



COSTA RICA



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

