



PUERTO RICO



INTRODUCTION

Populated for centuries by aboriginal peoples, the island was claimed by the Spanish Crown in 1493 following Christopher COLUMBUS' second voyage to the Americas. Puerto Rico was ceded to the US as a result of the Spanish-American War. Puerto Ricans were granted US citizenship in 1917. For decades plebiscites showed that voters chose not to alter the existing political status with the US, but a 2020 vote showed a narrow preference for American statehood.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Joseph R. BIDEN Jr.

Head of Government

Governor Pedro PIERLUISI

Government Type

unincorporated organized territory of the US with local self-government; republican form of government with separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches;

Capital

San Juan

Legislature

bicameral Legislative Assembly or Asamblea Legislativa consists of the Senate or Senado (30 seats) and the House of Representatives or Camara de Representantes (51 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 9,104 sq km
Land: 8,959 sq km
Water: 145 sq km

Climate

tropical marine, mild; little seasonal temperature variation

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

US Caribbean island territorial economy; hit hard by COVID-19 and hurricanes; declining labor force and job growth after a decade of continuous recession; capital-based industry and tourism; high poverty; energy import-dependent

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$106.8 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$33,400 (2020 est.)

Industries - pharmaceuticals, electronics, apparel, food products, tourism

Agricultural products - milk, plantains, bananas, poultry, tomatoes, mangoes/guavas, eggs, oranges, gourds, papayas

Exports \$73.17 billion (2017 est.)

packaged medicines, medical cultures/vaccines, hormones, orthopedic/medical appliances, sulfur compounds (2019)

partners: Italy 15%, Netherlands 15%, Belgium 9%, Japan 8%, Germany 8%, Austria 8%, Spain 7%, China 5% (2019)

Imports \$49.01 billion (2017 est.)

nitrogen compounds, sulfur compounds, refined petroleum, medical cultures/vaccines, cars (2019)

partners: Ireland 38%, Singapore 9%, Switzerland 8%, South Korea 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

3.1 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

-1.46% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

White 75.8%, Black/African American 12.4%, other 8.5% (includes American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, and others), mixed 3.3% (2010 est.)

Language

Spanish, English

Religion

Roman Catholic 85%, Protestant and other 15%

