



Trinidad & Tobago

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Caribbean

Geography

Area 5,124 sq km. Two islands off the coast of Venezuela.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	1,343,725	0.38%
2020	1,383,641	0.23%
2030	1,381,863	-0.09%

Capital Port of Spain 59,000. **Urbanites** 13.9%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 21%. **Life expectancy** 69.2 yrs.

Peoples

Indo-Trinidadian 40.0%.

African origin 37.5%.

Mixed ethnicity 20.5%.

Euro-Trinidadian 0.6%.

Other 1.4%. Chinese 0.3%; Lebanese 0.1%.

Literacy 77.4%. **Official language** English. **All languages** 7. **Languages with Scriptures** 2Bi 2NT 2w.i.p.

Economy

Oil and gas are very important, providing half of export earnings. Low inflation, trade surpluses and a growing tourist sector, added to a strong industrial base, make for the strongest Caribbean economy. A strong anti-corruption drive is present but needs definitive results. Growing troubles with drugs as the nation becomes a major transshipping site.

HDI Rank 64th/182. **Public debt** 26.6% of GDP. **Income/person** \$19,870 (42% of USA).

Politics

Independent of Britain in 1962 as a parliamentary democracy. Prolonged economic recession in the 1980s provoked political and ethnic tensions, culminating in an abortive coup by militant black

Muslims in 1990. The elected government has flip-flopped between Afro-Trinidadian and Indo-Trinidadian since then. Tensions persist and politics generally polarize racially between these two main groups. Bribery is common.

Religion

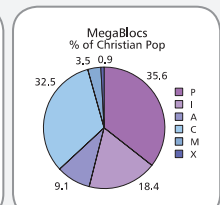
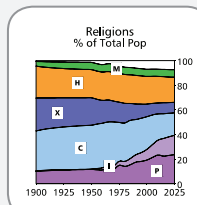
There is religious freedom for all.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	65.59	881,349	0.5%
Hindu	21.60	290,245	0.0%
Muslim	5.80	77,936	0.4%
Non-religious	3.59	48,240	0.8%
Other	0.82	11,019	0.9%
Baha'i	0.75	10,078	-0.1%
Sikh	0.72	9,675	-0.4%
Ethnoreligionist	0.40	5,375	0.4%
Chinese	0.36	4,837	-0.7%
Buddhist	0.27	3,628	-0.3%
Jewish	0.10	1,344	0.4%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	57	24.03	323,000	2.3%
Independent	37	12.40	167,000	3.4%
Anglican	1	6.18	83,000	-1.8%
Catholic	1	21.95	295,000	-2.1%
Orthodox	3	0.59	8,000	0.8%
Marginal	10	2.36	32,000	1.7%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		-1.92	-26,000	0.0%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	50	168,571	295,000
Spiritual Baptists	I	510	35,714	100,000
Anglican Church	A	83	33,200	83,000
Pentecostal Assemblies	P	106	10,000	65,000
Seventh-day Adventist	P	152	38,235	65,000
Presbyterian Church	P	100	13,986	40,000
Open Bible Standard	P	86	16,000	24,000
Ch of God (Cleveland)	P	82	9,300	23,250
Foursquare Gospel Ch	P	45	13,800	22,080
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	108	9,000	19,980
Baptist Convention	P	63	6,000	12,000
Methodist Church	P	26	4,100	10,250
Assoc of Evang Bap	P	13	1,000	2,380
Other denominations[93]		921	77,017	145,184
<i>Doubly affiliated Pentecostals</i>				-13,000
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>				-12,800
Total Christians[109]		2,345	428,423	881,324

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelicals			
Evangelicals	20.2	271,568	3.4%
Renewalists			
Charismatics	22.9	307,299	4.0%
Pentecostals	13.2	177,052	4.4%



Challenges for Prayer

1 Many social challenges face Trinidad & Tobago. Increasing crime and gang violence associated with the illicit drug trade are worsened by endemic weaknesses in the policing/justice system. Alcoholism, kidnapping, armed robbery and theft are dangerously common and a high percentage of children are born out of wedlock and to teenage mothers. Pray that righteous and effective solutions might be found through both the public and faith sectors.

2 The nation's racial diversity could also be considered a racial divide. Inter-ethnic harmony is hindered by racially aligned politics and the activities of several extremist minorities among Muslims, Hindus and some "Christians". Pray that the government may be impartial and fair to all ethnic groups and that the culture of corruption and bribery would be exposed and eliminated. The Church is one of the only structures connected to every community, and therefore has enormous but unrealized potential to bridge the racial divide. Pray that churches would be instruments of reconciliation and demonstrate that all are one in Christ.

3 Christianity is professed by nearly two-thirds of the population, but true disciples faithful to God's Word are not so common. Many Christians are nominal; many others are polluted by witchcraft, Afro-Spiritist beliefs and Hinduism-influenced worldviews. Family life and morals within the Christian sphere often do not demonstrate the lordship of Christ. Greater theological training – for leaders as well as laity – is needed and a discipleship mentality must be fostered. Thank God for the minority who do live to please God, and pray that purity and passion might be restored across all denominations.

4 The Christian Church is very fragmented among traditional denominations that are rapidly declining, newer evangelical groups and a constantly multiplying swarm of single congregations (mostly charismatic/Pentecostal). There is little cohesion in common spiritual goals, outreach or missions involvement; national vision and purpose are needed. Pray for revival to enliven and empower the Church. Pray for the work of the T&T Council of Evangelical Churches. Pray that the desire for unity in the body of Christ might overcome the still-pervasive divisions.

5 Christian impact on students remains widespread. Many believers engage in this ministry through several groups (**YFC**, **CEF** and **IFES**). Some of those impacted go on to work cross-culturally. Pray for youth of all races; the nation has a high proportion of young people. Deliberately discipling children and youth in the churches is a vitally important ministry that has come nowhere near fulfilling its potential. The freedom to minister the gospel in schools must be utilized to a greater degree.

6 Cross-cultural vision is quite small but growing. The nation needs to move from a receiving mentality to a sending mentality. Pray for greater awareness of local and world needs, and for effective training to be given in cross-cultural outreach. A handful of Trinidadians work overseas as missionaries; pray for more. **YWAM** and **WBT** recently opened centres on Trinidad. These two groups as well as **OM** are active in mobilizing and sending workers abroad.

7 The South Asian community, largely originating from North India, is the largest non-Christian group in the Caribbean. Many Hindus and some Muslims have turned to Christ, and over 20% of the population are Christian today. The Presbyterians, **WT** and **TEAM** planted strong churches, and there are many Pentecostal and charismatic congregations with largely Indian believers. Domestic violence and female suicide are factors needing prayer and ministry.

8 Christian ministries. Pray for these:

- a) **Theological training** is crucial in a nation with many churches but few disciples. Pentecostals, Open Bible Churches, Baptists, Presbyterians and several others maintain colleges and seminaries to this end.
- b) **Christian literature.** **CLC** operates four bookstores, which are widely appreciated and extensively used. Pray for the eight workers.
- c) **Christian radio and TV programmes** broadcast locally on the national network. There are also many shortwave programmes in several languages. Pray for locally relevant materials and programmes to be developed.