



# Turks and Caicos Islands



**Background** The islands were part of the UK's Jamaican colony until 1962, when they assumed the status of a separate crown colony upon Jamaica's independence. The governor of The Bahamas oversaw affairs from 1965 to 1973. With Bahamian independence, the islands received a separate governor in 1973. Although independence was agreed upon for 1982, the policy was reversed, and the islands remain a British overseas territory.

**Capital** name: Grand Turk (Cockburn Town)

**Government type** parliamentary democracy

**Area** total : 948 sq km  
land: 948 sq km  
water: 0 sq km

**Climate** tropical; marine; moderated by trade winds; sunny and relatively dry

**Natural resources** spiny lobster, conch

**Population** total: 60,439

**Population growth rate** 1.77% (2024 est.)

**Ethnic groups** Black 87.6%, White 7.9%, mixed 2.5%, East Indian 1.3%, other 0.7% (2006 est.)

**Religions** Protestant 72.8% (Baptist 35.8%, Church of God 11.7%, Anglican 10%, Methodist 9.3%, Seventh Day Adventist 6%), Roman Catholic 11.4%, Jehovah's Witness 1.8%, other 14% (2006 est.)

**Languages** English (official)

**Executive branch** chief of state: King CHARLES III (since 8 September 2022); represented by Governor Dileeni Daniel-SELVARATNAM (since 29 June 2023)  
head of government: Premier Washington MISICK (since 19 February 2021)

**Economic overview** British Caribbean island territorial economy; GDP and its tourism industry hit hard by COVID-19 disruptions; major biodiversity locale; US dollar user; fossil fuel dependent; negative trade balance; increasing unemployment

**Real GDP (purchasing power parity)** \$1.03 billion (2023 est.)  
\$1.018 billion (2022 est.)  
\$958.811 million (2021 est.)

**Real GDP per capita** \$22,300 (2023 est.)  
\$22,200 (2022 est.)  
\$21,200 (2021 est.)

<b>Exports</b>	\$826.824 million (2018 est.) \$602.581 million (2017 est.) \$741.173 million (2016 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	Togo 61%, US 13%, Zimbabwe 6%, Democratic Republic of the Congo 3%, Central African Republic 2% (2022)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	fertilizers, shellfish, plastics, sulfur, soybean oil (2022)
<b>Imports</b>	\$544.219 million (2018 est.) \$484.842 million (2017 est.) \$438.041 million (2016 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	US 75%, Dominican Republic 6%, Italy 3%, Switzerland 2%, China 2% (2022)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, cars, plastic products, furniture, aluminum structures (2022)