



SAINT LUCIA



INTRODUCTION

The island, with its fine natural harbor and burgeoning sugar industry, was contested between England and France throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries. It was finally ceded to the UK in 1814. Saint Lucia joined the West Indies Federation in 1958 and in 1967 became a member of the West Indies Associated States. In 1979, Saint Lucia gained full independence.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King CHARLES III represented by Acting Governor General Errol CHARLES

Head of Government

Prime Minister Philip J. PIERRE

Government Type

parliamentary democracy (Parliament) under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Castries

Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (11 seats) and the House of Assembly (18 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Elizabeth DARIUS-CLARKE

US Ambassador

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

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 616 sq km
Land: 606 sq km
Water: 10 sq km

Climate

tropical, moderated by NE trade winds; dry season January to April, rainy season May to August

Natural Resources

forests, sandy beaches, minerals (pumice), mineral springs, geothermal potential

as of May 2023

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

upper middle-income, tourism-based Caribbean island economy; environmentally fragile; energy import-dependent; major banana producer; well-educated labor force; key infrastructure, IT, and communications investments

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$2.34 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$13,000 (2021 est.)

Industries - tourism, clothing, electronic components assembly, beverages, corrugated cardboard boxes, lime processing, coconut processing

Agricultural products - bananas, coconuts, fruit, tropical fruit, plantains, roots/tubers, cassava, poultry, vegetables

Exports \$890.7 million (2021 est.)

crude petroleum, fertilizers, refined petroleum, polymers, aluminum (2021)

partners: Brazil 98% (2021)

Imports \$846.5 million (2021 est.)

crude petroleum, poultry, sugar, refined petroleum, soybeans, beef, corn, wheat (2021)

partners: Brazil 64%, United States 14%, Russia 8%, Colombia 7%, Trinidad and Tobago 2% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

167,590 (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.27% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

Black/African descent 85.3%, mixed 10.9%, East Indian 2.2%, other 1.6%, unspecified 0.1% (2010 est.)

Language

English (official); Saint Lucian Creole

Religion

Roman Catholic 61.5%, Protestant 25.5%, other Christian 3.4%, Rastafarian 1.9%, other 0.4%, none 5.9%, unspecified 1.4% (2010 est.)