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## Iceland records its worst-ever score in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index.

Iceland drops two points in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index for 2023 from the previous year. Iceland scores 72 out of 100 possible points. This is in line with Iceland's long-term trend in the index. Iceland has lost six points in the last five years and ten points in the past decade.

Iceland stands significantly apart from other Nordic countries in the index. Denmark scored the highest 90 points, as it did the previous year. Following Denmark, Finland scores 87, Norway scores 84, and Sweden scores 82. Iceland is among the 23 countries receiving historically poor ratings this year. Other countries include the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Iran, Russia, Tajikistan, and Venezuela. In total, 28 countries improved their scores, while 34 saw a decline, leaving 118 countries unchanged.

Transparency International Iceland notes that in 2023, nearly 20 individuals were suspected of attempting bribery in Iceland. This, along with repeated issues at risk of weakening public trust in good governance, such as revelations about the re-privatisation of Islandsbanki and matters involving Samherja in Namibia.

A recent survey by the Social Science Research Institute of the University of Iceland in relation to a working group on fishery reform indicates that the Icelandic public perceives the fisheries industry and its management system as corrupt. Only 1 in 6 respondents believe in the honesty of the Icelandic fisheries and its management system.

The year 2023 was characterised by instability within the government's coalition parties, which could affect trust in the government's ability to combat corruption and uphold good governance.

Due to the ongoing Fishrot case (IS: Samherjaskjölin), an international bribery case originating from Iceland, Transparency International Iceland specifically highlights Namibia's position in the index. Namibia now scores 49 points, unchanged from the previous year. Namibia has lost three points in the last five years but gained one in the past decade. Transparency International Iceland points out that Namibia has lost three points since the revelations of Icelandic fishing company Samerji actions in Namibia. Iceland's score has dropped by six points during the same period.

## CPI 2023 - Iceland Press Release for immediate release

Corruption in countries at the top of the index usually takes less visible forms: blurred lines between politics and business, inadequate controls on political finance and revolving doors between industries and their regulators. Countries at the top can often export and enable devastating corruption in other countries. Large-scale corruption schemes may often originate from a country lower down the CPI ranking, but they almost always have a transnational element. Many cases have involved companies from top-scoring countries that resort to corruption when doing business abroad. Others have implicated professionals who sell secrecy or otherwise enable foreign corrupt officials.

In Europe, Transparency International suggests that a lack of strong responses to corruption, political corruption, and rampant favouritism in politics contribute to increased distrust. Western Europe is the highest-scoring region in the index, but in 2023, for the first time in almost a decade, the average score for the region fell from 66 to 65 points.

**Why does Transparency measure the perception of corruption instead of measuring corruption directly?** Corruption generally comprises illegal activities that are deliberately hidden and only come to light through scandals, investigations, or prosecutions. While researchers from academia, civil society, and governments have made advances in objectively measuring corruption in specific sectors, to date, no indicator measures objective national levels of corruption directly and exhaustively. The sources and surveys that make up the CPI ask their respondents questions based on carefully designed and calibrated questionnaires. (For a list of all sources and the questions that they ask, please see [here](#).) The CPI contains informed views of relevant stakeholders, which generally correlate highly with objective indicators, such as citizen experiences with bribery as captured by the Global Corruption Barometer.

The CPI scores 180 countries and territories around the world based on perceptions of public sector corruption. The scores reflect the views of experts and surveys from businesspeople, not the public.

The CPI is calculated using data from 13 external sources, including the World Bank, World Economic Forum, private risk and consulting companies, think tanks and others.

The CPI uses a scale from 0 to 100; 100 is very clean, and 0 is highly corrupt.

Types of public sector corruption captured in the CPI encompass bribery, diversion of public funds, effective prosecution of corruption cases, adequate legal frameworks, access to information, and legal protections for whistleblowers, journalists and investigators.

The CPI does not measure activities such as tax fraud, money laundering, financial secrecy, illicit flows of dirty money or other forms of private sector corruption.

For further [data, maps and infographics, see here](#). For more information on Iceland and Transparency International Iceland, contact Thor Fanndal, ED at TI-IS, [thor@transparency.is](mailto:thor@transparency.is) or +3548882103 (Phone, WhatsApp and Signal).