



# SURINAME



## INTRODUCTION

First explored by the Spaniards in the 16th century and then settled by the English in the mid-17th century, Suriname became a Dutch colony in 1667. The Netherlands granted the colony independence in 1975.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Chandrikapersad SANTOKHI

### Head of Government

President Chandrikapersad SANTOKHI

### Government Type

presidential republic

### Capital

Paramaribo

### Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Nationale Assemblée (51 seats)

### Ambassador to US

Ambassador Jan Marten Willem SCHALKWIJK

### US Ambassador

Ambassador Robert J. FAUCHER

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 163,820 sq km

Land: 156,000 sq km

Water: 7,820 sq km

### Climate

tropical; moderated by trade winds

### Natural Resources

timber, hydropower, fish, kaolin, shrimp, bauxite, gold, and small amounts of nickel, copper, platinum, iron ore

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

upper middle-income South American economy; new floating currency regime; key aluminum goods, gold, and hydrocarbon exporter; new IMF plan for economic recovery and fiscal sustainability; controversial hardwood industry

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$9.05 billion (2021 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$14,800 (2021 est.)

**Industries** - gold mining, oil, lumber, food processing, fishing

**Agricultural products** - rice, sugarcane, bananas, oranges, vegetables, plantains, coconuts, poultry, cassava, eggs

**Exports** \$2.3 billion (2021 est.)

gold, lumber, refined petroleum, excavation machinery, rice (2021)

**partners:** Switzerland 51%, UAE 22%, Belgium 6%, Trinidad and Tobago 2%, Guyana 2% (2021)

**Imports** \$1.88 billion (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, excavation machinery, delivery trucks, cars, cigarettes (2021)

**partners:** US 19%, China 16%, Netherlands 15%, Trinidad and Tobago 8%, Japan 3% (2021)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

639,760 (2023 est.)

### Population Growth

1.11% (2023 est.)

### Ethnicity

Hindustani 27.4%, Maroon 21.7%, Creole 15.7%, Javanese 13.7%, mixed 13.4%, other 7.6%, unspecified 0.6% (2012 est.)

### Language

Dutch (official), English, Sranang Tongo, Caribbean Hindustani, Javanese

### Religion

Protestant 23.6%, Hindu 22.3%, Roman Catholic 21.6%, Muslim 13.8%, other Christian 3.2%, Winti 1.8%, Jehovah's Witness 1.2%, other 1.7%, none 7.5%, unspecified 3.2% (2012 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population: 66.4% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 0.88% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)