

Ecuador

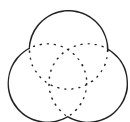
Overview



Transparency:

48 /100

(Open Budget Index score)



Public Participation:

20 /100



Budget Oversight:

41 /100

About the survey

Government budget decisions – what taxes to levy, what services to provide, and how much debt to take on – have important consequences for all people in society. When governments provide information and meaningful channels for the public to engage in these decisions, we can better ensure public money is spent on public interests.

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 legislatures and national audit offices, 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 9th edition of the OBS covers 125 countries.

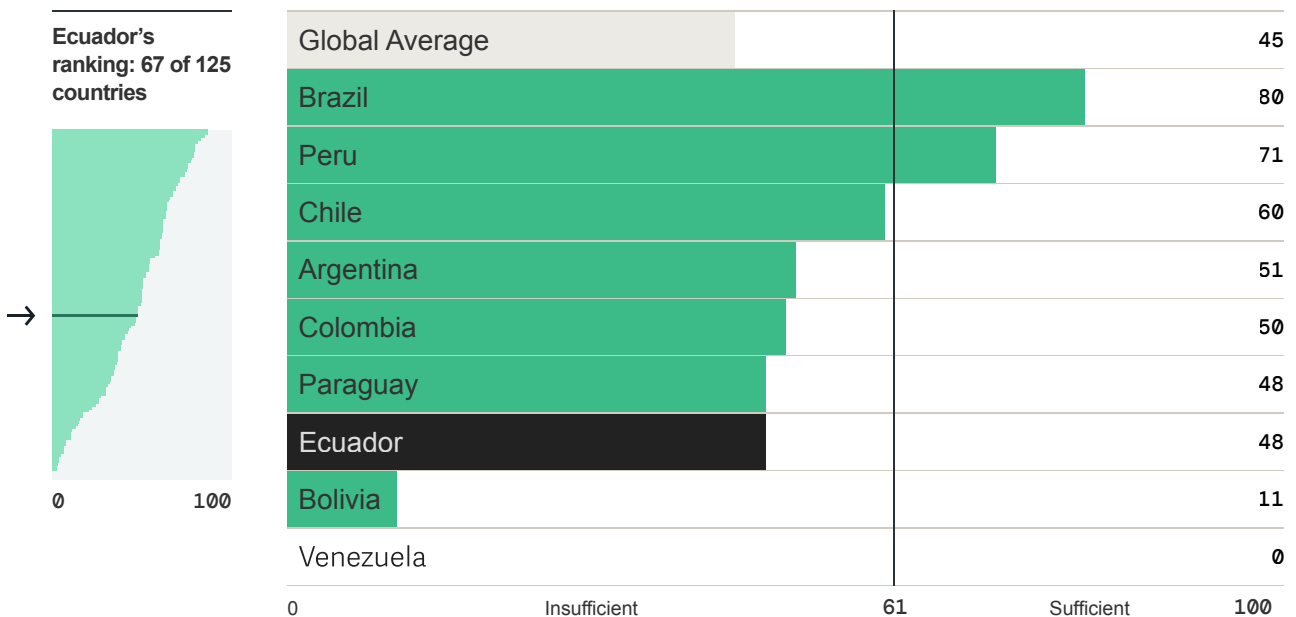
Visit www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey for more information, including the full OBS methodology, the 2023 Global Report, findings for all surveyed countries, and the Data Explorer.

Transparency

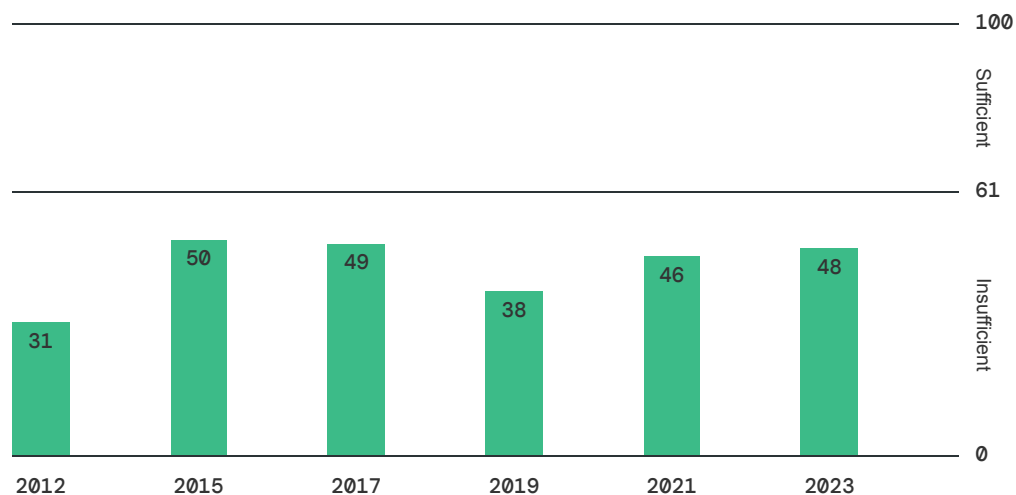
This part of the OBS measures public access to information on how the central government raises and spends public resources. It assesses the **online availability, timeliness, and comprehensiveness** of eight key budget documents using 109 equally weighted indicators and scores each country on a scale 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.**

Ecuador has a transparency score of **48** (out of 100).

Transparency in Ecuador compared to others



How has the transparency score for Ecuador changed over time?



Public availability of budget documents in Ecuador

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

Document	2012	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
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 Ecuador makes available to the public?

KEY	
●	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.	2023	Not Produced
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.	2023	45
Enacted Budget	The budget that has been approved by the legislature.	2023	89
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.	2023	42
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.	2022	85
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.	2022	44
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.	2021	62
Audit Report	Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts.	2020	Published Late

Ecuador's transparency score of **48** in the OBS 2023 is near its score in 2021.

Recommendations

Ecuador should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

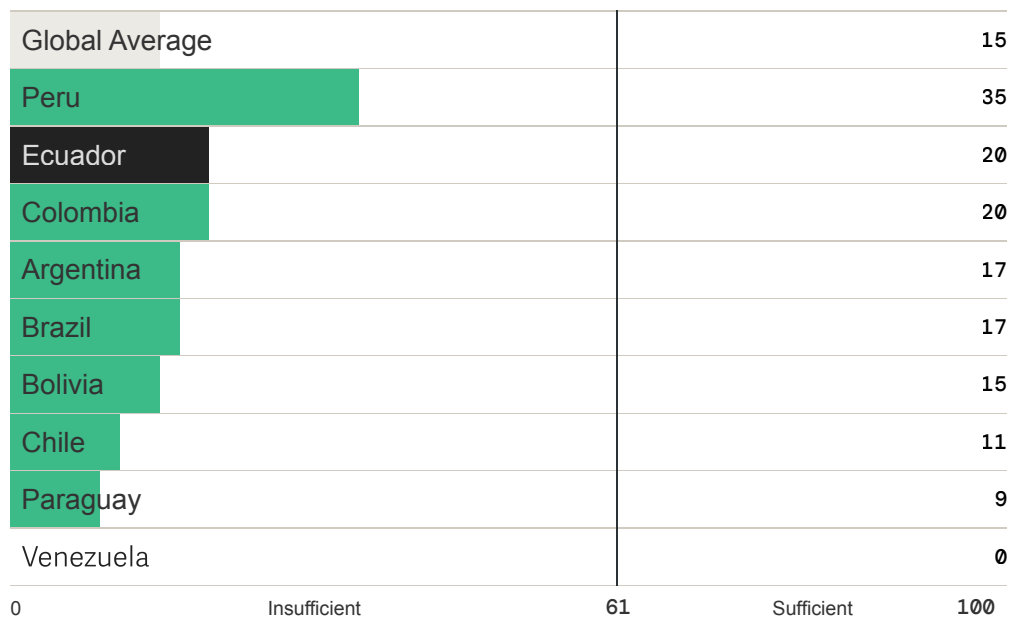
- Publish the Audit Report online in a timely manner.
- Produce and publish the Pre-Budget Statement online in a timely manner.
- Improve the comprehensiveness of the Executive's Budget Proposal by including data on debt and data on the financial position of the government; by providing information on the composition of debt and debt outcomes from prior years; by providing detailed expenditure and revenue information for the budget year and prior years, and data on how new policy proposals affect expenditure and revenues.
- Improve the comprehensiveness of the Mid-Year Review by providing an updated macroeconomic forecast for the entire budget year underway, including information on updated expenditure estimates by individual programs, providing updated revenue estimates by individual sources, and by providing updated estimates of government borrowing and debt.
- Include in the Year-End Report comparisons between borrowing estimates and actual outcomes, and comparisons between planned nonfinancial outcomes and actual outcomes.
- Expand on the participatory nature of the Citizens Budget, for example by identifying the public's requirements for budget information prior to the release of the document; incorporating information about revenues and adding contact details for follow-up by citizens; disseminating it via additional methods, and publishing simplified budget documents covering the approval and audit phase of the budget cycle.

Public Participation

The OBS assesses the formal opportunities offered to the public for meaningful participation in the different stages of the budget process. It examines the practices of the central government’s executive, the legislature, and the supreme audit institution (SAI) using 18 equally weighted indicators, aligned with the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency’s [Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policies](#) , and scores each country on a scale from 0 to 100.

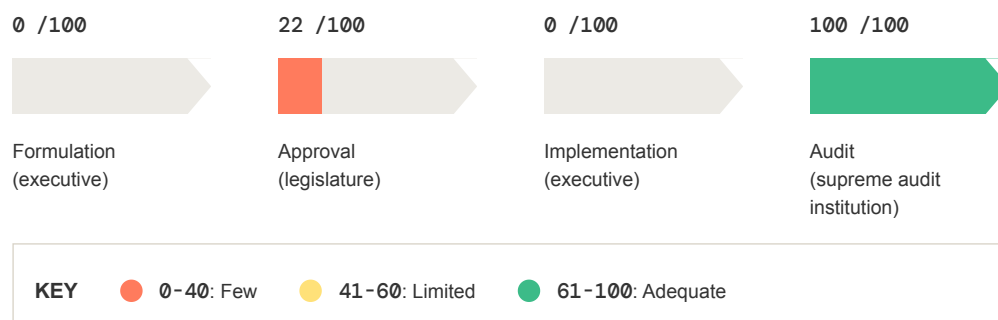
Ecuador has a public participation score of **20** (out of 100).

Public participation in Ecuador compared to others



For more information, see [here](#) for innovative public participation practices around the world.

Extent of opportunities for public participation in the budget process



Recommendations

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

- Ensure that the Sectoral Citizen Council, organized by the Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas, addresses pertinent topics concerning the formulation of the Executive's Budget Proposal. This Council should establish transparent mechanisms to support and document the entirety of its work.
- Pilot mechanisms to engage the public to monitor budget implementation.
- Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.

Ecuador's Asamblea Nacional has established public hearings related to the approval of the annual budget, but should also prioritize the following actions:

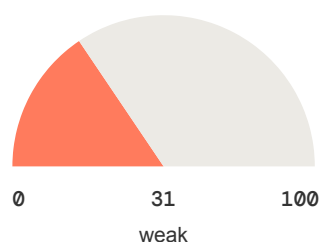
- Allow any member of the public or any civil society organization to testify during its hearings on the budget proposal prior to its approval.
- Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during its hearings on the Audit Report.

Budget Oversight

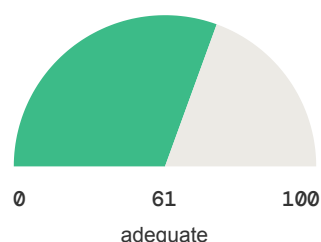
The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information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

The legislature and supreme audit institution in Ecuador, together, provide limited oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **41** (out of 100). Taken individually, the extent of each institution's oversight is shown below:

Legislative oversight



Audit oversight



KEY ● 0-40: Few ● 41-60: Limited ● 61-100: Adequate

Recommendations

Ecuador's Asamblea Nacional provides limited 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 legislature should approve the Executive's Budget Proposal before the start of the budget year.
- In practice, ensure the legislature is consulted before the executive shifts funds specified in the Enacted Budget between administrative units; spends any unanticipated revenue; or reduces spending due to revenue shortfalls during the budget year.

- A legislative committee should examine the Audit Report and publish a report with their findings online.

To strengthen independence and improve audit oversight by Ecuador's Contraloría General del Estado, the following actions are recommended:

- Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.

The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions

Ecuador 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

- Only documents published and events, activities, or developments that took place through 31 December 2022 were assessed in the OBS 2023.
- The survey is based on a questionnaire completed in each country by an independent budget expert:
María Caridad Ortiz and María Emilia Valencia
Fundación para el Avance de las Reformas y Oportunidades - FARO

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- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in Ecuador by a representative of the Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas.