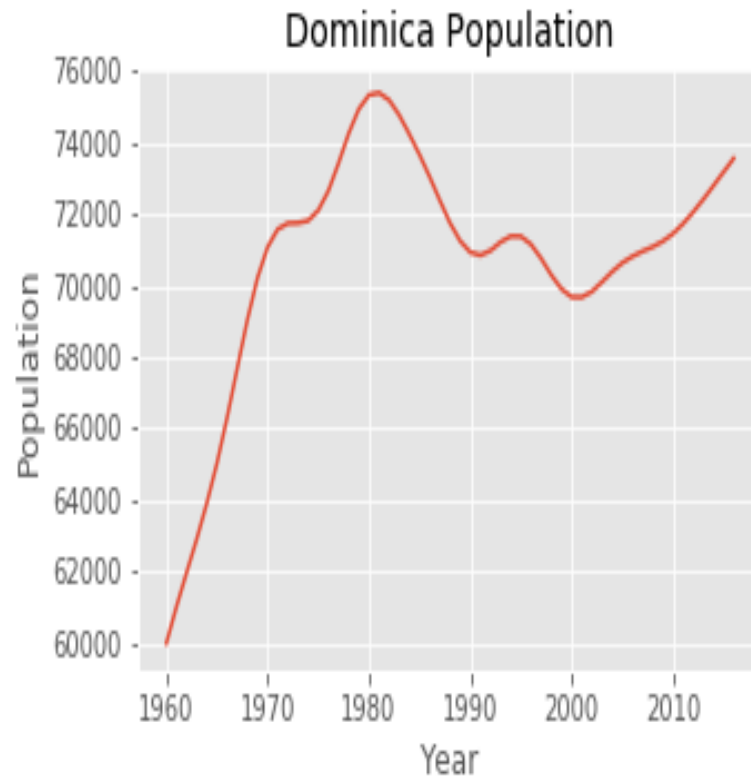


# Dominica



Coordinates: 15°25′N 61°20′W﻿ / ﻿15.417°N 61.333°W﻿ / 15.417; -61.333in the Caribbean (light yellow)Dominica (/dəˈmɪnɪkə/ ( listen) or /dəmˈnikə/; French: Dominique; Island Carib: Wai'tu kubuli), officially the Commonwealth of Dominica, is an island republic. The capital, Roseau, is located on the leeward side of the island. It is part of the Windward Islands in the Lesser Antilles archipelago in the Caribbean Sea. The island lies south-southeast of Guadeloupe and northwest of Martinique. Its area is 750 km<sup>2</sup> (290 sq mi), and the highest point is Morne Diablotins, at 1,447 m (4,747 ft) in elevation. The population was 71,293 at the 2011 census.The island was originally inhabited by the Kalinago and later colonised by Europeans, predominantly by the French from the 1690s to 1763. Columbus is said to have passed the island on Sunday, 3 November 1493, and the island's name is derived from the Latin for "Sunday". Great Britain took possession in 1763 after the Seven Years' War, and it gradually established English as its official language. The island republic gained independence in 1978.