

# Package: pressfreedom.data (via r-universe)

October 16, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Download and Process Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index Data

**Version** 0.3.0.9000

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**Description** Download press freedom index data from Reporters Without Borders (RSF) with period-aware encoding handling. Data are downloaded from the RSF website (<<https://rsf.org/en/index>>). Provides infrastructure for data cleaning and ISO 3166 standardization in downstream phases.

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**URL** <https://github.com/petzi53/pressfreedom.data>,  
<https://www.peter-baumgartner.net/pressfreedom.data/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/petzi53/pressfreedom.data/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**Imports** readr, here, rlang, countrycode, dplyr, stringr, cli, fs,  
glue, purrr, tibble, stringi

**Suggests** usethis, knitr, rmarkdown, ggplot2, tidyr, forcats,  
patchwork, scales, sf, rnatualearth, testthat (>= 3.0.0), covr

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Config/roxygen2/version** 8.1.0

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**Depends** R (>= 4.1.0)

**Config/pak/sysreqs** cmake make libicu-dev libuv1-dev libx11-dev

**Repository** <https://petzi53.r-universe.dev>

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**RemoteUrl** <https://github.com/petzi53/pressfreedom.data>

**RemoteRef** HEAD

**RemoteSha** 066a744464e4a2a671375721a0a7fe9a0010b7a3

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|                  |                                                                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| rwb_standardized | <i>Standardized Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index (2002-2026)</i> |
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## Description

A comprehensive dataset of press freedom indicators from Reporters Without Borders (RSF: Reporters Sans Frontieres, the organization's French name and legal identity; RWB: Reporters Without Borders, its common English name – used for the 'rwb\_' prefix throughout this package), standardized and cleaned by the pressfreedom.data package pipeline.

## Usage

rwb\_standardized

## Format

A data frame with 4,183 rows and 51 columns:

**\*\*Core RSF press freedom (columns 1-20):\*\*** year\_n, iso, country\_en, score, rank, political\_context, rank\_pol, economic\_context, rank\_eco, legal\_context, rank\_leg, social\_context, rank\_soc, safety, rank\_saf, zone, rank\_n\_1, rank\_evolution, score\_n\_1, score\_evolution

**\*\*EU membership (column 21):\*\*** EU

**\*\*OECD membership (column 22):\*\*** OECD

**\*\*UN M49 regional classifications (columns 23-29):\*\*** un\_region, un\_subregion, un\_intermediate\_region, LLDC, SIDS, LDC, UN

**\*\*World Bank static classifications (columns 30-41):\*\*** wb\_region, wb\_region2, wb\_region2\_code, wb\_lending\_category, arab\_world, central\_europe\_baltics, small\_states, IDA\_only, IDA\_blend, IBRD\_only, IDA\_total, IDA\_IBRD\_total

**\*\*World Bank time-varying classifications (columns 42-46):\*\*** wb\_income\_group, middle\_income, low\_middle\_income, euro\_area, fragile\_state

**\*\*UN development & debt relief (column 47):\*\*** HIPC

**\*\*Socioeconomic data (columns 48-51):\*\*** population\_mn, gdp\_usd\_mn, area\_km2, gdp\_pc\_usd

**year\_n** Numeric year (2002-2026, excluding 2011)

**iso** ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 country code

**country\_en** Standardized country name in English

**score** Press freedom score (0-100); higher = more free

**rank** Rank within year (1 = most free)

**political\_context** Political context sub-index (2022-2026 only)  
**rank\_pol** Political context rank (2022-2026 only)  
**economic\_context** Economic context sub-index (2022-2026 only)  
**rank\_eco** Economic context rank (2022-2026 only)  
**legal\_context** Legal context sub-index (2022-2026 only)  
**rank\_leg** Legal context rank (2022-2026 only)  
**social\_context** Social context sub-index (2022-2026 only)  
**rank\_soc** Social context rank (2022-2026 only)  
**safety** Safety sub-index (2022-2026 only)  
**rank\_saf** Safety rank (2022-2026 only)  
**zone** RSF geographic zone (English)  
**rank\_n\_1** Previous year's rank  
**rank\_evolution** Rank change from previous year  
**score\_n\_1** Previous year's score  
**score\_evolution** Score change from previous year  
**EU** Logical; EU member in that year  
**OECD** Logical; OECD member (time-varying)  
**un\_region** UN M49 region (5 regions: Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, Oceania)  
**un\_subregion** UN M49 sub-region; ~17 subregions  
**un\_intermediate\_region** UN M49 intermediate region; zero NAs (replaced with sub-region where missing)  
**LLDC** Logical; landlocked developing country (static geopolitical classification)  
**SIDS** Logical; small island developing state (static geopolitical classification)  
**LDC** Logical; least developed country (time-varying); based on UN CDP triennial reviews (2000-2024) with nearest-prior interpolation  
**UN** Logical; UN member (time-varying); FALSE for PSE (observer), TWN, XXK; MNE TRUE from 2006; SSD TRUE from 2012; all others TRUE  
**wb\_region** World Bank region (7 regions; July 2026 classification snapshot)  
**wb\_region2** World Bank region with Sub-Saharan Africa split into AFE/AFW (8 groups; July 2026 snapshot)  
**wb\_region2\_code** World Bank region code (e.g., AFE, AFW, EAS, LCN; July 2026 snapshot)  
**wb\_lending\_category** World Bank lending category (IBRD, IDA, Blend, or NA; July 2026 snapshot)  
**arab\_world** Logical; Arab World group member (22 countries; July 2026 snapshot)  
**central\_europe\_baltics** Logical; Central Europe & Baltics member (11 countries; July 2026 snapshot)  
**small\_states** Logical; World Bank small states group (July 2026 snapshot)  
**IDA\_only** Logical; IDA-only borrower (derived from wb\_lending\_category)  
**IDA\_blend** Logical; Blend (IDA + IBRD) borrower (derived from wb\_lending\_category)

**IBRD\_only** Logical; IBRD-only borrower (derived from wb\_lending\_category)

**IDA\_total** Logical; IDA borrower (IDA only or Blend; derived from wb\_lending\_category)

**IDA\_IBRD\_total** Logical; IBRD borrower (IBRD or Blend; derived from wb\_lending\_category)

**wb\_income\_group** World Bank income classification (time-varying; FY2002-FY2026); one of "High income", "Upper middle income", "Lower middle income", "Low income"

**middle\_income** Logical; Upper or Lower middle income (derived from wb\_income\_group)

**low\_middle\_income** Logical; not High income (derived from wb\_income\_group)

**euro\_area** Logical; eurozone member (time-varying); 12 founding members from 2002; 8 countries joined 2007-2023

**fragile\_state** Logical; World Bank Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations (time-varying; NA for 2002-2005; FY2006-FY2026 classified); methodology changed 4 times: LICUS (FY2006-2009), Fragile States List (FY2009-2010), Harmonized List (FY2011-2020), FCS List (FY2020-2026)

**HIPC** Logical; HIPC Initiative completion point reached (time-varying); 34 countries total; TRUE from completion year onward

**population\_mn** Total mid-year population in millions (WB SP.POP.TOTL); annual 2002-2024; 2025-2026 forward-filled from 2024; NA for YUG, SCG, CXX, XXX, XXX, TWN

**area\_km2** Surface area in km<sup>2</sup> (UNSD SYB68, reference year 2023); static; NA for historical entities and non-UN territories

**gdp\_usd\_mn** GDP in current USD, in millions (WB NY.GDP.MKTP.CD); annual 2002-2023; 2024-2026 forward-filled from 2023; coverage thins in recent years; NA for historical entities and some countries with unreported recent data

**gdp\_pc\_usd** GDP per capita in current USD (derived as gdp\_usd\_mn / population\_mn); NA wherever either component is NA

## Details

### ## Data Cleaning Pipeline

This dataset is the output of a comprehensive 4-phase data pipeline implemented in the `pressfreedom.data` package:

- **Phase A (Download):** Raw CSV files from RSF website - **Phase B (Normalize):** Column names and data types standardized across periods - **Phase C (Combine):** All periods merged into unified structure - **Phase D (Standardize):** Country names consolidated, ISO codes assigned, duplicates resolved

### ## Important Notes

**Audit Trail:** The full audit trail (including 'country\_name\_original' and 'consolidation\_flag' columns) is preserved in the source RDS file ('data/processed/rwb\_standardized.rds') within the `pressfreedom.data` package. The exported dataset in 'data/rwb\_standardized.rda' contains 51 columns: 20 core RSF press freedom indicators, plus EU membership and 30 UN/World Bank classifications.

**Score Comparability:** Scores are only comparable within their respective periods: - **Period 1 (2002-2012):** Non-comparable scores; use ranks for trends - **Period 2 (2013-2021):** Comparable scores (0-100 scale) - **Period 3 (2022-2026):** New methodology; different dimensions tracked

**\*\*Missing Data:\*\*** Sub-indices (political, economic, legal, social, safety contexts) are only available in Period 3 (2022-2026). Periods 1-2 have NA values for these columns.

**\*\*Cyprus:\*\*** Tracked as two separate entities: - "Cyprus" (ISO: CYP) - Republic of Cyprus - "Northern Cyprus" (ISO: CXX) - Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

## Source

Reporters Sans Frontieres, <https://rsf.org>

## Examples

```
# Load the dataset
data(rwb_standardized)

# Basic summary
head(rwb_standardized)

# Countries included
length(unique(rwb_standardized$country_en))

# Years covered
range(rwb_standardized$year_n)
```

# Index

## \* **datasets**

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