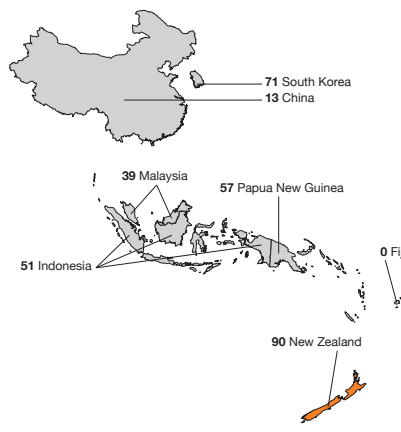
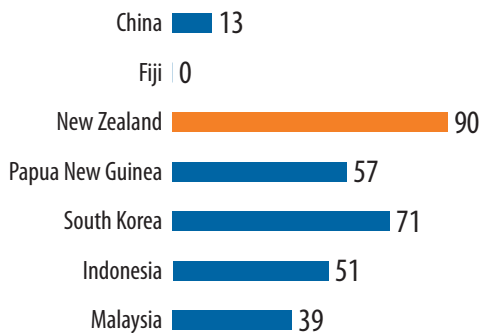




Overall score: 90 (Out of 100) Provides extensive information to the public in its budget documents during the year.

How Does New Zealand Compare to Its Neighbors?



Key Findings

The scores for 92 questions from the Open Budget Survey (see text box) are used to compile objective scores and rankings of the relative transparency of each country's budget process. These scores constitute the Open Budget Index (OBI).

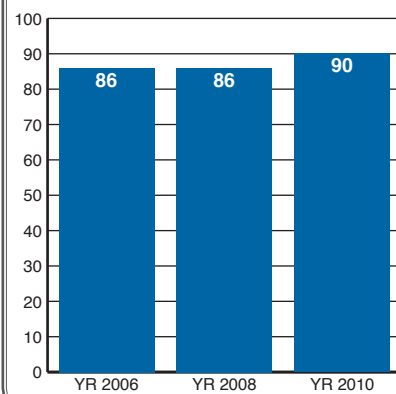
New Zealand's OBI 2010 score is 90 out of 100, which is the second-highest score of the 94 countries surveyed. New Zealand's score indicates that the government provides the public with extensive information on the central government's budget and financial activities assessed by the Survey. This makes it possible for citizens to hold the government accountable for its management of the public's money.

Information in Public Budget Documents

Adequacy & Availability of Eight Key Budget Documents

Document	Level of Information Grade*	Publication Status
Pre-Budget Statement	A	Published
Executive's Budget Proposal	A	Published
Enacted Budget	A	Published
Citizens Budget	B	Published
In-Year Reports	A	Published
Mid-Year Review	A	Published
Year End Report	B	Published
Audit Report	A	Published

OBI Scores Over Three Surveys



* Grades for the comprehensiveness and accessibility of the information provided in each document are calculated from the average scores received on a subset of questions from the Open Budget Survey. An average score between 0-20 (scant information) is graded as E; 21-40 (minimal) is graded as D; 41-60 (some) is graded as C; 61-80 (significant) is graded as B; and 81-100 (extensive) is graded as A.

An **Executive's Budget Proposal** is the government's most important policy instrument. It presents the ways the government plans to raise revenues and where these funds are allocated, thus transforming policy goals into action. New Zealand publishes a comprehensive budget proposal.

A **Pre-Budget Statement** sets forth the broad parameters that will define the government's forthcoming budget. New Zealand publishes a comprehensive Pre-Budget Statement.

An **Enacted Budget** becomes a country's law and provides the baseline information for all budget analyses conducted during the budget year. In general terms, the Enacted Budget should provide data the public can use to assess the government's stated policy priorities and hold it to account. New Zealand publishes a comprehensive Enacted Budget.

A **Citizens Budget** is a nontechnical presentation of a government's budget that is intended to enable the public — including those who are not familiar with public finance — to understand a government's plans. New Zealand publishes a fairly comprehensive Citizens Budget.

In-Year Reports provide a snapshot of the budget's effects during the budget year. They allow for comparisons with the Enacted Budget figures and thus can facilitate adjustments. New Zealand publishes comprehensive In-Year Reports.

A **Mid-Year Review** provides a comprehensive overview of the budget's effects at the midpoint of a budget year and discusses any changes in economic assumptions that affect approved budget policies. Information in this report allows the government, legislature, and the public to identify whether or not adjustments related to revenues, expenditures, or borrowing should be made for the remainder of the budget year. New Zealand publishes a comprehensive Mid-Year Review.

A **Year-End Report** compares the actual budget execution to the Enacted Budget. The Year-End Report can inform policymakers on tax policies, debt requirements, and major expenditure priorities, thus facilitating adjustments for upcoming budget years. New Zealand publishes a fairly comprehensive Year-End Report.

An **Audit Report** is an evaluation of the government's accounts by the country's supreme audit institution (SAI). It reports whether the government has raised revenues and spent national revenue in line with the authorized budget, whether the government's bookkeeping is balanced and accurate, and whether there were problems in the management of public funds. New Zealand publishes a fairly comprehensive Audit Report.

OPEN BUDGET SURVEY 2010

New Zealand

The International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Survey assesses the availability in each country assessed of eight key budget documents, as well as the comprehensiveness of the data contained in these documents. The Survey also examines the extent of effective oversight provided by legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAI), as well as the opportunities available to the public to participate in national budget decision-making processes.

Research to complete this country's Open Budget Survey was undertaken by:

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Public Participation and Institutions of Accountability

An open budget system includes ensuring the existence of a strong legislature and SAI that provide effective budget oversight, as well as providing opportunities for the public to participate in the budget process.

Are oversight bodies effective in their budget role?

Oversight Institution	Strength**
Legislature	Strong
SAI	Strong

** Legislature and SAI strengths are calculated from the average scores received for a subset of questions from the Open Budget Survey. An average score between 0-33 is graded as weak, 34-66 as moderate, and 67-100 as strong.

According to the Open Budget Survey, budget oversight provided by New Zealand's legislature is strong. However, it does not:

1. have full powers to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal at the start of the year;
2. hold open budget discussions at which the public can testify.

According to the Open Budget Survey, budget oversight provided by New Zealand's SAI is strong. However, there is no centralized report from the executive in response to adverse audit findings or recommendations.

Recommendations from the International Budget Partnership

New Zealand should:

- improve the comprehensiveness of the Year-End Report;
- increase opportunities for the public to testify at legislative hearings on the budget.