



Suriname

Where is Suriname

Suriname is located in northern South America. It is bordered by the Caribbean sea to the north. Guyana to the west, French Guiana (Department of France) to the east, and Brazil to the south. Suriname is involved in territorial disputes with both Guyana and French Guiana that are legacies of colonial rule. It's capital and biggest city is Paramaribo with a population of 223,757.



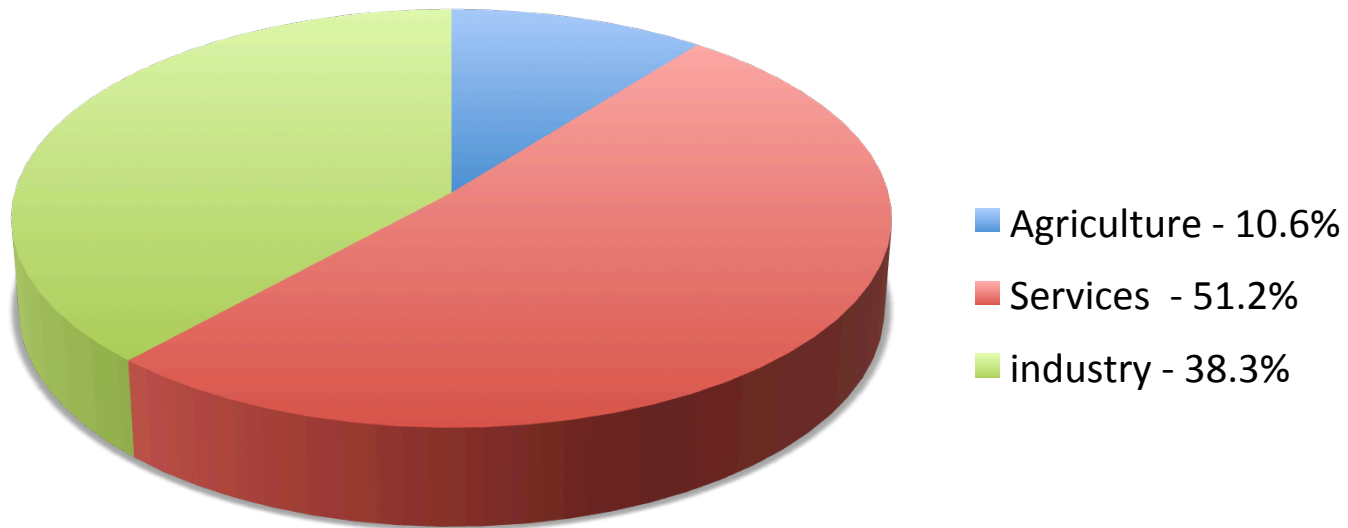
Facts About Suriname

- Area: 63,251 sq. mi.
- Population: 567,000
- Population growth: 1.2%
- Government: Constitutional Democracy
- Current President: Dési Bouterse
- Urban Population: 69%
- Life Expectancy: 71 Years
- Literacy: 95%
- Official Language: Dutch
- Currency: Surinam Dollar (SRD)
- GDP per capita: \$12,600
- GDP Growth: 4.5%



Economy

GDP Comp. of Suriname



Agriculture

- Rice
- Bananas
- Palm Kernels
- Coconuts
- Plantains
- Peanuts



Resources

- Timber
- Hydropower
- Fish
- Kaolin
- Shrimp
- Bauxite
- Gold



Industry

- Bauxite and Gold mining
- Alumina Production
- Oil
- Lumbering
- Food Processing
- Fishing



Major Exports

- Alumina
- Gold
- Crude Oil
- Lumber
- Shrimp and Fish
- Rice
- Bananas





It's Land and People

Land and Climate

- Humid tropical climate - average annual temperature of 81° F
- Annual average rainfall is about 86 inches
- Four-fifths of the country is covered by mountain ranges and the rest is the coastal plain and surrounding hills.
- Only 1 percent of the land is farmable.
- The Central Suriname Nature Reserve, covering nearly 3,950,000 acres, established in 1998 in west-central Suriname, is one of the largest protected areas of rainforest in the.

Animals

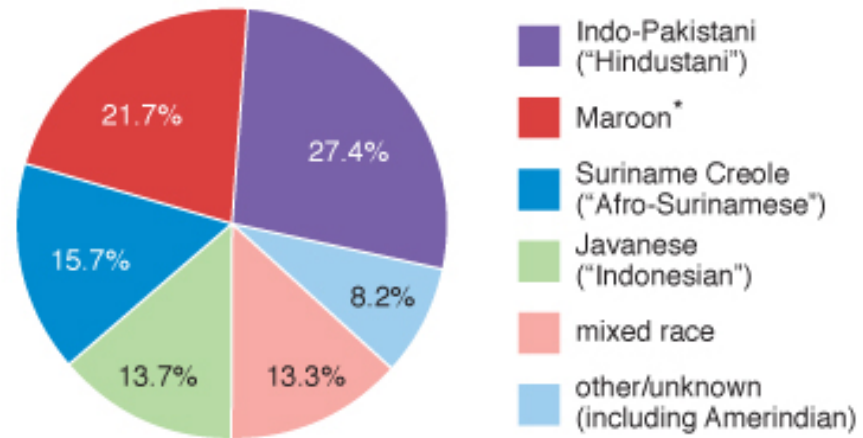
- Mammals include monkeys, wild pigs, deer, manatees, jaguars, ocelots, armadillos, sloths, and anteaters.
- Reptiles include caimans, iguanas, and the boa constrictor.
- The beaches on the eastern part of the coast are breeding grounds for marine turtles, which are protected by law.



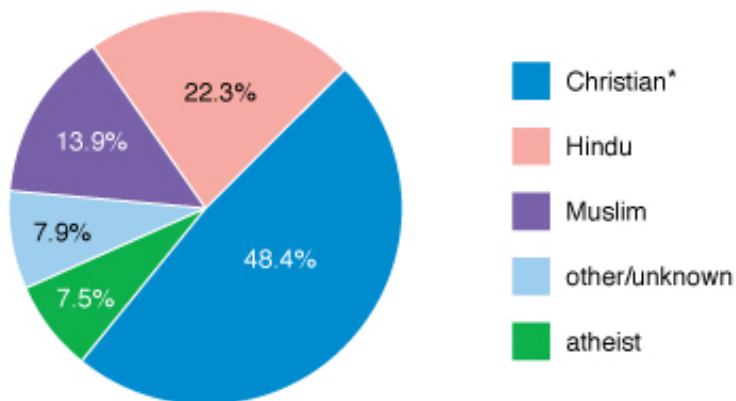
People

Ethnic composition (2012)

*More than half the population lives in Paramaribo



Religious affiliation (2012)



*The official language is Dutch, as this is the language that is taught in schools but they also usually speak Sranan Tongo (a local dialect better know as Taki-Taki), English and Hindustani (a dialect of Hindi).

Early History



- Native groups have inhabited Suriname for thousands of years. Among the larger of these historically were the Arawak and Carib people.
- The Surien (from who the country takes its name) were also some of its earliest inhabitants.
 - By the mid-1500s, they had been driven out by other Indian groups or had migrated to other parts of the Guiana

Colonial Times

- 1593 Area first explored by Spaniards
- 1651: British planters and their slaves establish the first permanent European settlement
- 1667: Suriname was seized by a Dutch fleet, and that year it was ceded to Netherlands in exchange for New Amsterdam (New York City)
- 1682 Dutch planted coffee and sugarcane plantations, and black Africans were brought in as slaves to cultivate them.
- 1863, Slavery abolished and servants and laborers were brought from India, Java, and China to work on the plantations.



Modern History

- 1954: After WWII and a movement for voting right for all, the Netherlands granted Suriname control in its internal affairs.
- Nov. 25, 1975: Suriname becomes an independent country, with a parliamentary system
- 1980: The civilian government was ousted by a national military council
- 1982: The government executed 15 prominent citizens and foreign countries cut off aid.
- 1987: New constitution is approved and the military government is ousted
- 1991: The New Front for Democracy and Development party comes into power and the president Ronald Venetiaan (who again became president in 2000) is credited with restoring political and economic stability to the country.

Fun Facts

- Suriname is the smallest country in South America, both in terms of its geographical size and its population.
- Adults under the age of 30 are not allowed to get married in Suriname without a written permission from their parents
- Suriname has a famous Toad “the Surinam Toad” or also known as “Pica Pica” and has some seemingly unique reproductive practices. The female Pipa Pipa raises tadpoles to mini toad size in the spongy skin of her back and doesn’t have a tongue or teeth.

