

# Guatemala



## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** República de Guatemala (Republic of Guatemala)

**Head of State:** President Otto Pérez Molina (PP) (took office 14 Jan 2012)

**Head of government:** President Otto Pérez Molina (PP) (from 14 Jan 2012)

**Ruling party:** Coalition led by Partido Patriota (PP) (Patriotic Party) (from 14 Jan 2012)

**Area:** 108,890 square km

**Population:** 15.11 million (2012)\*

**Capital:** Guatemala City

**Official language:** Spanish

**Currency:** Quetzal (Q) = 100 centavos

**Exchange rate:** Q7.84 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

**GDP per capita:** US\$3,302 (2012)\*

**GDP real growth:** 3.00% (2012)\*

**GDP:** US\$49.88 billion (2012)\*

**Inflation:** 3.78% (2012)\*

**Balance of trade:** -US\$4.96 billion (2011)

\* estimated figure

In January 2012 a Guatemalan judge ordered General Efraín Ríos Montt, the republic's President during what became accepted as the most violent period of Guatemala's civil war from 1982 to 1983, to stand trial on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. The Guatemalan courts moved with surprising rapidity; by May 2013 a Guatemalan court found the former general guilty on both charges. Ríos Montt, who is 86 years old, was sentenced to 80 years in prison: 50 years for genocide and 30 years for crimes against humanity. He was sent directly from the courtroom to prison, the first former head of state to be convicted of genocide in its own court system.

## Justice?

The verdict was short lived, however. Sr Montt, had been found guilty of overseeing the murder by the armed forces of over 1,700 members of the Maya Ixil population. Hardly had the ink dried on the sentence when Guatemala's Constitutional Court ordered that all the proceedings be declared void, the order backdated to April when one of the presiding judges had suspended the trial because of a dispute with another judge over who should hear it. It was unclear when the trial might restart. The conviction had been hailed as a landmark for justice in troubled and turbulent Guatemala, where, astonishingly, an estimated 250,000 people died in the

civil war which lasted from 1960 to 1996. The Rios Montt government had embarked on an offensive which gave soldiers *carte blanche* to torture and kill any Maya villagers suspected of assisting Marxist rebels.

Conspiracy theories abounded among the legal confusion and contradictions surrounding the apparent acquittal – not least because at the time US President Reagan had been a strong supporter of Rios Montt, as had Guatemala's incumbent President Pérez Molina, a former general and a commander under Rios Montt, who despite the court's findings, had insisted that no genocide took place in Guatemala. Apparently boxed into a corner, Pérez Molina also claimed that he respected the independence of the judiciary and the trial's judgement, adding that the verdict was not final until all appeals had been heard. Predictably, Guatemala's business lobby, the Comité de Asociaciones Agrícolas, Comerciales, Industriales y Financieras (CACIF) (Co-ordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Financial Associations) had challenged the court's findings alleging 'grave errors' in the legal process. Quite coincidentally, the president's spokesman and CACIF both accused 'foreign organisations of interfering in the judicial process.'

As noted in a report prepared for the US government's Congressional Research Service, on taking office in early 2012, Mr Pérez Molina had quickly created a ministry of social development to implement social policy. The ministry was to oversee

the cash transfer programmes like the Mi Familia Progresá (My Family Progresses) initiative introduced in 2008 as a key part of former President Colom's antipoverty agenda. It included food pantries and cash payments of US\$40 per month for some 815,000 poor families to ensure that children were in school and received vaccines regularly. In March 2012, the then US secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton, praised 'the quick work that President Pérez Molina in Guatemala has shown in creating a tax system aimed at beginning to collect taxes from the elites in that country.' Guatemala had long had one of the lowest tax collection rates in Latin America (11.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2011, according to the US Department of State) and the private sector had fiercely resisted fiscal reform initiatives designed to provide the government with more resources to strengthen institutions and fight corruption. The two bills proposed by President Pérez Molina and passed by the legislature in February 2012 were expected to provide 1.1 per cent to 1.3 per cent of GDP in additional revenue for social programmes and improvements in security.

### Hammer

In late 2012, the Guatemalan military was still playing a major role in domestic security, working with US troops and law enforcement agencies, despite increased concern on the part of human rights organisations over governmental disregard for human rights and corruption. On the 2012 Transparency International

1 *Corruption Perceptions Index* Guatemala ranked an undistinguished 118, alongside Albania and Niger. Some small consolation could be derived for the sad fact that five Latin American republics, including Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, ranked even lower. Many of these concerns focused on the alleged links between former (and probably serving) military and the drug gangs. The collateral damage resulting from these murky relationships risked endangering Guatemala's valued relationship with the US, a relationship that historically had resulted in Guatemala being seen as the prototype 'Banana Republic'. None the less, in 2012 the Guatemalan government had been bent on strengthening ties with the United States military. US Marines operated from a Guatemalan Pacific Coast base as part of the US-led antidrug campaign, Operation Martillo (Hammer), endeavouring to intercept and prevent cocaine shipments.

There could be little doubt that Guatemala needed to do something about its drug dealings. Guatemalan officials had estimated that up to 60 per cent of Guatemalan territory might be under the effective control of drug traffickers. In addition, Guatemala's widespread poverty and high levels of inequality and unemployment meant that much of its population was vulnerable to crime. Almost one in four (23.3 per cent) of Guatemalan respondents in a 2010 survey reported being the victim of a crime in the previous year, ranking Guatemala only behind El Salvador among the Central American nations. The rate of homicides in Guatemala in 2010 was about 41 per 100,000 inhabitants, placing Guatemala in the middle of the region, at fourth of seven. Though still relatively high, the government could take some pride that the 2010 homicide rate was the lowest it had been since 2005.

### The economy

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Guatemala's GDP grew by 3.3 per cent in 2012 compared with 4.1 per cent in 2011 owing to a slowdown in consumption and exports as the United States economy lost momentum amid growing risks and the worsening situation in the euro-zone. The year-on-year inflation was put at 3.8 per cent at the end of the year, as against 6.2 per cent in 2011. The ministry of finance estimates that the fiscal deficit will stand at 2.2 per cent of GDP (2.8 per cent in 2011). At 11.4 per cent of GDP, the goods

## KEY INDICATORS

## Guatemala

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	*13.69	*14.03	*14.38	*14.74	*15.11
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	39.10	37.30	41.50	46.90	*49.88
GDP per capita	US\$	2,862	2,662	2,888	3,182	*3,302
GDP real growth	%	3.3	0.5	2.8	3.8	*3.0
Inflation	%	11.4	1.9	3.9	6.2	*3.8
Industrial output	% change	1.4	-2.1	0.7	–	–
Agricultural output	% change	2.0	3.8	0.6	–	–
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	7,846.4	7,330.5	8,565.9	10,517.3	–
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	13,421.2	10,621.9	12,858.2	15,481.9	–
Balance of trade	US\$m	-5,574.8	-3,301.4	-4,293.3	-4,964.5	–
Current account	US\$m	-1,843.8	7.0	-878.3	-1,528.9	*-1,770.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	4,461.9	4,963.6	5,636.8	5,968.2	–
Foreign exchange	US\$m	4,458.4	4,690.3	5,369.4	5,690.6	–
Exchange rate	per US\$	7.56	8.16	8.06	7.76	7.84
* estimated figure						

and services trade deficit was 0.5 percentage points higher than the figure for the previous year. The balance of payments current account deficit edged up, from 3.1 per cent of GDP in 2011 to 3.6 per cent in 2012.

ECLAC expected the Guatemalan economy to grow by as much as 3.5 per cent in 2013, largely due to greater domestic investment. The fiscal reforms adopted in 2012 meant that the tax burden (the amount of income, property, or sales tax levied on an individual or business) was expected to reach 11.8 per cent of GDP. The Banco de Guatemala (central bank) forecast inflation to reach between 3 per cent and 5 per cent. The extensive reforms included in the 2012 tax update law – most of which focussed on income tax changes – were approved by Congress. Over the period 2012–15 the tax measures were expected to generate additional revenues of some 1.5 per cent.

Central government revenue rose by an estimated 1.6 per cent in 2012, significantly below the 8.6 per cent increase registered in 2011. Government expenditure fell by 2.7 per cent as budget under execution caused capital expenditure to drop by 11.9 per cent. The fiscal deficit for 2012 was 2.2 per cent. Despite a generally sound economic environment, all three credit rating agencies (Moody's, Standard and Poor's and Fitch) kept Guatemala's rating at below investment grade with a stable outlook. GDP growth in 2012 was 3.1 per cent, helped by a 3.9 per cent increase in the construction sector and a 3.5 per cent rise in the financial and commercial sectors. Agriculture, manufacturing and mining all expanded, by 3.1 per cent, 2.3 per cent and 2.1 respectively. However, exports only rose by 1 per cent, which marked a severe drop from the 22.9 per cent increase of 2011. Import growth was also down, registering 4.5 per cent, against 20.1 per cent in 2011.

Fixed investment rose by 3.7 per cent, down on the 5.4 per cent seen in 2011. Although private investment increased by 7.7 per cent, public investment slumped, falling by 13.7 per cent. The consumer price index rose by 3.8 per cent, which was comfortably within the target of between 3.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent and lower than the 6.2 per cent of 2011. Unemployment rose slightly, from 4.1 per cent in 2011 to 4.3 per cent, reflecting a healthy level of foreign direct investment (FDI) at US\$1,083 billion (a ten per cent increase), Guatemala's overall balance of payments was expected to show a surplus

of US\$651 million, an increase of US\$445 million.

**Risk assessment**

Politics	Poor
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Good

**COUNTRY PROFILE**

**Historical profile**

1523–24 Pedro de Alvarado defeated the indigenous Mayan peoples and created Guatemala as a Spanish colony.  
 1821 The Central American provinces (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador) declared independence from Spain.  
 1822 Central American provinces annexed to the Mexican Empire, under General Agustín de Iturbide, later Emperor Agustín I.  
 1823 Agustín I was overthrown and Mexico became a republic. The Central American states formed the United Provinces of Central America.  
 1825 Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador formed the Central American Federation (CAF).  
 1838 The CAF was dissolved and Guatemala became a fully independent republic.  
 1844–65 Guatemala was ruled by conservative dictator Rafael Carrera.  
 1873–85 Liberal, Rufino Barrios, became president, he attempted to modernise the country by developing an army and introducing coffee plantations.  
 1930 General Jorge Ubico began his repressive dictatorship.  
 1941 Guatemala declared war on the Axis Powers.  
 1944 Ubico was overthrown in a popular revolution. Juan José Arevalo headed a new government that introduced social reforms, including a social security system and land redistribution.  
 1951 Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán became president and stepped up the reforms.  
 1954 A US-backed *coup d'état*, led by Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas and prompted by the US United Fruit Company when disused land it owned was nationalised, overthrew the democratically elected government. A military dictatorship was installed.  
 1957 Castillo Armas was assassinated.  
 1958 Miguel Ramon Ydígoras Fentes took control and his autocratic rule led to a failed military revolt by junior officers in 1960. Most leaders of armed insurrection for the next 36 years of civil war were part of this group.  
 1963 Enrique Peralta became president following a coup and civilian administration was completely assumed by the military whose power and influence

increased. Widespread repression of opposition groups increased as leaders were targeted for assassination or 'disappearance'. Insurgents countered with sabotage and violent guerrilla tactics.  
 1966 Civilian rule was restored when César Méndez of the Revolucionario Partido (PR) (Revolutionary Party) was elected president. Nevertheless, the military launched a major counterinsurgency campaign, which crippled the guerrilla movement in the countryside.  
 1970 Carlos Arena, backed by the military and the US, was elected president.  
 1976 An earthquake struck just south-west of Guatemala City killing around 27,000 people and leaving one million citizens homeless.  
 1978–1984 Over 90 per cent of all atrocities occurred during this time as government forces and insurgents battled. The most frequent victims were the ethnic Mayan population who were attacked by both sides and accused of being collaborators or sympathisers of the opposition.  
 1980 Thirty seven people died in the Spanish Embassy siege in Guatemala City, when Mayan peasant farmers were protesting about military repression.  
 1981 Left-wing insurgent groups unified to become Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) (National Guatemalan Revolutionary Unit).  
 1982 General Efraín Ríos Montt seized power in a military coup. His dictatorship was in power during the bloodiest period of the civil war.  
 1983 Montt was ousted by General Mejía Victores, who declared an amnesty on guerrillas.  
 1985 Marco Vinicio Cerezo was elected president and Democracia Cristiana Guatemalteca (DCG) (Guatemalan Christian Democracy) won legislative elections.  
 1989 An attempt to overthrow Cerezo failed.  
 1991 Jorge Serrano Elias was elected president.  
 1993 Serrano's attempt to impose an authoritarian regime led to mass demonstrations and he was forced to resign. Ramiro de Leon Carpio was elected president by the legislature.  
 1994 Peace talks began between the government and the URNG.  
 1995 The URNG declared a cease-fire. The UN and the US criticised the government for widespread human rights violations and the deaths of more than 200,000 civilians during the civil war.  
 1996 After a civil war lasting 36 years, a peace treaty was signed. Alvaro Arzú and his Partido de Avanzada Nacional (PAN) (National Advancement Party) won the subsequent presidential and National Congress elections. Arzú began a purge

on senior military officers implicated in human rights violations.

1999 A UN-sponsored investigation found that the security forces were responsible for 93 per cent of all human rights atrocities committed during the civil war and that the military had overseen 626 massacres in Mayan villages. Alfonso Portillo of the Frente Republicano Guatemalteco (FRG) (Guatemalan Republican Front) was elected president.

2000 Portillo was sworn in as president.

2001 A foreign exchange law allowed the free circulation of US dollars; citizens and companies were allowed to hold US dollar bank deposits without prior authorisation. The government paid US\$1.8 million in compensation to the families of 226 victims killed by soldiers and death squads in the village of Las Dos Erres in 1982.

2003 The ruling FRG was defeated by the Gran Alianza Nacional (GANAN) (Grand National Alliance) in the parliamentary elections. Óscar Berger Perdomo (GANAN) became president.

2004 Former dictator, Ríos Montt, was put under house arrest on charges of inciting a riot, and genocide relating to atrocities carried out when he was in power. The State accepted responsibility for more human rights violations during the civil war; US\$3.5 million was paid out to victims.

2005 The government signed the Central American Free Trade Agreement (Cafta) with the US and five other Central American and Caribbean states, amid anti-US demonstrations. Hurricane Stan hit the region causing 699 deaths; over 35,000 homes were destroyed and there were numerous landslides and extensive flooding. In the US, Guatemala's top anti-drugs investigator was arrested on drug trafficking charges.

2006 Manslaughter charges against Ríos Montt were dropped.

2007 In parliamentary elections the opposition Unidad Nacional de la Esperanza (UNE) (National Union of Hope) won 48 seats out of 158. Álvaro Colom (UNE) won the presidential election.

2008 Former president Alfonso Portillo Cabrera was extradited from Mexico to face fraud charges over the loss of US\$15 million of government money. Premium Guatemalan coffee reached a record US\$80.20 per pound, the highest price offered in the world.

2009 The IMF approved a US\$935 million credit line to Guatemala as a stand-by arrangement providing a liquidity cushion during the global economic crisis.

2010 Tropical storm Agatha, killed more than 90 people and around 4,000 people were forced to evacuate their homes,

while a 30m-diameter, 60m deep sink-hole swallowed a three-storey building in Guatemala City. Many bridges were swept away and mudslides closed the traffic along 100km stretch of the Pan-American Highway. Further heavy rains caused by Hurricane Frank, resulted in mudslides in the highlands that killed dozens and the Pan-American Highway was again cut, in over 30 places. Work carried out after the May storm was mostly undone. At the end of a year of natural disasters that caused an estimated US\$1.55 billion in damages and a loss of 4.1 per cent of GDP, the World Bank approved a US\$100 million loan to provide emergency assistance and preserve health and education services in Guatemala.

2011 In March US Secretary General Ban Ki-moon voiced anxiety at the deterioration in personal security in Guatemala, with one of the World's highest rates of gun-crime and deaths, as well as reported human rights abuses. In March, President Colom's wife, Sandra Torres de Colom, confirmed that she would be divorcing her husband so she could stand for election to succeed him. The constitution bans close relatives of the president from standing. In April a court put the divorce on hold after complaints it was aimed at bypassing the constitution; nevertheless a family court granted the divorce. In June the Organisation of American States (OAS) called on member-states to co-operate to improve citizen security and endorse measures to stop drugs, arms and people trafficking. In August, the Constitutional Court ruled that Sandra Torres was ineligible to run as president, despite her divorce from Álvaro Colom, which they regarded as a political ploy. Ten candidates took part in the first round of presidential elections held on 11 September in which Otto Pérez Molina (PP) won 31.1 per cent of the vote, Manuel Baldizón (Lider) 22.68 per cent and Eduardo Suger (CREO) 16.62 per cent; as none won more than 50 per cent of the vote a runoff was held on 6 November in which Molina won 53.74 per cent and Baldizón 46.26 per cent.

2012 President Otto Pérez Molina (PP) took office 14 January. On 27 January former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt was charged with genocide and crimes against humanity for the deaths of over 1,700 indigenous people in 1982–83. On 23 October, parliament approved a US\$8.5 billion, 2013 budget that included a 23 per cent increase in defence spending. The government plans to open five new military bases, to train 2,500 more soldiers (before 2016) to deal with drug cartels and street gangs.

2013 An earthquake of magnitude 6.5 at a depth of 95km struck off the west coast of Guatemala on 6 September.

### Political structure

In addition to their unicameral national parliaments, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic also return directly-elected deputies to the supranational Central American Parliament.

### Constitution

The constitution, which came into effect in 1986 (replacing the 1966 constitution suspended in 1982), created a representative system of government in which power is exercised equally by the legislative, executive and judicial arms. Guatemala is divided into 22 provinces, subdivided into municipalities.

### Form of state

Presidential democratic republic

### The executive

Executive power is held by the president, directly elected for four years, assisted by a vice president and an appointed cabinet.

### National legislature

The unicameral Congreso de la República (Congress of the Republic), has 158 directly elected deputies, of which 29 are elected from a nationwide list and the remainder from district lists (relating to departments, with the capital divided into two districts). All deputies serve for four-year terms. No political party can win outright power and must form a coalition. Congress is responsible for all legislative matters, including approving the budget and decreeing taxes by means of an absolute majority. All laws involving constitutional change or any international treaty or agreement affecting the sovereignty of the state must secure a two-thirds majority.

### Legal system

Guatemala has a civil law system with judicial review of legislative acts. The Supreme Court serves as the highest appeal court in the country; there is also a separate Court of Constitutionality and a Supreme Electoral Tribunal. The country does not accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

### Last elections

11 September and 6 November 2011 (presidential, first round and runoff); 11 September 2011 (parliamentary)

**Results:** Presidential (first round): Otto Pérez Molina (PP) won 31.1 per cent of the vote, Manuel Baldizón (Lider) 22.68 per cent, Eduardo Suger (CREO) 16.62 per cent, Mario Estrada (UCN) 8.72 per cent; six other candidates each won less than 6.5 per cent of the vote. Runoff: Molina won 53.74 per cent and Baldizón

46.26 per cent; turnout was 60.82 per cent.

Parliamentary: Partido Patriota (PP) (Patriotic Party) won 26.62 per cent of the vote (56 seats out of 158), Unidad Nacional de la Esperanza – Gran Alianza Nacional (UNE-GANA) (National Union of Hope – Grand National Alliance) 22.57 per cent (48), Union del Cambio Nacionalista (UCN) (Nationalist Change Union) 9.5 per cent (14), Libertad Democrática Renovada (Lider) (Renewed Democratic Liberty) 8.87 per cent (14), Compromiso, Renovación y Orden (CREO) (Commitment, Renewal and Order) 8.67 per cent (12); six other political parties and coalitions each won less than 8 per cent and shared the remaining 14 seats, three other political parties failed to win any seats. Turnout was 69.3 per cent.

#### **Next elections**

2015 (presidential and parliamentary)

#### **Political parties**

##### **Ruling party**

Coalition led by Partido Patriota (PP) (Patriotic Party) (from 14 Jan 2012)

##### **Main opposition party**

To be announced

#### **Population**

15.11 million (2012)\*

**Last census:** November 2002:

11,237,196

**Population density:** 101.8 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 49 per cent (2010 Unicef).

**Annual growth rate:** 2.4 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

#### **Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)**

250,000 (UNHCR 2004)

#### **Ethnic make-up**

A high proportion of the population belongs to 22 Mayan ethno-linguistic groups, conserving the cultural heritage of their ancestors. Their numbers are disputed but they constitute at least 45 per cent of the population and possibly as much as 60 per cent. Many of the inhabitants of the Caribbean coast are of Afro-Caribbean origin.

#### **Religions**

The constitution guarantees freedom of worship. Catholicism is the most widespread religion, although large numbers of conversions have been made in recent years by Protestant churches, including mainstream non-conformists and US-based fundamentalist sects. Protestant leaders claim to have converted some 30 per cent of the population and are playing an increasingly active role in the country's politics. Some indigenous communities hold services combining Catholicism with pre-Columbian rites.

#### **Education**

Elementary education is free and lasts for six years and secondary education, which begins at age 13, for a further six years, divided into two three-year courses.

There are five universities, three of which are private, located in Guatemala City and Quetzaltenango, the country's second-largest city.

**Literacy rate:** 70 per cent adult rate; 80 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

**Compulsory years:** Seven to 14 in urban areas only.

**Enrolment rate:** 90 per cent total primary enrolment of the relevant age group; 26 per cent total enrolment in secondary schools, of the relevant age group; enrolment in tertiary education is less than 10 per cent.

**Pupils per teacher:** 35 in primary schools.

#### **Health**

Healthcare remains inadequate with 80 per cent of spending and hospitals confined in the two major cities.

#### **HIV/Aids**

**HIV prevalence:** 1.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

**Life expectancy:** 68 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

**Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:** 4.0 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality 2.9 per 1,000 live births (World Bank).

**Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000):** 32 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); 44 per cent of children aged under five are malnourished (World Bank).

#### **Welfare**

Social security, which is compulsory, covers health and hospital care as well as industrial accidents, disability and widowhood for registered workers. All employers with five or more workers are required by law to register with the State Institute of Social Security.

#### **Main cities**

Guatemala City (capital, estimated population 1.1 million in 2012), Villa Nueva (846,473), Mixco (769,040), Chiantla (178,428), Quetzaltenango (167,200), Escuintla (166,830), Chimaltenango (159,839).

#### **Languages spoken**

Approximately 22 Indian languages are widely spoken throughout the highlands, including Quiché, Cakchiquel, Mam and Kekchi. About 40 per cent of all Guatemalan children enter school with no knowledge of Spanish.

English is spoken in almost all tourist areas.

#### **Official language/s**

Spanish

#### **Media**

The constitution guarantees freedom of the press. Private, independently owned media outlets dominate the market.

#### **Press**

Most of Guatemala's media is privately owned. Journalists have reported incidents of intimidation particularly following articles exposing corruption.

**Dailies:** In Spanish, national newspapers include *Prensa Libre* ([www.prensalibre.com](http://www.prensalibre.com)), *La Hora* ([www.lahora.com.gt](http://www.lahora.com.gt)) and *El Periodico* and are broadsheets with articles on business and finance, while *Siglo Veintiuno* ([www.sigloxxi.com](http://www.sigloxxi.com)) is a tabloid style newspaper.

Regional newspapers, in Spanish, include *El Metropolitano*

([www.elmetropolitano.net](http://www.elmetropolitano.net)) with local editions in five cities. Other local publications such as *Diario de Centroamérica* ([www.dca.gob.gt](http://www.dca.gob.gt)), *Nuestro Diario* ([www.nuestrodiario.com](http://www.nuestrodiario.com)) and *El Quetzalteco* ([www.elquetzalteco.com.gt](http://www.elquetzalteco.com.gt)) are tabloid style newspapers.

In English, the *Guatemala Times* ([www.guatemala-times.com](http://www.guatemala-times.com)) is an online publication.

#### **Broadcasting**

The state-owned Radiodifusión y Televisión Nacional operates public broadcasting.

**Radio:** The state-owned Radio TGW ([www.radiotgw.gob.gt](http://www.radiotgw.gob.gt)) operates a network of five radio stations, providing news, educational and cultural programmes, however it has low audience numbers. It competes with dozens of commercial stations, located regionally and locally and many of them broadcasting at least part of the time in indigenous languages. In Spanish, news and information stations include *Emisoras Unidas* (<http://radio.emisorasunidas.com>), a national network, *Radio Sonora* ([www.sonora.com.gt](http://www.sonora.com.gt)) and *Radio Punto* ([www.radiopunto.com](http://www.radiopunto.com)).

Christian churches operate several radio stations which broadcast from rural areas, including *Radio Cultural TGN* ([www.radiocultural.com](http://www.radiocultural.com)), broadcasting in several languages.

**Television:** There is no public TV. The majority of commercial TV is owned by a few elites. TV channels broadcasting on terrestrial and satellite include *Canal 3* ([www.canal3.com.gt](http://www.canal3.com.gt)), *Telesiete* ([www.canal7.com.gt](http://www.canal7.com.gt)), *Vea Canal* ([www.veacanal.com](http://www.veacanal.com)), *Guatevision* ([www.guatevision.com](http://www.guatevision.com)), *TeleOnce*, *Trecevision* and *Latitud*.

The Comtech cable TV channel operates Claro TV ([www.comtech.net.gt](http://www.comtech.net.gt)) in Guatemala City.

**Other news agencies:** Inforpress (in Spanish and English):

[www.inforpressca.com](http://www.inforpressca.com)

Prensa Latina (from Cuba, in six languages): [www.prensa-latina.com.ar](http://www.prensa-latina.com.ar)

### Economy

The economy is driven by the service sector, which constituted 67.6 per cent of GDP in 2010; agriculture contributes 12.9 per cent and industry over 19.5 per cent. Cash crops for export include coffee, bananas and sugar which are typically produced on commercial farms. However, the majority of farming is subsistence as multinational agri-businesses occupy much of the prime agricultural land. Industry is dominated by light manufacturing establishments, many of which are located in free-trade-zones, including textiles, general assembly of machinery and equipment, electronic equipment and electrical appliances.

GDP growth was 3.3 per cent in 2008, falling to a low of 0.5 per cent in 2009.

The economy did not fall into recession, despite the drop in international trade during the global economic crisis. The economy grew by 2.8 per cent in 2010 and higher still to an estimated 3.8 per cent in 2011.

Inequality and social outcomes in Guatemala are particularly stark. In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Guatemala 131 (out of 187), the highest of a Latin American country, for national development in health, education and income. In 2009, according to the Central American Centre for Economic and Social Rights, 50 per cent of children under the age of five suffered from chronic malnutrition and one in three did not complete primary education. Since 2000, Guatemala's HDI progress has grown but has not matched the improvement of other countries in Latin American and Caribbean countries. In 2010, 49.1 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty, while 13.1 per cent lived on less than the equivalent of US\$1.25 per day; the headcount poverty rate was 25.9 per cent of the population (2000–10).

Remittances are important not only to the general economy but also to household budgets. Remittances from migrant workers (mainly in the US) amounted to US\$4.2 billion (10.2 per cent of GDP) in 2010 and was estimated to have reached US\$4.5 billion in 2011.

There were a series of natural disasters in 2010, including a volcanic eruption, a tropical storm and a gigantic sink hole that opened up and swallowed a

multi-storey building, which did not unduly affect the economy, despite the loss of life, disruption to transportation and damage to infrastructure and agricultural crops.

### External trade

Guatemala is a member of the Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-Cafta), which includes the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras and the US. It is also a member of the Central American Common Market (CACM), along with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

### Imports

Principal imports are foodstuffs including grain, petroleum, vehicles, clothing and other consumer goods, and construction materials.

**Main sources:** US (38.1 per cent of total in 2012), Mexico (11.3 per cent), China (7.5 per cent).

### Exports

Principal exports are coffee (typically around 40 per cent of annual total), light assembly products, processed food, textiles, sugar, rum, bananas, cardamom and cut flowers.

**Main destinations:** US (41 per cent of total in 2012), El Salvador (11 per cent), Honduras (7.9 per cent).

### Agriculture

Guatemala's most important economic sector is agriculture. The sector accounts for approximately 25 per cent of total GDP and employs about half of the country's total workforce. Despite the agricultural sector's high employment level, the number of jobs in the sector is falling due to increased mechanisation. Approximately 17 per cent of Guatemala's total land mass is cultivated arable land, 10 per cent pasture and 35 per cent forest. Throughout the 1990s, Guatemala was relatively successful in establishing agricultural diversification, in an effort to buttress export earnings against commodity price fluctuations. It also sought to encourage the development of processing and packaging plants so as to upgrade the value of farm exports. Most of this took place in the highland areas where there is a good supply of land and labour. The production of fresh and frozen vegetables and ornamental plants and flowers has been particularly successful.

Production is mainly export-oriented, the major cash crops being coffee (the largest single earner of foreign exchange), sugar cane, bananas, cotton, cardamom (Guatemala accounts for over 90 per cent of world trade in cardamom) and tobacco. Vegetables such as mangetout, broccoli and asparagus, as well as a wide variety of fruits, are exported to the US and Europe.

Coffee growers plan to double the country's production between 1998–2008.

Coffee has suffered from poor global commodity prices, although rising output has helped offset some of the losses.

Maize is the main food crop, although rice and wheat are also grown. Agricultural produce also includes cocoa, beans and flowers.

Foreign investment has so far been limited as a result of the absence of a domestic land market. Land is regarded as an indication of wealth and most owners leave it fallow if they choose not to plant. Land distribution is uneven, with just under 80 per cent of all farms under 3.5 hectares (ha) and 1 per cent over 2,500ha. Most foreign participation is concentrated on the non-traditional agricultural crops now emerging as major export earners.

Guatemala's typical catch is approximately 14,300 tonnes (t), 9,800t freshwater fish inclusive.

Approximately 35 per cent of Guatemala's total land mass is covered by forests. Some 20 per cent of Guatemala's land area is protected against industrial exploitation.

Softwood conifers account for 22 per cent with broad-leaved species, including valuable hardwoods such as mahogany, cedar and rosewood, accounting for the rest. Other forest products include rubber and chicle, an important chewing gum base, which is extracted in the forested Petén region.

The majority of timber production is consumed as domestic fuel, while a modest amount of sawnwood is exported. Much of the domestic demand for paper is met by imports.

### Industry and manufacturing

Guatemala has a well developed industrial sector and the sector as a whole contributes approximately one fifth to GDP in a typical year. Industry contributes around 20 per cent to GDP (manufacturing contributes around 14 per cent) and employs 15 per cent of the workforce. Industry is primarily involved in activities related to agricultural inputs for major firms involved in food and drink processing, rubber, textiles, pottery, paper and pharmaceuticals. Other important industries are the assembly of electronic products, manufacture of furniture, canned goods, oil refining, cement, metals (especially steel), electrical goods assembly, plastics, chemicals, fertilisers and cigarettes.

Social and industrial unrest, high energy costs, shortages of imported materials and a slump in private and public investment have severely hampered industrial production. However, major government house building and infrastructural repair plans since the end of the civil war seem

to have given a significant boost to the construction industry, although construction as a proportion of GDP has shrunk in recent years.

### Tourism

Guatemala has many archaeological sites, natural reserves and mountains, a stretch of the Pacific Ocean coast, as well as a much smaller stretch that opens to the Caribbean Sea to attract visitors. It is bordered by four countries that allow visitors overland access, as well as welcoming cruise ships and international flights. There are three sites in Guatemala included on Unesco's World Heritage List, including a historic town centre, ruins of the Mayan civilisation and Tikal National Park, home to jungle flora and fauna. Travel and tourism accounts for around 10 per cent of GDP, and employs around 8 per cent of the total workforce (390,000 jobs). In 2010 visitor revenue was US\$1.4 billion, which was a rise of 9.4 per cent on the 2009 US\$1.2 billion earned.

### Mining

The Alta Verapaz copper mine represents the main mining operation in Guatemala. In addition to copper, tungsten and antimony there are also exploitable reserves of marble and sulphur. Deposits of lead, zinc, gold and silver are also known to exist.

Lead is mined at Ballena and Penasco by Cía Minas de Oriente SA (Minersa). Reserves are estimated at 2.2 million tonnes and contain 86 grammes per tonne of silver. Minas de Guatemala operates the Annabella and Los Lirios antimony and tungsten mines, producing about 1,800 tonnes per month of ore (6 per cent antimony, 0.5 per cent lead). The Oxec copper mine, worked by Transmetales in Alta Verapaz, has a capacity of 150,000 tonnes per year. The country's major mineral resource is laterite, with the El Estor deposits estimated at 50 million tonnes. In August 2005 the World Bank was criticised for its role in funding a gold mining project in Guatemala. The Bank was criticised for not consulting the local community properly and for failing to evaluate the humanitarian or environmental implications of the proposed facility.

### Hydrocarbons

Guatemala is one of only two oil-producing countries in Central America. Proven oil reserves were 83 million barrels in 2007, though actual reserves are thought to be as much as 1 billion barrels. Oil production was 15,820 barrels per day (bpd), a decrease on the 20,140bpd figure recorded in 2006. Most production occurs in the northern jungle areas, near to the border with Mexico. Guatemala

had a small refinery but it was closed down in 2002.

Gas reserves were 2.96 billion cubic metres (cum) in 2006, but Guatemala does not consume or import natural gas. Guatemala and Mexico signed a protocol for the construction of a natural gas pipeline from southern Mexico to Guatemala but by 2009 it had not become operational. The pipeline was to be part of a wider Central America gas pipeline network to meet an initial demand estimated at about 1.1 million cum per day, but which is still at the design stage. It should offer the potential to reduce the region's reliance on seasonally-dependent hydroelectric power.

Guatemala typically imports over 220,000 tonnes of coal annually. Coal is mainly used for primary energy production. Guatemala does not produce coal.

### Energy

Guatemala has a total electricity generation capacity of approximately 1.8GW. The San José power station is Central America's largest coal-fired power plant. Net installed capacity of 739kW is supplied by hydropower. Electricity consumption doubled between 1997–2005, from 3.2 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) to 6.4 billion kWh.

### Financial markets

#### Stock exchange

BVN (Bolsa de Valores Nacional) (Guatemala Stock Exchange)

#### Banking and insurance

The Guatemalan banking and financial services sector is organised under a central banking system, above which is the higher authority of the Monetary Board. There are 35 private commercial banks in Guatemala, but the banking market is dominated by a handful of large institutions. Some 40 per cent of total assets are in the hands of the five largest banks. Guatemala is no longer on the OECD Financial Action Task Force (FATF) list of non-co-operative countries regarding money laundering.

#### Central bank

Banco de Guatemala

#### Time

GMT minus six hours

### Geography

Guatemala has five distinct geographical zones. The first is the lowland Pacific strip running the length of the coastline, where the climate is tropical and summer rains are heavy. Most of the country's large sugar, banana and cotton farms are based here. Some 50km in from the coast the land rises to form the first of two mountain ranges running north-west to south-east. This range includes a string of

volcanoes. A plateau formed by a series of volcanic basins at an average height of 1,500 metres above sea level forms the third zone; the capital, Guatemala City, and most of the country's population are to be found here.

Another mountain range with peaks of over 4,000 metres forms the basis of the north-west highlands, tapering down to the border with Honduras and El Salvador at its south-east extremity, where most of the country's more than four million indigenous people live. Beyond the mountains the land falls rapidly into a flat expanse of tropical forest. This area, which accounts for the northern part of the departments of Izabal, El Quiché, and Alta Verapaz and all the 36,400 square km of El Petén department, remains one of the region's last wildernesses.

### Hemisphere

Northern

### Climate

The climate varies with altitude but is essentially sub-tropical with little variation between the seasons. The hottest month is May when the average daily minimum and maximum temperatures are 16 degrees Celsius (C) and 29 degrees C. The coldest month is January when the temperature varies between 12 degrees C and 23 degrees C. The driest month is February and the wettest June, when there is an average of 274mm of rainfall.

### Dress codes

Guatemalans are generally conservative in dress. Tropical lightweight suits are the accepted dress in business circles in the capital. Extremes of fashion should be avoided.

### Entry requirements

#### Passports

Required by all.

#### Visa

Visas are not required by most nationals of the Americas, EU, Australasia, and a few Asian countries, for between 1–3 months.

A business visa, requiring additional information to the visitor's visa, must be applied for before arrival. The application should include a company letter as proof of business intentions.

#### Currency advice/regulations

No restrictions on import/export of foreign currency. There is free circulation of US dollars.

### Health (for visitors)

#### Mandatory precautions

Cholera and yellow fever vaccination certificates are required from citizens of infected countries.

#### Advisable precautions

Malaria is prevalent in the low-lying areas outside the city, prophylaxes are

recommended. Dengue fever is endemic, although there is no preventive medication, mosquito repellent and clothing covering as much skin as possible at dawn and dusk should help. Inoculations are recommended against typhoid, hepatitis A and B and typhoid.

Guatemalan hospitals are reluctant to give medical treatment unless a patient has medical insurance, so evidence of insurance cover should be carried at all times. State-funded hospitals are regarded as understaffed, ill-equipped and often unhygienic. Private clinics should be used where possible.

Bottled water should be used. Milk is often unpasteurised and should be boiled; avoid dairy products which are likely to have been made from unboiled milk. Only eat hot well-cooked meat and fish. Pork, salad and mayonnaise carry increased risk. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled. There is a rabies risk.

### Hotels

In the main cities there are a range of good hotels, the range can be limited in provincial towns. Most charge 20 per cent room tax; 10 per cent is added where service charges are not levied.

### Public holidays (national)

#### Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year), 1 May (Labour Day), 30 Jun (Army Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 15 Sep (Independence Day), 20 Oct (Revolution Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 24 Dec (half-day), 25 Dec, 31 Dec (half-day).

#### Variable dates

Easter (Wed–Fri; Mar/Apr)

### Working hours

#### Banking

Generally Mon–Fri: 0900–1500.

#### Business

Mon–Fri: 0800–1600. Private companies Mon–Fri: 0800–1200, 1400–1800.

#### Government

Mon–Fri: 0800–1600.

#### Shops

Shopping centres (Mon–Sun) 0900–2000.

### Telecommunications

#### Mobile/cell phones

GSM 850/1900 services are available.

### Electricity supply

110V AC, 60 cycles

### Social customs/useful tips

Customs and social mores tend to mirror those of Catholic Europe or the more conservative southern states of the United States. Punctuality is not one of most Guatemalans' strongest points, although Western propensity for good time keeping

is recognised in their phrase 'English time'.

### Security

Security in the capital has become much more of a problem in recent years as street crime and house break-ins have risen. Armed mugging and gratuitous violence is common and most companies have armed guards and watchmen.

### Getting there

#### Air

**National airline:** TACA – an amalgamation of the flag airlines of Guatemala (Aviateca), Costa Rica (Lacsa) and Nicaragua (Nica).

**International airport/s:** Guatemala City-Aurora (GUA), 6km from the city; duty-free shop, bank, bar, restaurant, bank, hotel reservations, post office, shops, car hire.

**Airport tax:** Departures tax US\$30; not applicable to 24 hour transit passengers.

#### Surface

**Road:** The Pan-American Highway runs through the country from Mexico to El Salvador, stretching 511km. There are other roads from El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico and there is a route via Melchor de Mencos from Belize. Plans for any journey should be made in the light of prevailing road conditions.

**Rail:** It is possible to use scheduled train services but some of these are often subject to suspension.

**Main port/s:** Champerico, Puerto Barrios, San José, Santo Tomás de Castilla and the Quetzal Port.

### Getting about

#### National transport

**Air:** TACA operates a domestic service to major centres.

**Road:** Total network is 13,238km, only 26 per cent of which is paved; using unpaved roads can be difficult. Paved roads are of fair quality.

**Buses:** Bus services connect major towns.

#### City transport

**Taxis:** There is a good taxi service in Guatemala City. Fares are generally negotiated but there are set rates for journeys from the airport to certain destinations. Tipping (5–10 per cent) is discretionary.

**Buses, trams & metro:** Numerous services within Guatemala City – said to be (outside usual rush hours) less crowded than some cities.

#### Car hire

Any valid licence is usually acceptable. Many of the international rental agencies have offices both at La Aurora airport and in Guatemala City centre.

## 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 Guatemala is +502, followed by subscriber's number. Telephones and faxes have been eight digits since September 2004.

### Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce in Guatemala, Avenida las Americas 18-81, Zona 14, 01014 Guatemala City (tel: 2363-1774; fax: 2367-3414; e-mail: director@amchamguate.com).

Guatemala Chamber of Commerce, 10a Calle 3-80, Zona 1, 01001 Guatemala City (tel: 2253-5353; fax: 2220-9393; e-mail: info@camaradecomercio.org.gt).

### Banking

Banco Nacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (BANDESA), 9 Calle 9-47, Zona 1, 01001.

Banco Nacional de la Vivienda (BANVI), 6 Ave 1-22, Zona 4, 01004.

Crédito Hipotecario Nacional, 7 Ave 22-77, Zona 1, 01001.

Banco de Occidente, 7 Ave 11-15, Zona 1, 01001.

Banco del Agro, 9 Calle 5-39, Zona 1, 01001 (tel: 2251-4026; fax: 2230-0322).

Banco del Café SA, Ave La Reforma 9-00, Zona 9, 01009.

Banco del Quetzal SA, Plaza El Robel, 7 Ave 6-26, Zona 9, 01009.

Banco Granai & Townson SA, 7 Ave 1-86, Zona 4, 1004.

Banco Industrial SA, 7 Ave 5-10, Zona 4, 01004.

Citibank, Ave La Reforma 15-45, Zona 10, 01010.

Lloyds Bank International, 6 Ave 9-51, Zona 9, 01009.

### Central bank

Banco de Guatemala, 7 Avenida 22-01, Zona 1, PO Box 365, 01001 Guatemala City (tel: 2230-6222; fax: 2253-4035; email: webmaster@banguat.gob.gt).

### Stock exchange

BVN (Bolsa de Valores Nacional) (Guatemala Stock Exchange), www.bvnsa.com.gt

### Travel information

Asociación Guatemalteca de Agentes de Viajes (AGAV) (Guatemalan Association

of Travel Agents), 6a Avenida 8-41, Zona 9, Apdo 2735, Guatemala City.

TACA, Avenida Hincapié 12-22, Aeropuerto La Aurora, Zona 13, Guatemala City (internet (including email) [www.taca.com](http://www.taca.com)).

National tourist organisation offices

Instituto Guatemalteco de Turismo (INGUAT) (Guatemalan Tourism Institute), 7 Avenida 1-17, Zona 4, Centro Cívico 01004, Guatemala City (tel: 2331-1333; fax: 2331-8893; e-mail: [inguat@guate.net](mailto:inguat@guate.net); internet: [www.visitguatemala.com](http://www.visitguatemala.com)).

### Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, Avenida Reforma 4-47, Zona 10, Guatemala City.

Ministry of Communications, Transport and Public Works, Avenida Reforma 4-47, Zona 10, Guatemala City (tel: 2362-6051; fax: 2362-6059).

Ministry of Culture and Sport, 5 Calle 4-33, Zona 1, Plaza Rabi, Guatemala City.

Ministry of Defence, Avenida Reforma 4-47, Zona 10, Guatemala City (tel: 2360-9907; fax: 2360-9909).

Ministry of Economy, 8 Avenida 10-43, Zona 1, Guatemala City (tel: 2238-3331/2/3; fax: 2251-5055).

Ministry of Education, Avenida Reforma 4-47, Zona 10, Guatemala City.

Ministry of Employment and Social Security, 14 Calle 5-49, Zona 1, Edificio Nasa, Guatemala City (tel: 2230-5592/4; fax: 2251-3559).

Ministry of Energy and Mines, Diagonal 17, 29-78, Zona 11, Guatemala City (tel: 2477-0382, 2476-0680).

Ministry of Finance, Entre 8 Avenida y 21 calle, Zona 1, Centro Cívico, Guatemala City (tel: 2230-5180, 2230-5202; fax: 2251-6514).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Avenida Reforma 4-47, Zona 10, Guatemala City.

Ministry of Health and Social Assistance, Avenida Reforma 4-47, Zona 10, Guatemala City (tel: 2232-4509).

Ministry of the Interior, Avenida Reforma 4-47, Zona 10, Guatemala City.

### Other useful addresses

Agroindustrias de Exportación, 14 Calle 7-46, Zona 10, Guatemala City

Asociación de Gerentes de Guatemala, 10a Calle 3-17, Zona 10, Edificio Aseguradora General, Nivel 70, Apartado Postal 2373, Guatemala City, 01010.

Bolsa Agrícola Nacional, 4a Calle 6-55, Zona 9, Guatemala City.

Bolsa de Valores Global, Av La Reforma 9-76, Zona 9, Edificio SCI Centre, Nivel 70, Guatemala City, 01009.

Bolsa de Valores Nacional, SA, 7a Av 5-10, Zona 4, Centro Financiero, Torre II, Nivel 20, Guatemala City, 01004.

British Embassy, Edificio Torre Internacional, Nivel 11, 16 Calle 0-55, Zona 10, Guatemala City (tel: 2367-5425-9; fax: 2367-5430; email: [embassy@intelnet.com](mailto:embassy@intelnet.com)).

Centro de Investigaciones Económicas Nacionales (CIEN), 5 Av 15-45, Zona 10, Centro Empresarial, Torre 1, Of 302, Apartado Postal 260-C, Guatemala City.

Centro Nacional de Promoción de las Exportaciones, 6A Avenida Torre Profesional, Zona 14, Apdo 1237, Guatemala City.

Comité Co-ordinador de Asociaciones Agrícolas, Comerciales, Industriales y Financieras (CACIF), Ruta 6 9-21, Zona 4, Nivel 90, Guatemala City.

Coperex (international marketing fair), 8 Calle 2-33, Zona 9, Parque de la Industria, Guatemala City.

Dirección General de Radiodifusión y Televisión Nacional, 5a Avenida Zona 1, Guatemala City.

Empresa Eléctrica de Guatemala (EEGSA), 8a Calle y 6a Avenida Esquina, Zona 1, Guatemala City.

Empresa Municipal de Agua (Empagua), 7a Avenida 1-20, Zona 4, Edificio Torre Café, Nivel 16, Guatemala City.

Fundación para el Desarrollo de Guatemala (FUNDESA), Parque Gerencial Las Margaritas, Diagonal 6, 10-65, Zona 10, Of 402, Guatemala City.

Guatemala-US Trade Association (GUSTA), 299 Alhambra Circle, Suite

207, Coral Gables, Florida 33134, USA (tel: (+1-305) 443-0343; fax: (+1-305) 433-0699).

Guatemalan Embassy (USA), 2220 R Street, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: (+1-202) 745-4952; fax: (+1-202) 745-1908; e-mail: [info@guatemala-embassy.org](mailto:info@guatemala-embassy.org)).

Inforpress Centroamericana, 9a Calle A 3-56, Guatemala City 01001.

Instituto Centroamericano de Investigación y Tecnología Industrial (ICAITI), Avenida La Reforma 4-47, Zona 10, Guatemala City.

Instituto Nacional de Electrificación (INDE), 7a Avenida 2-29, Zona 9, Guatemala City.

International Investment Securities Corporation, Edificio Galerías Reforma 8-60, Zona 9, Torre 1, Nivel 90, Guatemala City.

Telgua (Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Guatemala), 5 Calle Avenida Reforma, Zona 9, Guatemala City (tel: 2331-8999/6599, 2230-1050).

United States Department of Commerce, Guatemala Desk, Department of Commerce H3025, Washington DC 20230, USA (tel: (+1-202) 377-2627; fax: (+1-202) 377-3718).

US Embassy, Avenida La Reforma 7-01, Zona 10, Guatemala City.

**Other news agencies:** Inforpress (in Spanish and English): [www.inforpressca.com](http://www.inforpressca.com)

Prensa Latina (from Cuba, in six languages): [www.prensa-latina.com.ar](http://www.prensa-latina.com.ar)

### Internet sites

Guatemalan portals: <http://mi-guatemala.tripod.com>

[www.elcafecito.com/Zonas\\_geograficas/Paises/Guatemala](http://www.elcafecito.com/Zonas_geograficas/Paises/Guatemala)

Business information: [www.tradepoint.org.gt](http://www.tradepoint.org.gt)

Tourist office for Central America: <http://centralamerica-tourism.com/>