



## Open Budget Survey 2023: 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, 2021, and 2023 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 transparency scores across the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2023 OBS rounds. Transparency scores are also known as Open Budget Index (OBI) scores.
- Do not compare individual questions that comprise the transparency score over time without first referencing OBS questionnaires for the OBS years being compared. For example, while the individual questions that comprise the transparency score can be compared between 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021, questions and question numbers were different prior to 2015.
- Compare the overall oversight and public participation scores across the 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2023 OBS rounds.
- Do not compare oversight and public participations scores prior to 2017, as the questions and question numbers were different.



## How are the indices calculated?

All composite indices are unweighted averages of individual questions scores. The table below shows the questions that comprise each aggregate score for the Open Budget Survey 2023.

Aggregate score or index	Open Budget Survey 2023 questions
Transparency (Open Budget Index)	q1-q102, t3pbs (PBS-2), t3ebp (EBP-2), t3eb (EB-2), t3iy (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 **region:** Broad regional classification.

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

**obi:** raw transparency (Open Budget Index) score. Average score of indicators 1-102, PBS-2 (t3pbs), EBP-2 (t3ebp), EB-2 (t3eb), IYRs-2 (t3iy), MYR-2 (t3myr), YER-2 (t3yer), and AR-2 (t3ar). Round obi is obi rounded to the nearest one.

**obi\_cat:** Category based on rounded transparency (OBI) 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 transparency (OBI) 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 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\_my, 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 transparency (OBI) 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 transparency (OBI) 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 transparency (OBI) 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 transparency (OBI) 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 transparency (OBI) 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\_my:** raw transparency (OBI) sub-score for the Mid-Year Review. Average score of MYR-2 (t3myr) and questions 76-83. Roundobi\_my is obi\_my rounded to the nearest one.

**obi\_yer:** raw transparency (OBI) 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 transparency (OBI) 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 transparency (OBI) 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 Open Budget Survey 2023 Questionnaire.

**q1l-q142l:** letter responses to indicators 1- 142 in Open Budget Survey 2023 Questionnaire.

**new23:** Indicates whether a country was included in the Open Budget Survey for the first time in 2023. 1 = new for 2023, 0 = included prior to 2023.

**For more information on OBS methodology and using OBS data, please contact [info@internationalbudget.org](mailto:info@internationalbudget.org).**