

# BARBADOS

PRIDE & INDUSTRY



## DIGEST OF STATISTICS 2016

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SOCIAL SECURITY  
AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

## PROFILE OF BARBADOS

Barbados is an island, located in the Atlantic Ocean 59° 37' West and 13° 04' North of the Equator. It is the most easterly in the chain of Caribbean islands lying approximately 160.9 kilometres to the east of its nearest neighbour, St. Vincent.

Coral stone constitutes the island's base rather than volcanic activity and the land is relatively flat with many beaches, a few rolling hills, deep ridges and gullies. The island is 34 kilometres long and 23 kilometres wide with an area of approximately 430 square kilometres. The highest point is 1,100 feet, located at Mt. Hillaby, St. Andrew, one of the island's eleven (11) parishes.

In terms of governance, Barbados had virtual self-government, a status formally recognised in 1961. Until 1966, when Barbados became an independent nation, it was a British colony. The Parliament in Barbados, which dates from 1639 is the third oldest in the Commonwealth. Barbados has a long tradition of political and social stability. This factor, coupled with its democratic system of Government, makes it an ideal location for the conduct of business.

Bridgetown is the capital and is situated to the south-west of the island in the parish of St. Michael. It is the centre of sophisticated international telecommunication services and infrastructure. This city plays host to the Securities Exchange of Barbados (SEB), off-shore companies, a modern deep water harbour and the redeveloped Kensington Oval, where the 2007 cricket world cup final was played.

Other major towns are Speightstown and Holetown in the north and Oistins in the south of the island. The climate is sunny all year round, usually ranging between 24°-29°C(75°-85°F). The coolest months are usually January to April, while the hottest are July to September. The atmosphere is cooled by prevailing gentle north-east trade winds. Its climatic conditions and geographical make-up help to boost Barbados' reputation as a dream destination.

Tourism plays a vital role in the Barbadian economy, since it is a major contributor of foreign exchange earnings. There are many places of interest including Harrison's Cave, one of the finest cave systems in the world. The principal crop is sugar cane.

At the end of 2015, Barbados' resident population was estimated to be approximately 276,359 persons. Statistics from Census 2010 revealed that approximately 93% of the population was of African descent. The other 7% comprised categories such as White, East Indian or mixed.

The language spoken is English and education is compulsory from ages 5-16. Barbados boasts of a 98% literacy rate. A highly religious community, 70% of the population are Anglican, Catholic, Methodist and Moravian. The other 30% are affiliated with other denominations.

## POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

	2014	2015	2016
Total Population (‘000 persons)	276.9	276.3	275.4
Male	133.3	133.1	132.8
Female	143.7	143.2	142.6
Population Density (persons per sq. Km)	643.9	642.7	640.5
Birth Rate per 1000 persons	10.5	10.4	9.1
Death Rate per 1000	9.3	9.2	9.3
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000	10.0	8.0	13.5
Live Births (‘000)	2.90	2.87	2.52
Rate of Natural Increase per 1000	1.2	1.2	-0.2
Population Growth Rate (%)	-0.2	-0.2	-0.4
Total Adult Population (‘000 persons)	22.7	222.0	221.4
Male	106.3	106.1	105.7
Female	116.4	116.1	115.7
Labour Force (‘000 persons)	142.3	144.6	147.1
Male	72.0	72.9	74.4
Female	70.3	71.7	72.7

Employed ('000 persons)	124.8	128.2	132.9
Male	63.5	63.9	67.5
Female	61.3	64.3	65.4
Unemployed ('000 persons)	17.5	16.4	14.3
Male	8.5	9.0	6.9
Female	9.0	7.4	7.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.3	11.3	19.4
Youth Unemployment Rate(%) (both sexes)	33.7	32.1	29.5
Youth Unemployment Rate (Male)	28.9	31.6	27.5
Youth Unemployment Rate (Female)	39.2	32.7	31.8
Participation Rate (%)	63.9	65.1	66.5
Not in the Labour Force ('000 persons)	80.4	77.5	74.0
Male	34.3	33.1	31.2
Female	46.1	44.3	42.8
Trade Union Membership from selected Unions ('000 persons)	-	-	29.7

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Youth unemployment is calculated using persons between the 15-19 and 20-24 year age groups.

Information collected on Trade union Membership for tree Union: the Barbados Workers Union, National Union of Public Workers; and the Barbados Union of Teachers

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY<sup>2</sup>

('000 persons)

	2014	2015	2016
Agriculture, Fisheries	3.4	3.7	3.6
Quarrying, Construction & Mining	12.0	12.1	14.6
Manufacturing	9.5	9.8	8.6
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply & Air Conditioning	2.4	2.9	2.0
Distributive Trade/ Wholesale & Retail	21.2	20.2	23.9
Accommodation & Food Services	15.4	15.8	15.2
Communication, Transportation & Storage	5.7	6.3	5.9
Finance and, Insurance, etc.	5.7	5.5	5.3
Professional, Scientific and Technical	4.2	4.5	4.8
Administrative and Supportive Services	7.2	7.1	8.7
Public Admin and Defence	8.7	9.6	11.4
Education	7.2	7.3	5.7
Human Health and Social Work	6.6	6.8	7.2
Other Services	3.5	3.8	4.3
Activities of Households as Employers	5.0	5.1	5.8
Other Groups	7.0	7.6	7.0
Not Stated	0.0	0.2	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124.8</b>	<b>128.2</b>	<b>133.8</b>

2 A re-classification of Industries was undertaken in 2010, leading to the amending of categories that comprise this table. The revised version of this classification is the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Rev.

**EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION****(‘000 persons)**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	10.5	10.3	10.7
Professionals	14.5	15.6	14.7
Technicians and Associate Professionals	13.2	14.2	14.4
Clerks	14.4	14.5	14.2
Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales Workers	24.8	26.2	28.0
Skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers	4.4	4.1	4.1
Craft and Related Workers	14.4	14.9	17.4
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	7.3	7.5	7.4
Elementary Occupations	20.7	20.7	22.0
Not Stated	0.4	0.3	0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124.8</b>	<b>128.2</b>	<b>132.9</b>

**EMPLOYMENT BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION****(‘ 000 persons)****(Percentage of employed labour force  
is displayed in brackets)**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
None - Both Sexes	48.0 (38.5%)	49.3 (38.5%)	53 (51.0%)
BSSC - Both Sexes	0.8 (0.6%)	0.8 (0.6%)	1 (100.0%)
CXC (Basic) - Both Sexes	1.2 (1.0%)	0.8 (0.6%)	0
O Level/ CXC(Gen) – Both Sexes	27.9 (22.4%)	28.2 (22.0%)	30 (63.8%)
A Level - Both Sexes	1.9 (1.5%)	1.8 (1.4%)	2 (66.7%)
Certificate - Both Sexes	16.3 (13.1%)	17.4 (13.6%)	18 (72.0%)
Diploma - Both Sexes	4.1 (3.3%)	3.7 (2.9%)	4 (80.0%)
Degree - Both Sexes	18.9 (15.1%)	20.9 (16.3%)	19 (79.2%)
Professional (eg ACCA) – Both Sexes	1.4 (1.1%)	1.2 (1.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Others - Both Sexes	3.1 (2.5%)	3.3 (2.5%)	4 (100.0%)
Not Stated - Both Sexes	1.2 (1.0%)	0.8 (0.6%)	1 (100.0%)
<b>Total - Both sexes</b>	<b>124.8</b>	<b>128.2</b>	<b>133</b>

## REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONALS

	2014	2015	2016
Dental Auxiliaries	9	-	1
Dental Hygienists	18	18	7
Dental Technicians	11	9	5
Dental Practitioners	81	79	46
Dieticians/Nutritionists	15	8	3
General Nurses (Registered)	1,012	N/A	N/A
Midwives	245	N/A	N/A
Psychiatric Nurses	247	N/A	N/A
Nursing Assistants	321	N/A	N/A
Nursing Auxiliaries	469	N/A	N/A
Optometrists	16	15	7
Pharmacists/Chemists	301	305	129
Medical Practitioners	468	470	148
Physiotherapists	55	56	19
Psychologist	N/A	3	2
Educational Psychologists	N/A	2	N/A



Counselling Psychologists	N/A	7	5
Psychologists (Clinical)	11	15	4
Diagnostic Radiographers	37	33	4
Therapeutic Radiographers	6	6	1
Ophthalmic Dispensers	12	13	2
Chiropractors	8	8	3
Nuclear Medical Technologist	1	1	0
Orthotist	1	2	0
Osteopath	6	4	3
Paramedics	29	28	1
Medical Laboratory Technologists	108	110	34
Occupational Therapists	11	11	7
Cardiac Technologists	5	5	2
Speech Therapists	8	7	4
Podiatrist	8	10	6
Acupuncturists	4	6	3
Reflexologists	10	9	1
Prosthetists	2	3	1

**OTHER SELECTED REGISTERED PROFESSIONALS**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Attorneys-at-Law	648	643	480
Engineers	189	149	74
Quantity Surveyors	11	8	6
Land Surveyors	57	52	26
Accountants	94	86	31
Architects	66	66	36
Draughtsmen	218	199	93

**EDUCATION ENROLLMENTS****(‘000 persons)****Primary (Approx. 4.5 - 11.5 years)**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Total	27.14	N/A	24.76
Male	13.81	N/A	12.57
Female	13.33	N/A	12.18

**Secondary (Approx. 11.5 – 19.5 years)**

Total	21.85	N/A	44.69
Male	10.95	N/A	10.80
Female	10.90	N/A	10.98

## EDUCATION

### University of the West Indies (U.W.I) Cave Hill Campus Graduates ('000 persons) First and Graduate Degrees) Barbadian Students Only) (Approx.)

	2014	2015	2016
Total	1.6	1.3	1.15
Male	0.45	0.4	0.35
Female	1.15	0.9	0.81

### Barbados Community College Graduates (‘000 persons)

	2014	2015	2016
Total	1.361	1.027	0.945
Male	0.423	0.302	0.298
Female	0.938	0.725	0.647

### Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic Graduates (‘000 persons)

	2014	2015	2016
Total	0.693	0.258	0.272
Male	0.350	0.139	0.154
Female	0.343	0.119	0.118

**Passes at CXC General Proficiency (Grades I, II and III)  
(‘000 persons)**

**Secondary Schools**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Total	17.49	17.24	15.89
Male	10.27	10.38	6.48
Female	7.22	6.86	9.41

**Barbados Vocational Training Board  
Skills Training Programme  
(Completed Training).**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration	0	10	12
Auto Body Repairs	0	-	-
Auto Refinishing	0	-	-
Auto Mechanics	21	24	26
Auto Tronics	0	14	12
Electrical Installation	15	28	28
Masonry	53	31	18
Needlecraft	9	-	
Plumbing	27	23	28
Carpentry	26	31	41
Cosmetology	11	-	0
Computer Applications	75	59	57
Bob Cat/Backhoe Operation	53	23	23
Steel bending and Fixing	18	10	12
Tractor Operations and Maintenance	19	-	20
Tiling	22	-	23

Joinery	11		8
Basketry and Rug Making	0		-
Care of Elderly	15		8
Bar and Restaurant Service	26		15
Screen Printing	0	-	-
Welding	7	6	0
Metalwork Machining	13	11	10
Machinist Fitter	0	-	-
Cooking	34	-	-
Garment Making	-	14	11
International Cooking	0	18	18
Cupboard Construction	22	14	14
Office Procedures	41	38	25
Housekeeping	21	11	11
Horticulture	0	8	8
Heavy Duty Driving	7	16	14
Skid Steer Loader	0	21	23
Landscaping	4	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>465</b>

## NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

	2014	2015	2016
Job Placements Overseas	188	171	195
Job Placements Locally	74	50	67
Registration (Local Employment)	333	322	306

Vacancies Reported (Local Employment)	152	N/A	163
Registrations (Self- employed)	-	N/A	N/A

### SELECTED LABOUR STATISTICS

	2014	2015	2016
Work Stoppages	10	8	10
Occupational Accidents Reported	639	464	517
Occupational Fatalities	2	4	1

### GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

	2014	2015	2016
GDP Basic Prices (Bds.\$M)	7,788.3	7,942.2	7,891.7
GDP at Market Prices (Bds.\$M)	8,665.0	8,770.5	4,186.1
GDP per capita at Basic Prices(000's)	26.5	31.7	28.6
Real GDP Growth (% Change)	0.2	0.8	1.6

### RETAIL PRICE INDEX

(July, 2001 base =100)\*

	2014	2015	2016
All Items	169.6	167.9	169.7
Inflation Rate (%)	1.9	1.1	1.1

All Items	169.6	167.9	169.7
Inflation Rate (%)	1.9	1.1	1.1

## TOP 15 WORK PERMITS ISSUED BY OCCUPATION

	2014	2015	2016
1	Carpenter	Agricultural Worker	N/A
2	Agricultural Worker	Carpenter	N/A
3	Mason	Mason	N/A
4	Installer	Technician	N/A
5	Consultant	Consultant	N/A
6	Technician	Installer	N/A
7	Manager	Manager	N/A
8	Painter	Staff Trainer	N/A
9	Supervisor	Auditor	N/A
10	Engineer	Chef	N/A
11	Machine Operator	Supervisor	N/A
12	Chef	Entertainer	N/A
13	Welder	Engineer	N/A
14	Director	Painter	N/A
15	Auditor	Machine Operator	N/A

## IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND VISIBLE TRADE BALANCE

(Bds.\$M)

	2014	2015	2016
Imports	3,478.4	3,236.2	3,194.6
Domestic Exports	554.6	506.0	524.1
Re-Exports	394.2	459.8	562.4
Total Exports	948.8	965.8	1,086.4
Balance on Visible Trade	(2,529.6)	(2,270.3)	(2,108.2)

### Value of Exports to Selected Countries (Bds.\$M)

	2014	2015	2016
United Kingdom	33.5	28.1	32.5
Canada	23.3	17.4	18.3
United States of America	157.0	31.0	349.4
CARICOM	336.0	311.1	349.8



**Selected Domestic Exports  
(Bds.\$M)**

Sugar	18.1	7.2	7.1
Electrical Components	18.9	17.0	24.7
Clothing	0.4	0.4	0.3
Other Food and Beverages	64.5	58.6	71.0
Chemicals	88.9	93.6	91.7
Rum	78.7	76.3	77.6

**FINANCE**

**Government Finances  
(Bds.\$M)**

	2014/15(R)	2015/16	2016/17
Current Revenue	2,471.7	2,607.7	2,619.6
Current Expenditure	3,682.2	3,889.4	3,826.8
Capital Expenditure	173.3	213.8	181.9

**Major Sources of Revenue  
(Bds.\$M)**

	2014/15(R)	2015/16	2016/17
Taxes on Income and Profit	767.7	812.2	795.0
Taxes on Property	122.6	185.9	135.1

Taxes on Goods and Services	1,116.3	1,210.5	1,285.2
Taxes on International Trade	223.1	229.8	247.9
Special Receipts	61.9	26.7	42.8
Non-Tax Revenue	18.9	115.5	4.3
Stamp Duties	11.2	10.1	9.4

## NOTES AND SYMBOLS

R	=	Revised	\$M	=	Millions of dollars
P	=	Provisional	`000	=	Thousand
N/A	=	Not Available	E	=	Estimated

This Digest is compiled by the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development. It shows in summary some indicators of economic and labour related trends in Barbados.

The data presented in this publication have been drawn from published reports of Government Departments and other Public Authorities. The assistance of these agencies is gratefully acknowledged.

Researchers and other users of this information are referred to more detailed publications, some of which are listed below:-

- **Monthly Digest of Statistics,  
Barbados Statistical Service**
- **Barbados Economic and Social Report**
- **Annual Report - Labour Department**
- **Annual Report - Barbados Vocational  
Training Board**
- **Website of the Barbados Central Bank**
- **The Official Gazette**

Ministry of Labour, Social Security  
and Human Resource Development  
3rd Floor, West Wing,  
“Warrens Office Complex”  
Warrens  
St. Michael  
BARBADOS

TEL. NO.: (246) 535-1400  
FAX. NO.: (246) 535-1573

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**Ministry of Labour,  
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Warrens,  
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