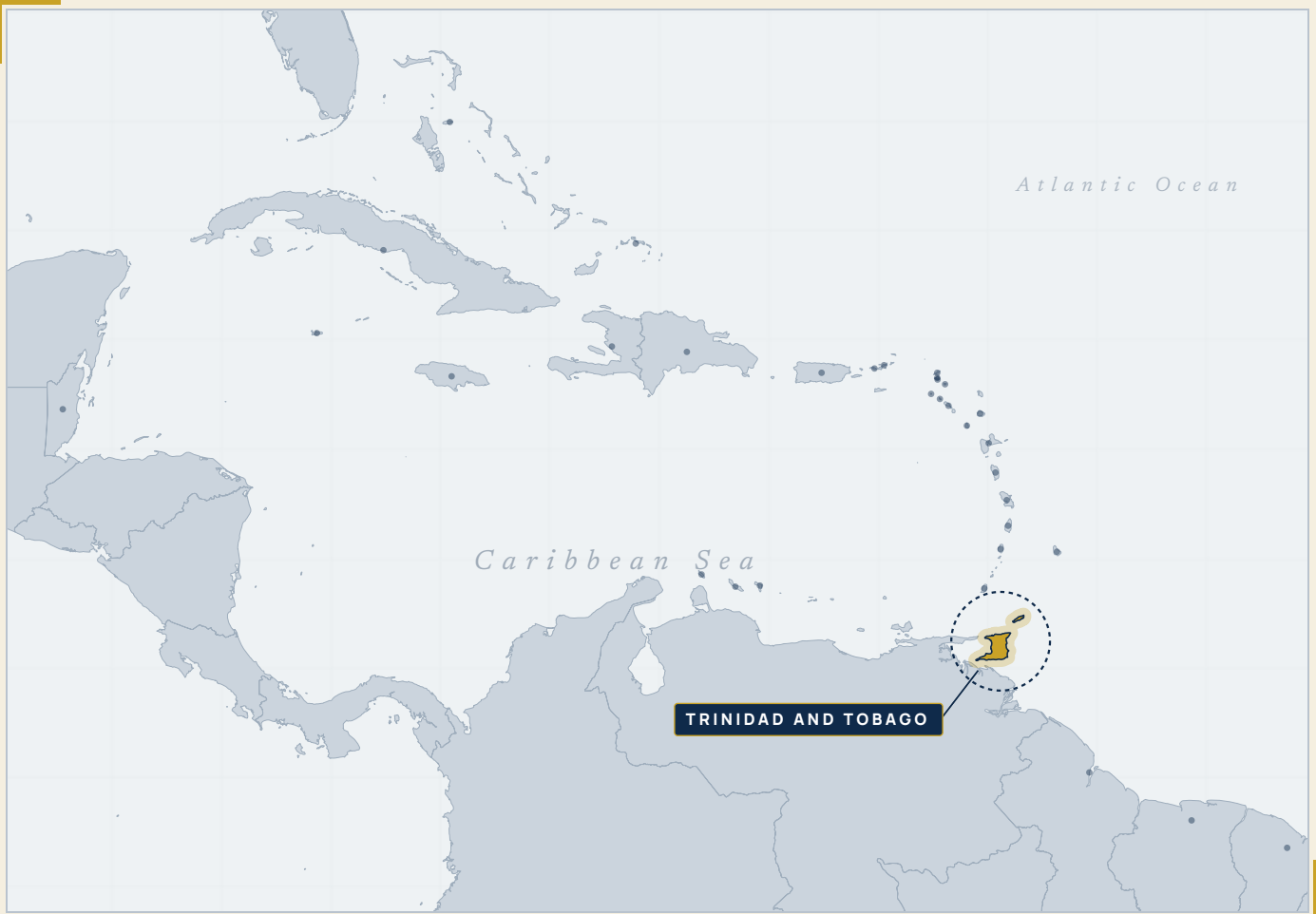




CARIBBEAN TAX SERVICE DESK · SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN

Trinidad and Tobago

Tax Guide

A guide to corporate, personal and indirect taxes in Trinidad and Tobago

CONTENTS

01	Investment basics	3
02	Corporate taxation	4
03	Corporate taxation (continued)	5
04	Withholding taxes and tax treaties	6
05	Anti-avoidance and international rules	7
06	Compliance for corporations	8
07	Other taxes on corporations	9
08	Personal taxation	10
09	Personal taxation (continued)	11
10	Compliance for individuals	12
11	VAT and customs	13
12	Tax calendar and administration	14
13	How Dawgen Global helps	15

FOREWORD

Trinidad and Tobago has the Caribbean's most energy-driven tax system, with a separate petroleum regime alongside corporation tax, levies on gross sales and value added tax.

Trinidad and Tobago combines a familiar common-law framework with a tax system that reaches every part of a business: corporation tax, the business levy and Green Fund Levy, value added tax, withholding tax, national insurance and a dedicated regime for oil and gas. Each annual budget adjusts the detail, and many changes take effect from 1 January.

This guide explains the main taxes on companies and individuals in plain language, current to October 2026 and including the measures proposed in the 2026/27 Budget. It is written for investors, finance teams and individuals with interests in Trinidad and Tobago.

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 Trinidad and Tobago. 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

Trinidad and Tobago has a managed currency, no exchange controls and IFRS-based reporting. Tax is administered by the Board of Inland Revenue (BIR) through its Inland Revenue Division.

CORPORATION TAX**30% / 35%**

35% for banks, petrochemical and certain gas companies

VALUE ADDED TAX**12.5%**

Registration above TT\$600,000 of supplies in 12 months

PERSONAL INCOME TAX**25% / 30%**

TT\$90,000 personal allowance; 30% above TT\$1 million

DIVIDEND WITHHOLDING**8%**

Non-residents; 3% to a parent; 10% and 5% proposed from 2027

NATIONAL INSURANCE**16.2%**

Two thirds paid by the employer, up to an earnings ceiling

CAPITAL GAINS**Short-term only**

Gains on assets held 12 months or less are taxed as income

Currency and foreign exchange

The Trinidad and Tobago dollar (TTD) is managed against the US dollar at about TT\$6.78 to US\$1. There are no exchange controls, but banks allocate foreign currency, which can be scarce. Tax is assessed and paid in TTD.

Accounting and audit

Companies report under IFRS, or IFRS for SMEs where eligible. The Companies Act requires annual financial statements; public companies need an audit, and for private companies it depends on the Act and the shareholders. Accounts support the tax return.

Principal business entities

Private company

Public company

External company (branch)

Partnership

Sole trader

Non-profit company

Companies are taxed as separate entities. Partners and sole traders are taxed personally on their share of profits.

The tax system

Corporation tax, the business levy, Green Fund Levy, VAT, PAYE and withholding tax are administered by the BIR. Customs duties are collected by the Customs and Excise Division, and national insurance by the National Insurance Board.

BUSINESS TAX

02 Corporate taxation

Resident companies pay tax on worldwide income; non-resident companies pay tax on income from Trinidad and Tobago, including branch profits.

Residence and basis

A company is resident where its central management and control is exercised. A non-resident company with an office, branch or agency in Trinidad and Tobago is taxed on its local profits at the same rates.

Taxable income

- ◆ Trading profits, interest, royalties, rents and short-term capital gains
- ◆ Expenses deductible if incurred wholly and exclusively to produce income
- ◆ Wear and tear allowances of 10% to 40% by asset class replace book depreciation
- ◆ Not deductible: goodwill, start-up costs, fines and most taxes and levies
- ◆ Management charges to non-residents capped at 2% of other expenses

Taxpayer	Rate
Companies generally	30%
Commercial banks	35%
Petrochemical companies and certain gas businesses	35%
Special economic zone enterprises	15%
SMEs listed on the TTSE	0% for 5 years, then half the rate for 5
Upstream oil and gas producers	Petroleum profits tax, 50% (30% deepwater)

Business levy and Green Fund Levy

There is no surtax. A business levy of 0.6% of gross sales acts as a minimum tax: the company pays the higher of corporation tax and the levy. It is not due in a company's first 36 months, below TT\$360,000 of turnover or on manufacturers' export sales. A Green Fund Levy of 0.3% of gross sales is payable in addition and is neither deductible nor creditable.

Petroleum tax regime

Producers pay petroleum profits tax, royalties, supplemental petroleum tax on crude oil sales above US\$50 a barrel (banded rates for marine and land) and an unemployment levy of 5% of profits, 8% proposed from 1 January 2027. Losses offset only 75% of profits.

BUSINESS TAX

03 Corporate taxation (continued)

Dividends

Dividends from resident companies are exempt from corporation tax and the business levy, but count towards the Green Fund Levy. Dividends from companies resident in CARICOM treaty states are also exempt; other foreign dividends are taxable. Bonus shares may be issued tax-free.

Capital gains

Only gains on assets disposed of within 12 months of acquisition are taxed, as ordinary profits. Other gains are not taxed, apart from balancing charges on assets that attracted allowances.

Losses

Trading losses can be carried forward without time limit; carry-back is not allowed. From 1 January 2027, the Budget proposes to cap relief at 75% of chargeable profits, with the balance carried forward.

Foreign tax credit

Double taxation is relieved by foreign tax credits, mainly under the tax treaties and the CARICOM agreement.

Holding companies and groups

There is no participation exemption or holding company regime beyond the dividend exemptions. There is no group taxation. A resident company may surrender current-year losses to a resident group company, but the claimant's tax can fall by no more than 25%.

Tax incentives in brief

Incentive	Main benefit
Special economic zones	15% corporation tax; customs duty and VAT relief
TTSE SME Market	Tax and levies at 0% for 5 years, half for the next 5
Approved small companies	Exemption for a limited period, subject to criteria
Tourism Development Act	Tax holiday of up to 7 years for approved projects
Manufacturing plant	90% initial allowance
Enhanced deductions	Training at 150%; research, technology and culture spending within caps

CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS

04 Withholding taxes and tax treaties

Withholding tax applies to payments to non-residents and is paid to the BIR within 30 days of payment. Payments to residents are not subject to withholding tax.

Payment	Resident	Non-resident (now)	Proposed from 1 Jan 2027	Treaty range
Dividends	None	8%; 3% to a parent with over 50% of the votes	10%; 5% to a parent	0% to 10%, domestic rate if lower
Interest	None	15%	No change	0% to 15%
Royalties	None	15%	No change	0% to 15%
Management charges and rents	None	15%	Extended to services supplied remotely	Treaty relief may apply
Branch profits	None	Remittances treated as distributions; dividend rates apply		Treaty relief may apply

Where a treaty rate is higher than the domestic rate, the domestic rate applies. If tax is not withheld, the payer is liable for it and the deduction for the payment may be denied.

Tax treaties in force

Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela, together with the CARICOM agreement. A tax information exchange agreement is in force with the United States.

CARICOM agreement

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

Claiming treaty rates

The payer may apply a treaty rate when it holds evidence of the recipient's residence and entitlement. Without it, the domestic rate applies and the recipient must seek a refund. The 2027 Budget proposals depend on the Finance Bill being enacted.

INTERNATIONAL RULES

05 Anti-avoidance and international rules

Trinidad and Tobago has strengthened tax transparency and was removed from the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions in February 2026. Transfer pricing legislation is still pending.

Transfer pricing

There are no specific transfer pricing rules yet. The BIR can disregard artificial or fictitious transactions and uses this power to test related-party dealings. Draft rules in line with OECD guidelines, with mandatory documentation and penalties, have been prepared and are a priority for the 2026/27 fiscal year.

Interest limits

There are no thin capitalisation rules. Interest is deductible if the borrowing was used to produce income and, for non-resident lenders, withholding tax has been paid.

CFC rules

There is no controlled foreign company regime, although resident companies are taxed on worldwide income.

General anti-avoidance

The BIR may disregard artificial or fictitious transactions that reduce tax. From 1 January 2027, expenses of earning exempt income are proposed to become non-deductible.

Economic substance

There is no separate economic substance regime. Treaty benefits depend on genuine residence in the treaty country.

Pillar Two

No global minimum tax legislation had been introduced by October 2026. Groups within scope should monitor the position.

Information exchange

- ◆ **FATCA:** agreement with the United States, given effect by local law
- ◆ **CRS:** automatic exchange of financial account information
- ◆ **Country-by-country reporting:** groups with revenue above US\$850 million, from 20 December 2024
- ◆ **Multilateral Convention on mutual assistance:** signed November 2024

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE

06 Compliance for corporations

Companies self-assess and pay in advance through quarterly instalments. Electronic filing is through the BIR's online system and is proposed to become mandatory.

Tax year and returns

The tax year is the calendar year, and companies are assessed on their accounting period. There are no consolidated returns: each company files its own.

1

Quarterly instalments

MAR, JUN, SEP, DEC

Corporation tax, business levy and Green Fund Levy, paid in advance.

2

Basis of instalments

EACH QUARTER

The higher of the prior year's profits and the current estimate; reductions need BIR approval.

3

Annual return and balance

30 APR

For a December year-end, with financial statements.

Penalties and interest

Late returns attract a penalty of TT\$1,000 for each six months or part that they remain outstanding. Late and short payments attract interest at 20% a year. A tax clearance certificate is needed for government contracts and many approvals.

Audits, records and rulings

The BIR selects returns for audit, including large refund claims. Keep records for at least six years after the transactions, or three years after filing, whichever is later. The BIR can be asked for its view on specific transactions.

Objections and appeals

Object to the BIR in writing, with grounds, within the short time allowed after an assessment. Unresolved disputes go to the Tax Appeal Board, then the Court of Appeal and the Privy Council. Time limits are strict.

Practical points

Compare corporation tax with the business levy each quarter, as the higher is payable. Seek approval before reducing instalments, and reconcile PAYE, VAT and withholding filings to the accounts before the annual return.

BEYOND CORPORATION TAX

07 Other taxes on corporations

Tax	Rate and base	Who pays
National insurance	16.2% of earnings by class, up to TT\$13,600 a month; due to rise in January 2027	Employer two thirds, employee one third
Business levy	0.6% of gross sales where higher than corporation tax	Companies, larger sole traders
Green Fund Levy	0.3% of gross sales and receipts	Companies and partnerships
Commercial asset levy	0.25% of total assets, paid quarterly	Licensed financial institutions and local insurers
Landlord business surcharge	2.5% of quarterly rent up to TT\$20,000; 3.5% above; credited against tax	Landlords
Property tax	Residential collection suspended; check the position for commercial and industrial property	Owners
Stamp duty	On conveyances by value band (commercial property 2% to 7%), mortgages, leases and other instruments	Usually the buyer
Transfer tax and capital duty	None	—
Insurance premium tax	6% of general insurance premiums; life and reinsurance exempt	Insurers
Financial services tax	15% on certain financial services	Financial institutions
Hotel accommodation tax	10% of the value of accommodation	Accommodation providers
Unemployment levy	5% of taxable profits; 8% proposed from 1 January 2027	Petroleum companies
Other levies	Electricity surcharge on commercial use; 5% tax on imported single-use plastics	Businesses, importers

Financial services are generally exempt from VAT. The business levy and Green Fund Levy are not deductible for corporation tax.

INDIVIDUALS

08 Personal taxation

Residents pay income tax on worldwide income above a personal allowance; non-residents pay on income from Trinidad and Tobago without the allowance.

Basis of taxation

- ◆ **Resident and domiciled:** worldwide income
- ◆ **Resident, not domiciled:** local income, and foreign income only when received in Trinidad and Tobago
- ◆ **Non-resident:** income arising in Trinidad and Tobago only, including pay for work done there

Residence tests

An individual present for more than 183 days in a calendar year is treated as resident for that year. Ordinary residence and domicile also affect the basis of tax.

Filing status

Each individual files separately; joint filing by spouses is not permitted.

Chargeable income	Rate
Up to TT\$1 million a year	25%
Above TT\$1 million	30%

Chargeable income is income after the personal allowance and other deductions.

Taxable income

Employment income including cash and non-cash benefits, business and professional profits, rents, royalties, foreign income and short-term capital gains. Self-employed persons with gross receipts above TT\$360,000 may also pay the business levy.

Allowances

Residents receive a personal allowance of TT\$90,000 a year. From 1 January 2027, the Budget proposes an allowance of TT\$102,000 for pensioners. Non-residents receive the allowance only against pension income from Trinidad and Tobago.

INDIVIDUALS

09 Personal taxation (continued)

Capital gains and exempt income

Only gains on assets disposed of within 12 months are taxed, as income; local securities are excluded. Dividends from resident companies (other than preference dividends), interest on deposits with local institutions and pensions from approved private plans (from 1 January 2026) are exempt.

Deductions and reliefs

- ◆ Pension, deferred annuity and national insurance contributions, up to TT\$60,000 combined
- ◆ Tertiary education expenses, up to TT\$72,000
- ◆ First-time homeowner allowance of TT\$30,000 a year for five years
- ◆ Covenanted donations, up to 15% of total income
- ◆ Venture capital tax credit for approved investments

Employment benefits

Benefits in cash or kind, including accommodation, are taxable. Severance pay is exempt up to TT\$500,000.

Tax	Position for individuals
National insurance (employee)	One third of 16.2% of earnings, up to TT\$169.50 a week
Health surcharge	TT\$8.25 a week; TT\$4.80 on monthly pay of TT\$470 or less
Stamp duty	On home purchases by value band; first-time buyers exempt up to TT\$2 million
Property tax	Residential collection suspended
Landlord business surcharge	2.5% or 3.5% of rental income, credited against tax
Inheritance and estate tax	None
Gift tax	None
Net wealth tax	None
Capital acquisitions tax	None

National insurance contributions are proposed to rise by a further 3% of earnings in January 2027.

INDIVIDUAL COMPLIANCE

10 Compliance for individuals

Most employees meet their obligations through PAYE. Others with business, rental or foreign income must file and pay quarterly.

Employees and PAYE

The tax year is the calendar year. Employers deduct PAYE, health surcharge and national insurance each pay period and pay them by the 15th of the following month. Residents whose only income is employment income need not file a return; any shortfall is due by 30 April.

Self-employed and other income

When	What
31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December	Quarterly instalments of estimated tax
30 April	Annual return and balance for the prior year

Late returns attract a penalty of TT\$100 for each six months or part outstanding, and unpaid tax attracts interest.

Non-residents and expatriates

- ◆ Each individual needs a BIR file number
- ◆ Pay for work done in Trinidad and Tobago is taxable, whoever pays it
- ◆ Non-residents pay tax without the personal allowance
- ◆ Non-domiciled residents are taxed on foreign income only when received locally
- ◆ Treaties may exempt short assignments by residents of treaty countries
- ◆ Employees of overseas employers that do not operate PAYE pay tax by instalments
- ◆ Foreign staff also need a work permit, applied for by the employer

Tax clearance

Individuals and businesses may need a tax clearance certificate from the BIR for licences, permits and government contracts.

INDIRECT TAXES

11 VAT and customs

Value added tax (VAT) is charged on most goods and services and on imports, administered by the BIR and collected at the border by the Customs and Excise Division.

Rate	Applies to
12.5% standard	Most goods, services and imports
Zero-rated	Exports, basic and locally produced foods, and certain agricultural inputs
Exempt	Financial services, residential rents, education and certain other services

From 1 January 2027, the Budget proposes moving selected zero-rated items to exempt status, which ends input tax recovery on them.

Registration and returns

Registration is required once commercial supplies exceed TT\$600,000 in 12 months. Returns normally cover two-month periods and are due, with payment, by the 25th day after the period ends.

Input tax and refunds

Registered businesses credit VAT on business purchases and imports against output tax, with valid invoices, and may claim refunds of excess credits. Late payment attracts an 8% penalty and interest of 2% a month.

Imported and digital services

VAT at 12.5% on digital and remote services from non-resident suppliers, with simplified registration, is proposed from 1 March 2027. Confirm the treatment of other imported services with the BIR.

Customs and excise

Import duty follows the CARICOM Common External Tariff on CIF value, with VAT on the duty-inclusive value. Excise applies to alcohol, tobacco and petroleum products, and motor vehicle tax to vehicles.

Proposed from 1 January 2027

Excise on alcoholic drinks reduced by 25%, with customs duty on imported alcohol moving to an ad valorem basis; 20% customs duty on vaping products; a TT\$100 penalty for each two months a VAT return is outstanding; and a TT\$100 fee for VAT clearance certificates.

ADMINISTRATION

12 Tax calendar and administration

Main tax laws

Income Tax Act; Corporation Tax Act; Value Added Tax Act; Petroleum Taxes Act; Miscellaneous Taxes Act; Stamp Duty Act; Property Tax Act; National Insurance Act; Customs Act; Tax Appeal Board Act; annual Finance Acts.

Authorities

The BIR's Inland Revenue Division administers domestic taxes, and the Customs and Excise Division collects duties. The Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority was abolished by the Revenue Authority (Repeal) Act 2025, so both divisions continue. Appeals go to the Tax Appeal Board.

Recent and upcoming changes

- ◆ **2025/26:** commercial asset levy, landlord business surcharge, national insurance at 16.2% and tax-free private pensions
- ◆ **2026/27 (from 1 January 2027, proposed):** loss relief capped at 75%; dividend withholding 10% and 5%; withholding on remote services; pensioner allowance TT\$102,000
- ◆ **Ahead:** VAT on non-resident digital services (1 March 2027) and transfer pricing rules

When	What
15th monthly	PAYE, health surcharge and national insurance
Within 30 days of payment	Withholding tax on payments to non-residents
25th day after each two-month period	VAT return and payment
1 January	Most budget measures take effect
31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December	Instalments of corporation tax, business levy, Green Fund Levy and asset levy; individuals' estimated tax
30 April	Annual returns and balances for companies and individuals
October	National budget presented

Dates assume a December year-end. When a date falls on a weekend or public holiday, the deadline normally moves to the next working day.

YOUR PARTNER

13 How Dawgen Global helps

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

Tax compliance

Corporation and personal returns, quarterly instalments, levies and tax clearance certificates.

Corporate tax advisory

Structuring, allowances, losses, dividends, group relief and transactions.

International tax and transfer pricing

Treaty claims, withholding tax, CARICOM planning and readiness for transfer pricing rules.

Indirect taxes (VAT and customs)

VAT registration, returns, refunds, digital services and customs reviews.

Payroll and employment taxes

PAYE, national insurance, health surcharge and benefit reviews.

Tax disputes and authority engagement

BIR audits, objections, Tax Appeal Board matters and arrears.

Incentives and investment planning

Special economic zones, SME listing, tourism projects and enhanced allowances.

Private client and expatriate tax

Residence and domicile, remittance basis, property 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 Trinidad and Tobago, 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 info@dawgen.global or call (876) 926-5210.

Talk to the Caribbean Tax Service Desk about Trinidad and Tobago

Contact

info@dawgen.global

Dawgen Global, Dawgen Towers
47-49 Trinidad Terrace, Kingston 5, Jamaica
(876) 926-5210 · (876) 630-2011
(876) 929-3670 · (876) 929-3870
US toll free 855-354-2447
info@dawgen.global · dawgen.global

Key official sources

- Board of Inland Revenue, Inland Revenue Division (ird.gov.tt)
- Ministry of Finance (finance.gov.tt)
- Customs and Excise Division (customs.gov.tt)
- National Insurance Board (nibtt.net)
- Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (energy.gov.tt)
- Registrar General's Department (rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt)
- Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (central-bank.org.tt)
- Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago (ttparliament.org)

