SURINAME

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 Edwin "Ned" Richard NOLAN, Jr.

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)
$8.508 billion (2017 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$14,600 (2017 est.)
Exports
$1.976 billion (2017 est.)
partners: Switzerland 38%, Hong Kong 21.9%, Belgium 10.1%, UAE 7.2%, Guyana 6.1% (2017)
Imports
$1.57 billion (2017 est.)
partners: US 30.6%, Netherlands 14.8%, Trinidad and Tobago 11.4%, China 7.6% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
591,900 (July 2017 est.)
Population Growth
1.02% (2017 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%
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 September 2018