7 reasons to invest in Guatemala

1.5B+
consumers with duty-free access through 16 trade agreements

3 h
flight to Miami, Dallas, Houston and Atlanta

65%
of 3,400 MW installed capacity from renewable sources

11.7M
people of working age; average age of 28



INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS
1. La Aurora, Guatemala City
2. Mundo Maya, Petén

PORTS
1. Puerto Quetzal
2. Puerto Santo Tomás de Castilla
3. Puerto Barrios

LAND CUSTOMS OFFICES
1. El Ceibo
2. La Mesilla
3. El Carmen
4. Tecún Umán II
5. Tecún Umán I
6. Corinto
7. Agua Caliente
8. El Florido
9. La Ermita
10. San Cristóbal
11. Valle Nuevo
12. Pedro de Alvarado

01 Favorable Macroeconomic Environment for Long-Term Investments

The country's robust macroeconomic environment supports long-term planning with a low risk profile. This stability is backed by a long-term average GDP growth of **3.5%**, a 20-year stable exchange rate averaging **GTQ 7.7 per US$1**, controlled inflation (**1.65% in 2025**), and a conservative public debt level of **26.8% of GDP**. Furthermore, the country maintains a strong sovereign credit profile, holding a **BB+** rating from Fitch Ratings and S&P, as well as a **Ba1 stable** rating from Moody's.

02 Strategic Location at the Logistic Heart of the Americas

Strategically located next to Mexico and with access to ports on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, Guatemala offers fast and direct access to Central America and the United States by land and sea, with transit times between **4 and 6 days**.

In addition, the country has **16 trade agreements** that provide duty-free access to more than **1.5 billion consumers**, including the DR-CAFTA with the United States. This advantage is complemented by the proximity to major U.S. cities, just a **3-hour flight** from Miami, Dallas, Houston and Atlanta.

03 Young and Skilled Workforce

Guatemala has the youngest and largest workforce in Central America, with an average age of **28** and **11.7 million** people of working age, including **6.5 million women**. Guatemalans are known for their strong service culture, high adaptability to change, openness to innovation, and remarkable capacity to learn.

Every year, **+35,000 professionals** and **+20,000 technicians** graduate from universities in various professions. In addition, the country has the most dynamic entrepreneurial fabric in the region and an ecosystem of scholarships for employability focused on the needs of the industries.

04 Diversified Energy Matrix and Commitment to Sustainability

Guatemala has a diversified energy generation matrix with an installed capacity of **3,400 MW**, **65%** of which comes from renewable sources, exceeding domestic consumption and guaranteeing long-term supply at competitive costs. Legal stability in the energy sector encourages investment in generation and transmission infrastructure. In addition, favorable marketing regulations allow large consumers with needs greater than **100 kW** to negotiate more favorable tariffs through private purchase agreements.

The country also has abundant resources for production, including a land area of **108,889 km²** and various raw materials. This wealth of resources contributes to greater resilience and environmental management, positioning Guatemala as an attractive and stable option for companies committed to sustainability.

05 Stable and Low-Risk Legal Framework

Guatemala offers a stable, transparent, and low-risk legal framework designed to protect and support international business. The country's legal architecture guarantees equal treatment for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) alongside domestic capital, allowing **100% foreign ownership** in commercial entities and full freedom of trade and industry.

To further enhance the business climate, the government is actively streamlining administrative processes, digitizing permits and licenses, and strengthening institutional transparency and private property rights. This commitment to legal security and predictability establishes Guatemala as a highly reliable and competitive destination for long-term growth and expansion.

06 Special Economic Zones and Attractive Incentives

Guatemala offers a robust and highly attractive incentive framework to foster foreign investment and exports, backed by **over 50 years** of experience in special economic zones with long-term, non-expiring benefits.

These zones enable companies to boost their competitiveness when expanding or relocating operations to access strategic markets. Key advantages include **10-year income tax exemptions**, as well as full VAT and customs duty exemptions on production machinery, imported raw materials, and local inputs. Furthermore, Guatemala features more than **3.5 million m²** of available space across regional industrial parks, establishing vibrant industrial ecosystems that drive sustainable economic growth.

07 Safety and Quality of Life

Guatemala offers global investors a rare combination: robust operational profitability and a secure, high-standard living environment. Beyond compelling profit margins and strategic regional access, the country delivers the macroeconomic stability, safety, and personal well-being required for long-term corporate success.

With a homicide rate of **16.1 per 100,000** inhabitants—significantly lower than the regional average of **24.3**—the country provides a secure setting for business operations and executive living. Expatriates enjoy a premier lifestyle with access to top-tier healthcare and education, a spring-like average temperature of **24°C**, and rental costs up to **70% lower** than in the United States. Coupled with strong economic confidence, Guatemala ensures that high business performance goes hand-in-hand with an exceptional quality of life.

Sources: SAT, BANGUAT, INE, INTECAP, MINECO, CEPAL, MEM, OIM, INGUAT.

GUATEMALA MOVING FORWARD

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