

# Ecuador

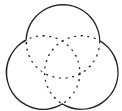
## Overview



### Transparency:

**46** /100

(Open Budget Index score)



### Public Participation:

**26** /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.

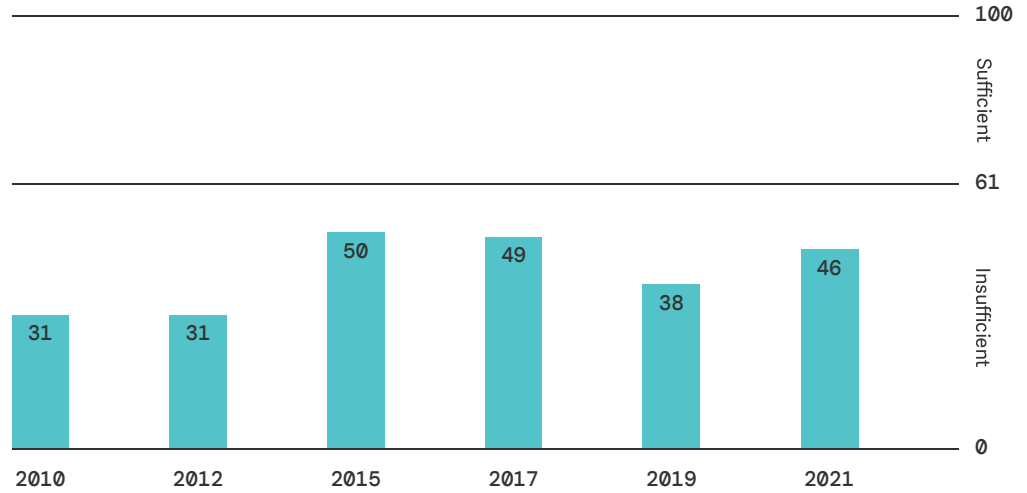
**The Open Budget Survey (OBS)** is the world’s only independent, comparative and fact-based research instrument that uses internationally accepted criteria to assess public access to central government budget information; formal opportunities for the public to participate in the national budget process; 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 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 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	2010	2012	2015	2017	2019	2021
Pre-Budget Statement	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: red; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">⊘</span>
Executive's Budget Proposal	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Enacted Budget	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Citizens Budget	<span style="color: red; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: red; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
In-Year Reports	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Mid-Year Review	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Year-End Report	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Audit Report	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	<span style="color: red; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">⊘</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>

# How comprehensive is the content of the key budget documents that Ecuador makes available to the public?

KEY	
<span style="color: #0070C0;">●</span> 61-100 / 100	
<span style="color: #00A08A;">●</span> 41-60 / 100	
<span style="color: #90EE90;">●</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.	2020	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.	2020	45
Enacted Budget	The budget that has been approved by the legislature.	2020	83
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	59
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.	2020	78
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	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.	2019	48
Audit Report	Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts.	2018	Published Late

Ecuador's transparency score of **46** in the OBS 2021 is moderately higher than its score in 2019.

## What changed in OBS 2021?

Ecuador has increased the availability of budget information by:

- Publishing the Enacted Budget online.
- Publishing the In-Year Reports and Mid-Year Review online in a timely manner.

However, Ecuador has decreased the availability of budget information by:

- Failing to publish the Audit Report online in a timely manner.
- Reducing the information provided in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

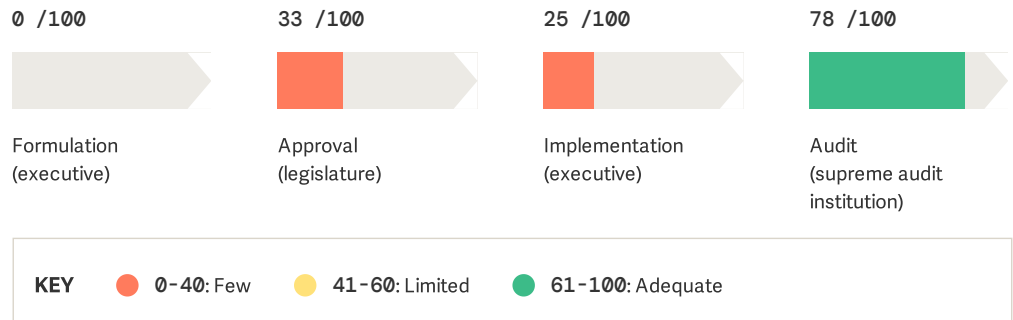
## Recommendations

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 the financial position of the government; by providing information on the composition of debt and debt outcomes from prior years; and by providing detailed expenditure and revenue information for the budget year and prior years.
- Include in the Year-End Report comparisons between borrowing estimates and actual outcomes, comparisons between planned nonfinancial outcomes and actual outcomes and comparisons between the original macroeconomic forecast and actual outcomes.
- Improve the comprehensiveness of the Mid-Year Review by providing a 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.
- 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, disseminating it via additional methods, and publishing simplified budget documents covering the audit phase of the budget cycle.



# Extent of opportunities for public participation in the budget process



## Recommendations

Ecuador's Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas has established a council during budget implementation but, to further strengthen public participation in the budget process, should also prioritize the following actions:

- Pilot mechanisms to engage the public during budget formulation.
- Expand mechanisms during budget implementation to engage any civil society organization or member of the public who wishes to participate.
- Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, either 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:

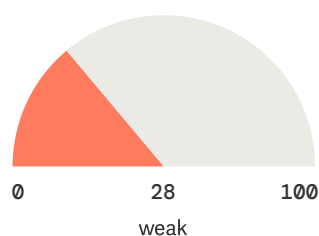
- Allow any member of the public or any civil society organization to testify during its hearings on the budget proposal prior to its approval.
- Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during its hearings on the Audit Report.

# Budget Oversight

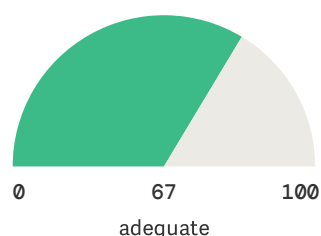
The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information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

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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:  
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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.