



# BARBADOS



## INTRODUCTION

The island was uninhabited when first settled by the British in 1627. By 1720, Barbados was no longer a dominant force within the sugar industry, having been surpassed by the Leeward Islands and Jamaica. Social and political reforms in the 1940s and 1950s led to complete independence from the UK in 1966. On 30 November 2021, Barbados became a republic.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Sandra MASON

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Mia MOTTLEY

### Government Type

parliamentary republic; a Commonwealth realm

### Capital

Bridgetown

### Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (21 seats) and the House of Assembly (30 seats)

### Ambassador to US

Ambassador Noel Anderson LYNCH

### US Ambassador

Ambassador Linda S. TAGLIALATELA

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 430 sq km

Land: 430 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

Comparative: 2.5 times the size of Washington DC

### Climate

tropical; rainy season (June to October)

### Natural Resources

petroleum, fish, natural gas

### Note

easternmost Caribbean island

as of November 2023

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

largest Eastern Caribbean economy; dependent on US imports and currency strength; high Human Development Index; key tourism and financial sectors; declining but still very high public debt; cost-of-living and cost competitiveness vulnerabilities

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$3.9 billion (2021 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$13,800 (2021 est.)

**Industries** - tourism, sugar, light manufacturing, component assembly for export

**Agricultural products** - sugarcane, poultry, vegetables, milk, eggs, pork, coconuts, pulses, sweet potatoes, tropical fruit

**Exports** \$357 million (2021 est.)

rum and liquors, ships, packaged medicines, cement, paper labels (2021)

**partners:** US 20%, Jamaica 12%, Guyana 8%, Trinidad and Tobago 7%, Italy 6% (2021)

**Imports** \$2.12 billion (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, crude petroleum, shipping containers, cars, ships, packaged medicines (2021)

**partners:** US 33%, Guyana 13%, China 11%, Trinidad and Tobago 6%, UK 4% (2021)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

303,430 (2023 est.)

### Population Growth

0.24% (2023 est.)

### Ethnicity

African descent 92.4%, mixed 3.1%, White 2.7%, East Indian 1.3%, other 0.2%, unspecified 0.3% (2010 est.)

### Language

English (official), Bajan (English-based creole language, widely spoken in informal settings)

### Religion

Protestant 66.4%, Roman Catholic 3.8%, other Christian 5.4%, Rastafarian 1%, other 1.5%, none 20.6%, unspecified 1.2% (2010 est.)