

KEY FACTS

Official name: Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Head of State: President George Maxwell Richards (since 2003; re-elected 11 Feb 2008)

Head of government: Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar (UNC) (from 26 May 2010)

Ruling party: Coalition: People's Partnership led by United National Congress (UNC) with Congress of the People (CP), Tobago Organisation of the People (TOP), National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) and Movement for Social Justice (MSJ) (from 26 May 2010)

Area: 5,128 square km

Population: 1.33 million (2012)*

Capital: Port-of-Spain

Official language: English

Currency: Trinidad and Tobago dollar (TT\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rate: TT\$6.41 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$19,018 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 0.41% (2012)*

GDP: US\$25.28 billion (2012)*

Labour force: 621,000 (2009)

Unemployment: 5.50% (2012)*

Inflation: 9.27% (2012)*

Oil production: 121,000 bpd (2012)

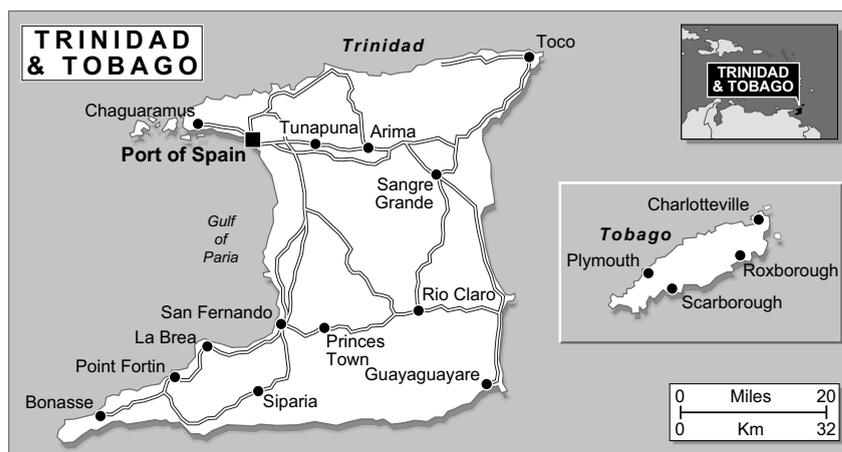
Natural gas production: 42.20 billion cum (2012)

Balance of trade: US\$5.43 million (2011)

Annual FDI: US\$574.00 million (2011)

* estimated figure

Trinidad and Tobago



In addition to the contribution made by a booming hydrocarbons sector, Trinidad's flourishing private sector has led to the rapid growth of the middle class, an important stabilising factor in what is, in so many respects, a divided nation. Economic and social mobility are distinguishing characteristics of Trinidad and Tobago life, not matched elsewhere in the Caribbean or indeed in most developing oil economies.

The politics

In Trinidad and Tobago, political allegiance has long tended to follow ethnic lines. Simmering beneath the surface of Trinidad and Tobago's politics is the nagging question of the racial divide. Although the government saw itself as the 'rainbow' coalition, in 2011 racial tensions had risen over the perceived 'Indianisation' of the civil service. The 2013 local government elections marked what one journalist described as 'a return to tribal politics'. The results saw the Congress of the People (COP) lose a lot of ground and voter migration from the People's Partnership (PP) to the Independent Liberal Party (ILP) and the People's National Movement (PNM). In the view of political scientists the local government elections had established the ILP as the country's third political party. At the same time the COP appeared to have lost most of its membership.

The economy

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, positive growth in the non-energy sector, led by services, offset a decline in the energy sector and resulted in a 1 per cent expansion of the economy of Trinidad and Tobago in 2012. Growth of 2.5 per cent was projected for 2013, assuming major repairs in the energy sector are completed, industrial action is resolved and government investment projects are implemented. Unemployment in the first quarter was down slightly from 2011 and inflation increased in the first half of the year before easing back to more moderate levels. The government's budget for 2012/13 projected a deficit of TT\$7.7 billion (US\$1.2 billion) or 4.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Revenue is projected at TT\$50.7 billion (US\$7.9 billion): TT\$20 billion (US\$3.12 billion) in oil revenue and TT\$30.7 billion (US\$4.8 billion) in non-oil revenue. Expenditure was expected to be TT\$58.4 billion (US\$9.1 billion). The budget is predicated on crude oil and gas prices of US\$75 per barrel and US\$2.75 per MMBtu, respectively.

The government instituted a few new policy measures in 2012, including the creation of a new entity to bail out holders of Colonial Life Insurance Company (CLICO) financial instruments and the introduction of a computerised customs

management system to facilitate business and promote private sector activity. In addition, fiscal measures announced alongside the 2013 budget were implemented to encourage the purchase and usage of compressed natural gas vehicles, with a view to reducing the automobile fuel subsidy. In the budget statement, the government also announced the removal of value added taxes from all food items and an extensive public sector investment programme equivalent to 4.5 per cent of GDP.

Public sector debt was estimated to be 46.6 per cent of GDP in fiscal year 2012, up from 36 per cent in fiscal 2011. In addition to the continued budget deficits, the jump in debt was partly attributable to the government's efforts to secure a settlement for policyholders of the CLICO. Over TT\$10 billion (US\$1.56 billion) was issued in zero coupon bonds to enable the purchase of certain holdings of short-term investment products issued by CLICO. Public debt could continue rising, given that the government has indicated an intention to remain in deficit until 2016. The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago continued its accommodative monetary policy from 2011, lowering its repo rate to 2.75 per cent in September 2012, from 3 per cent in 2011. Commercial bank lending rates remained at 7.75 per cent until August 2012. Credit to the private sector fell slightly (0.02 per cent) from December 2011 to August 2012, compared with a 2 per cent increase in the year-earlier period. Business credit demand reversed its decline of 2011 to post a rise of 2.3 per cent up to August 2012. The excess reserves held by commercial banks peaked at TT\$6.6 billion (US\$1.02 billion) on 9 March 2012, due partly to an estimated net domestic fiscal injection of TT\$2.5 billion (US\$0.4 billion) in the first quarter. In response to this, the central bank requested that banks increase their holdings of interest-bearing special deposits by TT\$1.5 billion (US\$0.23 billion) for one year.

According to ECLAC, GDP in Trinidad and Tobago declined in real terms in the first two quarters of 2012, by year-on-year rates of -0.1 and -3.6 per cent, respectively, reflecting consecutive quarterly contractions of 0.6 per cent and 7.3 per cent in the energy sector and a 0.7 per cent downturn in the non-energy sector in the second quarter, following an increase of 0.3 per cent in the first. These contractions were due mainly to maintenance work in the energy sector and industrial action in the non energy sector. A three month

strike at Trinidad Cement Limited led to a cement shortage that impacted the construction and manufacturing industries. Despite these early declines, real GDP growth is estimated at 1 per cent for 2012, boosted by a 1.9 per cent expansion in the non-petroleum sector, which offset the petroleum industry's 1.0 per cent contraction. Despite a downturn in agriculture and manufacturing, the non-petroleum sector posted positive growth thanks to an upturn of 2.4 per cent in services. The economy is projected to grow by 2.5 per cent in 2013, with the non-energy sector continuing to be the main driver (up 2.9 per cent), although the energy sector is also expected to rebound (1.8 per cent – see 'Energy' below). These estimates for 2012 and 2013 are made on the assumption of improved industrial relations, implementation of the public sector investment programme and the completion of maintenance work in the energy sector.

Headline inflation stood at 7.7 per cent year-on-year in September 2012, well up from the 2.5 per cent measured in the prior-year period and slightly down from the 9.1 per cent measured in March 2012. The headline inflation was driven by rising food prices, particularly for vegetables and meat. Core inflation has continued its stable trend, measuring 2.8 per cent year-on-year in September. Inflation is projected to be 5.8 per cent in 2013. Unemployment averaged 5.1 per cent in 2011. Although no official figures were

available from ECLAC for unemployment, it was noted that the rate had fallen continuously for the last four recorded quarters, from 6.3 per cent in the last quarter of 2010 to 4.2 per cent in the last quarter of 2011. This decline, amid economic contraction, was due partly to short-term government run projects in construction and agriculture. The current account surplus was estimated at 7.2 per cent of GDP for the first quarter of 2012, down from 7.3 per cent in the year-earlier period and 11.2 per cent in 2010. An increase in imports alongside a decrease in exports lowered the trade surplus from 21.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2011 to 14.3 per cent of GDP in the first quarter of 2012. The capital and financial account deficit widened to 6.1 per cent of GDP that quarter, from 6.0 per cent in the first quarter of 2011. Foreign direct investment came mainly from the re-invested earnings of foreign owned companies and stood at 10.1 per cent of GDP, up from 6.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2011 and 2.7 per cent in 2010. Commercial banks increased their net foreign balances, leading to a net outflow of 1.2 per cent of GDP. ECLAC reported that Trinidad and Tobago's net official reserves stood at US\$9.3 billion by August 2012, down from US\$9.8 billion in 2011. This value would cover 11 months of prospective imports.

Energy

According to the US government Energy Information Administration (EIA), as the

KEY INDICATORS		Trinidad and Tobago				
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	*1.30	*1.31	*1.34	*1.32	*1.33
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	25.90	20.40	20.60	22.70	*25.28
GDP per capita	US\$	21,298	15,581	15,706	17,158	*19,018
GDP real growth	%	2.3	-3.3	0.2	-1.3	*0.4
Inflation	%	12.1	7.0	10.7	5.1	*9.3
Unemployment	%	4.6	5.1	5.9	5.0	*5.5
Oil output	'000 bpd	149.0	151.0	146.0	136.0	121.0
Natural gas output	bn cum	440.0	440.0	42.4	40.7	42.2
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	18,686.0	9,117.5	11,219.3	14,913.1	–
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	9,622.0	6,973.0	6,481.4	9,478.3	–
Balance of trade	US\$m	9,064.0	2,202.0	4,737.9	5,434.8	–
Current account	US\$m	8,519.0	1,614.0	4,172.3	2,623.0	*3,070.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	9,442.6	9,177.9	9,605.5	9,638.3	9,794.4
Foreign exchange	US\$m	9,380.4	8,651.6	9,070.0	9,068.1	9,200.7
Exchange rate	per US\$	6.28	6.36	6.38	6.41	6.36
* estimated figure						

largest oil and natural gas producer in the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago's hydrocarbon sector moved from an oil dominant to a mostly natural gas based sector in the early 1990s. In 2012, Trinidad and Tobago was the world's sixth largest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exporter, according to BP's 2013 Statistical Review. Trinidad and Tobago is also the largest LNG exporter to the United States, accounting for nearly 65 per cent of US total LNG imports in 2012. The BP Statistical Review also reported that total primary energy consumption in Trinidad and Tobago was about 842 trillion British Thermal Units (Btu) in 2012. Natural gas consumption accounted for approximately 92 per cent and consumption of petroleum products was just under 8 per cent. Renewable fuels represented the remaining share of consumption.

In of January 2013, Trinidad and Tobago had 13.3 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of proven natural gas reserves. The country produced roughly 1.5tcf of dry natural gas in 2012, according to Trinidad and Tobago's ministry of energy and energy affairs. Together, British Petroleum Trinidad and Tobago (BPTT), the largest natural gas producer in the country, and British Gas accounted for more than three-quarters of total natural gas production, according to IHS Global Insight. Trinidad and Tobago houses one of the largest natural gas processing facilities in the Western Hemisphere. The Phoenix Park Gas Processors Limited (PPGPL) natural gas liquids (NGL) complex is located in the Port of Savonetta. It has a processing capacity of almost 2 billion cubic feet (bcf) per day and an output capacity of 70,000 barrels per day (bpd) of NGL. The electricity sector is fuelled entirely by natural gas.

Trinidad and Tobago also had 728 million barrels of proven crude oil reserves as of January 2013. The country produced 119,000bpd of oil in 2012, of which 82,000bpd was crude oil including lease condensates and the remainder consisted mostly of NGL. Oil production in Trinidad and Tobago had peaked at 179,000bpd in 2006, however, it has declined year-over-year since 2008. The declines have been attributed to maturing oilfields and operational challenges, according to IHS Global Insight. There are several export-oriented refineries located in the Caribbean that primarily supply the US market. With a crude oil distillation capacity of 168,000bpd, Trinidad and Tobago's state-owned Pointe-a-Pierre refinery is one such hub. It is also the only

refinery in the country. Plans for two new refineries, with an aggregate refining capacity of 278,000bpd, were proposed in the past, but these projects have not advanced. Petrotrin, the state-owned oil and gas company, also operates two major crude and petroleum products storage terminals with a total storage capacity of 7.7 million barrels, namely the Pointe-a-Pierre terminal and the Point Fortin terminal. With 11 ammonia plants and seven methanol plants, Trinidad and Tobago is the world's largest exporter of ammonia and the second largest exporter of methanol, according to IHS Global Insight.

Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Good
Regional stability	Good

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1498 Trinidad was sighted by a Spanish expedition led by Christopher Columbus.
 1532 The island was colonised by the Spanish.
 1595 Spanish colonisers were defeated by an English fleet under Sir Walter Raleigh.
 1630s The Dutch settled on Tobago and created sugar plantations.
 1763 Trinidad was occupied by France, with Spanish consent.
 1781 The French seized Tobago.
 1797 Trinidad was seized by the British during the Napoleonic wars.
 1802 Trinidad was officially transferred to British sovereignty.
 1814 Tobago became a British colony of the Windward Island group.
 1834 Slavery was abolished and indentured workers were brought in from India to work on the sugar plantations.
 1889 Tobago was amalgamated with Trinidad and together the islands became a unified British colony.
 1945 Universal suffrage was granted.
 1956 Eric Williams founded the People's National Movement (PNM).
 1958 Trinidad and Tobago became part of the British-sponsored West Indies Federation.
 1959 Britain gave Trinidad and Tobago internal self-government with Williams as prime minister.
 1962 When Jamaica opted to leave the West Indies Federation, Trinidad and Tobago followed, becoming independent within the Commonwealth.
 1967 Trinidad and Tobago joined the Organisation of American States (OAS).
 1968 Anglophone Caribbean states, including Trinidad and Tobago, formed the Caribbean Free Trade Area (Carifta),

which became the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom) in 1973.
 1970 A state of emergency was declared after the army mutinied against the minority East Indian population.

1972 The state of emergency was lifted.
 1976 On 1 August, Trinidad and Tobago became a republic within the Commonwealth. The PNM won the parliamentary elections. Ellis Clarke, previously the governor general, was sworn in as the country's first president and Eric Williams became prime minister.

1981 Eric Williams died and George Chambers became prime minister.

1986 The PNM lost power in the general election – its first defeat since 1957. The Tobago-based National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), led by Arthur Robinson, won a decisive victory.

1987 Noor Hassanalai became president.

1990 More than 100 Islamic extremists staged a *coup d'état*, blowing up the police headquarters, seizing parliament and holding Prime Minister Robinson and several senior officials hostage. The uprising was short-lived.

1991 The harsh economic programme lost the NAR the general elections. The PNM took over and Patrick Manning became prime minister.

1995 The Asian-dominated United National Congress (UNC) won most seats in the general election and formed a coalition government with the support of the NAR. Basdeo Panday became prime minister.

1997 Arthur N R Robinson was elected president. As prime minister in 1989, he had proposed to the UN the founding of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes; the ICC was inaugurated in 2002

1999 Trinidad and Tobago restored the death sentence.

2000 The ruling UNC narrowly won the general election with 19 seats (PNM 16 and NAR one). Three UNC members of parliament defected to the opposition and the government fell in December.

2001 The result of the general election was a tie with the UNC and PNM both winning 18 out of 36 seats. President Robinson appointed Patrick Manning as prime minister, despite the UNC garnering a larger percentage of the vote. With a hung parliament little legislation was carried out.

2002 Prime Minister Manning finally called the third general election in three years and his PNM won power with 20 seats.

2003 George Maxwell Richards became president. Caroni, the state-owned sugar company closed, with the loss of over 8,000 jobs.

2005 Trinidad became the home of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), a final court of appeal intended to replace the UK-based Privy Council.

2006 Former prime minister, Basdeo Panday was convicted of financial impropriety and sentenced to two years in prison. Chief Justice, Satnarine Sharma, was accused of misconduct by interfering in the outcome of the case and, following a series of court cases, stepped down as chief justice in 2008. New, commercially viable oil and gas deposits were found off Trinidad. BWIA, the national airline, ceased operations.

2007 Caribbean Airlines began operations; it took over routes previously flown by BWIA. The ruling PNM won parliamentary elections. Patrick Manning retained the office of prime minister.

2008 As the only candidate standing, President Maxwell Richards was re-elected president by an electoral college.

2009 A new, draft constitution was proposed, with changes including an executive president and a diminished role for the prime minister as well as an alternative way of appointing a chief justice.

2010 Two years ahead of schedule, the prime minister called a snap general election, following allegations of public corruption and severe criticism of spending on capital works. A coalition was formed to contest the upcoming elections, led by UNC and including the Congress of the People (CP), Tobago Organisation of the People (TOP), National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) and Movement for Social Justice (MSJ); it was called the People's Partnership. The parliamentary election was won by the People's Partnership coalition (led by United National Congress (UNC)). Kamla Persad-Bissessar (UNC) became prime minister. The first president of Trinidad and Tobago, Sir Ellis Clarke died, aged 93 years.

2011 In March, Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar said her government was reluctant to use the CCJ instead of the Privy Council, as the judicial process was working without need for change. In October, the Tobago Assembly considered proposed amendments to reform the constitution concerning the relationship between Tobago and Trinidad. The first act would provide an entrenchment of powers for the Tobago Assembly and the second would enhance the status of the Tobago Assembly to enable it to enact further legislation – in effect legitimacy would be conferred on the assembly and any subsequent legislation issued by the assembly.

2012 On 21 November, BP announced that it had made a further discovery, estimated at 28.3 billion cubic metres, of natural gas in the Savonette gas field off the south-east coast of Trinidad.

2013

Political structure

Constitution

The constitution was adopted in 1976.

Form of state

Republic

The executive

Executive power is divided between the president, who is the head of state, and the prime minister, who is the head of government.

The president is elected every five years by an electoral college made up of members of both houses of parliament.

The prime minister, who has a cabinet composed of members of parliament, is usually the leader of the majority party in the House of Representatives.

National legislature

The parliament is bicameral. The House of Representatives has 36 members elected by universal suffrage for a five-year term. The Senate consists of 31 members appointed by the president: 16 on the prime minister's advice, six on the advice of the leader of the opposition and nine chosen exclusively by the president.

Legal system

An independent judiciary is guaranteed by the constitution. Foreign investors have the same rights as Trinidad and Tobago citizens.

The Supreme Court is the highest legal body. Civil trials are handled by a single judge in the high court without a jury. Decisions made by the high court can be presented for appeal to the three-judge court of appeal. Court of appeal decisions can be appealed to the regional Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), which was inaugurated in 2005, replacing the Privy Council in London as the highest court of appeal.

Last elections

4 February 2008 (presidential *indirect*); 24 May 2010 (parliamentary).

Results: Presidential: Maxwell Richards was elected unopposed by the Electoral College comprised of members of both chambers of parliament.

Parliamentary: the People's Partnership Coalition (led by United National Congress (UNC)) won 42.9 per cent of the vote (29 seats out of 41), the People's National Movement 39.6 per cent (12); turnout was 69.4 per cent.

Next elections

2015 (parliamentary); 2013 (presidential).

Political parties

Ruling party

Coalition: People's Partnership led by United National Congress (UNC) with Congress of the People (CP), Tobago Organisation of the People (TOP), National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) and

Movement for Social Justice (MSJ) (from 26 May 2010)

Main opposition party

People's National Movement (PNM)

Population

1.33 million (2012)*

Over 95 per cent of the population resides on Trinidad and the remainder live on Tobago.

Last census: May 2000: 1,262,366

Population density: 251 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 14 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 0.5 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

Black (43 per cent), East Indian (40 per cent), mixed (14 per cent), white (1 per cent), Chinese (1 per cent).

Religions

Roman Catholics (34 per cent), Hindus (30 per cent), Protestants (19 per cent), Muslims (10 per cent).

Education

Primary schooling lasts for seven years followed by secondary, academic and technical or vocational qualifications. World Bank estimates show that the total primary school enrolment of the relevant age group typically stood at 99 per cent for boys and 98 per cent for girls (including repetition rates) between 1994–2000. The number of pupils per primary school teacher is typically 25. Public expenditure on education typically amounted to 3.6 per cent of annual gross national income between 1994–97.

A new campus of the University of Trinidad and Tobago, costing US\$100 million, opened in 2006 including a donation of US\$10 million from British Petroleum (BP) towards construction of the university, which was founded as a charitable trust by the government.

Literacy rate: 99 per cent adult rate; 100 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: Five to 11

Pupils per teacher: 25 in primary schools

Health

Improved water sources are available to 86 per cent of the population.

HIV/Aids

The prevalence rate is relatively high, although the number of deaths due to Aids between 2001–03 did not increase significantly, from an estimated 1,500–1,900. There were 29,000 people living with HIV at the end of 2003, of which 700 were children (aged 0–14). Research among young adults (15–24) showed that 95 per cent knew that a healthy-looking person could be HIV positive, and 33 per cent knew of at least two prevention methods and three myths concerning the disease.

HIV prevalence: 0.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 70 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

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

Birth rate/Death rate: 8 deaths and 13 births per 1,000 people (World Bank)

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 21 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Welfare

Trinidad and Tobago operates social insurance and social assistance systems that were implemented in 1999. The 1999 law ensures state provision for employees, domestic and agricultural workers, but does not cover self-employed workers. Social assistance covers residents aged 65 or older or aged 40 years for those with special needs, based on a means-test. Old age pensions are available to men aged 60–65 and above with 750 weeks of contribution and compulsory retirement. The state also operates a welfare system for benefits covering sickness, maternity, medical provision for workers and family allowance, including a food subsidy. Medical care is available in public hospitals and health offices and centres for recipients of means tested pensions. Trinidad and Tobago is experiencing a rise in social problems related to young people, despite the economy's improved performance. Restricted access to the secondary education system and unemployment (which reached 30 per cent for the 15–19 age group in 2001), poverty and reduced family care have contributed to youth involvement in crime and drug abuse.

Main cities

Port of Spain (capital, estimated population 50,405 in 2012), Chaguanas (79,381), San Fernando (centre of the oil industry) (57,605), Arima (39,245), Marabella (26,601), Tunapuna (19,695), Point Fortín (18,646); Scarborough (main town on Tobago, estimated population 4,814).

Languages spoken

Hindi is commonly spoken within the East Indian community.

Official language/s

English

Media

Press

Dailies: There are three national, daily newspapers, including *Daily Express* (www.trinidadexpress.com) and *Trinidad Guardian* (www.guardian.co.tt) and *Newsday* (www.newsday.co.tt); tabloids include *TnT Mirror* an important online news outlet *Trinidad & Tobago News*

(www.trinidadandtobagonews.com) and *Tobago News* (www.thetobagonews.com).

Weeklies: Daily newspapers have week-end editions including *Mirror Weekend* and *The Sunday Punch* (politics and satire) plus a magazine *The Bomb* (politics).

Broadcasting

The state-owned Caribbean New Media Group (CNMG) operates radio and television stations.

Radio: Broadcasts may be in English, Hindi and Creole reflecting the islands ethnic diversity with programme contents produced for a variety of listening tastes. The majority of stations are located on Trinidad. CNMG operates four radio stations, Radio 730 AM, Vibe CT 105, Sandeet 106.1 and the most popular 95.1FM City Talk radio. Other private radio stations include i95.5 FM (www.i955fm.com) with news, WeFM (www.96wefm.com) and Power FM (www.power102fm.com).

Television: The commercial channel, TV6, has the largest audiences with a combination of local and foreign (mostly US) programmes. CNMG has two channels. Other channels include Gayelle (www.gayelletv.com) and NCC TV (www.ncctv.org), which are community TVs. Pay-to-view TV includes Jump TV (www.jumptv.com) and Media Zone (www.mediazone.com).

Other news agencies: Cananews: www.cananews.net

Economy

Trinidad and Tobago is the only significant exporter of oil and gas of the Caribbean islands, thereby affording the population the highest per capita income in the Caribbean and Latin America, at an estimated US\$17,158 in 2011 (a fall from a record high of US\$21,298 in 2008). It had proven oil reserves of 8 billion barrels at the end of 2011 and oil production of 136,000 barrels per day (bpd). Proven natural gas reserves were 400 billion cubic metres of natural gas, with annual production of 40.7 billion cubic metres at the end of 2011. Trinidad and Tobago had a strong economy that grew steadily over 1993–2008 at 6 per cent per annum, but it was seriously affected by the global economic crisis in 2009 as energy prices fell dramatically and GDP growth dropped to -3.3 per cent, before stagnating at 0.0 per cent in 2010 and was estimated to have fallen into a double-dip recession with GDP growth of -1.3 per cent in 2011. Unemployment, which had fallen to 3.9 per cent in 2008 when oil prices had been at a record high, grew to 5.1 per cent in 2009 and peaked at an estimated 7.8 per cent in 2010. A number of workers go overseas for work to provide

remittances for their families; in 2010 remittances were US\$109 million (0.4 per cent of GDP) and were estimated to have risen to US\$114 million in 2011.

Hydrocarbons dominate GDP. Despite the external shocks of 2009–10 that saw a significant fall in global oil prices, which reduced oil and gas revenues by 44 per cent (on 2008 income), the energy sector remains one of the most attractive areas for foreign investment (US\$2.8 billion in 2008, but down to US\$708 million in 2009).

Financial services dominate the service sector. The collapse of the insurance conglomerate CL Financial in January 2009 was a severe blow to the economy and led a government and central bank bailout of TT\$5 billion (US\$787 million). Trinidad and Tobago fell into a recession from a position of strength with low debt and large fiscal surpluses. The IMF approved the 2010/11 national budget with its expansionist stance and additional expenditure and tax incentives designed to promote private-sector growth.

Another major component of the service sector is the tourist industry, which had shown consistent growth until the global economic crisis struck. By 2005 arrivals were at an all-time high of over 463,000, but the industry suffered a fall over 2006–09 as annual arrival numbers continued to drop. The industry contracted by -15 per cent in 2009 alone, recording numbers that roughly matched those in 2000 with arrivals of almost 372,000 (January–November).

In 2010 the government announced that it aimed to increase agriculture's contribution to GDP from an annual 0.6 per cent to 3 per cent by 2013, to improve the island's food security and diversify the economy. Staple crops include wheat, maize and rice, cassava, yams and taro. Cash crops for export include sugarcane, citrus and timber. Livestock is typically tropical breeds including goats and sheep and water buffalo, but also includes poultry and pigs.

External trade

Trinidad and Tobago is a member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom) and operates within the single market (Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME)), which became operational in 2006.

Natural gas has replaced oil as the principal export earner, mainly in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG). The petrochemical sector produces oil derivatives including methanol, ammonia and urea. Natural gas would have allowed for aluminium smelting using domestic gas but in September 2010 the government halted plans for a 125,000 tonnes per

year plant on environmental grounds. Manufacturing is dominated by food processing, tobacco and factory assemblies. Agriculture is losing its importance as the sugar industry has contracted.

Imports

Principal imports include machinery, transport equipment, manufactured and consumer goods, foodstuffs and live animals.

Main sources: US (32.7 per cent of total in 2011), Brazil (10.7 per cent), Russia (6.2 per cent).

Exports

Principal exports include natural gas, crude oil and petroleum derivatives, petrochemicals, processed food and beverages, tobacco products, sugar, cocoa, coffee, citrus and cut flowers.

Main destinations: US (43.7 per cent of total in 2011), Spain (5.1 per cent), South Korea (4.8 per cent).

Agriculture

About 23 per cent of the total land area is farmed. Although there is abundant rainfall, it is unevenly distributed, some areas becoming waterlogged, thereby curtailing production. Only 3 per cent of arable land is irrigated. About 60 per cent of the country's agriculture is in private hands and 40 per cent is controlled by the government.

The farming of major cash crops (sugar, coffee, cocoa and citrus fruits) has slumped owing to labour shortages, diseases and falling export demand.

The Agricultural Development Bank (ADB), which is primarily government-owned, provides loans to farmers and finances about 85 per cent of the country's agricultural development.

The Agricultural Development Corporation is charged with developing the agricultural sector. The sector is also the subject of an investment incentive programme, involving tax exemptions for approved projects. Other measures include a US\$21 million four-year repair and rehabilitation programme for roads and more funding for water management and flood defence systems.

The country does not have a large commercial fishing industry, but relies on small private fishermen whose production does not meet domestic demand. The fishing sector is an important local source of food.

Forests cover around one-third of the total land area. Deforestation accounted for an average annual loss of 0.9 per cent, equivalent of 2,000 hectares of forest cover, in 1990–2000. The country has a well-developed commercial forests industry, based primarily on the harvesting of teak and Caribbean pine. Some three-quarters of the wood is used for

industrial purposes, and the rest is used for fuel and charcoal. It produces modest quantities of industrial round timber and sawn timber. Much of the domestic demand is met by imports of sawn timber, wood-based panels and paper products.

Industry and manufacturing

Trinidad and Tobago is the most industrialised of the Caribbean islands. The industrial sector typically contributes 44 per cent of GDP, of which manufacturing contributes 8 per cent. Development since the 1970s has centred on heavy export-oriented industries, which are geared towards maximising the country's energy resources.

The principal manufactured products include refined petroleum, petrochemicals, nitrogenous fertilisers, iron, steel, methanol, plastics, sugar, and various import-substitution products. The growth of the petrochemicals sector has helped offset the effects of a decline in the sugar industry.

Manufacturing output increased by 5 per cent in 2003 and by 6.6 per cent in 2004, partly as a result of more favourable international economic conditions, particularly in other CARICOM countries.

Tourism

The islands are a mix of mountains and plains with a tropical climate and palm-lined beaches. They have much to offer visitors, but due to the pre-eminence of hydrocarbons to the economy, tourism in Trinidad is not as heavily promoted as by other Caribbean islands. Tourism on Tobago, however, is important and the government invests in capital projects to promote the island. Most tourism is concentrated in resort developments in the south-west, where there are many beaches. In November 2011 a new luxury Magdalena Grand Beach Resort was opened, the first new resort since 1991. Apart from the sea-sports available (Tobago is known for its reef diving) the protected forests of the interior offer eco-friendly holidays.

Infrastructure is improving and air routes to Europe and the US are being expanded. The US is the principal market, followed by the Caribbean and the UK. On 23 September 2011, the minister of transport announced that a private public partnership project had been agreed, to provide a new public ferry service between Trinidad and Tobago and other islands of eastern Caribbean.

Mining

Trinidad and Tobago's mining sector revolves around the petroleum industry. Asphalt and pitch sand are extracted. Other minerals quarried include diorite, limestone, argillite clay and porcelainite. The

world's largest supply of natural asphalt is found in La Brea on Trinidad.

Hydrocarbons

Proven oil reserves were 8 billion barrels at the end of 2011, with oil production of 136,000 barrels per day (bpd). The majority of oil fields are located offshore between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela (another major oil producer), as well as a younger oil field off the north-east coast of Trinidad.

The Pointe-à-Pierre refinery has a capacity of 190,000 barrels per day, production was 168,000 barrels per day in 2008, with over 40,000bpd consisting of natural gas liquids (NGL) (propane, butane, ethane etc).

The state-owned Petrotrin is an integrated oil and gas company which owns many of the offshore fields and the Pointe-à-Pierre refinery. It is responsible for exploration, development and production of hydrocarbons and petroleum products.

The oil and gas sectors account for 40 per cent of GDP and 80 per cent of the country's export earnings.

Proven natural gas reserves were 400 billion cubic metres (cum) in 2011, with production at 40.7 billion cum, a decrease of -4.2 per cent on the 2010 figure of 42.5 billion cum.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) has increased in significance, following completion of the major facilities by the Atlantic LNG Company (jointly-owned by the National Gas Company, BP, British Gas, Suez and Repsol-YPF). LNG is exported to the Americas, Europe and Asia for use in electricity, industry and petrochemical production. Trinidad and Tobago ranked seventh largest exporter of LNG in the world in 2011 and supplies the US around 40 per cent of its LNG.

A pipeline from Trinidad and Tobago to Martinique and Guadeloupe, connecting several other Caribbean islands, is being planned.

Coal is neither produced nor imported

Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 1.48 gigawatts (GW) in 2006, of which over 99 per cent of production was generated by fossil fuels, primarily natural gas.

The state-owned Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) is responsible for the overall control of the transmission and distribution network, as well as sales both retail and commercial. It also has a majority shareholding in PowerGen, which is co-owned by US companies Southern Electric International and Amoco, and is responsible for generation, with electricity supplied to the national grid.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange (TTSE)

Banking and insurance

The country has a number of international and domestic commercial banks including Citibank, Royal Bank and Scotia Bank.

Central bank

Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago

Main financial centre

Port of Spain

Time

GMT minus four hours

Geography

Trinidad and Tobago lies in the Caribbean Sea off the eastern coast of Venezuela. Trinidad is the larger of the two islands, Tobago lies 32km north-east of Trinidad. The terrain of Trinidad is principally flat, although three ranges of higher land – peaking at almost 1,000 metres – cross the island from west to east.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

The islands have a humid, tropical climate with a rainy season from June to December, and an annual temperature range between 21 and 32 degrees Celsius.

Dress codes

Dress is generally informal and suited to the hot tropical climate. Men generally wear a shirt and tie for business meetings.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all, except nationals of Caricom countries, valid for six months beyond date of departure.

Visa

Required by all who are not exempt; a full list can be found at

www.visittrinidad.com/General/things/visa.html.

Business travellers should submit an employer's letter stating credentials with the visa application form.

Currency advice/regulations

There are no restrictions on the import of local and foreign currencies, subject to declaration on arrival. Export of local currency is limited to TT\$200 and of foreign currency to TT\$2,500 per annum.

Prohibited imports

Illegal drugs, weapons and explosives, specific animals (including monkeys and mongoose), animals that have died on transit, products used in relation to certain animals (such as used animal blankets and saddles) as well as dung may not be brought into Trinidad and Tobago.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Yellow fever vaccination certificate if arriving from infected area.

Advisable precautions

Yellow fever, hepatitis A, polio and tetanus vaccinations are advisable. Water precautions should be taken.

Hotels

A range of hotels is available in Trinidad and Tobago. They are generally expensive, although less so in Tobago. A 10 per cent tip is usual. A hotel room tax (in properties of 16 rooms or over) of 10 per cent has replaced value-added tax. Book well in advance if arriving during Carnival time.

Credit cards

Credit cards are accepted.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 30 Mar (Shouter Baptist Liberation Day), 30 May (Indian Arrival Day), 19 Jun (Labour Day), 1 Aug (Emancipation Day), 31 Aug (Independence Day), 24 Sep (Republic Day), 25–26 Dec (Christmas).

Variable dates

Good Friday, Easter Monday, Corpus Christi (May/June), Diwali (Hindu, Oct/Nov), Eid al Fitr.

Working hours

Carnival (two-day event immediately preceding Ash Wednesday) is usually taken as an unofficial holiday.

Banking

Mon–Thu: 0800–1400; Fri: 0800–1200, 1500–1700.

Business

Business hours are 0800–1600.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0815–1630.

Shops

Mon–Fri: 0800–1630; Sat: 0800–1200.

Supermarkets stay open later in the evenings and are open all day Saturday.

Some open on Sunday. Some close on Thursday afternoon.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

GSM 850/1900 and 1800 services provide cover for most of the islands.

Electricity supply

Domestic: 115 and 230V AC, 60 cycles. Industrial: 400V, 60 cycles three-phase.

Weights and measures

Metric system legally in use since 1981, but many traders continue to use the imperial system.

Social customs/useful tips

Both the social and business environment in Trinidad and Tobago are friendly and informal, and it is common to be on a

first-name basis with people whom you have met before.

Security

The last major instance of political violence was in 1990, and the islands are generally a safe place to visit. The usual precautions against pickpockets should be taken in crowded areas.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Caribbean Airlines (replacing BWIA in early 2007 as the national airline). CAL receives a fuel subsidy, sometimes referred to as a 'fuel hedge' from the government, giving it an advantage over regional airline LIAT.

International airport/s: Piarco International, 25km east of Port of Spain, Trinidad; duty-free shop, restaurant, bank, post office, car hire.

Crown Point International, 5km west of Scarborough, Tobago.

Airport tax: TT\$100, payable in local currency only.

Surface

Water: There are ferry services to neighbouring islands. Cruise ships call at Port of Spain, Trinidad, and Scarborough, Tobago.

Main port/s: Chaguaramas, Point Lisas, Port of Spain, Point-à-Pierre (Trinidad); Scarborough (Tobago).

Getting about

National transport

Air: Tobago Express flies frequent 'airbridge' services throughout the day between Piarco and Crown Point airports. The journey takes about 25 minutes.

Road: There is an extensive road network of around 8,000km. Major highways run north-south and east-west. Traffic jams are common.

Buses: Cheap and generally crowded.

Water: The two islands are connected by ferries between Port of Spain (Trinidad) and Scarborough (Tobago). There are two fast catamaran ferries, with a journey time of around two hours. A daily car ferry takes over six hours and the passage can be uncomfortable.

City transport

Taxis: Shared, route taxis are widely used.

Routes with standard fares operated by passenger cars bearing 'H' registration plates and two-coloured Maxi Taxis (yellow stripe in Port of Spain). Negotiate fares for regular taxis in advance. Limousine service available at airport.

Taxis can be hired by distance, by the hour or by the day.

Car hire

National driving licences of most countries accepted for a period of three months from arrival. Insurance required.

Cars drive on left. The maximum speed limit is 80kph on highways.

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

This international direct dialling code for Trinidad and Tobago is +1-868 followed by subscriber's number.

Useful telephone numbers

Police: 999, 623-5191

Fire: 990

Ambulance: 990, 625-3222/3

Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre, Lady Young Road, Port of Spain (tel: 627-8570; fax: 627-7405; e-mail: inbox@amchamt.com).

British-Caribbean Chamber of Commerce, Chamber Building, Columbus Circle, West Moorings, PO Box 499, Port of Spain (tel: 637-6966; fax: 637-7427; e-mail: info@britishcaribbean.com).

Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce, Trinidad Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre, Lady Young Road, PO Box 442, Port of Spain (tel: 623-4830; fax: 623-6116; e-mail: caic@trinidad.net).

Greater Chaguanas Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Kibon House, 1 Endeavour Road, Chaguanas (tel/fax: 671-5754; e-mail: admin@chaguanaschamber.com).

South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Cross Crossing Shopping Centre, Lady Hailes Avenue, PO Box 80, San Fernando (tel: 657-9077; fax: 652-5613; e-mail: execoffice@southchamber.com).

Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Chamber House, Columbus Circle, West Moorings, PO Box 499, Port of Spain (tel: 637-6966; fax: 637-7425; e-mail: chamber@chamber.org.tt).

Banking

Agricultural Development Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, PO Box 154, Port of Spain (tel: 623-6261/5, 625-6539; fax: 624-3087).

Bank of Commerce, PO Box 69, Port of Spain (tel: 627-9325/8; fax: 627-0904).

Bank of Nova Scotia, The Scotia Building, 56-58 Richmond Street, Port of Spain (tel: 625-3566/5222; fax: 623-0256).

Citibank, PO Box 1249, 12 Queen's Park East, Port of Spain (tel: 625-6445/9, 625-1046/9; fax: 624-8131; 625-6820).

Citicorp Merchant Bank, 12 Queen's Park East, Port of Spain (tel: 623-3344; fax: 624-8131).

CLICO Investment Bank, 1 Rust Street, St. Clair, Port of Spain (tel: 628-3628; fax: 628-3639).

First Citizens Bank, Park & Henry Streets, Port of Spain (tel: 623-2423, 623-2576/8; fax: 627-5956).

Republic Bank Ltd, PO Box 1153, Port of Spain, Trinidad (tel: 625-3611, 623-0371; fax: 623-0371); Corner Wilson and Castries St, Scarborough, Tobago (tel: 639-2561).

Royal Merchant Bank & Finance Company, 7th Floor, 55 Independence Square, Port of Spain (tel: 625-3511, 624-5212).

The Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Head Office, Royal Court, 19-21 Park Street, Port of Spain (tel: 623-4291, 625-3764; fax: 624-4866).

Central bank

Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Eric Williams Plaza, Independence Square, PO Box 1250, Port of Spain (tel: 625-4835; fax: 627-4696; e-mail: info@central-bank.org.tt).

Stock exchange

Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange (TTSE), www.stockex.co.tt

Travel information

Caribbean Airlines, Sunjet House, 30 Edward Street, Port of Spain (tel: 669-3000; fax: 669-1680).

Piarco International Airport, Caroni North Bank Road, Piarco (tel: 669-8047; fax: 669-0228).

Tourist Information Office, Crown Point Airport (tel: 639-0509; fax: 639-3566).

Tourist Information Office, Piarco Airport (tel: 669-5196; fax: 669-6045; e-mail: tourism-info@tdc.co.tt).

Trinidad and Tobago Automobile Association (TAA), 41 Woodford Street, Newtown, Port-of-Spain (tel: 622-7194; fax: 622-9079; e-mail: taa@tstt.net.tt).

Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Tourism, 51-55 Frederick Street, Port of Spain (tel: 624-1403; fax: 625-0437; e-mail: mintourism@tourism.gov.tt).

National tourist organisation offices

Tourism Development Company Ltd, Maritime Centre, 29 Tenth Avenue, Barataria

(tel: 675-7034; fax: 675-7432; e-mail: info@tdc.co.tt).

Ministries

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Kent House, Long Circular Road, Maraval (tel: 628-1323; fax: 622-4783).

Ministry of Community Empowerment, Autorama Building, El Socorro Road, San Juan (tel: 675-6728; fax: 674-4021).

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Agostini Compound, 3 Duncan Street, Port of Spain (tel: 623-7741; fax: 625-4737).

Ministry of Culture, Algico Building, Jerningham Avenue, Queen's Park East, Port of Spain (tel: 625-3012; fax: 625-3278).

Ministry of Education, Hayes Street, St Clair (tel: 622-2181; fax: 628-7818).

Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, Level 9, Riverside Plaza, Corner Besson & Piccadilly Streets, Port of Spain (tel: 623-6708; fax: 623-2726).

Ministry of Enterprise Development, Level 15, Riverside Plaza, Corner Besson & Piccadilly Streets, Port of Spain (tel: 623-2931; fax: 627-8488).

Ministry of the Environment, Level 16, Eric Williams Finance Building, Independence Square, Port of Spain (tel: 627-9700; fax: 625-1585).

Ministry of Finance, Level 8, Eric Williams Finance Building, Independence Square, Port of Spain (tel: 627-9700; 627-6108).

Ministry of Food Production and Marine Resources, PO Box 389, St Clair Circle, St Clair (tel: 622-1221; 622-8202).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Knowsley Building, 1 Queen's Park West, Port of Spain (tel: 623-4116; fax: 627-0571).

Ministry of Health, Corner Duncan Street & Independence Square, Port of Spain (tel: 627-0012; fax: 623-9528).

Ministry of Housing and Settlements, NHA Building, Corner George Street & South Quay, Port of Spain (tel: 624-5058; fax: 625-2793).

Ministry of Human Development, Sacred Heart Building, 16-18 Sackville Street, Port of Spain (tel: 624-2000; fax: 625-7003).

Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Corner Richmond & London Streets, Port of Spain (tel: 625-1225; fax: 625-8070).

Ministry of Integrated Planning and Development, Level 14, Eric Williams Finance Building, Independence Square, Port of Spain (tel: 623-4308; fax: 623-8123).

Ministry of Labour, Manpower Development and Industrial Relations, Level 11, Riverside Plaza, Corner Besson &

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Piccadilly Streets, Port of Spain (tel: 623-4241; fax: 624-4091).

Ministry of Legal Affairs, 72-74 South Quay, Port of Spain (tel: 625-4586; fax: 625-9803).

Ministry of Local Government, Kent House, Long Circular Road, Maraval (tel: 628-1325; fax: 622-7410).

Ministry of National Security, Temple Court, 31-33 Abercromby Street, Port of Spain (tel: 623-2441; fax: 625-3925).

Ministry of Sport, ISSA Nicholas Building, Corner Frederick & Duke Streets, Port of Spain (tel: 625-5622; fax: 623-4507).

Ministry of Transport, Corner Richmond & London Streets, Port of Spain (tel: 625-1225; fax: 627-9886).

Office of The Attorney General, Cabildo Chambers, Corner Sackville & St Vincent Streets, Port of Spain (tel: 623-7010; fax: 625-0470).

Office of The Prime Minister, Whitehall, Maraval Road, Port of Spain (tel: 622-1625; fax: 622-0055).

Other useful addresses

Businessmen's Association of Trinidad and Tobago, PO Box 322, Time Plaza, Room 10, 28 Henry Street, Port of Spain (tel: 623-4568).

Caribbean Employers' Confederation, 43 Dundonald Street, Port of Spain (tel: 625-4723).

Caribbean Industrial Research Institute, O'Meara Industrial Estate, Macoya Road, Trincity, Arima (tel: 662-7161/4; fax: 663-4180).

Export Development Corporation, Export House, 10-14 Phillips Street, PO Box

582, Port of Spain (tel: 623-6022/3; fax: 625-0050).

Industrial Development Corporation, 10-12 Independence Square, PO Box 949, Port of Spain (tel: 623-7291/6, 623-7289).

Management Development Centre, Room 212, Salvatoria Building, PO Box 1301, Port of Spain (tel: 623-4951/3).

National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, Goodrich Bay Road, Point Lisas Industrial Estate, Point Lisas (tel: 636-4662; fax: 679-2384).

Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (PETROTRIN), Administrative Building, Southern Main Road, Pointe-à-Pierre (tel: 658-4200, 658-4230; fax: 658-1315; e-mail: petroweb@petrotrin.com).

Reinsurance Company of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinre House, 52 Jerningham Avenue, Belmont, PO Box 1087, Port of Spain (tel: 623-6194/6602; fax: 624-4021).

Small Business Association of Trinidad and Tobago, Third Floor, MPU Building, 3 Besson Street, Port of Spain (tel: 624-3666).

Shipping Association of Trinidad and Tobago, Room 12a, 64-66 South Quay, Port of Spain (tel: 623-8570).

Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd (TSTT), 54 Frederick Street, PO Box 971, Port of Spain (tel: 624-5756/5703; fax: 625-4585; e-mail: tsttceo@tstt.net.tt).

Tobago House of Assembly, (Foreign Investment Proposals in Tobago), Bacolet Street, Scarborough.

Trinidad and Tobago Development Finance Co Ltd, PO Box 187, 8-10 Cipriani Boulevard, Port of Spain (tel: 623-4665/7, 625-4666/8; fax: 624-3563).

Trinidad and Tobago Embassy (USA), 1708 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC (tel: (+1-202) 467-6490; fax: (+1-202) 785-3130; e-mail: embttgo@erols.com).

Trinidad and Tobago Export Trading Company Limited, Level 4 Long Circular Mall, Long Circular Road, St. James (tel: 622-7968; fax: 628-2349).

Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association, 8 Stanmore Avenue, Port of Spain (tel: 623-1029/31, fax: 623-1031).

Other news agencies: Cananews: www.cananews.net

Internet sites

Government website: <http://www.gov.tt>

Information on economic trends, investment opportunities, infrastructure, news and events: <http://www.tidco.co.tt/>

Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd: <http://www.petrotrin.com>

Prime Minister's Office: <http://www.opm.gov.tt>

Statistics Office: <http://www.cso.gov.tt>

Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd: <http://www.tstt.net.tt>

Trinidad and Tobago company database: <http://tradepoint.tidco.co.tt/tcdbase/>