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Contents

1	59	1
1.1	59.guide	1
1.2	59.guide/Costa Rica	1
1.3	59.guide/Geography (Costa Rica)	2
1.4	59.guide/People (Costa Rica)	3
1.5	59.guide/Government (Costa Rica)	4
1.6	59.guide/Government (Costa Rica 2. usage)	5
1.7	59.guide/Economy (Costa Rica)	6
1.8	59.guide/Economy (Costa Rica 2. usage)	7
1.9	59.guide/Communications (Costa Rica)	7
1.10	59.guide/Defense Forces (Costa Rica)	8

Chapter 1

59

1.1 59.guide

Texified version of data for Costa Rica.

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Costa Rica

1.2 59.guide/Costa Rica

Costa Rica

Geography (Costa Rica)
 People (Costa Rica)
 Government (Costa Rica)
 Government (Costa Rica 2. usage)
 Economy (Costa Rica)
 Economy (Costa Rica 2. usage)
 Communications (Costa Rica)
 Defense Forces (Costa Rica)

1.3 59.guide/Geography (Costa Rica)

Geography (Costa Rica)

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Location:

Central America, between Nicaragua and Panama

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean, South America

Area:

total area:

51,100 km²

land area:

50,660 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than West Virginia

note:

includes Isla del Coco

Land boundaries:

total 639 km, Nicaragua 309 km, Panama 330 km

Coastline:

1,290 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

200 nm

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; dry season (December to April); rainy season (May to November)

Terrain:

coastal plains separated by rugged mountains

Natural resources:

hydropower potential

Land use:

arable land:

6%

permanent crops:

7%

meadows and pastures:
 45%
 forest and woodland:
 34%
 other:
 8%
 Irrigated land:
 1,180 km² (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 subject to occasional earthquakes, hurricanes along Atlantic coast; ←
 frequent
 flooding of lowlands at onset of rainy season; active volcanoes;
 deforestation; soil erosion

1.4 59.guide/People (Costa Rica)

People (Costa Rica)

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Population:
 3,264,776 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.38% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 26.07 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 3.57 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 1.26 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 11.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 77.49 years
 male:
 75.56 years
 female:
 79.52 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 3.11 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Costa Rican(s)
 adjective:
 Costa Rican
 Ethnic divisions:
 white (including mestizo) 96%, black 2%, Indian 1%, Chinese 1%
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic 95%
 Languages:
 Spanish (official), English; spoken around Puerto Limon
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:
 93%
 male:
 93%
 female:
 93%
 Labor force:
 868,300
 by occupation:
 industry and commerce 35.1%, government and services 33%, agriculture 27%,
 other 4.9% (1985 est.)

1.5 59.guide/Government (Costa Rica)

Government (Costa Rica)

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Names:

conventional long form:
 Republic of Costa Rica
 conventional short form:
 Costa Rica local long form:
 Republica de Costa Rica
 local short form:
 Costa Rica

Digraph:

CS

Type:

democratic republic

Capital:

San Jose

Administrative divisions:

7 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia); Alajuela, Cartago,
 Guanacaste, Heredia, Limon, Puntarenas, San Jose

Independence:

15 September 1821 (from Spain)

Constitution:

9 November 1949

Legal system:

based on Spanish civil law system; judicial review of legislative acts in
 the Supreme Court; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:

Independence Day, 15 September (1821)

Political parties and leaders:

National Liberation Party (PLN), Carlos Manuel CASTILLO Morales; Social
 Christian Unity Party (PUSC), Rafael Angel CALDERON Fournier; Marxist
 Popular Vanguard Party (PVP), Humberto VARGAS Carbonell; New Republic
 Movement (MNR), Sergio Erick ARDON Ramirez; Progressive Party (PP), Isaac
 Felipe AZOFEIFA Bolanos; People's Party of Costa Rica (PPC), Lenin CHACON
 Vargas; Radical Democratic Party (PRD), Juan Jose ECHEVERRIA Brealey

Other political or pressure groups:

Costa Rican Confederation of Democratic Workers (CCTD; Liberation Party
 affiliate); Confederated Union of Workers (CUT; Communist Party affiliate);

Authentic Confederation of Democratic Workers (CATD; Communist Party affiliate); Chamber of Coffee Growers; National Association for Economic Development (ANFE); Free Costa Rica Movement (MCRL; rightwing militants); National Association of Educators (ANDE)

Suffrage:
18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Elections:
Legislative Assembly:
last held 4 February 1990 (next to be held February 1994); results - ←
percent
of vote by party NA; seats - (57 total) PUSC 29, PLN 25, PVP/PPC 1, ←
regional
parties 2

President:
last held 4 February 1990 (next to be held February 1994); results - Rafael Angel CALDERON Fournier 51%, Carlos Manuel CASTILLO 47%

Executive branch:
president, two vice presidents, Cabinet

Legislative branch:
unicameral Legislative Assembly (Asamblea Legislativa)

Judicial branch:
Supreme Court (Corte Suprema)

1.6 59.guide/Government (Costa Rica 2. usage)

Government (Costa Rica 2. usage)

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Leaders:
Chief of State and Head of Government:
President Rafael Angel CALDERON Fournier (since 8 May 1990); First Vice President German SERRANO Pinto (since 8 May 1990); Second Vice President Arnoldo LOPEZ Echandi (since 8 May 1990)

Member of:
AG (observer), BCIE, CACM, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ITU, LAES, LAIA (observer), LORCS, NAM (observer), OAS, OPANAL, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:
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Pavas Road, San Jose

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Flag:

five horizontal bands of blue (top), white, red (double width), white, and blue, with the coat of arms in a white disk on the hoist side of the red band

1.7 59.guide/Economy (Costa Rica)

Economy (Costa Rica)

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Overview:

In 1992 the economy grew at an estimated 5.4%, up from the 2.5% gain of 1991 ←

and the gain of 1990. Increases in agricultural production (on the strength of good coffee and banana crops) and in nontraditional exports are responsible for much of the growth. In 1992 consumer prices rose by 17%, below the 27% of 1991. The trade deficit of \$100 million was substantially below the 1991 deficit of \$270 million. Unemployment is officially reported at 4.0%, but much underemployment remains. External debt, on a per capita basis, is among the world's highest.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$6.4 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

5.4% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$2,000 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

17% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

4% (1992)

Budget:

revenues \$1.1 billion; expenditures \$1.34 billion, including capital expenditures of \$110 million (1991 est.)

Exports:

\$1.7 billion (f.o.b., 1992 est.)

commodities:

coffee, bananas, textiles, sugar

partners:

US 75%, Germany, Guatemala, Netherlands, UK, Japan

Imports:

\$1.8 billion (c.i.f., 1992 est.)

commodities:

raw materials, consumer goods, capital equipment, petroleum

partners:

US 45%, Japan, Guatemala, Germany

External debt:

\$3.2 billion (1991)

Industrial production:

growth rate 1.0% (1991); accounts for 19% of GDP

Electricity:

927,000 kW capacity; 3,612 million kWh produced, 1,130 kWh per capita ↔
(1992)

Industries:

food processing, textiles and clothing, construction materials, fertilizer, plastic products

Agriculture:

accounts for 17% of GDP and 70% of exports; cash commodities - coffee, beef ↔

bananas, sugar; other food crops include corn, rice, beans, potatoes; normally self-sufficient in food except for grain; depletion of forest resources resulting in lower timber output

Illicit drugs:

illicit production of cannabis on small scattered plots; transshipment country for cocaine from South America

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$1.4 billion; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$935 million; Communist countries (1971-89), \$27 million

Currency:

1 Costa Rican colon (C) = 100 centimos

1.8 59.guide/Economy (Costa Rica 2. usage)

Economy (Costa Rica 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:

Costa Rican colones (C) per US\$1 - 137.72 (January 1993), 134.51 (1992), 122.43 (1991), 91.58 (1990), 81.504 (1989), 75.805 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.9 59.guide/Communications (Costa Rica)

Communications (Costa Rica)

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Railroads:

950 km total, all 1.067-meter gauge; 260 km electrified

Highways:

15,400 km total; 7,030 km paved, 7,010 km gravel, 1,360 km unimproved earth

Inland waterways:

about 730 km, seasonally navigable

Pipelines:

petroleum products 176 km

Ports:

Puerto Limon, Caldera, Golfito, Moin, Puntarenas

Merchant marine:

1 cargo ship (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 2,878 GRT/4,506 DWT

Airports:

total:

162

usable:

144

with permanent-surface runways:

28

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

2

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

8

Telecommunications:

very good domestic telephone service; 292,000 telephones; connection into Central American Microwave System; broadcast stations - 71 AM, no FM, 18 TV ↔

13 shortwave; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 59.guide/Defense Forces (Costa Rica)

Defense Forces (Costa Rica)

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Branches:

Civil Guard, Rural Assistance Guard

note:

constitution prohibits armed forces

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 851,713; fit for military service 573,854; reach military age (18) annually 31,987 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$22 million, 0.5% of GDP (1989)