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.

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.

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.
GOVERNMENT INPUTS: FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Public Finance and Economics

**Government revenues (2014, 2015)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2014)</td>
<td></td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Costa Rica</th>
<th>20.0% (2015)</th>
<th>19.6% (2014)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2014)</td>
<td></td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Government investment (2014)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Costa Rica</th>
<th>2.4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Costa Rica</th>
<th>42.4% (2015)</th>
<th>49.5% (2014)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2014)</td>
<td></td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fiscal balance (2014, 2015)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Costa Rica</th>
<th>-5.8% (2015)</th>
<th>-6.0% (2014)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2014)</td>
<td></td>
<td>-4.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Breakdown of tax revenues (2014)**

Goods and services: 34.0%
Income and profits: 40.3%
Social security: 16.4%
Other: 49.5%

Public Employment and Compensation

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Costa Rica</th>
<th>15.2%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Public sector employment filled by women (2014)***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Costa Rica</th>
<th>48.9%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

How to read the figures:

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
n.a. refers to data not available

Values have been rounded.

Public Finance & Economics

Public Employment & Compensation

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook database
Source: IMF Government Finance Statistics database
Source: International Labour Organization (database) * See Notes
Source: OECD Revenue Statistics in Latin America (database)
**GOVERNMENT PROCESSES**

### Government Institutions

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

- **Costa Rica**
  - High: 33%
  - Moderate: 47%
  - Low: 20%

*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

- **Costa Rica**
  - 1.24

*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)

- **Costa Rica**
  - 73

*Source: Inter-American Development Bank, 2014*

### Public Procurement

**Government procurement (2014) * % of GDP**

- **Costa Rica**
  - 5.9%

*Source: IMF Government Finance Statistics database. * See Notes*

**Development of strategic public procurement by objective (2015)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support to</th>
<th>Green public procurement</th>
<th>MSMEs</th>
<th>Procure innovative goods and services</th>
<th>Women owned enterprises</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Costa Rica</strong></td>
<td>☺☻☻☻</td>
<td>☺☻☻☻</td>
<td>☺☻☻☻</td>
<td>☻☻☻☻</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ☺: A strategy/policy has been developed by some procuring entities
- ☻: A strategy/policy has been developed at a central level
- ☾: A strategy/policy has never been developed

*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)**

- **Costa Rica**
  - Main national citizens portal for government services: ☻
  - Legally recognised digital identification (e.g. digital signature) mechanism: ☻

- **Costa Rica**
  - 61% Yes
  - 56% No

*Source: OECD Survey on digital government performance*

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

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

- **Costa Rica**
  - 0.46

*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)

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)

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:

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.