

Trinidad and Tobago

Geography

Location: Caribbean, islands between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, northeast of Venezuela

Area:

total area: 5,130 sq km

land area: 5,130 sq km

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 362 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone: 24 nm

continental shelf: 200 nm or to the outer edge of the continental margin

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

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 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: water pollution from agricultural chemicals, industrial wastes, and raw sewage; oil pollution of beaches; deforestation; soil erosion

natural hazards: outside usual path of hurricanes and other tropical storms

People

Population: 1,271,159 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 31% (female 191,627; male 198,225)

15-64 years: 64% (female 399,726; male 407,495)

65 years and over: 5% (female 40,577; male 33,509) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.12% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 16.62 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 6.88 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -8.59 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 18.5 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 70.14 years

male: 67.75 years

female: 72.6 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 2.01 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Trinidadian(s), Tobagonian(s)

adjective: Trinidadian, Tobagonian

Ethnic divisions: black 43%, East Indian (a local term - primarily immigrants from northern India) 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:

total population: 97%

male: 98%

female: 96%

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

conventional short form: Trinidad and Tobago

Type: parliamentary democracy

Capital: Port-of-Spain

Independence: 31 August 1962 (from UK)

National holiday: Independence Day, 31 August (1962)

Constitution: 1 August 1976

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

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

Economy

Overview: Trinidad and Tobago's petroleum-based economy still enjoys a high per capita income by Latin American standards.

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

Agriculture: accounts for 3% of GDP; 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 and Europe and producer of cannabis

Transportation

Railroads:

note: minimal agricultural railroad system near San Fernando

Highways:

total: 8,000 km

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

Ports: Pointe-a-Pierre, Point Fortin, Point Lisas, Port-of-Spain, Scarborough, Tembladora

Airports:
total: 6

Defence Forces

Branches: Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (includes Ground Forces, Coast Guard, and Air Wing), Trinidad and Tobago Police Service