INTRODUCTION
The islands were part of the UK's Jamaican colony until 1962, when they assumed the status of a separate crown colony upon Jamaica's independence. The governor of The Bahamas oversaw affairs from 1965 to 1973. With Bahamian independence, the islands received a separate governor in 1973. Although independence was agreed upon for 1982, the policy was reversed and the islands remain a British Overseas Territory.

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
British Caribbean island territorial economy; GDP and its tourism industry hit hard by COVID-19 disruptions; major biodiversity locale; US dollar user; fossil fuel dependent; negative trade balance; increasing unemployment
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $820 million (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $21,100 (2020 est.)
Industries - tourism, offshore financial services
Agricultural products - corn, beans, cassava (manioc, tapioca), citrus fruits, fish
Exports $24.77 million (2008 est.)
  plastic building materials, stone processing machinery, iron structures, crustaceans, integrated circuits (2019)
Imports $591.3 million (2008 est.)
  refined petroleum, cars, jewelry, furniture, soybeans (2019)
  partners: US 76% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
57,200 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.91% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Black 87.6%, White 7.9%, mixed 2.5%, East Indian 1.3%, other 0.7% (2006 est.)
Language
English (official)
Religion
Protestant 72.8%, Roman Catholic 11.4%, Jehovah's Witness 1.8%, other 14% (2006 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 93.8% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 1.46% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

as of October 2021