

CIA World Factbook–Style Country Report

Dominican Republic

(Expanded Intelligence Edition – ATLAS Standard Format)



Dominican Republic

Atlantic Ocean

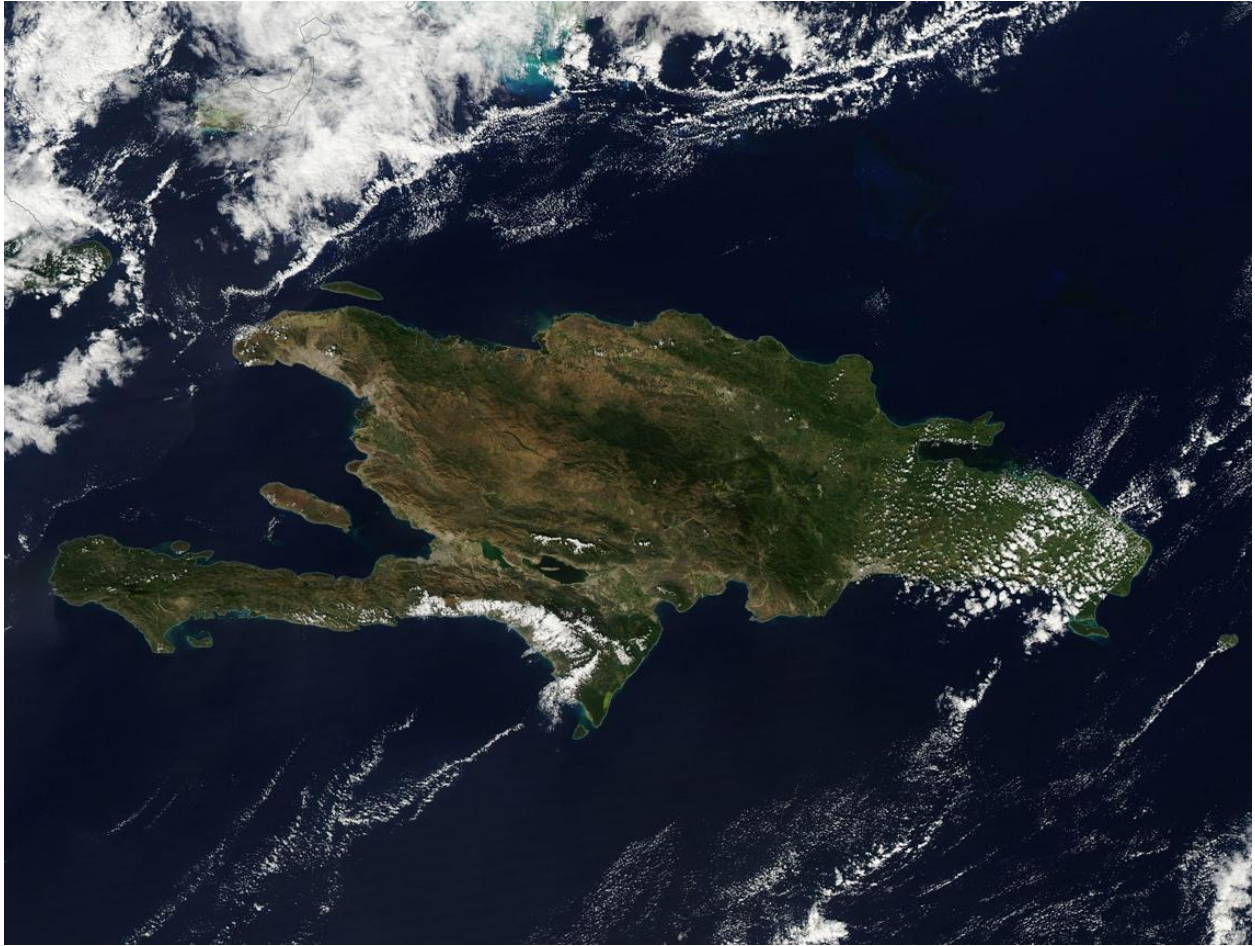
Caribbean Sea

Haiti

Provinces and Districts:

- Monte Cristi
- Puerto Plata
- Valverde
- Mao
- Santiago
- Dajabón
- Sabanaeta
- Rodríguez
- Espey
- San Francisco de Macoris
- La Vega
- La Vega
- San Juan
- Comendador
- San Juan de la Maguana
- Baoruco
- Neiba
- Independencia
- Jimani
- Pedernales
- Oviedo
- Barahona
- Azua
- San José de Ocoa
- San Cristóbal
- Peravia
- Bani
- Santo Domingo
- Santo Domingo Este
- San Pedro de Macoris
- La Romana
- Higüey
- La Altagracia
- Punta Cana
- Boca de Yuma
- Isla Saona
- El Seibo
- Hato Mayor
- Samaná
- Sánchez
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Background

The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, sharing the island with Haiti. It became the first permanent European colony in the Americas following Christopher Columbus's arrival in 1492. Since gaining independence in 1844, the country has experienced periods of dictatorship, foreign intervention, democratic consolidation, and rapid economic modernization.

Today, the Dominican Republic is among the Caribbean's largest economies and has become one of Latin America's fastest-growing tourism, logistics, manufacturing, and services centers.

Key Facts

Category	Information
Official Name	Dominican Republic (República Dominicana)
Capital	Santo Domingo
Population	~11.5 million
Area	48,671 sq km
Official Language	Spanish
Government	Presidential Republic
Currency	Dominican Peso (DOP)
Time Zone	UTC-4
International Code	DO

Geography

The Dominican Republic possesses diverse geography including:

- mountain ranges
- fertile valleys
- tropical forests
- coastal plains
- extensive Caribbean beaches

Highest point:

Pico Duarte (3,101 m)

Major rivers include:

- Yaque del Norte
- Yuna
- Ozama

Natural hazards include:

- hurricanes
 - tropical storms
 - flooding
 - drought
 - occasional earthquakes
-

Population

Ethnic composition includes:

- Mixed (majority)
- European ancestry
- African ancestry
- Haitian-origin population
- small immigrant communities

Urbanization exceeds 80%.

Largest cities include:

- Santo Domingo
 - Santiago de los Caballeros
 - La Romana
 - San Pedro de Macorís
 - Puerto Plata
-

Government

Position	Office
Head of State	President

Position	Office
Legislature	National Congress
Judicial System	Supreme Court and Constitutional Court

Administrative Divisions 31 Provinces + National District

Democracy has strengthened considerably during the past three decades, although corruption and institutional reform remain recurring political issues.

Economy

The Dominican Republic has one of the Caribbean's largest and most diversified economies.

Major sectors include:

- Tourism
- Manufacturing
- Free Trade Zones
- Mining
- Agriculture
- Financial Services
- Construction
- Telecommunications

Principal exports:

- Medical equipment
- Electronics
- Gold
- Silver
- Ferronickel
- Tobacco

- Cocoa
- Coffee
- Bananas
- Textiles

Major trading partner:

- United States

GDP growth has consistently outperformed much of Latin America over the past decade.

Energy

Electricity sources include:

- Natural Gas
- Oil
- Hydroelectric
- Wind
- Solar

Energy diversification has accelerated due to increasing electricity demand and efforts to reduce dependence on imported petroleum.

Transportation

International airports:

- Las Américas
- Punta Cana
- Cibao
- Puerto Plata
- La Romana

Modern highway system links major economic centers.

Principal ports:

- Caucedo
- Haina
- Santo Domingo
- Puerto Plata

The country serves as an important Caribbean logistics hub.

Communications

Internet penetration is high.

Mobile coverage exceeds 90%.

Growing investments include:

- fiber optic infrastructure
 - digital banking
 - e-government
 - fintech
-

Military and Security

Military Forces

- Army
- Navy
- Air Force
- Specialized Border Security Units

Primary missions:

- Border security
- Counter-narcotics
- Disaster response

- Maritime patrol
- Internal security support

The armed forces maintain close security cooperation with the United States and regional Caribbean partners.

Intelligence Assessment

Strategic Importance

The Dominican Republic occupies one of the Caribbean's most strategically valuable geographic positions.

Its importance derives from:

- Caribbean Sea access
- Atlantic shipping routes
- proximity to Puerto Rico
- proximity to Cuba
- proximity to Haiti
- location near the Panama Canal approaches

The country has become a regional logistics, aviation, tourism, and manufacturing center.

National Security Assessment

Primary concerns include:

Border Security

The land border with Haiti remains the country's most significant security challenge.

Issues include:

- irregular migration
- smuggling
- humanitarian pressures
- criminal networks

Organized Crime

Transnational criminal organizations exploit Caribbean maritime routes for:

- cocaine trafficking
- money laundering
- human trafficking

The Dominican Republic cooperates extensively with U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Southern Command, and regional security initiatives.

Disaster Preparedness

Major risks include:

- hurricanes
- flooding
- earthquakes
- climate change

The military routinely supports emergency response operations.

Economic Outlook

Strengths

- Strong tourism industry
- Diversified economy
- Foreign investment
- Stable banking sector
- Expanding logistics infrastructure

Challenges

- Income inequality

- Public debt management
 - Energy costs
 - Climate resilience
 - Infrastructure modernization
-

Regional Relations

The Dominican Republic maintains close relations with:

- United States
- Central America
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) partners
- European Union
- Latin America

Relations with Haiti remain strategically important due to migration, border security, humanitarian concerns, and trade.

Intelligence Outlook (2026–2030)

The Dominican Republic is expected to remain among the Caribbean's strongest economic performers.

Future priorities are likely to include:

- logistics expansion
- renewable energy
- tourism diversification
- digital economy
- border security modernization
- anti-corruption reforms

Security cooperation with the United States and regional allies is expected to deepen.

ATLAS Strategic Assessment

Category	Assessment
Political Stability	High
Economic Strength	High
Military Capability	Moderate
Internal Security	Moderate-High
Border Security Risk	High
Organized Crime Threat	Moderate-High
Natural Disaster Risk	High
Strategic Geographic Importance	High
Foreign Investment Climate	High
Overall Regional Influence	High

Overall Intelligence Estimate

The Dominican Republic is one of the Caribbean's most stable and economically dynamic nations. Its strategic location, expanding logistics infrastructure, robust tourism sector, and diversified economy position it as a regional hub for commerce and investment. The principal long-term security challenge remains the management of its border with Haiti, where migration pressures, humanitarian concerns, and transnational crime intersect. Continued investment in infrastructure, governance, and disaster resilience is likely to reinforce its role as a key partner in Caribbean security and economic development.

ATLAS Confidence Assessment: High