

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



INTRODUCTION

First colonized by the Spanish, the islands came under British control in the early 19th century. The islands' sugar industry was manned by contract laborers from India between 1845 and 1917, which boosted sugar production as well as the cocoa industry. The discovery of oil on Trinidad in 1910 added another important export. Independence was attained in 1962.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Paula-Mae WEEKES

Head of Government

Prime Minister Keith ROWLEY

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Port of Spain

Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (31 seats) and the House of Representatives (42 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 5,128 sq km
Land: 5,128 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical; rainy season (June to December)

Natural Resources

petroleum, natural gas, asphalt

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

high-income Caribbean island economy; predominantly driven by oil and gas (80% of exports); growing Venezuelan relations threaten US support; growing tourism; key regional finance hub; rising drug-related crime; high public debt; systemic corruption

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$33.21 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$23,700 (2020 est.)

Industries - petroleum/petroleum products, liquefied natural gas, methanol, ammonia, urea, steel products, beverages, food processing, cement, cotton textiles

Agricultural products - poultry, fruit, coconuts, citrus fruit, milk, plantains, maize, oranges, eggs, gourds

Exports \$9.927 billion (2017 est.)

natural gas, industrial alcohols, crude petroleum, ammonia, iron products, refined petroleum (2019)

partners: US 33%, Guyana 9%, Spain 6%, China 6% (2019)

Imports \$6.105 billion (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, excavation machinery, shipping containers, iron, cars (2019)

partners: US 40%, Guyana 19%, China 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

1.2 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

-0.28% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

East Indian 35.4%, African descent 34.2%, mixed – other 15.3%, mixed – African/East Indian 7.7%, other 1.3%, unspecified 6.2% (2011 est.)

Language

English (official), Trinidadian Creole English, Tobagonian Creole English, Caribbean Hindustani, Trinidadian Creole French, Spanish, Chinese

Religion

Protestant 32.1%, Roman Catholic 21.6%, Hindu 18.2%, Muslim 5%, Jehovah's Witness 1.5%, other 8.4%, none 2.2%, unspecified 11.1% (2011 est.)

