

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Recent trends

The Dominican Republic has improved in several development indicators in the past decades. The country is one of the fastest growing economies. The share of the population living on less than USD 5.5 a day (2011 PPP) fell significantly between 2007-16, from 34.1% to 21.%. The country increased its GDP per capita by more than two-and-a-half times between 1990-2017, but it still lags behind in poverty, unemployment and satisfaction with public institutions. The consolidated middle class remains low and 40.8% of the population lives on USD 5.5-13 a day (2011 PPP). Similarly, while unemployment levels remain in line with the regional average, vulnerable employment represents 40.9% of total employment. The net secondary enrolment rate also remains below average at 66.5%.

Results in terms of confidence in institutions and health are mixed. Dominicans' satisfaction with education is high (78% relative to 65% in LAC and 69% in the OECD area). Conversely, only 32% of the population believe in honesty in elections and 70% think corruption is widespread. While life expectancy at birth improved from 67.9 to 73.9 years between 1990-2016, the maternal mortality ratio (92 per 100 000 live births) remains well above the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) average of 74.4. The infant mortality rate is the worst among the countries surveyed in the LAC region (25 per 1 000 live births).

National strategies and international co-operation for development

The “Estrategia Nacional de Desarrollo 2010-2030: un viaje de transformación hacia un país mejor” [National Development Strategy 2010-30: A Journey of Transformation Towards a Better Country] is the Dominican Republic's roadmap towards socially inclusive growth. The National Development Plan is built on the four strategic axes of a state with efficient and transparent institutions; a cohesive society; a complex, innovative and sustainable economy; and sustainable management of the environment. Special attention is given to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) (ECLAC, 2018). Policies to enhance productivity include the consolidation of the sustainable management of public finances, the reliable provision of energy at competitive prices and the development of a quality education system that responds to national development. At the same time, the plan includes policies to consolidate participative democracy and the electoral system, improve the National Security System and professionalise the police.

The second strategic axis aims at guaranteeing education, health and social security for all by appealing to territorial cohesion, equality of opportunities and low levels of poverty and inequality. The recommended policies include the universalisation of public education from preschool to secondary education, the promotion of a culture of equity between men and women, the strengthening of the administrative capacities of municipalities to boost local development, and the reduction of disparities between rural and urban areas in access to services and economic opportunities. Additionally, the Dominican Republic adopted a Multidimensional Poverty Index that counts five dimensions: health; education and childcare; livelihood and labour; housing and environment; digital gap and social relationships, as well as 24 indicators in 2017.

In terms of public financing capacities, the Dominican Republic's total tax revenues were 13.7% of GDP in 2016 (vs. 22.7% in LAC and 34.3% in the OECD). The country has joined the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, but it is neither a signatory of the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on the Exchange of Country-by-Country Reports nor of the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information to fight tax evasion.

The international co-operation policy is in line with the National Strategy of Development. The National System of International Cooperation for Development (SINACID) is aligned to the National Planning and Public Investment System, as well as to the State Financial Management System. As of 2016, under the Viceministry of International Co-operation (VIMICI in Spanish), the sectors in which most of the initiatives were concentrated were health, agriculture and fishing, and education, followed by justice, environment, industry and trade. The main source of co-operation was through multilateral and bilateral funds. Key partners include the Colombian Presidential Agency for Co-operation, the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Japan International Co-operation Agency, the Pan American Health Organization, the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United States Agency for International Development and the United States Department of Agriculture.

	Key Indicators					
	Dominican Republic		LAC [1]		OECD [2]	
	2007	2017	2007	2017	2007	2017
Income and productivity						
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2011 international USD) [3]	10 271	14 601	12 603	12 970	38 972	39 586
Labour productivity relative to OECD (%) [4]	30.5	38.8	38.3	36.8	100	100
Households and NPISHs final consumption expenditure per capita (constant 2010 USD) [3]	3 548	4 813	4 305	5 491	22 098	20 441
	2006	2016	2006	2016	2006	2016
Economic Complexity Index [5]	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	1.1	1.1
	Dominican Republic		LAC		OECD	
Average annual change in total factor productivity, 2000-17 (%) [6]	0.2		-0.7		0.1	
	Dominican Republic		LAC		OECD	
	2007	2016	2007	2016	2007	2016
Social vulnerabilities						
Share of people living in poverty, less than USD 5.50 a day (2011 PPP) (%) [7]	34.1	21.0	34.9	24.0	NA	NA
Share of people living in vulnerability, USD 5.50-13.00 a day (2011 PPP) (%) [7]	40.4	40.8	35.5	36.5	NA	NA
Life expectancy at birth (years) [3]	72.1	73.9	73.7	75.6	78.7	80.1
Mean years of schooling (population at 25 and older) [8]	7.3	7.8	7.4	8.6	11.0	11.8
Net enrolment rate, secondary level (%) [9]	60.7	66.5	66.6	74.4	78.7	90.3
	2007	2017	2007	2017	2007	2017
Share of population that did not have enough money for food in past 12 months (%) [10]	59.0	52.0	34.8	44.3	12.0	13.0
Gini index [3]	48.6	45.3	50.8	46.2	32.7	36.5
Share of workers in vulnerable employment (% of total employment) [11]	41.3	40.9	32.6	31.0	12.8	12.6
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births) [3]	29.3	25.0	19.4	14.7	7.9	5.7
	2007	2015	2007	2015	2007	2015
Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100 000 live births) [3]	81.0	92.0	87.1	74.4	19.0	14.0
	2009	2015	2009	2015	2009	2015
Mean PISA score in science performance [12]	NA	332	406	412	501	493
	2018		2018		2018	
Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) (%) [12]	18.2		24.6		17.3	
	Dominican Republic		LAC		OECD	
	33.4		-1.2		0.8	
Environment						
Change in forest area, 2000-15 (%) [3]	2005	2016	2005	2016	2005	2016
PM _{2.5} air pollution, mean annual exposure (micrograms per cubic metre) [3]	21.3	23.7	24.7	20.3	15.1	14.9
	2007	2014	2007	2014	2007	2014
CO ₂ emissions (kilograms per PPP USD of GDP) [3]	0.23	0.16	0.25	0.23	0.32	0.24
	2007	2017	2007	2017	2007	2017
Share of population satisfied with air quality (%) [10]	74.0	68.0	74.0	73.2	74.0	79.0
Share of population satisfied with water quality (%) [10]	57.0	65.0	75.0	70.8	78.0	84.0
	Dominican Republic		LAC		OECD	
	2007	2016	2007	2016	2007	2016
Institutions and perceptions about public services						
Total tax revenue as a share of GDP (%) [12]	15.0	13.7	20.8	22.7	33.7	34.3
	2006	2017	2006	2017	2006	2017
Share of population satisfied with the educational system (%) [10]	72.0	78.0	68.1	65.0	64.0	68.0
	2007	2017	2007	2017	2007	2017
Share of population that believes in honesty in elections (%) [10]	35.0	32.0	36.9	34.9	53.0	60.0
Share of population that thinks corruption is widespread throughout government (%) [10]	68.0	70.0	72.9	74.5	60.0	54.0
Share of population with confidence in national government (%) [10]	48.0	46.0	40.9	36.1	41.0	45.0
Share of population satisfied with roads (%) [10]	49.0	64.0	54.4	53.4	61.0	66.0
Share of urban population satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare (%) [10]	55.0	52.0	55.5	49.9	69.0	69.0
Share of population satisfied with standard of living (%) [10]	64.0	67.0	68.6	69.3	73.0	77.0
Share of population that feels safe walking alone at night (%) [10]	48.0	35.0	46.8	46.2	61.0	72.0
	2007	2015	2007	2015	2007	2015
Homicide rate (per 100 000 inhabitants) [3]	22.2	0.0	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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