INTRODUCTION
Originally a Dutch colony in the 17th century, by 1815 Guyana had become a British possession. Guyana achieved independence from the UK in 1966, and since then has been ruled mostly by socialist-oriented governments. Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America and shares cultural and historical bonds with the Anglophone Caribbean.

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
small South American export economy; COVID-19 disruptions and commodity price drops; high emigration and remittances; widespread poverty; recently discovered oil and gas reserves; formalizing financial sector; large bauxite and gold resources

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $14.69 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $18,700 (2020 est.)
Industries - bauxite, sugar, rice milling, timber, textiles, gold mining
Agricultural products - rice, sugarcane, coconuts, pumpkins, squash, gourds, milk, eggplants, green chillies/peppers, poultry
Exports $1.439 billion (2017 est.)
    ships, gold, shipping containers, excavation machinery, aluminum ores, rice (2019)
    partners: Trinidad and Tobago 31%, Canada 11%, Portugal 11%, Ghana 8%, Norway 6%, UAE 5% (2019)
Imports $1.626 billion (2017 est.)
    ships, refined petroleum, excavation machinery, shipping containers, aircraft (2019)
    partners: US 26%, Trinidad and Tobago 16%, Singapore 18%, Liberia 11%, China 5%, Norway 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population 787,970 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth 0.19% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity East Indian 39.8%, African descent 29.3%, mixed 19.9%, Amerindian 10.5%, other 0.5% (2012 est.)
Language English (official), Guyanese Creole, Amerindian languages, Indian languages, Chinese (2014 est.)
Religion Protestant 34.8%, Hindu 24.8%, Roman Catholic 7.1%, Muslim 6.8%, Jehovah's Witness 1.3%, Rastafarian 0.5%, other Christian 20.8%, other 0.9%, none 3.1% (2012 est.)
Urbanization urban population: 26.9% of total population (2021)
    rate of urbanization: 1.01% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

as of October 2021