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Contents

1	238	1
1.1	238.guide	1
1.2	238.guide/Trinidad and Tobago	1
1.3	238.guide/Geography (Trinidad and Tobago)	2
1.4	238.guide/People (Trinidad and Tobago)	3
1.5	238.guide/Government (Trinidad and Tobago)	4
1.6	238.guide/Government (Trinidad and Tobago 2. usage)	5
1.7	238.guide/Economy (Trinidad and Tobago)	5
1.8	238.guide/Economy (Trinidad and Tobago 2. usage)	7
1.9	238.guide/Communications (Trinidad and Tobago)	7
1.10	238.guide/Defense Forces (Trinidad and Tobago)	8

Chapter 1

238

1.1 238.guide

Texified version of data for Trinidad and Tobago.

Texified using wfact from

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Trinidad and Tobago

1.2 238.guide/Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago

Geography (Trinidad and Tobago)
 People (Trinidad and Tobago)
 Government (Trinidad and Tobago)
 Government (Trinidad and Tobago 2. usage)
 Economy (Trinidad and Tobago)
 Economy (Trinidad and Tobago 2. usage)
 Communications (Trinidad and Tobago)
 Defense Forces (Trinidad and Tobago)

1.3 238.guide/Geography (Trinidad and Tobago)

Geography (Trinidad and Tobago)

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Location:

in the extreme southeastern Caribbean Sea, 11 km off the coast of Venezuela

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Standard Time Zones of
 the
 World

Area:

total area:

5,130 km²

land area:

5,130 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Delaware

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline: 362 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

200 nm or the outer edge of continental margin

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; rainy season (June to December)

Terrain:

mostly plains with some hills and low mountains

Natural resources:

petroleum, natural gas, asphalt

Land use:

arable land:

14%

permanent crops:

17%
 meadows and pastures:
 2%
 forest and woodland:
 44%
 other:
 23%
 Irrigated land:
 220 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 outside usual path of hurricanes and other tropical storms

1.4 238.guide/People (Trinidad and Tobago)

People (Trinidad and Tobago)

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Population:
 1,313,738 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.1% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 20.08 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 6.31 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -2.74 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 16.9 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 70.53 years
 male:
 67.91 years
 female: 73.22 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.35 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Trinidadian(s), Tobagonian(s)
 adjective:
 Trinidadian, Tobagonian
 Ethnic divisions:
 black 43%, East Indian 40%, mixed 14%, white 1%, Chinese 1%, other 1%
 Religions:
 Roman Catholic 32.2%, Hindu 24.3%, Anglican 14.4%, other Protestant 14%,
 Muslim 6%, none or unknown 9.1%
 Languages:
 English (official), Hindi, French, Spanish
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1980)
 total population:
 95%

male:
 97%
 female:
 93%
 Labor force:
 463,900
 by occupation:
 construction and utilities 18.1%, manufacturing, mining, and quarrying
 14.8%, agriculture 10.9%, other 56.2% (1985 est.)

1.5 238.guide/Government (Trinidad and Tobago)

Government (Trinidad and Tobago)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
 conventional short form:
 Trinidad and Tobago
 Digraph:
 TD
 Type:
 parliamentary democracy
 Capital:
 Port-of-Spain
 Administrative divisions:
 8 counties, 3 municipalities*, and 1 ward**; Arima*, Caroni, Mayaro, Nariva ←
 ,, Port-of-Spain*,,
 Saint Andrew, Saint David, Saint George, Saint Patrick, San
 Fernando*, Tobago**, Victoria, Independence:
 31 August 1962 (from UK)
 Constitution:
 31 August 1976
 Legal system:
 based on English common law; judicial review of legislative acts in the
 Supreme Court; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
 National holiday: Independence Day, 31 August (1962)
 Political parties and leaders:
 People's National Movement (PNM), Patrick MANNING; United National Congress
 (UNC), Basdeo PANDAY; National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), Carson
 CHARLES; Movement for Social Transformation (MOTION), David ABDULLAH;
 National Joint Action Committee (NJAC), Makandal DAAGA
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 House of Representatives:
 last held 16 December 1991 (next to be held by December 1996); results - ←
 PNM
 32%, UNC 13%, NAR 2%; seats - (36 total) PNM 21, UNC 13, NAR 2
 Executive branch:
 president, prime minister, Cabinet
 Legislative branch:

bicameral Parliament consists of an upper house or Senate and a lower house or House of Representatives

Judicial branch:
 Court of Appeal, Supreme Court

Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 President Noor Mohammed HASSANALI (since 18 March 1987)

Head of Government:
 Prime Minister Patrick Augustus Mervyn MANNING (since 17 December 1991)

Member of:
 ACP, C, CARICOM, CCC, CDB, ECLAC, FAO, G-24, G-77, GATT, IADB, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO, ITU, LAES, LORCS, NAM, OAS, OPANAL, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Corinne BAPTISTE

chancery:
 1708 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036

telephone:
 (202) 467-6490

1.6 238.guide/Government (Trinidad and Tobago 2. usage)

Government (Trinidad and Tobago 2. usage)

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consulate general:
 New York

US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Sally G. COWAL

embassy:
 15 Queen's Park West, Port-of-Spain

mailing address:
 P. O. Box 752, Port-of-Spain

telephone:
 (809) 622-6372 through 6376, 6176

FAX:
 (809) 628-5462

Flag:
 red with a white-edged black diagonal band from the upper hoist side

1.7 238.guide/Economy (Trinidad and Tobago)

Economy (Trinidad and Tobago)

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Overview:

Trinidad and Tobago's petroleum-based economy has begun to emerge from a lengthy depression in the last few years. The economy fell sharply through most of the 1980s, largely because of the decline in oil prices. This ←
sector

accounts for 80% of export earnings and almost 20% of GDP. The government, in response to the oil revenue loss, pursued a series of austerity measures that pushed the unemployment rate as high as 22% in 1988. The economy ←
showed

signs of recovery in 1990 and 1991, however, helped along by rising oil prices. Agriculture employs only about 11% of the labor force and produces about 3% of GDP. Since this sector is small, it has been unable to absorb the large numbers of the unemployed. The government currently seeks to diversify its export base.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$5 billion (1991)

National product real growth rate:

2.6% (1991)

National product per capita:

\$3,800 (1991)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

3.8% (1991)

Unemployment rate:

18.5% (1991)

Budget:

revenues \$1.6 billion; expenditures \$1.6 billion, including capital expenditures of \$158 million (1993 est.)

Exports:

\$2.2 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

includes reexports - petroleum and petroleum products 82%, steel products 9%, fertilizer, sugar, cocoa, coffee, citrus (1988)

partners:

US 49%, CARICOM 12%

Imports:

\$1.7 billion (c.i.f., 1991)

commodities:

raw materials and intermediate goods 48%, capital goods 29%, consumer goods 23% (1991)

partners:

US 39%, Venezuela 14%, UK 7%, CARICOM 5% (1991)

External debt:

\$2.4 billion (1991)

Industrial production:

growth rate 2.3%, excluding oil refining (1986); accounts for 40% of GDP, including petroleum

Electricity:

1,176,000 kW capacity; 3,480 million kWh produced, 2,680 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

petroleum, chemicals, tourism, food processing, cement, beverage, cotton textiles

Agriculture: accounts for 3% of GDP; highly subsidized sector; major crops ←

- cocoa,

sugarcane; sugarcane acreage is being shifted into rice, citrus, coffee, vegetables; poultry sector most important source of animal protein; must import large share of food needs

Illicit drugs:
 transshipment point for South American drugs destined for the US

1.8 238.guide/Economy (Trinidad and Tobago 2. usage)

Economy (Trinidad and Tobago 2. usage)

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Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$373 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$518 million

Currency:

1 Trinidad and Tobago dollar (TT\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

Trinidad and Tobago dollars (TT\$) per US\$1 - 4.2500 (fixed rate since 1989)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.9 238.guide/Communications (Trinidad and Tobago)

Communications (Trinidad and Tobago)

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Railroads:

minimal agricultural railroad system near San Fernando

Highways:

8,000 km total; 4,000 km paved, 1,000 km improved earth, 3,000 km ←
 unimproved

earth

Pipelines:

crude oil 1,032 km, petroleum products 19 km, natural gas 904 km

Ports:

Port-of-Spain, Pointe-a-Pierre, Scarborough

Merchant marine:

2 cargo ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 12,507 GRT/21,923 DWT

Airports:

total:

6

usable:

5

with permanent-surface runways:

2

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

2

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

1

Telecommunications:

excellent international service via tropospheric scatter links to Barbados and Guyana; good local service; 109,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 2 AM, 4 FM, 5 TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 238.guide/Defense Forces (Trinidad and Tobago)

Defense Forces (Trinidad and Tobago)

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Branches:

Trinidad and Tobago Defense Force (including Ground Forces, Coast Guard, ←
and

Air Wing), Trinidad and Tobago Police Service

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 351,183; fit for military service 253,084 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$59 million, 1-2% of GDP (1989 est.)