

Puerto Rico Facts & Figures

Discovered by Columbus in 1493, the island of Puerto Rico was ceded by Spain to the United States in 1898, following the Spanish-American War. A popularly elected governor has served since 1948. In plebiscites held in 1967 and 1993, voters chose to retain commonwealth status.

Government

Country name
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Short form: Puerto Rico

Government type
Commonwealth associated with the United States of America

Constitution
Ratified March 3, 1952.

Legal system
Based on Spanish civil code.

Suffrage
18 years of age. Inhabitants are U.S. citizens but do not vote in U.S. presidential elections.

Head of government
Governor Sila M. Calderón

Political parties and leaders
New Progressive Party (PNP): Carlos Pesquera
Popular Democratic Party (PPD): Sila M. Calderón
Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP): Ruben Berrios Martinez

Cabinet
Appointed by the governor with the consent of the Legislature



Legislative branch
Bicameral Legislative Assembly consists of the Senate (28 seats; members are directly elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms), and the House of Representatives (54 seats; members are directly elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms).

Judicial branch
Supreme Court; Circuit Court of Appeals; and Court of First Instance.

Representation in the U.S.
Puerto Rico elects one nonvoting representative to the U.S. House of Representatives known as a Resident Commissioner; elections last held November 7, 2000 (next to be held November 2004). Result: Anibal Acevedo Vilá (PPD).

Elections
Elections for Governor, Resident Commissioner, Senate, House of Representatives and municipalities last held November 7, 2000.

Election results
Governor Sila M. Calderón (PPD) elected with 48.6% percent of vote. Senate seats by party: PNP 8, PPD 19, PIP 1.
House of Representatives seats by party: PPD 30, PNP 20, PIP 1, other 3.

International organizations
Caricom (observer), ECLAC (associate), FAO (associate), ICFTU, Interpol (subbureau), IOC, WCL, WFTU, WHO (associate)

Military
Defense is responsibility of the United States government.

Economy

Puerto Rico has one of the most dynamic economies in the Caribbean region. A diverse industrial sector has surpassed agriculture as the primary locus of economic activity and income. Encouraged by duty-free access to the U.S. mainland and by tax incentives, U.S. firms have invested heavily in Puerto Rico since the 1950s. U.S. minimum wage laws apply. Sugar production has lost out to dairy production and other livestock products as the main source of income in the agricultural sector. Tourism has traditionally been an important source of income, with estimated arrivals of nearly 5 million tourists in 1999. Prospects for 2001 are clouded by a probable slowing down in both the construction and tourist sectors and by increasing inflation, particularly in energy and food prices; estimated growth will be 2%.

GNP	GNP - real growth rate	GNP - per capita
\$44.2 billion	1.7%	\$11,530
GDP	GDP - real growth rate	GDP - per capita
\$67.9 billion	5%	\$17,708

GDP - composition by sector	Agriculture: products
Agriculture: 1%	Sugarcane, coffee, pineapples, plantains, bananas; livestock products, chickens
Industry: 45%	Exports
Services: 54% (1999 est.)	\$47 billion
Inflation rate (consumer prices)	Exports: partners
4.8%	U.S. 87%
Labor force	Exports: commodities
1.4 million	Pharmaceuticals, electronics, apparel, canned tuna, rum, beverage concentrates, medical equipment.
Labor force - by occupation	Imports
Agriculture 3%, industry 20%, services 77%*	Imports: \$29 billion
Unemployment rate	Imports: partners
12.5%	U.S. 52%
Budget	Imports: commodities
Revenues: \$7.25 billion	Chemicals, machinery and equipment, clothing, food, fish, petroleum products
Industries	Currency
Pharmaceuticals, electronics, apparel, food products; tourism	U.S. dollar (USD)
Electricity: production	Fiscal year
16.76 billion kWh (1999 est.)	1 July - 30 June
Electricity: production by source	
Fossil fuel: 98.45%	
Hydro: 1.55%	
Electricity: consumption	
15.87 billion kWh (1999 est.)	

People

Population
3,937,316

Nationality
Puerto Rican (U.S. citizens)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 23.73%	male: 478,441	female: 455,800
15-64 years: 65.72%	male: 1,242,345	female: 1,345,421
65 and older: 10.55%	male: 177,083	female: 238,326

Population growth rate
0.54%*

Birth rate
15.26 births/1,000 population*

Death rate
7.77 deaths/1,000 population*

Net migration rate
-2.13 migrants/1,000 population*

Life expectancy at birth
Total population: 75.76 years
Male: 71.28 years
Female: 80.48 years*
Total fertility rate: 1.9 children born/woman*

Ethnic groups

Black	8%
White	80.5%
Other	11.5%

Religions

Roman Catholic	40%
Protestant	40%
Other	20%

Languages
Spanish, English

Literacy
Total (age 15 and over): 89%
Male 90%, Female 88% (1980 est.)
*2001 estimates

Geography

Location:
Between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, east of the Dominican Republic.

Geographic coordinates:
18 15 N, 66 30 W

Area
Total: 9,104 sq km
Land: 8,959 sq km
Water: 145 sq km

Area (comparative)
Slightly less than three times the size of Rhode Island.

Maritime claims
Exclusive economic zone: 200 NM

Territorial sea
12 NM

Coastline
501 km

Terrain
Mostly mountains, with coastal plain belt in north; mountains precipitous to sea on west coast; sandy beaches along most coastal areas.

Elevation extremes
lowest point:
Caribbean Sea 0 m
highest point:
Cerro La Punta 1,338 m

Natural resources
Some copper and nickel; potential for onshore and offshore oil
Land use: arable land: 4%
Permanent crops: 5%
Permanent pastures: 26%
Forests and woodland: 16%
Other: 49% (1993 est.)
Irrigated land: 390 sq km (1993 est.)

Mona Island



Climate
Tropical marine, mild; little seasonal temperature variation. Average high: 84°F. Average Low: 73°F. Average precipitation: 5 in.

Natural hazards
Periodic droughts; hurricanes

Administrative divisions
Capital city: San Juan
There are 78 municipalities:
Adjuntas, Aguada, Aguadilla, Aguas Buenas, Aibonito, Añasco, Arecibo, Arroyo, Barceloneta, Barranquitas, Bayamon, Cabo Rojo, Caguas, Camuy, Canóvanas,

Carolina, Cataño, Cayey, Ceiba, Ciales, Cidra, Coamo, Comerio, Corozal, Culebra, Dorado, Fajardo, Florida, Guánica, Guayama, Guayanilla, Guaynabo, Gurabo, Hatillo, Hormigueros, Humacao,

Isabela, Jayuya, Juana Diaz, Juncos, Lajas, Lares, Las Marias, Las Piedras, Loiza, Luquillo, Manati, Maricao, Maunabo, Mayagüez, Moca, Morovis, Naguabo, Naranjito, Orocovis,

Patillas, Peñuelas, Ponce, Quebradillas, Rincón, Río Grande, Sabana Grande, Salinas, San Germán, San Lorenzo, San Sebastián, Santa Isabel, Toa Alta, Toa Baja, Trujillo Alto, Utuado, Vega Alta, Vega Baja, Vieques, Villalba, Yabucoa, and Yauco.

Communications

Telephone system
Modern system, integrated with that of the U.S. by high-capacity submarine cable and Intelsat with high-speed data capability
Domestic: digital telephone system; cellular telephone service
International: satellite earth station

Telephones
Lines in use: 1.322 million (1997)
Mobile cellular: 1.4 million

Television
Stations: 28, Cable providers: 4
Cable subscribers: 360,000
Satellite T.V. Subscribers: 154,000
T.V. Sets: 2.3 million

Radio
72 AM broadcast stations
48 FM broadcast stations
Radios: 2.7 million (1997)

Internet
Internet country code: .pr
Internet Service Providers: 28
Internet users: 700,000

Transportation

Highways
Total: 14,400 km
Paved: 14,400 km
Unpaved: 0 km (1996)

Airports
11 Airports
Paved runways: 12

Ports and harbors
Guánica, Guayanilla, Guayama, Playa de Ponce, San Juan.

Railways
Total 96 km
Narrow gauge 96 km 1,000-m gauge, rural, narrow-gauge system for hauling sugarcane; no passenger service.