



SAINT LUCIA



INTRODUCTION

The island, with its fine natural harbor at Castries and burgeoning sugar industry, was contested between England and France throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries (changing possession 14 times). It was finally ceded to the UK in 1814. Saint Lucia joined the West Indies Federation (1958-1962) and in 1967 became one of the six members of the West Indies Associated States. In 1979, Saint Lucia gained full independence.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Queen ELIZABETH II
represented by Governor General Neville CENAC

Head of Government

Prime Minister Philip J. PIERRE

Government Type

parliamentary democracy (Parliament) under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Castries

Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (11 seats) and the House of Assembly (17 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 616 sq km
Land: 606 sq km
Water: 10 sq km

Climate

tropical, moderated by northeast trade winds; dry season January to April, rainy season May to August

Natural Resources

forests, sandy beaches, minerals (pumice), mineral springs, geothermal potential

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

upper middle-income, tourism-based Caribbean island economy; environmentally fragile; energy import-dependent; OECs host; major banana producer; well-educated labor force; key infrastructure improvements; investing in communications and IT

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$2.25 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$12,300 (2020 est.)

Industries - tourism, clothing, electronic components assembly, beverages, corrugated cardboard boxes, lime processing, coconut processing

Agricultural products - bananas, coconuts, fruit, tropical fruit, plantains, roots/tubers nes, cassava, poultry, vegetables

Exports \$185.1 million (2017 est.)

crude petroleum, beer, jewelry, bananas, refined petroleum, rum (2019)

partners: US 29%, Uruguay 16%, Barbados 8%, Trinidad and Tobago 5.5%, UK 6%, Dominica 6%, Guyana 5%, France 5% (2019)

Imports \$600 million (2017 est.)

crude and refined petroleum, cars, poultry meats, natural gas (2019)

partners: Colombia 46%, US 30%, Trinidad and Tobago 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

166,640 (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.3% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Black/African descent 85.3%, mixed 10.9%, East Indian 2.2%, other 1.6%, unspecified 0.1% (2010 est.)

Language

English (official); French patois

Religion

Roman Catholic 61.5%, Protestant 25.5%, other Christian 3.4%, Rastafarian 1.9%, other 0.4%, none 5.9%, unspecified 1.4% (2010 est.)

