INTRODUCTION
English and Irish colonists from St. Kitts first settled on Montserrat in 1632. The British and French fought for possession of the island for most of the 18th century, but it finally was confirmed as a British possession in 1783. The island’s sugar plantation economy was converted to small farm landholdings in the mid-19th century. Much of this island was devastated and two-thirds of the population fled abroad because of the eruption of the Soufriere Hills Volcano that began on 18 July 1995.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Queen ELIZABETH II represented by Governor Andrew PEARCE
Head of Government
Premier Easton TAYLOR-FARRELL
Government Type
parliamentary democracy; Overseas Territory of the UK with limited self-government
Capital
Plymouth; note - Plymouth was abandoned in 1997 because of volcanic activity; interim government buildings have been built at Brades Estate, the de facto capital
Legislature
unicameral Legislative Assembly (11 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 102 sq km
Land: 102 sq km
Water: 0 sq km
Climate
tropical; little daily or seasonal temperature variation
Natural Resources
negligible

as of October 2021

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
formerly high-income economy; volcanic activity destroyed much of original infrastructure and economy; new capital and port is being developed; key geothermal and solar power generation; key music recording operations
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $167.4 million (2011 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $34,000 (2011 est.)
Industries - tourism, rum, textiles, electronic appliances
Agricultural products - cabbages, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, peppers, livestock products
Exports $4.4 million (2017 est.)
- sand, iron products, seats, medical instruments, fish (2019)
- partners: Antigua and Barbuda 19%, US 18%, France 17%, Singapore 14%, Belgium 9%, Netherlands 5% (2019)
Imports $39.44 million (2017 est.)
- refined petroleum, cars, oranges, electric motors, broadcasting equipment (2019)
- partners: US 70%, UK 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
5,390 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.52% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
African/Black 86.2%, mixed 4.8%, Hispanic/Spanish 3%, Caucasian/White 2.7%, East Indian/Indian 1.6%, other 1.8% (2018 est.)
Language
English
Religion
Protestant 71.4% Roman Catholic 11.4%, Rastafarian 1.4%, Hindu 1.2%, Jehovah’s Witness 1%, Muslim 0.4%, other/not stated 5.1%, none 7.9% (2018 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 9.2% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 0.94% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)