

## Overview



Transparency:

0 /100

(Open Budget Index score)



Public  
Participation:

0 /100



Budget Oversight:

13 /100

## About the survey

Government budget decisions – what taxes to levy, what services to provide, and how much debt to take on – affect how equal a society is and the well-being of its people, including whether the most disadvantaged will have real opportunities for a better life. It is critical that governments inform and engage the public on these vital decisions that impact their lives.

The **Open Budget Survey (OBS)** is the world's only independent, comparative and fact-based research instrument that uses internationally accepted criteria to assess public access to central government budget information; formal opportunities for the public to participate in the national budget process; and the role of budget oversight institutions such as the legislature and auditor in the budget process.

The survey helps local civil society assess and confer with their government on the reporting and use of public funds. This 7th edition of the OBS covers 117 countries.

Visit [www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey](http://www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey) for more information, including the full OBS methodology, the 2019 Global Report, findings for all surveyed countries, and the Data Explorer.

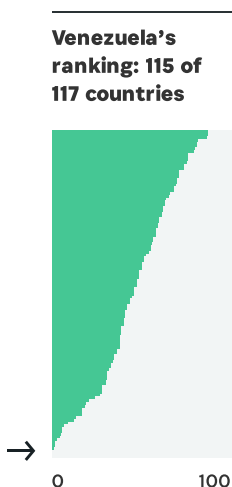


# Transparency

This part of the OBS measures public access to information on how the central government raises and spends public resources. It assesses the online availability, timeliness, and comprehensiveness of eight key budget documents using 109 equally weighted indicators and scores each country on a scale of 0 to 100. A transparency score of 61 or above indicates a country is likely publishing enough material to support informed public debate on the budget.

Venezuela has a transparency score of **0** (out of 100).

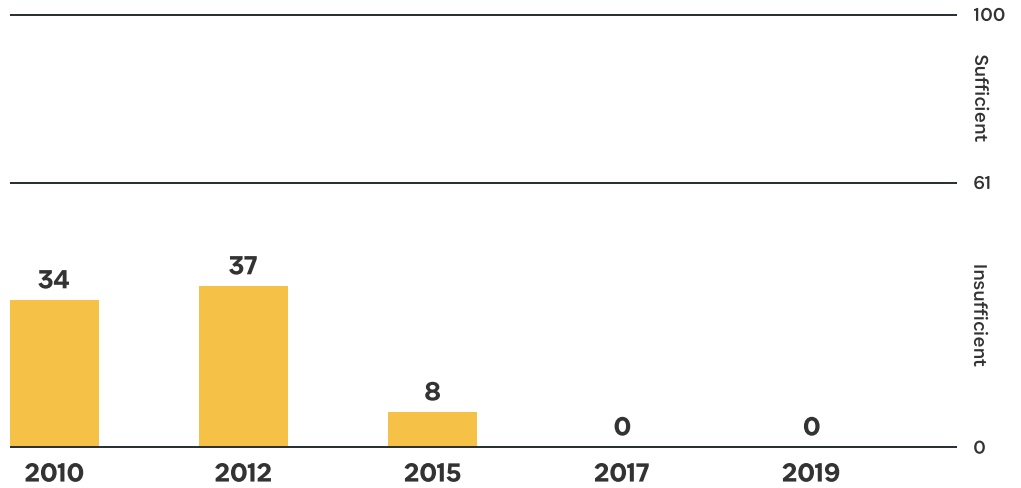
## Transparency in Venezuela compared to others



Global Average	45
Brazil	81
Peru	76
Argentina	58
Chile	55
Colombia	47
Paraguay	46
Ecuador	38
Bolivia	12
Venezuela	0

0                      Insufficient                      61                      Sufficient                      100

## How has the transparency score for Venezuela changed over time?



## Public availability of budget documents in Venezuela

- Available to the Public
- Published Late, or Not Published Online, or Produced for Internal Use Only
- ⊘ Not Produced

Document	2010	2012	2015	2017	2019
Pre-Budget Statement	●	●	●	●	●
Executive's Budget Proposal	●	●	●	●	⊘
Enacted Budget	●	●	●	●	●
Citizens Budget	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
In-Year Reports	⊘	⊘	●	●	⊘
Mid-Year Review	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Year-End Report	●	●	●	●	●
Audit Report	●	●	⊘	⊘	⊘

## How comprehensive is the content of the key budget documents that Venezuela makes available to the public?

- 61-100 / 100
- 41-60 / 100
- 1-40 / 100

Key budget document	Document purpose and contents	Fiscal year assessed	Document content score
Pre-Budget Statement	Discloses the broad parameters of fiscal policies in advance of the Executive's Budget Proposal; outlines the government's economic forecast, anticipated revenue, expenditures, and debt.	2019	Internal Use
Executive's Budget Proposal	Submitted by the executive to the legislature for approval; details the sources of revenue, the allocations to ministries, proposed policy changes, and other information important for understanding the country's fiscal situation.	2019	Not Produced
Enacted Budget	The budget that has been approved by the legislature.	2019	Internal Use
Citizens Budget	A simpler and less technical version of the government's Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, designed to convey key information to the public.	2019	Not Produced
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.	2018	Not Produced
Mid-Year Review	A comprehensive update on the implementation of the budget as of the middle of the fiscal year; includes a review of economic assumptions and an updated forecast of budget outcomes.	2018	Not Produced
Year-End Report	Describes the situation of the government's accounts at the end of the fiscal year and, ideally, an evaluation of the progress made toward achieving the budget's policy goals.	2017	Internal Use
Audit Report	Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts.	2016	Not Produced

Venezuela's transparency score of **0** in the OBS 2019 is largely the same as its score in 2017.

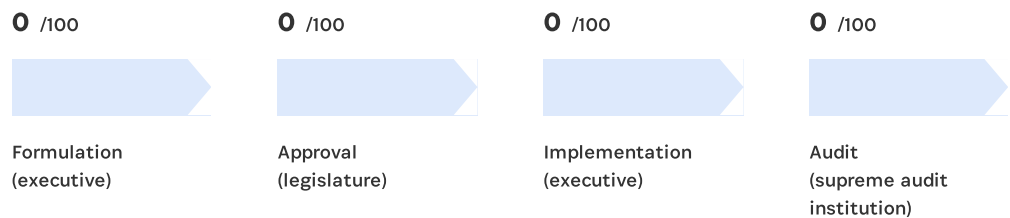
## Recommendations

Venezuela should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- The Ministerio del Poder Popular de Economía y Finanzas should publish the Pre-Budget Statement, Enacted Budget, and Year-End Report online in a timely manner.
- The Ministerio del Poder Popular de Economía y Finanzas should produce and publish the Executive's Budget Proposal, Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, and Mid-Year Review online in a timely manner.
- The Contraloría General de la República should produce and publish the Audit Report in a timely manner.



## Extent of opportunities for public participation in the budget process



few: 0 - 40; limited: 41 - 60; adequate: 61 - 100

## Recommendations

To further strengthen public participation in the budget process, Venezuela's Ministerio del Poder Popular de Economía y Finanzas should prioritize the following actions:

- Pilot mechanisms to engage the public during budget formulation and to monitor budget implementation.
- Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.

Venezuela's Asamblea Nacional should prioritize the following actions:

- Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during hearings on the budget proposal prior to the proposal's approval, with the added proviso that parliament receive the proposal in time to allow for adequate discussion.
- Once the Contraloría General de la República produces the Audit Report and submits it to parliament, parliament should ensure that members of the public or civil society organizations can testify during its hearings on the Audit Report.

Venezuela's Contraloría General de la República should prioritize the following actions to improve public participation in the budget process:

- Following from the recommendation on the production and publication of the Audit Report, the Contraloría General de la República should also establish formal mechanisms allowing the public to assist in developing the audit program and to contribute to relevant audit investigations.

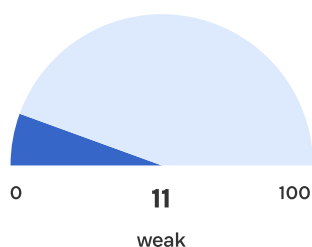


# Budget Oversight

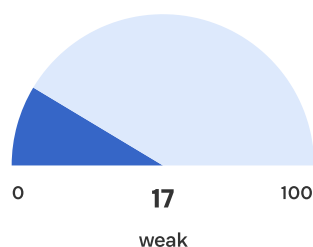
The OBS also examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information on independent fiscal institutions (see Box).

The legislature and supreme audit institution in Venezuela, together, provide weak oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **13** (out of 100). Taken individually, the extent of each institution's oversight is shown below:

## Legislative oversight



## Audit oversight



weak: 0 - 40; limited: 41 - 60; adequate: 61 - 100

## Recommendations

Venezuela's Asamblea Nacional provides weak oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and weak oversight during the implementation stage. To improve oversight, the following actions should be prioritized:

- The legislature should debate budget policy before the Executive's Budget Proposal is tabled and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.
- The Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to the Asamblea Nacional at least two months before the start of the budget year to allow for a debate, per the country's constitution.
- The legislature should approve the Executive's Budget Proposal prior to the start of the budget year.



- The Asamblea Nacional should follow-up on the execution of the budget, given that the executive produces and publishes the In-Year Reports and the Year-End Report on time, and the Contraloría General de la República delivers the Audit Report.

To strengthen independence and improve audit oversight by the Venezuela Contraloría General de la República, the following actions are recommended:

- Ensure the supreme audit institution has adequate funding to perform its duties, as determined by an independent body (e.g., the legislature or judiciary).
- Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.

### **The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions**

Venezuela does not have an independent fiscal institution (IFI). IFIs are increasingly recognized as valuable independent and nonpartisan information providers to the Executive and/or Parliament during the budget process.

*\*These indicators are \*not\* scored in the Open Budget Survey.*

# Methodology

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- Only documents published and events, activities, or developments that took place through 31 December 2018 were assessed in the OBS 2019.
- The survey is based on a questionnaire completed in each country by an independent budget expert:  
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- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert.