

Short Methodology Note

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) aggregates data from a number of different sources that provide perceptions by business people and country experts of the level of corruption in the public sector.

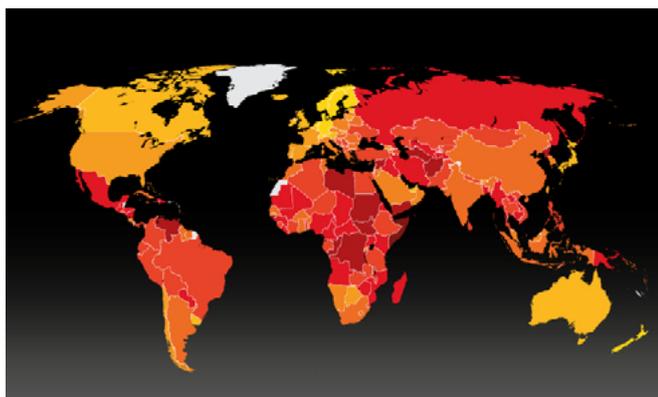
The following steps are followed to calculate the CPI:

1. Select data sources:

Each data source that is used to construct the CPI must fulfil the following criteria to qualify as a valid source:

- Quantifies perceptions of corruption in the public sector
 - Be based on a reliable and valid methodology, which scores and ranks multiple countries on the same scale
 - Performed by a credible institution
 - Allow for sufficient variation of scores to distinguish between countries
 - Gives ratings to a substantial number of countries
 - The rating is given by a country expert or business person
 - The institution repeats their assessment at least every two years

The CPI 2025 is calculated using 13 different data sources from 12 different institutions that capture perceptions of corruption within the past two years. These sources are described in detail in the accompanying source description document.



2. Standardise data sources

to a scale of 0–100 where a 0 equals the highest level of perceived corruption and 100 equals the lowest level of perceived corruption.

This standardisation is done by subtracting the mean of each source in the baseline year from each country score and then dividing by the standard deviation of that source in the baseline year. This subtraction and division using the baseline year parameters ensures that the CPI scores are comparable year on year since 2012. After this procedure, the standardised scores are transformed to the CPI scale by multiplying with the value of the CPI standard deviation in 2012 (20) and adding the mean of CPI in 2012 (45), so that the data set fits the CPI's 0–100 scale

3. Calculate the average:

For a country or territory to be included in the CPI, a minimum of three sources must assess that country. A country's CPI score is then calculated as the average of all standardised scores available for that country. Scores are rounded to whole numbers.

4. Report a measure of uncertainty:

The CPI is accompanied by a standard error and confidence interval associated with the score, which captures the variation in scores of the data sources available for that country/territory.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025



Full Source Description

13 data sources were used to construct the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025:

1. African Development Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment 2023 (AFDB)
2. Bertelsmann Stiftung Sustainable Governance Indicators 2024 (SGI)
3. Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index 2026 (STI)
4. Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk Service 2025 (EIU)
5. Freedom House Nations in Transit 2024 (FH)
6. S&P Global Insights Business Conditions and Risk Indicators 2024 (GI)
7. IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2025 (IMD)
8. Political and Economic Risk Consultancy 2025 (PERC)
9. The PRS Group International Country Risk Guide 2025 (PRS)
10. World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment 2024 (WB)
11. World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey 2025 (WEF)
12. World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2025 (WJP)
13. Varieties of Democracy Project 2025 (VDEM)

13

data sources

1. AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK COUNTRY POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT 2023

Year of publication: 2024 (used also in the previous CPI edition)

Type of assessment: Expert evaluations

Data provider: African Development Bank

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is a regional multilateral development bank promoting the economic development and social progress of countries on the continent.

The AfDB's 2023 Governance Ratings are part of the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), which assesses the quality of a country's institutional framework in terms of how conducive it is to foster the effective use of development assistance. The current CPIA strives to achieve maximum uniformity and consistency across all regional member countries surveyed. Also, to comply with the Paris and Rome declarations on Aid Effectiveness, Harmonization and Alignment, the AfDB has modified the questionnaire and guidelines for its CPIA to be in line with those of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, thus increasing the comparability and synergy among systems.

The CPIA is carried out by a group of country economists with vast experience in policy analysis. The knowledge of these experts is complemented by that of local contacts that provide quantitative and qualitative insights. Peer discussions are also used to monitor the quality of the findings.

Corruption question(s)

Experts are asked to assess:

Transparency, accountability and corruption in the public sector.

"This criterion assesses the extent to which the executive can be held accountable for its use of funds and the results of its actions by the electorate and by the legislature and judiciary, and the extent to which public employees within the executive are required to account for the use of resources, administrative decisions, and results obtained. Both levels of accountability are enhanced by transparency in decision-making, public audit institutions, access to relevant and timely information, and public and media scrutiny. National and sub-national governments should be appropriately weighted."

Each of the three dimensions is rated separately:

- (a) the accountability of the executive to oversight institutions and of public employees for their performance
- (b) access of civil society to information on public affairs
- (c) state capture by narrow vested interests

For the overall rating, these three dimensions receive equal weighting.

The questionnaire can be accessed here: <https://cpia.afdb.org/documents/public/cpia2018-questionnaire-en.pdf> and further information on the methodology is available at:

<https://cpia.afdb.org/documents/public/cpia2018-questionnaire-en.pdf>

Scores and scoring process

The rating scale ranges from 1 (very weak) to 6 (very strong).

Countries are scored in terms of their performance during the rating year vis-à-vis the criteria, which are included in the CPIA Manual for Drafters and updated yearly. The CPIA is a three-phase process involving i) the rating of countries by country teams, ii) the review of all ratings by sector experts, and

iii) the endorsement of final ratings at open discussions between country teams and reviewers.

Country coverage and periodicity

The country coverage for this source increased from 37 African countries in the previous edition to 54 in the latest one, with the inclusion of Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cape Verde, the Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa and Tunisia.

The data was published annually between 2004 and 2016 and every two years after that. The database containing the latest update was shared by the ADFB and the information was compiled between September and November 2023.

Data availability

Please note that the CPIA website is undergoing an update and the 2024 data is not yet publicly available, but TI obtained a copy of the latest results directly from the African Development Bank.

2. BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE INDICATORS 2024

Year of publication: 2024 (used also in the previous CPI edition)

Type of assessment: Combination of quantitative data and qualitative expert assessments

Data provider: Bertelsmann Stiftung

Data use: Used for CPI calculations of CPI 2024

The Bertelsmann Stiftung (BF) was founded 1977 as a private foundation. As a think tank, they work toward improved education, a just and efficient economic system, a preventative health-care system, a vibrant civil society and greater international understanding. The BF is independent and nonpartisan. It designs, launches and runs its projects.

The Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) examine governance and policymaking in all OECD and EU member states to evaluate each country's need for and ability to carry out reform.

The indicators are calculated using quantitative data from international organisations and supplemented by qualitative assessments from recognised country experts. For each SGI survey, individual countries are evaluated by two (or more) leading experts. For more information on the methodology, please see <https://www.sgi-network.org/2024/Methodology>

Corruption question(s)

Experts are asked to assess:

Corruption prevention

"D4.4 To what extent are public officeholders prevented from abusing their position for private interests?"

This question addresses how the state and society prevent public servants and politicians from accepting bribes by applying mechanisms to guarantee the integrity of officeholders: auditing of state spending; regulation of party financing; citizen and media access to information; accountability of officeholders (asset declarations, conflict of interest rules, codes of conduct); transparent public procurement systems; effective prosecution of corruption."

Scores and scoring process

Scores are given from:

- a low of 1, where "Public officeholders can exploit their offices for private gain as they see fit without fear of legal consequences or adverse publicity."
- to a high of 10, where "Legal, political and public integrity mechanisms effectively prevent public officeholders from abusing their positions."

The questionnaire can be accessed here: <https://www.sgi-network.org/2024/Questionnaire>

For each SGI survey, individual countries are evaluated by two (or more) leading experts. Eight coordinators support the experts' questionnaire work. The SGI Advisory Board discusses and approves the findings. The SGI Codebook, a detailed questionnaire, provides a clear expla-

nation for each of the questions so that all experts share a common understanding of the questions https://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2024/basics/SGI2024_Codebook.pdf

The SGI project team compiles the quantitative data centrally from official, publicly accessible statistics (primarily from OECD sources).

The SGI's Expert Network assessments undergo a six-stage peer review within a concise framework. This thorough process is designed to ensure the validity and reliability of expert evaluations.

Country coverage and periodicity

The previous edition of the SGIs covered a total of 41 EU and OECD countries. The latest data, however, covers just 30 countries. Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Iceland, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Romania, South Korea and Turkey are not covered in the latest edition.

First published in 2009, the most recent Sustainable Governance Indicators assess the period beginning in January 2022 and ending in January 2024.

Data availability

The Sustainable Governance Indicators 2022 data is publicly available online at <https://www.sgi-network.org/2024/Data>

3. BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG TRANSFORMATION INDEX 2026

Year of publication: 2026

Type of assessment: Qualitative expert survey

Data provider: Bertelsmann Stiftung

The Bertelsmann Stiftung (BF) was founded 1977 as a private foundation. As a think tank, they work toward improved education, a just and efficient economic system, a preventative health-care system, a vibrant civil society and greater international understanding. The Bertelsmann Stiftung is independent and nonpartisan. It designs, launches and runs its projects.

The Transformation Index provides the framework for an exchange of good practice among agents of reform. Within this framework, the Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index (BTI) publishes two rankings, the Status Index and the Management Index, based on in-depth assessments of 137 countries. The scores are based on detailed country reports, which assess 52 questions divided into 17 criteria.

Two experts per country provide assessments. Country assessments consist of two sections: the written evaluation of the state of transformation and management performance in a country (country report) and the numerical evaluation of the state of transformation and management performance (country ratings). Scores are given by a country expert, who then reviews them blindly by a second country expert, who also provides a second independent rating of the country. These expert scores are then verified and discussed by regional coordinators to ensure intra and inter-regional comparability in ratings. In addition, BF has also instituted an extra layer of verification to ensure the scores provided match the qualitative descriptions for each country.

Corruption question(s)

Experts are asked to assess:

Prosecution of office abuse: "Q3.3 To what extent are public officeholders who abuse their positions prosecuted or penalised?" Assessments range from:

- a. A low of 1, where "Officeholders who break the law and engage in corruption can do so without fear of legal consequences or adverse publicity."
- b. To a high of 10, "Officeholders who break the law and engage in corruption are prosecuted rigorously under established laws and always attract adverse publicity."

Anticorruption policy: "Q15.3 To what extent does the government successfully contain corruption?" Assessments range from:

- c. From a low of 1, "The government fails to contain corruption, and there are no integrity mechanisms in place."
- d. To a high of 10, "The government is successful in containing corruption, and all integrity mechanisms are in place and effective."

Scores and scoring process

Scores are assigned on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the lowest level of corruption and one be-

ing the highest. The score for each country is an average of the two questions. The BTI codebook for the previous edition is accessible here: https://bti-project.org/fileadmin/api/content/en/downloads/codebooks/BTI2024_Codebook.pdf

The BTI is based on a qualitative expert survey in which written assessments are translated into numerical ratings and examined in a multi-stage review process to make them comparable within and across regions. The country assessment process has both a qualitative and quantitative component, in each case performed by two country experts. As a rule, one foreign and one local expert are involved in the evaluation process; this ensures that both external and internal perspectives are considered during the assessment and helps counteract subjective influence. In total, 280 experts from leading research institutions worldwide contribute to producing the country reports.

To ensure the validity, reliability, and comparability of the assessment, each score undergoes a multi-step review process by the country experts, the regional coordinators, the project team, and the BTI board.

The scores and responses provided by the experts for each of the 49 indicators are initially reviewed by regional coordinators, who examine the content to ensure it is complete and consistent.

Country scores pass through an intra-regional review stage followed by an inter-regional review and ratings aggregation.

Country coverage

The BTI covers 137 countries and territories. The data collection period for the index extended from January 2023 to January 2025.

Data availability

The BTI was first published in 2003 and has been published every two years since then.

The data used for the calculation of the CPI 2025 has been provided directly by BF and cannot yet be downloaded, but is expected to be published in early 2026.

4. ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT COUNTRY RISK SERVICE 2025

Year of publication: 2025

Type of assessment: Risk evaluations based on qualitative and quantitative indicators

Data provider: Economist Intelligence Unit

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) was established in 1946 as the research body for The Economist newspaper. Since then, it has grown into a global research and advisory firm that produces business intelligence for policymakers worldwide. 650 full-time and contributing analysts work in and on over 200 countries/territories.

Country Risk Ratings are designed to provide an in-depth and timely analysis of the risks of financial exposure in more than 140 countries.

The EIU relies on teams of experts based primarily in London (but also in New York, Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai) who are supported by a global network of in-country specialists. Each country analyst covers a maximum of two or three countries/territories. The economic and political reports EIU analysts produce are subjected to a rigorous review process before publication.

Corruption question(s)

Specific guiding questions include:

- Are there clear procedures and accountability governing the allocation and use of public funds?
- Are public funds misappropriated by ministers/public officials for private or party political purposes?
- Are there special funds for which there is no accountability?
- Are there general abuses of public resources?
- Is there a professional civil service, or are large numbers of officials directly appointed by the government?
- Is there an independent body auditing the management of public finances?
- Is there an independent judiciary with the power to try ministers/public officials for abuses?
- Is there a tradition of payment of bribes to secure contracts and gain favours?

Scores and scoring process

Scores are given as integers on a scale from 0 (very low incidence of corruption) to 4 (very high incidence of corruption).

The score is a generalised composite measure of corruption that includes an assessment of all areas covered by the indicative questions.

Country coverage

The 2025 dataset covers the same 131 countries/territories that were covered in 2024. The CPI draws on risk rating data available as of September 2025.

Data availability and periodicity

The EIU has produced country risk assessments since the early 1980s. Updated summaries are

provided monthly for 100 countries and quarterly for the rest.

Data is available to subscribers of EIU Country Risk Service at <http://www.eiu.com>

5. FREEDOM HOUSE NATIONS IN TRANSIT 2024

Year of publication: 2024 (used also in the previous CPI edition)

Type of assessment: Qualitative expert assessment

Data provider: Freedom House

Founded in 1941, Freedom House is an independent watchdog organisation that supports the expansion of freedom around the world. Freedom House supports democratic change, monitors freedom and advocates for democracy and human rights.

The Nations in Transit (NIT) measures democratisation in 29 nations and administrative areas throughout Central Europe and the Newly Independent States (NIS). The reports focus on democratic progress and setbacks. Each report focuses on the following thematic areas: national democratic governance, electoral process, civil society, independent media, local democratic governance, judicial framework and independence, and corruption.

The NIT surveys were produced by Freedom House staff and consultants. Relevant authorities recommended the latter and are regional or country specialists. Various sources were used in compiling the report, including multilateral lending institutions, non-governmental organisations, other international organisations, local newspapers and magazines, and select government data.

Corruption question(s)

The Freedom House experts are asked to explore a range of indicative questions, including:

Has the government implemented effective anti-corruption initiatives?

- Is the country's economy free of excessive state involvement?
- Is the government free from excessive bureaucratic regulations, registration requirements, and other controls that increase opportunities for corruption?
- Are there significant limitations on the participation of government officials in economic life?
- Are there adequate laws requiring financial disclosure and disallowing conflict of interest?
- Does the government advertise jobs and contracts?
- Does the state enforce an effective legislative or administrative process—particularly one that is free of prejudice against one's political opponents—to prevent, investigate, and prosecute the corruption of government officials and civil servants?
- Do whistle-blowers, anti-corruption activists, investigators, and journalists enjoy legal protections that make them feel secure about reporting cases of bribery and corruption?
- Are allegations of corruption given a wide and extensive airing in the media?
- Does the public display a high intolerance for official corruption?

Scores and scoring process

Ratings run from 1 (lowest level of corruption) to 7 (highest level of corruption) and allow for half-point and quarter-point intermediate scores (e.g. 3.25). In 2020, Freedom House reversed the scale of the indicator and countries are now rated on a scale of 1 (lowest level of corruption) to 7

(highest level of corruption). To make the numbers comparable when incorporated into the CPI, they are first transformed into the old scale. This is done simply by subtracting each country's score from a base value of 8.

The score is a generalised composite measure of corruption that includes an assessment of all areas covered by the indicative questions.

For all 29 countries in NIT, Freedom House—in consultation with the report authors, a panel of academic advisers, and a group of regional expert reviewers—has provided numerical ratings in the seven categories listed above. The ratings are based on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 representing the lowest and 7 the highest level of democratic progress.

Authors of individual country reports suggest preliminary ratings in all seven categories covered by the study, ensuring that substantial evidence is provided where a score change is proposed. Each draft report is then sent to several regional expert reviewers, who provide comments on both the score change and the quality of its justification in the report's text. Over the course of a two-day meeting, Freedom House's academic advisory board discusses and evaluates all ratings. Report authors are given the opportunity to dispute any revised rating that differs from the original by more than 0.50 points.

More information can be found here: <https://freedomhouse.org/reports/nations-transit/nations-transit-methodology>

Country coverage and periodicity

29 countries/territories were ranked in 2023 and covers the same 29 countries from previous years.

The 2024 NIT data covers the events from 1 January through 31 December 2023. Until 2024, countries were assessed annually, but the report was discontinued in 2025.

Data availability

The report has been published annually since 2003. The latest edition can be found at

https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/NIT_2024_Digital_Booklet.pdf

6. S&P GLOBAL INSIGHTS BUSINESS CONDITIONS AND RISK INDICATORS 2023

Year of publication: 2024 (used also in the previous CPI edition)

Type of assessment: Commercial business expert assessment

Data provider: S&P Global Insight Global Risk Service

Founded in 1959, IHS Global Insight is a global information company employing more than 5,100 people in more than 30 countries around the world. It provides a wide range of online services covering macroeconomics, country risk and individual sector analysis. In 2022, IHS Markit merged with S&P Global

The Global Insight Country Risk Rating System has been in operation since 1999 and provides a six-factor analysis of the risk environment in over 200 countries/territories. The six factors are political, economic, legal, tax operational and security risk. The corruption risk score used in the CPI is drawn from Global Insight Business Conditions and Risk Indicators.

The assessments are made by over 100 in-house country specialists, who also draw on the expert opinions of in-country freelancers, clients and other contacts. The ratings reflect IHS Global Insights expert perceptions of the comparative level of the problem in each country/territory. The ratings assess the broad range of corruption, from petty bribe-paying to higher-level political corruption and the scores assigned to each country are based on a qualitative assessment of corruption in each country/territory.

Corruption question(s)

Experts are asked to assess:

The risk is that individuals/companies will face bribery or other corrupt practices to carry out business, from securing major contracts to being allowed to import/export a small product or obtain everyday paperwork. This threatens a company's ability to operate in a country or opens it up to legal or regulatory penalties and reputational damage.

Scores and scoring process

The ratings range from a minimum of 1.0 (maximum corruption) to 5.0 (minimum corruption) and allow for half-point intermediate scores (e.g. 3.5).

Scores provided by country analysts are reviewed and benchmarked by IHS Global Insight's risk specialists at both the regional and global levels.

Country coverage and periodicity

207 countries/territories worldwide are scored.

Data availability

The Country Risk Rating System has been available since 1999 and is continuously maintained.

The data was accessed through the World Bank World Governance Indicators portal, as the company stopped providing data directly to Transparency International in 2015. The data used for the CPI can be accessed through: <https://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/sites/govindicators/doc/WMO-2025.xlsx>

The latest data covers the period of October to December, 2023.

7. IMD WORLD COMPETITIVENESS YEARBOOK 2025

Year of publication: 2025

Type of assessment: Executive opinion survey

Data provider: IMD World Competitiveness Center

IMD is a top-ranked business school with expertise in developing global leaders through high-impact executive education. 100 per cent focused on real-world executive development, offering Swiss excellence with a global perspective, IMD has a flexible, customised and effective approach.

IMD (www.imd.org) is ranked first in open programs worldwide (Financial Times 2012 & 2013) and first in executive education outside the US (Financial Times 2008-2013).

The World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) measures the competitiveness of nations and, in doing so, both rank and examine how a nation's socio-political and economic climate affects corporate competitiveness. The study uses 334 criteria in order to obtain a multifaceted image of the competitiveness of nations, which IMD defines as: "a field of economic knowledge, which analyses the facts and policies that shape the ability of a nation to create and maintain an environment that sustains more value creation for its enterprises and more prosperity for its people."

The WCY largely includes hard data but also a survey of senior business leaders who, together, reflect a cross-section of a nation's corporate community. IMD calls upon local and foreign enterprises operating in a given economy and surveys both nationals and expatriates so as to add an international perspective on local environments. In 2023, more than 6,400 business executives responded. The IMD World Competitiveness Centre works in collaboration with 57 partner institutes worldwide to ensure the validity and relevance of data.

Additional information on the methodology is available at: <https://www.imd.org/centers/world-competitiveness-center/rankings/world-competitiveness/>

Corruption question(s)

Survey respondents were asked:

"Bribery and corruption: Exist or do not exist".

Scores

Answers are given on a 1 to 6 scale, which is then converted to a 0 to 10 scale where 0 is the highest level of perceived corruption and 10 is the lowest.

Country coverage and periodicity

This year, the source covers a total of 69 countries with the addition of Kenya, Namibia and Oman since 2024, but the exclusion of Israel. The data was collected from February to May 2025.

Data availability

Data is available to customers of IMD WCY at <https://worldcompetitiveness.imd.org/>

8. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RISK CONSULTANCY 2025

Year of publication: 2025

Type of assessment: Executive opinion survey

Data provider: Political and Economic Risk Consultancy

The Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) is a consulting firm specialising in strategic business information and analysis for companies doing business in East and Southeast Asia. As part of its services, PERC produces a range of risk reports on Asian countries, paying special attention to critical socio-political variables like corruption, intellectual property rights and risks, labour quality, and other systemic strengths and weaknesses of individual Asian countries/territories.

PERC publishes fortnightly newsletters, which are available to subscribers, on a number of issues. The data is collected via an executive opinion survey of local and expatriate business-people.

All responses were either collected in face-to-face interviews or in response to emails directed to specific people obtained from different national business chambers, conferences and personal name lists. All respondents provided scores and comments only for the country in which they are currently residing. Respondents for each country include local business executives who are nationals of the countries, academics and expatriate executives.

Corruption question(s)

"How do you grade the problem of corruption in the country in which you are working?"

Scores and scoring process

Answers were scaled from 0 (not a problem) to 10 (a serious problem).

The same questions and survey methodology were employed in each country. The results are based on 1776 responses to the survey and at least 100 per country, except for Cambodia (83) and Macau (75). All respondents are middle or senior-level executives of companies or professionals in the countries they evaluated, relying on face-to-face interviews for new respondents and emails to respondents who had responded to previous surveys.

Country coverage and periodicity

16 Asia Pacific countries/territories, plus the United States, were surveyed between November and December 2024. The data is collected annually.

Data availability

The survey dates back over 20 years and is conducted annually.

9. THE PRS GROUP INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY RISK GUIDE 2025

Year of publication: 2025

Type of assessment: Risk assessment by ICRG staff

Data provider: PRS Group

Based in the vicinity of Syracuse, New York, since its founding in 1979, the PRS Group has consistently focused on political risk analysis.

On a monthly basis since 1980, their International Country Risk Guide (ICRG) has produced political, economic and financial risk ratings for countries/territories important to international business. The ICRG now monitors 140 countries/territories. ICRG ratings form the basis of an early warning system for opportunities and pitfalls, country-by-country.

ICRG staff collect political information and convert it to risk points on the basis of a consistent pattern of evaluation. Political risk assessments and other political information form the basis of ICRG risk ratings. It is, therefore, possible for the user to check through the information and data so as to assess the ratings against their own assessments or against some other risk ratings system.

Corruption question(s)

This is an assessment of corruption within the political system. The most common form of corruption met directly by businesses is financial corruption in the form of demands for special payments and bribes connected with import and export licenses, exchange controls, tax assessments, police protection or loans. The measure is most concerned with actual or potential corruption in the form of excessive patronage, nepotism, job reservations, exchange of favours, secret party funding and suspiciously close ties between politics and business.

Scores and scoring process

The corruption scores are given on a scale of 0 (highest potential risk) to 6 (lowest potential risk) on a monthly basis. Half points are given. The monthly ratings are then aggregated using a simple average to create a single country score.

To ensure consistency both between countries/territories and over time, points are assigned by ICRG editors based on a series of pre-set questions for each risk component.

Country coverage and periodicity

The ICRG provides ratings for 141 countries on a monthly basis.

The CPI uses an aggregate of monthly assessments covering the period of September 2024 to August 2025

Data availability

The ICRG model was created in 1980, and the data is made available on a monthly basis.

Data is available to customers of the PRS International Country Risk Guide at

www.prsgroup.com

10. WORLD BANK COUNTRY POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT 2024

Year of publication: 2025

Type of assessment: Expert assessment

Data provider: World Bank

The World Bank was established in 1944, is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has more than 10,000 employees in more than 100 offices worldwide. The World Bank is made up of two development institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). The IBRD aims to reduce poverty in middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries, while IDA focuses on the world's poorest countries.

The Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) rates all IDA-eligible countries against a set of 16 criteria grouped in four clusters: (a) economic management, (b) structural policies, (c) policies for social inclusion and equity, and (d) public sector management and institutions. The criteria are focused on balancing the capture of those factors critical to fostering growth and poverty reduction against avoiding undue burden on the assessment process.

The ratings are the product of staff judgment and do not necessarily reflect the views of the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors or the governments they represent. The Bank has prepared guidance to help staff assess country performance by providing a definition of each criterion and a detailed description of each rating level. Bank staff assess the countries' actual performance on each of the criteria and assign a rating. The ratings reflect a variety of indicators, observations and judgments based on country knowledge, originating with the Bank or elsewhere, and on relevant publicly available indicators.

Corruption question(s)

Experts are asked to assess:

Transparency, accountability and corruption in the public sector.

"This criterion assesses the extent to which the executive can be held accountable for its use of funds and the results of its actions by the electorate and by the legislature and judiciary, and the extent to which public employees within the executive are required to account for the use of resources, administrative decisions, and results obtained. Both levels of accountability are enhanced by transparency in decision making, public audit institutions, access to relevant and timely information, and public and media scrutiny. A high degree of accountability and transparency discourages corruption, or the abuse of public office for private gain. National and sub-national governments should be appropriately weighted.

Each of three dimensions should be rated separately:

- (a) accountability of the executive to oversight institutions and of public employees for their performance;
- (b) access of civil society to information on public affairs; and
- (c) state capture by narrow vested interests."

For the overall rating, these three dimensions receive equal weighting. More information on the

methodology can be found at:

<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/69484a2e6ae5ecc94321f63179bfb837-0290032022/original/CPIA-Criteria-2021.pdf>

Scores and scoring process

The rating scale ranges from 1 (low levels of transparency) to 6 (high levels of transparency) and allows for half-point intermediate scores (e.g. 3.5). The score is an aggregate of the three dimensions of corruption across national and sub-national government institutions in the country/territory.

The process of preparing the ratings involves two phases:

(a) the benchmarking phase, in which a small, representative sample of countries is rated in an intensive Bank-wide process; and (b) a second phase, in which the remaining countries are rated using the derived

benchmark ratings as guideposts. The process is managed by the Bank's Operations Policy and Country Services Vice-Presidency.

Country coverage and periodicity

77 countries were scored in the CPIA 2024.

First released in 2005 in its current form, the CPIA is now an annual exercise. The rating process typically starts in the autumn and is concluded in the spring of the following year. The scores disclosed cover 2024 country performance based on data collected between January and December 2024.

Data availability.

The data is publicly available online at:

<https://databank.worldbank.org/source/country-policy-and-institutional-assessment#>

11. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM EXECUTIVE OPINION SURVEY 2025 CODE: WEF

Year of publication: 2025

Type of assessment: Business executive survey

Data provider: World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum is an independent international organisation committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas. Incorporated as a not-for-profit foundation in 1971 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the Forum is not tied to political, partisan or national interests.

The Executive Opinion Survey (EOS) is the World Economic Forum's annual survey of business executives. The survey has evolved over time to capture new data points essential to the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) and other Forum indexes.

The Forum's Global Competitiveness and Benchmarking Network works closely with over 160 partner institutes that administer the survey in their respective countries/territories. They are selected because of their capacity to reach out to leading business executives, as well as their understanding of the national business environment and their commitment to the Forum's research on competitiveness. The partner institutes are, for the most part, well-respected economics departments of national universities, independent research institutes or business organisations. The surveys are conducted according to detailed guidelines aiming at collecting a sample stratified by sector of activity and company size. The EOS administration process is reviewed on a yearly basis and underwent an external review in 2008 and 2012 by a renowned survey expert consultancy.

Corruption question(s)

Survey respondents were asked:

(On a scale of 1-7, where 1 means very common and 7 means never)

"In your country, how common is it for firms to make undocumented extra payments or bribes connected with the following:

- a) Imports and exports
- b) Public Utilities
- c) Annual tax payments
- d) Awarding of public contracts and licenses
- e) Obtaining favourable judicial decisions."

(On a scale of 1-7, where 1 means very common and 7 means never)

"In your country, how common is diversion of public funds to companies, individuals or groups due to corruption?"

Scores and scoring process

Each question is scored by respondents on a scale of 1-7.

The results of parts a) to e) of the first question are averaged to create a single score and averaged with the results of the second question to obtain a single score per country/territory.

Country coverage and periodicity

The 2025 edition of the survey was conducted between March and August 2025 and collected data for a total of 116 countries this year.

Data availability

The EOS data can be obtained by submitting a request for information through the following channel: https://wefglobal.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0NDuzSlGYfz0mH4

12. WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT RULE OF LAW INDEX 2025

Year of publication: 2025

Type of assessment: Expert survey

Data provider: World Justice Project

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working to advance the rule of law for the development of communities of opportunity and equity. The WJP's multi-national, multi-disciplinary efforts are dedicated to developing practical programmes in support of the rule of law around the world. The work of the WJP is based on two complementary premises: the rule of law is the foundation for communities of opportunity and equity, and multi-disciplinary collaboration is the most effective way to advance the rule of law.

The WJP Rule of Law Index is an assessment tool designed by The WJP to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries/territories adhere to the rule of law in practice. The Index provides detailed information and original data regarding a variety of dimensions of the rule of law, which enables stakeholders to assess a nation's adherence to the rule of law in practice, identify a nation's strengths and weaknesses in comparison to similarly situated countries, and track changes over time.

The Index's rankings and scores are the product of a rigorous data collection and aggregation process. Data comes from a global poll of the general public and detailed questionnaires administered to local experts (in-country practitioners and academics with expertise in civil and commercial law, criminal justice, labour law, and public health).

Corruption question(s)

Index 2: Absence of corruption

A total of 53 questions are asked of experts on the extent to which government officials use public office for private gain. These questions touch on a variety of sectors within government including the public health system, regulatory agencies, the police, and the courts.

Individual questions are aggregated into four sub-indices:

- 2.1 Government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.2 Government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.3 Government officials in the police and the military do not use public office for private gain
- 2.4 Government officials in the legislature do not use public office for private gain

Only the scores provided by the experts were considered for the CPI calculations. The four sub-indicators are then averaged to create a single score.

Scores and scoring process

Scores are given on a continuous scale from a low of 0 to a high of 1.

For more information see the latest WJP report at <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/downloads/Index-2022.pdf>

Country coverage and periodicity

The data includes the same 142 countries reported last year and adds Belize for a total of 143 countries covered in the 2025 Rule of Law Index.

The Index is deliberately intended to be applied in countries with vastly differing social, cultural, economic and political systems. The expert questionnaires were collected from February 2025 through June 2025 and answered by 4,100 surveys, which represents an average of about 29 responses per country.

Data availability

The data for the index is publicly available online at https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/downloads/2024_wjp_rule_of_law_index_HISTORICAL_DATA_FILE.xlsx. Please note, however, that the CPI only considers the expert responses from the WJP survey, Transparency International is given access to the disaggregated expert responses which are not publicly available.

13. VARIETIES OF DEMOCRACY PROJECT 2025

Year of publication: 2025

Type of assessment: Expert survey

Data provider: University of Gothenburg, V-Dem Institute and University of Notre Dame

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a new approach to conceptualising and measuring democracy. V-Dem provides a multidimensional and disaggregated dataset that reflects the complexity of the concept of democracy as a system of rule that goes beyond the simple presence of elections. The V-Dem project distinguishes between seven high-level principles of democracy: electoral, liberal, participatory, deliberative, egalitarian, majoritarian and consensual, and collects data to measure these principles.

It is a collaboration among more than 3,000 scholars worldwide which is co-hosted by the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and the Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame, USA. With five principal investigators, 23 project managers with special responsibility for issue areas, more than 33 regional managers, 134 country coordinators, research assistants, and 4,000 country experts, the V-Dem project is one of the largest social science data collection projects focusing on research.

Corruption question(s)

Question: How pervasive is political corruption? (v2x_corr)

The directionality of the V-Dem corruption index runs from less corrupt to more corrupt (unlike the other V-Dem variables that generally run from less democratic to more democratic situation). The corruption index includes measures of six distinct types of corruption that cover both different areas and levels of the political realm, distinguishing between executive, legislative and judicial corruption. Within the executive realm, the measures also distinguish between corruption mostly pertaining to bribery, and corruption due to embezzlement. Finally, they differentiate between corruption in the highest echelons of the executive (at the level of the rulers/cabinet) and in the public sector at large. The measures thus tap into several distinguishable types of corruption: both petty and grand; both bribery and theft; both corruption aimed at influencing law making and that affects implementation.

Aggregation: The index is arrived at by taking the average of (a) public sector corruption index (b) executive corruption index (c) the indicator for legislative corruption and (d) the indicator for judicial corruption. In other words, these four different government spheres are weighted equally in the resulting index.

Scores and scoring process

Scores are given on a continuous scale from 0 (lowest level of corruption) to 1 (highest level of corruption).

Note: Each new version of VDEM dataset allows for retroactive changes in the scores, which affects comparability between versions. The CPI takes only the last available value.

V-Dem draws on theoretical and methodological expertise from its worldwide team to produce data in the most objective and reliable way possible. Approximately half of the indicators in the V-Dem dataset are based on factual information obtainable from official documents such as constitutions and government records. The remainder consists of more subjective assessments on topics like democratic and governing practices and compliance with de jure rules.

On such issues, typically five experts provide ratings for the country, thematic area and time period for which they have information.

V-Dem minimizes error by using multiple coders per country-year (at least five per indicator) and by rigorously recruiting, vetting, and ranking a large, diverse pool of qualified Country Experts. Experts are selected based on five criteria—relevant expertise, strong country connection, seriousness, impartiality, and professional diversity—through a structured process led by Regional Managers and Country Coordinators, resulting in a globally diverse network of over 4,200 experts.

To address variation in coder ratings, V-Dem works closely with leading social science research methodologists and has developed a state-of-the-art Bayesian measurement model that, to the extent possible, addresses coder error and issues of comparability across countries and over time. V-Dem also provides upper- and lower-point estimates, which represent a range of probable values for a given observation. When the ranges of two observations do not overlap, there is relative confidence that difference between them

is significant. V-Dem is continually experimenting with new techniques and soliciting feedback from experts throughout the field. In this sense, V-Dem is at the cutting edge of developing new and improved methods to increase both the reliability and comparability of expert survey data. V-Dem also draws on the team's academic expertise to develop theoretically informed techniques for aggregating indicators into mid and high-level indices.

Country coverage and periodicity

179 countries/territories were scored in the 2024 update used for the CPI calculation. The data covers the period of January to December 2024.

Data availability

V-Dem data can be publicly accessed at <https://www.v-dem.net/data/the-v-dem-dataset/country-year-v-dem-fullothers-v15/>

The codebook is available at <https://www.v-dem.net/documents/55/codebook.pdf>

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025:

Short Source Description

Source	Timeframe	Main focus	N
African Development Bank CPIA 2023	Sep - Nov 2023	Public sector accountability, access to information and state capture	54
Bertelsmann Foundation Sustainable Governance Index 2024	Jan 2022 - Jan 2024	Prevention mechanisms against corruption in the public sector	30
Bertelsmann Foundation Transformation Index 2026	Jan 2023 - Jan 2025	Corruption prevention and legal enforcement against acts of corruption	137
Economist Intelligence Unit Country Ratings 2025	Sep-25	Budget transparency, misappropriation of funds, bribery, merit-based appointments in the public sector, Red tape, whistle-blower protection, guardrails against conflict of interest, market manipulation by the government and enforcement of anti-corruption legislation	131
Freedom House Nations in Transit 2024	Jan - Dec 2023	Risk of bribery in import/export, obtaining public contracts and conducting other business-related activities	29
S&P / Global Insights Global Risk Ratings 2024	Oct - Dec 2023	Bribery and corruption	207
IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2024	Feb - May 2025	Corruption as a problem in the country	69
PERC Asia Risk Guide 2024	Nov - Dec 2024	Corruption in the form of excessive patronage, nepotism, job reservations, exchange of favours, secret party funding and close ties between politics and business	16
PRS International Country Risk Guide 2024	Sep 2024 - Aug 2025	Corruption in the executive, judicial and legislative branches of government	141
Varieties of Democracy Project	Jan - Dec 2024	Transparency, accountability, access to information and state capture	179
World Bank CPIA 2024	Jan-Dec 2024	Bribery and diversion of public funds	77
World Economic Forum EOS 2025	Mar - Aug 2025	Use of public office for private gain in the executive, legislative and judicial branches, as well as in the military and police.	116
World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2024	Feb - June 2025		143