CaribWise
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MARKET INTELLIGENCE / SEPTEMBER 2026

Caribbean Market Outlook 2026

Trade, investment and business opportunities across nine selected Caribbean economies



9

Country markets

2026

Edition and outlook

Prepared by CaribWise | Research cut-off: 30 September 2026

EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE

Key findings

20.8%

Guyana's revised 2026 government growth forecast, September. [N2]

~2%

Barbados' revised 2026 central-bank growth forecast, July. [N3]

35.0m

Estimated international tourist arrivals in 2025. [R2]

$14.65bn

Dominican merchandise exports in 2025. [R4]

Regional averages need a country lens

Guyana has a large influence on headline growth. For a supplier or investor, the relevant question is which buyers are expanding and what they will purchase. [R1]

Tourism supports demand beyond accommodation

Visitor activity creates a reason to investigate food supply, furnishings, maintenance, water systems and energy efficiency. The commercial case still depends on buyer procurement and destination conditions. [R2; analysis]

Investment priorities are converging

The eight CAIPA country guides reviewed feature agribusiness, logistics and renewable energy. Their country examples differ in scale, maturity and operating requirements. [G1-G8]

Costs vary enough to affect location choice

Four guides using 2025 fDi Benchmark data show wide differences in labour and utility costs. Compare the whole operating model, including delivery, skills and reliability. [G1, G3, G5, G8]

CaribWise analysis combines official statistics, promotion guides and project announcements. Country scope and publication dates are kept separate; this report does not present a single Caribbean market size.

WHAT THE EVIDENCE CHANGES

Five implications for businesses

01 Choose the buyer segment before the country

A hotel group, an industrial operator and a public project can have very different purchasing processes. Start with a clear customer problem and establish how the buyer currently solves it.

02 Build the delivered cost before comparing suppliers

Include freight, customs handling, inland transport, storage, credit and support. A lower factory price can lose its advantage after shipment and inventory costs.

03 Treat project timing as part of demand

Distinguish announcements, procurement, construction and operations. Equipment, maintenance and business services become relevant at different stages of a project.

04 Use local partners to test execution

Verify technical capacity, buyer relationships and payment performance. Where installation or maintenance matters, evaluate service delivery alongside sales reach.

05 Expand after demonstrating repeat demand

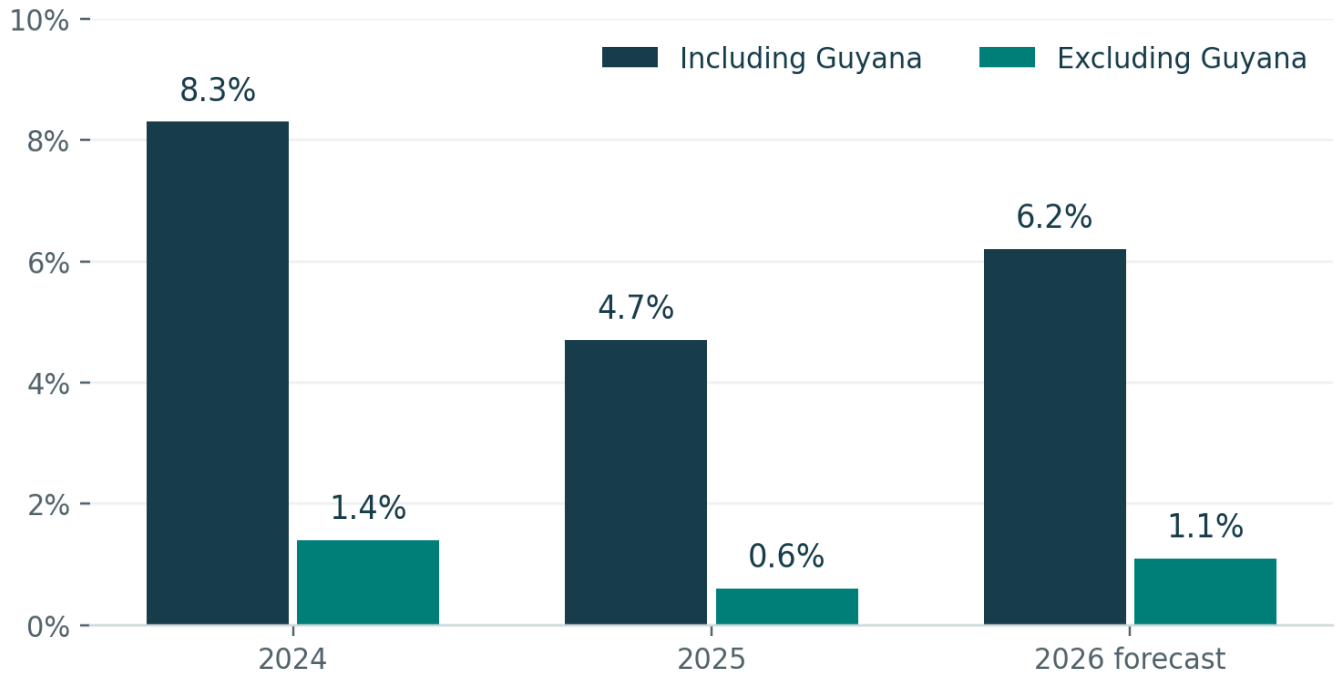
A pilot provides evidence about margins, delivery and customer retention. Regional expansion should follow those results and a separate assessment of the next destination.

These are CaribWise recommendations drawn from the report’s analysis, rather than findings from a proprietary buyer survey.

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Growth is uneven across the region

The CDB country group illustrates how a regional headline can differ from the conditions in many individual markets. Its April 2026 outlook anticipates faster aggregate growth with Guyana, while growth excluding Guyana remains modest. [R1]



Real GDP growth in CDB borrowing member economies. The 2026 values are forecasts published in April 2026. This grouping excludes economies such as the Dominican Republic. [R1]

Project demand and broad market demand require different tests

CaribWise assessment: a large resource project can create substantial purchases even in a small domestic market. Consumer distribution, in contrast, depends on household purchasing power and repeat sales. GDP growth is relevant to both, but it cannot substitute for either demand assessment.

Investment inflows also need context

ECLAC reports US$194.23 billion in FDI across Latin America and the Caribbean in 2025, up 1.7%. Guyana and the Dominican Republic accounted for approximately 5% and 3% of this wider total. These are not shares of Caribbean-only investment. Reinvested earnings accounted for 51% of the wider region’s inflows, illustrating why FDI should not be read as new project spending alone. [R3]

SCALE AND PURCHASING POWER

Country market snapshot

Population and nominal output provide a first screen for market scale. GDP per capita adds context, but it is an average production measure and does not represent disposable income or a typical buyer's budget.

Market	Population millions	GDP US$bn	GDP per capita US$	Real growth	GDP year
Dominican Republic	11.520	127.41	11,059	2.1%	2025
Haiti	11.906	32.08	2,694	-2.7%	2025
Guyana	0.836	27.10	32,414	19.3%	2025
Trinidad and Tobago	1.368	25.94	18,967	-0.8%	2025
Jamaica	2.837	22.70	8,003	0.1%	2025
The Bahamas	0.403	15.83	39,455	3.4%	2024*
Barbados	0.283	8.02	28,365	2.7%	2025
Suriname	0.640	4.52	7,070	1.8%	2025
Belize	0.423	3.33	7,866	2.7%	2025

Source: World Bank country and comparison pages, retrieved 30 September 2026. Population is 2025 for every row. *The Bahamas' GDP, GDP per capita and growth are 2024; other rows are displayed as 2025. Values are rounded, reflect the retrieved statistical series and remain subject to revision. [WB1-WB8]

How to use the comparison

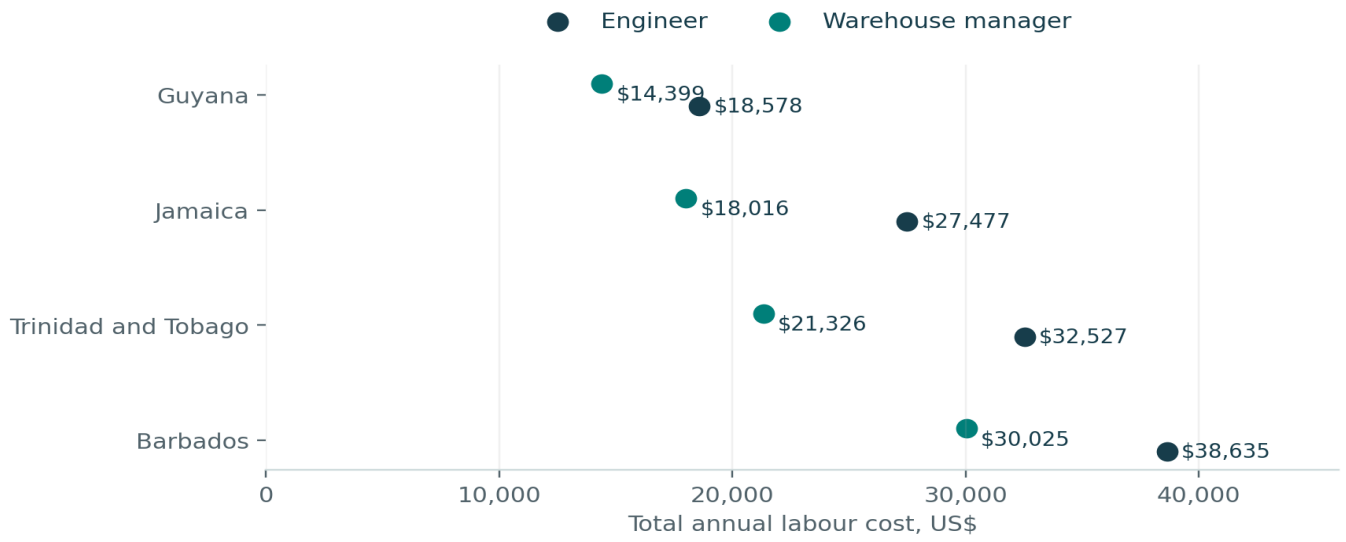
CaribWise assessment: the Dominican Republic offers the largest nominal economy in this selected set. Haiti has a large population but a much lower average output per person. Guyana combines strong growth with a small resident population. These profiles imply different tests for consumer distribution, industrial supply and project services.

The table is a screening tool, not an overall investment ranking. Reporting vintages and national account conventions can differ, and the Bahamas row should not be used in a strict same-year growth ranking.

FOUR COMPARABLE GUIDE BENCHMARKS

Operating costs can change the shortlist

The Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago guides report total annual labour costs using 2025 fDi Benchmark data, including mandatory contributions and benefits. Using this common basis avoids combining them with guides that use different salary sources. [G1, G3, G5, G8]



Guide benchmark	Barbados	Guyana	Jamaica	Trinidad and Tobago
Engineer / year	$38,635	$18,578	$27,477	$32,527
Warehouse manager / year	$30,025	$14,399	$18,016	$21,326
Warehouse operative / year	$13,941	$7,411	$8,477	$7,829
Agriculture worker / year	$11,636	$5,331	$6,779	$7,317
Electricity / kWh	$0.31	$0.32	$0.22	$0.05

Lower wages do not establish a lower total production cost

CaribWise calculation: the guide’s engineer benchmark for Guyana is about 52% below Barbados, while the quoted electricity unit costs are similar. Trinidad and Tobago’s electricity benchmark is approximately 84% below Guyana’s. A location comparison therefore needs the proposed business’s actual labour and energy use.

US dollars throughout. Guide figures are indicative benchmarks, not current offers or guaranteed tariffs. Electricity pricing dates, customer classes and reliability are not harmonised. Verify local quotations before using them in a financial model.

SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

Where the country guides point

The guides repeatedly feature food systems, logistics and renewable energy. The opportunity lies in identifying a specific part of those value chains and the buyers it can serve. The examples below summarise published guide themes rather than awarded contracts. [G1-G8; R5]

Business area	Markets to investigate	Specific entry angle	Evidence needed
Food and processing	Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname	Processing, refrigeration, packing and agricultural inputs	Supply volumes, seasonal demand, buyer specifications
Industrial supply	Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago	Equipment, technical services and support to producers	Buyer spending, service requirements, landed cost
Ports and distribution	Jamaica, Guyana, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago	Storage, port services and freight consolidation	Route frequency, cargo volume, anchor customers
Solar and storage	Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, Haiti	Business power systems and approved generation projects	Connection approval, customer load, payment model
Hospitality supply	Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Dominican Republic	Food, furnishings, water and maintenance	Property purchasing, refurbishment timing, distributor access
Project services	Guyana, Suriname	Technical services, logistics and supplier development	Contractor qualification, project stage, purchase orders

Solve an operating constraint

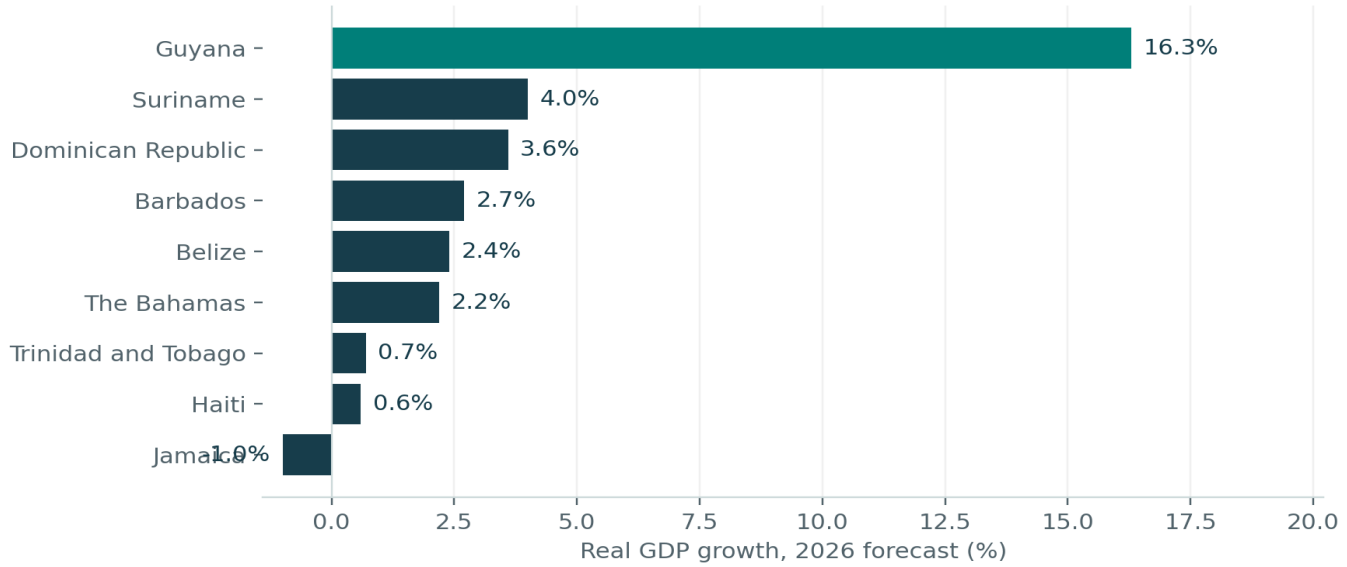
CaribWise assessment: cold storage can support producers and hospitality buyers; reliable power can protect both food inventory and business operations. These connections create useful routes for market research. They should be validated through named customers rather than inferred from the presence of a sector in an investment guide.

The shortlist is analytical and non-exhaustive. It indicates where to investigate an opportunity, not where returns are assured. Hospitality and industrial examples also draw on official tourism and country releases. [R2, R4, R5]

ONE COMPARABLE PUBLICATION VINTAGE

2026 GDP growth forecasts

The World Bank’s June 2026 Global Economic Prospects provides a common forecast vintage for all nine selected economies. Guyana leads this particular growth comparison, driven by a resource economy whose domestic market remains relatively small. [N1; analysis]



Market	2026 forecast	2027 forecast
Guyana	16.3%	23.5%
Suriname	4.0%	4.5%
Dominican Republic	3.6%	4.4%
Barbados	2.7%	3.0%
Belize	2.4%	2.2%
The Bahamas	2.2%	1.9%
Trinidad and Tobago	0.7%	3.2%
Haiti	0.6%	1.9%
Jamaica	-1.0%	3.2%

Source: World Bank, June 2026, statistical appendix, printed p. 166. Haiti follows its October–September fiscal year. These are projections, not observed outcomes; later national revisions follow on the next page. [N1]

FORECASTS AND OBSERVATIONS ARE SEPARATE

Later updates change the picture

Market / release	Newer evidence	How to interpret it
Guyana / 14 September 2026	Government revised full-year 2026 growth to 20.8%; non-oil growth to 10.2%.	Later national forecast, compared with the World Bank's June 16.3% projection. [N2]
Barbados / 31 July 2026	Central bank forecasts approximately 2% growth in 2026; first-half growth was 1.4%.	Later national forecast, compared with the June World Bank estimate of 2.7%. [N3]
Dominican Republic / 14 September 2026	January–August air tourist arrivals: 6,610,258.	Observed partial-year tourism activity; not a full-year GDP forecast. [N7]
Guyana / first half of 2026	Construction +24.7%; agriculture, forestry and fishing -0.5%.	Sector activity can diverge sharply from headline GDP. [N2]

Which forecast belongs in a business plan?

Use the common World Bank vintage to compare countries. For an individual location, evaluate later national revisions and the sector that drives the proposed business. Record the publication date and reporting period alongside every number. A forecast revision should prompt a review of demand assumptions, rather than automatically change a sales target.

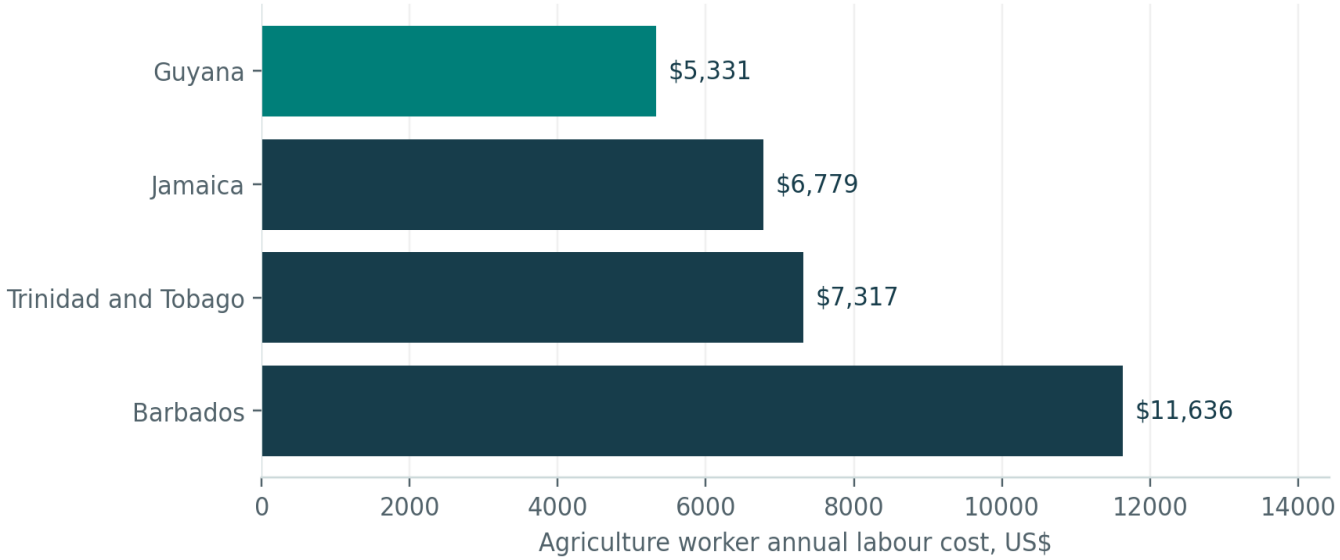
Guide editions and data freshness

CAIPA's current investment-guide index lists 2026 editions. Eight country PDFs were reviewed; the Dominican Republic PDF remained inaccessible. The guides' labour benchmarks refer to 2025. Tourism comparisons below use a consistent 2024 baseline; current national releases are shown separately. Renewable capacity uses the retrievable March 2026 IRENA tables for end-2025. A July statistics edition was identified, but its numeric tables could not be retrieved. [N12; G1–G8; N4; N5]

Research cut-off: 30 September 2026. "Latest" means the latest verifiable release used for the stated measure, rather than a claim that all observations describe September 2026.

INDUSTRY COMPARISON / COST AND CURRENT ACTIVITY

Agriculture and food systems



What the comparison shows

Guyana has the lowest agriculture-worker cost among these four comparable guide observations. That is a cost advantage to investigate, not evidence of the highest agricultural productivity. [G1, G3, G5, G8]

Current activity and projects

Guyana’s agriculture, forestry and fishing sector contracted 0.5% in the first half of 2026, while rice grew 4.4%. Belize’s IDB-supported sustainable and inclusive development project has procurement and implementation records in 2026. [N2; N11]

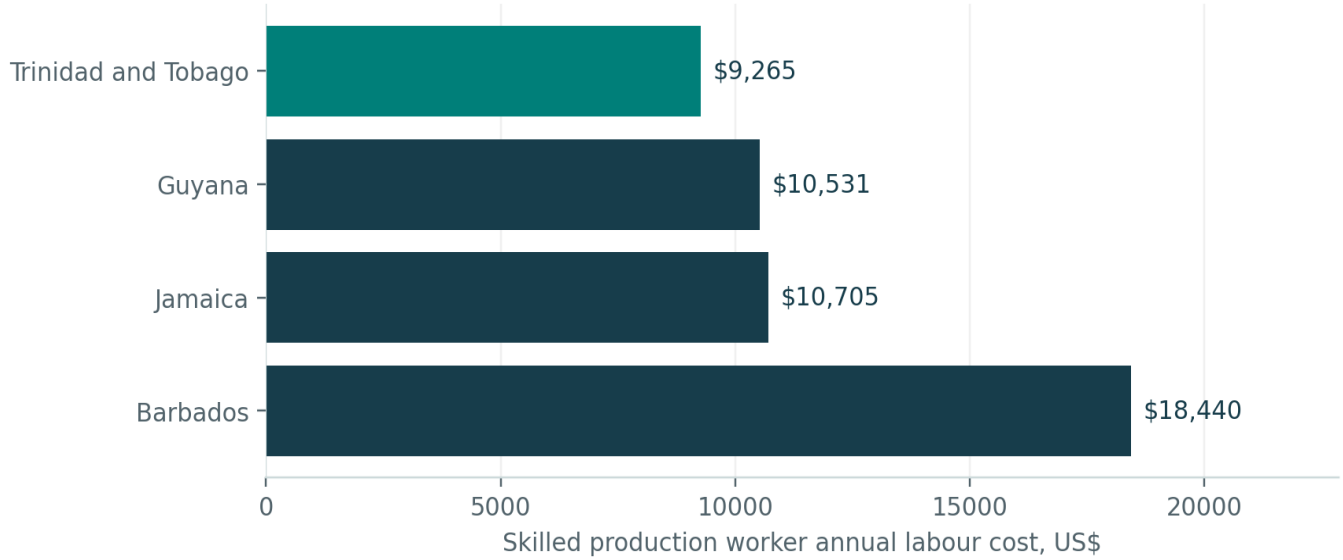
CaribWise business assessment

Investigate processing, refrigeration and inputs in Belize and Guyana. Establish crop volumes, seasonal availability, quality, water and power requirements, then test demand with named buyers.

Chart: 2025 fDi Benchmark values reproduced in 2026 CAIPA guides; annual employer cost includes mandatory contributions and benefits. Four-country coverage only. It measures labour cost, not output, productivity or investment returns. [G1, G3, G5, G8]

INDUSTRY COMPARISON / COST AND CURRENT ACTIVITY

Manufacturing and industrial supply



What the comparison shows

Trinidad and Tobago has the lowest skilled-production-worker benchmark in this four-country set. The Dominican Republic offers a separate export-platform case; it is not included in this wage ranking. [G1, G3, G5, G8; analysis]

Current activity and projects

Dominican free-zone exports reached US$2,803.3 million in January–April 2026, up 4.3% year on year. This is observed export activity, not total manufacturing output. [N6]

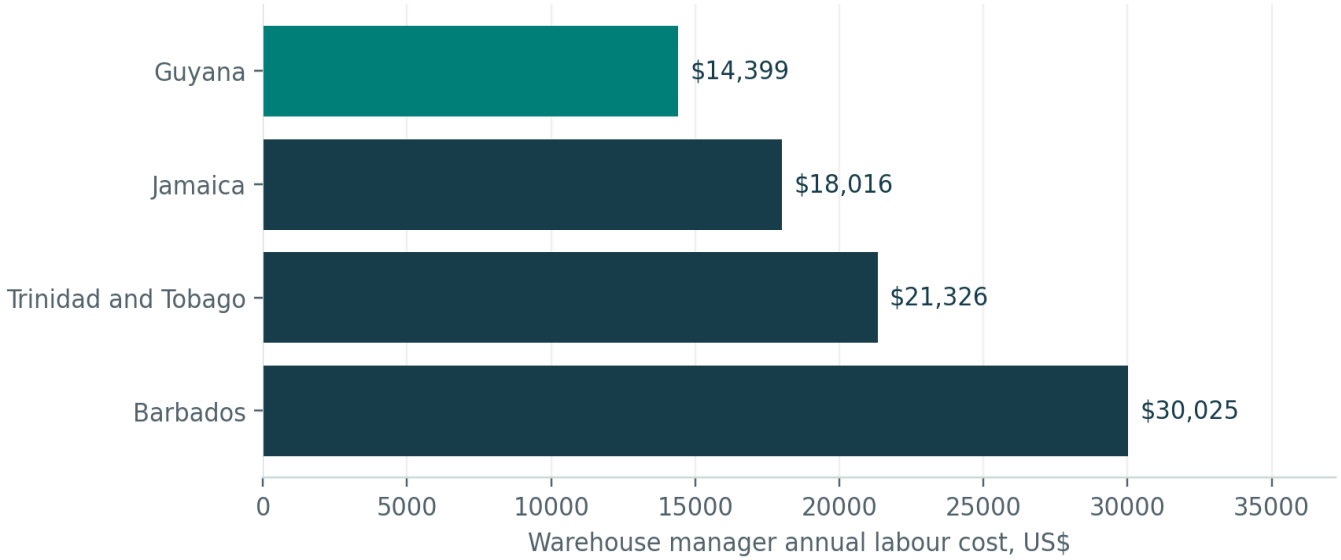
CaribWise business assessment

For industrial supply, interview export producers and technical buyers. Compare approved-supplier requirements, equipment support, electricity, freight and the cost of serving the customer.

Chart: 2025 fDi Benchmark values reproduced in 2026 CAIPA guides; annual employer cost includes mandatory contributions and benefits. Four-country coverage only. It measures labour cost, not output, productivity or investment returns. [G1, G3, G5, G8]

INDUSTRY COMPARISON / COST AND CURRENT ACTIVITY

Logistics and distribution



What the comparison shows

Guyana has the lowest warehouse-management labour benchmark in the comparable set. It does not establish the lowest delivered freight cost or the best port performance. [G1, G3, G5, G8]

Current activity and projects

Caucedo in the Dominican Republic handled 1.76 million TEUs in 2025, versus 1.71 million in 2024. DP World announced an additional US$100 million logistics investment in May 2026. Terminal throughput is not a country-wide cargo total. [N8; N9]

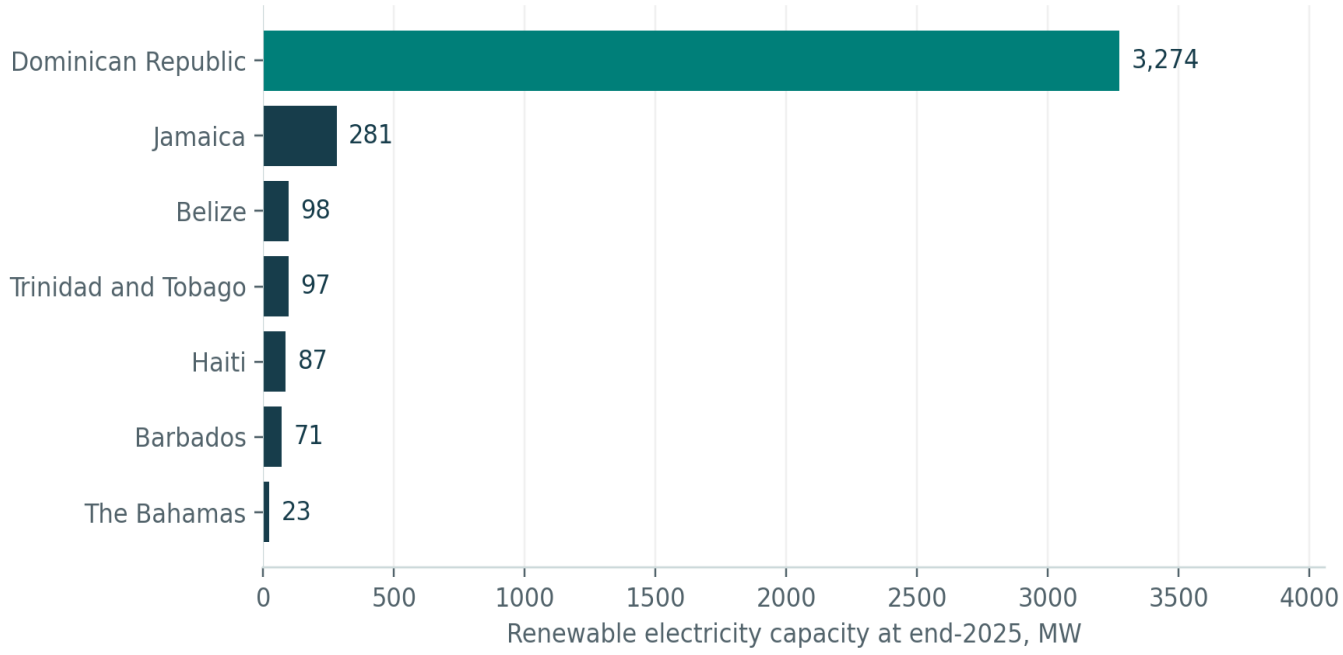
CaribWise business assessment

Jamaica and the Dominican Republic merit investigation as established logistics platforms; Guyana offers project-linked demand. Request route-level freight, transit-time, storage and customs quotations before selecting a hub.

Chart: 2025 fDi Benchmark values reproduced in 2026 CAIPA guides; annual employer cost includes mandatory contributions and benefits. Four-country coverage only. It measures labour cost, not output, productivity or investment returns. [G1, G3, G5, G8]

INDUSTRY COMPARISON / INSTALLED CAPACITY

Renewable energy and storage



The Dominican Republic leads this capacity comparison

Its renewable capacity rose from 2,564 MW in 2024 to 3,274 MW in 2025. Trinidad and Tobago increased from 5 MW to 97 MW. These are rounded nameplate capacity figures, not annual electricity generation, renewable shares or battery capacity. Guyana and Suriname are outside this chart’s retrieved table coverage. [N4]

Procurement matters more than a broad target

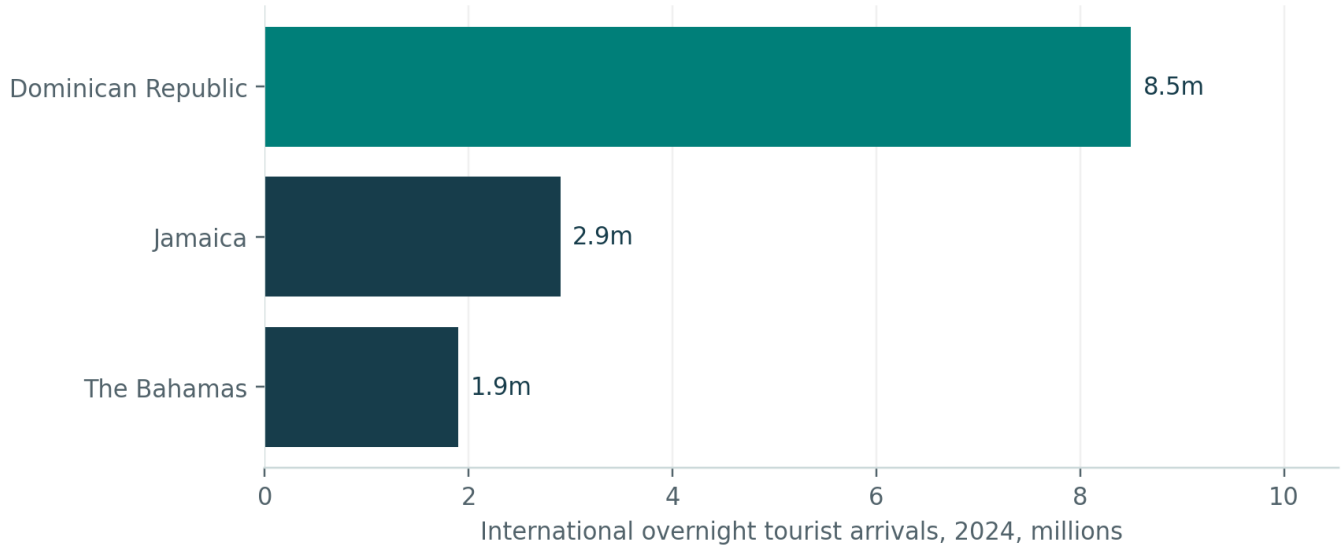
Jamaica’s March 2026 request for information described a second tranche of 220 MW of renewable generation and 110 MW of battery storage, with an auction planned for the third quarter. Barbados lists a 60 MW / 240 MWh battery project; its tender portal says there are no open opportunities at present. Neither statement establishes an open bid at the research cut-off. [N10; N13]

CaribWise assessment: investigate the buyer, grid connection, payment structure and procurement stage. The largest installed market and the next procurement opportunity can be different countries.

Source: IRENA Renewable Capacity Statistics 2026, March edition, end-2025 observations. MW measures power; MWh measures stored energy. The subsequent July yearbook was identified but its tables were not retrievable. [N4]

INDUSTRY COMPARISON / COMPARABLE ARRIVAL BASELINE

Tourism and hospitality supply



The Dominican Republic leads this three-market baseline

CTO’s common 2024 comparison places the Dominican Republic ahead of Jamaica and the Bahamas in overnight arrivals. The chart excludes cruise visitors and covers only these three destinations. It measures visitor volume, not spending per visitor or hotel profitability. [N5]

Newer national evidence

The Dominican Republic reported 6.61 million air tourists and 1.95 million cruise visitors in January–August 2026. Barbados recorded 707,046 stay-over arrivals in 2025. These different periods and classifications are kept separate from the ranking above. [N7; N14]

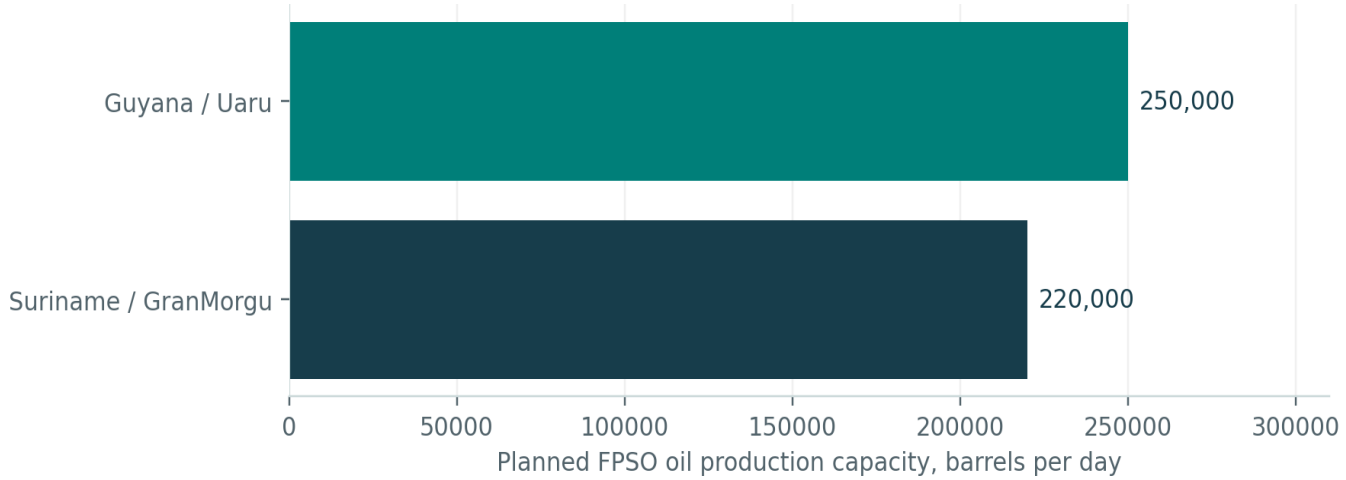
CaribWise business assessment

Investigate recurring supply needs in food, furnishings, water treatment, energy efficiency and maintenance. Ask properties about purchasing authority, contract renewal dates, approved suppliers and credit terms. Arrival growth supports a demand hypothesis; purchasing interviews determine whether a specific offer is viable.

The 2024 chart is a consistent historical comparison, not the latest national arrival count. Newer releases are shown with their own dates and definitions; air, cruise and overnight totals are not added into a cross-country ranking.

INDUSTRY COMPARISON / PLANNED PROJECT SCALE

Offshore projects and business services



Project	Stage and expected timing	Commercial interpretation
Uaru / Guyana	Construction; start-up expected at end-2026. [N15, N16]	Later-stage equipment, commissioning and operating support; qualification still required.
GranMorgu / Suriname	Major production equipment arrived in September 2026; first oil expected in 2028. [P1, P2]	Construction, logistics and supplier development; production remains future activity.

Guyana is further along in commercial production

ExxonMobil’s 28 September update reports four active Guyana developments with installed capacity above 900,000 barrels per day. Suriname’s GranMorgu is still being developed. The chart compares two future project designs, rather than current national production or available contracts. [N15; P1; analysis]

CaribWise assessment: build the opportunity around an operator or contractor’s supplier qualification and purchase schedule. Offshore growth can create demand for transport, maintenance, safety and training, but local participation requirements and payment terms determine access.

Project design capacity is not actual daily output. Expected start dates can change. Chart coverage is two selected projects and does not represent either country’s entire resource sector.

COUNTRY ASSESSMENT BY INDUSTRY

Which markets lead — and on what?

Industry	Evidence-based distinction	Limits and next test
Food systems	Guyana: lowest agriculture-worker benchmark among four countries.	Cost, not productivity. Compare agricultural supply and landed processing costs.
Manufacturing	Trinidad and Tobago: lowest skilled-worker benchmark among four. Dominican Republic: growing free-zone exports.	Different measures; no combined rank. Interview industrial buyers.
Logistics	Guyana: lowest warehouse-manager benchmark. Dominican Republic: Caucedo throughput and expansion.	Cost and project evidence, not a regional port ranking. Compare routes.
Renewable energy	Dominican Republic: largest installed renewable capacity among seven retrieved markets.	Capacity is not generation or an open procurement opportunity.
Tourism	Dominican Republic: highest 2024 overnight arrivals among three markets.	Visitor volume is not spending or profitability; confirm property procurement.
Offshore services	Guyana: active offshore production; Suriname: major construction pipeline.	Project maturity differs. Confirm qualifications and procurement timing.

Choose the measure that matches the business

An equipment supplier may prioritise construction milestones. A food processor may prioritise reliable crop supply and power. A distributor may prioritise delivered cost and buyer density. These comparisons support a shortlist; they do not create an overall “best country” score. [CaribWise analysis; sources on industry pages]

PROJECT TRACKER / EVIDENCE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2026

Projects to monitor

Guyana / Uaru

Stage: Construction; expected end-2026 start-up.
Verified signal: 250,000 bpd design capacity. Update 28 September 2026. [N15, N16]
CaribWise opportunity lens: Commissioning, logistics and qualified technical supply.

Guyana / Whiptail

Stage: Construction; expected start-up in 2027.
Verified signal: Operator confirms development timeline on 28 September 2026. [N15]
CaribWise opportunity lens: Construction services and contractor qualification.

Suriname / GranMorgu

Stage: Construction; first oil expected in 2028.
Verified signal: Major equipment arrival confirmed 19 September 2026; 220,000 bpd design. [P1, P2]
CaribWise opportunity lens: Project cargo, local supplier development and technical support.

Dominican Republic / Caucedo

Stage: Operator expansion programme and additional investment announcement.
Verified signal: US$100m logistics investment announced 26 May 2026, alongside earlier port/economic-zone programme. [N9]
CaribWise opportunity lens: Warehousing, distribution and value-added logistics.

Selected projects, not an exhaustive pipeline. Announced investment is not disbursed expenditure. A project listing is not an open tender or a confirmed contract available to CaribWise clients.

PROJECT TRACKER / EVIDENCE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2026

Projects to monitor / continued

Jamaica / renewable tranche 2

Stage: March RFI; auction planned for Q3 2026. Launch not confirmed here.
Verified signal: 220 MW generation plus 110 MW storage proposed. [N10]
CaribWise opportunity lens: Monitor formal auction notice, eligibility and contracts.

Barbados / battery storage

Stage: Procurement programme listed; no currently open opportunities on portal.
Verified signal: 60 MW / 240 MWh stated scale. Portal checked September 2026. [N13]
CaribWise opportunity lens: Monitor award status and future supplier packages.

Barbados / Lamberts and Castle

Stage: Prequalification / planned procurement; award not verified.
Verified signal: 30–50 MW wind project; RFP initially planned for Q1/Q2 2026. [N17]
CaribWise opportunity lens: Confirm procurement outcome before pitching installation work.

Belize / sustainable development

Stage: Implementation and procurement records in 2026.
Verified signal: IDB BL-L1041; tourism and agriculture-linked livelihoods. [N11]
CaribWise opportunity lens: Review specific notices for eligible suppliers and services.

Selected projects, not an exhaustive pipeline. Announced investment is not disbursed expenditure. A project listing is not an open tender or a confirmed contract available to CaribWise clients.

ESTABLISHED EXPORT PLATFORM

Dominican Republic

$127.41bn	$14.65bn	13.4%
Nominal GDP, 2025 [WB1]	Goods exports, 2025 [R4]	Export growth in 2025 [R4]

What the evidence shows

ProDominicana reports record merchandise exports in 2025. CAIPA's September 2026 country article highlights advanced manufacturing, medical devices, logistics, agribusiness, renewable energy and business outsourcing among the areas it promotes. [R4; R5]

Where businesses could enter

CaribWise assessment: industrial suppliers can investigate production inputs, packaging, warehouse equipment and technical support. A distributor should identify a specific customer group and compare the delivered offer with existing local and overseas suppliers.

What determines execution

For export-related opportunities, establish where procurement authority sits and whether the buyer has approved suppliers. Separate domestic sales from production intended for export. Trade preferences and incentive eligibility must be checked for the particular product and activity.

A practical entry test

Identify a buyer segment, conduct Spanish-language customer interviews and obtain three competing landed-cost quotations before selecting a distribution model.

Country profile uses ProDominicana and CAIPA's published country article. The Dominican Republic guide could not be retrieved reliably and was not used for cost or incentive claims.

LOGISTICS FOOD SYSTEMS AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

Jamaica

$22.70bn
Nominal GDP, 2025 [WB5]

$27,477
Engineer annual cost benchmark [G5]

500 MW
Clean-energy pipeline promoted in guide [G5]



AI-generated editorial illustration; not a photograph of this country or a named project.

What the guide highlights

The Jamaica guide features agro-processing, cold chain, port and logistics development, and renewable energy. Its 500 MW figure describes a promoted clean-energy procurement pipeline, not installed capacity or an open tender confirmed by this report. The guide identifies JAMPRO and other public institutions as facilitation channels. [G5]

Where businesses could enter

CaribWise assessment: food processing equipment, refrigerated storage, warehouse systems and maintenance services merit buyer-level investigation. Businesses serving hotels should examine property procurement and replenishment requirements alongside tourism headlines.

What determines execution

The low growth shown in the retrieved 2025 World Bank series warrants caution about assumptions of broad demand expansion. An equipment supplier should establish the customer’s approved budget and service capacity. A project developer should confirm tender status and financing with the responsible institution. [WB5; analysis]

A practical entry test

Screen individual logistics or processing customers, confirm purchasing authority and budget, and verify any project pipeline directly with JAMPRO or the issuing body.

Annual labour cost benchmark includes mandatory contributions and benefits; it is not an employee take-home salary. Guide: printed pages 4, 10 and 12 onward. [G5]

RAPID EXPANSION WITH PROJECT-LINKED DEMAND

Guyana

19.3%	0.836m	$18,578
Real GDP growth, 2025 [WB2]	Population, 2025 [WB2]	Engineer annual cost benchmark [G3]

What the guide highlights

Guyana’s guide features food processing and agricultural diversification, port and inland transport development, warehousing, solar and grid infrastructure. It reports a 2025 engineer annual cost benchmark of US$18,578 and electricity at US$0.32 per kWh. GO-Invest is identified as the investment facilitation partner. [G3]

Where businesses could enter

CaribWise assessment: demand around large projects can be more important than resident population size. Suppliers can examine technical services, storage, equipment, food supply and operational support, starting with named contractors or expanding businesses.

What determines execution

Oil-related procurement requires a current assessment of applicable local content and supplier qualification requirements. The World Bank snapshot shows rapid output growth; the size and timing of orders still depend on the buyer. Avoid using national growth as the sole basis for consumer inventory forecasts. [WB2; analysis]

A practical entry test

Identify the contracting entity, purchase schedule and technical specification, then confirm qualification, local partner requirements and payment terms.

The June World Bank forecast is 16.3% for 2026; the government revised its projection to 20.8% on 14 September. See the forecast update pages for separate vintages. [N1; N2]

SPECIALISED DEMAND AND ENERGY TRANSITION

Barbados

$8.02bn
Nominal GDP, 2025 [WB3]

$38,635
Engineer annual cost benchmark [G1]

100%
Renewables target by 2030 in guide [G1]



AI-generated editorial illustration; not a photograph of this country or a named project.

What the guide highlights

The Barbados guide promotes value-added food processing, technology-enabled agriculture, logistics and renewable energy. It describes a national energy transition plan targeting 100% renewables by 2030 and US$7.8 billion in investment. These are policy and investment objectives rather than a fully contracted project list. [G1]

Where businesses could enter

CaribWise assessment: energy services, business solar and storage, food-system technology and specialised hospitality supply merit screening. The small domestic population favours a customer-specific proposition and careful consideration of any regional export plan.

What determines execution

The guide’s labour costs are higher than the other three markets in the common benchmark comparison. A business should assess skills, service quality and customer willingness to pay, alongside staffing costs. Energy developers need a clear installation and connection pathway. [G1; analysis]

A practical entry test

Match a specific customer’s load, procurement need or production constraint to a delivered solution, and establish local installation and maintenance capability.

Policy targets do not indicate achieved renewable output. Guide benchmarks use 2025 fDi data; confirm current grid, pricing and licensing conditions. [G1]

INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY WITH PAYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Trinidad and Tobago

$25.94bn
Nominal GDP, 2025 [WB7]

$0.05
Electricity per kWh in guide [G8]

$32,527
Engineer annual cost benchmark [G8]

What the guide highlights

The guide identifies manufacturing, food processing, agribusiness, logistics and energy diversification as investment areas. Its common-basis cost table reports US$32,527 for an engineer per year and US$0.05 per kWh for electricity. The latter should be treated as a guide benchmark, not a tariff quote. [G8]

Where businesses could enter

CaribWise assessment: industrial equipment, packaging, maintenance and services to producers merit screening. A business with substantial electricity use may find the guide's energy comparison relevant, subject to a current tariff and reliability assessment.

What determines execution

The IMF's May 2026 consultation highlights declining reserves and calls for improvements in the foreign exchange market. Exporters should therefore establish practical payment arrangements in the invoicing currency before extending credit. This needs to be checked with the buyer and its bank. [R7; analysis]

A practical entry test

Build a customer-specific operating-cost comparison and obtain confirmation of currency settlement, delivery terms and service requirements.

The retrieved World Bank series reports -0.8% real growth in 2025; other official assessments use different vintages. No blended growth estimate is calculated. [WB7]

AGRIFOOD VALUE CHAINS AND COLD LOGISTICS

Belize

$3.33bn
Nominal GDP, 2025 [WB6]

0.423m
Population, 2025 [WB6]

$312m
Agricultural output in 2021, guide [G2]



AI-generated editorial illustration; not a photograph of this country or a named project.

What the guide highlights

The Belize guide features fruit and vegetable processing, protected cultivation, aquaculture, packing, cold storage and distribution. Its agricultural production figure of US$312 million is for 2021 and should not be interpreted as a 2026 market value. The guide identifies BELTRAIDE as an investment support channel. [G2]

Where businesses could enter

CaribWise assessment: post-harvest handling, refrigeration, packaging and inputs can be investigated through producers and processors. The domestic market is small, so larger facilities may need reliable export or hospitality customers to achieve sufficient throughput.

What determines execution

Supply volumes and product specifications should precede facility sizing. Verify sanitary requirements, export destination access, electricity reliability and shipping arrangements. The guide’s salary sources differ from the fDi benchmark used for four other countries, so its wage figures are excluded from the common comparison. [G2; analysis]

A practical entry test

Map a specific crop or seafood value chain, establish seasonal throughput and identify buyers before choosing processing or storage equipment.

Historical sector figures and opportunity descriptions are from the 2026 guide; they are not a forecast of commercial sales or confirmed customer demand. [G2]

OFFSHORE EXECUTION AND SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT

Suriname

2028
GranMorgu first oil expected [P1]

220,000
Barrels/day design capacity [P2]

100+
Local companies contributing, operator [P1]

What the evidence shows

The Suriname guide promotes food processing, forestry value addition, logistics and renewable energy. A separate operator update on 19 September 2026 reports that GranMorgu is progressing toward first oil in 2028 and that more than 100 local companies are contributing. [G6; P1]

Where businesses could enter

CaribWise assessment: the project's execution phase provides a reason to investigate technical support, supplier development, logistics and related services. Food processing opportunities require a separate assessment of crops, storage and buyers rather than an assumption that offshore growth will lift every activity.

What determines execution

TotalEnergies expects US$1-1.5 billion in spending in Suriname over the project's lifetime and approximately 6,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs at full development. These are operator projections. Individual suppliers need to confirm qualification and the contracting route. [P1]

A practical entry test

Map the main contractor and procurement tiers, identify the phase relevant to the proposed service, and check workforce and technical qualification needs.

The 220,000 barrels/day figure is FPSO design capacity, not current production. Guide wage figures with unclear comparability are excluded from the common cost table. [P2; G6]

HOSPITALITY SUPPLY AND ISLAND DISTRIBUTION

The Bahamas

$15.83bn	$39,455	0.403m
Nominal GDP, 2024 [WB4]	GDP per capita, 2024 [WB4]	Population, 2025 [WB4]



AI-generated editorial illustration; not a photograph of this country or a named project.

What the guide highlights

The Bahamas guide promotes food production and processing, ports and logistics, renewable power and energy services. Its country scope needs an island-specific delivery assessment. Some operating-cost figures retain an instruction for local agency verification, so they are not used in the comparable benchmark table. [G7]

Where businesses could enter

CaribWise assessment: hospitality supply, food distribution, refrigeration, maintenance and business power systems are useful areas for customer research. Distinguish hotel and resident demand from cruise-related activity; arrival counts alone do not establish the revenue available to a particular supplier.

What determines execution

An archipelagic market requires attention to the final destination, replenishment schedule and service access. A distributor should test route reliability and inventory needs for the island it will serve. The World Bank’s displayed economic series is 2024, while population is 2025. [WB4; analysis]

A practical entry test

Select an island and buyer group, price the complete delivery route, and determine how repairs, replacement stock and repeat orders will be handled.

Use nominal GDP per capita as shown in the World Bank series. Do not mix it with purchasing-power-based figures or undated guide headlines. [WB4; G7]

ESSENTIAL NEEDS AND OPERATIONAL FEASIBILITY

Haiti

11.906m	53.9%	-2.7%
Population, 2025 [WB1]	Electricity access, 2024 [WB1]	Real GDP growth, 2025 [WB1]

What the guide highlights

The Haiti guide identifies food processing, post-harvest handling, cold logistics and decentralised power among its opportunity areas. These are useful long-term needs to investigate. The IMF's May 2026 assessment, however, describes deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions and continuing economic pressures. [G4; R8]

Where businesses could enter

CaribWise assessment: food systems, refrigeration and dependable power can address essential operating needs. A viable opportunity still requires a buyer with funding, a workable location and a deliverable service. Business, development-financed and household customers need separate payment models.

What determines execution

The World Bank's 2024 electricity-access figure of 53.9% updates the older 2023 figure reproduced in the guide. The guide's optimistic recovery framing is not used as the report's near-term baseline. Route, staffing, security and payment conditions must be assessed at the proposed operating location. [WB1; G4; R8]

A practical entry test

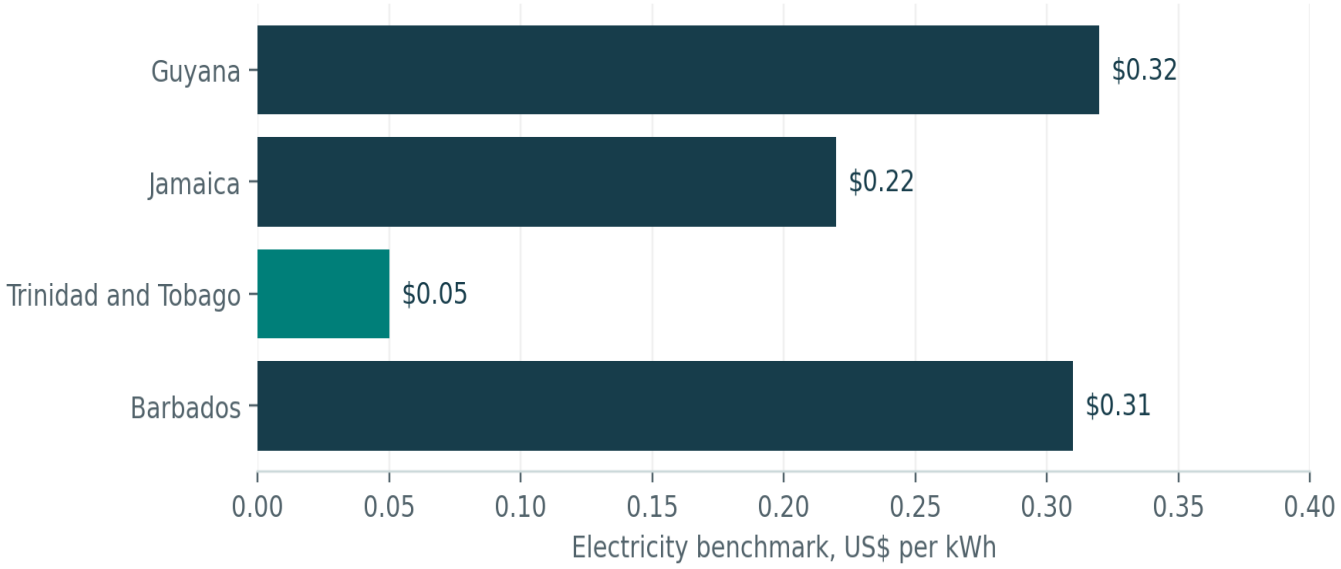
Establish funded demand and a realistic delivery and support plan at the specific location before committing stock, equipment or installation capacity.

Population describes scale, not purchasing power. Essential need and commercially funded demand are distinct; this profile does not equate them. [WB1; analysis]

ENERGY AND OPERATING RESILIENCE

Power reliability belongs in the business case

Guide electricity benchmarks differ sharply across the four countries using a common labour-cost source. They help identify questions for due diligence, while customer class, pricing date, reliability and connection conditions require local confirmation. [G1, G3, G5, G8]



Customer problem	Potential business response	What to verify
High daytime power demand	Solar matched to actual business load	Roof or land access, connection and tariff rules
Interruptions damage inventory	Storage or a hybrid backup system	Outage profile, maintenance, fuel and replacement cost
Processing capacity is constrained	Reliable power for a defined production line	Throughput, power quality and funded buyer demand
Remote site lacks dependable supply	A site-specific off-grid power system	Customer funding, technical support and collection model

CaribWise assessment: evaluate the value of avoided losses as well as the price per kWh. A cold-storage operator may place substantial value on continuity. The resulting opportunity depends on the customer's actual operating record and ability to finance the solution.

The chart shows the guide's quoted unit prices, not a harmonised measure of all-in energy costs. Policy targets and proposed capacity are kept separate from completed installations.

FROM SCREENING TO SALES

Three routes into a Caribbean market

Route	Best suited to	Evidence to establish	Main execution question
Export through a distributor	Standardised products with repeat demand	Buyer references, margins and shipment records	Can the partner replenish stock and collect payments?
Local service or operating presence	Installation, maintenance or recurring services	Service demand, skills, premises and operating budget	Can the business deliver quality at sustainable cost?
Supply a defined project	Equipment and specialised contractor services	Approved specification, procurement stage and funding	Can the supplier qualify and meet the delivery schedule?

Trade access must be checked for the transaction

CARICOM's Single Market framework includes goods that satisfy Community origin rules. This does not establish that an imported product can simply be re-exported duty-free across the region. Check the actual destination, origin treatment, product classification and required documents with current official guidance. [R9]

A useful first research file

- Define one product or service and the customer problem it addresses.
- Document the current supplier and compare complete delivered prices.
- Verify a partner's customer reach, technical capacity and payment performance.
- Establish shipment, storage and support requirements for the final destination.
- Use a pilot order or service contract to test the economics before expanding.



AI-generated editorial illustration of coastal trade infrastructure.

CaribWise recommendations. The appropriate route depends on the product, customer and country. Current tax, licensing and incentive requirements are outside this strategic overview.

OUTLOOK AND DECISION TRIGGERS

Signals to monitor over the next year

The report does not assign numerical probabilities to future outcomes. The scenarios below are analytical monitoring frameworks for businesses, rather than forecasts of GDP, prices or investment returns.

Scenario	Signals to watch	Commercial response
Demand remains selective	Orders concentrated in funded projects and established buyers	Keep inventory aligned with verified customer demand
Execution accelerates	Financial close, awarded contracts, construction and repeat procurement	Qualify early and expand support where purchases materialise
Operating conditions worsen	Payment delays, route disruption, energy volatility or storm damage	Reassess credit, delivery commitments and continuity arrangements

Track milestones rather than announcements alone

For project markets, follow supplier qualification, contract awards and the start of works. For hospitality supply, monitor property activity and procurement budgets. For food systems, track actual processing volumes and buyer commitments. For energy, distinguish policy goals from approved and funded installations.

Regional resilience has a commercial dimension

The OECD’s 2026 Caribbean analysis places resilient infrastructure, project preparation and institutional capacity at the centre of investment effectiveness. [R10] CaribWise assessment: a service that reduces downtime or protects supply can have commercial value, but the benefit needs to be demonstrated in the customer’s economics.

The central market conclusion

Country conditions and customer economics determine the practical opportunity. Use regional trends to choose where to investigate, then use buyer evidence, delivery feasibility and operating costs to decide whether to enter.

READING THE EVIDENCE CORRECTLY

Methodology and data notes

Geographic scope

Nine selected markets: Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, the Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago. This is not a complete Caribbean census. Economic groupings in CDB, World Bank and ECLAC publications differ.

Source hierarchy

The report uses World Bank pages for the economic snapshot; CDB, ECLAC, CTO and IMF for context; and CAIPA country guides for investment themes and published benchmarks. Operator statements establish announced project milestones and expectations, not independently audited outcomes.

Country guide coverage

The current CAIPA index lists 2026 editions. Eight country PDFs and the regional guide were reviewed. [N12] The Dominican Republic PDF could not be retrieved reliably; its profile uses ProDominicana and CAIPA's September 2026 country article. The listed guide titles are publication editions, not the years of every underlying observation.

Comparability

Only four guides with the same 2025 fDi Benchmark basis are compared for labour costs. Their stated costs include mandatory contributions and benefits. Electricity figures are reproduced as guide benchmarks with unharmonised pricing dates and customer classes. Other salary sources are not combined.

Quality control

Draft placeholders, unclear salary units and unsupported aggregate claims in some promotion guides were excluded. Older Haiti electricity access was updated from the World Bank page. Forecasts, policy targets, design capacity, historical sector figures and observed statistics are labelled separately.

Interpretation and calculations

Recommendations and sector shortlists are CaribWise analysis. Cost percentages are calculated as (comparison value / reference value - 1), using guide values. No proprietary interviews, demand model, invented country scores or investment return forecasts are included.

Sources retrieved by 30 September 2026. Values may change after publication as official series are revised. Named sources and source links follow.

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Economic and project sources

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[R2] Caribbean Tourism Organization
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Open official source

[R3] ECLAC
23 June 2026 FDI release. LAC totals, components and rounded country shares.
Open official source

[R4] ProDominicana
República Dominicana cierra 2025 con el mayor desempeño exportador de su historia.
Open official source

[R5] CAIPA
The Dominican Republic: Rapid Economic Growth in the Caribbean, 7 September 2026.
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[R7] International Monetary Fund
2026 Article IV consultation with Trinidad and Tobago, 18 May 2026.
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Caribbean Development Dynamics 2026; investment and resilient development chapter.
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[P1] TotalEnergies EP Suriname
GranMorgu equipment and execution update, 19 September 2026.
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[P2] TotalEnergies
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SOURCES

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Invest in Barbados 2026. Printed pp. 4, 10, 16-18.
Open official source

[G2] CAIPA
Invest in Belize 2026. Printed pp. 11-19.
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[G3] CAIPA
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[G4] CAIPA
Invest in Haiti 2026. Printed pp. 11-18.
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[G6] CAIPA
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Open official source

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Haiti and Dominican Republic comparison page.
Open official source

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[WB3] World Bank
Barbados country data page; years as displayed in retrieved series.
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[WB4] World Bank
The Bahamas country data page; years as displayed in retrieved series.
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[WB5] World Bank
Jamaica country data page; years as displayed in retrieved series.
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[WB6] World Bank
Belize country data page; years as displayed in retrieved series.
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[WB7] World Bank
Trinidad and Tobago country data page; years as displayed in retrieved series.
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[WB8] World Bank
Suriname country data page; years as displayed in retrieved series.
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Links open the original source. All sources accessed by 30 September 2026. Refer to the data notes for differences in geographic scope, vintage and measurement.

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Updated research sources

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[N2] Guyana Ministry of Finance / DPI
14 September 2026: first-half activity and revised full-year growth projections.
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[N3] Central Bank of Barbados
Outlook for Barbados' Economy, updated 31 July 2026.
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[N4] IRENA
Renewable Capacity Statistics 2026, March edition; end-2025 capacity tables. Subsequent July tables not retrievable.
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[N5] Caribbean Tourism Organization
2024 overnight-arrival comparison, published in 2025.
Open official source

[N6] Dominican Republic CNZFE
Free-zone exports, January–April 2026: US$2,803.3m, +4.3%. Official release indexed; page access restricted.
Open official source

Links open the original source. All sources accessed by 30 September 2026. Refer to the data notes for differences in geographic scope, vintage and measurement.

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26 February 2026: 2025 terminal throughput, including Caucedo.
Open official source

[N9] DP World
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[N10] Jamaica Generation Procurement Entity
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Open official source

[N11] Inter-American Development Bank
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CARIBBEAN MARKET OUTLOOK 2026

Information & Disclaimer

About this report

This report provides a high-level overview of selected Caribbean markets, business trends and opportunity areas. It is designed to support market orientation, early-stage research and commercial discussion.

Disclaimer

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Research note

Research cut-off: 30 September 2026. Figures, forecasts and project information reflect the source dates identified throughout the report and should be read together with the cited sources and data notes.

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