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 Brittan 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)

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 nes, 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.)

as of October 2021