



French Guiana

Department of French Guiana

Latin America

Geography

Area 86,504 sq km. Sparsely inhabited jungle territory in northeast South America. Great diversity of flora and fauna with over 400,000 species known.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	231,313	2.75%
2020	291,714	2.25%
2030	353,963	1.85%

Capital Cayenne 63,900. **Urbanites** 76.4%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 34%. **Life expectancy** 77.4 yrs.

Peoples

African Caribbean 62%. Franco-Guyanese Creole 45.3%; Haitian 9.1%; Surinamese Creole 6.1%; Afro-Guyanese 1.5%.

European 15.1%. Mainly French or French-background.

Asian 12.2%. Chinese (Hakka) 5%; Indian 4%; Laotian Hmong 1.5%; Javanese 1.0%; Syrian/Lebanese 0.5%.

South American 5.5%. Brazilian 5.0%.

Afro-American Maroon 3.2%. Saramaccan 2.0%; Aukan 1.1%.

Amerindian 2.0%. Six groups.

Official language French. Guianese French Creole widely spoken. **All languages** 15.

Indigenous languages 12. **Languages with Scriptures** 2Bi 5NT 5por 1w.i.p.

Economy

Partially developed coastal strip, and undeveloped jungle hinterland. Heavily subsidized by France as a *département*. The Guyanese Space Centre at Kourou (a launch facility for the European Space Agency) is the major source of income and

brings rapid development. Main exports – gold, shrimp, fish and forest products. Tourism is a potential growth industry.

Unemployment 20.6%.

Politics

French Overseas Department. For years, infamous as a French penal colony. There is little incentive for independence, due to the high subsidies paid by France/the EU, but pockets with a nationalistic desire for independence do exist.

Religion

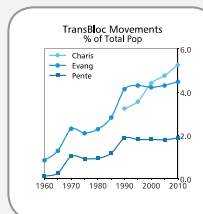
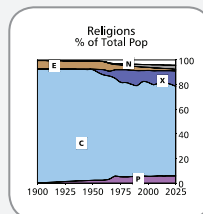
Freedom of religion, but secular in outlook.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	91.25	211,073	2.8%
Non-religious	2.65	6,130	4.0%
Ethnoreligionist	2.10	4,858	0.9%
Muslim	1.80	4,164	5.2%
Sikh	0.90	2,082	2.8%
Chinese	0.90	2,082	0.6%
Baha'i	0.40	925	-1.7%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	19	5.77	13,000	3.4%
Independent	3	1.01	2,000	2.9%
Anglican	1	0.04	<300	0.0%
Catholic	1	75.66	175,000	3.1%
Marginal	2	1.86	4,000	2.3%
Unaffiliated		6.91	16,000	-3.4%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	30	92,593	175,000
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	37	2,000	4,000
Seventh-day Adventist	P	12	2,420	3,388
Assemblies of God	P	30	980	2,300
Baptist Federation	P	6	550	1,340
Ch of the Nazarene	P	3	780	1,100
Evang Reformed Ch	P	8	525	1,050
Christian Brethren	P	13	500	910
Full Gospel Church	P	6	400	600
Salvation Army	P	3	350	600
Other denominations[14]		31	2,684	4,770
Total Christians[26]		179	103,782	195,058

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelicals			
Evangelicals	4.5	10,361	3.5%
Renewalists			
Charismatics	5.3	12,161	4.8%
Pentecostals	1.9	4,360	3.7%



Answers to Prayer

- 1** **The growth of evangelicals has been steady** if not spectacular in the last 20 years. This is true for many minority groups but also among the Creole, previously considered to have few believers. Pentecostal churches and independent house churches have especially flourished, but the latter often need theological guidance and accountability of practice.
- 2** **Give praise for the opening of work** among several Amerindian groups, with several churches planted among the Caribs/Galibi in particular. Brethren workers from Suriname, Full Gospel ministers along the coast, Baptists and Nazarene among Haitians and Brazilian Christians in the interior are all making progress.

Challenges for Prayer

- 1** **A new image of French Guiana is emerging**, one that moves past the penal colony image to embrace rich multiculturalism and economic and touristic development, but also French secularism and many moral challenges. Several socio-economic challenges are particularly notable for prayer.
 - a) The relationship to France**, as with the other overseas departments, is troubled. The standard of living is significantly less than in France itself, but higher than in most neighbouring countries. Unemployment is high, especially among young people, which leads, in turn, to disillusionment and unrest. The availability of French satellite TV has brought widespread exposure to graphic pornography and placed further strain on the already delicate moral fabric of French Guiana.
 - b) Environmental degradation** combines with illegal immigration and people trafficking through gold mining and the workers needed for that industry. Brazilians in particular are caught up in this clandestine, often illegal but impossible to police, industry.
 - c) Family issues**, observed in high rates of illegitimate births and of single-parent families, combine with eroding moral standards to increase pressure on society.
- 2** **The most responsive peoples** are Haitians, Antilleans, Hmong, Amerindian tribal peoples, Brazilians and the interior bush tribes (Maroons). It is among these groups that the Pentecostals, Baptists, **CMA**, Nazarenes and Brethren are growing. Pray for a cooperative spirit among evangelicals and for continued unifying influence of the Suriname Bible Society, especially among ministers.
- 3** **The least reached peoples** include:
 - a) French Guianese Creole youth**, large in number due to high birthrates and immigration. They are bombarded with the modern gospel of secular materialism, but with little recourse to acquire its riches. **IFES/Union des Groupes Bibliques Universitaires (UBGU)** has groups on the campuses of the one public university.
 - b) The Amerindian tribes** – pray especially for the animist Wayana (1,100), Wayampi (700) and Emerillon (500), least evangelized of all the tribes. **GRN** has audio resources for each of these groups, and the **JESUS** film is available in Wayampi.
 - c) The largely animistic Maroon tribes** (Aukan, Boni and Saramaccan) who live in the interior. Tribal Christians from Suriname work among them.
 - d) The Chinese** who control much of the small-scale market economy. Just one congregation is known among them.
 - e) The French and European communities** linked with the space programme – few are active Christians.
- 4** **Scripture availability is limited**. Biblica is developing the Gospels in Guyanese French Creole. Faith Comes By Hearing audio-recorded the NT in several Surinamese languages that are also used in French Guiana. Pray for their effective and fruitful use.