



NICARAGUA

Region: Latin America and Caribbean
Income Category: Lower Middle Income



Human capital – knowledge, skills, and good health – empowers people to achieve their potential and drives economic growth. This brief tracks progress by Nicaragua 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 **8** per 1,000 live births (2023), compared to 10 in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Pre-primary school gross enrollment ratio.** The pre-primary school gross enrollment ratio is **69%** (by the official age) (2020), compared to 63% in 2015. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Institutional births.** In 2022, **96%** of births occurred in health facilities, compared to 90% in 2017. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

SCHOOL AGE

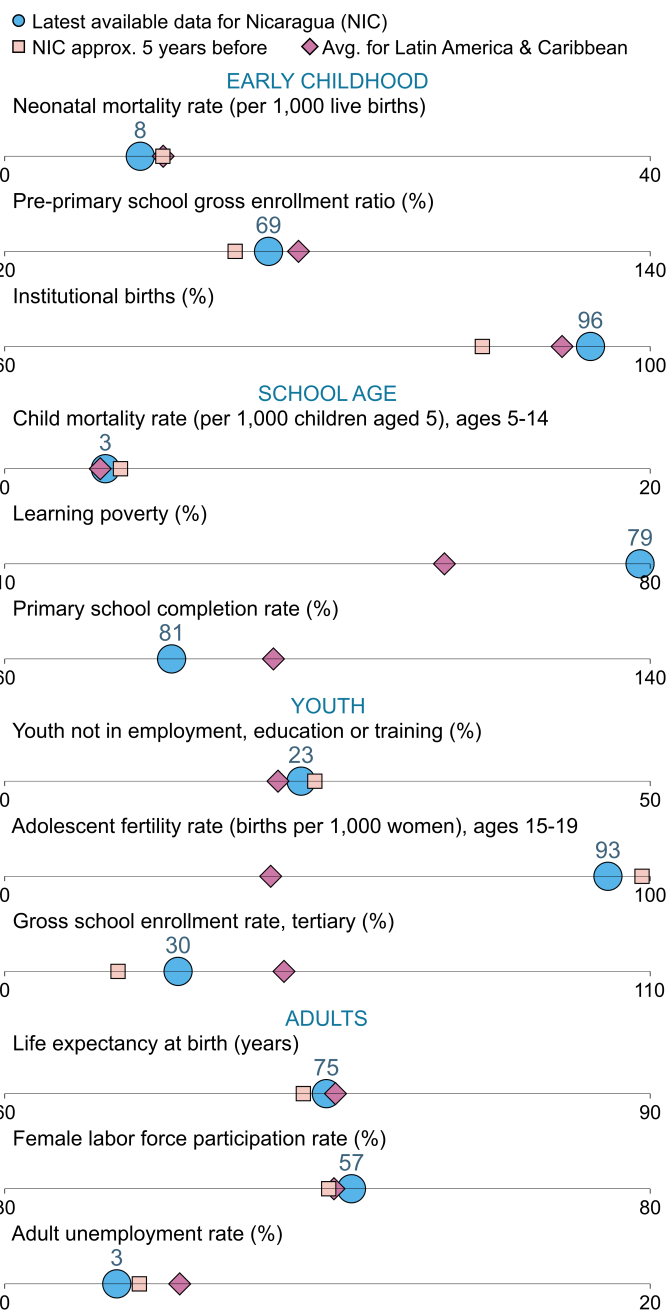
- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **3** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2023), compared to 4 in 2018. The indicator is similar to the regional average.
- **Learning poverty.** In 2019, **79%** of children could not read and understand a simple text, by age 10. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **Primary school completion rate.** The primary school completion rate is **81%** (by the official entrance age of the last grade) (2022). The indicator is lower than the regional average.

YOUTH

- **Youth not in employment, education or training.** In 2024, **23%** of youth (ages 15-24) were not in employment, education or training, compared to 24% in 2019. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **93** (2023), compared to 99 in 2018. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **Gross school enrollment rate, tertiary.** Tertiary school enrollment as a percentage of people ages 18-24 is **30%** (2023), compared to 19% in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

ADULTS

- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **75** years (2023), compared to 74 in 2018. The indicator is similar to the regional average.
- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **57%** (2024), compared to 55% in 2019. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **Adult unemployment rate.** Unemployed adults as a share of the adult labor force (ages 25+) is **3%** (2024), compared to 4% in 2019. The indicator is lower 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.

