



Overseas Market Information

Colombia

Synopsis of the Country

Capital	: Bogota
Currency	: Colombian Peso (COP)
Languages	: Spanish
Population	: 450.14 million
Total Area	: 1138910 sq. kms
GDP	: \$319.5 billion (2007 est.)
GDP Growth Rate	: 7% (2007 est.)
GDP Per Capita	: \$6,700 (2007 est.)
Major Exports	: Petroleum, coffee, coal, nickel, emeralds, apparel, bananas, cut flowers.
Exports Value	: \$30.58 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)
Major Countries of Export	: US., Venezuela, Ecuador
Major Imports	: Industrial equipment, transportation equipment, consumer goods, chemicals, paper products, fuels, electricity.
Imports Value	: \$31.17 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)
Major Countries of Import	: US., Brazil, Mexico, China, Venezuela, Japan.

Colombia is one of South America's oldest continuous democracies. In the 1980s, leftist insurgents and paramilitary vigilante groups took up drug trafficking, killing and marauding throughout much of the countryside. President Alvaro Uribe, re-elected by a landslide in May 2006, has ended years of fruitless appeasement and is enforcing the law against both rebels and paramilitaries. He has also moved to demobilize illegal rural armies. The lives of ordinary Colombians have improved dramatically, and a safer business environment has helped to cut unemployment by at least 5 percentage points in the past five years. Uribe's next challenge is to reduce the burden of government so that the economy can grow faster. Currently, it is heavily dependent on exports of petroleum, coffee, and cut flowers. A pending trade agreement with the U.S., if approved, should encourage economic diversification and stimulate growth.

Trade Policy

Colombia's weighted average tariff rate was 9.6 percent in 2005. Despite progress in dismantling non-tariff barriers, bureaucracy, non-transparent regulation, import bans and restrictions, restrictive import licensing, price bands, issues involving the protection of intellectual property rights, non-transparent customs administration and valuation, state export promotion programs, and corruption add to the cost of trade. Consequently, an additional 10 percentage points is deducted from Colombia's trade freedom score.

Government Intervention

Total government expenditures, including consumption and transfer payments, are low. In the most recent year, government

spending equaled 31 percent of GDP. State ownership is now limited to a few utilities enterprises and some development banks.

Foreign Investment

Except for remittances abroad, foreign and domestic capital are treated equally. Most of the economy is open to foreign investment, except for activities related to national security and toxic waste disposal. A few areas like finance and energy development require authorization. Foreign investment in television networks and programming is capped at 40 percent, and reciprocal access to the investor's home country is required. The largest obstacles are regulation and constantly changing business rules, although consolidation has simplified compliance. In most sectors, 100 percent ownership is permitted. Portfolio foreign investment must remain in the country for one year. Residents who work in certain internationally related companies may hold foreign exchange accounts. All foreign investment must be registered with the central bank.

Economic Indicators

Economic forecasts

In 2007, for the second consecutive year, Colombia had a growth rate of more than 6%. The improvement in domestic security conditions contributed to re-establishing investors' confidence. Building, household consumption and especially the oil boom in Venezuela (leading importer of Colombian manufactured goods and important customer for agricultural products) contributed to this result. In 2007, unemployment dropped below 10%, but more than fifty per cent of Colombians continue to work in the informal sector. The weak dollar favored a boom in imports. The balance of payments deficit reached 4 billion euros in 2007. The IMF forecasts GDP growth of 4.8% in 2008.

GDP Indicators	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
GDP (billions USD)	160.23	202.63	249.77e	262.99e	283.29e
GDP (constant prices, annual % change)	6.8	7.7	4.0e	3.5e	5.0e
GDP per capita (USD)	3,425.83	4,264.36	5,174.09e	5,362.43e	5,685.84e
Inflation rate (%)	4.3	5.5	7.3e	5.5e	4.5e
Unemployment rate (% of the labour force)	12.7	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.
Current Account (billions USD)	-2.91	-5.86	-5.47e	-5.03e	-5.13e
Current Account (in % of GDP)	-1.8	-2.9e	-2.2e	-1.9e	-1.8e

(Source : IMF - World Economic Outlook Database; FMI - World Economic Outlook Database; ILO, Laborstat - Yearly Statistics)

Note : (e) Estimated data



Socio-demographic indicators	2004	2005	2006
Unemployment rate (%)	13.6	11.8	12.7

Main Sectors of Industry

Natural resources: coal, oil, natural gas, iron ore, nickel, gold.

Industry (14.4% of GDP) : types : textiles and clothes, chemicals, metal products, cement, cardboard containers, plastic resins, drinks.

Agriculture (13.1% of GDP) is traditionally Colombia's main economic activity; due to its climate and its topography, agriculture is extensive and very varied and includes 75% of export revenue. Products : coffee, bananas, cut flowers, cotton, sugar cane, livestock, rice, corn. Cultivated land: 8.2% of the total area.

Government, personal and other services : 18.6% of GDP; financial services: 17.1% of GDP; commerce : 11.2% of GDP; transport and communications services : 7.9% of GDP; building and public works: 5.4% of GDP; mining and quarrying : 4.5% of GDP; electricity, gas and water: 2.9% of GDP.

The oil, mining and building sectors continue to attract maximum investment.

Breakdown of economic activity by sector	Agriculture	Industry	Services
Value added (annual % change)	2.4	4.3	9.4
Value added (in % of GDP)	10.5	29.3	60.1
Employment by sector (in % of total employment)	22.4	18.8	58.8

(Source : World Bank - World Development Indicators - last available data.)

Monetary indicators	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Average annual exchange rate for 1 USD	2,877.65	2,628.61	2,320.83	2,361.14	2,078.29

(Source : World Bank - World Development Indicators)

Foreign Trade in Figures

Colombia has trade agreements with Chile, the CAN countries, MERCOSUR countries, countries of Central America and the Caribbean, the European Union through the CAN; it has also signed free trade treaties with Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and the United States.

Exports from Colombia represented 24.3 billion USD in 2007; they mainly concerned products such as : oil, coal, coffee, flowers, textiles and clothes, ferronickel, bananas, chemicals. Biggest export markets: the United States, Canada, Venezuela, Germany, the Netherlands. In 2007, imports represented 24.5 billion USD; they mainly concerned products such as: machinery/equipment, grain, chemicals, transport equipment, electric and electronic equipment. Principal suppliers : the United States, Canada, Germany, Japan, Panama.

Foreign trade indicators	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Imports of goods (millions USD)	13,258	15,878	20,134	24,859	31,173
Exports of goods (millions USD)	13,813	17,224	21,729	25,181	30,579
Imports of services (millions USD)	3,360	3,938	4,770	5,496	6,223
Exports of services (millions USD)	1,921	2,256	2,668	3,377	3,618
Imports of goods and services (annual % change)	4.7	19.8	19.9	20.8	15.4
Exports of goods and services (annual % change)	5.7	10.0	7.0	7.8	1.4
Imports of goods and services (in % of GDP)	21.7	22.1	22.3	24.9	20.5
Exports of goods and services (in % of GDP)	21.2	21.5	21.5	22.5	19.4
Trade Balance (millions USD)	556	1,346	1,595	322	-594
Trade Balance (including service) (millions USD)	-883	-335	-507	-12,574	n.c.
Current Account (millions USD)	-8,569	-6,576	-5,176	-1,797	-3,199
Current Account (in % of GDP)	-1.2	-0.9	-1.5	-2.3	-3.4
Foreign trade (in % of GDP)	42.9	43.6	43.8	47.4	39.9

(Source : World Bank - World Development Indicators)

Main Partner Countries

Main customers (% of exports)	2007
United States	35.4%
Venezuela	17.4%
Ecuador	4.3%
Switzerland	3%
Netherlands	2.8%
Other Partners	37.1%
Main suppliers (% of exports)	2007
United States	26.2%
China	10.1%
Mexico	9.3%
Brazil	7.3%
Venezuela	4.2%
Other Partners	42.9%

(Source : Comtrade)


Main Products

Main exports (% of exports)	2007
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation	36.3%
Iron and Steel	6.2%
Coffee, tea, matl ¹ and spices	5.8%
Plastics and articles thereof	4.1%
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock	3.9%

Main imports (% of imports)	2007
Machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	15.1%
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock	12.1%
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders	11.2%
Organic chemicals	5.7%
Iron and steel	4.4%

India's Total Trade with Colombia
Export to Colombia (2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08), All Commodities

				(in US\$)		
				US\$ Million	US\$ Million	US\$ Million
				Cumulative	Cumulative	Cumulative
				2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Exporting Country	Importing Country	Commodity Name	Unit	val	val	val
India	Colombia	All Commodities		454.95	576.24	583.2

Export to Colombia (2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08), All Commodities

				(in Rs.)		
				Rs. Lakh	Rs. Lakh	Rs. Lakh
				Cumulative	Cumulative	Cumulative
				2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Exporting Country	Importing Country	Commodity Name	Unit	val	val	val
India	Colombia	All Commodities		201451.3	260923.11	234680.88

Import from Colombia (2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08), All Commodities

				(in US\$)		
				US\$ Million	US\$ Million	US\$ Million
				Cumulative	Cumulative	Cumulative
				2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Exporting Country	Importing Country	Commodity Name	Unit	val	val	val
Colombia	India	All Commodities		9.35	76.56	83.89

Import from Colombia (2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08), All Commodities

				(in Rs.)		
				Rs. Lakh	Rs. Lakh	Rs. Lakh
				Cumulative	Cumulative	Cumulative
				2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Exporting Country	Importing Country	Commodity Name	Unit	val	val	val
Colombia	India	All Commodities		4142.24	34668.6	33756.81


Export to Colombia (2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08), Engineering Goods

Exporting Country	Importing Country	Commodity Name	Unit	US\$ Million Cumulative 2005-06 val	US\$ Million Cumulative 2006-07 val	US\$ Million Cumulative 2007-08 val
India	Colombia	Mica	Kgs	0.01	0.01	
India	Colombia	Ferro alloys	Tonnes	0.59	1.25	1.47
India	Colombia	Aluminium other than products	Kgs	0.91		0.07
India	Colombia	Manufactures of metals		5.12	7.92	13.88
India	Colombia	Iron & steel bar/rods	Tonnes	4.23	6.91	9.44
India	Colombia	Primary & semi-finished iron & steel	Tonnes	2.90	9.95	6.16
India	Colombia	Machine tools		0.13	0.20	0.51
India	Colombia	Machinery & instruments		10.07	22.94	17.70
India	Colombia	Transport equipment		99.31	129.32	118.66
India	Colombia	Non-ferrous metals	Kgs	0.26	0.57	1.15
India	Colombia	Residual engineering items		0.02	0.02	0.03
Total				123.55	179.09	169.07

Import from Colombia (2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08), Engineering Goods

Exporting Country	Importing Country	Commodity Name	Unit	US\$ Million Cumulative 2005-06 val	US\$ Million Cumulative 2006-07 val	US\$ Million Cumulative 2007-08 val
Colombia	India	Machine tools		0.02		0.01
Colombia	India	Non-electrical machinery		0.02	0.10	0.53
Colombia	India	Electrical machinery		0		
Colombia	India	Professional inst, optical goods etc.		0.04	0.10	0.77
Colombia	India	Transport equipment		0.01	0.03	0
Colombia	India	Primary steel pig iron based items	Tonnes	5.13	68.41	74.92
Colombia	India	Iron & steel	Tonnes	0.02	0.20	0
Colombia	India	Manufactures of metals		0	0.04	0.17
Colombia	India	Non-ferrous metals		0.21		0.09
Total				5.45	68.88	76.49

Investing in Colombia
FDI in figures

Foreign Direct Investment	2005	2006	2007
FDI of inward flow (millions USD)	10,240	6,464	9,028
FDI inward stock (millions USD)	36,891.2	45,006.5	56,189.4
Performance Index*, world ranking	41	40	44
Potential Index**, world ranking	97	94	n.c.
Number of Greenfield investments	46	30	66

FDI inwards (in % of GFCF)	16.6	40.3	22.7
FDI stock (in % of GDP)	30.6	34.4	33.9

(Source : UNCTAD, World Investment Report)

Note: * The UNCTAD Inward FDI Performance index is based on a ratio of the country's share in global FDI inflows and its share in global GDP. ** The UNCTAD Inward FDI Potential index is based on 12 economic and structural variables such as GDP, foreign trade, FDI, infrastructures, energy use, R&D, education, country risk.



Why you should choose Colombia

Strong points

- Economic stability :** The Colombian economy is one of the most stable in Latin America, which translates into sustained economic growth above the regional average, an increase of 6.8% in 2007. The macroeconomic indicators reflect the economic stability of the country, inflation has declined in recent years, being 4.5% in 2006. Foreign debt has declined by over 20% of GDP (from 51% of GDP in 2002 to 30.6% of GDP in 2006).
- Political stability :** Contrary to conventional wisdom, Colombia's democracy is the oldest and most stable on the South American continent.
- Foreign investor confidence :** Foreign investment has increased significantly and reached in 2006 : US\$6.295 million. More than 700 multinational companies have investments in Colombia. The country offers investors a contract for legal stability, which guarantees the continuation of standards for a period ranging from 3 to 20 years.
- Skilled human resources qualified and competitive.**
Colombian workers are among the best qualified in Latin America, the country has a very good education (the literacy rate is 94.2%).
Wages in the services and handling sector are highly competitive with regards to those of other countries in the region.
- Strategic Geographic Location:** Located in the middle of the American continent, Colombia is a strategic point between the different markets of the region. The country has modern port facilities on both the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans, which considerably facilitates trade with European countries, the United States, or countries in Asia.
- An export platform and access to global markets:** Through various free trade agreements, Colombia has a market reach extending to 1,200 million people.
- Numerous poles of development :** With 45,000,000 inhabitants, Colombia is the third most populous country in Latin America : The capital Bogota has more than 7 million inhabitants. The cities of Medellin, Cali and Barranquilla each have more than 2 million inhabitants.
- Numerous modern infrastructures**
 - 6 Seaports on the Caribbean coast and 2 on the Pacific coast
 - 5 International airports
 - A road network under development
 - Developed telecommunication networks

Weak points

Although a sharp increase was noted regarding security matters, violence remains the country's principle weak point.

Government measures to motivate or restrict FDI

The government reaps the fruits of its policy of securing democracy. The goal of this policy is to create the security conditions needed in order to continue the restoration of confidence in the economy. In turn, this economic confidence helps attract investment. In this context the government is trying to establish free trade agreements, notable with the European Union, through a trade agreement and a series of investment agreements.

Visa Information

General Requirements to apply for a Colombian Visa are :

- Passport with an expiration date of minimum 3 months, with enough pages. Copy of the main and used pages.
- Application form completed and signed.
- Three (3) photographs passport size, must have white background.

Types of Visa :

- Business Visa
- Temporry Work Visa
- Tourist Visa

Business Visa

It is issued to executive level individuals who wish to visit the country for temporary periods, representing public or private foreign entities of a commercial or industrial nature, with the purpose of initiating or discussing businesses, or opening branches of their businesses in Colombia. The holder of a Business Visa cannot establish permanent residence in Colombia, and his activities cannot be compensated as salaries or honorariums in Colombia. A Business Visa is issued for multiple entries. **THIS IS NOT A WORK VISA!**

Requirements are :

- Application form completed. (The application must be sign and dated)
- Three (3) Color photographs, passport size, white background.
- Two (2) copies of the passport (Main page and pages with stamped visas)
- Letter from the employer presenting the employee, the position held, the time working for the company, the purpose of the trip and the time length. The letter must also state the responsibility of the company with the government of Colombia, to cover all the expenses and the return of the employer to his place of residence.
- The Company's certificate from the Department of State, also referred to as a Certificate of Good Standing (Original and copy should not be dated more than 3 months from the date of application). The certificate must be legalized, also referred to as "APOSTILLE".
- Letter from the company/client in Colombia confirming the meeting. The letter must be signed and dated.

Fee : US\$ 150.00

Temporary Work Visa

Requirements are :

- Original work contract signed and notarized.
- Existence certificate or registration from the company or entity in Colombia. If it's a private company, the certificate has to be from the Chamber of Commerce; if it's a public entity existence certificate has to be from of existence from the Ministry of Interior and Justice. (Issued within the last 90 days). In some cases, financial statements from the company will be required.
- Letter from the company stating the name and position of the applicant, detailed purpose of the trip, and company's commitment to assume financial responsibility for the foreigner, including his return to the country of origin or last country of residence.
- "Certificado de Proporcionalidad" issued by the Ministry of Social Protection "Ministerio de la Proteccion Social", stating that the ratio of national and foreign workers has been respected.



- Bachelor's degree. The certificate must be legalized, also referred to as "APOSTILLE".

Fee : US\$ 205.00

Tourist Visa

Only for activities related to tourism. You must apply for another visa type for any other activity.

The cost of the visa depends on the nationality of the person applying.

For tourist visa see the countries listed below :

Country	US\$
Argelia	14.00
Bulgaria	21.00
China	20.00
Egypt	20.00
Haiti	15.00
India	34.00
Iran	20.00
Kenya	15.00
Morocco	13.00
Nicaragua	35.00
Russia	17.00
Senegal	13.00

Operating a business in Colombia

Setting up a company

Legal business entities

Different types of companies	Number of partners/ Shareholders	Maximum and/or minimum capital	Liabilities	Registration fees
Sociedad de Responsabilidad Limitada (SRL) is : a Limited Liability company.	Minimum of two partners. Maximum of twenty partners.	No minimum capital.	Their liability is limited to the amount of their investment.	They vary according to the amount of issued share capital.
Sociedad Anonima is a limited company.	Minimum of five partners.	No minimum capital. Please Note : it must be purchased at 50% and at least 1/3 of the value of each share must be paid. The remaining 2/3 must be turned over the following year.	Their liability is limited to the amount of their investment.	
The Sociedad en acciones por comandita (SCA) is a partnership limited by shares.	There are two types of partners general and silent.	No minimum capital.	The liability of the general partner is unlimited. The responsibility of silent partners is limited to the amount of their investment.	They vary according to the amount of issued share capital.
Sociedad en Comandita Simple (SCS) is a limited partnership.	There are two types of partners general and silent.	No minimum capital.	The liability of the general partner is unlimited. The responsibility of silent partners is limited to the amount of their investment.	They vary according to the amount of issued share capital.

Counties, which are not on the list, the general US\$ 40.00 fee applies.

The applicant must come personally to the Consulate.

The minimum time for the Visa to be approved is 48 hours and in some cases, up to 2 weeks.

Business hours

Banks are open Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm in Bogota and 8am to 11:30am and 2pm to 4:30pm in the rest of the country. On the last workday of each month, banks close at noon.

Public administrative offices operate Monday through Friday from 8am to noon and 2pm to 6pm.

Business offices are open Monday through Friday and sometimes on Saturday from 8am to noon and 1pm to 5pm.

Stores are open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 7pm.

Shopping malls are open daily from 10am to 7pm.

Some supermarkets are open 24/7.



Business setup procedures

To form a company in Colombia, one must first appear before a notary to establish a protocol. This protocol must then be registered with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. One must also obtain a tax identification number from the Colombian authorities (NIT), open an account into which the funds will be deposited through an international bank. Finally, one must register with the Banco de la Republica's international technical division.

Reaching the consumers

Consumer behavior

A minority of Colombian population (20%) has a high purchasing power, the price is the most important consideration for the most of Colombian consumers.

Consumer profile and purchasing power

Colombian household consumption mainly concerns primary needs and education.

Colombians is strongly influenced by mode, brands and promotion, but there is also a strong influence of traditions on consumption habits.

Distributing a Product

Market shares

The most important commercial zones are located in large cities: Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Cartagena and Pereira.

The traditional distribution, symbolised by local groceries and other small shops called "tiendas", witnessed the arrival of modern distribution networks: supermarkets, hypermarkets, shopping centers. Nowadays, these new circuits cover 60% of the distribution landscape. The leaders of mass distribution in the country are : the Casino group which has the Exito stores (more than 250 outlets) and Carrefour (more than 35 outlets).

The perspectives for the development of electronic commerce are promising.

The Colombian government has achieved encouraging results in its effort to fight smuggling.

Market Access Procedures

Non tariff barriers

All imported goods have to be registered with the Ministry of Foreign Trade (Mincomex) on a form called "Registro de Importacion", worth 21 500 pesos (about 11 USD). Most products are automatically authorized to be imported if this form is presented (imports under the "Registro" procedure). There is nevertheless a certain number of goods (especially agricultural products) that are subject to license (imports under the "Licencia" procedure).

Import authorizations (automatic and licensed) are valid for 6 months, except for the following products: capital goods: 12 months; perishable foodstuffs: 2 months. The goods have to be claimed at Customs before the expiry date of the license.

Besides that, some products are subject to phytosanitary measures and the importer should be registered with a certain number of organizations: the Instituto Colombiano

Agropecuario for plants and animal products, the INVIMA for medicines, medical underwear, cosmetics and the Ministry of Transport for all types of vehicles. Some farm products can be imported only when they get a visa from the Ministry of Agriculture, and as long as the importer also buys identical local products. According to local conditions, it is also possible that the Ministry does not permit the import of certain products during a given period.

The import of vehicles, tires, second hand clothes, violent toys is forbidden. The import of weapons is strictly limited to the army.

Customs duties and taxes on imports

12%

Customs classification

Colombia applies the Harmonised Customs System. Customs duties are calculated Ad valorem on the CIF value. The customs duties system (4 rates) was fixed within the Andean PACT and is applicable to Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. Bolivia is authorised to use 5% and 10% rates, and at the moment Peru is benefiting from an exemption.

Import procedures

Besides the Customs declaration (SAD) 2 traditionally required for all goods dispatched, consignments sent to Colombia must be accompanied by the following documents :

- The commercial invoice in quadruplicate; it must be drawn up in Spanish for preference and indicate besides the usual details: the value or exchange value of the goods in USD, the number of the "registro de importacion" (the certificate of registration of import) sent to the exporter by the Colombian consignee.
- The certificate of origin. It is drawn up on the community form.
- The certificate of non contamination by radioactivity, required for agrifood products and especially for milk, it is issued by the Departmental Directorate of veterinary services.
- The phytosanitary certificate, required for fruit, vegetables, seeds and other plants, it is issued by the Regional service for the protection of plants.
- The health certificate issued by the Departmental Directorate of veterinary services.
- The certificate of free sale for cosmetics.

Other products may be subject to the presentation of certificates of free sale to be registered in Colombia.

Colombia applies the Harmonized Customs System. Customs duties are calculated Ad Valorem on the CIF value. The scale of Customs duties (4 rates) was fixed within the framework of the Andean Pact and is applicable in Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. Bolivia is authorized to use 5% and 10% rates, and Peru benefits for the moment from an exemption.

- a 0% rate for the import of agrochemical products, paper, scientific and cultural press and books.
- a 5% rate for the import of raw materials and capital and intermediate equipment not produced in Colombia.
- 10% and 15% rates for capital and intermediate equipment produced in Colombia.
- a 20% rate for consumer goods.



There are exceptions, especially for cars, taxed at 35%, as well as some agricultural products (corn, rice, sugar, poultry...) which come under the "price band" regime or variable system of Customs duties. This system, set up by the Andean Pact, determines floor and ceiling prices and a reference price calculated on a CIF basis. If the reference price, calculated at the time of import, is lower than the floor price, there is a surcharge; if it is the opposite, the Customs duties are reduced.

Despite these set rules, calculating Customs duties in Colombia is complicated, because of the numerous agreements the country has signed. There are no fewer than ten or so tariffs possible for certain goods.

For further information on Customs duties in Colombia, you can consult the Colombian Customs website (in Spanish).

The case of samples

The regulations regarding the importation of samples varies according to the type of products, we recommend that you contact the National Department of Customs (www.dian.gov.co/content/contactenos/otrosbuzones.htm).

Organizing Goods Transport

Main useful means

Goods transport inside the country is mostly by road.

Imported goods must be accompanied by the transport documents, packing list, and transport insurance. Colombian regulations make insuring consignments for the country compulsory. Wooden packaging entering Colombia must be treated (fumigated) and marked with the standard NIMP n°15.

Useful Addresses

Embassy of India in Colombia

Embassy of India

Carrera 7, No. 71-21
Oficina 1001, Torre B
Edificio Bancafe, Bogota DC
Tel. : 00-57-1-3174865, 3174876
Fax : 00-37-1-3174976
E-mail : indembog@cablenet.co
Website : www.embajadaindia.org

Embassy of Colombia in India

Embassy of Colombia

3 Palam Marg, First Floor
Vasant Vihar, New Delhi 110057
Tel. : +91-11-51662103, 51662105, 51662106, 51662109
Fax : +91-11-51662108
E-mail : emcolin@bol.net.in

Trade Associations

The Colombian Confederation of Chambers of Commerce – CONFECAMARAS

Cra. 13 No. 27-47, 502/5/29750
001 Cundinamarca Bogota, Colombia
Tel. : +57-13467055
Fax : +57-13467026
E-mail : agonzalez@confecamaras.org.co
Website : <http://www.confecamaras.org.co>

Camara de Comercio de Aburra Sur Itagui

Itagui Calle 48 No. 50-16
Parque Brasil, Aburra Sur Itagui, Colombia
Tel. : +57-943722344
Fax : +57-943724394
E-mail : webmaster@ccas.org.co
Website : <http://www.ccas.org.co>

Camara de Comercio de Aguachica

Calle 6 #17-43, Aguachica, Colombia
Tel. : +57-95-5650650
Fax : +57-95-5654574

Camara de Comercio de Uraba

Calle 109, n0 100-41 B.Velez
Barrio Velez, Antioquia, Colombia
Tel. : 5741 8280184
Fax : 5741 8281100

Camara de Comercio de Arauca

Calle 15 No 19-77, Arauca, Colombia
Tel. : +57-97-885-3356
Fax : +57-97-885-2264
E-mail : camarau@col1.telecom.com.co

Camara de Comercio de Armenia

Carrera 14, N023-15 piso 4
Armenia, Colombia
Tel. : 57-6-741-2300
Fax : 57-6-741-0173
E-mail : camara1@armenia.multi.net.co

Camara de Comercio de Barrancabermeja

Calle 9, n0 12-70, Piso 2
Barrancabermeja, Colombia
Tel. : 5776 222035
Fax : 5776 221997

Camara de Comercio de Barranquilla

Calle 40, 44-39
A.A. 12 Atlantico BARRANQUILLA
Colombia
Tel. : 57-95-3449777
Fax : 57-95-3415516
E-mail : info@camarabaq.org.co
Website : <http://www.camarabaq.org.co>

Camara de Comercio de Bogota

Carrera 9, No. 16-21, Piso 9
Casilla de Correos 29824, Bogota, Colombia
Tel. : 57-91-3347900
E-mail : proespec@ccb.org.co
Web : <http://www.empresario.com.co>

Camara de Comercio de Bucaramanga

Carrera 19, 36-20 piso 3
Bucaramanga, Colombia
Tel.: +57-97-6330880
Fax : +57-97-6334062
E-mail : juanjose@camacobu.org.co
Web : <http://www.camacobu.org.co>

Camara de Comercio de Buenaventura

Calle 1No. 1A-88, Edificio Camara de Comercio
Buenaventura, Colombia
Tel. : +57-92-2424258
E-mail : camarabu@col2.telecom.com.co

**Camara de Comercio de Buga**

Carrera 14, 5-53-20 piso2
036 Buga, Colombia
Tel. : 57092 2280088
Fax : 57092 2280093
E-mail : camara@col-online.com

Camara de Comercio de Cali

Calle 8, 3-14, 3d floor
Valle Cali, Colombia
Tel. : 57-2-8861320
Fax : 57-2-8861328
E-mail : jdomingu@ccc.org.co
Website : <http://www.ccc.org.co>

Camara de Comercio de Cartagena

Calle Santa Teresa, 32-41
Box A.A. 16, Cartagena, Colombia
Tel. : 575 6600795
Fax : 575 6600802
E-mail : camaradecomercio@camcomerciocartagena.org
Website : <http://www.camcomerciocartagena.org>

Camara de Comercio de Casanare

Diagonal 16 N0 14-08
Casanare, Colombia
Tel. : 349387
Fax : 357656

Camara de Comercio de Chinchina

Calle 10, n0 6-08, 20 piso
Chinchina, Colombia
Tel. : 576850 6788
Fax : 576850 8290
E-mail : ccomerch@col2.telecom.com.co

Camara de Comercio de Cucuta

Calle 10, 4-38 10 piso
Edificio Camara de Comercio de Cucuta
Cucuta, Colombia
Tel. : 57975 715022
Fax : 57975 712502
Email : cccuc02@col1.telecom.com.co
Web : <http://www.cucuta.com>

Camara de Comercio de Dosquebradas

Calle 16 N0 15-21, Piso 5
Dosquebradas, Colombia
Tel. : 228807
Fax : 224083

Camara de Comercio de Duitama

Calle 16, 15-21
piso 5, Duitama, Colombia
Tel. : 5787 602596
Fax : 5787 604525

Camara de Comercio de El Espinal

Carrera 8, n0 8-35
El Espinal, Colombia
Tel. : 578348 5377
Fax : 578348 3589

Camara de Comercio de Facatativa

Cra. 2, n0 2-89
Facatativa, Colombia
Tel. : 57184 24603
Fax : 57184 23151

Camara de Comercio de Florencia

Calle 17, n0 8-72
194 Florencia, Colombia
Tel. : 57098 4353939
Fax : 57098 4352611
E-mail : camara@hacha.telecaqueta.com.co
Website : <http://www.colciencias.gov.co/amazonia>

Camara de Comercio de Girardot

Calle 20A No.7A-40
Barrio Granada
Girardot, Colombia
Tel. : 5734 33663
Fax : 5734 34911

Camara de Comercio de Honda

Calle 12A, 10A-06
Honda, Colombia
Tel. : 571989 513896
Fax : 571989 513896
E-mail : camhonda@bunde.tolinet.com.co

Camara de Comercio de Ibagué

Calle 10, 3-76 - 20 piso
1014 Ibague, Colombia
Tel. : 5782 610944
Fax : 5782 610900
E-mail : comercio@ibague.cetcol.net.co

Camara de Comercio de Ipiales

Carrera 11, n0 15-28, Ipiales, Colombia
Tel. : 572725 2465
Fax : 572725 4047

Camara de Comercio de La Dorada

Carrera 3, n0 14-243
Piso 2, La Dorada, Colombia
Tel. : 57685 572296
Fax : 57685 574182
E-mail : cdorada@col2.telecom.com.co

Camara de Comercio de Amazonas

Carrera 11, LETICIA, Colombia
Tel. : 5719 27971
Fax : 5719 27843

Camara de Comercio de Magangué

Carrera 4, n0 12-12, 20 piso
Magangué, Colombia
Tel. : 57528 7767
Fax : 57528 7767

Camara de Comercio de Manizales

Carrera 23, n0 26-60
Manizales, Colombia
Tel. : 5768 841840
Fax : 5768 840919
E-mail : ccm@ccm.org.co
Website : <http://www.ccm.org.co>

Medellin, Camara de Comercio de

Av. Oriental, No. 52- 82
Apartado aereo 1894
1894 Medellin Medellin, Colombia
Tel. : 574- 5116111
Fax : 574-2318648
E-mail : ccmed@medellin.cetcol.net.co
Website : <http://www.camaramed.org.co>

**Camara de Comercio de Monteria**

Calle 28, Carreras 4A y 5^a
Monteria, Colombia
Tel. : 57478 24214
Fax : 57478 24158

Camara de Comercio de Neiva

Carrera 5a, n0 10-38
3er piso, Neiva, Colombia
Tel. : 0988 713666
Fax : 0988 713651
E-mail : ccneiva@multiphone.net.co

Camara de Comercio de Oriente Antioqueno

Calle 51 N0 46-72, Oriente Antioqueno, Colombia
Tel. : 5312514
Fax : 5312514

Camara de Comercio de Palmira

Calle 28 n0 30 – 15, First
468 Valle Palmira, Colombia
Tel. : 57092 2734658
Fax : 57092 2755252
E-mail : Ccomercio@telepblmira.com.co
Website : <http://www.ccpalmira.org.co>

Camara de Comercio de Pamplona

Carrera 6, 4-17, Piso 2 Edif Marquez
Pamplona, Colombia
Tel. : 570975 684696
Fax : 570975 682047

Camara de Comercio de Pasto

Calle 18, n0 28-84, Pasto, Colombia
Tel. : 57272 310359
Fax : 57272 310440
E-mail : ccompas2@occinet.net.co
Website : <http://www.pasto.com.co>

Camara de Comercio de Pereira

Carrera 8a. No. 23-09, Local 10
none Risaralda Pereira, Colombia
Tel. : (57 6)3252587
Fax : (576)3250957
E-mail : informacion@camarapereira.org.co
Website : <http://www.camarapereira.org.co>

Camara de Comercio de Cauca

Carrera 7A., 4-36
Popayán, Colombia
Tel. : 57282 43625
Fax : 57282 41346

Camara de Comercio de Putumayo

Carrera 22, CL 10 Esq.
Edif. Londoño, Puerto Asis, Colombia
Tel. : 227173
Fax : 227379

Camara de Comercio de Medio y Nordeste Antiopequeo

Calle 7, n0 1-33, Piso 2
Puerto Berrio, Colombia
Tel. : 48 232243
Fax : 48 232281

Camara de Comercio de Quibdo

Calle 26, n0 2-51, Quibdo, Colombia
Tel. : 5749 626105
Fax : 5749 625682

Camara de Comercio de Riohacha

Calle 7 N06-20, Riohacha, Colombia
Tel. : 5754 274180
Fax : 5754 273551

Camara de Comercio de San Andres

Av. Francisco Newball 4A
20 piso, San Andres, Colombia
Tel. : 57811 23687
Fax : 5711 23929
E-mail : info@camcomer-sai.com
Website : <http://www.camcomer-sai.com/english/info.html>

Camara de Comercio de Santa Marta

Avenida Francisco Newball No. 4a
Santa Marta, Colombia
Tel. : 5754 23987
Fax : 5754 23929

Camara de Comercio de Santa Rosa de Cabal

Calle 14, n0 15-78, Edif. BCH 20 piso
Santa Rosa De Cabal, Colombia
Tel. : 5763 641615
Fax : 5763 641289

Camara de Comercio de Sevilla

Palacio Municipal, Calle 51
Piso 10, Sevilla, Colombia
Tel. : 5767 696837
Fax : 5767 698531

Camara de Comercio de Sincelejo

Calle 20, No.27-87, Av.Luis Carlos Galan
Sincelejo, Colombia
Tel. : 5752 826316
Fax : 5752 821779

Camara de Comercio de Sogamoso

Carrera 10, 12-14
Piso 2, Sogamoso, Colombia
Tel. : 57098 7702954
Fax : 57098 7703999

Camara de Comercio de Tulúa

Calle Sucre, Tulúa, Colombia
Tel. : 244344
Fax : 249321

Camara de Comercio de Tumaco

Calle Sucre/Apdo. Postal 342
Tumaco, Colombia
Tel. : 527271 577
Fax : 527272 375

Camara de Comercio de Tunja

Calle 21, 10-52, Tunja, Colombia
Tel. : 5787 425613
Fax : 5787 427928

Camara de Comercio de Valledupar

Calle 15, N04-23, Piso 2, Valledupar, Colombia
Tel. : 5755 749021
Fax : 5755 742234

Camara de Comercio de Villavicencio

Calle 39, N031-47, Villavicencio, Colombia
Tel. : 5786 713737
Fax : 5786 626322

**Useful Links****Business Environment****Standards**

INCOTEC - TecnicaCertification National Institute (www.icontec.org.co)
New decrees from the Ministry of the Interior and Justice (www.mij.gov.co)
Ministry of Finance and Public Credit - Department of Customs (www.dian.gov.co)
Information about taxes in Colombia (www.businesscol.com)
Information on doing business in Colombia (English) (www.businesscol.com)

Foreign trade in figures

Trade agreements (www.mincomercio.gov.co)
Free trade treaties (www.mincomercio.gov.co)

Sources of economic information**Ministries**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in Spanish) (www.cancilleria.gov.co)
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (in Spanish) (www.mincomercio.gov.co)
Directorate of Taxes and Customs in Colombia (in Spanish) (www.dian.gov.co)
Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (in Spanish) (www.minhacienda.gov.co)
Ministry of Mines and Energy (in Spanish) (www.minminas.gov.co)
Ministry of Trade (www.mincomercio.gov.co)
Ministry of Transport (www.mintransporte.gov.co)
Ministry of Agriculture (www.minagricultura.gov.co)

Statistical Office

National Institute of Statistics (www.dane.gov.co)

Central Bank

Central Bank of Colombia (www.banrep.gov.co)

Stock Exchange

Bogota Stock Exchange (www.bvc.com.co)

Search Engines

Google Colombia (www.google.com.co)

Economic portals

Portafolio Review (www.portafolio.com.co)
Review of the Bank of the Republic (www.banrep.gov.co/publicaciones/pub_revis.htm)

Reaching the consumers

Consumer behavior - a complete study of the consumer habits and profiles of Colombians
RADDAR (<http://inforaddar.googlepages.com>)

Consumers associations

Colombian Confederation of Consumers (www.ccconsumidores.org.co)

Main advertising agencies

Advertising Agency Pezeta (www.pezeta.com)
Advertising Agencies Directory (www.abcpublicitario.com)

For further information on Customs duties in Colombia

Colombian Customs (www.dian.gov.co)
National Directorate of Taxes and Customs (www.dian.gov.co)

Organizing goods transport**Ports**

The port of Cartagena (www.sprc.com.co)
The port of Buenaventura (www.sprbun.com)

Airports

International Airport El Dorado; Bogota (www.elnuevodorado.com)
International Airport Alfonso Bonilla Aragon; Cali (www.aeropuertosdelmundo.com.ar/americanadelsur/colombia/aeropuertos/cali.php)
International Airport Jose Maria Cordova; Medellin (www.aeropuertosdelmundo.com.ar/americanadelsur/colombia/aeropuertos/medellin.php)

Sea transport organizations

Ministral division for ports and transports (www.supertransporte.gov.co)
Ministry of transports (www.mintransporte.gov.co)

Air transport organizations

Colombian Civil Aviation (www.aerocivil.gov.co)

Road transport organizations

Ministry of Transports (www.mintransporte.gov.co)

Rail transport organizations

Railroad ways of the Atlantique (<http://covifa.com>)

Business Directories

Confecámaras (www.confecamaras.org.co)
Yellow Pages (www.paginasamarillas.com/Colombia)
National federation of shopkeepers (www.fenalco.com.co)

Manufacturers associations of the main industries

ANDI, National Businessmen Association of Colombia (www.andi.com.co)
Chamber of Commerce of Colombia (www.confecamaras.org.co)

The competent organization

Confederation of the Chambers of Commerce of Colombia (www.confecamaras.org.co)

Unions

Unified Congress of Workers of Colombia (www.cut.org.co)

Labour regulation bodies

Confederation of Employers (www.andi.com.co)
Ministry of Social Protection (www.minproteccionsocial.gov.co)

Administrative procedures relative to foreign investment

Agency for the promotion of foreign investment (www.waipa.org)

Investment aid agency

Agency for the promotion of investment in Colombia (www.proexport.com.co)

Traveling in Colombia**Passport and visa service**

Visa for Colombia (www.turismocolombia.com)
Colombian Tourism Office (www.turismocolombia.com)

Diplomatic representations

Colombian Embassies (www.colombianosnegocian.com)



Maps of urban networks

Maporama (www.maporama.com)
UT Library on line (www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/colombia.html)
Mapblast (www.mapblast.com)

Type of climate

Colombian system of environmental information
(www.ideam.gov.co)

Free translation tools (Free English-Spanish-English translation of texts and web pages)

Babel Fish (<http://babelfish.altavista.com>)

(Source : EEPC INDIA Website, Statistics Department – EEPC INDIA, www.fita.org)
