



GUYANA

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COUNTRY SURVEY

Research Unit

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Geography

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana is a sovereign state located on the north-eastern coast of the South American continent, bordered by Venezuela to the west, Suriname to the southeast and Brazil to the South. The word 'Guiana' (the original Amerindian spelling) means 'land of many waters' and the name was well chosen; apart from the Atlantic Ocean which covers its 322 km (206 miles) of coastline along the northern and eastern coasts, there are over 1,600km (965 miles) of navigable rivers in the country. The interior is either high savannah uplands (such as those along the Venezuelan border, called the Rupununi, and the Kanuku Mountains in the far southwest), or thick, hilly jungle and forest, which occupy over 83% of the country's area.

The country is divided into ten major regions:

Barima-Waini	East Berbice-Corentyne
Pomeroon-Supenaam	Cuyuni-Mazaruni
Essequibo Islands-West Demerara	Potaro-Siparuni
Demerara-Mahaica	Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo
Mahaica-Berbice	Upper Demerara-Berbice

Each region is administered by a Regional Democratic Council (RDC) headed by a Chairman. The ten regions are further sub-divided into neighbourhood councils known as Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs). The country has a land area of approximately 214,970 sq km.

Climate

Located near the Equator, Guyana has a tropical climate and temperatures do not vary much throughout the year lending to a relatively hot and humid climate. This entire area is moderated by the northeast trade winds which bring much needed relief to the coastal areas during the midday and afternoon. There are two wet/rainy seasons annually – from November to January and from May to August. Guyana lies south of the path of Caribbean hurricanes and none is known to have hit the country. Guyana lies south of the path of Caribbean hurricanes and none is known to have hit the country.

National Emblems



The National Flag of Guyana is called "The Golden Arrowhead" and was designed by Whitney Smith, Director of the Flag Centre, Florida, U.S. It has 5 symbolic colors. GREEN represents the agricultural and forested nature of Guyana, WHITE symbolizes the rivers and water potential of the country, a GOLDEN arrow represents Guyana's mineral wealth, BLACK symbolizes endurance and RED represents the zeal and dynamism.

The country's national flower is the *Victoria regia* (a water lily) named after Queen Victoria. The national bird of Guyana, the hoatzin or Canje Pheasant, is a very primitive looking bird that is believed to be evolved from dinosaurs.



Principle Cities & Population

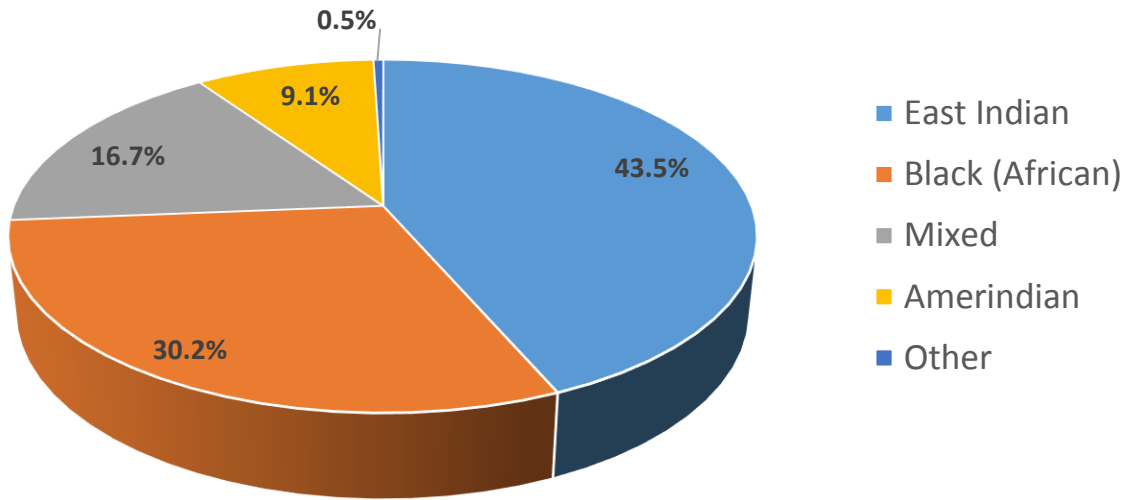
Located on the country's Atlantic coast at the mouth of the Demerara River, the capital of Guyana is the city of Georgetown, found in the Demerara-Mahaica region. This city which was nicknamed the "Garden City of the Caribbean" serves primarily as the country's financial, commercial and administrative center and it is also the country's largest urban center with an estimated 235,017 inhabitants residing there (as per Guyana's 2012 population census). Other main towns are the bauxite-mining town of Linden (pop. 44,690) located along the Demerara River in the Upper Demerara-Berbice region, and the port town of New Amsterdam (pop. 35,039) which can be found on the eastern bank of the Berbice River in the East Berbice-Corentyne region some 62 miles (100 km) from Georgetown.

City	Region	Population
Georgetown	Demerara-Mahaica	235,017
Linden	Upper Demerara-Berbice	44,690
New Amsterdam	East Berbice-Corentyne	35,039
Anna Regina	Pomeroon-Supenaam	12,448
Bartica	Cuyuni-Mazaruni	11,157
Skeldon	East Berbice-Corentyne	5,859
Rosignol	Mahaica-Berbice	5,782
Mahaica Village	Demerara-Mahaica	4,867
Parika	Essequibo Islands-West Demerara	4,081
Vreed en Hoop	Demerara-Mahaica	3,073

Guyana's population was estimated to be 735,554 with a growth rate of -0.11%. The people of Guyana are comprised of five main ethnic groups – Amerindians, Africans, Indians, Europeans and Chinese – and approximately 95% of the country's inhabitants reside on the narrow coastal plain where the population density there is more than 115 inhabitants per sq. km. (300/sq. mile). The nation's overall population density however is low, with less than four inhabitants per sq. km. (10.4/sq. mile). Some 65.7% of the population falls within the 15-64 age range.

As the only English-speaking country on the South American continent, Guyana shares strong cultural and historical bonds with the Anglophone Caribbean. Its two largest ethnic groups are the Afro-Guyanese (descendants of African slaves) and the Indo-Guyanese (descendants of Indian indentured labourers), and together they make up almost three-quarters of Guyana's population. Following the abolition of slavery in that country, the former slaves and imported indentured workers who were sent there to work the sugar plantations began to settle in urban areas. The resulting ethno-cultural divide has persisted and has led to some turbulence especially in the realm of politics.

Ethnicity of the Guyanese People



Guyana's emigration rate is among the highest in the world as more than 55% of its citizens reside abroad. The pervasive emigration of skilled workers has led to a serious brain drain and this deprives Guyana of professionals in key sectors like healthcare. More than 80% of Guyanese nationals with tertiary level education have emigrated.

Language

English is the official language of Guyana, and as mentioned previously, it is the only South American country where English is the official language. Guyanese creole is widely spoken, as well as a number of Amerindian dialects such as Cariban and Arawakan languages. Other languages spoken include Caribbean Hindustani (a dialect of Hindi), Chinese, Tamil and Urdu.

Portuguese is becoming increasingly popular as a second language in Guyana, particularly in the south near the Brazilian border. Dutch and French are often spoken by those nationals who frequently visit the neighbouring territories of French Guiana and Suriname. French and Spanish are widely taught as foreign languages in secondary schools.

Education

Education in Guyana is provided largely by the government through the Ministry of Education and its arms in the country's ten different regions. The educational system is a legacy from its time as British Guiana and is similar to that of the other anglophone CARICOM member states, which are affiliated to the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC). School curricula, funding, standards and other policies are set by the central government and implemented through the Ministry of Education and related agencies. The Education System is divided into eleven districts, ten of which correspond to the national administrative and geographical regions of the country mentioned above, while the capital, Georgetown, is treated as a separate education district. With 8.3% of its GDP spent on education, Guyana sits with Cuba, Iceland, Denmark and Botswana as among the few countries with top spending geared toward education.

The level of functional literacy is considerably lower than in other Caribbean countries, with a literacy rate of only 85%. This is attributed to poor education quality, teacher training and infrastructure.

Guyana is one of the highest ranked developing countries in the Education Index of the United Nations Human Development Report. With a score of 0.943 on the Education Index, its overall rank is 37, but ranks third in the Caribbean after Cuba and Barbados, and second in South America after Argentina. According to DFID, Guyana has achieved the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education but continues to struggle with the provision of increased access to satisfactory secondary education. As one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, instruction in Guyana's schools makes little or no use of technologies such as interactive whiteboards or other multimedia tools. Indeed, many schools are short on basic resources, especially in the areas of science and technology, and this sometimes puts students at a disadvantage when compared to their counterparts in the region.

As part of a continuous effort to tackle inequalities and inefficiencies in the system, the parliament of Guyana has been debating and redrafting the 2007 Education bill. The bill moves Guyana closer to a comprehensive education system, but retains the use of corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure, despite Guyana's obligations to international conventions such as the UN Rights of the Child.^[10]

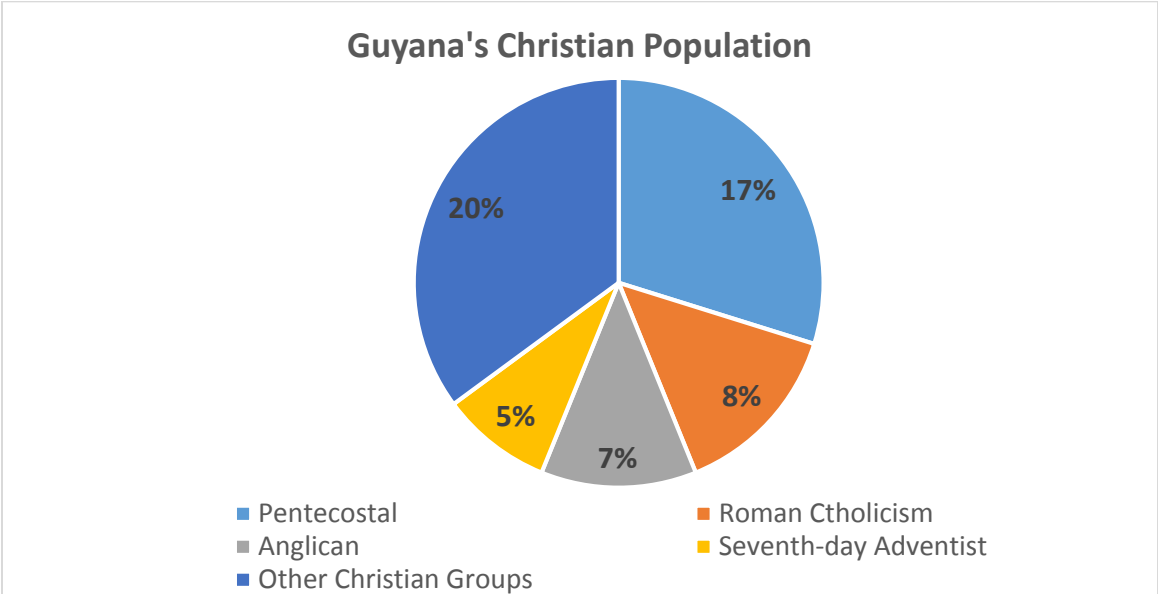
Health

One of the most unfortunate consequences of Guyana's economic decline in the 1970s and 1980s was that it led to very poor health conditions for a large part of the population. Basic health services in the interior are primitive to non-

existent, and some procedures are not available at all. Compared with other neighbouring countries, Guyana ranks poorly in regard to basic health indicators. In 1998, life expectancy at birth was estimated at 66.0 years for Guyana, which is much less than surrounding countries. That has since increased to 67.8 years as of 2014. Malaria is a leading cause of death in Guyana. Although Guyana's health profile falls short in comparison with many of its Caribbean neighbours, there has been remarkable progress since 1988, and the Ministry of Health is working to upgrade conditions, procedures, and facilities.

Religion

Christianity and Hinduism are the dominant religions in Guyana. Data from a 2002 census on religious affiliation indicates that approximately 57 percent of the population is Christian. The composition of that population is as shown below:



Approximately 28% of Guyana's population is Hindu, 7 % is Muslim (mostly Sunni, with Shia and Ahmadiyya minorities), and 2% practice other beliefs, including the Rastafari movement, Buddhism, and the Baha'i Faith. An estimated 4% of the population does not profess any religion.

The country is ethnically diverse, reflecting East Indian, African, Chinese, and European ancestry, as well as a significant indigenous population. Members of all ethnic groups are well represented in all religious groups, with two exceptions: most Hindus are Indo-Guyanese, and nearly all Rastafarians are Afro-Guyanese. Foreign missionaries from many religious groups are present.^[2]

Currency

The unit of currency since 1839 is the Guyanese dollar (GYD) typically made up of 100 cents; however, cents are no longer legal tender. The following coins and notes are currently in circulation:

Coins - \$1, \$5, \$10

Notes - \$20, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000

An estimated GYD \$205.90 must be exchanged for USD \$1.00.

Government

Guyana's Constitution of 1980 declares the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to be an "indivisible, secular, democratic sovereign state in the course of transition from capitalism to socialism." This declaration however, is generally regarded as obsolete and inappropriate. The government is comprised of three main branches that act separately but are presumed to be harmonious: The Legislative, The Executive, and The Judiciary.

The Executive authority is exercised by the President who appoints and supervises the Prime Minister and other Ministers. Legislative power in Guyana rests in the National Assembly which elects 25 members chosen via proportional representation from national lists named by the local political parties. The judicial branch houses the highest judicial body which is the Court of Appeal, headed by a Chancellor of the Judiciary, while the Chief Justice presides over the High Court which is the second level. Both the Chancellor and the Chief Justice are appointed by the President.

There are five organs of democratic power – Parliament, the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs, the Supreme Congress of the People, the President and the Cabinet.

The Incumbent President of Guyana is His Excellency Donald Ramotar who took up the position on December 3, 2011. He is expected to serve a five-year term which is renewable once.

Politics

The Guyanese political system has been historically bi-partisan as it is characterized by two dominant political parties mainly divided not by ideology but by ethnicity:

1. The People's Progressive Party [PPP] (supported primarily by the Indo-Guyanese)
2. People's National Congress [PNC] (supported mainly by the Afro-Guyanese)

A third party, however – A Partnership for National Unity [APNU] – was formed during the 2011 elections.

In the most recent elections held on May 11, 2015, the APNU won 33 of the 65 seats in the National Assembly, with the PPP winning the remaining 32 seats. Subsequently, APNU's leader David Granger was sworn in as the country's newest President on May 16, 2015.

Defense

The Guyana Defense Force (GDF) is the military service of Guyana. The army also includes the Air Corps and Coast Guard branches.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

Air Transport

Air transportation for business and leisure is readily available to many parts of the country. Several airlines depart from both Ogle Airport on the East Coast of the Demerara and from the Cheddi Jagan International Airport in Timehri, southwest of Georgetown. While the aforementioned are the two main airports in the country, Guyana has approximately 117 airports and air strips, nine of which have paved runways (2013 estimate).

The communities and towns located in Guyana's interior are highly dependent on air transport as it provides the only link with the more developed coastal areas, as much of the country's interior has been inaccessible by any other means of transportation. The availability of air transportation is therefore critical for the economic and social well being of these areas.

Visitors to the territory depend entirely on air transport as well, and air transport as a method of shipping and exporting cargo has become increasingly important. The Cheddi Jagan International Airport handles all international passenger and airfreight traffic. A number of regional carriers operate from this hub, with services to the eastern US and the Caribbean.

Airlines Currently Operating from the Cheddi Jagan International Airport:

Amerijet International
Caribbean Airlines
Conviasa
Copa Airlines
Dynamic Airways
Fly Jamaica Airways
InselAir
InselAir Aruba
Laparkan Airways
Surinam Airways

The approximate flying time from Bridgetown, Barbados (BGI) to Georgetown, Guyana (GEO) is two hours on a direct flight, but most flights connect via Port-Of-Spain, Trinidad (POS).

Water Transport

The road infrastructure in Guyana is so underdeveloped that the Guyanese people have, for a long while, depended on water transport along the banks of the country's navigable rivers - mainly the Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice rivers. The country has several sea ports, wharves and harbours that facilitate the handling of overseas and local shipping and provide the necessary linkages between the coastal and inland towns. Most exported and imported commodities are transported via the sea, with Georgetown's port being the main commercial port. Additionally, there are three berths to facilitate sea vessels at Linden.

The harbour at Georgetown is subject to draught constraints which limit the size of vessels that can enter to 15,000 tonnes deadweight (DWT). Recent improvements in the Berbice River channel have made it possible for ships up to 55,000 DWT to dock there.

Guyana's foreign trade is handled by foreign shipping companies operating from the Georgetown which has over 40 wharves. The largest bulk exports are bauxite and sugar which are handled at loading stations at Linden and Everton. Shipping containers are used for external shipping but transporting commodities internally requires items to be unloaded at the first port of entry.

Guyana's internal barge transport has been integral in its trade of bauxite, sugar, rice and other goods. For example, 98% of Guyana's sugar exports are delivered via barge to the port of Georgetown for export. The country's rivers are also integral in the transport of logs. Additionally, a significant share of those persons

who travel to the country's interior do so via river ferries which are regulated by the Transport and Harbours Department (T&HD) which is a government agency responsible for the harbours and ports; the safety of the country's coastal waters, stelling and wharves; and the operation of river ferries.

It is estimated that about 1,000 kilometers of waterways in Guyana are utilized for commercial purposes. In addition, drainage canals are important transport channels for collecting sugar on the estates and for personal travel. River transport is responsible for around 61% of total freight load, moving cane to sugar mills, fertilizer to cane fields, bauxite ore from the hills to the coast, processed bauxite in bulk to overseas points and imports from the Georgetown port.

Internal barge transport is important for bauxite, sugar, rice and aggregates. In the case of sugar, for example, 98 percent of exports is delivered by barge to the port of Georgetown for export. Rivers are used for moving logs and account also for a significant share of those persons who travel to the interior.

The following is a list of shipping lines operating to/from Guyana:

<p>Guyana National Shipping Corporation Ltd. 5-9 Lombard St., La Penitence, Georgetown Tel: (592) 2-61435/ 61732 Fax: (592) 2-53815</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nedlloyd Lines</i> • <i>Harrison Line</i> • <i>Mitsui OSK Lines, Ltd.</i> 	<p>DDL Shipping Company 8 Water & Schumaker Sts., Cummingsburg, Georgetown Tel: (592)2-64455/73417/59513 Fax: (592)2-59512</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Europe Carr Line</i> • <i>Trade-Wind Line</i> • <i>Kent Line</i> • <i>King Ocean Services</i>
<p>John Fernandes Ltd. 24 Water St., South Cummingsburg Georgetown Tel: (592) 2-63241-2; 68843 Fax: (592) 2-61881</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bernuth Line</i> • <i>Europe West Indies</i> • <i>Yuwa Shipping Co., Ltd.</i> • <i>Carib Services Inc.,</i> • <i>Fronta Amazonica Line</i> • <i>Maruha Corporation</i> • <i>Seafreight</i> 	<p>Muneshwers Ltd. 45-47 Water St., Robbstown Georgetown Tel: (592) 2-74408 Fax: (592) 2-50763</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Marli Line</i>
<p>Tecmarine (Guyana) Ltd., 45-47 Water St., Georgetown Tel: (592) 2-70323-4; 70327 Fax: (592) 2-77202</p>	

Road Transport

The most recent estimate of Guyana's road network (2000) reveals that of the country's 7,970 km of roads only some 590 km are paved. Historically, road transportation was an essential link for the sugar plantations to the coastal plains and more importantly Georgetown and New Amsterdam. Today the coastal roads and those along the banks of the country's rivers constitute the principal road network radiating from Georgetown to Crabwood Creek in East Berbice and Charity on the Essequibo Coast. Additionally, the Soesdyke/Linden Highway joins Georgetown with the bauxite mining town of Linden.

This road network provides vital access for the population to the central services provided in Georgetown as well as social and commercial links between the urban and rural cities. Total passenger load, and about 38 per cent of the total freight load, are serviced by primary roads, coastal zone minor roads, and roads and trails in Forested and Savannah zones.

At present there is an incomplete road link to Brazil from Georgetown through the Rupununi Savannah to the town of Lethem. Suriname is linked through Corriverton by a combination of road and ferry. There is no direct road link to Venezuela.

Transportation around Georgetown is provided by privately owned mini buses which operate in allocated zones for which there is a well-regulated fare structure. This arrangement extends to all mini bus routes throughout the country. Taxis have freer movement around the city and into rural areas. Their fare, while generally standard, is less regulated.

Communication

Telecommunications in Guyana is more or less government-dominated. The state owns and operates two radio stations broadcasting on multiple frequencies capable of reaching the entire country. Government limits on licensing of new private radio stations continue to constrain competition and limits the dissemination of diverse views and open public discussion. In 2009, the Court of Appeal ruled that the government had an unlawful monopoly on the airwaves and was not adequately considering radio license applications. In 2011 the government approved applications for 10 new radio stations, although the process was controversial and lacked transparency. By the end of 2012 only one new station had begun operations, and it was closely aligned with the government. There are currently three FM stations, three AM stations and one shortwave station in the territory.

The country also has a few television stations. One of them – the National Communications Networks (NCN) is government-owned, while the others are privately owned stations, which relay satellite services. There are no government-imposed restrictions on television stations, however, while government spokespersons get extended coverage on the NCN’s broadcasts, opposing figured have very limited participation and exposure.

Internet code	.gy
Internet hosts	24,936
Internet users	189,600
Telephones (main lines)	154,200
Telephones (mobile)	547,000

FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Guyana’s financial system consists of a modest number of financial institutions and markets. Financial institutions comprise of the banking system and the non-bank financial intermediaries (credit unions, for example). Financial markets include the money and foreign exchange markets as well as the stock market. From the mid-1990s until around 2008, just before the effects of the financial crisis hit the Caribbean, the country’s financial assets doubled from GUY\$248 billion to GUY\$506 billion. The banking system is the largest component of the financial system accounting for about 78 percent of its total assets.

For over two decades prior to 1989, Guyana’s financial system evolved within the framework of a “corporate state”. The financial system was characterized as highly regulated and financially repressed. There were interest rate controls, allocation of financial resources to priority sectors, quantitative loan targets, intensive financing of fiscal deficits, entry regulations and strict branching licensing policies. State-owned banks were highly inefficient and unprofitable.

However, the implementation of the IMF-supported Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) in 1989, which shifted public policy toward a market-oriented economy, resulted in the adoption of financial reform/liberalization measures.

The reforms were undertaken as a component of the overall scheme of macroeconomic stabilization and structural reform. The overall process was aimed at stabilizing and enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of the economy. The reforms were comprehensive in scope covering, in addition to the financial sector, areas including domestic investment, infrastructure

development through private sector initiatives, promoting foreign competition by reducing protective barriers such as import controls and high tariffs, encouraging direct foreign investment as a source of technology transfer and upgrade, public sector reform including an aggressive privatization programme and reforming the tax system. All of these reforms are closely inter-related, and progress in one area is intended to help achieve objectives in others.

The financial markets, which comprised the money, foreign exchange and stock markets, have been relatively thin and shallow. However, with the increase in economic activities during the last decade or so, the money and foreign exchange markets have taken on a more significant role. Both markets have provided financial institutions with a facility for funding and adjusting portfolio in the short term, as well as serving as a channel for the transmission of monetary policy.

The shift in public policy in the late 1980s and the adoption of financial reform/liberalization measures have resulted in improvement in the conduct of monetary and exchange rate policy, soundness and stability of financial institutions and operation of the payment system. In addition, the financial system witnessed an increase in intermediation, particularly in the banking system. The major sources of funds mobilized have been in the form of deposits. The funds were channelled to the economy mainly in the form of loans and investment in domestic government securities, while some were invested abroad. Although, the financial markets have been shallow and thin, the money and foreign exchange markets have been playing critical roles in the financial system for efficient allocation of portfolio and liquidity as well as channels for the transmission of monetary policy.

Notwithstanding the favourable outturns in the financial system, it is imperative that measures be implemented to further improve the system to support economic development. In this regard, a number of the recommendations of the IMF's Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP) in 2005 are being implemented, while others are being supported by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Specifically, the IDB has provided support via three loans to the government for the implementation of a Financial Sector Reform Programme, which includes recommendations of the FSAP aimed at further strengthening the financial sector. The Financial Sector Reform Programme consists of measures to strengthen regulatory and supervisory framework for the financial sector, improve access of financial services to firms and individuals, enhance monetary policy and systems of payments, and improve the anti-money laundering framework.

BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

	2012	2013	2014
Real GDP Growth (%)	4.8	5.2	3.3
GDP Current Prices (US \$)	2.851	2.982	2.997
GDP per capita (US \$)	3,580.51	3,729.50	3,747.87
Inflation	2.4	2.2	2.6
Population	0.796	0.800	0.800

MARKET ACCESS

Guyana has been an active member of the GATT since 1990 and is a founding member of the World Trade Organization. The country's exports enjoy access under preferential conditions to the U.S., Canada and European markets (under the Caribbean Basin Initiative and the CARIFORUM-EC Economic Partnership Agreement). It is also a member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) and is party to a number of bilateral trading arrangements with other South American countries and blocs:

Multilateral Agreements	Date of Signature
World Trade Organisation	01 January, 1995
Customs Unions	
CARICOM	04 July, 1973 (Rev. 05 July, 2001)
Free Trade Agreements	
CARIFORUM-European Community	15 October, 2008
CARICOM-Costa Rica	09 March, 2004
CARICOM-Dominican Republic	22 August, 1998
Preferential Trade Agreements	
Brazil	27 June, 2001
CARICOM-Colombia	24 July, 1994
CARICOM-Venezuela	13 October, 1992
Venezuela	27 October, 1990

Under the most recently signed CARIFORUM-EC EPA, most Guyana's exports enjoy duty-free and quota-free access to the countries of the European Community.

Guyana does a fair amount of trade within the CARICOM region. Guyana's Bureau of Statistics reports that the country sources most of its CARICOM imports from Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, while most of its CARICOM exports go to Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.

Guyana has significantly liberalized its trade regime in the last decade, but certain important distortions remain. Market access has in general been enhanced under the process of progressive liberalization in CARICOM. However, domestic legislation has been only partly amended to implement Guyana's commitments under the different WTO Agreements.

Guyana has bound its whole tariff in the WTO at a general ceiling binding of 50% for non-agricultural products (with some exceptions) and at 100% for all agricultural products. As a member of CARICOM, the country also imposes Phase IV of CARICOM's Common External Tariff (CET), which ranges from 5% to 20%, with the maximum 20% tariff imposed on industrial products and 40% on agricultural goods, in addition to several exceptions.

The average tariff is around 12.1%, and almost two thirds of tariff lines are subject to duties of 10% or less but a limited number of products – mainly agricultural goods, alcoholic and other beverages, and tobacco – face duties as high as 100%.

Guyana grants duty-free access on imports from other CARICOM countries and EC Member States, provided they meet the various rules of origin. There are a small number of exceptions (ginger, curry, beer, spirits, etc.), which are subject to tariffs between 5% and 10%. The country also grants tariff preferences to a limited number of products originating in Colombia under the CARICOM-Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic and will do the same with goods from Cuba and Canada once pending CARICOM agreements with those countries enter into force.

FOREIGN TRADE DATA

Table 6
Guyana's Main Trading Partners

Main Export Partners	Canada (30.4%), US (27.6%), UK (6.4%), Trinidad & Tobago (4.2%)
Main Export Commodities	Sugar, gold, bauxite, alumina, rice, shrimp, molasses, rum, timber
Main Import Partners	Trinidad & Tobago (23.9%), US (20.2%), China (10.2%), Cuba (6.6%), Suriname (4.4%)
Main Import Commodities	Manufactures, machinery, petroleum, food

Source: Barbados Statistical Service

Table 7
Trade between Barbados & Guyana (BDS\$)

Year	Exports	Imports	(Deficit)Surplus
2010	28,166,734	32,576,620	(4,409,886)
2011	26,822,258	33,331,042	(6,508,784)
2012	29,828,979	25,725,010	4,103,969
2013	42,099,339	21,611,564	20,487,775
2014	48,440,626	27,292,965	21,147,661

Source: Barbados Statistical Service

Table 8
Barbados' Main Imports from Guyana (BDS\$)

Commodity	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Molasses	7,929,067	9,686,111	6,332,593	3,534,337	9,602,924
Pitchpine (Continuously Shaped)	4,400,359	3,539,264	3,897,796	4,070,463	3,644,238
Cane Sugar	4,383,617	5,884,411	2,787,847	427,983	758,890
Rice (In Husk)	4,356,817	2,759,525	3,387,706	3,273,429	3,504,839
Pitchpine (Sawn; Chipped Length)	4,156,954	3,388,489	1,818,579	3,079,512	1,908,453
Uncooked Pasta (Not Stuffed)	1,013,596	1,127,898	1,414,841	1,403,301	1,289,587
Frozen/Chilled Fish Meat	977,762	1,296,798	1,893,033	933,666	1,044,306
Bottled Brandy	259,565	474,708	370,585	656,700	1,291,170
Rye Flour	397,265	479,109	120,875	-	-
Wheat Flour	-	56,557	179,644	540,330	426,909
French Windows	-	523,553	566,272	232,436	141,557

Source: Barbados Statistical Service

Table 9
Barbados' Main Exports to Guyana (BDS\$)

Commodity	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Cement	14,244,488	11,971,097	9,267,059	22,279,582	29,997,841
Paper/Paperboard Labels	2,334,898	1,685,505	2,024,139	1,570,572	1,989,871
Egg Boxes	1,965,515	2,345,767	2,531,430	2,242,227	1,970,621
Water-thinned Paints	885,040	1,191,706	1,445,846	1,403,397	919,609
Wheat Flour	20	270	1,979,266	2,693,561	2,398,143
Mastics	812,917	1,147,186	1,259,942	939,321	733,790
Margarine	846,305	766,665	805,018	908,113	1,070,413
Orange Juice	60,535	242,172	524,026	641,558	703,225
Corrugated Cartoons and Boxes	238,100	409,991	724,575	213,716	564,436
Crispbread	672,119	967,771	965,392	866,442	1,955,359
Limestone Flux	66,500	177	545,591	1,607,994	127,920

Source: Barbados Statistical Service

Table 10
Top 20 Products Imported by Guyana

SITC Group	Product	Value of Total Imports (US \$'000)	Share of Imports (%)	Value of Imports from Barbados (US \$'000)	Barbados' Market Share (%)
2710	Refined Petroleum	441,083.50	22.0	-	-
8429	Large Construction Vehicles	91,934.60	4.7	-	-
8471	Computers	54,077.54	2.7	4.49	0.01
8703	Cars	47,954.32	2.4	-	-

SITC Group	Product	Value of Total Imports (US \$'000)	Share of Imports (%)	Value of Imports from Barbados (US \$'000)	Barbados' Market Share (%)
8517	Telephones	46,397.30	2.3	10.16	0.02
8704	Delivery Trucks	43,132.03	2.2	21.00	0.05
402	Concentrated Milk	37,829.97	1.9	-	-
3004	Packaged Medicaments	30,462.58	1.5	249.30	0.82
3923	Plastic Lids	25,550.85	1.3	985.31	3.86
2523	Cement	23,954.37	1.2	14,998.92	62.61
8701	Tractors	22,929.16	1.2	-	-
3102	Nitrogenous Fertilizers	21,734.09	1.1	-	-
8431	Excavation Machinery	21,216.62	1.1	-	-
2202	Flavoured Water	20,193.81	1.0	185.46	0.92
8409	Engine Parts	19,466.18	1.0	-	-
2711	Petroleum Gas	18,619.44	0.9	-	-
1005	Corn	17,278.39	0.9	-	-
1001	Wheat	16,958.50	0.9	-	-
8544	Insulated Wire	15,331.24	0.8	-	-
4818	Toilet Paper	15,133.95	0.8	-	-

Source: Barbados Statistical Service

IMPORT & EXCHANGE CONTROLS

Tariff System

Specific duties: There are few specific duties. The net weight is used for goods dutiable by weight, however, if goods packaged for retail sale are not labeled with the net weight, the gross weight is used to compute specific duties when applicable.

Ad valorem duties: Most duties are levied on the CIF value based on the invoice purchase price.

Preferential duties: As a member of CARICOM, Guyana extends duty-free access on imports from other CARICOM countries, with few exceptions. Virtually all remaining barriers to intra-CARICOM trade have been removed. Additionally, as a CARICOM Member State, Guyana is also signatory to the CARIFORUM-EC Economic Partnership Agreement along with the other CARICOM Member States, the Dominican Republic and the Members of the European Community. This agreement allows imports (except those made explicit in CARIFORUM's Exclusion List) from all countries mentioned to enter Guyana duty-free and quota-free given that they met the specific rules of origin.

Guyana, along with Chile and Suriname joined with two South American trading arrangements – MERCOSUR (comprising of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela) and the Andean Community (comprising of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) – to form the Union of South American Nations on May 23, 2008. Bilateral negotiations have also been negotiated with Venezuela, China and Brazil.

Customs surcharges and indirect taxes: Most imports are subject to a consumption tax, the rate of which depends on the article in question. Most items, including imported goods, are subject to a 30 consumption tax rate, although some goods may be subject to lower rates and a few to rates as high as 128. The consumption tax is levied on the sum of the CIF value of the goods and the applicable import duty.

Manufacturing entities operating in economically depressed areas may be eligible for reductions in the consumption tax levied on their imports. Those products exempt from consumption tax include certain capital goods, drainage and irrigation equipment, fertilizer spreaders, agricultural and horticultural implements, and other agricultural inputs. Importers must apply to the Ministry of Finance to request tax exemptions on any capital goods not specifically included on the list.

Guyana's Value Added Tax (VAT), which was implemented on January 1, 2007, replaced a number of taxes such as the consumption tax, hotel accommodation tax, service taxes, purchase tax, premium tax and telephone tax. The 16 VAT is applicable to goods and services including imports, and is assessed on the value added at each stage of the transaction. Some goods and services are zero-rated and these include basic food-stuff, medical supplies, educational materials, exports, computers, fertilizers and pesticides and small gifts.

Excise taxes are levied on certain goods including alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, petroleum products, and motor vehicles.

Fines and penalties: Under CARICOM provisions import restrictions may be imposed by any member adversely affected by imports being dumped or subsidized.

Advance rulings: Further inquiries on classification and import duty rates prior to the good arriving in Guyana can be directed to the Customs and Excise Administration. Samples and specifications should be included with the request for a ruling.

Nontariff Controls

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation (MOFTIC) is the government agency responsible for trade policy matters. Guyana's trade policy is designed and implemented within the framework of its participation in CARICOM. Few imported goods are still subject to licensing. These include medicinal drugs; fresh, frozen and chilled meat; fresh fruits; beet sugar; wheat flour; rice; cane sugar; organic and inorganic fertilizers; petroleum and its byproducts; beauty and makeup preparations; aircraft, helicopters and spacecraft including satellites and military weapons such as revolvers, pistols, bombs, grenades, torpedoes, bayonets, lances, and similar arms.

Some products require approval from other agencies before an import license is granted.

Products under import licensing restriction are not subject to quotas. Licenses are issued to importers regardless of whether they are producers of the products, and any importer is eligible for a license, subject to the requirements. There are no criteria based on performance, quotas, or prior utilization. Similarly, there is no regulation or restriction regarding the utilization or non-utilization of licenses. Also, licenses may be requested or granted at any time during the year.

Import Payments and Exchange Controls

Exchange control authority is vested in the Ministry of Finance, which has entrusted its administration to the Bank of Guyana. Import transactions through the cambio exchange market are permitted without restriction and most imported consumer goods are paid for in this manner. Certain payments for official imports effected by commercial banks on behalf of the central bank require the approval of the central bank.

Samples and Advertising Materials

Printed books and pamphlets, advertising material and samples of no commercial or marketable value may be imported duty-free. However, commercial publicity material is dutiable. If imported as commercial travellers' baggage, samples are allowed entry under bond, but they must be re-exported within three months. A duly authenticated invoice is required for samples.

Clearing Imports

The procedure for clearing imports or inspecting exports is the same for businesses working through customs offices outside Georgetown, as it is for those working through the main office, Customs House, in Georgetown.

Import Customs Clearance procedures:

Step 1: The first step in the clearance process, depicted in the exhibit, is to obtain a Customs registration number and, if required, an import license.

Step 2: To clear imported goods, a broker or the importer, if acting on own behalf, must complete form C72 in quadruplicate and submit it to Customs, along with the original supplier invoice, bill of lading, and insurance form, if insured.

Step 3: This file of forms is routed to the Classification section where the accuracy of the classification of goods in the documents is verified.

Step 4: The file is then delivered to the Computer/Processing section, where it is checked for completeness and accuracy and the data is entered. If everything is okay, an Assessment Notice indicating the amount of taxes to pay is issued to the broker and Custom's cashier, along with the C72 form.

Step 4a: For commercial goods, except duty-free items, if a Customs officer believes the invoice value is not correct or the importer has a chequered history of under invoicing, the file may be routed to the valuation section. Here, the file is reviewed for accuracy and if the officer feels that the invoice is under-valued, then the values may be increased for tax computation purposes.

Step 4b: If revalued, the file is returned to the broker, who makes the necessary recalculations on form C72 and resubmits it. The file then goes to the Computer/Processing section again for entry and the issuance of an Assessment Notice. This retracing of steps may add another one to two days to the clearance process.

Step 5: The broker takes the notice to the cashier and pays the indicated amount, receiving a copy of the C72 form as a receipt. Twice a day, the original, paid for C72s are picked up from the cashier and delivered to the Quality Review section at Customs House, with the last pick-up at or near noontime.

Step 6: The Quality Review section then verifies once more the classifications used and the calculations.

Step 6a: If an error is found, Quality Review will revalue and issue a new voucher.

Step 6b: The broker must return to the cashier with the new voucher, pay the cashier, and return to Quality Review with a receipt and the C72. These side steps can add a half to one full day to the process.

Step 7: If everything is okay, the file is delivered to the wharf or other point of entry; another half day of time. A broker takes the approved forms to the point of entry where it is matched with the original delivered from the inspection unit. The goods are then located and a physical inspection occurs. This inspection is usually based on a sampling, unless some discrepancies are found. In which case, the inspection may become 100 percent. Deliveries are made two to three times a day (at or about 9 a.m., late morning and early afternoon) from the Quality Review section to the wharf or other point of entry. As with the pick up from the cashier in step 5, if a broker misses the last delivery time, then the paper work cannot move forward until the next day.

Step 8: After the inspection, the broker takes the bill of lading to the port agent, who provides a cart note for permission to take the goods out.

Step 9: The broker takes the goods.

MARKETING, DISTRIBUTION, PROCUREMENT & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Market

The fact that Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America, coupled with its unique geographic and socio-political heritage, positions the country as a gateway to South America and the Caribbean. On one hand, its shared Caribbean and English-speaking heritage allows it to be a part of CARICOM, while on the other hand it is a South American country neighbouring two of the most important and vibrant economies on the continent – Brazil and Venezuela.

The small size of the local market causes most U.S. firms to use a local agent or distributor. One prevalent problem in the area is the violation of the rights of exclusive distributors. A host of small Guyanese “traders” regularly travels abroad to purchase wholesale quantities of packaged consumer goods, often choosing seconds or nearly expired goods from discount outlets. These products are more often sold through the country’s extensive network of virtually unregulated small shops and street kiosks. This practice undercuts exclusive distribution rights that authorized distributors may have with the manufacturer.

It also negatively affects the brand image of a product line when customers associate unauthorized expired products with the legitimate brand name. Unfortunately, there is no effective institutional recourse in place to protect the rights of authorized distributors.

Selling Factors

All promotional materials and product labels should be in English. U.S. products benefit from an excellent reputation in Guyana. North American origin is widely advertised by Guyanese businesses as a mark of quality and as a result Guyanese have a high degree of awareness of and appreciation for American brands.

Government Procurement

The government is very involved in the economy. Many public sector-managed projects are financed by international agencies, creating substantial procurement opportunities. Government procurement is generally by public tender. A number of ministries, including the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Public Works, have established Project Execution Units to implement projects. Large projects are the jurisdiction of the Central Tender Board. For some projects, international donors' procurement procedures are used. Government tender offers are published in the newspapers and generally have short bidding periods, which often must be extended to give interested bidders enough time to put together tender packages.

Intellectual Property

As a member of the WTO, Guyana is signatory to the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The TRIPS agreement generally requires national and most-favoured-nation (MFN) treatment for WTO members' intellectual property, sets minimum safeguards to protect and enforce intellectual property rights and establishes a dispute resolution system.

Guyana is also a member of the World Intellectual Property Organisation and is a signatory to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.

Enforcement of intellectual property rights in Guyana is lax. Local appropriation of American brand names and logos is widespread. Guyana does not have a bilateral investment treaty or an intellectual property rights agreement with the United States. Upon gaining independence, the country adopted British law on

patents and copyrights. This outdated legislation is currently being revised to conform to global norms. For instance, in July 2005, Guyana passed the Geographic Indication Bill giving protection to local products that are uniquely Guyanese in origin.

DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

All Shipments

Commercial Invoice: One original and two copies of the commercial invoice are required. Commercial invoice requirements for shipments to CARICOM countries have been standardized by a CARICOM council decision. Shipments not covered by the CARICOM invoice form may be delayed at customs.

All charges, including freight and insurance, necessary to establish CIF value should be given. Invoices should describe all merchandise thoroughly and accurately, and it is advised that tariff classification numbers be given for all goods, including those exempt from import duty. Chamber of commerce certification and consular legalization are not required.

Certificate of origin: When required for goods subject to preferential treatment or requested by the importer or payment instrument, one original and three copies are usually sufficient. The certificate may be on the general form sold by commercial printers. It must be certified by a recognized chamber of commerce, which usually requires one additional notarized copy for its files. Consular legalization is not required.

CARICOM members are all required to operate under the rules of origin contained in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas effective January 2007. The CARICOM Safeguard Mechanism grants derogations from the rules of origin requirements for imports from the more developed CARICOM countries even if originating goods were not shipped directly from another member state, but provided that the goods were not modified and did not enter the commerce of the transit country.

Bill of lading: One original and one copy of the bill of lading generally are required. A bill of lading customarily shows the name of the shipper, the name and address of the consignee, port of destination, description of goods, the listing of the freight and other charges, the number of bills of lading in the full set, and the date and the signature of the carrier's official acknowledging receipt on board of the goods for shipment. The information should correspond with that shown on the invoices and packages. "To order" bills are accepted and are protected against receipt of goods without honoring the drafts.

The air waybill replaces the bill of lading on air cargo shipments.

Pro forma Invoice: Application for an import license usually must be accompanied by a pro forma invoice.

Special Documents

Sanitary certificate: Required for livestock, carcasses, poultry, bees, plants, fresh fruits and vegetables, and foodstuffs in general.

STANDARDS, LABELING AND PACKING

Standards and Special Requirements

Standards are developed for the different sectors of the economy by the Guyana National Bureau of Standards in compliance with the Standards Act of 1984 (Cap. 90.16) and its amendment of 1997. These standards are issued to the relevant regulatory bodies, such as the Food and Drugs Department and the Environment Protection Agency, among others, for implementation and enforcement. Standards also may be developed by other bodies. Guyana maintains more than 200 national standards, many of which have been adapted from international standards. The bureau is the lead agency charged with development, compliance, and product certification.

Under the Standards Compliance Program, launched in November 2005, Bureau of Standards officials and customs officers may examine the quality of certain products at the port of entry. The following goods are subject to monitoring; domestic electrical appliances, tires, textiles, garments, footwear, PVC pipes, scales, weights and measures, paints and paint products, animal feeds, furniture, gas stoves, cigarettes, safety matches, seat belts, fluorescent lamp ballasts, measuring tapes and rules, fertilizers, electricity and water meters, and safety helmets. This has resulted in the issuance of 14 technical regulations. Additional information is available from the Guyana National Bureau of Standards, Flat 15, Sophia Exhibition Complex, Sophia, Greater Georgetown; telephone: (592) 225-6226, 227-7890, or 227-7072; e-mail: gnbs@networksgy.com.

The bureau provides third party certification based on conformance to a particular national standard. This is rewarded by the use of a standards mark, which signals to the consumer that the product that bears the mark is of good

quality and authenticated by the bureau. Imported commodities should bear a national or international certification mark from a regulatory body in the country of origin or a Certificate of Quality Compliance from an Independent certification body.

The importation of livestock and animals and plant materials, including domestic pets, is subject to an import permit from the Animal Services Division of the Plant Quarantine Section of the Ministry of Agriculture. The permit specifies the conditions that must be met in the exporting country before importation of the goods into Guyana is allowed. Animals from countries affected by rabies must be quarantined for a period of 90 days before being issued a health certificate or cleared for entry. The importation of fresh or raw meats is also subject to the Import Permit procedure. Upon arrival at the port of entry in Guyana, such goods must be inspected by qualified veterinary doctors from both the Ministry of Agriculture and the veterinary Public Health Services of the Ministry of Health.

*Members of the Caribbean Community have agreed to establish a CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality headquartered in Barbados. The organization will work to harmonize and develop regional standards and quality requirements.

Guyana also must adhere to the WTO's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, which prohibits the use of WTO member countries' national product standards and certification systems as impediments to trade. Central governments must ensure that their respective local government and nongovernmental standards making bodies adhere to the principles of the agreement and must notify to the WTO any new or proposed standards. The TBT Agreement covers standards for all products, including agricultural, industrial and consumer goods, as well as production and processing methods and conformity assessment procedures.

If U.S. exporters have reason to believe that a standard of any WTO member country unjustifiably impedes exports to that country, they may communicate these concerns to the National Center for Standards and Certification Information at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (see **Contact Information** in WORKING ACROSS BORDERS). For full text of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, see INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Scientific and Technical Affairs provides information on foreign agricultural standards and testing and certification systems. The National Center for Standards and Certification Information at the National Institute of Standards and Technology maintains information on foreign nonagricultural standards and testing and certification systems. (See **Contact Information** in WORKING ACROSS BORDERS).

Additional information on foreign standards also is available to firms in the United States through the American National “Standards Institute (see **Contact Information** in WORKING ACROSS BORDERS).

Labeling

Goods bearing the British coat of arms are prohibited unless given royal permission. All imported goods must show country of origin. Shirts, nightwear, and underwear must have a cloth label on each garment stating the country of manufacture; otherwise, such imports will be prohibited.

When using dates for any reason, the following two formats are acceptable; 2009-05-25, using four digits for the year, two digits for the month, and two digits for the day, or Friday, May 25, 2009, spelling out the day and month.

Spare parts for secondhand agricultural machinery such as combines, tractors, trucks, and motor car equipment must indicate the name of the manufacturer; year of manufacture; model number; make of engine; size and type of tires; type of auxiliary equipment such as winches or hydraulic linkage, when applicable; and type and make of hydraulic hoisting equipment, when applicable.

The sale and advertising of food, drugs, cosmetics, and therapeutic devices are governed by the food and Drug Act, which prohibits false and misleading advertisements and descriptions of such products.

Specific labeling requirements are in place for prepackaged goods, cigarettes, footwear, helmets, tires, toys, furniture, animal feed, household electrical appliances, and prepackaged food. General labeling requirements may apply to other products.

Cigarette labels must be in compliance with the national standard, which sets out the specific information required on the label and the method of display. Among the requirements is that labels must be in English, or an accurate English translation must be provided, if necessary. All packages of cigarettes produced for retail or wholesale must carry the following health warning in bold print: “The Minister of Health advises that smoking is dangerous to health.” Drafts or designs for labels may be submitted to the Guyana National Bureau of Standards for prior approval. The final label should be approved by the Bureau before printing takes place.

The labels on toys should include the following information: the name or description of the item; country of origin and manufacture; name and address of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor; registered trademark or trade name; warnings and precautionary instructions for toys that are hazardous because of

their nature or design; and type of product used in the manufacturing of the item. The label should be in English and displayed prominently. If the toy is unpacked, the information should appear on the toy itself or on a tag attached to it. In the case of stuffed toys, the label must be sewn into the seam. Chemistry and science sets must include a warning label such as “This set contains chemicals that may be harmful”.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture advises that food product labels should indicate the descriptive name of the product; the list of ingredients, including food additives, in descending order by weight; the name, address, and telephone number of the manufacturer or distributor; net weight or volume in metric or volume in metric units; and instructions for storage and use when applicable. In addition, the following details may be required in a new market: country-of-origin information; product expiration date; percentages of major product ingredients; special food additive codes; and nutrition information based on the destination country’s regulations.

Marking

There are no stipulations regarding how shipments must be marked, and any common shipping practice may be followed. In general, all identifying marks, including the consignee’s mark with port marks, should be inscribed plainly on the packages to facilitate arrival of the shipment. Packages should be numbered unless the contents are such that they can be identified readily without numbers.

Packing

Goods should be shipped in extra strong, strapped cases. Goods that might be affected by dampness should be shipped in tins or cases lined to keep out moisture. Exporters should contact their customers in Guyana concerning any other special packing requirements.

CUSTOMS AND ENTRY

Ports and Shipping Routes

Guyana’s principal port is at Georgetown. Linden and New Amsterdam are secondary ports accessible to goods transported on smaller vessels. There is a ferry service between Guyana and Suriname.

The Timehri International Airport is 25 miles from Georgetown. Major settlements in the interior also have airstrips.

Free Trade Zones

There are currently no free trade zones in Guyana although many proposals have been under consideration for quite some time. The Government has been promoting the establishment of industrial estates in order to facilitate industrial development. Two are currently in operation: the Coldingen Industrial Estate on the east coast of the Demerara opened in 1997, and the Eccles Industrial Estate opened in 2000. Three more are in development at Lethem, New Amsterdam, and Belvedere. Tenants in the industrial estates enjoy the same benefit as other manufacturers by being allowed to import their raw materials duty-free. There is no requirement for any part of their production to be exported nor limit to the amount that may be sold on the local market. The development and administration of industrial estates falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce. In practice, all industrial estates in Guyana are held by the National Industry and Commercial Investment Ltd (NICIL), and are operated and monitored by the Ministry.

The Guyanese authorities note that the activities of the tenants of these industrial estates will benefit from the same privileges of those in free zones when they come on-stream. The Government is currently studying the success of free zones in neighboring states, with a view to adapting this concept as a mechanism for promoting manufacturing and agro-processing; the authorities expect that free zones will encourage the industrial estates to expand these activities.

In early 2003 the Government announced plans to introduce legislation for the development of industry and the development and management of industrial estates in an **Industrial Development Authority Act**, and a **Free Zone Act**. The Guyanese government also offers duty-free imports and tax holidays to investors on request. In the case of duty-free imports, the process begins with a letter to the Secretary to the Treasury. The applicant must attach a pro forma invoice for the items to be imported, indication of the end market, expected sales price, and calculation of the value added in Guyana. A key factor in the determination of duty-free status and consumption tax waiver is the creation of value added. The authorities note that blanket approvals are not given, but that each import consignment is reviewed individually. When granted, duty and consumption tax often are waived completely or lowered based on the industry and item. The approval process can take some time, however, the target is a seven-day turnaround.

Tax holidays must be approved by the President and, as a result, the approval process is longer. Tax holidays are less likely to be granted than duty-free status

or a consumption tax waiver. Tax holidays generally are capped at ten years but in some cases may be longer depending on the nature of the business. Value added and the nature of the business, as well as the impact on government revenue are also key considerations in extending a tax holiday.

Entry, Transit, Re-Export and Warehousing

Goods must be cleared within 10 days of arrival. Importers may act on their own behalf to clear goods, but the use of competent customs brokers is recommended to save time and money. Customs must be provided with a copy of the clearance form upon importation, together with supporting documents, such as an invoice from the supplier, a bill of lading and/or a license and, when requested, a certificate of origin. Taxes must be paid before delivery of the goods. Customs inspections are carried out at the port of entry before the goods are cleared for delivery. Clearance times range, but normally fall between 2 – 3 ½ days.

Goods subject to temporary entry must be notified in advance to the Customs and Trade Administration. The goods also must be registered at the port of entry and a bond deposited. If the goods are not re-exported, the importer will be required to pay the necessary duties and other charges. Further information about temporary entry may be obtained from the Customs and Trade Administration, Customs House, Main Street, Georgetown; telephone: (592) 225-6931 or 225-9102.

Merchandise not claimed within 30 days is forwarded to a government warehouse. Goods that are not claimed after 90 days will be sold at public auction. Goods may be warehoused for three months upon deposit of 100% of the applicable duty, which will be refunded if the goods are re-exported.

Merchandise fulfilling all necessary requirements may be warehoused by the importer for a period of up to two years, at which time it must be cleared, exported, or re-warehoused.

At the discretion of the customs authorities, goods may be warehoused for three months upon deposit of 50% of the applicable duty, to guarantee re-exportation at the end of that period.

As of April 1996, Guyana uses the computerized customs system ASYCUDA to process documents electronically and compute duties and taxes.

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) MEASURES

Guyana maintains about 235 national standards, approximately half of which have been adapted from international standards. A number of sanitary and phytosanitary requirements are applied on imports. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, as well as the national notification authority under the WTO SPS Agreement. In accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, the importation of livestock and other animals, including domestic pets and plant materials into Guyana, is subject to an import permit from the Animal Services Division (animals) or the Plant Quarantine Section (plant materials) of the Ministry of Agriculture. The permit specifies the conditions that must be met in the exporting country before importation is allowed into Guyana. A number of animal and vegetable products are also subject to import licensing.

PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED IMPORTS

The importation of counterfeit or substandard coins is prohibited, as is the importation of food unfit for consumption; indecent articles; infected cattle; and matches containing white and yellow phosphorus.

A number of other products face import restrictions:

Arms and ammunition, except with the written permission of the Commissioner of Police; Cocaine, heroin, cannabis, cannabis indica, choras, and preparations thereof, except under licence of the Chief Medical Officer; Imitation banknotes; Spirits and wine, unless in aircraft or in ships of 27.3 tonnes burden at least, and in casks or other vessels of 41 litres at least, or in glass or stone bottles packed in cases, or in demijohn, each case of demijohn containing not less than 41 litres; Tobacco, cigars, cigarillos or cigarettes, unless in aircraft, or in ships of 90.1 tonne burden at least and in whole and complete packages each containing not less than 0.9 kg. net weight (manufacturer excepted); Goods not bearing a trade mark, a name, and an indication of origin; Prepared opium; Shaving brushes manufactured in or exported from Japan; Fictitious stamps, Tobacco extracts, essence, or concentrates; Exotic fish, except with license by the Chief Agricultural Officer

Cinematographic films, unless Minister responsible for public order and morality, issues to the importer a certificate of importation; Printed matter considered by the Minister responsible for public safety and order to be prejudicial to the defense of Guyana, public safety or order.

USEFUL ANNEXES

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Business Customs

Business dress is relaxed. For men, work attire consists of anything from a guayabera (shirtjac) to slacks polo shirt to shirt and tie and light business suits for women.

Entry/Exit Requirements:

Currently, only a valid U.S. passport is required for U.S. citizens to enter and depart Guyana. On arrival in Guyana, visitors are granted a 30-day stay. Extensions of stay may be obtained from the Ministry of Home Affairs at 60 Brickdam Street, Georgetown. The Central Office of Immigration located on Camp Street, Georgetown, must then note the extension in the visitor's passport. Travelers for other than tourism purposes should check with the Ministry of Home Affairs for information about requirements for work permits and extended stays.