BARBADOS

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State
Queen ELIZABETH II
represented by Governor General Sandra MASON

Head of Government
Prime Minister Mia MOTTLEY

Government Type
parliamentary democracy (Parliament) under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital
Bridgetown

Legislature
bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (21 seats) and the House of Assembly (30 seats)

Judiciary
Supreme Court (consists of the High Court with 8 justices) and the Court of Appeal (consists of the High Court chief justice and president of the court and 4 justices)

note - in 2005, Barbados replaced the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London with the Caribbean Court of Justice as the final court of appeal

Ambassador to US
Ambassador Selwin Charles HART

US Ambassador
Ambassador Linda S. TAGLIALATELA

ECONOMY

Economic Overview
traditionally a sugarcane economy, Barbados has become one of the wealthiest Caribbean countries by diversifying into tourism but at the cost of high and growing public debt

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$5.218 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$18,600 (2017 est.)

Exports
$485.4 million (2017 est.)
partners: US 38%, Trinidad and Tobago 10.2%, Guyana 5.5%, Jamaica 5%, China 4.8%, St. Lucia 4.6% (2017)

Imports
$1.52 billion (2017 est.)
partners: US 38.5%, Trinidad and Tobago 14.6%, China 7.1%, UK 4.7% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population
293,100 (July 2018 est.)

Population Growth
0.26% (2018 est.)

Ethnicity
black 92.4%, mixed 3.1%, white 2.7%, East Indian 1.3%, other 0.2%, unspecified 0.3% (2010 est.)

Language
English (official), Bajan (English-based creole language, widely spoken in informal settings)

Religion
Protestant 66.4%, Roman Catholic 3.8%, other Christian 5.4%, Rastafarian 1%, other 1.5%, none 20.6%, unspecified 1.2% (2010 est.)

Urbanization
urban population: 31.1% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization: 0.2% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy
99.6% (2014 est.)

as of February 2019

GEOGRAPHY

Area
Total: 430 sq km
Land: 430 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate
tropical; rainy season (June to October)

Natural Resources
petroleum, fish, natural gas

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