

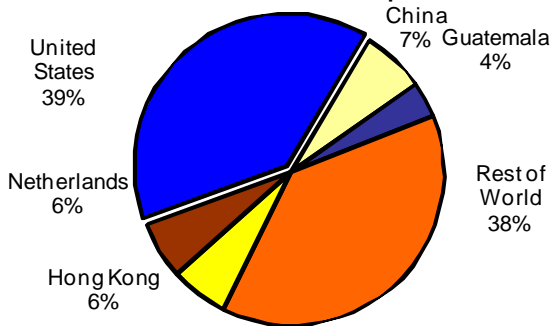


The United States Contributes to Economic Prosperity in Costa Rica

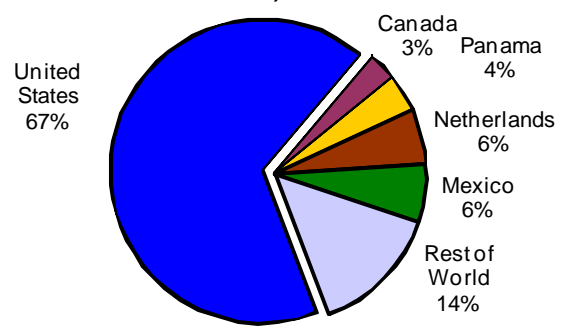


- In 2006, U.S. direct investment in Costa Rica reached \$1.6 billion (BEA, *Survey of Current Business*, July 2007); this is equivalent to 7.2 percent of Costa Rica's GDP of \$22.1 billion (World Bank, *World Development Indicators*).
- The Costa Rican affiliates of U.S. direct investors employed 35,500 people in 2005, and their value added contributed 6 percent to Costa Rica's GDP (BEA, *Survey of Current Business*, Nov. 2007).
- The Peace Corps currently has approximately 95 volunteers working throughout Costa Rica; since 1963, 3,097 volunteers have aided communities in Costa Rica.
- The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) provided over \$20.2 million in finance and insurance funds in 2006.
- The United States purchased 39 percent of Costa Rica's total merchandise exports in 2006 (World Trade Atlas).
- U.S. merchandise exports to Costa Rica grew from \$1.8 billion in 1996 to \$4.1 billion in 2006, an increase of approximately 128% (U.S. Census Bureau).
- In 2006 over \$520 million in remittance money was sent by Costa Ricans living abroad (Inter-American Development Bank).

Total Market Share the United States Represents for Costa Rica's Merchandise Exports - 2006



Net Inflows of Foreign Investment in Costa Rica (as % of total) 1997-2006



United States Trade in Goods with Costa Rica





Costa Rica

U.S. Companies Contribute to Economic Prosperity and Social Development



Future Business Leaders - Citigroup Costa Rica

Since 2000, Citigroup has supported financial education in Costa Rica by exclusively sponsoring the Citigroup Junior Achievement "Banks in Action" program. This financial education simulation has benefited more than 3,000 high school students in developing skills such as teamwork, decision-making, leadership and resource management. Citigroup also supports Habitat for Humanity's "Construction Brigades" to help build homes for families in need thus supporting community development. It collaborates with local NGO, Amigos del Aprendizaje, to educate the next generation and fight early scholar desertion. Additionally, in 2006, Citigroup in Costa Rica launched the Micro-Entrepreneurship Awards program in partnership with FUCODES. The program aims to promote local micro-entrepreneurship and micro-credit. Environmentally, it supports Rainforest Alliance through a grant from the Citigroup Foundation. The grant supports Rainforest Alliance in their efforts to build business skills and competitiveness for community managed tourism enterprises.

Promoting Education - Intel

Intel's education programs in Costa Rica have been ongoing since 1998, reaching over 18,000 teachers (30% of Costa Rica's teacher population) with different training programs and indirectly benefiting over 500,000 students. Intel makes an annual investment of around \$700,000 for a total of \$6.5 million to date. Of these, one of Intel's signature programs, "Intel Educar Para el Futuro", has been an ongoing program in Costa Rica since the year 2000. It is a 60-hour training program, which works jointly with the Ministry of Education and the Fundación Omar Dengo, to provide educators with knowledge of the effective use of computers and digital technologies, to accomplish better teaching of core courses in the classroom. It also includes a donation of computer labs to learning facilities. Over 11,500 educators have been certified since the beginning of the program. "Intel Computer ClubHouse" provides teenagers in communities of high social risk with a safe environment where state of the art technology can be used as a tool for learning and expressing creativity. Costa Rica has two Intel ClubHouses, which are visited by approximately 50 children per day, and help these children off the streets and out of trouble. "Salvemos nuestro planeta" is a program taught by Intel volunteers in which 5th graders are educated to understand the value of environmental protection and preservation. This program began in the area of Belén and has been expanded to the areas of Guanacaste and the Osa Peninsula.

Helping Children in Need - Procter and Gamble

Procter and Gamble (P&G) started operations in Costa Rica in 1999, with the establishment of its Global Business Service Center, employing over 1,000 people, as of 2006. Since its start, P&G brought to life its Corporate Cause in Costa Rica, helping children in need to *Live, Learn and Thrive*. Additionally through a very active volunteering program, by which P&G employees dedicate their time and talents to the welfare of their communities, P&G has led various corporate contributions impacting the lives of over 700,000 people. Amongst the most relevant are the construction of the Fernando Centeno Guell School for visually impaired children; the construction of "La Celia Model School", in Talamanca built over piers in order to withstand floods; and the implementation of the "Eliminating Barriers" program, by which equal access to educational opportunities has been created for physically challenged children in schools throughout Costa Rica. "Eliminating Barriers", supported by partner organizations United Way and the Ministry of Education, consists of creating a productive learning environment by refurbishing schools by building wheelchair ramps, handrails and facilitating access to classrooms and bathrooms for physically challenged children. This project has enabled these children to go to school and build their academic and interpersonal/social skills.



Costa Rica

U.S. Companies Contribute to Economic Prosperity and Social Development



Socio-Economic Development - Microsoft

Over the past ten years, Microsoft has supported Costa Rican socio-economic development through several programs aimed at promoting technology education and closing the digital divide. Through the Unlimited Potential Program, the company has established over 10 community technology centers in marginal areas, benefiting more than 10,000 people in several underserved communities in San José, Heredia and Guanacaste. The Partners in Learning Program is a joint effort with the Ministry of Education and Fundación Omar Dengo, through which Microsoft has benefited around 1,175 schools, trained over 13,500 teachers and reached about 764,000 students. This program offers software for only 3% of market price, provides tech support, and offers training in IT certification for teachers and students. Microsoft established a Microsoft Innovation Center at Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica, investing over \$500,000 and reaching more than 1,000 students and 132 professors. Microsoft has also supported the arts by providing the National Theater with a technology platform to provide an online virtual tour and the online sale of tickets.

Sustainable Development - Eaton

Eaton's "Comité de Proyección a la Comunidad" aims to promote a socially responsible culture among the company's personnel and encourages volunteer work to contribute to the sustainable development of the community in which it operates. The committee's main areas of interest are health, environment, education and national emergencies. "Agenda Verde" is a project through which Eaton informs the community about the company's environmentally friendly policies. It is intended to create a higher level of social conscience about the importance of development in harmony with nature. Examples of the Committee's activities include adopting the Dulce de Nombre de Coronado School and handing out Christmas presents to needy children. In 2005, Eaton employees donated 178 hours to volunteer work and in 2006 employees donated over 235 hours. Eaton also has a program to match employee monetary contributions.

Aiding Schools - Sykes

Sykes, whose main offices are located in Tampa, Florida, is one of the largest companies providing outsourced customer contact management solutions and services in the world. Sykes Latin America started operating in Costa Rica in September 1999 and employs over 2200 people in the province of Heredia. Sembrando Esperanzas is a program that began in late 2004, with the objective of providing support to single-teacher schools in Costa Rica, which represent 45% of all schools in the country. Between 2005 and 2006 Sykes Latin America reached over 160 single-teacher schools in Costa Rica. Contributions to the schools include classroom materials, uniforms, backpacks, as well as materials to repair school and classroom facilities. In the first half of 2006 the program achieved its goal of reaching almost 10% of all single-teacher schools in 5 provinces of Costa Rica, helping over 3,000 students. In coordination with the Ministry of Education, Sykes also works to improve math and science education by providing teachers with "intelligent" classroom materials that enhance the teaching and learning process.

Conserving the Environment - Merck

Merck & Co., Inc.¹ and Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) Costa Rica are dedicated to preserving Costa Rica's natural treasures, encouraging conservation and promoting environmental awareness. In 2001, Merck awarded a \$52,000 grant to INBio Parque, a natural theme park created by INBio, the Costa Rican National Institute of Biodiversity, to support INBio's initiative to promote biodiversity and educate the public about its value. Merck's Champions of the Environment program also provided INBio with an additional grant of \$8,110 to support an educational environmental campaign with public schools in the Heredia Community and the neighborhood where MSD is based. Other environmental initiatives include a \$2,000 grant to support an environmental campaign at the Carlos Sanabria School, located in the Pavas neighborhood.

¹ Merck & Co., Inc. is a global, research-based pharmaceutical company based in Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA. Merck & Co., Inc. and operates as Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) in most countries outside the United States. In Canada, the Company operates as Merck Frosst Canada, Ltd. In Japan, it operates as Banyu Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.