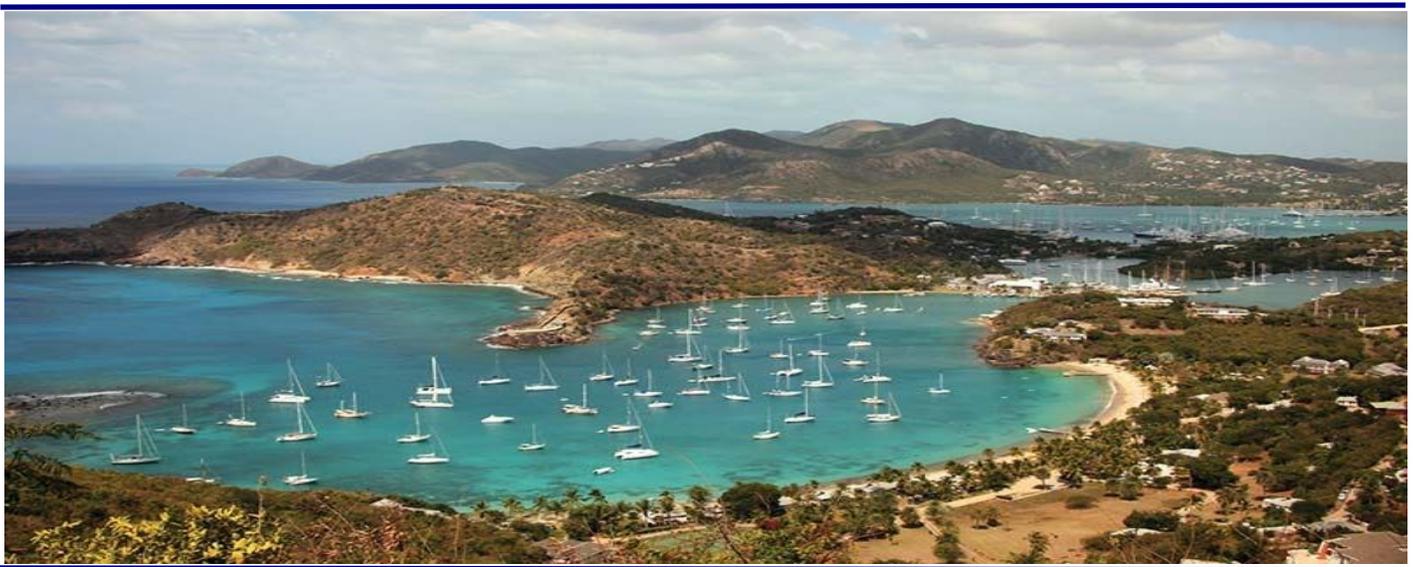


# Stats News & Views

## QUICK FACTS

### COUNTRY PROFILE - ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



#### 1. OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

- The main producer of official statistics in Antigua and Barbuda is the Statistics Division which comes under the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance.

*Its Mission is to produce quality official statistics by coordinating and engaging a national statistical system of users, producers and suppliers of data within a statistical development process defined by professionalism, integrity, transparency, accountability and advocacy.*

- The Statistics Division in the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance was established in 1975 by the General Statistics Act. The Division aims to provide high-quality statistics to a wide variety of users including the government, business community, public, media, regional and international agencies, and academia among others. The main functions are data collection, data processing and compilation, data analysis, data publication, and dissemination of official statistics. (Source: Antigua and Barbuda Statistics Division website)
- Like other countries of CARICOM, the Population and Housing Census for the 2020 Round has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with Antigua and Barbuda now having its tentative Census Day in May 2023.

## 2. KEY STATISTICS AND INDICATORS IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

### Population

The mid-year population estimate for 2021 stood at **99,534**, a growth rate of **1.4 percent** over the 2020 mid-year estimate.

### Unemployment Rate

The latest available Unemployment Rate for Antigua and Barbuda dates back to 2018. The Unemployment Rate, both sexes, for that year stood at **8.7 percent**, with males showing a figure of **7.3 percent** and females, **9.9 percent**.

### Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

GDP at market prices for Antigua and Barbuda was **EC\$Mn 3,083.32 (estimated)** in 2021, which reflected an improvement of **5.27 percent** over the previous period, 2020, when GDP stood at **EC\$Mn 2,928.94**. Construction, Hotel and Restaurants and Transport, Storage and Communication were the three sectors that contributed most to this improvement, growing by **12%**, **15.53%** and **5.68%**, respectively. These changes reflected the impact of the loosening of restrictions put in place to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy in 2020. (Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank website).

### Prices/Inflation

**Consumer Price Index:** Overall, prices increased by **1.22 percent** by end of 2021 as compared to **2.78 percent** at the end of 2020.

### Investment

**Direct Investment:** Net Direct Investment amounted to **EC\$Mn 3,302.08** in 2020 (preliminary) an increase of **4.7 percent** over 2019. This was a smaller increase than the **10.82 percent** increase in 2019 over 2018 when the value of net direct investment totaled **EC\$Mn 3,144.79** in 2019 versus **EC\$Mn 2,804.51** in 2018.

### External Debt Outstanding to GDP (Public Sector)

**Total external debt** outstanding for the public sector to GDP stood at **46.1 percent** at December 2021, compared to **45.1 percent** at December 2020 and **34.5 percent** at December 2019.

### Fiscal Deficit, Government Revenues and Expenditure

**Central Government Fiscal Operation:** The Fiscal deficit in this Member State declined to **EC\$Mn 183.6** at the end 2021 compared to **EC\$Mn 204.9** at the end of 2020. Current Revenue increased from **EC\$Mn 749.4** as at the end of 2020 to **EC\$Mn 785.2** at the end of 2021. Current Expenditure also increased from **EC\$Mn 883.0** as at end the of 2020 to **EC\$Mn 901.3** as at the end of 2021.

## 2. KEY STATISTICS AND INDICATORS ON ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA *(Continued)*

### Merchandise Trade

**Antigua and Barbuda's total trade:** In light of the global coronavirus pandemic, Antigua and Barbuda's total imports decreased from **US\$Mn 568.3** in 2019 to **US\$Mn 422.2** in 2020, representing a decline of **-25.7 percent**. In 2021, total imports rose by more than **10 percent** to **US\$Mn 479.8** which represented an increase of **13.7 percent**. Antigua and Barbuda's total exports also declined over the same period by an even higher percentage from **US\$Mn 37.4** in 2019 to **US\$Mn 21.8** in 2020 representing a decline of **-41.8 percent**, it then decreased again to **US\$ Mn 19.1** in 2021 representing a decline of **-12.0 percent**.

### ICT Statistics

- *Fixed line penetration* for the latest available year, 2017, stood at **25.2 percent**.
- The *Mobile penetration rate* was **192.8 percent** in 2017, representing a **two percentage points** increase from the previous year.
- *Fixed broadband penetration* decreased over the period 2016 to 2017 recording rates of **9.8 percent** and **9.4 percent**, respectively.
- *Mobile broadband penetration* increased from **43.4 percent** in 2016 to **50.3 percent** in 2017.

### Environment Statistics

- **Forest Area:** According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO), the total forested area of Antigua and Barbuda was approximately **18.5 percent** of the total land area or 8,120 hectares as at 2000. (*FAO, Global Forest Resources Assessments 2020*)
- **Disasters:** Between the period 2010 and 2020, Antigua and Barbuda was hit by two Tropical Cyclones, in 2010 and 2017. In total, these disasters affected **6,800** persons and resulted in one fatality. In 2010, Hurricane Earl caused approximately **US\$Mn 15.7** in damage while losses from Irma in 2017 totaled **US\$Mn 276.6** (*EM-DAT*)
- **Tourism:** Tourist arrivals to Antigua and Barbuda recorded **125,089** tourists in 2020, which represented a **58.4 percent** decline over pre-COVID arrivals in 2019. Similarly, visitor expenditures also declined, by **55 percent**, to an estimated **US\$Mn 349.3** in 2020 from total receipts of **US\$Mn 776.1** in 2019. (*Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO)*)

### 3. REGIONAL COOPERATION IN STATISTICS

Regional cooperation in Statistics commenced formally in 1974 with the establishment of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS). The SCCS meets at least annually and seeks to harmonise statistics across CARICOM countries, widen the scope, range and quality of the statistics produced and disseminated and engages in South-South cooperation with the support of International Development Partners such as the EU, ECLAC, the IDB and Governments of Italy and Canada. Several regional statistical public goods have been delivered including a common regional statistical work programme, a common census framework, a model statistics bill, a code of good statistical practices and a quality assurance framework.

### 4. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS TO 2030

The CARICOM Regional Strategy of the Development of Statistics (RSDS) - 2019-2030 was endorsed by CARICOM Heads of Governments in 2018 at its Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting, following the endorsement of the Caribbean Action Plan for Statistics in 2016 and the approval to prepare the RSDS in 2017. The RSDS, as a masterplan for statistics, seeks to strengthen and improve the availability of statistical data for evidence-based decision-making, which is fundamental to the delivery of developmental outcomes. It comprises five (5) strategic priorities- *Standards and Harmonisation, Governance, Integrated Statistical System, Innovation and Advocacy and Communication* and four (4) drivers – *Sustainable Capacity Building, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ICT Infrastructure and Gender Mainstreaming*. The CARICOM RSDS seeks to provide an enabling architecture to realise an efficient CARICOM statistical system (CSS), that is responsive to the national, regional and global development agenda, such as to monitor the achievement of the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS), for which 230+ indicators are required, and the maximising of the benefits of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

### 5. 2020 ROUND OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

The Population and Housing Census is a massive and complex statistical exercise that involves the canvassing of the households of a country, normally every ten (10) years, to obtain information on the total population, the age, sex, education, occupation and other crucial socio-economic, environmental and ICT characteristics. In fact, the census information underscores evidence-based decision-making at all levels. The global COVID-19 pandemic that hit the region in 2020 and continuing, affected the undertaking of the Census in CARICOM countries. Governments throughout the region should provide the support that the national statistical offices require to enable the successful conduct of this important activity.

#### *Produced By:*

*The Regional Statistics Programme  
Caribbean Community Secretariat  
P.O. BOX 10827, Georgetown, Guyana  
Email: [stats1@caricom.org](mailto:stats1@caricom.org)  
Website: [statistics.caricom.org](http://statistics.caricom.org)*