

Antigua and Barbuda

Geography

Location: Caribbean, islands between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, east-southeast of Puerto Rico.

Map references: Central America and the Caribbean.

Area:

total area: 440 sq km.

land area: 440 sq km.

Land boundaries: 0 km.

Coastline: 153 km.

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone: 24 nm.

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

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm.

territorial sea: 12 nm.

Climate: tropical marine; little seasonal temperature variation.

Terrain: mostly low-lying limestone and coral islands with some higher volcanic areas.

Natural resources: negligible; pleasant climate fosters tourism.

Land use:

arable land: 18%.

permanent crops: 0%.

meadows and pastures: 7%.

forest and woodland: 16%.

other: 59%.

Environment:

current issues: water management - a major concern because of limited natural fresh water resources - is further hampered by the clearing of trees to increase crop production, causing rainfall to run off quickly.

natural hazards: hurricanes and tropical storms (July to October); periodic droughts.

People

Population: 65,176 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 25% (female 8,062; male 8,390).

15-64 years: 69% (female 22,342; male 22,334).

65 years and over: 6% (female 2,231; male 1,817) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.68% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 17.08 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 5.35 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -4.91 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 17.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 73.4 years.

male: 71.32 years.

female: 75.57 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.68 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Antiguan(s), Barbudan(s).

adjective: Antiguan, Barbudan.

Ethnic divisions: black African, British, Portuguese, Lebanese, Syrian.

Religions: Anglican (predominant), other Protestant sects, some Roman Catholic.

Languages: English (official), local dialects.

Literacy: age 15 and over has completed five or more years of schooling (1960).

total population: 89%.

male: 90%.

female: 88%.

Labor force: 30,000.

by occupation: commerce and services 82%, agriculture 11%, industry 7% (1983).

Government

Names:

conventional long form: none.

conventional short form: Antigua and Barbuda.

Type: parliamentary democracy

Capital: Saint John's.

Administrative divisions: 6 parishes and 2 dependencies*;
Barbuda*, Redonda*, Saint George, Saint John, Saint Mary, Saint Paul, Saint Peter, Saint Philip.

Independence: 1 November 1981 (from UK).

National holiday: Independence Day, 1 November (1981).

Constitution: 1 November 1981.

Legal system: based on English common law.

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal.

Flag: red with an inverted isosceles triangle based on the top edge of the flag; the triangle contains three horizontal bands of black (top), light blue, and white with a yellow rising sun in the black band.

Economy

Overview: The economy is primarily service oriented, with tourism the most important determinant of economic performance. In 1993, tourism made a direct contribution to GDP of about 17%, and also spurred growth in other sectors such as construction and transport. While only accounting for roughly 5% of GDP in 1993, agricultural production increased by 4%.

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 77 km.

Highways:

total: 240 km.

Ports: Saint John's.

Airports:

total: 3.

Defence Forces

Branches: Royal Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force, Royal Antigua and Barbuda Police Force (includes the Coast Guard).