



INFOCARD ELANBiz Profile Costa Rica

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This Infocard provides general information about Costa Rica

Basic information

Official name:	Republic of Costa Rica
Official language:	Spanish
Currency:	Colones
Surface:	51,100 km ² (19,653 sq mi)
Population:	4.909.900 ¹
Capital:	San Jose
Major cities:	Alajuela, Cartago, Liberia, San Carlos

Economic indicators

GDP:	\$ 57,44 Billion (US\$, 2016 ²)
GDP per capita:	\$9,714 (US\$, 2017 ³)
Central Government Debt/GDP:	62.11% (2016 ²)
Foreign direct investment:	\$ 2.165 Billion (US\$, 2017; COMEX)
Imports:	\$ 1.305 USD Million (US\$, 2017 ²)
Exports:	\$ 813 USD Million (US\$, 2017 ²)
“Doing Business” Ranking :	61 ³ (World Bank, 2018)

¹ <http://www.datosmacro.com/demografia/poblacion/costa-rica>

² <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/costa-rica/indicators>

³ <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/costa-rica>



Annual growth rate over GDP	
2013	2.0 %
2014	3.0 %
2015	3.7 %
2016	4.3 %
2017	3.6%

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/>

Balance on current account \$US	
2012	-2,034,175,375
2013	-3,083,520,674
2014	-3,009,498,332
2015	-2,610,551,363
2016	-2,170,981,586

Source: World Bank <http://datos.bancomundial.org/>

Consumer price index	
2011	4.88 %
2012	4.5 %
2013	5.22 %
2014	4.51 %
2015	0.79%

Source: World Bank <http://datos.bancomundial.org/>

Exchange rate €	
2014	700 colones
2015	700 colones
2016	597 colones
2017	587 colones
2018	570 colones

Source: Exchange Rate <http://www.xe.com/>

Economic profile

An upper middle-income country, Costa Rica has experienced steady economic expansion over the past 25 years mainly due to the execution of an outward-oriented strategy, export-led growth, openness to foreign investment; and gradual liberalization of trade.

The economy grew at an annual average rate of 5% throughout the 1990s and generally outpaced the average growth rate for the region in the current millennium.

Over the past years, the average annual inflation rate has remained at 4.5%, the lowest in Latin America.

Foreign direct investment has transformed Costa Rica mainly from an exporting country of raw material coming from the agricultural sector to a diversified portfolio of exports of high-tech products manufactured in free zones mainly. Costa Rica is the second country in Central America with greater foreign investment, surpassing the \$2 billion, nearly one-third made up of high technology sectors.

The Costa Rican economy is supported on the industrial sectors (advanced manufacturing of the microprocessor industry, precision and medical equipment, plastic, metalworking and food) by 74% and 26% in the agriculture sectors, livestock and fishing.



Ease of doing business

Costa Rica is ranked 61 in the World Bank "Doing Business" classification in the year 2018. The following table contains the ranking obtained in each of the analyzed areas.

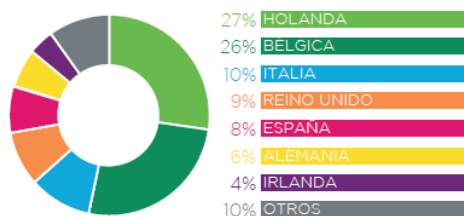
Area	Ranking
Starting a business	127
Dealing with Construction Permits	70
Getting Electricity	21
Registering Property	49
Getting Credit	12
Protecting Minority Investors	119
Paying Taxes	60
Trading Across Borders	73
Enforcing Contracts	129
Resolving Insolvency	131

Source: World Bank, <http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings> 2018

Foreign trade and investment

The EU is the third largest business partner after the USA and Central America (40% USA, 23% CA, 21% EU, according to the Statistical Yearbook of PROCOMER, 2017) for product exports value. The main European export destinations are The Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, United Kingdom, Spain and Germany, as shown below.

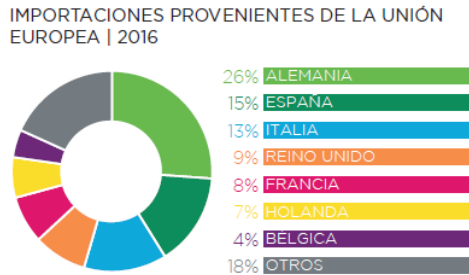
EXPORTACIONES HACIA LA UNIÓN EUROPEA
| 2016



Regarding imports, the main partner is USA (55.8% of imports), in 2nd place Asia (17.5%), while South America and Europe imports are almost even (7.6% and 7.4% respectively).

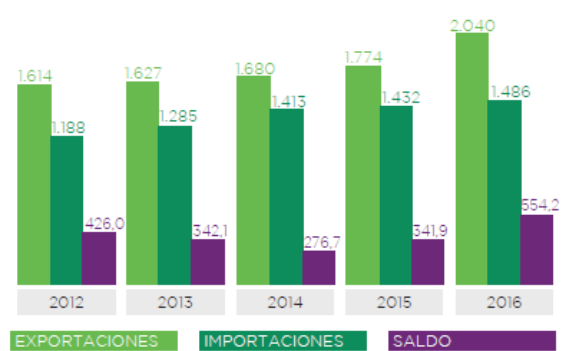


The chart below shows the breaking down of countries of origin for European imports:



The country has a trade surplus with the European Union as can be seen in the chart below. The country's exports to the EU has barely declined, standing in the vicinity of \$ 2 billion, while imports from the EU to Costa Rica are on the rise each year. The increase is due to market opening to Europe, as European companies become aware of the benefits regarding privileged preferential access for exporting their products into the Central American countries

BALANZA COMERCIAL CON LA UNIÓN EUROPEA | 2012 - 2016



Source: PROCOMER Annual Statistics 2017.

The origin of foreign direct investment (FDI) to Costa Rica is mainly from the USA (56%), while from the EU is 21%, mainly from the countries Spain, United Kingdom, Italy and Germany.



Main internal markets

Costa Rica is a country that is centralized in the Central Valley where its capital, San José, is located and several small adjacent cities. Almost all of central government institutions are concentrated in San Jose and where most companies have their headquarters. However, some cities in the interior of the country have experienced significant growth, becoming a source of business opportunities, especially as a goal of the current Government. Among the cities with greater economic development: Liberia, Alajuela, Heredia, Cartago

Infrastructure

The main logistics centers are the international airports Juan Santamaría in San Jose and Liberia, as well as two ports, one in the Atlantic (port of Moin in Puerto Limón) and another in the Pacific (Puerto Caldera in Puntarenas). The cities and largest markets in Costa Rica are San Jose and Alajuela located in the Central Valley. The ratio of imports of goods and services on GDP is 38.7%





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