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Chapter 1

206

1.1 206.guide

Texified version of data for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Texified using wfact from

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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

1.2 206.guide/Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Geography (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

People (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Government (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

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1.3 206.guide/Geography (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Geography (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

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Location:

in the eastern Caribbean Sea about three-fourths of the way between Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago

Map references:

Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Standard Time Zones of the World ←

Area:

total area:

340 km²

land area:

340 km²

comparative area:

slightly less than twice the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

84 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season (May to November)

Terrain:

volcanic, mountainous; Soufriere volcano on the island of Saint Vincent

Natural resources:

negligible

Land use:

arable land:

38%

permanent crops:

12%

meadows and pastures:

6%

forest and woodland:

41%

other:
 3%
 Irrigated land:
 10 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 subject to hurricanes; Soufriere volcano is a constant threat
 Note:
 some islands of the Grenadines group are administered by Grenada

1.4 206.guide/People (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

People (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

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Population:
 114,562 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.76% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 20.86 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 5.39 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -7.92 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 18.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population: 71.72 years
 male:
 70.21 years
 female:
 73.28 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.16 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Saint Vincentian(s) or Vincentian(s)
 adjective:
 Saint Vincentian or Vincentian
 Ethnic divisions:
 black African descent, white, East Indian, Carib Indian
 Religions:
 Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Seventh-Day Adventist
 Languages:
 English, French patois
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over having ever attended school (1970)
 total population:
 96%
 male:
 96%
 female:
 96%

Labor force:
 67,000 (1984 est.)
 by occupation:
 NA

1.5 206.guide/Government (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Government (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 none
 conventional short form:
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
 Digraph:
 VC
 Type:
 constitutional monarchy
 Capital:
 Kingstown
 Administrative divisions:
 6 parishes; Charlotte, Grenadines, Saint Andrew, Saint David, Saint George,
 Saint Patrick
 Independence:
 27 October 1979 (from UK)
 Constitution:
 27 October 1979
 Legal system:
 based on English common law
 National holiday: Independence Day, 27 October (1979)
 Political parties and leaders:
 New Democratic Party (NDP), James (Son) MITCHELL; Saint Vincent Labor Party
 (SVLP), Stanley JOHN; United People's Movement (UPM), Adrian SAUNDERS;
 Movement for National Unity (MNU), Ralph GONSALVES; National Reform Party
 (NRP), Joel MIGUEL
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 House of Assembly:
 last held 16 May 1989 (next to be held NA July 1994); results - percent of
 vote by party NA; seats - (21 total; 15 elected representatives and 6
 appointed senators) NDP 15
 Executive branch:
 British monarch, governor general, prime minister, Cabinet
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral House of Assembly
 Judicial branch:
 Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court
 Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor General
 David JACK (since 29 September 1989)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister James F. MITCHELL (since 30 July 1984)

Member of:

ACP, C, CARICOM, CDB, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IMF, IMO, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, OAS, OECS, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Kingsley LAYNE

chancery:

1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 102, Washington, DC 20036

telephone:

NA

US diplomatic representation:

no official presence since the Ambassador resides in Bridgetown (Barbados)

1.6 206.guide/Government (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 2. usage)

Government (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 2. usage)

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Flag:

three vertical bands of blue (hoist side), gold (double width), and green; the gold band bears three green diamonds arranged in a V pattern

1.7 206.guide/Economy (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Economy (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

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Overview:

Agriculture, dominated by banana production, is the most important sector of ←

of the economy. The services sector, based mostly on a growing tourist industry, is also important. The economy continues to have a high unemployment rate of 35%-40% because of an overdependence on the weather-plagued banana crop as a major export earner. Government progress toward diversifying into new industries has been relatively unsuccessful.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$171 million (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

3% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$1,500 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

2.3% (1991 est.)

Unemployment rate:

35%-40% (1992 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$62 million; expenditures \$67 million, including capital expenditures of \$21 million (FY90 est.)

Exports:

\$65.7 million (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

bananas, eddoes and dasheen (taro), arrowroot starch, tennis racquets

partners:

UK 43%, CARICOM 37%, US 15%

Imports:

\$110.7 million (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

foodstuffs, machinery and equipment, chemicals and fertilizers, minerals ←
and

fuels

partners:

US 42%, CARICOM 19%, UK 15%

External debt:

\$50.9 million (1989)

Industrial production:

growth rate 0% (1989); accounts for 14% of GDP

Electricity:

16,600 kW capacity; 64 million kWh produced, 555 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

food processing, cement, furniture, clothing, starch

Agriculture:

accounts for 15% of GDP and 60% of labor force; provides bulk of exports; products - bananas, coconuts, sweet potatoes, spices; small numbers of cattle, sheep, hogs, goats; small fish catch used locally

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-87), \$11 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$81 million

Currency:

1 EC dollar (EC\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

East Caribbean dollars (EC\$) per US\$1 - 2.70 (fixed rate since 1976)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.8 206.guide/Communications (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Communications (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

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Highways:

1,000 km total; 300 km paved; 400 km improved; 300 km unimproved (est.)

Ports:

Kingstown

Merchant marine:

407 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 3,388,427 GRT/5,511,325 DWT; ←
includes

3 passenger, 2 passenger-cargo, 222 cargo, 22 container, 19 roll-on/roll- ←
off

cargo, 14 refrigerated cargo, 24 oil tanker, 7 chemical tanker, 4 liquefied gas, 73 bulk, 13 combination bulk, 2 vehicle carrier, 1 livestock carrier, ↔
1

specialized tanker; note - China owns 3 ships; a flag of convenience registry

Airports:

total:

6

usable:

6

with permanent-surface runways:

5

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

0

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

1

Telecommunications:

islandwide fully automatic telephone system; 6,500 telephones; VHF/UHF interisland links from Saint Vincent to Barbados and the Grenadines; new ↔
SHF

links to Grenada and Saint Lucia; broadcast stations - 2 AM, no FM, 1 TV (cable)

1.9 206.guide/Defense Forces (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Defense Forces (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

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Branches:

Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, Coast Guard

Manpower availability:

NA

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP