

Costa Rica



As a share of GDP, Costa Rica collects the least revenue in the region

In 2014, the Costa Rican government collected the least revenues in the LAC region, amounting to 13.6% of GDP, compared to an average of 28.6% of GDP. As of 2014 revenues increased by 0.5 percentage points, attaining 14.1% of GDP in 2015. However, further efforts are required to raise revenues, especially as expenditures increased by a similar proportion for the same period, and the economy was faced with budget deficits above 5.5% of GDP in 2014 and 2015.



Chapter 2: Public finance and economics

[2.1. General government fiscal balance as a percentage of GDP, 2007, 2009, 2014 and 2015](#)

[2.6. General government revenues as a percentage of GDP, 2007, 2009, 2014 and 2015](#)

[2.14. General government expenditures as a percentage of GDP, 2007, 2009, 2014 and 2015](#)

Costa Rica improved compensation management of the civil service

In 2006, the Costa Rican public sector workforce experienced high salary discrepancies between professionals working under the civil service regime (the executive's central administration) and their peers carrying out similar jobs in several autonomous agencies, who were paid much better. In consequence, it was difficult for the central administration to attract and retain staff. As a result, Costa Rica implemented an ambitious reform to enhance compensation for professionals working under the civil service regime. Costa Rica made the greatest improvement among LAC countries on the compensation management index, increasing from 35/100 in 2004 to 60/100 in 2013 (the second-highest score) compared to an average increase of 6 points (from 29 to 35) in the region. However, the fiscal consequences of the reform have been more acute than expected, since following complaints by teachers' organisations; the benefits were also extended to them, which was not originally planned.



Chapter 6: Human Resources Management

[6.7. Compensation management \(2004, 2012-15\)](#)

Costa Rica has linked its open government strategy to the national development plan

A government is open when it is transparent, accountable, engaging and operates with integrity. To strengthen and focus open government efforts 54% of LAC countries, including Costa Rica, have adopted an overarching national strategy on open government. However, despite the existence of such strategies in many LAC countries, open government efforts remain scattered. Costa Rica is one of the few LAC countries that have linked its open government strategy to the national development plan as means of ensuring wider application and consistency of open government initiatives.



Chapter 8: Digital and Open Government

[8.13. Existence of national open government strategy](#)

How to read the figures:



Costa Rica

Country value in **green**
(not represented if not available)

Range of LAC country
values in **grey**



Average of LAC country
values in **purple**



Average of OECD country
values in **blue**

Values have been rounded.
n.a. refers to
data not available

GOVERNMENT INPUTS: FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

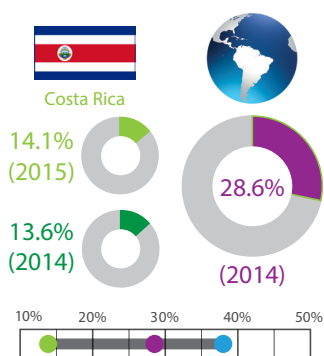
Public Finance & Economics

Public Employment & Compensation

Public Finance and Economics

Government revenues (2014, 2015)

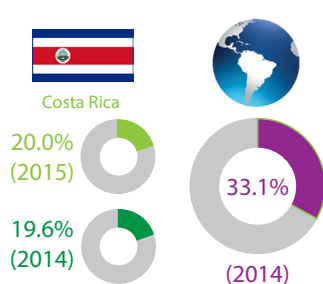
% of GDP



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook database

Government expenditures (2014, 2015)

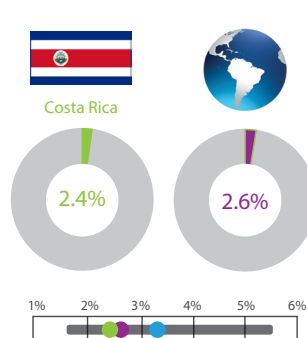
% of GDP



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook database

Government investment (2014)

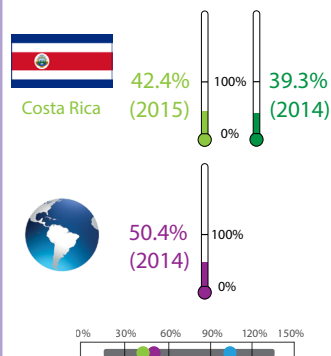
% of GDP



Source: IMF Government Finance Statistics database

Government gross debt (2014, 2015)

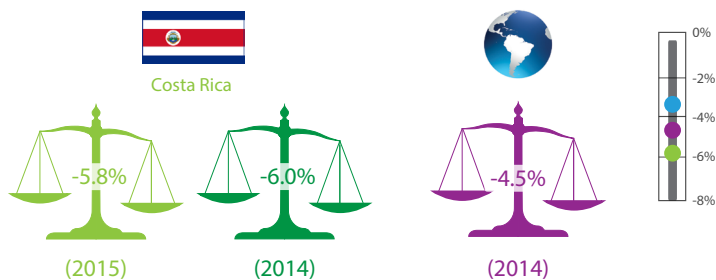
% of GDP



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook database

Fiscal balance (2014, 2015)

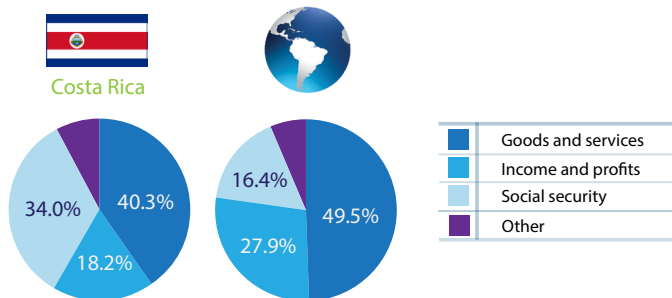
% of GDP



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook database

Breakdown of tax revenues (2014)

% of total taxation



Source: OECD Revenue Statistics in Latin America (database)

Public Employment and Compensation

Public sector employment as % of total employment (2014) *



Source: International Labour Organization (database). * See Notes

Public sector employment filled by women (2014) *



Source: International Labour Organization (database). * See Notes

GOVERNMENT PROCESSES

Government Institutions

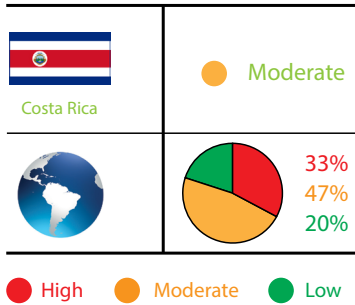
Public Procurement

Digital Government

Health Financing Systems and Budget

Government Institutions

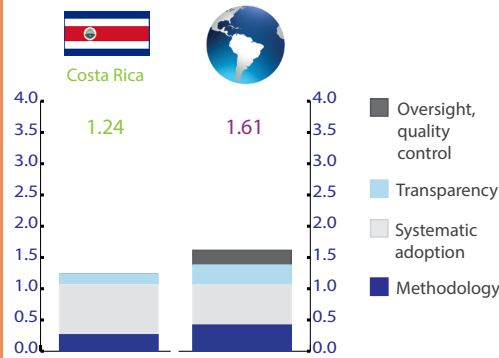
Level of influence of the Centre of Government over line ministries (2015)



Source: OECD 2015 Survey on Centre of Government

iREG: Composite indicator on stakeholder engagement (2015)

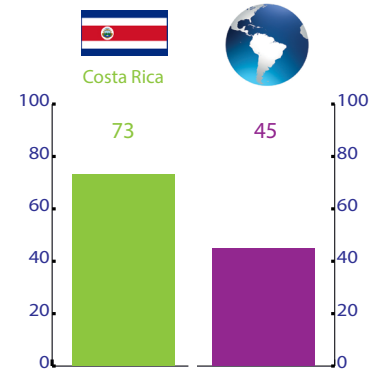
The max. score for each category is 1, and the max. aggregate score for the composite is 4



Source: OECD Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance for Latin America

Civil service merit index (2012-2015)

Composite index from 0 (lowest) to 100 (highest)

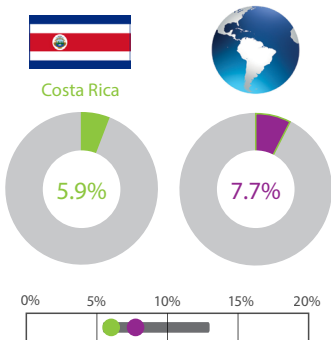


Source: Inter-American Development Bank, 2014

Public Procurement

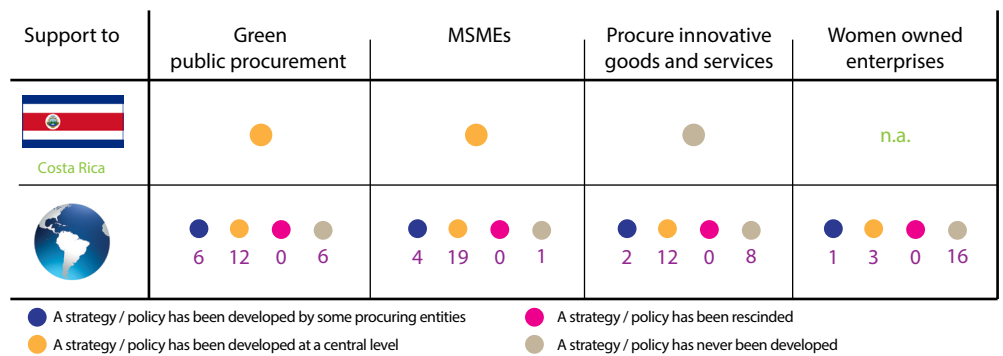
Government procurement (2014) *

% of GDP



Source: IMF Government Finance Statistics database. * See Notes

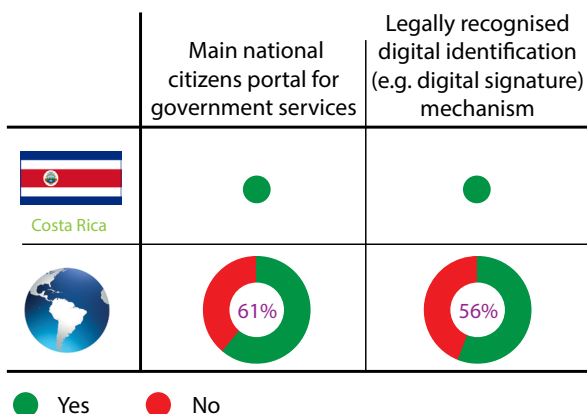
Development of strategic public procurement by objective (2015)



Source: 2015 OECD Survey on Public Procurement

Digital Government

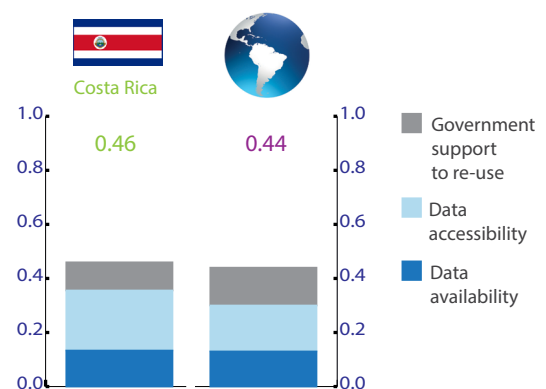
Existence of a main national citizens portal for government services and a legally recognised digital identification mechanism (2015)



Source: OECD Survey on digital government performance

OURdata Index: Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2016)

Composite index from 0 (lowest) to 1 (highest)

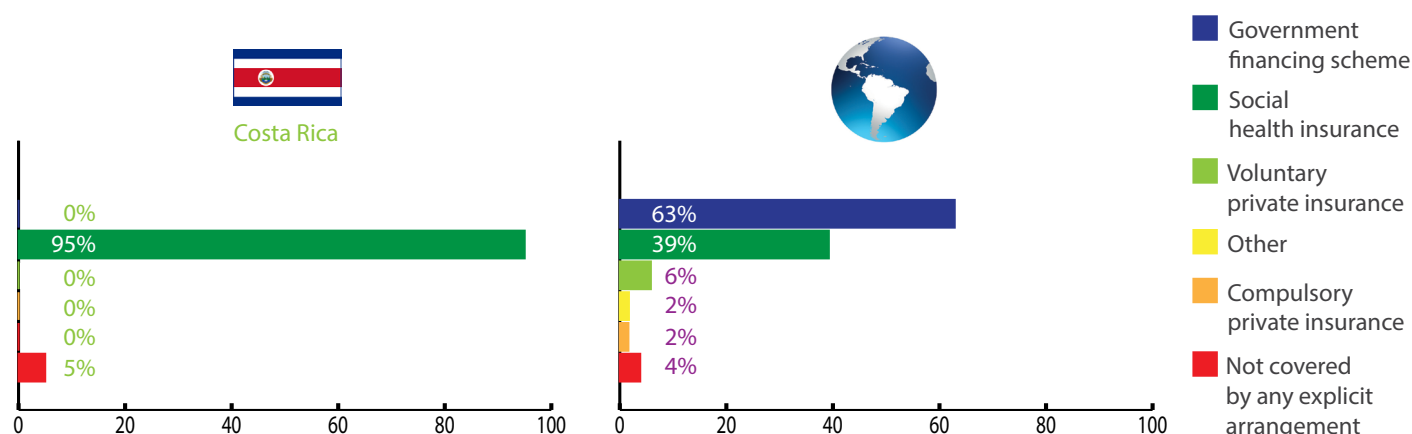


Source: 2016 OECD Survey on Open Government Data

GOVERNMENT PROCESSES

Health Financing Systems And Budget Formulation

Health care financing schemes and percentage of population covered (2015)



Source: 2015 OECD Survey of Budget Officials on Budgeting Practices for Health in LAC countries

OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Gini coefficient: Differences in income inequality pre and post-tax and government transfers (2012)

Indicator from 0 (low income concentration) to 100 (high income concentration)



Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Notes

* Public sector employment as % of total employment and public sector employment filled by women data for Costa Rica are for 2013. Costs of goods and services financed by general government are not included in government procurement because they are not accounted separately in the IMF Government Finance Statistics (database). For Costa Rica, the part of government procurement related to gross fixed capital formation does not include the consumption of fixed capital.

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets:

<http://www.oecd.org/gov/government-at-a-glance-lac.htm>

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in *Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2017* are available via the Stat-Links provided throughout the publication: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264265554-en>

Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2017

Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2017 is the second edition of a joint publication between the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). It provides readers with a dashboard of key indicators to inform policy making and benchmark specific interventions. The model is the OECD *Government at a Glance*, which is a fundamental reference, backed by a well-established methodology for OECD member countries. Compared to the previous edition that had a special focus on Public Financial Management and alongside with indicators on public finances and public employment this second version covers a wider range of public management areas including the role and influence of the Centre of Government, Open Government and Open Data policies, Digital Government, Regulatory Governance and practices for Budgeting in health systems.