

Trinidad and Tobago

Western Hemisphere / **Caribbean**

CAPITAL	TERRITORY	POPULATION (2020)	GDP TOTAL (2020)	GDP PER CAPITA (2020)	INCOME GROUP
Port of Spain	5,130 km ²	1,399,491.00	\$21.53B USD	\$15,384.03 USD	High income

Convention Implementation

51.1

In progress

25th of 31 western hemisphere
7th of 11 Caribbean countries

Prevention

41.7

Core-deficient

Criminalization and law enforcement

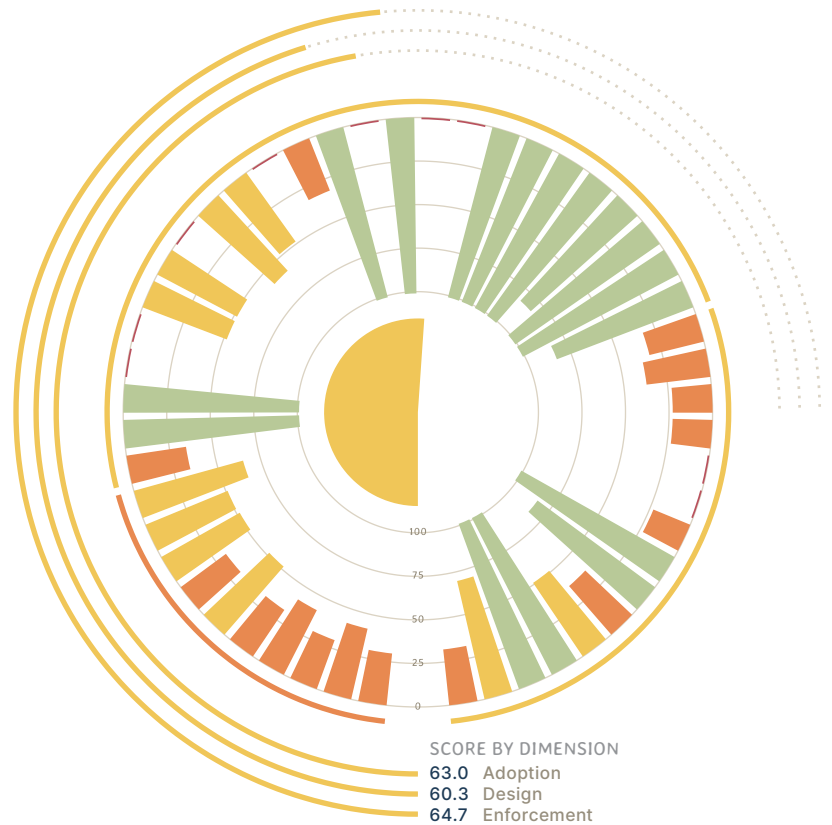
57.4

In progress

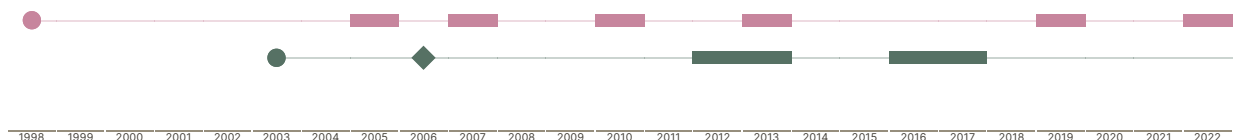
International cooperation

46.8

In progress



Anti-corruption conventions timeline



CONVENTIONS

IACAC - Inter-American Convention Against Corruption

UNCAC - United Nations Convention against Corruption

OECD Anti-Bribery Convention

KEY EVENTS

○ Signed

◇ Ratified/acceded

□ Review rounds

Prevention

Core-deficient

41.7

✓ Adoption 72.5 ✎ Design 58.3 ⌚ Enforcement 61.7

Standards of Conduct Core-deficient 28.9 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 50.0 ⌚ 50.0	Enforcement of Standards of Conduct Core-deficient 40.6 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 66.7 ⌚ 50.0	Training of Public Officials Core-deficient 28.9 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 50.0 ⌚ 50.0	Asset and Conflicts of Interests Declarations Core-deficient 40.6 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 50.0 ⌚ 66.7	Transparency in Government Contracting Core-deficient 31.3 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 33.3 ⌚ 66.7
Elimination of Favorable Tax Treatment In progress 50.8 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 83.3 ⌚ 50.0	Oversight Bodies Core-deficient 31.3 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 33.3 ⌚ 66.7	Measures to Deter Domestic and Foreign Bribery In progress 50.8 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 83.3 ⌚ 50.0	Encouraging Participation by Civil Society In progress 50.0 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 66.7 ⌚ 66.7	Study of Other Preventive Measures In progress 64.1 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 66.7 ⌚ 100.0

Criminalization and law enforcement

In progress

57.4

✓ Adoption 65.0 ✎ Design 65.3 ⌚ Enforcement 62.0

Protection of Those who Report Acts of Corruption Core-deficient 33.6 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 50.0 ⌚ 50.0	Scope Implemented 100.0 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌚ 100.0	Jurisdiction: Offense-in-Territory Implemented 100.0 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌚ 100.0	Jurisdiction: Offense-by-National No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⌚ 0.0	Jurisdiction: Offender-in-Territory No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⌚ 0.0
Passive Public Bribery In progress 50.8 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 83.3 ⌚ 50.0	Active Public Bribery In progress 50.8 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 83.3 ⌚ 50.0	Abuse of Functions No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⌚ 0.0	Money Laundering In progress 57.8 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌚ 50.0	Participation and Attempt In progress 47.7 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 83.3 ⌚ 50.0
Active Foreign Bribery No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⌚ 50.0	Illicit Enrichment Core-deficient 31.3 ✓ 25.0 ✎ 66.7 ⌚ 50.0	Use of State Property Implemented 100.0 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌚ 100.0	Illicit Acquisition of a Benefit No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⌚ 0.0	Public Embezzlement Implemented 100.0 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌚ 100.0
Passive Foreign Bribery No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⌚ 0.0	Private Bribery No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⌚ 0.0	Private Embezzlement Implemented 100.0 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌚ 100.0	Obstruction of Justice Implemented 100.0 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌚ 100.0	Liability of Legal Persons Implemented 100.0 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌚ 100.0
Statute of Limitations Implemented 100.0 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌚ 100.0	Prosecution, Adjudication and Sanctions Implemented 81.3 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 83.3 ⌚ 100.0	Consequences and Compensation Implemented 100.0 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌚ 100.0	Cooperation With Law Enforcement Implemented 100.0 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌚ 100.0	Asset Recovery Implemented 82.8 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 83.3 ⌚ 100.0

International cooperation

In progress

46.8

✓ Adoption 53.3 ✎ Design 53.3 ⌚ Enforcement 71.1

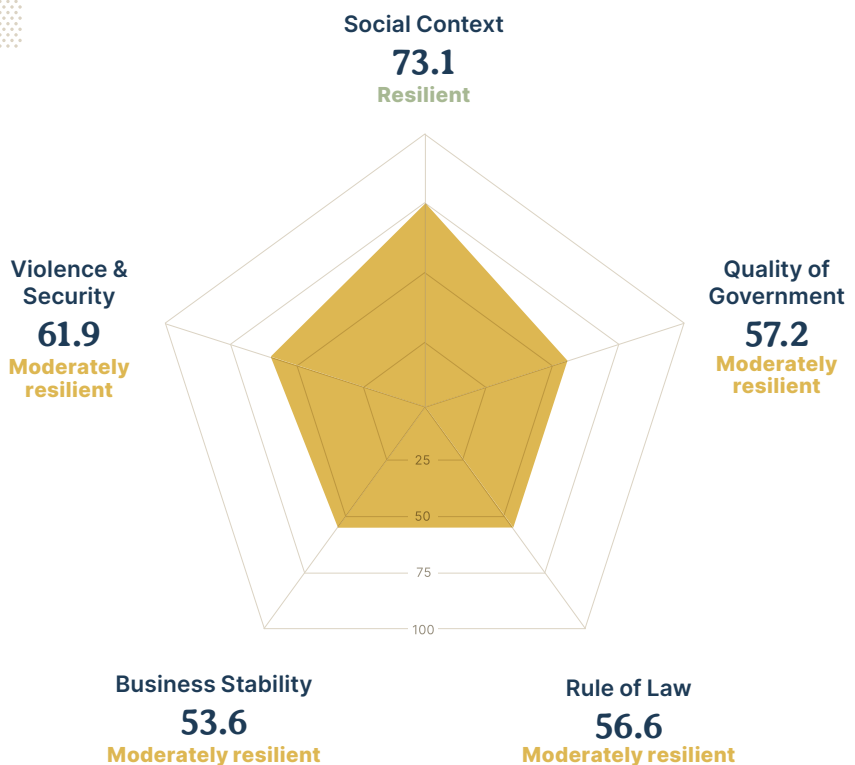


Corruption Resilience

60.5

Moderately resilient

12th of 31 western hemisphere
7th of 11 Caribbean countries



Analysis

Convention Implementation

Trinidad and Tobago signed and ratified the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (IACAC) on April 15, 1998. It is a State Party to the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) since June 4, 2001. The country also signed the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) on December 11, 2003, and subsequently ratified it on May 31, 2006. Accordingly, Trinidad and Tobago have undergone five rounds of review under MESICIC, and one round of review under the UNCAC review mechanism.

Trinidad and Tobago's record in implementing its commitments to IACAC and UNCAC exhibits a large number of failures and a modicum of successes, with almost half of all measures committed to found to be deficient at core or unimplemented. With an overall score of 51.1, the measures adopted place the country in the lower level of compliance with international norms, surrounded by Guyana (49.1), Grenada (50.8), El Salvador (51.5), and Dominican Republic (55.7). Despite the low level of implementation and enforcement, some degree of progress is found in all three sections (although leaning towards criminalization and law enforcement rather than prevention). Conversely, Trinidad and Tobago's efforts may also be described as generally lacking across the range of measures required by the conventions.

The prevention of corruption is deficient but not totally lacking, classified as "core-deficient" by its average score and with over half of all measures within this section found deficient at core—the adoption of standards of conduct (28.9) and their enforcement (40.6), the training of public officials (28.9), transparency in government contracting (31.3), the state of oversight bodies (31.3), and the systems for registering asset and conflict of interests' declarations (40.6). The rest of the section remains in progress, with the study of preventive measures related to equitable compensation receiving the highest score among them—64.1.

In terms of criminalization and law enforcement, Trinidad and Tobago show better results than those regarding prevention—yet, significant deficiencies remain, with one third of all measures within this section classified as core-deficient or not implemented. The section shows stark contrasts in the level of implementation, as only four measures classified as "in progress"—the criminalization of extended forms of involvement in the commission

of corruption offenses such as participation and attempt (47.7), active and passive bribery in the public sector (50.8), and money laundering (57.8)—and the rest being found either unimplemented/deficient or implemented. Among the measures found fully unimplemented, five are worth highlighting: the criminalization of the abuse of functions, active and passive bribery of foreign officials, illicit acquisition of a benefit (i.e., influence trading), and bribery in the private sector. Furthermore, the criminalization of illicit enrichment (31.3) and the protection of those who report acts of corruption (i.e., whistleblower protection) (33.6) are deficient at core. On the other hand, roughly half of all measures within this section are considered to be implemented, including those pertaining to embezzlement in the public and private sectors, the obstruction of justice, the liability of legal persons, and broader consequences—such as the rescinding of contracts and obtaining compensation—for the commitment of corrupt offenses, among others.

The country is found only partially compliant with its commitments to establish jurisdiction over the offenses covered by the conventions. The UNCAC review mechanism reports that "there is no jurisdiction over crimes committed abroad, even if the victim is a national of Trinidad and Tobago", and "there is no jurisdiction for cases against foreign nationals who commit offenses in foreign jurisdictions and are thereafter found in Trinidad and Tobago and not extradited." Trinidad and Tobago's record in promoting and engaging with international cooperation is also lackluster, achieving an average section score lower than that for criminalization and law enforcement (discussed in the previous paragraph) but still receiving a classification of "in progress". Measures related to extradition are severely deficient, not least due to the fact that "Trinidad and Tobago do not recognize UNCAC as a legal basis for extradition and does not proceed to extradition with a country with which there is no applicable treaty. It was reported that there are currently no treaties under negotiation."

Finally, the review of implementation and/or enforcement activities pertaining to several measures contained in this report could not be elaborated on due to the lack of information. Trinidad and Tobago are cited by MESICIC as providing little or no statistical information to assess the level of implementation of legally adopted measures. While lack of monitoring and data collection mechanisms is not solely found in Trinidad and Tobago, the issue is worth emphasizing in order to support a more detailed and effective assessment.

Corruption Resilience

Trinidad and Tobago's social context indicator score for 2020 increased by 0.6 points from the previous year. The Western Hemisphere region indicator average was 64.9 for 2020, and Trinidad and Tobago's were above the average by 8.2 points. Since 2010 the country's score has been declining by approximately 1.5 and 2 points a year until 2020 when its score increased. Despite the decline of the country's score since 2010, it has consistently achieved a high score compared to its Western Hemisphere and particularly its subregion counterparts. Trinidad and Tobago achieved the highest score in 2010 with 79.0 and its lowest score in 2019 with 72.5. The country's social context indicator for 2020 is primarily attributed to guaranteed political rights and civil liberties are respected. Media outlets face no challenges, and freedom of expression is respected.

The country's quality of government score for 2020 increased by 8.9 points from the previous year. Throughout the decade, the country has obtained a score between 46.0 and 57.2, with a decade range between the highest and lowest score was 11.2 points. The Western Hemisphere country's indicator average was 50.6 for 2020, and Trinidad and Tobago's were above the average by 6.6 points. The country's indicator score is attributed to moderate control on corruption and adequate government and bureaucratic system.

Trinidad and Tobago's rule of law indicator increased in 2020 by a marginal 0.2 points from the previous

year. Throughout the decade, the country's indicator score has varied, where its highest score achieved was in 2018 with 60.5, and its lowest indicator score was achieved in 2014 with 50.0. Trinidad and Tobago's indicator score was above the Western Hemisphere average for 2020 by 5.5 points. The country's indicator score is mainly because the judiciary system is independent; however, it's vulnerable to politicization and corruption. In addition, due process is guaranteed within the country's constitution, but at times, this is not respected.

The business stability indicator for Trinidad and Tobago increased in 2020 by 0.8 points from the previous year. The country's score is above the average for the Western Hemisphere of 50.5 for 2020 by 3.1 points. Since 2010 the country's indicator score has varied, where Trinidad and Tobago achieved its highest indicator score in 2018 with 54.3 and its lowest indicator score in 2014 with 50.0. Trinidad and Tobago's indicator score is attributed to weak regulations and widespread corruption that impact private sector businesses.

Trinidad and Tobago's violence and security indicator increased in 2020 by 5.7 points from the previous year. The country's indicator score is above the Western Hemisphere average of 55.0 by 6.9 points. Throughout the decade, the violence and security indicator score for Trinidad and Tobago has varied. It attained its highest indicator score in 2012 with 63.5 and its lowest indicator score in 2019 with 56.2. The country's score for 2020 is related to criminal-gang activity and drug trafficking.