

Cyprus drops 12 places in Corruption Perceptions Index

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The annual *Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)*, first released in 1995, is the best known of Transparency International's tools. It has been widely credited with putting TI and the issue of corruption on the international policy agenda.

The TI Corruption Perceptions Index ranks 180 countries in terms of the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians. It is a composite index, a poll of polls, drawing on corruption-related data from expert and business surveys carried out by a variety of independent and reputable institutions. The CPI reflects views from around the world, including those of experts who are living in the countries evaluated.

Cyprus ranked 39th in the 2007 survey, a reduction of 12 places since 2003 when it ranked 27th in the TI Corruption Perceptions Index. Cyprus' score has also been reduced from 6.1 in 2003 to 5.3 in 2007.

Latvia and Lithuania are ranked 51st, Greece is 56th, Bulgaria, Croatia and Turkey share 64th, while Romania is ranked 69th.

At the bottom of the table are Afghanistan, Chad, Somalia and Sudan.

How is corruption defined?

The TI CPI focuses on corruption in the public sector and defines corruption as the abuse of public office for private gain. The surveys used in compiling the CPI ask questions that relate to the *misuse of public power for private benefit, for example bribery of public officials, kickbacks in public procurement, embezzlement of public funds or questions that probe the strength of anti-corruption policies, thereby encompassing both administrative and political corruption.*

What are the sources of data for the CPI?

The 2007 CPI draws on 14 different polls and surveys from 12 independent institutions. TI strives to ensure that the sources used are of the highest quality and that the survey work is performed with complete integrity.

To qualify, the data must be well documented

and sufficient to permit a judgment on its reliability. All sources must provide a ranking of nations and must measure the overall extent of corruption. This condition excludes surveys which mix corruption with other issues, such as political instability, decentralization or nationalism.

How should the CPI scores be interpreted?

A country or territory's **CPI Score** indicates the degree of public sector corruption as perceived by business people and country analysts, and ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).

Which matters more, a country's rank or its score?

While ranking countries enables TI to build an index, a country's score is a much more important indication of the perceived level of corruption in a country. A country's rank can change simply because new countries enter the index or others drop out.

Is the CPI a reliable measure of a country's perceived level of corruption?

The CPI is a solid measurement tool of perception of corruption. As such, the CPI has been tested and used widely by both scholars and analysts. The reliability of the CPI differs, however, across countries. Countries with a high number of sources and small differences in the evaluations provided by the sources (indicated by a narrow confidence range) convey greater reliability in terms of their score and ranking; the converse is also the case.

Confidence range provides a range of possible values of the CPI score. This reflects how a country's score may vary, depending on measurement precision.

Nominally, with 5% probability the score is above this range and with another 5% it is below. However, particularly when only few sources are available, an unbiased estimate of the mean coverage probability is lower than the nominal value of 90%.

Surveys used refer to the number of surveys that assessed a country's performance. In all, 14 surveys and expert assessments were used and at least three were required for a country to be included in the CPI.

Country rank	Country	2007 CPI score	Surveys used	Confidence range
1	Denmark	9.4	6	9.2 - 9.6
1	Finland	9.4	6	9.2 - 9.6
1	New Zealand	9.4	6	9.2 - 9.6
4	Singapore	9.3	9	9.0 - 9.5
4	Sweden	9.3	6	9.1 - 9.4
6	Iceland	9.2	6	8.3 - 9.6
7	Netherlands	9.0	6	8.8 - 9.2
7	Switzerland	9.0	6	8.8 - 9.2
9	Canada	8.7	6	8.3 - 9.1
9	Norway	8.7	6	8.0 - 9.2
11	Australia	8.6	8	8.1 - 9.0
12	Luxembourg	8.4	5	7.7 - 8.7
12	U.K.	8.4	6	7.9 - 8.9
14	Hong Kong	8.3	8	7.6 - 8.8
15	Austria	8.1	6	7.5 - 8.7
16	Germany	7.8	6	7.3 - 8.4
17	Ireland	7.5	6	7.3 - 7.7
17	Japan	7.5	8	7.1 - 8.0
19	France	7.3	6	6.9 - 7.8
20	USA	7.2	8	6.5 - 7.6
21	Belgium	7.1	6	7.1 - 7.1
22	Chile	7.0	7	6.5 - 7.4
23	Barbados	6.9	4	6.6 - 7.1
24	Saint Lucia	6.8	3	6.1 - 7.1
25	Spain	6.7	6	6.2 - 7.0
25	Uruguay	6.7	5	6.4 - 7.0
27	Slovenia	6.6	8	6.1 - 6.9
28	Estonia	6.5	8	6.0 - 7.0
28	Portugal	6.5	6	5.8 - 7.2
30	Israel	6.1	6	5.6 - 6.7
30	Saint Vincent	6.1	3	4.0 - 7.1
32	Qatar	6.0	4	5.4 - 6.4
33	Malta	5.8	4	5.3 - 6.2
34	Macao	5.7	4	4.7 - 6.4
34	Taiwan	5.7	9	5.4 - 6.1
34	UAE	5.7	5	4.8 - 6.5
37	Dominica	5.6	3	4.0 - 6.1
38	Botswana	5.4	7	4.8 - 6.1
39	Cyprus	5.3	3	5.1 - 5.5
39	Hungary	5.3	8	4.9 - 5.5
Source:	Transparency International			