

Open Budget Survey 2021: Note to data users and codebook

Note to data users

The International Budget Partnership (IBP) and its civil society partners have carried out the Open Budget Survey (OBS) for 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021 rounds. The OBS has evolved over time to better integrate international standards. As a result, comparisons of indices and individual questions over time should only be made after reviewing the OBS guidelines and questionnaires.

To most accurately utilize the Open Budget Survey data:

- Review the relevant OBS questionnaires and global report annexes, which explain the methodology used in each OBS round.
- Compare the overall Open Budget Index (OBI) scores across the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021 OBS rounds.
- Do not compare individual questions that comprise the OBI score over time without first referencing OBS questionnaires for the OBS years being compared. For example, while the individual questions that comprise the OBI score can be compared between 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021, questions and question numbers were different prior to 2015.
- Do not compare composite oversight or participation scores over time. Some individual questions that comprise these composite scores can be compared. To compare these individual questions, please reference the questionnaire for each round being compared.

How are the indices calculated?

All composite indices are unweighted averages of individual question scores. The table below shows the questions that comprise each aggregate score for the 2021 Open Budget Survey.

Aggregate score or index	Open Budget Survey 2021 questions
Transparency (Open Budget Index)	q1-q102, t3pbs (PBS-2), t3ebp (EBP-2), t3eb (EB-2), t3iyr (IYRs-2), t3myr (MYR-2), t3yer (YER-2), t3ar (AR-2).
Participation	q125-q142
Oversight by supreme audit institution and legislature	q107-q124
Oversight by legislature	q107-q118
Oversight by supreme audit institution	q119-q124

Note: Questions 103-106 on independent fiscal institutions (IFIs) are not currently included in composite scores.

Codebook of variables

country: Country name

ISO: Alpha-3 ISO country code.

year: Open Budget Survey round year

region: Broad regional classification.

rank: Country rank in Open Budget Index (obi).

obi: raw Open Budget Index score. Average score of indicators 1-102, PBS-2 (t3pbs), EBP-2 (t3ebp), EB-2 (t3eb), IYRs-2 (t3iyr), MYR-2 (t3myr), YER-2 (t3yer), and AR-2 (t3ar). Roundobi is obi rounded to the nearest one.

obi_cat: Category based on rounded Open Budget Index score: Scant or no information = OBI score 20 or less; Minimal information = OBI score greater than 20 and less than 41; Limited information = OBI score greater than 40 and less than 61; Substantial information = OBI score greater than 60 and less than 81; Extensive information = OBI score greater than 80.

obi_cat2: Category based on rounded Open Budget Index score: Low = OBI score 40 or less; Limited = OBI score greater than 40 and less than 61; Adequate = OBI score greater than 60.

oversight_obi: raw score for legislature and supreme audit institution oversight. Average score on questions 107-124. Roundoversight_obi is oversight_obi rounded to the nearest one.

grade_oversight: Category based on rounded supreme audit institution and legislature oversight score. Weak = score 40 or less; Limited = score greater than 40 and less than 61; Adequate = score greater than 60.

leg_obi: raw score for legislature oversight. Average score on questions 107-118. Roundleg_obi is leg_obi rounded to the nearest one.

grade_leg: Category based on rounded legislature oversight score. Weak = score 40 or less; Limited = score greater than 40 and less than 61; Adequate = score greater than 60.

sai_obi: raw score for supreme audit institution oversight. Average score on questions 119-124. Roundsai_obi is sai_obi rounded to the nearest one.

grade_sai: Category based on rounded supreme audit institution oversight score. Weak = score 40 or less; Limited = score greater than 40 and less than 61; Adequate = score greater than 60.

pub_eng: raw score for public participation. Average score on questions 125-142. Roundpub_eng is pub_eng rounded to the nearest one.

grade_pub_eng: Category based on rounded Open Budget Index Sub-score for Public Engagement:

pbs, ebp, eb, cb, iyr, myr, yer, ar: Publication status for the Pre-Budget Statement, Executive's Budget Proposal, Enacted Budget, Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, Mid-Year Review, Year-End Report, and Audit Report, respectively. PW= Published on an official website in a timely manner; HC: Document only available hard copy or soft copy; PL = Document published after the internationally accepted timeframe therefore not considered available; IU= Produced for internal use only, not publicly available; NP=Not produced.

pub_pbs, pub_ebp, pub_eb, pub_cb, pub_iyr, pub_myr, pub_yer, pub_ar: Indicates the public availability of the Pre-Budget Statement, Executive's Budget Proposal, Enacted Budget, Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, Mid-Year Review, Year-End Report, and Audit Report, respectively. 0 = Not available to the public and 1 = Available to the public online.

obi_ebp: raw Open Budget Index Sub-score for the Executive's Budget Proposal. Average score of EBP-2 (t3ebp) and indicators 1-53. Roundobi_ebp is obi_ebp rounded to the nearest one.

obi_eb: raw Open Budget Index Sub-score for the Enacted Budget. Average score of EB-2 (t3ebp) and indicators 59-63. Roundobi_eb is obi_eb rounded to the nearest one.

obi_cb: raw Open Budget Index Sub-score for the Citizen's Budget. Average score of indicators 64-67. Roundobi_cb is obi_cb rounded to the nearest one.

obi_pbs: raw Open Budget Index Sub-score for the Pre-Budget Statement. Average score of PBS-2 (t3pbs) and questions 54-58. Roundobi_pbs is obi_pbs rounded to the nearest one.

obi_iyr: raw Open Budget Index Sub-score for the In-Year Reports. Average score of IYRs-2 (t3iyr) questions 68-75. Roundobi_iyr is obi_iyr rounded to the nearest one.

obi_myr: raw Open Budget Index Sub-score for the Mid-Year Review. Average score of MYR-2 (t3myr) and questions 76-83. Roundobi_myr is obi_myr rounded to the nearest one.

obi_yer: raw Open Budget Index Sub-score for the Year-End Report. Average score of YER-2 (t3yer) and questions 84-96. Roundobi_yer is obi_yer rounded to the nearest one.

obi_ar: raw Open Budget Index Sub-score for the Audit Report. Average score of AR-2 (t3ar) and questions 97-102. Roundobi_ar is obi_ar rounded to the nearest one.

obi_ebp_cat, obi_pbs_cat, obi_cb_cat, obi_eb_cat, obi_iyr_cat, obi_myr_cat, obi_yer_cat, obi_ar_cat: Category based on rounded Open Budget Index Sub-score for the Executive's Budget Proposal, Pre-Budget Statement, Citizens Budget, Enacted Budget, In-Year Reports, Mid-Year Review, Year-End Report, and Audit Report, respectively: Scant or no information = OBI sub-score 20 or less; Minimal information = OBI sub-score greater than 20 and less than 41; Limited information = OBI sub-score greater than 40 and less than 61; Substantial information = OBI sub-score greater than 60 and less than 81; Extensive information = OBI sub-score greater than 80.

t3pbs, t3ebp, t3eb, t3iyr, t3myr, t3yer, t3ar: Variables that measures the timeliness of public availability for the Pre-Budget Statement (PBS-2), Executive's Budget Proposal (EBP-2), Enacted Budget (EB-2), In-Year Reports (IYRs-2), Mid-Year Review (MYR-2), Year-End Report (YER-2), and Audit Report (AR-2), respectively.

q1-q142: number score on indicators 1- 142 in 2019 Open Budget Survey Questionnaire.

q1l-q142l: letter responses to indicators 1- 142 in 2019 Open Budget Survey Questionnaire.



new21: Indicates whether a country was included in the Open Budget Survey for the first time in 2021. 1 = new for 2021, 0 = included prior to 2021.

