

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 Common Wealth. 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

	2016	2017	2018
Total Population ('000 persons)	275.4	274.5	273.5
Male	132.8	132.3	131.9
Female	142.6	142.1	141.5
Population Density (persons per sq. Km)	640.5	638.4	636.0
Birth Rate per 1000 persons	9.2	9.4	8.8
Death Rate per 1000 persons	9.4	9.6	9.2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000	13.5	8.9	9.1
Live Births ('000)	2.52	-	-
Rate of Natural Increase per 1000	-0.2	-0.2	-0.5
Population Growth rate (%)	-0.3	-0.4 (R)	-0.4
Total Adult Population ('000 persons)	221.4	220.6	219.8
Male	105.7	105.3	105.0
Female	115.7	115.3	114.9
Labour Force ('000 persons)	147.1	144.3	139.7
Male	74.4	73.4	71.8
Female	72.7	70.9	68.0
Employed ('000 persons)	132.9	129.9	126.2
Male	67.5	66.2	65.7

Female	65.4	63.7	60.5
Unemployed ('000 persons)	14.3	14.4	13.6
Male	9.3	9.8	6.1
Female	10.1	10.1	7.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.7	10.0	9.7
Youth unemployment rate (%) (Both Sexes) ¹	29.5	29.3	24.6
Youth unemployment Rate (Male)	27.5	30.2	27.3
Youth Unemployment Rate (Female)	31.8	28.2	37.7
Participation Rate (%)	66.5	65.4	63.6
Not in the Labour Force ('000 persons)	74.0	76.3	80.1
Male	31.2	31.9	33.2
Female	42.8	44.4	46.9
Trade Union Membership from selected Unions ² ('000 persons)	29.7	9.81	7.36

¹ Youth unemployment is calculated using persons between the 15-19 and 20-24 year age groups.

² Information collected on Trade Union Membership for 2017 is for two Trade Unions: National Union of Public Workers; and the Barbados Union of Teachers. 2018 is for the National Union of Public Workers only.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY² ('000 persons)	2016	2017	2018
Agriculture, Fisheries	3.6	4.0	4.5
Quarrying, Construction & Mining	14.6	13.3	11.9
Manufacturing	8.6	8.9	6.6
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply & Air Conditioning	2.0	2.9	2.3
Distributive Trade/ Wholesale & Retail	23.9	20.3	19.8
Accommodation & Food Services	15.2	15.0	17.6
Communication, Transportation & Storage	5.9	6.9	7.5
Finance and, Insurance, etc.	5.3	5.5	5.6
Professional, Scientific and Technical	4.8	4.2	4.1
Administrative and Supportive Services	8.7	7.4	8.2
Public Admin and Defence	11.4	9.6	8.7
Education	5.7	7.6	5.7
Human Health and Social Work	7.2	6.6	5.7
Other Services	4.3	4.6	4.6
Activities of Households as Employers	5.8	4.8	4.8
Other Groups	7.0	8.1	8.3

Not Stated	0.0	0.2	0.1
TOTAL	133.8	129.9	126.2

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. 4.

EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION (`000 persons)	2016	2017	2018
Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	10.7	10.6	11.2
Professionals	14.7	16.1	15.4
Technicians and Associate Professionals	14.4	14.6	12.6
Clerks	14.2	14.2	14.5
Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales Workers	28.0	26.4	27.7
Skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers	4.1	4.2	4.8
Craft and Related Workers	17.4	16.6	13.3
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	7.4	7.7	6.6
Elementary Occupations	22.0	18.5	18.8
Not Stated	0.3	0.9	1.1
TOTAL	132.9	129.9	126.2

EMPLOYMENT BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION(' 000 persons) (Percentage of employed labour force is displayed in brackets)	2016	2017	2018
None	53.2	47.7	46.1 (36.5%)
BSSC	0.9	1.0	0.4 (0.3%)
CXC (Basic)	0.5	0.9	0.4 (0.3%)
O. Level/CXC (Gen)	30.2	30.2	29 (22.8%)
A Level	1.9	1.5	2 (1.4%)
Certificate	17.5	17.2	17.0 (13.5%)

Diploma	3.6	4.3	3.4 (2.7%)
Degree	18.9	21.4	20.5 (16.2%)
Professional (e.g. ACCA)	1.1	1.1	2 (1.5%)
Other	3.9	3.1	5.4 (4.3%)
Not Stated	1.3	1.4	1 (0.5%)
Total	132.9	129.9	126.3
REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONALS	2016	2017	2018
Dental Auxiliaries	1	6	9
Dental Hygienists	7	17	18
Dental Technicians	5	9	9
Dental Practitioners	46	81	82

Dieticians	3	11	11
Nutritionists	-	5	6
General Nurses (Registered)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Midwives	N/A	N/A	N/A
Psychiatric Nurses	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nursing Assistants	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nursing Auxiliaries	N/A	N/A	N/A
Optometrists	7	17	20
Pharmacists/Chemists	129	320	330
Medical Practitioners	148	591	345
Physiotherapists	19	55	59
Psychologist	2	5	4
Educational Psychologists		3	3
Counselling Psychologists	5	8	12
Clinical Psychologist	4	21	21
Diagnostic Radiographers	4	35	36
Therapeutic Radiographers	1	4	7
Ophthalmic Dispensers	2	14	15

Chiropractors	3	6	6
Nuclear Medical Technologist		1	1
Orthotist		1	1
Osteopath	3	6	6
Paramedics	1	26	26
Medical Laboratory Technologists	34	115	122
Occupational Therapists	7	13	11
Cardiac Technologists	2	5	5
Speech Therapists	4	10	10
Podiatrist	6	9	9
Acupuncturists	3	4	5
Reflexologists	1	6	7
Prosthetist	1	2	4

OTHER SELECTED REGISTERED PROFESSIONALS	2016	2017	2018
Attorneys-at-Law	480	779	868
Engineers	74	168	174
Quantity Surveyors	6	7	7
Land Surveyors	26	58	56
Accountants	31	82	85

Architects	36	64	64
Draughtsmen	93	206	223

EDUCATION Enrollments ('000 persons)	2016	2017	2018
Primary (Approx. 4.5 - 11.5 years)			
Total	24.76	24.169	20628
Male	12.57	12.299	10533
Female	12.18	11.87	10095
Secondary (Approx. 11.5 - 19.5 years)			
Total	44.69	21.636	19663
Male	10.80	10.754	9948
Female	10.98	10.882	9715
EDUCATION University of the West Indies (U.W.I) Cave Hill			

Campus Graduates ('000 persons) First and Graduate Degrees) Barbadian Students Only) (Approx.)	2016	2017	2018
Total	1.15	1.14	0.919
Male	0.35	0.351	0.315
Female	0.81	0.789	0.604

Barbados Community College Graduates ('000 persons)	2016	2017	2018
Total	0.945	1.138	1078
Male	0.298	0.343	364
Female	0.647	0.795	714
Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic Graduates ('000 persons)	2016	2017	2018
Total	0.272	0.272	0.712
Male	0.154	0.154	0.414
Female	0.118	0.118	0.298

Passes at CXC General Proficiency (Grades I, II and III)	2016	2017	2018

(`000 persons)			
Secondary Schools			
Total	15.889	15.065	12677
Male	6.475	6.432	5402
Female	9.414	8.633	7275
Barbados Vocational Training Board Skills Training Programme (Completed Training)	2016	2017	2018
Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration	12	11	14
Auto Body Repairs	-	-	-
Auto Refinishing	-	-	-
Auto Mechanics	26	21	18
Auto Tronics	12	10	
Electrical Installation	28	24	24
Masonry	18	18	20
Needlecraft	-	-	
Plumbing	28	18	25

Carpentry	41	29	26
Cosmetology	0	0	
Computer Applications	57	50	55
Bob Cat/Backhoe Operation	23	7	8
Steel bending and Fixing	12	4	5
Tractor Operations and Maintenance	20	19	24
Tiling	23	18	19
Joinery	8	14	5
Basketry and Rug Making			
Care of Elderly	8	11	14
Bar and Restaurant Service	15	8	13
Screen Printing	-	-	
Welding	0	6	8
Metalwork Machining	10	10	9
Machinist Fitter	-	-	
Cooking	-	-	
Garment Making	11	10	13
International Cooking	18	16	15

Cupboard Construction	14	10	11
Office Procedures	25	18	19
Housekeeping	11	9	8
Horticulture	8	-	
Heavy Duty Driving	14	12	12
Skid Steer Loader	23	29	29
Landscaping	-	-	
TOTAL	465	382	394
BARBADOS EMPLOYEMENT & CAREER COUNCELLING SERVICES (BECCS) FORMALLY KNOWN AS NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT BUREAU	2016	2017	2018
Job Placements Overseas	195	153	213
Job Placements Locally	67	28	58
Registration (Local Employment)	306	394	1037

Vacancies Reported (Local Employment)	163	237	-
Registrations (self-employed)	-	105	123
SELECTED LABOUR STATISTICS	2016	2017	2018
Work Stoppages	10	2	8
Occupational Accidents Reported	517	468	423
Occupational Fatalities	1	-	-
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	2016	2017	2018
GDP Basic Prices (Bds.\$M)	9,244.6	9,229.1	
GDP at Market Prices (Bds.\$M)	9,660.0R	9,956.3R	10,173.4P
GDP per capita at Basic Prices (000's)	30.1	30.8	31.4
Real GDP Growth (% Change)	2.3	-0.2	

RETAIL PRICE INDEX (July, 2001 base =100) *	2016	2017	2018
All Items	170.17	177.6	184.1
Inflation Rate (%)	1.5	4.4	3.7
TOP 15 WORK PERMITS ISSUED BY OCCUPATION	2016	2017	2018
1		Carpenter	
2		Agricultural Worker	
3		Mason	
4		Technician	
5		Engineer	
6		Welder	
7		Consultant	
8		Tiler	
9		Director	
10		Installer	
11		Teacher	
12		Chef	
13		General Manager	
14		Entertainer	
15		Staff Trainer	

IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND VISIBLE TRADE BALANCE (Bds.\$M)	2016	2017	2018
Imports	3,194.6	3204.0	
Domestic Exports	524.1	509.8	
Re-Exports	562.4	(461.0)	
Total Exports	1,086.4	970.8	
Balance on Visible Trade	(2,108.2)	(2,233.2)	
<i>Value of Exports to Selected Countries (Bds.\$M)</i>	2016	2017	
United Kingdom	32.5	24.7	
Canada	17.6	17.0	
United States of America	84.6	96.0	
CARICOM	257.0	263.1	
<i>Selected Domestic Exports (Bds.\$M)</i>			
Sugar	7.1	13.5	
Electrical Components	24.7	19.9	
Clothing	0.3	0.0	

Other Food and Beverages	71.0	67.6	
Chemicals	91.7	72.7	
Rum	77.6	83.9	
FINANCE	2016/17	2017/18	
Government Finances (Bds. \$M)			
Current Revenue	2,657.0	3,075.2	
Current Expenditure	3,867.0	4,191.3	
Capital Expenditure	205.4	323.0	
Major Sources of Revenue (Bds. \$M)	2016/17	2017/18	
Taxes on Income and Profit	795.0	819.0	
Taxes on Property	135.1	189.9	
Taxes on Goods and Services	1,285.2	1,470.8	
Taxes on International Trade	247.9	223.9	

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