JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State
Queen ELIZABETH II
represented by Governor General Dr. Patrick L. ALLEN

Head of Government
President Andrew HOLNESS

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

Capital
Kingston

Legislature
bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (21 seats) and the House of Representatives (63 seats)

Judiciary
Court of Appeal (consists of president of the court and a minimum of 4 judges; Supreme Court (40 judges organized in specialized divisions); note - appeals beyond Jamaica’s highest courts are referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (in London)

Ambassador to US
Ambassador Audrey Patrice MARKS

US Ambassador
Ambassador (vacant); Charge d’Affaires Eric KHANT

ECONOMY

Economic Overview
Jamaica derives 70% of its GDP from services, and most of its foreign exchange from tourism, remittances, and bauxite/alumina exports; it has experienced slow growth due to corruption, red-tape, high debt, and a bloated public sector

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$26.06 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$9,200 (2017 est.)

Exports
$1.31 billion (2017 est.)
partners: US 39.1%, Netherlands 12.3%, Canada 8.4% (2017)

Imports
$5.82 billion (2017 est.)
partners: US 40.6%, Colombia 6.8%, Japan 5.8%, China 5.8%, Trinidad and Tobago 4.7 (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population
3 million (July 2017 est.)

Population Growth
0.68% (2017 est.)

Ethnicity
black 92.1%, mixed 6.1%, East Indian 0.8%, other 0.4%, unspecified 0.7% (2011 est.)

Language
English, English patois

Religion
Protestant 64.8%, Roman Catholic 2.2%, Jehovah’s Witness 1.9%, Rastafarian 1.1%, other 6.5%, none 21.3%, unspecified 2.3% (2011 est.)

Urbanization
urban population: 55.7% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization: 0.82% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy
88.7% (2015 est.)

as of September 2018