



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CASE STUDY

April
2015

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND
TRAINING (TVET)



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This project is an initiative of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) in collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD), and is designed as a proactive approach to produce documentation and provide recommendations for strategies and procedures to strengthen human resource capacities in cross-cutting areas necessary for a sustainable and competitive Regional Tourism Industry.



Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

Secretary General Ambassador/Secretario General Embajador/ Secrétaire Général Ambassadeur

Alfonso Múnera Cavadía

Director Sustainable Tourism / Director de Turismo Sostenible / Directorat du Tourisme Durable

Julio Orozco

5-7 Sweet Briar Road, St. Clair, P.O Box 660, Port of Spain. Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Tel: 868-622-9575/ Fax: 622-1653

Website: www.acs-aec.org



Association of Caribbean States
Asociación de Estados del Caribe
Association des Etats de la Caraïbe



Consulting firm: Certificaciones de Centroamérica, S.A. CERTIFICA®

Consulting team for this consultancy: Raúl Palma, Damaris Cháves, Stephanie Simion, Gladys Padilla, Denia Del Valle (Technical Coordinator), and Carmen Rosa Pérez (General Coordinator)

Website: www.certificaconsulting.com
info@sellosverdes.com

EDITORIAL NOTE

Documents that are part of this study on "Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in tourism in the Greater Caribbean" were made between October 2014 and April 2015, on the basis of various documents made under the auspices of national, regional and international organizations since the themes, which form the central part of this consultancy, have been addressed extensively for more than fifteen years. Used as reference documents and dating from 1995 to 2015, those are the work of professionals of various nationalities.

When these authors are cited in our texts, it means having used the style of writing, vocabulary and terminology used originally; so, there is not a precise or rigorous homogeneity in the texts that make up this study with respect to the use of the languages (Spanish, English and French). Additionally, the final documents that compose this study were originally written in, either French, or Spanish or English. The translations of these documents are free-lance translations.

PRESENTATION

The following Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Dominican Republic Case Study was developed to provide information regarding the status of the technical, vocational and training programs related to the tourism industry of the country. It starts with an overview of the economy and the tourism industry to put into context the importance of tourism in the country.

It is not the purpose of this document to rewrite all the information that is available from several authors and/or publications, but instead to complement, amplify and supplement this report. Every effort has been made to make this Case Study as accurate as possible. However, there might be some slight differences due to the fact that there are not accurate or actual statistics on all topics. Although, several international and national organizations have carried out researches that include not only statistic but some projections on the topics and some of that information is included in this document.

Therefore, this Dominican Republic Case Study should be used only as a general information and general reference and not as the ultimate source on TVET in general and TVET for the tourism sector.

This TVET Case Study on Dominican Republic was developed by CERTIFICACIONES DE CENTROAMÉRICA, S.A. (CERTIFICA) under the consultancy “Training for Careers in Sustainable Tourism” of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD). The consultants responsible to develop this Case Study were M.Sc. Raúl Palma and Denia Del Valle, Sustainable Tourism and Human Resources Development Specialist with editorial support of Carmen Rosa Pérez, General Coordinator.

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I. OVERVIEW OF THE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

A. OVERALL COUNTRY PROFILE

The 48,311 square kilometre island is officially naming *República Dominicana* (Dominican Republic). By 2013, the World Bank reported a population of 10,403,761 inhabitants. About 30% of the population is 14 years or less, 63% between ages of 15-64 and 6% between 65 or more. The land of Dominican Republic is divided in 32 provinces Santo Domingo is the capital, and the province of Santo Domingo has the highest population, 2,374,370. The Dominican Republic is the second largest Caribbean nation, just after Cuba. The ethnic distribution of the country is: 73% mestizo; 16% white (European-Mediterranean); 11% afro descendent, it is important to mention that a percentage of 'Taino'¹ population is also present. Spanish is the official language, and the *Peso Dominicano* (DOP) is their official currency, which exchange rate DOP 44.80 for one United States of America Dollar. (US\$1.00).

Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the north and the Caribbean Sea on the south, boasts nearly 1,000 miles (1,609 km) of coastline, 250 miles (402 km) of the world's top beaches,. A western part of the island is occupied by Haiti, making Hispaniola one of two Caribbean islands.

Christopher Columbus landed on the island in 1492, which the *Taino* people had inhabited since the 7th century. It became the first European settlement in the Americas, and named Santo Domingo as the first seat of the Spanish colonial rule in the New World. After three centuries of Spanish rule, with French and Haitian interludes, the country became independent in the 27th of February of 1844 from Haiti.

According to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the general government debt in Dominican Republic (30.3% of Gross Domestic Product - GDP) is below the regional average of 40.9%. In the Dominican Republic government revenues represent less than 14% of GDP, the second lowest in the region.

The country is a representative democracy or democratic republic. The legal system is based on French Civil Codes. The president and vice-president remains for 4 year terms. The national legislature is bicameral, composed of a Senate, which has 30 seats, and the Chamber of Deputies with 149 seats. The President appoints the governors of the 31 provinces. For the past 30 years, the country has been a stable democracy with universal suffrage, separation of powers and a constitution that bears a remarkable resemblance to the constitution of the United States.

A geographically diverse nation, the Dominican Republic, is home to the region's tallest mountain peak, Pico Duarte, as well as the Caribbean's largest lake and lowest elevation, Lake Enriquillo. The country is also the site of the first cathedral in all the Americas, located in Santo Domingo's colonial zone, an area declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The island has an average temperature of 26 C degrees. The country is one of the most visited destinations in the Caribbean.

¹ *Tainos* were the inhabitants of the Caribbean during Columbian times.

The Dominican Republic has long been viewed primarily as an exporter of sugar, coffee and tobacco, but in recent years the service sector has overtaken agriculture as the economy's largest employer, due to growth in telecommunications, **tourism**, and free trade zones.

The economy is highly dependent upon United States of America (USA), the destination for approximately half of its exports. Remittances from the USA amount to about 5% of GDP, equivalent to about a third of exports and two thirds of tourism receipts. The country suffers from marked income inequality, the poorest half of the population receives less than one-fifth of GDP, while the richest 10% enjoys nearly 40% of GDP. High unemployment and underemployment remains an important long-term challenge.

The Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) came into force in March 2007. The Dominican Republic, economy rebounded from the global recession in 2010-13, and the fiscal situation is improving. A tax reform package passed in November 2012 and a reduction in government spending helped to narrow the central government budget deficit from 6.6% of GDP in 2012 to below 3% in 2013. A successful government bond placement in 2013 helped finance the deficit.

The service sector (tourism and free trade zones) has recently overtaken agriculture as the leading employer of Dominicans. Free trade zone and tourism earnings are the fastest-growing export sectors. Another economic factor that is important to mention are the remittances from Dominican Americans², which are estimated in \$1.5 billion per year. The country's most important trading partners is the United States (43.3%), other trading partners include Venezuela (7.7%), China (6.3%), Mexico (5.3%) and Colombia (4.1%) followed by Canada, Western Europe and Japan. The main export partners are: United States (47%), Haiti (16.1%) and China (4.3%)³

According to the World Tourism and Travel Council 2015 report, in Dominican Republic the tourism contribution to the GDP is nearly 21%. The tourism sector generates by 2014 approximately 812,000 jobs. The labour force for Dominican Republic by 2013 was estimated by 4.912 million⁴, according to the *Banco Central de la República Dominicana* (Dominican Republic Central Bank) statistics records, in 2014 hotels, bars and restaurant sector generated 70,589 direct jobs and 176,447 indirect jobs (247,025 total jobs) and US\$5,637.1 million.

Within the main agricultural products are: sugarcane, coffee, cotton, cocoa, tobacco, rice, beans, potatoes, corn, bananas, and with the industry the main activities are: sugar processing, ferronickel, gold mining, textiles and cement.

The flora and fauna of Dominican Republic, has an important number of sites which include 16 national parks, nine natural monuments and six scientific reserves, for a total of 67 protected areas that include panoramic routes, recreational areas and ecological corridors, all of which are under the direct supervision and control of the *Dirección Nacional de Parques* (National Parks Office). The Dominican

² Dominicans who live in US, by 2013 the Dominican Today published that 1.5 million Dominicans live in the US.

³ Indexmundi (data from 2012). http://www.indexmundi.com/dominican_republic/exports.html

⁴ IDEM 3.

Republic has become a popular bird watching destination. Because it is located in the Caribbean, the weather in the Dominican Republic is excellent all year round. So practically it is possible to travel to Dominican Republic at any time.

B. TOURISM PROFILE

Tourism is without doubt, one of the most important economic activities of Dominican Republic and one of the fastest growing in the Caribbean. The tourism boom has prompted a frenzy of hotel construction, particularly along the country's northern coast, around Puerto Plata and Sosua and the southern coast, around Bavaro and Punta Cana. The availability of hotel rooms and modern facilities to accommodate different interests has helped to make tourism one of the country's most important industries.

Tourism in the Dominican Republic has contributed to creating a more diversified economy and helped fuel what has recently been strong economic growth.⁵ In the past 40 years, the country has undergone a transformation from a largely rural and agricultural to a consciously part of a diversified global economy.

Successive governments have invested heavily in tourism development, creating upgraded airports and other infrastructure. Foreign investment has also been important, with several large Spanish, German, and French companies building or managing some of the larger hotels. The country now has almost 70,000 rooms⁶, more than any other Caribbean country. Most tourists visit the Dominican Republic on account of its beaches, but there is an expanding eco-tourism and outdoor activity sector, focused on the country's mountains and wildlife.

Tourism background in Dominican Republic starts officially with the North American intervention of 1916-1924, which marked an important time for the development of sugar industry, this way the tourism starts giving lodging and food and beverage services in the main business centers of the country, such as: Santo Domingo, Puerto Plata, Santiago, San Pedro de Macoris and Sanchez de Samana (Troncoso, 2011).

With the dictator Trujillo (1930-1961), starts the building of the luxury hotels, like the Jaragua, at the beginning of the 40's decade, followed by Hispaniola and Embajador (50's), as well the developing in certain beaches like: Boca Chica, Higüey, Jarabacoa, Constanza, Santiago, Monte Cristi, Sabaneta, Samana, Barahona, among others.

Prior to 1967, more Dominicans travelled abroad than foreigners came to visit the country (Freitag, 540). That year marked the start of serious efforts to develop tourism when President Joaquin Balaguer created a Ministry of tourism with a director-general at its head. In 1970 INFRATUR (*Fondo para la Promoción de la Infraestructura Turística* – "Tourism Infrastructure Promotion Fund") was developed to monitor and to invest directly in tourist-related infrastructure projects. A Tourist Incentive Law (Law 153) provided tax breaks and fee exemptions for investments.

⁵ Tourism Development in the Dominican Republic: Growth, Costs, Benefits and Choices. Anne Fuller, Rutgers University. May 1999.

⁶ Central Bank Tourism Statistics 2014 reports 68,840 rooms in 2014.

Support for tourism accelerated under governments from 1978 to 1986. The chief tourism official was raised to Ministerial level and in 1979 the budget contained money for international promotion of the Dominican Republic. “Como to the land that Columbus loved best” ran the campaign.⁷

An essential element in the tourism take-off was government investment in the infrastructure of tourism zones.⁸ Government planners rationalized that bringing facilities up to the level demanded by international tourists was more economically feasible in a few zones than in many dispersed locations.⁹

The Caribbean is more tourism centred than any other part of the world, and the Dominican Republic is in the more fortunate position of having a larger and relatively diversified tourism economy¹⁰. According to the UNWTO Tourism Highlights, Edition 2014, Dominican Republic is the most visited country in the Caribbean region with a 4,690,000 international arrivals reported in 2013, which means a 2.8% of increasing in comparison with the 2012. In terms of receipts, it represented an income of \$5,118,000.00 million or an increase of 2.2% in comparison with 2012.

Most air arrivals landed at the Punta Cana airport, representing 63.3% of total air arrivals. Santo Domingo was the second destination of arrivals (19.7%), followed by Puerto Plata (8.7%), Santiago (4.1%), La Romana (2.3%) and Samana (1.3%). According to the Ministry of Tourism, in 2013 most tourist visiting the country arrived by air and came from: United States (39.9%); Canada (16.9%); France (5.4%); Germany (5.2%); Russia (4.5%), and the remaining (28.1%) were from Spain, Puerto Rico, Argentina, United Kingdom, Brazil, Italy, Venezuela, Colombia, Belgium and The Netherlands.

By 2013 the seaport activity reported 58,267 passengers in Santo Domingo; La Romana 252,932 passengers, and Samana 112,424 passengers. The *Asociación Nacional de Hoteles y Restaurantes* (National Hotel and Tourism Association) –ASONAHORES, reported an increasing of international arrivals in January and February of 2015, there was an increasing of international arrivals. Specifically with the North American market (10.8% in comparison with same period of time in 2014). In terms of booked rooms, the main destinations are: Samana with a 96.3%; Romana-Bayahibe 92.4%; Punta Cana-Bavaro 91.6%; it is important to mention that 50.03% of the rooms offer is located in Punta Cana-Bavaro. The area with the biggest increasing in terms of percentage is Sosua-Cabarete with a 14.6% in comparison with 2014 at the same period of time.

The Dominican Republic has been a favourite destination for many years, attracting celebrities, sports personalities and travellers. The country has the highest number of hotel rooms in the entire Caribbean, with over 68,000 according to ASONAHORES. The range of hotels options is quite extensive, from a North American Spanish and French hotel chains to small luxury boutiques hotels like Tortuga Bay (Punta Cana) and Peninsula House (Samana).

Dominican Republic is famous because of its all-inclusive hotels concepts, which varies from adult non family hotels to family specialized concepts, an example of this are the Barceló Hotels, that just in

⁷ Tourism Development in the Dominican Republic: Growth, Costs, Benefits and Choices. Anne Fuller, Rutgers University. May 1999

⁸ The Dominican Republic: A Caribbean Crucible. Wiara, H.J. and Kryzanek, M.J. (1982).

⁹ Enclave Tourism Development: For Whom the Benefits Roll. Annals of Tourism Research, Vol. 21, No. 2. Freitag, T.G. (1994).

¹⁰ IDEM 7

Punta Cana have 4 complexes (Barceló Bavaro Beach, Palace Deluxe, Dominican Beach and Punta Cana), together they represent 3,521 hotel rooms.

The main reason to travel to Dominican Republic is for recreation purposes; but, travellers also attend business meetings, conventions, and conferences; other purposes such as visit friends and relatives, and enrol in courses and formal studies. The biggest group of travellers is average between 21 - 49 years old with (56.24% of the whole travellers).

The country is the top golf destination in Caribbean and Central America, also there are important developments such as Cap Cana located in Punta Cana-Bavaro, which is a 30,000 acres master planned luxury resort and real estate community. Cap Cana has been recognize with the Award Winning Golf Course, more than US\$500 MM has been invested in the project.

1. TRENDS IN NICHE MARKETS

As mentioned before, the country is the top destination for golf in the Caribbean and Latin America, with 25 designer golf courses. The most notable attractions are: Santo Domingo recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO; Punta Cana, Samana, Puerto Plata and La Romana.

The activities that tourist can make in the country are plenty, such as: meetings and conventions; weddings; golf; adventure and ecotourism; beaches; excursions where it is possible to practice hiking, rural tourism; water sports; baseball; family tourism; landmarks and culture.

In general terms the main niches of Dominican Republic are: conferences and conventions; weddings; luxury tourism; real estate linked with touristic projects such as Cap Cana; golf; adventure and ecotourism (including birdwatching and whale watching); cultural aspects.

The country boast 16 national parks and 67 protected areas within its borders. There are no official campgrounds within the reserves. To visit one of the national parks, eco-adventurers have to secure permission. To camp in one of the parks, a regular pass costing RD\$50 must be obtained at local park offices or through the national office.¹¹

One of the latest efforts to promote sustainable tourism in through the eco-initiative of coffee producers called *La Ruta del Café* ("Coffee Tour"); the project operates in the towns of Salcedo and Bonao. Visitors come here to see the process of coffee production and discover unique pathways into the tropical forest.¹²

¹¹ Sustainable Travel and Ecotourism. Frommer's: <http://www.frommers.com/destinations/dominican-republic/730647#ixzz3gIRtbmSg>

¹² IDEM 11.

2. TRENDS IN EXPENDITURE¹³

Leisure and travel spending (inbound and domestic), generated 94.6% of direct travel and tourism GDP in 2014 (DOP 319.9 billion); compared with 5.4% for business travel spending (DOP 18.2 billion). Leisure travel spending is expected to grow by 2.3% in 2015 to DOP 326.9 billion, and to rise by 2.9% per annum to DOP 425.5 billion in 2025.

Business travel spending is expected to grow by 5.0% in 2015 to DOP 19.1 billion and rise by 4% per annum to DOP 28.1 billion in 2025.

Domestic travel spending generated 24.0% of direct Travel & Tourism GDP in 2014 compared with 76.0% for visitor exports (i.e. foreign visitor spending or international tourism receipts). Domestic travel spending is expected to grow by 4.5% in 2015 to DOP 84.9 billion, and rise by 4.1% per annum to DOP 336.2 billion in 2025.

Visitor exports are expected to grow by 1.7% in 2015 to DOP 261.1 billion, and rise by 2.6% per annum to DOP 336.2 billion in 2025. The total contribution of travel and tourism to GDP is three times greater than its direct contribution.

3. CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY

The Dominican Republic has the ninth largest economy in Latin America and is the largest in the Caribbean and Central American region. For the past two decades, the Dominican Republic has been one of the fastest growing economies, with GDP growth averaging around 5.5 percent annually between 1991 and 2013. Despite this exceptional performance, poverty is higher today than in 2000. Poverty soared from 32 percent in 2000 to almost 50 percent in 2004 following the 2003 financial and economic crisis, before gradually declining to 41 percent in 2011.

According to the World Bank Group's Doing Business 2015¹⁴ the Dominican Republic along with Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago featured among the countries that implemented the most reforms in Latin America making it easier for local entrepreneurs to do business.

In recent decades, the country has also transformed its economic base and has diversified its exports. Improvements to the business climate have facilitated international trade and boosted export growth. However, the country still ranks below other Caribbean countries and needs to carry out further reforms to maintain its competitiveness in the region.¹⁵

¹³ Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2015: Dominican Republic, World Travel & Tourism Council. All values are in constant 2014 prices & exchange rates.

¹⁴ <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/dominican-republic/>

¹⁵ The World Bank, Dominican Republic: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/dominicanrepublic>

2014 Annual Research: Key Facts ¹⁶

GDP: DIRECT CONTRIBUTION	The direct contribution of Travel & Tourism to GDP was DOP 136.9 billion (5%) of GDP). This is forecast to rise by 2.3% to DOP 140.0 billion in 2015. The direct contribution of TT to GDP is expected to grow by 2.8% per annum by 2025 to DOP 183.7 billion (4.5%) of GDP by 2025.
GDP TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	The total contribution of Travel & Tourism to GDP (including wider effects from investment the supply chain and induced income impacts) was DOP 439.1 billion in 2014 (16.0% of GDP) and is expected to grow by 2.7% to DOP 451.1 billion (15.8% of GDP) in 2015. It is forecast to rise by 2.8% per annum to DOP 594.7 billion by 2025 (14.6% of GDP).
EMPLOYMENT: DIRECT CONTRIBUTION	TT generated 188 thousand jobs directly in 2014 (4.4% of total employment) and this is forecast to grow by 1.2% in 2015 to 190 thousand (4.4% of total employment).
EMPLOYMENT TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	The total contribution of Travel & Tourism to employment (including the supply chain and induced income impacts) was 624,000 jobs in 2014 (14.7% of total employment).
VISITORS EXPORTS	Visitor's exports generated DOP 256.6 billion in 2014. In 2015, this is expected to grow by 1.7% and the country is expected to attract 5,145,000 international tourist arrivals.
INVESTMENT	Travel and Tourism is expected to have attracted capital investment of DOP 20.0 billion in 2014.

Direct Contribution¹⁷

The direct contribution of Travel & Tourism to GDP reflects the 'internal' spending on Travel & Tourism (total spending within a particular country on Travel & Tourism by residents and non-residents for business and leisure purposes) as well as government 'individual' spending - spending by government on Travel & Tourism services directly linked to visitors, such as cultural (e.g. museums) or recreational (e.g. national parks).

The direct contribution of Travel & Tourism to GDP is calculated to be consistent with the output, as expressed in National Accounting, of tourism-characteristic sectors such as hotels, airlines, airports, travel agents and leisure and recreation services that deal directly with tourists. The direct contribution of Travel & Tourism to GDP is calculated from total internal spending by 'netting out' the purchases made by the different tourism sectors. This measure is consistent with the definition of Tourism GDP, specified in the 2008 Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework (TSA: RMF 2008).

Total Contribution³

The total contribution of Travel & Tourism includes its 'wider impacts' (i.e. the indirect and induced impacts) on the economy. The 'indirect' contribution includes the GDP and jobs supported by:

¹⁶ Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2015: Dominican Republic, World Travel & Tourism Council. All values are in constant 2013 prices & exchange rates.

¹⁷ Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2015: Dominican Republic. World Tourism and Travel Council

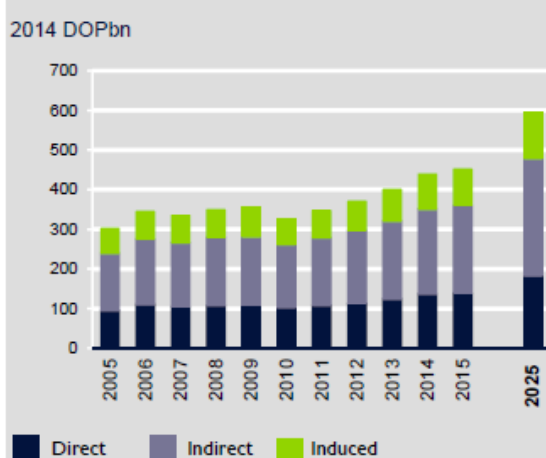
- Travel & Tourism investment spending – an important aspect of both current and future activity that includes investment activity such as the purchase of new aircraft and construction of new hotels;
- Government 'collective' spending, which helps Travel & Tourism activity in many different ways as it is made on behalf of the 'community at large' – e.g. tourism marketing and promotion, aviation, administration, security services, resort area security services, resort area sanitation services, etc.;
- Domestic purchases of goods and services by the sectors dealing directly with tourists - including, for example, purchases of food and cleaning services by hotels, of fuel and catering services by airlines, and IT services by travel agents.

WORLD RANKING (OUT OF 184 COUNTRIES):

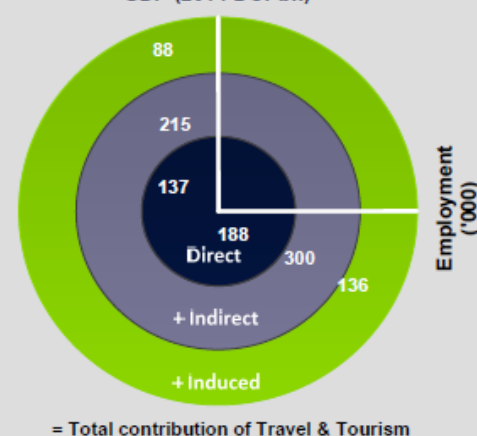
Relative importance of Travel & Tourism's total contribution to GDP

60 ABSOLUTE Size in 2014	43 RELATIVE SIZE Contribution to GDP in 2014	114 GROWTH 2015 forecast	153 LONG-TERM GROWTH Forecast 2015-2025
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Total Contribution of Travel & Tourism to GDP
2014 DOPbn



Breakdown of Travel & Tourism's Total Contribution to GDP and Employment 2014
GDP (2014 DOPbn)



WTTC Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2015

4. EMPLOYMENT IN TOURISM

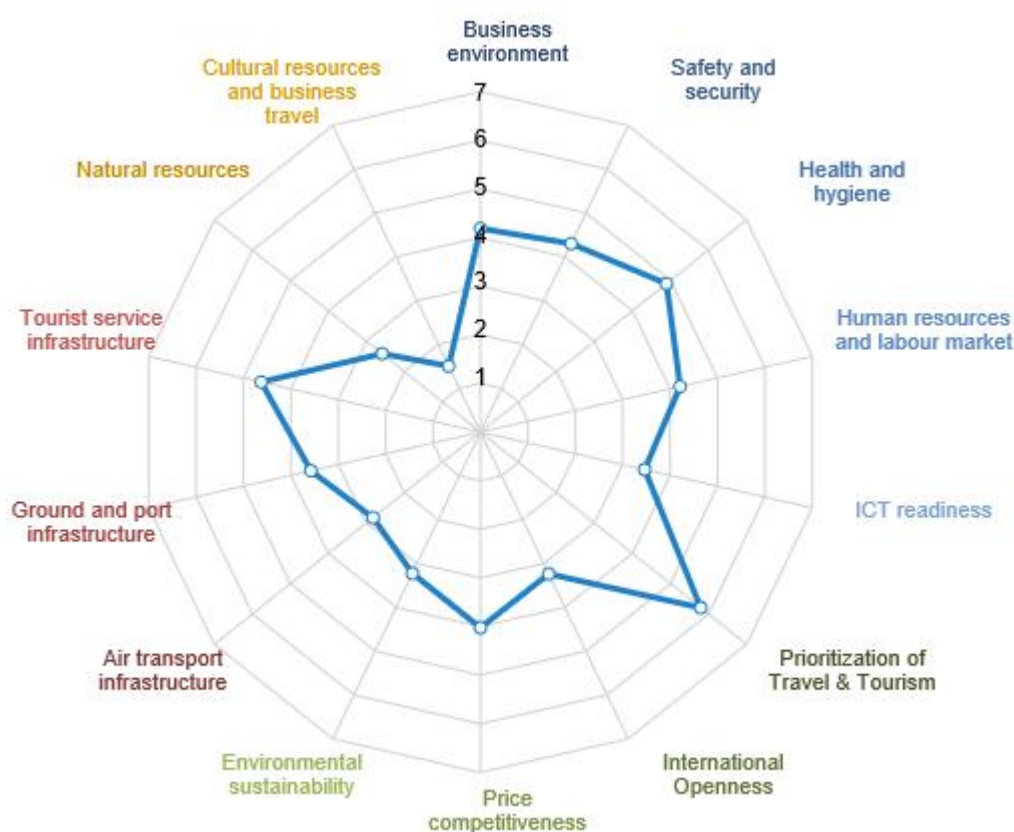
According to the World Travel and Tourism Council –WTTC, travel and tourism generated 188,000 jobs directly in 2014, which represents 4.4% of total employment and this is forecast to grow by 1.2% in 2015 to 190,000 (4.4% of total employment). This includes employment by hotels, travel agents, airlines, and other passenger transportation services (excluding commuter services). It also includes, for example, the activities of the restaurant and leisure industries directly supported by tourism. By 2025 it is expected that the sector account about 239,000 direct jobs and increase 2.3% per annum over the next ten years.

The travel and tourism sector total contribution to employment (including wider effects from investment, the supply chain, and induced income impacts) was 624,000 jobs in 2014 (14.7% of total

employment). This is forecast to raise by 1.5 in 2015 to 633,500 jobs (14% of total employment). By 2025 travel and tourism industry in Dominican Republic, is expected to support 787,000 jobs (13.7% of total employment), an increase of 2.2% per annum over the period.

5. COMPETITIVENESS

According to the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI)¹⁸ Dominican Republic was ranked in the 81 position among 141 countries, with a score of 3.5 (1 lowest – 7 highest). Within The American countries, which include USA, Canada and South American countries, Dominican Republic holds the 17 rank among 26 countries. The following graphic shows the overall performance overview of the 14 aspects evaluated.



The best performance was obtained in the prioritization of travel and tourism (T&T), where the country holds the 7 position in the overall ranking and has a score of 5.8/7; followed by tourist service infrastructure (56 rank, 4.6 score), health and hygiene (87 rank, 4.9 score), human resources and labour market (97 rank, 4.2 score) and safety and security (120 rank, 4.3 score).

Even air transport infrastructure is scored with 2.8, it ranked the 65 position, as well international openness that was scored 3.2, but ranked the 63 positions, and ground and port infrastructure that ranked the 64 position, but was scored 3.6.

¹⁸ World Economic Forum, February 2015

The country has developed a significant tourism sector on the basis of world-class tourist service infrastructure, which offers tourism an enjoyable experience. Internationally open and well connected thanks to its air transport infrastructure.

The aspects that the country could improve are:

- Environmental sustainability (rank 131, score 3.2): measures the extent to which environmental protection limited to those aspects that impact tourists directly.
- Safety and Security (rank 120, score 4.3): measures the extent which the country exposes tourists and businesses to security risks mainly related to serious harm of people (violence and terrorism), petty crime is not taken into account.
- Price Competitiveness (rank 110, score 4.0): measures how costly it is to travel or invest in the country.

II. EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY

A. PRINCIPLES AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF EDUCATION¹⁹

Education is a permanent and inalienable right of human beings. To effectively comply with this principle, each person must receive an integral education that allows the development of its own individuality and the performing of a socially useful activity, appropriate to its vocation and within the national and local interest; without any type of discrimination for race, gender, creed, economic and social position, or any other kind.

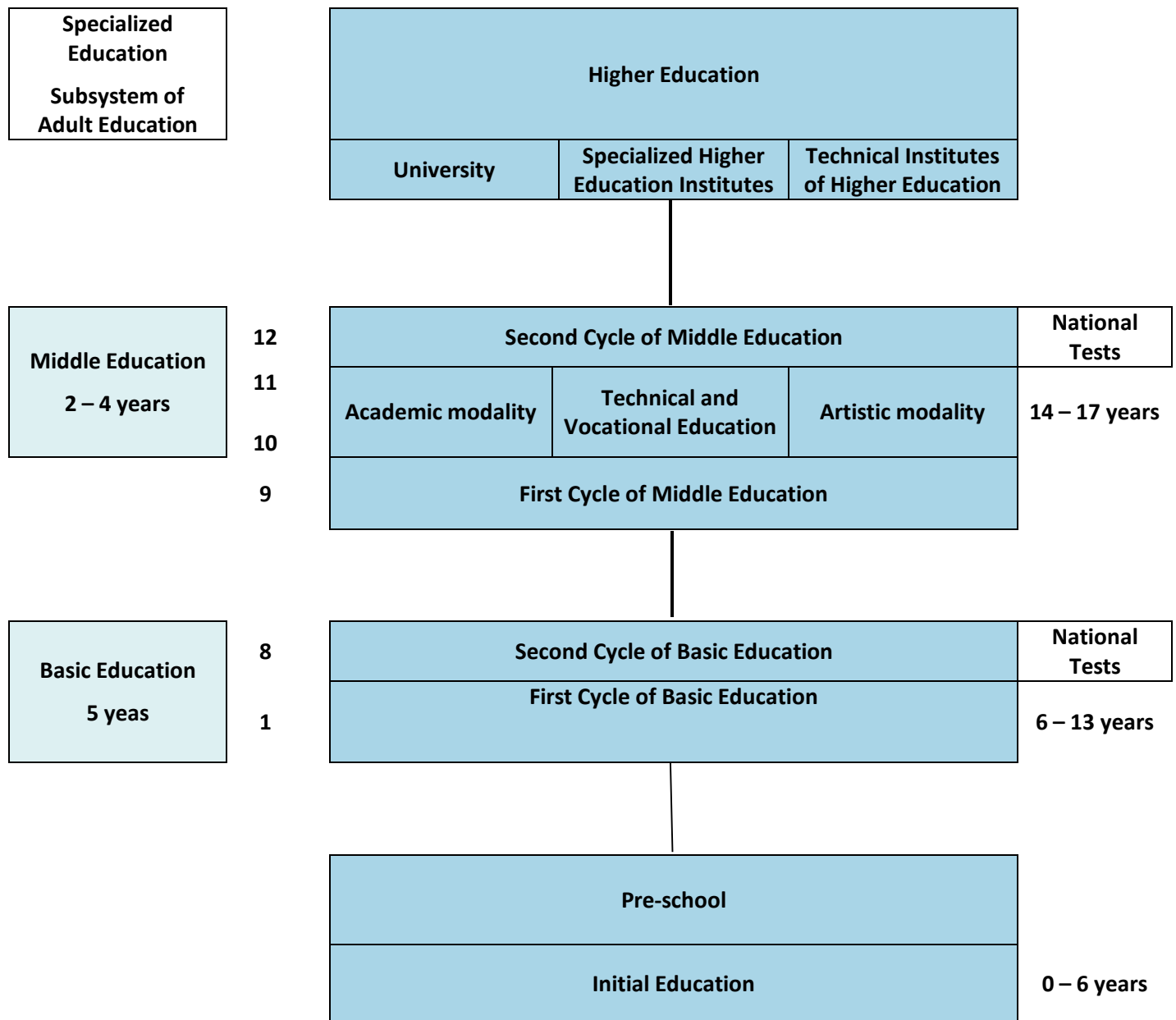
Education as an individual development instrument and main social development factor is a national service of public interest, and then is a shared responsibility among all society. The State has the duty and obligation to provide equal opportunities of education in quantity and quality; education can be provided by governmental and non-governmental institutions, based on the principles and standards established by law. The Education System in the Dominican Republic has as foundation principles the education freedom and lifelong education.

B. LAWS AND OTHER BASIC REGULATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION

Basic regulations which provide the legal education framework include the Constitution of the Republic, the General Education Law, ordinances and departmental orders.

- 1966 Constitution of the Republic establishes the compulsory and free character of education, as well as the principles that oriented the training.

¹⁹ Datos Mundiales de Educación (World Data on Education), Dominican Republic 2010/2011. International Bureau of Education, UNESCO.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC STRUCTURE OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM²⁰

SOURCE: World Bank (2014). *Informe sobre el gasto público* (Report of Public Expenditure).

²⁰ Based on the Academic Structure of the Dominican Republic Education System outlined in the Law 66-97 and the Ordinance 1-95, extracted from “Marco Nacional de Cualificaciones para República Dominicana: Bases”. Ministry of Education 2015.

C. EDUCATIONAL LEVELS²¹

1. PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Pre-school education is provided for children between the ages 3-5 in nursery schools and/or in nursery classes in some primary schools; they pursue an Early Childhood Education Program (ECE). The goal of pre-primary education is to provide for the total development of the child's personality by complementing and extending the pattern of informal education that is being provided in the domestic environment. At this level, the children between 3 and 5 years of age.

2. PRIMARY EDUCATION

Primary education centers to children in the age group 6-13. This level of education is compulsory, and lasts five to six years. Children between 5 and 7 years of age pursue an ECE program; those in the age group 8-11 follow the national primary school curriculum. The fundamental goal of primary education is to build a foundation in reading, writing, and problem-solving skills.

3. SECONDARY EDUCATION

Secondary education is for pupils aged 14- 18 years. This level of education is also compulsory and it lasts five to six years. Students pursue a wide a varied program culminating with the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) examinations. The principal goal of secondary education is to ensure that all students acquire knowledge, skills, and attitudes which will lay the basic foundation for future jobs, and careers, as well as to ensure high levels of literacy, numeracy, and orality; by building on the primary foundation –reading, writing, and problem-solving skills– raising them even higher, and deeper levels of understanding across a variety of subject areas. It is organized in a common area of two years and three different modalities of two-three years more each one: general or academic, technical-vocational and artistic.

4. HIGHER EDUCATION (TERTIARY EDUCATION)²²

Higher education system comprises specialized institutes of higher education, technical institutes of higher education and universities.

Technical institutes of higher education offer courses only at the level of senior technical programs of two to three years length. Specialized institutes of higher education can impart careers and provide titles of undergraduate and graduate levels in the areas of specialty for which they were created.

The universities offer career technical, undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

Postgraduate programs include studies of specialization (after completing the undergraduate studies: *licenciatura*, engineering, architecture or medicine) with a duration of one year and

²¹ Compile by UNESCO-IBE

²² Datos Mundiales de Educación (World Data on Education), Dominican Republic 2010/2011. International Bureau of Education, UNESCO

the Masters have a duration of two years. There are also some doctorate programs that vary from two to four years.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SCHOOL AGE POPULATION BY EDUCATION LEVEL²³

EDUCATION LEVEL	SCHOOL POPULATION
Pre-school	267,279
Primary	1,283,515
Secondary	905,616
Tertiary	445,909

The literacy data for Dominican Republic adult population is 91% by 2013, and for the younger (15-24) is 97% according to World Bank Data of 2013.

III. TVET STATUS

Dominican Republic is in the process of planning and designing the National Qualification Framework under the leadership of the Ministry of Education of Dominican Republic (MINERED for its Spanish acronym).

According to national education law the denomination of TVET in Dominican Republic is Technical and Vocational Education – VET (*Educación Técnico-Profesional –ETP*). Formal TVET is part of the secondary, post-secondary and non-tertiary or higher education level. Non-formal education is basically a service of vocational training and is designed for the working-age population.²⁴

According to UNESCO-UNEVOC there are five main models of technical and vocational education:

- A: Post-primary technical education.
- B: Secondary technical education over the last 2 years of study.
- C: Technical education during the second cycle of secondary level.
- D: Technical education throughout secondary level.
- E: Technical education at the higher education level.

The Dominican Republic has the models B and E, also with variations in some higher technical programs. The country also presents TVET as a form of education, although it is not clearly specify its scope. It also designated as an orientation of secondary and tertiary education or as an adult training program. There is a specific directorate for technical and vocational education at secondary level that is part of the Ministry of Education.

²³ Table based on Country Profile/ Education System/ www.uis.unesco.org/datacentre 2013 data.

²⁴ Status Report on the Education Management Information System (EMIS) on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Regional Bureau of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean. International Center for Technical and Vocational Education and Training UNESCO-UNEVOC. (2013)

There is also a government agency with greater autonomy, which operates independently from the Ministry of Labour with consultant from a multi-sector directorate: ***Instituto Nacional de Formación Técnico Profesional*** – INFOTEP (National Technical and Vocational Training Institute). INFOTEP has an autonomous management but operates with public funds, specific taxes on wages, external financing and tariff contributions from individuals and companies. It proposes national training policies as it has a wide national coverage.

The survey performed by the Latin America and the Caribbean Office of UNESCO-UNEVOC in 2013, reported that in Dominican Republic there is a high participation rate of women at the technical secondary level was recorded in the country (62% in 2010). In this regard, the participation of women in the total population of the age ranges of fifteen to nineteen years. This indicates that changes are related to further expansion of training programs chose by women.

Thus, through the participation rate, it was possible to analyse the number of persons in the labour market. The result appears to link the economically active population (those with a job or looking for one) and the total population aged 15 or older (the minimum age to taking a job); Dominican Republic recorded the lowest rates in the group of the 12 countries analysed (54.9%).²⁵

IV. CURRENT PROJECTS

The *Dirección de Educación Técnico Profesional del Nivel Secundario* (Technical and Vocational Education Directorate of Secondary Level) of the Ministry of Education (MINERD), under the *Programa de Apoyo Presupuestario al Sector Educación –PAPSE II* (Budget Support for the Educational Sector Program), with support from the European Union and technical assistance of the *Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo* – AECID (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development) since April 2014 is working on the development of a National Qualifications Framework, as is one of the commitments outlined in the *Pacto Nacional para la Reforma Educativa en la República Dominicana 2014-2030* (National Pact for Education Reform in Dominican Republic 2014-2030).

In May 2015 MINERD, INFOTEP and the *Ministerio de Educación Superior Ciencia y Tecnología* (Higher Education, Science and Technology Ministry) –MESCyT announced their interest to work together to enhance the National Qualifications Framework.

²⁵ Status Report on the Education Management Information System (EMIS) on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TEVET) in 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Regional Bureau of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean. International Center for Technical and Vocational Education and Training UNESCO-UNEVOC. (2013)

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS²⁶

1. The process of building the national qualifications framework (NQF) should be gradual and based on what exists.
2. The implementation of a NQF is medium and long term, and involves reforms.
3. NQF construction involves developing effective mechanisms for coordination and participation; it is necessary that stakeholders are involved at all stages.
4. NQF development is an iterative process in which the current education and training system and the NQF itself are gradually approaching (CEDEFOP 2011).
5. The NQF should respond to national needs in key international.
6. It is a process that requires resources and international technical support.

²⁶ Marco Nacional de Cualificaciones para República Dominicana: Bases. Dirección de Educación Técnico Profesional del Nivel Secundario, Ministerio de Educación de la República Dominicana (MINERD). Francisca María Arbizú Echávarri. 2015

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The World Tourism Organization. www.unwto.org

UNESCO. www.unevoc.unesco.org

VIII. ABBREVIATIONS

Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development)	AECID
Asociación Nacional de Hoteles y Restaurantes (National Association of Hotel and Restaurants)	ASONAHORES
Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement	CAFTA-DR
Centro Europeo de Formación Profesional (European Vocational Training Centre)	CEEFOP
Dominican Peso (Peso Dominicano)	DOP
Early Childhood Education	ECE
Fondo para la Promoción de la Infraestructura Turística (Tourism Infrastructure Promotion Fund)	INFRATUR
Gross Domestic Product	GDP
Instituto Nacional de Formación Técnico Profesional (National Technical and Vocational Training Institute)	INFOTEP
Millions	MM
Ministerio de Educación de República Dominicana (Dominican Republic Ministry of Education)	MINERD
Ministerio de Educación Superior, Ciencia y Tecnología (Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology)	MESCyT
National Qualification Framework (Marco Nacional de Cualificaciones)	NQF
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	OECD
Programa de Apoyo Presupuestario al Sector Educación (Budget Support for the Educational Sector Program)	PAPSE
Technical and Vocational Education and Training	TVET
Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index	TTCI
United Nations Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training	UNEVOC
United Nations Education, Scientific, and Culture Organization	UNESCO
United Nations World Tourism Organization	UNWTO
United States of America	USA
World Travel and Tourism Council	WTTC