



Central America and Caribbean :: Turks and Caicos Islands (overseas territory of the UK)

Introduction :: Turks and Caicos Islands

Background:

The islands were part of the UK's Jamaican colony until 1962, when they assumed the status of a separate crown colony upon Jamaica's independence. The governor of The Bahamas oversaw affairs from 1965 to 1973. With Bahamian independence, the islands received a separate governor in 1973. Although independence was agreed upon for 1982, the policy was reversed and the islands remain a British overseas territory.

Geography :: Turks and Caicos Islands

Location:

two island groups in the North Atlantic Ocean, southeast of The Bahamas, north of Haiti

Geographic coordinates:

21 45 N, 71 35 W

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean

Area:

total: 948 sq km

country comparison to the world: 186

land: 948 sq km

water: 0 sq km

Area - comparative:

2.5 times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

389 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea: 12 nm

exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm

Climate:

tropical; marine; moderated by trade winds; sunny and relatively dry

Terrain:

low, flat limestone; extensive marshes and mangrove swamps

Elevation extremes:

lowest point: Caribbean Sea 0 m

highest point: Flamingo Hill 48 m

Natural resources:

spiny lobster, conch

Land use:

arable land: 1.05%

permanent crops: 0%

other: 98.95% (2011)

Irrigated land:

NA

Natural hazards:

frequent hurricanes

Environment - current issues:

limited natural freshwater resources, private cisterns collect rainwater

Geography - note:

about 40 islands (eight inhabited)

People and Society :: Turks and Caicos Islands

Nationality:

noun: none

adjective: none

Ethnic groups:

black 87.6%, white 7.9%, mixed 2.5%, East Indian 1.3%, other 0.7% (2006)

Languages:

English (official)

Religions:

Protestant 72.8% (Baptist 35.8%, Church of God 11.7%, Anglican 10%, Methodist 9.3%, Seventh-Day Adventist 6%), Roman Catholic 11.4%, Jehovah's Witnesses 1.8%, other 14%

Population:

49,070 (July 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 212

Age structure:

0-14 years: 22.1% (male 5,536/female 5,332)

15-24 years: 14.8% (male 3,552/female 3,715)

25-54 years: 53.5% (male 13,333/female 12,931)

55-64 years: 4.2% (male 1,434/female 1,188)

65 years and over: 4.1% (male 910/female 1,139) (2014 est.)

Median age:

total: 31.9 years

male: 32.2 years

female: 31.5 years (2014 est.)

Population growth rate:

2.58% (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 27

Birth rate:

16.61 births/1,000 population (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 119

Death rate:

3.08 deaths/1,000 population (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 222

Net migration rate:

12.23 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 12

Urbanization:

urban population: 93% of total population (2010)

rate of urbanization: 1.6% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

GRAND TURK (capital) 6,000 (2009)

Sex ratio:

at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.04 male(s)/female

15-24 years: 0.96 male(s)/female

25-54 years: 1.03 male(s)/female

55-64 years: 1.02 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.8 male(s)/female

total population: 1.02 male(s)/female (2014 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

total: 10.97 deaths/1,000 live births

country comparison to the world: 131

male: 13.7 deaths/1,000 live births

female: 8.09 deaths/1,000 live births (2014 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 79.55 years

country comparison to the world: 43

male: 76.8 years

female: 82.42 years (2014 est.)

Total fertility rate:

1.7 children born/woman (2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 172

Drinking water source:**improved:**

urban: 100% of population

rural: 100% of population

total: 100% of population (2010 est.)

Sanitation facility access:**improved:**

urban: 81.4% of population

rural: 81.4% of population

total: 81.4% of population

unimproved:

urban: 18.6% of population

rural: 18.6% of population

total: 18.6% of population (2007 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

NA

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

NA

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

NA

Education expenditures:

NA

Literacy:

definition: age 15 and over has ever attended school

total population: 98%

male: 99%

female: 98% (1970 est.)

People - note:

destination and transit point for illegal Haitian immigrants bound for the Turks and Caicos Islands, The Bahamas, and the US

Government :: Turks and Caicos Islands

Country name:

conventional long form: none

conventional short form: Turks and Caicos Islands

abbreviation: TCI

Dependency status:

overseas territory of the UK

Government type:

NA

Capital:

name: Grand Turk (Cockburn Town)

geographic coordinates: 21 28 N, 71 08 W

time difference: UTC-5 (same time as Washington, DC during Standard Time)

daylight saving time: +1hr, begins second Sunday in March; ends first Sunday in November

Administrative divisions:

none (overseas territory of the UK)

Independence:

none (overseas territory of the UK)

National holiday:

Constitution Day, 30 August (1976)

Constitution:

several previous; latest signed 7 August 2012, effective 15 October 2012 (Turks and Caicos Constitution Order 2011) (2012)

Legal system:

mixed legal system of English common law and civil law

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

chief of state: Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); represented by Governor Peter BECKINGHAM (since 9 October 2013)

head of government: Premier Rufus EWING (since 13 November 2012)

cabinet: consists of the governor, the premier, six ministers appointed by the governor from among the members of the House of Assembly, and the attorney general

(For more information visit the [World Leaders website](#).)

elections: the monarch is hereditary; governor appointed by the monarch; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party is appointed premier by the governor

note: the UK foreign minister has determined that sufficient progress has been made to reinstate local government under a new constitution that came into effect in October 2012

Legislative branch:

unicameral House of Assembly consisting of 19 seats, 15 elected and 4 appointed by the governor; of elected members, five are elected at large and 10 from single member districts for four-year terms

elections: last held on 9 November 2012 (next to be held in 2016)

election results: percent of vote - NA; seats by party - PNP 8, PDM 7

Judicial branch:

highest court(s): Supreme Court (consists of the chief justice and such number of other judges as determined by the governor); Court of Appeal (consists of the court president and 2 justices)

note - appeals beyond the Supreme Court are heard by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, in London

judge selection and term of office: Supreme Court and Appeals Court judges appointed by the governor in accordance with the Judicial Service Commission, a 3-member body of high level judicial officials; Supreme Court judges appointed until mandatory retirement at age 65, but can be extended to age 70; Appeals Court judge tenure determined by individual terms of appointment

subordinate courts: magistrates' courts

Political parties and leaders:

People's Democratic Movement or PDM [Oswald SKIPPINGS]

People's Progressive Party [NA]

Progressive National Party or PNP [Rufus EWING]

Political pressure groups and leaders:

NA

International organization participation:

Caricom (associate), CDB, Interpol (subbureau), UPU

Diplomatic representation in the US:

none (overseas territory of the UK)

Diplomatic representation from the US:

none (overseas territory of the UK)

Flag description:

blue, with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and the colonial shield centered on the outer half of the flag; the shield is yellow and displays a conch shell, a spiny lobster, and Turks Head cactus - three common elements of the islands' biota

National anthem:

name: "This Land of Ours"

lyrics/music: Conrad HOWELL

note: serves as a local anthem; as a territory of the United Kingdom, "God Save the Queen" is the official anthem (see United Kingdom)

Economy :: Turks and Caicos Islands

Economy - overview:

The Turks and Caicos economy is based on tourism, offshore financial services, and fishing. Most capital goods and food for domestic consumption are imported. The US is the leading source of tourists, accounting for more than three-quarters of the 175,000 visitors that arrived in 2004. Major sources of government revenue also include fees from offshore financial activities and customs receipts.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$632 million (2007 est.)

country comparison to the world: 213

\$568.3 million (2006 est.)

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$NA

GDP - real growth rate:

11.2% (2007 est.)

country comparison to the world: 6

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$29,100 (2007 est.)

country comparison to the world: 52

GDP - composition, by end use:

household consumption: 29.6%

government consumption: 17.7%

investment in fixed capital: 52.9%

exports of goods and services: 76.2%

imports of goods and services: -76.3%
(2013 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture: 1%

industry: 22.5%

services: 76.5% (2013 est.)

Agriculture - products:

corn, beans, cassava (tapioca), citrus fruits; fish

Industries:

tourism, offshore financial services

Industrial production growth rate:

3%

country comparison to the world: 99

Labor force:

4,848 (1990 est.)

country comparison to the world: 222

Labor force - by occupation:

note: about 33% in government and 20% in agriculture and fishing; significant numbers in tourism, financial, and other services

Unemployment rate:

10% (1997 est.)

country comparison to the world: 108

Population below poverty line:

NA%

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10%: NA%

highest 10%: NA%

Budget:

revenues: \$434.1 million

expenditures: \$437.6 million (2013 est.)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

2.5% (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 94

2.5% (2012 est.)

Exports:

\$24.77 million (2008 est.)

country comparison to the world: 205

Exports - commodities:

lobster, dried and fresh conch, conch shells

Imports:

\$591.3 million (2008 est.)

country comparison to the world: 191

Imports - commodities:

food and beverages, tobacco, clothing, manufactures, construction materials

Debt - external:

\$NA

Exchange rates:

the US dollar is used

Energy :: Turks and Caicos Islands**Electricity - production:**

200 million kWh (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 182

Electricity - consumption:

186 million kWh (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 186

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 200**Electricity - imports:**

0 kWh (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 204**Electricity - installed generating capacity:**

50,000 kW (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 188**Electricity - from fossil fuels:**

100% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 36**Electricity - from nuclear fuels:**

0% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 186**Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:**

0% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 203**Electricity - from other renewable sources:**

0% of total installed capacity (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 127**Crude oil - production:**

0 bbl/day (2012 est.)

country comparison to the world: 135**Crude oil - exports:**

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 189**Crude oil - imports:**

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 126**Crude oil - proved reserves:**

0 bbl (1 January 2013 es)

country comparison to the world: 193**Refined petroleum products - production:**

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 197**Refined petroleum products - consumption:**

998.6 bbl/day (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 203**Refined petroleum products - exports:**

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 133**Refined petroleum products - imports:**

1,063 bbl/day (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 194**Natural gas - production:**

0 cu m (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 196**Natural gas - consumption:**

0 cu m (2010 est.)

country comparison to the world: 197**Natural gas - exports:**

0 cu m (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 190**Natural gas - imports:**

0 cu m (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 135**Natural gas - proved reserves:**

0 cu m (1 January 2013 es)

country comparison to the world: 197**Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:**

155,500 Mt (2011 est.)

country comparison to the world: 197**Communications :: Turks and Caicos Islands****Telephone system:****general assessment:** fully digital system with international direct dialing**domestic:** full range of services available; GSM wireless service available**international:** country code - 1-649; the Americas Region Caribbean Ring System (ARCOS-1) fiber optic telecommunications submarine cable provides connectivity to South and Central America, parts of the Caribbean, and the US; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean) (2011)**Broadcast media:**

no local terrestrial TV stations, broadcasts from the Bahamas can be received and multi-channel cable and satellite TV services are available; government-run radio network operates alongside private broadcasters with a total of about 15 stations (2007)

Internet country code:

.tc

Internet hosts:

73,217 (2012)

country comparison to the world: 86

Transportation :: Turks and Caicos Islands

Airports:

8 (2013)

country comparison to the world: 163

Airports - with paved runways:

total: 6

2,438 to 3,047 m: 1

1,524 to 2,437 m: 3

914 to 1,523 m: 1

under 914 m: 1 (2013)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total: 2

under 914 m:

2 (2013)

Roadways:

total: 121 km

country comparison to the world: 212

paved: 24 km

unpaved: 97 km (2003)

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s): Cockburn Harbour, Grand Turk, Providenciales

Military :: Turks and Caicos Islands

Manpower fit for military service:

males age 16-49: 11,842

females age 16-49: 11,755 (2010 est.)

Manpower reaching militarily

significant age annually:

male: 338

female: 342 (2010 est.)

Military - note:

defense is the responsibility of the UK

Transnational Issues :: Turks and Caicos Islands

Disputes - international:

have received Haitians fleeing economic and civil disorder

Illicit drugs:

transshipment point for South American narcotics destined for the US and Europe