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Chapter 1

22

1.1 22.guide

Texified version of data for Barbados.

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Barbados

1.2 22.guide/Barbados

Barbados

Geography (Barbados)

People (Barbados)

Government (Barbados)

Government (Barbados 2. usage)

Economy (Barbados)

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1.3 22.guide/Geography (Barbados)

Geography (Barbados)

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Location:

in the extreme eastern Caribbean Sea, about 375 km northeast of Venezuela

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Standard Time Zones of ←
the
World

Area:

total area:

430 km²

land area:

430 km²

comparative area:

slightly less than 2.5 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

97 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; rainy season (June to October)

Terrain:

relatively flat; rises gently to central highland region

Natural resources:

petroleum, fishing, natural gas

Land use:

arable land: 77%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

9%

forest and woodland:

0%

other:

14%

Irrigated land:

NA km²

Environment:

subject to hurricanes (especially June to October)
 Note:
 easternmost Caribbean island

1.4 22.guide/People (Barbados)

People (Barbados)
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Population:
 255,338 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.18% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 15.78 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 8.53 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -5.49 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 21.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 73.49 years
 male:
 70.75 years
 female:
 76.46 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 1.77 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Barbadian(s)
 adjective:
 Barbadian
 Ethnic divisions:
 African 80%, mixed 16%, European 4%
 Religions:
 Protestant 67% (Anglican 40%, Pentecostal 8%, Methodist 7%, other 12%),
 Roman Catholic 4%, none 17%, unknown 3%, other 9% (1980)
 Languages:
 English
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over having ever attended school (1970)
 total population: 99%
 male:
 99%
 female:
 99%
 Labor force:
 120,900 (1991)
 by occupation:
 services and government 37%, commerce 22%, manufacturing and construction

22%, transportation, storage, communications, and financial institutions ←
 9%,
 agriculture 8%, utilities 2% (1985 est.)

1.5 22.guide/Government (Barbados)

Government (Barbados)

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Names:

conventional long form:

none

conventional short form:

Barbados

Digraph:

BB

Type:

parliamentary democracy

Capital:

Bridgetown

Administrative divisions:

11 parishes; Christ Church, Saint Andrew, Saint George, Saint James, Saint John, Saint Joseph, Saint Lucy, Saint Michael, Saint Peter, Saint Philip, Saint Thomas

note:

the new city of Bridgetown may be given parish status

Independence:

30 November 1966 (from UK)

Constitution:

30 November 1966

Legal system:

English common law; no judicial review of legislative acts

National holiday:

Independence Day, 30 November (1966)

Political parties and leaders:

Democratic Labor Party (DLP), Erskine SANDIFORD; Barbados Labor Party (BLP) ←

Henry FORDE; National Democratic Party (NDP), Richie HAYNES

Other political or pressure groups:

Barbados Workers Union, Leroy TROTMAN; People's Progressive Movement, Eric SEALY; Workers' Party of Barbados, Dr. George BELLE; Clement Payne Labor Union, David COMMISSIONG

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

House of Assembly:

last held 22 January 1991 (next to be held by January 1996); results - DLP 49.8%; seats - (28 total) DLP 18, BLP 10

Executive branch:

British monarch, governor general, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

bicameral Parliament consists of an upper house or Senate and a lower house

or House of Assembly
 Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court of Judicature
 Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor General
 Dame Nita BARROW (since 6 June 1990)
 Head of Government:
 Prime Minister Lloyd Erskine SANDIFORD (since 2 June 1987)
 Member of:
 ACP, C, CARICOM, CDB, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, GATT, IADB, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IFAD ↔
 ' ,
 IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU, LAES ↔
 ' ,
 LORCS, NAM, OAS, OPANAL, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Dr. Rudi WEBSTER

1.6 22.guide/Government (Barbados 2. usage)

Government (Barbados 2. usage)

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chancery:
 2144 Wyoming Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
 telephone:
 (202) 939-9200 through 9202
 consulate general:
 New York
 consulate:
 Los Angeles
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador G. Philip HUGHES
 embassy:
 Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Building, Broad Street, Bridgetown
 mailing address:
 P. O. Box 302, Box B, FPO AA 34054
 telephone:
 (809) 436-4950 through 4957
 FAX:
 (809) 429-5246
 Flag:
 three equal vertical bands of blue (hoist side), yellow, and blue with the
 head of a black trident centered on the gold band; the trident head
 represents independence and a break with the past (the colonial coat of ↔
 arms
 contained a complete trident)

1.7 22.guide/Economy (Barbados)

Economy (Barbados)

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Overview:

A per capita income of \$7,000 gives Barbados one of the highest standards of living of all the small island states of the eastern Caribbean. Historically, the economy was based on the cultivation of sugarcane and related activities. In recent years, however, the economy has diversified into manufacturing and tourism. The tourist industry is now a major employer of the labor force and a primary source of foreign exchange. The economy slowed in 1990-91, however, and Bridgetown's declining hard currency reserves and inability to finance its deficits have caused it to adopt an austere economic reform program.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$1.8 billion (1991)

National product real growth rate:

-4% (1991)

National product per capita:

\$7,000 (1991)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

8.1% (1991)

Unemployment rate:

23% (1992)

Budget:

revenues \$547 million; expenditures \$620 million (FY92-93), including capital expenditures of \$60 million

Exports:

\$205.8 million (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

sugar and molasses, chemicals, electrical components, clothing, rum, machinery and transport equipment

partners:

CARICOM 31%, US 16%, UK 13%

Imports:

\$697 million (c.i.f., 1991)

commodities:

foodstuffs, consumer durables, raw materials, machinery, crude oil, construction materials, chemicals

partners:

US 34%, CARICOM 16%, UK 11%, Canada 6%

External debt:

\$750 million (1991 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate -1.3% (1991); accounts for 10% of GDP

Electricity:

152,100 kW capacity; 540 million kWh produced, 2,118 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

tourism, sugar, light manufacturing, component assembly for export, petroleum

Agriculture:

accounts for 8% of GDP; major cash crop is sugarcane; other crops -

vegetables, cotton; not self-sufficient in food
 Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$15 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$171 million
 Currency:
 1 Barbadian dollar (Bds\$) = 100 cents
 Exchange rates:
 Barbadian dollars (Bds\$) per US\$1 - 2.0113 (fixed rate)
 Fiscal year:
 1 April - 31 March

1.8 22.guide/Communications (Barbados)

Communications (Barbados)
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Highways:
 1,570 km total; 1,475 km paved, 95 km gravel and earth
 Ports:
 Bridgetown
 Merchant marine:
 3 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 48,710 GRT/9,263 DWT; includes 1 cargo ↔
 2 oil tanker
 Airports:
 total:
 1
 usable:
 1
 with permanent-surface runways:
 1
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 1
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 0
 Telecommunications:
 islandwide automatic telephone system with 89,000 telephones; tropospheric scatter link to Trinidad and Saint Lucia; broadcast stations - 3 AM, 2 FM, ↔
 2
 (1 is pay) TV; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.9 22.guide/Defense Forces (Barbados)

Defense Forces (Barbados)
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Branches:

Royal Barbados Defense Force, including the Ground Forces and Coast Guard,
Royal Barbados Police Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 70,254; fit for military service 49,096 (1993 est.); no
conscription

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$10 million, 0.7% of GDP (1989)