

MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT AREA OF THE WORLD COUNTRY

Snapshot Section

Country Name: Trinidad and Tobago

Country Founded in: 1962

Population: 1,229,953 (July 2009 estimate)

Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy

Geography/location in the world: Trinidad and Tobago are islands in the Caribbean Sea, north of Venezuela.



Number of people groups: 17

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot: Major Religion and % of population, Christianity 31.6%

All religions and % for each:

Roman Catholic 26%

Hindu 22.5%

Anglican 7.8%
Baptist 7.2%
Pentecostal 6.8%
Muslim 8%
Seventh Day Adventist 4%
Other Christians 5.8%
Others 10.8%
Unspecified 1.4%
Non-religious 1.9% (2000 census)

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/td.html>

Government interaction with religion: There are a variety of religions practiced in Trinidad and Tobago with the freedom to meet.

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name: Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Demographics:

As of July 2009, the population of Trinidad and Tobago was 1,229,953. The population growth rate was -0.102%. The birth rate was 14.36 births/ 1,000 per population. The death rate was 8.11 deaths/ 1,000 per population. The net migration rate was -7.28 migrant(s)/ 1,000 per population. The infant mortality rate was 29.93 deaths/ 1,000 live births: 31.14 deaths for male/ 1,000 live births and 28.7 deaths for female/ 1,000 live births. The life expectancy was 70.86 years: 67.98 years for male and 73.82 years for female. The total fertility rate was 1.72 children born/ woman. As of 2007, the adult prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS was 1.5%. There are approximately 14,000 people living with HIV/AIDS.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/td.html>

Language: The official language of Trinidad and Tobago is English.

Society/Culture:

Food: Trinidad and Tobago is a multi-ethnicity country. Thus, cuisine is various and rich based on African, East Indian, Amerindian, Chinese, Middle Eastern, and European cultures. The most famous food in Trinidad and Tobago is *Roti*. It is Indian flat bread filled with vegetables, curried beef, chicken, and lamb.

Education: In the elementary and secondary schools, tuition is free and education is compulsory for six years. Students learn for 7 years in elementary schools and for 5 years in secondary schools. The form of secondary school is diverse. Traditionally, it has a general 5 year education system then has a 2 year program in the form of the sixth year.

Religions: Approximately half of population belongs to the Roman Catholic or Protestant Church. In Protestant the primary denominations are Anglican, Pentecostal, Seventh Day Adventist, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist. In recent days, only a small number of the population practice traditional Caribbean religions. Hindu temples and Muslims mosques exist for those who follow the precepts of these religions.

Housing: A traditional rural house has one to three rooms and an outside kitchen for a large family. In urban areas, housing problems are caused by the lack of adequate housing. Around 76% of families own their houses.

Health: General hospitals, dental clinics, mental hospitals, and a nurses' training school have existed in Trinidad and Tobago. There were 79 physicians, 287 nurses, and 8 dentists per 1,000 people in Trinidad and Tobago in 2004. The medical circumstances have been improved. The rate of death caused by malaria, tuberculosis, typhoid, and syphilis has been decreased.

Immunization rates for children are increasing. The rate of people who have access to safe water is 86%.

Holidays: The most important festival in Trinidad and Tobago is a Carnival. It is also the most famous festival in the world as well as New Orleans' Mardi Gras and Brazil's Carnival. This Carnival has been held for 200 years since the first French settlers came to the Trinidad and Tobago in 1783. Most of the population participates in this festival including Port of Spain, which is the place for the main activities. San Fernando, Scarborough, and other places also have activities during Carnival.

Mid July through the first week in August is the Tobago heritage festival. The island of Tobago celebrates its heritage with dances from the 18th and 19th century being performed in various villages. There are storytelling venues, plays depicting folktales and lots of food. The festival culminates in the celebration of Emancipation Day, August 1.

August 1, 1838 slavery was abolished in Trinidad and Tobago. This annual celebration includes remembering the African heritage of those who had been slaves and were given their freedom. Arts and crafts as well as fine art performances remember those had been slaves, who made Trinidad and Tobago their home.

August 31 is Independence Day for the islands. The day begins with parades, one on Trinidad in the capitol city of Port of Spain. Another parade occurs in Scarborough, Tobago. Following the parades, the afternoon finds a ceremony at the President's home where citizens of the islands are recognized and honored for their contributions to their country. The evening finishes out with fireworks shows in each of the main cities.

In addition Trinidad and Tobago has many religious holidays because of religious diversity. Prime days of celebration are Christmas and Easter.

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

Timothy L. Gall, ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*. "Americas." Vol. 2. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group, 2001

Timothy L. Gall, ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*. "Americas." Vol. 2. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group, 2001

Government:

Trinidad and Tobago gained independence from England on August 31, 1962. The country established a parliamentary system of government.

Executive Branch: The chief of state is the President. Current president is George Maxwell Richards since 17 March 2003. The President is elected by an electoral college which consists of the members of the Senate and House of Representatives. He serves for a five-year term and is eligible for a second term.

The head of government is the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President and the leader of the majority party in the House of Representatives. The current Prime Minister

is Patrick Manning since 23 December 2001. The cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago is appointed from among the members of Parliament.

Legislative Branch: The Bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate is made up of a 31 seats; 16 members appointed by the ruling party, 9 by the President, 6 by the opposition, all to serve a maximum term of five years. The House of Representative consists of 41 members elected by popular vote to serve a five-year term. Tobago has a unicameral House of Assembly with 12 members serving four-year terms.

Judicial Branch: The legal system is based on English common law. This branch consists of the Supreme Court of Judicature comprised of the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeals. The chief justice is appointed by the president after consultation with the prime minister and the leader of the opposition. Other justices are appointed by the president on the advice of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission. The highest court of appeal is the Privy Council in London.

Political Party: The majority party in Trinidad and Tobago is the People's National Movement (PNM). The second largest party is the United National Congress (UNC). Minor parties include Congress of the People and Democratic Action Congress (DAC).

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/td.html>

Economy:

The economy in Trinidad and Tobago has increased since 2000 after experiencing a rapid decline in 1990s. The government invested in the educational infrastructure and in the public sector in the early 2000s. The government also improved water and electricity supply. It tried to decrease economic dependence to other countries. It decided to invest 6 primary sectors to diversify the economic situation. The sectors are followings: traditional manufacturing, new technology-based industrial sector, tourism, financial services, agriculture, and small business.

Trinidad and Tobago's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for purchasing power parity was \$29.01 billion in 2008. The GDP real growth rate was 3.5%, and GDP per capita was 23,600 dollars. The GDP composition by sector was following: 0.5% for agriculture, 62.3% for industry, and 37.2% for services.

The labor force of Trinidad and Tobago was 620,800 people in 2008. The labor force by occupation was followings: 3.8% for agriculture, 12.8% for manufacturing, mining, and quarrying, 20.4% for construction and utilities, and 62.9% for services in 2007. The unemployment rate was 5.5% in 2008.

Concerning the budget, Trinidad and Tobago's revenues were \$7.421 billion. Trinidad and Tobago's expenditures were \$7,141 billion in 2008. Public debt amounted to 26.1% of the GDP. The national external debt of Trinidad and Tobago was \$3.302 billion in 2008. Trinidad and Tobago's currency is the Trinidad and Tobago dollar (TTD). The exchange rate was 6.2896 TTD per US dollar in 2008.

The exports of Trinidad and Tobago were \$15.9 billion in 2008. The export commodities were natural resources such as petroleum, liquefied natural gas, methanol, and ammonia. Products produced for export were steel products, beverages, and cereal. Agriculture products such as sugar, cocoa, coffee, citrus fruit, vegetable, and flowers were exported. Trinidad and Tobago's export partners were the US (47.5%), Spain (8.3%), Netherlands (7.4%), and Jamaica (6.1%) in 2008.

The imports of Trinidad and Tobago were \$9.843 billion in 2008. The import commodities were mineral fuels, lubricants, machinery, transportation equipment, manufactured goods, food, chemicals, and live animals. The import partners were the US (27.4%), Brazil (10%), Venezuela (8.1%), Colombia (4.8%), China (4.2%) and Gabon (4.1%) in 2008.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/td.html>

Timothy L. Gall, ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*. "Africa." Vol. 2. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group, 2001

Literacy: As of 2003, approximately 98.6% of Trinidad and Tobago's total population 15 years of age or older could read and write: 99.1% for male and 98% for female.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/td.html>

Land/Geography:

Trinidad and Tobago are islands in the Caribbean Sea, between the Caribbean and the North Atlantic Ocean, and northeast of Venezuela. Trinidad and Tobago's total area is 5,128 square kilometer (1,981 sq. mi). Trinidad and Tobago is slightly smaller than the state of Delaware.

Trinidad and Tobago consists of two big islands, the island of Trinidad and the island of Tobago and sixteen small islands. The island of Trinidad is shaped rectangular and is 4,828 square kilometer (1,863 sq mi). The island of Tobago is 300 square kilometer (116 sq mi) and is located northeast of Trinidad. The other 16 small islands are scattered around these islands.

Trinidad and Tobago's landscape is mostly level with some hills and low mountains. The highest point in Trinidad and Tobago is El Cerro del Aripo reaching 940 meter (3,084 ft).

The climate in Trinidad and Tobago is tropical. They have two seasons: dry season from January to May and rainy season from June to December. Between the seasons, temperatures differ slightly. The mean annual temperature is 70°F (21°C).

The capital city of Trinidad and Tobago is Port-of-Spain located on Trinidad.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/td.html>

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

Timothy L. Gall, ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*. "Africa." Vol. 2. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group, 2001

History

Trinidad and Tobago consists of islands, Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad was found by Columbus in 1498. Arawak Indians lived on the Trinidad islands and Carib Indians lived on the Tobago islands. Once Trinidad became a colony of Spain in 1532, it was invaded by other European countries. Under the control of Spain, Trinidad became the supply and transshipment center for Spanish traders. In time, Europeans established plantations on Trinidad. The Spanish government gave up the right to reign over Trinidad and the right was given to England in 1802. On the other hand, France and England occupied Tobago in turn, several times, and finally Tobago became the territory of England in 1814. England consolidated Trinidad and Tobago as a single colony in 1889.

Tobago was also found by Columbus in 1498. However, Tobago islands were not interesting in comparison to Trinidad. The British in Barbados tried to colonize Tobago in 1616, however, the local Carib Indians created such problems the colonists left. After that, Tobago was occupied at different times by the Dutch, French, and British for 200 years. The British has ruled over Tobago islands for 150 years since 1814.

Europeans settled Trinidad and Tobago after it became the colony of Spain. The first settlers were Spaniards one century after Columbus identified the islands. Sugarcane plantations used many Indians along with approximately 150,000 contract workers, who came to Trinidad and Tobago from 1845 to 1917. In the similar period, the Chinese workers also immigrated to work on plantations.

During the colonial history, slaves were sent from Africa. Most of them were sent to sugarcane plantations. The slavery in Trinidad and Tobago was abolished in 1834. In recent days, most people of Trinidad and Tobago are descendents of East Indian and African workers.

The British colonized the islands of Trinidad and Tobago at separate times. Eventually the British consolidated them under the name of Trinidad and Tobago in 1888. Partial self-government in Trinidad and Tobago was established in 1925. Trinidad and Tobago became a member of the Federation of the West Indies with Jamaica, Barbados, and the British Windward and Leeward Islands in 1958. However, Trinidad and Tobago withdrew in 1961. Trinidad and Tobago gained independence on August 31, 1962. After independence, Trinidad and Tobago became a member of the Commonwealth in 1962.

The first prime minister was Eric Williams, the founder and the leader of the People's National Movement (PNM). He had the responsibility of the position of prime minister from 1961 to 1981. Trinidad and Tobago declared itself a republic in 1976. Trinidad and Tobago adopted the President to replace the British monarchy as the chief of state. They adopted their constitution in 1976.

The next presidential election is scheduled to be held in February 2013. The Legislative elections will be in 2015.

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108046.html>

<http://latino.si.edu/rainbow/education/historyandpeople.htm>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/td.html>

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35638.htm>

Timothy L. Gall, ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*. "Americas." Vol. 3. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group, 2001

Christian History

Under the control of Spanish, Roman Catholicism was the official religion in Trinidad and Tobago. When the islands came under British control the Anglican Church became the norm. However, the roots of Roman Catholicism were still there.

Jon Morton, a Canadian minister, came to Trinidad and Tobago for recovery from an illness. During his stay in Trinidad and Tobago, he made contact with the East Indian community and realized the need to do evangelism among them. After he was back in Canada, he decided to be a missionary. He came back with his wife and daughter to the Trinidad islands. He found that former missionary work existed at Iere Village before he arrived. However, the work was abandoned. The American Presbyterian Church agreed to hand over their ministry to Morton. He made this village the first converted Protestant community in Trinidad.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/605453/Trinidad-and-Tobago/275757/Religion>

Religion

Non Christian

Islam: Islam was found in Trinidad and Tobago during the time of the plantations. African slaves who had converted brought the teachings with them. Today nearly 6% of the population associate with Islam teachings. They have mosques and a television station.

Hinduism: Hinduism is the second largest religion in Trinidad and Tobago. Around 19% of the population follows these teachings. This religion came to the islands through those who came to work on the plantations.

Buddhism: About 1,200 people are thought to be followers of the Buddhist faith. The Chinese who came to work in the islands brought the teachings with them.

Baha'i: Baha'i faith in Trinidad and Tobago started from a visit of Mrs. Leonora Sterling Armstrong in 1927. She was followed by a couple of people with Baha'i beliefs. Less than 1% follows these beliefs.

<http://www.bahaitt.org/history.htm>

Jehovah's Witness: There are about 91 congregations with a little over 8,000 members.

Non-religious: Over 1% of the population claim to be non-religious. This is over 18,000 people.

Catholic/Orthodox: Approximately 33% of populations practice Roman Catholicism. It has 68 congregations with 228,571 members as of 2000.

Christian/Evangelical

Anglican: The Anglican Church has 88 congregations and 30,798 members. This is 12.51% of total population in Trinidad and Tobago.

Methodists: The Methodist Church has 27 congregations with 4,300 members.

Baptists: The Baptist work started in the 19th Century among the African descendents. The Baptist convention has 58 congregations with 4,559 members.

Presbyterian: The Presbyterian Church in Trinidad and Tobago was founded by a Presbyterian minister from Canada. There are 72 Presbyterian primary schools, 5 secondary schools, and one theological college. There were 13,986 members and 105 congregations in 2006.

Pentecostals: Pentecostal Assemblies has 180 congregations with 17,000 members.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/regions/caribbean/trinidad-and-tobago/presbyterian-church-in-trinidad-and-tobago.html>

<http://presbyterianchurchtt.org/aboutus.aspx>

<http://library2.nalis.gov.tt/Default.aspx?tabid=174>

Patrick Jonstone and Jason Mandryk, *Operation World*,

People Groups

16442

Afro-Caribbean Trinidadian, Afro Trinidadian (685,138)

The primary language of Afro-Trinidadian is English. The primary religion of Afro-Trinidadian is Christianity (94%). They have access to Bible translations, the *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

46767

Afro-Trinidadian Muslim (15,000)

The primary language of Afro-Trinidadian Muslim is Trinidadian Creole English. The primary religion of Afro-Trinidadian Muslim is Islam. They have access to Gospel recordings. They are in need of Bible translations, the *Jesus* film, and radio broadcasts in the Creole English language. They do have access to these resources in the official language of the country.

110448

Americans, U.S. (2,700)

The primary language of Americans is English. The primary religion of Americans is Christianity (87%). They have access to Bible translations, the *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

109662

Arab, Syrian (2,720)

The primary language of the Arab people is Arabic or North Levantine Spoken. The primary religion of Arab is Islam. They have access to Bible translations and Gospel recordings. The accessibility of the *Jesus* film and radio broadcasts is unknown.

16443

British (6,178)

The primary language of British is English. The primary religion of British is Christianity (70%). They have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

16445

Deaf (4,568)

The primary language of the Deaf is American (British) Sign Language. The primary religion of the Deaf population is Christianity (71.21%). It is unclear what Christian resources are available for them. If they can read, gospel tracts and the Bible would be available to them in English.

16444

East Indian (17,907)

The East Indian is called Caribbean Hindi. The primary language of East Indian is Caribbean Hindustani. The primary religion of East Indian is Hinduism. They have access to Bible translations and the *Jesus* film. They are in need of Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts in their language, though they would have access in the official language of the country.

46769

East Indian Christian (152,920)

The primary language of the East Indian Christian is Trinidadian Creole English. The primary religion of East Indian Christian is Christianity. They have access to Gospel recordings. Resources such as the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and radio broadcasts are available in English, the official language of the country.

46764

East Indian Hindu (284,040)

The primary language of East Indian Hindu is English. The primary religion of East Indian Hindu is Hinduism. They have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, the *Jesus* film, and radio broadcasts.

46768

East Indian Muslim (68,000)

The primary language of the East Indian Muslim is Trinidad Creole English. The primary religion of the East Indian Muslim is Islam. They have access to Gospel recordings. They are in need of Bible translations, the *Jesus* film, and radio broadcasts in the Trinidad Creole English.

16446

French West Indian (8,770)

The primary language of the French West Indian is Trinidad Creole English. The primary religion is Roman Catholic. They have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, the *Jesus* film, and radio broadcasts in the official language of the country.

16447

Han Chinese, Cantonese (5,938)

The primary language of the Han Chinese is Yue Chinese. The primary religion of the Han Chinese is Buddhism. They have access to the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and Gospel recordings. The accessibility of radio broadcasts is unknown. Less than 2% of Han Chinese in Trinidad and Tobago is Evangelical Christian. There has been no active church planting within 2 years.

12347

Jew (600)

The Jewish people on Trinidad and Tobago speak English. Their primary religion is Judaism, with less than 2% being Evangelical Christian. They have access to many Christian resources including the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and music.

1449

Portuguese (2,720)

The primary language of the Portuguese people is Portuguese. The primary religion of Portuguese is Christianity (93%). They have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, the *Jesus* film, and radio broadcasts.

15086

Saint Lucian (3,900)

The primary language of the Saint Lucian people living on Trinidad and Tobago is Saint Lucian Creole French. The primary religion of the Saint Lucian is thought to be Christianity though there are few, if any known Evangelicals. They have access to Bible translations and Gospel recordings in their language. The accessibility of *Jesus* film and radio broadcasts may be in the official language of the country.

16449

Spaniard (3,745)

The primary language of the Spaniard is Spanish. The primary religion of Spaniard is Roman Catholic (95%). Less than 2% are thought to be Evangelical Christian. They have access to the Bible, Gospel recordings, the *Jesus* film, and radio broadcasts.

16450

Tobagonian (32,887)

The primary language of the Tobagonian people is Virgin Islands Creole English. The primary religion of the Tobagonian is Roman Catholicism. It is thought about 5% are Evangelical Christian. In their language they have Gospel recordings. Other Christian resources such as the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and radio broadcasts are available to them in English, the official language of the islands.

All of the information on people groups has been gathered from two websites, unless noted. These two websites are www.peoplegroups.org and www.joshuaproject.org.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christian believers and churches need to reach out to the Islamic and Hindu communities. It is estimated around 25% of the population is Hindu and 6% is Muslim. There is a great need to share the love of Christ to other religious groups.
2. Evangelical Christian believers and churches need to be committed to discipleship and training believers to reach their communities. Nearly every community has a church, but congregations need to do more to reach outside their walls.
3. Evangelical Christian believers and churches need to be united in vision and purpose in reaching their communities. They need to be praying for and expecting revival within the body of Christ.
4. Evangelical Christian believers and churches need to be reaching the young people of the islands. Biblical curriculum and programs need to be implemented in training the young people to grow as Christians.
5. Evangelical Christian believers and churches need to keep in mind over 30% of the population is Roman Catholic. Churches need to help their members learn how to lovingly share the Good News of Christ and to understand HE is their Savior, their Intercessor, the only One they should pray to. Sensitivity to tradition is important, but, being biblical in teachings is paramount.