SINT MAARTEN

INTRODUCTION
Sighted by COLUMBUS in 1493, claimed by Spain but occupied by the Dutch, who divided the island with France in 1648. In a 2000 referendum, the citizens of Sint Maarten voted to be a self-governing country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, effective 2010.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
King WILLEM ALEXANDER of the Netherlands represented by Governor General Eugene HOLIDAY
Head of Government
Interim Prime Minister Silveria JACOBS
Government Type
parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy
Capital
Phillipsburg
Legislature
unicameral Parliament of Sint Maarten (15 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 34 sq km
Land: 34 sq km
Water: 0 sq km
Climate
tropical marine climate, ameliorated by northeast trade winds, results in moderate temperatures; average rainfall of 150 cm/year; hurricane season stretches from July to November
Natural Resources
fish, salt

as of April 2022

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
high-income, tourism-based Dutch autonomous constituent economy; severe hurricane- and COVID-19-related economic recessions; multilateral trust fund helping offset economic downturn; no property taxation; re-exporter to Saint Martin
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $1.44 billion (2018 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $35,300 (2018 est.)
Industries - tourism, light industry
Agricultural products - sugar
Exports $1.09 billion (2019 est.)
sugar
partners: NA
Imports $1.23 billion (2019 est.)
NA
partners: NA

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
45,130 (July 2022 est.)
Population Growth
1.23% (2022 est.)
Ethnicity
Saint Maarten 29.9%, Dominican Republic 10.2%, Haiti 7.8%, Jamaica 6.6%, Saint Martin 5.9%, Guyana 5%, Dominica 4.4%, Curacao 4.1%, other 24.4%, unspecified 1.7% (2011 est.)
Language
English (official) 67.5%, Spanish 12.9%, Creole 8.2%, Dutch (official) 4.2%, Papiamento (a Spanish-Portuguese-Dutch-English dialect) 2.2%, French 1.5%, other 3.5% (2001 est.)
Religion
Protestant 41.9%, Roman Catholic 33.1%, Hindu 5.2%, Christian 4.1%, Jehovah's Witness 1.7%, Evangelical 1.4%, Muslim/Jewish 1.1%, other 1.3%, none 7.9%, no response 2.4% (2011 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 100% of total population (2022)
rate of urbanization: 1.16% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)