



Curacao



Background The original Arawak Indian settlers who arrived on the island from South America in about A.D. 1000 were largely enslaved by the Spanish early in the 16th century. The Dutch seized Curacao from the Spanish in 1634. Curacao and several other Dutch Caribbean possessions were reorganized as the Netherlands Antilles in 1954. In referenda in 2005 and 2009, the citizens of Curacao voted to become a self-governing country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Capital name: Willemstad

Government type parliamentary democracy

Area total: 444 sq km
land: 444 sq km
water: 0 sq km

Climate tropical marine climate, ameliorated by northeast trade winds, results in mild temperatures; semiarid with average rainfall of 60 cm/year

Natural resources calcium phosphates, protected harbors, hot springs

Population total: 153,289

Population growth rate 0.28% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups Curacaoan 75.4%, Dutch 6%, Dominican 3.6%, Colombian 3%, Bonairean, Sint Eustatian, Saban 1.5%, Haitian 1.2%, Surinamese 1.2%, Venezuelan 1.1%, Aruban 1.1%, other 5%, unspecified 0.9% (2011 est.)

Religions Roman Catholic 72.8%, Pentecostal 6.6%, Protestant 3.2%, Adventist 3%, Jehovah's Witness 2%, Evangelical 1.9%, other 3.8%, none 6%, unspecified 0.6% (2011 est.)

Languages Papiamento (official) (a creole language that is a mixture of Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, English, and, to a lesser extent, French, as well as elements of African languages and the language of the Arawak) 80%, Dutch (official) 8.8%, Spanish 5.6%, English (official) 3.1%, other 2.3%, unspecified 0.3% (2011 est.)

Executive branch chief of state: King WILLEM-ALEXANDER of the Netherlands (since 30 April 2013); represented by Governor Lucille A. GEORGE-WOUT (since 4 November 2013)

head of government: Prime Minister Gilmar PISAS (since 14 June 2021)

Diplomatic representation from the US chief of mission: Consul General Margy BOND (since 20 January 2022); note - also accredited to Aruba and Sint Maarten

Economic overview	high-income island economy; developed infrastructure; tourism and financial services-based economy; investing in information technology incentives; oil refineries service Venezuela and China; unique COVID-19 stimulus support applied to government debts rather than household support
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$4.271 billion (2023 est.) \$4.099 billion (2022 est.) \$3.834 billion (2021 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$28,900 (2023 est.) \$27,300 (2022 est.) \$25,200 (2021 est.)
Exports	\$2.107 billion (2023 est.) \$2.046 billion (2022 est.) \$1.363 billion (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	US 17%, Costa Rica 16%, India 9%, Netherlands 7%, Guatemala 7% (2022)
Exports - commodities	refined petroleum, petroleum coke, fish, coal tar oil, scrap iron (2022)
Imports	\$2.764 billion (2023 est.) \$2.891 billion (2022 est.) \$1.91 billion (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	US 35%, Netherlands 22%, China 7%, Ecuador 5%, Philippines 3% (2022)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, cars, garments, integrated circuits, packaged medicine (2022)