

CPI 2006 Regional Results: Americas

The correlation between corruption and poverty is again in evidence in the results for the Americas of the 2006 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). In countries such as **Haiti**, **Ecuador**, and **Honduras**, with highest levels of perceived corruption, corruption continues to be one of the biggest obstacles to effectively fight poverty.

The results again call attention to the need for greater efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and to install functioning systems of control and mutual accountability that ensure public resources are used effectively. While there are no winners in the Americas, the index shows substantially higher scores for countries with relatively strong democratic institutions, such as **Canada** and the **United States**, but also notably for **Chile**, **Costa Rica** and **Uruguay**. But as recent scandals show, they too must continue to strengthen their institutions. There is, for example, a strong sense in the **United States** that corruption is on the rise in Congress, with special interests able to buy access and Congress doing little to police itself.

Out of 30 countries in the Americas in this year's CPI, the great majority (25 countries) score below 5, which indicates serious perceived levels of domestic corruption. More than a third (11 countries) score below 3, which indicates a perception of rampant corruption. These include **Argentina**, **Bolivia**, **Ecuador**, **Guatemala**, **Haiti**, **Honduras**, **Nicaragua**, **Paraguay** and **Venezuela**. Clientelism and the abuse of discretionary power by leadership in these countries is prevalent, making public resources there subject to private interests.

The message from the 2006 CPI for the Americas is clear: **institutions matter** and are the main pillars in the prevention, detection and prosecution of corruption and, by extension, the fight against poverty and inequality. Countries in the region must support the implementation of global anti-corruption instruments such as the **Organization of American States** and **United Nations anti-corruption conventions**.

Overall Rank	Regional Rank	Country / territory	Score	Confidence range	Surveys Used
14	1	Canada	8.5	8.0 - 8.9	7
20	2	Chile	7.3	6.6 - 7.6	7
		USA	7.3	6.6 - 7.8	8
24	4	Barbados	6.7	6.0 - 7.2	4
28	5	Uruguay	6.4	5.9 - 7.0	5
53	6	Dominica	4.5	3.5 - 5.3	3
55	7	Costa Rica	4.1	3.3 - 4.8	5
57	8	El Salvador	4.0	3.2 - 4.8	5
59	9	Colombia	3.9	3.5 - 4.7	7
61	10	Jamaica	3.7	3.4 - 4.0	5
66	11	Belize	3.5	2.3 - 4.0	3
		Cuba	3.5	1.8 - 4.7	3
		Grenada	3.5	2.3 - 4.1	3
70	14	Brazil	3.3	3.1 - 3.6	7
		Mexico	3.3	3.1 - 3.4	7
		Peru	3.3	2.8 - 3.8	5
79	17	Trinidad and Tobago	3.2	2.8 - 3.6	5
84	18	Panama	3.1	2.8 - 3.3	5
90	19	Suriname	3.0	2.7 - 3.3	4
93	20	Argentina	2.9	2.7 - 3.2	7
99	21	Dominican Republic	2.8	2.4 - 3.2	5

105	22	Bolivia	2.7	2.4 - 3.0	6
111	23	Guatemala	2.6	2.3 - 3.0	5
		Nicaragua	2.6	2.4 - 2.9	6
		Paraguay	2.6	2.2 - 3.3	5
121	26	Guyana	2.5	2.2 - 2.6	5
		Honduras	2.5	2.4 - 2.7	6
138	28	Ecuador	2.3	2.2 - 2.5	5
		Venezuela	2.3	2.2 - 2.4	7
163	30	Haiti	1.8	1.7 - 1.8	3

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Media Contacts:

Gypsy Guillén Kaiser, ggkaiser@transparency.org
 Tel:+49 30 343820662 / Fax: +49 30 34703912

Jesse Garcia, jgarcia@transparency.org
 Tel.: (+49-30) 3438 20 667 / Fax: (+49-30) 3470 3912

Transparency International

Alt Moabit 96
 10559 Berlin, Germany

www.transparency.org

Tel: +49 30 3438 20 0