

# Brazil

## Overview



### Transparency:

**80** /100

(Open Budget Index score)



### Public Participation:

**15** /100



### Budget Oversight:

**78** /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.

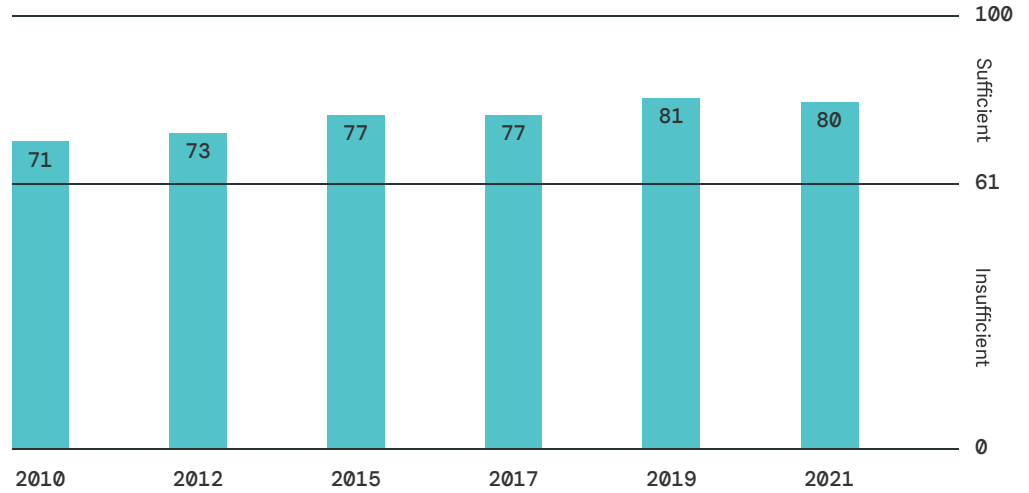
**The Open Budget Survey (OBS)** is the world’s only independent, comparative and fact-based research instrument that uses internationally accepted criteria to assess public access to central government budget information; formal opportunities for the public to participate in the national budget process; 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 8th edition of the OBS covers 120 countries.

Visit [www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey](http://www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey) for more information, including the full OBS methodology, the 2021 Global and Regional Reports, findings for all surveyed countries, and the Data Explorer.



# How has the transparency score for Brazil changed over time?



## Public availability of budget documents in Brazil

**KEY**

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

Document	2010	2012	2015	2017	2019	2021
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 Brazil makes available to the public?

KEY	
<span style="color: #00728f;">●</span> 61-100 / 100	
<span style="color: #00a0c0;">●</span> 41-60 / 100	
<span style="color: #90e0d0;">●</span> 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.	2021	84
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.	2021	73
Enacted Budget	The budget that has been approved by the legislature.	2020	95
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.	2021	42
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.	2020	100
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.	2020	82
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.	2019	88
Audit Report	Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts.	2019	86

Brazil's transparency score of **80** in the OBS 2021 is near its score in 2019.

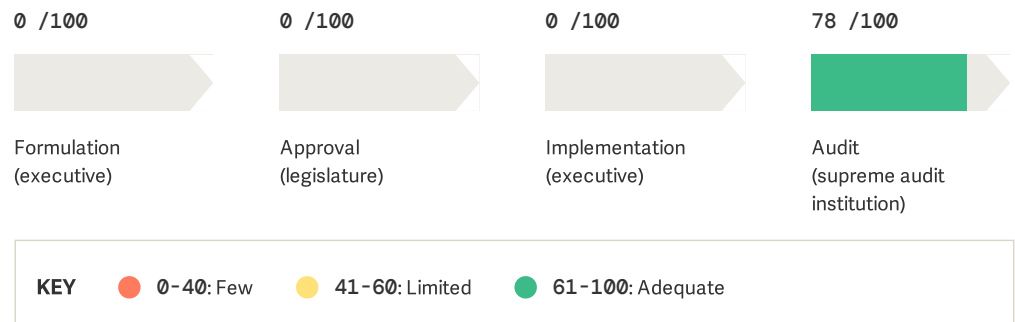
## Recommendations

Brazil should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- Ensure that “citizens” versions of budget documents are published throughout the budget cycle; that they are disseminated widely using a variety of means; and that they reflect the public's requirements for budget information.
- Eliminate the opaque practice of the “Secret Budget”, initiated in 2020.



# Extent of opportunities for public participation in the budget process



## Recommendations

To further strengthen public participation in the budget process, Brazil's Ministério da Economia should prioritize the following actions:

- Introduce mechanisms to engage the public during budget formulation and to monitor budget implementation, particularly by respecting the legal mandate of the Public Policies Councils and including them in the budget formulation and execution debate.
- Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.

Brazil's Congresso Nacional should prioritize the following actions:

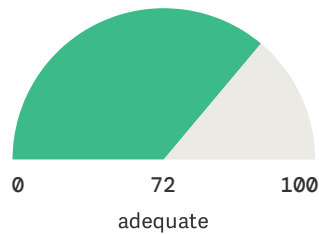
- Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during its hearings on the budget proposal prior to its approval.
- Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during its hearings on the Audit Report.

# Budget Oversight

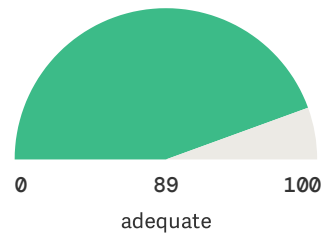
The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information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

The legislature and supreme audit institution in Brazil, together, provide adequate oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **78** (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

Brazil's Congresso Nacional provides adequate oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and limited oversight during the implementation stage. To further improve oversight, the following actions should be prioritized:

- The legislature should approve the Executive's Budget Proposal before the start of the budget year.
- A legislative committee should examine in-year budget implementation and publish reports with their findings online.
- In practice, ensure the legislature is consulted before the executive reduces spending due to revenue shortfalls.



- A legislative committee should examine the Audit Report and publish a report with their findings online.
- Eliminate the opaque practice of the “Secret Budget”, ensuring transparency of the budget amendments to the Executive’s Budget Proposal introduced by the Parliament.

To strengthen independence and improve audit oversight by the Brazil Tribunal de Contas da União, the following actions are recommended:

- Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.

### **The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions**

Brazil’s independent fiscal institution (IFI) is the Instituição Fiscal Independente. Its independence is set in law, and it reports to the legislature. It publishes its own macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts, and its own cost estimates of major new policy proposals.

*The indicators on IFIs are not scored in the Open Budget Survey.*

# Methodology

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- Only documents published and events, activities, or developments that took place through 31 December 2020 were assessed in the OBS 2021.
- The survey is based on a questionnaire completed in each country by an independent budget expert:

For inquiries please contact the International Budget Partnership

[info@internationalbudget.org](mailto:info@internationalbudget.org)

- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in Brazil by a representative of the Ministério da Economia.