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THE GUYANA ISSUE · MARKET INTELLIGENCE · NOVEMBER 2026

19.3%

INSIDE ONE OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST-GROWING ECONOMIES

G$1.558tn

WHERE BUDGET 2026 IS REALLY GOING

453,489

THE VISITOR ECONOMY COMES OF AGE

The Fine Print

SIX QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU SIGN

SPECIAL REPORT

Building *at Speed*

Oil made Guyana rich. What it builds next will decide who profits.

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19.3%

Real economic growth in 2025. The non-oil economy grew 14.3%.

SOURCE: GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA

16.2%

Official growth projection for 2026

From the desk

Guyana has become shorthand for opportunity, but headlines rarely survive contact with a procurement rulebook. This issue sets out where the capital is flowing, which sectors are opening to outside expertise, and what international firms need in place before they commit. It is our reading of the market, written for decision-makers who would rather arrive prepared.

The Oil *Dividend*

Guyana grew 19.3% last year. Its largest-ever budget is designed to make that growth outlast the oil.

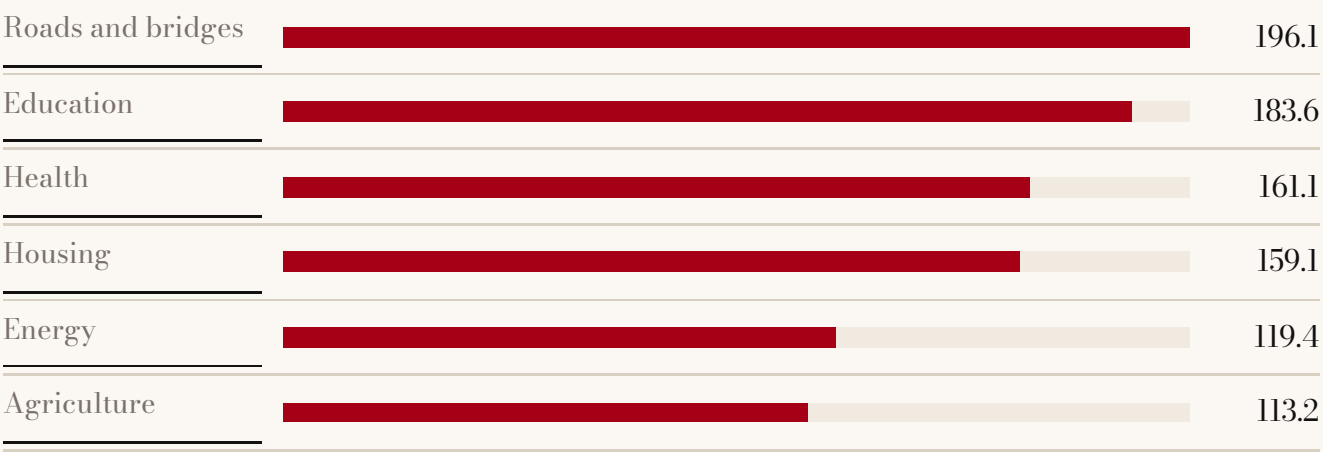
There are fast-growing economies, and then there is Guyana. Output rose 19.3% in 2025, and the non-oil economy, the measure that matters most for long-term stability, expanded by 14.3%. The Government projects growth of 16.2% in 2026.

The fiscal plan behind those figures is equally ambitious. Budget 2026 totals G$1.558 trillion, roughly US$7.5 billion, and its priorities are plain from the allocations: roads and bridges, schools, hospitals, housing, power and farmland.

For international firms, the significance lies less in the headline than in the pipeline behind it. Each allocation will be delivered through tenders, partnerships and supply chains, many of which call for capability that does not yet exist locally.

The question is no longer whether Guyana is growing, but who will build what comes next.

BUDGET 2026 · SELECTED ALLOCATIONS · G$ BILLIONS



Source: Government of Guyana, Department of Public Information, Budget 2026. G$1 billion is roughly US$4.8 million.

THE UK CORRIDOR

Trade up by more than a third

£2.2bn
Total trade, up 35.8%

£1.1bn
UK exports to Guyana, up 17.2%

£1.1bn
UK imports from Guyana, up 59.7%

Four quarters to the end of Q1 2026. Source: UK Department for Business and Trade, September 2026.

Black Gold, *Hard Hats*

Offshore, the oil majors keep committing. Onshore, the state is pouring concrete. Both need partners.

Offshore: *the value chain opens*

In September 2025, ExxonMobil took a final investment decision on Hammerhead, its seventh development in the Stabroek Block, adding about 150,000 barrels a day of production capacity. Each new project extends demand for vessels, fabrication, logistics, engineering and professional services.

Increasingly, that demand is meant to be met locally. Afreximbank's US$1 billion financing facility for Guyanese oil-services companies is designed to help local firms scale, creating openings for international partners prepared to contract with, invest in or transfer skills to them. Those arrangements fall squarely within the Local Content Act 2021.

WATCH *Local content obligations, partner due diligence and joint venture structuring.*

7th

Stabroek development sanctioned

HAMMERHEAD · ~150,000 BPD

US$1bn

Afreximbank facility for local oil-services firms

Onshore: *a nation under construction*

Budget 2026 sets aside G$196.1 billion for roads and bridges and G$159.1 billion for housing. Flagship works include the expansion of Cheddi Jagan International Airport, a highway corridor through Berbice towards the planned bridge to Suriname, and continuing investment in sea and river defences.

Almost all of this is publicly funded. That places procurement rules, bid compliance and anti-corruption controls at the centre of any credible market-entry strategy.

WATCH *Public tender rules, bid documentation and anti-bribery controls.*

G$196bn

Roads and bridges, 2026

G$159bn

Housing, 2026

Beyond the *Barrel*

The true test of an oil economy is what grows alongside it. In Guyana, the answer is food and visitors.

Field to *export*

Agriculture receives G$113.2 billion under Budget 2026, framed around food security, rural incomes and value-added production. The Government has also set aside US$100 million to establish the Guyana Development Bank, intended to finance small businesses and producers that have struggled to access commercial credit.

The openings run the length of the chain: agritech and inputs, processing and packaging, cold storage, export logistics, and the training and certification that overseas buyers require.

WATCH *Land tenure, export standards and the conditions attached to concessional finance.*

The visitor *economy*

Guyana welcomed 453,489 visitors in 2025, a record and a 22% increase on the previous year. The United States accounted for 40% of arrivals and the Caribbean for a third, and the Government is targeting 550,000 visitors in 2026.

That trajectory creates demand for hotels and eco-lodges, ground transport, digital booking, events and hospitality training, in a market where quality supply has yet to catch up with demand.

WATCH *Licensing, environmental approvals and land rights for new sites.*

Oil pays for the roads. Food and visitors will decide whether the economy keeps moving once it slows.

G$113.2bn	453,489	550,000
Agriculture allocation, 2026	Visitor arrivals in 2025, up 22%	Official visitor target for 2026

Sources: Government of Guyana, Department of Public Information; Ministry of Agriculture.

Power *Moves*

A grid racing to keep pace, and a state investing heavily in the people who will run the new economy.

Keeping *the lights on*

Electricity has become one of the defining constraints on growth. Peak demand set a record of 221.3 MW in September 2025 and had reached about 255 MW a year later, according to Guyana Power and Light.

The gas-to-energy project at Wales, anchored by a new 300 MW power plant, is central to meeting that demand and lowering costs, while hydropower and solar form part of the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030. Budget 2026 allocates G$119.4 billion to energy.

255 MW

Peak demand, 2026

UP FROM 221.3 MW IN 2025

300 MW

New gas-fired plant at Wales

WATCH *Power purchase terms, environmental approvals and ESG reporting.*

Investing *in people*

Education (G$183.6 billion) and health (G$161.1 billion) are among the largest lines in the budget. New regional hospitals and an extensive schools programme are under way, generating demand for construction, medical equipment, facilities management and digital learning.

The scarcest resource, however, is trained people. Firms that bring skills transfer and credible training commitments will find that they open doors across government.

G$184bn

Education, 2026

G$161bn

Health, 2026

WATCH *Data protection for health and education platforms.*

Sources: Guyana Power and Light; Office of the Prime Minister; Government of Guyana, Budget 2026.

The Fine *Print*

Guyana rewards those who arrive prepared. Six questions every board should ask before signing.

i Have we planned for local content?

The Local Content Act 2021 sets minimum levels of Guyanese participation across specified petroleum-sector activities, and more than 1,300 local firms are now registered. Partnerships should be structured around it from the outset.

ii Can our bid survive scrutiny?

Most opportunities are publicly funded. Tender rules, bid documentation and anti-corruption controls carry as much weight as the commercial case.

iii Do we know who we are dealing with?

Rapid inflows attract regulatory attention. Rigorous KYC and beneficial ownership checks protect investors and preserve correspondent banking relationships.

iv Have we screened for sanctions?

Proximity to Venezuela and the ongoing border case before the International Court of Justice call for careful sanctions and export control screening, particularly in energy and defence supply chains.

v Are we ready on data?

Guyana has passed the Data Protection Act 2023. Firms handling personal data should prepare now for its obligations as implementation proceeds.

vi Do we have the people?

Skills shortages make work permits, immigration compliance and genuine training commitments decisive in winning and keeping work.

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Questions about this issue, or about entering the Guyanese market?

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