Costa Rica, the OECD’s newest member, is already a leader on gender equality and diversity. Costa Rica is fifth in the OECD for proportion of women in parliament in the OECD (46%, figure 3.10), second for the proportion of women in ministerial positions (52%, figure 3.11), and first in the OECD pilot index on development of a diverse central government workforce (Figure 6.5).

Chapter 3 – Public employment

Costa Rica spends relatively little on social protection. Costa Rica spends 8.2% of GDP on social protection. This is the fourth lowest in the OECD, and substantially below the OECD average of 13.3% of GDP (Figure 2.25).

Chapter 2 – Public finance and economics

Costa Rica enters the OECD with the second highest poverty rate among members countries (17.4%, Figure 13.9). Costa Rica has the highest levels of income inequality among OECD countries (Figure 13.7).

Chapter 13 – Core government results

Inequality and poverty are key issues for Costa Rica. Costa Rica enters the OECD with the second highest poverty rate among members countries (17.4%, Figure 13.9). Costa Rica has the highest levels of income inequality among OECD countries (Figure 13.7).

Chapter 3 – Public employment

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Government resources

Government expenditures (2019) % of GDP
- 25% 41% 44% 56%

Government investment (2019) % of GDP
- 1.3% 2.4% 3.3% 6.3%

Fiscal balance (2019) % of GDP
- 2019
- 3.2% 3.9%

Government gross debt (SNA definition, 2019) % of GDP
- 2019
- 57% 109% 227%

Government expenditures by selected functions (2019) % of GDP
- Education 7.7%
- General public services 5.1%
- Health 5.4%
- Social protection 8.3%
- Environmental protection 0.4%

Central government workforce by age (2020)
- 18-34 25%
- 35-54 57%
- 55+ 55%

Share of women in management positions in the central government (2020)
- Senior management 38%
- Middle management 52%

General government employment as a % of total employment (2019)
- N. A.
- 17.9%
- 5.9% 17.9% 30.7%
Public governance practices

Composite indices of public service leadership and capability (2020)
From 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development of a diverse workforce</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policies to manage senior civil servants</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments and OECD Survey on public service leadership and capability

Green budgeting tools (2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ex ante or ex post environmental assessment</td>
<td>N. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 YES 2 NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex ante or ex post green budget tagging</td>
<td>N. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 YES 7 NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD and European Commission – Joint survey on emerging green budgeting practices

Objectives included in infrastructure and public procurement strategies (2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Human rights</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public procurement strategy includes responsible business conduct objectives on...</td>
<td>N. A.</td>
<td>21 YES 5 NO</td>
<td>N. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastrucuture strategy includes objectives on...</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>19 YES 5 NO</td>
<td>8 YES 18 NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD Survey on infrastructure governance and OECD Survey on leveraging responsible business conduct through public procurement

Digital government index (2019)
Composite index from 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD Survey on digital government 1.0

Citizen and stakeholder participation (2020 or 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>2020 or 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early consultation in the regulation-making process</td>
<td>NOT SYSTEMATIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 SYSTEMATIC 2 NEVER 27 NOT SYSTEMATIC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centres of government consulted stakeholders on COVID-19 recovery</td>
<td>N. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 YES 8 NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centres of government consulted stakeholders on strategies to manage the COVID-19 crisis</td>
<td>N. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 YES 6 NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central government portal(s) for carrying out online consultations</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 YES 10 NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD Survey on centres of government’s role in managing the COVID-19 crisis, OECD open government Survey and OECD indicators of regulatory policy and governance (iREG) Survey
Government results

Citizens who express satisfaction with public services (2020)

- Police: 38 - 92%
- Healthcare: 26 - 93%
- Education: 27 - 92%
- Judiciary: 15 - 91%

Source: Gallup World Poll

Citizens who express trust in public institutions (2020)

- Civil service: 49%
- Parliament: 34%
- Government: 28%

Source: World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index 2020

Citizens who believe they have a say in what government does (2018)

- 40%

Source: Gallup World Poll

Income inequality before taxes and post taxes and transfers (GINI index, 2018)

- Maximum inequality: 0.51
- Minimum inequality: 0.31

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Figure notes

- Costa Rica was not an OECD member at the time of preparation of this publication. Accordingly, Costa Rica does not appear in the list of OECD members and is not included in the zone aggregates.
- Data on Public finance and economics, which are based on the System of National Accounts (SNA), were extracted on 11 May 2021 and data on General government employment were extracted on 12 April 2021. The range of country values refers to year 2019.
- Fiscal balance as reported in SNA framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.
- Government gross debt 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.
- The range of country values for the central government workforce by age refers to the 18-34 group.
- Data on trust in the civil service and parliament are 2018 for most countries.
- The range of country values for share of women in management positions in the central government refers to senior management.
- Citizens who express satisfaction with public services: for the judiciary and the police, the data reflect the proportion of citizens who express having confidence in the institution.
- The range of country values for income inequality before taxes and post taxes and transfers refers to GINI after taxes and transfers for the working age population.

Government at a Glance 2021

Published every two years, Government at a Glance provides reliable, internationally comparable indicators on government activities and their results in OECD countries.

The 2021 edition includes input indicators on public finance and employment; while processes include data on institutions, budgeting practices and procedures, human resources management, regulatory governance, public procurement, the governance of infrastructure, public sector integrity, open government and digital government. Outcomes cover core government results (e.g. trust, political efficacy, inequality reduction) and indicators on access, responsiveness, quality and citizen satisfaction for the education, health and justice sectors. Governance indicators are especially useful for monitoring and benchmarking governments’ progress in their public sector reforms.

Each indicator in the publication is presented in a user-friendly format, consisting of graphs and/or charts illustrating variations across countries and over time, brief descriptive analyses highlighting the major findings conveyed by the data, and a methodological section on the definition of the indicator and any limitations in data comparability. The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2021 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication: https://doi.org/10.1787/1c258f55-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