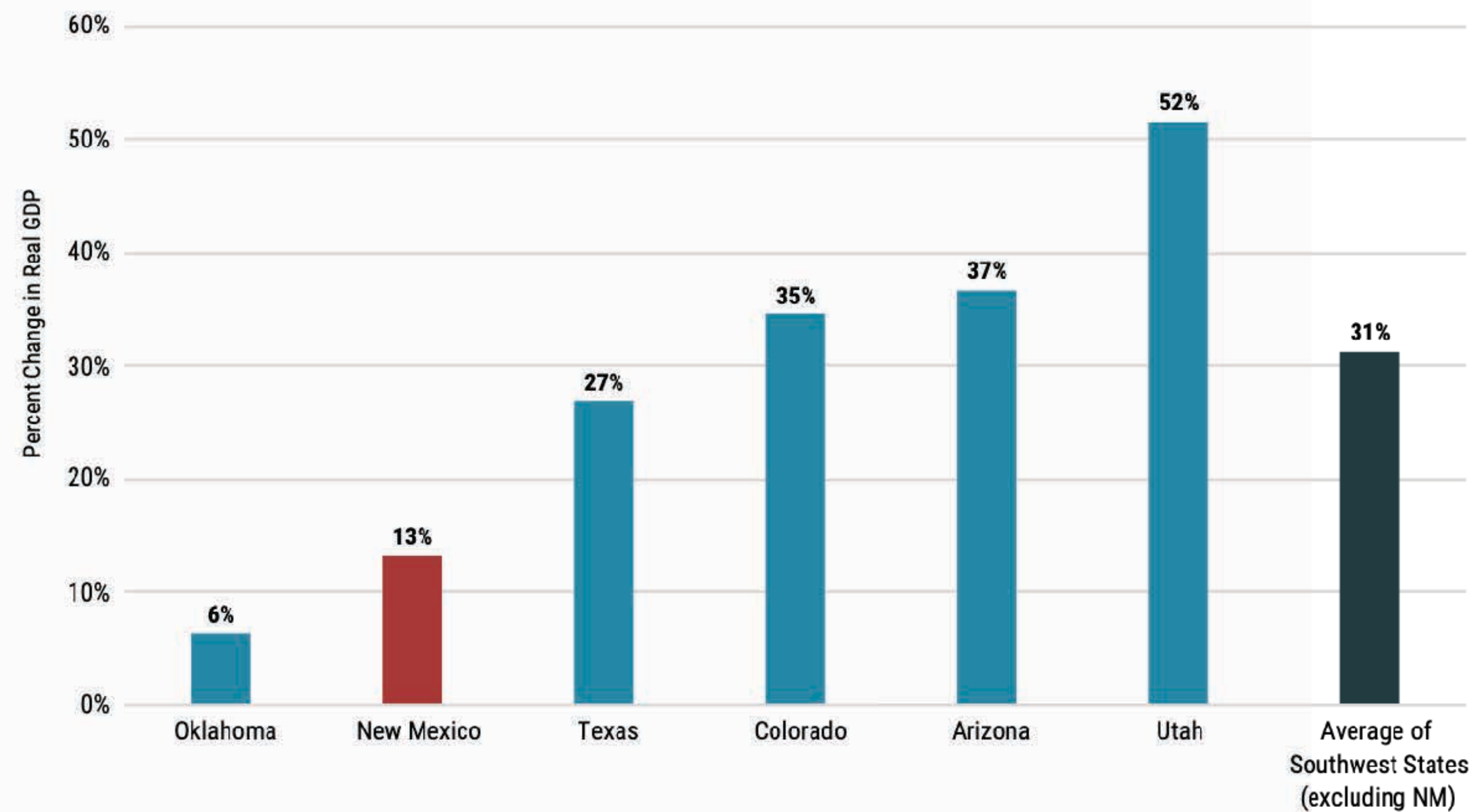






Figure 5: Poverty in the Southwest (2023)

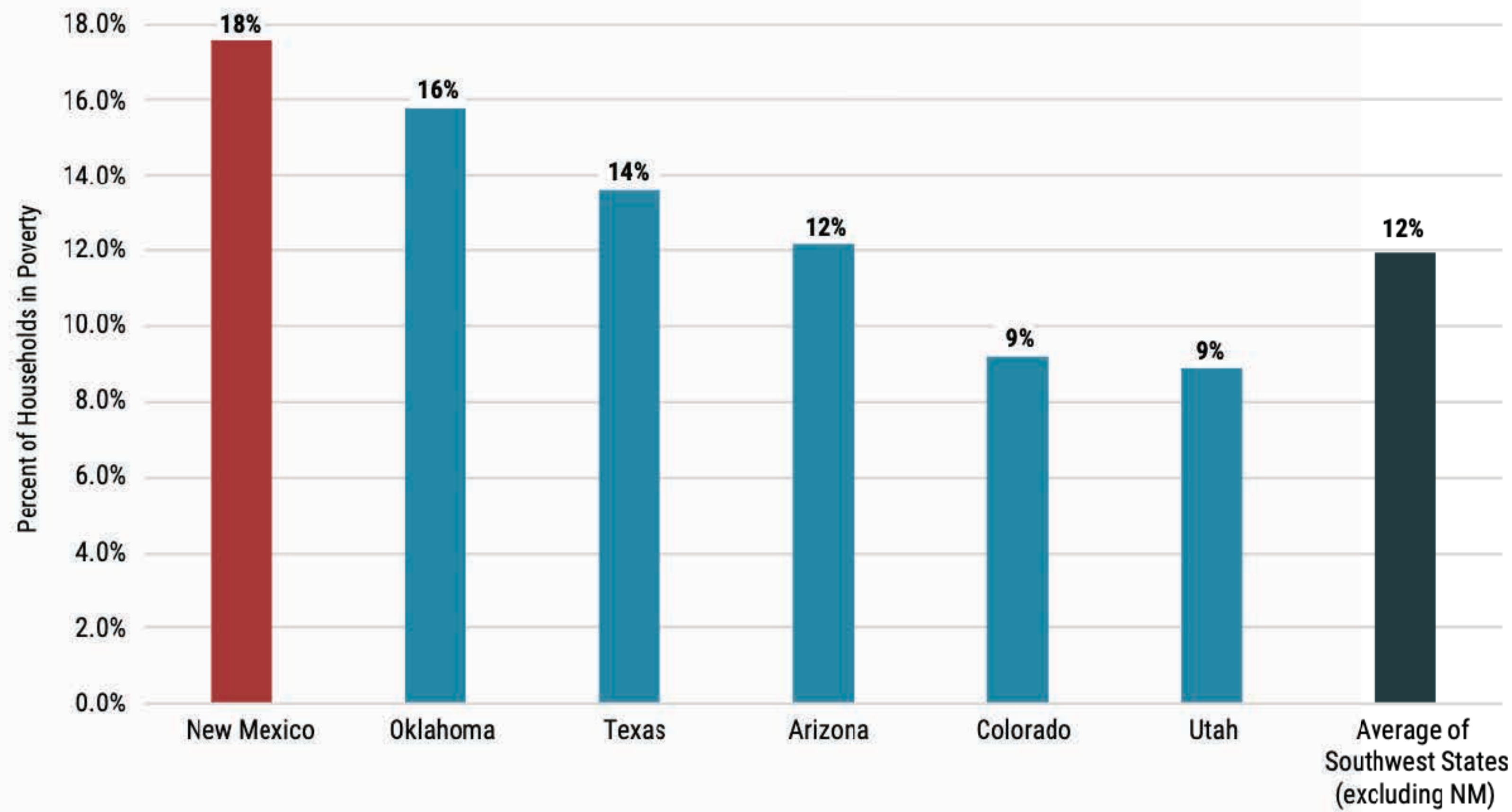
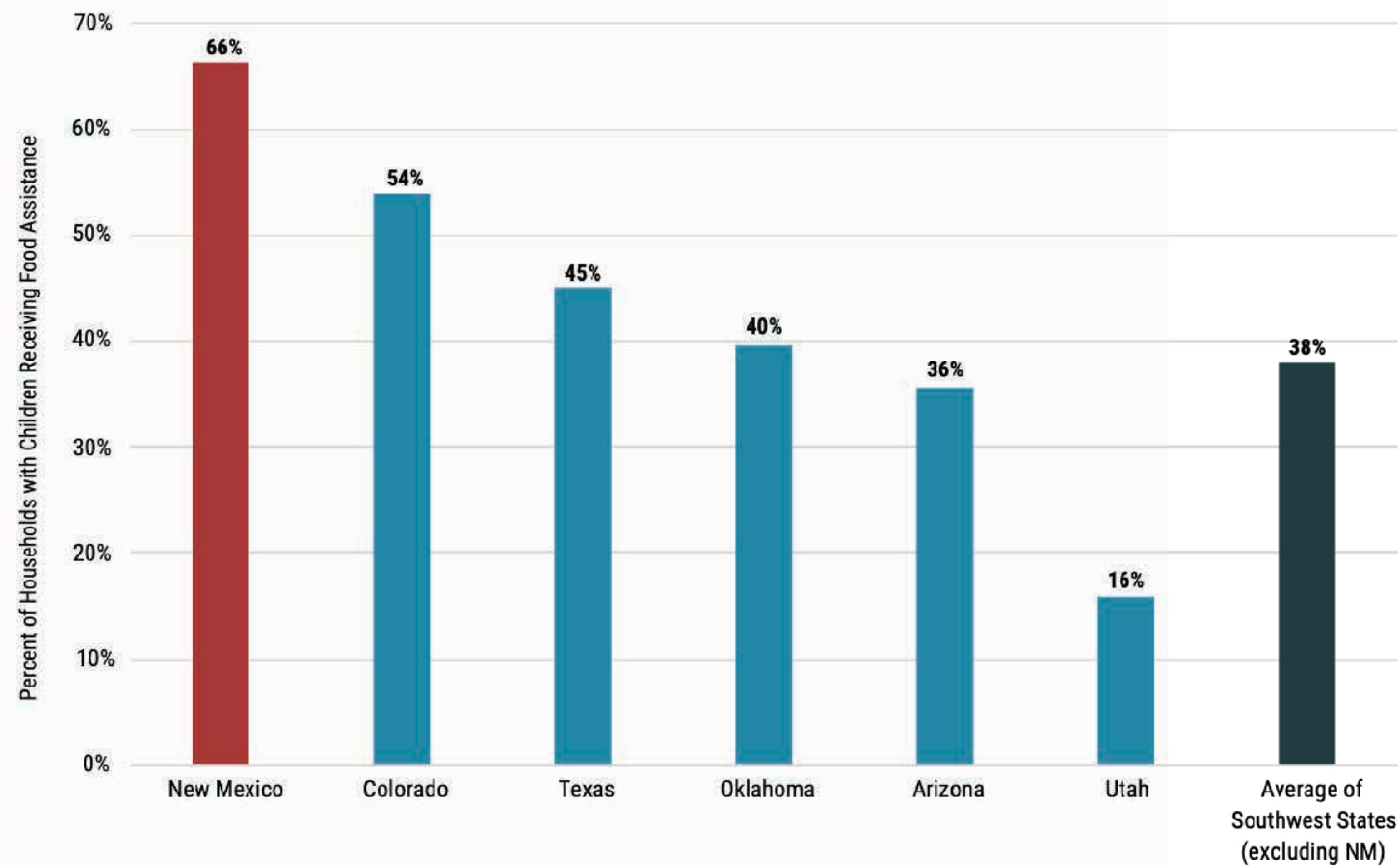






Figure 6: Children Receiving Food Assistance in the Southwest (2024)



Where Does Prosperity Come From?

Where Does Prosperity Come From?

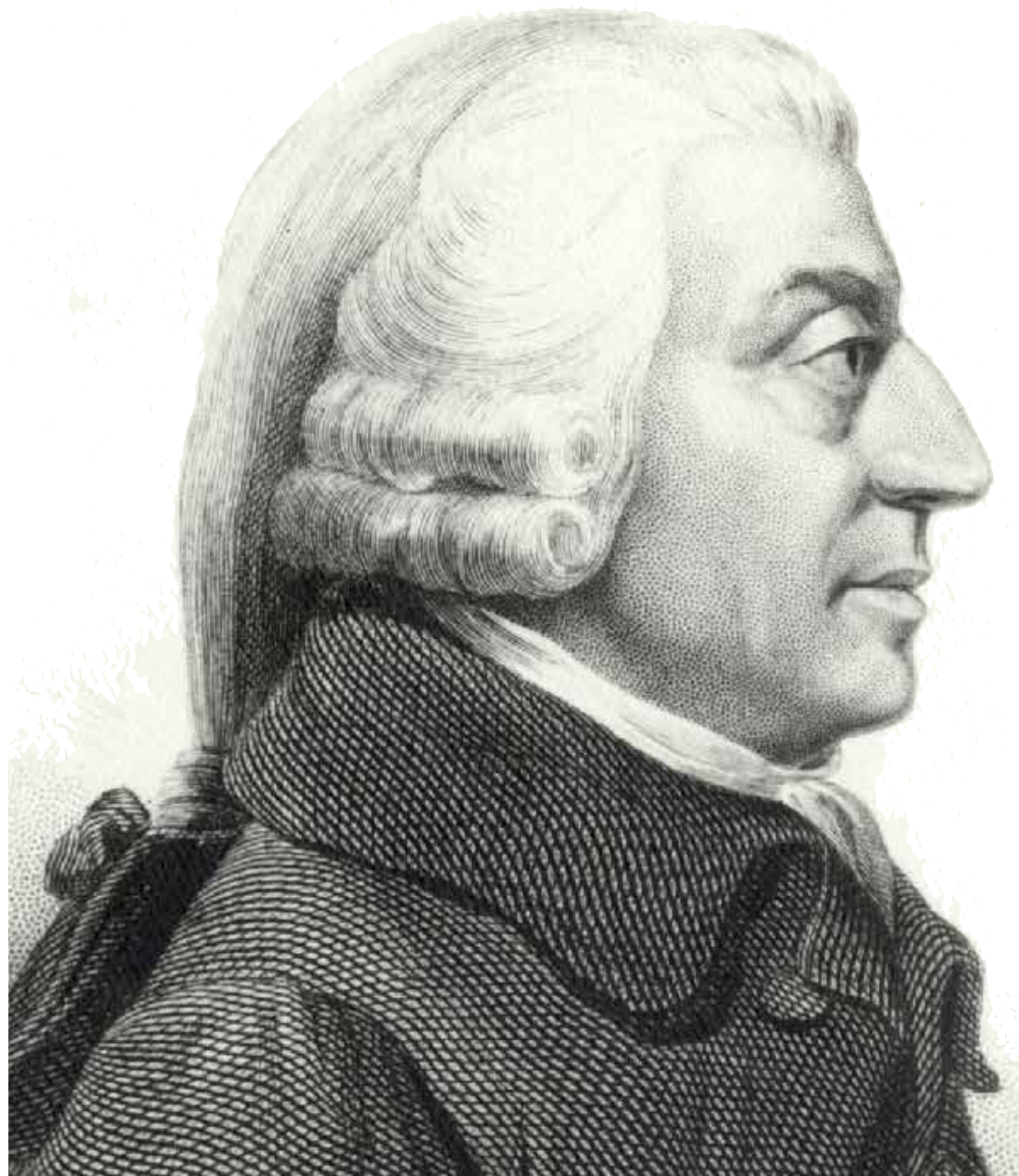
“[with socialism] such an abundance of goods will be able to satisfy the needs of all its members.” - Friedrich Engels

“Capital is dead labour, that, vampire-like, only lives by sucking living labour, and lives the more, the more labour it sucks” - Karl Marx

“All progress in capitalist agriculture is a progress in the art, not only of robbing the worker, but of robbing the soil” - Karl Marx

“Capitalism has resulted in material well-being but spiritual bankruptcy.” - Jeffrey Eugenides

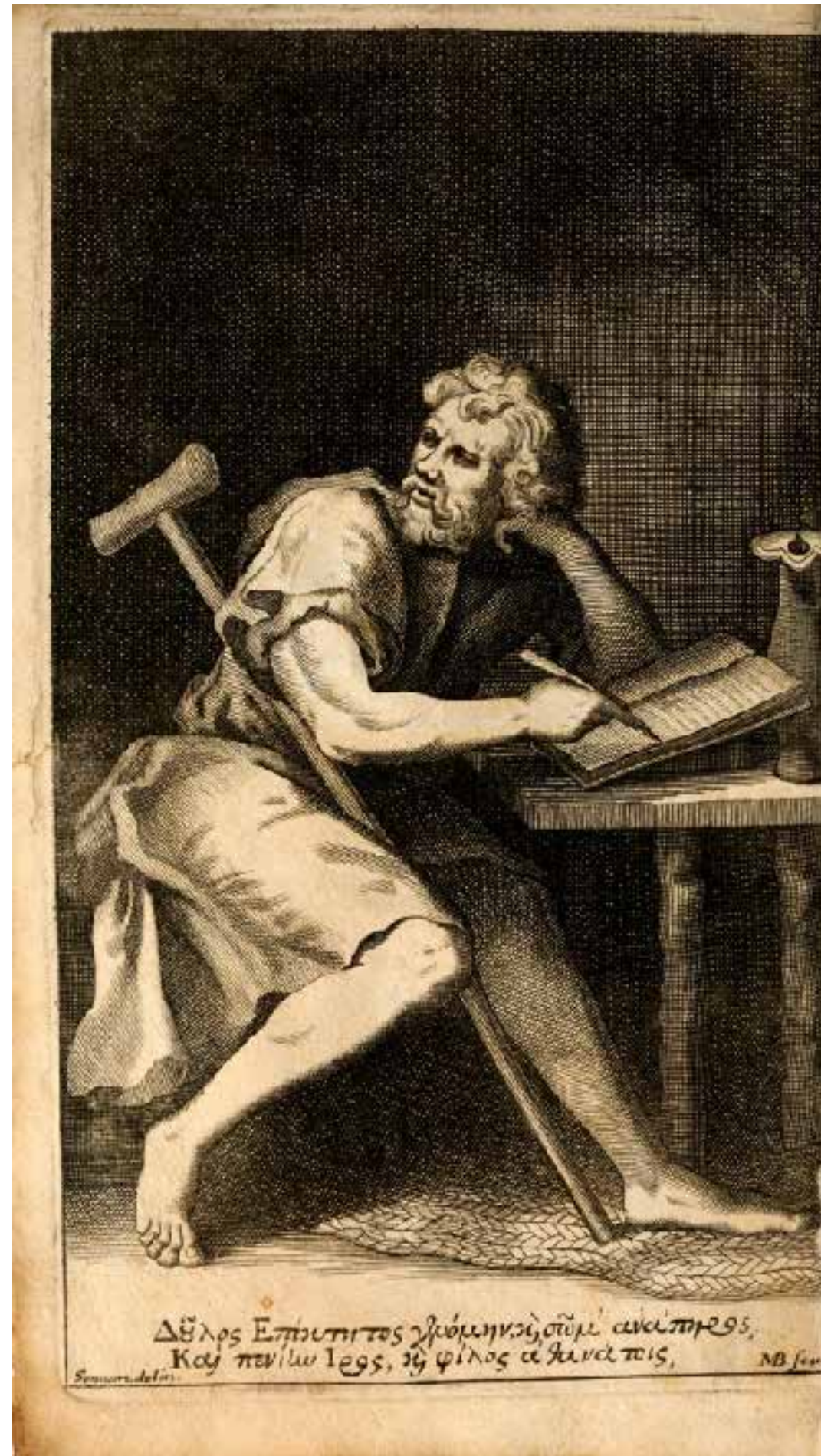
Economic Freedom



Adam Smith:
“NATURAL LIBERTY”

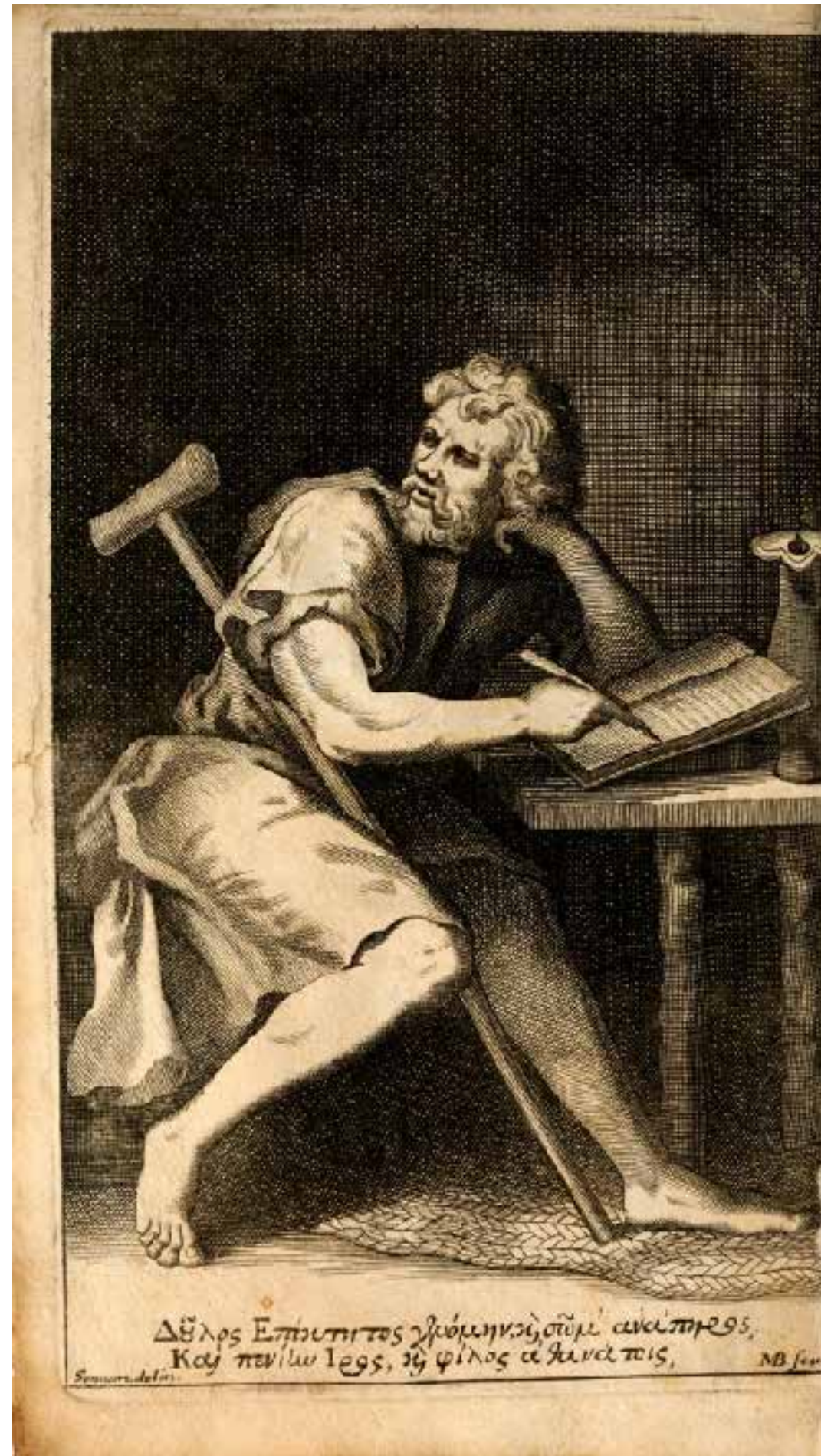
Peace
Easy Taxes
Tolerable Adm. of Justice

Economic Freedom



Epictetus: Freedom is
“The right to live as we wish.”

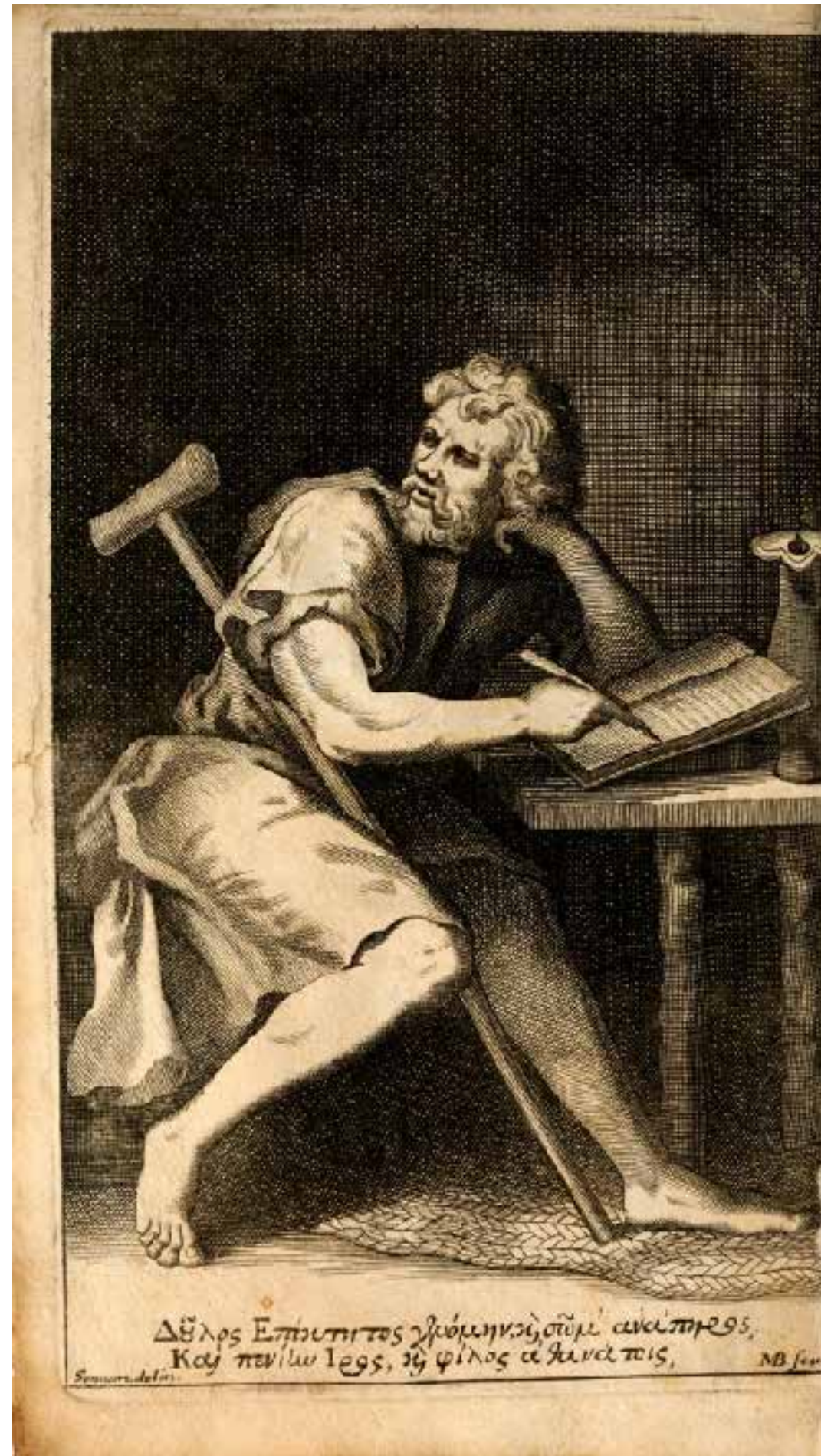
Economic Freedom



Epictetus: Freedom is
“The right to live as we wish.”

Not “ability”

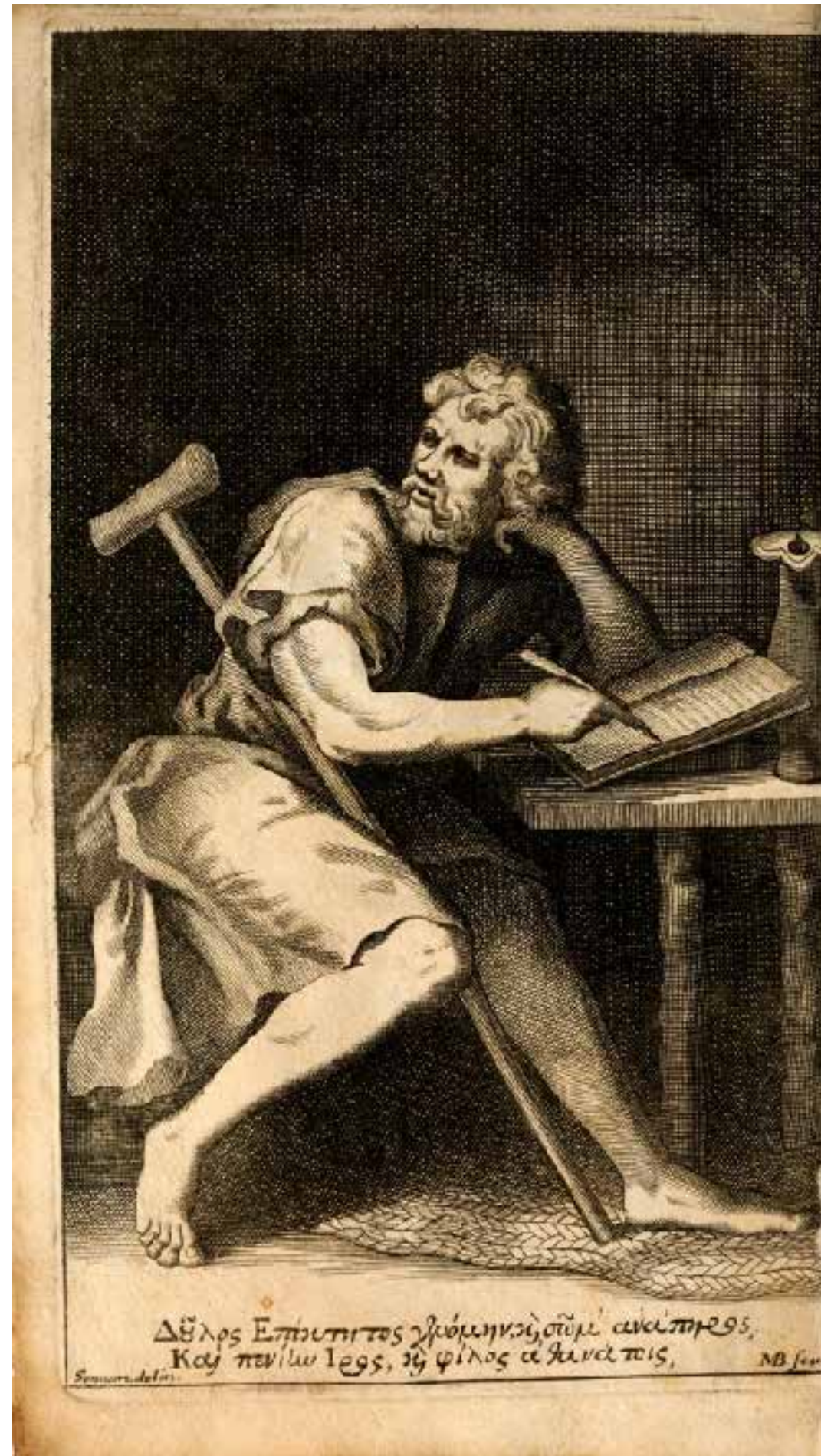
Economic Freedom



Epictetus: Freedom is
“The right to live as we wish.”

Freedom is about what others
allow us to do. Not what we
are capable of doing.

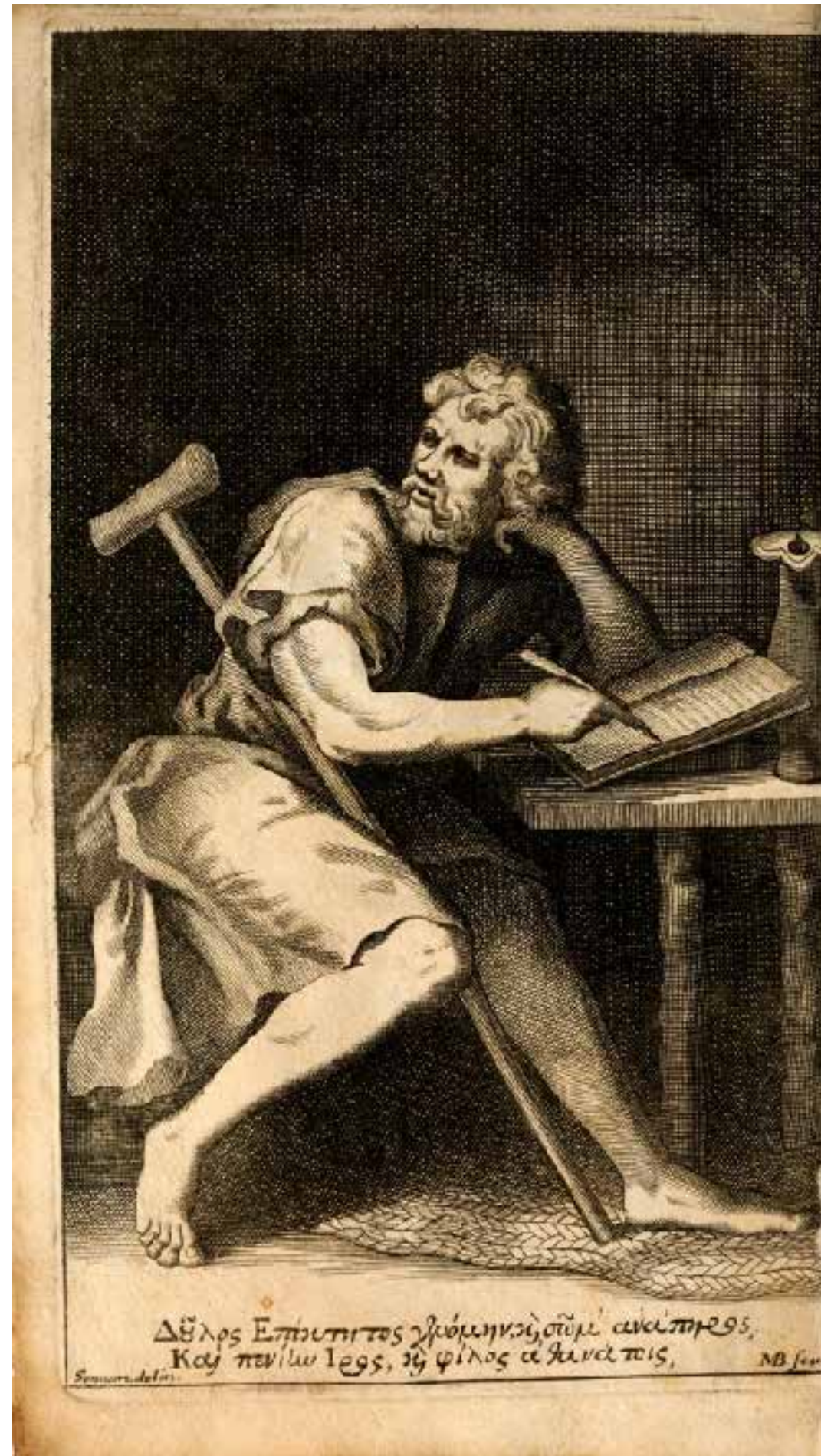
Economic Freedom



Epictetus: Freedom is
“The right to live as we wish.”

But if everyone is to have
freedom, each of us must
respect the freedom of others.

Economic Freedom

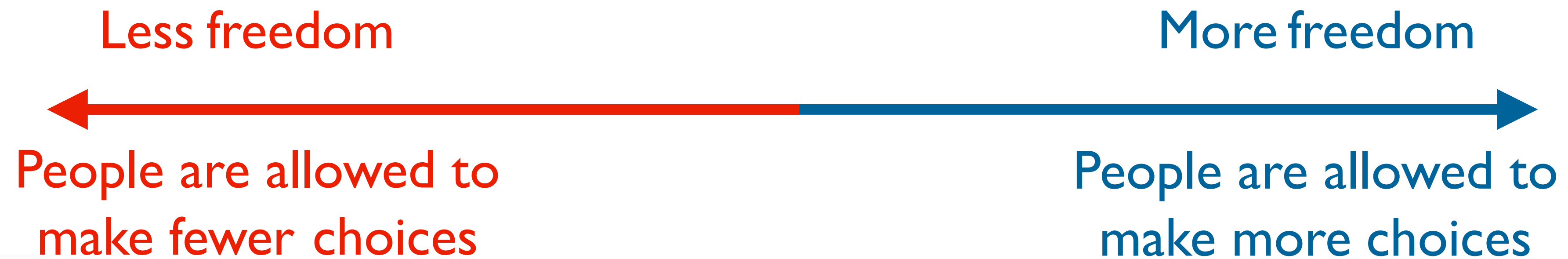


Epictetus: Freedom is
“The right to live as we wish.”

And freedom can be *more* or
less constrained...

Economic Freedom

When individuals have more freedom,
they are allowed to make more of their own choices.
But if everyone is to have freedom, each of us must
respect the freedom of others.



Economic Freedom

When individuals have more freedom,
they are allowed to make more of their own choices.
But if everyone is to have freedom, each of us must
respect the freedom of others.

Less economic freedom

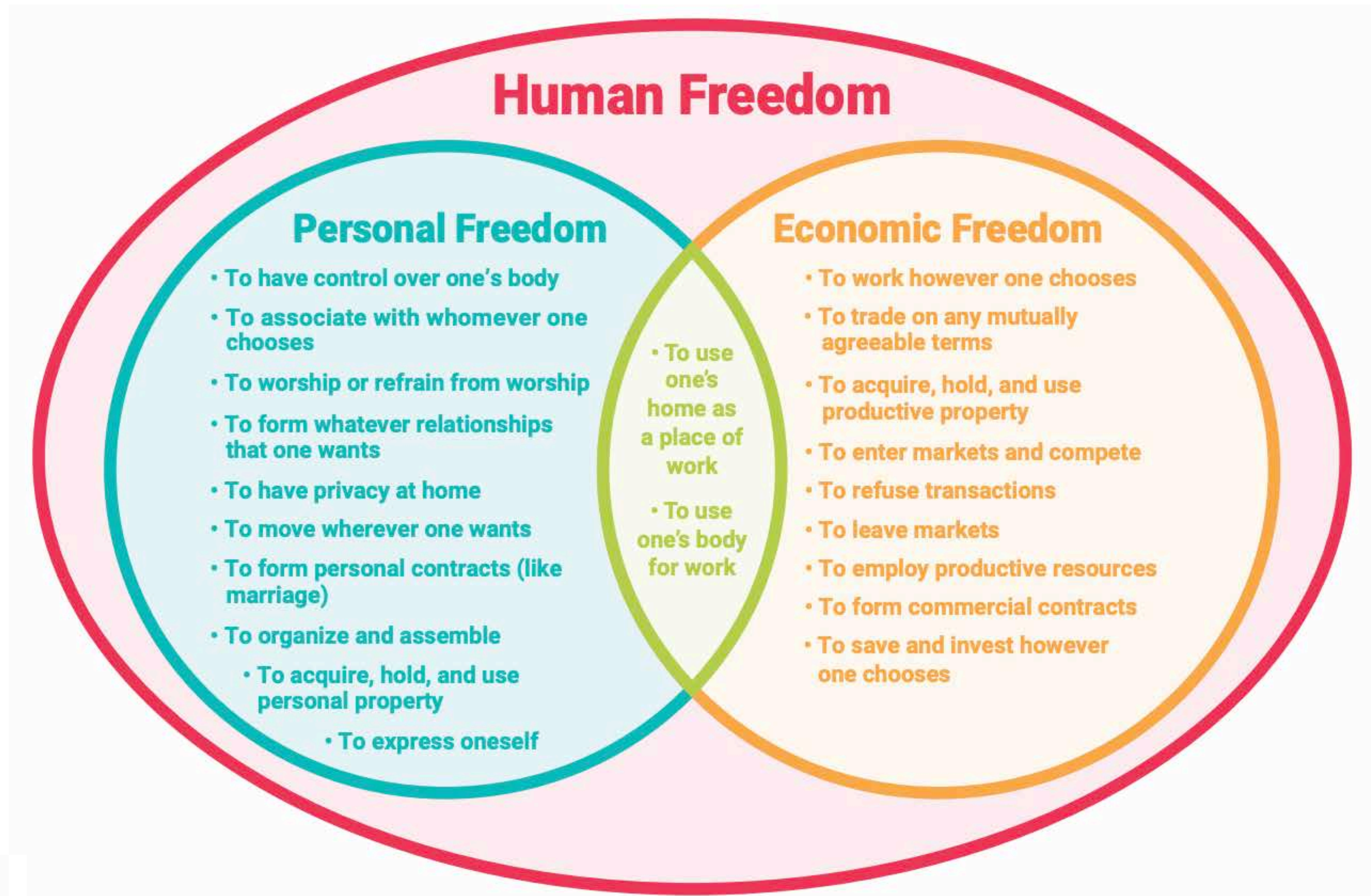
More economic freedom



People are allowed to
make fewer economic choices

People are allowed to
make more economic choices

Economic Freedom

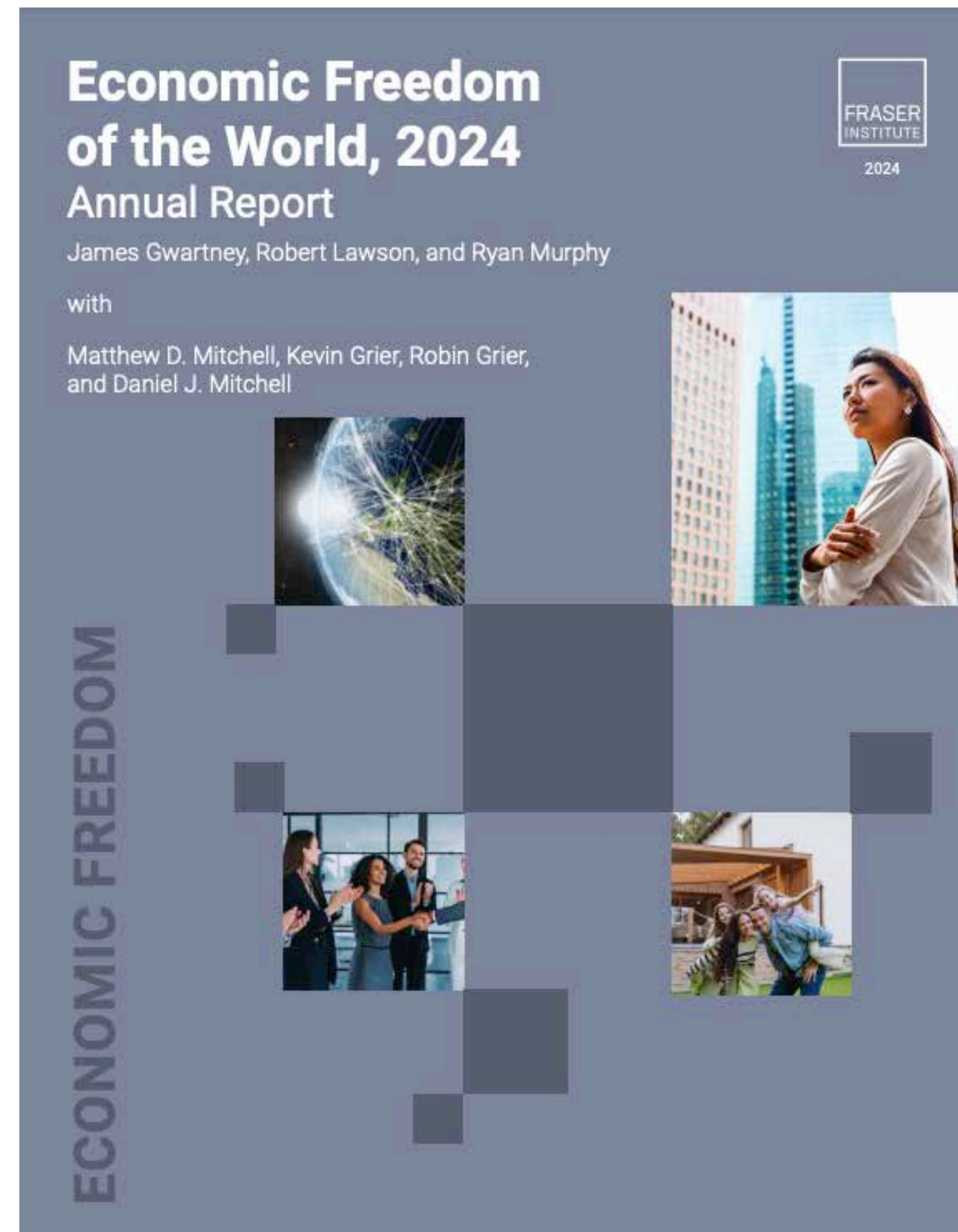


Economic Freedom

Walker and the Friedmans: Find a way
to measure economic freedom



Economic Freedom



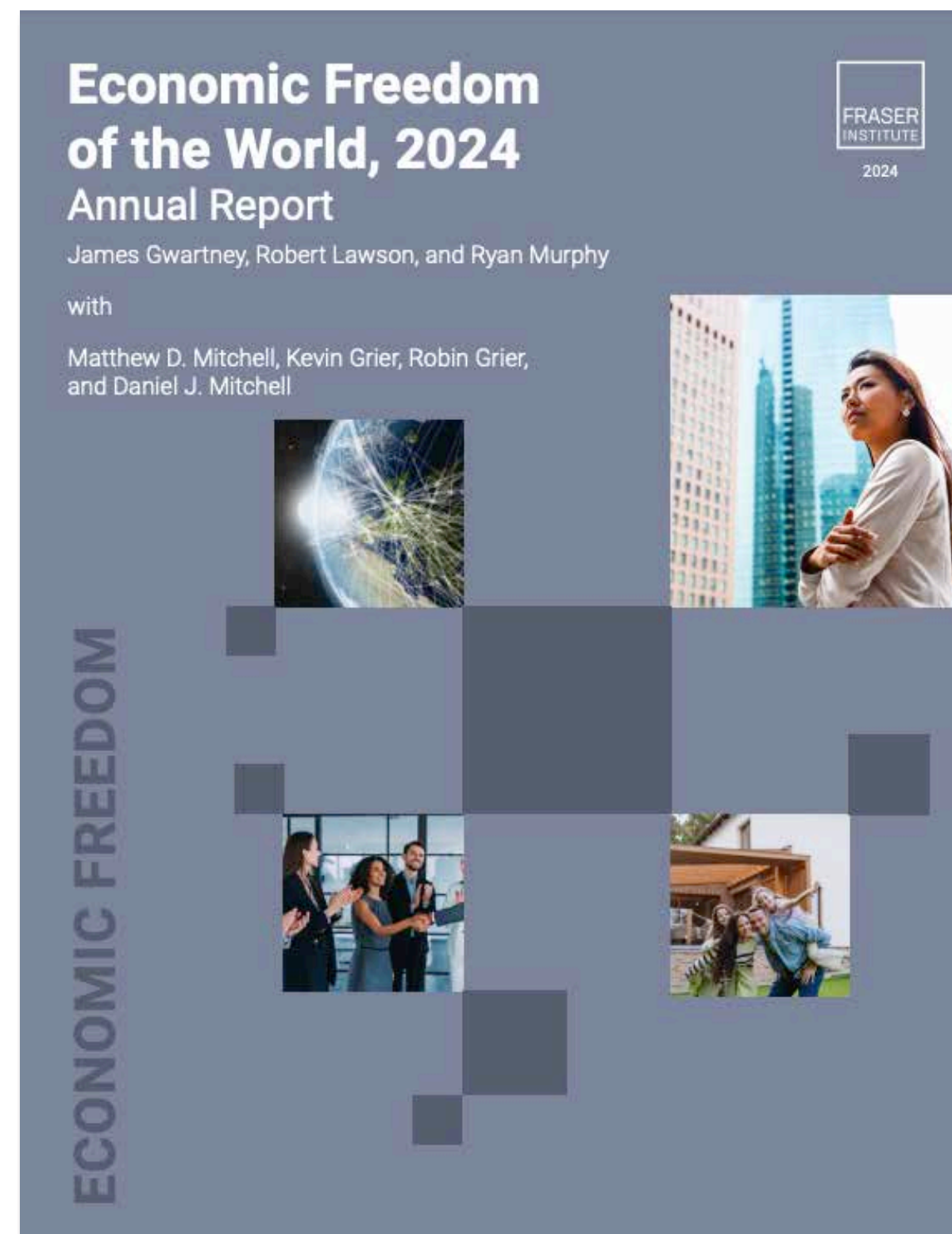
165 jurisdictions

52 years

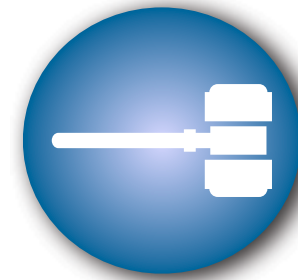
1970 - 2000 (every 5 years)

2000 - 2022 (annually)

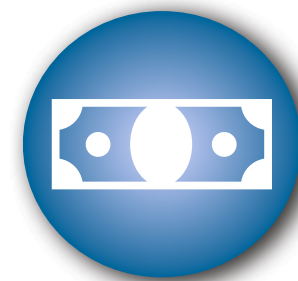
Economic Freedom



Size of Government



Legal System & Property Rights



Sound Money

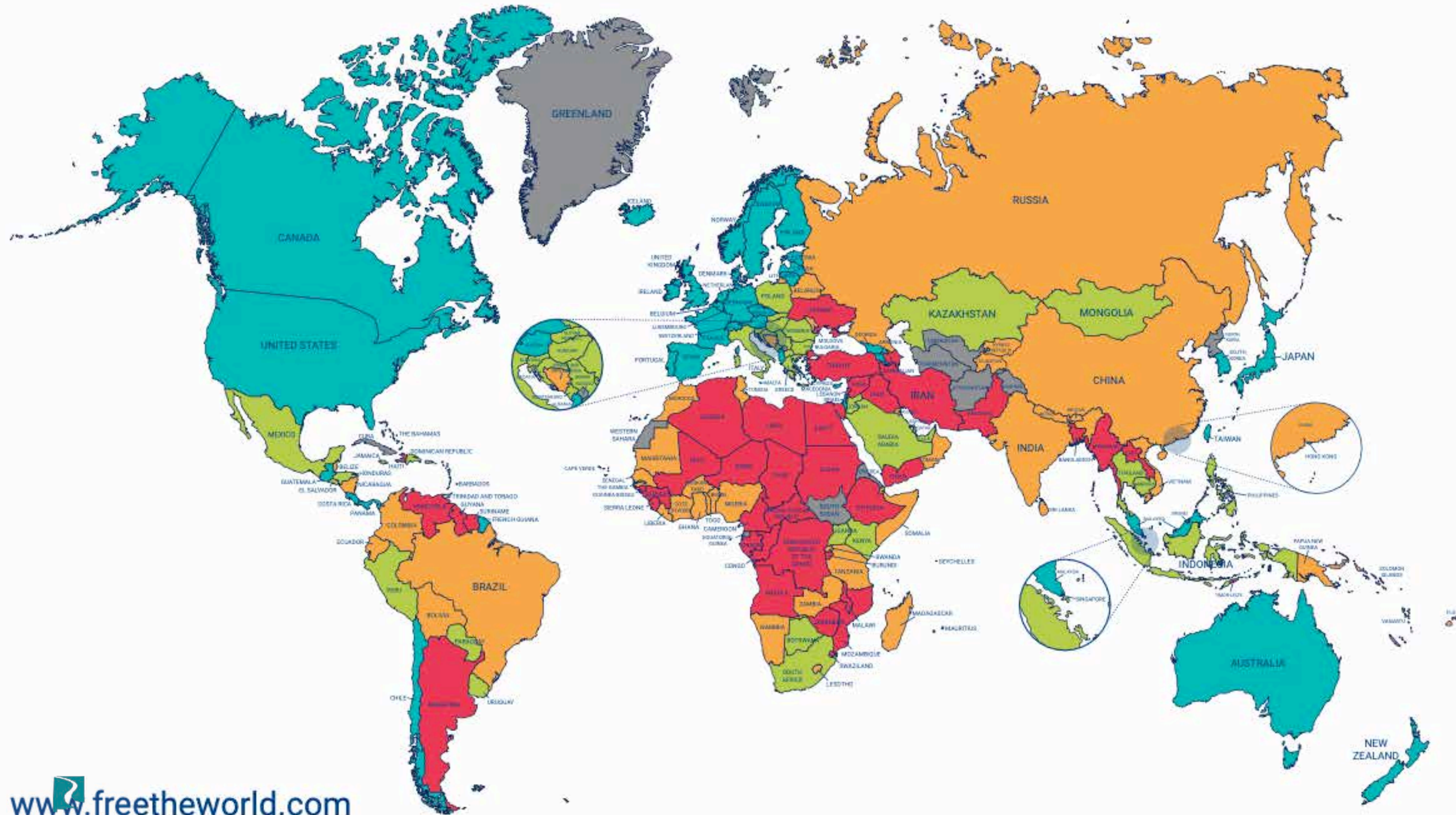


Freedom to Trade Internationally



Regulation

Economic Freedom



Economic Freedom



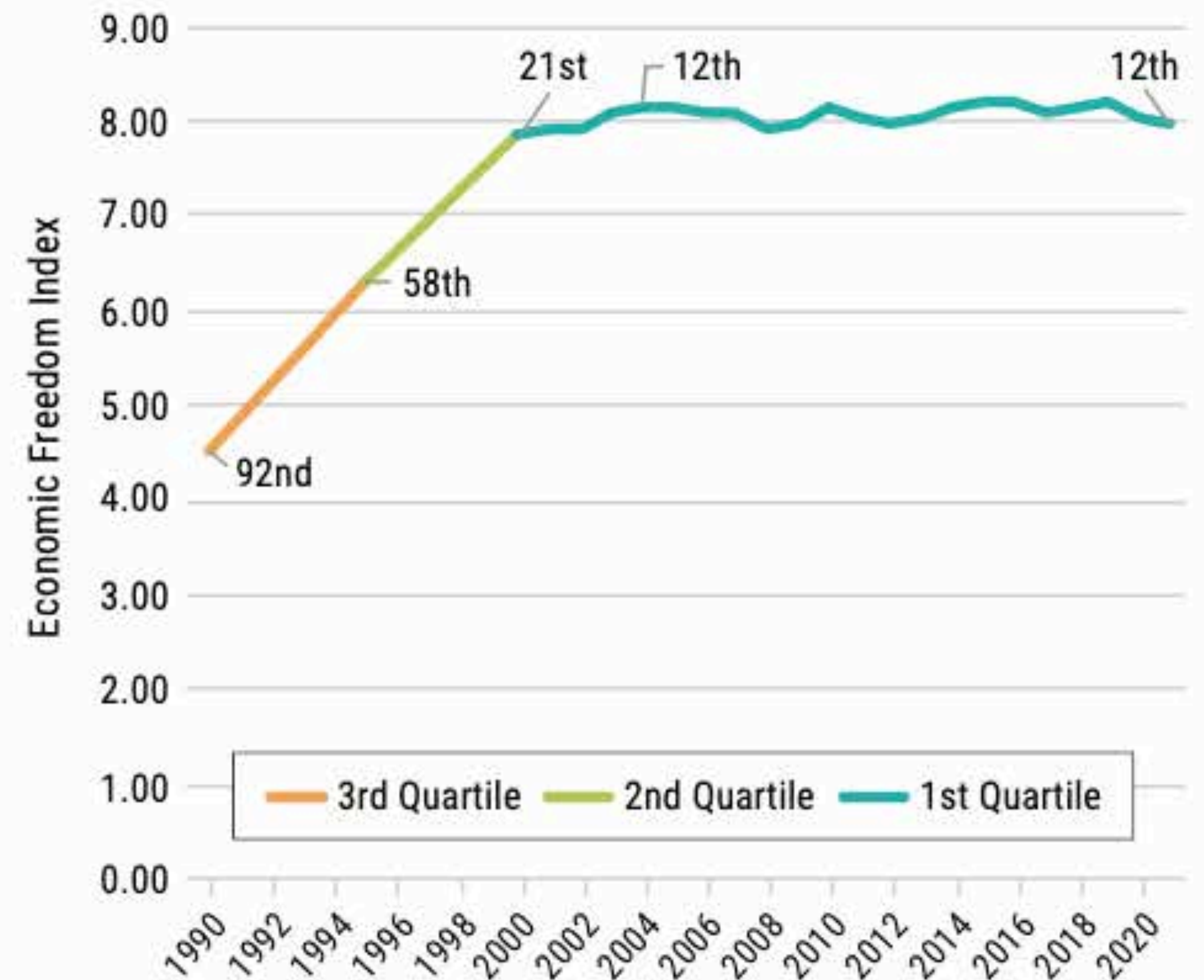
World Measured Economic Freedom Over Time

Economic Freedom

5a. Venezuelan Economic Freedom

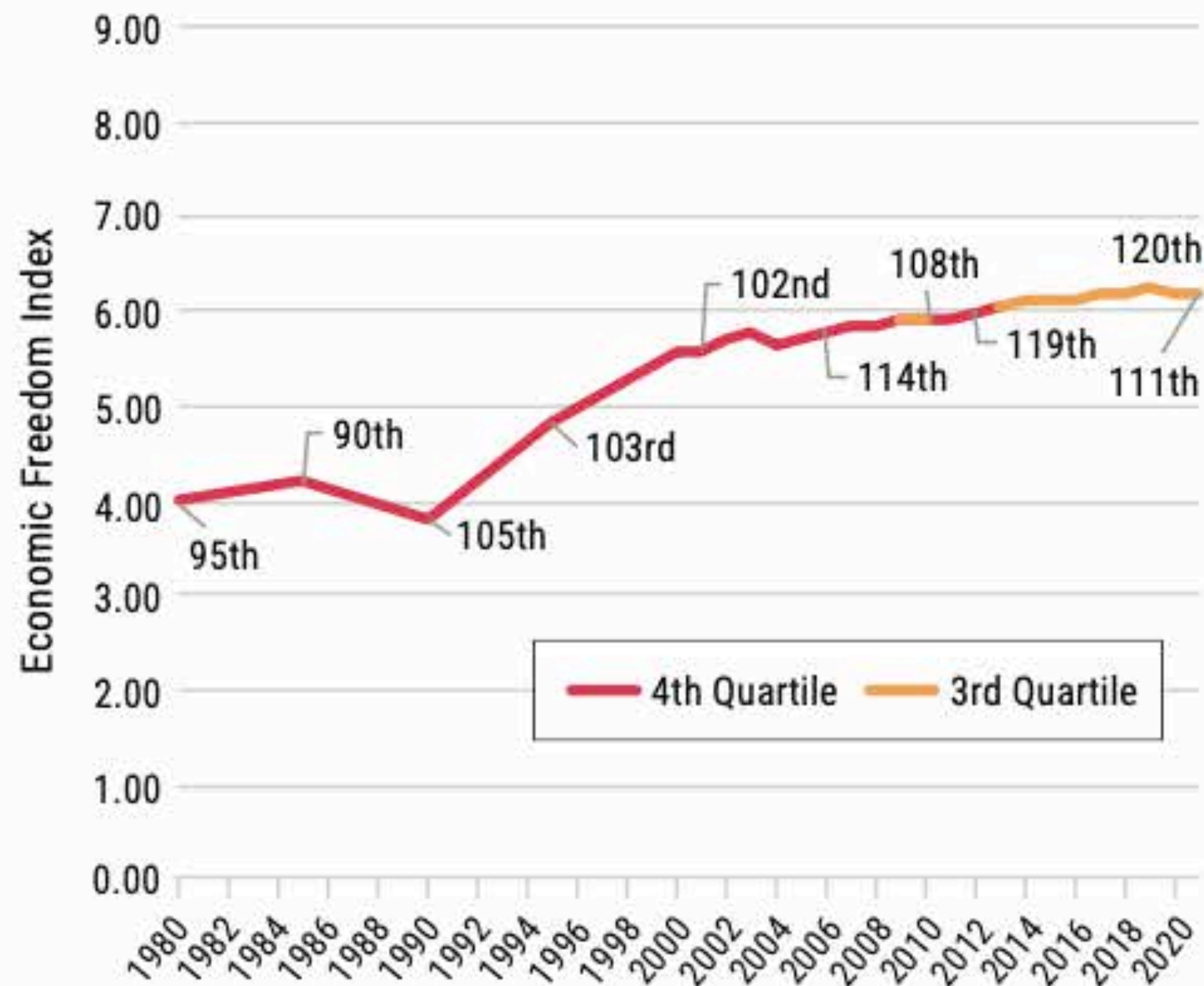


5b. Estonian Economic Freedom

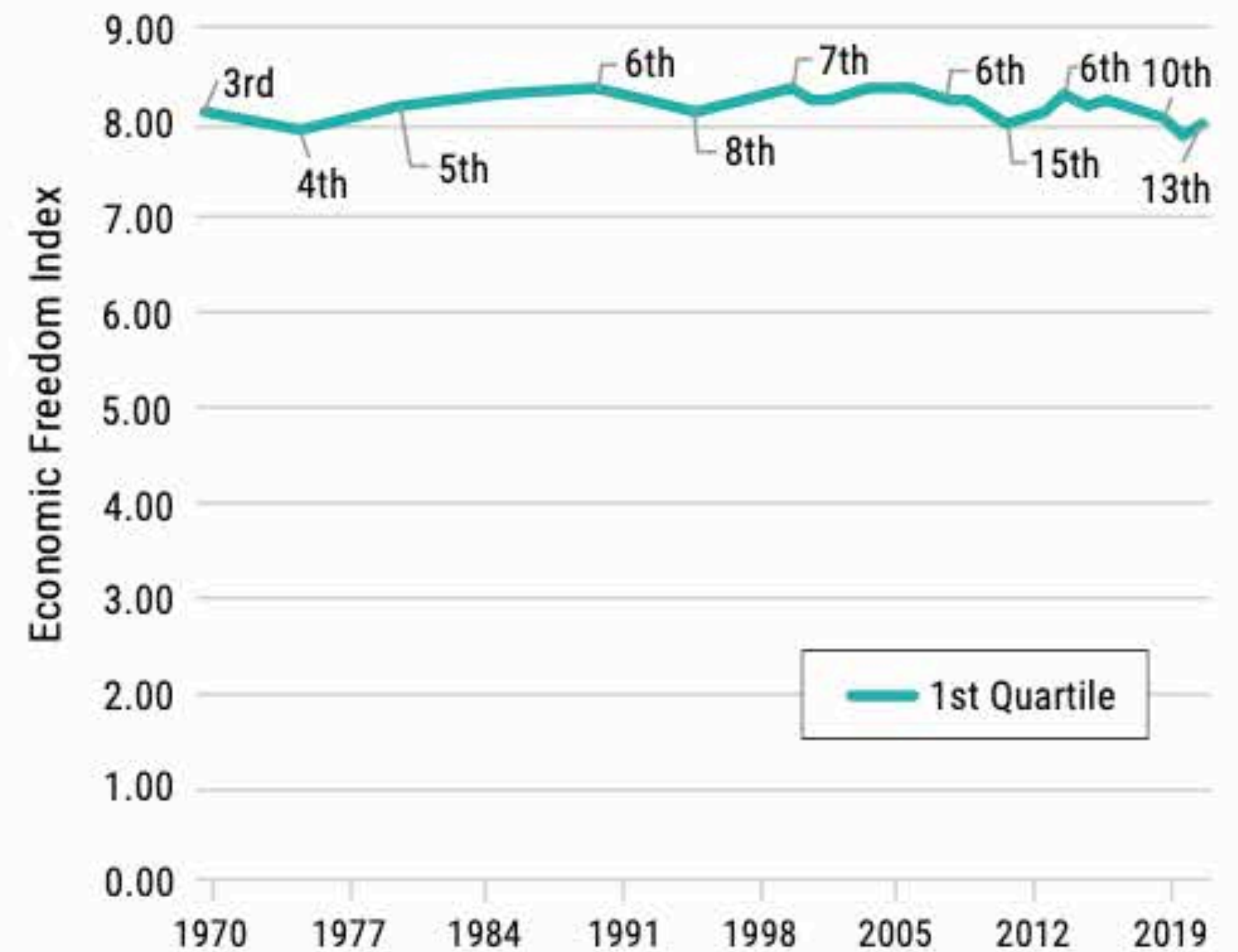


Economic Freedom

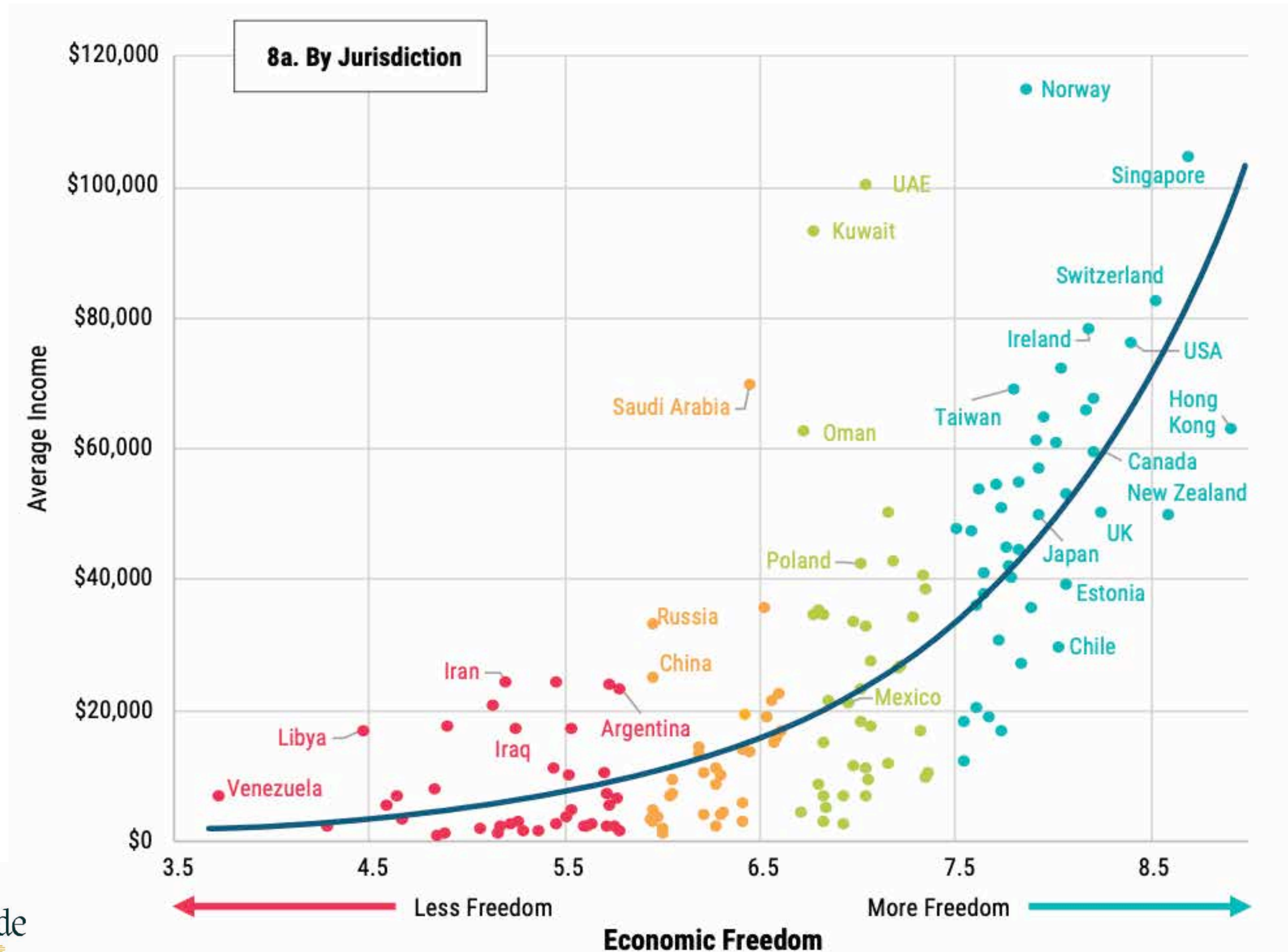
5c. Chinese Economic Freedom



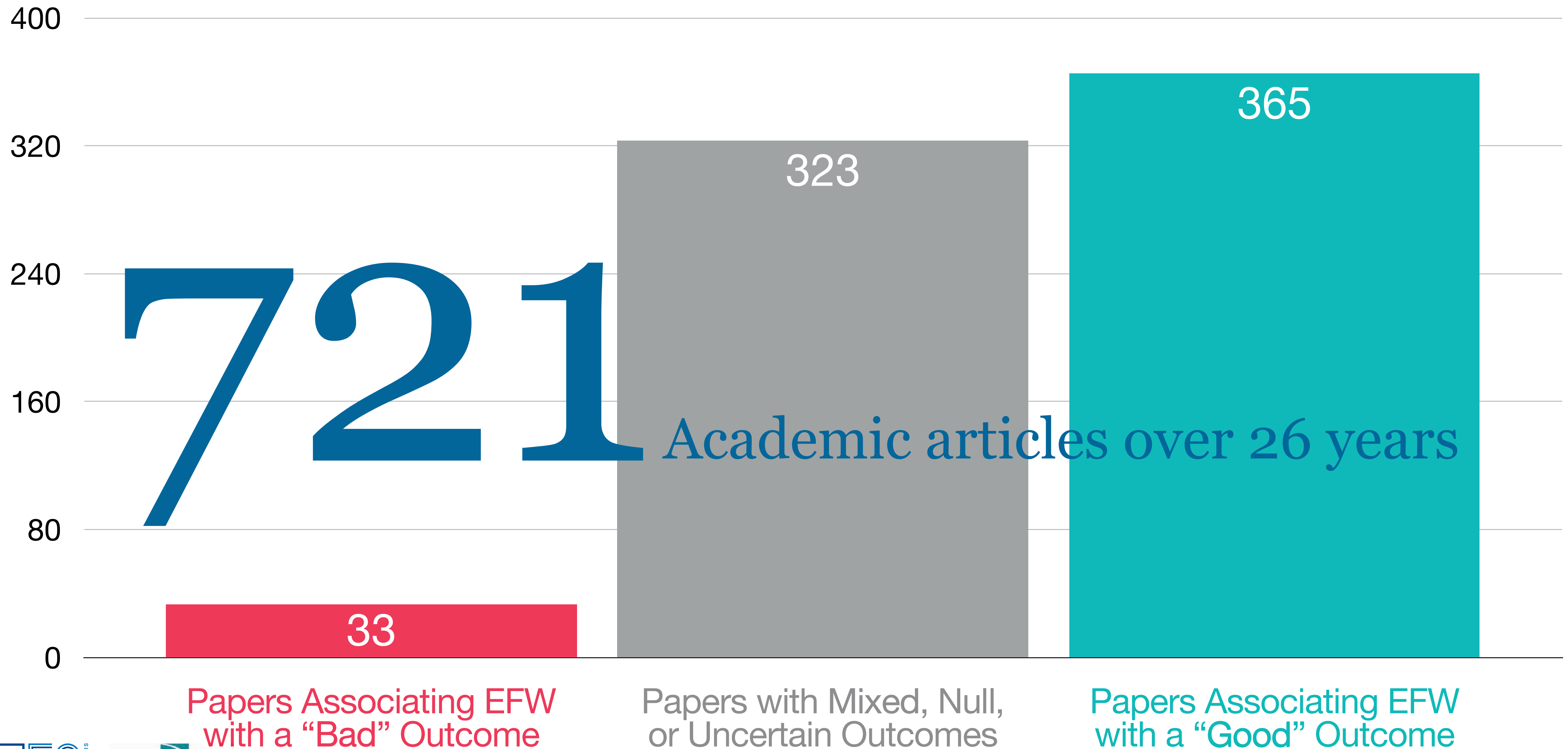
5d. Canadian Economic Freedom



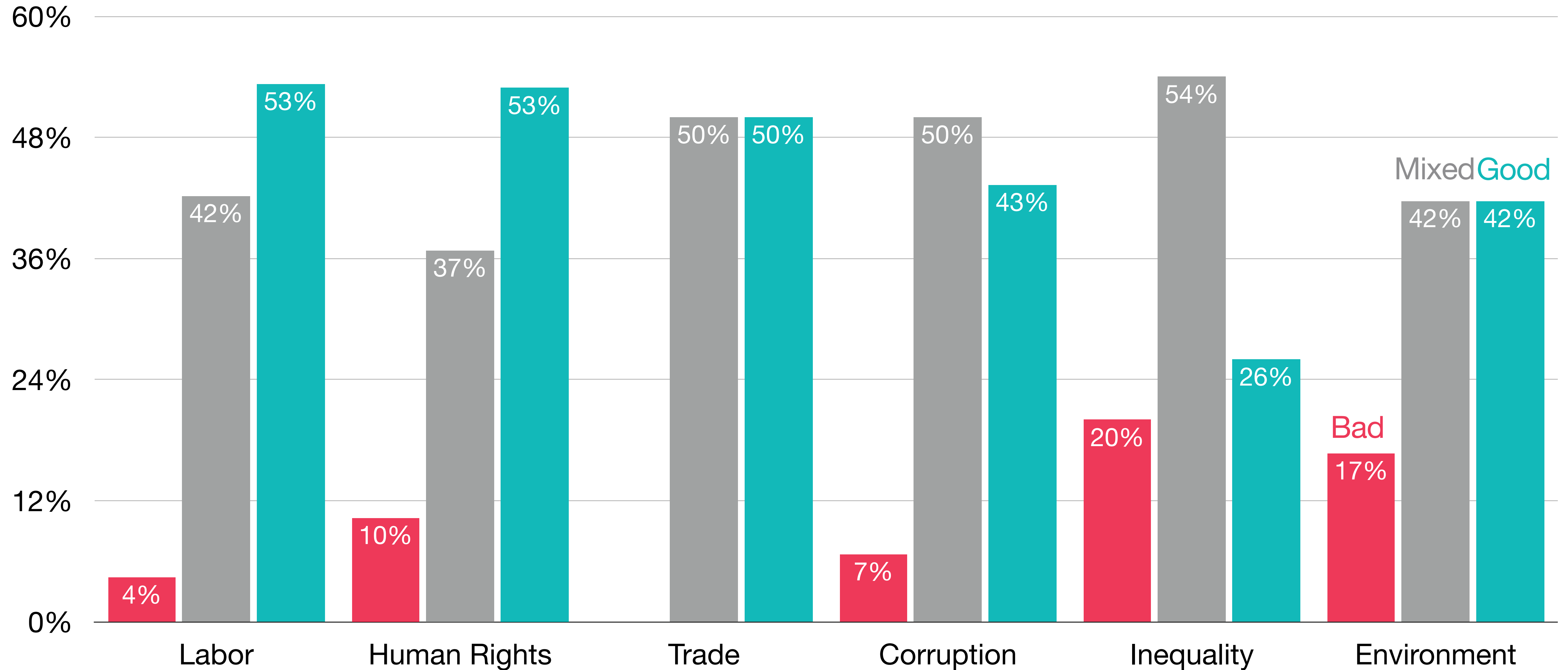
Economic Freedom



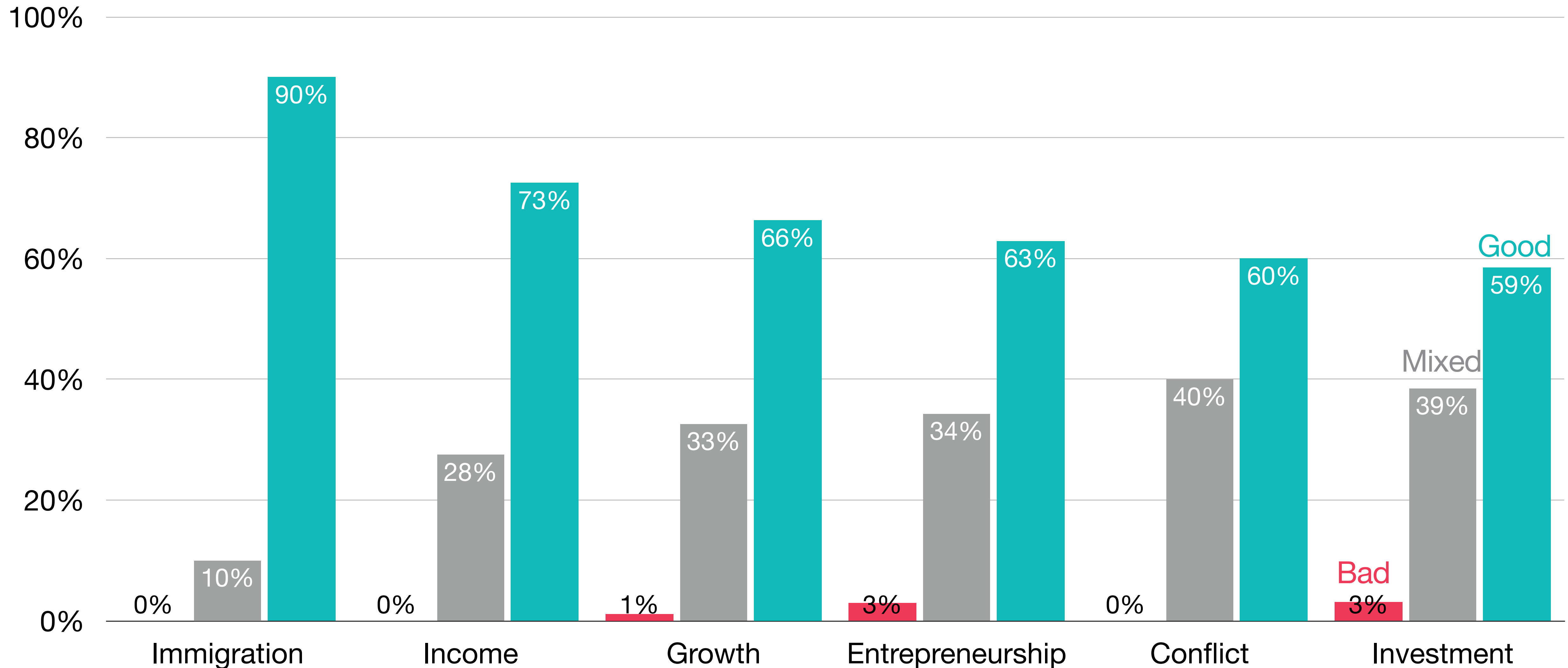
Economic Freedom



Economic Freedom



Economic Freedom





Freedom and Happiness in Nations: A Research Synthesis

Amanina Abdur Rahman¹  · Ruut Veenhoven^{2,3}

Received: 10 January 2017 / Accepted: 24 April 2017 / Published online: 14 June 2017
© Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht and The International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) 2017, corrected publication July 2017

Abstract Freedom is highly valued, but there are limits to the amount of freedom a society can allow its members. This begs the question of how much freedom is too much. The answers to that question differ across political cultures and are typically based on ideological argumentation. In this paper, we consider the compatibility of freedom and happiness in nations by taking stock of the research findings on that matter, gathered in the World Database of Happiness. We find that freedom and happiness are positively correlated in contemporary nations. The pattern of correlation differs somewhat across cultures and aspects of freedom. We found no pattern of declining happiness returns, which suggests that freedom has not passed its maximum in the freest countries.

Keywords Freedom · Happiness · Nations · Synthesis · World Database of Happiness

The original version of this article was revised: modifications have been made to Tables 2, 3, and 4, captions to Figs. 2 and 3, and hyperlinks to the findings pages on the World Database of Happiness in page 11. Full information regarding corrections made can be found in the erratum for this article.

Ruut Veenhoven is on the Editorial Policy Board of the Applied Research in Quality-of-Life journal, and one of the Board of Directors of the International Society of Quality-of-Life Studies.

✉ Amanina Abdur Rahman
amanina.abdur.rahman@monash.edu

Ruut Veenhoven
veenhoven@esc.eur.nl

¹ Department of Economics, School of Business, Monash University Malaysia, Jalan Lagoon Selatan, Bandar Sunway, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

² Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organization (EHERO), Erasmus University Rotterdam, P.O. Box 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands

³ Opentia Research Program, North-West University, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa

Economic Freedom In the States

Fraser Scholars in 2002: Find a way to measure economic freedom at the state and provincial level.

Economic Freedom In the States



Economic Freedom In the States



93 jurisdictions

41 years

1981 - 2022 (US states and
Canadian provinces)

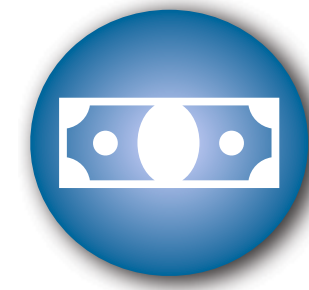
2000 - 2022 (Puerto Rico)

2003 - 2022 (Mexican states)

Economic Freedom In the States



Government Spending



Taxes



Regulation

Economic Freedom In the States



Government Spending

Taxes

Regulation

General Consumption
Expenditures (% of income)

Transfers & Subsidies
(% of income)

Insurance & Retirement Payments
(% of income)

Economic Freedom In the States

Income & Payroll Tax Revenue
(% of income)

Top Marginal Income Tax Rate

Income Threshold at
Which Top Rate Applies

Property Tax and Other Taxes
(% of income)

Sales Tax Revenue
(% of income)



Government Spending

Taxes

Regulation

Economic Freedom In the States

Annual Minimum Wage Income
(% of Per Capita Income)

Government Employment
(% of Total Employment)

Union Density

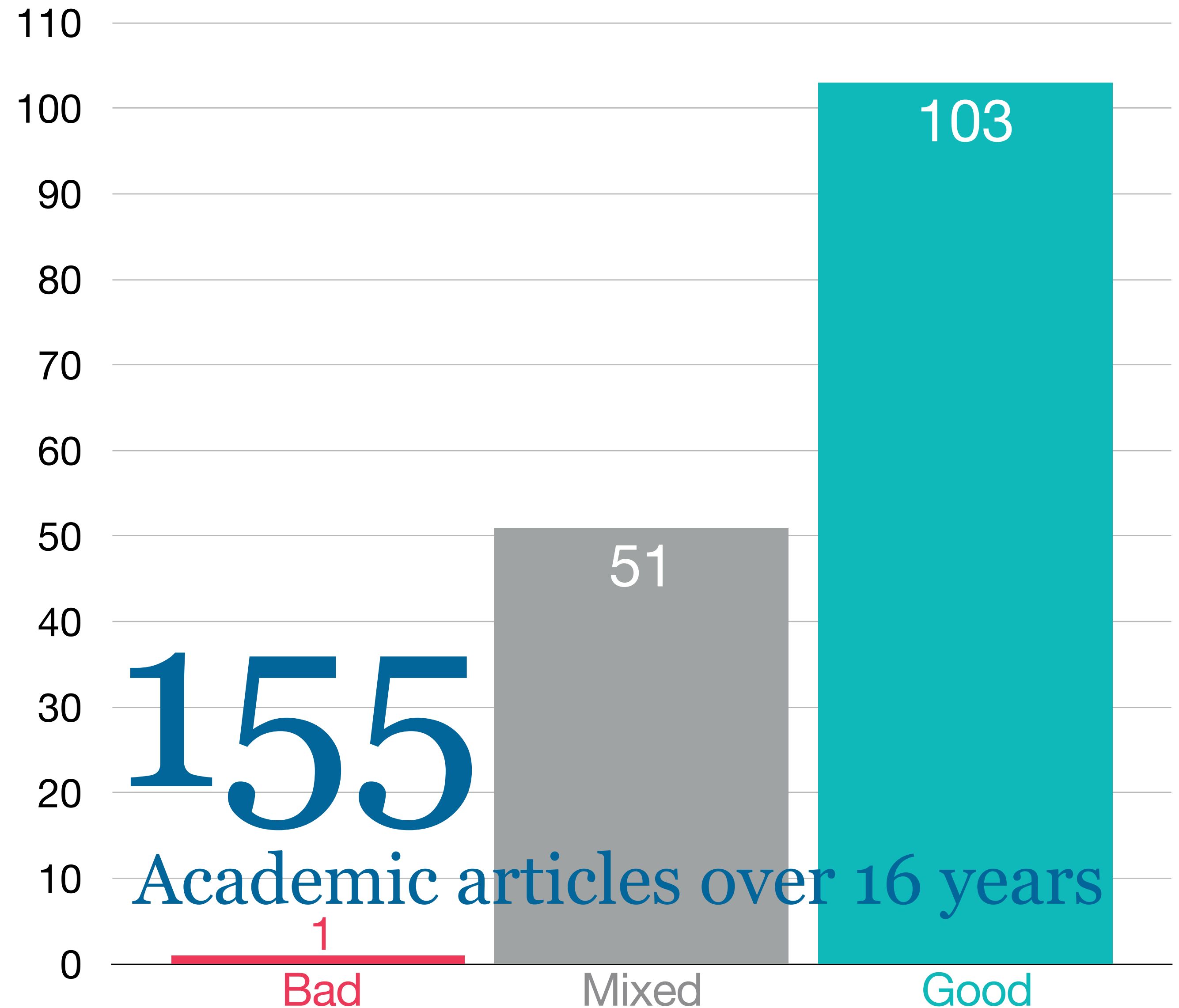
Government Spending

Taxes

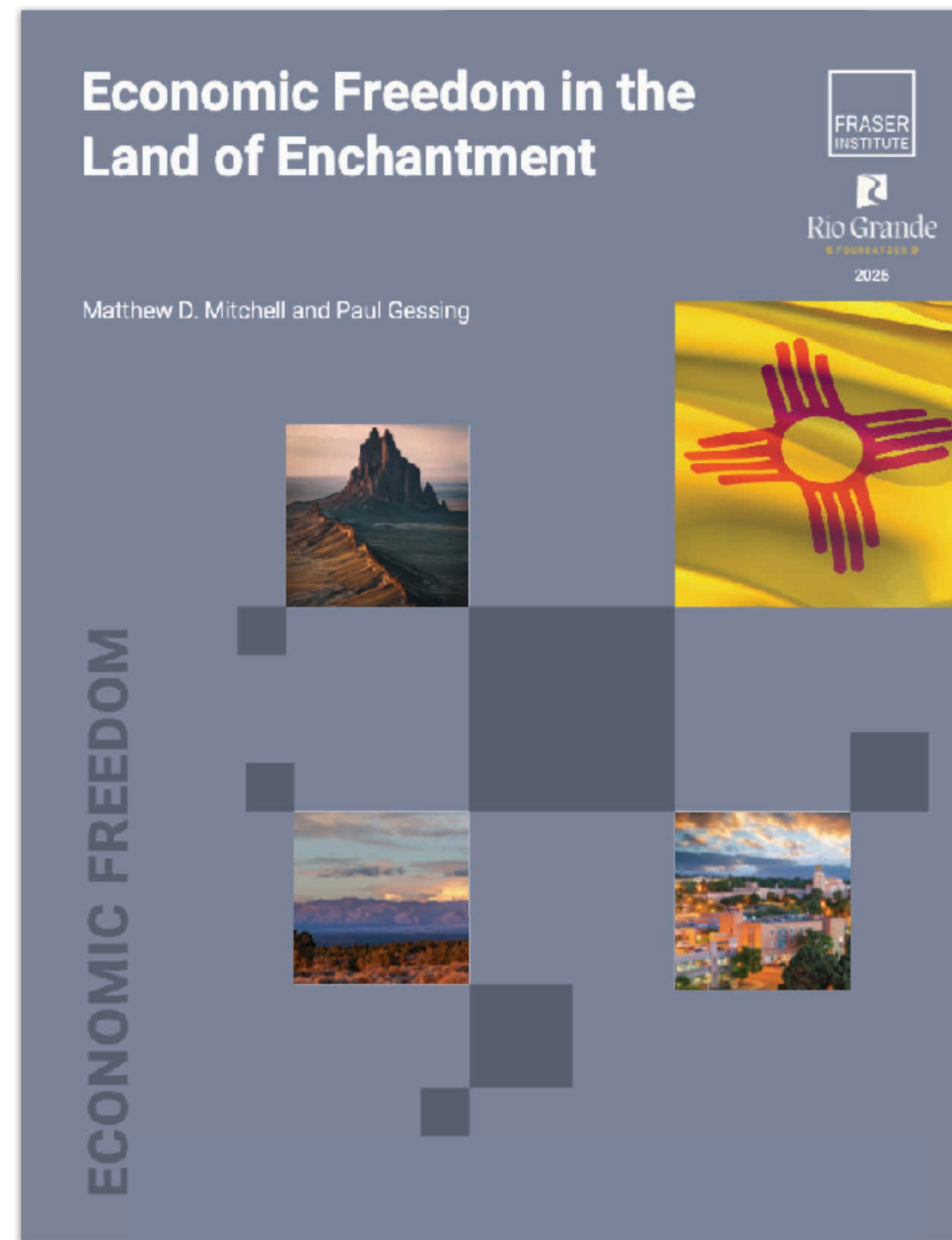
Regulation



Economic Freedom In the States



Economic Freedom In New Mexico



Economic Freedom In New Mexico

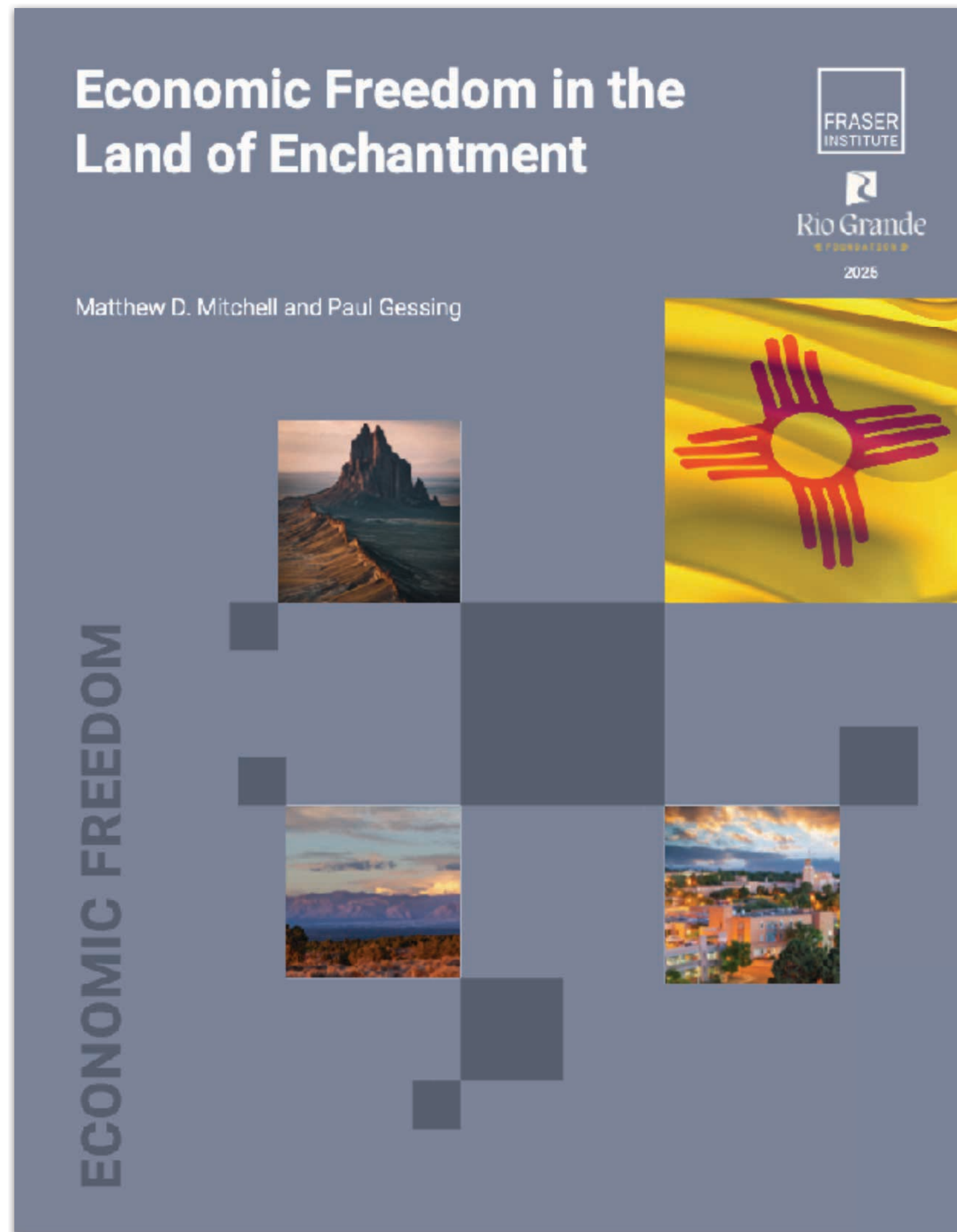
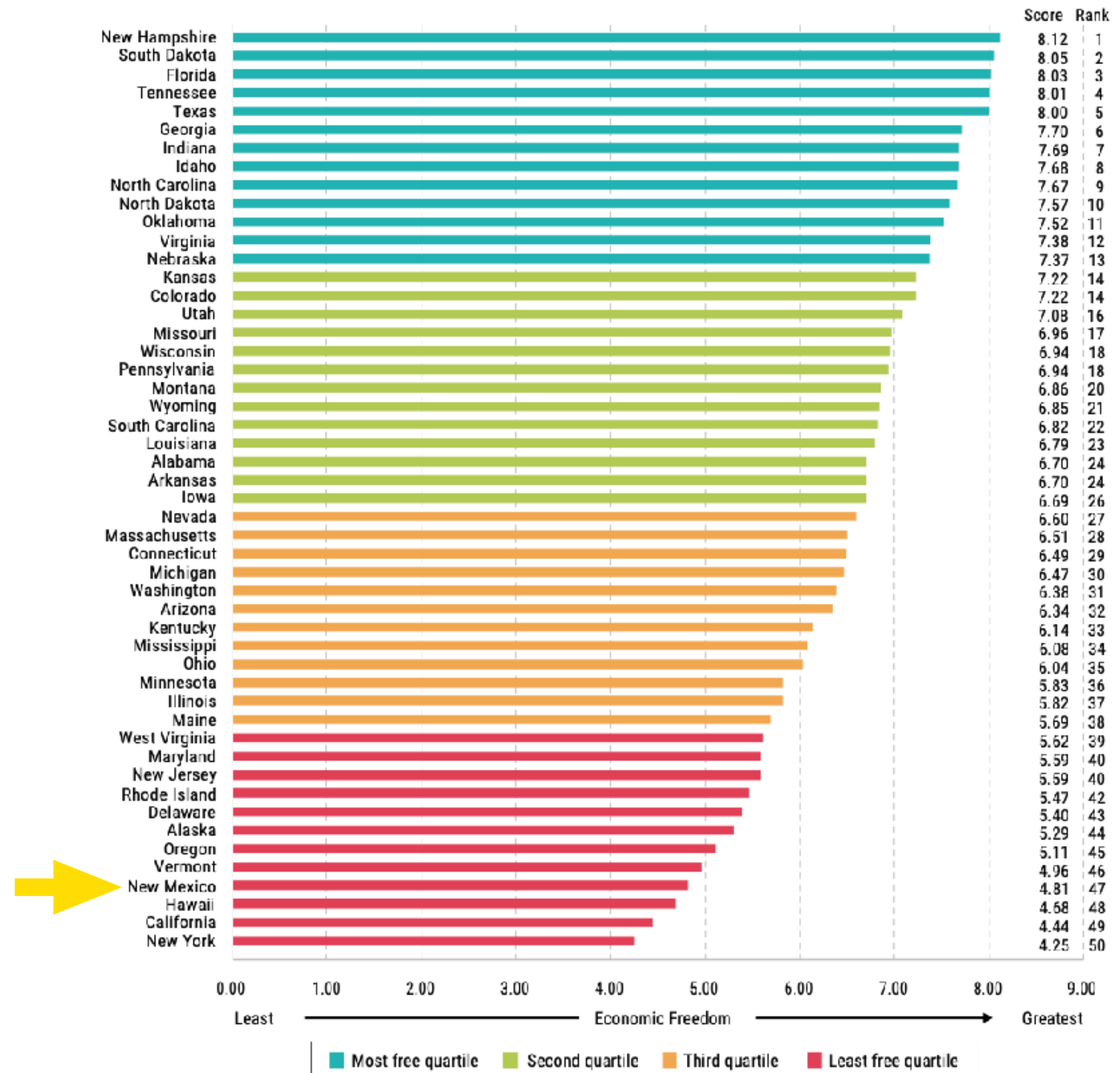
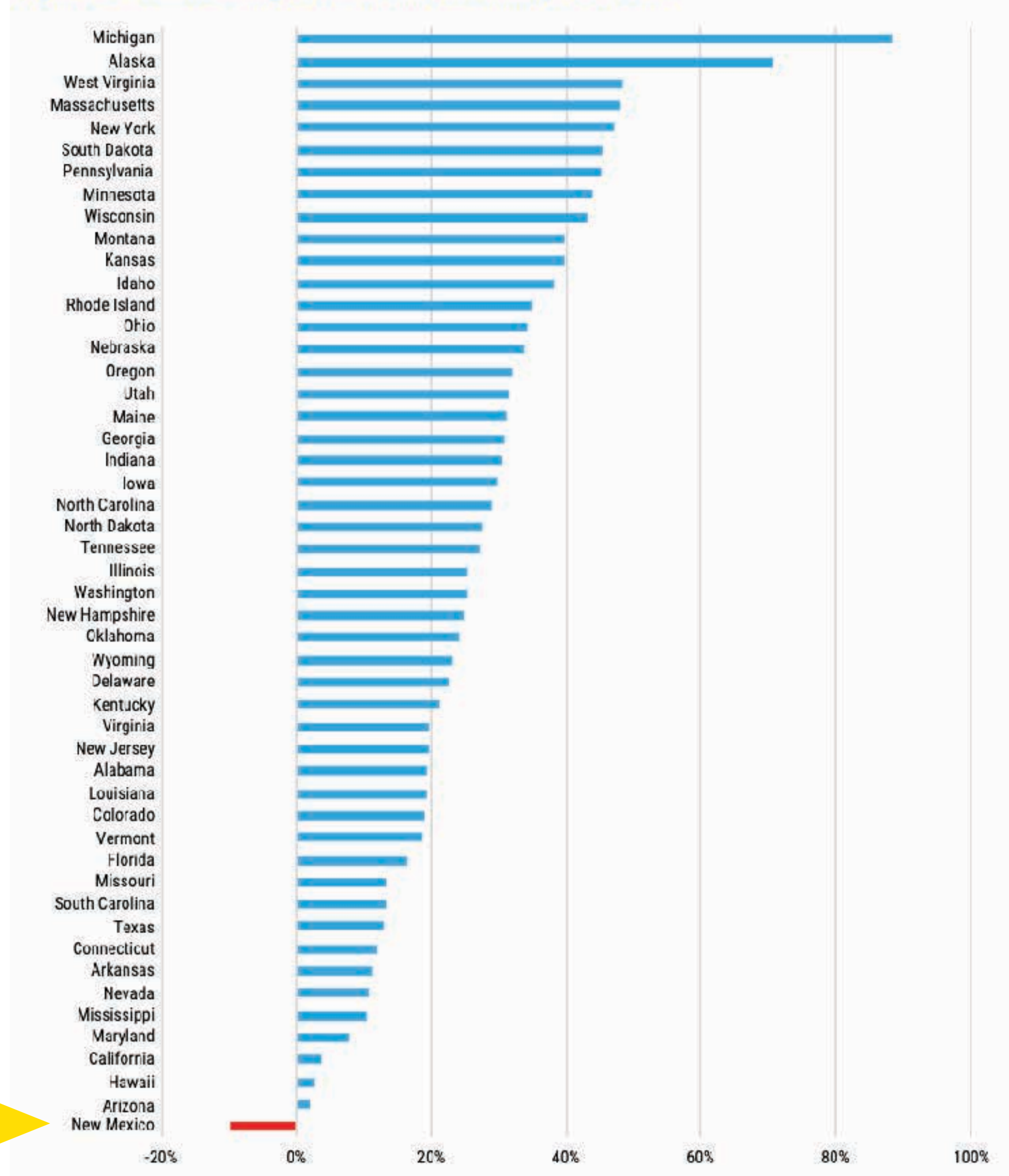


Figure 7: Economic Freedom in the U.S. States (2022)



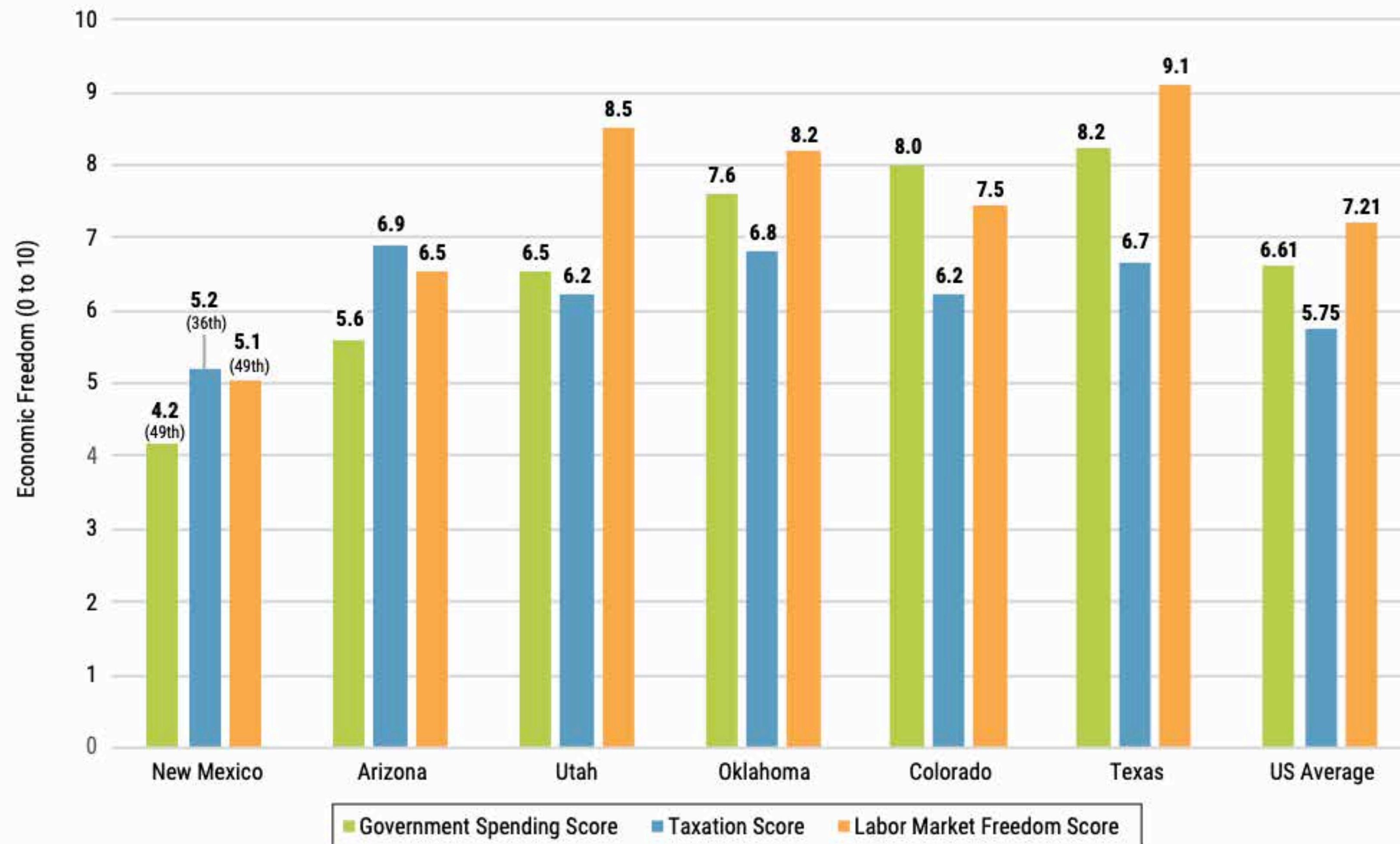
Economic Freedom In New Mexico

Figure 8: Percent Change in Economic Freedom (1981–2022)



Economic Freedom In New Mexico

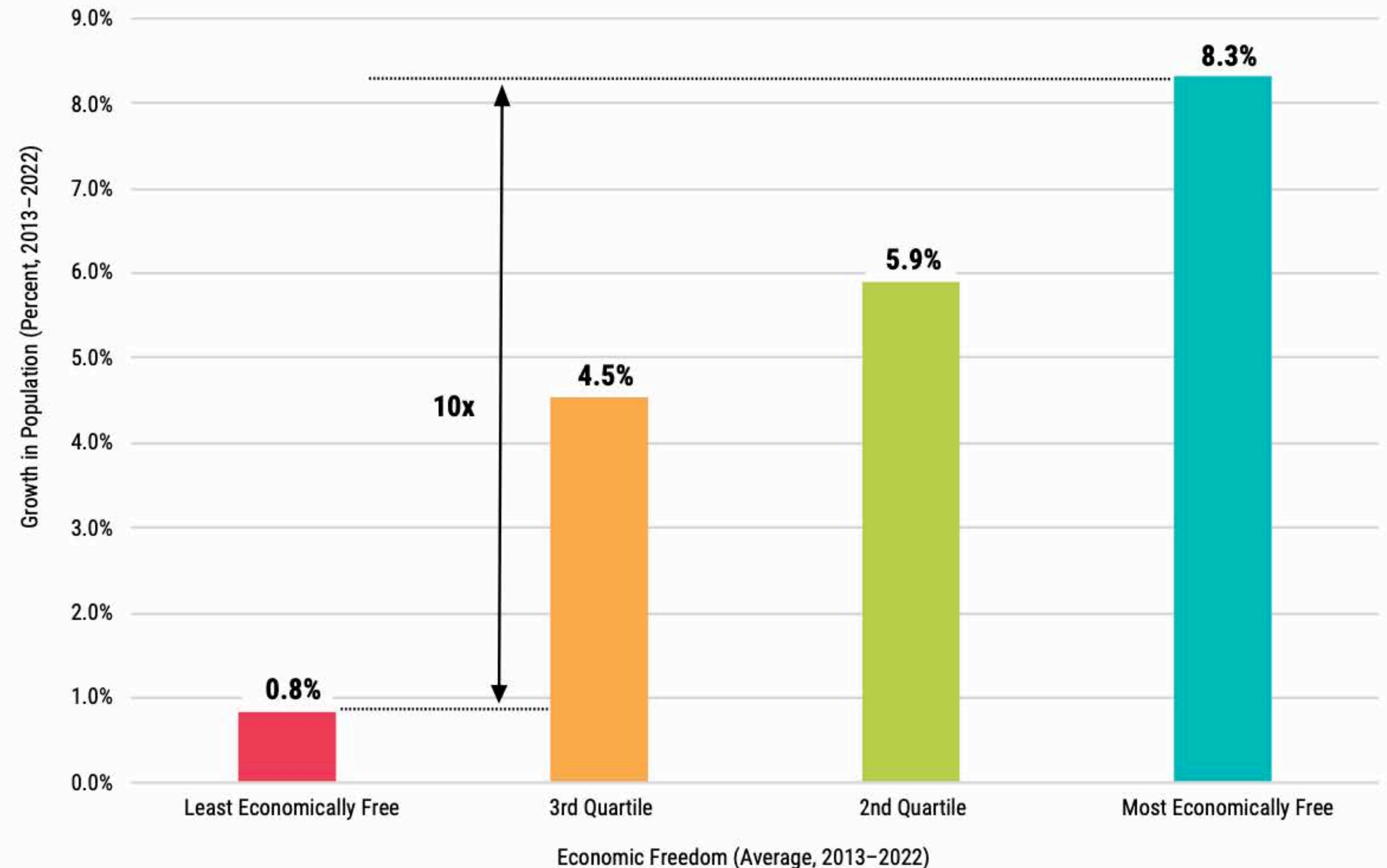
Figure 15: Areas of Economic Freedom in the Southwest (2022)



Economic Freedom In New Mexico



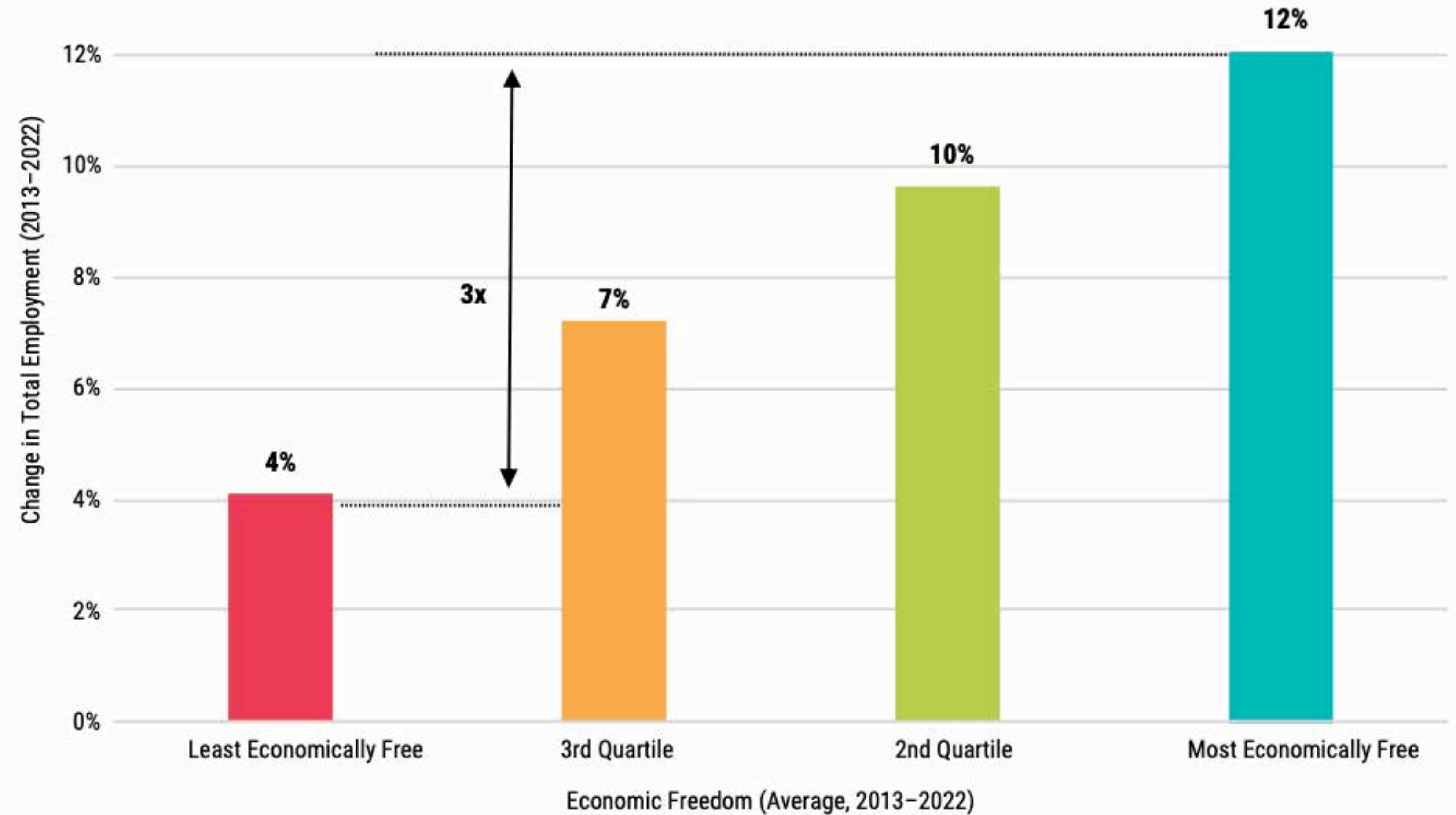
Figure 9: Economic Freedom and Change in Population (2013–2022)



Economic Freedom In New Mexico



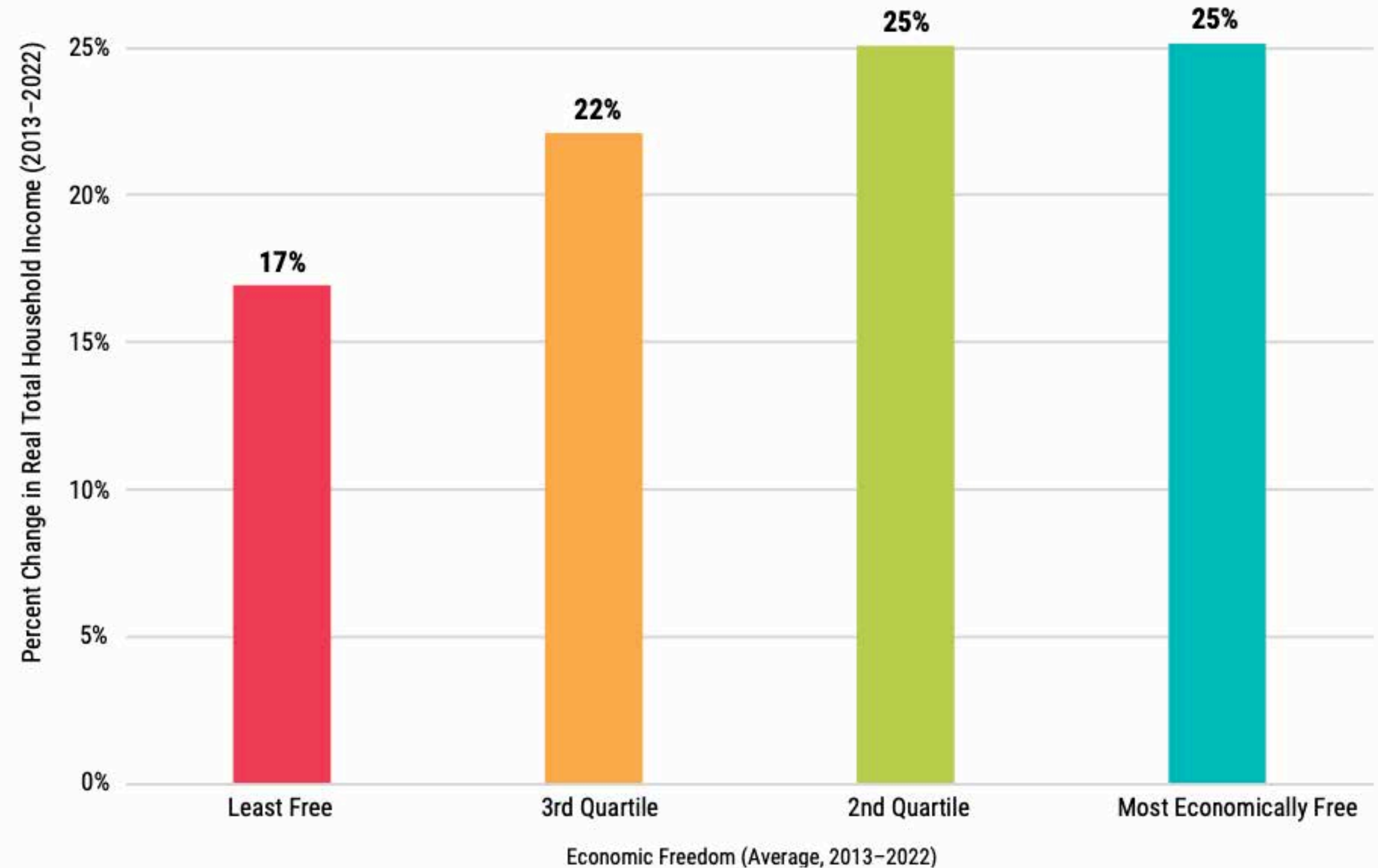
Figure 10: Economic Freedom and Change in Total Employment (2013–2022)



Economic Freedom In New Mexico



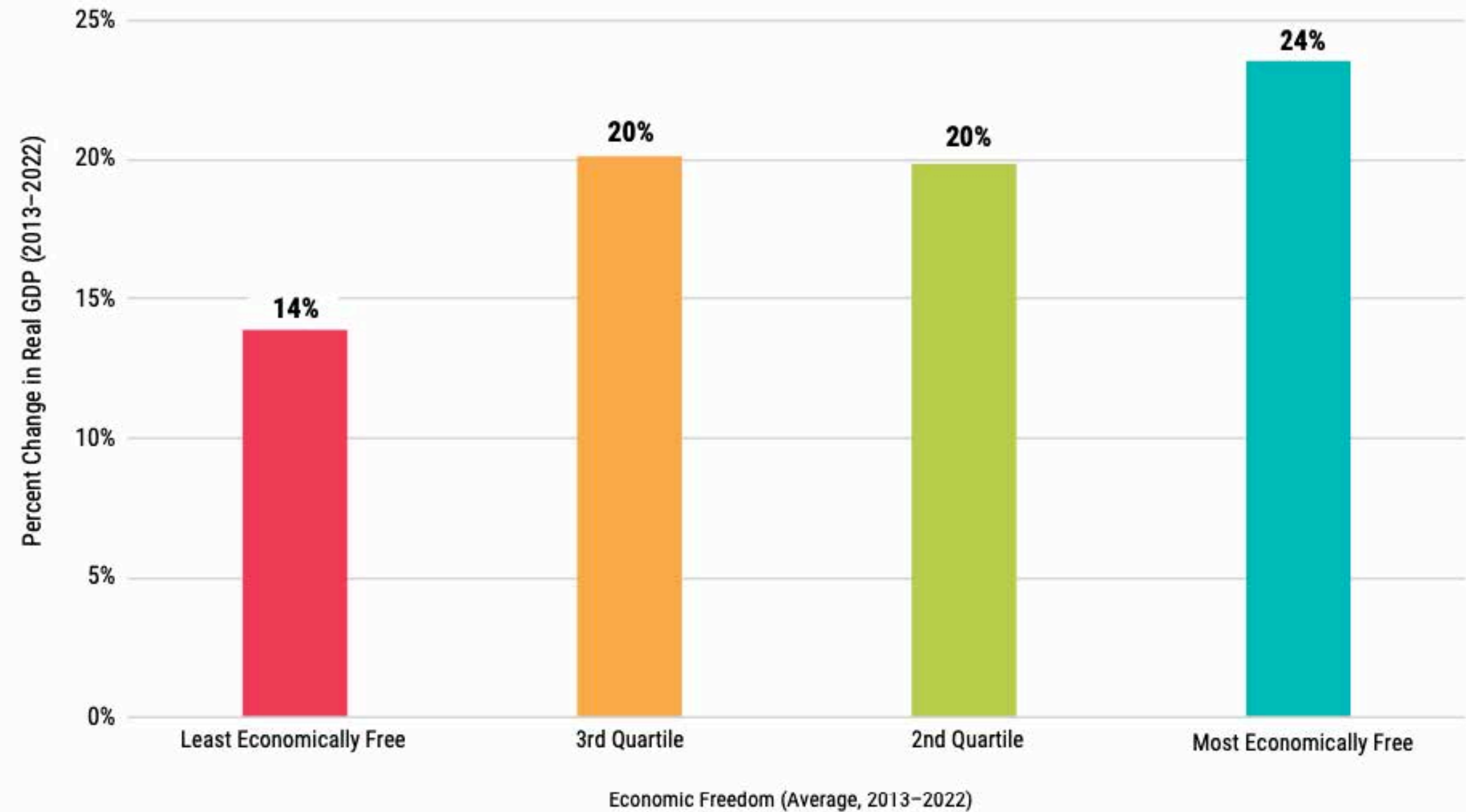
Figure 11: Economic Freedom and Change in Total Income (2013–2022)



Economic Freedom In New Mexico



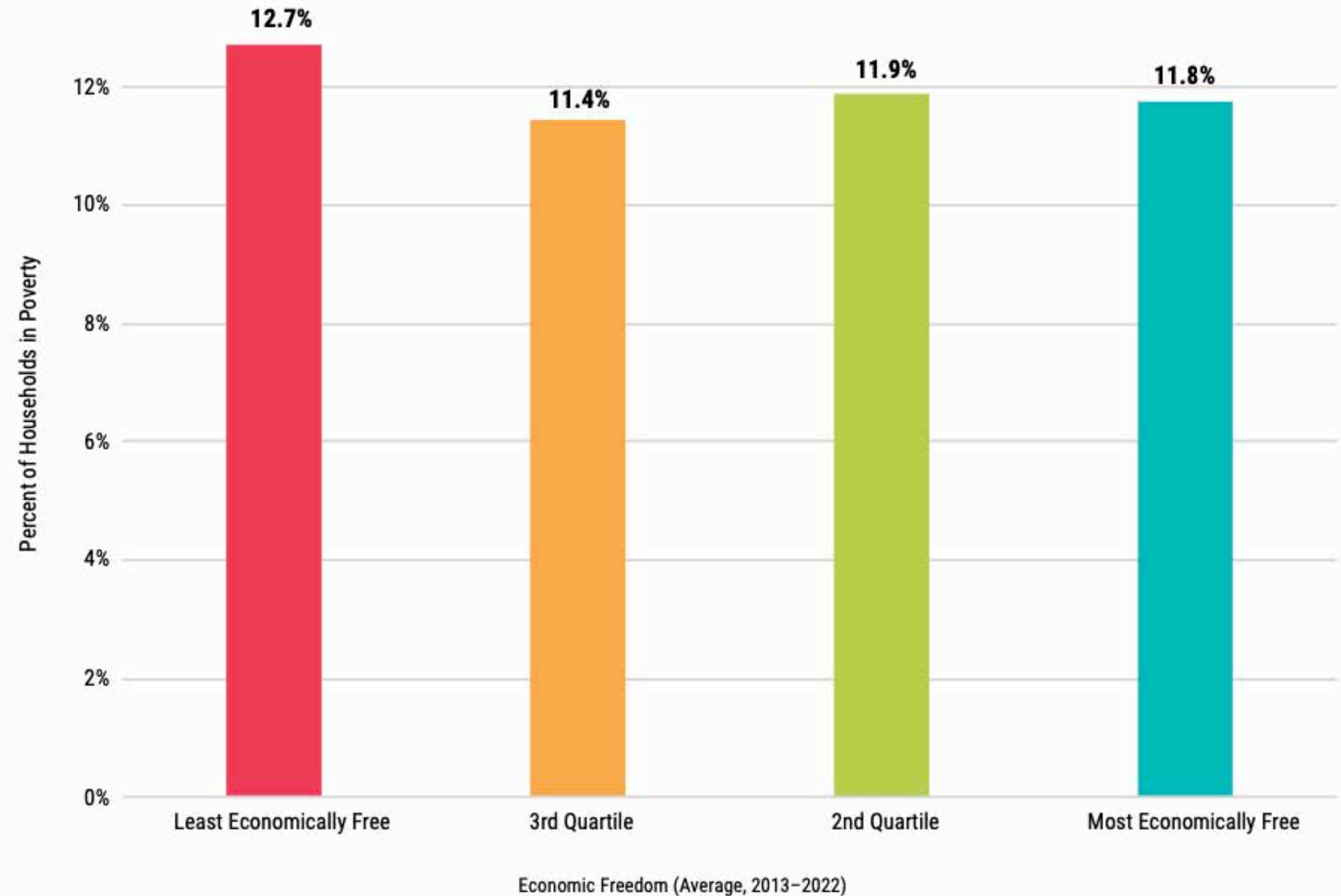
Figure 12: Economic Freedom and Change in Real GDP (2013–2022)



Economic Freedom In New Mexico



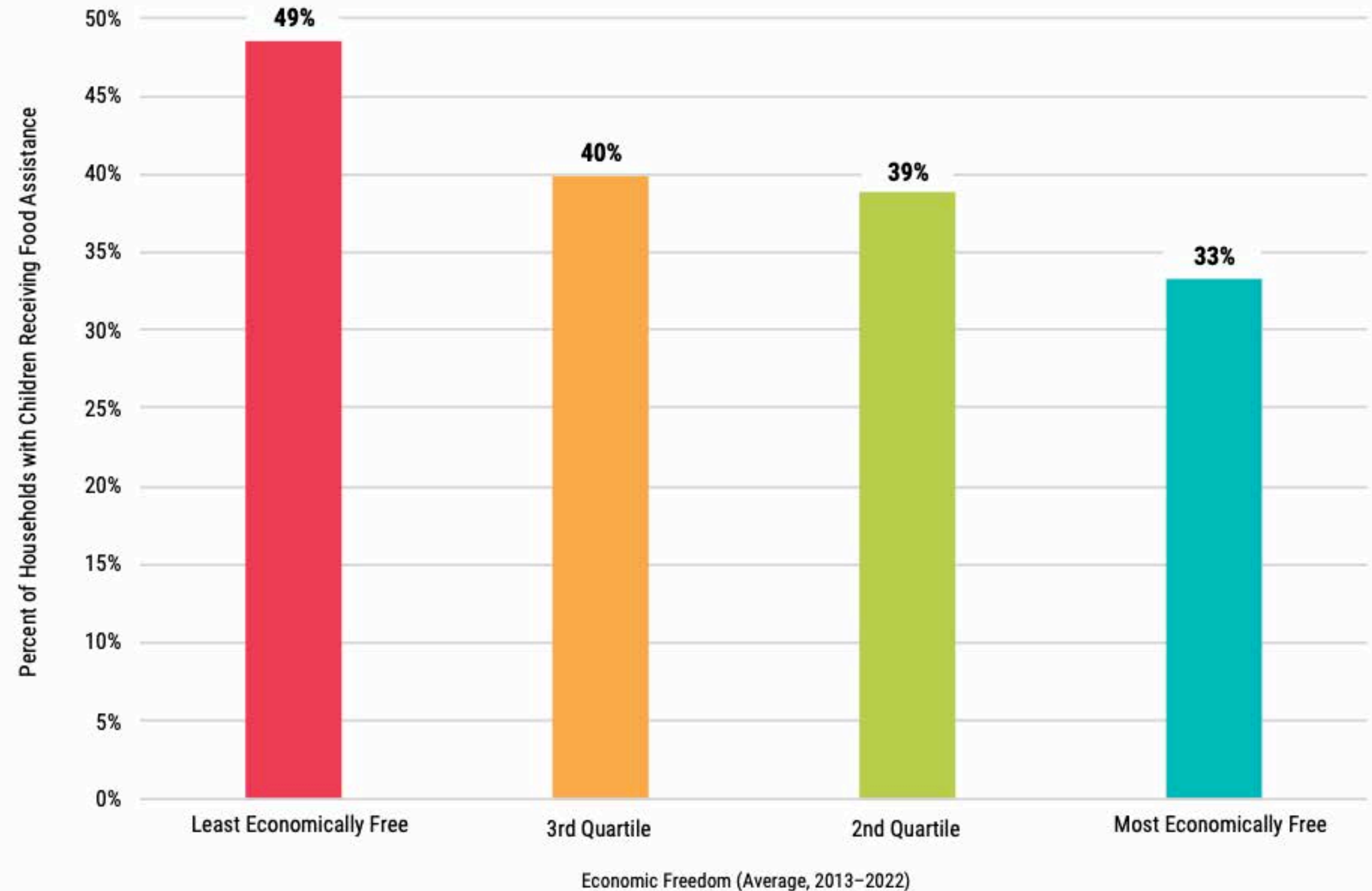
Figure 13: Economic Freedom and Poverty (2023)



Economic Freedom In New Mexico



Figure 14: Economic Freedom and Children Receiving Food Assistance (2024)



Economic Freedom In New Mexico



10% Greater
Economic Freedom

5% Greater
Real GDP / Person

Economic Freedom In New Mexico



Economic Freedom In the Land of Enchantment

Matthew Mitchell

Senior Fellow

Centre For Human Freedom

