THE BAHAMAS

BRIEF

Official Name: **Commonwealth of the Bahamas**
Area: 13, 939 sq. km. (5, 382 sq. mi.)
Capital: Nassau, New Providence (pop. 30, 000)
Population (2005 UN estimate) 323, 000
Currency : Bahamian Dollar
Terrain: generally, low-lying, with highest elevation 405 m. (1, 330 ft.)
Climate: Semitropical
Airport: Nassau International Airport (New Providence)
Freeport Airport (Grand Bahama)

Source: *CRNM Information Unit 2008*

MAP

Source: Yahoo Maps (2008)

HEAD OF STATE:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
H. E. Sir Arthur D. Hanna, GCMG.
(Governor-General)

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:

The Rt. Hon. Hugh A. Ingraham, PC, MP
(Prime Minister and Minister of Finance)

Government

Type: Constitutional parliamentary democracy

Independence: **10th July 1973**

Branches: ***Executive***--Governor General (chief of state, representing British monarch), Prime minister (head of government), cabinet.
Legislative--bicameral Parliament (16 appointed senators, 40 elected representatives).
Judicial—Privy Council in London, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, and magistrates' courts.

Administrative Subdivisions: 32 districts and the Island of New Providence

Political Parties: Free National Movement (FNM), Progressive Liberal Party (PLP), Bahamas Democratic Movement (BDM)

International Treaties and Trade Agreements

TRADE AGREEMENTS IN FORCE

MULTILATERAL

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CUSTOMS UNIONS

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

CARICOM – Dominican Republic

PARTIAL PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS

CARICOM – Colombia
CARICOM – Venezuela

TRADE AGREEMENTS SIGNED, BUT NOT IN FORCE

PARTIAL PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS

CARICOM – Costa Rica

BILATERAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS

CARICOM – Costa Rica

Source: http://www.sice.oas.org/agreements_e.asp

RNM CONTACT - THE BAHAMAS

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Important Links

GOVERNMENT PORTAL:

http://www.bahamas.gov.bs

LINKS TO GOVERNMENT:

Office of the Prime Minister – http://www.opm.gov.bs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Public Service – http://www.mfabahamas.org
Ministry of Finance – http://www.bahamas.go.bs/finance
Ministry of Works and Utilities – http://www.mowt.bs
Ministry of Education – http://www.bahamaseduction.com
Official Torism Website of the Bahamas – http://www.bahamas.com
Bahamas Finacial Services Board – http://www.bfsb-bahamas.com

LINKS TO PRIVATE SECTOR:

The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce – http://www.thebahamaschamber.com
The Bahamas Telephone Directory – http://www.btcbahams.com

WTOTRADE POLICY REVIEW:

[Not a Member of the WTO]

Media Institutions

Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas – http://www.znsbahamas.com
Nassau Guardian – http://www.thenassauguardian.com
Freeport News – http://freeport.nassauguardian.net