

SUMMARY

Corruption is considered a problem by almost three-fourths of the population of Estonia and one-fourth of entrepreneurs.

1. The number of people who find that corruption is a problem has grown to 67% of the people of Estonia.
2. Corruption is considered a serious problem by the people of Southern and Western Estonia, less educated people, older people and people with lower income.
3. Entrepreneurs do not consider corruption to be any significant obstacle to business (27%). The entrepreneurs who have come across corruption themselves consider it a serious obstacle to business.
4. Corruption is considered a serious problem by the executives of foreign-capital companies.
5. It is generally thought that Estonian officials are competent and do their work well (68%) and are polite and considerate (72%). The evaluation of officials has improved.

Employees of the public sector are less tolerant of corruption. Estonians are also less tolerant of corruption in comparison with other nationalities.

6. The attitudes towards corruption have become stricter over the last couple of years.
7. Employees of the public sector are stricter than the population and employees upon determining corruption – they consider the listed activities more often as corruption than other surveyed groups.
8. Employees of state agencies, inspectorates and employees of administrative authorities define corruption less strictly among the employees of the public sector.
9. Estonians, less educated people and the people of Tallinn are less tolerant of corruption.
10. The people of Tallinn stand out among others both in terms of defining as well as accepting corruption – they define corruption more strictly and also accept it less.

Corruption is considered to be more widespread in Tallinn.

11. The entrepreneurs of Tallinn as well as employees of the public sector whose workplace is located in Tallinn consider corruption to be more widespread.
12. Employees of law enforcement agencies and political officials consider corruption somewhat more widespread. According to them, bribery related to pecuniary penalties and favourable decisions is more widespread.

13. In comparison with others women, non-Estonians and Southern Estonians find that bribery is more widespread in finding a job.
14. Entrepreneurs believe that corruption is more widespread in relationships between the state and entrepreneurs than in relationships between the local authorities and entrepreneurs. This tendency applies to all areas except to the entrepreneurs of Tallinn where the estimates of the spread of corruption were high regardless of whether it was the local or state level. The entrepreneurs whose employees had behaved corruptly consider corruption to be more widespread in general.

3% of the people of Estonia and 12% of entrepreneurs have given a bribe. 15% of the entrepreneurs claim that they have been asked for a bribe.

15. Only 3% of people have personally given a bribe to officials and 5% have brought a present over the last year. 12% of people know someone who have given a bribe or made a present to an official.
16. A bribe has been asked¹ the most frequently upon applying for driver's licenses, registration of vehicles and roadworthiness tests (19%). The other most frequent events are bribes asked by doctors, the police and bribes asked in schools or nursery schools. In all these occasions a bribe has been expected from over 10% of the respondents.
17. A bribe has been asked more frequently from men, younger people, non-Estonians and residents of Southern Estonia and Ida-Viru and Lääne-Viru Counties. The people of Southern Estonia considered bribery more widespread and also considered it the biggest problem.
18. The people of Ida-Viru and Lääne-Viru Counties have a higher risk of being asked for a bribe upon getting a driver's license, registration of a vehicle or roadworthiness test (44%) and communicating with doctors (30%). The people of Tallinn stand out due to the fact that they have been asked for a bribe more frequently when communicating with the school, university or nursery school (20%). The people of Southern Estonia noted that they were asked for a bribe more often by the police (21%), upon crossing the state border (22%) and upon communication with the local authority (17%).²
19. 12% of entrepreneurs gave a bribe or made a present to officials over the last year. The share of the entrepreneurs who have given a bribe to a local authority is the only category that has increased – 8% of the entrepreneurs had done it in 2006, but in the survey of 2004 5% of the entrepreneurs had done it over the last year.
20. A bribe has been asked from 15% of entrepreneurs. Over the last year a bribe has been asked upon registration of a vehicle or roadworthiness test (6%). In terms of frequency it is followed by situations where a bribe is asked in connection with a pecuniary penalty and state supervision (5%).

¹ "Asked" does not mean that this request would certainly have been granted. The results of the survey express the overall tendency that whether a bribe, present or favour has been asked and whether a company has given it lately are statistically considerably related.

² NB! Only a few people from Southern Estonia (35) responded to this question and therefore one must be cautious upon interpreting the results.

21. Entrepreneurs in Tallinn (18%) and the primary sector (27%) are more likely to give a bribe.³ The entrepreneurs of Tallinn considered corruption to be more widespread than others. Entrepreneurs operating in the field of social and personal service have given a bribe the least often (0%).⁴

10% of entrepreneurs have spent over EEK 5,000 on bribes.

22. 4% of people who have had experiences with bribery have spent over EEK 1,000 on bribes.
23. 10% of entrepreneurs who have had experiences with bribery have spent over EEK 5,000 on bribes.

14% of the population, 20% of entrepreneurs and 4% of public sector employees have experienced some form of corruption.⁵

24. 4% of the public sector employees have experienced corruption and 17% of public sector respondents know colleagues who have experienced corruption.
25. 14% of the people of Estonia have personally experienced various forms of corruption over the last year. People were given the opportunity to specify the areas in connection with which they have had corruptive experiences – the most frequent example quoted was that of giving an “envelope” to a doctor.
26. People of Western Estonia and Ida-Viru and Lääne-Viru Counties as well as younger people have experienced corruption more often.
27. 20% of entrepreneurs have had experienced some form of corruption. 11% of entrepreneurs have given an official a gift. 57% of the entrepreneurs considered it a bribe.
28. Entrepreneurs of Southern Estonia and Tartu County (23%) and Ida-Viru and Lääne-Viru Counties (22%); entrepreneurs of the primary (27%) and trade/service sector (22%) have come across corruption the most, while entrepreneurs of social and personal service have come across corruption the least (3%).

In a corruptive situation the employees of the public sector would behave in the most honest manner, while the population would behave in the most dishonest manner.

29. 44% of the people of Estonia would offer an official money or a favour in order to escape a punishment (e.g. road traffic offence) or to speed up official proceedings. They include more men (50%), non-Estonians (57%) and respondents from Ida-Viru and Lääne-Viru Counties (53%) and Western Estonia (46%).

³ It may also mean that they have been the most honest in their replies. It cannot be concluded that they are the most corrupt.

⁴ None of the 29 entrepreneurs had given a bribe.

⁵ This does not include bribery experiences discussed in the sections above.

30. 12% of the public sector employees would decide in favour of a project for which they would receive a trip to a warm country. They include more people working among political officials (19% decided for the project) and people working in local authorities (15%) and less people working in law enforcement agencies (9%).
31. 34% of entrepreneurs would offer an official a favour in order to win a public tendering procedure. Entrepreneurs of the primary and trade/service sector (56% and 43%), men (36%) and non-Estonians (51%) would be more likely to do so. Younger entrepreneurs are also more prone to corruption.

People know very little of corruption, because they believe that it would be very difficult to prove and do not want to create further problems.

32. Only 1% of the population, 5% of the public sector employees and 1% of the entrepreneurs who have personally experienced corruption notified law enforcement agencies thereof.
33. The most frequent cause of not notifying of corruption is that it would be difficult to prove that it was corruption. They also do not want to cause any additional problems to others.

Perception of the spread of corruption and the reliability of state institutions are related phenomena.

34. The less people trust state institutions, the more widespread they consider corruption.
35. The connection also works vice versa: experiences of corruption reduce the reliability of the institutions.
36. The people who have come across corruption themselves also consider it more widespread.