



INTEGRITY COMMISSION

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Summary of Transparency International's 2021 Corruption Perception Index (CPI)

1. Jamaica has fallen one place in Transparency International's (TI's) 2021 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) Country Rankings. It has moved from position #69 out of 180 countries in 2020, to position #70 out of 180 countries in 2021. TI's Rankings were released this morning, January 25.
2. Jamaica's negative performance in 2021 in the TI Country Rankings has pushed it back to the #70 position that it held in 2018, 4 years ago.
3. Jamaica's 2020 CPI score of 44 out of 100, where 0 means 'Highly Corrupt', and 100 'Very Clean', has, however, remained unchanged for 2021. Jamaica's 2021 CPI score of 44 equals its best ever score of 44, previously attained only in 2017, 2018 and last year.
4. In the 20 years that TI has been ranking Jamaica, the country has averaged a CPI of only 37.8 out of 100. Prior to its 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021 CPI scores of 44, Jamaica had never scored higher than 41 - its CPI score in 2015. Jamaica's lowest CPI score ever was 30, recorded in 2009.
5. Jamaica's CPI jump in TI's 2017 rankings came in the same year that Parliament had passed a long awaited anti-corruption law - the Integrity Commission Act. The Act merged the country's 3 leading Anti-Corruption Commissions into a single agency - the Integrity Commission.
6. A CPI score of below 50 means that a country has a serious corruption problem. Jamaica has been firmly planted in this category for 20 years. A poor CPI signals prevalent bribery, lack of punishment for corruption and public institutions that do not respond to citizens' needs.
7. TI says that "Jamaica has been struggling for several years. It has made some progress – the establishment of the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency as an independent body, and the corruption cases recently pursued by the Auditor General's Department are two examples."
8. However, TI has highlighted that the foregoing "comes alongside significant resistance to (anti-corruption) reforms from many politicians in the country." This should be especially noted by the Jamaica Government, Jamaica Lawmakers and Jamaican Citizens.

9. Nine English-Speaking Caribbean Countries were ranked by TI in 2021. Barbados, Bahamas and St Vincent came out on top, with Jamaica,, Trinidad &Tobago and Guyana at the bottom. Guyana has now switched places with Trinidad & Tobago to become the worst ranking country, in the region, in TI's CPI.

10. Barbados, which was ranked the least corrupt of the 9 English-Speaking Caribbean countries in 2020, has retained the top spot in 2021. The 9 English-Speaking Caribbean countries, their Country Rankings (out of 180), and their CPI Scores (out of 100), are shown as follows:

11. TI's 2021 English-Speaking Caribbean CPI Country Rankings: Country Rank (out of 180) and CPI (out of 100):

Barbados: 29/65

Bahamas: 30/64

St. Vincent: 36/59

St. Lucia: 42/56

Dominica: 45/55

Grenada: 52/53

Jamaica: 70/44

Trinidad and Tobago: 82/41

Guyana: 87/39

12. Topping Transparency International's 2021 CPI Country Rankings, not surprisingly, are some of the typical outstanding performers. They are Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany, in that order.

13. It is instructive to note that Denmark, Finland and New Zealand are all tied in the #1 position with a CPI score of 88 out of 100. Notably, the Prime Ministers of all three countries are women. Respectively, they are Mette Frederiksen, Sanna Marin and Jacinda Ardern.

14. At the other end of the scale, in TI's 2021 CPI Country Rankings, are South Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Venezuela, Yemen, North Korea, Afghanistan, Libya, Equatorial Guinea and Turkmenistan, in that order.

15. TI says that this year's CPI reveals that corruption levels around the world are at a "standstill". The global average, it bemoans, has remained unchanged for the 10th year in a row at just 43 out of a possible 100 points.

16. TI says that despite multiple commitments, 131 countries have made no significant progress against corruption in the last decade. Two-thirds of countries have scored below 50, indicating that they have serious corruption problems. 27 countries are at their lowest score ever.

17. The anti-corruption watchdog has warned that as corruption efforts stagnate worldwide, human rights and democracy are also under assault: "This is no coincidence. Our latest analysis shows that protecting human rights is crucial in the fight against corruption."

18. Continuing, TI said that its findings have concluded that "countries with well-protected civil liberties generally score higher on the CPI, while countries which violate civil liberties tend to score lower."

19. Instructively, TI has further noted that the Covid-19 pandemic, that has gripped the world for the past two years, has been "used in many countries as an excuse to curtail basic freedoms and side-step important checks and balances."

20. Since its inception in 1995, the CPI, TI's flagship research product, has become the leading global indicator of public sector corruption. The index offers an annual snapshot of the relative degree of corruption by ranking countries and territories from all over the globe.

21. TI's 2021 CPI draws upon 13 surveys and expert assessments to measure public sector corruption in 180 countries and territories. To examine Transparency International's 2021 Corruption Perception Index Rankings in detail, please click on this link:
<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2021>

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