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Guyana

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY

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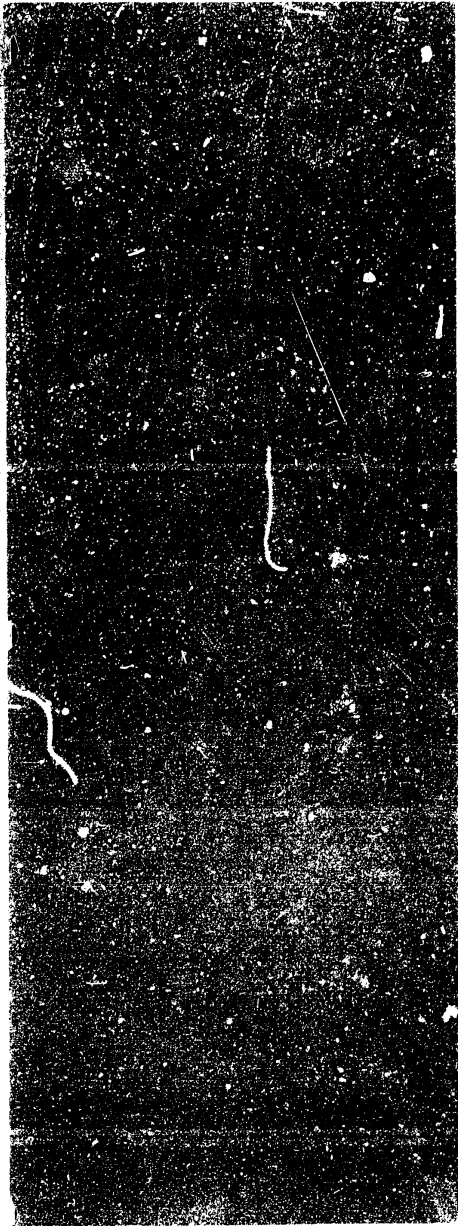
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guyana

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The growth of bauxite production has made the mining industry of major importance to Guyana. Nevertheless, the economy remains largely agricultural, and sugarcane, grown mainly for export on large foreign-owned plantations, continues to be the most valuable crop.

Large wheel excavators (right) are used to mine bauxite deposits lying under a deep overburden. Note man in foreground.

Sugarcane is transported to mills in barges towed along canals.



The Economy

A. Basic characteristics and trends

Although Guyana is the world's fifth largest bauxite producer, with extensive deposits of high quality, other known resources are modest, and the country remains largely undeveloped. Economic activity is concentrated on the narrow coastal plain, an area constituting less than 5% of the total but containing 90% of the people. Originally based on sugar production, the economy is gradually diversifying, but agriculture remains the mainstay, supporting—directly and indirectly—about half the population. With a total population of less than 800,000, Guyana affords limited opportunities for economic activity based on the domestic market. The mostly forested interior is unexploited except for some logging operations, cattle ranching in the large savanna in the south, and bauxite mining and processing (Figure 1). There are no known mineral fuel deposits, and exploitation of large reserves of timber and potentially cultivable land is hampered by their inaccessibility and high development costs.

Labor productivity is high in the bauxite and sugar industries but generally low in other activities. Despite a relatively high rate of literacy, most Guyanese are poorly educated, levels of skill are low, and in many rural areas people are poorly nourished. As in other underdeveloped areas, the problem of lack of skills is aggravated by the emigration of certain types of skilled labor in search of better opportunities, and the need for skilled personnel exists side by side with high rates of unemployment and underemployment. Moreover, the economy bears a heavy dependency burden, as almost half the population are in the dependent age groups.

Despite some product diversification, agriculture remains basically export oriented. Sugar—grown

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mainly on large foreign-owned plantations—and rice—grown primarily on small family farms—account for 70% of agricultural output and 39% of Guyana's export earnings. Although some slash-and-burn agriculture is evident, subsistence farming in the strict sense of the word appears to be common only among the small number of Amerindians in the interior. Efforts to expand and diversify agriculture reflect the government's goal of reducing dependence on imported foodstuffs. Although output of minor food crops and livestock products has increased since the mid-1960's, about one-third of the caloric intake consists of imported foods.

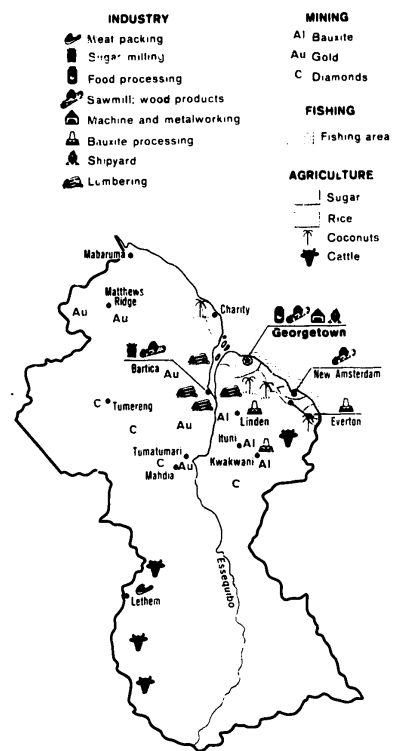
Bauxite is mined and processed by a government-owned company (a former subsidiary of the Aluminum Co. of Canada, nationalized in July 1971) and by a U.S.-owned firm. Bauxite and alumina account for almost all mining output, diamonds and gold being mined only on a small scale. Despite mining's large contribution to output and exports, the sector's capital intensiveness sharply limits the role of mining as a source of employment.

Owing partly to protective tariffs and government financial incentives, the manufacturing sector has grown steadily throughout the last decade, but its contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) and employment remains small. The processing of sugar, rice, and other agricultural products accounts for most of the output.

Reflecting the narrow resource base, economic growth generally has been only moderate. During 1967-71, GDP grew at an average rate of about 4½% annually in real terms (Figure 2). Large private investments in bauxite mining and processing and, since 1968, expanded public investment stimulated most of this growth. Reduced bauxite and agricultural output and decreased private investment led to an estimated 2.5% decline in GDP in 1972. Per capita GDP in 1971 was only US\$365, well below the Latin American average.¹

While ties with the United Kingdom have diminished since the gaining of independence in 1966, Guyana remains a member of the British Commonwealth. British influence is still strong in the economic life of the country and is clearly evident in business practices, patterns of ownership of economic enterprises, and the direction of trade. Most of the larger agricultural, industrial, and commercial firms are owned and operated by British citizens. Although

¹In this chapter values originally expressed in Guyana dollars have been converted into U.S. dollars at the rate of G\$2 = US\$1, the official rate until June 1972, when the Guyana dollar began floating with the pound sterling at the rate of £1 = G\$5.21.



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FIGURE 1. Economic activity

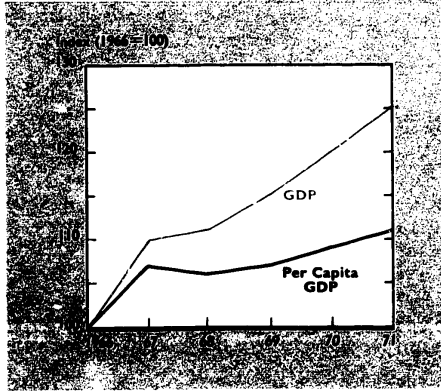


FIGURE 2. Trends in gross domestic product

its relative importance has declined, the United Kingdom—along with the United States—remains Guyana's most important trading partner and aid donor. For example, about two-thirds of Guyana's sugar exports are directed to the United Kingdom under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. Moreover, a significant part of Guyana's foreign exchange reserves are still held in sterling, although the share has been reduced since 1967.

As part of its colonial legacy, the economy remains highly dependent on foreign trade. Exports and imports each equal nearly half of GDP, well above the average for less developed countries. An estimated 90% of personal income is directly or indirectly derived from foreign trade. The dependency on foreign trade has fostered a relatively advanced money economy, however, with less than 5% of all economic transactions carried out on a noncash basis. The foreign orientation also has helped to make available in the principal towns—Georgetown, New Amsterdam, and Linden—goods and services generally comparable to those found in more economically advanced countries.

Under Burnham, Guyana has pursued a policy of increased independence in domestic and foreign affairs in an effort to improve the nation's economic well-being. Efforts to gain greater domestic control of resource exploitation and to reduce dependence on traditional products and markets have led to the nationalization of the major bauxite producer, increased government economic diversification measures, and accelerated steps to expand the still small economic role of cooperatives. This policy has also resulted in measures limiting new private foreign investment involving exploitation of the country's natural resources to minority partnerships in joint ventures with the government or cooperatives.

Externally, the country has expanded trade ties with the Third World and Communist countries. This is exemplified by Guyana's efforts to play a major role in the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) and Guyana's growing—though still relatively unimportant—trade relations with the People's Republic of China and the U.S.S.R. Despite such measures, however, Guyana remains heavily dependent on its traditional markets for export earnings and imports.

The Burnham government's measures to increase domestic control of resource exploitation—especially the nationalization of the major bauxite enterprise—and other major economic policies have created a climate of business uncertainty and a sharp loss of investor confidence. During 1971 at least one major

private trading enterprise closed, some private domestic investment plans were shelved, and the inflow of foreign investment almost ceased. Because the economy is largely dependent on private domestic and foreign investment for expanding economic activity, a prolonged period of business uncertainty and lack of confidence among investors would result in an extended slowing down of economic growth. Such a situation could lead to budgetary and balance of payments difficulties, leaving little hope for the achievement of ambitious new policy goals.

B. Sectors of the economy

Reflecting partly the high cost and slow progress in developing Guyana's rural resources, the relative importance of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries has declined since the early 1960's (Figure 3). At the same time the growth of bauxite production has increased the contribution of mining. Output of the manufacturing, construction, and public sectors also has generally outpaced overall economic growth since 1961, thus increasing their proportionate shares of GDP.

1. Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries

Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries account for about one-third of the labor force and contribute almost half of total export earnings. Largely because farming is oriented to the production of sugar and rice mainly for export, Guyana imports about one-third of its food requirements. Government attempts since 1967 to stimulate crop diversification and increased output of livestock products have met with some success, but total agricultural production has grown only moderately. Moreover, Guyana is unable to produce many temperate zone foodstuffs, notably wheat.

a. The land

Guyana has one of the highest land-population ratios in South America, but the amount of cultivated land per capita is below the continental average. Only about 12% of the total land area is devoted to agriculture and less than 1% is under cultivation (Figure 4). The agricultural area is small mainly because of the high cost of draining the swampy lowlands in the coastal area and along the rivers and the difficulty of access to the interior. Moreover, drainage is complicated by slow water runoff, and Guyana, which is part of the Amazon-Orinoco watershed, is subject to extensive flooding during the semiannual rainy seasons.

Crop production is confined primarily to the southeastern two-thirds of the narrow coastal strip where the soils are rich alluvial deposits overlaying sands and clay. This area has been cleared from mangrove swamp, and a complex and expensive system of seawalls and drainage canals has been built. A limited amount of land also has been cleared by Amerindians for shifting cultivation in the interior—primarily along the flood plains of the principal rivers and in the foothills of the mountains. South of the coastal area lies the mostly unused forest zone (Figure 5), which covers more than 35 million acres, or about two-thirds of the total land area. Soils in much of the interior are poor or would require careful management for successful farming. In the savanna of the Rupununi District, southwest of the forest zone, cattle are raised.

The government holds title to more than 90% of Guyana's land area, including most of the agricultural land, which it leases for private use. For example, the grazing lands in the Rupununi District are leased to ranchers on a "permission of occupancy" basis. About one-fourth of the cultivated area is owned by large sugar estates, but small farms lease most of the remainder.

The government has initiated several colonization projects in widely scattered locations in the interior. These projects, in which the government clears and prepares the land for cultivation, provides houses and necessary public services, and leases the land to private farmers, have proven very expensive; the government is now stressing expansion of existing projects to lower colonization costs (Figure 6).

b. Agricultural inputs and productivity

Except on the large sugar estates, agricultural practices are backward by Latin American standards, and productivity is low. Because seawalls and drainage and irrigation facilities are needed in the main agricultural areas, costs are high. Mechanization is extensive on the large sugar estates and a few larger rice farms but is very limited elsewhere. In 1968, there were about 3,600 tractors in use, or one for every 120 acres of cultivated land. Fertilizer consumption is fairly large, totaling some 34,000 metric tons in 1970—about 70 kilograms per acre of cultivated land.

The government has attempted to stimulate introduction of modern techniques, especially in rice farming, and has provided extension services. Technical information is disseminated by the Rice Marketing Board (RMB) and the Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC), the government marketing

agency for other farm products. The government has established a 2-year agricultural school and also provides instruction programs for settlers participating in colonization programs. Since 1969, the government has been implementing an \$18 million rice rehabilitation program financed partly by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). The program entails construction of six rice-storage centers and several mills, establishment of a rice research station, and provision of extension services.

c. Principal crops

Sugar and rice, the two most important crops, account for about 70% of agricultural output. Rice cultivation occupies almost three times as much land as sugar and provides more than twice as much employment, but the value of the rice crop is only about one-third that of the sugar crop. The government has intensified efforts to stimulate production of sugar and rice and a number of minor crops, especially corn, soybeans, and sorghum. For example, experimental farms have been established for some minor crops, and in December 1971 import prohibitions were introduced for many food products to provide further incentive to domestic producers.

Sugar is grown mainly on 13 large estates, all of which are owned by two large British companies—Bookers Sugar Estates, Ltd., and Demerara Co., Ltd. A small though increasing share of the crop (8.5% in 1971, compared with 5% in the 1960's) is grown on small farms, a few of which are organized in cooperatives. As a means of encouraging production on small farms, the government created the Cane Farming Corporation in 1969 to provide financing for their development. The large estates mill both their own crops and those of the small producers and semirefine a small amount of sugar for domestic consumption. Exports are in the form of raw sugar, molasses, and rum.

Since the mid-1960's sugar production has recovered—albeit erratically—from disruptions during the social unrest of the early 1960's, reaching a record volume in 1971 (Figure 7). During the latter part of this period, production was frequently disrupted by labor strikes, mostly involving attempts by the opposition-backed sugar workers' union—the Guyana Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU)—to gain recognition from the government.

The United Kingdom and the United States buy the major portion of Guyana's raw sugar exports (244,800 and 92,400 metric tons, respectively, in 1971), and Canada imports the remainder (6,200 tons in 1971).

Most sugar sales to the United Kingdom come under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement (CSA) of 1951, which guarantees a price usually above that obtainable on the world market, but the agreement is not binding after 1974, and the entry of the United Kingdom into the European Economic Community makes the future of the CSA uncertain. Sales to the United States are included under the U.S. quota for the West Indies.

Rice production expanded rapidly in the early 1960's, reaching a peak in 1965. Since then output has tended to decline, partly because of the lower prices paid to producers by the Rice Marketing Board—Guyana's exclusive rice marketing agent. In addition to meeting domestic needs—averaging about 50% of production—the board exports rice under bilateral agreements to several other CARIFTA members at prices normally well above international quotations. Before 1965 rice was also exported to non-CARIFTA countries, but following the output decline such sales have become negligible.

Rice is grown mainly on small family plots by East Indians under extremely labor-intensive methods. Only Ecuador and Brazil have lower yields in South America, while yields in neighboring Surinam are more than twice as high. Guyana's low productivity is attributable principally to small capital investment, poor drainage, and the planting of low-yielding varieties that are unresponsive to fertilizers. Although the government has made some effort to encourage introduction of higher yielding, quicker maturing varieties from the United States, producers have resisted because the increased yield is frequently inadequate to offset higher costs.

Coconuts constitute Guyana's third largest crop in terms of area planted. Greater coconut output is desired by the government to provide increased supplies of copra, edible oil, soap, and margarine, local demand for which exceeds the supply. Expansion of coconut production, however, is discouraged by thievery and the low price of copra, which make the crop unprofitable. Coffee, production of which has declined since 1968, is the most important minor export crop. Some coffee is shipped to the United States for processing into instant coffee and return to Guyana. Cocoa, as a tree crop, is especially suited to the northwest. Production of citrus fruits and bananas is increasing because of favorable domestic and foreign demand. Plantains, various tubers, and other vegetables are produced for domestic consumption in home gardens and on small farms.

Millions of Guyana Dollars	320.4	428.8	566.6
		100%	
Other	10.6	9.7	9.2
Government	10.5	13.2	13.5
Commerce	13.5	11.9	11.3
Transportation and Communications	7.5	6.5	5.7
Construction	7.2	6.7	8.8
Manufacturing	10.9	12.3	12.2
Mining	12.9	17.6	18.0
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	26.9	22.1	21.3
	1961	1967	1971

FIGURE 3. Origin of GDP

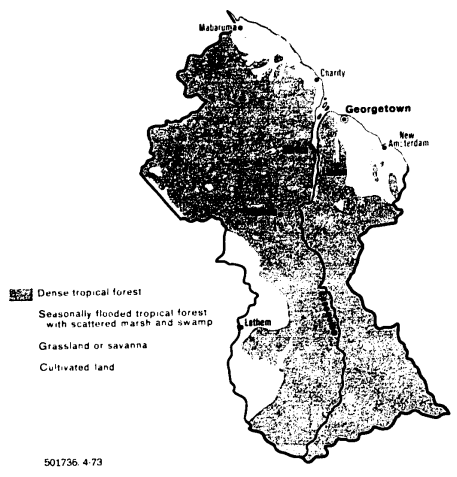


FIGURE 5. Vegetation

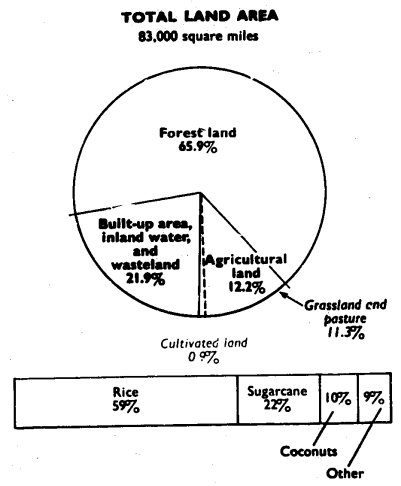


FIGURE 4. Land use

d. Livestock

Cattle raising is the most important livestock activity. Development of commercial beef cattle raising was initiated in the late 1950's when the government began granting leases to the Rupununi District grasslands for this purpose. Sparseness of vegetation and serious mineral deficiencies in the savanna soils, however, keep grazing land requirements high—some 50 to 70 acres per head of cattle—and thus impose severe limits on the cattle population that these lands can support. Furthermore, these grasslands are located far from markets, and because of a lack of adequate ground transportation butchered meat is shipped by air to Georgetown. Consequently, most beef cattle still are raised on small farms on the coast on a noncommercial basis.

Reflecting the expansion of grazing lands, the cattle population rose substantially in the early 1960's (Figure 8). Since 1965, however, expanded beef production has been largely responsible for lower cattle numbers. Mainly as a result of cattle dietary deficiencies, the quality of Guyanese beef is low. Despite greater production, Guyana continues to depend partly on imports for beef supplies.

Swine, sheep, and goats are raised and consumed mainly on small farms. In December 1971 the government sought to stimulate swine raising by stopping imports of some pork products and



FIGURE 6. Part of a new settlement area along the highway from Georgetown to Linden. The tree stumps are vestiges of the forest that was cleared for new farms; here the earlier vegetation is being replaced with pineapples.

employing full-time swine promotion specialists. In the last decade poultry raising has been expanding, and specialized poultry farms have become increasingly common.

Commercial dairy farming is limited to the coastal areas near Georgetown and New Amsterdam. The government-owned pasteurization plant at Georgetown processes milk for domestic consumption, but milk and milk products are still imported. The government is attempting to expand supplies of dairy products by improving cattle breeds, increasing the land available to dairymen, and establishing additional processing plants.

e. Forestry and fisheries

Although two-thirds of the total land area are forested, production of timber products accounts for only 1.5% of GDP. The contribution is small mainly because of the difficulty of access to and quality of the forests, which are characterized by extreme heterogeneity of species and by small tree sizes. Commercially valuable species are interspersed with unattractive ones so that yields are small. Yields are also small because the outer sapwood of the most valuable species—greenheart, purpleheart, and wallaba—is subject to rapid decay once the trees are

FIGURE 7. Agricultural production
(Area in thousands of acres, production in thousands of metric tons, except as noted)

	1967		1968		1969		1970		1971	
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
Sugar, milled.....	115.3	349.4	107.5	321.9	126.0	370.2	107.2	316.1	128.3	374.7
Rice, milled.....	253.5	128.9	313.1	138.9	279.3	112.7	294.3	144.6	233.6	121.9
Coffee.....	3.1	1.3	3.1	1.3	3.1	0.7	3.1	0.6	3.1	0.5
Coconuts*	44.2	36.3	45.4	55.2	46.1	60.8	47.0	50.0	na	55.0
Tubers, roots, and plantains.	24.3	42.4	21.5	41.3	23.1	46.2	26.2	48.9	na	49.3

na Data not available.

*Coconuts: Area in thousands of trees; production in millions of nuts.

FIGURE 8. Livestock population (in thousands) and meat production (in metric tons)

	1960	1965	1969	1970	1971
Cattle:					
Population.....	160	350	257	257	na
Beef production.....	2,806	3,897	4,246	4,010	4,257
Swine:					
Population.....	20	65	81	83	na
Pork production.....	286	162	1,184	1,200	1,442
Sheep:					
Population.....	na	87	98	97	na
Mutton production.....	6	35	62	54	41
Poultry:					
Population.....	398	3,000	6,450	7,325	na
Meat production.....	497	954	2,705	3,382	3,719

na Data not available.

cut, reducing lumber recovery to only 35% to 55% of the total weight cut.

Timber exports consist of greenheart (a hardwood used in marine construction), wallaba (naturally suited for utility poles), and mora (used for railroad ties and utility crossarms). Production of greenheart (Figure 9), the most important, has declined from 1.3 million cubic meters in 1965 to 0.9 million in 1970 as a result of increased use of concrete in pier construction and gradual exhaustion of accessible timber. Exports of forestry products totaled about US\$1.2 million in 1970.

Other species of timber are cut for domestic use in boat construction, housebuilding, and the production of furniture, matches, and agricultural implements. Some, like kanta and yaruru, serve directly as fuel or are processed into charcoal. The use of imported white pine is gradually being replaced by domestically produced soft hardwoods such as smarupa, dalli, and silverballi.

Under the direction of the government numerous advances in timber grading and handling have been made since 1966 to improve forest exploitation. Nevertheless, significant expansion of timber and wood products output will require improved transportation to the interior, low-cost power, and more efficient plant operations and marketing procedures.

Commercial fishing is limited largely to shrimping off the coasts of Brazil, Surinam, and French Guiana. Most of the catch is obtained by U.S. firms, which ship the bulk to the U.S. market. Demand for shrimp has been strong, output has been rising rapidly, and a substantial investment has been made in trawlers and processing facilities. Exports in 1971 amounted to 5,000 metric tons, worth some US\$9 million, or almost 7% of total export earnings. Government efforts to

encourage expansion of the catch of other fish species for domestic consumption thus far have met with little success. The fishing industry accounts for 2% of GDP.

2. Fuels and power

Guyana has no known coal, petroleum, or gas deposits. Almost all electric power is produced by thermal plants, fueled mainly with imported oil. Households and many industrial and commercial facilities, however, use wood and charcoal for fuel, while the sugar mills use bagasse. Hydroelectric power potential—in the mountainous western part of the country—is large, but development has been hampered by the remote location and costly investment requirements.



FIGURE 9. Greenheart stand. Mature trees reach up to 40 meters in height. Wood of greenheart is extremely hard, heavy, strong, and immune to decay and marine borers.

Because of Guyana's proximity to the oilfields of Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago, the country has attracted the interest of several foreign oil companies. Extensive exploration in the late 1950's resulted in discovery of favorable geologic formations in coastal and offshore areas and in the near interior, but several wells drilled by Standard Oil of California during 1958-60 and more recent efforts by other companies have yielded negative results. Exploration has been marked by frequent turnover of the companies holding concessions.

The electric power supply is generally adequate to meet demand but will require expansion to support further residential usage and industrial growth. Generating capacity amounted to an estimated 112,000 kilowatts (kw.) at the end of 1971, and output approximated 340 million kilowatt-hours (kw.-hr.). With a per-capita production of 460 kw.-hr., Guyana ranks eighth in South America. All powerplants are thermal with the exception of a 940-kw. hydroelectric plant at Tumatumari on the Potaro River.

About 80% of electric power consumption is accounted for by commerce and industry. Residential usage accounted for about 19%, while other activities such as transportation and public lighting used the remaining 1%. Consumption is concentrated in the Georgetown area and in Linden, where a large part of the bauxite industry is located. Generating capacity is concentrated in the coastal region extending southeast from Georgetown to the Surinam border, and at Linden. The coastal facilities make up 62% of total capacity, and those at Linden 34%. The remaining 4% of capacity consists of municipal facilities in small towns.

The Kingston powerplant, with a capacity of 42,300 kw. is the largest installation. Owned by the Guyana Electricity Corporation, a government agency, the plant supplies both public and industrial needs in the Georgetown area. The plant is interconnected with several small public-owned powerplants to make up the country's only transmission grid, which has a capacity of 46,500 kw., or approximately 42% of the national total. Most of the remaining capacity is in powerplants owned and operated by private interests, mainly the mining and sugar industries, which also supply public needs in adjacent communities.

A 4-year expansion program to be financed by the World Bank, Canada, and the United Kingdom was scheduled to get underway in mid-1972. Included is construction of two new powerplants and a 69-kv. transmission line to connect Linden with the northeastern part of the country via Georgetown.

3. Minerals and metals

Mining and mineral processing in 1971 accounted for 50% of export earnings. The sector is dominated by bauxite extraction and processing into metallurgical and chemical grade bauxite, calcined bauxite, and alumina. Guyana produces small amounts of gold, diamonds, and quarry products. Under extensive exploration work, carried out since 1965 with the assistance of a U.N. mission, deposits of copper, nickel, and molybdenum were discovered, and several are being studied to determine their commercial value.

Guyana, the world's fifth largest producer of bauxite, accounts for about 6% of world output. About 70% of the estimated 3.9 million metric tons produced in 1971 came from the state-owned Guyana Bauxite Company (GUYBAU). GUYBAU was created in July 1971 when the government nationalized the Demerara Bauxite Co. (DEMBA), a subsidiary of the Aluminum Co. of Canada. Reynolds Guyana Mines, a wholly owned subsidiary of the U.S. Reynolds Metals Co., produces the remaining 30% of bauxite output—about 1 million tons annually.

Bauxite deposits occur in a 200-mile-long and a 6- to 40-mile-wide belt extending southeast from the Pomeroon River in the north to the Courantyne River on the Guyana-Surinam border. Guyanese bauxite mining is high-cost compared with that in other countries because the ore deposits lie under a deep overburden and are located far from deep water ports. The high extraction and transportation costs are compensated, however, by the unusually high quality of the Guyanese ore. Assured bauxite reserves are estimated at 80 million metric tons; probable reserves amount to an additional 250 million tons.

More than half of Guyana's bauxite is exported as dried metal grade ore for use in making aluminum and, to a lesser extent, as a filtering agent. Some 15% to 20% of the crude bauxite is refined into alumina for export. Reflecting the ore's high quality, a growing portion is being processed into calcined bauxite for nonmetallurgical use such as refractory materials and industrial abrasives.

GUYBAU's facilities are located at Linden, some 60 miles up the Demerara River from the coast (Figure 10). The mining complex includes facilities for drying up to 1 million metric tons of bauxite annually and for producing up to 650,000 tons of calcined bauxite and 350,000 tons of alumina annually. The operations of Reynolds Metals Co. are centered at Kwakwani, about 80 miles up the Berbice River from the coast. Bauxite from Kwakwani is shipped by barge to Everton (near New Amsterdam), where it is dried and transferred to



FIGURE 10. The Guyana Bauxite Company (GUYBAU) complex in Linden includes a calcining plant (top) and ore loading facilities on the Demerara River. Bauxite and alumina are shipped down the river on oceangoing vessels.

oceangoing barges. Reynolds completed a US\$15 million expansion program in 1968 that tripled its capacity to about 1 million tons of metallurgical grade bauxite annually.

Bauxite and alumina output increased during the 1960's in response to growing worldwide demand for aluminum (Figure 11). Some US\$96 million was invested in expansion programs during this period. At the same time, the product mix changed considerably, with growing emphasis on alumina and calcined bauxite, of which Guyana has a virtual monopoly. Although output of calcined bauxite continued to rise

in 1971, metallurgical grade bauxite production declined, reflecting the depressed world market for aluminum.

Output of both gold and diamonds fell in 1971 to their lowest levels in many years. They are mined by hand from alluvial deposits along streams flowing out of the Pakaraima Mountains. Placer gold deposits appear to be substantially exhausted, and large-scale exploitation has been discouraged by inaccessibility. Manganese was produced until 1968, when rising costs and declining world prices forced the closure of the U.S.-owned mine at Matthews Ridge.

FIGURE 11. Production of selected mineral products (Thousands of metric tons unless otherwise specified)

	1961	1963	1965	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Dried bauxite.....	1,378	980	1,260	1,783	1,881	2,139	2,327	2,135
Calcined bauxite.....	377	358	492	474	597	654	705	721
Alumina.....	134	227	279	277	269	303	317	310
Manganese.....	215	142	169	179	99	0	0	0
Gold (Thousands of ounces).....	1.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	4.1	2.1	4.4	1.4
Diamonds (Thousands of carats)....	113	100	113	97	66	49	59	47

4. Manufacturing and construction

The manufacturing sector produces a variety of items, including foodstuffs, clothing, furniture, and small boats. Guyana's limited raw material base has restricted manufacturing largely to agricultural processing. Moreover, the small domestic market inhibits the establishment of a significant import substitution industry, although there are some small assembly plants using imported components and materials. Manufacturing output grew about 8% annually during 1967-71. Nevertheless, Guyana continues to depend on imports for most of its supplies of manufactured goods. Production of selected items is shown in Figure 12.

Sugar and rice milling account for about one-third of manufacturing output. Ten of the 11 sugar mills are controlled by two foreign-owned companies—the major firm being Bookers Sugar Estates, Ltd. Rice milling, on the other hand, is carried out by numerous small private and a few large government-owned mills. The remainder of the sector is composed of numerous small enterprises located mostly in Georgetown and along the east bank of the Demerara River, where electric power and transport services are readily available. About half of these process foodstuffs and tobacco.

The London firm of Booker Brothers, McConnell and Co., Ltd. (also known as the Booker Group) is the most important of the several foreign-owned firms active in Guyana. In addition to its sugar interests, the Booker Group is involved in a wide variety of other agricultural, industrial and commercial activities. It produces rum and gin, operates the largest department and grocery store in Georgetown, and is engaged in printing, tire recapping, and the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, stockfeeds, and building materials.

Following a lull during the early 1960's, construction recovered strongly, reflecting the increase in public investment. Value added by construction expanded at an annual rate of 15% during 1967-71, or

twice as fast as the economy as a whole, raising construction contribution to GDP to 9%. During this period, traditional wood construction has been replaced to some extent by brick and concrete to minimize the hazard of fire, which has periodically swept Georgetown. Because no limestone or cement is produced locally, this shift has increased construction costs and dependence on imports.

5. Domestic trade

Compared with other less developed countries, Guyana has a relatively advanced cash economy. Modern goods and services comparable to those found in smaller American cities are generally available in Georgetown and throughout much of the coastal strip, although the lack of adequate transport facilities hinders the efficient marketing of food. Most private consumer services are also available on plantations and in mining communities but are lacking in independent rural villages. Public consumer services are generally inadequate, particularly in rural areas.

Because of the lack of domestic production of many goods, domestic trade is closely tied to imports. Many of the larger wholesalers and retailers are subsidiaries of foreign-owned firms engaged in foreign trade. Imported goods still are often preferred to domestic counterparts, reflecting both the low quality of the latter goods and patterns and preferences established during the colonial era.

C. Manpower

The percentage of the population in the labor force, though about average for Latin America, is substantially lower than in more economically advanced countries, where a larger proportion of females are economically active. In 1970—the date of the last official census—the labor force (persons 14 years of age and over, employed or seeking employment) was estimated at 201,000, or 29% of the

FIGURE 12. Production of selected manufactured goods

	1961	1963	1965	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Edible oil (Thousands of gallons)...	925	619	653	888	893	699	791	890
Margarine (Thousands of pounds)...	1,707	1,561	2,096	2,414	2,189	2,564	2,349	2,641
Rum (Thousands of gallons).....	2,791	2,539	3,643	3,406	3,276	3,201	3,229	3,781
Beer and stout (Thousands of gallons).....	760	681	1,083	1,351	1,134	1,249	1,391	1,389
Soap (Thousands of pounds).....	3,994	4,073	4,851	3,968	4,400	4,707	4,962	4,727
Cigarettes (Thousands of pounds)...	776	636	809	826	859	863	926	954
Matches (Thousands grosses of boxes).....	191	169	201	197	197	176	213	107

total population. The most recent complete survey of employment, carried out in 1965, indicated the following labor force participation rates by age group and sex, in percent:

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
14-19	51.7	25.7	38.8
20-24	96.2	36.1	64.2
25-29	97.9	30.2	63.4
30-44	97.6	30.1	61.7
45-59	93.6	35.0	65.7
60 and over	49.8	15.6	31.3
Total (14 and over) ..	81.8	29.3	54.9

According to the March 1965 survey, the largest portion of the labor force was in agriculture (Figure 13). Because a substantial part of the unemployed were agricultural workers, the actual share of the labor force in agriculture came to about 35%.

The labor reserve is small. Few of the approximately 20,000 Amerindians still gathered in reservations can be assimilated into the labor force. Of the remaining

143,700 people age 14 and over not in the labor force in 1965, some 29,500 were in school and 12,300 were sick or disabled. Most of the remaining 101,900 persons were unskilled females and retired persons over age 60, only a few of whom would enter the labor force even in a severe crisis.

Unemployment has remained high since 1965 in spite of the steady growth of the economy. Unemployed persons made up over 21% of the labor force in 1965, and the 1970 census indicated that about 20% of the labor force was unemployed in that year. At the root of the persistent unemployment problem has been the steady progress of mechanization in agriculture. A contributory factor has been the growing dislike for agricultural pursuits by new labor force entrants. Underemployment is also a serious problem. In 1965 only about half of those employed were fully employed, and about one-fifth of the labor force had two occupations concurrently; part of this group worked less than one-third of the year in their primary occupations.

Labor productivity has been high in the bauxite and sugar industries but low in most other economic activities. Opportunities for labor to move from low- to high-yield sectors are limited. The sugar and rice milling industries are highly seasonal, and the economy has been unable to readily absorb seasonally unemployed workers into other activities.

Although the government prescribes minimum wages for a few industries such as clothing, most wages and salary earners are paid at rates stipulated in collective agreements. Wages in the bauxite industry (1.42 Guyana dollars (G\$) per hour for unskilled and G\$2.20 for skilled labor) are about twice as high as those in other industries. As labor has become increasingly organized, the gap between wages in the bauxite industry and those in other sectors has tended to narrow.

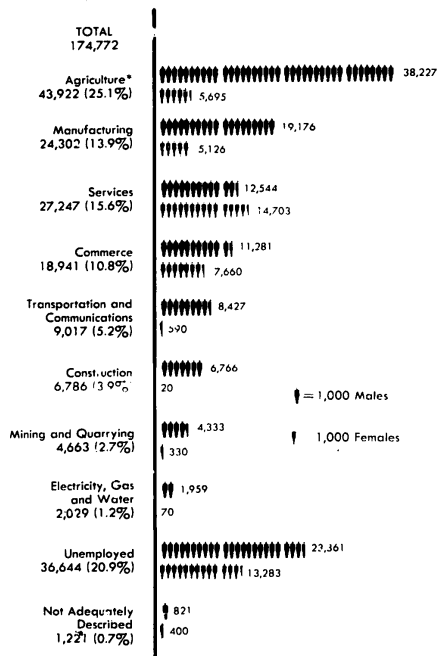


FIGURE 13. Labor force by branch of the economy and sex, 1965

D. Economic policy and development

1. Policy

From the early 1960's the government has played an important role in the economy, channeling a large and increasing share of gross domestic expenditure through the government budget for public consumption and investment. Government outlays in 1961 made up 19% of GDP and by 1969 had risen to 24% (Figure 14). Since proclaiming Guyana a "cooperative republic" in early 1970, Burnham has sought to expand the public sector's role even further, and by 1971 government outlays had increased to 26% of

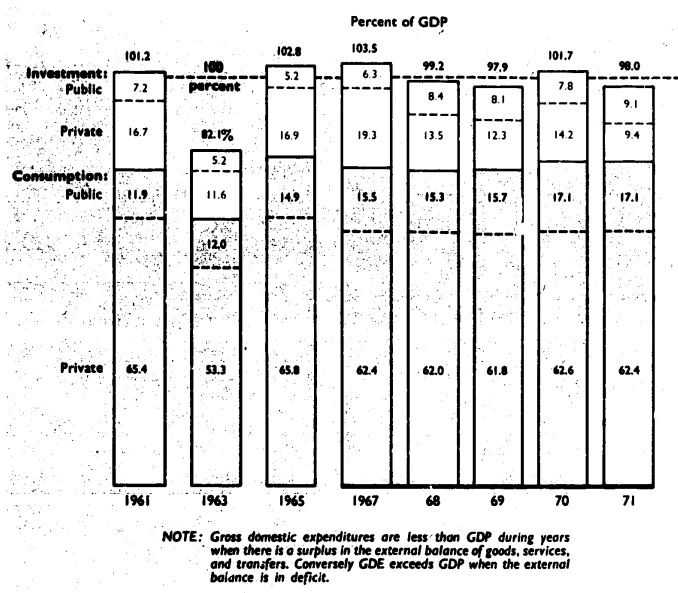


FIGURE 14. Gross domestic expenditure by end use

GDP. This policy is being implemented largely through the acquisition for the government of at least majority ownership of major economic enterprises and through the expansion of the economic role of government-controlled cooperatives, which, according to official ideology, are to become the dominant sector of the economy.

The most dramatic step in carrying out Burnham's new policy has been the 1971 nationalization of DEMBA, Guyana's largest economic enterprise. Burnham has also talked of obtaining government majority ownership of the Reynolds bauxite properties, although no action has yet been taken. Prior to the adoption of this new policy, the extent of government ownership of economic enterprises was small, being limited mainly to a few rice mills, about half of electric power generating capacity, telecommunications facilities and the domestic airline. Subsequently, however, the government has gained control of numerous enterprises, including—in addition to DEMBA—a trading company, Guyana's largest timber concern, several large state farms, and a

newspaper printing firm. The government also has established a commercial bank, which is ultimately to replace, for the most part, the five foreign-owned banks, and has created the External Trade Bureau, which controls some 20% of imports.

The government seeks to expand the role of cooperatives as a means of insuring popular participation in the benefits of economic development. Cooperatives already had become widespread. In December 1969, for example, there were 805 cooperative societies with a membership of about 70,000—a little more than half of which were credit and savings cooperatives. By early 1972 the number of cooperatives had risen to 1,100 with a membership of 90,000. Despite the large numbers, however, the cooperatives' contribution to the economy remains relatively small.

The Burnham government continues—on its own terms—to welcome private foreign investment, particularly in projects involving exploitation of natural resources. New undertakings must be joint

ventures with the Guyanese Government or with a domestic cooperative, the foreign partners being restricted to a minority share.

a. Public finance

The central government dominates the financial operations of the public sector, which also includes 20 regional districts, five municipalities, and 19 public enterprises and decentralized institutions. The central government collects 80% of total public revenues and accounts for 90% of expenditures.

Central government revenues grew about 8% annually during 1968-70. This growth reflected mainly increased income tax receipts resulting from improved collection methods, higher tax rates, and a growing revenue base. In 1970 about 37% of central government revenue came from income taxes—a large share by Latin American standards (Figure 15). Government revenues also benefited from a consumption tax levied at the end of 1969 which collected G\$5.3 million in 1970. Revenues declined by 7% in 1971, however, because of reduced income tax receipts following the nationalization of DEMBA. DEMBA stopped making tax payments after the first quarter of 1971, while its successor, GUYBAU, made only a token payment in the last quarter of the year as a result of reduced sales and the need to build working capital reserves.

Government receipts from import duties have been adversely affected by the abolition of duties on imports from CARIFTA countries in 1968. The resulting decline in collections was checked in 1969 by a 3% surcharge on all imports subject to duty, but revenues from import duties declined again in 1970 and 1971.

Central government expenditures grew about 11% annually during 1967-71. Current outlays accounted for the bulk of the rise, their share of total expenditures increasing from 67% in 1967 to 70% in 1971. This growing share results from increased outlays both for general administration and for the maintenance of public facilities, especially roads and sea defenses. Reflecting increased efforts to expand economic infrastructure, central government capital outlays still grew at an average annual rate of about 8% during 1968-71. Of total capital expenditures of about G\$231 million during 1967-71, 23% was spent on roads, 13% on sea and river defenses, 9% on agriculture, and 9% on civil aviation.

The rapid increase in expenditures during 1967-70 boosted budget deficits from 12% to 20% of total expenditures. With the decline of current revenues in 1971, the deficit rose to 31%. During 1967-70, about half of the deficit was financed with long-term external borrowing. In 1971 the availability of funds from external sources fell short of the need, and the

FIGURE 15. Revenues and expenditures of the central government
(Millions of Guyana dollars)

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972*
Revenues:						
Income taxes.....	28.5	35.3	34.3	50.1	42.9	63.3
Property and inheritance taxes....	0.9	1.0	1.4	2.6	2.9	3.2
Import taxes.....	35.4	36.3	41.3	40.3	38.5	36.3
Export taxes.....	1.8	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.9
Consumption and transaction taxes..	13.8	14.9	17.4	23.6	24.7	26.1
Capital receipts.....	14.2	7.6	6.3	2.7	1.1	2.3
Other nontax receipts.....	12.4	12.8	13.6	13.6	13.5	16.5
Total.....	107.0	110.2	116.9	135.6	129.3	150.6
Expenditures:						
Current.....	81.6	90.9	99.5	118.9	128.6	137.2
Wages-salaries.....	38.0	39.8	44.7	49.3	57.0	65.2
Purchases of goods and services..	20.0	24.1	29.4	37.1	33.9	35.8
Subsidies and transfers.....	13.3	15.3	14.9	17.6	20.0	17.9
Interest on public debt.....	9.0	10.5	9.0	11.2	13.2	13.7
Other.....	1.3	1.2	1.5	3.7	4.5	4.6
Capital.....	40.1	39.7	44.9	51.0	55.0	79.4
Total.....	121.7	130.6	144.4	169.9	183.6	216.6
Deficit.....	-14.7	-20.4	-27.5	-34.3	-57.3	-66.0

*Plan.

share of the deficit financed domestically—mainly by the banking system—rose to more than 60%.

b. Banking, money supply, and prices

The banking system consists of the Bank of Guyana (the central bank), six commercial banks (composed of five subsidiaries of foreign banks and the government-owned National Cooperative Bank), and a Post Office Savings Bank. Supplementing the banking system are two trust companies, an investment company, a few insurance companies, and a large number of small credit unions and cooperative savings and credit societies. Since 1967 the Bank of Guyana has operated a "call stock exchange" which aims at improving the market for shares of local firms. Transactions on the exchange are small and limited to the shares and debentures of a few leading companies.

The Bank of Guyana is legally endowed with the customary tools of monetary management, having the power to control reserve requirements and liquidity ratios for commercial banks, to rediscount commercial, industrial, and agricultural paper, and to regulate commercial interest and loan rates. The central bank also is authorized to specify the purpose, minimum security, and maximum maturities for loans by commercial banks, as well as to set limits for various loan categories and the total amount of loans outstanding. The central bank has relied to a large extent on such direct credit controls in regulating the money supply.

The most important commercial banks are subsidiaries of the British-owned Barclay's Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada. These banks have several local branches and offices in the more populated areas. The government-owned National Cooperative Bank was formed to reduce the influence of the foreign banks. The Post Office Savings Bank, founded in 1889, is one of the oldest financial institutions in Guyana. With over 60 branches throughout the country, it has been very successful in mobilizing the savings of small savers, especially in rural areas.

Reflecting a relatively conservative credit policy, domestic credit expanded by about 15% annually during 1967-71. Although credit continued to go mainly to the private sector, rising deficits boosted the government's share of total credit from 27% to 34% during the period. The money supply expanded during 1967-71 by only 7% annually—a rate commensurate with GNP growth. The relatively slow money supply growth resulted mainly from a decline in the banking system's holdings of foreign assets and the private sector's increasing willingness to hold quasi-money (time and saving deposits), which rose

11% annually during this period. These latter developments effectively neutralized the potential inflationary effects of bank financing, of part of the government deficits.

According to the government's outdated consumer price index, official retail prices rose only about 2.5% annually during 1967-71, although the actual increase may have been somewhat higher. The government maintains price controls on locally produced and imported essential consumer items as well as industrial products that receive tariff protection, while price determination for domestic foodstuffs, except rice, is generally left to market forces so as to encourage production. The government plans to extend the list of goods subject to price controls as additional commodities are added to the list of products imported by the state trading agency.

2. Development

Since President Burnham's proclamation of Guyana as a "cooperative republic," the government has been working out a new development strategy in which the public and cooperative sectors are to play leading roles. The development plan for 1966-72 (Figure 16) was dropped before completion, and the government began preparation of a 15-year plan for 1972-86 and, within its framework, an operational 5-year plan for 1972-76. Although the new plan has not been finalized, some of its basic objectives have been taken into consideration in the 1972 budget and in other economic policies, including the December 1971 ban on an extensive list of food and other imports

FIGURE 16. The 1966-72 public investment plan (Millions of Guyana dollars)

	PLAN 1966-72		ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 1966-71
	Original	1969 Revision	
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing.....	64.7	60.0	30.8
Transportation and public works.....	64.7	95.0	118.0
Seawall defenses.....	14.7	40.0	32.7
Communications.....	8.3	14.0	17.6
Electric power.....	14.7	30.0	14.2
Industrial development.....	17.7	17.7	5.5
Education.....	11.8	32.0	19.7
All other social services.....	85.3	80.0	20.4
Public credit to various sectors.....	11.8	11.8	4.2
Unallocated.....	...	...	20.2
Total.....	294.2	380.5	283.3
... Not pertinent.			

The immediate objectives of the new 5-year plan will be to achieve self-sufficiency in foodstuffs and textiles by 1976 and to make accelerated progress toward meeting housing needs. The attainment of the self-sufficiency goal, however, would require increases in the production of fish and beef of about one-third and one-fourth, respectively, and a huge increase in the acreage under minor crops. In view of the magnitude of the task, there is little likelihood that the government can achieve this goal.

E. International economic relations

1. Foreign trade

The economy is heavily dependent upon foreign trade. During 1961-67, for example, exports and imports equaled 50% and 47% of GDP, respectively. Except for slight dips in 1964 and 1968, the value of exports has risen steadily over the last decade (Figure 17). The increase is attributable mainly to expanding sales of bauxite and alumina and rising prices for sugar and rice.

Imports, on the other hand, have been erratic, fluctuating with variations in domestic economic activity. For example, imports in 1962-63 averaged about 17% below the 1961 level because of the sharp curtailment of investment activity in the face of political and social unrest. During 1964-67 imports rose 16% annually, as large bauxite expansion programs boosted imports of capital goods. Following a decline in 1968 when these projects were completed, imports rebounded in 1969 and 1970 under the impetus of new bauxite investments and expanded government development programs. Despite increased purchases of food and intermediate goods, total imports declined in 1971 with the slowdown of bauxite investment.

a. Trade patterns

Sugar, rice, bauxite, and alumina account for the bulk of export earnings. Less important items include shrimp, rum, molasses, diamonds, and timber. Dried and calcined bauxite has surpassed sugar as Guyana's most important export item.

Imports consist primarily of intermediate and capital goods, although foodstuffs are also important. In 1971 intermediate goods accounted for about 48% of total imports; machinery and transport equipment, 25%; food, 16%; and other consumer goods, 11%. Imports of intermediate goods, which consist mainly of industrial materials, chemicals, and fuels, have grown steadily in response to expanding domestic

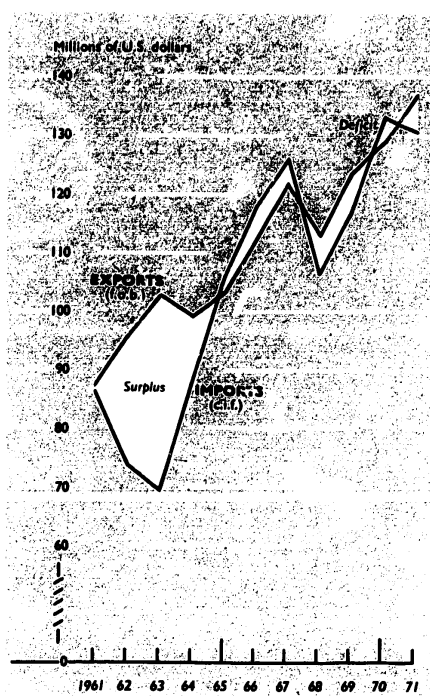


FIGURE 17. Balance of trade

economic activity. On the other hand, capital goods imports have registered wide year-to-year fluctuations in keeping with changes in investment. The value of imported foodstuffs, of which wheat, milk products, and processed meat are the most important, has remained fairly constant over the period.

The geographic pattern of Guyana's trade has changed considerably since the 1950's with the emergence of bauxite and alumina as major export items. The United States, Canada, and the continental countries of Western Europe have become increasingly important markets for Guyanese minerals while simultaneously becoming major sources of machinery and equipment for the bauxite industry and of other imports. On the other hand, the United Kingdom, which formerly dominated Guyana's foreign trade, now has a trade share only equal to that of the United States; in 1970 each accounted for about one-fourth of Guyana's total trade (Figure 18).

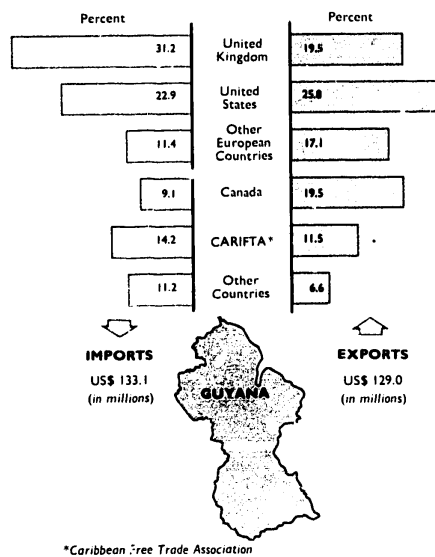


FIGURE 18. Direction of trade

Continental Western Europe and Canada, major markets for alumina and, in the latter case, bauxite, are tied for third place, closely followed by members of the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA). In addition to Guyana, the association consists of Antigua, Barbados, British Honduras, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad and Tobago. The association, originally formed to promote regional trade through a reduction of trading barriers on products of area origin, is scheduled to be expanded into a modified common market in 1973, with a common external tariff and harmonization of fiscal incentives to industry.

Guyana's trade with Communist countries has been negligible. Imports from these countries—mainly the U.S.S.R.—have been averaging less than US\$750,000 annually while Guyanese exports appear to have been virtually nil until 1972, when 100,000 to 150,000 metric tons of alumina, worth about \$8 million, were sold to the U.S.S.R. Guyana has made a concerted effort to expand trade ties with the Communist world. In late 1971 the Burnham government signed a bilateral trade agreement with the People's Republic of China providing for a potential trade turnover of as much as \$15 million annually.

b. Trade regulations

Guyana's former relatively liberal trade controls have been tightened considerably under Burnham's administration. Although import licenses are granted freely for many items from most countries, the list of goods prohibited for protective reasons was lengthened at the end of 1971 to include a wide range of food and nonfood items. In addition, in mid-1970 the jurisdiction of the External Trade Bureau (ETB), which had been created in 1970 to control imports from Communist countries, was subsequently expanded to include imports of chemicals and pharmaceuticals, cement, and most foodstuffs from all sources.

Import duties are intended both for revenue and protection. Three duty schedules are in effect: a schedule for imports of CARIFTA origin, a preferential schedule for imports from other Commonwealth countries, and a general schedule for non-Commonwealth countries. As of 1 May 1968 all duties were eliminated on imports of CARIFTA origin except for a reserve list of commodities for which removal is to be gradual. General schedule tariff rates range from 8% to 93% *ad valorem*, with an average of about 40%, while preferential rates range from 2½ to 20 percentage points lower. Some items, including machinery and equipment, enter duty free under the provisions of investment incentive legislation.

An *ad valorem* export tax of 1.5% is applied to most nonmanufactured products. Major exceptions are bauxite, raw sugar, shrimp, and a few minor items subject to specific duties. Although exports are supervised to insure repatriation of exchange proceeds, export licenses are not required for most products. Trade with Rhodesia, South Africa, and Portugal is prohibited.

Guyana maintains a unified exchange rate system, with all foreign exchange transactions carried out at the official rate. Guyana remains a member of the sterling area; parity with the U.S. dollar was maintained following the 1971 international currency realignment, thus devaluing the Guyana dollar in terms of sterling, but the Guyana dollar began floating with the pound in June 1972. Export and import transactions are free from restrictions, but sale of foreign exchange for travel and for capital payments and transfers is restricted and, in some circumstances, prohibited. As a Commonwealth country, Guyana formerly exempted capital transactions with other Commonwealth countries from restrictions, but in December 1971 this exemption was terminated.

2. Balance of payments

After several years of foreign payments surpluses, Guyana incurred moderate deficits during 1967-70

FIGURE 19. Balance of payments
(Millions of U.S. dollars)

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Balance on current account:					
Exports (f.o.b.).....	121.8	113.0	123.8	129.0	137.1
Imports (c.i.f.).....	-126.0	-106.4	-117.2	-133.1	-130.7
Investment income.....	-18.3	-15.1	-18.0	-14.8	-14.0
Travel and other services.....	-4.5	-4.7	-1.3	-0.5	-0.7
Private transfers.....	-1.5	-1.4	-0.9	-0.5	3.7
Total.....	-28.5	-14.6	-13.6	-19.9	-4.6
Balance on capital account:					
Official transfers.....	4.0	2.2	1.3	0.3	-1.0
Private capital:					
Direct investment.....	18.4	7.9	8.7	6.1	-57.5
Other.....	1.8	-3.0	-5.0	0.0	4.6
Official loans.....	4.8	4.4	8.6	10.1	68.3
Special drawing rights allocations.....	...	...	...	2.5	2.1
Total.....	29.0	11.5	13.6	19.0	16.5
Errors and omissions.....	4.3	-0.7	-4.7	-0.7	-6.7
Foreign reserve revaluation.....	-5.1	...	...	...	...
Balance of payments surplus or deficit (-).....	-0.3	-3.8	-4.7	-1.6	5.2
Net change in reserves (increase = -).....	0.3	3.8	4.7	1.6	-5.2

... Not pertinent.

(Figure 19). Although trade surpluses were achieved in 2 of the 4 years, substantial outflows of repatriated profits from foreign-owned sugar and bauxite companies kept the current account consistently in the red. Except in 1967 when the payments deficit was caused by foreign reserve revaluation resulting from devaluation of the pound sterling, capital inflows were insufficient to compensate for the current account deficit. In 1971 a balance of payments surplus resulted from a unique combination of favorable circumstances: a substantial trade surplus induced partly by the drop in imports, repatriation to Guyana of the US\$4.8 million DEMBA pension fund formerly held in Canada, and increased government and private borrowing abroad. Government acquisition of the DEMBA bauxite properties is reflected in the 1971 foreign payments account by bookkeeping entries that had no net effect on the balance. Reflecting the developments since 1966, foreign reserves dropped from \$36.7 million at the end of 1966 to \$26.3 million at the end of 1970. Although the 1971 payments surplus boosted reserves to \$31.5 million, they remain small, equaling less than 3 months' imports.

3. Foreign assistance and debt

In per capita terms, Guyana has received a substantial amount of economic assistance since 1960. Assistance amounted to US\$69 million from the

United Kingdom during 1960-70 and to some US\$17 million from Canada during 1960-71. U.S. aid authorizations during 1965-72 totaled \$55 million in loans and some \$19 million in grants. Prior to 1965, U.S. assistance was limited to a total of about \$5 million in small grants. Guyana receives no U.S. military aid. Economic assistance from international financial organizations amounted to \$27 million during 1946-71. Aid from Communist countries was nil until April 1972, when the People's Republic of China extended a \$26 million interest-free development loan. Drawings against the loan are to be made over a 5-year period beginning in 1972, with repayment to be spread over 20 years following a 10-year grace period.

Guyana's external public debt, after remaining almost unchanged throughout the mid-1960's, has more than doubled since 1969. Total indebtedness rose from US\$59 million in 1968 to \$139 million in 1971, largely as a result of addition of the \$53.5 million debt incurred as compensation for nationalization of the DEMBA bauxite properties. The highly concessionary terms under which Guyana has obtained foreign assistance have contributed to a light debt service burden. Service payments totaled only \$4.4 million in 1971, or about 3% of export earnings. Even including compensation payments, which began in 1972, debt service payments are expected to amount to only 5½% of export earnings—well below the Latin American average.

Places and features referred to in this chapter

	COORDINATES	
	° 'N.	° 'W.
Berbice River (<i>stream</i>).....	6 17	57 32
Courantyne River (<i>stream</i>).....	5 57	57 06
Demerara River (<i>stream</i>).....	6 48	58 10
Everton.....	6 12	57 31
Georgetown.....	6 48	58 10
Kwakwani.....	5 07	58 03
Linden.....	6 00	58 18
Matthews Ridge.....	7 30	60 10
New Amsterdam.....	6 15	57 31
Pakaraima Mountains (<i>mountains</i>).....	4 05	61 30
Pomeroon River (<i>stream</i>).....	7 37	58 44
Potaro River (<i>stream</i>).....	6 22	58 52
Tumatumari.....	5 20	59 00