



# Saint Lucia



<b>Background</b>	England and France contested Saint Lucia -- with its fine natural harbor at Castries and burgeoning sugar industry -- throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries, with possession changing 14 times; it was finally ceded to the UK in 1814 and became part of the British Windward Islands colony. Even after the abolition of slavery on its plantations in 1834, Saint Lucia remained an agricultural island, dedicated to producing tropical commodity crops. In the mid-20th century, Saint Lucia joined the West Indies Federation (1958–1962) and in 1967 became one of the six members of the West Indies Associated States, with internal self-government. In 1979, Saint Lucia gained full independence.
<b>Capital</b>	name: Castries
<b>Government type</b>	parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm
<b>Area</b>	total : 616 sq km land: 606 sq km water: 10 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	tropical, moderated by northeast trade winds; dry season January to April, rainy season May to August
<b>Natural resources</b>	forests, sandy beaches, minerals (pumice), mineral springs, geothermal potential
<b>Population</b>	total: 168,038 (2024 est.)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	0.25% (2025 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Black/African descent 85.3%, mixed 10.9%, East Indian 2.2%, other 1.6%, unspecified 0.1% (2010 est.)
<b>Religions</b>	Roman Catholic 61.5%, Protestant 25.5% (includes Seventh Day Adventist 10.4%, Pentecostal 8.9%, Baptist 2.2%, Anglican 1.6%, Church of God 1.5%, other Protestant 0.9%), other Christian 3.4% (includes Evangelical 2.3% and Jehovah's Witness 1.1%), Rastafarian 1.9%, other 0.4%, none 5.9%, unspecified 1.4% (2010 est.)
<b>Languages</b>	English (official), Saint Lucian Creole
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: King CHARLES III (since 8 September 2022); represented by Acting Governor General Cyril Errol CHARLES (since 11 November 2021) head of government: Prime Minister Philip J. PIERRE (since 28 July 2021)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	legislature name: Houses of Parliament
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Elizabeth DARIUS-CLARKE (since 7 June 2022)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	embassy: the US does not have an embassy in Saint Lucia; the US Ambassador to Barbados is accredited to Saint Lucia

<b>Economic overview</b>	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
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$4.359 billion (2024 est.) \$4.196 billion (2023 est.) \$4.105 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$24,300 (2024 est.) \$23,400 (2023 est.) \$23,000 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$1.6 billion (2024 est.) \$1.419 billion (2023 est.) \$1.29 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	Guyana 20%, Suriname 15%, USA 11%, Barbados 8%, Dominica 7% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, gravel and crushed stone, beer, liquor, paper containers (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$1.446 billion (2024 est.) \$1.292 billion (2023 est.) \$1.2 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	USA 59%, Guyana 8%, Brazil 7%, China 5%, UK 3% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, crude petroleum, cars, poultry, plastic products (2023)

## Population Pyramid

