DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

INTRODUCTION
Spain and France colonized and divided the island of Hispaniola. The western third became Haiti. The remainder became the Dominican Republic in 1844. Dominicans voluntarily returned to the Spanish Empire, but two years later they launched a war that restored independence in 1865.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Luis Rodolfo ABINADER Corona
Head of Government
President Luis Rodolfo ABINADER Corona
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Santo Domingo
Legislature
bicameral National Congress or Congreso Nacional consists of the Senate or Senado (32 seats) and the House of Representatives or Camara de Diputados (190 seats)

GEOGRAphy
Area
Total: 48,670 sq km
Land: 48,320 sq km
Water: 350 sq km
Climate
tropical maritime; little seasonal temperature variation; seasonal variation in rainfall
Natural Resources
nickel, bauxite, gold, silver, arable land

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
tourism, construction, mining, and telecommunications OECS economy; COVID-19 disrupted economic growth; major foreign direct investment and free-trade zones; developing local financial markets; improving debt management; declining poverty
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $184.5 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $17,000 (2020 est.)
Industries - tourism, sugar processing, gold mining, textiles, cement, tobacco, electrical components, medical devices
Agricultural products - sugarcane, bananas, papayas, rice, plantains, milk, avocados, fruit, pineapples, coconuts
Exports $14.44 billion (2020 est.)
gold, medical instruments, cigars, low-voltage protection equipment, bananas (2019)
partners: US 54%, Switzerland 8%, Canada 5%, India 5%, China 5% (2019)
Imports $20.19 billion (2020 est.)
refined petroleum, cars, jewelry, natural gas, broadcasting equipment (2019)
partners: US 50%, China 13% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
10.6 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.92% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
mixed 70.4% (Mestizo/Indio 58%, Mulatto 12.4%), Black 15.8%, White 13.5%, other 0.3%
note: the term “Indio” in the Dominican Republic is not associated with people of indigenous ancestry but people of mixed ancestry or skin color between light and dark (2014 est.)
Language
Spanish (official)
Religion
Roman Catholic 44.3%, Evangelical 13%, Protestant 7.9%, Adventist 1.4%, other 1.8%, atheist 0.2%, none 29.4%, unspecified 2% (2018 est.)

as of October 2021