

The Transparency International Bribe Payers' Index

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Rank	Country	Average score	Percentage of global exports (2005)	Ratification of OECD convention	Ratification of UNCAC
1	Switzerland	7.81	1.2	X	
2	Sweden	7.62	1.3	X	
3	Australia	7.59	1.0	X	X
4	Austria	7.50	0.5	X	X
5	Canada	7.46	3.5	X	
6	UK	7.39	3.6	X	X
7	Germany	7.34	9.5	X	
8	Netherlands	7.28	3.4	X	
9	Belgium	7.22	3.3	X	
	US	7.22	8.9	X	
11	Japan	7.10	5.8	X	
12	Singapore	6.78	2.2		
13	Spain	6.63	1.9	X	X
14	United Arab Emirates	6.62	1.1		
15	France	6.50	4.3	X	X
16	Portugal	6.47	0.3	X	
17	Mexico	6.45	2.1	X	X
18	Hong Kong	6.01	2.8		
	Israel	6.01	0.4		
20	Italy	5.94	3.6	X	
21	South Korea	5.83	2.8	X	
22	Saudi Arabia	5.75	1.8		
23	Brazil	5.65	1.2	X	X
24	South Africa	5.61	0.5		
25	Malaysia	5.59	1.4		
26	Taiwan	5.41	1.9		
27	Turkey	5.23	0.7	X	
28	Russia	5.16	2.4		X
29	China	4.94	5.5		X
30	India	4.62	0.9		

Source: IMF, international finance statistics, 2005 figures. Available at:
http://ifs.apdi.net/imf/output/93B496BD-DCF8-41F8-B0F5-31C7A0A0793C/IFS_Table_36789.701535.xls

It is impossible to rank individual companies in terms of their propensity to pay bribes abroad, but surveys can be pursued that ask questions in terms of the home countries of exporting companies. This has been done in the new Bribe Payers' Index

(http://www.transparency.org/news_room/in_focus/bpi_2006) A score of 10 would suggest a country whose international companies are seen to be totally free of bribe paying, while a low score suggests a substantial propensity to bribe.

The BPI, conducted on behalf of Transparency International (www.transparency.org) by the World Economic Forum, which has been responsible for the overall coordination of the survey and the data control process, but which relies upon a network of the Forum's partner institutes to conduct the survey locally, involved polling of more than 11,000 business executives in 125 countries. Approximately 70 percent provided meaningful responses and the ranking in the BPI that is based on the views expressed of over 8,000 of these executives.

Transparency International first sought to capture the propensity of corporations to pay bribes abroad through a targeted survey by Gallup International in 15 leading emerging market economies. A refined version of this Bribe Payers' Index was published in 2002. While the methodology of that survey is completely different to the new one (it was based on very detailed questions to a very select target group

in each of 15 countries, while the new survey is based on two questions to business people in 125 countries), the results as indicated in the above table are similar. They offer scant cause for satisfaction in the leading industrial countries with no country score at 8 or above.

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Source: EthicsWorld.org

EthicsWorld is a non-profit forum for information and views on the related fields of business ethics, governance, and anti-corruption

