SAINT LUCIA

INTRODUCTION
The island, with its fine natural harbor at Castries and burgeoning sugar industry, was contested between England and France throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries (changing possession 14 times). It was finally ceded to the UK in 1814. Saint Lucia joined the West Indies Federation (1958-1962) and in 1967 became one of the six members of the West Indies Associated States. In 1979, Saint Lucia gained full independence.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Queen ELIZABETH II represented by Governor General Neville CENAC
Head of Government
Prime Minister Philip J. PIERRE
Government Type
parliamentary democracy (Parliament) under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm
Capital
Castries
Legislature
bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (11 seats) and the House of Assembly (17 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 616 sq km
Land: 606 sq km
Water: 10 sq km
Climate
tropical, moderated by northeast trade winds; dry season January to April, rainy season May to August
Natural Resources
forests, sandy beaches, minerals (pumice), mineral springs, geothermal potential

as of October 2021

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
upper middle-income, tourism-based Caribbean island economy; environmentally fragile; energy import-dependent; OECS host; major banana producer; well-educated labor force; key infrastructure improvements; investing in communications and IT
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $2.25 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $12,300 (2020 est.)
Industries - tourism, clothing, electronic components assembly, beverages, corrugated cardboard boxes, lime processing, coconut processing
Agricultural products - bananas, coconuts, fruit, tropical fruit, plantains, roots/tubers, cassava, poultry, vegetables
Exports $185.1 million (2017 est.)
crude petroleum, beer, jewelry, bananas, refined petroleum, rum (2019)
partners: US 29%, Uruguay 16%, Barbados 8%, Trinidad and Tobago 5.5%, UK 6%, Dominica 6%, Guyana 5%, France 5% (2019)
Imports $600 million (2017 est.)
crude and refined petroleum, cars, poultry meats, natural gas (2019)
partners: Colombia 46%, US 30%, Trinidad and Tobago 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
166,640 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.3% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Black/African descent 85.3%, mixed 10.9%, East Indian 2.2%, other 1.6%, unspecified 0.1% (2010 est.)
Language
English (official); French patois
Religion
Roman Catholic 61.5%, Protestant 25.5%, other Christian 3.4%, Rastafarian 1.9%, other 0.4%, none 5.9%, unspecified 1.4% (2010 est.)