DOMINICA

INTRODUCTION
Dominica was the last of the Caribbean islands to be colonized by Europeans due chiefly to the fierce resistance of the native Caribs. France ceded possession to Great Britain in 1763, which colonized the island in 1805. Independence came in 1978.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Charles A. SAVARIN
Head of Government
Prime Minister Roosevelt SKERRIT
Government Type
parliamentary republic
Capital
Roseau
Legislature
unicameral House of Assembly (32 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 751 sq km
Land: 751 sq km
Water: negligible
Climate
tropical; moderated by northeast trade winds; heavy rainfall
Natural Resources
timber, hydropower, arable land

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
highly agrarian OECS island economy; ECCU-member state; large banana exporter; COVID-19- and Hurricane Maria-related public debt increases; improving government oversight of its very cheap citizenship-by-investment program
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $710 million (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $9,900 (2020 est.)
Industries - soap, coconut oil, tourism, copra, furniture, cement blocks, shoes
Agricultural products - bananas, yams, grapefruit, taro, milk, coconuts, oranges, yautia, plantains, sugarcane
Exports $28 million (2017 est.)
medical instruments, pharmaceuticals, low-voltage protection equipment, tropical fruits, bandages (2019)
partners: Saudi Arabia 47%, Qatar 5% (2019)
Imports $206.6 million (2017 est.)
refined petroleum, natural gas, crude petroleum, recreational boats, cars (2019)
partners: US 57%, Nigeria 11%, China 6%, Italy 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
74,580 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.07% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
African descent 84.5%, mixed 9%, Indigenous 3.8%, other 2.1%, unspecified 0.6% (2011 est.)
Language
English (official), French patois
Religion
Roman Catholic 52.7%, Protestant 29.7%, Jehovah’s Witness 1.3%, Rastafarian 1.1%, other 4.3%, none 9.4%, unspecified 1.4% (2011 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 71.4% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 0.84% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)
as of October 2021