

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)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Sonia GUZMÁN DE HERNÁNDEZ

US Ambassador

Charge d'Affaires Alexander TITOLO

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

surging middle-income tourism, construction, mining, and telecommunications OECS economy; major foreign US direct investment and free-trade zones; developing local financial markets; improving debt management; declining poverty

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$207.1 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$18,600 (2021 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 \$20.51 billion (2021 est.)

gold, medical instruments, cigars, low-voltage protection equipment, iron alloys, clothing (2021)

partners: US 51%, Haiti 7%, Switzerland 7%, India 5%, Netherlands 3% (2021)

Imports \$28.54 billion (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, natural gas, jewelry, vaccines and cultures (2021)

partners: US 42%, China 19%, Spain 3%, Brazil 3%, Mexico 3% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

10.8 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.88% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

mixed 70.4% (Mestizo/Indio 58%, Mulatto 12.4%), Black 15.8%, White 13.5%, other 0.3% (2014 est.)

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

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.)