

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI)

Department of Manpower & Employment

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What Is the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)?

The term Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) refers to an index that scores countries on the perceived levels of government corruption by country. Scores range from zero to 100, with zero indicating high levels of corruption and 100 indicating low levels. The CPI is published annually by Transparency International, an organization that seeks to stop bribery, fraud, and other forms of public sector corruption.

Transparency International launched the index in 1995. As of 2020, the index ranks 180 countries and territories, where the average score is 42 out of 100.

CPI – Sri Lanka in 2020

CPI Ranking	94
CPI Score	38 /100
Top Position	New Zealand & Denmark
No. of Assess Countries	180

Which manifestations of corruption does the CPI capture?

CPI source data captures the following aspects of corruption, based on the specific question wording used to collect the data:

- Bribery
- Diversion of public funds
- Prevalence of officials using public office for private gain without facing consequences
- Ability of governments to contain corruption and enforce effective integrity mechanisms in the public sector
- Red tape and excessive bureaucratic burden which may increase opportunities for corruption
- Meritocratic versus nepotistic appointments in the civil service
- Effective criminal prosecution for corrupt officials

- Adequate laws on financial disclosure and conflict of interest prevention for public officials
- Legal protection for whistleblowers, journalists, investigators when they are reporting cases of bribery and corruption
- State capture by narrow vested interests
- Access of civil society to information on public affairs

A research conducted by researchers in Romania, on “Corruption perceptions index and economic development of the country” in 2019 found that the strongest link is between GDP and CPI, and the link is direct. Between unemployment rate and CPI is an inverse link, the lower the CPI, the higher the unemployment rate.

Corruption Rank & Score of Sri Lanka (2012 – 2020)

Year	Rank	Score
2012	79	40
2013	91	37
2014	85	38
2015	83	37
2016	95	36
2017	91	38
2018	89	38
2019	93	38
2020	94	38

Asia, including Sri Lanka , citizens are well aware of the corruption across the region: 74 per cent of the 20,000 survey participants believe that government corruption is a big problem in their country, and 1 out of 5 people who used public services in the previous 12 months paid a bribe. -Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) -

Source : Transparency International