



**Trade Agreements and Preferential Access to Markets  
from Costa Rica**

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## Trade Agreements and Preferential Access to Markets from Costa Rica

During the last two decades, Costa Rica's trade policy has shifted from being one with a high level of protection into one that promotes openness and active trade negotiations internationally. In 2008, 90% of goods from Costa Rica were exported to world markets under Free Trade Agreements (FTA).

### *Current Trade Agreements*

- **CAFTA – DR** Central American and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement with the USA. Law No. 8622 on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007, published in La Gaceta No. 246, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007.
- **PANAMA** Law No.8675 of October 17<sup>th</sup> 2008 and Executive Decree N°34825-COMEX (Ratification of the Republic of Costa Rica to the Free Trade Agreement between Central America and Panama, signed on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2002 and to the Bilateral Protocol between the Republic of Costa Rica and Panama, subscribed on August 7<sup>th</sup> 2007)
- **CARICOM** Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Costa Rica and the Caribbean States community, Law No. 8455 on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005, published in La Gaceta No. 193 on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2005, in effect as of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005.
- **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** Free Trade Agreement between Central America and Dominican Republic, Law No. 7882 on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1999, published in La Gaceta No. 132 on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1999, in effect as of March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002.
- **CHILE** Free Trade Agreement between Central America and Chile, Law No. 8055 on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001, published in La Gaceta No. 42 on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001, in effect as of February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002.
- **CANADA** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and the Government of Canada, signed in Ottawa on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001. Law No. 8300 on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002 published in La Gaceta No. 198 on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002, in effect as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002.
- **MEXICO** Free Trade Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and the Government of the United Mexican States, Law No.7474 on

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1994, published in La Gaceta No. 244 on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1994, in effect as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1995.

*Preferential Access to Markets*

- United States Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, C.B.E.R.A. Caribbean Basin Initiative, C.B.I.
- European Union Generalized Preferential Tariff System
- Asia

*Trade Agreements Currently Being Negotiated*

- Agreement between Central America and the European Union
- Agreement between Costa Rica and China
- Agreement between Costa Rica and Singapore

**Companies have exceptional access to the world’s greatest markets**



- Market access: **2.3 billion** people, more than **68%** of worldwide GDP
- Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements with **15** countries

- **Duty free access**
- **Preferential access through the GSP**
- **Free trade agreements negotiations**