

COLOMBIA

Recent trends

Colombia has made progress in several development indicators in recent decades. In particular, the net secondary enrolment rate has increased in the last decade up to 78.7%. The share of the population living on less than USD 5.5 a day (2011 PPP) also dropped from 42.6% to 28.5% over 2008-16. Meanwhile, the share of the population living on USD 5.5-13 a day (2011 PPP) increased from 32.8% to 37.7%, in line with the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) average of 36.5%.

Colombia's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita almost doubled between 1990-2017. However, labour productivity remains only 31.5% of the OECD average. Colombia performs particularly badly in terms of vulnerable employment, inequality and confidence in institutions. The country is the second worst performer in the region after Peru (49.7%) in terms of the share of people in vulnerable employment (46.8% of the employed). Despite improvements in recent years, the Gini index remains high, at 50.8, closely following Brazil (51.3). Finally, 86% of the population deems corruption to be widespread, higher than both LAC (74.5%) and OECD (54%) averages.

National strategies and international co-operation for development

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-22 “Pacto por Colombia, Pacto por la equidad” [Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity] aims to boost equality, entrepreneurship and legality. Cross-cutting areas include environmental sustainability; science, technology and innovation; transport and logistics; digital transformation; public services in water and energy; mining resources; identity and creativity; peace building; ethnic groups; people with disabilities; and equality for women. This plan is consistent with the macroeconomic and fiscal frameworks to guarantee macroeconomic stability and will be financed through a multi-annual investment plan between 2019-22.

The NDP develops regional pacts that identify and prioritise differentiated goals. These pacts focus on interconnecting the nine sub-national territories in the country. The national pact applies in all territories and seeks to strengthen governance, by promoting associations in sub-regions and developing strategic projects to dynamise the regions.

The NDP 2018-22 has been designed to help fulfil commitments towards the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs have served as a tool for promoting coherence within and among the different sections of the plan, as well as a key reference for setting targets aligned with a long-term vision of the country.

In terms of public financing capacities, Colombia approved a financing reform at the end of 2018 with the aim of increasing fiscal revenues. In 2016, these revenues represented 19.8% of GDP vs. 22.7% in LAC and 34.3% in the OECD. Colombia is on its way to improving use of technology for tax compliance. It is also a signatory of the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Exchange of Country-by-Country Reports and of the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on the Automatic Exchange of Information to fight tax evasion.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the institution responsible for formulating and guiding the international co-operation policy in its different modalities: bilateral, multilateral, South-South and humanitarian assistance, with the NDP as a general guideline. The Presidential Agency for International Co-operation of Colombia (APC-Colombia in Spanish) catalyses the international co-operation received by the country on three thematic areas: peace building; sustainable rural development; and conservation and environmental sustainability.

Of the international co-operation received in 2017, 48% came from the United States, 10% from the European Union and 8% from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Of the total support, 48% was dedicated to peace building, 30% to rural development and 15% to conservation and environmental sustainability.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, APC-Colombia and the National Planning Department are elaborating a National Strategy for International Cooperation, building upon the priorities included in the NDP 2018-22. This strategy will be released after the NDP is approved. It will be aligned with the Agenda 2030 and will prioritise traditional and non-traditional donors in areas including peace building, migration, equity, the “orange economy” and environment.

In the field of South-South co-operation, Colombia collaborates especially with countries in Central America and the Caribbean. Main projects include good governance, agriculture, rural development and health. In terms of Triangular Co-operation, the most dynamic facilitating partners are Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain and the United States, and the most important multilateral partners include the European Union and SEGIB.

	Key Indicators					
	Colombia		LAC [1]		OECD [2]	
	2007	2017	2007	2017	2007	2017
	2006	2016	2006	2016	2006	2016
Income and productivity						
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2011 international USD) [3]	10 307	13 255	12 603	12 970	38 972	39 586
Labour productivity relative to OECD (%) [4]	29.9	31.5	38.3	36.8	100	100
Households and NPISHs final consumption expenditure per capita (constant 2010 USD) [3]	3 716	4 668	4 305	5 491	22 098	20 441
Economic Complexity Index [5]	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	1.1	1.1
Average annual change in total factor productivity, 2000-17 (%) [6]	-1.4		-0.7		0.1	
Social vulnerabilities						
Share of people living in poverty, less than USD 5.50 a day (2011 PPP) (%) [7]	42.6	28.5	34.9	24.0	NA	NA
Share of people living in vulnerability, USD 5.50-13.00 a day (2011 PPP) (%) [7]	32.8	37.7	35.5	36.5	NA	NA
Life expectancy at birth (years) [3]	72.7	74.4	73.7	75.6	78.7	80.1
Mean years of schooling (population at 25 and older) [8]	7.2	8.3	7.4	8.6	11.0	11.8
Net enrolment rate, secondary level (%) [9]	72.3	78.7	66.6	74.4	78.7	90.3
Share of population that did not have enough money for food in past 12 months (%) [10]	36.0	39.0	34.8	44.3	12.0	13.0
Gini index [3]	55.4	50.8	50.8	46.2	32.7	36.5
Share of workers in vulnerable employment (% of total employment) [11]	40.7	46.8	32.6	31.0	12.8	12.6
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births) [3]	17.4	12.7	19.4	14.7	7.9	5.7
Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100 000 live births) [3]	75.0	64.0	87.1	74.4	19.0	14.0
Mean PISA score in science performance [12]	402	416	406	412	501	493
Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) (%) [12]	15.0		24.6		17.3	
Environment						
Change in forest area, 2000-15 (%) [3]	-5.3		-1.2		0.8	
PM _{2.5} air pollution, mean annual exposure (micrograms per cubic metre) [3]	21.5	17.1	24.7	20.3	15.1	14.9
CO ₂ emissions (kilograms per PPP USD of GDP) [3]	0.14	0.13	0.25	0.23	0.32	0.24
Share of population satisfied with air quality (%) [10]	68.0	65.0	74.0	73.2	74.0	79.0
Share of population satisfied with water quality (%) [10]	77.0	80.0	75.0	70.8	78.0	84.0
Institutions and perceptions about public services						
Total tax revenue as a share of GDP (%) [12]	19.1	19.8	20.8	22.7	33.7	34.3
Share of population satisfied with the educational system (%) [10]	73.0	51.0	68.1	65.0	64.0	68.0
Share of population that believes in honesty in elections (%) [10]	19.0	16.0	36.9	34.9	53.0	60.0
Share of population that thinks corruption is widespread throughout government (%) [10]	80.0	86.0	72.9	74.5	60.0	54.0
Share of population with confidence in national government (%) [10]	51.0	22.0	40.9	36.1	41.0	45.0
Share of population satisfied with roads (%) [10]	50.0	49.0	54.4	53.4	61.0	66.0
Share of urban population satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare (%) [10]	54.0	40.0	55.5	49.9	69.0	69.0
Share of population satisfied with standard of living (%) [10]	70.0	75.0	68.6	69.3	73.0	77.0
Share of population that feels safe walking alone at night (%) [10]	52.0	42.0	46.8	46.2	61.0	72.0
Homicide rate (per 100 000 inhabitants) [3]	38.8	26.5	23.7	21.9	2.0	1.8

Sources, footnotes and technical details can be found at the end of the country notes.



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