



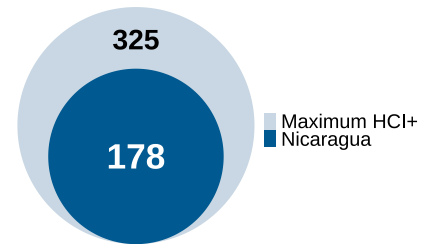
NICARAGUA

Region: Latin America & Caribbean
Income Category: Lower-middle 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 **Nicaragua’s** HCI+ score and its performance in building human capital.

What is Nicaragua’s HCI+ and what does it mean?

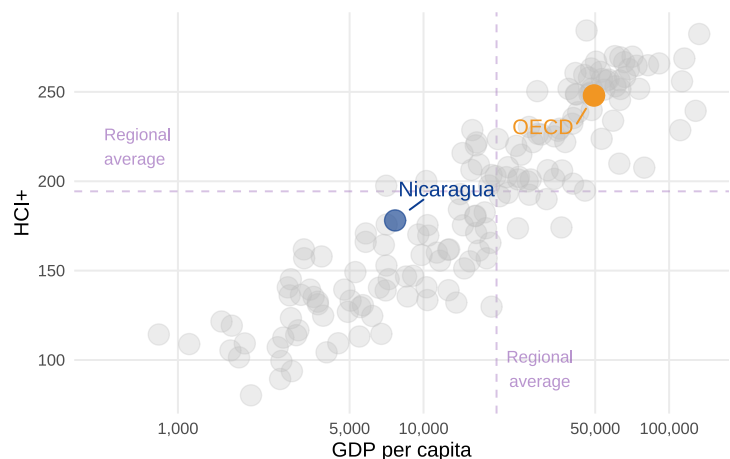
Nicaragua’s HCI+ score is **178** (out of a maximum of **325**), reflecting its investments in **health, education, and employment**. A 10-point increase in the index would translate into approximately 10 percent higher future income. Closing the current gaps in these areas relative to high-performing countries with similar GDP per capita would boost future income by 22%.



How does Nicaragua’s HCI+ compare to other countries?

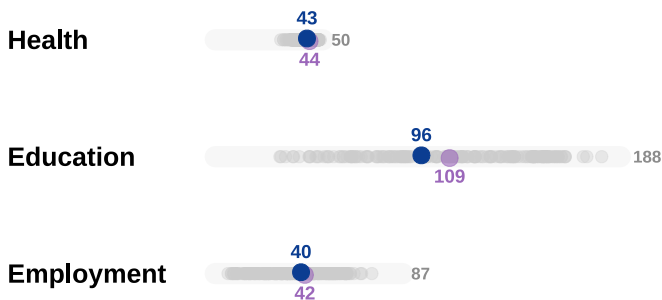
Nicaragua’s HCI+ is lower than the average for the **Latin America & Caribbean region (194)** and higher than the average for **lower-middle-income countries (153)**.

Nicaragua’s HCI+ score is also **70 points lower than the OECD average**.



What explains Nicaragua’s HCI+?

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



The HCI+ score for the **Health pillar is 43**, slightly lower than the **regional average of 44**.

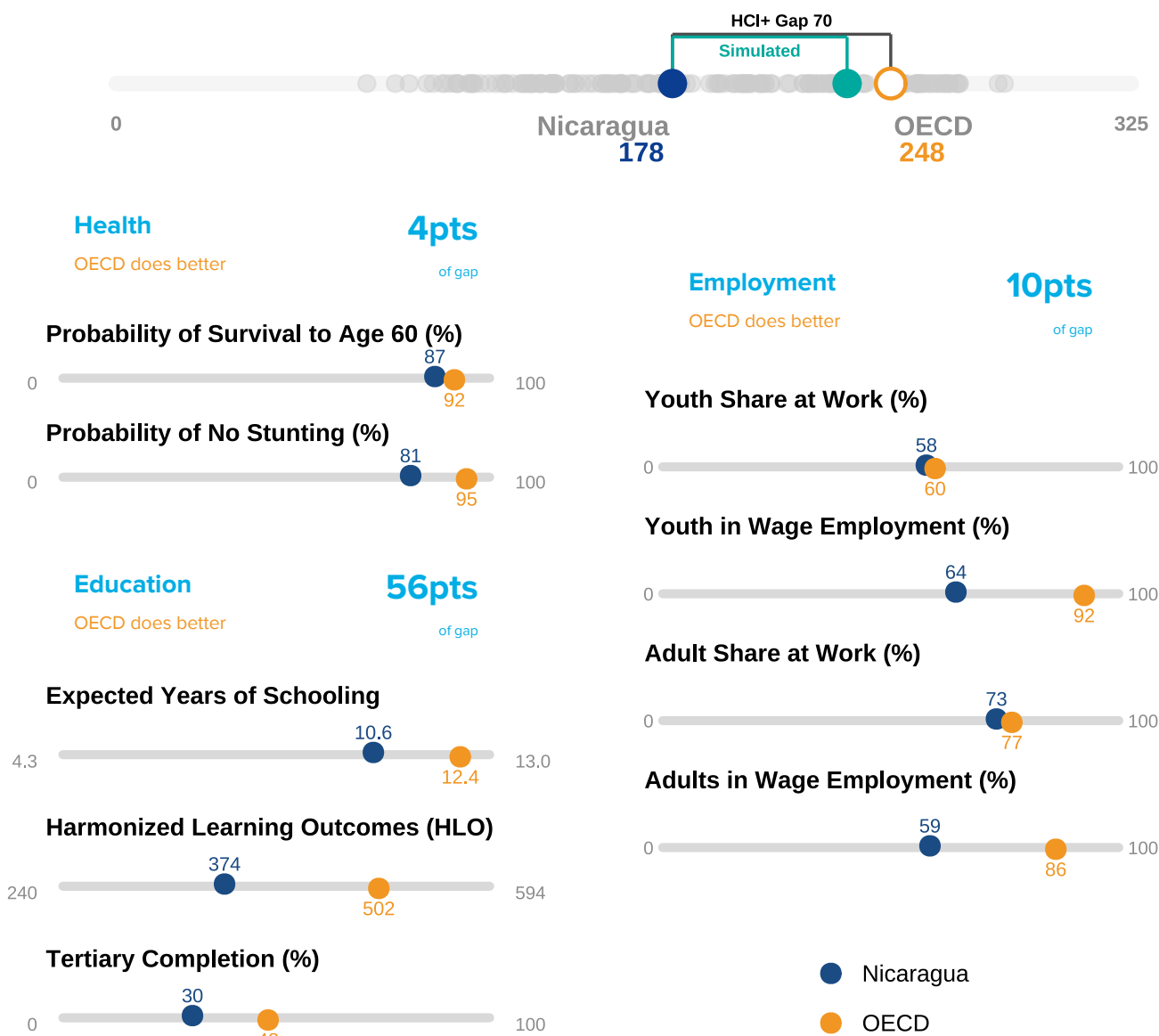
The HCI+ score for the **Education pillar is 96**, lower than the **regional average of 109**.

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



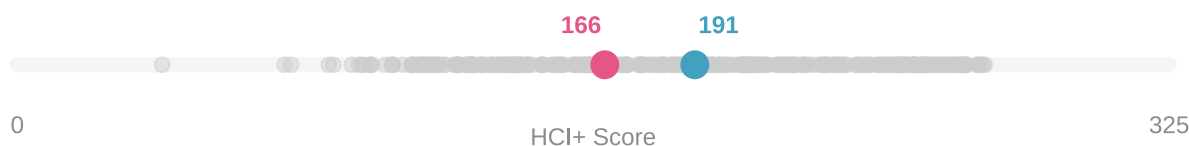
What indicators are responsible for Nicaragua's HCI+ gap with OECD?

Nicaragua's HCI+ score (178) is lower than the OECD average (248). The indicators that account for the largest share of the HCI+ gap between Nicaragua and the OECD are **Harmonized Learning Outcomes (HLO), expected years of schooling, and tertiary completion**. Raising these indicators to OECD levels would increase Nicaragua's score to 234, boosting future income by approximately 55.6%.



What is Nicaragua's HCI+ gender gap?

The HCI+ score for **women in Nicaragua is 166** compared to **191 for men**. The 25-point gap indicates that women's earning potential will be 25% lower than men's due to differences in the human capital acquired by men and women in Nicaragua.



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

