

Corruption Perceptions Index 2012: An updated methodology

The CPI 2012 scores and ranks countries and territories around the world on the perceived level of corruption in the public sector. The CPI 2012 is an aggregate index, which draws on relevant questions from a number of different data sources that capture business and expert views. The annual CPI makes an important contribution to raising awareness of the issue of corruption and is a powerful advocacy tool that creates an incentive for governments to act to fight corruption.

An update to the Corruption Perceptions Index methodology

The Corruption Perceptions Index 2012 has been calculated using an updated methodology. This has been developed following a comprehensive review and consultation process, both within the Transparency International movement and with the help of external experts. The updated methodology has been reviewed and validated by an independent statistical assessment.

The Corruption Perceptions Index uses an approach that provides greater clarity on how the index is constructed, making it easier to trace how the data from the sources are rescaled for inclusion in the Index.

The updated method also means that a country's Corruption Perceptions Index score will better capture changes in perceptions of corruption in the public sector of that country over time. However, due to the update in the methodology, 2011 CPI scores are not comparable with CPI 2012 scores.

To reflect the updates that have been made to the methodology, the CPI 2012 will henceforth be presented on a 0-100 scale. This is to clearly demonstrate that scores from the CPI 2011 and previous editions should not be compared with scores from 2012.¹²

The move to the updated methodology reflects Transparency International's commitment to the continuous improvement of its research methods and tools where and whenever possible.

Details of the update

Previously, the CPI was based on perceptions of corruption in each country/territory, relative to the other countries scored and ranked on this index. This was because the Index captured the rank position of each country in each data source, so that country scores were highly dependent on the changes in scores of the countries around it in the

¹ Under the previously used methodology, CPI scores were not comparable over time.

² Scores for 2011 have been estimated using the updated methodology to facilitate an understanding of any change of scores from 2011 to 2012 at the national level.

index. From 2012, we will be using the raw scores from each of the data sources, which provide greater transparency as to how the CPI scores have been constructed and better enable capturing changes over time.

Previous editions of the CPI drew on more than one year's worth of data from the business surveys, where more than one year of data fell within the data period of the CPI. From 2012, we will only be using the most recent year's worth of data from each source for each country. This will better show changes from one year to the next.

For a more thorough presentation of the updated methodology, please see the other documents Transparency International has published on the updated Corruptions Perception Index:

- [Corruption Perceptions Index 2012: Short Methodology Note](#)
- [Corruption Perceptions Index 2012: Technical Methodology Note](#)