

Table No. 9
Internet service rate - E-1

DESCRIPTION	MONTHLY RATE	INSTALLATION
Cable & Wireless*	US \$360.00	US \$690.00
Cable Onda	US \$ 50.00	US \$350.00
Telecarrier	US \$700.00	US \$1,295.00
GBNet	US \$450.00	US \$990.00

* Includes 100 lines without additional cost. The rate for each additional line is us\$6.00

C. SECURITY

Panama is considered among the best places in the world to live for both foreigners and nationals, due to its positive attributes in security matters. The prestigious Pinkerton Intelligence Agency, a company that works with eighty percent of the one thousand Fortune List enterprises, has awarded Panama, through the Pinkerton Global Intelligence Services, one of the highest ranking positions in tourist security matters. Furthermore, worldwide distribution magazines such as International Living have ranked the country with outstanding security levels.

It should be remembered that Panama does not have an army and its duly trained security units are entirely civilian, police and professional. To such end, there are seven units: the Institutional Protection Service, National Maritime Service, National Police, Judicial Technical Police, Customs and Immigration, all duly coordinated under the Public Security and National Defense Council.

The Panamanian security policy is based on the principle of INTEGRAL SECURITY, being its primary goal to protect the life, honor and assets of all inhabitants, either Panamanian or foreign citizens, guaranteeing the governance of the State.

The Republic of Panama has been free from natural disasters since its foundation as an independent nation 100 years ago. As a preventive measure, Panama is prepared to face such a situation if it were to happen, through the leadership of the National Civil Protection Service (SINAPROC), under the Ministry of Government and Justice.



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C.1 STATISTICS ON THE NUMBER OF SERIOUS CRIMES FOR EACH 100-THOUSAND INHABITANTS

The Republic of Panama has a population of 2,980,947 inhabitants. In the year 2003, an average of 535 general crimes were registered for each 100,000 inhabitants and the crime rate per 100,000 tourists was 28.5 cases for a population of 638,618 visitors.

When the figures corresponding to 2003 are measured in the following Table, and are compared to those of the preceding year, nearly a 9 % decrease in the total number of crimes is observed. It should be noted that only six kidnappings took place in the Republic of Panama in 2003, all satisfactorily solved by security entities. Neither attempts of extremist acts nor terrorist acts were reported.

Likewise, in Table 10 the number of serious crimes reported to the National Police, with a comparison between the years 2002 and 2003 according to the type of crime, is presented.

Table No. 10

Serious crimes reported to the National Police in the Republic of Panama per year considering the type of crime

REPORTED CASES	2002	2003	DIF. %
Arm Robbery	2,192	1,887	-13.91%
Car Robbery	302	188	-37.75%
Theft	8,096	7,622	-5.85%
Car Theft	523	430	-17.78%
Wounded with weapon	1,115	1,057	-5.20%
Wounded with a cutting weapon	1,337	1,274	-4.71%
Wounded w/forcible object	404	374	-7.43%
Homicide with weapon	205	139	-32.20%
Homicide with a cutting weapon	81	59	-27.16%
Homicide w/blunt weapon	23	18	-21.74%
Weapon possession	703	630	-10.38%
Rape	197	162	-17.77%
Property damage	972	825	-15.12%
Drugs	1,332	1,293	-2.93%
TOTAL CRIMES	17,482	15,958	-8.72%

Source: National Police

C.2. SECURITY AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES THAT PANAMA OFFERS IN REGARDS TO NATURAL DISASTERS FOR THE SECRETARIAT'S VENUE , PERSONNEL AND DELEGATES

Security for the Secretariat Venue, Personnel and Delegates

The Republic of Panama aims to maintain the same security level displayed during the two years that we were honoured to be the temporary venue of the FTAA. During this period there was no security incident or problem registered against the Administrative Secretariat installations, meetings' location, dignitaries, negotiators and personnel.

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This peaceful environment was achieved due to the high security level within Panama City, to the tolerant and respectful character of its society and to the effective coordination between the FTAA Liaison Office, under the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the country's public security entities.

Considering the City of Panama's proposal to become the Permanent Venue of the FTAA Administrative Secretariat and through an initiative of the Public Security and National Defence Council, the Government of Panama prepared an FTAA Security Plan, which is entirely presented in Annex 2, in order to meet the requirements of the Headquarters of the Administrative Secretariat Venue, meetings' location, dignitaries, negotiators and personnel, and also considering the Heads of State or Government, Ministers or Vice Ministers who may visit our country when the Venue has been established in Panama.

The goal of the FTAA Security Plan is "To plan and support the integral security capabilities and the guarantees that the Republic of Panama offers in order to become the FTAA Venue." It includes permanent actions applied directly to public security of the installations, physical security, security with integral technology, security of information and special systems. All this will be achieved by:

- Preparing the necessary plans and integrating and coordinating government entities.
- Performing analysis, studies and capabilities in the prevention, reaction and attention to possible risks and threats that could occur.
- Carrying out planned drills and rehearsals in prevention and in attention to emergency situations.
- Updating the assessment of security situations.
- Strengthening plans and orders.

There will be three implementation phases:

PHASE 1 (INSTALLATION)

Previously coordinating and providing structures and facilities related to the security issues through integrated special systems.

PHASE 2 (OPERATION)

Providing permanent security services to FTAA installations and to whatever is necessary for its operation. Emphasis will be given to the security of the installations and its perimeter:

PHASE 3 (EXECUTIVE MEETINGS)

Planning, coordinating and developing all the actions required to carry out executive meetings. It will be focused on operational preparations.

The implementation of this plan will involve all security entities, coordinated by the Public Security and National Defense Council, under the Presidency of the Republic of Panama, with the support of the Integral Security Committee and the National Crisis Coordination Center:

In paragraph H, Panama presents all the security services of the FTAA installations as part of the country's offer:

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Preventive Measures in Matters of Natural Disasters for the Secretariat's Venue, its Personnel and Delegates

Even though Panama traditionally has been free of natural disasters, strict security construction norms, similar to the United States, are enforced. The National Civil Protection Service (SINAPROC), under the Ministry of Government and Justice, is integrated by 207 officials and nearly 2,500 volunteers duly trained to respond to emergency situations throughout the national territory.

SINAPROC's National Emergency Plan describes its essential components and provides a framework to develop an effective national response capacity in case of any event, coordinated through an Emergency Operation Center.

The Plan identifies country regions, population groups, and potential vulnerability and risk problems. Moreover, its activation leads to the integration of different government institutions, the private sector, international agencies and civil society.

The Emergency Operation Center (EOC), inaugurated in 2000 at the former Howard Air Force Base, is the coordinating entity of all citizen protection and security units facing any emergency or natural disaster. The EOC is considered one of the most modern of Latin America and the Caribbean. With totally digitalized equipment and located within one of the best furnished aviation infrastructure in the continent, the center is strategically positioned to accomplish its goals.

Although emergencies and natural disasters are infrequent in Panama, the country is prepared in case of any disaster that may arise in the national territory.

Furthermore, considering that the location offered by the Republic of Panama to become the Secretariat's Venue meets the highest international norms in disaster prevention matters, Annex 3 presented containing the Disaster Prevention Manual for these installations.



The Panama Canal - Safe infrastructure serving world commerce

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D. HUMAN RESOURCES

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE ENGLISH, SPANISH, PORTUGUESE AND FRENCH TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS (INCLUDED SPECIALISTS IN LEGAL INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATING) WHO ARE PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED AND HAVE A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF FTAA TERMINOLOGY

Due to its geographic location and international services and trade activities, Panama has been the convergence point for people of different nationalities from the five continents, who have bestowed their cultural and linguistic influences. As a result of the French presence in the Capital City during the 19th Century, the American presence since the last century, the contribution of the Caribbean islands to the construction of the interoceanic canal, along with the collaboration of the Federal Republic of Brazil through university education scholarships granted to Panamanians, a significant percentage of the population speaks the languages employed in FTAA dynamics.



Panama invests 6% of its GDP in education, one of the highest percentages in the continent. The study of different foreign languages has been encouraged in Panama for many years and bilingual teaching is compulsory at elementary and high school levels. Due to these reasons, the country began three years ago an aggressive international campaign to attract international call centers and, at present, hosts worldwide giants such as Dell, operating from the former Howard base.

The City has 30 language centers operated by both national and international university and educational institutions. Likewise, a large number of Embassies maintain specialized cultural centers in Panama. Among them, the French Alliance stands out due to the diversity of activities offered, all representative of its culture.

During the last decade Panama City has hosted important international and inter-American meetings that require significant local technical support from qualified interpreters and translators. Panama was the first location outside of New York City where a session of the UN Security Council has been held. Likewise, Panama hosted the 26th General Assembly of the OAS; the Specialized Conferences on Private International Law, in which all the inter-American jurisprudence in this field was created; and the Universal Congress of the Panama Canal.

Translators and Interpreters

En el Ministerio de Educación y el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores se encuentran registrados, en los idiomas del ALCA, más de 700 traductores e intérpretes calificados de los idiomas inglés, español, francés y portugués. Para recibir su certificación de ambas entidades públicas, los traductores e intérpretes deben cumplir con una serie de requisitos administrativos y académicos establecidos en el Código Administrativo de la República de Panamá, entre ellas, la obligación de presentar documentos que los acrediten en la especialidad, debidamente autenticados, y pasar las pruebas correspondientes ante dos examinadores oficiales. El Estado, al otorgarles la idoneidad, les confiere una licencia de traductores e intérpretes públicos autorizados. Contar con esa base, que supera los setecientos traductores e intérpretes calificados, es un importante recurso para cualquiera necesidad futura de la Secretaría Administrativa, las misiones, delegados y/o dignatarios del ALCA. En el Cuadro II se incluye la cifra exacta de traductores calificados registrados en la República de Panamá.

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