# **COSTA RICA**





# INTRODUCTION

Costa Rica proclaimed its independence from the United Provinces of central America in 1838. Since the late 19<sup>th</sup> 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 sg km Land: 51,060 sq km Water: 40 sg km

# Climate

tropical and subtropical: drv 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)

Population Pyramid

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**

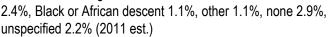
### Population

5.2 million (July 2021 est.) **Population Growth** 

1.04% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

White or Mestizo 83.6%, Mulatto 6.7%, Indigenous



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### 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.)