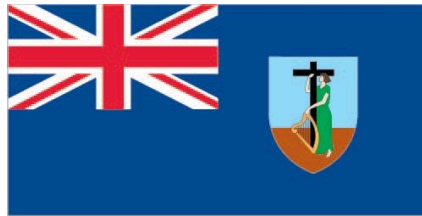




# MONTSERRAT



## INTRODUCTION

English and Irish colonists from St. Kitts first 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 this island was devastated and two-thirds of the population fled abroad because of the eruption of the Soufriere Hills Volcano that began on 18 July 1995.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

Queen ELIZABETH II  
represented by Governor Andrew PEARCE

### Head of Government

Premier Easton TAYLOR-FARRELL

### Government Type

parliamentary democracy; Overseas Territory of the UK with limited self-government

### Capital

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

### Legislature

unicameral Legislative Assembly (11 seats)

## 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** \$4.4 million (2017 est.)

sand, iron products, seats, medical instruments, fish (2019)

**partners:** Antigua and Barbuda 19%, US 18%, France 17%, Singapore 14%, Belgium 9%, Netherlands 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$39.44 million (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, oranges, electric motors, broadcasting equipment (2019)

**partners:** US 70%, UK 6% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

5,390 (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

0.52% (2021 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: 9.2% of total population (2021)  
rate of urbanization: 0.94% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

