



# Puerto Rico



**Background** Populated for centuries by aboriginal peoples, the island was claimed by the Spanish Crown in 1493 after Christopher COLUMBUS' second voyage to the Americas. Puerto Rico was ceded to the US as a result of the Spanish-American War. Puerto Ricans were granted US citizenship in 1917 but have had self-government since 1952. Decades of plebiscites showed that voters did not want to alter the existing political status with the US, but a 2020 vote showed a narrow preference for American statehood.

**Capital** name: San Juan

**Government type** unincorporated organized territory of the US with local self-government; republican form of territorial government with separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches; note - reference Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act, 2 March 1917, as amended by Public Law 600, 3 July 1950

**Area**  
total : 9,104 sq km  
land: 8,959 sq km  
water: 145 sq km

**Climate** tropical marine, mild; little seasonal temperature variation

**Natural resources** some copper and nickel; potential for onshore and offshore oil

**Population** total: 3,019,450 (2024 est.)

**Population growth rate** -1.2% (2024 est.)

**Ethnic groups** White 75.8%, Black/African American 12.4%, other 8.5% (includes American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, and others), mixed 3.3% (2010 est.)

**Religions** Roman Catholic 56%, Protestant 33% (largely Pentecostal), other 2%, atheist 1%, none 7% (2014 est.)

**Languages** Spanish, English

**Executive branch** chief of state: President Donald J. TRUMP (since 20 January 2025)  
head of government: Governor Jenniffer GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (since 2 January 2025)

**Economic overview** US Caribbean island territorial economy; hit hard by COVID-19 and hurricanes; declining labor force and job growth after a decade of continuous recession; capital-based industry and tourism; high poverty; energy import-dependent

**Real GDP (purchasing power parity)**  
\$137.828 billion (2023 est.)  
\$137.056 billion (2022 est.)  
\$132.334 billion (2021 est.)

**Real GDP per capita**  
\$43,000 (2023 est.)  
\$42,600 (2022 est.)  
\$40,600 (2021 est.)

**Exports**  
\$63.579 billion (2023 est.)  
\$59.714 billion (2022 est.)  
\$57.91 billion (2021 est.)

**Exports - partners** Italy 15%, Netherlands 15%, Belgium 9%, Japan 8%, Germany 8%, Austria 8%, Spain 7%, China 5% (2019)

**Exports - commodities** packaged medicines, medical cultures/vaccines, hormones, orthopedic and medical appliances, sulfur compounds (2019)

**Imports**  
\$56.359 billion (2023 est.)  
\$52.15 billion (2022 est.)  
\$45.051 billion (2021 est.)

Imports - partners Ireland 38%, Singapore 9%, Switzerland 8%, South Korea 5% (2019)

Imports - commodities nitrogen compounds, sulfur compounds, refined petroleum, medical cultures/vaccines, cars (2019)

## Population Pyramid

