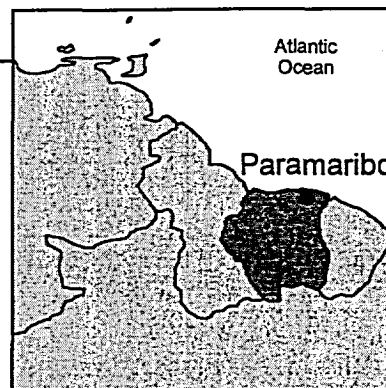


SURINAME

Capital: Paramaribo

GEODATA

Area 163,265 km ²	Population 431,300 (1999 est.)
Major language Dutch (official)	Population growth rate 0.3% (1990–1999 average)
Major religious groups Hindu (27.4%), Protestant (25.2%), Roman Catholic (22.8%), Muslim (19.6%)	
Surrounding countries Brazil, Guyana, French Guiana (France)	



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government Republic	Minister of Trade and Industry Jacques Tjong Tjin Joe
National legislature Single chamber: National Assembly; multiparty	UN Human Development Index (2000) Suriname ranks 67th among 174 countries
Leader President Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan	Canadian official development assistance \$240,000 (1998–1999)
Minister of Foreign Affairs Maria Levens	

ECONOMIC DATA

Real GDP \$909.6 million US (1999 est.)	Inflation rate 73% (2000 est.)
GDP growth rate -0.8% (1999)	Unemployment rate 10.6% (1999 est.)
GDP per capita \$848 US (1999 est.)	
Main exports Alumina, aluminum, crude oil, lumber, shrimp and fish, rice, bananas	
Main imports Capital equipment, petroleum, foodstuffs, cotton, consumer goods	
Main exports to Canada \$54.6 million (2000), including precious stones and metals; fish and seafood; electrical machinery; fruit and nuts; spices; coffee and tea; live animals; optical and medical instruments; wood; leather articles, saddlery and travel goods; toys and sports equipment; knit apparel	
Main imports from Canada \$5.8 million (2000), including electrical machinery; machinery; meat; vegetables; dairy products; eggs; honey; books, newspapers and manuscripts; preserved food; wood; fish and seafood	

Canadian Representative

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