



COSTA RICA

Region: Latin America and Caribbean

Income Category: High Income



Human capital – knowledge, skills, and good health – empowers people to achieve their potential and drives economic growth. This brief tracks progress by Costa Rica in building and using human capital. The Human Capital Complementary Indicators offer a snapshot of human capital investments at four stages of the lifecycle. The brief uses the latest available data. It is benchmarked against regional averages and reports progress over the previous 5 years.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is **7** per 1,000 live births (2023), compared to 6 in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Children who are developmentally on track.** In 2018, **86%** of children (ages 36-59 months) were developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **DTP vaccination rate, third dose.** In 2024, **99%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine, compared to 95% in 2019. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

SCHOOL AGE

- **Children engaged in child labor.** The share of children (ages 5-17) who are engaged in economic activities is **3%** (2018). The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **2** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Learning poverty.** In 2019, **34%** of children could not read and understand a simple text, by age 10. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

YOUTH

- **Youth not in employment, education or training.** In 2024, **21%** of youth (ages 15-24) were not in employment, education or training, compared to 18% in 2019. The indicator is similar to the regional average.
- **Youth literacy rate.** The share of youth (ages 15-24) who are literate is **100%** (2021), compared to 81% in 2018. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **26** (2023), compared to 49 in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

ADULTS

- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **81** years (2023), compared to 80 in 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **46%** (2024), compared to 56% in 2019. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Adult unemployment rate.** Unemployed adults as a share of the adult labor force (ages 25+) is **6%** (2024), compared to 8% in 2019. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

HUMAN CAPITAL COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS



Note: All values use internationally comparable public datasets. Missing symbols indicate unavailable statistics. Full details can be accessed through the QR code.

