

Countries

- [Dominica](#)
- [Kosovo](#)
- [Seychelles](#)
- [Saint Kitts and Nevis](#)

Dominica

Overview

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 Great Britain in 1763, which colonized the island in 1805. In 1980, two years after independence, Dominica's fortunes improved when a corrupt and tyrannical administration was replaced by that of Mary Eugenia CHARLES, the first female prime minister in the Caribbean, who remained in office for 15 years. On 18 September 2017, Hurricane Maria passed over the island causing extensive damage to structures, roads, communications, and the power supply, and largely destroying critical agricultural areas.

Images



View of the south side of the island. Dominica features lush mountainous rain forests, and is the home of many rare plant, animal, and bird species (including the Sisserou Parrot featured on its flag).





Green with a centered cross of three equal bands - the vertical part is yellow (hoist side), black, and white and the horizontal part is yellow (top), black, and white; superimposed in the center of the cross is a red disk bearing a Sisserou parrot, unique to Dominica, encircled by 10 green, five-pointed stars edged in yellow; the 10 stars represent the 10 administrative divisions (parishes); green symbolizes the island's lush vegetation; the triple-colored cross represents the Christian Trinity; the yellow color denotes sunshine, the main agricultural products (citrus and bananas), and the native Carib Indians; black is for the rich soil and the African heritage of most citizens; white signifies rivers, waterfalls, and the purity of aspirations; the red disc stands for social justice

Geography

Location:	Caribbean, island between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, about halfway between Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago
Area:	751sq km, 0sq km
Coastline:	148km
Area comparison:	slightly more than four times the size of Washington, DC
Map reference:	Central America and the Caribbean

Geography

Climate:	tropical; moderated by northeast trade winds; heavy rainfall
Terrain:	rugged mountains of volcanic origin
Natural resources:	timber, hydropower, arable land
Natural hazards:	flash floods are a constant threat; destructive hurricanes can be expected during the late summer months

Society

Population:	73897
Median age (in years):	Male: 33, Female: 34
Ethnic groups:	86.6% Black 9.1% Mixed 2.9% Indigenous 0.2% Unspecified
Languages:	English (official) French patois
Religions:	61.4% Roman Catholic 28.6% Protestant 1.3% Rastafarian 1.2% Jehovah's Witness 0.3% Other 6.1% None 1.1% Unspecified
Age structure:	0-14: 21.72% 15-24: 15.14% 25-54: 42.2% 55-64: 9.81% 65-over: 11.14%

Government

Type:	parliamentary republic
Country names:	Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominica
Country divisions:	10 parishes; Saint Andrew, Saint David, Saint George, Saint John, Saint Joseph, Saint Luke, Saint Mark, Saint Patrick, Saint Paul, Saint Peter
Capital city:	Roseau 15 18N 61 24W
Independence date:	3 November 1978
Constitution history:	previous 1967 (preindependence); latest presented 25 July 1978, entered into force 3 November 1978; amended several times, last in 2015
Legal system:	common law based on the English model
International Law:	accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction; accepts ICCt jurisdiction
Citizenship:	By birth: yes By descent only: yes Dual citizenship recognized: yes Residency requirement for naturalization: 5 years
Executive Branch:	Chief of state: President Charles A. SAVARIN (since 2 October 2013) Head of government: Prime Minister Roosevelt SKERRIT (since 8 January 2004) Cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the president on the advice of the prime minister
National symbols:	Sisserou parrot, Carib Wood flower
National anthem:	Name: Isle of Beauty

Economy

The Dominican economy has been dependent on agriculture - primarily bananas - in years past, but increasingly has been driven by tourism as the government seeks to promote Dominica as an "ecotourism" destination. Moreover, Dominica has an offshore medical education sector. In order to diversify the island's economy, the government is also attempting to foster an offshore financial industry and plans to sign agreements with the private sector to develop geothermal energy resources. In 2003, the government began a comprehensive restructuring of the economy - including the elimination of price controls, privatization of the state banana company, and tax increases - to address an economic and financial crisis and to meet IMF requirements. In 2009 and 2013, the economy contracted as a result of the global recession; growth remains anemic. Although public debt levels continue to exceed pre-recession levels, the debt burden declined from 78% of GDP in 2011 to approximately 70% in 2012.

Real Growth Rate:	To 2016: 2.6% To 2015: -2.5% To 2014: 4.4%
Agriculture:	bananas, citrus, mangos, root crops, coconuts, cocoa
Industries:	soap, coconut oil, tourism, copra, furniture, cement blocks, shoes
Taxes:	28.5% of GDP
Public Debt:	To 2016: 81% To 2015: 83%
Imported commodities:	manufactured goods, machinery and equipment, food, chemicals
Import partners:	US: 23.4 Trinidad and Tobago: 18.1 Italy: 8.7 UK: 5.4
Exported commodities:	bananas, soap, bay oil, vegetables, grapefruit, oranges
Export partners:	Trinidad and Tobago: 15.4 Jamaica: 13.3 Saudi Arabia: 13 St. Kitts and Nevis: 11.8 Guyana: 9.3 Barbados: 5.1 US: 5.1 Antigua and Barbuda: 4.5 Egypt: 4.1

Energy

Electricity:	Access: 93% Production: 97 million kWh Consumption: 90.21 million kWh Exports: 0 kWh Imports: 0 kWh Generating capacity: 33,200 kW
Crude oil:	Production: 0 bbl/day Exports: 0 bbl/day Imports: 0 bbl/day
Petroleum:	Production: 0 bbl/day Consumption: 1000 bbl/day Exports: 0 bbl/day Imports: 978.2 bbl/day
Natural gas:	Production: 0 cu m Consumption: 0 cu m Proved reserves: N/A
Carbon Dioxide	100,000 Mt

Communications

Telephones:	No. of fixed lines: 13,328 No. of mobile lines: 78,444
Broadcast media:	no terrestrial TV service available; subscription cable TV provider offers some locally produced programming plus channels from the US, Latin America, and the Caribbean; state-operated radio broadcasts on 6 stations; privately owned radio broadcasts on about 15 stations
Internet information	Country code: .dm Users: 49,439, percentage: 67

Transportation

Roadways:	Paved: 762 km Unpaved: 750 km
Railways:	Total: 0 km
Airports:	2
Civil aircraft country code:	J7

Military security

Branches:	no regular military forces; Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force (includes Coast Guard)
------------------	--

Transnational issues

Disputes:	Dominica is the only Caribbean state to challenge Venezuela's sovereignty claim over Aves Island and joins the other island nations in challenging whether the feature sustains human habitation, a criterion under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which permits Venezuela to extend its EEZ and continental shelf claims over a large portion of the eastern Caribbean Sea
------------------	---

Kosovo

Overview

The central Balkans were part of the Roman and Byzantine Empires before ethnic Serbs migrated to the territories of modern Kosovo in the 7th century. During the medieval period, Kosovo became the center of a Serbian Empire and saw the construction of many important Serb religious sites, including many architecturally significant Serbian Orthodox monasteries. The defeat of Serbian forces at the Battle of Kosovo in 1389 led to five centuries of Ottoman rule during which large numbers of Turks and Albanians moved to Kosovo. By the end of the 19th century, Albanians replaced Serbs as the dominant ethnic group in Kosovo. Serbia reacquired control over the region from the Ottoman Empire during the First Balkan War of 1912. After World War II, Kosovo's present-day boundaries were established when Kosovo became an autonomous province of Serbia in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (S.F.R.Y.). Despite legislative concessions, Albanian nationalism increased in the 1980s, which led to riots and calls for Kosovo's independence. The Serbs - many of whom viewed Kosovo as their cultural heartland - instituted a new constitution in 1989 revoking Kosovo's autonomous status. Kosovo's Albanian leaders responded in 1991 by organizing a referendum declaring Kosovo independent. Serbia undertook repressive measures against the Kosovar Albanians in the 1990s, provoking a Kosovar Albanian insurgency. Beginning in 1998, Serbia conducted a brutal counterinsurgency campaign that resulted in massacres and massive expulsions of ethnic Albanians (some 800,000 ethnic Albanians were forced from their homes in Kosovo). After international attempts to mediate the conflict failed, a three-month NATO military operation against Serbia beginning in March 1999 forced the Serbs to agree to withdraw their military and police forces from Kosovo. UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) placed Kosovo under a transitional administration, the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), pending a determination of Kosovo's future status. A UN-led process began in late 2005 to determine Kosovo's final status. The 2006-07 negotiations ended without agreement between Belgrade and Pristina, though the UN issued a comprehensive report on Kosovo's final status that endorsed independence. On 17 February 2008, the Kosovo Assembly declared Kosovo independent. Since then, over 110 countries have recognized Kosovo, and it has joined numerous international organizations. In October 2008, Serbia sought an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legality under international law of Kosovo's declaration of independence. The ICJ released the advisory opinion in July 2010 affirming that Kosovo's declaration of independence did not violate general principles of international law, UN Security Council Resolution 1244, or the Constitutive Framework. The opinion was closely tailored to Kosovo's unique history and circumstances. Demonstrating Kosovo's development into a sovereign, multi-ethnic, democratic country the international community ended the period of Supervised Independence in 2012. Elections were held throughout Kosovo in 2013 and 2014, at the municipal and national level respectively. Serbia continues to reject Kosovo's independence, but the two countries reached an agreement to normalize their relations in April 2013 through EU-facilitated talks and are currently engaged in the implementation process. Kosovo seeks full integration into the international community, and has pursued bilateral recognitions and eventual membership in international organizations, such as the UN, EU, and NATO.

Images



Centered on a dark blue field is a gold-colored silhouette of Kosovo surmounted by six white, five-pointed stars arrayed in a slight arc; each star represents one of the major ethnic groups of Kosovo: Albanians, Serbs, Turks, Gorani, Roma, and Bosniaks

Geography

Location:	Southeast Europe, between Serbia and Macedonia
-----------	--

Geography

Area:	10887sq km, 0sq km
Coastline:	0km
Area comparison:	slightly larger than Delaware
Map reference:	Europe
Climate:	influenced by continental air masses resulting in relatively cold winters with heavy snowfall and hot, dry summers and autumns; Mediterranean and alpine influences create regional variation; maximum rainfall between October and December
Terrain:	flat fluvial basin at an elevation of 400-700 m above sea level surrounded by several high mountain ranges with elevations of 2,000 to 2,500 m
Natural resources:	nickel, lead, zinc, magnesium, lignite, kaolin, chrome, bauxite
Natural hazards:	None

Society

Population:	1,895,250
Median age (in years):	Male: 28.8, Female: 29.5
Ethnic groups:	92.9% Albanians 1.6% Bosniaks 1.5% Serbs 1.1% Turk 0.9% Ashkali 0.7% Egyptian 0.6% Gorani 0.5% Romani 0.2% Other/Unspecified
Languages:	Albanian (official) Bosnian Serbian (official) Turkish other (includes Romani) unspecified
Religions:	95.6% Muslim 2.2% Roman Catholic 1.5% Orthodox 0.07% Other 0.07% Mone 0.6% Unspecified
Age structure:	0-14: 25.01% 15-24: 17.22% 25-54: 42.57% 55-64: 7.92% 65-over: 7.28%

Government

Type:	presidential republic
Country names:	Republic of Kosovo, Kosovo
Country divisions:	38 municipalities (komunat, singular - komuna (Albanian); opstine, singular - opstina (Serbian)); Decan (Decani), Dragash (Dragas), Ferizaj (Urosevac), Fushe Kosove (Kosovo Polje), Gjakove (Dakovica), Gjilan (Gnjilane), Gllogovc (Glogovac), Gracanice (Gracanica), Hani i Elezit (Deneral Jankovic), Istog (Istok), Junik, Kacanik, Kamenice (Kamenica), Kline (Klina), Klokot (Klokot), Leposaviq (Leposavic), Lipjan (Lipljan), Malisheve (Malisevo), Mamushe (Mamusa), Mitrovica e Jug (Juzna Mitrovica) [South Mitrovica], Mitrovica e Veriut (Severna Mitrovica) [North Mitrovica], Novoberde (Novo Brdo), Obiliq (Obilic), Partesh (Partes), Peje (Pec), Podujeve (Podujevo), Prishtine (Pristina), Prizren, Rahovec (Orahovac), Ranillug (Ranilug), Shterpce (Strpce), Shtime (Stimlje), Skenderaj (Srbica), Suhareke (Suva Reka), Viti (Vitina), Vushtrri (Vucitrn), Zubin Potok, Zvecan
Capital city:	Pristina (Prishtine, Prishtina) 42 40N 21 10E
Independence date:	17 February 2008
Constitution history:	previous 1974, 1990; latest (postindependence) draft finalized 2 April 2008, signed 7 April 2008, ratified 9 April 2008, entered into force 15 June 2008; note - amendment 24, passed by the Assembly in August 2015, established the Kosovo Relocated Specialist Institution, a court established to try war crimes allegedly committed by the Kosovo Liberation Army in the late 1990s
Legal system:	civil law system; note - the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) retains limited executive powers related to the investigation of such issues as war crimes
International Law:	has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCt

Government

Citizenship:	By birth: no By descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of Kosovo Dual citizenship recognized: yes Residency requirement for naturalization: 5 years
Executive Branch:	Chief of state: President Hashim THACI (since 7 April 2016) Head of government: Prime Minister Ramush HARADINAJ (since 9 September 2017); note - Prime Minister Isa MUSTAFA lost no-confidence vote on 10 May 2017 Cabinet: Cabinet elected by the Assembly
National symbols:	six, five-pointed, white stars
National anthem:	Name: Europe

Economy

Kosovo's economy has shown progress in transitioning to a market-based system and maintaining macroeconomic stability, but it is still highly dependent on the international community and the diaspora for financial and technical assistance. Remittances from the diaspora - located mainly in Germany, Switzerland, and the Nordic countries - are estimated to account for about 17% of GDP and international donor assistance accounts for approximately 10% of GDP. With international assistance, Kosovo has been able to privatize a majority of its state-owned enterprises. Kosovo's citizens are the second poorest in Europe, after Moldova, with a per capita GDP (PPP) of \$9,600 in 2016. An unemployment rate of 33%, and a youth unemployment rate near 60%, in a country where the average age is 26, encourages emigration and fuels a significant informal, unreported economy. Emigration remains challenging, however, because Kosovo lacks visa-free travel to the EU. Most of Kosovo's population lives in rural towns outside of the capital, Pristina. Inefficient, near-subsistence farming is common - the result of small plots, limited mechanization, and a lack of technical expertise. Kosovo enjoys lower labor costs than the rest of the region. However, high levels of corruption, little contract enforcement, and unreliable electricity supply have discouraged potential investors. The official currency of Kosovo is the euro, but the Serbian dinar is also used illegally in Serb majority communities. Kosovo's tie to the euro has helped keep core inflation low. Minerals and metals production - including lignite, lead, zinc, nickel, chrome, aluminum, magnesium, and a wide variety of construction materials - once the backbone of industry, has declined because of aging equipment and insufficient investment, problems exacerbated by competing and unresolved ownership claims of Kosovo's largest mines. A limited and unreliable electricity supply is a major impediment to economic development, but Kosovo has received technical assistance to help improve the sector's performance. In 2012, Kosovo privatized its electricity supply and distribution network. The US Government is cooperating with the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) and the World Bank to conclude a commercial tender for the construction of Kosovo C, a new lignite-fired power plant that would leverage Kosovo's large lignite reserves. MED also has plans for the rehabilitation of an older coal power plant, Kosovo B, and the development of a coal mine that could supply both plants. In June 2009, Kosovo joined the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and began servicing its share of the former Yugoslavia's debt. In order to help integrate Kosovo into regional economic structures, UNMIK signed (on behalf of Kosovo) its accession to the Central Europe Free Trade Area (CEFTA) in 2006. Kosovo joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 2012 and the Council of Europe Development Bank in 2013. In 2016, Kosovo implemented the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) negotiations with the EU, focused on trade liberalization. Under the SAA, Kosovo — which gets approximately 58% of government revenue from tariffs on imports — is required to phase out tariffs on EU goods over the next seven years. In 2014, nearly 60% of customs duty-eligible imports into Kosovo were EU goods. In 2015, Kosovo negotiated a \$185 million Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF following the conclusion of its previous SBA in 2014. The IMF requested an extension of the current SBA to August 2017 to facilitate policy continuity and allow sufficient time for ongoing structural reforms to progress. In August 2015, as part of its EU-facilitated normalization process with Serbia, Kosovo signed agreements on telecommunications and energy distribution, but disagreements

over who owns economic assets, such as the Trepca mining conglomerate, within Kosovo continue. Kosovo experienced its first federal budget deficit in 2012, when government expenditures climbed sharply. In May 2014, the government introduced a 25% salary increase for public sector employees and an equal increase in certain social benefits. Central revenues could not sustain these increases, and the government was forced to reduce its planned capital investments. The government, led by Prime Minister MUSTAFA - a trained economist - recently made several changes to its fiscal policy, expanding the list of duty-free imports, decreasing the Value Added Tax (VAT) for basic food items and public utilities, and increasing the VAT for all other goods. While Kosovo's economy continued to make progress, it needs further reform and investment to enable the level of growth required to reduce unemployment and raise living standards in a meaningful way.

Real Growth Rate:	To 2016: 3.4% To 2015: 4.1% To 2014: 1.2%
Agriculture:	wheat, corn, berries, potatoes, peppers, fruit; dairy, livestock; fish
Industries:	mineral mining, construction materials, base metals, leather, machinery, appliances, foodstuffs and beverages, textiles
Taxes:	20.8% of GDP
Public Debt:	To 2016: 20.6% To 2015: 18.9%
Imported commodities:	foodstuffs, livestock, wood, petroleum, chemicals, machinery, minerals, textiles, stone, ceramic and glass products, electrical equipment
Import partners:	Macedonia: 34.1 Turkey: 12 Germany: 9.4 Albania: 7.4 Slovenia: 6.9 Italy: 4.6
Exported commodities:	mining and processed metal products, scrap metals, leather products, machinery, appliances, prepared foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco, vegetable products, textiles and apparel
Export partners:	Albania: 24.2 Macedonia: 17.3 Germany: 8.8 Switzerland: 7.7 Bulgaria: 7.5

Netherlands: 6.9 Turkey: 4.6 Austria: 4.4

Energy

Electricity:	Access: 100% Production: 5.324 billion kWh Consumption: 2.887 billion kWh Exports: 474.8 million kWh Imports: 875 million kWh Generating capacity: 1.6 million kW
Crude oil:	Production: 0 bbl/day Exports: 0 bbl/day Imports: 0 bbl/day
Petroleum:	Production: 0 bbl/day Consumption: 13.000 bbl/day Exports: 17 bbl/day Imports: 12.160 bbl/day
Natural gas:	Production: 0 cu m Consumption: 0 cu m Proved reserves: N/A
Carbon Dioxide	7.576 million Mt

Communications

Telephones:	No. of fixed lines: 831.470 No. of mobile lines: 562.000
--------------------	---

Transportation

Roadways:	Paved: 1883 km Unpaved: 120 km
Railways:	Total: 334 km
Airports:	6
Civil aircraft country code:	Z6

Military security

Branches:	Kosovo does not have a military force; the Kosovo Security Force was established in 2009 and maintains a non-military mandate in four core competencies: search-and-rescue, firefighting, demining, and hazardous material response (2015)
------------------	--

Transnational issues

Disputes:	Serbia with several other states protest the US and other states' recognition of Kosovo's declaration of its status as a sovereign and independent state in February 2008;
------------------	--

Transnational issues

	ethnic Serbian municipalities along Kosovo's northern border challenge final status of Kosovo-Serbia boundary; several thousand NATO-led Kosovo Force peacekeepers under UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo authority continue to keep the peace within Kosovo between the ethnic Albanian majority and the Serb minority in Kosovo; Kosovo and Macedonia completed demarcation of their boundary in September 2008
--	--

Seychelles

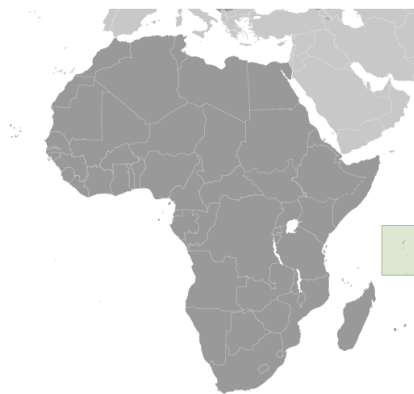
Overview

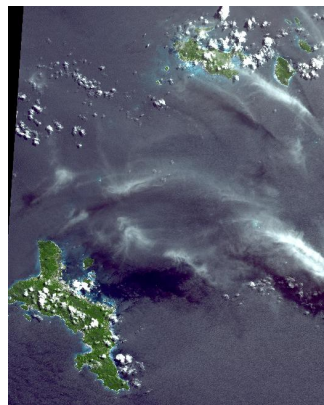
A lengthy struggle between France and Great Britain for the islands ended in 1814, when they were ceded to the latter. Independence came in 1976. Single-party rule was brought to a close with a new constitution and free elections in 1993. President France-Albert RENE, who had served since 1977, was reelected in 2001, but stepped down in 2004. Vice President James Alix MICHEL took over the presidency and in July 2006 was elected to a new five-year term; he was reelected in May 2011 and again in December 2015. In October 2016, James MICHEL resigned and handed over the presidency to his Vice-President Danny FAURE.

Images



Five oblique bands of blue (hoist side), yellow, red, white, and green (bottom) radiating from the bottom of the hoist side; the oblique bands are meant to symbolize a dynamic new country moving into the future; blue represents sky and sea, yellow the sun giving light and life, red the peoples' determination to work for the future in unity and love, white social justice and harmony, green the land and natural environment





The Republic of Seychelles is an island country spanning an archipelago of 155 islands in the Indian Ocean. It is about 1,500 km (930 mi) east of the African continent, and spreads out over a vast area of ocean north of Madagascar. Independent from the UK since 1976, the country nevertheless is far more French after years of early French settlement and influence. Since independence, tourism has grown dramatically to become the primary industry of Seychelles, overtaking plantation agriculture. This 2010 image of some of the northern Seychelles islands covers an area of 54 x 66 km (34 x 41 mi). Photo courtesy of NASA.

Geography

Location:	archipelago in the Indian Ocean, northeast of Madagascar
Area:	455sq km, 0sq km
Coastline:	491km
Area comparison:	2.5 times the size of Washington, DC
Map reference:	Africa
Climate:	tropical marine; humid; cooler season during southeast monsoon (late May to September); warmer season during northwest monsoon (March to May)

Geography

Terrain:	Mahe Group is volcanic with a narrow coastal strip and rocky, hilly interior; others are coral, flat, elevated reefs
Natural resources:	fish, coconuts (copra), cinnamon trees
Natural hazards:	lies outside the cyclone belt, so severe storms are rare; occasional short droughts

Society

Population:	93920
Median age (in years):	Male: 34.9, Female: 36
Ethnic groups:	French African Indian Chinese Arab-Mauritian
Languages:	Seychellois Creole (official) English (official) French (official) Other Unspecified
Religions:	76.2% Roman Catholic 10.5% Protestant 2.4% Christian 2.4% Hindu 1.6% Muslim 1.1% Non-Christian 4.8% Unspecified 0.9% None
Age structure:	0-14: 19.88% 15-24: 13.24% 25-54: 49.36% 55-64: 9.88% 65-over: 7.64%

Government

Type:	presidential republic
Country names:	Republic of Seychelles, Seychelles
Country divisions:	25 administrative districts; Anse aux Pins, Anse Boileau, Anse Etoile, Anse Royale, Au Cap, Baie Lazare, Baie Sainte Anne, Beau Vallon, Bel Air, Bel Ombre, Cascade, Glacis, Grand Anse Mahe, Grand Anse Praslin, Inner Islands, La Riviere Anglaise, Les Mamalles, Mont Buxton, Mont Fleuri, Plaisance, Pointe Larue, Port Glaud, Roche Caiman, Saint Louis, Takamaka
Capital city:	4 37S 55 27E
Independence date:	29 June 1976
Legal system:	mixed legal system of English common law, French civil law, and customary law
International Law:	has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICCt jurisdiction
Citizenship:	By birth: no By descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of the Seychelles Dual citizenship recognized: no Residency requirement for naturalization: 5 years
Executive Branch:	Chief of state: President Danny FAURE (since 16 October 2016); Vice President Vincent MERITON (since 28 October 2016); note - James Alix MICHEL resigned the presidency effective 16 October 2016; the president is both chief of state and head of government Head of government: President Danny FAURE (since 16 October 2016); Vice President Vincent MERITON (since 28 October 2016); note - James Alix MICHEL resigned the presidency effective 16 October 2016 Cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the president
National symbols:	coco de mer (sea coconut)
National anthem:	Name: "Koste Seselwa"

Economy

Since independence in 1976, per capita output in this Indian Ocean archipelago has expanded to roughly seven times the pre-independence, near-subsistence level, moving the island into the upper-middle-income group of countries. Growth has been led by the tourist sector, which employs about 30% of the labor force and provides more than 70% of hard currency earnings, and by tuna fishing. In recent years, the government has encouraged foreign investment to upgrade hotels and other services. At the same time, the government has moved to reduce the dependence on tourism by promoting the development of farming, fishing, and small-scale manufacturing. In 2008, having depleted its foreign exchange reserves, Seychelles defaulted on interest payments due on a \$230 million Eurobond, requested assistance from the IMF, and immediately enacted a number of significant structural reforms, including liberalization of the exchange rate, reform of the public sector to include layoffs, and the sale of some state assets. In December 2013, the IMF declared that Seychelles had successfully transitioned to a market-based economy with full employment and a fiscal surplus. Effective 1 January 2017, Seychelles will no longer be eligible for trade benefits under the US African Growth and Opportunities Act after having gained developed country status. Seychelles grew at 4.9% in 2016 because of a strong tourist sector and low commodity prices; its fiscal surplus reached 3% of GDP. The Seychellois Government met the IMF's performance criteria for 2016 but recognizes a need to make additional progress to combat high poverty levels, estimated at 39% in 2013.

Real Growth Rate:	To 2016: 4.5% To 2015: 5% To 2014: 4.5%
Agriculture:	coconuts, cinnamon, vanilla, sweet potatoes, cassava (manioc, tapioca), copra, bananas; tuna
Industries:	fishing, tourism, beverages
Taxes:	38.5% of GDP
Public Debt:	To 2016: 57.6% To 2015: 62.9%
Imported commodities:	machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, petroleum products, chemicals, other manufactured goods
Import partners:	UAE: 21.6 France: 9.9 South Africa: 8.4 Mauritius: 7.8 Spain: 7.2 India: 4.9 China: 4.8 UK: 4.7

Exported comodities:	canned tuna, frozen fish, petroleum products (reexports)
Export partners:	UAE: 28.8 France: 21 UK: 14.7 Italy: 9.2 Spain: 8.8

Energy

Electricity:	Access: 97% Production: 400 million kWh Consumption: 300 million kWh Exports: 0 kWh Imports: 0 kWh Generating capacity: 100,000 kW
Crude oil:	Production: 0 bbl/day Exports: 0 bbl/day Imports: 0 bbl/day
Petroleum:	Production: 0 bbl/day Consumption: 6,500 bbl/day Exports: 0 bbl/day Imports: 5,956 bbl/day
Natural gas:	Production: 0 cu m Consumption: 0 cu m Proved reserves: 0 cu m
Carbon Dioxide	1.4 million Mt

Communications

Telephones:	No. of fixed lines: 20,836 No. of mobile lines: 151,857
Broadcast media:	the government operates the only terrestrial TV station, which provides local programming and airs broadcasts from international services; multi-channel cable and satellite TV are available through 2 providers; the government operates 1 AM and 1 FM radio station; there is 1 privately operated radio station; transmissions of 2 international broadcasters are accessible in Victoria
Internet information	Country code: .sc Users: 52,664, percentage: 56.5

Transportation

Roadways:	Paved: 514 0 km Unpaved: 12 0 km
Railways:	Total: 0 km
Airports:	14
Civil aircraft country code:	S7

Military security

Branches:	Seychelles People's Defense Forces (SPDF): Army (includes infantry, Special Forces (Tazar)), Coast Guard (includes Naval Wing, Air Wing)
------------------	--

Transnational issues

Disputes:	Mauritius and Seychelles claim the Chagos Islands (UK-administered British Indian Ocean Territory)
------------------	--

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Overview

Carib Indians occupied the islands of the West Indies for hundreds of years before the British began settlement in 1623. In 1967, the island territory of Saint Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla became an associated state of the UK with full internal autonomy. The island of Anguilla rebelled and was allowed to secede in 1971. The remaining islands achieved independence in 1983 as Saint Kitts and Nevis. In 1998, a referendum on Nevis to separate from Saint Kitts fell short of the two-thirds majority vote needed. Nevis continues in its efforts to separate from Saint Kitts.

Images





Divided diagonally from the lower hoist side by a broad black band bearing two white, five-pointed stars; the black band is edged in yellow; the upper triangle is green, the lower triangle is red; green signifies the island's fertility, red symbolizes the struggles of the people from slavery, yellow denotes year-round sunshine, and black represents the African heritage of the people; the white stars stand for the islands of Saint Kitts and Nevis, but can also express hope and liberty, or independence and optimism

Geography

Location:	Caribbean, islands in the Caribbean Sea, about one-third of the way from Puerto Rico to Trinidad and Tobago
Area:	261sq km, 0sq km
Coastline:	135km
Area comparison:	1.5 times the size of Washington, DC
Map reference:	Central America and the Caribbean
Climate:	tropical, tempered by constant sea breezes; little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season (May to November)
Terrain:	volcanic with mountainous interiors
Natural resources:	arable land
Natural hazards:	hurricanes (July to October)

Society

Population:	52715
Median age (in years):	Male: 35.2, Female: 34.8
Ethnic groups:	British Portuguese Lebanese
Languages:	English (official)
Religions:	20.6% Anglican 19.1% Protestant 6.7% Roman Catholic
Age structure:	0-14: 20.32% 15-24: 14.54% 25-54: 44.6% 55-64: 11.9% 65-over: 8.64%

Government

Type:	federal parliamentary democracy (National Assembly) under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm
Country names:	Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Kitts and Nevis
Country divisions:	14 parishes; Christ Church Nichola Town, Saint Anne Sandy Point, Saint George Basseterre, Saint George Gingerland, Saint James Windward, Saint John Capesterre, Saint John Figtree, Saint Mary Cayon, Saint Paul Capesterre, Saint Paul Charlestown, Saint Peter Basseterre, Saint Thomas Lowland, Saint Thomas Middle Island, Trinity Palmetto Point
Capital city:	Basseterre 17 18N 62 43W
Independence date:	19 September 1983
Legal system:	English common law
International Law:	has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICCt jurisdiction
Citizenship:	By birth: yes By descent only: yes Dual citizenship recognized: yes Residency requirement for naturalization: 14 years
Executive Branch:	Chief of state: Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); represented by Governor General Samuel W.T. SEATON (since 2 September 2015); note - SEATON was acting Governor General from 20 May to 2 September 2015 Head of government: President Joko WIDODO (since 20 October 2014); Vice President Jusuf KALLA (since 20 October 2014) Cabinet: Cabinet appointed by governor general in consultation with prime minister
National symbols:	brown pelican, Royal Poinciana (Flamboyant) tree
National anthem:	Name: Oh Land of Beauty!

Economy

The economy of Saint Kitts and Nevis depends on tourism; since the 1970s, tourism has replaced sugar as the economy's traditional mainstay. Roughly 200,000 tourists visited the islands in 2009, but reduced tourism arrivals and foreign investment led to an economic contraction in the 2009-2013 period, and the economy returned to growth only in 2014. Like other tourist destinations in the Caribbean, Saint Kitts and Nevis is vulnerable to damage from natural disasters and shifts in tourism demand. Following the 2005 harvest, the government closed the sugar industry after several decades of losses. To compensate for lost jobs, the government has embarked on a program to diversify the agricultural sector and to stimulate other sectors of the economy, such as export-oriented manufacturing and offshore banking. The government has made notable progress in reducing its public debt, from 154% of GDP in 2011 to 83% in 2013, although it still faces one of the highest levels in the world, largely attributable to public enterprise losses. Saint Kitts and Nevis is among other countries in the Caribbean that supplement their economic activity through economic citizenship programs, whereby foreigners can obtain citizenship from Saint Kitts and Nevis by investing there.

Real Growth Rate:	To 2016: 3.1% To 2015: 4.9% To 2014: 5.1%
Agriculture:	sugarcane, rice, yams, vegetables, bananas; fish
Industries:	tourism, cotton, salt, copra, clothing, footwear, beverages
Taxes:	41% of GDP
Public Debt:	To 2016: 65.8% To 2015: 70.6%
Imported commodities:	machinery, manufactures, food, fuels
Import partners:	US: 56.8 Trinidad and Tobago: 6.8 Cyprus: 6.2 Japan: 4
Exported commodities:	machinery, food, electronics, beverages, tobacco
Export partners:	US: 49.6 Poland: 15.2 Turkey: 11.6

Energy

Electricity:	Access: 91% Production: 200 million kWh Consumption: 200 million kWh Exports: 0 kWh Imports: 0 kWh Generating capacity: 64,200 kW
Crude oil:	Production: 0 bbl/day Exports: 0 bbl/day Imports: 0 bbl/day
Petroleum:	Production: 0 bbl/day Consumption: 1900 bbl/day Exports: 0 bbl/day Imports: 1907 bbl/day
Natural gas:	Production: 0 cu m Consumption: 0 cu m Proved reserves: 0 cu m
Carbon Dioxide	300,000 Mt

Communications

Telephones:	No. of fixed lines: 17.433 No. of mobile lines: 76.583
Broadcast media:	the government operates a national TV network that broadcasts on 2 channels; cable subscription services provide access to local and international channels; the government operates a national radio network; a mix of government-owned and privately owned broadcasters operate roughly 15 radio stations
Internet information	Country code: .kn Users: 39 000, percentage: 75.7

Transportation

Roadways:	Paved: 163 km Unpaved: 220 km
Railways:	Total: 50 km
Airports:	2
Civil aircraft country code:	V4

Military security

Branches:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Labour, Immigration, and Social Security: Royal Saint Kitts and Nevis Defense Force (includes Coast Guard), Royal Saint Kitts and Nevis Police Force
------------------	--

Transnational issues

Disputes:	joins other Caribbean states to counter Venezuela's claim that Aves Island sustains human habitation, a criterion under UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which permits Venezuela to extend its EEZ/continental shelf over a large portion of the eastern Caribbean Sea
------------------	--