

# COSTA RICA

## Prevalence of tobacco use

### Youth

POPULATION GROUP	CURRENT TOBACCO USE (SMOKED AND SMOKELESS) (%)	CURRENT CIGARETTE SMOKING (%)	CURRENT SMOKELESS TOBACCO USE (%)
Men	9.7	5.7	1.7
Women	8.1	4.3	1.6
Total	8.9	5.0	1.6

Source: Global Youth Tobacco Survey, 2013 (13-15 years).

### Adults

POPULATION GROUP	CURRENT TOBACCO USE (SMOKED AND SMOKELESS) (%)	CURRENT CIGARETTE SMOKING (%)	CURRENT SMOKELESS TOBACCO USE (%)
Men	13.4	13.0	0.1
Women	4.4	4.3	0.0
Total	8.9	8.7	0.1

Source: Global Adult Tobacco Survey, 2015 (≥15 years).

## MPOWER Measures

### M (MONITORING)

Survey	Youth	Adults
Recent	Yes	Yes
National representativeness	Yes	Yes
Periodic	Yes	Yes

### W (WARNINGS)

Health warnings required by law	Yes
Images	Yes
Size (average-front/back)	50-50/50
Ban on misleading terms	Yes
Is any feature missing?	No

### P (SMOKE-FREE POLICIES)

Health centers	Yes
Schools (except universities)	Yes
Universities	Yes
Government buildings	Yes
Offices	Yes
Restaurants	Yes
Bars and pubs	Yes
Public transportation	Yes

### E (ADVERTISING BANS)

<b>Ban on direct advertising</b>	
Television, radio, and print media	Yes
Billboards	Yes
Publicity at points of sale	Yes
<b>Ban on product placement</b>	
Ban on promotion	Incomplete <sup>a</sup>
Ban on sponsorship	Yes
<b>Ban on product display</b>	
	No

<sup>a</sup> For more information, see Tables 9 and 10.

### O (CESSATION)

Toll-free quitline	No	
Nicotinic substitution therapy is available in:	Are the costs covered?	
Not available	---	
Cessation services are available in:	Are the costs covered?	
Primary care services	Yes, in some	Totally
Hospitals	Yes, in most	Totally
Doctor's offices	Yes, in some	Totally
The community	Yes, in some	Totally
Other	Yes, in some	Totally

### R (TAXATION)

<b>Price of most sold brand (pack of 20 cigarettes)</b>		
In national currency	CRC	1,700.00
In international dollars		4.37
<b>Tax (share of the final price of most sold brand)</b>		
Total taxes		69.38
Specific excise taxes		26.64
Ad valorem excise taxes		31.24
Value-added tax (VAT)		11.50
Import duties		0.00
Other taxes		0.00
<b>Evolution of taxes and prices</b>		
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2016</b>
Tax (share of the final price of most sold brand)	55.72	69.38
Price of most sold brand (international dollars)	2.54	4.37

--- Data not reported/not available

--- Data not required/not applicable

For definitions of the indicators and color-coded ratings, see the Technical Note.



	WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL	PROTOCOL TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT TRADE IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS
Date of signature (d/m/y):	03/07/2003	21/03/2013
Date of the ratification or accession (d/m/y):	21/08/2008	07/03/2017

## Tobacco: prices and taxes

### RETAIL PRICE PER PACK OF 20 CIGARETTES

	In local dollars (CRC)	In international dollars (PPP) <sup>1</sup>
Most popular brand: Derby	1,700.00	4.37
Most inexpensive brand: L&M	1,500.00	3.86
Most expensive brand: Marlboro	1,900.00	4.89

### TAXES ON TOBACCO<sup>2</sup>

#### Taxes as percentage of the final price of the most sold brand

Excise taxes <sup>3</sup>	Specific taxes <sup>4</sup>	26.64%
	<i>Ad valorem</i> tax <sup>5</sup>	31.24%
Value-added/sales tax (VAT)		11.50%
Import duty <sup>6</sup>		0.00%
Other taxes		0.00%
Total excise taxes		69.38%

#### Design and administration of cigarette taxes

Are taxes applied in mixed fashion (*ad valorem* and excise)? Yes

If a mixed tax system is used, is the tax burden of excise taxes greater than that of *ad valorem* taxes?<sup>7</sup> No

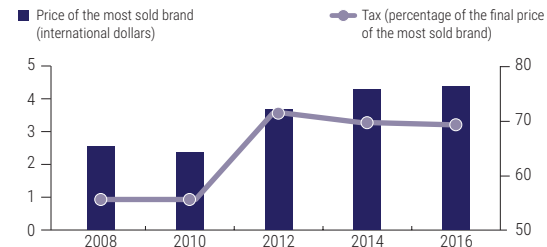
If an *ad valorem* or mixed tax system exists, is a specific minimum tax applied?<sup>8</sup> Yes

- The international dollar is a currency unit adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP) that is used to compare the value of products and services in different countries.
- Taxes: taxes imposed on goods or services which cause consumers to pay higher prices.
- Excise taxes: these have a greater impact on public health since they are applied exclusively to tobacco products and raise their relative price compared to other products and services.
- Specific tax: it is established in relation to quantity, for example, a set quantity of cigarettes, or by weight.
- Ad valorem* tax: is based on the value of the product, such as a percentage of the retail price, the manufacturer's price, etc.
- The effectiveness of import duties in raising sales prices has been declining as countries have signed bilateral, regional, and global trade agreements.
- Specific excise taxes tend to raise consumer prices more, relatively, than *ad valorem* taxes. Imposing the same specific excise tax on all cigarettes sends the clear message that they are all equally detrimental.
- If the tax calculated falls below a specified minimum level, a specific tax rate is applied.

### EVOLUTION OF TAXES AND PRICES ON THE MOST POPULAR BRAND OF CIGARETTES

	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016 <sup>9</sup>
Tax (percentage of the final price of the most sold brand)	55.72%	55.72%	71.50%	69.76%	69.38%
Price of the most sold brand (international dollars)	2.54	2.36	3.68	4.29	4.37

- <sup>9</sup> The country has increased excise taxes on tobacco since 2014; however, due to price variability, this does not necessarily have an effect on the tax indicator.



### EVOLUTION OF THE PRICE OF CIGARETTES COMPARED TO INCOME

	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
Percentage of per capita GDP required to purchase 100 packs <sup>10</sup>	2.05%	1.85%	2.59%	2.81%	2.67%

Have cigarettes become less affordable since 2008? Yes

Did cigarettes become less affordable between 2014 and 2016? No<sup>11</sup>

- <sup>10</sup> Note that a higher percentage means it is less affordable, which discourages cigarette smoking.
- <sup>11</sup> Cigarettes became more expensive between 2012 and 2014, then became more affordable from 2014 to 2016.

Percentage of GDP per capita required to purchase 100 packs



### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON TAXES

Are tax stamps or bar codes required for tobacco products?	No
Are duty-free sales banned or limited?	Limit of 400 cigarettes
Is tobacco tax revenue pre-allocated to a specific purpose or activity?	

The General Law on Control of Tobacco and its Harmful Health Effects (Law 9028 of 2012) establishes in its Article 29 that revenue collected under this law should be administered in a specific account in a national state-run bank, in accordance with the Financial Management Law. Thus the National Treasury can withdraw funds directly and in timely fashion—perhaps monthly—and distribute them as follows: a) 60% of resources will be allocated to the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) to be used for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases associated with smoking, and to strengthen the National Oncological Network so that it can be used for cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care; b) 20% will be allocated to the Ministry of Health to carry out the duties assigned to it by Law 9028; c) 10% will be allocated to the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (IAFA) for the purposes established in the aforementioned law; and d) 10% will be allocated to the Costa Rican Sports and Recreation Institute (ICODER) to carry out its sports and recreation functions.

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