

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



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 Britain 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

King CHARLES III represented by Governor General Susan DOUGAN

Head of Government

Prime Minister Ralph E. GONSALVES

Government Type

parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Kingstown

Legislature

unicameral House of Assembly (23 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Lou-Anne Gaylene GILCHRIST

US Ambassador

the US does not have an embassy in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, US Ambassador to Barbados Linda S. TAGLIALATELA is accredited to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 389 sq km (Saint Vincent 344 sq km)
Land: 389 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical; little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season (May to November)

Natural Resources

hydropower, arable land

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) \$1.43 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$13,700 (2021 est.)

Industries - tourism, food processing, cement, furniture, clothing, starch

Agricultural products - bananas, sugarcane, roots/tubers, plantains, vegetables, fruit, coconuts, sweet potatoes/yams, mangoes/guavas

Exports \$125.8 million (2021 est.)

recreational boats, drilling platforms, cargo ships, wheat flours, animal food, collector's items (2021)

partners: Netherlands 45%, India 9%, US 6%, Barbados 5%, Greece 5% (2021)

Imports \$415.7 million (2021 est.)

dredger ships, refined petroleum, floating docks, aircraft, poultry, packaged medicines (2021)

partners: US 29%, Netherlands 15%, Trinidad and Tobago 10%, China 8%, France 5% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

100,800 (2023 est.)

Population Growth

-0.16% (2023 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.)