GLOBAL TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
EXPORT • INVEST • PROSPER

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANUFACTURING

Your Nearshore Advantage begins in Trinidad & Tobago.



Trinidad & Tobago Trade and Investment Promotion Agency

August, 2026

Trinidad and Tobago offers a compelling investment destination for food and beverage manufacturers seeking access to regional and international markets.



This country combines a well-established manufacturing base, reliable energy and industrial infrastructure, a skilled English-speaking workforce, and strategic maritime connectivity to North America, Latin America and the Caribbean.



Investors can benefit from **preferential market access through the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and other regional trade agreements**, enabling duty-free or preferential entry into key export markets. Government policy prioritizes export diversification and value-added manufacturing, with ongoing initiatives to improve trade facilitation, logistics, regulatory efficiency and export competitiveness.



The sector is supported by **an established ecosystem of internationally recognized manufacturers,** strong food safety and quality standards, and opportunities in high-growth segments such as processed foods, beverages, condiments, confectionery and nutraceuticals.



Combined with a stable business environment, access to regional supply chains and a strategic location at the crossroads of the Americas, Trinidad and Tobago provides investors with a competitive platform to manufacture, innovate and scale food and beverage products for both regional and global markets.

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Trinidad and Tobago

At a Glance

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Geographic Landscape

Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) comprises the two most southernly isles of the Caribbean archipelago. Trinidad is separated from the continent of South America by the Gulf of Paria, with 12 kms at its closest point to Venezuela while Tobago is located approximately 36 kms north-east of Trinidad.

Quick Facts

Population

1.4 Million

Native Language

English

Political/Legal Framework

Westminster System of Parliamentary Democracy

Capital City

Port of Spain (Trinidad)

Currency

1US$ = 6.78 TT$

Financial Landscape

8 Commercial Banks

Credit

Visa/Mastercard accepted

Office Hours

8am - 4pm
(varies by industry)

Cosmopolitan

Diverse ethnic groups and religions



Manufacturing Advantages

STRATEGIC LOCATION
Southern Caribbean position with sea and air connections to CARICOM, northern South America and major Atlantic routes; outside the main hurricane belt, reducing direct storm exposure relative to many islands.

REGIONAL ACCESS
A CARICOM production base can serve multiple small markets through established distributors and preferential origin rules.

INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE
Mature industrial estates, ports, warehousing, laboratories, packaging suppliers, engineering services and established manufacturing clusters.

ENERGY CAPABILITY
Long industrial experience in power, gas, water, process engineering and maintenance.

COMMERCIAL ECOSYSTEM
Strong banking, insurance, professional services, retail, distribution and advertising capabilities relative to the size of the market.

CULTURAL ASSETS
Distinctive Caribbean flavours, rum heritage, cocoa, pepper sauces, snacks. Diaspora support for premium and niche positioning.

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International Recognition

Trinitario Cocoa

Record holder for the most Cacao de Excellence Awards globally for 'fine/flavour' cocoa.

World Class Distillery

20 international awards secured by House of Angostura.

Tobago's Leading Resorts

Blue Haven Hotel
Coco Reef Resort & Spa
(World Travel Awards 2025)

What You Never Knew

Trinidad and Tobago is the home of:

The Steelpan

The only acoustic musical instrument invented in the 20th century, born out of the country's energy industry.

Angostura Bitters

A 'must-have' condiment in world famous bars and restaurants.

Caribbean Airlines

The leading airline of the Caribbean.

La Brea Pitch Lake

The largest natural deposit of asphalt in the world.

482 bird species

The highest number of bird species per square mile in the world.

Moruga Scorpion Pepper

The 2nd hottest pepper in the world.

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Food & Beverage Manufacturing Industry

Overview

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Trinidad and Tobago has one of the Caribbean's most developed manufacturing bases, supported by a long industrial tradition, established utilities and logistics, regional distribution networks, and preferential access to CARICOM markets.

The Food and Beverage Sector is the largest non-energy component of manufacturing and a proven export platform for beverages, biscuits, confectionery, sauces, dairy products, flour-based foods, edible oils and branded consumer goods.

Some major market players, their activities and export relevance.

CARIB BREWERY	Beer, malt, cider, stout, ready-to-drink and non-alcoholic beverages; glass and regional distribution links.	Brands in more than 33 markets.
SMJaleel	Juices, carbonated beverages, energy and malt drinks.	Distribution across five continents and 65 countries.
EST. 1824 ANGOSTURA CARIBBEAN RUM TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	Rum, aromatic bitters and other spirits.	Globally recognized premium brand and export platform.
ASSOCIATED BRANDS INDUSTRIES LIMITED	Biscuits, snacks, confectionery and related branded foods.	Established regional consumer brands and export distribution.
BERMUDEZ	Biscuits, crackers and snack products.	Regional shelf-stable product platform.
nfm NATIONAL FLOUR MILLS LIMITED	Flour, cereals, animal feed and related staples.	A state agency which supports downstream bakery and food manufacturing value chains.
CHIEF BRAND PRODUCTS	Edible oils, packaged foods, canned foods, seasonings and sauces.	Important domestic and regional brands with scope for product and market extension.



Food and Beverage Manufacturing

At current market prices, Trinidad and Tobago's overall manufacturing sector generated approximately TT$24.88 billion in 2024, representing 14% of GDP.

The Food and Beverage sub-sector is one of the fastest growing components of the non-energy economy.

ENG

English-speaking workforce

TT$8.45Bn

34% contribution to total manufacturing output

17.1%

Sector Expansion

2024

4.9%

Contribution to GDP

Principal Markets

U.S.A.

Guyana

Belgium

8.2%

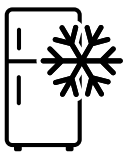
Food exports/ total merchandise exports

2024

The country's competitive edge is strongest in branded and shelf-stable products, beverage systems, contract packing, and products that leverage Caribbean taste profiles and diaspora demand.

- The domestic market is modest, so scalable projects should be designed from inception for CARICOM and selected extra-regional markets.
- Investment projects should mitigate imported-input exposure through supplier diversification, inventory planning, local agricultural partnerships and packaging optimisation
- Certification, traceability, energy efficiency and cold-chain resilience are becoming decisive factors for market access and margin protection.

Industry Segments and Export Potential

SEGMENT	STRENGTHS	GROWTH PATHS
 **Alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages**	Strong brands, bottling expertise, regional routes to market.	Low/no alcohol, functional beverages, premium rum, co-packing and private label.
 **Bakery, biscuits & snacks**	Shelf stability, mass-market brands, CARICOM familiarity.	Healthier formulations, premium snacks, diaspora retail and contract manufacturing.
 **Sauces, seasonings & condiments**	Authentic flavour profiles and pepper based products.	Premiumisation, food-service formats, clean-label and export-compliant packaging.
 **Dairy & UHT products**	Established processing and ambient distribution.	Fortified products, school/institutional supply and regional private label.
 **Cocoa and confectionery**	Fine-flavour cocoa heritage and artisan innovation.	Bean-to-bar, gifting, tourism-linked products and premium export niches.
 **Flour, cereals & staple processing**	Industrial milling and the downstream bakery ecosystem.	Fortified foods, convenience mixes, institutional and humanitarian supply.
 **Frozen and prepared foods**	Strong local cuisine and food-service demand.	Export-ready frozen meals, diaspora channels and hospitality supply.



Export Market Opportunities

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Trinidad and Tobago's trade policy is underpinned by a network of regional and bilateral trade agreements that provide preferential access to key export markets and strengthen the country's integration into the global economy.

The country is a member of CARICOM and participates in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, which supports free movement of qualifying Community-origin goods and provides a common external tariff framework for third-country imports.

Priority Export Markets

MARKET	CHARACTERISTICS	OPPORTUNITIES
 **CARICOM Core Markets**	Proximity, brand familiarity, preferential origin treatment and established distributors.	Beverages, biscuits, snacks, sauces, dairy, staples and private-label products.
 **Guyana**	Rapid economic expansion and strong existing trade relationship.	Retail and food-service products; construction-camp and institutional supply, distribution partnerships.
 **U.S.A.**  **Canada**	Large Caribbean diaspora, premium ethnic-food channels and scalable e-commerce.	Sauces, seasonings, snacks, rum, cocoa products, frozen foods and culturally differentiated brands.
 **U.K.**  **European Union**	Diaspora demand and premium specialty markets, supported by CARIFORUM arrangements.	Rum, bitters, cocoa, sauces, specialty snacks and sustainable/traceable products.
 **Northern South America**	Geographic proximity and potential logistics synergies.	Selective beverage, processed-food and contract-manufacturing opportunities, subject to language and regulatory adaptation.
 **Tourism-intensive Caribbean markets**	High imported-food demand and hotel/restaurant channels.	Food-service packs, beverages, bakery, convenience foods and institutional contracts.



TRADE TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Regional beverage exports demonstrate broad market reach: 2024 exports of other fermented beverages were led by Barbados, Suriname, Belize, Dominica and Saint Lucia, with smaller shipments to Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Consumer demand is shifting toward reduced-sugar, functional, convenient, high protein, plant-forward and clean-label products. Reformulation can protect market share while opening premium segments.

Private-label and contract manufacturing offer a lower-brand-investment route into regional supermarket and hospitality channels.

Diaspora-focused digital marketing and direct-to-consumer models can validate demand before committing to large distributor inventories.

Guyana's growth creates opportunities for firms operating in Trinidad and Tobago to supply branded consumer goods and establish joint distribution or local finishing operations.

Future trade engagement with MERCOSUR could widen South American access; commercial benefits will depend on negotiated coverage and product-specific rules.



Investment Opportunities

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Trinidad and Tobago's Food & Beverage sector offers significant investment opportunities, particularly for manufacturers who utilise unique regional agro-products to develop goods such as rum-flavoured chocolate cakes, Caribbean fruitcakes, condiments, sauces and spices, soft drinks and exotic fruit juices, speciality rums, and bottled water.

Given the rapid opening up of global markets, the increased appreciation in the Northern hemisphere for "exotic" specialty foods, and the growth of the gourmet lifestyle in the more developed metropolitan communities, there are unique opportunities to brand and create specialty foods for the overseas gourmet markets, apart from the traditional focus on the diasporic markets.

Priority Investment Opportunities

OPPORTUNITY	RATIONALE	SUCCESS FACTORS
 **Export-oriented co-packing hub**	Regional brands & retailers need flexible, standards-compliant production without building their own plants.	Fast changeovers, quality systems, packaging sourcing and confidentiality.
 **Agro-processing clusters**	Converts local peppers, cocoa, fruits, root crops and herbs into higher-value products.	Farmer aggregation, contract growing, traceability and seasonal planning.
 **Functional & 'better-for-you' beverages**	Leverages strong bottling capability and global consumer trends.	R&D, claims compliance, sugar reduction and distinctive branding.
 **Cold-chain and frozen food platform**	Supports local food security, hospitality and diaspora-ready prepared foods.	Reliable power, temperature controls, route density and export approvals.
 **Sustainable packaging & recycling**	Reduces imported packaging exposure and addresses buyer sustainability requirements.	Scale, resin/feedstock strategy, standards and producer partnerships.
 **Ingredient& flavour systems**	Supplies local and regional manufacturers with blends, concentrates and seasonings.	Technical sales, consistency, IP protection and regulatory documentation.
 **Warehouse automation & regional fulfilment**	Improves service to fragmented island markets and e-commerce channels.	Inventory visibility, bonded processes, port connectivity and demand planning.



Doing Business
in Trinidad and Tobago

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Key Economic Indicators

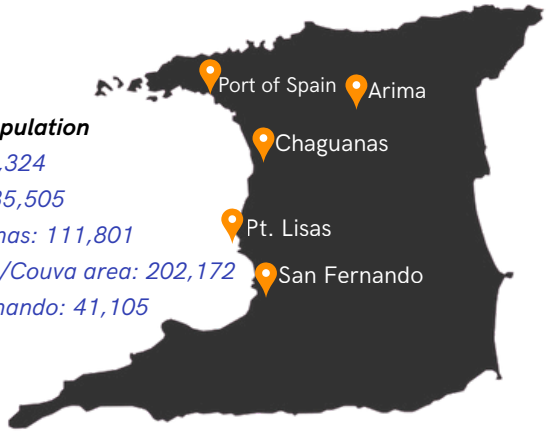
595,700	4.3%	0.3%
Labour Force (December, 2025)	Unemployment Rate (December, 2025)	Inflation Rate (May, 2026)
1,367,764	US$26.84B	US$18,616
Mid-Year Population (Estimate June, 2025)	GDP (April 2026)	GDP per capita (April 2026)

Major Industrial Hubs

Most of Trinidad and Tobago's population commute daily to the main cities from suburban areas. Due to high housing costs in and around the main business districts, suburban sprawl has been increasing rapidly, particularly in areas which were once considered too distant.



Scarborough *Pop. 71,527*



2026 Population

POS: 25,324
Arima: 35,505
Chaguanas: 111,801
Pt. Lisas/Couva area: 202,172
San Fernando: 41,105

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Investment Incentives

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago welcomes direct investment in almost all industrial sectors. **The Foreign Investment Act, 1990** provides for the acquisition by foreign investors of an interest in land or shares in local private or public companies and for the formation of companies. The Act makes the following provisions:





100% Ownership

Of local companies by foreign investors.

Up to 30%

Ownership in total of the share capital of a local public company without a licence.

100% Ownership

Of the share capital in a private company.

Land

1 acre for residential purposes and 5 acres for trade/business without a licence.

The incentive policy framework of Trinidad and Tobago is well-developed, comprising other pieces of fiscal and non-fiscal legislation such as:

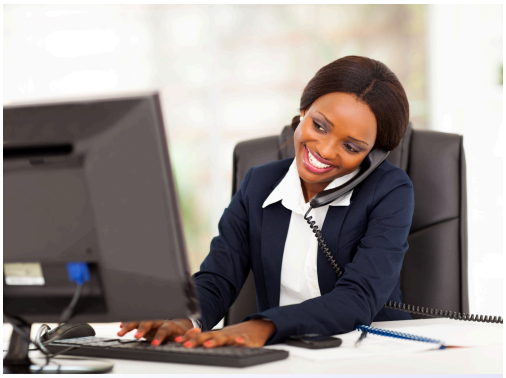
- The Fiscal Incentives Act, Chapter 85:01 (as amended)
- The Customs Act, Chapter 78:01 (as amended)
- The Income Tax (In Aid of Industry) Act, Chapter 85:04 (as amended)
- The Corporation Tax Act, Chapter 75:02 (as amended)
- The Tourism Development Act, 2000 (as amended)
- The Special Economic Zones Act No. 1 of 2022

The wide range of incentives offered under these Acts has played a pivotal role in attracting investments into various industries in Trinidad and Tobago.

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Special Economic Zones

Trinidad and Tobago's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) provide an attractive platform for investment in the food and beverage sector by offering a competitive business environment designed to support export-oriented manufacturing and value-added production. Manufacturers operating within an SEZ can benefit from an efficient base from which to manufacture, process and distribute products across the Caribbean and beyond.





Types of SEZ licences

- Operator
- Special Economic Zone Enterprise
- Single Zone Enterprise

Application Process

- Estimated processing timeline - 3 to 6 months
- Application fee -
- Annual fee - 1% of Annual Revenue

SEZ Incentive Benefits

Reduced Corporation Tax

Reduced from 30% per annum to 15% per annum .

Enhanced Initial Capital Allowance

Equal to 150% of the expenditure incurred in the provision of the machinery or plant.

Import Duty Exemptions

Approved machinery, production equipment, spare parts, raw materials, packaging materials and other qualifying inputs may be imported free of customs duties, lowering capital and operating costs for manufacturers.

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SEZ Incentive Benefits

Property Tax Exemption

Licensed SEZ enterprises are exempt from property tax on land and buildings used for approved SEZ activities, reducing fixed operating costs.

Stamp Duty Exemption

Applies to qualifying land purchases, leases and related legal instruments for approved SEZ operations, lowering transaction costs associated with establishing or expanding facilities.

Additional Tax Relief

Depending on the type of SEZ and the approved activity, enterprises may also qualify for reinvestment relief, enhanced investment relief and research and development (R&D) allowances, encouraging expansion, innovation and productivity improvements.

Zero-rated Value Added Tax

Approved capital goods, machinery and qualifying goods and services supplied within an SEZ are zero-rated for VAT, reducing cash flow costs associated with equipment purchases and production inputs.

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How We Help



Export.
Invest.
Prosper.

Global Trinidad and Tobago is the national trade and investment promotion agency of Trinidad and Tobago, operating under the Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism. The agency was established through the strategic alignment of the country's key business development organisations to deliver a unified and coordinated approach to national economic growth.

The Agency provides tailored investor facilitation services to support food and beverage manufacturers establishing or expanding operations in Trinidad and Tobago.

We are a dedicated point of contact, guiding investors through every stage of the investment process from evaluating market opportunities and selecting suitable industrial sites to connecting with local suppliers, distributors and potential business partners.

The Agency facilitates engagement with key government ministries and regulatory authorities responsible for company registration, food safety, standards, customs, environmental approvals and export certification, helping investors and exporters navigate administrative requirements efficiently.

Our services include:

- Market intelligence and local industry insights
- Business and strategic partner linkages
- Coordinated site visits
- Real estate advisory services
- Issuance of certificates of origin
- Guidance on Government incentives including SEZs
- Aftercare services following project establishment

Your nearshore advantage begins in Trinidad and Tobago!

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Contact Us



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Your nearshore advantage begins in Trinidad and Tobago!

Please contact us to find out how you can begin investing in Trinidad and Tobago's Food & Beverage Manufacturing industry.

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