TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

INTRODUCTION
First colonized by the Spanish, the islands came under British control in the early 19th century. The islands' sugar industry was manned by contract laborers from India between 1845 and 1917, which boosted sugar production as well as the cocoa industry. The discovery of oil on Trinidad in 1910 added another important export. Independence was attained in 1962.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Paula-Mae WEEKES
Head of Government
Prime Minister Keith ROWLEY
Government Type
parliamentary republic
Capital
Port of Spain
Legislature
bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (31 seats) and the House of Representatives (42 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 5,128 sq km
Land: 5,128 sq km
Water: 0 sq km
Climate
tropical; rainy season (June to December)
Natural Resources
petroleum, natural gas, asphalt

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
high-income Caribbean island economy; predominantly driven by oil and gas (80% of exports); growing Venezuelan relations threaten US support; growing tourism; key regional finance hub; rising drug-related crime; high public debt; systemic corruption
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $33.21 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $23,700 (2020 est.)
Industries - petroleum/petrochemical products, liquefied natural gas, methanol, ammonia, urea, steel products, beverages, food processing, cement, cotton textiles
Agricultural products - poultry, fruit, coconuts, citrus fruit, milk, plantains, maize, oranges, eggs, gourds
Exports $9.927 billion (2017 est.)
natural gas, industrial alcohols, crude petroleum, ammonia, iron products, refined petroleum (2019)
partners: US 33%, Guyana 9%, Spain 6%, China 6% (2019)
Imports $6.105 billion (2017 est.)
refined petroleum, excavation machinery, shipping containers, iron, cars (2019)
partners: US 40%, Guyana 19%, China 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
1.2 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
-0.28% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
East Indian 35.4%, African descent 34.2%, mixed – other 15.3%, mixed – African/East Indian 7.7%, other 1.3%, unspecified 6.2% (2011 est.)
Language
English (official), Trinidadian Creole English, Tobagonian Creole English, Caribbean Hindustani, Trinidadian Creole French, Spanish, Chinese
Religion
Protestant 32.1%, Roman Catholic 21.6%, Hindu 18.2%, Muslim 5%, Jehovah’s Witness 1.5%, other 8.4%, none 2.2%, unspecified 11.1% (2011 est.)
as of October 2021