CIA World Factbook–Style Country Report

Saint Kitts and Nevis KN

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
CARIBBEAN SEA
Saint Kitts
Saint Paul's
Sadlers
Newton Ground
Mansion
Sandy Point Town
Belle Tete
Cayon
Half Way Tree
Monkey Hill Village
Old Road Town
Challengers
Boyd's
BASSETERRE
Great Salt Pond
Booby Island
Nag's Head
The Narrows
Newcastle
Burnaby
Cotton Ground
Whitehall
Nevis
Charlestown
New River
Brown Hill
CARIBBEAN SEA

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Saint Kitts and Nevis

Federation of Saint Christopher (Saint Kitts) and Nevis

Quick Facts

Category	Information
Capital	Basseterre
Population	~48,000
Area	261 sq km
Location	Eastern Caribbean, Leeward Islands
Government	Federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Head of State	British monarch (represented by a Governor-General)
Head of Government	Prime Minister
Official Language	English
Currency	East Caribbean Dollar (XCD)
Time Zone	UTC−4
Internet TLD	.kn

Executive Assessment

Saint Kitts and Nevis is the smallest sovereign state in the Western Hemisphere by both land area and population. Despite its size, it maintains a stable democratic political system, comparatively strong institutions, and one of the Caribbean's more diversified service-oriented economies.

National security concerns are centered less on military threats than on economic resilience, organized crime, climate vulnerability, and external economic dependence. Tourism and financial services dominate national income, leaving the federation exposed to fluctuations in the global economy and natural disasters.

Overall Intelligence Risk Assessment: Low

Geography

The federation consists of two volcanic islands:

- **Saint Kitts (Saint Christopher)** — larger island containing the capital.
- **Nevis** — smaller island located approximately 3 km southeast across The Narrows.

Terrain

- Volcanic mountains
- Coastal plains
- Rainforests
- Coral reefs
- Fertile volcanic soils

Highest elevation:

- **Mount Liamuiga:** 1,156 m

Climate:

- Tropical maritime
- Warm year-round
- Hurricane season (June–November)

Population

Estimated population:

- Approximately 48,000

Ethnic composition:

- Predominantly Afro-Caribbean
- Mixed ancestry
- Small European and Asian minorities

Religion:

- Christianity predominates
- Anglican

- Methodist
- Roman Catholic
- Pentecostal

Urbanization:

- Approximately one-third of residents live around Basseterre.

Government

Government type:

Federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy.

The federation consists of:

- Saint Kitts
- Nevis

Nevis possesses considerable constitutional autonomy and retains the legal right to pursue independence under specified constitutional procedures.

Economy

GDP (Nominal):

- Approximately US$1.3 billion

Primary sectors:

- Tourism
- Financial services
- Real estate
- Construction
- Citizenship-by-Investment (CBI) program
- Light manufacturing

Agriculture:

- Small contributor
- Sugar industry officially ended in 2005

Major exports:

- Electronic components
- Beverages
- Financial services
- Tourism services

Major imports:

- Petroleum
- Machinery
- Food products
- Manufactured goods

Infrastructure

Road network:

- Well developed for island size

Ports:

- Basseterre
- Charlestown

International airports:

- Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport
- Vance W. Amory International Airport

Electricity:

- Imported petroleum remains primary generation source
- Increasing investment in renewable energy

Energy

The federation imports nearly all petroleum products.

Government priorities include:

- Geothermal development (particularly on Nevis)
- Solar expansion
- Energy diversification
- Reduced import dependence

Communications

Internet penetration:

High by Caribbean standards.

Mobile coverage:

Nationwide.

Digital government services continue expanding.

Military and Security

Armed Forces

Saint Kitts and Nevis Defence Force (SKNDF)

Components:

- Infantry
- Coast Guard
- Reserve units

Personnel:

Approximately 300–400 active members.

Primary missions:

- Border security

- Maritime patrol
- Disaster response
- Internal security
- Counter-narcotics support

No significant external military threats exist.

Law Enforcement

Primary agencies:

- Royal Saint Christopher and Nevis Police Force
- Customs and Excise
- Immigration Department
- Coast Guard

Security priorities:

- Drug trafficking
- Illegal migration
- Financial crime
- Organized criminal activity
- Maritime surveillance

Foreign Relations

Member of:

- United Nations
- Commonwealth of Nations
- Organization of American States
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

- Eastern Caribbean Currency Union

Maintains close relations with:

- United States
- United Kingdom
- Canada
- Caribbean neighbors

Intelligence Assessment

Political Stability

Risk: Low

Stable democratic institutions.

Peaceful transfers of power are routine.

Economic Stability

Risk: Moderate

Highly dependent upon:

- Tourism
- International investment
- Offshore financial services

Global recessions have disproportionate effects.

Internal Security

Risk: Moderate

Primary concerns include:

- Organized crime
- Drug transit routes

- Firearms trafficking
- Youth gang violence

Violence remains substantially below many neighboring Caribbean states.

External Threats

Risk: Very Low

No territorial disputes.

No conventional military threats.

Primary external risks derive from:

- Hurricanes
- Climate change
- Economic shocks

Cyber Security

Risk: Moderate

Growing digital infrastructure requires continued investment in cybersecurity, financial-sector resilience, and protection of government information systems.

Natural Hazards

Major hazards include:

- Hurricanes
- Tropical storms
- Coastal flooding
- Landslides
- Earthquakes
- Volcanic activity (low probability)

Climate change presents long-term strategic challenges through sea-level rise and stronger tropical cyclones.

Strategic Outlook (2026–2031)

Key national priorities are expected to include:

- Expansion of renewable energy capacity
- Modernization of tourism infrastructure
- Diversification beyond tourism revenues
- Strengthening financial regulation
- Improving disaster preparedness
- Continued regional security cooperation
- Investment in digital government services

ATLAS Intelligence Summary

Category	Assessment
Political Stability	**Low Risk**
Economic Outlook	**Moderately Positive**
Military Threat	**Very Low**
Organized Crime	**Moderate**
Disaster Vulnerability	**High**
Climate Risk	**High**
Regional Strategic Importance	**Moderate**
Overall National Stability	**High**

Overall Intelligence Confidence

High

Saint Kitts and Nevis remains one of the Caribbean's most stable microstates. Its principal vulnerabilities arise not from geopolitical rivalry or military confrontation but from economic concentration, exposure to severe weather events, and the need to balance sustainable development with fiscal resilience. Continued regional cooperation, investment in renewable energy, and prudent governance are likely to preserve its favorable security outlook over the medium term.