

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



■ Area: 48,511 sq km	■ Exchange rate:	■ Main cities and population
■ Language: Spanish	2006 latest Ps 34.45=\$1	(2002 census '000)
■ Population: 9.1m	2005 average Ps 29.39=\$1	Santo Domingo 2,731
■ Currency: Peso (Ps)		Santiago 908
		Puerto Plata 313

Constitution

Official name
Dominican Republic

Form of government
Representative democracy with a US-style Congress and presidency

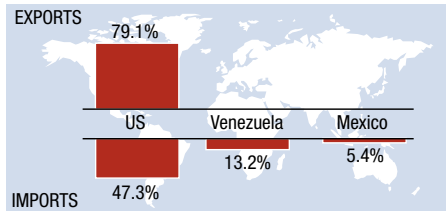
Head of state
Leonel Fernández. Took office as president on August 16 2004

The executive
The president has executive power, appoints

a cabinet and holds office for four years

National legislature
Bicameral Congress, with both houses directly elected; the Senate (upper house) has 32 members, one for each province and one for the national district; the Chamber of Deputies (the lower house), has 150 members, and is elected every four years

Main trading partners (share of total trade to world, 2004)



Economic summary

	2005	2006 (forecast)
Total GDP (Ps bn)	886	1,015
Total GDP (\$bn)	29.1	27.9
Real GDP growth (annual % change)	9.3	5.0
GDP per head (\$)	3,170	2,980
Inflation (annual % change in CPI)	4.2	9.0
Industrial production (annual % change)	7.0	2.5
Unemployment rate (% of labour force)	17.0	16.5
Government expenditure	19.1	19.0
Government budget balance (% of GDP)	-0.5	n.a.
Total foreign debt (% of GDP)	26.5	30.0
Current account balance (\$bn)	-0.2	-0.7
Merchandise exports (\$bn)	6.0	6.1
Merchandise imports (\$bn)	9.9	10.7
Trade balance (\$bn)	-4.0	-4.5

Credit rating

Standard & Poor's B Fitch IBCA B-

Source: EIU