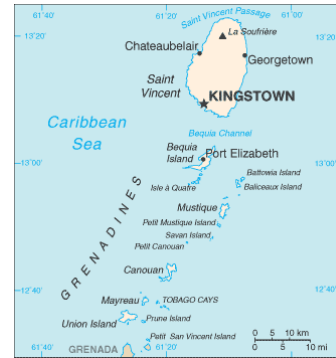


SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



INTRODUCTION

Resistance by native Caribs prevented colonization on Saint Vincent until 1719. Disputed between France and the UK for most of the 18th century, the island was ceded to Britain in 1783. Between 1960 and 1962, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was a separate administrative unit of the Federation of the West Indies. Autonomy was granted in 1969 and independence in 1979.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Queen ELIZABETH II
represented by Governor General Susan DOUGAN

Head of Government

Prime Minister Ralph E. GONSALVES

Government Type

parliamentary democracy (Parliament) under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Kingstown

Legislature

unicameral House of Assembly (23 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 389 sq km (Saint Vincent 344 sq km)
Land: 389 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical; little seasonal temperature variation;
rainy season (May to November)

Natural Resources

hydropower, arable land

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

upper middle-income Caribbean island economy; key agriculture and tourism sectors; environmentally fragile; major banana and arrowroot exporter; CARICOM member and US Caribbean Basin Initiative beneficiary

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1.34 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$12,100 (2020 est.)

Industries - tourism, food processing, cement, furniture, clothing, starch

Agricultural products - bananas, sugarcane, roots/tubers, plantains, vegetables, fruit, coconuts, sweet potatoes/yams, mangoes/guavas

Exports \$48.6 million (2017 est.)

natural gas, drilling platforms and ships, recreational boats, collector's items, eddoes and dasheen (taro), arrowroot starch (2019)

partners: Jordan 39%, Singapore 14% (2019)

Imports \$295.9 million (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, ships, poultry meats, tug boats, recreational boats (2019)

partners: US 30%, Trinidad and Tobago 12%, China 8%, UK 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

101,145 (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

-0.18% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

African descent 71.2%, mixed 23%, indigenous 3%, East Indian/Indian 1.1%, European 1.5%, other 0.2% (2012 est.)

Language

English, Vincentian Creole English, French patois

Religion

Protestant 75%, Roman Catholic 6.3%, Rastafarian 1.1%, Jehovah's Witness 0.8%, other 4.7%, none 7.5%, unspecified 4.7% (2012 est.)

