Suriname

- **Capital**: Paramaribo (5°50′N 55°10′W)
- **International airport(s)**: Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport
- **Official language(s)**: Dutch
- **Currency**: Surinamese Dollar
- **Time**: UTC -3
- **Region**: Caribbean

### GEOGRAPHY

Suriname is situated on the northern Atlantic coast of South America. Lying just north of the equator, its territory is dominated by sparsely populated, dense rain forests in the south and interior. The northern lowland coastal areas by contrast are largely cultivated and host the majority of inhabitants, centered around the capital of Paramaribo. The Bakhuys and Van Asch Van Wijck mountain ranges run through the interior, with Julianatop (1 286 m) as their highest point.

### CLIMATE

Suriname has a tropical, wet climate with little intra-annual variation due to its proximity to the equator. Average monthly temperatures range from 25°C in February to 27°C in October, though high humidity levels can cause temperatures to feel even warmer. The country has wet seasons from April to July and December to February, with intervening dry seasons. (World Bank, 2020)

### ECONOMY

Suriname has an economy concentrated on mining and natural resource extraction, particularly bauxite, which makes up a large portion of GDP and exports. Agriculture, especially products like rice and bananas, also make up a significant portion of the economy, as well as aquaculture products such as shrimp. In 2019, 8 per cent of the labor force was engaged in agriculture, 23 per cent in industry, mostly the processing of bauxite into aluminum, and 69 per cent in the services sector (ILO, 2020a). Despite this high employment share in services and Suriname's natural features, tourism remains a nascent industry with inbound tourism expenditure accounting for only 1.6 per cent of GDP in 2019 (UNWTO, 2021). Remittances are another important income source, flowing mainly from the Netherlands, the United States of America and French Guiana. In 2019, top destinations for exports included Switzerland, China Hong Kong SAR, the United Arab Emirates, Belgium and Guyana (UNCTAD, 2021).

### CULTURE

Suriname is culturally diverse, incorporating elements of Dutch, Indian, African, Chinese, Indonesian, and indigenous cultures. It is well-known for its kaseko music, an evolution of the Afro-Surinamese call-and-response kawina genre.

Its cuisine is similarly diverse as its culture, combining native flora, such as cassava, with imported dishes such as roti. Chicken, rice, cassava, and spiced fish (bakkeljauw) are common elements of Surinamese cuisine.

Football, cricket, and especially swimming are all popular in Suriname. Suriname has won two Olympic medals in swimming, including one gold, in 1988 and 1992.
**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>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GDP per capita**
2019
US$6,360

**Productive Capacity Index**
2018 31.5
2019

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index**
2019 44

**Consumer Price Index growth**
2019 19.1%

**Unemployment rate**
2016 Total 7.9%
Female 11.1%, Male 5.7%

**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>Number of tourists</th>
<th>Percent of GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**External financial resources**
Percentage of GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ODA</th>
<th>Remittances</th>
<th>FDI inflows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public debt as % of GDP**
2018 5.3%
### MARITIME TRANSPORT

#### Fleet size

<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>843</td>
<td>17</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>15</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>8,334</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Container port throughput

2019

110,659 TEU

#### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners

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

#### Liner shipping connectivity index

Maximum China Q1 2006=100

Suriname
### Population

**Total population**
Thousands of people, share of urban population

![Population graph](image)

**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>91</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>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Life expectancy at birth**
2019: 72 years

**Population density**
2019: 4 persons per km²

**Dependency ratio**
2019: Child: 40.7, Old-age: 10.6

**Age structure by gender, 2019**
Percentage of total population

![Age structure graph](image)
**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>997</td>
<td>2 026</td>
<td>1 652</td>
<td>2 127</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>1 050</td>
<td>1 398</td>
<td>2 028</td>
<td>1 702</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trade openness

- **Goods and services**
  - 2019: 65% of GDP

### Export concentration index

- 2019: 0.78

### Food import dependency

- Average 2015-2019: 3.94

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### Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Exports in millions US dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland, Liechtenstein</td>
<td>820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China, Hong Kong SAR</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>100</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
- Oils and greases
- Non-metallic minerals
- Other

### Services exports by category, 2019

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

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Suriname

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**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**

**Terrestrial protected area**

**Marine protected area**

**Disasters indicators**
Data not available

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

**Trade in ICT goods**
2019

Exports: 0.1%
Imports: 2.0%

**Trade in ICT services**
2019

Exports: 6.7%
Imports: 5.0%

**Share of internet users**
2017

49%

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

Suriname 6 of 7
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/e3adb2406c2e4d52b8f1c3654e276fe5ca_0
- Material footprint: UNEP (2021) https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1
- Water footprint: UNEP (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).