

DOING BUSINESS WITH ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Official Name: Antigua & Barbuda

Capital: Saint John's (population 21,514)

Area: Antigua--281 sq. km. (108 sq. mi.); Barbuda--161 sq. km. (62 sq. mi.)

Population: 69,481 (July 2007 est.)

Population growth index: 0.527% (2007 est.)

Population density: 184 inhabitants per square kilometer

Official language: The official language of Antigua and Barbuda is English, but many of the locals speak Antiguan Creole.

Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$)

Exchange rate: EC\$2.7=U.S. \$1 (June 2007)

Climate: Temperatures generally range from the mid-seventies in the winter to the mid-eighties in the summer. Annual rainfall averages only 45 inches, making it the sunniest of the Eastern Caribbean Islands, and the northeast trade winds are nearly constant, flagging only in September. Low humidity year-round.¹

¹<http://www.antigua-barbuda.org/index.htm>

Principal Cities and Population: (2005 est.)

The island of Antigua is divided into six parishes:

St. Johns (capital)	21,514
St. Paul	6,117
St. Mary	5,303
St. George	4,473
St. Peter	3,622

The island of Barbuda (pop. 1,241) and the uninhabited island of Redonda each enjoy dependency status.²

Airports: V.C. Bird International Airport, located on the northeast corner of Antigua, is the point of entry for visitors arriving by air to Antigua & Barbuda.

Ports: Cruise ship ports are located at St. John's Harbour and Heritage Quay.

Holidays:

New Year's Day	Jan 01
Good Friday	Apr 06
Easter Monday	Apr 09
Labour Day	May 07
Whit Monday	May 28
Carnival Monday (J'ouvert)	Aug 06
Carnival Tuesday (Last Lap)	Aug 07
Independence Day	Nov 01
National Heroes Day	Dec 09
Christmas Day	Dec 25
Boxing Day	Dec 26

Literacy Rate:

Total Population - 85.8%

²

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2336.htm>

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Life expectancy at birth:

Total Population - 72.42 years

Local Time: UTC-4 (1 hour ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

Telephone Codes: 268

Health: Medical facilities in Antigua and Barbuda include the Mount St John Medical Center and the Holberton Hospital which provide affordable health care for all citizens. The construction of new clinics and restoration of existing ones continues in 2007.³

2. THE ECONOMY

2.1 Structure of the Economy

The economy in Antigua and Barbuda is small and open. Therefore, the country is subject to the vagaries of the economic conditions in countries from which it imports goods and services. To some extent, the effect of imported prices on the economy is moderated because the country's official currency, the Eastern Caribbean dollar, enjoys a fixed exchange rate with the US dollar (EC\$2.70 = US\$1.00). The Eastern Caribbean dollar which Antigua and Barbuda shares with other countries of the Leeward and Windward Islands is the strongest of the Caribbean currencies.

Tourism is the largest contributor to the economy, accounting for more than half of GDP. Agriculture and fisheries have dropped from 40 percent of GDP in the 1960s to about 12 percent. Manufacturing industries, which thrived in the decade of the 1980s, are export oriented and produce garments, paint, furniture, bedding and galvanized sheets.⁴

The government of Antigua and Barbuda has adopted an ambitious reform program in its endeavor to pull the economy from decades of fiscal weakness-characterized by persistent fiscal deficits, a triple-digit debt burden, endemic arrears, and a large civil service-and declining growth rates. The reform agenda includes comprehensive

tax reforms, civil service downsizing, measures to improve the investment climate, plans to reform the ailing social security system, and an impending strategy to regularize relations with creditors. These efforts have been complemented by extensive outreach to build public support. Successful implementation of the ongoing and planned reforms could mark a watershed for Antigua and Barbuda's economic prospects.

The reform drive has benefited from an upswing in recent economic activity. The economy is experiencing its third consecutive year of high growth, driven by a construction boom in hotels and housing, as well as projects related to the 2007 Cricket World Cup. Growth in 2006 is expected to reach 8 percent, among the highest in the region. Over the medium term however, growth will slow as the construction boom winds down. Inflation has remained low, largely reflecting the stability provided by the regional quasi-currency board arrangement.⁵

GDP (2005): US\$875.8 million.

GDP growth rate (2005): 3.2%.

Per capita GDP (2005): US\$12,586.

Recent Economic Performance

Antigua and Barbuda's service-based economy grew by 3.2 percent in 2005, compared with 5.2 percent in 2004. Construction, banking and insurance, communications, and wholesale and

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http://www.ab.gov.ag/gov_v2/business/economy.html

5

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2007/pn0707.htm>

retail trade sectors were the main contributors to economic growth.

The economy is experiencing its third consecutive year of high growth, driven by a construction boom in hotels and housing, as well as projects related to the 2007 Cricket World Cup. The tourism and hospitality sector has largely recovered after the decrease in tourism following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. It posted a strong performance in 2004, and in 2005 the sector was estimated at 50 percent of GDP.

To lessen its vulnerability to natural disasters and economic shocks, Antigua has sought to diversify its economy by encouraging growth in transportation, communications, internet gambling, and financial services.

2.2 Balance of Payments

Preliminary estimates of the balance of payments for 2005 indicated that the current account deficit widened to US\$96.9 mn from US\$88.5 mn in 2004. This increase in the recurrent account deficit occurred mainly because of a widening in the merchandise trade deficit to US\$331.5 mn from US\$323.6 mn in the previous year. At the same time, the surplus on the services account contracted by 2.5 percent to US\$265.9 mn mainly because gross tourist receipts remained unchanged at US\$337.7 mn, despite the decline in tourist arrivals. On the capital and financial account, a surplus of US\$55.7 mn was recorded compared to a deficit of US\$54.8 mn a year earlier. The estimated overall balance of payments deficit was US\$41.2 mn in 2005, compared with

US\$160.7 mn in 2004. Debt relief obtained on the two large external loans renegotiated in 2004 distorted the overall balance of payments deficit in 2004.⁶

2.3 Overview of Trade

Antigua and Barbuda is a beneficiary of the U.S. Caribbean Basin Initiative that grants duty-free entry into the United States for many goods. In 2005, 7.7 percent of its total exports went to the United States, and 48.9 percent of its total imports came from the United States. Antigua and Barbuda also belongs to the predominantly English-speaking Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).⁷

2.3.1 Exports

Exports--US\$58 million (merchandise) and US\$454 million (commercial services)

Major markets--European Union (23.2%), United States (7.7%), Anguilla (7.0%), St. Kitts and Nevis (10.3%), Netherlands Antilles (23.4%)

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http://209.85.165.104/search?q=cache:dTPryS6w3ssJ:www.caribank.org/Publications.nsf/ERew2005_antiguabarbuda/%24File/ECReview2005_antiguabarbuda.pdf%3FOpenElement+antigua+%26+barbuda,+balance+of+payments&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=13

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<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2336.htm>

2.3.2 Imports

Imports--\$497 million (merchandise)
and \$197 million (commercial services)

Major suppliers--United States (48.9%),
Netherlands Antilles (10.2%), European
Union (11.6%), Trinidad and Tobago
(10.9%), Canada (3.7%)⁸

2.4 Antigua and Barbuda's Trade with CARICOM

In 2005, Antigua and Barbuda's imports
were in excess of EC\$209 million while
exports to CARICOM were a mere
EC\$73 million leading to a trade deficit
of EC\$136 million.

Antigua and Barbuda's top exports to
CARICOM in 2005 included; paints and
varnishes, rum and tafia, and aerated
beverages. The top imports included
petroleum products, beer, wheat,
cigarettes and aerated beverages.

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<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2336.htm>

3. GENERAL MARKETING FACTORS

3.1 Distribution and Sales Channels

Manufacture agents/distributors is the most widely used form of importing goods into Antigua and Barbuda, since the small size of the market does not merit establishment of a distributor network. There is normally no specific legislation in this regard. Contracts normally state that the agent is not to be regarded as an employee or partner of the principal. However, long-term distributors/agents sometimes acquire certain claims on distribution rights that go beyond and, in some cases, supersede contract rights under local common law interpretations.

A strong network of manufacture agents exists throughout the Caribbean. These agents represent large manufactures and provide a sales and marketing team for the brand, and fully represent the company's interests in a particular country. They bring in container loads of product, warehouse, market, sell and distribute them. Often, these agents represent a full range of goods from suppliers.

Miami consolidators are used by many of the larger retail stores, which do regular buying trips to the large Miami consolidators, who offer the no frills buying concept at exceptionally good prices and consolidate container loads of goods.

Direct selling to the end retailer is far less used but could be advantageous where the range of products is large

enough, or for a particular brand or type of product that moves in large volumes. This is normally done by establishing a relationship with the large grocery stores, and sending a salesperson on a regular basis to place orders. Direct selling is almost non-existent in many CARICOM countries.

3.2 Promotion

TV, radio, print advertising are widely accepted practices.

3.3 Transportation

Antigua's international airport is a major gateway for the Caribbean, serving British Airways, US Air, Virgin Atlantic, American Airlines, Air Canada, BWIA and LIAT, with direct flights from New York, Miami, Toronto and London.

Regarding regional transport, LIAT airlines, continues to be the leading provider of travel from Antigua and Barbuda to the rest of the Caribbean and the country continues to invest in the airlines.⁹

Major road development is expected in Antigua and Barbuda in 2007. Plans to increase spending on repair and maintenance of the roads on both islands are in progress. The government also plans to construct a transportation hub which will house a shopping plaza, car park, vehicle inspection station and a bus terminal. To ensure a reliable and

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http://www.eclacpos.org/profile/profileByCountry.asp?country_id=1&country_name=ANTIGUA%20AND%20BARBUDA

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affordable transportation system on the islands, the duty on vehicular parts for any driver who operates a taxi, bus or tour vehicle were reduced by 50%.

4. MARKET ACCESS CONDITIONS

4.1. Customs Tariffs

The Customs Tariff classification is based on the Brussels nomenclature, and the Brussels definition of value is used for Customs valuation purposes. Rates of customs duty range from 5 percent to 70 percent, but a wide range of goods are free of customs duty. Additional special rates apply to tobacco, cement, petroleum products, vans and lorries, and certain types of timber.

All OECS Members apply additional charges on most or all imports. Antigua and Barbuda applies a customs service charge (CSC) at a rate is 5%, The CSC applies to imports from other CARICOM countries, but not to imports by government agencies.

The environmental (returnable tax) levy provides for a deposit levy to be charged on all aerated beverages, malt, water, stout and beer bottles and cans at a rate of EC\$0.25 per bottle/can. However, it is refundable subject to the re-export or crushing of the containers. The levy is only collected on imported products.

In addition to the CSC and Environmental levy consumption tax – varies from 0-70%, and excise tax – varies from 0% - 50%.¹⁰

¹⁰ <http://e-fpo.fpo.go.th/e-fiscal/PWGuides/individualguides/DOCS/wcd00009/wcd009d1.htm>

4.2 Free Trade Agreements

Antigua and Barbuda is a member of Caricom and a beneficiary of Lomé IV, Caribbean, and the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) trading agreements.

Other trade agreements signed and in force: Multilateral WTO member since 01 January 1995; CARICOM member since 04 July 1973; CARICOM – Colombia since 24 July 1994; CARICOM – Venezuela since 13 October 1992. Trade agreements signed but not in force: CARICOM – Costa Rica since 09 March 2004; CARICOM – Dominican Republic since 22 August 1998.¹¹

4.3 Internal Taxes

4.3.1 Corporation Tax

Incorporated, registered or continued companies are charged a 40 percent tax on profit.

Unincorporated businesses pay a two percent tax on gross income. However, the first \$4,166 of gross income in any calendar month is exempt.

4.3.2 Property Tax

Residential - tax on residential properties is based on the current construction replacement cost of the property. In addition, there is a surcharge (0-20%) depending on zoning regulations.

¹¹ http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/ATG/ATGagreements_e.asp

Commercial - hotels are taxed at a rate of 1/5 of one percent of their taxable value. Other commercial properties must pay 3/4 of one percent taxable income.

4.3.2 Export duties

Antigua and Barbuda does not impose any export duties, except for those on lobsters, sea-island cotton, sugar, molasses and fish.¹²

4.4 Non-Tariff Barriers

In Antigua and Barbuda, imports of 80 products and any import from 34 countries require an import license. Different agencies are involved in granting the licenses.

Clearing customs takes on average three days in Antigua and Barbuda.

4.5 Import Documentation

The documents required for importation are an invoice, a certificate of origin, a bill of lading, shipping documents, a declaration of value, and, for certain items, an import license. Demurrage is payable if a consignee delays clearance of goods.

4.6 Labelling and Marking Requirements

The Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards has notified nine (9) standards as National (Voluntary) Standards these will soon be declared as mandatory standards/ Technical Regulations. They are as follows:

1. Antigua and Barbuda Specification for Pre-package ice
2. Antigua and Barbuda Specification for Packaged Water (Mineral Water, Spring Water, Purified Water)
3. Labelling of Commodities Part 1: General Principles
4. Labelling of Commodities Part 2: Labelling of Pre-package goods
5. Labelling of Commodities Part 3: Labelling of Pre-package foods
6. Labelling of Commodities Part 4: Labelling of Pesticides
7. Labelling of Commodities Part 5: Labelling of Brewery Products
8. Antigua and Barbuda Specification for new and used pneumatic tyres

These standards were prepared to provide basic information that applies to the labelling of goods. It is intended for use by manufacturers, importers, and retailers.

These standards will be compulsory as will all labelling standards. Therefore failure to comply with these standards constitutes a breach of the laws administered by the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards.

These standards are based on JS 1: Part 1: 1984 - Jamaican Standard Specification for the Labelling of Commodities. Part 1: General Principles.

¹²

http://www.ab.gov.ag/gov_v2/business/taxissues.html

SCOPE - These standards describe general labelling requirements for all commodities which are customarily labelled in the course of trade, except for those, for which more specific requirements have been elsewhere prescribed.¹³

4.7 Prohibited and Restricted Imports

Most goods may be freely imported under an open general license granted by the Ministry of Finance. Certain commodities require individual licenses unless they are imported from CARICOM countries. Citrus fruits may not be imported from North America. There are import restrictions on certain basic foodstuffs, such as rice, sugar, fresh fruit, and vegetables, which are controlled by the government's Central Marketing Corporation. These items may be imported in small quantities under license. Also, certain locally made or assembled products have been protected in the past, but the trend is to relax these controls.

4.8 Standards

The Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards (ABBS) is the National Standards Body (NSB) of Antigua and Barbuda, established under the Standards Act (1987), Cap.411 of the Revised Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992. The ABBS has responsibility for the promotion and promulgation of

standards and standards related matters that are relevant to the sustainable development of the nation's economy.

The ABBS participates in the work of standardisation at both the regional level as a member of the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), and at the international level being a signatory to the WTO/TBT Code of Good Practice for Standardization and having responsibility for the National Enquiry Point for the WTO/TBT Agreement.

The work of the ABBS presently consists mainly of information services that are supported by training workshops in areas such as Metrology and ISO 9000 awareness, quality systems, Internal audits and Food Safety (HACCP) systems. The ABBS, however, is currently engaged in developing legislation and acquiring infrastructure that will provide a capacity for offering metrology services as well as other testing services. Standards Development and responses to product-related complaints are dealt with in cooperation with various private and public organisations as well as other regional bureaux.¹⁴

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http://www.abbs.gov.ag/abbs_info/Standards/lab elgen-princ.htm

14

http://www.iso.org/iso/about/iso_members/iso member_body.htm?member_id=1543

5. INVESTMENT PROFILE

5.1 Investment Incentives Schemes

Antigua and Barbuda welcomes foreign investment and provides a hospitable environment and generous incentives to encourage such investment.

The government is keen to assure investors that their investments are secure and well protected. Therefore, Investment Protection Agreements have been signed with the Federal Republic of Germany and with the United Kingdom.

While the Government intervenes in the economy as a regulator in some instances, the private sector is the dominant force in the economy. The government and the ruling United Progressive Party (UPP) are committed to upholding the principle of free enterprise and this pledge is hared by the main political parties. Successive governments have respected the agreements and commitments made between previous administrations and investors.

No investor has ever had assets nationalised or been forced to leave the island. Under the island's constitution, property can only be nationalised in exceptional circumstances and even in such cases the country's constitution demands that fair compensation must be determined by an independent authority and must be paid promptly. This constitutional requirement is unusual in developing countries and casts Antigua and Barbuda in a very attractive light for investment.

The legal basis for Antigua and Barbuda's tax holidays for investors is codified on the Fiscal Incentives Act. The length of the 'holiday' depends on the amount of value added in Antigua and Barbuda. The definition of local value added is the amount realised from the sales of the product over a continuous period of 12 months, minus:

- a) Cost of imported raw materials, components, parts of components, fuels and services;
- b) Wages and salaries paid to foreign nationals;
- c) Profits and dividends distributed to foreign nationals;
- d) Interest, management charges and other income payments to not-residents (including companies); and
- e) Depreciation of imports of plant, machinery and equipment.

The government offers numerous concessions to investors, particularly if the investment is substantial. Typical concessions include:

- Freedom from the payment of Corporate Tax on the profits arising out of the profitable operations of the company for a period of 15 years in the first instance which is eligible for renewal for a further 15 years;
- Waiver of all import duties on consumption tax on the importation of materials and equipment used in the operations of the company;

- Grant of an export allowance in the form of an extended tax holiday on the exportation of goods produced in Antigua and Barbuda.¹⁵

5.2 Foreign Investment Regime

OECS foreign investment receives national treatment in all OECS Member countries. The only restriction generally relates to requirements for obtaining alien landholding licences. The rationale for this restriction is related to limitations in land availability for commercial purposes, and the need to rationalize land use and enable nationals to afford property while avoiding speculation by foreign nationals. Licences are subject to satisfactory applications to national Cabinet of Ministers and the payment of requisite fees. However, licences are not required in a number of cases, such as investment in sectors considered of priority for the country, or where the purchase does not exceed a certain threshold.

While Antigua and Barbuda is probably best known as an up-market destination for more discriminating tourists, its natural and developed assets have also allowed it to emerge as an attractive offshore business centre. The country is in a convenient time zone, sharing the same time as New York, Toronto, Central and part of South America, and falling five hours behind the UK and Europe in the summer and four hours in the winter which allows international

business to be transacted easily within an appropriate time frame.

International commercial banking has been conducted on Antigua for many years. Offshore banking is more recent, having started in 1983. Since that time the industry has grown rapidly. Working in co-operation with the private sector, the Government has improved Antigua's offshore company and banking environment through the introduction of new foreign residency, trust, and partnership legislation.

The International Business Corporations Act of 1982 provides for speedy formation of international business corporations (IBCs) at very competitive charges. The formation can be carried out by a locally registered trust company or by an accountant or attorney. Formation can usually be completed within 24 hours and full corporate and trust services are available to both private and corporate investors including:

Registration and maintenance of corporate charters for offshore companies; Reception, management, and disbursement of the assets of offshore companies; Provision and maintenance of a registered office; Maintenance of the company's records and statutory register; Preparation of all necessary corporate returns and reports to the Director; Provision of directors and officers on request; Incorporation and management of offshore banks and captive insurance companies; and a full range of traditional trust services.

5.2.1 Internet Gaming

Internet gaming facilities are deemed to be financial institutions under the law. They are regulated by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRC), which gives the internet gaming operators a high level of comfort in the jurisdiction and in the ability to conduct business on a predictable basis. It is useful to take note of the following points:

a) A three percent tax is payable by operators on their “Net win” defined as “the difference between the gross stakes laid and the winnings paid out”.

(b) Operators are entitled to deduct software licensing or software development costs from (a) above, capped at no more than 40 percent of the Net win for all companies provided claims for the deduction of such costs are accompanied by documentary support evidencing the costs.

(c) Operators are entitled to deduct charge backs on credit cards for a period up to 18 months after the original charge was made provided claims for the deduction of such charge backs are accompanied by documentary support evidencing the original credit and the charge back.

(d) The three percent tax on Net Win and the deductibles, as described at (a), (b) and (c) above, are fixed until 2006, after which they will be subject to review by the Government and the representatives of the Industry.

(e) Operators are entitled to a maximum cap of US\$50,000.00 per month on taxes and the Commissioner of Inland

Revenue would have no interest in the books of entities that pay the full cap. However, such operators are obliged to continue to maintain financial books and records and to provide access by the Government through its authorised agencies in the event of the need to examine such books and records in accordance with the laws of the State particularly the Money Laundering (Prevention) Act, the International Business Corporations Act and the Proceeds from Crime Act and their amendments.

(f) The maximum cap of US\$50,000.00 per month on taxes and the terms and conditions described in (e) above would remain unchanged until 2004, after which they will be subject to review by the Government and representatives of the Industry.

(g) Gaming Licence fees are US\$75,000.00 per annum for those Operators who maintain a primary server and operations in Antigua and Barbuda and who pay the tax as described above.

(h) Wagering Licence fees are US\$50,000.00 per annum for Operators who maintain a primary server and operations in Antigua and Barbuda and who pay the tax as described above.

The internet gaming industry benefits from high quality telecommunication facilities provided by Cable and Wireless. The costs of such telecommunications are highly competitive and are lower than in the vast majority of jurisdictions, which provide a home for internet gaming.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF BUSINESSES

6.1 Right to Private Ownership

In Antigua & Barbuda the entrepreneur needs 26 days from start to finish to transfer the title on a piece of property.

In June 1995, the government introduced a permanent residence scheme to encourage a limited number of high net-worth individuals to establish tax residency tax in Antigua and Barbuda. As residents all their income would be free of local tax.

To obtain a permanent residence certificate an applicant must: maintain a permanent place of abode in Antigua and Barbuda; obtain an alien landholding licence costing five percent of the property value; pay a purchaser's stamp duty of 2.50 percent; pay an annual levy of US\$20,000/annum; reside in Antigua and Barbuda for not less than 30 days a year.¹⁶

6.1 Establishing an Office

Foreign or local individuals may establish: sole proprietorships; partnerships; corporations; joint ventures; and branches of foreign corporations. Businesses are generally required to obtain an annual business licence.

Antigua and Barbuda separated its commercial registry from the country's high court in 2005, reducing the time to start a business by 10 days, from 31 to 21 days. It also cut the corporate income tax from 35 percent to 30 percent.

An entrepreneur in Antigua and Barbuda spends 12.5 percent of the country's income per capita to start up a business.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the costs to register a property add up to 13.0 percent of property value. However, registry records are fully digitized, leading to efficient property registration, which is associated with greater access to land and finance.

A number of international banks have a presence in the country, including Barclays International Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada, Bank of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. There are also two locally owned banks - the Antigua Commercial Bank and the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Bank.

A number of local and international insurance companies also offer a range of insurance services.¹⁷

6.3 Work Permit Requirements

Persons seeking employment cannot apply for a work permit. Employers must advertise vacancies locally. If no suitable candidates are located locally, the employer has to apply for a work permit for a foreigner to the

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http://www.ab.gov.ag/gov_v2/business/permanence/residence.html

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http://www.ab.gov.ag/gov_v2/business/financialinstitutions.html

Commissioner of Labour, Ministry of Labour, St John's, Antigua.

6.4 Intellectual Property Rights

Under current legislation, patent, trade mark and industrial designs are protected in Antigua and Barbuda if they are registered in the United Kingdom.

As regards the efficiency of contract enforcement, in Antigua and Barbuda it takes 297 days from the time a claim is submitted until a judgment is enforced.

Antigua and Barbuda is among the global best performers in terms of cost of going through bankruptcy, where the cost of bankruptcy proceedings amounts to one percent of the value of the estate.

6.5 Conversion and Transfer Policies

In order to facilitate the provision of service and movement and establishment, provision is made for the removal of exchange controls by member states. The Members of the OECS, which includes Antigua & Barbuda, maintain that their foreign exchange system is fully liberalized.

7. CULTURAL PRACTICES

7.1 Business Customs

Commercial: 8:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday (closed on Thursday afternoon).

Government: 8:00 am – 4:30 p.m.

7.2 Entry/Exit Requirements:

Most European Union citizens do not require a visa to enter Antigua and Barbuda on holiday or business. Persons visiting are permitted to stay as long as their business takes, provided that:

- a) this is no longer than six months;
- b) they have an onward or return ticket;
- c) they have confirmation of accommodation;
- d) they can produce evidence of their ability to maintain themselves in Antigua and Barbuda

Cruise ship visitors who would normally require a visa would not require one provided that they arrive in Antigua and Barbuda in the morning and depart the same evening.

‘Intransit’ passengers travelling within the same day, who normally require a visa, do not need a visa for entry into Antigua and Barbuda, provided that they have proof of their onward journey.

Documentation required when applying for a visa:

1. Valid passport (with minimum life of six months)

2. One completed application form

3. Confirmation of travel (return or onward ticket or letter confirming date of travel from travel agent)

4. Confirmation of accommodation or letter of invitation if you are staying in the community with friends or family

5. 1 x passport-size photograph

6. Visa fees: Single Entry £30.00 (for a single visit within three months of date of issue) or Multiple Entry £40.00 (for multiple visits within six months of date of issue)

Fees should be in postal orders or an international money order made payable to “Antigua and Barbuda High Commission” or exact cash (when delivering in person). Please add an extra £5.00 for registered post if the passport is to be mailed. Processing period for the issue of a visa is normally three to five working days.

Taxes:

Antigua & Barbuda has a US\$20 pp airport departure tax, a room tax of 8.5 percent and service charge of 10 percent.¹⁸

¹⁸

http://www.antigua-barbuda.com/travel_tourism/information/passport Visa.asp