

OPEN BUDGET INDEX SCORE  
— OUT OF 100 —

81-100 Extensive

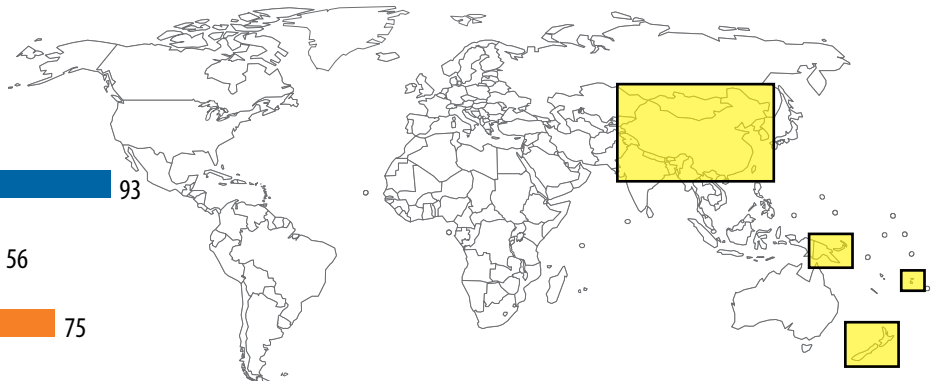
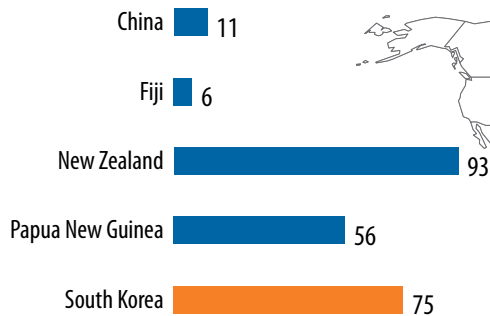
61-80 Substantial

41-60 Some

21-40 Minimal

0-20 Scant or None

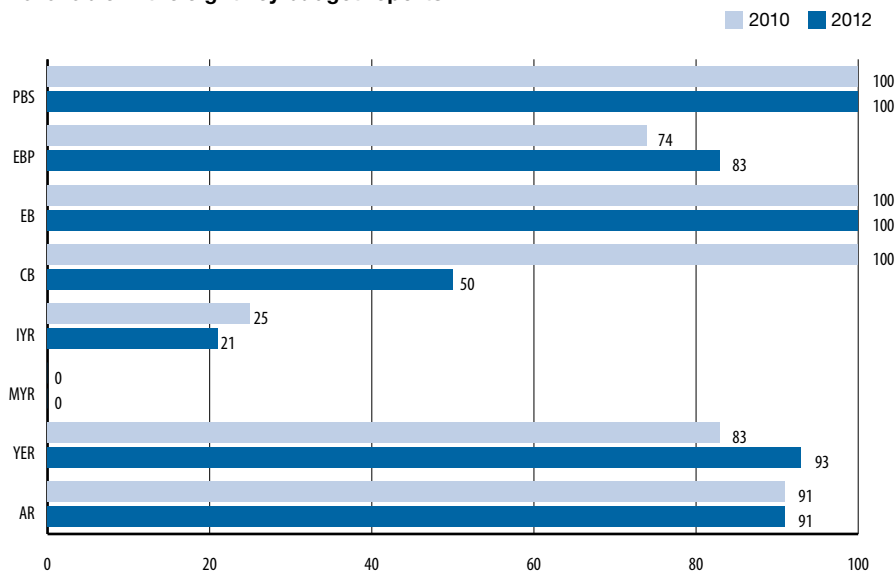
### How does South Korea compare to its neighbors in East Asia & the Pacific?



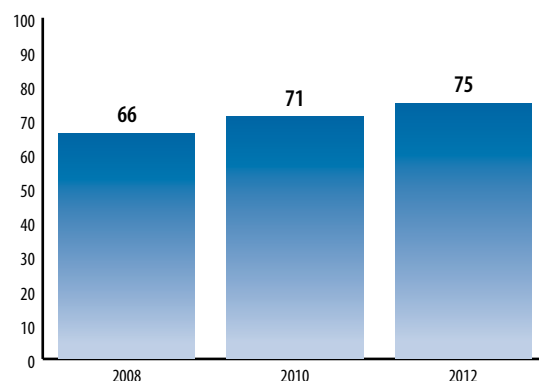
### What are each of the eight key budget documents, and does the public have access to them?

Document	Description of Document	Publication Status
<b>PBS</b>	<b>Pre-Budget Statement:</b> Provides information that links government policies and budgets and typically sets forth the broad parameters that will define the budget proposal that is presented to the legislature.	Published
<b>EBP</b>	<b>Executive's Budget Proposal:</b> Presents the government plans to raise revenues through taxes and other sources and spend these monies to support its priorities, thus transforming policy goals into action.	Published
<b>EB</b>	<b>Enacted Budget:</b> The legal instrument authorizing the executive to raise revenues, make expenditures, and incur debt.	Published
<b>CB</b>	<b>Citizens Budget:</b> A nontechnical presentation to enable broad public understanding of a government's plans for raising revenues and spending public funds in order to achieve policy goals.	Published
<b>IYR</b>	<b>In-Year Reports:</b> Periodic (monthly or quarterly) measures of the trends in actual revenues, expenditures, and debt, which allow for comparisons with the budget figures and adjustments.	Published
<b>MYR</b>	<b>Mid-Year Review:</b> An 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.	Not Produced
<b>YER</b>	<b>Year-End Report:</b> Information comparing the actual budget execution relative to the Enacted Budget.	Published
<b>AR</b>	<b>Audit Report:</b> Independent evaluation of the government's accounts by the country's supreme audit institution. It typically assesses whether the executive has raised revenues and spent monies in line with the authorized budget, and whether the government's accounts of its revenues and expenses are accurate and provide a reliable picture of the fiscal situation.	Published

### From Zero to 100: Has South Korea increased the amount of information it makes available in the eight key budget reports?



### OBI scores over three Surveys



## Open Budget Index

The **Open Budget Survey** assesses whether the central government in each country surveyed makes eight key budget documents available to the public, as well as whether the data contained in these documents is comprehensive, timely, and useful. The Survey uses internationally accepted criteria to assess each country's budget transparency developed by multilateral organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic

Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).

The scores on 95 of the 125 Open Budget Survey questions are used to calculate objective scores and rankings of each surveyed country's relative transparency. These composite scores constitute the Open Budget Index (OBI), the world's only independent and comparative measure of budget transparency.

South Korea's score is 75 out of 100, which is much higher than the average score of 43 for all the 100 countries surveyed and the second highest in the East Asia & Pacific region. South Korea's score indicates that the government provides the public with significant information on the national government's budget and financial activities during the course of the budget year. This makes it possible for citizens to hold the government accountable for its management of the public's money.

**South Korea's OBI 2012 score of 75 has increased from its score of 71 on the OBI 2010.**

The Open Budget Index is composed of subscores for each of the eight key budget documents assessed in the Survey. These subscores represent the average of the scores received on a set of questions in the Survey that measure the public availability of and amount of information in the documents. The subscores are comparable across all of the countries included in the Survey.

### Recommendations

South Korea's score on the Open Budget Index has increased with each round of the Open Budget Survey, a commitment to improvement for which the government is congratulated. South Korea's score of 75 out of 100 on the Open Budget Index 2012 is good, but the government of South Korea has the potential to further expand budget transparency by introducing a number of measures, some of which can be achieved at almost no cost to the government.

The International Budget Partnership recommends that South Korea undertake the following steps to improve budget transparency:

- Produce and publish a Mid-Year Review. Detailed guidance on the contents of this document can be found in this guidebook: <http://bit.ly/QGzHv8>. As per the Open Budget Survey 2012, 29 coun-

tries publish a Mid-Year Review, including South Korea's neighbors New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Links to the budget documents published by these countries can be accessed from the IBP's website: <http://bit.ly/P8NPOV>.

- Increase the comprehensiveness of the Executive's Budget Proposal, specifically by focusing on providing information on the following areas:
  - data on actual expenditures compared to the expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (see questions 22 and 24 of the Open Budget Questionnaire);
  - data on actual revenues compared to the revenue estimates of the year prior to the budget year (see questions 29 and 31 of the Open Budget Questionnaire);
  - the impact of macroeconomic forecast and explicitly stated key assumptions (see question 15 of the Open Budget Questionnaire); and
  - information on financial assets, contingent liabilities, and future liabilities (see questions 39 and 42-43 of the Open Budget Questionnaire).
- Increase the comprehensiveness of In-Year Reports by including all monthly expenditures and revenues from all sources, compare actual year-to-date expenditures and revenues with either the original estimate for that period or the same period in the previous year, and including debt incurred monthly and the composition of government debt (see questions 66-67 and 69-71 of the Open Budget Questionnaire).
- Improve the quality of the Citizens Budget by consulting with the public prior to producing it and by producing Citizens Budgets on each stage of the budget process (see questions 111 and 112 of the Open Budget Questionnaire).

## Strength of Legislatures and Supreme Audit Institutions in Budget Oversight

The Open Budget Survey examines the extent of effective oversight provided by legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs). These institutions play a critical role — often enshrined in national constitutions — in planning and overseeing the implementation of national budgets.

The Open Budget Survey assesses whether legislatures provide effective budget oversight by measuring performance on 11 indicators, including: consultations with the executive prior to the tabling in the legislature of the draft budget, research capacity, formal debate on overall budget policy, time available to discuss and approve the budget, legal authority to amend the budget proposal, approval of shifts in expenditure budget and excess revenues collected, supplemental budget powers, authority to approve use of contingency funds, and scrutiny of audit reports.

The Open Budget Survey assesses whether supreme audit institutions are empowered to provide effective budget oversight by using the following four indicators: authority to remove the head of the supreme audit institution, legal power to audit public finances, financial resources available, and availability of skilled audit personnel.

## Recommendations

The International Budget Partnership recommends that South Korea undertake the following actions to improve budget oversight:

- The legislature should have the authority in law to amend the Executive’s Budget Proposal, and the executive should seek prior approval from the legislature before the expenditure of contingency funds or other funds for which no specific purpose is identified in the Enacted Budget (see questions 100 and 106 of the Open Budget Questionnaire).
- Empower the supreme audit institution by requiring the final consent of the legislature or judiciary to remove the head of the SAI (see question 90 of the Open Budget Questionnaire).

### South Korea is the leader in East Asia & the Pacific on budget oversight and engagement

Country	Legislative Strength	SAI Strength	Public Engagement
China	Weak	Weak	Weak
Fiji	Weak	Weak	Weak
New Zealand	Moderate	Strong	Moderate
Papua New Guinea	Moderate	Weak	Weak
South Korea	Strong	Strong	Strong

**Strong:** average score above 66 of 100; **Moderate:** average score between 34 and 66; **Weak:** average score below 34

## Opportunities for Public Participation

Research and advocacy experience of civil society over the past 15 years has demonstrated that transparency by itself is insufficient for improving governance. Transparency along with opportunities for public participation in budgeting can maximize the positive outcomes associated with open budgeting. Therefore, the Open Budget Survey assesses opportunities available to the public to participate in national budget decision-making processes. Such opportunities can be provided throughout the budget cycle by the executive, legislature, and supreme audit institution.

Based on these indicators, the Open Budget Survey 2012 finds that opportunities for public participation in the budget process in South Korea are strong.

### South Korea has many spaces for public participation

Requirement	Finding
<b>Process Followed Before Consultation</b>	
Formal requirement for public participation (Q114)	Exists and is strong
Articulation of purposes for public participation (Q115)	Exists and is strong
Communication by the SAI of audit findings beyond publication of audit reports (Q124)	Exists and is strong
<b>Process of Consultation</b>	
Mechanisms developed by the executive for participation during budget planning (Q116)	Exists but could be improved
Public hearings in the legislature on macroeconomic budget framework (Q119)	Exists and is strong
Public hearings in the legislature on individual agency budgets (Q120)	Exists and is strong
Opportunities in the legislature for testimonials by the public during budget hearings (Q121)	Exists but could be improved
Mechanisms developed by the executive for participation during budget execution (Q117)	Exists and is strong
Mechanisms developed by the SAI for participation in audit agenda (Q123)	Exists and is strong
<b>Process Followed After Consultation</b>	
Feedback by the executive on use of inputs provided by the public (Q118)	Exists but could be improved
Release by the legislature of reports on budget hearings (Q122)	Exists and is strong
Feedback by the SAI on use of inputs provided by the public (Q125)	Exists and is strong

## Recommendations

The International Budget Partnership recommends that South Korea expand public engagement in budgeting after considering the Open Budget Survey indicators on which the country performs poorly (see table below and questions 116, 118, and 121 in the Open Budget Questionnaire).

## Description of Survey, Methodology, Reliability, and Researcher Contact Information

The Open Budget Survey is a fact-based research instrument that uses easily observable phenomena to assess what occurs in practice. The research conclusions are typically supported by citations and comments, including reference to a budget document, a law, or other public document; a public statement by a government official; or comments from a face-to-face interview with a government official or other knowledgeable party. The Survey is compiled from a questionnaire completed for each country by independent budget experts who are not associated with the national government. Each country's questionnaire is then independently reviewed by two anonymous experts who also have no association with government. In addition, the IBP invites national governments to comment on the draft results from the Survey and considers these comments before finalizing the Survey results. The entire research process for 2012 took over 18 months between July 2011 and December 2012 and involved approximately 400 experts.

The Open Budget Survey provides a reliable source of data on national budget transparency practices for governments, development practitioners, the media, and citizens. Current users of the Survey results include the Open Government Partnership, Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative, INTOSAI, the World Bank in its Worldwide Governance Indicators, and a number of bilateral aid agencies and international and regional multilateral bodies. The publication of the Open Budget Survey 2012 has reinforced the Survey's preeminent position as a global data repository on budget transparency, participation, and accountability.

Research to complete this country's Open Budget Survey was undertaken by Hobum Pyun, Deloitte Anjin LLC., 12 Floor, One IFC, 23, Yoido-dong Youngdeungpo-ku, Seoul, South Korea, 150-876, [hpyun@deloitte.com](mailto:hpyun@deloitte.com).

The South Korean government has provided its comments on the draft Open Budget Questionnaire results for the country.