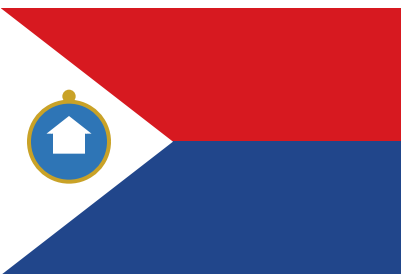
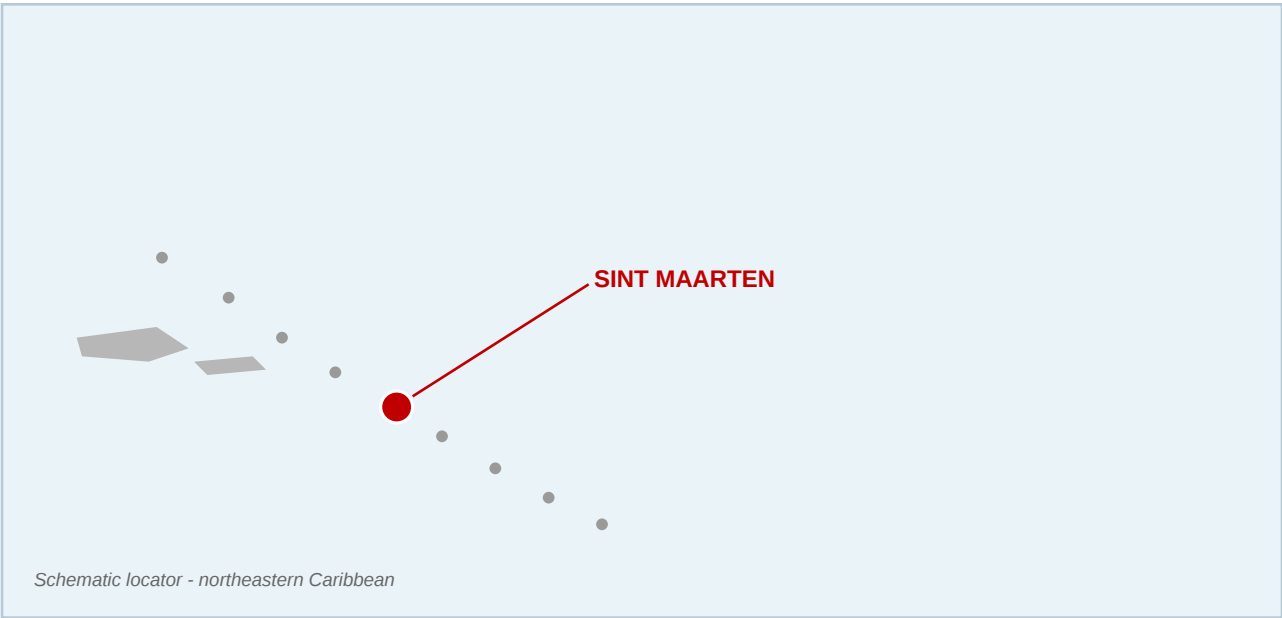


SINT MAARTEN



CIA WORLD FACTBOOK-STYLE TERRITORY REPORT



STATUS	Constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
CAPITAL	Philipsburg
AREA	34 sq km
POPULATION	43,923 (2025)
GDP	US\$1.89 billion (2025)
GDP PER CAPITA	US\$42,978 (2025)
PRIMARY ECONOMIC ENGINE	Tourism, cruise traffic, aviation and services
PRINCIPAL STRATEGIC RISK	Hurricane exposure and external economic shocks

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INTRODUCTION

Sint Maarten occupies the southern portion of the Caribbean island of Saint Martin, shared with the French collectivity of Saint-Martin. Dutch and French authorities established a lasting division of the island in 1648. Despite the international boundary, the island remains closely integrated socially and economically. Sint Maarten became an autonomous constituent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 10 October 2010 following the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles.

GEOGRAPHY

Sint Maarten lies in the northern Leeward Islands of the northeastern Caribbean. The territory covers about 34 sq km and consists of hilly interior terrain, densely developed coastal zones, beaches, lagoons and salt ponds. Its climate is tropical maritime, moderated by trade winds. The territory has few exploitable natural resources; its beaches, coastal waters, climate and location are its principal natural economic assets.

Natural Hazards

Hurricanes and tropical storms are the dominant natural hazard. Hurricane Irma in September 2017 demonstrated the territory's exceptional exposure by causing catastrophic damage to buildings, tourism facilities, communications and airport infrastructure. Climate change, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, freshwater limitations and waste management add to the long-term environmental burden.

PEOPLE AND SOCIETY

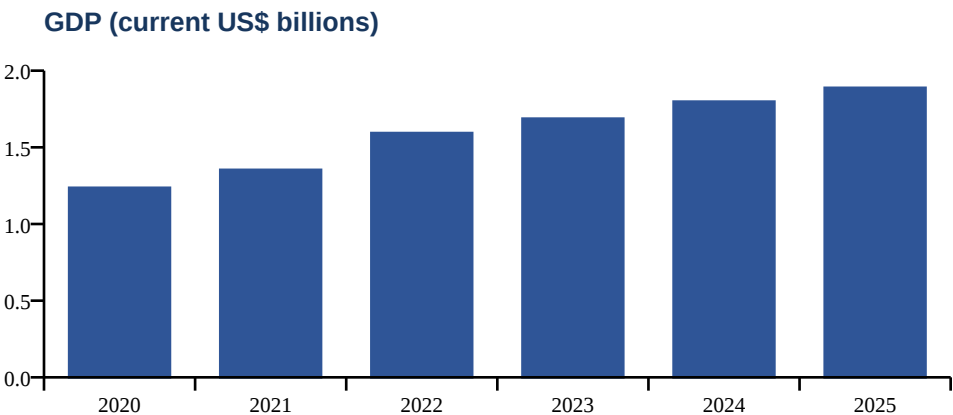
World Bank data place the 2025 population at 43,923, with annual population growth of about 1.3 percent. Sint Maarten is among the most densely populated territories in the Caribbean. The population is highly diverse, reflecting migration from the wider Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, North America and Asia. Dutch and English are official languages, with English dominant in everyday commerce. Life expectancy was approximately 77 years in 2024.

GOVERNMENT

Sint Maarten is an autonomous constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and is not an independent sovereign state. The King of the Netherlands is head of state and is represented locally by a Governor. Executive authority is exercised by a Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. The unicameral Parliament is elected under proportional representation. Kingdom-level responsibilities include defense and important aspects of foreign affairs and nationality.

ECONOMY

Sint Maarten has a small, open, high-income service economy dominated by tourism. Hotels, cruise traffic, restaurants, retail, aviation, yachting, construction, real estate and professional services generate most activity. The economy imports most food, fuel, machinery and consumer goods. World Bank data show GDP of approximately US\$1.89 billion in 2025, GDP per capita of about US\$42,978, and real GDP growth of 3.4 percent. This prosperity is paired with unusually high exposure to external travel disruptions, recessions, fuel-price shocks and hurricanes.



Source: World Bank World Development Indicators

ENERGY

The territory has no significant domestic fossil-fuel resources and remains dependent on imported petroleum for electricity generation and transportation. Its small isolated grid, fuel dependence and hurricane exposure create high costs and resilience concerns. Renewable-energy expansion, particularly solar generation and distributed storage, offers a potential path toward greater energy security.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

Sint Maarten possesses comparatively advanced telecommunications for a small Caribbean territory. Princess Juliana International Airport is a major regional aviation gateway serving both sides of Saint Martin and nearby islands. Port St. Maarten at Philipsburg is a major Caribbean cruise destination and also handles cargo and passenger traffic. Internal transportation depends almost entirely on roads, where congestion is a persistent constraint.

MILITARY AND SECURITY

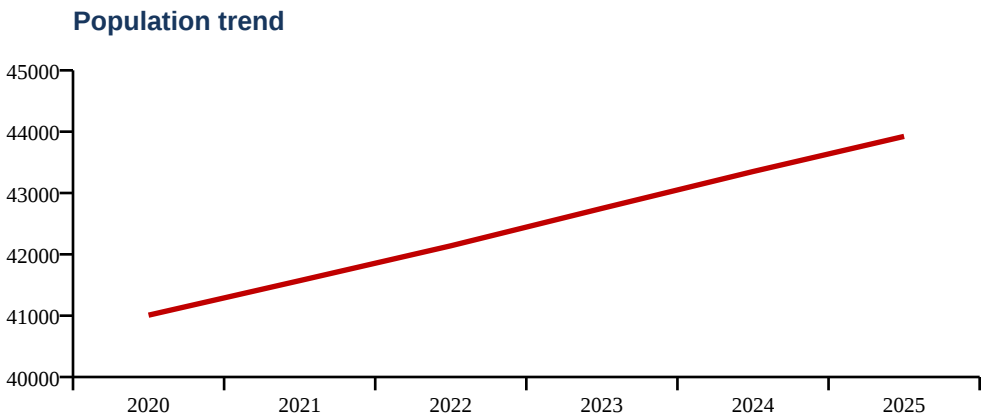
Sint Maarten maintains no independent national military. External defense is a Kingdom of the Netherlands responsibility. Kingdom forces can support maritime security, counter-narcotics missions, disaster relief and emergency engineering. Local law enforcement handles internal security, cooperating with Dutch and regional authorities on organized crime, narcotics trafficking, human smuggling and financial crime.

TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

The open land boundary with French Saint-Martin is unusual internationally and reinforces the island's integrated economy. At the same time, extensive aviation, cruise and maritime traffic creates exposure to narcotics trafficking, illicit finance and irregular migration. Labor migration is economically important but adds pressure to housing, transportation, education and public services.

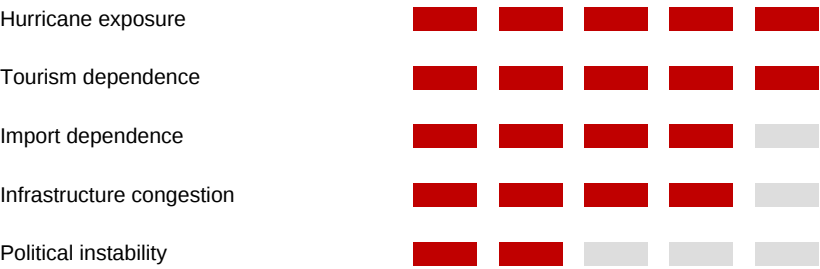
STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Sint Maarten's importance derives less from military power than from its role as a transportation, tourism, maritime and commercial hub. Princess Juliana International Airport and the Philipsburg cruise facilities give the territory regional significance disproportionate to its physical size. Political association with the Kingdom of the Netherlands provides institutional depth and external security support.



Source: World Bank World Development Indicators

STRUCTURAL RISK PROFILE



ATLAS qualitative scale: 1 low - 5 very high

ATLAS BOTTOM LINE

Sint Maarten is a tiny territory with regional importance considerably greater than its land area suggests. Its airport, cruise port, tourism infrastructure and position within the Kingdom of the Netherlands make it an important commercial gateway for the northeastern Caribbean. Its greatest strategic liability is the same concentration that produces its prosperity: a dense population and tourism-dependent economy concentrated on a hurricane-exposed island with limited land, natural resources and domestic production capacity.

Overall Assessment: Politically stable and economically prosperous by regional standards, but highly exposed to natural disasters and external economic disruption.

Strategic Importance: Moderate

Analytical Confidence: High

QUICK REFERENCE

Indicator	Assessment / Data
Political status	Constituent country, Kingdom of the Netherlands
Capital	Philipsburg
Region	Caribbean / North America
Area	34 sq km
Population	43,923 (2025)
GDP	US\$1.89 billion (2025)
GDP per capita	US\$42,978 (2025)
GDP growth	3.4% (2025)
Life expectancy	77 years (2024)
Official languages	Dutch, English
Internet domain	.sx
Primary industry	Tourism
Primary airport	Princess Juliana International Airport
Primary port	Port St. Maarten, Philipsburg
Defense	Kingdom of the Netherlands
Principal hazard	Hurricanes
Outlook	Stable / structurally vulnerable

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

Prepared in the style of the CIA World Factbook territory profiles. Current demographic and economic indicators use World Bank World Development Indicators. Government and national-symbol information is cross-checked against the Government of Sint Maarten. Figures are rounded for readability and may differ slightly among official statistical series.

- World Bank - Sint Maarten (Dutch part), World Development Indicators, accessed August 2026.
- Government of Sint Maarten - official government portal and national flag information, accessed August 2026.
- CIA World Factbook archival material - Sint Maarten, used as a historical structural reference.