

# OECD ECONOMIC SURVEYS

## COSTA RICA

ISSN 0376-6438, e-ISSN 1609-7513

February 2023

[Consulta en línea desde Intranet](#)

<b>1 Key Policy Insights</b>	<b>14</b>
Costa Rica recovered well but faces substantial challenges	15
Growth is mitigated by high inflationary pressures and the global outlook	17
The recovery has further progressed	17
Financial stability risks appear contained	22
Macroeconomic policies can be further strengthened	24
Adapting the monetary policy stance to contain inflation	25
Improving debt sustainability and reinforcing the fiscal framework	27
Strengthening productivity growth	38
Boosting productivity through more competition	39
Reducing informality: a win-win for productivity and inclusiveness	43
Further spreading the benefits of trade integration	46
Closing infrastructure gaps	48
Making the most of digitalisation	50
Continuing to improve governance and reduce corruption	52
Redoubling efforts to improve equality of opportunities	53
Upgrading social protection	54
Reducing gender inequalities	55
Adapting the pension system to ageing	57
Transitioning towards net carbon neutrality	57
References	63
<b>2 Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training in Costa Rica to better support growth and equity</b>	<b>66</b>
Strengthening pre-tertiary education	69
Pre-tertiary education does not equip all students with sufficient skills	69
Expanding coverage and quality of early childhood education and care services	78
Fully implementing the curricula reform	78
Better supporting students at risk of educational exclusion	79
Improving school infrastructure	81
Strengthening the digitalisation of education	82
Improving the quality of teachers	83
Improving the governance and regulation of Education and Administrative Boards	87
Prioritise spending in early stages of education to better support growth and equity	88
Improving tertiary education	89
Boosting tertiary graduation rates and improving spending efficiency on tertiary education	89
Improving access to tertiary education for vulnerable groups	91
Making STEM fields more attractive to students, especially women	93
Making public university funding more efficient, accountable and transparent	94
Better aligning the VET system with labour market needs	99
The VET system needs to equip more students with good and relevant skills	99
Making the VET system more responsive to labour market needs	103
Raising the attractiveness of formal VET	106
Increasing the quality of VET teachers	106
Improving the supply and attractiveness of short-cycle vocational programmes (SCVPs)	107
References	110