



# Jamaica

Dr Danielle Ebhohimen MBBS  
(Hons), BSc (Hons)  
February 2026

# Jamaica Country Profile

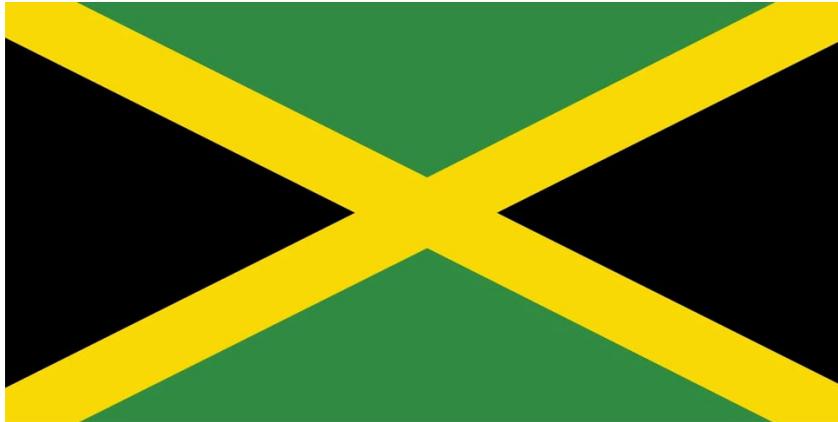


Figure 1: Flag of Jamaica <sup>1</sup>

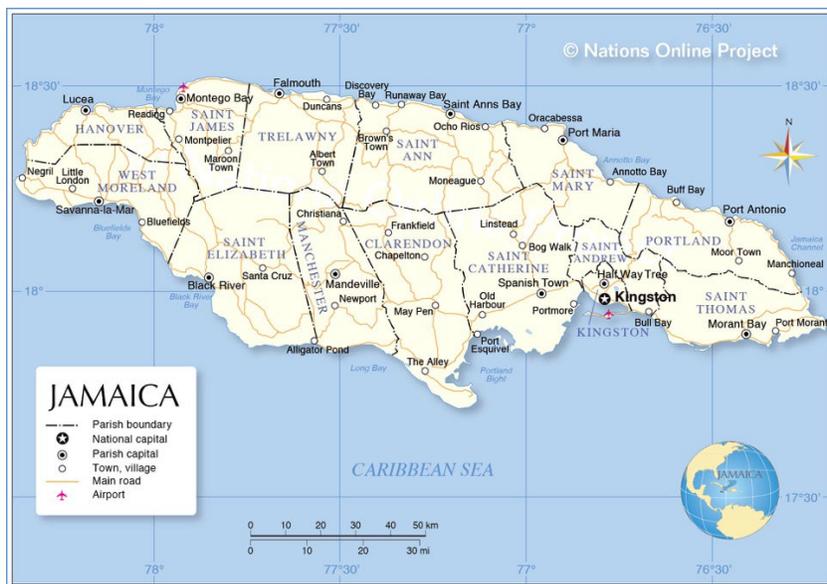


Figure 2: Map of Jamaica <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Flag of Jamaica | National Symbols, Colors & Design | Britannica, [www.britannica.com/topic/flag-of-Jamaica](http://www.britannica.com/topic/flag-of-Jamaica). Accessed 23 Feb. 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Administrative Map of Jamaica - Nations Online Project, [www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/jamaica-administrative-map.htm](http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/jamaica-administrative-map.htm). Accessed 23 Feb. 2026.

## **Table of Contents:**

### Table of Contents

<b>General Country Profile .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>History and Politics .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Government and Legal System.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Economy and Employment.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Physical and technological infrastructure .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>National Health Care Profile .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>National Radiology Profile.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Conclusion.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>References.....</b>	<b>21</b>

# General Country Profile

## Geography and Population

### Climate and seasonal cycles

The climate of Jamaica is primarily tropical, with distinct wet and dry seasons. These seasons range from May to November and from December to April, respectively. The coastal areas are typically characterized by warm and dry weather, while the islands, due to their mountainous terrain, tend to experience cooler weather.<sup>3</sup> Tropical storms are more prevalent within the months of June to November, a notable example being Hurricane Melissa, which struck Jamaica tragically in late October 2025, causing widespread destruction.

### Geographic Landmarks

Jamaica is one of the largest islands in the Caribbean, second only to Cuba and Hispaniola, and forms part of the Greater Antilles archipelago. Jamaica is situated in the Caribbean Sea, measuring 11,420sq km, approximately 145 km south of Cuba and 161km southwest of its neighboring country, Haiti.<sup>4</sup> The terrain is considered mountainous primarily along the eastern axis and has a coastline of approximately 1022km. Of note, the principal mountain range is known as the Blue Mountains, with its peak being the highest elevation, measuring 2256km above sea level. Jamaica is largely divided into 3 counties comprised of 14 parishes, with its capital being Kingston, located in the southeastern part of the country along the coast. Most of the larger towns and cities of Jamaica border the coastline and are heavily involved in tourism, including Montego Bay (the second largest city), Ocho Rios, Port Antonio, and many others.

### Population Data <sup>5</sup>

<b>Total Population(2024)</b>	<b>2,823,713</b>
<i>World Rank (2024)</i>	140
<i>Growth Rate (2024)</i>	0.1%
<i>Percentage of population in rural areas(2024)</i>	42.24 <sup>6</sup>
<i>Percentage age distribution(2024)</i>	
0-14 years	23.8%
15-64 years	65.7%

<sup>3</sup> Country Profile: Jamaica, rcc.cimh.edu.bb/files/2018/06/Country-Profile-Jamaica.pdf. Accessed 15 Dec. 2025.

<sup>4</sup> Earle, C. Paul. *Jamaican Embassy*, www.embassyofjamaica.org/about\_jamaica/geography.htm. Accessed 15 Dec. 2025.

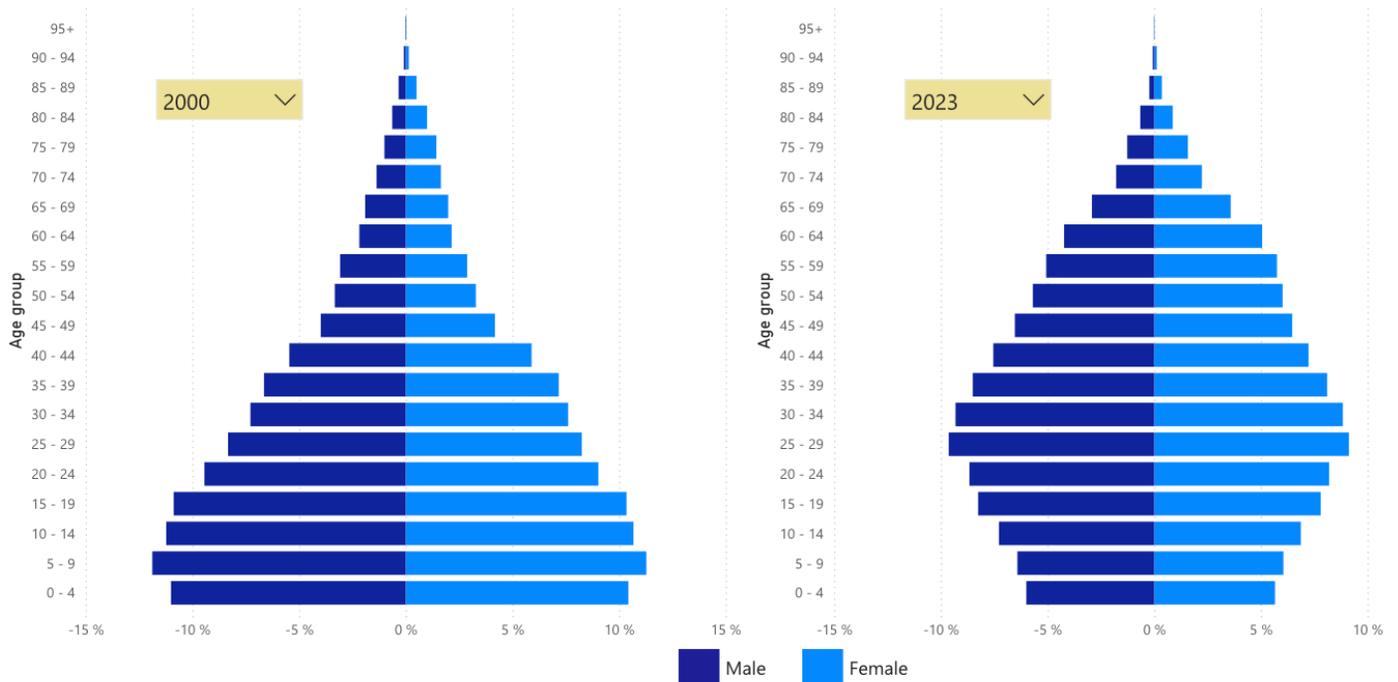
<sup>5</sup> Central Intelligence Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/jamaica/. Accessed 29 Dec. 2025.

<sup>6</sup> TheGlobeEconomy.Com, www.theglobeeconomy.com/Jamaica/rural\_population\_percent/#. Accessed 29 Dec. 2025.

65 and over	10.4%
Gross national income per capita (USD, 2024)	12690
Life expectancy(2024)	Total population: 76.3, Male 74.5, Female 78.1
Literacy(2022)	Female: 90.8

Table 1: Table demonstrating population data for Jamaica ranging from 2022-2024

Population pyramid of Jamaica, years 2000 and 2023



Data source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. World Population Prospects 2024. New York: United Nations; 2024. Available at: <https://population.un.org/wpp/>

Figure 3: Population Age Distribution

## History and Politics

### Brief History <sup>7</sup>

The precolonial period of Jamaica is also known as the pre-Columbian era, representing the time before European contact, when Jamaica was inhabited by the native people known as the Tainos. The Tainos were a group that migrated from South America and named the island Xaymaca, “land of wood and water”. During this period, they established a thriving agricultural

<sup>7</sup> “The History of Jamaica.” *Jamaica Information Service*, jis.gov.jm/information/jamaican-history/. Accessed 29 Dec. 2025.

society operating as skilled farmers, cultivating crops such as sweet potatoes, maize, corn, and other vegetables. Taino society utilized a hierarchical system with chiefs leading the various villages, accompanied by nobles for support, and commoners for labor. With these systems implemented, their system flourished for generations before the arrival of the Spanish in 1494.

In May of 1494 during his second voyage to the Americas, Christopher Columbus arrived in Jamaica and claimed it for Spain, marking it as the beginning of European colonization and the decline of the indigenous community and their society. As the Spanish rule expanded, religion, governance, and new economic practices were introduced, forcing the Tainos into cruel labor practices. As the volume of the Spanish population grew, the Tainos were eventually completely enslaved, resulting in harsh working conditions, violence, and exposure to European diseases. These factors led to the Tainos population's rapid decline and permanently altered Jamaica's cultural background. As the workforce of the Tainos dwindled, the Spanish began to import African slaves to work in agriculture which involved the growth of crops and cattle ranching. Some of the enslaved Africans rebelled to form smaller communities within Jamaica's interior, known as the maroon people, that resisted Spanish control. Under the rule of Spanish Governor Juan de Esquivel, the first permanent settlement was created, known as Sevilla La Nueva or New Seville. Despite this, Jamaica remained sparsely populated by the Spaniards and was therefore primarily used for food and military services.

In 1655, the British Admiral William Penn and General Robert Venables led an attack on Jamaica, resulting in the surrender of Jamaica's leadership from the Spanish to the British. This marked the end of Spanish rule in Jamaica, with the formation of the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, successfully securing and recognizing Jamaica as a British colony. Under the leadership of the British the slave trade arose, where the British were consumed with growing crops such as tobacco, sugar, and cocoa, which were to be sold in England.<sup>8</sup> As it became more profitable, the colonists began to ship more Africans to the West Indies to increase labor and production of crops. Many of the slaves were unhappy with the harsh conditions, which subsequently led to frequent rebellions. Over time, as growing opposition to slavery continued, a legal reform commenced in 1808 known as the abolition of the British slave trade. This resulted in the eventual emancipation of the enslaved people in 1830. Jamaica was later granted its independence from England in 1962, establishing its own constitution and providing people with their own freedom and justice.

---

<sup>8</sup> UNESCO. "The Slave Route: Jamaica." *UNESCO*, [www.unesco.org/en/slave-route/jamaica](http://www.unesco.org/en/slave-route/jamaica). Accessed 29 Dec. 2025.

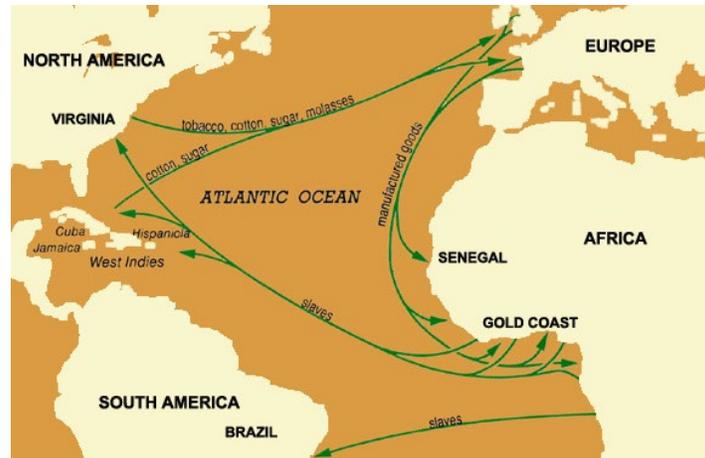


Figure 4: Transatlantic slave trade

### Cultural, religious practices, and languages spoken

Jamaica is often described as a melting pot reflecting its diverse cultural and religious heritage. The official language of Jamaica is English; however, Jamaican Patois or Jamaican Creole is predominantly spoken on an everyday basis. Jamaican Creole reflects the nation’s cultural identity, which stems from the West African influence during the slave trade, along with contributions from the indigenous Taino population. The majority of Jamaicans adhere to Christianity as the religion of choice; however, other faiths or religious practices are recognized, such as Rastafarianism and Revivalism.<sup>9</sup>

### Government and Legal System

Jamaica operates under a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy, structured according to the Westminster system of the United Kingdom. This system employs the British monarchy to operate as the Head of State, represented locally by the Governor General, while the Prime Minister acts as the Head of Government. The Governor-General typically functions in a ceremonial capacity, while the Prime Minister and cabinet, consisting of other appointed ministers, govern the country and are the predominant decision-making body of Jamaica.

The parliament of Jamaica is further broken down into the senate known as the upper house, and the House of Representatives, known as the lower house. The House of Representatives consists of 63 members, who are elected every 5 years, while the Senate is comprised of 21

<sup>9</sup> Jamaican Patwah, Inc. Web Development Team. “The History of Jamaican Patois.” *Jamaican Patwah*, jamaicanpatwah.com/b/the-history-of-jamaican-patois#:~:text=The%20genesis%20of%20Jamaican%20Patois,initial%20development%20of%20Jamaican%20Patois. Accessed 29 Dec. 2025.

members, where a select number are appointed by the Governor-General and the rest are reserved for members selected by the opposition leader.<sup>10</sup>

Governance of Jamaica is divided into 3 branches: the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary. The Executive branch consists of the Prime Minister along with the members of the cabinet, who function to bear the responsibility of the development and execution of policy and government programs. The legislature branch is responsible for reviewing, adjusting, and amending the laws of Jamaica to encourage peace and order. The judiciary branch refers to the courts within Jamaica, charged with applying the law and administering justice in both criminal and civil matters.<sup>11</sup>

<b>Worldwide Governance. Indicators – Jamaica</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>Voice and Accountability: Percentile Rank</i>	64.7	65.2
<i>Voice and Accountability: Estimate</i>	0.6	0.6
<i>Political Stability and Absence of Violence: Percentile Rank</i>	56.6	57.3
<i>Political Stability and Absence of Violence: Estimate.</i>	0.4	0.4
<i>Government effectiveness: Percentile Rank</i>	71.1	66.0
<i>Government effectiveness: Estimate</i>	0.6	0.4
<i>Regulatory quality: percentile rank</i>	59.0	53.8
<i>Regulatory quality: estimate</i>	0.2	0.1
<i>Rule of Law: percentile rank</i>	51.9	44.8
<i>Rule of Law: estimate</i>	-0.1	-0.2
<i>Control of Corruption: Percentile rank</i>	53.8	50.9
<i>Control of corruption: estimate</i>	0.0	-0.1

Table 2: World Bank Governance Indicators in Jamaica for and 2022& 2023<sup>12</sup>

The World Bank annually releases a database of governance indicators capturing the perceptions of the quality of governance across a host of countries. Typically, these indicators are ranked on a scale of -2.5 to 2.5, where the lower values represent a weaker governance

<sup>10</sup> "Jamaica." *Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce*, 30 Aug. 2024, [commonwealthchamber.com/member-countries/jamaica/](http://commonwealthchamber.com/member-countries/jamaica/).

<sup>11</sup> "Overview of the Government of Jamaica." *Jamaica Information Service*, [jis.gov.jm/government/overview-government-jamaica/](http://jis.gov.jm/government/overview-government-jamaica/). Accessed 1 Jan. 2026.

<sup>12</sup> "Worldwide Governance Indicators." *DataBank*, [databank.worldbank.org/source/worldwide-governance-indicators](http://databank.worldbank.org/source/worldwide-governance-indicators). Accessed 1 Jan. 2026.

effectiveness, and a higher value indicates a stronger governance performance. Table 2 functions to highlight the performance of Jamaica in 2022 and 2023. Of note, Jamaica ranks above the median compared to other countries across all six governance indicators evaluated. These results are suggestive of a generally favorable public perception of the government's effectiveness regarding public policy. However, a comparison drawn between 2022 and 2023 demonstrates a mild decline, with all six indicators demonstrating a mild reduction in perceived effectiveness.

## *Economy and Employment*

### **Major Industries**

Jamaica operates as one of the upper-middle-income countries within the Caribbean, with its main source of income being derived from agriculture and tourism. Jamaica is said to be emerging primarily as a service-led country growing from a previously agriculturally based economy. The key driver of the economic growth has largely been attributed to the tourism industry, said to have contributed the largest portion of the GDP in 2020, averaging approximately 78% of the total GDP.<sup>13</sup> Agriculture in Jamaica in 2020 accounted for 28% of the GDP, with the major crop of export being sugar and its byproducts, molasses and rum. Additional exports are coconuts, squash, pimento tobacco, ginger, and coffee. In addition to agriculture, other industries such as mining contribute a smaller fraction of the GDP and employment. Mining in Jamaica primarily involves bauxite, which is found in central Jamaica.<sup>14</sup>

### **Source and amounts of International Aid**

Following the devastation Jamaica faced in late October 2025 with Category 5 Hurricane Melissa, Jamaica received a surplus of international aid of more than 6.7 billion dollars. These funds were sourced from a diverse array of governments and institutions, including the World Bank, the International American Development Bank, the United States and the Cayman Islands, among others.<sup>15</sup> The immense aid received by Jamaica following this tragedy displays a strong response to urgent humanitarian and infrastructural challenges caused by the widespread destruction to homes, road and hospitals along the west coast of Jamaica.

---

<sup>13</sup> JAMAICA: FOUNDATIONS FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH PROJECT, [www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/FCG-AF-CON-10-0\\_National-Services-Policy\\_TOR\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/FCG-AF-CON-10-0_National-Services-Policy_TOR_FINAL.pdf). Accessed 13 Jan. 2026.

<sup>14</sup> "Jamaica." *Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce*, 30 Aug. 2024, [commonwealthchamber.com/member-countries/jamaica/](http://commonwealthchamber.com/member-countries/jamaica/).

<sup>15</sup> "Jamaica Secures a Package of US\$6.7 Billion over Three Years in International Support for Recovery and Reconstruction after Hurricane Melissa." *IMF*, 1 Dec. 2025, [www.imf.org/en/news/articles/2025/12/01/pr25400-jamaica-billions-over-3-years-for-recovery-and-reconstruct-after-hurricane-melissa](http://www.imf.org/en/news/articles/2025/12/01/pr25400-jamaica-billions-over-3-years-for-recovery-and-reconstruct-after-hurricane-melissa).

These funds are expected to support recovery efforts and disaster relief, involving replenishing healthcare and providing homes to the displaced communities affected by the storm.

**GDP Data**

<i>Agriculture</i>	8.0% of GDP
<i>Industry</i>	16.5% of GDP
<i>Manufacturing</i>	7.7% of GDP
<i>Services</i>	60% of GDP
<i>GDP</i>	22 billion (USD)

Table 3: GDP for Jamaica in 2024

*Physical and technological infrastructure*

**Telecommunication**

Telecommunications in Jamaica have a wide variety of options, including radio, television, internet, and cellular data which is either fixed or mobile. Radio is the oldest and most popular medium in Jamaica, when it was introduced in the 1930s. The Radio has grown in popularity, ranging from commercial and community radio, typically regulated by the Broadcasting Commission. Key popular stations tend to be Fae FM, RJR FM or Irie FM.<sup>16</sup> Internet usage in Jamaica has improved significantly throughout the years, driven primarily by the development and expansion of major telecommunications companies such as Flow and Digicel. 3G and 4G LTE networks are currently available. Of note, there were over 2.4 million internet users in Jamaica, equating to 85% of the population as of 2024.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Administrator. *Radio, TV & Cable Services*, www.broadcastingcommission.org/services/radio-tv-cable-services. Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

<sup>17</sup> Kemp, Simon. "Digital 2024: Jamaica - DataReportal – Global Digital Insights." *DataReportal*, DataReportal – Global Digital Insights, 23 Feb. 2024, datareportal.com/reports/digital-2024-jamaica.

## Access to the internet in Jamaica from 1994 - 2024

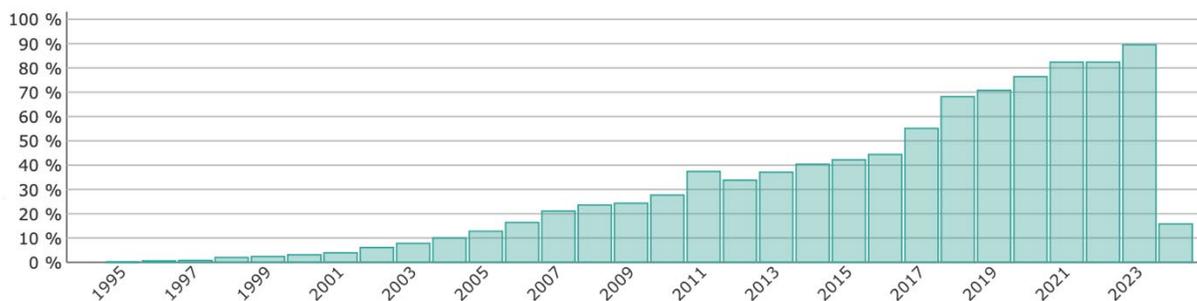


Figure 5: Access to the internet in Jamaica from 1994-2024

Distribution in 2024	Jamaica Total	Jamaica percent
Internet users	448,649.27	15.80 %
Broadband users	453,746.00	15.98 %
Landlines	453,882.00	15.99 %
Mobile cellulars	3.34 m	117.69 %

Figure 6: Distribution of telecommunication in Jamaica in 2024<sup>18</sup>

### Electricity

Electricity in Jamaica is primarily supplied by the Jamaica Public Service Company, also known as JPS, which uses a mix of fossil fuels, diesel, hydroelectric, and wind, among other sources, to generate energy. JPS owns approximately 14,000km of distribution lines, which make up the national grid and generate a capacity of 629 megawatts. JPS also purchases additional electricity from other companies, including Independent Power producers such as Jamaica Energy Partners. JPS functions to serve the nation, supplying over 97% of households across the island. In the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, there was significant disruption to electrical services; however, recovery efforts were swift, with only 8% of the customers still without electricity at the time of writing <sup>19</sup>

### Transportation

Jamaica's transport system comprises both air and ground networks that allow for domestic and international travel, with the two main airports being Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston and Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. In addition, there is a smaller network of airports that facilitate domestic travel, with common routes existing between

<sup>18</sup> "Telecommunication in Jamaica." *Worlddata.Info*, [www.worlddata.info/america/jamaica/telecommunication.php](http://www.worlddata.info/america/jamaica/telecommunication.php). Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

<sup>19</sup> *Jpsco.Com*, [www.jpsco.com/](http://www.jpsco.com/). Accessed 13 Jan. 2026.

Kingston and Montego Bay. Jamaica has a well-developed system to facilitate ground transport, operating with a mix of private and public companies, largely involving the buses and taxi systems. The Jamaica Urban Transit Company operates the larger buses and serves as the main public transport route within Kingston, servicing approximately 31.7 million riders annually.<sup>20</sup>

## Water and Sanitation

The major water agencies in Jamaica are the National Water Commission (NWC), primarily responsible for supplying public drinking water and sewage treatment to the nation, along with the National Irrigation Commission, responsible for the supply of water for agriculture and irrigation. Jamaica’s water sources come from rainfall, which manifests in rivers, streams, wells, and springs. These water sources undergo desalination to be available for distribution. As per the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) 2021 assessment, Jamaica is said to have the lowest level of hygiene services in the Caribbean, with 67% of the population having access to basic services, 16% with limited access and 17% with no hygiene facility. In rural areas, the use of water closets and pit toilets for hygiene services is common.<sup>21</sup>

## National Health Care Profile

### Overall health of the country

<i>Life expectancy</i>	71 (2023) <sup>22</sup>
<i>Female mortality rate</i>	123 per 1,000 (2023)
<i>Male mortality rate</i>	201 per 1,000 (2023)
<i>Infant mortality rate</i>	18 per 1,000 live births (2023)
<i>Maternal mortality rate</i>	137 per 100,000 live births (2023)
<i>Under 5 mortality rate</i>	19 per 1,000 live births (2023)

Table 4: Overall health of Jamaica in 2023

<sup>20</sup> “JUTC Launches Customer Care Centre.” *Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited*, [jutc.gov.jm/jutc-launches-customer-care-centre/#:~:text=Mr.,Projects%20and%20Corporate%20Affairs%20Department](http://jutc.gov.jm/jutc-launches-customer-care-centre/#:~:text=Mr.,Projects%20and%20Corporate%20Affairs%20Department). Accessed 13 Jan. 2026.

<sup>21</sup> *Goal 6 Ensure Availability and Sustainability Management Of*, [www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/VNR\\_Goal\\_6.pdf](http://www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/VNR_Goal_6.pdf). Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

<sup>22</sup> WorldBank. “World Bank Group - International Development, Poverty and Sustainability.” *World Bank Group - International Development, Poverty, & Sustainability*, [www.worldbank.org/ext/en/home](http://www.worldbank.org/ext/en/home). Accessed 13 Jan. 2026.

### Greatest threats to public health

As of 2021, the major threats and challenges to Jamaica’s public health system were mainly non-communicable diseases, including cerebral vascular accidents, diabetes mellitus, and cardiovascular complications. While a large volume of health issues where chronic illnesses, communicable diseases such as COVID and HIV/AIDS, remained important concerns. This data functions to highlight the growing burden of chronic diseases on Jamaica's public health system.<sup>23</sup>

#### Share of deaths by broad cause

Jamaica, 2021

Cause of Death ▲	% ▼
Noncommunicable diseases	68.7
Communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions	16.7
Injuries	9.2
Other COVID-19 pandemic-related outcomes	5.5

Table 5: Top causes of death in Jamaica in 2021

### Maternal and perinatal issues

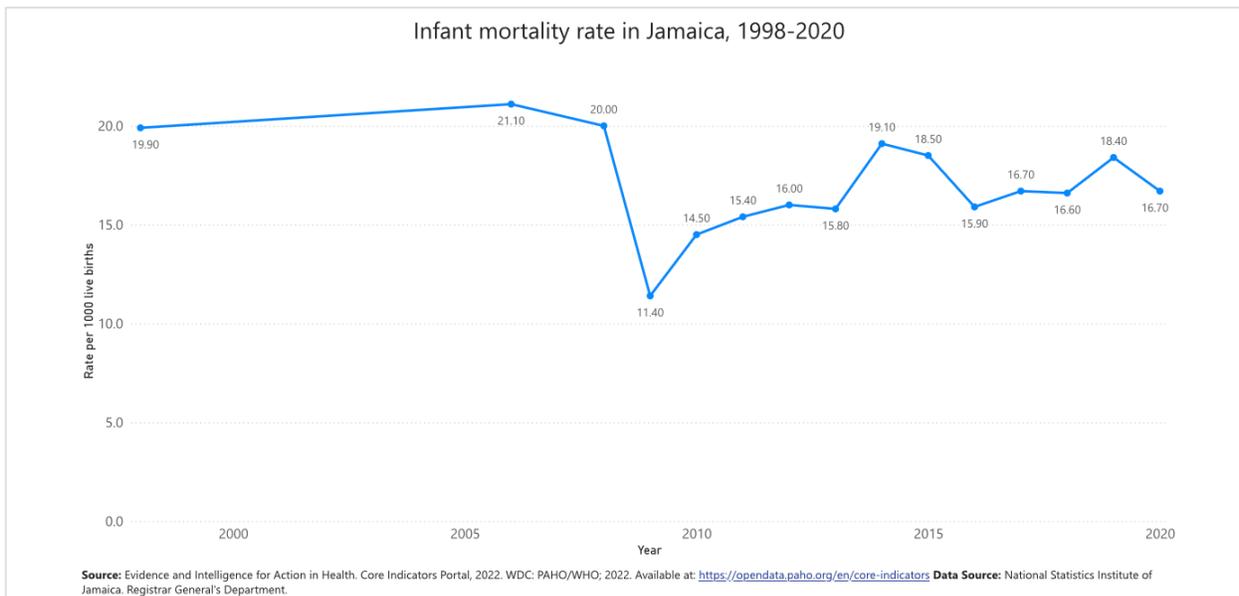


Figure 7: Infant Mortality per 100,000 live births in Jamaica from 1998-2020

From 1998 to 2020, there has been a reduction in the infant mortality rate from 19.90 to 16.70. However, there has been an increase in maternal mortality from 83.9 to 98.9 deaths per 100,000 live births observed, estimating approximately 19.1% increase compared to the 2000s.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>23</sup> “Jamaica.” World Health Organization, World Health Organization, data.who.int/countries/388. Accessed 13 Jan. 2026.

<sup>24</sup> PAHO/OPS, 19 October. “Jamaica - Country Profile.” Health in the Americas, 21 Oct. 2025, hia.paho.org/en/country-profiles/jamaica#situation.

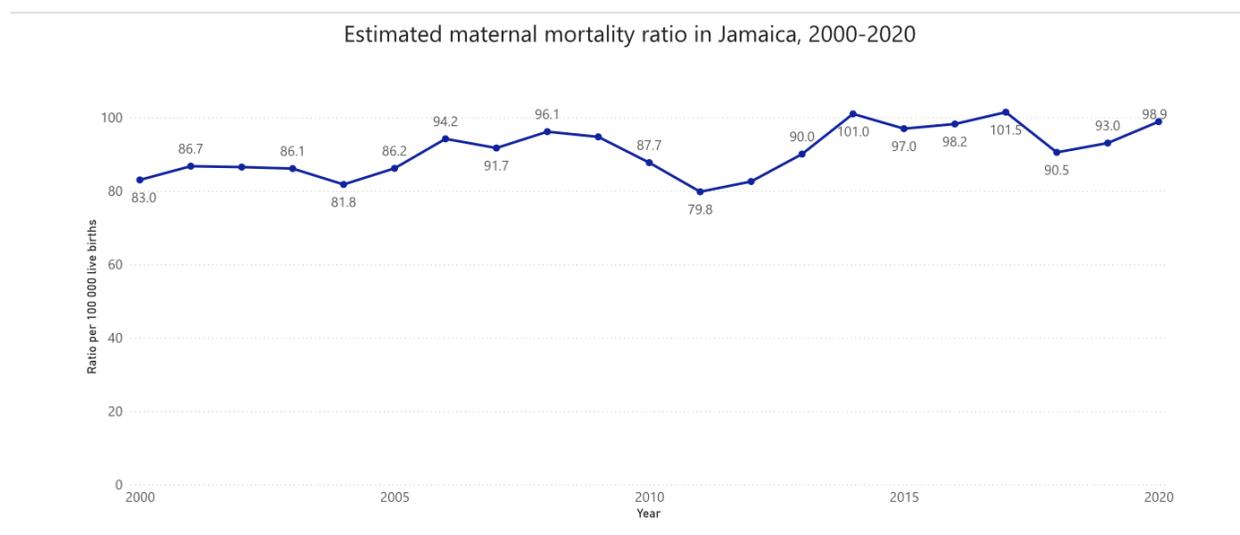


Figure 8: Maternal mortality in Jamaica from 2000-2020

### Malignant Neoplasms

Type of Cancer	Number of Deaths	% of Deaths
Prostate	829	17.9
Breast	684	14.8
Colorectal	509	11.0
Lung	461	10
Corpus Uteri	160	3.5
Cervix Uteri	236	5.1
Stomach	235	5.1
NHL	142	3.1

Table 6: Mortality of Malignancies in 2022 of Jamaica<sup>25</sup>

### Health trends

Currently, Jamaica has a multitude of public health campaigns, initiated by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, to help address some of the key determinants of health and wellness. Jamaica Moves is a notable program that promotes physical activity and healthy eating to treat and reduce non-communicable diseases. Other programs include Breast Cancer Awareness, Mental Health programs, and the National HIV / STI / TB program.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> *Who*, [gco.iarc.who.int/media/globocan/factsheets/populations/972-caribbean-hub-fact-sheet.pdf](https://gco.iarc.who.int/media/globocan/factsheets/populations/972-caribbean-hub-fact-sheet.pdf). Accessed 13 Jan. 2026.

<sup>26</sup> "Physical Activity Bible – Ministry of Health & Wellness, Jamaica." *Ministry of Health Wellness Jamaica RSS*, [www.moh.gov.jm/physical-activity-bible/#:~:text=Introduction,download%20the%20full%20PDF%20Document](http://www.moh.gov.jm/physical-activity-bible/#:~:text=Introduction,download%20the%20full%20PDF%20Document). Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

## National Health Care Structure

### Structure and policy

According to the Jamaica Information Service, Jamaica has 318 clinics and health centers along with 24 hospitals in operation within the public system. The government is responsible for providing care to 95% of the public, while the private sector assumes the remaining 5%.<sup>27</sup> The health system of Jamaica is broken down into the private and public sectors, which function synergistically to provide patient care to the entire nation. The public sector can be separated into health departments divided by parish. It oversees the operation of 318 clinics. There are different types of health centers divided based on the level of care, volume, and specialist availability that can be provided.<sup>28</sup> Typical classification ranges from a type 1 to type 5 health center, with type 1 health centers typically offering basic primary care (nutrition, first aid, and family planning) while type 5 health centers are larger, servicing up to 30,000 patients annually and offering an increased range of services.<sup>29</sup> The hospitals are also similarly classified based on the services offered, ranging from type A to type C according to the services offered, with the largest hospital being the University of the West Indies in Kingston. There is no formal system for managing referrals in Jamaica; attempts are made via phone calls or handwritten forms, usually beginning with the health centers as the first point of contact, and then further care is assumed as needed at the secondary institutions, such as hospitals.<sup>30</sup> As of 2021, there are about 17 hospital beds per 10,000 population.<sup>31</sup>

The care provided by the public sector is often subsidized, facing issues regarding accessibility to resources. However, the government has provided initiatives like the National Health Fund, which provides access to free medications for those who qualify. It also contributes towards certain diagnostic tests such as mammograms and PSA tests, among others.<sup>32</sup> The private sector is said to offer higher-quality care at a higher cost and is generally seen as unaffordable to many Jamaican citizens. The private sector also offers insurance to offset many of the costs accumulated during health care, with the key providers being Sagicor, Guardian Life and Scotia Criticare. The government is currently in the process of developing a national health insurance plan; however, it has not yet been implemented.

---

<sup>27</sup> *Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan Draft Health Sector Plan*, [www.vision2030.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/Microsoft-Word-Health.pdf](http://www.vision2030.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/Microsoft-Word-Health.pdf). Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

<sup>28</sup> "Healing Hands – Goj Healthcare Options." *Jamaica Information Service*, [jis.gov.jm/information/get-the-facts/healing-hands-goj-healthcare-options/](http://jis.gov.jm/information/get-the-facts/healing-hands-goj-healthcare-options/). Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

<sup>29</sup> "Healthy Living Starts with You." *Ministry of Health Wellness Jamaica RSS*, [www.moh.gov.jm/](http://www.moh.gov.jm/). Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

<sup>30</sup> *Patient Transfer Manual*, [www.moh.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Revised-MOH-Policy-and-Procedure-Manual-for-the-Referral-and-Transfer-of-Patients-22.09.16.pdf](http://www.moh.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Revised-MOH-Policy-and-Procedure-Manual-for-the-Referral-and-Transfer-of-Patients-22.09.16.pdf). Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

<sup>31</sup> "Number of Hospital Beds: Jamaica." *Statbase*, [statbase.org/data/jam-hospital-beds-per-10000/](http://statbase.org/data/jam-hospital-beds-per-10000/). Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

<sup>32</sup> *National Health Fund Jamaica*, [www.nhf.org.jm/#:~:text=Keep%20Up%20With%20Us%20&%20Your,Learn%20More](http://www.nhf.org.jm/#:~:text=Keep%20Up%20With%20Us%20&%20Your,Learn%20More). Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

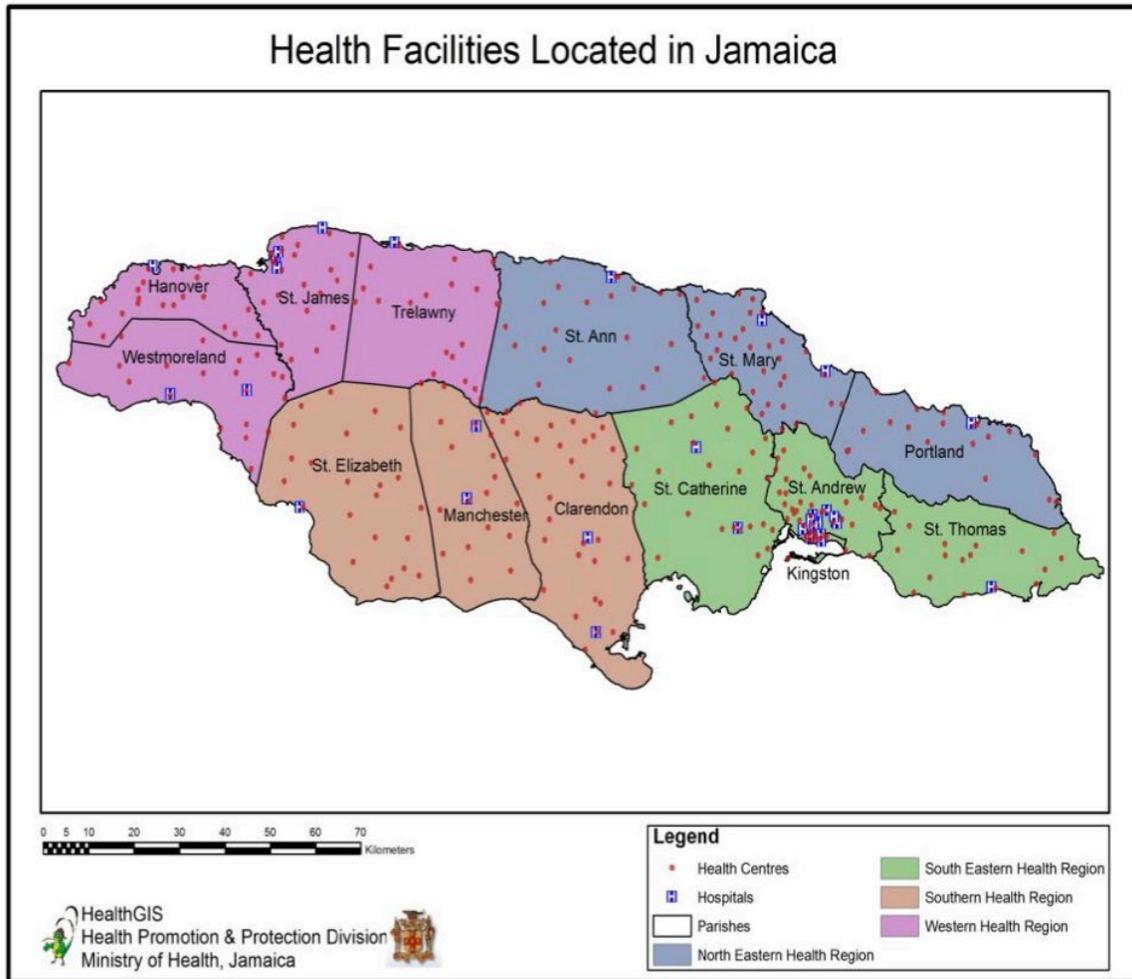


Figure 9: Distribution of Health Facilities in Jamaica

### Health Service Coverage

Most preventative and therapeutic health services are provided through the 13 health districts within Jamaica and the subsequent health centers and hospitals within each. Jamaica also has about 10 private hospitals dispersed around the nation, with the majority concentrated within Kingston and Montego Bay.

## Health Care Expenditures

In 2023, the total health expenditure was \$520.16 US dollars per capita, and 7.6% of the GDP. In 2021, the out-of-pocket expenses for private care accounted for 13.08% of total health expenditure.<sup>33</sup>

Jamaica's public system is financed primarily through taxation such as GCT, income tax, and customs duties, along with non-tax revenue and specific funds.<sup>34</sup>

## Health Workforce and Infrastructure

According to the WHO database, there are 5.48 doctors per 10,000 population, 16.75 nurses and midwives per 10,000, 4.2 pharmacists per 10,000 and 0.93 dentists per 10,000 in 2022. A 2021 assessment detailed approximately 17 beds per 10,000 population.<sup>35</sup>

The Government of Jamaica is the primary provider of health care, with healthcare being managed by the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health functions to create and enforce health policies and is responsible for overseeing health-related resources, as well as the health care workforce. The private sector, to a lesser extent, plays a role in providing health services as well.<sup>36</sup>

# National Radiology Profile

## Radiology Workforce and Training and Professional Representation

There is very limited information regarding the number and distribution of the radiology workforce within Jamaica. Radiology services are split between both the private and public sectors and are primarily concentrated in major hospitals, including the University of the West Indies (UHWI), Kingston Public Hospital (KPH), and Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH). Private imaging facilities also contribute to radiology services, largely within the urban areas in Jamaica.

Limited data exists regarding the number and dispersion of radiologists nationwide; however, available surveys approximate 66 radiologists registered throughout the island. As of 2023, according to the Jamaica Association for Physics in Medicine, there were 7 documented

---

<sup>33</sup> "Current Health Expenditure (% of GDP) - Jamaica." *World Bank Open Data*, data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.CHEX.GD.ZS?locations=JM. Accessed 8 Feb. 2026.

<sup>34</sup> Chao, Shiyun. "Jamaica's Effort in Improving Universal Access within Fiscal Constraints", World Bank Universal Health Coverage Studies Series (UNICO), No.6, 2013.

<sup>35</sup> "Jamaica." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, data.who.int/countries/388. Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

<sup>36</sup> "Healthy Living Starts with You." *Ministry of Health Wellness Jamaica RSS*, www.moh.gov.jm/. Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

radiation oncologists, 12 medical physicist and 14 radiation therapists concentrated within the Kingston public sector, with a plan of workforce expansion.<sup>37</sup> No information was publicly noted on the number of radiology nurses, safety officers, or medical physicists.

The role of imaging and radiation professionals in Jamaica aligns with the internationally accepted practice standards. Of note, radiologists are responsible for interpreting diagnostic images and facilitate determining the most appropriate imaging modality for the patient. Radiologic technologists perform image acquisition involving modalities such as computed tomography( CT), X-ray, MRI, and others.

Radiation oncologists are primarily concentrated at the Radiation Oncology Center of Jamaica, being the first private cancer treatment center in the Caribbean. The role of the radiation oncologists is to evaluate, plan, and deliver radiation therapy to cancers. Medical physicists function to facilitate radiation dose optimization, quality assurance, and equipment calibration. Radiology nurses assist with patient preparation for different interventional procedures offered, along with monitoring during and after imaging procedures. Radiation safety officers are responsible for ensuring compliance with national radiation protection guidelines and regulations. Radiology educators, based mainly at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and University of Technology (Utech), are responsible for undergraduate and postgraduate training of imaging professionals.<sup>38</sup>

A diagnostic radiology residency program is offered at the University of the West Indies, consisting of four years of postgraduate training.

<b>Length of Medical School</b>	<b>5 years</b>
<i>Length of Radiology Residency</i>	4 years
<i>Number of Radiology Residency Programs</i>	1

Table 7: Radiology Education in Jamaica

In Jamaica, the Jamaica Association of Radiologists, a professional representation of radiologists, hosts academic conferences annually and continuing education activities. On a larger scale, the Medical Association of Jamaica is the organization responsible for protecting doctors, advocating for high-quality healthcare, and raising public awareness on healthcare- related issues.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Jamaica Association of Medical Physicists

<sup>38</sup> Ministry of Health and Wellness ( Jamaica), Medical Council of Jamaica

<sup>39</sup> Medical Association of Jamaica, 7 Oct. 2024,

[www.majdoctors.com/accomplishments/#:~:text=MAJ%20Accomplishments,interfacing%20with%20other%20professional%20bodies](http://www.majdoctors.com/accomplishments/#:~:text=MAJ%20Accomplishments,interfacing%20with%20other%20professional%20bodies).

**Equipment Inventory, Distribution, and rules and regulations**

Between 2023 and 2025, multiple imaging devices were deployed across the public health facilities in Jamaica to improve the radiology infrastructure with emphasis on digital radiography in the Western Region Health Authority. As of Mid 2025, reports show 5 CT scans available and 3 MRI machines in operation within the public sector, with mammography services being limited to 2 public facilities. Information regarding the quantity and distribution of equipment within the private sector is not available.

<i>Modality</i>	<i>Facility</i>	<i>Health Authority</i>	<i>Number of Units</i>	<i>Year</i>
<i>Digital Xray</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cornwall Regional Hospital</li> </ul>	WRHA	2	2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Falmouth General Hospital</li> </ul>	SERHA	2	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Savanna La Mar Hospital</li> </ul>		1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noel Holmes Hospital</li> </ul>		1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingston Public Hospital</li> </ul>		3	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spanish Town Hospital</li> </ul>		1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Chest Hospital</li> </ul>		1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bustamante Hospital for children</li> </ul>		1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of the West Indies</li> </ul>		UHWI	
<i>CT</i>	Public Sector ( multiple sites)	National	5	2025
<i>MRI</i>	Public Sector	National	3	2025
<i>Mammography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of the West Indies</li> </ul>	UHWI	1	2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cornwall Regional Hospital</li> </ul>	WRHA	1	

Table 8: Information displaying the distribution of Imaging modalities across Jamaica, Ministry of Health and Wellness<sup>40</sup>

There is limited information available on the most common types and frequency of exams, sources of equipment, and maintenance methods. Jamaica does not facilitate local development of radiological equipment.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has a specific division known as the Standards and Regulations division responsible for regulating the safety of medical devices and their use by the

<sup>40</sup> Ministry of Health and Wellness, Jamaica Information Services

public.<sup>41</sup> In addition to this division, there is the Bureau of Standards Jamaica, which is another national body under the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, responsible for aligning and promoting the national standards with those of the international standards for various products, including medical devices.<sup>42</sup>

## Conclusion

Jamaica is an upper-middle-income country, rich in culture and diversity, with the national motto “ Out of many, One people”. The country is rooted in continuous growth, as demonstrated by the progress in treating and managing non-communicable diseases and the improvement in health indicators over time. These advancements reflect an ongoing national effort to continue to strengthen healthcare delivery and improve health outcomes.

Within this context, radiology services in Jamaica continue to develop as a vital component of the health care system. Recent investments in imaging equipment have functioned to expand access to diagnostic services across the island, helping to support clinical decision-making at multiple levels of care. Jamaica continues to facilitate workforce development through training programs at academic institutions and delivers services that align with the international standard.

As progress continues, partnerships with RAD – AID Jamaica division and other organizations create avenues to enhance education and outreach, particularly in the underserved populations, and improve the limited access to radiology services throughout the country. Through sustained efforts, Jamaica’s radiology services are well-positioned to continue supporting equitable access to care and improving health outcomes nationwide.

---

<sup>41</sup> “Standards and Regulation Division.” *Ministry of Health Wellness Jamaica RSS*, [www.moh.gov.jm/standards-and-regulation-division/#:~:text=Standards%20and%20Regulation%20Division%20-%20Ministry,\(3\)%20Branches%2C%20namely](http://www.moh.gov.jm/standards-and-regulation-division/#:~:text=Standards%20and%20Regulation%20Division%20-%20Ministry,(3)%20Branches%2C%20namely): Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

<sup>42</sup> “Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ).” *Jamaica Information Service*, [jis.gov.jm/government/agencies/bureau-of-standards-jamaica-bsj/](http://jis.gov.jm/government/agencies/bureau-of-standards-jamaica-bsj/). Accessed 14 Jan. 2026.

## References

1. Flag of Jamaica | National Symbols, Colors & Design | Britannica, [www.britannica.com/topic/flag-of-Jamaica](https://www.britannica.com/topic/flag-of-Jamaica). Accessed 23 Feb. 2026.
2. Administrative Map of Jamaica - Nations Online Project, [www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/jamaica-administrative-map.htm](https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/jamaica-administrative-map.htm). Accessed 23 Feb. 2026.
3. Country Profile: Jamaica. Caribbean Community Mental Health Services. Accessed December 15, 2025. [rcc.cimh.edu.bb/files/2018/06/Country-Profile-Jamaica.pdf](https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/files/2018/06/Country-Profile-Jamaica.pdf)
4. Earle CP. Jamaican Embassy. Accessed December 15, 2025. [www.embassyofjamaica.org/about\\_jamaica/geography.htm](https://www.embassyofjamaica.org/about_jamaica/geography.htm)
5. Central Intelligence Agency. The World Factbook: Jamaica. Accessed December 29, 2025. [www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/jamaica/](https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/jamaica/)
6. TheGlobalEconomy.com. Jamaica: Rural population percent. Accessed December 29, 2025. [www.theglobaleconomy.com/Jamaica/rural\\_population\\_percent/](https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Jamaica/rural_population_percent/)
7. The history of Jamaica. Jamaica Information Service. Accessed December 29, 2025. [jis.gov.jm/information/jamaican-history/](https://jis.gov.jm/information/jamaican-history/)
8. UNESCO. The slave route: Jamaica. Accessed December 29, 2025. [www.unesco.org/en/slave-route/jamaica](https://www.unesco.org/en/slave-route/jamaica)
9. Jamaican Patwah Inc Web Development Team. The history of Jamaican Patois. Jamaican Patwah. Accessed December 29, 2025. [jamaicanpatwah.com/b/the-history-of-jamaican-patois](https://jamaicanpatwah.com/b/the-history-of-jamaican-patois)
10. Jamaica. Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce. Published August 30, 2024. [commonwealthchamber.com/member-countries/jamaica/](https://commonwealthchamber.com/member-countries/jamaica/)
11. Overview of the government of Jamaica. Jamaica Information Service. Accessed January 1, 2026. [jis.gov.jm/government/overview-government-jamaica/](https://jis.gov.jm/government/overview-government-jamaica/)
12. Worldwide governance indicators. World Bank DataBank. Accessed January 1, 2026. [databank.worldbank.org/source/worldwide-governance-indicators](https://databank.worldbank.org/source/worldwide-governance-indicators)
13. Jamaica: foundations for competitiveness and growth project. Accessed January 13, 2026. [www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/FCG-AF-CON-10-0\\_National-Services-Policy\\_TOR\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/FCG-AF-CON-10-0_National-Services-Policy_TOR_FINAL.pdf)
14. Jamaica. Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce. Published August 30, 2024. [commonwealthchamber.com/member-countries/jamaica/](https://commonwealthchamber.com/member-countries/jamaica/)
15. Jamaica secures a package of US\$6.7 billion over three years in international support for recovery and reconstruction after Hurricane Melissa. International Monetary Fund. Published December 1, 2025. [www.imf.org/en/news/articles/2025/12/01/pr25400-jamaica-billions-over-3-years-for-recovery-and-reconstruct-after-hurricane-melissa](https://www.imf.org/en/news/articles/2025/12/01/pr25400-jamaica-billions-over-3-years-for-recovery-and-reconstruct-after-hurricane-melissa)
16. Radio, TV & cable services. Broadcasting Commission. Accessed January 14, 2026. [www.broadcastingcommission.org/services/radio-tv-cable-services](https://www.broadcastingcommission.org/services/radio-tv-cable-services)
17. Kemp S. Digital 2024: Jamaica. DataReportal. Published February 23, 2024. [datareportal.com/reports/digital-2024-jamaica](https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2024-jamaica)
18. Telecommunication in Jamaica. Worlddata.info. Accessed January 14, 2026. [www.worlddata.info/america/jamaica/telecommunication.php](https://www.worlddata.info/america/jamaica/telecommunication.php)
19. Jamaica Public Service Company. Accessed January 13, 2026. [www.jpsco.com/](https://www.jpsco.com/)

20. JUTC launches customer care centre. Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited. Accessed January 13, 2026. [jutc.gov.jm/jutc-launches-customer-care-centre/](http://jutc.gov.jm/jutc-launches-customer-care-centre/)
21. Goal 6 ensure availability and sustainability management of water and sanitation. Planning Institute of Jamaica. Accessed January 14, 2026. [www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/VNR\\_Goal\\_6.pdf](http://www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/VNR_Goal_6.pdf)
22. World Bank Group—international development, poverty, and sustainability. World Bank Group. Accessed January 13, 2026. [www.worldbank.org/ext/en/home](http://www.worldbank.org/ext/en/home)
23. Jamaica. World Health Organization. Accessed January 13, 2026. [data.who.int/countries/388](http://data.who.int/countries/388)
24. Jamaica—country profile. Pan American Health Organization. Published October 21, 2025. Accessed January 13, 2026. [hia.paho.org/en/country-profiles/jamaica](http://hia.paho.org/en/country-profiles/jamaica)
25. International Agency for Research on Cancer. Caribbean hub fact sheet. Accessed January 13, 2026. [gco.iarc.who.int/media/globocan/factsheets/populations/972-caribbean-hub-fact-sheet.pdf](http://gco.iarc.who.int/media/globocan/factsheets/populations/972-caribbean-hub-fact-sheet.pdf)
26. Physical activity bible. Ministry of Health and Wellness Jamaica. Accessed January 14, 2026. [www.moh.gov.jm/physical-activity-bible/](http://www.moh.gov.jm/physical-activity-bible/)
27. Vision 2030 Jamaica national development plan draft health sector plan. Accessed January 14, 2026. [www.vision2030.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/Microsoft-Word-Health.pdf](http://www.vision2030.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/Microsoft-Word-Health.pdf)
28. Healing hands—GOJ healthcare options. Jamaica Information Service. Accessed January 14, 2026. [jis.gov.jm/information/get-the-facts/healing-hands-goj-healthcare-options/](http://jis.gov.jm/information/get-the-facts/healing-hands-goj-healthcare-options/)
29. Healthy living starts with you. Ministry of Health and Wellness Jamaica. Accessed January 14, 2026. [www.moh.gov.jm/](http://www.moh.gov.jm/)
30. Patient transfer manual. Ministry of Health and Wellness Jamaica. Published September 22, 2016. Accessed January 14, 2026. [www.moh.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Revised-MOH-Policy-and-Procedure-Manual-for-the-Referral-and-Transfer-of-Patients-22.09.16.pdf](http://www.moh.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Revised-MOH-Policy-and-Procedure-Manual-for-the-Referral-and-Transfer-of-Patients-22.09.16.pdf)
31. Number of hospital beds: Jamaica. Statbase. Accessed January 14, 2026. [statbase.org/data/jam-hospital-beds-per-10000/](http://statbase.org/data/jam-hospital-beds-per-10000/)
32. National Health Fund Jamaica. Accessed January 14, 2026. [www.nhf.org.jm/](http://www.nhf.org.jm/)
33. Current health expenditure (% of GDP)—Jamaica. World Bank Open Data. Accessed February 8, 2026. [data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.CHEX.GD.ZS?locations=JM](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.CHEX.GD.ZS?locations=JM)
34. Chao S. Jamaica’s effort in improving universal access within fiscal constraints. World Bank Universal Health Coverage Studies Series (UNICO). 2013;(6).
35. Jamaica. World Health Organization. Accessed January 14, 2026. [data.who.int/countries/388](http://data.who.int/countries/388)
36. Healthy living starts with you. Ministry of Health and Wellness Jamaica. Accessed January 14, 2026. [www.moh.gov.jm/](http://www.moh.gov.jm/)
37. Jamaica Association of Medical Physicists.
38. Ministry of Health and Wellness Jamaica; Medical Council of Jamaica.
39. Medical Association of Jamaica. Published October 7, 2024. Accessed January 14, 2026. [www.majdoctors.com/accomplishments/](http://www.majdoctors.com/accomplishments/)
40. Ministry of Health and Wellness; Jamaica Information Service.
41. Standards and regulation division. Ministry of Health and Wellness Jamaica. Accessed January 14, 2026. [www.moh.gov.jm/standards-and-regulation-division/](http://www.moh.gov.jm/standards-and-regulation-division/)

42. Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ). Jamaica Information Service. Accessed January 14, 2026.  
[jis.gov.jm/government/agencies/bureau-of-standards-jamaica-bsj/](http://jis.gov.jm/government/agencies/bureau-of-standards-jamaica-bsj/)