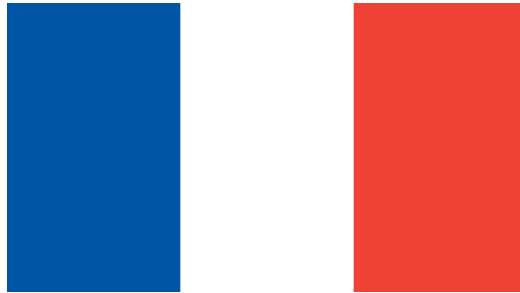


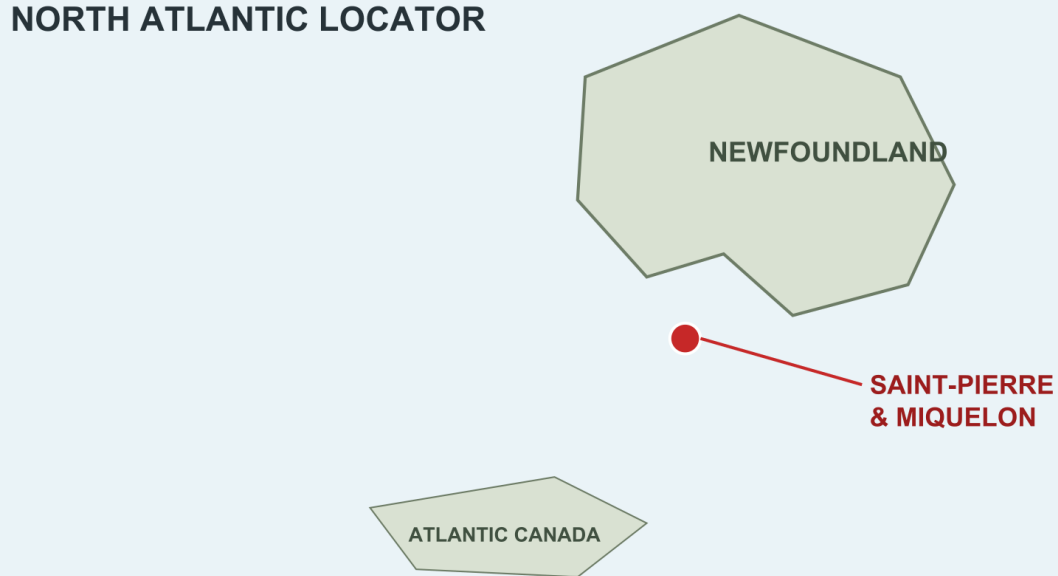
CIA WORLD FACTBOOK-STYLE
TERRITORY REPORT

SAINT-PIERRE AND MIQUELON

French Overseas Collectivity - North Atlantic



NORTH ATLANTIC LOCATOR



Approx. 20 km south of Newfoundland, Canada

ATLAS | Global Intelligence for the Informed Citizen

Publication profile updated with official population figures in force 1 January 2026.

QUICK REFERENCE

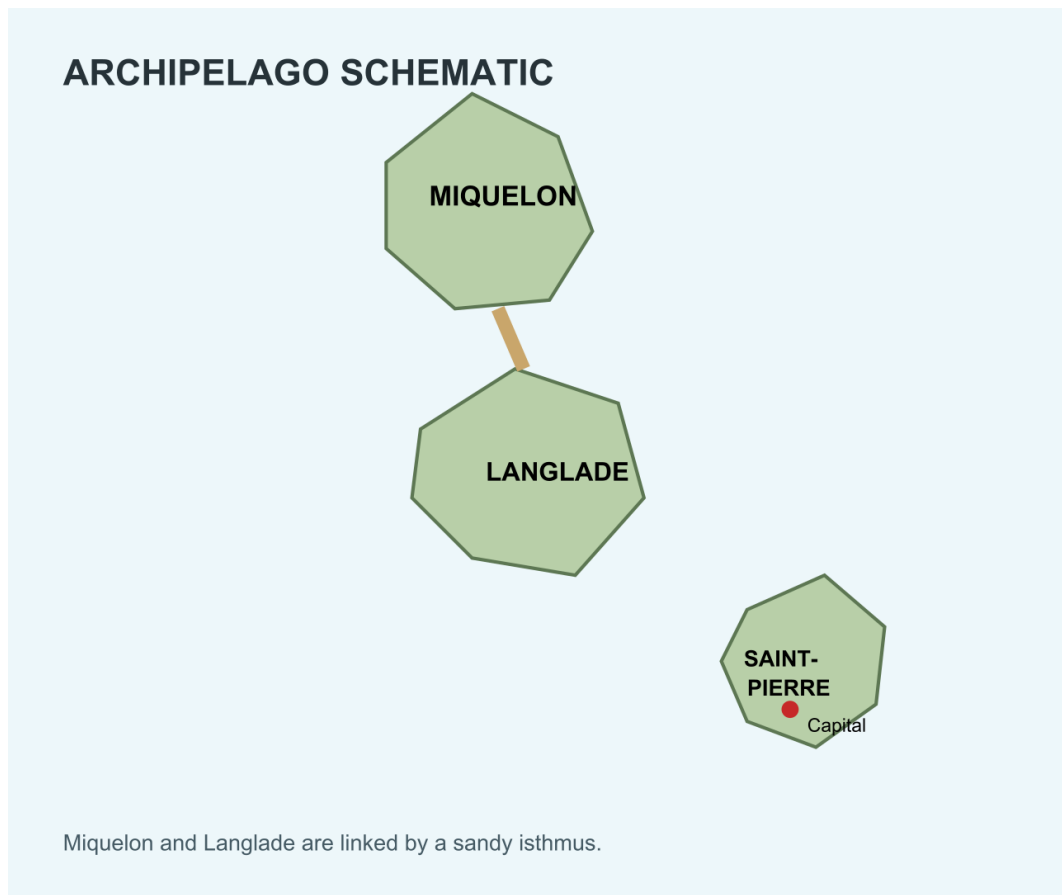
STATUS	Overseas collectivity of France (Article 74)
CAPITAL	Saint-Pierre
AREA	242 sq km
POPULATION	5,790 municipal population (official figure in force 1 Jan 2026)
LANGUAGE	French
CURRENCY	Euro (EUR)
COMMUNES	Saint-Pierre; Miquelon-Langlade
EU STATUS	Overseas Country and Territory (not part of the EU)

INTRODUCTION

Background

Saint-Pierre and Miquelon is a small French archipelago in the North Atlantic immediately south of Newfoundland, Canada. It is the last surviving territorial remnant of France's former North American possessions. French settlement was tied to the rich Grand Banks fisheries; sovereignty shifted between France and Britain during colonial conflicts before permanent French resettlement in 1816. The cod economy dominated for generations. The 1992 collapse of the northwest Atlantic cod fishery and Canadian moratorium forced a major economic restructuring toward public administration, services, construction, tourism, and smaller-scale marine activity.

GEOGRAPHY



Location

Northern North America, islands in the North Atlantic Ocean south of Newfoundland near the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Area and terrain

Total area is 242 sq km. Saint-Pierre is about 25 sq km and Miquelon-Langlade about 216 sq km. Terrain is low, rugged, glaciated, and exposed, with rocky hills, peatlands, ponds, wetlands, and long coastlines.

Climate

Cold maritime climate with cool summers, snowy winters, frequent fog, strong winds, high humidity, and rapidly changing weather. The Labrador Current and nearby Gulf Stream strongly influence marine and atmospheric conditions.

Natural resources and hazards

Marine resources and fisheries remain central. Principal hazards include North Atlantic storms, high winds, coastal flooding, heavy snowfall, fog, maritime hazards, and coastal erosion.

PEOPLE AND SOCIETY

Population

The official municipal population in force from 1 January 2026 is 5,790, based on the 2023 reference census. Saint-Pierre accounts for the large majority of residents; Miquelon-Langlade has a much smaller population.

Language and culture

French is the official and dominant language. The islands retain strong French cultural identity with historic Norman, Breton, Basque, and Acadian influences.

Demographic issues

Long-term pressures include population aging, youth outmigration, a limited labor pool, and the challenge of sustaining specialized services in a very small community.

GOVERNMENT

Political status

Saint-Pierre and Miquelon is an overseas collectivity of France governed under Article 74 of the French Constitution. It has a Territorial Council and two communes. French law applies, subject to locally authorized adaptations in specified fields.

European relationship

The collectivity is not part of the European Union. It is associated with the EU as an Overseas Country and Territory.

Representation

Residents are French citizens. The collectivity is represented in the French Parliament by one deputy and one senator. France retains sovereign responsibilities including defense, foreign affairs, justice, and monetary affairs.

ECONOMY

Overview

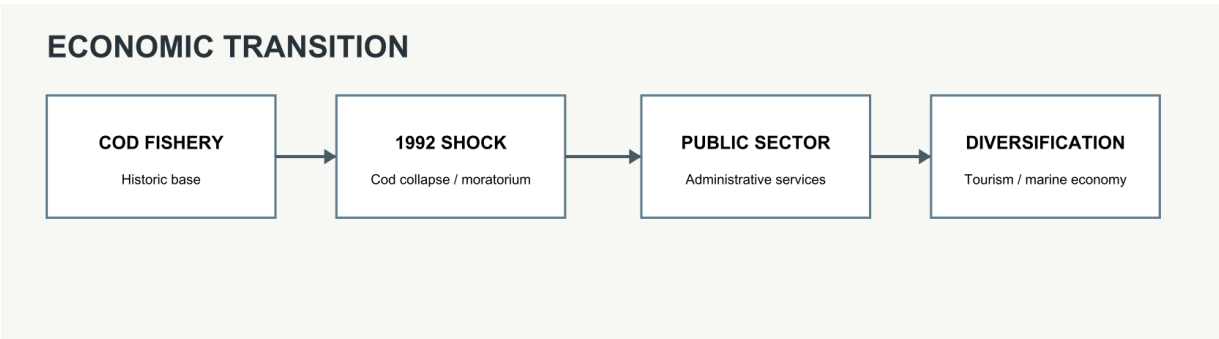
The economy is small, high-income, and closely integrated with France. Administrative services became the principal economic activity after the sharp decline of the cod fishery in 1992. Services, commerce, construction, fisheries, seafood processing, transport, and tourism are important.

Structural constraints

Geographic isolation, a tiny domestic market, high transport costs, dependence on imports, a limited labor pool, and reliance on metropolitan fiscal support constrain private-sector expansion.

Diversification

Tourism, aquaculture, sustainable fisheries, marine services, research, and renewable energy offer realistic niche opportunities. The territory's French culture in North America gives it a distinctive tourism identity.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

Transport

Saint-Pierre Pointe-Blanche Airport is the main air gateway; Miquelon has a smaller airport. Maritime links are essential for passengers, freight, fisheries, and connections with Newfoundland.

Energy and communications

Electricity has historically depended heavily on imported petroleum fuels, creating exposure to transport disruptions and fuel prices. Modern telecommunications and internet services are available; the country-code top-level domain is .pm.

MILITARY AND SECURITY

Defense

Defense and sovereign security are responsibilities of France. French institutions provide national defense, maritime security, law enforcement support, border control, and search-and-rescue capabilities.

Strategic significance

The islands possess limited military weight but have strategic significance disproportionate to their size because they preserve a permanent French sovereign presence in North America and associated maritime jurisdiction in the northwest Atlantic.

TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

Canada-France maritime relationship

Fisheries access and maritime boundaries have historically been the principal external issues. A 1992 international arbitration defined much of the present maritime arrangement, leaving Saint-Pierre and Miquelon with a distinctive maritime zone extending southward into the Atlantic. Fisheries management, marine resources, transportation, and economic cooperation keep relations with Atlantic Canada important.

ATLAS STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Strategic Importance: LOW TO MODERATE

Saint-Pierre and Miquelon has little conventional military or economic power, but its sovereignty and geography give it enduring strategic relevance. It anchors a French presence adjacent to Canada, sustains French maritime interests in the northwest Atlantic, and provides a platform for fisheries management, marine science, environmental monitoring, and regional cooperation.

Principal Vulnerabilities

Economic dependence - HIGH. The territory remains strongly dependent on France and public-sector activity.

Demographic sustainability - MODERATE-HIGH. Small population, aging, and youth outmigration constrain the labor base.

Supply-chain exposure - MODERATE. Food, fuel, manufactured goods, and specialized services depend heavily on external links.

Climate and coastal exposure - MODERATE. Storms, erosion, changing marine ecosystems, and sea-level effects can impose growing infrastructure costs.

Outlook: STABLE

No significant near-term threat to French sovereignty or political stability is evident. The principal challenges are structural: economic diversification, demographic sustainability, transportation costs, fisheries management, energy dependence, and maintaining high-quality services at very small scale. The archipelago is likely to remain tightly integrated with France while seeking deeper practical links with Atlantic Canada.

ATLAS Confidence: HIGH

SOURCE NOTE

Core status, area, institutional, and economic-background facts are based on France's Ministry for Overseas Territories and INSEE. The official municipal population in force on 1 January 2026 is 5,790 (2023 statistical reference date). Geographic and strategic analysis is synthesized in the ATLAS style.

Primary sources: INSEE, Recensement de la population; Ministère chargé des Outre-Mer; Préfecture de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon.