Participation of women in political life in Costa Rica is well above the OECD average

In Costa Rica, 46% of representatives in the lower/single house of parliament were women, compared to an OECD average of 30% in 2019. This is an increase from 2015, when 33% of parliamentarians were women. Furthermore, in Costa Rica, 52% of ministers were women in 2019, compared to an OECD average of 31%. This is also an increase from 2015, when 41% of ministers were women. In 1996, Costa Rica introduced a quota of at least 40% of women in positions elected by popular vote.

Chapter 3. Public employment

Figure 3.7. Gender equality in parliament and legislated gender quotas, 2012, 2015 and 2019
Figure 3.8. Gender equality in ministerial positions, 2012, 2015 and 2019

Employment conditions in Costa Rica are similar for civil servants and other central administration employees

In Costa Rica, both civil servants and other central administration employees (which are not covered by civil service law) enjoy a similar employment framework ensuring similar human resource management practices and working conditions for all of them, contrary to the majority of the OECD countries. In 2019, in 67% of OECD countries, civil servants have more job security compared to other public employees, and in 58% of OECD countries civil servants undergo a more rigorous recruitment process, have greater access to career advancement opportunities and have a different pay scale than other central administration employees.

Chapter 6. Human Resources Management

Figure 6.2. Differences in employment frameworks for civil servants compared to other employees in central administrations, 2019

Responsiveness to patient needs should improve in Costa Rica

In 2017, 25% of patients were operated on for hip replacement surgery within two days of admission, down from 38% in 2012. This is well below the OECD average of 81% in 2017. The trend in Costa Rica was also the opposite of the OECD’s where, on average, 3% more of patients received surgery in 2017 compared to 2012.

Chapter 11. Serving citizens

Figure 11.16. Hip fracture surgery initiation after admission to hospital, 2012 and 2017 (or nearest year)
### Fiscal balance* (2017) % of GDP

- Costa Rica: -3.8%
- Costa Rica: -2.2%

* See Notes Source: OECD National Accounts

### Government expenditures* (2017) % of GDP

- Costa Rica: 43.9%
- Costa Rica: 40.4%

* See Notes Source: OECD National Accounts

### Government investment* (2017) % of GDP

- Costa Rica: 3.2%
- Costa Rica: 3.1%

* See Notes Source: OECD National Accounts

### Government gross debt* (2017) % of GDP

- Costa Rica: 48.6%
- Costa Rica: 110.3%

* See Notes Source: OECD National Accounts

### Public Employment

#### General government employment as % of total employment* (2017)

- Costa Rica: 12.2%
- Costa Rica: 17.7%

* See Notes Source: OECD National Accounts

#### Civil servants as % of all central administration employees (2018)

- Costa Rica: 56.8%
- Costa Rica: 68.0%


### Gender equality ...

#### ... in parliament (2019)

- Costa Rica: 45.6%
- Costa Rica: 30.1%

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) "Women in Politics", 2019

#### ... in ministerial positions (2019)

- Costa Rica: 51.9%
- Costa Rica: 31.2%

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) "Women in Politics", 2019

### Institutions

#### Responsibilities of the Centre of Government (2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparation of Cabinet meetings</th>
<th>Policy co-ordination</th>
<th>Transition planning and management</th>
<th>Strategic planning</th>
<th>Government programme</th>
<th>Monitoring of government policy</th>
<th>Relations with parliament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>34 n.a.</td>
<td>24 10 0</td>
<td>21 n.a.</td>
<td>20 13 1</td>
<td>20 15 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Responsibility of the Centre of Government
* Shared between the Centre of Government and another body
* Responsibility of another body

Source: OECD (2017) Survey on Organisation and functions of the Centre of Government
The results for stakeholder engagement and Regulatory Impact Assessment apply exclusively to processes for developing primary laws initiated by the executive. Data is not applicable to the

Average

provides reliable, internationally comparative data on government activities and their results in OECD countries. In many

Serving Citizens

Percentage of individuals economically vulnerable* (2015)

Costa Rica

n.a.

(2017)

n.a.

(2019)

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100% 35.7%

Source: OECD Wealth Distribution Database

Notes

• Data on public finance and economics and general government employment, which are based on the System of National Accounts (SNA), were extracted on 24 June 2019.

• Fiscal balance is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future. All debt instruments are liabilities, but some liabilities such as shares, equity and financial derivatives are not debt.

• Regulatory governance indicators: The results for stakeholder engagement and Regulatory Impact Assessment apply exclusively to processes for developing primary laws initiated by the executive. Data is not applicable to the United States, where all primary laws are initiated by Congress. In the majority of countries, most primary laws are initiated by the executive, except for Mexico and Korea, where a higher share of primary laws are initiated by parliament/congress (respectively 90.6% and 84%).

Government at a Glance 2019

Government at a Glance provides reliable, internationally comparative data on government activities and their results in OECD countries. In many public governance areas it is the only available source of data. It includes, input, process, output and outcome indicators as well as contextual information for each country. Input indicators are public finance and employment; while processes in the 2019 edition include data on institutions, budgeting practices and procedures, human resources management, regulatory government, public procurement and digital government and open data. Outcomes cover core government results (e.g. trust, inequality reduction) and indicators on access, responsiveness, quality and citizen satisfaction for the education, health and justice sectors. Governance indicators are needed more than ever, given large number of OECD principles and recommendations that countries signed up to adhere to need regular monitoring; their relationship to Sustainable Development Goals and the unique position of the OECD in collecting vital information on public governance practices from government officials.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2019 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication:

http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2019-en

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm