

Barbados



The general election held on 21 February 2013 saw Barbados' Democratic Labour Party (DLP) re-installed for a further five years. The DLP won 16 of the 30 seats, reducing its majority over the opposition Barbados Labour Party (BLP) to two votes. The narrow majority means that to secure a vote all 16 DLP members have to be present to avoid a deadlocked outcome. The size of the electorate (153,204 in 2013) inevitably lowers the tenor of parliamentary proceedings to those of a local assembly.

Tiny Barbados, where most families are the descendants of African slaves who were brought to the island from the seventeenth century to work the sugar cane plantations, no longer depends on its unpredictable sugar harvest as its principal money maker. Shaking off any lingering colonial image, in the twenty-first century relatively high ticket tourism has become the former colony's main revenue earner. As one of the more populous and prosperous Caribbean islands, Barbados' political, economic and social stability have given it one of the highest standards of living in the developing world. It claims to be a centre for financial services and has offshore reserves of oil and natural gas, although, like its Caribbean neighbours the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica,

Barbados imports oil and refined petroleum products from Mexico and Venezuela on the favourable terms set out in the San Jose pact. Despite the modest construction boom, a shortage of jobs has prompted many Barbadians – generally known as Bajans – to find work abroad. The money that they remit is an important source of income.

Sluggish economy

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) the economy of Barbados maintained an extremely sluggish trajectory during 2012, recording growth of a mere 0.2 per cent during the year. This performance reflected the protracted weakness of the global economy, which resulted in a small decline in tourism value added, the country's main economic driver, and in manufacturing and agriculture. The economy was, however, bolstered by modest expansion in construction and international finance. The lacklustre economic growth was reflected in a falling rate of inflation, a slight increase in unemployment, a wider fiscal deficit and a marginal increase in public debt. Declining imports improved the current account balance, though it remained in deficit. A moderate drop in net capital inflows reduced foreign-exchange reserves to US\$751 million as at August 2012, representing four months of import cover.

Given the continued weakness in the United States and European economies, the prospects for economic growth remain limited, with a tepid acceleration to 1 per cent projected for 2013. The fiscal deficit stood at 5.9 per cent of GDP during the period April to September 2012, representing a deterioration of 1.2 percentage points over the same period in 2011. This was on account of a 2 per cent reduction in overall tax revenue, as personal income taxes and value added tax (VAT) fell by 13 per cent and 4 per cent respectively, which in turn reflected the low level of economic activity in the real sector during the period. Total expenditure increased by one per cent, driven primarily by a 3 per cent rise in interest payments and a 13 per

KEY FACTS

Official name: Barbados

Head of State: Queen Elizabeth II, represented by Governor General Elliot Belgrave (from 1 Nov 2011)

Head of government: Prime Minister Freundel Stuart (DLP) (since 28 Oct 2010 on death of David Thompson; elected 21 Feb 2013)

Ruling party: Democratic Labour Party (DLP) (since 15 Jan 2008, re-elected 21 Feb 2013)

Area: 430 square km

Population: 278,000 (2012)*

Capital: Bridgetown

Official language: English

Currency: Barbados dollar (BD\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rate: BD\$2.00 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$16,152 (2012)*

GDP: US\$4.49 billion (2012)*

Labour force: 145,000 (2011)*

Unemployment: 11.00% (2012)*

Inflation: 4.62% (2012)*

Balance of trade: -US\$1.08 billion (2010)*

* estimated figure

cent increase in individual transfers. These transfers include rebates to farmers, as well as tax credits for health care.

The widening of the fiscal gap was, however, tempered by a doubling of the property tax take due to enhanced collection efforts, as well as lower capital spending, as outlined in the government's medium-term fiscal adjustment strategy. Financing of the deficit pushed gross government debt up to 79.3 per cent of GDP in September 2012, compared to 76.1 per cent a year earlier. In the light of the lethargic economic activity, the central bank maintained a generally loose monetary policy and confined itself to a review of its guidelines for intervention and credit risk management during the first three quarters of 2012. Slack economic activity was also reflected in average credit growth of less than one per cent across all sectors, while domestic deposits grew by only 0.7 per cent between September 2011 and September 2012. Residential mortgages performed better than personal loans, rising by 6.5 per cent from September to September. Bank liquidity remained high as the excess liquidity ratio increased from 9.6 per cent in 2011 to 14.5 per cent in 2012. The average loan rate fell marginally from 9.3 per cent to 8.7 per cent, while the three-month treasury bill rate remained unchanged at 3.5 per cent during the period.

Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Good

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

Barbados was formerly a British colony and is now an independent sovereign state.

1951 Universal adult suffrage was introduced. The Barbados Labour Party (BLP) won the general election, and held office until 1961.

1955 The BLP split and a splinter group formed the Democratic Labour Party (DLP).

1961 Barbados achieved self-government. The DLP won the general elections, its leader Errol Barrow, became premier.

1966 Barbados gained independence; Errol Barrow became prime minister.

1967 Barbados joined the United Nations.

1973 Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago established the Caribbean Community and Common Market, later known just as Caribbean Community (Caricom).

1976–86 BLP retained power in elections. 1986 DLP won the general elections.

1994 The BLP won a landslide general election. Owen Arthur became prime minister.

2002 Barbados was removed from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) blacklist of non-co-operative countries for its efforts to combat money laundering.

2003 The ruling BLP won the general elections.

2006 The opposition leader, Clyde Mascoll, resigned from the DLP and joined the ruling BLP.

2008 The opposition DLP won 52.5 per cent (20 seats out of 30) in parliamentary elections, the BLP 47.3 per cent, (10);

turnout was 56.6 per cent. David Thompson (DLP) was sworn in as prime minister. The Barbados Defence Force received military aid of B\$840,000 (US\$1.68 million) from the Chinese Army. The donation included computers, power generators and other equipment, and military training.

2009 An amnesty and new rules concerning Caricom nationals living and working in Barbados illegally were introduced. The mandatory death penalty for murder was abolished.

2010 Barbados opened an embassy in China. David Thompson died and Freundel Stuart was sworn in as prime minister.

2011 The economy grew by 2.8 per cent in the first quarter. In June, the capital, Bridgetown, was added to the Unesco list of World Heritage Sites, as a well-preserved old town and nearby military garrison, and an outstanding example of British colonial architecture. The government announced it would invest US\$100 million in the sugar industry to promote its diversification into production of bagasse, ethanol, special sugars and molasses. In July, a 16-member tourism trade-party from China, visiting to experience the Crop-Over Festival (an annual carnival). Sir Clifford Husbands retired and Elliot Belgrave took office as acting governor general in November.

2012 On 22 May Acting Governor General Belgrade was confirmed into post from 1 June. Standard and Poor's (S&P) downgraded the long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit rating for Barbados on 17 June, from BBB-/A-3 to BB+/B ('junk' bond status). S&P considered the government's fiscal stance as weak. Prime Minister Stuart replied that he was 'not perturbed by the expression of the opinion of the rating agency'.

2013 Elections were held on 21 February. The DLP were re-elected with a narrow majority of 16 seats to the 14 of the BLP. Three ministers in the previous Cabinet, Dr Esther Byer-Suckoo, George Hutson and Patrick Todd, lost their seats in the election.

Political structure

Constitution

Promulgated on 30 November 1966.

Independence date

1966

Form of state

Parliamentary democracy, within a constitutional monarchy.

The executive

Executive power is vested in the British monarch, represented by a governor general, who is appointed by the monarch, and exercised by the prime minister and cabinet.

KEY INDICATORS

Barbados

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	*0.28	*0.28	*0.27	*0.28	*0.28
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	3.70	3.60	4.30	4.50	*4.49
GDP per capita	US\$	15,784	15,922	15,418	16,148	*16,152
GDP real growth	%	-0.2	-4.2	0.2	0.5	*0.0
Inflation	%	8.3	3.5	5.8	9.4	*4.6
Unemployment	%	8.1	10.0	10.8	11.2	11.0
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	489.6	381.0	*430.6	–	–
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	1,731.9	1,293.9	*1,506.6	–	–
Balance of trade	US\$m	-1,242.3	-912.8	*-1,076.0	–	–
Current account	US\$m	-437.2	-312.0	-292.0	-375.0	*-255.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	738.5	871.1	833.5	–	840.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	729.8	773.8	737.9	–	744.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

* estimated figure

National legislature

Legislative power is exercised through the bicameral National Assembly, comprising a 30-member House of Assembly, popularly elected in single seat constituencies, for terms of five years and a 21-member Senate of appointed members for five-year terms.

Following National Assembly elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition assumes the post of prime minister, confirmed by the governor general. The cabinet is selected by the prime minister and confirmed by the governor general.

Legal system

The legal system is based on English common law. Judges are appointed by the service commissions for the judicial and legal service. There is no judicial review of legislative acts.

Last elections

21 February 2013

Results: Parliamentary: the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) won 51.28 per cent, (16 seats out of 30), the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) 48.32 per cent (14).

Next elections

2018 (parliamentary)

Political parties**Ruling party**

Democratic Labour Party (DLP) (since 15 Jan 2008, re-elected 21 Feb 2013)

Main opposition party

Barbados Labour Party (BLP)

Population

278,000 (2012)*

Last census: May 2000: 250,010

Population density: 620 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 44 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 0.3 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

African (90 per cent), mixed race (6 per cent), European (4 per cent).

Religions

Mainly Christian, with an Anglican majority and dozens of smaller sects, plus small Jewish, Hindu and Muslim communities. Anglican (40 per cent), Pentecostal (8 per cent), Methodist (7 per cent), Roman Catholic (4 per cent).

Education

Educational spending is around US\$150 million per year. Expenditure on primary education typically fluctuates between 25–29 per cent of total public expenditure on education. The government provides assistance to all private secondary schools.

Public education at primary and secondary levels is free, although parents can opt to send their children to private schools. Primary education begins at aged five and lasts for six years.

The secondary school programme begins at aged 11 years and last until aged 16, when students choose between academic higher education or applied further education.

The Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP), the Barbados Community College (BCC), Erdiston College and the University of the West Indies cater for higher education. Eligible students also pursue their studies in North American colleges and universities.

Compulsory years: 5 to 16

Enrolment rate: 94.7 per cent to 100 per cent, primary school enrolment of the relevant age group.

Pupils per teacher: 18 in primary schools

Health

With 16 per cent of the population aged 60 years and over, Barbados has the highest percentage of elderly population in the English speaking Caribbean. Barbados provides high quality primary and secondary care with free treatment for young children. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital benefits from government aid. There is universal access to improved water and sanitation facilities.

HIV/Aids

In 2009, there were an estimated 2,000 people living with HIV (Unicef 2012), **HIV prevalence:** 2.0 per cent aged 15–49 in 2009 (Unicef 2012)

Life expectancy: 77 years, 2010 (Unicef 2012)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 1.6 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef 2012)

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 18 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Welfare

The government provides an extensive welfare programme for the poor and the elderly. Assistance for the elderly comprises housing, transportation, home care and free utilities (water and utilities), assistance in kind, and food vouchers. Financial assistance is provided to parents of underprivileged children as well as subsidies for school expenses.

Low rent housing is available to all residents; some housing is available to be purchased by low income earners.

Pensions

There is universal pension coverage from a non-contributory pension.

Main cities

Bridgetown (capital, estimated population 92,328 in 2012), Speightstown (2,192), Holetown (1,595), Bathsheba (1,521), Oistins (1,471), Bulkeley (1,070).

Languages spoken

A local Bajan dialect is spoken.

Official language/s

English

Media**Press**

Dailies: There are two, *The Daily Nation* (www.nationnews.com) and the *Barbados Advocate* (www.barbadosadvocate.com).

Weeklies: Daily newspapers publish weekend editions. Others include *Eastern Caribbean News*, *Weekend Investigator* and *Caribbean Week* (published fortnightly).

Business: *The Broad Street Journal* (www.broadstreetnews.com) and *Business Monday* (www.barbadosadvocate.com), are business publications while most daily newspapers have business sections.

Periodicals: The Government Information Service (BGIS) (www.barbados.gov.bb) publishes data and research articles.

Broadcasting

The Caribbean Broadcast Corporation (CBC) (www.cbc.bb) is the nation public broadcaster.

Radio: CBC (www.cbc.bb) has three networks which cover news, cultural and sports events and all genre of music. There are several private, commercial and religious radio stations operating including Voice of Barbados (VOB) (www.vob929.com), which competes with CBC for content, Hott FM (www.hott953.com), Mix 96.9 (www.mix969fm.com) and Gospel 97.5 (www.gospel975.com); the Barbados Broadcasting Service operates BBS 90.7 and Faith FM (www.barbadosadvocate.com).

Television: CBC (www.cbc.bb) is the only terrestrial TV network in operation, showing domestic news and current affairs, art and cultural programmes as well as imported shows. Programmes are also provided by Jump TV (www.jumpstv.com), via the internet. It is the largest provider worldwide of internet programming.

National news agency: Caribbean News Agency (Cana)

Other news agencies: Caribbean Net News: www.caribbeanetnews.com

Economy

The economy is characterised by a strong service sector that caters for the tourist industry, with related construction and retail services. The financial sector, particularly offshore services, includes call centres in insurance targeted at the east coast of the US. The global economic crisis hit hard in 2008 with the unemployment rate from within these sectors rising sharply. Per capita income fell from US\$16,328 in 2007 to US\$15,418 by 2010, although it is estimated to have jumped back to US\$16,148 in 2011, as the tourist industry recovered.

GDP growth was -0.2 per cent in 2008 and fell again to -4.2 per cent in 2009. It rose modestly by 0.2 per cent in 2010, but is not expected to rise above 1 per cent in 2011 and 2012.

Overall, the economy in 2008–09 slumped as long-stay visitor numbers fell by 13.3 per cent. However, a cruise liner terminal in the capital, Bridgetown, has capacity for five ships at any one time and cruise passenger arrival numbers rose by 6.4 per cent (38,200 extra passengers) in 2009. Nevertheless, visitor revenues registered a five-year (2007–11) negative growth averaging -7.3 per cent annual loss. It is predicted that visitor revenues will grow by 0.1 per cent in 2012.

Barbados lost an estimated US\$170 million in foreign exchange in 2008–09 and had to rely on the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) provided to members of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to maintain foreign reserves. Government expenditure rose by over US\$144 million to provide welfare and investment measures.

As financial services began to pick up in 2009, the industry was overshadowed by the introduction, or extension, of regulatory actions by foreign governments on tax avoidance by their citizens. However, the IMF considered Barbados well placed and governed to adapt quickly to the changes.

External trade

As a member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom), Barbados operates within the single market (Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME)), which became operational in 2006. It is also a member of the Organisation of American States (OAS). Barbados, as a member of the 15-country Caribbean Forum (Cariforum) has free trade agreements with the European Union (EU), Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Colombia and Venezuela.

Barbados was the first single-crop agrarian economy to switch to the service sector provision of back office operations. Its financial sector, combined with the tourist sector, provides the greater percentage of GDP. The offshore financial centre utilises the well educated, English-speaking, workforce with its proximity to the US and Canada, as well as traditional links with the UK.

Imports

Principal imports are petroleum, consumer goods, food and beverages, construction materials, electrical components, vehicles, marine crafts and machinery.

Main sources: US (31 per cent of total in 2012), Trinidad and Tobago (28.9 per cent), Suriname (6.2 per cent).

Exports

Principal commodity exports are sugar and molasses, rum and other foods and beverages, chemicals and electrical and electronic components.

Main destinations: US (26.3 per cent of total in 2012), Trinidad and Tobago (11.5 per cent), UK (5.5 per cent).

Agriculture

The agricultural sector contributes around 7 per cent to GDP and employs around 5 per cent of the labour force.

Around 76 per cent of the total land area is under cultivation.

Emphasis has been placed on diversifying production away from sugar and towards the farming of sea island cotton, green vegetables and market garden produce. The EU quota of just under 50,000 tonnes per year and its guaranteed price mechanism came to an end in 2007. The pressure is on Barbados to make the sugar sector profitable, although it seems unlikely that the island will be able to compete with low-cost producers and the heavily subsidised sugar beet farmers in North America and the EU. As well as trade liberalisation, the Barbados sugar sector has had to cope with environmental degradation and the rising price of land. There are complaints that the small fishing industry has not been supported by the government. The government issued fish importing licences permitting processors to import fish, when the domestic catch could have provided for domestic processing needs.

Industry and manufacturing

Manufacturing employs around 9 per cent of the workforce and construction and quarrying, 11 per cent.

Production is centred on light manufacturing and assembly of electrical and electronic goods, food processing, clothing, sugar refining, petrochemicals and beverages.

Most new foreign-owned export-oriented industries are based on the island's nine purpose-built industrial estates, which are largely managed by the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation.

Emphasis is placed on expanding the number of value-added joint venture assembly industries.

Tourism

Barbados has a typical Caribbean experience for high-end visitors with unspoilt beaches and luxury accommodation. Sea sports (surfing and windsurfing) are very popular, along with diving and fishing.

The service sector typically constitutes 80 per cent of GDP. As the global economic crisis cut tourism the number of visitors to Barbados fell from a record 572,937 in 2007 to 567,667 in 2008, to 518,564 in

2009. The greatest reduction in visitors was those from the UK and the US, which, combined, had represented over 60 per cent of all arrivals in previous years. Visitor numbers from Canada improved by 11.2 per cent on the 2008 figures. Tourists arriving at the beginning of 2010 were showing an increase.

The only sector of the industry not to show a decrease in 2008–09 was Caribbean cruising. A cruise liner terminal in the capital, Bridgetown, has capacity for five ships at any one time. There were 460 visits by liners in 2009, disembarking a total of 635,746 passengers, an increase of 6.4 per cent up from 597,526 passengers in 2008. Private yachts are catered for at the Port Charles Marina and a villa complex in Speightstown.

The industry was forecast to directly employ around 20,000 workers in 2011, which constitutes 14.6 per cent of total employment. Indirect employment in the sector constitutes 46.6 per cent of total employment at around 65,000 jobs.

The forecast is for travel and tourism to directly contribute BD\$1,155.8 million (US\$557.9 million), or 14.2 per cent of GDP; indirect contribution is forecast at BD\$3,824.9 million (US\$1,912.5 million), or 47 per cent of GDP in 2011. Visitor exports were expected to be BD2,497.2 million (US\$1,248.6 million), which constitutes 49.9 per cent of expected total foreign exchange. Investment in travel and tourism committed for 2011 was estimated at BD600.9 million (US\$300.5 million), or 20.4 per cent of total estimated investment.

Hydrocarbons

Proven oil reserves were two million barrels in 2008, located offshore, producing 1,100 barrels per day (bpd), which is exported to Trinidad and Tobago for refining and re-importing. The state-owned Barbados National Oil Company (BNOC) is responsible for domestic production, its production accounted for 15 per cent of the island's annual consumption in 2008 (8,000bpd).

Natural gas reserves were 170 million cubic metres (cum) in 2008. In January 2009 Barbados awarded drilling rights to two blocks in its territorial waters in a bid to discover natural gas.

Any coal imports or use are commercially insignificant.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 210MW in 2007. Barbados relies on imported oil for most of its energy requirements. There are plans to expand solar and wind energy programmes.

Financial markets**Stock exchange**

Barbados Stock Exchange (BSE)

Banking and insurance

The financial sector continues to expand.

Central bank

Central Bank of Barbados

Main financial centre

Bridgetown

Offshore facilities

Barbados is a major international business centre. It has several tax treaties in place with developed countries including Canada.

Time

GMT minus four hours

Geography

Barbados is the most easterly of the Caribbean islands, lying about 320km (200 miles) north-east of Trinidad. It is relatively flat and is one of the few coral-capped islands in the region.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

Generally warm but cooled by trade winds with temperature around 26–30 degrees Celsius (C) in the day and 15–18 degrees C at night. Rainy season, includes tropical storms: July–November. Humidity rises in the rainy season.

Dress codes

Business suits may be worn with jackets removed. Generally, smart casual wear is suitable in restaurants, although some restaurants may require suits and ties for men. Lightweight cottons are advised.

Entry requirements**Passports**

Required by all.

Visa

Visas are not required by most European, American, Australasian and some Asian citizens. From May 2009 EU citizens may make a short-stay visit, for up to three months, without a visa. For a list of those that do, see www.barbados.org/docs.htm. All visitors must have return/onward passage.

Currency advice/regulations

No restrictions on import of local currency, but it may not be exported. Unlimited foreign currency may be imported and exported, limited to the amount declared on arrival.

Health (for visitors)**Mandatory precautions**

Yellow fever vaccination certificate if arriving from an infected area.

Advisable precautions

Typhoid/polio vaccination.

Hotels

There is wide range of first-class hotels available. A 5 per cent government tax and 10 per cent service charge are generally applied.

Public holidays (national)**Fixed dates**

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 21 Jan (Errol Barrow Day), 28 Apr (National Heroes' Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 30 Nov (Independence Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day), 26 Dec (Boxing Day).

Variable dates

Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, Emancipation/Kadooment Day (first Mon in Aug).

Working hours**Banking**

Mon–Thu: 0800–1500; Fri: 0800–1700.

Business

Mon–Fri: 0800–1600/1630; Sat: 0800–1200.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0800–1600/1630.

Telecommunications**Mobile/cell phones**

GSM 900/1900, 900/1800 services are available throughout most of the island.

Electricity supply

110V AC, 50Hz. American-style two-pin plugs are in use.

Social customs/useful tips

Make and confirm appointments before travelling. Many hotels do not start check-in procedures until 1500 so advise the hotel if arriving earlier. Most hotels have a business centre, although facilities vary.

Getting there**Air**

International airport/s: Grantley Adams International (BGI), 13km east of Bridgetown; duty-free shops, restaurant, bank, hotel reservations, car hire.

Airport tax: Departure tax BD\$25; not applicable to transit passengers.

Surface

Water: Cruise-ship passengers may conclude their journey and depart by air, normal immigration and visa control standards would apply.

Main port/s: Bridgetown Harbour.

Getting about**National transport**

Road: There are over 2,000km of surfaced road. Main roads radiate from Bridgetown.

Buses: Frequent and efficient standard fare services operate throughout the island.

City transport

Taxis: Taxis are easily available. They can be hailed, ordered by telephone or found

on ranks. The Tourism Board publishes a list of standard fares.

Some hotels run pick-up services.

Car hire

A local driver's permit must be obtained; they are available at police stations and the licensing authority or through car rental agencies on presentation of a national driving licence or an international driving permit. A registration fee of B\$10 will be due.

Traffic drives on the left. Strict speed limits of 20mph in Bridgetown and Speightstown and 30mph elsewhere.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling code (IDD) for Barbados is +1 246, followed by subscriber's number.

Chambers of Commerce

Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nemwil House, Collymore Rock, St Michael (tel: 426-2056; fax: 429-2907; e-mail: bdscham@caribsurf.com).

Banking

Bank of Nova Scotia, PO Box 202, Broad St, Bridgetown (tel: 431-3000; fax: 426-0969).

Barbados Agency for Microenterprise Development Ltd (Fund Access), 30 Tudor Street, Bridgetown (tel: 228-1366; fax: 228-1343).

Barbados National Bank, PO Box 1002, Broad St, Bridgetown (tel: 431-5700; fax: 426-0969).

Barclays Bank PLC, PO Box 301, Broad St, Bridgetown (tel: 431-5151; fax: 436-7957).

Caldon Finance Merchant Bank Ltd, Hilton Hotel, 7 Shopping Arcade, St Michael (tel: 437-7550; fax: 436-4999).

Caribbean Commercial Bank, PO Box 1007C, Broad St, Bridgetown (tel: 431-2500; fax: 431-2530).

Caribbean Development Bank, PO Box 408 Wildey, St Michael, Barbados (tel: 431-1600; fax: 426-7269).

Intel Overseas Bank Inc, Suite No 7, Goding House, Spry St, Bridgetown (tel: 436-8826).

Mutual Bank of the Caribbean Inc, Triden House, Lower Broad St, Bridgetown (tel: 436-8335; fax: 429-5734).

Nations of the World: A Political, Economic and Business Handbook

Royal Bank of Canada, PO Box 68, Broad Street, Bridgetown (tel: 431-6700; fax: 427-8393).

Central bank

Central Bank of Barbados, Spry Street, PO Box 1016, Bridgetown (tel: 436-6870; fax: 427-3334; e-mail: cbb.lib@caribsurf.com).

Stock exchange

Barbados Stock Exchange (BSE)

www.bse.com.bb

Travel information

Caribbean Airways, Terminal 1, Grantley Adams International Airport, Christ Church (tel: 428-1950; fax: 428-1652; e-mail: info@caribairways.com; internet site: www.caribairways.com).

Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and International Transport, Tourism Division, Sherbourne Conference Centre, Two Mile Hill, St Michael (tel: 436-4830; fax: 436-4828).

National tourist organisation offices

Barbados Tourism Authority, Harbour Road, PO Box 242, Bridgetown (tel: 427-2623/4; fax: 426-4080; email: btainfo@barbados.org; internet: www.barbados.org).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Graeme Hall, Christ Church (tel: 428-4061; fax: 420-8444).

Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture, Jemmotts Ln, St Michael (tel: 426-5416; fax: 436-2411).

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Civil Service, Government Headquarters, Bay St, St Michael (tel: 426-3179; fax: 436-9280).

Ministry of Health and the Environment, Jemmotts Ln, St Michael (tel: 426-4669; fax: 426-5570).

Ministry of Home Affairs, Sir Frank Walcott Bldg, Culloden Rd, St Michael (tel: 431-7750; fax: 437-3794).

Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Business Development, Reef Rd, Fontabelle, St Michael (tel: 426-4452; fax: 431-0056).

Ministry of International Trade and Business, 1 Culloden Rd, St Michael (tel: 427-0427; fax: 429-6652).

Ministry of Labour, Community Development and Sports, National Insurance Bldg, Fairchild St, Bridgetown, St Michael (tel: 427-2326; fax: 426-8959).

Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing, The Pine, St Michael (tel: 429-3495; fax: 437-8133).

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce, Savannah Lodge, Garrison, St Michael (tel: 427-270).

Prime Minister's Office, Government Headquarters, Bay St, St Michael (tel: 426-3179; fax: 436-9280).

Other useful addresses

Barbados External Telecommunications, Wildey, St Michael (tel: 427-5200; fax: 427-5808).

Barbados Investment and Development Corporation, Pelican House, Princess Alice Highway, St Michael (tel: 427-5350; fax: 426-7802; internet site: <http://www.bidc.com/index.htm>).

Barbados Manufacturers' Association, Prescod Blvd, Harbour Road, Bridgetown (tel: 426-4474, 427-9898; fax: 436-5182).

Barbados National Trust, 10th Avenue Relleville, St Michael (tel: 436-9033);

Barbados Tourism Investment Inc, 2nd Floor, Nemwil House, Collymore Rock, St. Michael (tel: 426-7085; fax: 426-7086; e-mail: btii@tourisminvest.com.bb; internet site:

<http://barbadostourisminvestment.com>).

British High Commission, PO Box 676, Lower Collymore Rock, St Michael (tel: 436-6694; fax: 436-5398, 426-7916).

Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, PO Box 900, Bridgetown (tel: 429-2041).

The Future Centre Trust, Edgehill Street, St Thomas (fax: 425-0075).

US Embassy, PO Box 302, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Building, Broad Street, Bridgetown (tel: 436-4950; fax: 429-5246).

National news agency: Caribbean News Agency (Cana)

Caribbean Media Corporation, Harbour Industrial Estate, Unit 1B, Building 6A, St Michael, BB11145 (tel: 467-1000; fax: 429-4355; email: admin@cmccaribbean.com; internet: www.cananews.net).

Other news agencies: Caribbean Net News: www.caribbeannetnews.com

Internet sites

Barbados Cruise Tourism: www.cruisebarbados.com

Government information service: www.bgis.gov.bb

Barbados government portal: www.gov.bb

Barbados Nation (newspaper): <http://nationnews.com>

Travel and Tourism Encyclopedia: www.barbados.org