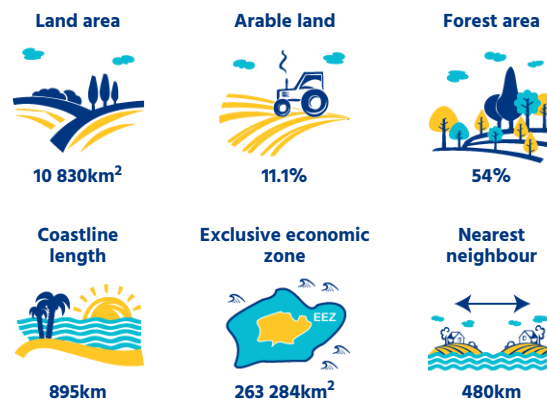


Jamaica

- > **Capital:** Kingston (17°58' N 76°47' W)
- > **International airport(s):** Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay; Norman Manley International Airport, Kingston; Ian Fleming International Airport, Ocho Rios
- > **Official language(s):** English
- > **Currency:** Jamaican dollar (JMD)
- > **Time:** UTC -5
- > **Region:** Caribbean



GEOGRAPHY

Jamaica lies in the Caribbean Sea, located 145 km south of Cuba between the Cayman Trench and the Jamaica Channel, the main sea lanes for the Panama Canal. Its land area is 10 830 km², making it the third largest island in the Caribbean after Cuba and Hispaniola. Kingston is the world's seventh-largest harbour.

Jamaica is mostly mountainous, with a narrow and irregular coastal plain, and is itself the tip of a submerged mountain. It can be divided in three geographical regions: the eastern mountains, the central valleys and plateaus, and the coastal plains. About two-thirds of the island, especially the central and western sections, are covered with a thick layer of limestone formed from remnants of corals and seashells.

A remote region in the central valleys and plateaus, known as Cockpit Country, is famous for its unusual limestone landscape with sinkholes (cockpits), as much as 120 m deep in places.

CLIMATE

Jamaica's climate is tropical, influenced by the ocean and northeast trade winds. It is hot and humid on the coasts and temperate inland. The monthly average temperatures range from 24 to 27 °C (World Bank, 2020). Along the coast temperatures range between 22 to 31 °C, and from 15 to 22 °C at higher elevations. Temperatures may dip to as low as -10 °C in the peaks of the Blue Mountains.

Rainfall is seasonal, with May, September, October and November as the wettest months. Average annual rainfall is about 2 100 mm, but considerable variations occur from one year to another and from one region to another. The dry season lasts from December to April, occasionally turning into extended drought. (World Bank, 2020)

Jamaica lies at the edge of the Atlantic hurricane belt. As a result, it is largely left untouched by hurricanes and tropical storms, which make a direct strike only every 11 years on average. The most destructive were hurricanes Charlie (1951) and Gilbert (1988). Earthquakes occur more often than hurricanes, as the island is located near the northern edge of the Caribbean Plate.

ECONOMY

Jamaica's economy is heavily dependent on services, which account for around 70 per cent of GDP since 2000. Remittances from abroad (16 per cent of GDP) and tourism constitute an important source of foreign exchange. (UNCTAD, 2021) Jamaica received over 4.2 million tourist arrivals in 2019 with an inbound tourism expenditure of almost 22 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). Agriculture, forestry and fishing account for 8 per cent of GDP and provide one sixth of employment. The main agricultural products include sugarcane, bananas, coconuts, oranges, coffee, cacao and ginger. Jamaica is one of the world's largest exporters and producers of rum, and it exports some beer as well. Jamaica is a large producer of bauxite and alumina. The main manufacturing products are processed foods, textiles, metal and petroleum products, and key destinations include the United States of America, the Netherlands, Canada and Iceland.

CULTURE

Jamaica's folk music includes Mento, which is a form of music and dance with roots in Africa. It has greatly influenced reggae music. Its most famous performer, Robert 'Bob' Marley, was born in Jamaica.

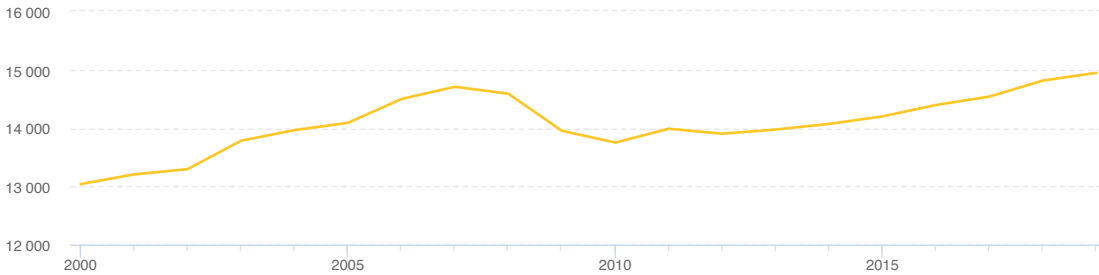
Sports play an important role in the country's culture. Cricket, athletics, football and netball are the most popular sports. Widely known Jamaican sprinters are Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce.

Although Jamaica is a tropical nation, it has a Bobsled team which competes in the Winter Olympics. The 1988 Winter Olympics Jamaican bobsled team inspired the popular Disney film 'Cool Runnings'.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



GDP per capita
2019



US\$5 369

Productive Capacity Index
2018



32.6

Economic and environmental vulnerability index
2019



29

Consumer Price Index growth
2019



3.6%

Unemployment rate
2011



Total 12.7%
Female 17.2%, Male 9.6%

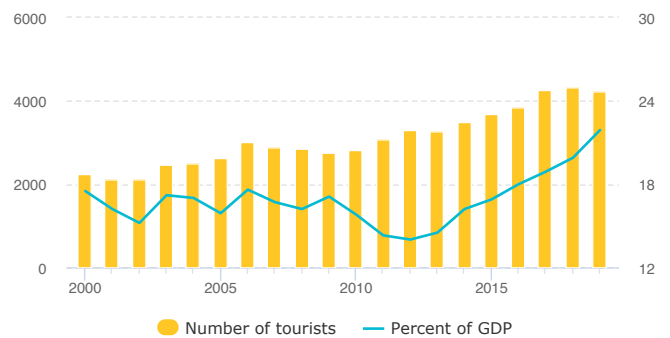
Main economic sectors, 2019
Percentage of GDP



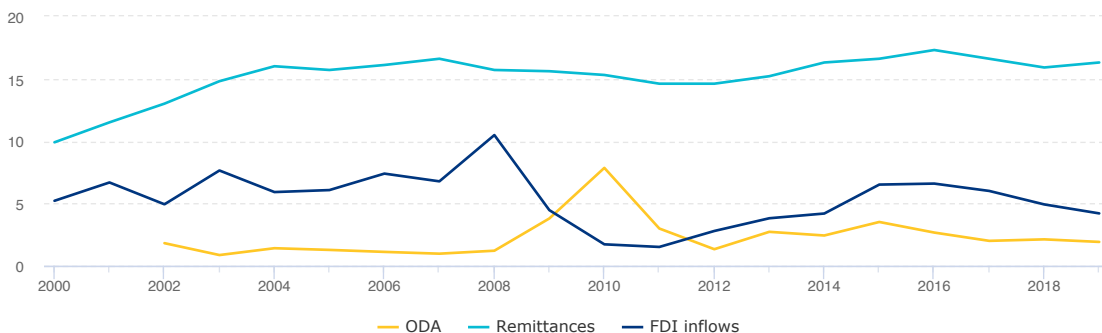
- Services
- Industry
- Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing

Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



External financial resources
Percentage of GDP



Public debt as % of GDP

2018



20.6%

MARITIME TRANSPORT

Fleet size

Number of ships

Ship type	2011	2019
Total fleet	1 407	1 407
Oil tankers	264	266
Bulk carriers	311	333
General cargo	161	77
Container ships	52	49
Other types of ships	619	682

Port performance

Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group

Indicators	2019	SIDS Ranking
Number of port calls	3 833	5
Median time in port (days)	1	8
Average age of vessels	14	25
Average size (GT) of vessels	30 947	12

Container port throughput

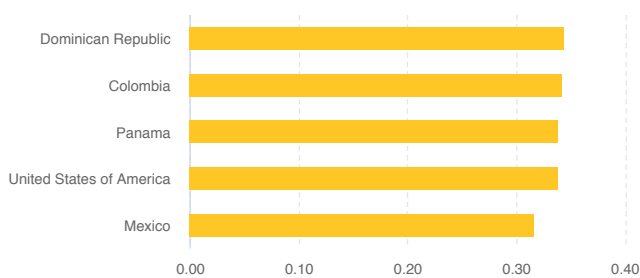
2019



1 873 399 TEU

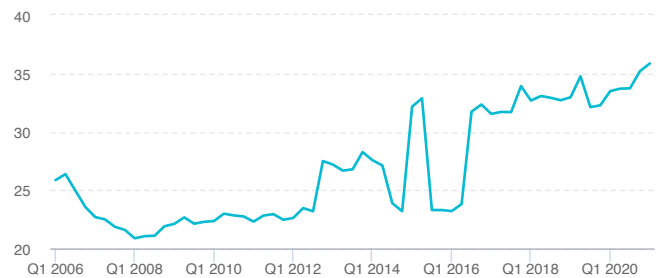
Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



Liner shipping connectivity index

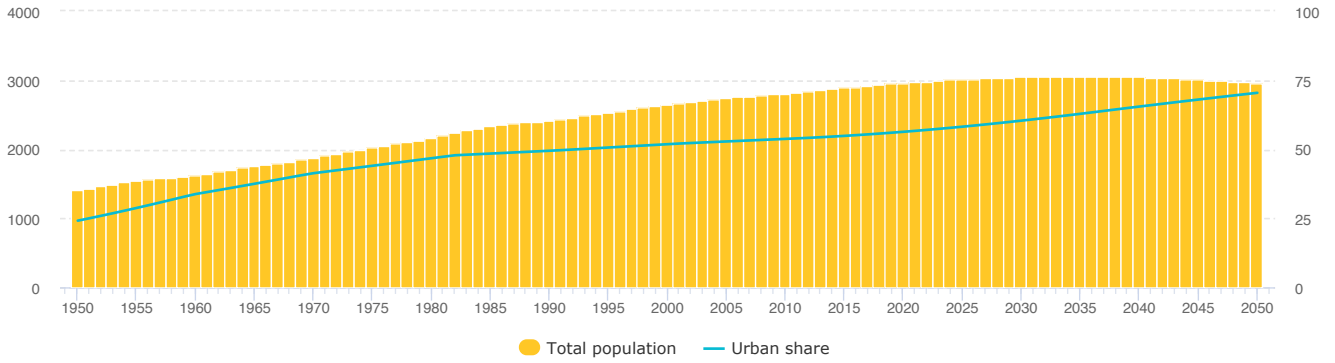
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



POPULATION

Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2004	1.7
Human development index	2018	0.7
Human assets index	2020	91
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)
Gender inequality index	2019	0.4

Life expectancy at birth

2019



74 years

Population density

2019



272 persons per km²

Dependency ratio

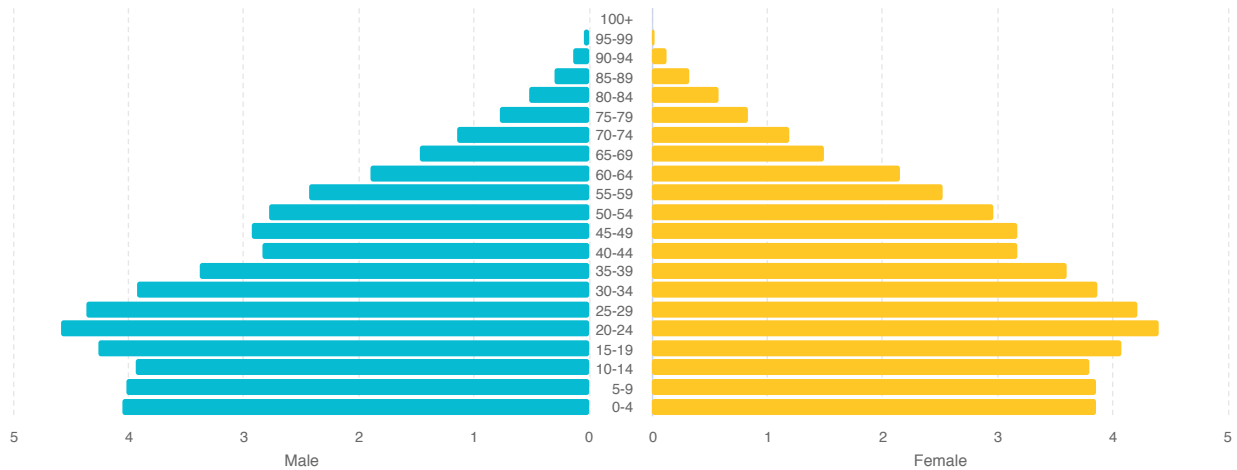
2019



Child: 34.8
Old-age: 13.2

Age structure by gender, 2019

Percentage of total population



INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade

US dollars in millions

Indicators	2005	2010	2015	2019	2019 (% of GDP)
Merchandise exports	1 532	1 328	1 263	1 586	10
Merchandise imports	4 739	5 225	4 993	6 339	40
Services exports	2 330	2 634	3 059	4 336	27.4
Services imports	1 722	1 824	2 161	2 688	17

**Trade openness
Goods and
services**

2019



45% of GDP

**Export
concentration
index**

2019



0.53

**Food import
dependency**

Average

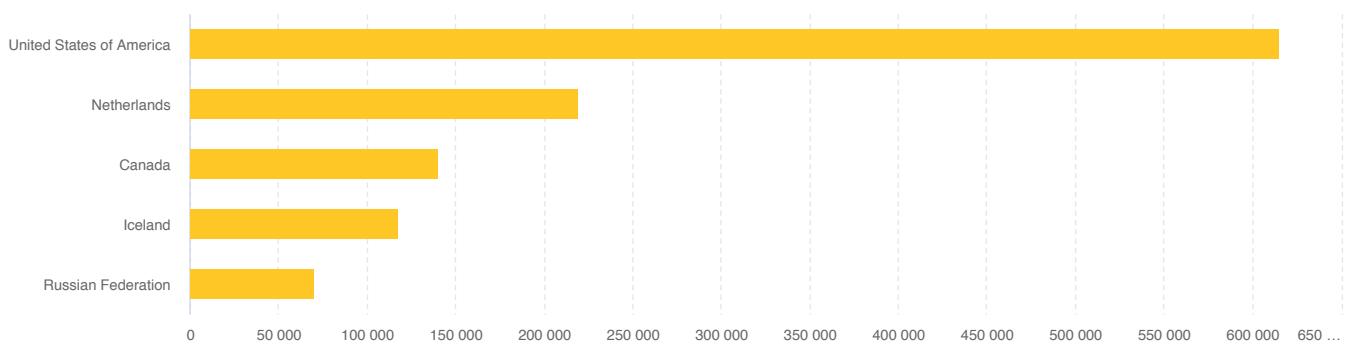
2015-2019



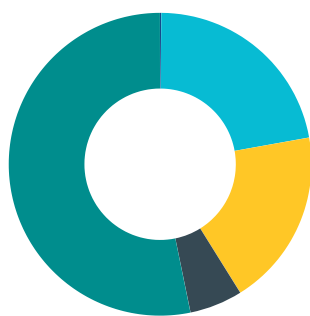
12.78

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars



Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



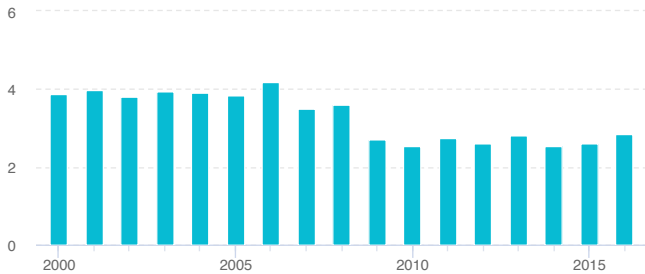
- Agricultural raw materials
- All food items
- Fuels
- Manufactured goods
- Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold

Services exports by category, 2019

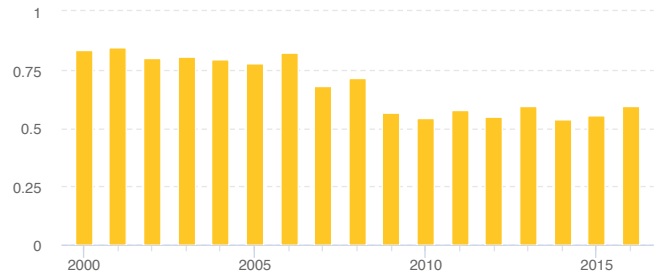
No data available

ENVIRONMENT

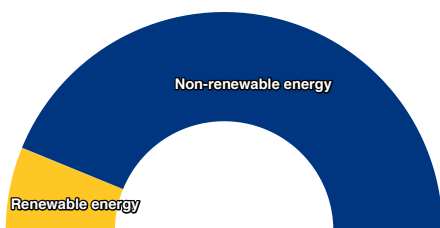
CO₂ emissions per capita
Kg per capita



CO₂ emissions per GDP
Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017
Percentage of total energy consumption



Material footprint per capita
2016



Terrestrial protected area
2018



Marine protected area
2018



Disasters indicators

Data not available

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Trade in ICT goods
2019



Exports: 0.5%
Imports: 3.2%

Trade in ICT services
2018



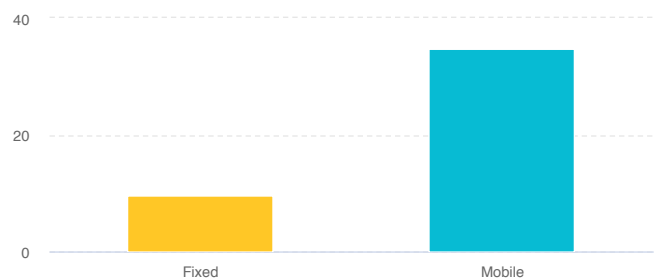
Exports: 3.2%
Imports: 3.0%

Share of internet users
2017



55%

Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions
Number of subscriptions per 100 people



Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO₂ emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO₂ emissions per GDP: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.KD.GD>
- 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/e3adb2406c2e452b81c3654e276fc5ca_0
- Exclusive economic zone: Sea Around Us (2016) <http://www.seararoundus.org/>
- Fixed broadband/mobile subscriptions: ITU (2019). World telecommunication/ICT indicators database. Available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx> (accessed 28 May 2020).
- Forest area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.FRST.ZS>
- Gender inequality index: UNDP (2020). Gender inequality index (GII), <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii>
- Human assets index: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021) <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>
- Human development index: UNDP (2021) <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data#>
- Life expectancy at birth: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>
- Marine protected area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.MRN.PTMR.ZS>
- 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_0
- ODA: OECD (2021) <https://stats.oecd.org>
- Percentage of population in low elevated coastal zones: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.EL5M.ZS>
- Poverty headcount ratio: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY>
- Renewable energy share in total energy consumption: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.KD.GD>
- Share of internet users: ITU (2019). World telecommunication/ICT indicators database. Available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx> (accessed 28 May 2020).
- Terrestrial protected area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.LND.PTLD.ZS>
- Tourism: UNWTO (2020) Compendium of Tourism Statistics dataset [Electronic], UNWTO, Madrid, data updated on 21/09/2020.
- Unemployment rate, total/female/male: ILO (2020) https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer2/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=SDG_0852_SEX_AGE_RT_A
- World risk index: Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020): <https://weltrisikobericht.de/download/1386/>

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- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
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- World Bank (2020). Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Data based on observations for 1991-2016. Available at <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org> (accessed 13 November 2020).
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