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Chapter 1

119

1.1 119.guide

Texified version of data for Jamaica.

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Jamaica

1.2 119.guide/Jamaica

Jamaica

Geography (Jamaica)
 People (Jamaica)
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 Economy (Jamaica)
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1.3 119.guide/Geography (Jamaica)

Geography (Jamaica)

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Location:

in the northern Caribbean Sea, about 160 km south of Cuba

Map references:

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

Area:

total area:

10,990 km²

land area:

10,830 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Connecticut

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

1,022 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes: none

Climate:

tropical; hot, humid; temperate interior

Terrain:

mostly mountains with narrow, discontinuous coastal plain

Natural resources:

bauxite, gypsum, limestone

Land use:

arable land:

19%

permanent crops:

6%

meadows and pastures:

18%

forest and woodland:

28%
 other:
 29%
 Irrigated land:
 350 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 subject to hurricanes (especially July to November); deforestation; water
 pollution
 Note:
 strategic location between Cayman Trench and Jamaica Channel, the main sea
 lanes for Panama Canal

1.4 119.guide/People (Jamaica)

People (Jamaica)

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Population:
 2,529,981 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.96% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 22.24 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 5.72 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -6.95 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 17.5 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 74.09 years
 male:
 71.92 years
 female:
 76.36 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.47 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Jamaican(s)
 adjective: Jamaican
 Ethnic divisions:
 African 76.3%, Afro-European 15.1%, East Indian and Afro-East Indian 3%,
 white 3.2%, Chinese and Afro-Chinese 1.2%, other 1.2%
 Religions:
 Protestant 55.9% (Church of God 18.4%, Baptist 10%, Anglican 7.1%,
 Seventh-Day Adventist 6.9%, Pentecostal 5.2%, Methodist 3.1%, United Church
 2.7%, other 2.5%), Roman Catholic 5%, other, including some spiritual cults
 39.1% (1982)
 Languages:
 English, Creole
 Literacy:

age 15 and over having ever attended school (1990)
 total population:
 98%
 male:
 98%
 female:
 99%
 Labor force:
 1,062,100
 by occupation:
 services 41%, agriculture 22.5%, industry 19%, unemployed 17.5% (1989)

1.5 119.guide/Government (Jamaica)

Government (Jamaica)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 none
 conventional short form:
 Jamaica
 Digraph:
 JM
 Type:
 parliamentary democracy
 Capital:
 Kingston
 Administrative divisions:
 14 parishes; Clarendon, Hanover, Kingston, Manchester, Portland, Saint Andrew, Saint Ann, Saint Catherine, Saint Elizabeth, Saint James, Saint Mary, Saint Thomas, Trelawny, Westmoreland
 Independence:
 6 August 1962 (from UK)
 Constitution:
 6 August 1962
 Legal system:
 based on English common law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
 National holiday:
 Independence Day (first Monday in August)
 Political parties and leaders:
 People's National Party (PNP) P. J. PATTERSON; Jamaica Labor Party (JLP), Edward SEAGA
 Other political or pressure groups:
 Rastafarians (black religious/racial cultists, pan-Africanists)
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 House of Representatives:
 last held 30 March 1993 (next to be held by February 1998); results -
 percent of vote by party NA; seats - (60 total) PNP 52, JLP 8
 Executive branch:
 British monarch, governor general, prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

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

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court

Leaders:**Chief of State:**

Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor General Sir Howard COOKE (since 1 August 1991)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister P. J. PATTERSON (since 30 March 1992)

Member of:

ACP, C, CARICOM, CCC, CDB, ECLAC, FAO, G-19, G-77, GATT, G-15, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO, ITU, LAES, LORCS, NAM, OAS, OPANAL, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:**chief of mission:**

Ambassador Richard BERNAL

chancery:

Suite 355, 1850 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20006

telephone:

(202) 452-0660

1.6 119.guide/Government (Jamaica 2. usage)

Government (Jamaica 2. usage)

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consulates general:

Miami and New York

US diplomatic representation:**chief of mission:**

Ambassador Glen A. HOLDEN

embassy:

Kingston

mailing address:

3rd Floor, Jamaica Mutual Life Center, 2 Oxford Road, Kingston

telephone:

(809) 929-4850 through 4859

FAX:

(809) 926-6743

Flag:

diagonal yellow cross divides the flag into four triangles - green (top and bottom) and black (hoist side and fly side)

1.7 119.guide/Economy (Jamaica)

Economy (Jamaica)

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Overview:

The economy is based on sugar, bauxite, and tourism. In 1985 it suffered a setback with the closure of some facilities in the bauxite and alumina industry, a major source of hard currency earnings. Since 1986 an economic recovery has been under way. In 1987 conditions began to improve for the bauxite and alumina industry because of increases in world metal prices. ←

The recovery has also been supported by growth in the manufacturing and tourism sectors. In September 1988, Hurricane Gilbert inflicted severe damage on crops and the electric power system, a sharp but temporary setback to the economy. By October 1989 the economic recovery from the hurricane was largely complete, and real growth was up about 3% for 1989. In 1991, however, growth dropped to 0.2% as a result of the US recession, lower ← world

bauxite prices, and monetary instability. In 1992, growth was 1.5%, supported by a recovery in tourism and stabilization of the Jamaican dollar in the second half of 1992.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$3.7 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

1.5% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$1,500 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

52% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

15.4% (1992)

Budget:

revenues \$600 million; expenditures \$736 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (FY91 est.)

Exports:

\$1.2 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

alumina, bauxite, sugar, bananas, rum

partners:

US 39%, UK 14%, Canada 12%, Netherlands 8%, Norway 7%

Imports:

\$1.6 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

fuel, other raw materials, construction materials, food, transport equipment, other machinery and equipment

partners:

US 51%, UK 6%, Venezuela 5%, Canada 5%, Japan 4.5%

External debt:

\$4.4 billion (1991 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 2.0% (1990); accounts for almost 25% of GDP

Electricity:

1,127,000 kW capacity; 2,736 million kWh produced, 1,090 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

tourism, bauxite mining, textiles, food processing, light manufactures

Agriculture:

accounts for about 9% of GDP, 22% of work force, and 17% of exports;
commercial crops - sugarcane, bananas, coffee, citrus, potatoes, vegetables ←
;

livestock and livestock products include poultry, goats, milk; not
self-sufficient in grain, meat, and dairy products

Illicit drugs:

illicit cultivation of cannabis; transshipment point for cocaine from
Central and South America to North America; government has an active
cannabis eradication program

1.8 119.guide/Economy (Jamaica 2. usage)**Economy (Jamaica 2. usage)**

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Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$1.2 billion; other countries,
ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$1.6 billion

Currency:

1 Jamaican dollar (J\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

Jamaican dollars (J\$) per US\$1 - 22.173 (September 1992), 12.116 (1991),
7.184 (1990), 5.7446 (1989), 5.4886 (1988), 5.4867 (1987)

Fiscal year:

1 April - 31 March

1.9 119.guide/Communications (Jamaica)**Communications (Jamaica)**

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Railroads:

294 km, all 1.435-meter standard gauge, single track

Highways:

18,200 km total; 12,600 km paved, 3,200 km gravel, 2,400 km improved earth

Pipelines:

petroleum products 10 km

Ports:

Kingston, Montego Bay, Port Antonio

Merchant marine:

4 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 9,619 GRT/16,302 DWT; includes 1
roll-on/roll-off cargo, 1 oil tanker, 2 bulk

Airports:

total:

36

usable:

23

with permanent-surface runways:
 10
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 2
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 1
 Telecommunications:
 fully automatic domestic telephone network; 127,000 telephones; broadcast
 stations - 10 AM, 17 FM, 8 TV; 2 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth stations; 3
 coaxial submarine cables

1.10 119.guide/Defense Forces (Jamaica)

Defense Forces (Jamaica)

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Branches:

Jamaica Defense Force (including Ground Forces, Coast Guard and Air Wing),
 Jamaica Constabulary Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 651,931; fit for military service 461,980 (1993 est.); no
 conscription; 26,445 reach minimum volunteer age (18) annually

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$19.3 million, 1% of GDP (FY91/92)