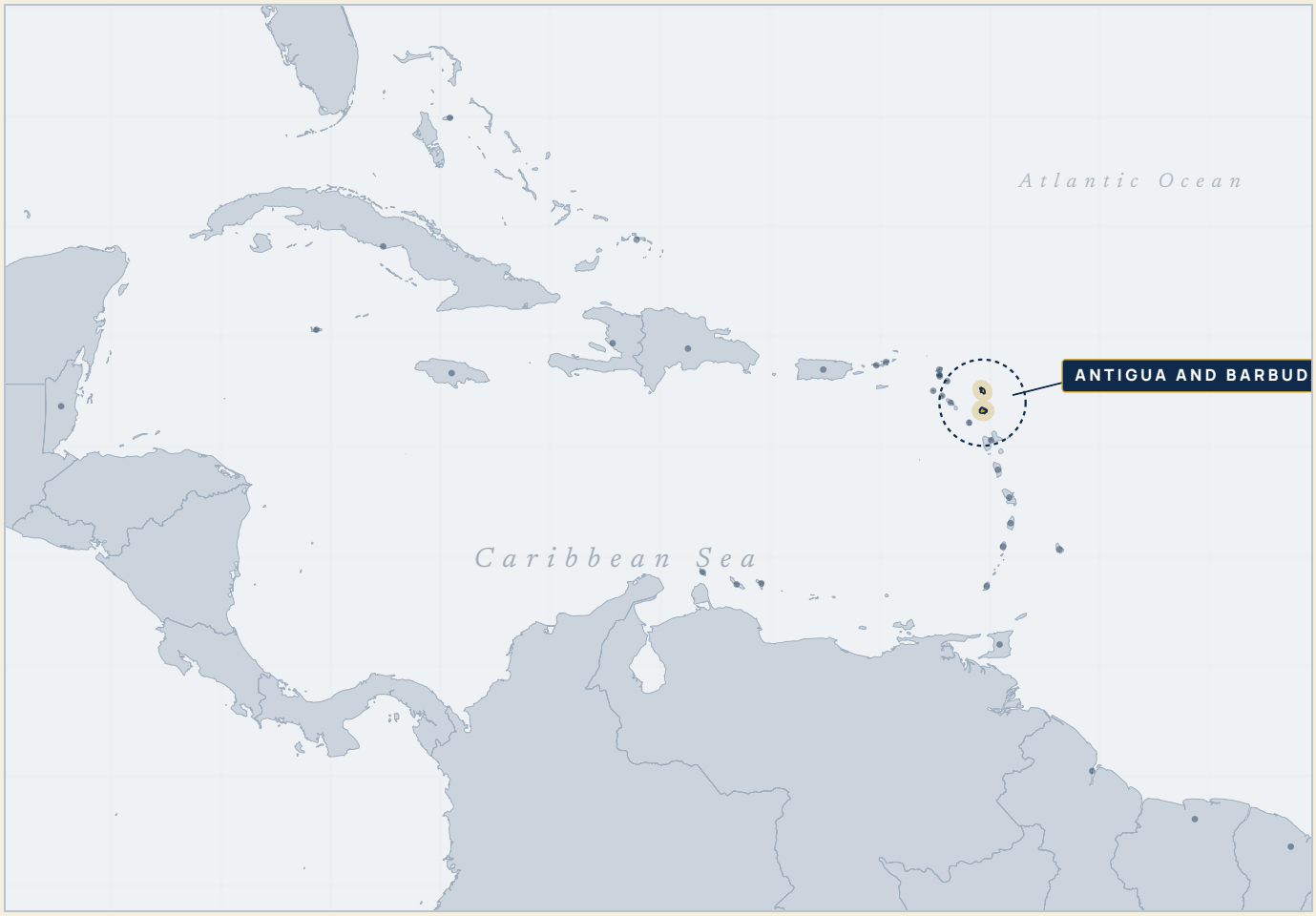

CARIBBEAN TAX SERVICE DESK · EASTERN CARIBBEAN

Antigua and Barbuda *Tax Guide*

A guide to corporate, personal and indirect taxes in Antigua and Barbuda

TAX GUIDE · 2026 EDITION

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FOREWORD

Antigua and Barbuda has no personal income tax on employment income, a 25% corporate rate and a sales tax that reaches most of the economy. The detail behind those headlines matters.

Antigua and Barbuda raises most of its revenue from corporate income tax, the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST), customs charges, stamp duty and payroll contributions. Recent years have brought a higher ABST rate, new transfer pricing and country-by-country reporting rules, and a reset of all tax concessions, alongside a steady move to digital filing and e-invoicing.

This guide explains the main taxes on companies and individuals in plain language, current to October 2026 and including the 2026 Budget. It is written for investors, finance teams and individuals with interests in Antigua and Barbuda.

Tax matters are handled by Dawgen Global's Caribbean Tax Service Desk, managed from Kingston. We would be glad to help you plan, comply and resolve issues with confidence.

Dr. Dawkins Brown, Ph.D., MCMI, ACFE

Executive Chairman, Dawgen Global

How to use this guide

This guide summarises the main taxes that apply to companies and individuals in Antigua and Barbuda. It is general information, current to October 2026, and is not a substitute for advice on your circumstances. Rates and rules change; speak to us before you act. Our companion Doing Business guide covers set-up, employment and regulation.

FOUNDATIONS

01 Investment basics

Antigua and Barbuda uses the East Caribbean dollar, pegged to the US dollar, and IFRS-based reporting. Tax is administered by the Inland Revenue Department (IRD).

CORPORATE INCOME TAX
25%
22.5% or 10% for some banks, insurers, petroleum and telecoms companies

SALES TAX (ABST)
17%
14% on hotel accommodation; registration at XCD 300,000 of supplies

PERSONAL INCOME TAX
None
Abolished on employment income from April 2016

UNINCORPORATED BUSINESS TAX
Up to 25%
Sliding scale on self-employed and partnership income

SOCIAL SECURITY
9% employer
7% employee, on pay up to XCD 6,500 a month

CAPITAL GAINS
None
Stamp duty on land and share transfers instead

Currency and foreign exchange

The East Caribbean dollar (XCD) has been pegged at XCD 2.70 to US$1 since 1976 and is issued by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. Foreign exchange transactions are not restricted in practice, but banks ask for supporting documents for payments abroad.

Accounting and audit

Companies report under IFRS, or IFRS for SMEs where eligible. Public companies, and private companies with gross revenue above XCD 4 million or assets above XCD 2 million, file audited financial statements with the Registrar. Financial statements accompany the tax return.

Principal business entities

- Private company
- Public company
- External company (branch)
- International business corporation
- Partnership
- Sole trader

Companies and branches pay corporate income tax. Sole traders and partnerships pay unincorporated business tax.

The tax system

The IRD administers income tax, ABST, unincorporated business tax, property tax and stamp duty. Customs and Excise collects duties, and the Social Security Board and Medical Benefits Scheme collect payroll contributions.

BUSINESS TAX

02 Corporate taxation

Resident companies pay tax on worldwide income; non-resident companies pay tax on income arising in Antigua and Barbuda, including branch profits.

Residence and basis

A company is resident if its central management and control is exercised in Antigua and Barbuda. A branch of an overseas company is taxed at the same rate and in the same way as a subsidiary.

Taxable income

- Net profit before tax, adjusted for disallowed expenses and allowable deductions
- Expenses deductible if incurred to earn taxable income
- Tax depreciation on capital assets in place of book depreciation
- Specific bad debts deductible; general provisions are not
- Income tax and fines are not deductible

Taxpayer	Rate
Companies generally, including branches	25%
Banks keeping residential mortgage rates at 7% or less throughout the year	22.5%
Insurers registered under the Insurance Act, 2007	10%
Certain financial institutions, petroleum and telecoms companies	10%
Approved projects with concessions	Relief as granted by Cabinet

Minimum tax and surtax

There is no surtax, alternative minimum tax or capital duty. Companies with concessions pay tax in line with the terms of their approval.

Capital and start-up costs

Capital expenditure is relieved through tax depreciation rather than an immediate deduction. Goodwill is not deductible. Allowances should be planned when assets are bought, since the IRD reviews claims against the accounts and asset records.

BUSINESS TAX

03 Corporate taxation (continued)

Dividends

Dividends received are generally included in taxable income and taxed at the company's rate, with credit for foreign tax paid where relief is available. Dividends between CARICOM treaty countries are exempt.

Capital gains

There is no capital gains tax. Gains that form part of a trade are taxed as income. Stamp duty applies to transfers of land and of shares.

Losses

Losses are carried forward for up to six years, and may reduce taxable income by no more than 50% in any year. The company must still be actively carrying on business. There is no carry-back.

Foreign tax credit

Relief is generally given only for tax paid in a Commonwealth country that gives reciprocal relief, or where a tax treaty provides a credit.

Holding companies and groups

There is no participation exemption or holding company regime. Consolidated returns are not allowed, and losses cannot be transferred within a group except on an amalgamation.

Tax incentives in brief

Incentive	Main benefit
Investment Authority concessions	Relief from income tax, customs duty and ABST for approved projects
Fiscal Incentives Act	Relief for approved manufacturing enterprises
Small business development	Concessions for registered small businesses
Sector rates	22.5% or 10% for qualifying banks, insurers and others
Hotel accommodation	ABST at 14% rather than 17%

Concessions reset

Cabinet ended all existing tax concessions on 30 November 2025. Businesses could reapply from 1 December 2025, and new approvals are assessed against national priorities.

CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS

04 Withholding taxes and tax treaties

Withholding tax applies mainly to payments to non-residents. The payer deducts it and pays it to the IRD by the date the IRD sets.

Payment	Resident	Non-resident	CARICOM treaty	Other treaties
Dividends	None	Rate set by the IRD; confirm before paying	0%	May be reduced
Interest	None	25%	15%	May be reduced
Royalties	None	25%	15%	May be reduced
Technical service fees	None	25%	15%	May be reduced
Management fees	None	Treatment depends on the nature of the service; confirm with the IRD		
Branch profits	—	No branch remittance tax		

International business corporations dealing outside Antigua and Barbuda are generally outside these charges. Check whether a payment is Antigua-source before deducting.

Tax treaties in force

Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom, plus the CARICOM agreement. Antigua and Barbuda signed the OECD Multilateral Instrument on 18 June 2025.

Information exchange agreements

Agreements with the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and many European and Nordic countries.

CARICOM agreement

Covers Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Dividends are exempt; interest, royalties and fees are taxed at 15%.

Claiming treaty rates

Hold evidence of the recipient's residence, such as a certificate from its tax authority, before applying a treaty rate. Without it, deduct at the domestic rate and let the recipient reclaim.

INTERNATIONAL RULES

05 Anti-avoidance and international rules

Antigua and Barbuda introduced transfer pricing and country-by-country reporting in 2025 and 2026, while keeping a light anti-avoidance framework.

Transfer pricing

From 1 January 2026, transactions between connected persons must be priced at arm's length, in line with OECD guidelines. Connected-party transactions are reported in the annual return, with a certification of particulars to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. Groups should prepare supporting analysis now.

Country-by-country reporting

Enacted in March 2025 for multinational groups above the consolidated revenue threshold in the legislation. Reports are due within 12 months of the year-end, with notifications first required for years ending 31 December 2025.

Interest limits and CFC rules

There are no thin capitalisation, controlled foreign company or anti-hybrid rules. Interest must still be incurred to earn income and, between connected persons, at arm's length.

General anti-avoidance

There is no general anti-avoidance rule. The IRD can still challenge transactions under specific provisions and the transfer pricing rules.

Economic substance

There is no separate economic substance regime for domestic companies.

Pillar Two

No legislation has been announced for the 15% global minimum tax. Large groups should allow for top-up taxes in other countries.

Information exchange

- **FATCA:** Model 1 agreement with the United States
- **CRS:** automatic exchange since 2018
- **EU list:** removed in October 2024, and from the watch list in February 2026
- **Beneficial ownership:** annual attestation to ABIPCO

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE

06 Compliance for corporations

Companies self-assess, filing the return with financial statements, and the IRD is moving filing and invoicing online.

Tax year and returns

The tax year follows the company's financial year. There are no consolidated returns: each company files its own.

1	**Instalments in the year** Pay any instalments the IRD requires, usually based on the prior year's tax.	AS SET BY THE IRD
2	**Annual return** File the return with financial statements and the transfer pricing particulars.	3 MONTHS AFTER YEAR-END
3	**Balance of tax** Pay any balance due with the return.	3 MONTHS AFTER YEAR-END

Penalties and interest

Late filing attracts a penalty of the greater of XCD 500 or 5% of the tax due. Late payment attracts a further penalty and interest at 1% a month. Arrears can block tax compliance certificates needed for licences and government contracts.

Audits, records and rulings

The IRD may audit and reassess within the periods in the Tax Administration and Procedures Act, 2018. Keep records for the statutory period. Rulings can be requested on specific transactions.

Objections and appeals

Object in writing to the Commissioner within the time allowed after an assessment. Unresolved disputes go to the appeal body under the Act, then the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, with final appeal to the Privy Council. Time limits are strict.

Practical points

Prepare for e-invoicing and the IRD's new tax administration platform. Reconcile ABST, payroll and withholding filings to the accounts before the annual return, keep transfer pricing support on file, and respond to IRD queries in writing within the time stated.

BEYOND INCOME TAX

07 Other taxes on corporations

Tax	Rate and base	Who pays
Social security	9% employer, 7% employee, on pay up to XCD 6,500 a month	Employer, plus employee share
Medical benefits	3.5% employer, 3.5% employee	Employer, plus employee share
Education levy	Graduated levy on employees' pay above a monthly threshold	Deducted and paid by the employer
Property tax	Annual, on market value, at rates by use of up to 0.5%	Owner of property
Stamp duty on land	7.5% seller (vendor), 2.5% buyer, on the higher of price or value	Seller and buyer
Stamp duty on shares	5% seller, 2.5% buyer, on the higher of market or book value	Seller and buyer
Alien landholding licence	5% of the property value	Non-citizen buyers, including foreign-controlled companies
Capital duty	None	—
Revenue recovery charge	10% on goods imported or produced locally	Importers, producers
Tourism guest levy	Nightly charge per guest, by room rate	Accommodation providers
Insurance and financial services	Sector income tax rates; licence fees set by regulators	Licensed institutions

Non-resident owners of undeveloped land pay a higher annual tax, and non-resident sellers of land may face an additional charge on disposal. Payroll contributions and property tax incurred in the business are normally deductible.

INDIVIDUALS

08 Personal taxation

Personal income tax on employment income was abolished from April 2016. Individuals in business pay unincorporated business tax instead.

Basis of taxation

- **Employees:** no income tax on salaries, wages or benefits, for residents and non-residents alike
- **Resident business owners:** unincorporated business tax on worldwide business income
- **Non-resident business owners:** tax on business income arising in Antigua and Barbuda

Residence

Residence matters mainly for business income and for treaty claims. An individual present for more than 183 days in a year is generally treated as resident. Holding citizenship, including by investment, does not by itself make a person resident.

Filing status

Each individual is taxed separately. There is no joint filing.

Income of individuals	Position
Employment income	Not taxed
Self-employment and partnership profits	Unincorporated business tax, sliding scale up to 25%
Local dividends and interest	Not taxed in residents' hands
Rental income	Taxed as business income where letting is a business
Pensions	Not taxed

Unincorporated business tax

Applies to sole traders, partnerships and other unincorporated businesses on profits after business expenses and tax depreciation. The bands are set by the IRD; confirm the current schedule before estimating.

Allowances

With no income tax on employment, there are no personal allowances for employees.

INDIVIDUALS

09 Personal taxation (continued)

Capital gains

There is no capital gains tax. Stamp duty applies when land or shares change hands, and gifts of property are dutiable on their value.

Deductions and reliefs

- Business expenses and tax depreciation for unincorporated businesses
- Losses of unincorporated businesses, within the limits in the law
- Concessions for qualifying small businesses

Pensions and employment benefits

Employer pension contributions and benefits in kind carry no income tax for employees. Social security and medical benefits contributions are due on cash pay; check whether a benefit forms part of insurable earnings.

Citizenship by investment

The Citizenship by Investment Programme offers citizenship for a minimum US$230,000 contribution to the National Development Fund, US$300,000 in approved real estate or US$1.5 million in an approved business. It does not create tax residence, and buyers under the programme should check how the alien landholding licence applies.

Tax	Position for individuals
Social security (employee)	7% of pay up to XCD 6,500 a month
Social security (self-employed)	10% of insurable earnings
Medical benefits (employee)	3.5% of pay
Education levy	Graduated, deducted from pay
Stamp duty	Land 7.5% seller, 2.5% buyer; shares 5% and 2.5%
Alien landholding licence	5% of value for non-citizen buyers
Property tax	Annual, on market value
Inheritance and estate tax	None
Net wealth tax	None
Capital acquisitions tax	None; gifts may attract stamp duty

INDIVIDUAL COMPLIANCE

10 Compliance for individuals

Most employees have no tax return to file. Their obligations are met through payroll contributions deducted by the employer.

Employees and payroll

There is no PAYE income tax. Employers deduct social security, medical benefits and education levy each pay period and pay them within 14 days after the month ends. Employees with only employment income do not file a return.

Self-employed and partnerships

When	What
Within 15 days after each quarter	Unincorporated business tax instalments
31 March	Annual return and balance for the prior year
Monthly	Self-employed social security and medical benefits; ABST if registered

Late filing and payment attract penalties and interest at 1% a month.

Non-residents and expatriates

- Pay for work in Antigua and Barbuda carries no income tax, whoever pays it
- Social security and medical benefits apply to local employment from the first day
- Non-residents trading locally pay unincorporated business tax on local profits
- Professional service providers must register for ABST, whatever their turnover
- Foreign staff need a work permit from the Labour Department
- Home-country tax may still apply; US citizens remain taxable in the United States

Tax compliance certificate

Individuals and businesses may need a certificate from the IRD to obtain licences, permits and government contracts.

INDIRECT TAXES

11 ABST and customs

The Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST) is a value added tax charged on most goods and services supplied locally and on imports.

Rate	Applies to
17% standard	Most goods, services and imports, from 1 January 2024
14%	Hotel accommodation
Zero-rated	Exports and specified basic items
Exempt	Specified supplies, including most financial, insurance, education and medical services

Registration and returns

Registration is required once taxable supplies reach XCD 300,000 a year. Professional service providers, except physicians, must register whatever their turnover, and tours and attractions have been taxable since June 2024. Returns are monthly, with payment by the date the IRD sets.

Input tax recovery

Registered businesses credit ABST on business purchases and imports against output tax. Input tax on exempt supplies cannot be recovered. Refunds of excess credits are available after a qualifying period.

Imported and digital services

There is no separate regime for foreign digital services. Imported services are taxed under the general rules; take advice on cross-border supplies.

Customs and excise

Import duty follows the CARICOM Common External Tariff on customs value, plus the 10% revenue recovery charge, ABST and, for some goods, excise. Duty relief is available only under concessions or specific exemptions.

Temporary ABST relief in 2026

The Government uses short ABST holidays, such as a 0% rate on food, non-alcoholic drinks and school items on 10 and 11 April 2026. A wider temporary reduction was also announced for 2026. Check the rate in force on the date of supply.

ADMINISTRATION

12 Tax calendar and administration

Main tax laws

Income Tax Act; Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax Act, 2006; Tax Administration and Procedures Act, 2018; Stamp Act; Property Tax and Valuation legislation; Revenue Recovery Charge Act; Social Security Act; Medical Benefits Act; Education Levy legislation; Customs Duties Act; Fiscal Incentives Act; Investment Authority Act, 2006.

Authorities

The IRD administers domestic taxes, Customs and Excise collects duties, and Cabinet approves concessions on the advice of the Investment Authority.

Recent and upcoming changes

- **2024:** ABST raised to 17%; tours and attractions brought into ABST
- **2025:** social security at 16% combined; country-by-country reporting enacted; Multilateral Instrument signed; all concessions ended on 30 November
- **2026 Budget** (4 December 2025): no new taxes; digital ABST, e-invoicing and new customs technology; transfer pricing from 1 January 2026
- **Ahead:** the 2027 Budget, expected in December 2026

When	What
Within 14 days after each month	Social security, medical benefits and education levy
Monthly	ABST return and payment; withholding tax on payments to non-residents
15 January, April, July, October	Unincorporated business tax instalments
31 March	Unincorporated business tax return; company returns for December year-ends
Within 3 months of year-end	Company returns, financial statements and tax
Within 12 months of year-end	Country-by-country report, where required
Annually	Property tax, as assessed by the IRD
December	Budget statement for the following year

Dates assume a calendar year. When a date falls on a weekend or public holiday, confirm with the IRD whether it moves.

YOUR PARTNER

13 How Dawgen Global helps

Our Caribbean Tax Service Desk, managed from Kingston, supports companies and individuals with every Antigua and Barbuda tax, from registration to dispute.

Tax compliance

Corporate and unincorporated business tax returns, instalments and tax compliance certificates.

Corporate tax advisory

Structuring, sector rates, losses, dividends and transactions.

International tax and transfer pricing

Treaty claims, withholding tax, transfer pricing support and country-by-country reporting.

Indirect taxes (ABST and customs)

ABST registration, returns, refunds, e-invoicing readiness and customs reviews.

Payroll and employment taxes

Social security, medical benefits and education levy, and payroll reviews.

Tax disputes and authority engagement

IRD audits, objections, appeals and settlement of arrears.

Incentives and investment planning

Concession applications and reapplications, and project tax planning.

Private client and expatriate tax

Residence, citizenship by investment, property purchases and assignees.

Tax technology and reporting

Tax calendars, provisions, data and reporting processes.

Start with a conversation

Tell us about your plans or your tax question in Antigua and Barbuda, and we will set out the steps and timeline for your situation. Some regulated services are performed by affiliated firms; we will advise you of the arrangements when you make a request. Fees are tailored to each client's circumstances and set out in an engagement letter. Email **antiguaandbarbuda@dawgen.com** or **info@dawgen.global**, or call (876) 926-5210.

Talk to the Caribbean Tax Service Desk about Antigua and Barbuda

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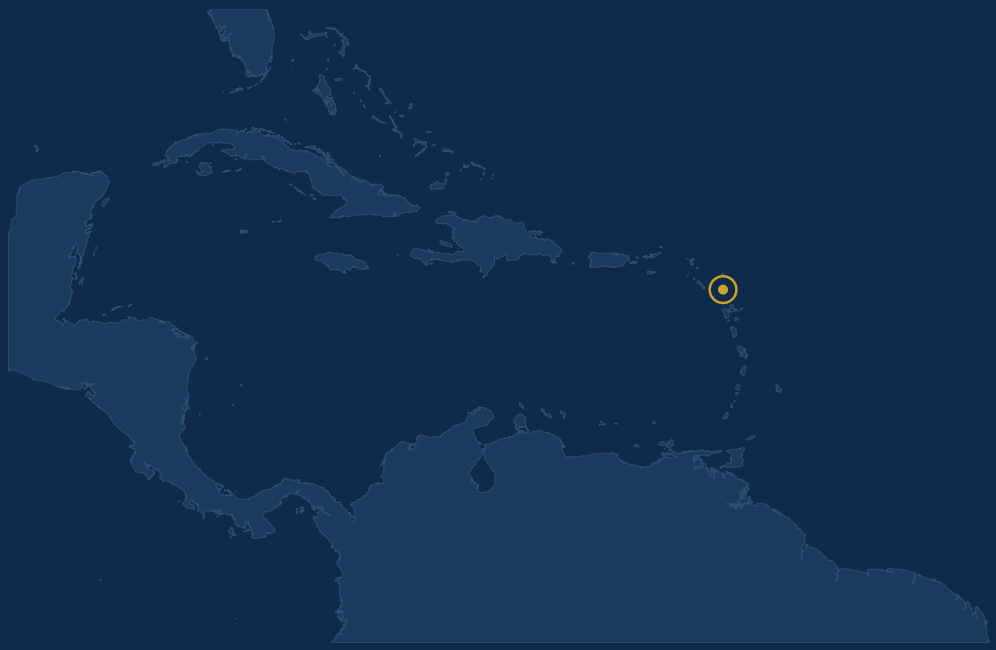
Key official sources

- Inland Revenue Department (ird.gov.ag)
- Customs and Excise Division (customs.gov.ag)
- Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property and Commerce Office (abipco.gov.ag)
- Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (investantiguabarbuda.org)
- Citizenship by Investment Unit (cip.gov.ag)
- Social Security Board (socialsecurity.gov.ag)
- Financial Services Regulatory Commission (fsrc.gov.ag)
- Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (eccb-centralbank.org)



This publication contains general information only, current to October 2026, and is not professional advice. Tax rates, thresholds and procedures change frequently, temporary sales tax measures were in use during 2026, and tax concessions are being re-granted under new criteria; confirm the current position with Dawgen Global or the Inland Revenue Department before acting. Some regulated services are performed by affiliated firms; we will advise you of the arrangements when you make a request.
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