

# SURINAME

Capital: Paramaribo

## GEODATA

**Area**  
163,265 km<sup>2</sup>

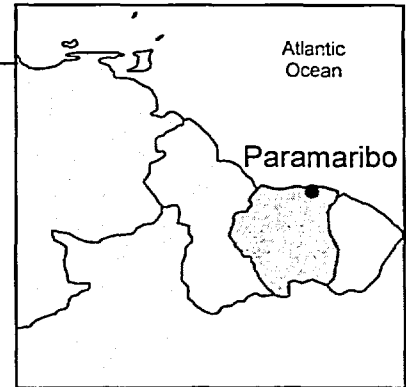
**Population**  
431,303 (July 2000 est.)

**Official language**  
Dutch

**Population growth rate**  
0.65% (2000 est.)

**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**  
Jack Tjon 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

**GDP**  
\$1.062 billion US (1999 est.)

**Inflation rate**  
98.8% (1999 est.)

**GDP growth rate**  
-1% (1999 est.)

**Unemployment rate**  
10.6% (1999 est.)

**GDP per capita**  
\$3,400 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**  
\$82.5 million (1999), including gold, precious metals, fish and seafood, tea, coffee, tools and implements

**Main imports from Canada**  
\$5.4 million (1999), including meat, television parts, gravel, textiles

**Canadian Representative**  
Jacques Crête, High Commissioner, The Canadian High Commission to Suriname  
c/o The Canadian High Commission, P.O. Box 10880, Georgetown, Guyana  
Phone: (011-592-2) 72081-3, Fax: (011-592-2) 58380