Guyana

- **Capital:** Georgetown (3°37'N, 97°40'W)
- **International airport(s):** Cheddi Jagan International
- **Official language(s):** English
- **Currency:** Guyana Dollar
- **Time:** UTC -4
- **Region:** Caribbean

### GEOGRAPHY

Guyana is located on the northern shores of South America, sharing borders with Brazil, Suriname and Venezuela. Only 25 per cent of Guyana’s 2 933 km frontier is coastline. With an area of around 197 000 km², Guyana is one of the smallest countries in South America. The low coastal plains, which account for about 5 per cent of the land area accommodates about 90 per cent of the population and lies between 1 m and 1.5 m below sea level at high tide. The shoreline is protected by a complex set of seawalls and sluices, much of it built by the Dutch in the 19th century. Further inland, a sand belt supports dense virgin, hardwood rainforest and is where Guyana’s reserves of bauxite, gold and diamonds are principally found. Further inland, the mountainous grasslands support only grazing.

Known as the ‘land of many waters,’ Guyana claims the world’s widest and longest single-drop waterfall – the Kaieteur Falls – which at 251 m are four times higher than Niagara, with an average flow rate of 663 cubic meters per second. Reputedly, Guyana was also home to the famed El Dorado – the lost city of gold.

### CLIMATE

Guyana enjoys a humid, tropical climate, relieved by northeast trade winds. There are two rainy seasons (May to mid-August and November to January), during which, more than half over half of the average 2 300 mm of rain per year falls in the capital Georgetown. The average monthly temperatures in Guyana range between 25°C in February and 27°C in October. Guyana lies south of the Caribbean hurricane pathway (World Bank, 2020). According to the United Nations University (2020) World Risk Index, Guyana ranks 6th in the list of world’s most at-risk country for natural hazards.

### ECONOMY

Agriculture, fishing together with mining are among Guyana’s most important economic activities, with sugar, rum, rice and gold production accounting for 70 to 75 per cent of export earnings. The share of agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing in GDP has been gradually declining over the years and was just below 20 per cent in 2019, while industry accounts for almost one third and services nearly half of GDP. (UNCTAD, 2021)

In 2019, 17 per cent of the labor force was engaged in agriculture, 23 per cent in industry, and 60 per cent in the services sector (ILO, 2020a). Over 80 per cent of employed women were engaged in service jobs. Despite this high employment share in services, in 2019, inbound tourism expenditure accounted for only 0.6 per cent of GDP (UNWTO, 2021). In 2019, top destinations for exports included Germany, Canada, and Trinidad and Tobago (UNCTAD, 2021).

### CULTURE

Guyana boasts six ethnic groups, several religions, with influences from both mainland South America and the Caribbean, and it is the only English-speaking country in South America. At 43.5 m, Saint George’s Cathedral, built in 1892, in Georgetown, was once the tallest wooden church in the world.

The cuisine embodies the ethnic makeup of the country and reflects its history, comprising Amerindian, European, African, East Indian, Portuguese and Chinese dishes. ‘Seven curry’ is a popular dish that is the most important ritual food too. It is served with rice or roti, mashed pumpkin cooked with curry powder and brown sugar, chickpeas, potatoes, curried mangoes and dhal.

Sports is an integral part of Guyanese culture. Cricket, softball, soccer, field hockey, rounders, netball, lawn tennis, table tennis, basketball, squash, boxing, horse racing and rugby are all popular sports. Guyana has produced its share of colourfully named, internationally recognized athletes, such as, Andrew “Sixhead” Lewis, Wayne “Big Truck” Braithwaite and “Vicious” Vivian Harris, all of whom are world title boxers, and the female boxer Gwendolyn “Stealth Bomber” O’Neil.
ECONOMIC TRENDS

**Gross domestic product**
US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GDP per capita**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>US$6,610</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Productive Capacity Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Consumer Price Index growth**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unemployment rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main economic sectors, 2019**
Percentage of GDP

- Services
- Industry
- Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing

**Tourist arrivals**
Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**External financial resources**
Percentage of GDP

- ODA
- Remittances
- FDI inflows

**Public debt as % of GDP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guyana
MARITIME TRANSPORT

**Fleet size**
Number of ships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship type</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total fleet</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>1,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil tankers</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk carriers</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General cargo</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container ships</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other types of ships</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Port performance**
Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>SIDS Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of port calls</td>
<td>1,273</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time in port (days)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of vessels</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>7,288</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bilateral connectivity index, 2019**
Top 5 partners

- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Jamaica
- Colombia
- United States of America

**Liner shipping connectivity index**
Maximum China Q1 2006=100

- Guyana

51,360 TEU

**Container throughput**
2019

- 51,360 TEU
POPULATION

Total population
Thousands of people, share of urban population

Population development indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty headcount (% of population)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human development index</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human assets index</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender inequality index</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Life expectancy at birth: 70 years
Population density: 4 persons per km²
Dependency ratio:
Child: 42.7
Old-age: 10.3

Age structure by gender, 2019
Percentage of total population
# INTERNATIONAL TRADE

## Merchandise and services trade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019 (% of GDP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise exports</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>1 151</td>
<td>1 567</td>
<td>30.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>1 397</td>
<td>1 492</td>
<td>3 019</td>
<td>58.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Trade openness

- Goods and services: 61% of GDP
- Export concentration index: 2018: 0.44, 2019: 0.44
- Food import dependency: Average 2015-2019: -5.82

## Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Exports in millions US dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>500 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>450 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>150 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>100 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>50 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Merchandise exports by product group, 2019

- Agricultural raw materials
- All food items
- Fuels
- Manufactured goods
- Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold

## Services exports by category, 2019

- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

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Guyana

5 of 7
ENVIRONMENT

**CO₂ emissions per capita**

Kg per capita

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CO₂ emissions per GDP**

Kg per 2010 US$ of GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017**

Percentage of total energy consumption

- Renewable energy: 45%
- Non-renewable energy: 55%

**Material footprint per capita**

- 2016: 222.7kg

**Terrestrial protected area**

- 2018: 8.7%

**Marine protected area**

- 2018: 0.01%

**Disasters indicators**

Data not available

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

**Trade in ICT goods**

- 2019: Exports: 0.2%, Imports: 0.9%

**Trade in ICT services**

- 2018: Exports: 0.4%, Imports: 0.7%

**Share of internet users**

- 2017: 37%

**Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions**

Number of subscriptions per 100 people

- Fixed: 10
- Mobile: 0
Sources
Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Distance to nearest neighbour: [NO_PRINTED_FORM] (Package “cshapes,” 2016) https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/index.html
- Economic losses due to disasters: United Nations (2021) https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406c2e452b8f1c3654e2766c5ca_0
- Material footprint: UNEP (2021) https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1
- Number of people affected by disasters: United Nations (2021) https://www.sdg.org/datasets/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_Q
- UNEP (2021). 12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP. Available at https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1 (accessed 13 January 2021).

References
- UNEP (2021). 12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP. Available at https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1 (accessed 13 January 2021).

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