

Overview



Transparency:

61 /100

(Open Budget Index score)



Public
Participation:

6 /100



Budget Oversight:

50 /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.

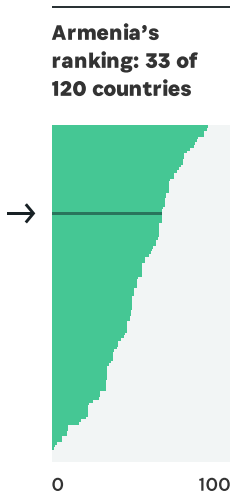


Transparency

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.

Armenia has a transparency score of 61 (out of 100).




Transparency in Armenia compared to others











Global Average	45
Georgia	87
Russia	73
Kazakhstan	63
Kyrgyz Republic	62
Armenia	61
Mongolia	60
Turkey	55
Tajikistan	16

0 Insufficient 61 Sufficient 100

Public availability of budget documents in Armenia

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

Document	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 Armenia makes available to the public?



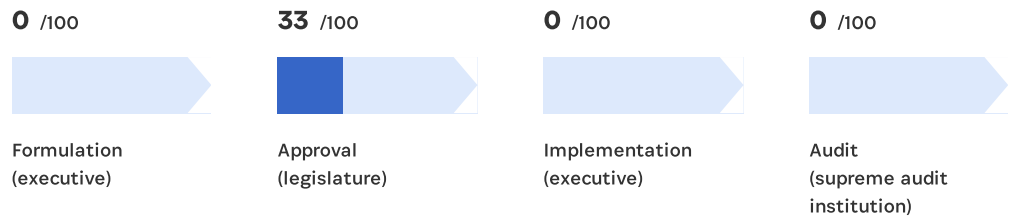
Key budget document	Document purpose and contents	Fiscal year assessed	Document content score
Pre-Budget Statement	Discloses the broad parameters of fiscal policies in advance of the Executive's Budget Proposal; outlines the government's economic forecast, anticipated revenue, expenditures, and debt.	2021	100
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	63
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	Published Late
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.	2020	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.	2020	Not Produced
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	74
Audit Report	Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts.	2019	48

Recommendations

Armenia should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- Always publish the Citizens Budget online in a timely manner. During the period of research, the Citizens Budget was published later than three months after the budget was enacted. Subsequently, the Citizens Budget has been published in a timely manner.
- Produce and publish the Mid-Year Review online in a timely manner.
- Improve the comprehensiveness of the Audit Report by publishing an executive summary of the financial audits and publishing the results of all audits of extra-budgetary funds.
- Provide machine readable, disaggregated data by type and sources for revenue estimates and revenue collections in all budget documents.
- Provide a glossary to explain and clarify multiple budget documents and associated tables in the budget estimates.
- Publish the Year-End Report and Audit Report on the unified website for publication of the Legal Act Drafts – <https://e-draft.am>

Extent of opportunities for public participation in the budget process



few: 0 - 40; limited: 41 - 60; adequate: 61 - 100

Recommendations

To further strengthen public participation in the budget process, Armenia's Ministry of Finance should prioritize the following actions:

- Radically improve current regulations to engage the public during budget formulation and pilot mechanisms to monitor budget implementation.
- Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.

Armenia's National Assembly has established submissions 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.

The Audit Chamber of the Republic of Armenia 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.

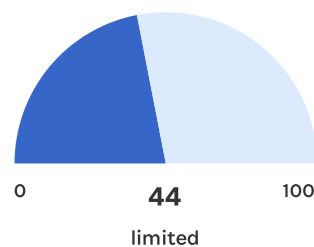


Budget Oversight

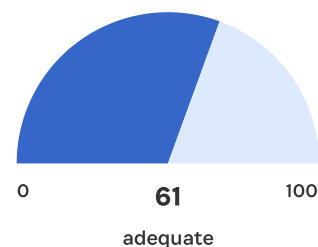
The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information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

The legislature and supreme audit institution in Armenia, together, provide limited oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **50** (out of 100). Taken individually, the extent of each institution's oversight is shown below:

Legislative oversight



Audit oversight



weak: 0 - 40; limited: 41 - 60; adequate: 61 - 100

Recommendations

Armenia's National Assembly provides adequate 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:

- Legislative committees should examine the Executive's Budget Proposal and publish reports with their analysis online.
- Legislative committees examining in-year budget implementation should publish reports online with their findings.

- 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.
- Legislative committees examining Audit Report should publish a report online with their findings and recommendations.

To strengthen independence and improve audit oversight by the Audit Chamber of the Republic of Armenia, the following actions are recommended:

- Ensure the supreme audit institution has adequate funding to perform its duties, as determined by an independent body (e.g., the legislature or judiciary).
- Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.

The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions

Armenia 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 2020 were assessed in the OBS 2021.
- The survey is based on a questionnaire completed in each country by an independent budget expert:
Varuzhan Hochtanyan; Sona Ayvazyan
Transparency International Armenia

varuzh@transparency.am; sona@transparency.am
- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in Armenia by a representative of the Ministry of Finance.