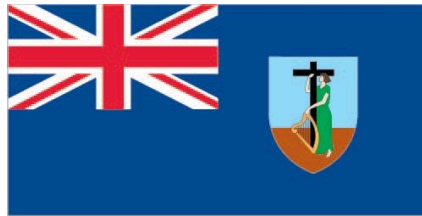




MONTSERRAT



INTRODUCTION

English colonists from St. Kitts settled on Montserrat in 1632. The British and French fought for possession of the island for most of the 18th century, but it finally was confirmed as a British possession in 1783. The island's sugar plantation economy was converted to small farm landholdings in the mid-19th century. Much of the island was devastated and two thirds of the population fled due to the 1995 Soufriere Hills Volcano eruption.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King CHARLES III represented by Governor Sarah TUCKER

Head of Government

Premier Easton TAYLOR-FARRELL

Government Type

parliamentary democracy; self-governing overseas territory of the UK

Capital

Plymouth; note - Plymouth was abandoned in 1997 due to volcanic activity; interim government buildings have been built at Brades Estate, the de facto capital

Legislature

unicameral Legislative Assembly (12 seats)

Ambassador to US

none (overseas territory of the UK)

US Ambassador

none (overseas territory of the UK)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 102 sq km
Land: 102 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical; little daily or seasonal temperature variation

Natural Resources

negligible

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

formerly high-income economy; volcanic activity destroyed much of original infrastructure and economy; new capital and port is being developed; key geothermal and solar power generation; key music recording operations

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$167.4 million (2011 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$34,000 (2011 est.)

Industries - tourism, rum, textiles, electronic appliances

Agricultural products - cabbages, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, peppers, livestock products

Exports \$11.9 million (2021 est.)

iron products, needles and catheters, sand, dental filling pharmaceuticals, gravel (2021)

partners: Canada 48%, US 14%, Belgium 14%, France 11%, Cost Rica 3% (2021)

Imports \$15.3 million (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, food preparations, cars, broadcasting equipment, poultry (2021)

partners: US 47%, Trinidad and Tobago 19%, UK 9%, Barbados 3%, Japan 2% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

5,440 (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.5% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

African/Black 86.2%, mixed 4.8%, Hispanic/Spanish 3%, Caucasian/White 2.7%, East Indian/Indian 1.6%, other 1.8% (2018 est.)

Language

English

Religion

Protestant 71.4%, Roman Catholic 11.4%, Rastafarian 1.4%, Hindu 1.2%, Jehovah's Witness 1%, Muslim 0.4%, other/not stated 5.1%, none 7.9% (2018 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 9.3% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 0.94% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

as of May 2023