



**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE AT THE NEXUS OF THE COMMERCIAL AND SOCIAL SECTORS**

**ABSTRACT**

**LABOR COST COMPARISON OF APPAREL PRODUCTION COUNTRIES  
(AUGUST 2018)**

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The apparel industry is one of the main employers in developing economies, particularly for women. The Brazil apparel market has been valued at US\$31.44 billion in 2017. It is expected to change substantially over the coming years due to increasing spending power of consumers, and reach US\$42.8 billion by 2025. The Brazilian apparel industry employs approximately 1.3 million people, more than 70 percent of whom are women. However, comparison of hourly compensation costs in the apparel industry and comparison of hourly compensation costs in manufacturing, based on the Conference Board's report in 2016; comparison of monthly minimum wages for apparel industry companies for a group of developing economies that have top positions in global apparel production; and comparison of textile industry labor costs based on Werner International's report for 2014 show that producing apparel in Brazil is expensive and the cost of labor is particularly high, compared to many East and Southeast Asian emerging economies with strong apparel industries.

