

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 Christine KANGALOO

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)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Anthony Wayne Jerome PHILLIPS-SPENCER, Brig. Gen. (ret.)

US Ambassador

Ambassador Candace A. BOND

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 economy; major hydrocarbon exporter; key tourism and finance sectors; high inflation and growing public debt; long foreign currency access delays; large foreign reserves and sovereign wealth fund

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$35.15 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$23,000 (2021 est.)

Industries - petroleum/petroleum 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 \$11.47 billion (2021 est.)

ammonia, industrial alcohols, natural gas, crude petroleum, iron products, fertilizers, refined petroleum (2021)

partners: United States 37%, Guyana 6%, China 5%, Mexico 4%, Belgium 4% (2021)

Imports \$8.59 billion (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, excavation machinery, shipping containers, iron, cars (2021)

partners: refined petroleum, iron, excavation machinery, ships, cars (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

1.4 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.12% (2023 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.)