Paraguay has the lowest gross debt as a percentage of GDP in the LAC region

In 2018, Paraguay had a debt of 21.5% of GDP, the lowest among LAC countries due to strict fiscal rules and prudent macroeconomic policies. By comparison, the regional average was of 64.7% in the same year and the OECD average, 110%. Nevertheless, Paraguay’s debt increased 6.5 p.p. compared to 2007 and in line with the regional trend.

Paraguay has to strengthen key components of its public sector integrity system

In 2018, Paraguay had a score of 0 in the indicator of Quality of Regulations Against Undue Influence in comparison to a LAC average of 4.08 (in a scale from 0 to 9, where 0 is the lowest and 9 is the highest). For example, Paraguay does not have any regulations of conflicts of interest for political positions (e.g. members of cabinet or of legislative bodies) nor cooling-off periods.

Satisfaction with health significantly increased in Paraguay since 2007

In 2018, 52% of the respondents to the World Gallup Poll in Paraguay reported being satisfied with the health care system, compared to an average of 49% in LAC and an OECD average of 70%. This represents a 8 p.p. increase from 2007, the largest in the region.
### Public Finance and Economics

#### Fiscal balance (2018)

- **Paraguay**: -1.3% of GDP
- **Average of LAC country values in blue**: -2.9%
- **Average of OECD country values in purple**: -4.3%

#### Government gross debt (2018)

- **Paraguay**: 21.5% of GDP
- **Average of LAC country values in grey**: 64.7%
- **Average of OECD country values in blue**: 108.6%

### Public Employment

#### Government investment (2017)

- **Paraguay**: 3.8% of GDP
- **Average of LAC country values in blue**: 1.6%
- **Average of OECD country values in purple**: 3.1%

#### Public sector employment as % of total employment (2018)

- **Paraguay**: 9.2%
- **Average of LAC country values in grey**: 11.9%
- **Average of OECD country values in blue**: 21.1%

#### Gender equality in public sector employment (2018)

- **Paraguay**: 50.3%
- **Average of LAC country values in grey**: 51.0%
- **Average of OECD country values in blue**: 60.2%

### Public Procurement

#### Government procurement expenditures (2017)*

- **Paraguay**: 6.4% of GDP
- **Average of LAC country values in blue**: 6.0%
- **Average of OECD country values in purple**: 6.6%

#### Strategic public procurement by objective (2018)

- **Support to green public procurement**
  - **Paraguay**: 8
  - **World average**: 12
- **Support to SMEs**
  - **Paraguay**: 4
  - **World average**: 5
- **Support to innovative goods and services**
  - **Paraguay**: 0
  - **World average**: 1
- **Support to women-owned businesses**
  - **Paraguay**: 0
  - **World average**: 2
- **Support to responsible business conducts**
  - **Paraguay**: 0
  - **World average**: 18

* *See Notes*
Core Government Results

Rule of Law Index: Constraint to government powers (2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Paraguay</th>
<th>OECD average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gini</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Justice Project Rule of Law Index

Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Paraguay</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judicial system</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National government</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education system</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Gallup World Poll

Gini coefficient: Differences in income inequality pre and post-tax and government transfers (2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Notes

LAC and OECD averages for Public finance and economics and Government procurement expenditures are weighted.

* Data for Paraguay are recorded on a cash basis. Costs of goods and services financed by general government are not included in government procurement because they are not accounted separately in the IMF Government Finance Statistics (database).

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: http://www.oecd.org/gov/government-at-a-glance-lac.htm

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2020 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication: https://doi.org/10.1787/13130fbb-en

Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2020

This third edition of Government at a Glance Latin America and the Caribbean provides the latest available evidence on public administrations and their performance in the LAC region and compares it to OECD countries. This publication includes indicators on public finances and economics, public employment, centres of government, regulatory governance, open government data, public sector integrity, public procurement and for the first time core government results (e.g. trust, inequality reduction). Governance indicators are especially useful for monitoring and benchmarking governments' progress in their public sector reforms. Each indicator in the publication is presented in a user-friendly format, consisting of graphs and/or charts illustrating variations across countries and over time, brief descriptive analyses highlighting the major findings of the data, and a methodological section on the definition of the indicator and any limitations in data comparability.