

The Increasing Demand for Industrial Engineering Professionals in Costa Rica

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Abstract

Costa Rica's location grants access to a platform of 24 billion people (35% of the world's population) which accounts for nearly 65% of the GDP worldwide. This advantage has been promoted by the government via establishment of numerous shared services and manufacturing sites thereby increasing its attractiveness for private foreign investment. Currently, Costa Rica's largest foreign trade partner is the US, with an annual trade of \$ 3.8 billion. This increased trade is changing not only the demand for industrial engineers, but also the role that Industrial Engineers play in the country.

Due to the benefits of economic growth, the market is facing a demand which outpaces the available pool of IE professionals. To address this situation, this present document will exhibit opportunities for IE professionals in of the Costa Rica and the current cooperation established between government, professionals and academia to support the education of future IE students, with a special emphasis in increasing the number of women selecting the industrial engineering as a career path.