Trinidad and Tobago

GEOGRAPHY

Trinidad and Tobago is the southern-most island country in the Caribbean. Located 130 km south of Grenada and 11 km north east of the Venezuelan coast, Trinidad and Tobago share maritime boundaries with Barbados, Grenada, Guyana and Venezuela. Trinidad is traversed by three distinct mountain ranges that are a continuation of the Venezuelan coastal cordillera. As it was once part of continental South America, Trinidad has an assortment of tropical vegetation and wildlife considerably more varied than most Caribbean islands. Tobago has a generally similar but less varied flora.

CLIMATE

Trinidad and Tobago have a maritime tropical climate with two seasons annually: a dry season from January to May, and a rainy season for the remainder of the year. Annual minimum and maximum temperatures are 23 °C and 31 °C, respectively, with a mean daily temperature of 26 °C. The island receives an average of 1 600 mm of rainfall per year, usually concentrated in the months of June through December (World Bank, 2020), when brief, intense showers frequently occur. During the dry season, drought plagues the island's central interior. Trinidad and Tobago lie outside the main hurricane alleys. Hurricane Ivan was the most powerful storm to pass close to the islands in 2004. In the northern part of the country the climate is cooler due to constant cloud and mist cover and heavy rains in the mountains.

ECONOMY

Trinidad and Tobago is one of the most developed economies in the Caribbean, with a correspondingly high GDP per capita of US$17,000, current prices, in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021). The economy is strongly influenced by the petroleum industry and has a viable manufacturing sector that supplies food, beverages and cement to the Caribbean region. The United States of America and many Latin American countries are important export destinations. Oil and gas typically account for around 40 per cent of GDP and 80 per cent of exports, but less than 5 per cent of employment. According to items attribute is mandatory, about 60 per cent of employed men work in services and 86 per cent of women. Tourism is important, especially to Tobago, and has been growing, but is not as central to the economy as in some other Caribbean islands. In 2019, the country received 480 thousand tourist arrivals with an inbound tourism expenditure of 2 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). The main agricultural products include citrus and cocoa.

CULTURE

The islands of Trinidad and Tobago have produced writers of international stature, including Samuel Selvon, Earl Lovelace and Nobel Prize for Literature winner V.S. Naipaul, as well as the noted cultural historian and cricket writer C.L.R. James.

The cuisine of Trinidad and Tobago reflects the rich diversity of African, Arabic, Cajun, Creole, European, Indian, Spanish and Chinese influence among others. Indian dishes like channa (chickpeas), curry, aloo choka (potatoes) and roti (flatbread) are popular. The Creole cuisine adds stewed chicken, red beans and homemade ginger beer. Chowmein, dumplings and crab represent Chinese dishes consumed in the country. People of the country are known to be highly generous with food at religious and social events and festivals.
### ECONOMIC TRENDS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### GDP per capita
**2019**
US$16,637

#### Productive Capacity Index
**2018**
36.7

#### Economic and environmental vulnerability index
**2019**
28

#### Consumer Price Index growth
**2019**
2.3%

#### Unemployment rate
**2009**
Total 5.3%
Female 6.3%, Male 4.6%

#### 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>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### External financial resources
Percentage of GDP

- **ODA**
- **Remittances**
- **FDI inflows**

#### Public debt as % of GDP
**2018**
44.9%

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Trinidad and Tobago
### 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>527</td>
<td>3</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>13</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>17,375</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Container port throughput

2019

368,055 TEU

#### Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners

- Brazil
- Panama
- Guyana
- Netherlands
- United Kingdom

#### Liner shipping connectivity index

Maximum China Q1 2006=100

- Q1 2006: 10
- Q1 2008: 15
- Q1 2010: 20
- Q1 2012: 25
- Q1 2014: 20
- Q1 2016: 15
- Q1 2018: 10
- Q1 2020: 5
**POPULATION**

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

![Population Chart](chart.png)

**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>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human assets index</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>93</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>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Life expectancy at birth**
2019: 74 years

**Population density**
2019: 272 persons per km²

**Dependency ratio**
Child: 29.5
Old-age: 16.2

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

![Age Structure Chart](chart.png)
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade
US dollars in millions

<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>9 942</td>
<td>10 982</td>
<td>10 748</td>
<td>7 192</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>5 694</td>
<td>6 480</td>
<td>9 233</td>
<td>6 327</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>874</td>
<td>1 125</td>
<td>772</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>2 914</td>
<td>1 708</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trade openness
Goods and services
2019
35% of GDP

Export concentration index
2019
0.34

Food import dependency
Average 2015-2019
7.60

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019
Exports in millions US dollars

Merchandise exports by product group, 2019

Services exports by category, 2019

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

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

Trinidad and Tobago
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
2015

Trade in ICT services
2019

Share of internet users
2017

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

Trinidad and Tobago
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/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_0
- Material footprint: UNEP (2021) https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1

References
- UNEP (2019). 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).