INTRODUCTION
Costa Rica proclaimed its independence from the United Provinces of Central America in 1838. Since the late 19th century, only two brief periods of violence have marred the country’s democratic development. Its standard of living is relatively high and land ownership is widespread.

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)

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
trade-based upper middle-income economy; green economy leader, having reversed deforestation; investing in blue economy infrastructure; declining poverty until hard impacts of COVID-19; lingering inequality and growing government debts have prompted a liquidity crisis

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $100.3 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $19,700 (2020 est.)
Industries - medical equipment, food processing, textiles and clothing, construction materials, fertilizer, plastic products
Agricultural products - sugarcane, pineapples, bananas, milk, oil palm fruit, fruit, oranges, watermelons, cassava, rice
Exports $10.81 billion (2017 est.)
medical instruments, bananas, tropical fruits, orthopedic appliances, food preparations (2019)
partners: US 38%, Netherlands 6%, Belgium 5%, Guatemala 5%, Panama 5% (2019)
Imports $15.15 billion (2017 est.)
refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment, cars, medical instruments, packaged medicines (2019)
partners: US 41%, China 13%, Mexico 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
5.2 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.04% (2021 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 47.5%, Evangelical and Pentecostal 19.8%, Jehovah’s Witness 1.4%, other Protestant 1.2%, other 3.1%, none 27% (2021 est.)

as of March 2022