



COSTA RICA

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



Human capital – knowledge, skills, and good health – empowers people to achieve their potential and drives economic growth. This brief tracks progress by Costa Rica 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 figures show the latest available data, benchmarked against regional averages. The figures also report progress over the previous 5 years.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Children who are developmentally on track.** In 2018, **86%** of children (ages 36-59 months) were developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is 7 per 1,000 live births (2022), compared to 6 in 2017. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **DTP vaccination rate, third dose.** In 2023, **99%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine, compared to 94% in 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

SCHOOL AGE

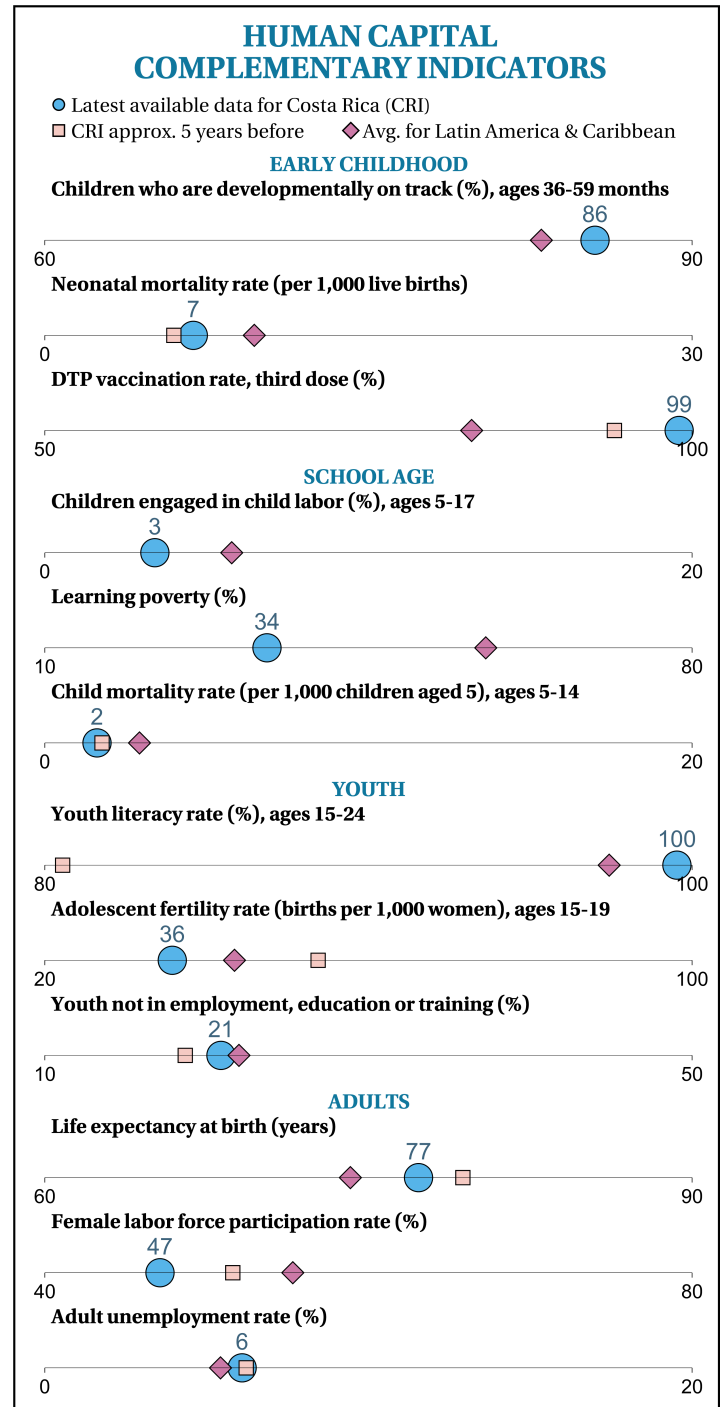
- **Children engaged in child labor.** The share of children (ages 5-17) who are engaged in economic activities is **3%** (2018). The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Learning poverty.** In 2019, **34%** of children could not read and understand a simple text, by age 10. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **2** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2022). This remains unchanged since 2017. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

YOUTH

- **Youth literacy rate.** The share of youth (ages 15-24) who are literate is **100%** (2021), compared to 81% in 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **36** (2022), compared to 54 in 2017. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Youth not in employment, education or training.** In 2023, **21%** of youth (ages 15-24) were not in employment, education or training, compared to 19% in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

ADULTS

- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **77** years (2022), compared to 79 in 2017. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **47%** (2023), compared to 52% in 2018. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Adult unemployment rate.** Unemployed adults as a share of the adult labor force (ages 25+) is **6%** (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.



Note: Missing symbols indicate internationally comparable data are not available to generate the corresponding statistic.

