



Bahamas, The



Background Lucayan Indians inhabited the Bahama islands when Christopher COLUMBUS first set foot in the New World in 1492. British settlement of the islands began in 1647; the islands became a colony in 1783. Piracy thrived in the 17th and 18th centuries because of The Bahamas' close proximity to shipping lanes. Since gaining independence from the UK in 1973, The Bahamas has prospered through tourism, international banking, and investment management, which comprise up to 85% of GDP. Because of its proximity to the US -- the nearest Bahamian landmass is only 80 km (50 mi) from Florida -- the country is a major transshipment point for illicit trafficking to the US mainland, as well as to Europe. US law enforcement agencies cooperate closely with The Bahamas; the Drug Enforcement Administration, US Coast Guard, and US Customs and Border Protection assist Bahamian authorities with maritime security and law enforcement through Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, or OPBAT.

Capital name: Nassau

Government type parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Area total : 13,880 sq km
land: 10,010 sq km
water: 3,870 sq km

Climate tropical marine; moderated by warm waters of Gulf Stream

Natural resources salt, aragonite, timber, arable land

Population total: 410,862 (2024 est.)

Population growth rate 1.07% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups African descent 90.6%, White 4.7%, mixed 2.1%, other 1.9%, unspecified 0.7% (2010 est.)

Religions Protestant 69.9% (includes Baptist 34.9%, Anglican 13.7%, Pentecostal 8.9% Seventh Day Adventist 4.4%, Methodist 3.6%, Church of God 1.9%, Plymouth Brethren 1.6%, other Protestant 0.9%), Roman Catholic 12%, other Christian 13% (includes Jehovah's Witness 1.1%), other 0.6%, none 1.9%, unspecified 2.6% (2010 est.)

Languages English (official), Creole (among Haitian immigrants)

Executive branch chief of state: King CHARLES III (since 8 September 2022); represented by Governor-General Cynthia A. PRATT (since 1 September 2023)
head of government: Prime Minister Philip Edward DAVIS (since 17 September 2021)

Legislative branch legislature name: Parliament

Diplomatic representation in the US chief of mission: Ambassador Wendall Kermith JONES (since 19 April 2022)

Diplomatic representation from the US chief of mission: Ambassador Herschel WALKER (since 9 December 2025)

Economic overview high-income tourism and financial services economy; major income inequality; strong US bilateral relations; several tax relief programs; targeted investment in agriculture, energy, light manufacturing, and technology industries

Real GDP (purchasing power parity) \$14.544 billion (2024 est.)
\$14.069 billion (2023 est.)
\$13.653 billion (2022 est.)

Real GDP per capita \$36,200 (2024 est.)
\$35,200 (2023 est.)
\$34,300 (2022 est.)

Exports	\$6.771 billion (2024 est.) \$6.011 billion (2023 est.) \$5.425 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	USA 36%, Zimbabwe 16%, Cote d'Ivoire 14%, Germany 8%, Guyana 8% (2023)
Exports - commodities	refined petroleum, ships, aluminum, shellfish, plastics (2023)
Imports	\$7.069 billion (2024 est.) \$6.273 billion (2023 est.) \$5.843 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	USA 60%, Germany 13%, China 5%, Japan 3%, Brazil 2% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, ships, aircraft, cars, crude petroleum (2023)

Population Pyramid

