TRANSNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO COMBAT ILLICIT TRADE
TRACIT.ORG

COUNTRY PROFILE

GUATEMALA

While Guatemala is not a major producer of illicit products, it has emerged as a pivotal trafficking corridor for pharmaceuticals, contraband cigarettes and alcohol, illegal wildlife products, and a wide range of counterfeit products. Guatemala's high-risk profile is the product of a political economy in which illicit and legitimate commerce have become structurally intertwined and criminal actors have infiltrated enforcement agencies.

AT A GLANCE

106th
GLOBAL RANK

5th
REGIONAL RANK

43.1
SCORE OUT OF 100

STRONGEST AREA
Taxation and Economic Environment

WEAKEST AREA
Supply Chain Intermediaries

OVERVIEW

Guatemala's high-risk assessment can be attributed to its low scores across the six categories reviewed by the TRACIT Illicit Trade Index, which evaluates the country's vulnerability to illicit trade. Guatemala's total score of 43.1 indicates that compared to the global best performing countries, Guatemala is falling far behind international standards when it comes to combating illicit trade, putting it at risk of placement on the FATF grey list.

KEY VULNERABILITIES

- Weak anti-money laundering controls
- Embedded corruption and organized crime
- Poor customs enforcement along both land & coastal borders

KEY SECTORS AFFECTED

- Illicit Tobacco
- Illicit Alcohol
- Counterfeit Goods
- Illicit Medicines

MAJOR DRIVER

Organized Crime Networks

The strong presence of MS-13 and Barrio 18 criminal networks combined with poor anti-money laundering frameworks drives the continuation of illicit trade in Guatemala.

Illicit Trade Profits → Reinvestment in illicit activities

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen anti-corruption safeguards across institutions
- Enhance customs controls and border management capacity through modernization of key technologies
- Introduce a customs recordation system for intellectual property rights
- Strengthen anti-money laundering controls and financial oversight
- Improve monitoring and regulation of pharmaceutical distribution networks