



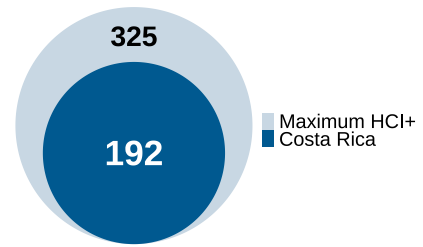
# COSTA RICA

Region: Latin America & Caribbean  
Income Category: High Income

**Human capital - people’s knowledge, skills, and health - drives productivity and growth.** The Human Capital Index Plus (HCI+) measures the human capital a child born today can expect to accumulate over their working life, extending the original HCI by incorporating tertiary education and work experience. This brief summarizes **Costa Rica’s** HCI+ score and its performance in building human capital.

## What is Costa Rica’s HCI+ and what does it mean?

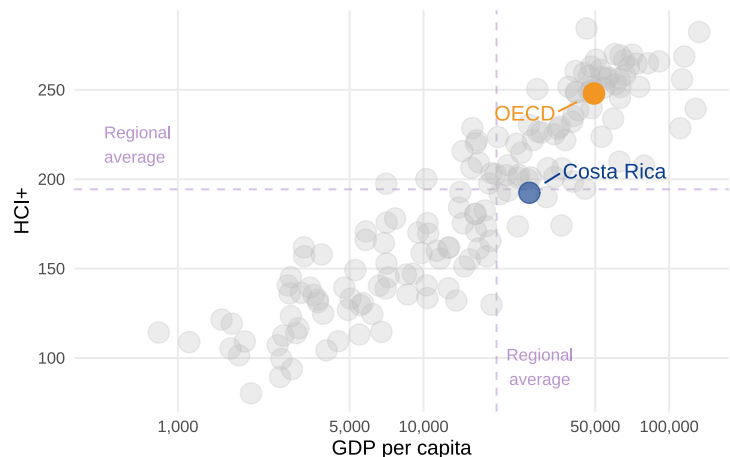
**Costa Rica’s HCI+ score is 192 (out of a maximum of 325), reflecting its investments in health, education, and employment.** A 10-point increase in the index would translate into approximately 10 percent higher future income. Closing the current gaps in these areas relative to high-performing countries with similar GDP per capita would boost future income by 71%.



## How does Costa Rica’s HCI+ compare to other countries?

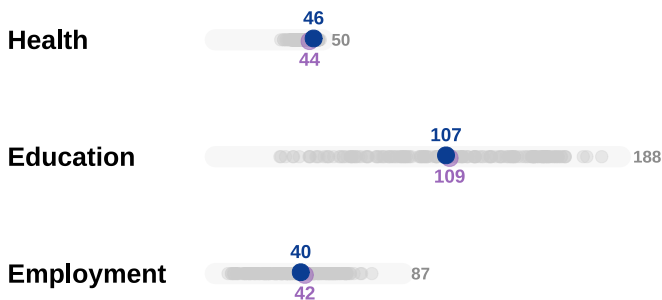
Costa Rica’s HCI+ is lower than the average for the **Latin America & Caribbean region (194)** and lower than the average for **high-income countries (254)**.

Costa Rica’s HCI+ score is also **56 points lower than the OECD average.**



## What explains Costa Rica’s HCI+?

The HCI+ has three components corresponding to health, education, and employment.



The HCI+ score for the **Health pillar is 46**, slightly higher than the **regional average of 44**.

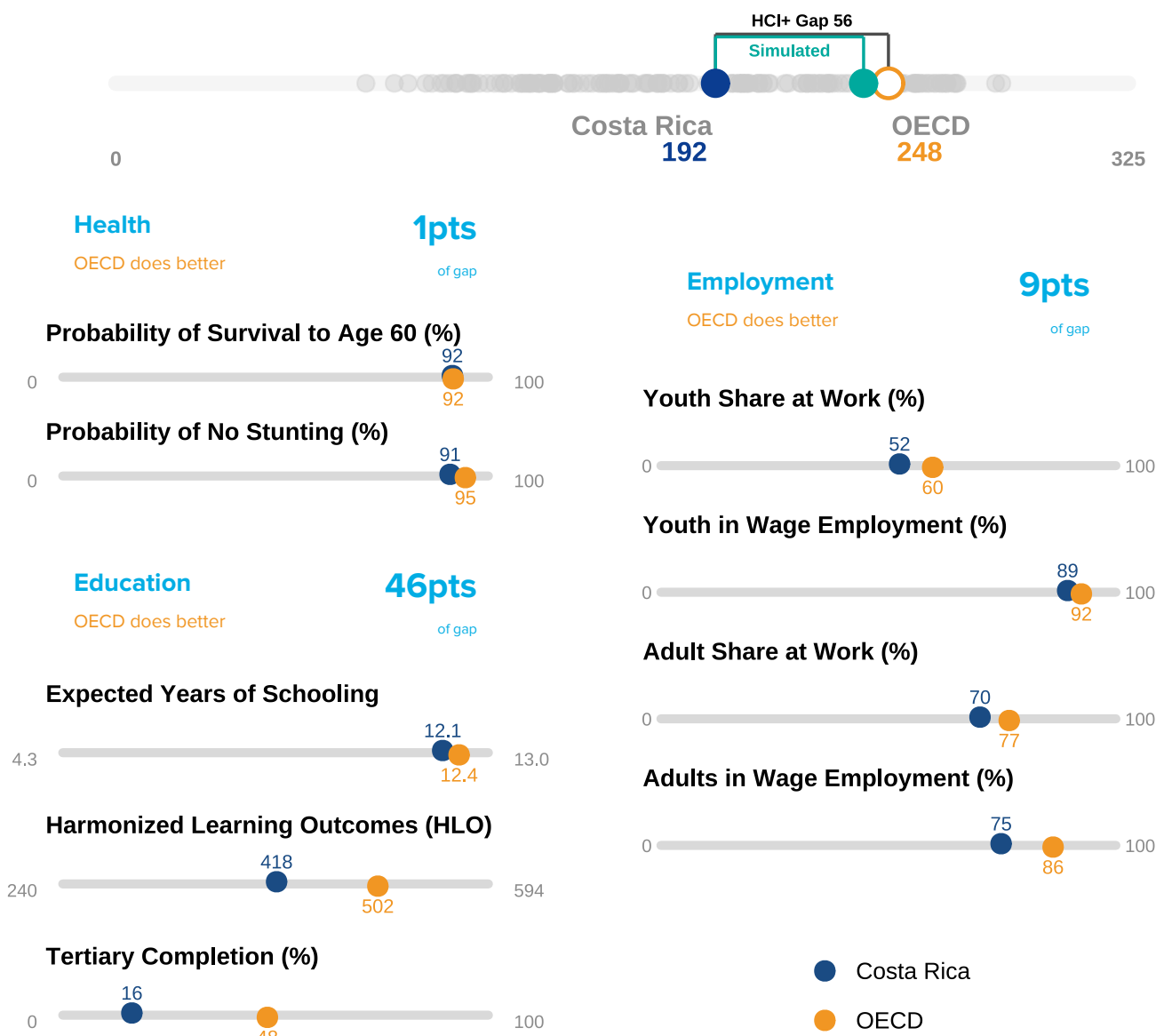
The HCI+ score for the **Education pillar is 107**, slightly lower than the **regional average of 109**.

The HCI+ score for the **Employment pillar is 40**, slightly lower than the **regional average of 42**.



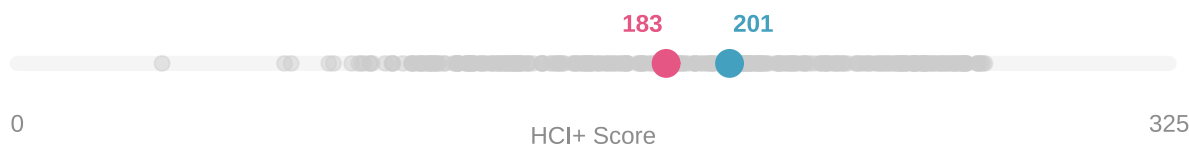
## What indicators are responsible for Costa Rica's HCI+ gap with OECD?

Costa Rica's HCI+ score (192) is lower than the OECD average (248). The indicators that account for the largest share of the HCI+ gap between Costa Rica and the OECD are **tertiary completion, Harmonized Learning Outcomes (HLO), and adult share at work**. Raising these indicators to OECD levels would increase Costa Rica's score to 240, boosting future income by approximately 47.4%.



## What is Costa Rica's HCI+ gender gap?

The HCI+ score for **women in Costa Rica is 183** compared to **201 for men**. The 18-point gap indicates that women's earning potential will be 18% lower than men's due to differences in the human capital acquired by men and women in Costa Rica.



Note: All values are derived from internationally comparable public datasets.

