

Introduction

Suriname is a country located in Northern South America bordering the North Atlantic Ocean. Neighboring countries include Brazil, French Guinea, and Guyana. The geography of Suriname consists of rainforests, savanna, coastal swamps, and two mountain ranges: the Bakhuis and Van Asch Van Wijck Mountains. The government system is a constitutional democracy; the chief of state and head of government is the president. Suriname has a mixed economic system, but private-sector development is hampered by the government's presence in the economy. Suriname is a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).



Location: South America

Capital City: Paramaribo (-3 GMT)

Chief of State: President Desiré Delano Bouterse

Head of Govt.: President Desiré Delano Bouterse

Currency: Surinamese dollar (SRD)

Major Languages: <p>Dutch (official), English (widely spoken), Sranang Tongo (Surinamese, sometimes called Taki-Taki, is native language of Creoles and much of the younger population and is lingua franca among others), Caribbean Hindustani (a dialect of Hindi), Javanese</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Hindu 27.4%, Protestant 25.2% (predominantly Moravian), Roman Catholic 22.8%, Muslim 19.6%, indigenous beliefs 5%</p>

Calling Code: 597

Voltage: 127

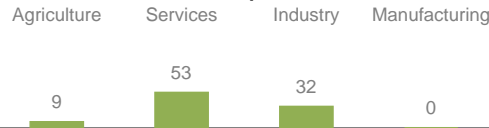
Key Websites

Main Government Page: gov.sr

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Upper Middle Income
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$8.52 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	0.10% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$15,114.30 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	12.50% (2016)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$0.00 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	52.34% (2016)
Labor force, total:	221,392 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	8.12% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$2.02 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$2.29 billion (2017)

GDP Composition %



**Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

Rankings

Index	Rank
Corruption Perceptions Index	77 / 178
Index of Economic Freedom	166 / 180
Inward FDI Potential Index	81 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	142 / 185

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: D - A high-risk political and economic situation and an often very difficult business environment can have a very significant impact on corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is very high.

Business Climate rating: D - The business environment is very difficult. Corporate financial information is rarely available and when available usually unreliable. The legal system makes debt collection very unpredictable. The institutional framework has very serious weaknesses. Intercompany transactions can thus be very difficult to manage in the highly risky environments rated D.

Strengths

- Mineral resources and agricultural potential
- Financial support from international donors and foreign investors

Weaknesses

- Dependence on oil, gold, and aluminum
- Poorly diversified economy
- Scale of the informal economy (30 % of GDP) with casinos, alluvial digging, and contraband
- Problems with the management of public companies
- Lack of transport infrastructure (roads, ports)
- Difficult business climate, ineffective justice system

U.S. Embassy

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