



COSTA RICA GENDER LANDSCAPE

Gender data helps to inform smart development policy. This briefing provides key indicators for Costa Rica which help in monitoring gender equality and designing effective policy interventions. The arrows indicate longer term progress on outcomes from a base year, while the color coded elements compare the latest gender data in Costa Rica with its regional peers.

Click the measures below to explore the [World Bank Gender Data Portal](#).

Compared to:	Base Year	Region
>10% Higher Value	↗	
Equal/No Change	→	
>10% Lower Value	↘	
No Data	---	

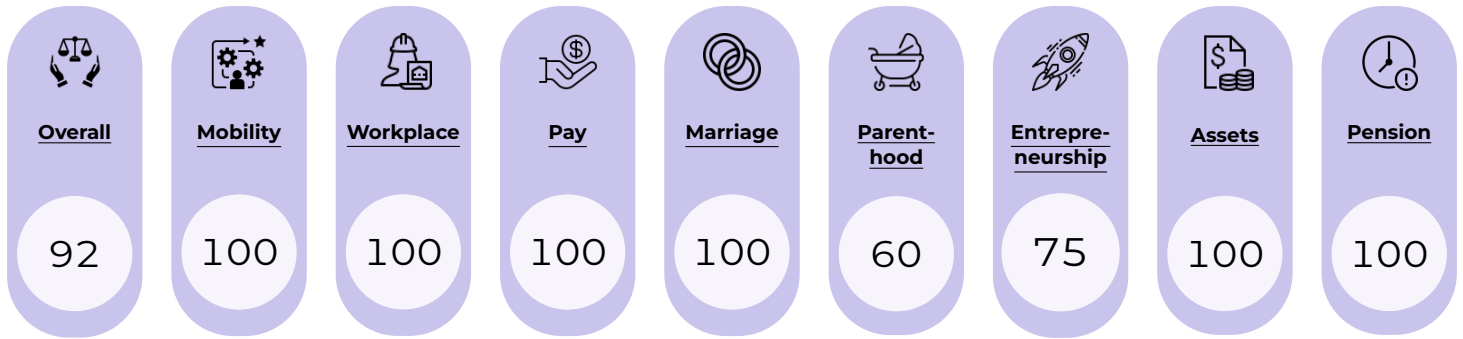
		Country Performance				Peer Comparison			
		Baseline		Latest		Latest			
		Value	Year	Value	Year	LAC	UMC	World	
HUMAN ENDOWMENTS									
Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling	Female	8.49	2010	→	9.04	2020	NA	NA	NA
	Male	8.42	2010	→	8.95	2020	NA	NA	NA
School enrollment, tertiary (% gross)	Female	51.1	2011	↗	63.6	2019	62.5	63.7	43.4
	Male	40.8	2011	↗	52.0	2019	46.6	52.7	37.4
Female share of graduates from STEM programs, tertiary (%)		32.9	2011	→	32.2	2018	NA	NA	NA
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		1.90	2011	↘	1.53	2021	1.85	1.57	2.27
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)		64.9	2011	↘	37.1	2021	53.2	28.2	42.5
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		24.0	2011	→	22.0	2020	88.0	61.0	223
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		90.2	2011	→	94.1	2018	NA	88.6	65.4
Unmet need for contraception (% of married women 15-49)		7.60	2011	↗	13.7	2018	NA	NA	NA
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	8.50	2011	→	8.10	2019	12.7	12.9	14.8
	Male	12.1	2011	→	11.0	2019	17.1	21.7	21.7
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY									
Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	46.3	2011	→	50.1	2022	51.0	56.0	47.3
	Male	75.0	2011	→	72.8	2022	74.3	73.5	72.5
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	81.9	2011	→	76.7	2021	62.9	58.9	54.3
	Male	75.5	2011	→	72.1	2021	60.4	59.6	52.9
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	4.44	2011	↗	10.4	2021	8.31	18.4	25.3
	Male	17.9	2011	↗	21.4	2021	18.7	24.1	27.2
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	27.3	2011	↘	21.5	2022	27.1	NA	NA
	Male	15.6	2011	↘	13.6	2022	15.5	NA	NA
Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (% of 24 hour day)	Female	NA	NA	---	22.1	2017	NA	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	8.38	2017	NA	NA	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		46.9	2011	→	45.0	2022	48.2	46.8	55.2
Financial institution account (% 15+)	Female	40.7	2011	↗	61.1	2021	68.1	81.7	71.9
	Male	60.2	2011	↗	76.3	2021	75.3	85.7	76.0
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	5.15	2017	4.78	4.08	5.27
	Male	NA	NA	---	6.84	2017	6.66	6.49	7.58
Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%)		26.6	2007	↗	45.9	2022	NA	NA	NA
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		43.5	2010	---	NA	NA	49.9	34.7	33.3
VOICE AND AGENCY									
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		15.4	2010	---	NA	NA	20.1	20.1	17.9
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		38.6	2011	↗	47.4	2022	35.7	27.7	26.5
Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)		NA	NA	---	17.1	2018	NA	NA	NA
Proportion of women in ministerial level positions (%)		35.0	2010	↗	52.0	2020	27.9	21.4	22.0
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever-partnered women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Note: The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region includes 42 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Costa Rica is an upper middle income (UMC) country, which includes 54 countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita from \$4,466 to \$13,845 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method). Data and definitions can be found on the [Gender Data Portal](#). Data is as of September 15, 2023. Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2011. Latest Value shows the latest available value from 2012 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer Comparison shows how Costa Rica performs relative to its peers in the region, income group, and the world. Color coding represents values 10 percent above or below its peers in the region.



Women, Business and the Law in Costa Rica

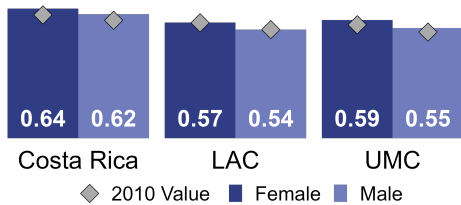
Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2022 presents an index covering 190 economies, structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. **Costa Rica scores 92 out of 100**, while the regional average across Latin America and Caribbean is 81.



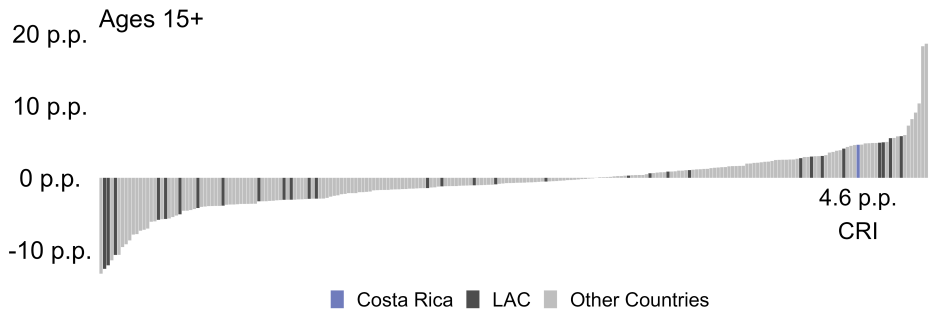
A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Costa Rica

Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment, including improving their voice and agency.

Human Capital Index Score (0-1)
Baseline compared to 2020



Change in Female Labor Force Participation 2010-2020 (p.p.)



Unpacking the Numbers in Costa Rica

64 percent

A girl born today will be 64 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment **(2020)**

17 in 100

17 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were first married by age 18 **(2018)**

14 percent

14 percent of married women ages 15 to 49 report not having access to contraceptives **(2018)**

1.1 times

Men hold 1.1 times as many seats in the national parliament as women **(2022)**

1.6 times

A man is 1.6 times as likely to have used the internet to pay bills or to buy something online in the past year **(2021)**

LEARN MORE

The World Bank in Gender: This portal features the latest research, news, and events around gender equality in international development.

Women, Business and the Law: This portal includes reports, data, and news on the laws and regulations that affect women's economic opportunity.

World Bank Gender Strategy (2024-30): This page summarizes research and evidence feeding into WBG's new gender strategy.

World Bank Gender Data Portal: This open data tool shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.

LAC Gender Innovation Lab: This page features policy research by the GIL, evaluating innovative solutions to close priority gender gaps in the region.

Costa Rica Gender Scorecard: This report offers additional context about the gender dynamic in Costa Rica from the Poverty and Equity Team.

