



Dominica



Background Dominica was the last of the Caribbean islands to be colonized by Europeans, due chiefly to the fierce resistance of the native Caribs. France ceded possession to Britain in 1763, and Dominica became a British colony in 1805.

Slavery ended in 1833, and in 1835, the first three men of African descent were elected to the legislative assembly of Dominica. In 1871, Dominica became first part of the British Leeward Islands and then the British Windward Islands until 1958. In 1967, Dominica became an associated state of the UK, formally taking responsibility for its internal affairs, and the country gained its independence in 1978. In 1980, Dominica's fortunes improved when Mary Eugenia CHARLES -- the first female prime minister in the Caribbean -- replaced a corrupt and tyrannical administration, and she served for the next 15 years. In 2017, Hurricane Maria passed over the island, causing extensive damage to structures, roads, communications, and the power supply, and largely destroying critical agricultural areas.

Capital name: Roseau

Government type parliamentary republic

Area total: 751 sq km
land: 751 sq km
water: NEGL

Climate tropical; moderated by northeast trade winds; heavy rainfall

Natural resources timber, hydropower, arable land

Population total: 74,661

Population growth rate -0.01% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups African descent 84.5%, mixed 9%, Indigenous 3.8%, other 2.1%, unspecified 0.6% (2011 est.)

Religions Roman Catholic 52.7%, Protestant 29.7% (includes Seventh Day Adventist 6.7%, Pentecostal 6.1%, Baptist 5.2%, Christian Union Church 3.9%, Methodist 2.6%, Gospel Mission 2.1%, other Protestant 3.1%), Jehovah's Witness 1.3%, Rastafarian 1.1%, other 4.3%, none 9.4%, unspecified 1.4% (2011 est.)

Languages English (official), French patois

Executive branch chief of state: President Sylvanie BURTON (since 2 October 2023)
head of government: Prime Minister Roosevelt SKERRIT (since 8 January 2004)

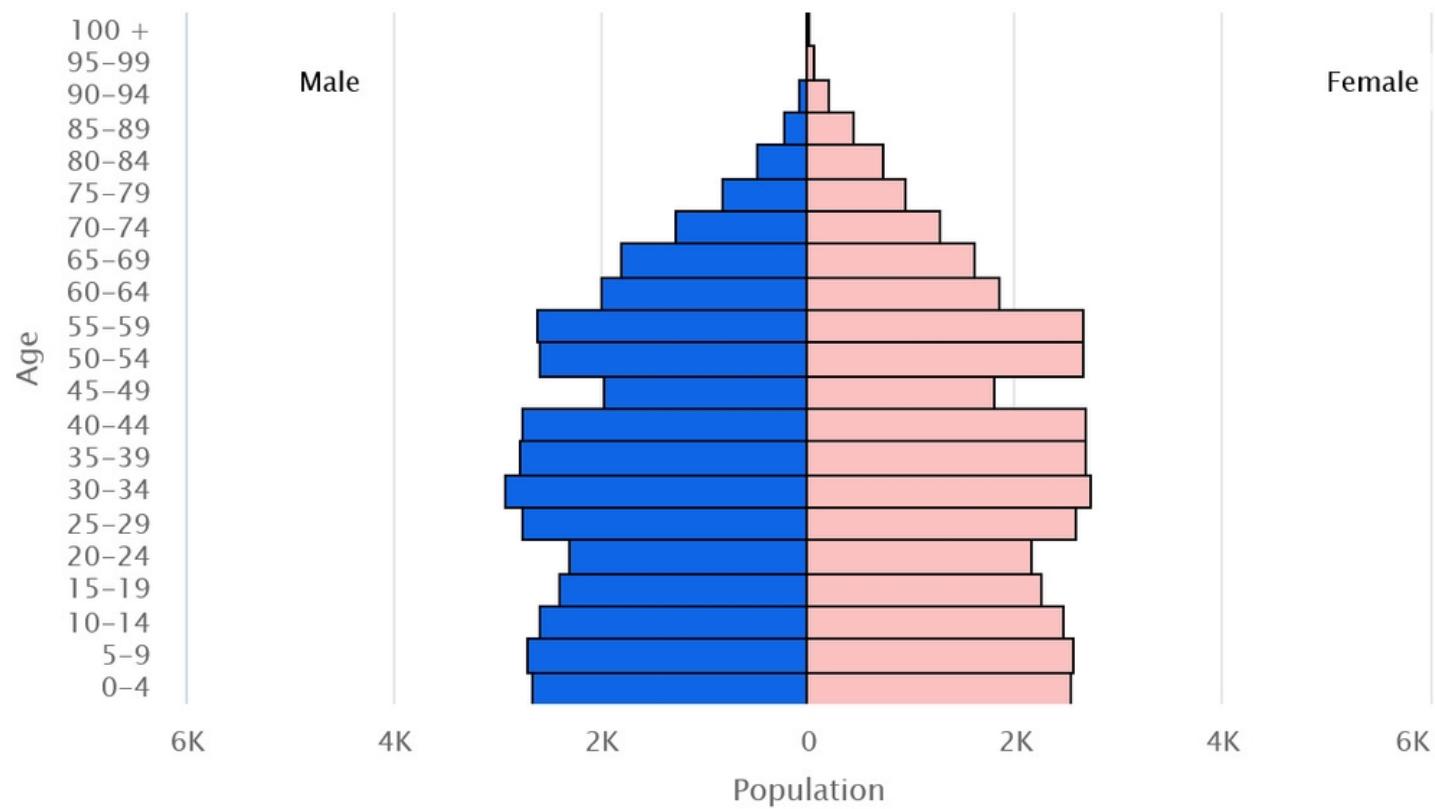
Legislative branch legislature name: House of Assembly

Diplomatic representation in the US chief of mission: Ambassador Steve FERROL (since 15 September 2023)

Diplomatic representation from the US embassy: the US does not have an embassy in Dominica; the US Ambassador to Barbados is accredited to Dominica

Economic overview	highly agrarian OECS island economy; ECCU-member state; large banana exporter; improved oversight of its citizenship-by-investment program; emerging ecotourism, information and communications, and education industries
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$1.159 billion (2023 est.) \$1.106 billion (2022 est.) \$1.048 billion (2021 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$17,400 (2023 est.) \$16,600 (2022 est.) \$15,600 (2021 est.)
Exports	\$185,062 million (2023 est.) \$174,041 million (2022 est.) \$117,709 million (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	Bahamas, The 12%, Guyana 8%, Antigua and Barbuda 7%, Dominican Republic 7%, Barbados 6% (2022)
Exports - commodities	power equipment, soap, raw iron bars, natural gas, tropical fruits (2022)
Imports	\$414.13 million (2023 est.) \$350,982 million (2022 est.) \$313,729 million (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	US 51%, China 9%, Indonesia 4%, Trinidad and Tobago 4%, Italy 3% (2022)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, natural gas, crude petroleum, plastic products, cars (2022)

Population Pyramid



U.S. Census Bureau, International Database