



# Barbados



Background	Barbados was uninhabited when first settled by the British in 1627. Enslaved Africans worked the sugar plantations established on the island, which initially dominated the Caribbean sugar industry. By 1720, Barbados was no longer a dominant force within the sugar industry, having been surpassed by the Leeward Islands and Jamaica. Slavery was abolished in 1834. The Barbadian economy remained heavily dependent on sugar, rum, and molasses production through most of the 20th century. The gradual introduction of social and political reforms in the 1940s and 1950s led to independence from the UK in 1966. In the 1990s, tourism and manufacturing surpassed the sugar industry in economic importance. Barbados became a republic in 2021, with the former Governor-General Sandra MASON elected as the first president.
Capital	name: Bridgetown
Government type	parliamentary republic; a Commonwealth realm
Area	total : 430 sq km land: 430 sq km water: 0 sq km
Climate	tropical; rainy season (June to October)
Natural resources	petroleum, fish, natural gas
Population	total: 304,139 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.23% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	African descent 92.4%, mixed 3.1%, White 2.7%, East Indian 1.3%, other 0.2%, unspecified 0.3% (2010 est.)
Religions	Protestant 66.4% (includes Anglican 23.9%, other Pentecostal 19.5%, Adventist 5.9%, Methodist 4.2%, Wesleyan 3.4%, Nazarene 3.2%, Church of God 2.4%, Baptist 1.8%, Moravian 1.2%, other Protestant 0.9%), Roman Catholic 3.8%, other Christian 5.4% (includes Jehovah's Witness 2.0%, other 3.4%), Rastafarian 1%, other 1.5%, none 20.6%, unspecified 1.2% (2010 est.)
Languages	English (official), Bajan (English-based creole language, widely spoken in informal settings)
Executive branch	chief of state: President Jeffrey Davidson BOSTIC (since 30 November 2025) head of government: Prime Minister Mia MOTTLEY (since 25 May 2018)
Legislative branch	legislature name: Parlement de Barbade (Parliament of Barbados)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Victor Anthony FERNANDES (since 18 September 2024)

Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Karin B. SULLIVAN (since January 2025); note - also accredited to Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Economic overview	high-income Eastern Caribbean economy; high standard of living among regional peers; key tourism, construction, and financial sectors driving recent GDP growth; declining but still very high public debt leading to IMF support programs; susceptible to natural disasters and reliance on import partners
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$5.634 billion (2024 est.) \$5.428 billion (2023 est.) \$5.214 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$19,900 (2024 est.) \$19,200 (2023 est.) \$18,500 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$2.228 billion (2017 est.) \$2.41 billion (2016 est.) \$2.358 billion (2015 est.)
Exports - partners	USA 22%, Jamaica 17%, Trinidad & Tobago 8%, Canada 6%, Guyana 6% (2023)
Exports - commodities	liquor, refined petroleum, packaged medicine, margarine, baked goods (2023)
Imports	\$2.12 billion (2021 est.) \$2.213 billion (2017 est.) \$2.238 billion (2016 est.)
Imports - partners	USA 32%, Trinidad & Tobago 19%, Netherlands 6%, UK 6%, Guyana 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, crude petroleum, cars, plastic products, ships (2023)

Population Pyramid

