

CIA World Factbook–Style Country Report

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago







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Country Profile

Category	Information
Official Name	Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Category	Information
Capital	Port of Spain
Largest City	Chaguanas
Area	5,131 sq km
Population	~1.53 million
Official Language	English
Common Languages	Trinidadian English Creole, Tobagonian Creole, Hindustani (limited), Spanish increasingly studied
Currency	Trinidad and Tobago Dollar (TTD)
Time Zone	UTC-4
Internet Domain	.tt
Calling Code	+1-868

Geography

Trinidad and Tobago is the southernmost island nation in the Caribbean, located only about 11 km off Venezuela's northeastern coast. It consists primarily of the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, along with numerous smaller islands.

Terrain

- Low coastal plains
- Northern mountain range on Trinidad
- Central hills
- Extensive wetlands and mangrove systems
- Coral reefs around Tobago

Climate

- Tropical marine

- Wet season: June–December
 - Dry season: January–May
 - Generally outside the main Atlantic hurricane belt but remains vulnerable to tropical storms.
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Population

Approximately 1.53 million people.

Ethnic Composition

- East Indian
- African
- Mixed
- European
- Chinese
- Syrian-Lebanese
- Indigenous heritage communities

The country possesses one of the Caribbean's most ethnically diverse populations.

Religions

- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Smaller religious communities

Religious coexistence is generally peaceful.

Government

Category	Information
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Government Type	Parliamentary Republic
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Category	Information
President	Head of State
Prime Minister	Head of Government
Legislature	Bicameral Parliament
Legal System	Common Law

Administrative Divisions

- 9 Regions
 - 3 Boroughs
 - 2 Cities
 - Tobago House of Assembly exercises significant autonomy over Tobago.
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Economy

Trinidad and Tobago possesses one of the strongest industrial economies in the Caribbean.

Major Industries

- Oil production
- Natural gas
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
- Petrochemicals
- Methanol
- Fertilizers
- Steel
- Financial services
- Manufacturing
- Tourism (particularly Tobago)

GDP (Nominal)

Approximately **US\$30–35 billion**

Major Exports

- LNG
- Crude oil
- Methanol
- Ammonia
- Petrochemicals
- Iron and steel

Major Trading Partners

- United States
- CARICOM
- Latin America
- Europe
- China

Energy

Energy dominates the national economy.

Major resources include:

- Offshore oil
- Offshore natural gas
- LNG export terminals
- Large petrochemical complexes

The country is among the Caribbean's largest energy exporters.

Transportation

Airports

Major international airport:

- Piarco International Airport

Secondary international airport:

- A.N.R. Robinson International Airport

Ports

Principal commercial port:

- Port of Port of Spain

Other important ports support petroleum exports.

Communications

Internet penetration is among the highest in the Caribbean.

The country possesses:

- Extensive fiber infrastructure
 - Modern cellular networks
 - International submarine cable connections
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Military and Security

Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF)

Branches include:

- Regiment
- Coast Guard
- Air Guard
- Defence Force Reserves

Primary missions:

- Maritime security

- Border protection
 - Counter-narcotics
 - Disaster response
 - Internal security support
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Intelligence Assessment

Strategic Importance

Despite its relatively small size, Trinidad and Tobago holds strategic significance due to:

- Southern Caribbean location
 - Proximity to Venezuela
 - Major LNG export facilities
 - Petrochemical infrastructure
 - Deep-water ports
 - Regional financial services
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Security Challenges

Primary concerns include:

- Organized crime
 - Narcotics trafficking
 - Illegal firearms
 - Maritime smuggling
 - Gang violence
 - Illegal migration associated with instability in Venezuela
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Maritime Significance

The nation occupies an important position along Caribbean shipping lanes connecting:

- Gulf of Mexico
- Atlantic Ocean
- Northern South America

Its offshore energy infrastructure represents critical national assets.

Foreign Relations

Member of:

- United Nations
- CARICOM
- Organization of American States
- Commonwealth
- Association of Caribbean States

Maintains generally positive diplomatic relations across the Caribbean while balancing ties with North and South America.

Natural Hazards

Primary hazards include:

- Flooding
 - Tropical storms
 - Coastal erosion
 - Landslides
 - Earthquakes (moderate regional risk)
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Environment

Important ecosystems:

- Mangrove forests

- Tropical rainforest
- Coral reefs
- Wetlands
- Leatherback turtle nesting beaches

Conservation priorities include marine biodiversity, watershed protection, and coastal habitat preservation.

Infrastructure Assessment

Sector	Assessment
Roads	Good
Airports	Very Good
Ports	Very Good
Telecommunications	Very Good
Electrical Grid	Good
Water Infrastructure	Moderate
Health Care	Good

Intelligence Risk Assessment (ATLAS)

Category	Rating
Political Stability	Low Risk
Economic Stability	Moderate Risk
Internal Security	Moderate Risk
Organized Crime	High Risk
Border Security	Moderate Risk

Category	Rating
Maritime Security	Moderate Risk
Terrorism	Low Risk
Natural Disaster Risk	Moderate Risk
Energy Security	Low Risk
Overall Strategic Risk	Moderate

ATLAS Strategic Assessment

Trinidad and Tobago remains one of the Caribbean's most strategically important states because of its substantial hydrocarbon resources, advanced industrial base, and location at the gateway between the Caribbean Sea and northern South America. The country's energy exports provide economic resilience, though they also create dependence on global commodity markets. Persistent challenges from organized crime, narcotics trafficking, and spillover effects from regional instability—particularly maritime migration and security concerns linked to nearby Venezuela—continue to shape national security priorities. Overall, the country's institutions remain comparatively strong, and its strategic outlook is assessed as **stable with moderate security risks**.