

Czech Republic

Overview



Transparency:

60 /100

(Open Budget Index score)



Public Participation:

15 /100



Budget Oversight:

83 /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.

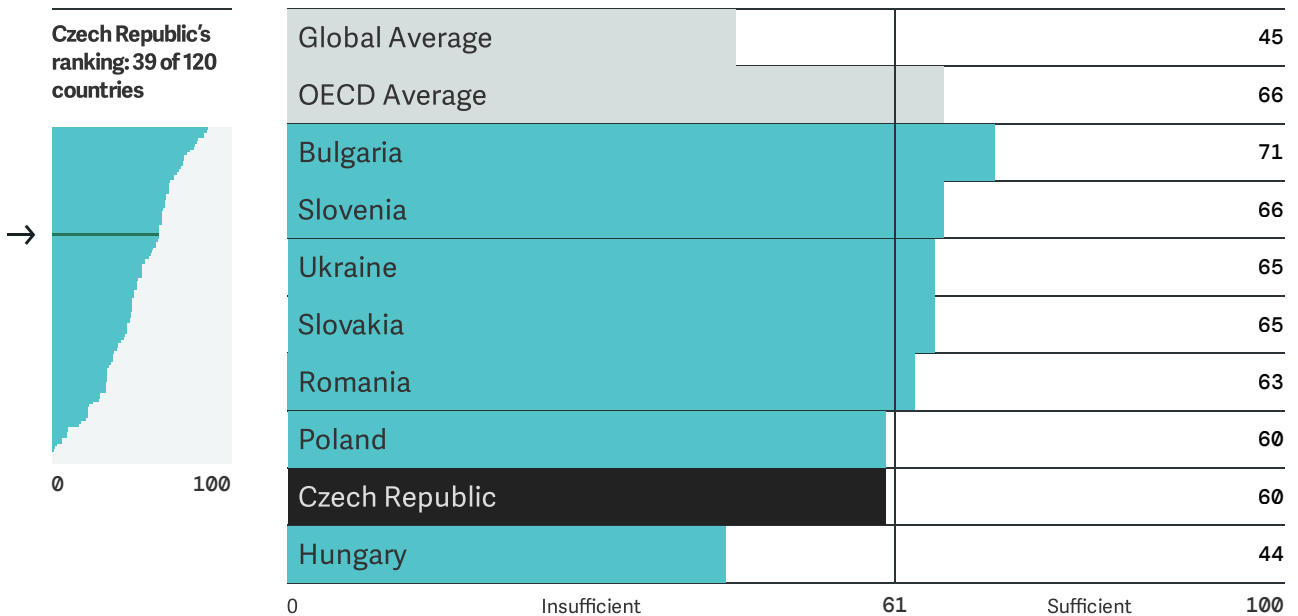
Visit www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey for more information, including the full OBS methodology, the 2021 Global and Regional Reports, findings for all surveyed countries, and the Data Explorer.

Transparency

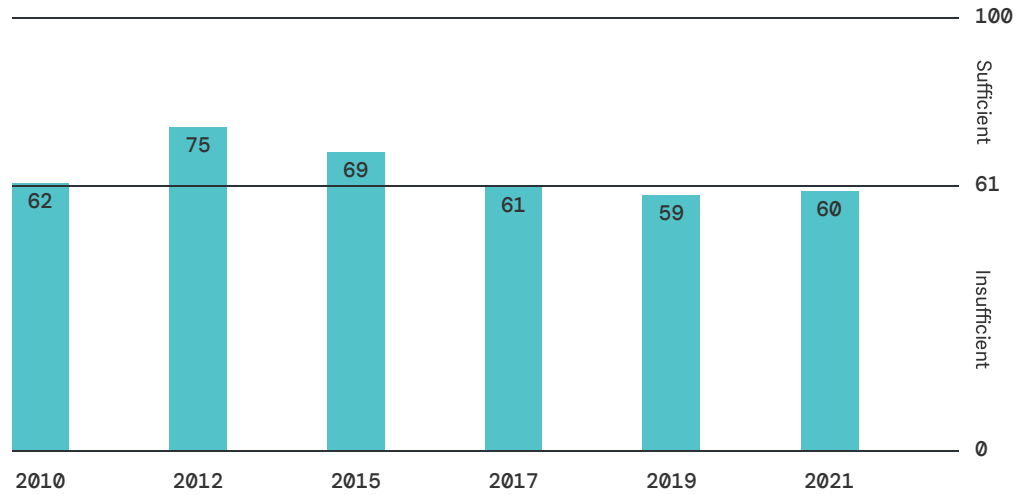
This part of the OBS measures public access to information on how the central government raises and spends public resources. It assesses the **online availability, timeliness, and comprehensiveness** of eight key budget documents using 109 equally weighted indicators and scores each country on a scale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

Czech Republic has a transparency score of **60** (out of 100).

Transparency in Czech Republic compared to others



How has the transparency score for Czech Republic changed over time?



Public availability of budget documents in Czech Republic

| 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 Czech Republic 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. | 2021 | 67 |
| 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 | 66 |
| Enacted Budget | The budget that has been approved by the legislature. | 2021 | 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. | 2020 | 42 |
| In-Year Reports | Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly. | 2020 | 67 |
| 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 | Published Late |
| 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 | 67 |
| Audit Report | Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts. | 2019 | 48 |

Czech Republic's transparency score of **60** in the OBS 2021 is near its score in 2019.

What changed in OBS 2021?

Czech Republic has increased the availability of budget information by:

- Publishing the Citizens Budget online in a timely manner.
- Increasing the information provided in the Pre-Budget Statement.

However, Czech Republic has decreased the availability of budget information by:

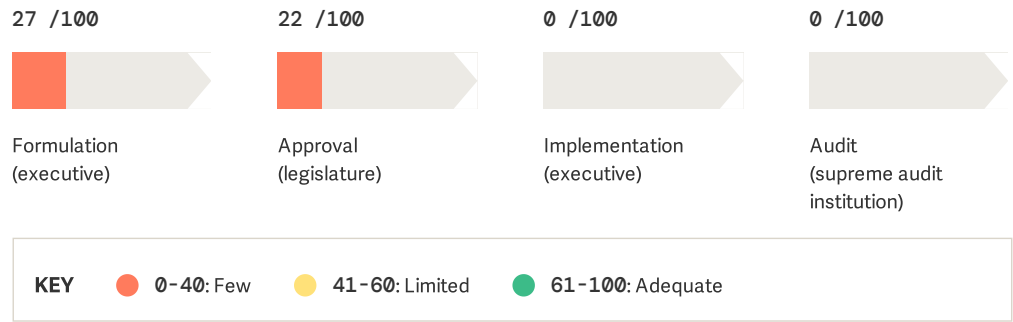
- Failing to publish the Mid-Year Review online in a timely manner.

Recommendations

Czech Republic should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- Revert to the good practice of publishing the Mid-Year Review online in a timely manner.
- Strengthen the inclusiveness and participatory aspect of the Citizens Budget by establishing a mechanism to identify the public's requirements for budget information to be included in the document; and consider publishing simplified versions of other budget documents throughout the four phases of the budget process.

Extent of opportunities for public participation in the budget process



Recommendations

Czech Republic's Ministry of Finance has established pre-budget deliberations during budget formulation but, to further strengthen public participation in the budget process, should also prioritize the following actions:

- Pilot mechanisms to monitor budget implementation.
- During budget formulation and/or implementation, actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.
- Expand its consultation mechanisms during budget formulation so that they engage any civil society organization or member of the public who wishes to participate.

Czech Republic's Parliament has established public hearings related to the approval of the annual budget and public hearings related to the review of the Audit Report, 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, as well as during its hearings on the Audit Report.

Czech Republic's Supreme Audit Office should prioritize the following actions to improve public participation in the budget process:

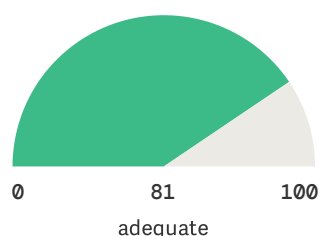
- Establish formal mechanisms for the public to assist in developing its audit program and to contribute to relevant audit investigations.

Budget Oversight

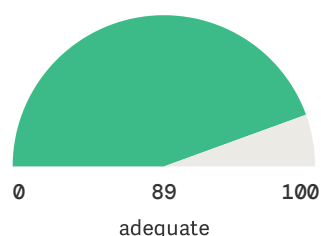
The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information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

The legislature and supreme audit institution in Czech Republic, together, provide adequate oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **83** (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

Czech Republic's Parliament provides adequate oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and adequate oversight during the implementation stage. To further improve oversight, the following actions should be prioritized:

- A legislative committee should examine in-year budget implementation and publish reports with their findings online.

To strengthen independence and improve audit oversight by the Czech Republic Supreme Audit Office, the following actions are recommended:

- Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.

The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions

Czech Republic's independent fiscal institution (IFI) is the Czech Fiscal Council (CFC). Its independence is set in law, and it reports to the executive. It publishes an assessment of the official macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts produced by the executive, and its own cost estimates of some new policy proposals.

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

Methodology

- 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:
Lucie Sedmihradska
Prague University of Economics and Business
nám. W. Churchilla 4, Prague 3, 13067 Czech Republic
sedmih@vse.cz
- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in Czech Republic by a representative of the Ministry of Finance.