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Contents

1	22	1
1.1	22.guide	1
1.2	22.guide/Barbados	1
1.3	22.guide/Geography (Barbados)	2
1.4	22.guide/People (Barbados)	3
1.5	22.guide/Government (Barbados)	4
1.6	22.guide/Government (Barbados 2. usage)	5
1.7	22.guide/Economy (Barbados)	6
1.8	22.guide/Communications (Barbados)	7
1.9	22.guide/Defense Forces (Barbados)	7

Chapter 1

22

1.1 22.guide

Texified version of data for Barbados.

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Barbados

1.2 22.guide/Barbados

Barbados

Geography (Barbados)
 People (Barbados)
 Government (Barbados)
 Government (Barbados 2. usage)
 Economy (Barbados)
 Communications (Barbados)
 Defense Forces (Barbados)

1.3 22.guide/Geography (Barbados)

Geography (Barbados)

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Location:

in the extreme eastern Caribbean Sea, about 375 km northeast of Venezuela

Map references:

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

Area:

total area:

430 km²

land area:

430 km²

comparative area:

slightly less than 2.5 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

97 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; rainy season (June to October)

Terrain:

relatively flat; rises gently to central highland region

Natural resources:

petroleum, fishing, natural gas

Land use:

arable land: 77%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

9%

forest and woodland:

0%

other:
 14%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 subject to hurricanes (especially June to October)
 Note:
 easternmost Caribbean island

1.4 22.guide/People (Barbados)

People (Barbados)

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Population:
 255,338 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.18% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 15.78 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 8.53 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -5.49 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 21.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 73.49 years
 male:
 70.75 years
 female:
 76.46 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 1.77 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Barbadian(s)
 adjective:
 Barbadian
 Ethnic divisions:
 African 80%, mixed 16%, European 4%
 Religions:
 Protestant 67% (Anglican 40%, Pentecostal 8%, Methodist 7%, other 12%),
 Roman Catholic 4%, none 17%, unknown 3%, other 9% (1980)
 Languages:
 English
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over having ever attended school (1970)
 total population: 99%
 male:
 99%
 female:

99%
 Labor force:
 120,900 (1991)
 by occupation:
 services and government 37%, commerce 22%, manufacturing and construction
 22%, transportation, storage, communications, and financial institutions ←
 9%,
 agriculture 8%, utilities 2% (1985 est.)

1.5 22.guide/Government (Barbados)

Government (Barbados)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 none
 conventional short form:
 Barbados
 Digraph:
 BB
 Type:
 parliamentary democracy
 Capital:
 Bridgetown
 Administrative divisions:
 11 parishes; Christ Church, Saint Andrew, Saint George, Saint James, Saint
 John, Saint Joseph, Saint Lucy, Saint Michael, Saint Peter, Saint Philip,
 Saint Thomas
 note:
 the new city of Bridgetown may be given parish status
 Independence:
 30 November 1966 (from UK)
 Constitution:
 30 November 1966
 Legal system:
 English common law; no judicial review of legislative acts
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 30 November (1966)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Democratic Labor Party (DLP), Erskine SANDIFORD; Barbados Labor Party (BLP) ←
 ,
 Henry FORDE; National Democratic Party (NDP), Richie HAYNES
 Other political or pressure groups:
 Barbados Workers Union, Leroy TROTMAN; People's Progressive Movement, Eric
 SEALY; Workers' Party of Barbados, Dr. George BELLE; Clement Payne Labor
 Union, David COMMISSIONG
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 House of Assembly:
 last held 22 January 1991 (next to be held by January 1996); results - DLP
 49.8%; seats - (28 total) DLP 18, BLP 10

Executive branch:

British monarch, governor general, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

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

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court of Judicature

Leaders:

Chief of State:

Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor General Dame Nita BARROW (since 6 June 1990)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Lloyd Erskine SANDIFORD (since 2 June 1987)

Member of:

ACP, C, CARICOM, CDB, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, GATT, IADB, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IFAD ↔

IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU, LAES ↔

LORCS, NAM, OAS, OPANAL, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Dr. Rudi WEBSTER

1.6 22.guide/Government (Barbados 2. usage)

Government (Barbados 2. usage)

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chancery:

2144 Wyoming Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:

(202) 939-9200 through 9202

consulate general:

New York

consulate:

Los Angeles

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Ambassador G. Philip HUGHES

embassy:

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Building, Broad Street, Bridgetown

mailing address:

P. O. Box 302, Box B, FPO AA 34054

telephone:

(809) 436-4950 through 4957

FAX:

(809) 429-5246

Flag:

three equal vertical bands of blue (hoist side), yellow, and blue with the head of a black trident centered on the gold band; the trident head represents independence and a break with the past (the colonial coat of arms ↔

contained a complete trident)

1.7 22.guide/Economy (Barbados)

Economy (Barbados)

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Overview:

A per capita income of \$7,000 gives Barbados one of the highest standards of living of all the small island states of the eastern Caribbean. Historically, the economy was based on the cultivation of sugarcane and related activities. In recent years, however, the economy has diversified into manufacturing and tourism. The tourist industry is now a major employer of the labor force and a primary source of foreign exchange. The economy slowed in 1990-91, however, and Bridgetown's declining hard currency reserves and inability to finance its deficits have caused it to adopt an austere economic reform program.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$1.8 billion (1991)

National product real growth rate:

-4% (1991)

National product per capita:

\$7,000 (1991)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

8.1% (1991)

Unemployment rate:

23% (1992)

Budget:

revenues \$547 million; expenditures \$620 million (FY92-93), including capital expenditures of \$60 million

Exports:

\$205.8 million (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

sugar and molasses, chemicals, electrical components, clothing, rum, machinery and transport equipment

partners:

CARICOM 31%, US 16%, UK 13%

Imports:

\$697 million (c.i.f., 1991)

commodities:

foodstuffs, consumer durables, raw materials, machinery, crude oil, construction materials, chemicals

partners:

US 34%, CARICOM 16%, UK 11%, Canada 6%

External debt:

\$750 million (1991 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate -1.3% (1991); accounts for 10% of GDP

Electricity:

152,100 kW capacity; 540 million kWh produced, 2,118 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

tourism, sugar, light manufacturing, component assembly for export, petroleum

Agriculture:
accounts for 8% of GDP; major cash crop is sugarcane; other crops - vegetables, cotton; not self-sufficient in food

Economic aid:
US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$15 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$171 million

Currency:
1 Barbadian dollar (Bds\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:
Barbadian dollars (Bds\$) per US\$1 - 2.0113 (fixed rate)

Fiscal year:
1 April - 31 March

1.8 22.guide/Communications (Barbados)

Communications (Barbados)

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Highways:
1,570 km total; 1,475 km paved, 95 km gravel and earth

Ports:
Bridgetown

Merchant marine:
3 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 48,710 GRT/9,263 DWT; includes 1 cargo ↔
2 oil tanker

Airports:
total:
1
usable:
1
with permanent-surface runways:
1
with runways over 3,659 m:
0
with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
1
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
0

Telecommunications:
islandwide automatic telephone system with 89,000 telephones; tropospheric scatter link to Trinidad and Saint Lucia; broadcast stations - 3 AM, 2 FM, ↔
2
(1 is pay) TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.9 22.guide/Defense Forces (Barbados)

Defense Forces (Barbados)

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Branches:

Royal Barbados Defense Force, including the Ground Forces and Coast Guard,
Royal Barbados Police Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 70,254; fit for military service 49,096 (1993 est.); no
conscription

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$10 million, 0.7% of GDP (1989)