



Puerto Rico's Economic Potential & Opportunity

PUERTO RICO'S TRANSITION FROM DEBT CRISIS TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Since its debt crisis in 2016, Puerto Rico has now restructured most of its debts to sustainable levels, has implemented significant fiscal reforms, and has boosted economic growth up to 4% in 2022.
- The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") is the only island entity still in the debt restructuring process, with a plan of adjustment recently reissued to reflect a deal with unsecured creditors.
- The Government of Puerto Rico has prioritized fiscal responsibility and transparency, including providing audited Annual Financial Statements for every fiscal year since 2018.
- Government revenues are now consistently surpassing estimates, labor participation has increased by 5% and they have achieved the lowest unemployment rate in the island's history.
- Puerto Rico is now emerging from its fiscal and debt restructuring process with a growing economy. The island is primed to create a more stable investment environment for businesses to grow and thrive.

MAXIMIZING FEDERAL INVESTMENTS FOR PUERTO RICO'S DISASTER RECOVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Making responsible use of the \$84 billion in federal funds allocated for Puerto Rico's post-disaster recovery, currently 90% of those funds have been obligated and are being deployed for reconstruction.
- DOE, FEMA, and EPA have developed the Grid Stabilization Plan to provide temporary power generation, help to rebuild the island's power generation and transmission system, and increase resilience.
- The federal government is helping to close the digital divide on the island with an investment of \$158 million for broadband infrastructure and multi-purpose community facility projects in Puerto Rico.
- Puerto Rico is actively working to leverage these federal investments and upgrades to its infrastructure, to launch a new decade of economic progress, growth, and opportunity for island residents as well as business partners in the states and abroad.

ENDING TERRITORY STATUS IS CRITICAL TO MAXIMIZING PUERTO RICO'S ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

- Puerto Rico has been a U.S. territory for 125 years, and its residents have been U.S. citizens for nearly 107 years. But the island's unequal political status creates business uncertainty, pushes island residents to leave for the states and reduces long-term investments, leading to sub-optimal economic outcomes.
- Ending Puerto Rico's territory status is critical to maximizing the island's economic potential, and statehood is the best option for fully unleashing Puerto Rico's economic growth capacity.
- Only the U.S. Congress has the power to resolve Puerto Rico's political status and create a clear path for the island's sustainable growth and prosperity by extending an offer of statehood for Puerto Rico.
- Statehood for Puerto Rico would vastly increase interstate commerce (currently about \$30 billion in goods), creating jobs and opportunities on the island and in other states, creating a win-win opportunity.
- Statehood for Puerto Rico would also help America's efforts to prevent the further growth in the influence of foreign adversaries in the Caribbean and Latin America, and instead expand opportunities for international commerce and trade with our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere.



Puerto Rico Statehood Council

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