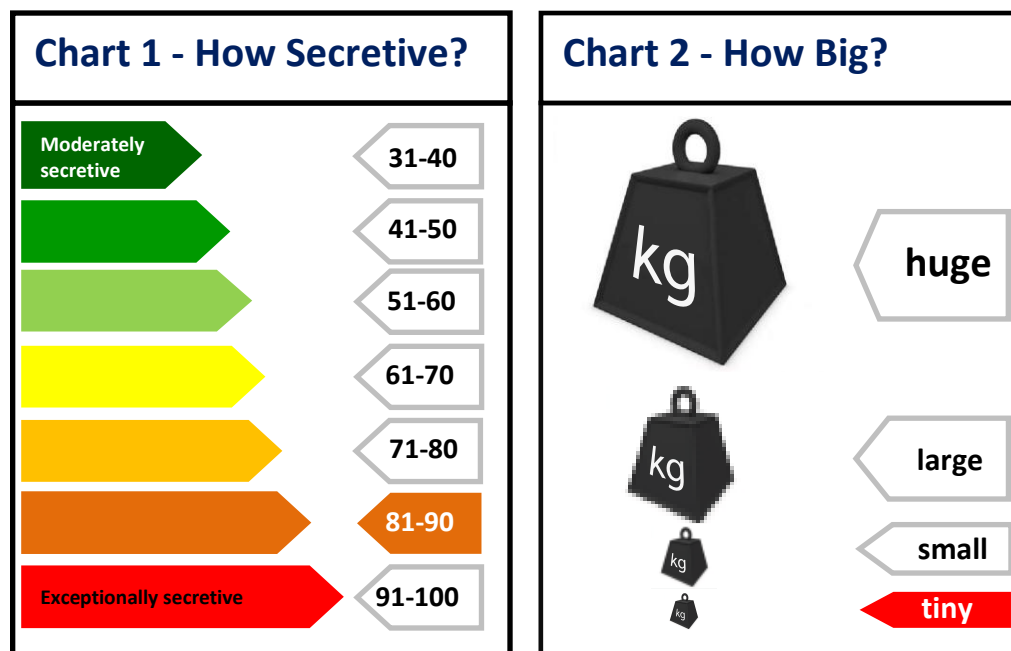


## Report on Belize

Belize is ranked at 41st position on the 2011 Financial Secrecy Index. This ranking is based on a combination of its secrecy score and a scale weighting based on its share of the global market for offshore financial services.

Belize has been assessed with 90 secrecy points out of a potential 100, which places it towards the top end of the secrecy scale (see chart 1 below).

Belize accounts for under 1 per cent of the global market for offshore financial services, making it a tiny player compared with other secrecy jurisdictions (see chart 2 below).

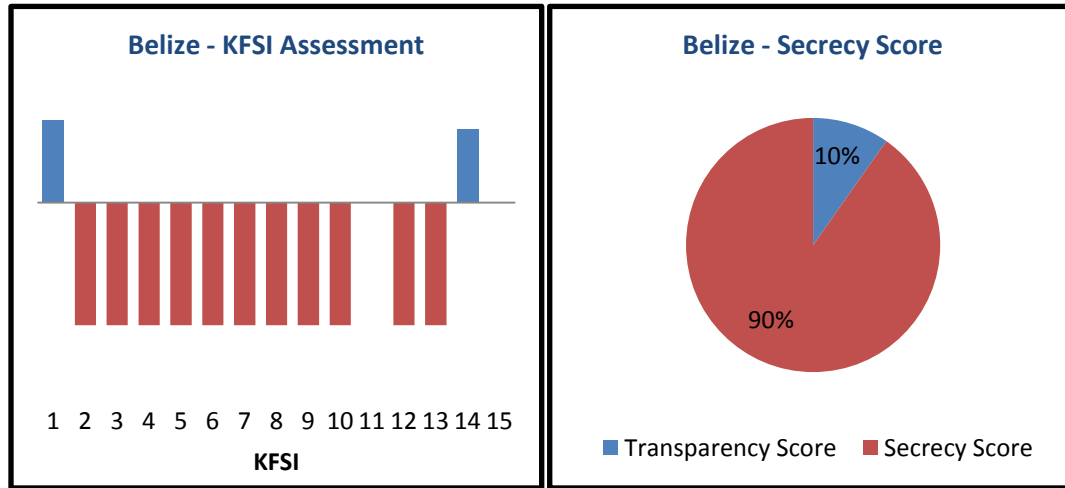


### Next steps for Belize

Belize's 90 per cent secrecy score shows that it must still make major progress in offering satisfactory financial transparency<sup>1</sup>. If it wishes to play a full part in the modern financial community and to impede and deter illicit financial flows, including flows originating from tax evasion, aggressive tax avoidance practices, corrupt practices and criminal activities, it should take action on the points noted where it falls short of acceptable international standards. See below for details of Belize's shortcomings on transparency. See this link <http://www.secrecyjurisdictions.com/kfsi> for an overview of how each of these shortcomings can be fixed.

## Secrecy Scores

The secrecy score of 90 per cent for Belize has been computed by assessing the jurisdiction's performance on the 15 Key Financial Secrecy Indicators, listed below.



The numbers on the horizontal axis of the bar chart on the left refer to the Key Financial Secrecy Indicators (KFSI). The presence of a **blue** bar indicates a positive answer, as does **blue** text in the KFSI list below. The presence of a **red** bar indicates a negative answer as does **red** text in the KFSI list. Where the jurisdiction's performance partly, but not fully complies with a Key Financial Secrecy Indicator, the text is coloured **violet** in the list below (combination of red and blue).

This paper draws on key data collected on Belize. Our data sources include regulatory reports, legislation, regulation and news available at 31.12.2010<sup>2</sup>. The full data set is available [here](#)<sup>3</sup>. Our assessment is based on the 15 Key Financial Secrecy Indicators (KFSIs, below), reflecting the legal and financial arrangements of Belize. Details of these indicators are noted in the following table and all background data can be found on the [Mapping Financial Secrecy web site](#)<sup>4</sup>. This data is the basis on which the [Financial Secrecy Index](#)<sup>5</sup> is compiled.

### The Key Financial Secrecy Indicators and the performance of Belize are:

TRANSPARENCY OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP – Belize	
1.	Banking secrecy: Does the jurisdiction have banking secrecy? <b>Belize does not adequately curtail banking secrecy</b>
2.	Trust and Foundations Register: Is there a public register of Trusts and Foundations? <b>Belize does not put details of trusts on public record</b>

3.	Recorded Company Ownership: Does the relevant authority obtain and keep updated details of the beneficial ownership of companies?  <b>Belize does not maintain company ownership details in official records</b>
<b>KEY ASPECTS OF CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY REGULATION – Belize</b>	
4.	Public Company Ownership: Does the relevant authority make details of ownership of companies available on public record online for less than US\$10?  <b>Belize does not require that ownership of companies is put on public record</b>
5.	Public Company Accounts: Does the relevant authority require that company accounts are made available for inspection by anyone for a fee of less than US\$10?  <b>Belize does not require that company accounts be available on public record</b>
6.	Country-by-Country Reporting: Are companies listed on a national stock exchange required to comply with country-by-country financial reporting?  <b>Belize does not require country-by-country financial reporting by companies</b>
<b>EFFICIENCY OF TAX AND FINANCIAL REGULATION – Belize</b>	
7.	Fit for Information Exchange: Are resident paying agents required to report to the domestic tax administration information on payments to non-residents?  <b>Belize does not require resident paying agents to tell the domestic tax authorities about payments to non-residents</b>
8.	Efficiency of Tax Administration: Does the tax administration use taxpayer identifiers for analysing information effectively, and is there a large taxpayer unit?  <b>Belize does not use appropriate tools for effectively analysing tax related information</b>
9.	Avoids Promoting Tax Evasion: Does the jurisdiction grant unilateral tax credits for foreign tax payments?  <b>Belize does not avoid promoting tax evasion via a tax credit system</b>
10.	Harmful Legal Vehicles: Does the jurisdiction allow cell companies and trusts with flee clauses?  <b>Belize does allow harmful legal vehicles</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND COOPERATION – Belize</b>	
11.	Anti-Money Laundering: Does the jurisdiction comply with the FATF recommendations?

	Not Applicable - As of 31 December 2010, no assessment of Belize's compliance with FATF recommendations was available <sup>6</sup> .
12.	Automatic Information Exchange: Does the jurisdiction participate fully in Automatic Information Exchange such as the European Savings Tax Directive?  <b>Belize does not participate fully in Automatic Information Exchange</b>
13.	Bilateral Treaties: Does the jurisdiction have at least 60 bilateral treaties providing for broad information exchange, covering all tax matters, or is it part of the European Council/OECD convention?  <b>As of June 30, 2010, Belize had no tax information sharing agreements complying with basic OECD requirements</b>
14.	International Transparency Commitments: Has the jurisdiction ratified the five most relevant international treaties relating to financial transparency?  <b>Belize has partly ratified relevant international treaties relating to financial transparency</b>
15.	International Judicial Cooperation: Does the jurisdiction cooperate with other states on money laundering and other criminal issues?  Not Applicable - As of 31 December 2010, no assessment of Belize's compliance with FATF recommendations was available <sup>7</sup> .

<sup>1</sup> Our definition of financial transparency can be found here:

<http://www.secrecyjurisdictions.com/PDF/FinancialTransparency.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> With the exception of KFSI 13 for which the cut-off date is 30.6.2010. For more details, look at the endnote number 2 in the corresponding KFSI-paper here:

<http://www.secrecyjurisdictions.com/PDF/13-Bilateral-Treaties.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> That data is available here: [http://www.secrecyjurisdictions.com/sj\\_database/menu.xml](http://www.secrecyjurisdictions.com/sj_database/menu.xml).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.secrecyjurisdictions.com>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.financialsecrecyindex.com/>.

<sup>6</sup> This jurisdiction required a non-standard divisor/denominator when calculating its secrecy score, for more on this see our explanation here: <http://www.secrecyjurisdictions.com/pdf/SJ-Methodology.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> This jurisdiction required a non-standard divisor/denominator when calculating its secrecy score, for more on this see our explanation here: <http://www.secrecyjurisdictions.com/pdf/SJ-Methodology.pdf>