



SURINAME



INTRODUCTION

First explored by the Spaniards in the 16th century and then settled by the English in the mid-17th century, Suriname became a Dutch colony in 1667. The Netherlands granted the colony independence in 1975.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Chandrikapersad SANTOKHI

Head of Government

President Chandrikapersad SANTOKHI

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Paramaribo

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Nationale Assemblée (51 seats)

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

upper middle-income South American economy; natural resource rich; foreign investments in oil field development; key aluminum goods exporter; central bank sets currency value and is experiencing devaluation; controversial hardwood industry
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$9.46 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$16,100 (2020 est.)
Industries - gold mining, oil, lumber, food processing, fishing
Agricultural products - rice, sugarcane, bananas, oranges, vegetables, plantains, coconuts, poultry, cassava, eggs
Exports \$2.028 billion (2017 est.)
gold, lumber, refined petroleum, fish, cigarettes (2019)
partners: Switzerland 39%, UAE 31%, Belgium 10% (2019)
Imports \$1.293 billion (2017 est.)
refined petroleum, delivery trucks, excavation machinery, cars, construction vehicles (2019)
partners: US 22%, Netherlands 14%, China 13%, Trinidad and Tobago 7%, Antigua and Barbuda 5% (2019)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 163,820 sq km
Land: 156,000 sq km
Water: 7,820 sq km

Climate

tropical; moderated by trade winds

Natural Resources

timber, hydropower, fish, kaolin, shrimp, bauxite, gold, and small amounts of nickel, copper, platinum, iron ore

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

614,750 (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.91% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Hindustani 27.4%, Maroon 21.7%, Creole 15.7%, Javanese 13.7%, mixed 13.4%, other 7.6%, unspecified 0.6% (2012 est.)

Language

Dutch (official), English, Sranang Tongo, Caribbean Hindustani, Javanese

Religion

Protestant 23.6%, Hindu 22.3%, Roman Catholic 21.6%, Muslim 13.8%, other Christian 3.2%, Winti 1.8%, Jehovah's Witness 1.2%, other 1.7%, none 7.5%, unspecified 3.2% (2012 est.)

