



COSTA RICA



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Carlos ALVARADO Quesada

Head of Government

President Carlos ALVARADO Quesada

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

San Jose

Legislature

unicameral Legislative Assembly or Asamblea Legislativa (57 seats)

Judiciary

Supreme Court of Justice (consists of 22 judges organized into 3 cassation chambers each with 5 judges and the Constitutional Chamber with 7 judges)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Fernando LLORCA Castro

US Ambassador

Ambassador Sharon DAY

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 51,100 sq km
Land: 51,060 sq km
Water: 40 sq km

Climate

tropical and subtropical; dry season (December to April); rainy season (May to November); cooler in highlands

Natural Resources

hydropower

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

exports of bananas, coffee, sugar, and beef form the backbone of Costa Rica's exports, and political stability, relatively high education levels, and a special free trade agreement with the US help it enjoy strong and stable economic growth

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$83.85 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$16,900 (2017 est.)

Exports

\$10.55 billion (2017 est.)

partners: US 40.9%, Belgium 6.3%, Panama 5.6%, Netherlands 5.6%, Nicaragua 5.1%, Guatemala 5% (2017)

Imports

\$15.55 billion (2017 est.)

partners: US 38.1%, China 13.1%, Mexico 7.3% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

4.9 million (July 2017 est.)

Population Growth

1.16% (2017 est.)

Ethnicity

white or mestizo 83.6%, mulatto 6.7%, indigenous 2.4%, black or African descent 1.1%, other 1.1%, none 2.9%, unspecified 2.2% (2011 est.)

Language

Spanish (official), English

Religion

Roman Catholic 71.8%, Evangelical or Pentecostal 12.3%, other Protestant 2.6%, Jehovah's Witness 0.5%, other 2.4%, none 10.4% (2016 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 79.3% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization: 1.5% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy

97.8% (2015 est.)

