INTRODUCTION
In 1697, Spain ceded to the French the western third of the island of Hispaniola, which later became Haiti. The French colony, based on forestry and sugar-related industries, became one of the wealthiest in the Caribbean. Currently the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti continues to experience bouts of political instability.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Acting President Ariel HENRY
Head of Government
Prime Minister Ariel HENRY
Government Type
semi-presidential republic
Capital
Port-au-Prince
Legislature
bicameral legislature or le Corps Legislatif ou parlement consists of le Senat or the Senate (30 seats) and la Chambre de deputes or the Chamber of Deputies (119 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
small Caribbean island economy and OECS-member state; extreme poverty, enormous income inequalities; destabilization due to recent presidential assassination; US preferential market access; deteriorating human capital and infrastructure investments
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $31.62 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $2,800 (2020 est.)
Industries - textiles, sugar refining, flour milling, cement, light assembly using imported parts
Agricultural products - sugarcane, cassava, mangoes/guavas, plantains, bananas, yams, avocados, maize, rice, vegetables
Exports $980.2 million (2017 est.)
clothing and apparel, eels, essential oils, perfumes, mangoes, cocoa beans (2019)
partners: US 81%, Canada 7% (2019)
Imports $3.618 billion (2017 est.)
refined petroleum, rice, clothing and apparel, palm oil, poultry meats (2019)
partners: US 39%, China 22%, Turkey 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
11.2 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.22% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Black 95%, mixed and White 5%
Language
French (official), Creole (official)
Religion
Catholic 55%, Protestant 29%, Vodou 2.1%, other 4.6%, none 10% (2018 est.) note: 50-80% of Haitians incorporate some elements of Vodou culture or practice in addition to another religion, most often Roman Catholicism; Vodou was recognized as an official religion in 2003
Urbanization
urban population: 58% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 2.47% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)