

# GUYANA

Driven by rapid expansion of oil and gas production, Guyana is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. The government is pursuing ambitious public investment to transform the non-oil economy and address development needs. However, progress in poverty reduction is difficult to assess due to data gaps. Prudent management of petroleum revenues and continued institutional strengthening remain essential for broad-based growth.

## Key conditions and challenges

Guyana is a small, resource-rich country known for its extensive forests and significant oil and gas reserves, estimated above 11 billion barrels—one of the highest per capita globally. Before oil production began in 2019, Guyana's growth was primarily driven by agriculture, mining, and construction. The start of oil production led to unprecedented economic growth, placing Guyana as a high-income country in 2023.

Guyana's resource wealth is being utilized to address long-standing social and economic issues—addressing infrastructure gaps and human development needs. Poverty and social exclusion have been prevalent in the hinterland regions and among Amerindian communities. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing are significant drivers of job creation and poverty reduction, as over 70 percent of the working-age population lives in rural areas. While a lack of recent data constrains assessments of poverty reduction and social inclusion, the 2024 Q4 Labor Force Survey points to improvements in key labor force indicators. Gender gaps, nevertheless, remain large: men's labor force participation and employment rates

Population <sup>1</sup> million	Poverty <sup>2</sup>
0.8	..
Life expectancy at birth <sup>3</sup> years	School enrollment <sup>4</sup> primary (% gross)
70.2	97.6
GDP <sup>5</sup> current US\$, billion	GDP per capita <sup>6</sup> current US\$
26.4	31603.9

Sources: WDI, MFM, and official data. 1/ 2025. 2/ No recent data available (after 2000). 3/ 2023. 4/ 2024. 5/ 2025. 6/ 2025.

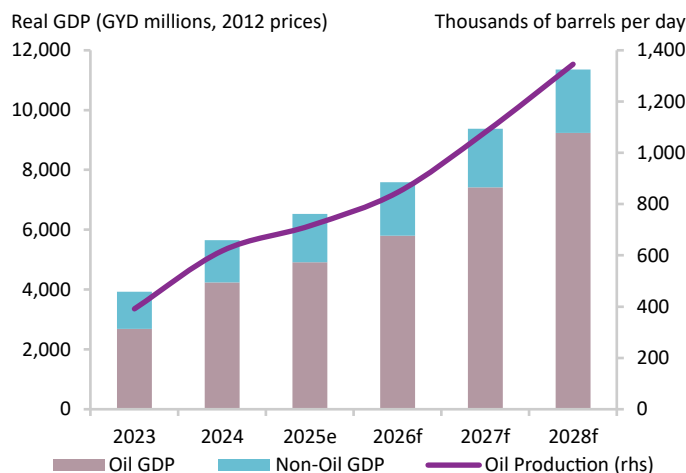
(68.2 and 64.8 percent) exceed women's (44.8 and 40.7 percent), and women's unemployment (9.3) is nearly double men's (5.1).

The Natural Resource Fund (NRF) Act, which governs the use of oil resources, was amended in 2024 to accelerate withdrawals and facilitate public investments. However, quicker withdrawals may also increase the risk of inefficient spending, accelerate inflation, and reduce the competitiveness of non-oil sectors. Transparent and accountable governance, paired with strong public financial management, is critical to help ensure equitable and sustainable growth.

## Recent developments

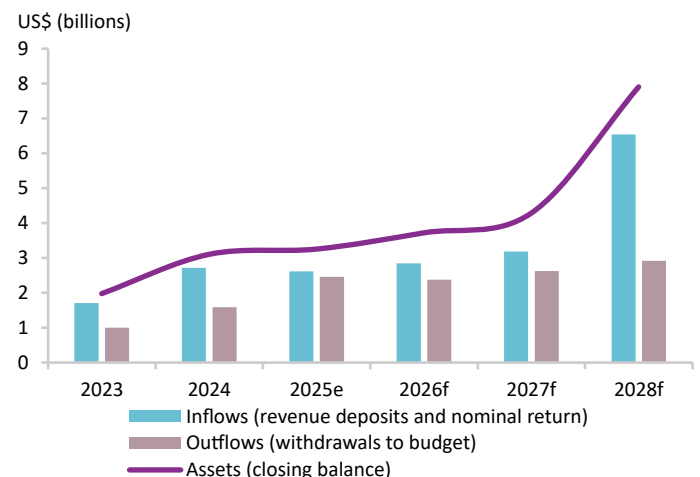
Guyana's economy continued the strong expansion, growing by 15.4 percent in 2025. Real oil GDP grew by 15.8 percent, as production reached 261.1 million barrels, thanks to the launch of the One Guyana Floating Production, Storage, and Offloading (FPSO) vessel in August 2025. The non-oil economy grew by 14.3 percent in 2025, driven by agriculture, manufacturing, and construction, supported by substantial public investment.

FIGURE 1 / Oil Production, real oil GDP, and real non-oil GDP



Sources: Government of Guyana and World Bank.

FIGURE 2 / Natural Resource Fund (NRF) assets, inflows, and outflows



Source: Government of Guyana.

Notes: Projections from 2026 assume yearly withdrawal of maximum amounts allowed by the Fiscal Enactments (Amendment) Act 2024; e=estimate, f=forecast.

Inflation remained contained in 2025, with the urban consumer price index increasing by an average of 3.5 percent. An increase in food prices, averaging 6.6 percent, was the primary driver of inflation. Higher food prices tend to disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable, who allocate a larger portion of their budget to food.

The fiscal deficit decreased from 7.4 percent of GDP in 2024 to 5.8 percent in 2025, supported by a 55 percent increase in withdrawals from the NRF. Revenues rose from 15.2 percent of GDP to 18.0 percent in 2025, while the NRF balance reached US\$3.25 billion by year-end. Expanding public investment, increased cash transfers, and a larger public wage bill contributed to higher expenditure. Public debt reached 29.1 percent of GDP in 2025, up from 24.2 percent in 2024, with the issuance of domestic securities.

The current account surplus narrowed from 16.4 percent in 2024 to 13.2 percent in 2025. Lower crude oil prices led to a slight reduction in oil export earnings while import payments increased by over 50 percent, due to the importation of the One Guyana FPSO. Remittance inflows were stable up to 2025Q3, the latest data available, compared to the previous year. The nominal and real effective exchange rates remained stable, with a de facto stabilized regime supported by selective central bank interventions.

## Outlook

Guyana's medium-term outlook reflects developments in oil production and price dynamics. Real GDP is projected to grow by

20.3 percent over 2026 and 2028, with non-oil GDP expected to expand by 9.4 percent. The addition of two FPSOs in 2027 will accelerate oil GDP growth, as production capacity reaches 1.3 million barrels per day. Non-oil GDP growth will be supported by the expanding public investment program as well as positive spillovers from the oil sector supported by the Local Content Act. Higher inflation is expected in 2026, partly due to higher import prices stemming from the Middle East conflict, and gradually rise over the medium term as government investment and consumption increases. Poverty reduction will depend on the government's efforts to boost the purchasing power of poor and vulnerable households and job creation in non-oil sectors.

The fiscal deficit is projected to narrow to 5.6 percent of GDP in 2026, amid higher nominal GDP, and remain stable through 2028. Public debt is projected to reach 26.8 percent of GDP by 2028 as the economy continues to expand. The current account surplus is expected to widen in 2026, given higher oil prices, and remain in surplus afterwards, despite fluctuations linked to oil prices and FPSO importations. Net foreign direct investment flows will remain negative due to the repatriation of oil sector proceeds.

Guyana's outlook is subject to upside risks related to further petroleum discoveries and stronger non-oil sector growth due to public investments and spillover effects. The main downside risks include overheating pressures and Dutch disease effects on the non-tradable sector, rising global uncertainty, and a faster-than-expected decline in oil prices. The extractive sector is Guyana's dominant source of growth and fiscal revenues, making the country susceptible to oil price-related shocks.

### Recent history and projections

	2023	2024	2025e	2026f	2027f	2028f
<b>Real GDP growth, at market prices (total)<sup>1</sup></b>	33.8	43.8	15.4	16.3	23.5	21.2
<b>Real GDP growth, at market prices (non-oil)<sup>2</sup></b>	12.3	13.8	14.3	10.4	9.5	8.4
Agriculture	6.9	11.0	11.5	7.1	6.5	5.8
Industry	16.7	22.6	24.7	17.5	15.5	13.0
Services	10.8	8.2	7.4	5.7	5.2	4.7
<b>Inflation (consumer price index)</b>	2.6	2.7	3.5	4.5	4.8	5.0
<b>Current account balance (% of GDP)<sup>3</sup></b>	9.9	16.4	13.2	17.3	8.6	13.4
<b>Net foreign direct investment inflow (% of GDP)</b>	-6.7	-14.2	-11.5	-15.3	-8.2	-12.5
<b>Fiscal balance (% of GDP)</b>	-5.8	-7.4	-5.8	-5.6	-5.6	-5.5
<b>Debt (% of GDP)</b>	26.7	24.2	29.1	26.6	27.8	26.8
<b>Primary balance (% of GDP)</b>	-5.4	-7.0	-5.4	-5.1	-5.0	-5.1
<b>GHG emissions growth (mtCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	11.6	25.1	23.1	20.4	16.8	11.7

Source: World Bank, Fiscal Policy & Growth Department. Emissions data sourced from CAIT and OECD.

Notes: e = estimate, f = forecast. Data in annual percent change unless indicated otherwise.

1/ Total GDP at 2012 prices.

2/ Non-oil GDP at 2012 prices.

3/ BOP definition in current US\$.