**GOVERNMENT**

Chief of State  
President Desire Delano BOUTERSE

Head of Government  
President Desire Delano BOUTERSE

Government Type  
presidential republic

Capital  
Paramaribo

Legislature  
unicameral National Assembly or Nationale Assemblee (51 seats)

Judiciary  
High Court of Justice of Suriname (consists of the court president, vice president, and 4 judges); note - appeals beyond the High Court are referred to the Caribbean Court of Justice

Ambassador to US  
Ambassador Niermala Sakoentala BADRISING

US Ambassador  
Ambassador Karen Lynn WILLIAMS

**ECONOMY**

Economic Overview  
Suriname’s economy is dominated by the mining industry, with exports of oil and gold accounting for approximately 85% of exports and 27% of government revenues; alumina exports ceased in 2015, putting severe pressure on Suriname’s finances, and causing a significant depreciation of its currency

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)  
$8.688 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)  
$14,900 (2017 est.)

Exports  
$2.028 billion (2017 est.)  
partners: Switzerland 38%, Hong Kong 21.9%, Belgium 10.1%, UAE 7.2%, Guyana 6.1% (2017)

Imports  
$1.293 billion (2017 est.)  
partners: US 30.6%, Netherlands 14.8%, Trinidad and Tobago 11.4%, China 7.6% (2017)

**PEOPLE & SOCIETY**

Population  
597,900 (July 2018 est.)

Population Growth  
1% (2018 est.)

Ethnicity  
Hindustani 27.4%, Maroon 21.7%, Creole 15.7%, Javanese 13.7%, mixed 13.4%, other 7.6%, unspecified 0.6% (2012 est.)

Language  
Dutch (official), English, Sranang Tongo, Caribbean Hindustani, Javanese

Religion  
Protestant 23.6%, Hindu 22.3%, Roman Catholic 21.6%, Muslim 13.8%, other Christian 3.2%, Winti 1.8%, Jehovah’s Witness 1.2%, other 1.7%, none 7.5%, unspecified 3.2% (2012 est.)

Urbanization  
urban population: 66.1% of total population (2018)  
rate of urbanization: 0.9% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy  
95.6% (2016 est.)

**GEOGRAPHY**

Area  
Total: 163,820 sq km  
Land: 156,000 sq km  
Water: 7,820 sq km

Climate  
tropical; moderated by trade winds

Natural Resources  
timber, hydropower, fish, kaolin, shrimp, bauxite, gold, small amounts of nickel, copper, platinum, and iron ore

as of February 2019