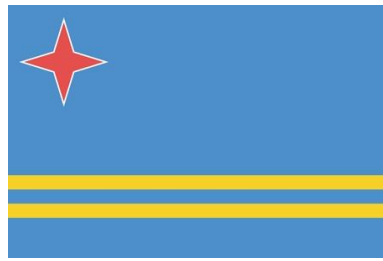




ARUBA



INTRODUCTION

Discovered and claimed for Spain in 1499, Aruba was acquired by the Dutch in 1636. Aruba seceded from the Netherlands Antilles in 1986 and became a separate, semi-autonomous member of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Movement toward full independence was halted at Aruba's request in 1990.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King WILLEM-ALEXANDER of the Netherlands, represented by Governor General Alfonso BOEKHOUDT

Head of Government

Prime Minister Evelyn WEVER-CROES

Government Type

parliamentary democracy; part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Capital

Oranjestad

Legislature

unicameral Legislature or Staten (21 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 180 sq km
Land: 180 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical marine; little seasonal temperature variation

Natural Resources

white sandy beaches foster tourism

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

small, tourism-dependent, territorial-island economy; very high public debt; COVID-19 crippled economic activity; partial recovery underway via tourism, benefitting from its high amount of timeshare residences; considering reopening oil refinery
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$4.158 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$37,500 (2017 est.)

Industries - tourism, petroleum transshipment facilities, banking

Agricultural products - aloes, livestock, fish

Exports \$1.45 billion (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, liquors, scrap iron, soap, tobacco (2019)

partners: Malaysia 57%, US 11%, Netherlands 6%, Jordan 6%, Venezuela 5% (2019)

Imports \$1.67 billion (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, jewelry, cars, vehicle parts, tobacco products (2019)

partners: US 48%, Netherlands 16% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

120,917 (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.17% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Aruban 66%, Colombian 9.1%, Dutch 4.3%, Dominican 4.1%, Venezuelan 3.2%, Curacaoan 2.2%, Haitian 1.5%, Surinamese 1.2%, Peruvian 1.1%, Chinese 1.1%, other 6.2% (2010 est.)

Language

Papiamentu (official) 69.4%, Spanish 13.7%, English (widely spoken) 7.1%, Dutch (official) 6.1%, Chinese 1.5%, other 1.7%, unspecified 0.4% (2010 est.)

Religion

Roman Catholic 75.3%, Protestant 4.9% Jehovah's Witness 1.7%, other 12%, none 5.5%, unspecified 0.5% (2010 est.)

