THE UPSURGE OF NEW INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN RISING CITIES

COSTA RICA AS A LEADING FDI HUB





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INTRODUCTION

In the last years, Costa Rica has transformed to become a global hub for FDI with inflows growing an average of 13% annually since 2000 and the country's GDP per capita ppp has grown 83% since 2000, one of the highest growth rates in Latin America.

To drive this transformation, Costa Rica has been able to leverage most of its key assets: a premier location to access global markets, the experience, innovation and commitment to sustainable growth, under one of the most democratically stable and safe environments, qualified and quality local talent for foreign investment firms, and diversified products and services exports that participate in sophisticated global value chains.

The effort has paid off. Costa Rica is now home to over 250 high-tech multinational companies, and exports nearly 4,500 different goods, from premium food products, to electronics and medical devices, to more than 150 countries.

And it continues to seek new opportunities, keeping its eyes on the future. Most recently these national efforts have extended to non-traditional regions outside the greater metropolitan areas, opening the door to new investment opportunities. Five main gateways for investment have been surging: The North Pacific, comprising Liberia and its surrounding areas; the Central Pacific, centered in Puntarenas and Orotina with its areas of influence; the Caribbean region, comprising Limon and Turrialba with its neighboring zones; the North, including Ciudad Quesada, Los Chiles, and Sarapiqui; and the South, comprising San Isidro de El General, Buenos Aires and Quepos on the Pacific coast.

The government has also strengthened these regions by providing greater incentives for foreign investors, and combined with the local resources, boost development and growth.

DISCOVER HOW **RESPONSIBLE**, **INTELLIGENT AND SPECIALIZED** FDI INITIATIVES ARE SURGING IN NEW LOCATIONS WITHIN COSTA RICA. Costa Rica has been able to make a strong footprint not only in Latin America but also in the global arena of FDI. It outpaces Latin America when it comes to innovation, business sophistication and strong economic growth as proven by inflows of investments in the life sciences, advanced manufacturing and services sectors that have created a pool of multinationals which have evolved from basic operations to sophisticated processes in a short time span.

DOING BUSINESS IN COSTA RICA

THE EMERGENCE OF COSTA RICA AS A LEADING DESTINATION FOR MEDTECH MANUFACTURING INVESTMENTS INDICATES THE **POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT** THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED FROM INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS.

(Medtech Report 2014 - Oxford Intelligence)



PROVEN TRACK RECORD

With over 250 high-tech multinationals operating locally, Costa Rica is now a strategic location for 6 of the top 20 largest medical device companies and 5 of the top 10 cardiovascular firms in the world. It hosts 142 companies in the services sector delivering 24/7 support, in over 10 different languages, and servicing the world over.

EXCELLENT BUSINESS CLIMATE

Ranked as the safest country in Latin America, Costa Rica has had a long standing tradition of democracy and stability. The abolition of its army in 1949 allows the country to be governed in peace and focus its resources on education where it assigns over 7% of its GDP. The nation has also implemented one of the most competitive tax incentive programs in the region for companies to leverage.

CRADLE OF HUMAN TALENT

The nation enjoys an impressive educational system ranked as #1 in Latin America by the World Economic Forum and surpassing those of the USA, India, China and Spain. The young, bilingual workforce also showcases a strong command in languages ranking #1 in TOEIC English test performance in the region. These advantages -- combined with an excellent work ethic, single-digit worker attrition rates, and the ability to quickly learn new skills -- has allowed multinational companies to incorporate more sophisticated processes in their local operations.

COSTA RICA STANDS AS A LEADER IN SUSTAINABLE, RESPONSIBLE AND **HIGH-QUALITY** PRODUCTION.

Costa Rica has 60 public and private universities with regional campuses, preparing students in business administration, engineering and the like. It also has over 218 technical high schools operating throughout the country, with nearly 97,000 students developing skills in electro mechanics, industrial electronics, industrial maintenance, logistics and distribution, precision mechanics, production and quality control, accounting, banking & finance, computer programming, electronics, graphic design, network informatics, software development, among others.



PRIVILEGED LOCATION

While better known as a top tourism destination for its luscious natural beauty, Costa Rica also provides a key access point to over two-thirds of the world's GDP, with maritime access from the Pacific and Caribbean coast to quickly reach either the US, South American or EU markets.

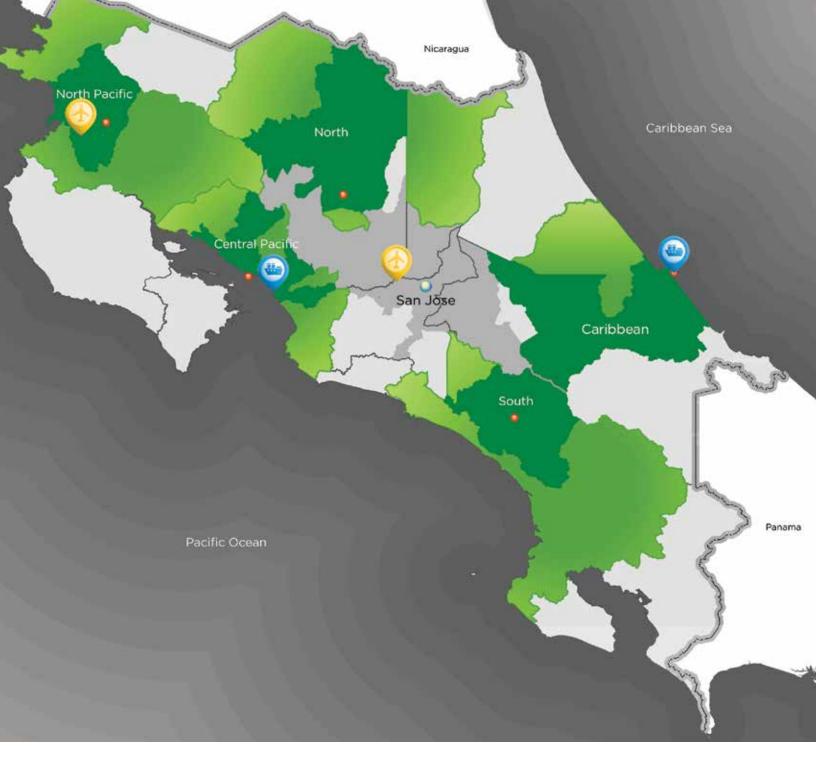
QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

More than 90% of Costa Rica's electricity is generated from renewable sources (hydroelectric, geothermal, biomass, and wind) offering competitive rates and several industrial parks providing the required redundancy for operation. The nation has enjoyed over \$1.1 billion in FDI in telecommunications since 2010, boosting internet subscriptions 308% and reaching a mobile penetration of 151% of the population, far greater than the 89% of the USA and several other developed countries.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS QUALITY

In the era where discerning buyers pay increasing attention not only to the product itself and its material qualities, but to intangibles like its provenance, how it was crafted and whether it was individually produced, Costa Rica stands as a leader in sustainable, responsible and highquality production. Over 90% of the country's energy comes from renewable sources, it is the only tropical nation in the world to successfully reverse deforestation, and the world's first to set a goal to become carbon neutral. It also ranks as #1 in Latin America in cooperation of employee-labor relations, even surpassing Germany, Canada, USA, Chile & Mexico (WEF 2015-2016). This makes the country an ideal location for companies seeking to improve the triple bottom line-people, planet and profit.





INVESTMENT

- Gateway
- Areas of Influence

Extended Metropolitan Area



TRANSPORTATION International Airport International Port

TOWNS

- County Capital
- Province Capital

Costa Rica's development over the past decade has been remarkable. This performance is now increasingly broadening to additional spatial boundaries and with them come new business investment opportunities.

COSTA RICA'S RISING INVESTMENT CITIES

FIVE MAIN INVESTMENT GATEWAYS

The North Pacific, Central Pacific, Caribbean, North, and South investment gateways offer ideal conditions for companies looking to do business in a country that is among Latin America's fastest growing nations. A new airport in Liberia, a modernized Pacific port in Caldera, boosted by strong investments and over a \$1 billion infrastructure development in the port of Moin in Limon, further strengthen Costa Rica's position as a global access point.

The country continues its quest to achieve further sustainable and equitable progress, where people across the nation can have a choice of high quality job opportunities. To that end, in 2010, Costa Rica incorporated additional incentives amongst its Free Trade Regime to drive investment outside the Greater Metro Areas (GMA).



FREE TRADE ZONE REGIME: THE MAINSTAY OF COSTA RICA'S EXPORTS AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Free Trade Zone System is a set of incentives and benefits granted by the Costa Rican government to companies making new investments in the country and it provides tax incentives, which are enhanced to companies establishing in areas outside the GMA, including the North Pacific, Central Pacific, Caribbean, North and South.

Income tax: Companies outside GMA investing at least US\$10 million and employing 100 workers are granted 100% income tax exemption for a 12-year period and 50% for a 6-year period. Additional 12-year renewals may be granted if reinvestment is made. Medium-sized projects outside GMA can also benefit from these same incentives with an initial investment of \$100,000 and 100 employees, if it is focused on services, advanced manufacturing or R&D.

For smaller projects outside GMA, requiring a \$100,000 investment but not minimum employment, a 100% income tax exemption can be granted for a 6-year period and 5% for the following 6-year term. After that, additional 6-year renewals may be granted if reinvestment is made.

COMPANIES CAN ENJOY NON-EXPIRING 100% EXEMPTION ON:

- CUSTOM DUTIES ON IMPORTS/EXPORTS
- WITHHOLDING TAX ON ROYALTIES, FEES, DIVIDENDS
- INTEREST INCOME
- SALES TAX ON LOCAL PURCHASES OF GOODS OR SERVICES
- STAMP DUTY

COMPANIES WILL BENEFIT FROM THE FOLLOWING INCENTIVES UPON APPROVAL OF FREE TRADE ZONE REGIME :

- 100% EXEMPTION FOR A 10-YEAR PERIOD ON PROPERTY TAXES!
- 100% EXEMPTION FOR A 10-YEAR PERIOD ON PROPERTY TRANSFER TAXES*
- * Note: The 10-year period will start after the 3-year grace period is over or when the company starts operations, whichever comes first, but the benefit will be granted immediately upon approval of Free Trade Zone Regime.









INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN RISING CITIES

- TRANSPORTATION, LOGISTICS & SERVICES
- VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING
- LIGHT MANUFACTURING
- MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, & OVERHAUL (MRO)
- CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES
- BIOTECHNOLOGY

TRANSPORTATION, LOGISTICS & SERVICES

As supply chains become more transport-intensive, they become more dependent on the quality and efficiency of infrastructure, logistics services and customs-clearance procedures. Costa Rica, with 14 free trade agreements that provide access to 57 global trade partners, including the US, Canada, and the EU, and an automated, on-line customs system known as TICA, has positioned the nation as one of the top 2 Latin American countries in the enabling trade index. (World Economic Forum, 2015-2016).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation and logistics companies are dependent on transport infrastructure to improve operational effectiveness and drive customer satisfaction. Significant improvements have taken place in the North Pacific, Central Pacific and Caribbean gateways in this regard.

- The Port of Caldera in the Central Pacific has had a \$55 million investment during the last 8 years. It has increased unload container capacity from 17 to 44 containers per hour and overall productivity has increased 2.5x. It is also quickly interconnected by route 27, through which San Jose's International airport can be reached in a 45 minute drive.
- The Port of Limon will receive a \$1 billion investment starting in 2015 and over the following years to boost and compliment the region's logistics flows leveraging proximity to the Panama Canal.
- With an investment of \$35 million, Daniel Oduber's International airport was opened in 2012 and now operates over 120 weekly flights to main cities in the US and Canada including Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, New York, Toronto, and Boston in addition to receiving over 50 private jets every month. Its cargo facility, to become operational in the short term, will further boost the country's aerial exports.

SPEED TO MARKETS

Time to ship to North America can be as short as 7, depending on the specific destination, which can be Baltimore, Charleston, Jacksonville, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Norfolk, Oakland, Philadelphia, Savannah and Seattle. In Mexico, the ports of Altamira, Ensenada, Manzanillo, Progreso, Veracruz are also easily reached.

Shipments to South America can be as short as 4 days port to port. From Costa Rica, the ports of Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande, Santos, Victoria, Salvador in Brazil; Buenaventura in Colombia, Iquique, San Antonio and Valparaiso in Chile; and Manzanillo in Panama are effortlessly accessible.

In addition, Costa Rica also offers direct access to Europe and Asia with shipment times as short as 14 days to destinations like Bremerhaven and Hamburg in Germany; Amsterdam and Rotterdam in the Netherlands; and Shenzhen and Shanghai in China.

Air freight from Costa Rica to the US can take place in an expedited 24 hour time span, a feature that several medical devices companies are enjoying and leveraging.

SKILLED TALENT FOR EFFICIENCY AND CLIENT SATISFACTION

In developing economies, transportation and logistics as a sector is growing rapidly but its success depends decisively on the quality and qualifications of its employees. In Costa Rica, 48% of export goods were shipped by sea and 33% by air in 2014. In the next 3 years, exports via air are projected to grow 7.2% and the start of Liberia's Airport cargo operations will add to that growth trend. This is why, Costa Rican talent has the track record and experience to execute diverse functions related to logistics and supply chain, including:

- Forecasting
- Consulting services (risk management, freight rate negotiations, benchmarking analysis)
- Supply chain management (procurement, inventory management, accounting and collection)
- Logistics (shipments, materials purchasing, imports, exports, re-exports, distribution, planning & freight billing)

Available warehouse space in Liberia, Puntarenas and Limon, offering refrigerated space as well as local quality support services for maintenance of facility equipment add to the right conditions for logistics and supply industries.

VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE & FOOD PROCESSING

Thanks to its rich volcanic soils and incredibly diverse micro climates that offer a wide range of production options, Costa Rica has made agribusiness a part of its economy since the early 1800s.

But the food industry has evolved quite a bit in this nation since then. Between 2009 and 2014 exports in the food sector grew 53%, from \$945 million to \$1,441.9 million. Currently, more than 350 different agricultural and processed foods are exported to more than 130 destinations around the world. Such demanding and dynamic markets as Germany, Italy, France, the Netherlands, the United States, China, and Japan have become longstanding consumers of Costa Rica's export products. The nation is now home to 9 of the top 40 food companies in the world including Kraft, Cargill, Mondelez, Unilever, Bimbo, Chiquita and Dole. (Food Processing's Top 100, 2014).

The country has been recognized as one of the biggest suppliers worldwide of high-quality agricultural products from traditional crops like banana, pineapple and cocoa in the Caribbean; to cantaloupe, tubers and mini-vegetables in several sites throughout the country, to the more exotic and trendy crops like soursop, mangosteen, rambutan and aloe vera in the Central and North Pacific, and the South. This production has been taken further up the value chain to export jelly, toppings and candied fruits, tuber flour (gluten free), sauces, condiments, fruit concentrates and juices, purees, frozen or dried fruits, and delicious dairy products, among others.

The North Region is also a leading producer of orange and pineapple juice, exporting its products to North America and Europe.

An integral view on sustainable development drives Costa Rica to act under the motto that "we preserve to produce and we produce to preserve". The country has expanded the value chain with organic agriculture, production under controlled environments, "green" products, fair trade and biotechnology applied to agriculture.

Over 7,500 hectares are certified to grow organic products, including bananas, pineapples, rice, ginger, assorted vegetables, aloe vera, cocoa and vanilla, among others. The most important export destinations include the Netherlands, France, Germany, Belgium and the UK.

AQUACULTURE

The country's ideal position between the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea, also offers the right conditions for aquaculture. Costa Rica has become a key exporter of tilapia, yellow fin tuna, bigeye tuna, mahi mahi, and swordfish. Sustainable shrimp farming activities are also in place. The final products exported to the US, Germany and other EU countries include gourmet jarred or canned seafood with a wide variety of flavorings such as oregano, basil, mixed vegetables or even jalapeño among other specialties.

About half of the nation's aquaculture companies operate in the South, producing 550 tons of trout each year, most of it for export. These companies are increasingly producing higher-value products, including smoked and frozen trout. Aquaculture industries have also made further use of their byproducts for pet food production, fertilizer products or bioenergy from the residues, to the point of becoming self-sustaining operations in regards to the energy required for operating.

NON-FOOD AGRICULTURE

Growing demand for sustainable construction products has led to growth in Costa Rica's bamboo industry in the South, where companies produce both construction materials and furniture using the fast-growing plant.

In addition, companies in several regions -particularly the North -- are taking advantage of

the vast biodiversity found beyond the GMA to harvest and export organic and natural products used to manufacture pharmaceutical and personal care products in Europe and Asia.

1ST EXPORTER OF PINEAPPLE WORLDWIDE OFFERING "GOLDEN" VARIETY



LIGHT MANUFACTURING

11.

According to a McKinsey & Company study, manufacturing accounts for 70% of global trade. But key trends are surging. Manufacturers are going to where the money is—they are turning from traditional local and regional (North American) markets to serving customers around the world. And they are moving from standard products to product differentiation, where responsible/sustainable practices and quality sourcing of goods come into play in order to escape the effects of commoditization.

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW AND TRENDS

Costa Rica has been able to set a footprint for itself in this niche arena, benefiting from key intangibles like the provenance, craftmanship and individuality of goods. It has evolved to a consolidated industrial sector that exported \$8,636 million, representing 74% of total exports of goods, in 2014. From precision, handmade Major League Baseballs in the Caribbean region and exclusive athletic garments, to patentedtechnology steel wiring in the Central Pacific, Costa Rica exports approximately 4,000 products to over 156 trade partners, including companies in electronics, textiles, plastics, jewelry, steel, metal mechanics, and paper, among others.

Light manufacturing companies recognize that Costa Rica is an ideal location from which to export because of its competitive advantages in relation to other countries. Costa Rica, with 14 Free Trade agreements and access to 57 trade partners globally, allows access to over 2/3 of the world's GDP. It's privileged geography permits easy access to the East and West coasts of the US, to South America, the EU and Asia. And this is complemented by a skilled workforce.

Costa Rica has vast experience in the manufacturing of goods which are part of several global value chains. In 2013, almost 40% of total exports of goods were linked to global value chains, such as electric and electronics, aerospace, medical devices, among others. It hosts a consolidated cluster of multinationals, providing an ideal location to develop business opportunities and establish links with other industries that support high-tech activities in several of their core processes, such as plastic molding, precision machining, plating, stamping and packaging, and most recently E-Beam sterilization, to name a few. As a result of this experience, Costa Rican talent is very familiar with working under the strictest quality standards including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 22000, and BASC, among many others.

Scattered across the North Pacific, Central Pacific, Caribbean, North and South regions are companies meeting global standards for advanced textile manufacturing, food products, luxury goods, agricultural and machinery manufacturing, sporting equipment and packaging, automotive manufacturing and metal fabrication.

COSTA RICA'S UNIQUE GEOGRAPHY PERMITS EASY ACCESS TO THE US, SOUTH AMERICA, THE EU AND ASIA.

MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, & OVERHAUL (MRO)



The International Air Transport Association (IATA) recently described Latin America as a "bright spot in the aviation world." Aviation giant Airbus agrees. In 2013, it stated that the region's aviation sector "has never been stronger" following significant growth over the last decade. Latin America's aviation fleet is expected to grow exponentially in the next 10-20 years with the Flightglobal Fleet Forecast predicting a rise from 1,860 aircraft today to nearly 3,550 aircraft by 2032, a growth rate of 3.3% per annum. Investment in MRO capacity will have to increase to match these new demands. Aeroinv.com indicated that the Latin American MRO market is expected to continue to double in size from \$2.6bn in 2014 to \$5.4bn in 2024.

Foreign carriers are also finding a very cost effective alternative to MRO in the region as opposed to North America. Costa Rica's central location at the heart of the Americas, just a quick flight from Daniel Oduber International Airport in Liberia to destinations in the US, Central and South America, means that MRO providers can leverage diverse markets.

Coopesa, with more than 750 employees has operated a successful MRO service in Costa Rica for the last 55 years. Conveniently located inside a Free Trade Zone, COOPESA offers its clients the duty free benefit when importing parts and materials for all of its maintenance projects.

The technical skills COOPESA offers further strengthen Costa Rica's ability to offer the best aviation professionals in the region, with broad and proven experience in commercial aircraft maintenance. Aviation skills are also developed by institutions like IFA (Aeronautics Formation Institute) which has been operating since 1995 and is recognized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It provides training in aeronautics, specialized courses, business training, technical consulting, special business, project development and aircraft and equipment leasing.

MARITIME MRO

With a lasting tradition of maritime activity given the country's wide access to the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, MRO operations for nautical activity is an intuitive opportunity.

The country is home to one of Latin America's most luxurious yacht marinas, Los Sueños, in Puntarenas, a unique location rivalled only by facilities found in far-away South America or Mexico. It offers 200 wet slips, 100 dry slips, fuel dock, and full-time staff that serves many luxury sports fishing boats and luxury yachts. The Caldera port is less than a half hour away, and it receives major cruise liners and freight ships.

In the Caribbean the port of Moin, with a robust \$1 billion investment over the coming years, has already started construction. The Moin Container Terminal (MTC) is a concession contract won by APM terminals and will include a world class, modern terminal that can accommodate New Panamax container vessels, the next generation cargo ships that can carry 13,500 containers. It will be one of a handful of new Panamax ports in the Caribbean and is designed to boost Costa Rica 's international trade and volume.

CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES

Started as a trend term and considered before an emerging industry, clean technology globally has become mainstream. It is projected to grow from \$247.6 billion in 2013 to \$397.8 billion by 2023.

The year 2013 marked a significant tipping point in the history of clean energy: for the first time since 2000, the world installed more new solar photovoltaic generating capacity, 36.5 gigawatts, than wind power (35.5 GW). Biofuels and solar power will outpace wind power growth in the next 10 years, with solar increasing from \$91.3 billion to \$158.4 billion and biofuels from \$97.8 billion to \$145.6 billion.

Costa Rica has been a leader in sustainable development, a model to the world. About 90% of its energy comes from renewable sources. The country has set a goal to become the first carbon neutral country.

A wide variety of clean energy sources account for that impressive figure. Hydroelectric generation predominates, with projects in the Caribbean region including Turrialba. But the nation also utilizes geothermic energy from the slopes of its volcanoes in Tilaran towards the Northern Pacific.

Additional strategies are being implemented to further diversify renewable sources with wind energy and more recently solar energy, an ideal activity in the North Pacific plains where sun exposure is intense almost year-round. Other innovative efforts are taking place in Guanacaste with jatropha cultivation for biofuel production. Companies with important biological waste, including the aquaculture with tilapia in Guanacaste and tuna in the Central Pacific, use waste to produce methane gas used to generate energy to make their plants self-sufficient.

MORE THAN 90% OF COSTA RICA'S ENERGY COMES FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES.

Costa Rica and its regional gateways, offering such diversity of energy sources and in close proximity to leading US testing sites for clean energy, is an ideal hub for energy R&D projects. Currently under way is research on hydrogen power by Ad Astra Rocket and solar energy by Earth University, both in the Northern Pacific areas, as well as by the National Institute of Technology, the University of Costa Rica and the National University, among others.

Meanwhile more traditional sustainable energy research involving biomass, bio-pellets and bamboo is taking place in the North and South regions.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Costa Rica is a natural gem of biodiversity. Encompassing only 0.03% of the world's territory, the country hosts 6% of its biodiversity, a cradle for research in key areas from tropical plants for biotech and agribusiness industries to clean energies.

Biotechnology research by private and government laboratories has allowed Costa Rica to explore food engineering and generate crops that are resistant to plagues or tropical diseases, create new seeds (oil palms and cocoa varieties), new fruits (Pococí papaya), and new live organisms (Mediterranean fly) as bio-controllers for plagues.

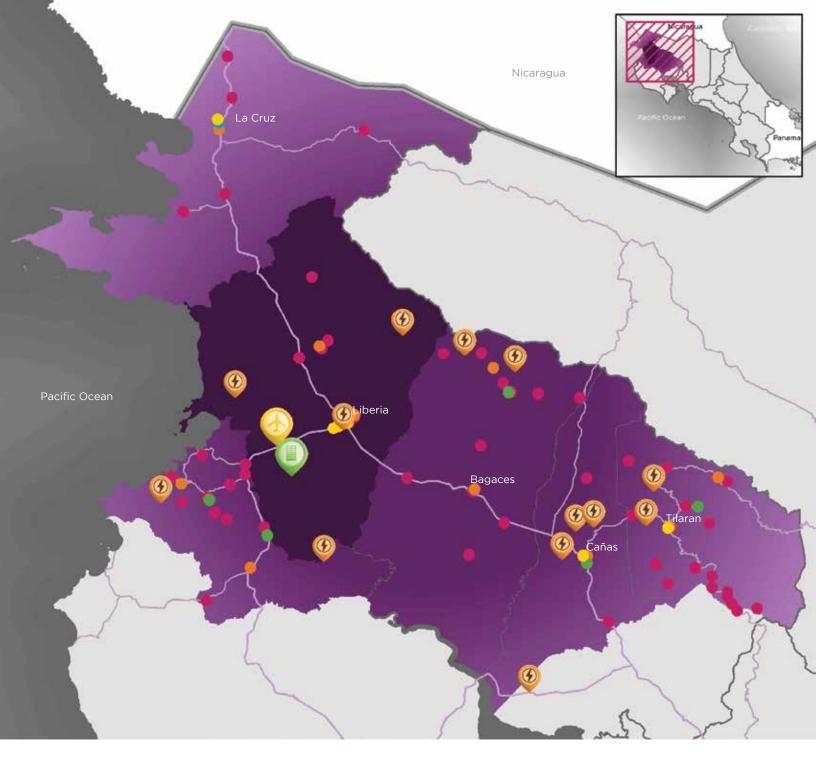
PARTICIPATION IN CUTTING-EDGE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Earth University's La Flor campus and CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center), two world-class higher education research institutions, are located in the North Pacific and Caribbean gateways respectively and are conducting ground-breaking research on a variety of tropical species, from sustainable mango and sugar cane to genetic modification of cacao beans for disease-resistant strains of the plant.

Activities including testing laboratories, environmental consulting services, biotechnology research and development, are great opportunities to leverage locally.

In the North, the Costa Rica Institute of Technology (TEC), a public university specializing in engineering and science, uses its state-of-theart biotech and molecular biology laboratories for public and private projects. The facility offers several services, including: development of protocols and diagnostic methodologies for biological material, pathogen cleansing for seed certification, genetic improvements and modifications, nuclei transfer using unique micro-projector and micromanipulation equipment, among others.





NORTH PACIFIC GATEWAY

- North Pacific Gateway
- Areas of Influence

EDUCATIONAL CENTER

- Universities
- Technical High School
- National Training Institute
- High School
- School

INDUSTRIAL PARK / BUSINESS CENTER

Solarium



TRANSPORTATION International Airport

ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION

TOWNS

- County Capital
- Province Capital





COSTA RICA'S

NORTH PACIFIC INVESTMENT

GATEWAY

The North Pacific of Costa Rica has positioned itself as a leading destination for tourism with access to beautiful beaches. But Liberia, Bagaces, Cañas, Carillo, Tilaran, La Cruz and its surroundings have also become a hub for diverse companies in food processing, aquaculture, agribusiness, services, research, clean technology and rocket propulsion.

Liberia is about 1 hour (48 miles) from the country's northern border. It is also connected to the Caldera Port on the Pacific Ocean by the Inter-American Highway, about a 2.5-hour drive (88 miles, 141.6 km) and to San Jose, the country's capital, which is 144 miles (232 km) away.

With Daniel Oduber International Airport in Liberia, the second major airport in the country, this region offers over 120 weekly flights to cities like Toronto, Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, New York, Newark, Charlotte and Boston among others. The presence of the country's second largest airport, with this volume traffic as well as that of smaller local airlines and private flights, makes Libera an attractive site for MRO, FBO and other aviation-related activities. The region is home to Earth University La Flor, one of only two campuses for the country's well-known research-based college that offers students the ability to specialize in bioresearch in agriculture, as well as other technology operations. A University of Costa Rica branch, the innovative Invenio University in Tilaran and a new campus of Universidad Latina, one of the largest private universities in the country, located in state-of-the-art Solarium Industrial Park, together educate over 3,000 students in areas like business administration, engineering and more.

Technical skills are also seeded in the region. The National Training Institute offers free and customized technical training according to companies' requirements in areas such as IT, water management, human resources and English.

Houston-headquartered aerospace company Ad Astra Rocket bases its R&D facility in Liberia, where rocket propulsion technology is being developed, and where the company is currently researching clean hydrogen energy.

The region's dry climate and geography with wide plains, close to thermal sources from the volcanoes, and rich biodiversity, offers an ideal site for research and development of clean technologies. Interesting developments with the use of the region's agribusiness and aquaculture byproducts have also sparked investments in biofuel generation.

AGRIBUSINESS, AQUACULTURE AND LIGHT MANUFACTURING

These sectors are strong in the Northern Pacific. Canadian multinational textile manufacturer Gildan does industrial weaving and dying in the region. Tilapia producers Terrapez, Rain Forest Aquaculture, and fish feed company BioMar, operate there. And agribusinesses like aloe harvesting company NaturAloe, mango farmer Manga Rica, and tropical fruit processor Del Oro take advantage of the region's generous growing season.

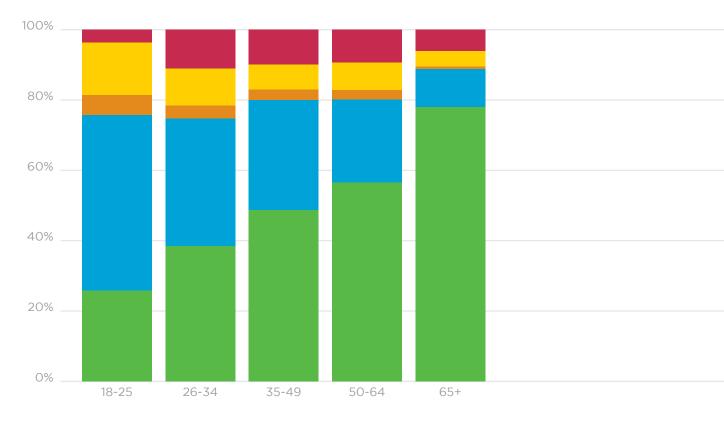
Liberia also offers real estate development options under the Free Trade Zone with industrial parks like Solarium and the future Science and Industrial Technology Park that is part of Earth University's La Flor campus.

Though tourism is currently the largest driver of the region's economy, encompassing the Four Seasons Resort, Andaz, and 2,775 five-star rooms and premium beach housing developments, it is now also home to many of the region's senior-level managers, who also enjoy the area's beauty.

The North Pacific of Costa Rica is surely a hub of opportunity for investors to capitalize on global trends taking place in some of the world's most active industries, such as clean technology, manufacturing, aviation and food production.

204,591 Population
63% Under 35 years old
69,980 Labor Force
30% With High School Education
10% With University Education

Aggregate data. North Pacific investment gateway comprises Liberia, Bagaces, Cañas, Carillo, La Cruz and Tilaran.



NORTH PACIFIC INVESTMENT GATEWAY

Population by Educational Level and Age

Source: CINDE based on data from INEC, 2015 North Pacific gateway comprises Liberia, Bagaces, Cañas Carillo, La Cruz and Tilaran

- Primary Education
- Academic High School
- Technical High School
- Less than 4 years of college
- More than 4 years of university studies

LIBERIA

Province: Guancaste Borders:

- North: La Cruz
- West: Upala and Bagaces
- South: Carrillo
- East: Pacific Ocean

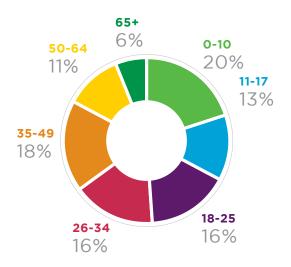
Surface : 1,436.5 Km², 554.6 miles²

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population: 69,830

Percentage of Guanacaste population: 19.3 Male to female ratio: 96 males per 100 females

Distribution of Population by Age:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015

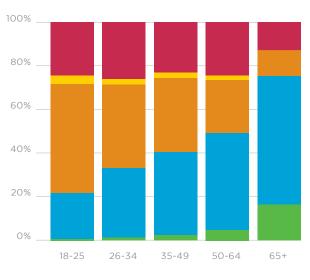
2. EDUCATION DATA

Schools: 36 (487 in Guanacaste) High Schools:

- Academic: 11 (65 in Guanacaste)
- Technical: 2 (32 in Guanacaste)

Universities:

- Private: 5 (Earth, UC, USJ, Invenio, U Latina)
- Public: 3 (UCR, UNA, UNED)
- National Training Institute: 1 (5 in Guanacaste)



Education Level by Age Range:

University Education Technical High School Education

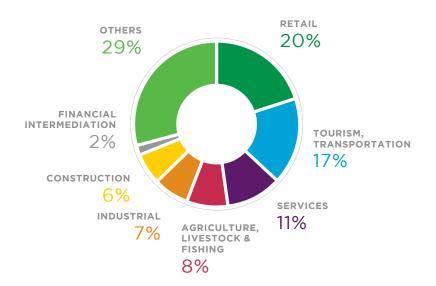
- Academic High School Education
- Primary Education
- No Formal Education

Source: National Census (INEC), 2011 MEP, INA and Universities, 2015

3. EMPLOYMENT DATA

Total Labor Force: 25,755

Employment by Sector:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015 Note: Services sector includes communication, information, scientific and administrative services.

4. UTILITIES COSTS

UTILITIES	MONTHLY RATE
Water (US\$/m³)	
0 - 15m ³	2.16
16 - 120m ³	2.62
more than 120 m ³	2.76
Fixed Charge	2.80
Electricity (Mid Tension	Rates-US\$/kWh)
Load factor of 90%	0.128

Internet (US\$)	
6,000 Kbps	432
10,000 Kbps	670

Exchange Rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source:

- Water: Official Gazette Nº 246, December 2013
- Electricity: Official Gazette Nº 83, Dec. 22, 2014
- Internet: SUTEL 2015, maximum rates of reference assuming selected location has access to optic fiber

Suppliers:

- Water: AYA
- Electricity: ICE
- Internet: ICE, Cabletica, Tigo

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BUS:

ROUTE	RATE (US\$)
San Jose – Liberia	7.6
Puntarenas – Liberia	5.5
Bagaces - Liberia	1.4
La Cruz – Liberia	2.6
Upala - Liberia	3.6

Exchange rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source: Aresep, 2015

TAXI:

- Fixed charge: US\$1.18
- Variable charge: US\$1.14 for each additional Km

Source: Official Gazette No 97, May 2015

6. HEALTH FACILITIES

Hospitals:

- Private: Hospital Clinica Biblica, Centro Medico San Rafael Arcangel, Hospital Cima
- Public: Hospital Enrique Baltodano Briceño

Clinics:

- Private^{a/}: More than 20
- Public (EBAIS): 11 (87 in Guancaste)

Source: CCSS and online consulting, 2015 Note: a/ includes dental clinics

7. INFRASTRUCTURE

Industrial Park:

• Solarium: In front of Daniel Oduber International Airport, 6.9 miles (11.1 km) from Liberia downtown

Ports:

• Caldera: 82.6 miles (132.9 km) from Liberia downtown

International Airports:

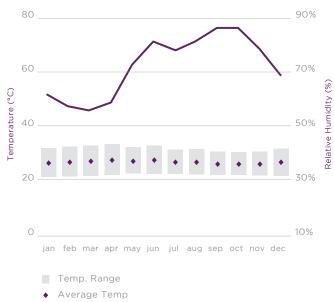
- Daniel Oduber International Airport (LIR):
- 8.2 miles (13.1 km) from Liberia downtown.
- 24 flights per day.
- 10 international passenger airlines (Air Canada, American Airlines, Copa Airlines, Delta Airlines, Frontier Airlines, Jetblue Airways, Taca International, United Airlines, US Airways and West Jet).
- 14 direct flights, mainly to cities in the US and Canada.

Access routes:

- Liberia is connected by the Inter-American Highway about 4 hours (133 miles, 214 km) from San Jose (capital of Costa Rica) and about 1 hour (48 miles, 77 km) from the border with Nicaragua
- Highway 27 can be used to connect to Puntarenas in about 45 minutes.

8. TEMPERATURE

Monthly Temperature & Humidity



9. DATA FOR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES:

The following tables present the demographic, education and employment data for the communities that border with Liberia:

Demographic Data:

INDICATOR	BAGACES	CAÑAS	CARRILLO	LA CRUZ	TILARAN
Population	21,627	29,0343	41,186	21,158	21,757
Male to Female Ratio ^{a/}	101.8	97.1	100.4	96.9	98.3
Age Range (%)					
0-10	19.5	19.4	19.5	22.4	17.3
11-17	14.8	13.8	13.1	16.4	13.6
18-25	14.0	14.8	14.5	15.2	13.0
26-34	14.0	14.3	14.9	13.9	12.4
35-49	19.1	19.1	18.9	16.8	19.6
50-64	11.5	12.3	12.2	9.7	14.6
65+	7.1	6.3	7.0	5.6	9.5

Educational Data:

LEVEL (%)	BAGACES	CAÑAS	CARRILLO	LA CRUZ	TILARAN
No Formal Education	6.5	5.4	4.3	9.1	6.0
Primary Education	53.6	49.8	47.4	55.8	51.4
Academic High School Education	25.9	31.1	27.5	27.1	28.6
Technical High School Education	3.8	1.2	7.1	1.0	1.7
University Education	10.2	12.5	13.7	6.9	12.3

Employment Data:

INDICATOR	BAGACES	CAÑAS	CARRILLO	LA CRUZ	TILARAN
Labor Force	7,830	11,036	12,515	6,409	6,435
Employment by Area (%)					
Retail	15.0	20.1	14.6	13.5	17.8
Tourism, transportation	8.5	9.7	27.3	12.1	11.1
Industrial	5.4	8.8	8.3	5.5	6.5
Agriculture, Livestock & Fishing	29.2	24.9	13.3	37.3	19.9
Construction	7.1	4.2	7.3	4.0	8.0
Services	6.0	6.7	10.5	5.9	8.7
Financial Intermediation	0.9	1.9	0.8	1.3	1.3
Others ^{b/}	28.0	23.7	18.0	20.4	26.6

Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015

Note: ^{a/} The ratio shows the number of males per 100 females

^{b/} Includes Education, Health and Public Administration among others.

GILDAN

Estimated Start of Operations: 2016 Sector: LIGHT MANUFACTURING Country: CANADA

Gildan Activeware Inc. was founded in Canada in 1984 by brothers Gregory and Glenn Chamandy. The company is the leading supplier of quality branded basic family apparel, including T-shirts, fleece, sport shirts, underwear, socks, hosiery and shapewear. Over \$2 billion in annual sales are reached by distributing its products in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia Pacific and Latin America.

The business sells its products under a diversified portfolio of company-owned brands including the Gildan, Gold Toe and Anvil brands and brand extensions, Secret, Silks and Therapy Plus brands. It also has licenses for the Under Armour, Mossy Oak, and New Balance brands and produces for private labeling as well.

Gildan is vertically-integrated, executing production processes from knitting, dyeing, finishing, cutting and sewing; all under a strong commitment to quality which aims to provide top branded manufactured products at the lowest cost to its customers globally. Its large-scale facilities which are primarily located in Central America and the Caribbean Basin to efficiently service the replenishment needs of its customers in the printwear and retail markets.

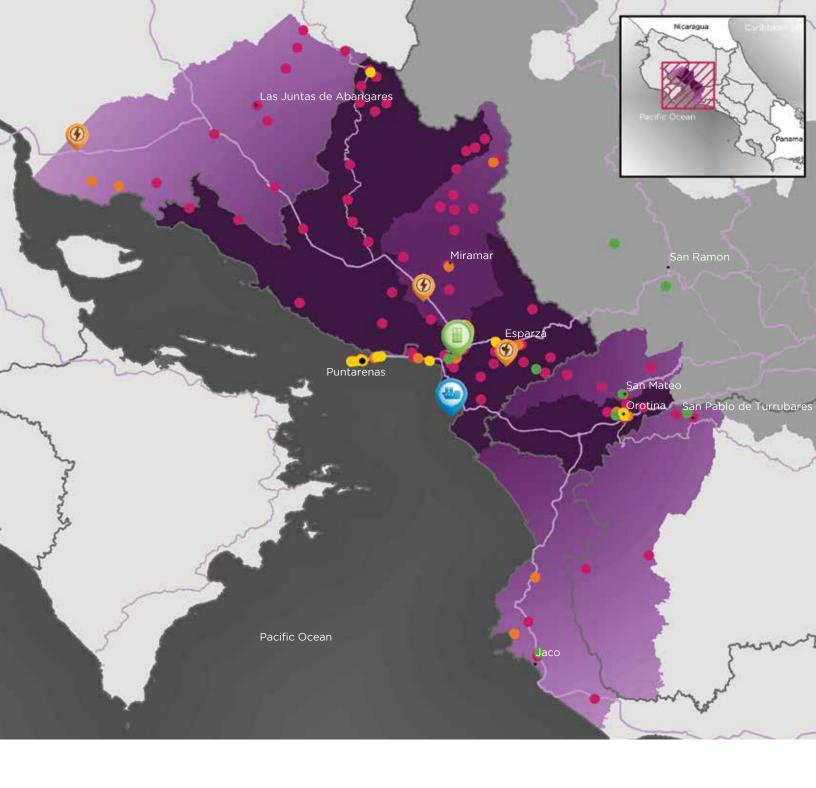
In 2014, Gildan Activewear chose Guanacaste, in the Northern Pacific region of Costa Rica, to establish a knitting, dyeing and finishing fabric high-tech manufacturing facility. The site is "strategically located for duty-free, quota-free access to US markets, and allows us to leverage our management infrastructure and expertise in Honduras, while at the same time obtaining a degree of geographical diversification" explains Gildan CFO Laurence Sellyn. Ease of entry into the US is via the DR-CAFTA free trade agreement. "In addition, this site is well located for our sewing operations in Nicaragua and has good access to ports for transportation to both the East and West Coast of the US", he added.

Another plus that the company considered is that the amount of land acquired in Costa Rica, provides it with enough space to fit in three facilities the size of its most robust operations in Honduras.

Investments in the upstream yarn and fabric mills incur high capital costs and are very energy intensive compared with swing pants, and it is here that Costa Rica's infrastructure, power and water availability gave it an edge, Gildan believes. In addition, the Costa Rican plant will be designed to achieve a 20% energy reduction target by implementing energy efficiency projects.

Gildan is committed to combine strong financial performance with best practices in corporate governance and social responsibility. It has been included in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index for 2 consecutive years since 2013, thus becoming the only North American company in this select group under the textiles, apparel and luxury sector. Over 50% of the company's energy is powered by renewable sources, among many other achievements. Gildan's plant will start operations in Guanacaste by the second half of 2016.





CENTRAL PACIFIC GATEWAY

- Central Pacific Gateway
- Areas of Influence
- Metropolitan Area Extended

EDUCATIONAL CENTER

- Universities
- Technical High School
- National Training Institute
- High School
- School







TRANSPORTATION International Port

ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION ICE

TOWNS

- County Capital
- **Province** Capital

ROAD



Secondary Road

COSTA RICA'S

CENTRAL PACIFIC

GATEWAY

Puntarenas, one of the main cities on the Pacific coast, is located 70 miles from San Jose – a short 45-minute drive to reach the beach from the capital. A convenient location, connected by recently opened route 27, allows the metro area to be linked to the Port of Caldera, the country's Pacific global logistics hub, which services Asia Pacific as well as the west coasts of North and South America.

The area has been traditionally known for being the seafood provider of Costa Rica as well as that of several other nations in Latin America. It's the heart of the yellow fin tuna industry, and home to Alimentos Prosalud's (Sardimar) state-of-the-art processing plant located in Barranca, which not only takes advantage of the area's rich resources but also minimizes waste by using byproducts from its processing to generate biofuel that makes its plant self-sufficient.

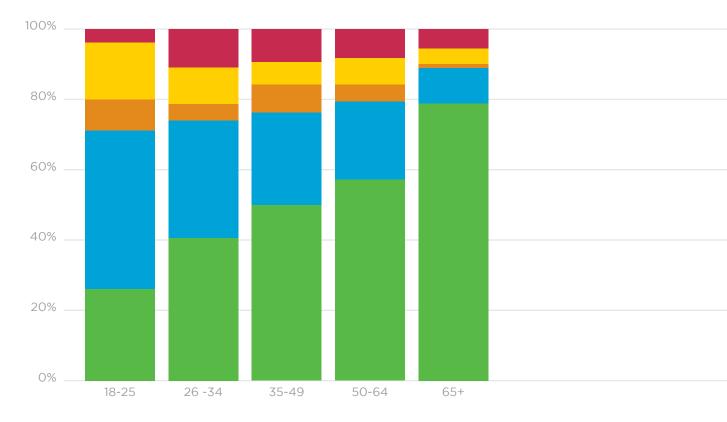
Aquaculture and seafood processing operations are also present with farming company Camaronera La Parrita, which owns 420 acres of Pacific white shrimp ponds near Parrita in Puntarenas. The company partners with Rainbow, a subsidiary of German seafood company Ristic, to deliver organic and sustainably farmed shrimp, certified in accordance with Natureland standards, to customers across Europe. Given this intense maritime business, a great opportunity is also present for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) in the boating industry. Activity in the port of Caldera has doubled in the past 8 years, driven by important investments to strengthen logistics. But the port also receives the most renowned cruise liners. And, in addition to the boating activity tied to fishing in the area, Puntarenas is just 30 minutes from Los Sueños Marina, the only luxury marina of its kind between South America and Mexico, making it an ideal stop for premier yachts that travel and do tourism in the area.

The technical skills necessary to support the fishing and boating industries also transferred to other diverse activities in the light manufacturing sector. The areas around Puntarenas, Orotina, Esparza and Atenas have trained and skilled talent to handle more complex manufacturing processes. Multinational company IKOR, leveraging the incentives of the Free Trade Zone and located in the Puntarenas Free Zone, designs and manufactures industrial filtration products. The company works with all available substrate materials presently offered for dry and liquid filtration markets. IKOR routinely manufactures standard reverse air, pulse jet and shaker bag designs. IKOR also produces highly customized designs requested by its customers or the end users.

In addition, advanced manufacturing is also present with multinationals like Bekaert, headquartered in Belgium and the world's largest maker of steel wire. It recently opened its first plant in Latin America in Orotina, to produce one of its key patented products Dramix, and is growing its operation there. An open local government relation allowed the company to build and start-up in less than a year. Some of its senior level management travel daily from San Jose while others enjoy living in the warm climate of the tropical coast and the amenities it has to offer.

337,497 Population 60% Under 35 years old 126,949 Labor Force 30% With High School Education 11% With University Education

[^]Aggregate data. Central Pacific gateway comprises Puntarenas county, Abangares, Nandayure, Montes de Oro, Esparza, San Ramon, Orotina, San Mateo, Atenas, Garabito, and Turrubares.



CENTRAL PACIFIC INVESTMENT GATEWAY

Population by Educational Level and Age

Source: CINDE based on data from INEC, 2015 Central Pacific gateway comprises Puntarenas county, Abangares, Nandayure, Montes de Oro, Exparza, San Ramon, Orotina, San Mateo, Atenas, Garabito and Turrubares

- Primary Education
- Academic High School
- Technical High School
- Less than 4 years of college
- More than 4 years of university studies

PUNTARENAS COUNTY

Province: Puntarenas **Borders:**

- North: Abangares and San Ramon
- West: Montes de Oro and Esparza
- South: Pacific Ocean
- East: Nandayure

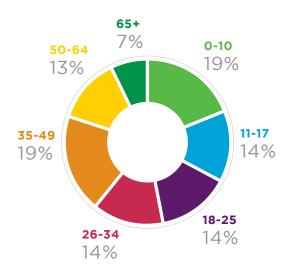
Surface: 1,842.3 km², 711.3 mile²

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population: 127,516

Percentage of Puntarenas population: 28.0 Male to female ratio: 99 males per 100 females

Distribution of Population by Age:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015

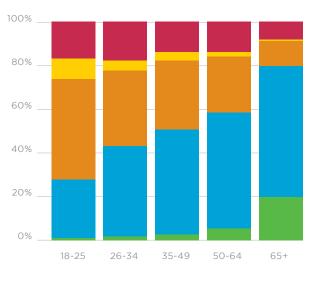
2. EDUCATION DATA

Schools: 155 (846 in Puntarenas) High Schools:

- Academic: 22 (101 in Puntarenas)
- Technical: 9 (33 in Puntarenas)

Universities:

- Private: 4 (UH, U Latina, UMCA, USL)
- Public: 3 (UCR, UNED, UTN)
- National Training Institute: 3 (5 in Puntarenas)



Education Level by Age Range:

University EducationTechnical High School Education

Academic High School Education

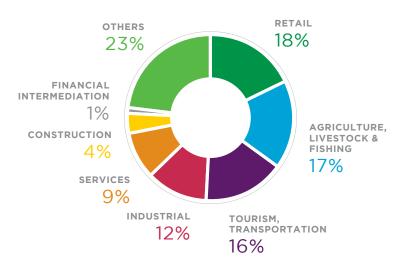
- Primary Education
- No Formal Education

Source: National Census (INEC), 2011 MEP, INA and Universities, 2015

3. EMPLOYMENT DATA

Total Labor Force: 46,637

Employment by Sector:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015

Note: Services sector includes communication, information, scientific and administrative services.

4. UTILITIES COSTS

UTILITIES	MONTHLY RATE
Water (US\$/m³)	
0 - 15m ³	2.16
16 - 120m ³	2.62
more than 120 m ³	2.76
Fixed Charge	2.80
Electricity (Mid Tensior	n Rates-US\$/kWh)
Load factor of 90%	0.128
Internet (US\$)	
6,000 Kbps	432
10,000 Kbps	670

Exchange Rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source:

• Water: Official Gazette Nº 246, December-2013

• Electricity: Official Gazette (Alcance Digital) N° 83, Dec.-22, 2014 • Internet: SUTEL, 2015, maximum rates of reference assuming selected location has access to optic fiber

Suppliers:

- Water: AYA
- Electricity: ICE
- Internet: ICE, Cabletica, Tigo

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BUS:

ROUTE	RATE (US\$)
San Jose – Puntarenas	5.0
Esparza – Puntarenas	0.9
Barranca – Puntarenas	0.7
Caldera - Puntarenas	1.5
Orotina – Puntarenas	1.3

Exchange rate: 535.96 colones per US\$ Source: Aresep, 2015

TAXI:

- Fixed charge: US\$1.18
- Variable charge: US\$1.14 for each additional km

Exchange rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source: Official Gazette No 97, May 2015

6. HEALTH FACILITIES

Hospitals:

- Private: None
- Public: Hospital Victor Manuel Sanabria Martínez **Clinics:**
- Private^{a/}: more than 5
- Public (EBAIS): 34 (113 in Puntarenas)

Source: CCSS and online consulting, 2015 Note: ^{a/} includes dental clinics

7. INFRASTRUCTURE

Industrial Park:

- Puntarenas Free Trade Zone: 6.8 miles (10.9 km) from Caldera Port.
- Parque Logistica de Granos: Located in Barranca, Puntarenas.

Ports:

• Caldera: 9.8 miles (15.8 km) from Puntarenas downtown

International Airports:

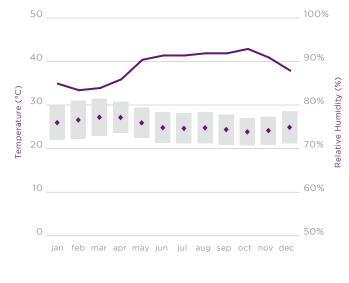
• Juan Santamaria: 52.8 miles (84.9 km) from Puntarenas downtown

Access Route:

• Puntarenas is connected to San Jose by route 27, approximately a 2 hours drive

8. TEMPERATURE

Monthly temperature and humidity





- Average Temp
- Humidity

9. DATA FOR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES:

The following tables present the demographic, education and employment data for the communities that border with Puntarenas county:

Demographic Data:

INDICATOR	ABANGARES	NANDAYURE	MONTES DE ORO	ESPARZA	SAN RAMON
Population	19,958	12,319	14,375	31,726	89,276
Male to Female Ratio ^{a/}	99.9	104.0	98.9	96.6	96.4
Age Range (%)					
0-10	18.3	16.9	16.7	17.7	16.9
11-17	14.1	14.0	12.8	13.4	13.0
18-25	14.6	13.8	14.2	14.3	16.0
26-34	12.7	12.5	13.6	13.6	13.5
35-49	20.2	19.9	20.6	19.5	19.5
50-64	12.4	13.7	13.1	13.4	13.1
65+	7.8	9.3	9.0	8.1	8.0

Educational Data:

LEVEL (%)	ABANGARES	NANDAYURE	MONTES DE ORO	ESPARZA	SAN RAMON
No Formal Education	6.4	5.9	6.2	4.2	4.5
Primary Education	54.7	56.0	47.2	44.4	47.5
Academic High School Education	26.9	18.9	30.6	34.3	28.5
Technical High School Education	2.6	10.0	1.8	1.4	1.7
University Education	9.4	9.2	14.3	15.7	17.8

Employment Data:

INDICATOR	ABANGARES	NANDAYURE	MONTES DE ORO	ESPARZA	SAN RAMON
Labor Force	6,526	2,370	5,085	11,647	36,993
Employment by Area (%)					
Retail	15.4	14.6	17.7	20.8	18.0
Tourism, transportation	11.8	11.3	13.3	13.9	10.2
Industrial	12.5	4.7	13.7	16.9	10.5
Agriculture, Livestock & Fishing	24.3	33.8	12.8	7.3	16.8
Construction	5.1	6.9	6.0	6.7	7.3
Services	5.6	5.0	7.3	7.5	8.7
Financial Intermediation	1.0	0.4	0.7	1.2	1.7
Others ^{b/}	24.5	23.2	28.5	25.8	26.8

Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015 Note:

 $^{\rm a\prime}$ The ratio shows the number of males per 100 females.

^{b/} Includes Education, Health and Public Administration among others.

OROTINA

Province: Alajuela

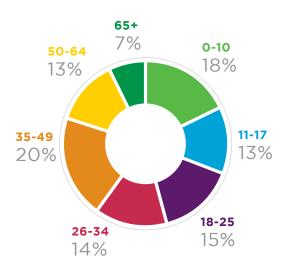
Borders:

- North: San Mateo
- West: Atenas
- South: Turrubares and Garabito
- East: Esparza
- Surface: 141.9 km², 54.8 mile²

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population: 22,557 Percentage of Alajuela population: 2.4 Male to female ratio: 96 males per 100 females

Distribution of Population by Age:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015

2. EDUCATION DATA

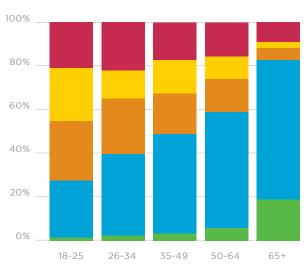
Schools: 16 (829 in Alajuela) High Schools:

- Academic: 4 (145 in Alajuela)
- Technical: 1 (46 in Alajuela)

Universities:

- Private: 1 (Boston)
- Public: 1 (UNED)

National Training Institute: 14 in Alajuela



Education Level by Age Range:

University Education
 Technical High School Education
 Academic High School Education
 Primary Education

No Formal Education

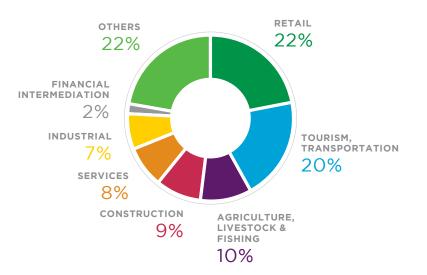
Source: National Census (INEC), 2011

MEP, INA and Universities, 2015

3. EMPLOYMENT DATA

Total Labor Force: 8,081

Employment by Sector:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015 Note: Services sector includes communication, information, scientific and administrative services.

4. UTILITIES COSTS

UTILITIES	MONTHLY RATE
Water (US\$/m³)	
Fixed Charge (0 - 15 m ³	18.47
16 - 80m ³	1.54
81 - 120m ³	3.08
More than 120 m ³	3.08
Electricity (Mid Tension	Rates-US\$/kWh)
Load factor of 90%	0.128
Internet (US\$)	
6,000 Kbps	432
10,000 Kbps	670

Exchange Rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source:

- Water: Municipality of Orotina
- Electricity: Official Gazette (Alcance Digital) Nº 83, Dec. 22, 2014
- Internet: SUTEL, 2015, maximum rates of reference assuming selected location has access to optic fiber

Suppliers

- Water: Municipality of Orotina
- Electricity: ICE
- Internet: ICE, Cabletica, Tigo

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BUS:

ROUTE	RATE (US\$)
Orotina – San Jose	2.3
Orotina – San Mateo	0.3
Orotina – Esparza	0.9
Orotina – Jaco	1.8
Orotina - Puntarenas	1.4

Exchange rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source: Aresep, 2015

TAXI:

- Fixed charge: US\$1.18
- Variable charge: US\$1.14 for each additional km

Exchange rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source: Official Gazette No 97, May-2015

6. HEALTH FACILITIES

Hospitals:

- Private: None
- Public: None

Clinics:

- Private^{a/}:1
- Public (EBAIS): 5

Source: CCSS and online consulting, 2015 Note: ^{a/} includes dental clinics

7. INFRASTRUCTURE

Industrial Park:

• Saret: 21.7 miles (34.9 km) from Orotina downtown

Ports:

• Caldera: 16.0 miles (25.7 km) from Orotina downtown

International Airports:

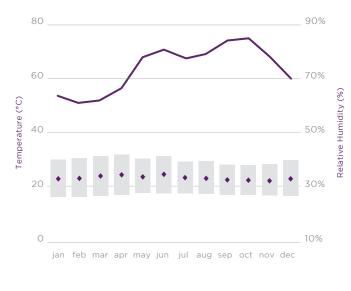
• Juan Santamaria: 26.7 miles (42.9 km) from Orotina downtown

Access route:

• Orotina is connected to San Jose via route 27, about a 45-minute drive

8. TEMPERATURE

Monthly temperature and humidity



Temp. Range

- Average Temp
- Humidity

9. DATA FOR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES:

The following tables present the demographic, education and employment data for the communities that border with Orotina:

Demographic Data:

INDICATOR	SAN MATEO	ATENAS	GARABITO	ESPARZA	TURRUBARES
Population	6,817	28,328	19,161	31,726	6,111
Male to Female Ratio	104.0	100.1	100.7	96.6	107.2
Age Range (%)					
0-10	16.3	15.0	21.9	17.7	17.0
11-17	12.5	11.6	12.3	13.4	14.1
18-25	13.4	14.4	15.6	14.3	14.2
26-34	13.3	14.2	18.3	13.6	12.5
35-49	18.6	20.2	19.7	19.5	19.5
50-64	15.0	15.0	8.8	13.4	14.5
65+	10.9	9.6	3.6	8.1	8.2

Educational Data:

LEVEL (%)	SAN MATEO	ATENAS	GARABITO	ESPARZA	TURRUBARES
No Formal Education	4.5	3.7	6.1	4.2	7.3
Primary Education	52.7	46.4	52.0	44.4	58.2
Academic High School Education	18.1	27.6	23.3	34.3	9.7
Technical High School Education	12.8	1.7	8.4	1.4	16.2
University Education	11.8	20.6	10.1	15.7	8.6

Employment Data:

INDICATOR	SAN MATEO	ATENAS	GARABITO	ESPARZA	TURRUBARES
Labor Force	2,817	12,670	7,891	11,647	1,385
Employment by Area (%)					
Retail	16.1	18.7	17.0	20.8	10.9
Tourism, transportation	10.3	9.1	34.1	13.9	8.5
Industrial	5.0	11.8	4.0	16.9	4.4
Agriculture, Livestock & Fishing	32.0	12.5	7.1	7.3	33.0
Construction	5.2	8.2	10.7	6.7	8.4
Services	5.6	8.8	12.2	7.5	7.8
Financial Intermediation	1.8	1.7	0.9	1.2	0.6
Others ^{b/}	24.0	29.2	14.1	25.8	26.4

Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015

Note: ^{a/} The ratio shows the number of males per 100 females.

^{b/} Includes Education, Health and Public Administration among others.

BEKAERT



Started operations: 2014 Sector: LIGHT MANUFACTURING Country: BELGIUM

Transforming steel wire and applying advanced coating know-how. That is what Bekaert does flawlessly.

Headquartered in Belgium, the company has been improving both the bulk and surface properties of steel wire products for over 130 years to become a leading business in this industry with more than 4 billion in annual sales. Thanks to Bekaert's technological support and global presence in EMEA, North America, Latin America and Asia Pacific, customers can benefit from a strong commitment to local service, delivered by over 27,000 employees worldwide.

A combination of technological leadership in wire transformation of over 2.8 tons per year, and focus on innovation; provides customers with a broad range of high technological products and solutions for various sectors such as automotive, construction, energy and utilities, agriculture, consumer goods, equipment and basic materials.

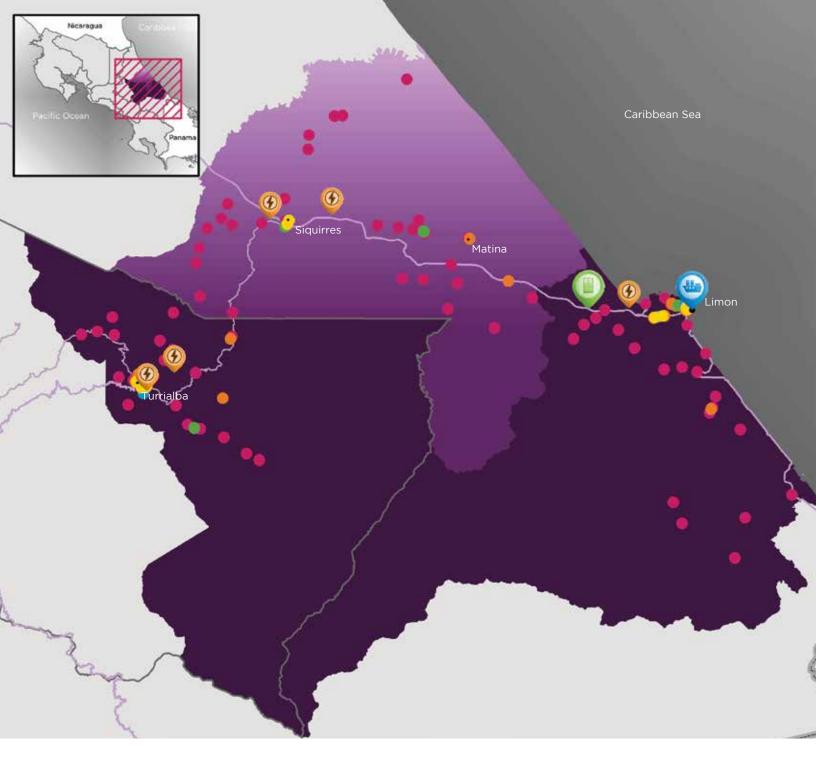
Bekaert was looking to expand its presence in Central America to better serve its markets there. It found a great hub in Arcelor Mittal's steel wire plant in Costa Rica and acquired 73% of the shares of this entity. In August 2014, the company also inaugurated a new state-of-the-art facility in Orotina, about 40 minutes from San Jose, dedicated to producing Dramix[®] which is one of Bekaert's most innovative products for concrete reinforcement. Bekaert was able to have this new operation fully functional in less than half a year. Although the country has strict environmental regulations, the company managed to ensure full compliance. Valuable and open support from the local government or municipality, as well as other institutions, allowed them to complete all installation processes and permits in a record 3-month time.

Bekaert also found talent acquisition locally to be an easy process. "Costa Rica has an excellent educational system, our recruitment process has been very successful. We have found good engineers in Orotina and Esparza and have seen that Costa Ricans have a great attitude, they are very committed and willing to learn" said Mr. Simon Pineda, General Manager for Central America & Caribbean.

The company's location, which is less than 20 minutes from Caldera Port in the Pacific, makes its logistics processes easier, cost-competitive and provides quick access to its core markets. "Our relationship with the port authorities is great, it's actually one of the best port services we've ever encountered" added Mr. Pineda.

Orotina is also located outside of the Greater Metropolitan Area, which provides enhanced tax incentives to companies establishing in those areas. Bekaert is able to leverage those benefits and perceives them as a good sign of the open and friendly business environment that Costa Rica has to offer. For more information on Bekaert: www.bekaert.com

BEKAERT



CARIBBEAN GATEWAY

- Caribbean Gateway
- Area of Influence

EDUCATIONAL CENTER

- Universities •
- Technical High School
- National Training Institute
- High School
- School

INDUSTRIAL PARK / BUSINESS CENTER



TRANSPORTATION



Ð

International Port

ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION ICE

TOWNS

- County Capital
- Province Capital

ROAD



Secondary Road

COSTA RICA'S

CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT

GATEWAY

The Caribbean coast of Costa Rica has been the country's main marine trade gateway since the early 1900s.

Just a few hours from the Panama Canal and with quick access to the Caribbean as well as the main ports in the US Eastern seaboard, Limon offers an ideal location. The port is also receiving a \$1 billion investment that will enable a state-of-theart facility to further serve the deeper Panamax freightliners. The region is undoubtedly a key location for logistics operations and services.

Also under way, is a proposal to build a \$6 billion transshipment facility by a consortium of 4 companies, AECOM, L3 Security, CMA and CDG which is called AMEGA. It will take freight from vessels too large to enter the Panama Canal and ship it by rail to large freighters on the Pacific Ocean -- or vice versa.

The Caribbean coast is also known as the "fruit bowl" of the world. Costa Rica is the #1 exporter of golden pineapple to the world, servicing the US and European markets, and it is also the third largest banana producer and supplier to the world. Recent innovations in organic cacao plantations, diverse tropical crops, and a global trend for sustainable agriculture and carbon neutral cultivation, all make the region a prime location for food industries looking to source the best of the best for their gourmet, premium food products.

Local and multinational companies are leveraging the sourcing but also the skilled workforce knowledge and capabilities to execute advanced food processes. Such is the case of cassava and other tuber chip production, premium fruit juices and ready-to-serve beverages, dried tropical fruits which are a trending taste in Europe, jellies, jams, preparations, sauces and condiments, all of which have positioned Costa Rica as a global supplier.

Several multinationals are present in the region including Chiquita and Dole. But other industry leaders in advanced food processing include Fructa, Tropifoods and Alca Trading, most located in the areas surrounding the town of Siquirres, and leading active, high-tech operations where purees and juices are made under the most rigorous certifications including HACCP, Rainforest Alliance, USDA Organic, among several others. And they are shipping the final goods from Costa Rica to their customers worldwide.

The Caribbean's agribusiness and wide biodiversity, with its tropical humid rainforests in most of its surroundings, has made this region of Costa Rica an ideal spot for biological research and development. At the CATIE - Costa Rica's Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center - located in Turrialba about 1 hour from Limon, groundbreaking research on the biology of tropical plants and crops is taking shape, including innovations around a disease-proof cacao bean, created using the largest international collection of cacao varieties in the world.

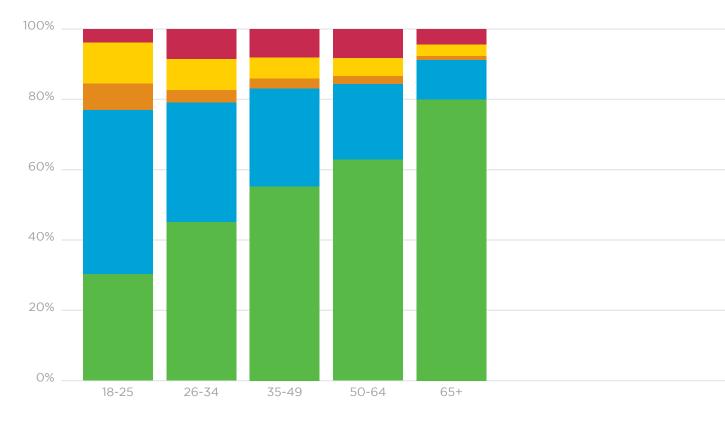
In the city of Turrialba, further activities are taking place in production manufacturing. Turrialba is not only close to the Port of Limon, but it is also about 45 minutes from Cartago, home of Costa Rica's Technological Institute, one of the nation's leading universities and a hub of skilled talent in engineering, software development and other key technical areas.

Turrialba has proven its success in industrial manufacturing, hosting companies like Rawlings where the official 2.4 million baseballs for Major League Baseball games are handcrafted with the utmost precision. Rawlings, a subsidiary of Jarden International, is also stringing lacrosse sticks and operating an English-speaking customer service call center.

Firestone Industrial Products Co. also produces air springs for a growing global vehicle and industrial air suspension market in a modern, advanced manufacturing facility in Turrialba, one of a handful of its kind that the company has around the world.

286,083 Population
63% Under 35 years old
131,031 Labor Force
28% With High School Education
9% With University Education

^Aggregate data. Caribbean gateway comprises Limon county, Siquirres, Matina, Turrialba, Jiménez and Paraíso.



CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT GATEWAY

Population by Educational Level and Age

Source: CINDE based on data from INEC, 2015 Caribbean gateway comprises Limon county, Siquirres, Matina, Turrialba, Jiménez and Paraíso.

- Primary Education
- Academic High School
- Technical High School
- Less than 4 years of college
- More than 4 years of university studies

LIMON COUNTY

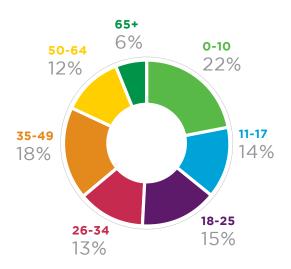
Province: Limon Borders:

- North: Matina
- West: Turrialba
- South: Talamanca
- East: Atlantic Ocean
- Surface: 1,765.8 km², 681.8 miles²

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population: 104,336 Percentage of Limon population: 24.4 Male to female ratio: 94 males per 100 females

Distribution of Population by Age:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015

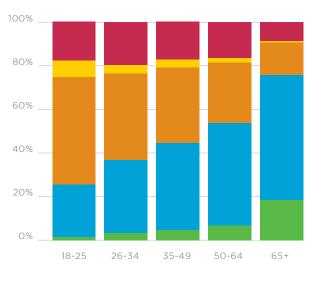
2. EDUCATION DATA

Schools: 125 (528 in Limon) High Schools:

- Academic: 22 (85 in Limon)
- Technical: 5 (16 in Limon)

Universities:

- Private: 3 (ULICORI, UMCA, USL)
- Public: 3 (UCR, UNED, TEC)
- National Training Institute: 2 (5 in Limon)



Education Level by Age Range:

University Education
Technical High School Education
Academic High School Education

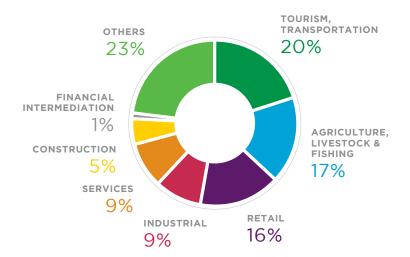
- Academic High School Education
- Primary Education
- No Formal Education

Source: National Census (INEC), 2011 MEP, INA and Universities, 2015

3. EMPLOYMENT DATA

Total Labor Force: 49,802

Employment by Sector:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015 Note: Services sector includes communication, information, scientific and administrative services.

4. UTILITIES COSTS

UTILITIES	MONTHLY RATE
Water (US\$/m³)	
0 - 15m ³	2.16
16 - 120m ³	2.62
more than 120 m ³	2.76
Fixed Charge	2.80
Electricity (Mid Tensio	n Rates-US\$/kWh)
Load factor of 90%	0.128
Internet (US\$)	
6,000 Kbps	432
10,000 Kbps	670

Exchange Rate: 535.95 colones per US\$

- Water: Official Gazette Nº 246, Dic-2013
- Electricity: Official Gazette (Alcance Digital) N° 83, Dec. 22,-2014
- Internet: SUTEL, 2015, maximum rates of reference assuming selected location has access to optic fiber

Suppliers:

- Water: AYA
- Electricity: ICE
- Internet: ICE, Cabletica, Tigo (upon demand)

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BUS:

ROUTE	RATE (US\$)
Limon - Puerto Viejo	3.5
Limon – San Jose	6.2
Limon – Moin	0.6
Limon - Siquirres	2.3
Limon - Guapiles	4.2

Exchange rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source: Aresep, 2015

TAXI:

- Fixed charge: US\$1.18
- Variable charge: US\$1.14 for each additional km

Source: Official Gazette No 97, May-2015

6. HEALTH FACILITIES

Hospitals:

- Private: None
- Public: Hospital Tony Facio **Clinics:**
- Private^{a/}: More than 5
- Public (EBAIS): 26 (117 in Limon)

Source: CCSS and online consulting, 2015 Note: ^{a/} includes dental clinics

7. INFRASTRUCTURE

Industrial Park:

- Zona Franca Atlantico: 9.4 miles (15.2 km) from Limon downtown
- Caribe Industrial Park & Free Zone: 3.1 miles (4.9 km) from the new port of Moin and 7.5 miles (12 km) from Limon downtown

Ports:

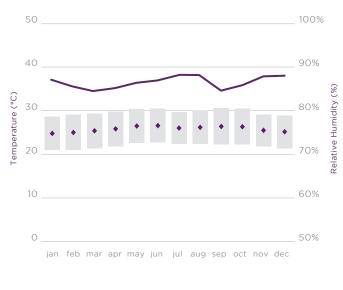
- Moin: 5.6 miles (9 km) from Limon downtown International Airports:
- Juan Santamaria: 107.8 miles (173.5 km) from Limon downtown

Access route:

• Limon is connected by route 32 / Braulio Carrillo Highway, about 99.7 miles (160.5 km) from San Jose.

8. TEMPERATURE

Monthly temperature range and humidity



Temp. Range

- Average Temp
- Humidity

9. DATA FOR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES:

The following tables present the demographic, education and employment data for the communities that border Limon:

Demographic Data:

INDICATOR	SIQUIRRES	MATINA	TURRIALBA
Population	62,849	41,733	77,164
Male to Female Ratio ^{a/}	102.6	108.1	97.8
Age Range (%)			
0-10	21.0	23.0	17.3
11-17	14.7	15.3	12.2
18-25	15.3	15.1	15.2
26-34	13.7	14.0	12.8
35-49	18.9	18.5	19.9
50-64	11.3	10.0	14.0
65+	5.2	4.1	8.6

Educational Data:

LEVEL (%)	SIQUIRRES	MATINA	TURRIALBA
No Formal Education	6.0	7.1	6.2
Primary Education	56.4	59.6	52.1
Academic High School Education	25.0	24.2	25.6
Technical High School Education	3.7	4.1	2.0
University Education	8.7	5.1	14.1

Employment Data:

INDICATOR	SIQUIRRES	MATINA	TURRIALBA
Labor Force	27,331	22,916	31,982
Employment by Area (%)			
Retail	17.0	9.3	14.8
Tourism, transportation	9.1	5.4	8.2
Industrial	8.3	3.3	11.1
Agriculture, Livestock & Fishing	36.3	64.3	21.8
Construction	4.7	2.4	5.8
Services	6.7	4.6	7.3
Financial Intermediation	0.9	0.2	1.2
Others ^{b/}	16.9	10.4	29.8

Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015 Note:

^{a/} The ratio shows the number of males per 100 females.

^{b/} Includes Education, Health and Public Administration among others.

ALCA TRADING CORP



mage used for illustration purposes

Started operations: 2013 Sector: FOOD INDUSTRY Country: ECUADOR

Alca Trading Corp is the world's largest supplier of aseptic banana puree among other food specialties including juices, tropical fruit purees, concentrates, frozen and IQF products.

Although its primary headquarters are in Miami, Florida, the company operates under three key facilities and brands. Banalight in Ecuador, established in 1993 is currently the largest producer and exporter of aseptic banana pure in that country and also produces aseptic mango puree as well as special products upon request. Its sister plant in Guatemala operating under Tropilight was created in 2007 and, in addition to tropical purees, produces frozen and IQF tropical fruits.

Its latest addition was Frutilight in 2013, the Costa Rican plant or as it's internally called: the company's "2.0 facility". This state-of-the-art plant in Siguirres, near the Caribbean Coast, shelters the latest European and American technology in food processing. It also embeds all the know-how from building its two other facilities for ideal production design and layout. A sophisticated aseptic line provides a 70,000 metric tons capacity per year for banana and mango purees and pineapple juices. In addition to its FDA (US Foods & Drug Administration) and AIJN (European Fruit juice Association) compliance, this facility also operates with certifications for FSSC 22000, HACCP, ISO 22000 and 14001, SFG IRMA, Kosher, M HALAL, Rain Forest Alliance, BCS OKO Garantie, JAS BCS OKO Garantie, USDA Organic, Canada Organic, Bio Suisse Approved, BASC and C-TPAT.

This challenging task is not only impressive in itself. Most striking was the 6 month timeframe in which the company was able to achieve these 16 seals that attest to its thorough commitment to quality. It also confirms one of the reasons why Alca Trading chose Costa Rica as its third operational hub: a highly skilled labor force that learns quickly and is capable of performing under the most rigorous of working environments.

Alca Trading wanted to diversify its locations and balance its operations for a quicker response to market. Costa Rica was a natural fit not only because of its great access to premium produce grown locally, but also because of its ideal location and beneficial logistics costs which provide easy access to the Caribbean from where it serves the EU, USA and Canada, as well as South America.

The company was able to make a country decision, build its plant and have it fully operational, with 16 certifications included, in only one year. By establishing a clear project roadmap, complying with local requirements and permits, and closely collaborating with local government at a county or municipality level, Alca was able to meet its time goals and bust any "red tape" myths.

Alca now plans to expand its Frutilight operation to incorporate a frozen food line and IQF in the near future, a natural addition to its current food specialty line which caters to the most world renowned brands...and Alca will continue to be their top secret ingredient!



TURRIALBA

Province: Cartago Borders:

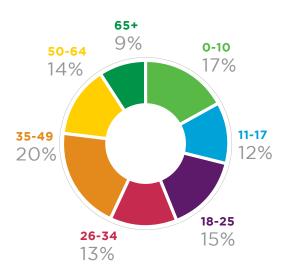
- North: Siguirres, Matina, Guacimo and Pococi
- West: Jimenez, and Paraiso
- South: Perez Zeledon
- East: Limon

Surface: 2,404 km², 928.2 miles²

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population: 77,164 Percentage of Cartago population: 14.2 Male to female ratio: 99 males per 100 females

Distribution of Population by Age:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015

2. EDUCATION DATA

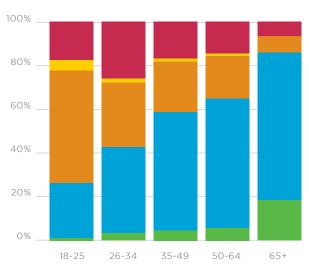
Schools: 137 (335 in Cartago) High Schools:

- Academic: 15 (63 in Cartago)
- Technical: 2 (18 in Cartago)

Universities:

- Private: 2 (CATIE, UCA)
- Public: 2 (UCR, UNED)

National Training Institute: 1 (5 in Cartago)



Education Level by Age Range:

University EducationTechnical High School Education

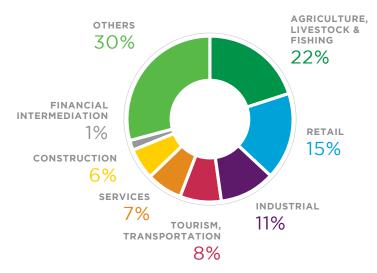
- Academic High School Education
- Primary Education
- No Formal Education

Source: National Census (INEC), 2011 MEP, INA and Universities, 2015

3. EMPLOYMENT DATA

Total Labor Force: 30,982

Employment by Sector:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015 Note: Services sector includes communication, information, scientific and administrative services.

4. PUBLIC UTILITIES COSTS

UTILITIES	MONTHLY RATE
Water (US\$/m³)	
0 – 15m ³	2.16
16 - 120m ³	2.62
more than 120 m ³	2.76
Fixed Charge	2.80
Electricity (Mid Tension	Rates-US\$/kWh)
Load factor of 90%	0.128
Internet (US\$)	
6,000 Kbps	432
10,000 Kbps	670

Exchange Rate: 535.95 colones per US\$

Source:

- Water: Official Gazette Nº 246, December-2013
- \bullet Electricity: Official Gazette (Alcance Digital) N° 83, Dec. 22, 2014
- Internet: SUTEL, 2015, maximum rates of reference assuming:
 Selected location has access to optic fiber

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• Water: AYA

- Electricity: ICE
- Internet: ICE, Cabletica, Tigo

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BUS:

ROUTE	RATE (US\$)
San Jose – Turrialba	2.7
Cartago – Turrialba	1.6
Siquirres – Turrialba	2.3
Paraiso - Turrialba	1.4
Cervantes - Turrialba	1.0

Exchange rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source: Aresep, 2015

TAXI:

- Fixed charge: US\$1.18
- Variable charge: US\$1.14 for each additional km

Source: Official Gazette No 97, May-2015

6. HEALTH FACILITIES

Hospitals:

- Private: None
- Public: Hospital William Allen Tylor Clinics:
- Private^{a/}: more than 5
- Public (EBAIS): 18 (107 in Cartago)

Source: CCSS and online consulting, 2015 Note: a/ includes dental clinics

8. INFRASTRUCTURE

Industrial Park:

• Conair: 5.2 miles (8.4 km) from Turrialba downtown

Ports:

• Moin: 59.0 miles (94.9 km) from Turrialba downtown

International Airports:

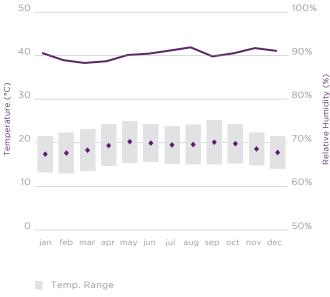
• Juan Santamaria: 54.7 miles (88 km) from Turrialba downtown

Access Route:

- Turrialba is connected through route 10, about 2.5 hours away.
- Turrialba downtown is located 66.8 miles (107.7 km), or about 1 hour and 45 minutes from Limon downtown

7. TEMPERATURE

Monthly temperature range and humidity



- Average Temp
- Humidity

9. DATA FOR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES:

The following tables present the demographic, education and employment data for the communities that border Turrialba:

Demographic Data:

INDICATOR	JIMENEZ	PARAISO	LIMON	MATINA
Population	16,256	63,995	104,336	41,733
Male to Female Ratio ^{a/}	98.9	95.9	94.0	108.1
Age Range (%)				
0-10	16.5	17.6	22.2	23.0
11-17	13.1	13.4	14.5	15.3
18-25	15.7	16.4	14.6	15.1
26-34	12.5	14.2	13.1	14.0
35-49	21.4	19.6	17.9	18.5
50-64	12.7	12.3	12.0	10.0
65+	8.1	6.4	5.7	4.1

Educational Data:

LEVEL (%)	JIMENEZ	PARAISO	LIMON	MATINA
No Formal Education	4.9	4.0	5.9	7.1
Primary Education	59.8	55.8	46.2	59.6
Academic High School Education	24.4	26.1	32.0	24.2
Technical High School Education	0.8	1.4	3.9	4.1
University Education	10.1	12.6	11.9	5.1

Employment Data:

INDICATOR	JIMENEZ	PARAISO	LIMON	MATINA
Labor Force	5,527	33,655	49,802	22,916
Employment by Area (%)				
Retail	12.2	16.9	16.1	9.3
Tourism, transportation	5.7	9.3	20.0	5.4
Industrial	12.8	15.7	8.8	3.3
Agriculture, Livestock & Fishing	32.7	16.1	17.3	64.3
Construction	3.6	7.2	4.5	2.4
Services	7.5	9.9	8.7	4.6
Financial Intermediation	0.8	2.4	1.4	0.2
Others ^{b/}	24.7	22.5	23.2	10.4

Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015 Note:

 $^{\mbox{\tiny a/}}$ The ratio shows the number of males per 100 females.

^{b/} Includes Education, Health and Public Administration among others.

RAWLINGS



Started operations: **1987** Sector: **LIGHT MANUFACTURING** Country: **UNITED STATES**

Rawlings has been "in the game" since 1887. With an assortment of baseball, basketball, football and many other game-related product lines, Rawlings is present everywhere team sports are played.

As the Official Baseball Supplier and Official Helmet of Major League Baseball[®], the official baseball for the NCAA[®], the Official Uniform Provider of USA Football and Team USA, the official football for the NAIA[®], the official basketball for the NAIA, NJCAA[®] and AAU[®], and the approved baseball, basketball, football and softball of the National High School Federation[®], Rawlings dominates the industry with innovative new products, enabling serious athletes to reach their full potential and achieve peak performance.

As part of Jarden International since 2007, Rawlings has been able to leverage its parent company's diverse portfolio of innovative, worldclass products including Oster, Coleman, Marmot & Yankee Candle, to gain a global presence.

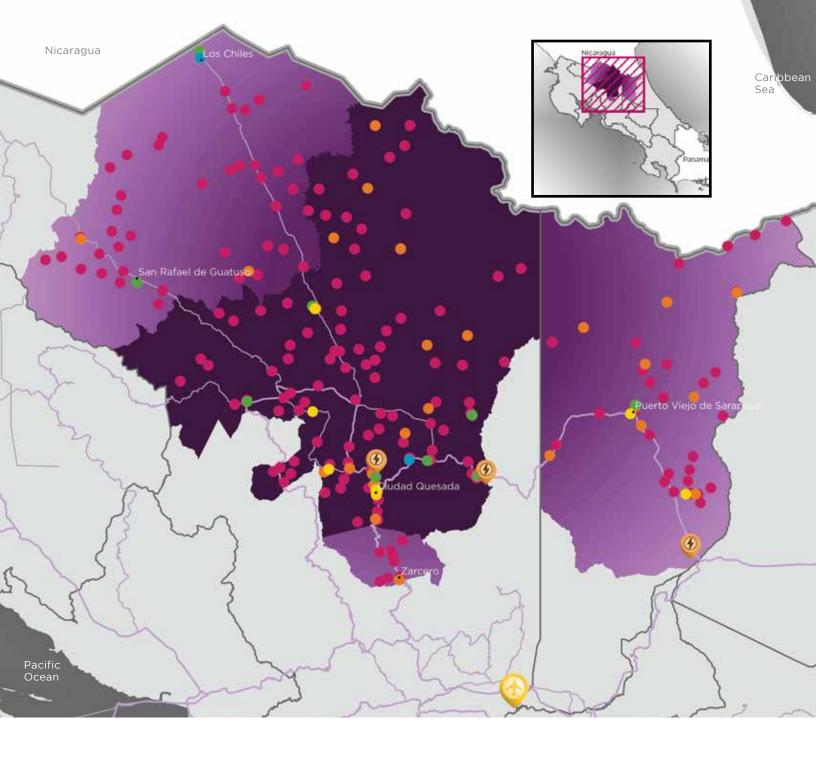
And yet, the world's only factory authorized to supply Major League Baseball, sits in the town of Turrialba in the central Atlantic region of Costa Rica. Rawlings Sporting Goods moved its factory to Costa Rica from Haiti in the late 1980s because of political turmoil in the Caribbean island and driven by the famed stability that Costa Rica has preserved for over a 100 years. For the Costa Ricans, each ball is a result of hours of stitching by hand. Because the balls in a professional game rapidly get scraped by the bats or get lost in the crowd its life is only about 3 o 4 pitches so the Costa Rican facility works hard to supply over 2.4 million baseballs a year to meet the needs. Rawlings has maintained its tradition of Costa Rican sewing for almost 30 years because of the detailed and high quality, skilled labor that the country offers.

It has also taken advantage of the Costa Rica's attractive free zone tax incentives. The cork and rubber cores, Tennessee Holstein cowhide and gray New Zealand sheep's wool yarn are shipped tax-free to the plant, and once the ball is finished it is boxed and shipped to Miami.

Rawlings has recently started to further diversify its operations in the country, introducing a manufacturing line for their Lacrosse rackets. It has also taken advantage of the local English speaking talent to serve the company's toll free line, thus incorporating additional business functions.

Through its products, players and partnerships, Rawlings is unquestionably The Mark of a Pro[™] and Costa Rica is focused on being its partner for success.





NORTH GATEWAY

San Carlos Gateway

Areas of Influence

EDUCATIONAL CENTER

- Universities
- Technical High School
- National Training Institute
- High School
- School



E

ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION

TOWNS

- County Capital
- Province Capital



COSTA RICA'S

NORTH INVESTMENT

GATEWAY

The North Region is Costa Rica's breadbasket, producing 80% of the country's root vegetables, two-thirds of its legumes, 65% of its milk and 55% of its meat. However, abundant hydroelectric and other renewable power and the influence of seven universities attract a number of other industries to the region. Ciudad Quesada, Los Chiles, Guatuso, Zarcero and Sarapiqui are home to companies in food processing, agribusiness, software development and sustainable energy.

Ciudad Quesada, a main city in the north, has long been a hub for agriculture but is increasingly attracting other businesses. It is about 60 miles from the San Jose airport, and a little more than 100 miles from Liberia International Airport, thus easily reached from anywhere in the world via nearly 720 flights a week. A new road will soon connect the region to an expanded Port of Moin in Limon, where \$1 billion in construction is underway to quadruple shipping capacity and accommodate enormous Post Panamax ships, providing access to the Eastern seaboard of the United States, the Caribbean and Europe. Also linking the area to the world is redundant fiber optic broadband that ties to submarine fiber optic cables both in the Pacific and Caribbean.

The region is home to seven universities, including the Costa Rica Institute of Technology (TEC), a public university specializing in engineering and science, with more than 1,000 students at its San Carlos campus;

the National Technical University (UTN), which is also focused on technology, and private universities, including University of San Jose. These institutions are supplemented by the National Training Institute, whose Ciudad Quesada campus offers training in web development, English, business, biotechnology and other disciplines.

Electricity is plentiful and affordable. Hydroelectric generation capacity outpaces demand by more than a 3-to-1 margin. Even so, companies seeking to reduce their own carbon footprints are experimenting with other forms of abundant sustainable power, including biomass, wind and solar.

But the North Region offers much more. The Northern Zone Economic Agency a collaboration between local government, the private sector, academics and other stakeholders, provides a single touchpoint for new investments and developments in the region.

FOOD INDUSTRY THAT SERVES THE WORLD

The region's agriculture has evolved into an export industry that grows and processes foods for the world.

TicoFrut, based in Muelle, is one of only three orange juice suppliers to The Coca-Cola Company's Minute Maid brand. It exports all its products to North America and Europe. Dos Pinos, the country's largest dairy processing coop, produces milk powder to customers across Central America, the Caribbean and the United States. La Paz Fruits operates the world's first certified carbon-neutral frozen fruit plant and was recognized by the World Trade Organization as a global success story. Other regional companies are taking advantage of the area's biodiversity to produce organic and natural products. For example, Ipecacauana del Norte harvests and processes ipecac roots for export to pharmaceutical companies in Germany and China. Rey Rojo Investments produces gluten-free flours, chili powder, spices and other food products.

IT, BIOTECH AND SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT

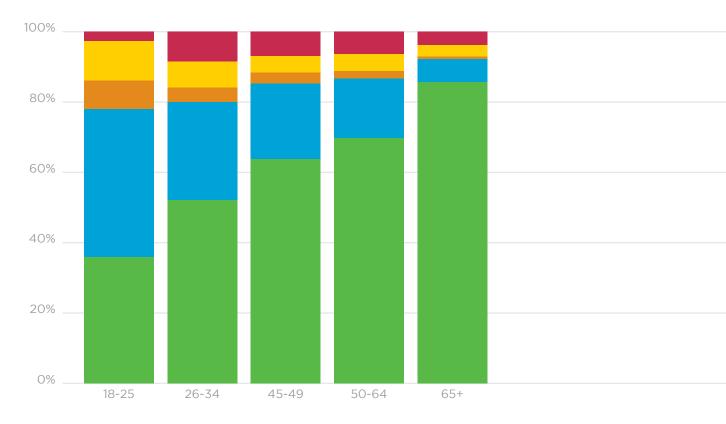
Over the years, the region has developed a rich tech cluster anchored by Avantica Technologies, a Silicon Valley-based software developer with a 15,000 square-foot center in Cuidad Quesada, where 100 innovative, highly trained, fully bilingual engineers work.

TEC's San Carlos campus uses its state-of-the-art biotech and molecular biology laboratories for public and private projects. The facility offers several services, including: development of protocols and diagnostic methodologies for biological material, pathogen cleansing for seed certification, genetic improvements and modifications, nuclei transfer using unique micro-projector and micromanipulation equipment, among others.

A growing demand for sustainable energy production and regional reliance on truck, farm and earth moving equipment provide new investment opportunities for companies to establish regional hubs for components manufacturing and maintenance and repair operations. Plus, the explosive growth taking place in the region creates opportunities for companies seeking to export novel, sustainable construction materials, biomass and energy generating products.

301,299 Population
66% Under 35 years old
118,878 Labor Force
25% With High School Education
7% With University Education

[^]Aggregate data. The North gateway comprises San Carlos, Los Chiles, Guatuso, Zarcero and Sarapiquí.



NORTH INVESTMENT GATEWAY

Population by Educational Level and Age

Source: CINDE based on data from INEC, 2014 The North gateway comprises San Carlos, Los Chiles, Guatuso, Zarcero and Sarapiquí

- Primary Education
- Academic High School
- Technical High School
- Less than 4 years of college
- More than 4 years of university studies

SAN CARLOS COUNTY

Province: Alajuela Borders:

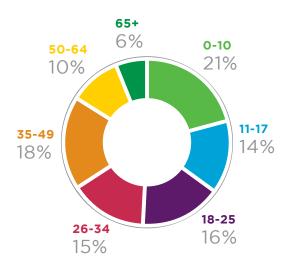
- North: Los Chiles, Nicaragua
- West: Guatuso, Tilaran
- South: San Ramon, Alfaro Ruiz, Valverde Vega
- East: Grecia, Sarapiqui

Surface: 3,370.9 km², 1,301.6 miles²

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population: 181,263 Percentage of Alajuela population: 19.3 Male to female ratio: 100 males per 100 females

Distribution of Population by Age:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015

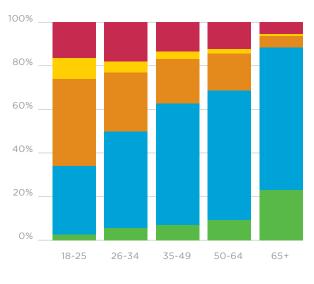
2. EDUCATION DATA

Schools: 231 (829 in Alajuela) High Schools:

- Academic: 36 (145 in Alajuela)
- Technical: 10 (29 in Alajuela)

Universities:

- Private: 5 (U Catolica, USJ, UISIL, USL, UPA)
- Public: 3 (ITCR, UNED, UTN)
- National Training Institute: 3 (15 in Alajuela)



Education Level by Age Range:

University EducationTechnical High School Education

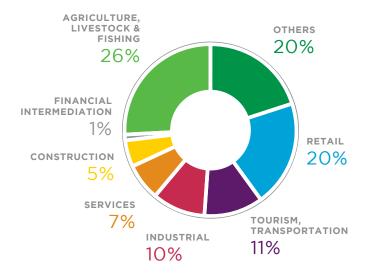
- Academic High School Education
- Primary Education
- No Formal Education

Source: National Census (INEC), 2011 MEP, INA and Universities, 2015

3. EMPLOYMENT DATA



Employment by Sector:



Source: National Census (INEC), 2011, and CCSS; 2015 Note: Services sector includes communication, information, scientific and administrative services.

4. PUBLIC UTILITIES COSTS

UTILITIES	MONTHLY RATE
Water (US\$/m³)	
Fixed charge (0-15 m ³)	17.8
For each additional m ³	1.29
Electricity (Mid Tension	Rates-US\$/kWh)
Load Factor: 90%	0.146
Internet (US\$)	
6,114 Kbps	432
10,240 Kbps	670
Exchange Rate: 535.95 cc Source: • Water: Official Gazette	Nº 157, August 2015

- Electricity: Aresep, 2015
 Internet: SUTEL, 2015, maximum rates of reference assuming selected location has access to optic fiber
 - ing set
- Suppliers:
- Water: Local Government
- Electricity: Coopelesca
- Internet: ICE, Cabletica, Tigo (Upon demand)

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BUS:

RATE	(US\$)
4.80	

Fortuna - San Jose	4.80
Ciudad Quesada - San Jose	3.36
Ciudad Quesada - Guatuso	3.35
Ciudad Quesada - Fortuna	4.22
Fortuna – San Ramon	2.51

Exchange rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source: Aresep, 2015

TAXI:

- Fixed charge: US\$1.18
- Variable charge: US\$1.14 for each additional Km

Source: Official Gazette No 97, May 2015

6. HEALTH FACILITIES

Hospitals:

- Private: Hospital Cooperativo San Carlos Borromeo
- Public: Hospital de San Carlos

Clinics:

- Private^{a/}: More than 20
- Public (EBAIS): 33 (193 in Alajuela)

Source: CCSS and online consulting, 2015 Note: ^{a/} includes dental clinics

7. INFRASTRUCTURE

Ports:

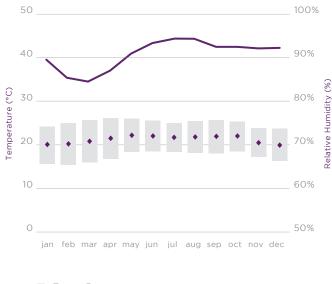
- Moin: 129.2 miles (207.9 km) from San Carlos downtown
- Caldera: 64.0 miles (103 km) from San Carlos downtown

International Airport:

• Juan Santamaria: 47.8 miles (76.9 km) from San Carlos downtown.

8. TEMPERATURE

Monthly temperature and humidity



Temp. RangeAverage Temp

- Humidity

8. DATA FOR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES:

The following tables present the demographic, education and employment data for the communities that border San Carlos: **Demographic Data:**

INDICATOR	LOS CHILES	GUATUSO	ZARCERO	SARAPIQUI
Population	26,187	17,146	13,530	63,172
Male to Female Ratio ^{a/}	104.4	103.5	100.0	103.4
Age Range (%)				
0-10	22.4	20.9	17.2	22.1
11-17	16.7	15.0	13.1	15.8
18-25	16.1	14.5	17.2	15.0
26-34	13.6	13.1	13.7	14.2
35-49	16.5	18.5	19.0	18.3
50-64	9.4	11.6	12.3	9.8
65+	5.2	6.4	7.4	4.8

Educational Data:

LEVEL (%)	LOS CHILES	GUATUSO	ZARCERO	SARAPIQUI
No Formal Education	13.5	9.2	4.5	8.9
Primary Education	57.6	60.0	52.9	59.9
Academic High School Education	19.2	19.7	28.3	22.8
Technical High School Education	4.4	5.3	0.7	2.7
University Education	5.3	5.8	13.5	5.6

Employment Data:

INDICATOR	LOS CHILES	GUATUSO	ZARCERO	SARAPIQUI
Labor Force	8,415	7,920	6,322	30,709
Employment by Area (%)				
Retail	9.7	15.5	16.8	14.5
Tourism, transportation	5.8	5.9	7.3	8.1
Industrial	4.5	6.1	11.6	5.9
Agriculture, Livestock & Fishing	54.7	49.3	39.8	48.1
Construction	3.4	3.8	4.1	3.9
Services	3.3	3.7	3.6	5.4
Financial Intermediation	0.3	0.6	1.6	0.5
Others ^{b/}	18.2	15.1	15.3	13.6

Source: INEC, National Census, 2011 and CCSS, 2015

Note: ^{a/} The ratio shows the number of males per 100 females.

^{b/} Includes Education, Health and Public Administration among others.

AVANTICA

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Estimated Start of Operations: **1993** Sector: **SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT** Country: **UNITED STATES**

Avantica Technologies is a U.S. corporation founded in Silicon Valley in 1993 by two Costa Rican software engineers, brothers Mario and Luis Chaves. The fast-growing software developer is a pioneer in nearshoring services with operations in Costa Rica and Peru. It has done more than 3,000 client projects, producing programs for finance, healthcare, wearable devices, mobile services and other applications. Much of that work was completed in Costa Rica, where twothirds of Avantica's global workforce is based.

The company collaborates closely with clients to help launch and extend their mobile, cloud, analytic, search, social networking and enterprise web applications. Avantica, which offers application development and quality assurance testing, among other services, employs highly skilled and constantly trained engineers. Many of the company's 450 employees are experts at multiple platforms, including .Net, PHP, Ruby and HTML5 as well as mobile platforms like iOS, Android and Windows Phone.

It has supported Fortune 500 companies, as well as innovative start-ups funded by top venture capital firms like Sequoia Capital, Accel Partners, and others. Most clients are based in North America, and share a time zone with the bilingual Costa Rican engineers working on their business, which makes communication between customers and developers easy.

As Avantica grew from its Silicon Valley roots, it sought additional expertise in its founders' homeland. Costa Rica offered everything needed for software development: highly educated engineers, an entrepreneurial workforce, political stability, rock-solid intellectual property protection laws and reliable telecommunications. In 2009, Avantek was born with the incorporation of 5 visionary entrepreneurs and a team of talented engineers who joined Avantica and later became Avantica San Carlos. Recently, it moved into a new 15,000 square-foot development center in San Carlos, where it employs 100 people. The city is an easy drive from San Jose, the nation's capital. Another 250 Avantica employees work in the Guanacaste and San Jose offices.

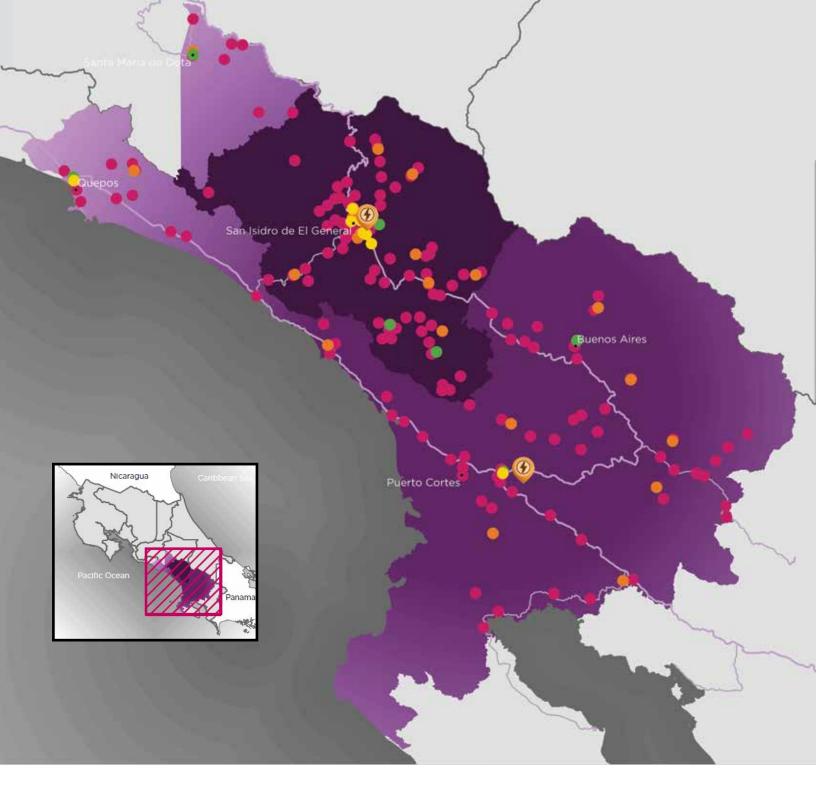
The North Region is attractive because it has been a reliable source of skilled engineers graduated from the local universities, thanks in part to collaborations between the Northern Zone Economic Development Agency and business, academic, and government leaders. In cooperation with local universities, Avantica recently launched an Innovation Lab to create research groups that will explore new technologies to develop products and services.

"In the last 10 years, the Northern Zone of Costa Rica has grown significantly in software development," said Jose Pablo Rodríguez, General Manager at Avantica San Carlos. "To meet the need for talented software engineers, there has been close cooperation between local universities, private enterprise and local government."

Avantica's continuing growth may require it to recruit experienced software developers outside of the region by leveraging the area's affordability, accessibility and tranquil lifestyle – enticing workers seeking a better quality of life.

The company's innovation has been recognized consistently. It has been honored by the Costa Rican Chamber of Information and Communications Technologies and the Chamber of Exporters of Costa Rica. The company's CEO, Mario Chaves, was also recognized as a visionary partly responsible for building the nearshore outsourcing market.





SOUTH GATEWAY

- San Isidro Gateway
- Areas of Influence

EDUCATIONAL CENTER

- Universities
- Technical High School
- National Training Institute
- High School
- School

TRANSPORTATION

ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION

TOWNS

- County Capital
- Province Capital

ROAD



COSTA RICA'S

SOUTH

INVESTMENT

GATEWAY

The South Region is Costa Rica's natural medicine chest, the area where nutrientrich superfoods like mangosteen, rambutan, cassava, passion fruit, papaya, ginger and soursop grow side by side with more popular fruits, vegetables and tubers. The diverse region includes mountains, plains and Pacific beachfront, all close to the Central Valley.

The region is home to a large, young, entrepreneurial population with more than 60% of its residents under age 35. Five private and two public universities, as well as two campuses of the National Training Institute are in the area, which offer training in English, entrepreneurship, food handling and quality controls, agricultural project management, organic and hydroponics agriculture, quality assurance for textile and special garment manufacturing, and forestry.

Recent English language proficiency tests sponsored by CINDE and the Association of Professionals in Perez Zeledon found that two thirds of the region's population has an English level of B2+ or higher, demonstrating that Costa Rica's English-language skills, ranked #1 in Latin America, extends beyond the Central Valley.

The South is connected to the Port of Caldera in the Pacific Ocean via a brand new coastal highway, about a 3 hour drive from main cities

in the area. The Caldera Port is a 7 day voyage from San Francisco and provides access to main U.S. Western ports as well as Asia. The region is also accessible to the world via San Jose International Airport less than 100 miles away from San Isidro, with 720 weekly flights.

Companies were historically drawn to the area's fertile soils to grow staple crops, coffee, sugar cane and pineapple. Today, new local and multinational investments are producing differentiating foods as consumers draw preference towards more natural, healthy and nutritional goods.

Asofrubrunca, routinely ships its fresh rambutan via air to markets in New York and California. This association of 115 growers, produces more than 550 tons of the superfruit in the South Region and is doing R&D into higher value-added products like juices, jams and dried fruit. Del Monte also opened a new highly-automated plant in Volcan, Buenos Aires in mid 2015 to make about 200,000 liters of pineapple juice per month. It projects to add other tropical fruits and vegetables to the local product line soon.

The Los Santos area in the highlands of Dota, with its chilled climate is home to about half of the nation's 300 aquaculture companies nurturing more than 550 tons of rainbow trout each year – nearly half of it destined for the U.S. market. Many are family owned business, but produce high-value products, like smoked, pre-packed or frozen products.

Perez Zeledon is also a center of Costa Rica's bamboo industry. Bambu Tico, a pioneer in growing highly sustainable bamboo, makes furniture and other construction materials for fine finishing. Since bamboo absorbs over 60% more carbon dioxide than average trees, it is also innovating into becoming a hub for carbon credits.

BEYOND FOODS TO VALUE-ADDED SERVICES

Enterprises in the South Region are supported by organizations like the Association of Professionals in Perez Zeledon, which are dedicated to improving the region's infrastructure and skills to attract more services investment. That's one reason why six of the region's universities offer software engineering programs.

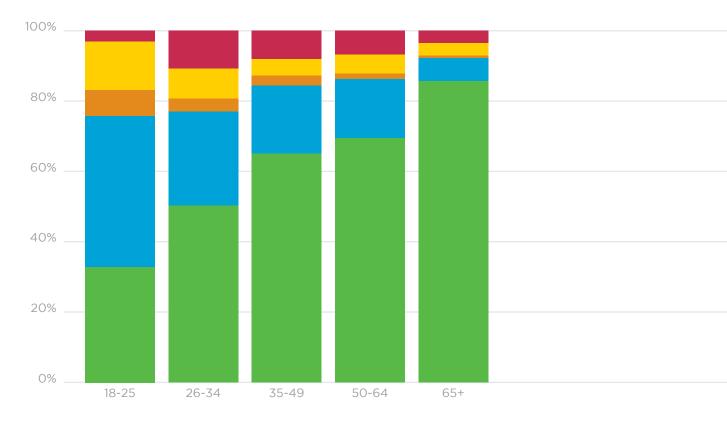
The availability of skilled, English-speaking engineers has spawned enterprises like Grupo Babel, a software and information technology company that opened in Perez Zeledon in 2004. It specializes in Microsoft technologies, provides services and solutions ranging from software development, project management, outsourcing and infrastructure and cloud services. The company serves clients in the United States and Canada from its local offices including Walmart, Dole, Phillip Morris, Ericsson and DHL.

In addition, the South Region has developed several sophisticated textile manufacturers specializing in areas such as performance fabrics or technically demanding garments. ICC Industries is one manufacturer of high-performance sports and lifestyle clothing for international companies like Russell Athletic, Spanx and Athleta.

The South of Costa Rica offers significant and diverse investment opportunities in emerging industries related to agribusiness and aquaculture, construction and advanced textiles and sustainable projects.

268,617 Population
63% Under 35 years old
90,003 Labor Force
25% With High School Education
9% With University Education

^Aggregate data. The South gateway comprises Perez Zeledon, Dota, Aguirre, Osa and Buenos Aires.



SOUTH INVESTMENT GATEWAY

Population by Educational Level and Age

Source: CINDE based on data from INEC, 2014 The South gateway comprises Perez Zeledon, Dota, Aguirre, Osa and Buenos Aires

- Primary Education
- Academic High School
- Technical High School
- Less than 4 years of college
- More than 4 years of university studies

PEREZ ZELEDON

Province: San Jose Borders:

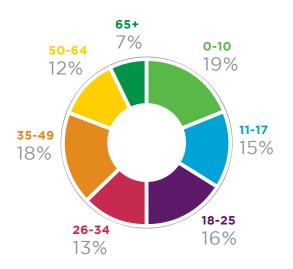
- North: Paraiso, Turrialba, Dota
- West: Aguirre
- South: Osa

• East: Buenos Aires, Talamanca Surface: 1,905.5 km², 735.7 mile²

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population: 148,576 Percentage of San Jose population: 9.6 Male to female ratio: 94.6 males per 100 females

Distribution of Population by Age:



Source: National Census (INEC), 2011 and CCSS, 2015

2. EDUCATION DATA

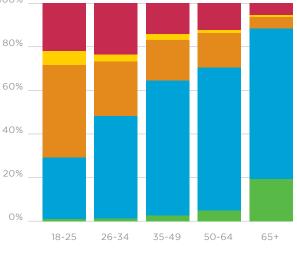
Schools: 220 (781 in San Jose) High Schools:

- Academic: 26 (214 in San Jose)
- Technical: 8 (58 in San Jose)

Universities:

- Private: 5 (UISIL, U Latina, ULICORI, UMCA, UTC)
- Public: 2 (UNA, UNED)

National Training Institute: 2



100% Education Level by Age Range:

University EducationTechnical High School Education

Academic High School Education

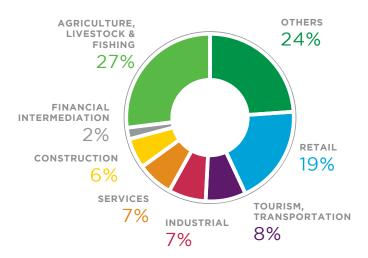
- Primary Education
- No Formal Education

Source: National Census (INEC), 2011 MEP, INA and Universities, 2015

3. EMPLOYMENT DATA



Employment by Sector:



Source: Estimated by CINDE based on data from National Census 2011 (INEC), CCSS; 2015 Note: Services sector includes communication, information, scientific and administrative services.

4. PUBLIC UTILITIES COSTS

UTILITIES	MONTHLY RATE
Water (US\$/m³)	
0 - 15m ³	2.16
16 – 120m ³	2.62
more than 120m ³	2.76
Fixed charge	2.80
Electricity (Mid Tensio	n Rates-US\$/kWh)

Load Factor: 90% 0.128 Internet (US\$) 6,114 Kbps 431.5 10,240 Kbps 669.5

Exchange Rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source:

- Water: Official Gazette N° 246, December 2013
 Electricity: Official Gazette (Alcance Digital) No. 83, Dec. 22, 2014
- Internet: SUTEL, 2015, maximum rates of reference assuming selected location has access to optic fiber.

Suppliers:

- Water: AYA
- Electricity: ICE
- Internet: ICE, Cabletica, Tigo (upon demand)

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BUS:

ROUTE	RATE (US\$)
San Isidro del General - San Jose	6.3
San Isidro del General - Peñas Blancas	0.6
San Isidro del General - Quepos	4.7
San Isidro del General - Dominical	2.9
Exchange rate: 535.95 colones per US\$	

Exchange rate: 535.95 colones per US\$ Source: Aresep, 2015

TAXI:

- Fixed charge: US\$1.18
- Variable charge: US\$1.14 for each additional km

Source: Official Gazette No 97, May 2015

6. HEALTH FACILITIES

Hospitals:

- Public: Hospital Escalante Pradilla Clinics:
- Private^{a/}: 6
- Public (EBAIS): 19 (312 in San Jose)

Source: CCSS and online consulting, 2015 Note: ^{a/} includes dental clinics

7. INFRASTRUCTURE

Ports:

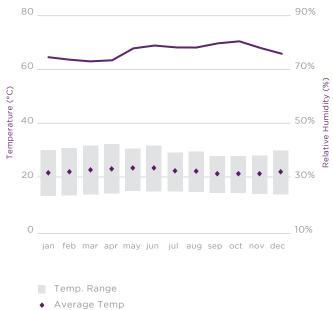
- Moin: 159.7 miles (257 km) from Perez Zeledon downtown
- Caldera: 119.3 miles (192 km) from Perez Zeledon downtown

International Airport:

• Juan Santamaria: 95.4 miles (153.5 km) from Perez Zeledon downtown

8. TEMPERATURE

Monthly temperature range and humidity:



Average in
Humidity

9. DATA FOR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES:

The following tables present the demographic, education and employment data for the communities that borders Liberia:

Demographic Data:

INDICATOR	DOTA	AGUIRRE	OSA	BUENOS AIRES
Population	7,683	29,855	32,625	49,879
Male to Female Ratio ^{a/}	95.8	106.1	104.5	101.7
Age Range (%)				
0-10	17.8	19.0	19.1	22.6
11-17	14.7	13.3	14.4	16.9
18-25	16.0	16.0	14.2	15.3
26-34	12.1	15.4	13.9	12.9
35-49	18.5	19.8	18.7	17.1
50-64	13.1	11.1	12.6	9.7
65+	7.9	5.4	7.2	5.5

Educational Data:

LEVEL (%)	DOTA	AGUIRRE	OSA	BUENOS AIRES
No Formal Education	5.7	6.0	7.5	7.5
Primary Education	56.9	50.8	54.3	63.0
Academic High School Education	12.7	27.2	26.4	20.0
Technical High School Education	12.9	6.6	2.8	3.2
University Education	11.8	9.5	8.9	6.4

Employment Data:

INDICATOR	DOTA	AGUIRRE	OSA	BUENOS AIRES
Labor Force	2,492	10,931	6,762	16,907
Employment by Area (%)				
Retail	10.7	14.1	13.9	8.6
Tourism, transportation	7.1	26.9	16.0	6.0
Industrial	5.5	6.6	5.3	4.4
Agriculture, Livestock & Fishing	45.6	17.1	28.0	54.4
Construction	4.9	6.7	7.8	3.9
Services	4.9	9.8	7.1	3.7
Financial Intermediation	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.4
Others ^{b/}	20.2	18.1	21.4	18.5

Source: INEC, National Census, 2011 and CCSS, 2015

Note: ^{a/} The ratio shows the number of males per 100 females.

^{b/} Includes Education, Health and Public Administration among others.

DEL MONTE

Estimated Start of Operations: **1967** Sector: **FOOD PROCESSING** Country: **UNITED STATES**

Costa Rica is the regional headquarters for Fresh Del Monte Produce's Latin America operations. The company significantly expanded local operations with its 2008 acquisition of Caribana, a Costa Rican company, for \$403 million

Del Monte's Costa Rican operations export fresh produce, mainly pineapples and bananas, and processed goods. The company has pineapple and banana farms in San Carlos, Limón, and the Southern Region cantons of Buenos Aires and Pérez Zeledón.

Del Monte's main food processing plant is in Heredia, in Costa Rica's Central Valley. That is where the company processes most of the fruit that does not comply with export standards. The plant processes pineapples, bananas and mangos and produces pineapple juice.

The plant annually processes about 100,000 tons of fruit, about 20 percent of it pineapple. Products are exported to the United States and Europe.

To supplement operations in Heredia and other Costa Rican locations, Del Monte recently built a new processing plant in Volcan, Buenos Aires. The company estimates that its \$12 million investment in the new facility will quickly be paid for in the savings it accrues from no longer shipping the region's fruit to other processing plants.

The new plant, which is highly automated, will process 60,000 tons of pineapple each year – 70 percent of it grown in the Southern Region.

The company expects to eventually process passion fruit and papaya at the new facility. Juices

produced here will be shipped both concentrated and fresh.

The company also operates green houses in the area, where it is growing peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers, which are also exported.

The Southern Region was attractive to Del Monte because of its abundant pool of qualified labor – and its easy access to seaports that make it easy to ship the company's products to global markets.

The Volcan plant ships most of its products through the Port of Caldera on the Pacific Ocean, about 145 miles away. It also ships through the Port of Limon on the Atlantic Ocean, less than 190 miles away. About 80 percent of the plant's products go to the United States, 20 percent go to Europe.

In coming months, Del Monte expects its Volcan plant to receive its FSSC 22000 Food Safety Management System certification, along with its ISO 14000 environmental management standards certification.



COSTA RICAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY (CINDE)

ABOUT THE

The Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency (CINDE) is a private, nonprofit and apolitical organization. For over 30 years, CINDE has attracted more than 250 companies to Costa Rica, including worldwide leaders, such as Intel, Procter and Gamble, Hospira, Baxter, St. Jude Medical, Western Union, IBM, and many others.

Some of the services provided by CINDE at no cost to investing companies are:

- Assistance in the site selection due-diligence process by providing detailed information on the country and its advantages, and organizing customized investment agendas.
- Meeting the investor's needs, arranging meetings with service providers, government organizations, universities, real estate brokers, attorneys, accountants, industrial parks, and office parks.
- Facilitating direct contacts and links with potential investors from North America and other countries through CINDE's office in New York.

• Once the company has established in the country, CINDE provides specialized support for strategic aspects geared to new operational expansion projects or promoting product diversification.

CONTACT CINDE IN COSTA RICA

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