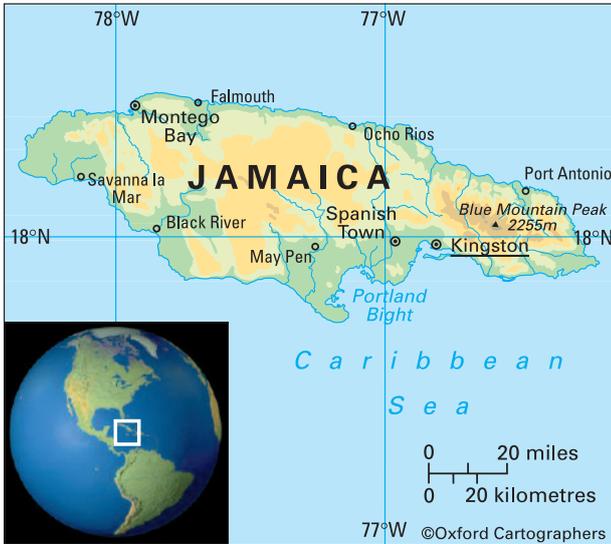




Jamaica



KEY FACTS

Joined Commonwealth:	1962
Population:	2,751,000 (2011)
GDP p.c. growth:	0.5% p.a. 1990–2011
UN HDI 2012:	World ranking 85
Net primary enrolment:	82.4% (2010)
Net secondary enrolment:	83.6% (2010)
Gross tertiary enrolment:	26.0% (2010)
Adult literacy:	87.0% (2011)

Geography

Area:	10,991 sq km
Coastline:	1,020 km
Capital:	Kingston

Jamaica, whose name comes from the Arawak *Xaymaca*, meaning 'Land of Wood and Water', lies south of Cuba and west of Haiti.

Society

Population per sq km:	250
Life expectancy:	73 years
Official language:	English

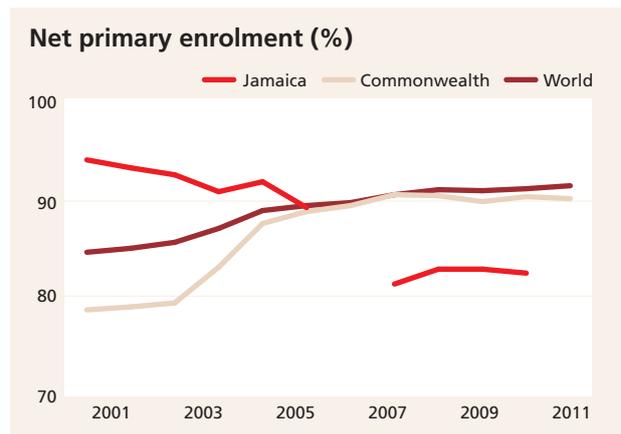
Population: 2,751,000 (2011); 52 per cent live in urban areas; growth 0.7 per cent p.a. 1990–2011 but emigration (principally to the UK, Canada and the USA) has been significant for two generations; birth rate 18 per 1,000 people (35 in 1970); life expectancy 73 years (68 in 1970).

The population is predominantly of African descent (91 per cent in 2001 census), with European-, East Indian- and Chinese-descended minorities, and some people of mixed descent (six per cent).

Language: English; an English-based Creole is widely spoken.

Religion: Mainly Christians (Church of God 24 per cent, Seventh Day Adventists 11 per cent, Pentecostals ten per cent, Baptists seven per cent, Anglicans four per cent, Roman Catholics three per cent), and there is also a significant Rastafarian community (2001 census).

Health: Public spending on health was three per cent of GDP in 2010. There are more than 20 hospitals, mostly public, and many health centres. Hospital services and government medical care are subsidised, patients paying modest fees related to their income.



Around nine per cent of the population has private health insurance. 93 per cent of the population use an improved drinking water source and 80 per cent have adequate sanitation facilities (2010). Infant mortality was 16 per 1,000 live births in 2011 (56 in 1960). In 2011, 1.8 per cent of people aged 15–49 were HIV positive.

Media: National dailies are *The Gleaner*, *Jamaica Observer* and *Daily Star* (evenings), and all have weekend editions. *Sunday Herald* is a weekly.

After the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation was privatised in 1997, many – mostly commercial – radio and TV broadcasters entered the field.

Some 88 per cent of households have TV sets (2009). There are 67 personal computers per 1,000 people (2005).

Communications: Country code 1 876; internet domain '.jm'. There are internet cafes and kiosks in Kingston; elsewhere internet access is available at libraries and hotels.

There are 99 main telephone lines, 1,081 mobile phone subscriptions and 315 internet users per 1,000 people (2011).

Education

Governance

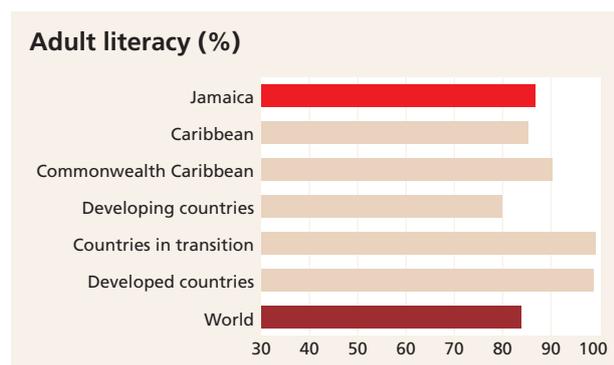
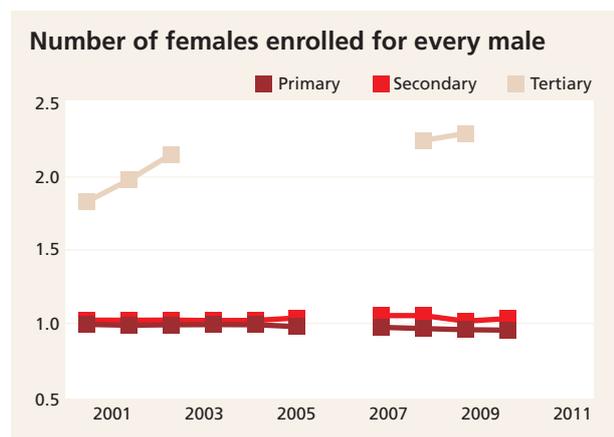
Ministry of Education

Kingston

Tel: +1 876 922 1400 1

Minister: Reverend Ronald Thwaites

Permanent secretary: Maria Jones



The University Council of Jamaica

Kingston

Tel: +1 876 929 7299

Email: info@ucj.org.jm

Executive director: Dr Yvonne Marshall

The Caribbean Examinations Council, established in 1972 by an agreement among 15 English-speaking Commonwealth Caribbean countries and territories, provides examinations and certification at secondary and post-secondary levels. Qualifications offered by the council include the Certificate of Secondary Level Competence (since 2007 providing certification in English, maths, science, modern languages and social studies for all students who complete secondary school); Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (in 33 subjects, for students at the end of the secondary education cycle); Caribbean Advanced Proficiency (for post-secondary students entering the world of work and for those candidates who wish to continue their further education at the tertiary level); Caribbean Vocational Qualification; and, since 2005, associate degrees in nine subject areas. The council has its headquarters in Barbados and western zone office in Jamaica.

Policy and plans

Public spending on education was 6.4 per cent of GDP in 2010.

Vision 2030 Jamaica is the country's first long-term national development plan; it aims to put Jamaica in a position to achieve developed country status by 2030. It expresses the aspiration for Jamaica to become a country where its citizens enjoy a high quality of life and world-class standards in education, health care and nutrition.

The Ministry of Education places particular emphasis on mathematics and numeracy, in teacher training and in the classroom, as essential skills in all areas of study and in everyday life.

Schools

Gross enrolment overall: 81.8% (2010)

Primary female–male ratio: 0.95:1 (2010)

Secondary female–male ratio: 1.03:1 (2010)

Primary pupil–teacher ratio: 21:1 (2010)

Secondary pupil–teacher ratio: 15:1 (2010)

There are six years of compulsory education starting at the age of six. Primary school comprises six years and secondary five. Some 95 per cent of pupils complete primary school (2009). The school year starts in September.

Tertiary

The regional University of the West Indies (UWI, established in 1946) has its principal campus at Mona, near Kingston, and other main campuses in Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Norman Manley Law School (1973) is located on the Mona campus of UWI. Some 50 other tertiary institutions – public and private – registered with the University Council of Jamaica in 2011 include the Management Institute for National Development; University of Technology; College of Agriculture, Science and Education; Edna

Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts; G C Foster College of Physical Education and Sports; Knox Community College; and Northern Caribbean University (owned by the Seventh Day Adventists, located in Mandeville, a university since 1999). The female–male ratio for gross enrolment in tertiary education is 2.30:1 (2009). Literacy among people aged 15–24 is 95 per cent (2010).

Pan-Commonwealth

In 1974 Jamaica hosted the Sixth Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Kingston. Commonwealth education ministers meet every three years to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest.

Further information

Jamaica Information Service: www.jis.gov.jm

Commonwealth Secretariat: www.thecommonwealth.org

Commonwealth Education Online: www.cedol.org

Education institutions

Ministry of Education: www.moe.gov.jm

University Council of Jamaica: www.ucj.org.jm

Caribbean Examinations Council: www.cxc.org

Northern Caribbean University: www.ncu.edu.jm

University of Technology: www.utech.edu.jm

University of the West Indies: www.mona.uwi.edu

College of Agriculture, Science and Education: case.edu.jm

Knox Community College:

www.knoxcommunitycollege.edu.jm

Management Institute for National Development:

www.mind.edu.jm

Norman Manley Law School: www.nmls.edu.jm

University of the West Indies Open Campus:

www.open.uwi.edu

National Library of Jamaica: www.nlj.gov.jm

Jamaica Teachers' Association:

www.jamaicateachers.org.jm