

# COSTA RICA

## Table 1. Labour force

Annual average estimates

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Labour force, thousands</b>										
All persons	..	2 041	2 214	2 236	2 284	2 276	2 206	2 256	2 360	2 465
Males	..	1 280	1 347	1 356	1 393	1 387	1 373	1 405	1 451	1 472
Females	..	760	867	880	891	889	833	851	909	993
<b>Unemployed, thousands</b>										
All persons	..	210	225	210	220	219	210	205	243	290
Males	..	111	120	112	113	111	110	106	122	138
Females	..	99	106	98	106	108	101	99	120	152
<b>Employment, thousands</b>										
All persons	1 884	1 830	1 989	2 026	2 064	2 057	1 996	2 051	2 117	2 175
Males	1 193	1 169	1 227	1 244	1 280	1 276	1 264	1 300	1 329	1 334
Females	691	661	762	782	785	781	732	752	788	841
<b>Employment (%)</b>										
Males	..	63.9	61.7	61.4	62.0	62.0	63.3	63.4	62.8	61.3
Females	..	36.1	38.3	38.6	38.0	38.0	36.7	36.6	37.2	38.7
<b>Unemployment rate (% of labour force)</b>										
All persons	..	10.3	10.2	9.4	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.1	10.3	11.8
Males	..	8.7	8.9	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.5	8.4	9.3
Females	..	13.0	12.2	11.1	11.9	12.2	12.1	11.6	13.2	15.3
<b>EMPLOYMENT - PROFESSIONAL STATUS, thousands</b>										
<b>All activities</b>	<b>1 884</b>	<b>1 830</b>	<b>1 989</b>	<b>2 026</b>	<b>2 064</b>	<b>2 057</b>	<b>1 996</b>	<b>2 051</b>	<b>2 117</b>	<b>2 175</b>
Employees	1 439	1 425	1 537	1 509	1 561	1 557	1 528	1 553	1 585	1 596
Employers and persons working on own account	399	373	416	469	456	448	424	458	495	537
Unpaid family workers	46	32	36	48	48	52	44	41	37	43
<b>Employees as % of employment</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>73.4</b>
<b>Part-time employment (%)</b>										
Part-time as % of employment	15.4	12.1	15.4	18.2	19.0	18.2	15.6	16.5	17.9	19.1
Male share of part time employment	35.5	36.8	35.5	36.3	38.6	37.9	39.4	38.9	35.7	36.5
Female share of part time employment	64.5	63.2	64.5	63.7	61.4	62.1	60.6	61.1	64.3	63.5
Male part-time as % of male employment	8.6	6.9	8.9	10.7	11.8	11.1	9.7	10.1	10.2	11.4
Female part-time as % of female employment	27.1	21.1	26.0	30.0	30.7	29.8	25.8	27.5	30.9	31.4
<b>Duration of unemployment (% of total unemployment)</b>										
Less than one month	..	..	23.7	30.7	31.5	31.1	35.3	36.6	32.8	38.5
More than 1 month and less than 3 months	..	..	39.1	30.4	27.5	26.9	25.7	23.8	28.5	23.9
More than 3 months and less than 6 months	..	..	14.6	15.5	12.6	13.8	11.5	13.3	13.5	11.6
More than 6 months and less than 1 year	..	..	12.8	12.4	12.5	12.4	10.8	11.6	10.7	13.2
More than 1 year	..	..	9.8	11.1	15.9	15.9	16.7	14.7	14.4	12.9

.. Not available

Note: Detailed metadata: <http://metalinks.oecd.org/lfs/20200831/a88e8>,  
<http://metalinks.oecd.org/lfs/20200831/67282>, <http://metalinks.oecd.org/lfs/20200831/b60ec>  
and <http://metalinks.oecd.org/lfs/20200831/634bb>.

# COSTA RICA

## Table 2. Participation rates and unemployment rates by age and sex

Annual average estimates, percentage

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Participation rates</b>										
<b>Males</b>										
15-19	29.1	27.2	32.9	30.7	30.6	30.6	27.2	27.1	28.6	27.4
20-24	78.4	77.7	84.0	81.3	82.6	76.7	75.8	78.4	79.7	78.3
25-34	93.9	93.5	93.9	94.7	93.6	93.1	94.0	92.8	93.8	94.9
35-44	95.9	94.9	95.8	95.8	95.8	94.2	95.0	96.0	95.4	96.2
45-54	95.1	93.1	93.2	93.0	93.9	92.9	91.1	93.9	94.3	95.3
55-59	85.5	84.5	80.6	84.6	90.5	86.5	83.4	83.2	88.3	89.8
60-64	69.6	65.1	70.1	73.6	66.1	66.2	62.6	65.0	69.1	72.7
15-24	53.7	52.3	57.0	55.1	56.9	53.3	51.7	52.3	54.8	51.5
25-54	94.9	93.8	94.3	94.5	94.3	93.4	93.4	94.1	94.4	95.4
55-64	78.8	75.5	76.0	79.6	78.7	78.0	73.8	74.4	79.2	82.0
65 and over	25.4	22.3	30.2	27.7	26.2	26.6	22.0	24.4	26.3	26.3
15-64	80.5	79.7	81.9	81.3	82.0	80.4	79.2	80.4	82.1	82.4
<b>Females</b>										
15-19	19.6	16.8	17.4	17.8	18.9	15.9	14.2	14.9	17.3	18.3
20-24	48.9	50.8	60.1	59.7	56.4	58.5	51.7	53.7	55.3	57.5
25-34	64.5	64.5	70.1	68.2	68.7	69.0	65.6	64.1	65.4	71.3
35-44	65.0	61.5	67.1	66.2	67.0	64.8	61.6	65.9	70.1	73.2
45-54	52.7	53.6	59.4	62.2	58.3	57.7	55.1	53.4	58.3	61.3
55-59	41.6	39.5	47.5	44.9	45.6	44.8	40.6	44.8	44.4	48.6
60-64	22.5	22.7	29.9	25.4	30.1	31.0	26.7	30.4	31.7	36.5
15-24	33.6	33.6	38.8	39.8	38.1	37.5	32.9	33.7	36.2	38.0
25-54	61.0	60.2	66.0	65.7	64.9	64.2	61.1	61.5	64.9	68.8
55-64	32.9	32.2	39.7	35.9	39.0	38.9	34.5	38.2	39.0	43.3
65 and over	9.9	6.2	8.2	9.6	8.3	7.7	5.3	5.2	6.6	10.3
15-64	50.2	49.6	55.6	54.9	54.6	53.9	50.4	51.1	53.9	57.6
<b>All persons</b>										
15-24	44.2	43.4	48.3	48.0	48.2	45.9	43.2	43.4	46.1	45.3
25-54	77.8	77.1	80.3	79.9	79.5	78.9	77.2	77.9	79.8	82.1
55-64	56.4	54.1	57.5	57.5	58.2	57.2	53.3	55.4	57.7	61.7
65 and over	17.2	13.7	18.6	18.4	16.8	16.8	13.2	14.5	16.2	18.2
15-64	65.6	64.9	68.9	68.2	68.4	67.3	65.0	65.9	68.1	70.1
<b>Unemployment rates</b>										
<b>Males</b>										
15-19	28.3	27.7	24.4	31.1	28.5	26.7	28.0	30.0	35.9	42.3
20-24	14.5	14.7	17.9	15.0	18.9	17.2	15.7	15.0	17.6	23.0
25-34	6.3	8.8	8.3	6.2	7.1	7.5	7.0	7.8	8.4	7.7
35-44	4.7	5.5	4.7	5.3	3.9	3.9	5.0	3.7	4.3	5.4
45-54	4.0	5.2	5.7	5.6	3.7	4.7	4.9	4.4	5.4	5.6
55-59	5.2	7.5	5.9	5.1	3.2	5.5	5.5	5.1	4.3	4.9
60-64	5.0	6.0	5.9	3.9	7.3	4.7	5.3	4.2	4.1	4.8
15-24	18.3	18.1	19.9	19.7	21.4	20.0	18.9	19.0	22.2	28.4
25-54	5.1	6.7	6.4	5.8	5.1	5.6	5.8	5.5	6.2	6.3
55-64	5.1	6.9	5.9	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.4	4.7	4.2	4.8
65 and over	4.0	4.7	8.4	7.7	5.9	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.6	6.3
15-64	7.8	8.8	8.9	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.7	8.6	9.5
Total	7.6	8.7	8.9	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.5	8.4	9.3
<b>Females</b>										
15-19	37.0	45.2	44.3	45.9	46.3	41.7	50.4	40.4	53.2	58.5
20-24	23.3	24.4	23.7	21.8	26.7	24.4	25.7	25.3	28.8	30.9
25-34	9.3	13.4	11.2	10.5	12.4	15.0	14.1	13.2	14.1	17.9
35-44	8.8	9.4	9.7	8.9	8.3	7.1	7.1	8.6	10.0	10.6
45-54	5.4	6.5	6.4	5.1	5.1	5.5	5.5	5.7	6.6	8.7
55-59	1.5	3.2	5.2	4.7	3.2	4.8	3.7	1.7	4.0	8.8
60-64	2.7	5.3	3.5	1.1	1.8	3.5	2.7	2.6	3.0	5.3
15-24	27.5	29.6	28.3	26.9	31.5	28.0	31.1	28.7	34.7	37.5
25-54	8.1	10.2	9.5	8.4	9.0	9.9	9.5	9.6	10.6	12.8
55-64	1.8	3.8	4.7	3.6	2.7	4.3	3.4	2.0	3.6	7.5
65 and over	3.1	3.7	2.9	3.8	0.7	0.7	3.7	2.2	3.5	4.7
15-64	11.2	13.2	12.4	11.3	12.2	12.4	12.2	11.8	13.4	15.7
Total	11.0	13.0	12.2	11.1	11.9	12.2	12.1	11.6	13.2	15.3
<b>All persons</b>										
15-24	21.5	22.4	23.1	22.5	25.1	23.0	23.1	22.6	26.8	32.0
25-54	6.3	8.1	7.6	6.8	6.7	7.3	7.2	7.1	8.0	9.0
55-64	4.2	6.0	5.5	4.3	4.1	4.9	4.7	3.7	4.0	5.8
65 and over	3.7	4.4	7.1	6.7	4.6	3.5	4.6	4.0	4.3	5.8
15-64	9.1	10.5	10.3	9.5	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.2	10.5	12.0

Note: Detailed metadata at: <http://metalinks.oecd.org/lfs/20200831/71aac>

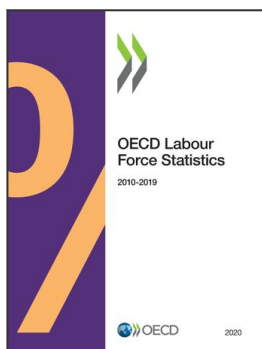
# COSTA RICA

## Table 3. Employment and employees: breakdown by activity - ISIC Rev. 4

Annual average estimates

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>											
<b>By activity, thousands</b>											
<b>A-U</b>	<b>All activities</b>	<b>1 883.9</b>	<b>1 830.5</b>	<b>1 988.9</b>	<b>2 026.0</b>	<b>2 064.4</b>	<b>2 057.3</b>	<b>1 995.7</b>	<b>2 051.2</b>	<b>2 117.1</b>	<b>2 175.1</b>
A	Agriculture, hunting and forestry	203.7	198.6	203.8	200.1	229.9	252.8	243.2	256.4	260.9	259.4
<b>B-F</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>356.5</b>	<b>350.5</b>	<b>360.4</b>	<b>333.3</b>	<b>364.1</b>	<b>393.4</b>	<b>370.5</b>	<b>371.3</b>	<b>405.2</b>	<b>402.3</b>
B	Mining and quarrying	1.4	2.9	2.3	3.5	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.0	2.1	1.5
C	Manufacturing	202.9	201.7	197.7	181.2	192.0	223.4	203.9	205.5	228.7	225.6
D	Electricity, gas, steam, air cond. supply	36.1	28.4	26.7	24.0	27.7	23.9	26.6	23.5	17.8	18.7
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste mgt, remediation	8.3	8.0	9.4	12.7	6.1	7.4	10.6	7.9	10.1	6.9
F	Construction	107.8	109.5	124.3	111.8	135.9	137.0	128.0	133.5	146.5	149.6
<b>G-U</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>1 323.6</b>	<b>1 281.4</b>	<b>1 424.7</b>	<b>1 492.7</b>	<b>1 470.4</b>	<b>1 411.1</b>	<b>1 382.0</b>	<b>1 423.5</b>	<b>1 450.9</b>	<b>1 513.4</b>
G	Wholesale, retail trade, vehicle, motorcycle repair	401.3	388.7	404.0	432.2	411.1	371.8	380.7	388.6	380.1	356.5
H	Transportation and storage	95.5	87.3	106.8	119.7	103.6	85.2	100.3	100.4	116.8	120.6
I	Accommodation and food service activities	102.9	95.9	104.9	118.3	118.5	125.1	123.0	129.5	133.3	140.5
J	Information and communication	18.1	22.9	35.0	24.7	24.2	29.6	36.9	38.1	35.6	43.6
K	Financial and insurance activities	46.7	46.3	48.0	49.7	52.1	44.3	47.5	40.8	49.5	47.2
L	Real estate activities	9.9	12.0	11.5	9.9	14.2	15.0	11.4	13.3	14.7	20.4
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	46.0	47.9	68.3	62.6	76.1	64.7	61.6	56.2	61.8	78.4
N	Administrative and support service activities	83.9	80.2	86.3	91.5	101.4	106.2	102.0	121.1	119.5	111.9
O	Public administration, defence, social security	110.7	101.5	98.7	96.2	86.8	92.6	79.7	88.1	78.8	95.6
P	Education	117.2	119.7	137.4	145.8	131.5	128.5	127.2	145.0	127.9	134.5
Q	Human health and social work activities	69.3	74.1	75.1	85.2	83.2	72.2	72.8	74.3	75.6	92.7
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	20.9	17.9	21.4	32.2	25.8	27.0	23.9	21.5	21.2	27.6
S	Other service activities	79.6	70.9	78.3	82.4	82.2	82.6	74.0	76.1	84.4	84.8
T	Households as employers and own-use activities	117.9	115.2	146.7	140.9	159.3	165.2	139.8	130.2	150.4	157.2
U	Activities of extraterritorial organizations, bodies	3.6	0.8	2.3	1.2	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.4	1.3	2.0
<b>EMPLOYEES</b>											
<b>By activity, thousands</b>											
<b>A-U</b>	<b>All activities</b>	<b>1 438.7</b>	<b>1 424.7</b>	<b>1 536.5</b>	<b>1 509.4</b>	<b>1 560.7</b>	<b>1 557.1</b>	<b>1 527.9</b>	<b>1 552.5</b>	<b>1 585.1</b>	<b>1 595.6</b>
A	Agriculture, hunting and forestry	150.7	139.5	146.7	141.7	161.0	171.8	166.6	164.8	181.6	179.4
<b>B-F</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>268.9</b>	<b>280.6</b>	<b>278.1</b>	<b>255.0</b>	<b>283.6</b>	<b>299.6</b>	<b>282.9</b>	<b>282.8</b>	<b>295.4</b>	<b>287.3</b>
B	Mining and quarrying	1.3	2.7	2.0	3.2	2.2	1.5	1.4	0.7	1.3	0.9
C	Manufacturing	142.8	160.8	150.6	136.6	149.5	169.8	155.8	156.3	173.7	169.2
D	Electricity, gas, steam, air cond. supply	35.9	28.4	26.7	23.9	27.0	23.6	26.0	23.4	17.8	18.7
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste mgt, remediation	7.5	7.6	8.1	11.9	6.0	7.3	10.5	7.3	8.4	6.8
F	Construction	81.4	81.2	90.7	79.4	98.9	97.4	89.2	95.2	94.3	91.7
<b>G-U</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>1 019.1</b>	<b>1 004.7</b>	<b>1 111.7</b>	<b>1 112.7</b>	<b>1 116.1</b>	<b>1 085.7</b>	<b>1 078.5</b>	<b>1 104.9</b>	<b>1 108.1</b>	<b>1 129.0</b>
G	Wholesale, retail trade, vehicle, motorcycle repair	268.9	268.1	278.4	292.1	281.0	257.7	268.7	275.3	273.0	246.6
H	Transportation and storage	57.0	55.4	66.3	67.6	57.2	48.2	56.4	60.8	73.3	68.6
I	Accommodation and food service activities	82.1	78.1	83.2	81.9	82.8	87.9	90.8	96.8	83.0	86.9
J	Information and communication	14.9	20.9	30.5	22.3	21.0	27.1	35.4	33.9	31.7	38.0
K	Financial and insurance activities	45.0	45.3	46.2	47.2	51.1	43.7	46.3	39.6	48.6	45.6
L	Real estate activities	5.7	7.7	7.1	7.2	11.8	9.6	9.1	9.2	12.9	14.6
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	22.2	24.8	39.7	29.3	41.3	34.8	38.1	29.7	32.7	36.6
N	Administrative and support service activities	74.5	74.8	77.5	72.2	82.9	88.8	85.5	102.0	98.1	89.9
O	Public administration, defence, social security	110.7	101.5	98.7	96.2	86.8	92.6	79.7	88.1	78.8	95.6
P	Education	111.1	111.1	130.6	132.9	122.4	120.8	119.5	137.8	119.0	125.0
Q	Human health and social work activities	59.3	66.7	67.5	71.6	74.4	63.4	64.4	65.2	66.6	81.4
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	17.2	11.4	14.2	22.7	16.3	16.1	15.0	12.5	14.1	17.3
S	Other service activities	29.7	23.4	23.6	27.8	27.9	28.9	28.8	23.5	24.6	24.0
T	Households as employers and own-use activities	117.2	114.8	145.8	140.6	158.7	165.0	139.7	130.0	150.3	156.9
U	Activities of extraterritorial organizations, bodies	3.6	0.8	2.3	1.2	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.4	1.3	2.0

Note: Detailed metadata: <http://metalinks.oecd.org/lfs/20200831/67282>



**From:**  
**OECD Labour Force Statistics 2020**

**Access the complete publication at:**

<https://doi.org/10.1787/5842cc7f-en>

**Please cite this chapter as:**

OECD (2020), "Costa Rica", in *OECD Labour Force Statistics 2020*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/0f172304-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document, as well as any data and map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area. Extracts from publications may be subject to additional disclaimers, which are set out in the complete version of the publication, available at the link provided.

The use of this work, whether digital or print, is governed by the Terms and Conditions to be found at <http://www.oecd.org/termsandconditions>.