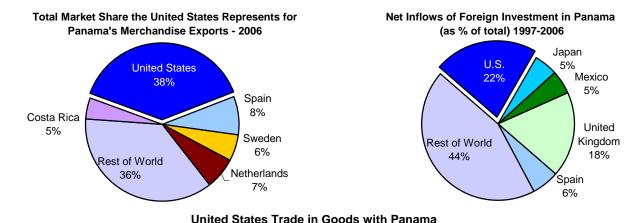
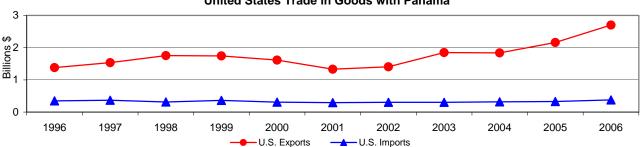


The United States Contributes to Economic Prosperity in Panama



- In 2006, U.S. direct investment in Panama reached \$5.7 billion (BEA, *Survey of Current Business*, July 2007); this is equivalent to 33.3 percent of Panama's GDP of \$17.1 billion (World Bank, *World Development Indicators*).
- The Panamanian affiliates of U.S. direct investors employed 15,800 people in 2005 and their value added contributed 4.3 percent to Panama's GDP (BEA, Survey of Current Business, Nov. 2007).
- The Peace Corps currently has approximately 142 volunteers working throughout Panama; since 1963, 1,576 volunteers have aided communities in Panama.
- The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) provided over \$5.1 million in finance and insurance funds in 2006.
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided over \$1.6 million in aid to Panama in 2006.
- The United States purchased approximately 38 percent of Panama's total merchandise exports in 2006 (World Trade Atlas).
- U.S. merchandise exports to Panama grew from \$1.38 billion in 1996 to \$2.7 billion in 2006, an increase of approximately 96 percent (U.S. Census Bureau).
- In 2006 over \$292 million in remittance money was sent by Panamanians living abroad (Inter-American Development Bank[II]).





The U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration (www.trade.gov) and the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America (AACCLA, www.aaccla.org) compiled this fact sheet. Last update - January 2008.



Panama

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



Clean Energy and Rural Development - The AES Corporation

AES Panama, S.A., is a 470 MW hydroelectric generation company with over 100 employees, providing clean and reliable electricity at a lower cost. In seven years, AES has invested \$370 million in Panama, increasing generation from 282 MW to 470 MW and becoming the leading hydroelectric generator in Panama. It designed and developed the 120 MW Estí Hydroelectric Project on time and under budget, and added 110 MW to the Bayano Hydroelectric Plant. It is repowering the La Estrella and Los Valles Hydroelectric Plants, providing an additional 12 MW, and developing the 150 MW AES Changuinola Hydroelectric Project in the Province of Bocas del Toro. Committed to the environment and social improvement, AES is working on a wind-driven project for generation of electricity, participates in carbon credits programs, and is educating its employees in OHSAS 18001 and ISO 14001 Integrated Management Systems. AES works actively towards improving living conditions for people in rural and indigenous communities close to its work place, providing scholarships, housing relocation, health, access roads, bridges, electricity and potable water. It also sponsors an interactive education center and several local civic agencies.

Community Service - Stevedoring Services of America

Manzanillo International Terminal - Panama, a subsidiary of Stevedoring Services of America (SSA) in Panama, provides jobs for over 800 workers in the Province of Colón on Panama's north coast. It has invested over three million dollars in social projects in the Province of Colón since mid-2005, including construction and full funding of a healthcare center in downtown of Colón to provide free preventive and healing health care services to 75,000 area residents; construction and funding for *Hogar San José*, a home for HIV-positive and AIDS children in the city of Colón that is providing boys and girls with lodging, meals, medical and psychological care and schooling at no cost; construction and equipment for classrooms for 9,000 elementary and high school students; and construction of community centers and preschool educational facilities supporting over 180 families in outlying areas of the Province. Manzanillo has also worked on many local infrastructure programs, including repairs and equipment for the Mateo Iturralde Library in Colon; improvement and painting of the local Sports Arena; restoration of the Morgan Battery at Fort De Lesseps; repair of water and sewage pumping stations; upgrading to the *Hogar Atlántico* Asylum; and construction of the Maracana and Puerto Escondido Sport complex.

Social Responsibility - Citigroup

Citibank, N. A.'s Panama branch, has continuously shown commitment to the country by investing in social responsibility programs. It co-founded *Junior Achievement Panama* in 1997 and it provides annual support and funding for the organization, including more than 191 volunteer tutors and mentors over the last ten years. This non-profit, economic education organization educates and inspires elementary and high school students in the value of the Free Enterprise system, through programs taught by executive volunteers. Citibank's support includes *Banks in Action*, a sixteen-week program in which students from ten public high schools run "virtual banks"; *Young Entrepreneurs*, in which students from 17 high-schools participate in the creation and management of small businesses; *K-6*, a program for 9,600 students from 49 elementary schools teaching economic concepts, teamwork, financial planning, saving, the work ethic and citizenship. Citibank has invested over \$180,000 in infrastructure and teacher training for the Simon Bolivar School, a Panamanian public elementary school with 17 classrooms and around 335 students. Citibank also supports *Fundamujer*, a non-profit private organization providing educational, economic and entrepreneurial development for women and micro-credits for women-run SMEs; and *Operation Smile*, a volunteer medical service program carrying out reconstructive surgery, medical and educational programs for rural areas of Panama.

The snapshots of U.S. company contributions to economic prosperity were submitted by the companies themselves, and reprinted with their permission. Use of Department of Commerce logo does not imply DOC endorsement of the specific companies, products or services covered herein. For more information or to submit contributions to future publications, please contact us at uscep@aaccla.org. Snapshots last updated - April 2007.