

As citizens demand accountability, governments keep data locked away

The Web Foundation believes that open data must be:



for **everyone** —
a right for all



the data
people **need**



data people can
easily use

In this edition of the Barometer, 1,725 datasets from 15 different sectors across 115 countries were assessed. We found that most governments are not meeting the basic [Open Data Charter principles](#). In most cases, the right policies are not in place, nor is the breadth and quality of the datasets released sufficient.



External financial and technical support continues to play a key role in fostering open data initiatives in the region.



A lack of government action on open data means the private sector is unable to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by open data.



Sustaining and scaling fledgling open data initiatives across changes in government is challenging.

What is Open Data and why is it important?

Open data is data which is freely available and shareable online, without charge or any other restrictions. Without good data, it is impossible to hold governments to account for the decisions that they make, the policies they pass, and the money they budget and spend.



General regional highlights and findings

This regional snapshot covers the five Caribbean countries assessed in the fourth edition of the Barometer: Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Trinidad & Tobago, Saint Lucia and Haiti.

Globally, open data competes for scarce resources and political attention within a crowded policy space, and the effects are felt strongly in this region.

The highest ranking Caribbean country globally is Jamaica at number 40. Climbing 13 places, it was the only country to improve its score since last year's Barometer (although two out of the five Caribbean countries were new in this edition).

In countries that recently launched open data portals — such as Jamaica and Dominican Republic — the absence of systematic processes to provide consistent updates resulted in incomplete data that quickly became out of date and irrelevant.



Open Data Barometer 4th Edition Regional Ranking

Global Rank	Score	Country	Readiness	Implementation	Impact
40	37	Jamaica	44	35	36
50	32	Dominican Republic	45	32	22
77	18	Trinidad and Tobago	38	12	13
87	13	Saint Lucia	33	10	0
104	6	Haiti	19	6	0



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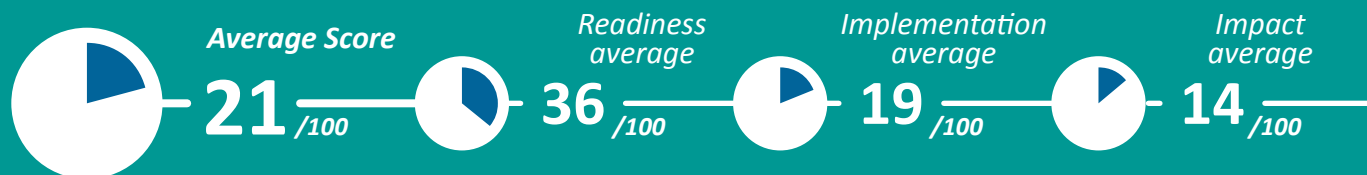


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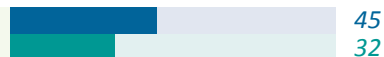


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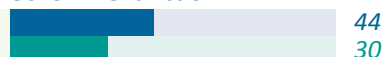
Readiness for open data initiatives

Government Policies



There is pent up demand from businesses and entrepreneurs to take advantage of the economic opportunities offered by open data.

Government Action

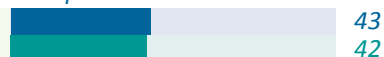


Governments in the region have yet to commit to developing the initiatives and policies needed to support demand-side opportunities.

Citizens and Civil Rights



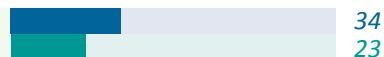
Entrepreneurs and Business



Initiatives are not yet reaching the sub-national level.

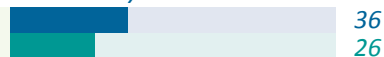
Implementation of open data programmes

Innovation Datasets

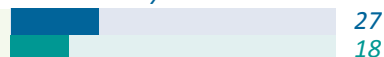


Open data portals have been launched in two leading Caribbean countries — Jamaica and Dominican Republic. Haiti is the first country in the region to release budget data, through the [BOOST initiative](#).

Social Policy Datasets



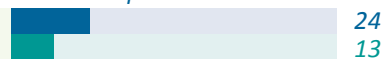
Accountability Datasets



The availability of data remains limited, particularly for datasets that enable government accountability. There is an absence of systematic processes and mechanisms to provide consistent updates, limiting the quality and effectiveness of government data that is available.

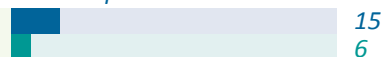
Impact that open data is having

Political Impact

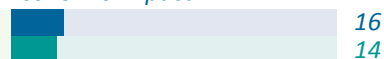


Even with the very limited data currently available, the first signs of impact are emerging. For example, economic and social opportunities have been identified by a [scoping study for the tourism sector](#).

Social Impact



Economic Impact



While impact is very limited in general, it is confined to economic impact. Social impact is not yet evident.

Global average scores



Regional average scores



Jamaica improved its position, climbing 13th places to 40 in the global ranking. It remains the open data leader among Caribbean countries, and rose to 7th in the Latin America and the Caribbean category. The national open data agenda has benefited from the launch of the [Open Government Data portal](#) and the hosting of the fifth annual [Developing the Caribbean Conference](#), which brought together technologists, researchers and entrepreneurs to use data to solve some of the region's biggest challenges. The Barometer assessment showed Jamaica has extensive demand-side opportunities, and the capacity to realise considerable social and economic value from open data.



The **Dominican Republic** enters the Barometer ranking for the first time at position 50 globally, and 2nd in the Caribbean. Compared to neighbouring countries, the government shows a strong commitment to advancing open data policy and action. It was the first Caribbean country to join the Open Government Partnership, and the first to have an active [open data portal](#), launched in 2015. The [NORTIC data publication and management guidelines](#), launched in 2013, set standards for the transformation of data into reusable information.