



JAMAICA



INTRODUCTION

The island - discovered by Christopher COLUMBUS in 1494 - was settled by the Spanish early in the 16th century. England seized the island in 1655 and established a plantation economy based on sugar, cocoa, and coffee. Jamaica gained full independence in 1962.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

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

Head of Government

Prime Minister 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)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 10,991 sq km
Land: 10,831 sq km
Water: 160 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot, humid; temperate interior

Natural Resources

bauxite, alumina, gypsum, limestone

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

upper middle-income Caribbean island economy; prior to COVID-19 disruption, declining public debt and unemployment; environmentally fragile economy due to hurricanes and rising sea levels; persistently high crime, youth unemployment, and poverty
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$25.89 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$8,700 (2020 est.)

Industries - agriculture, mining, manufacture, construction, financial and insurance services, tourism, telecommunications

Agricultural products - sugarcane, goat milk, yams, poultry, coconuts, oranges, bananas, gourds, plantains, grapefruit

Exports \$5.114 billion (2018 est.)

bauxite, refined petroleum, aluminum, rum, fruits, nuts (2019)
partners: US 32%, Netherlands 11%, Germany 9%, Canada 7%, Iceland 7% (2019)

Imports \$7.314 billion (2018 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, crude petroleum, natural gas, packaged medicines (2019)

partners: US 43%, China 11% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

2.8 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.06% (2021 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: 56.7% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 0.79% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

