

The corruption in Colombia: a comprehensive view

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Publication Date: Wednesday, 4 of May 2022 Abstract

This paper reviews the studies on corruption in Colombia, the main definitions, some stylized facts and their type of measurements. Likewise, it presents the series of the main corruption measures available in the country based on data from entities such as the Contraloría General de la Nación (CGR), the Procuraduría General de la Nación (PGN), and the Fiscalía General de la Nación (FGN). Following Henao and Isaza (2018), we identify measures for widespread corruption and organizational corruption. Within the latter, this paper analyzes indicators for public and private corruption. The results suggest a significant increase in corruption for the period 2010-2016. However, the complex nature of this phenomenon makes it very difficult to draw regional conclusions and sometimes shows contradictory results. For example, while the PGN data places the Nuevos Departamentos in the first places in terms of disciplinary sanctions, the CGR's fiscal responsibility processes suggest that the greatest corruption occurs in the departments of the coffee and central regions. Similarly, departments such as La Guajira have the lowest number of FGN convictions associated with corruption cases, but it is the department with the highest budget for unfinished public works per inhabitant after Putumayo. Therefore, the results regarding the evolution of corruption and the rankings to be made will depend significantly on the indicator and the data used.