

CIA World Factbook–Style Country Report

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines vc





SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Introduction

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) is a small Eastern Caribbean island state consisting of the main island of Saint Vincent and a chain of 32 smaller islands and cays known as the Grenadines. Despite its modest size, the country occupies an important maritime position within the Lesser Antilles and serves as a regional participant in Caribbean political, security, and disaster-response initiatives.

The country enjoys political stability, democratic governance, and generally low levels of violent conflict. However, its economy remains vulnerable to hurricanes, volcanic activity, external tourism demand, and fluctuations in global commodity markets.

Quick Facts

Category	Data
Official Name	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Capital	Kingstown
Population	~101,000
Area	389 sq km
Government	Parliamentary democracy under constitutional monarchy
Head of State	King Charles III
Governor-General	Representative of the Crown
Prime Minister	Head of Government
Official Language	English
Currency	Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD)
Time Zone	UTC -4
Internet TLD	.vc

Geography

Location

Eastern Caribbean Sea between Saint Lucia and Grenada.

Geographic Coordinates

13°15'N, 61°12'W

Terrain

- Volcanic mountains
- Steep interior
- Narrow coastal plains
- Numerous small islands and coral cays

Highest point:

- **La Soufrière Volcano** – 1,234 meters

Natural Hazards

Major risks include:

- Hurricanes
- Tropical storms
- Flooding
- Landslides
- Volcanic eruptions
- Coastal erosion
- Earthquakes

The 2021 eruption of La Soufrière demonstrated the country's continuing vulnerability to geological hazards.

Climate

- Tropical marine
- Warm year-round
- Wet season:
 - June–November
- Dry season:
 - December–May

Average temperatures remain between 24–31°C.

Population

Estimated population:

~101,000

Ethnic composition:

- African descent (majority)
- Mixed heritage
- East Indian
- European
- Indigenous Caribbean ancestry
- Other minorities

Urbanization remains relatively modest compared to many Caribbean nations.

Government

Political System

- Parliamentary democracy
- Constitutional monarchy
- Westminster model

Legislature:

- House of Assembly

Judiciary:

Independent judicial system within the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court framework.

Administrative Divisions

Six parishes:

- Charlotte
 - Saint Andrew
 - Saint David
 - Saint George
 - Saint Patrick
 - Grenadines
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Economy

Overview

SVG possesses a small open economy dependent upon:

- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Financial services
- Construction
- Remittances

Traditional banana exports have declined significantly over recent decades.

Major Industries

- Tourism

- Agriculture
 - Fishing
 - Construction
 - Offshore financial services
 - Food processing
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Agricultural Products

- Bananas
 - Arrowroot
 - Sweet potatoes
 - Cassava
 - Coconut
 - Breadfruit
 - Tropical fruits
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Trade

Primary partners include:

- CARICOM
- United States
- United Kingdom
- European Union
- Trinidad and Tobago

Imports substantially exceed exports.

Energy

Electricity generation:

- Diesel generation
- Hydroelectric power
- Increasing solar deployment

National policy encourages renewable energy expansion to reduce fuel import dependence.

Transportation

Road Network:

- Approximately 800 km

Major Airport:

- Argyle International Airport

Ports:

- Kingstown
- Bequia
- Union Island
- Canouan

Inter-island ferries remain essential.

Communications

Internet penetration:

High by regional standards.

Mobile services:

Modern nationwide cellular coverage.

Media:

Combination of public and private television, radio, and online outlets.

Military and Security

Armed Forces

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines maintains **no standing military**.

National security responsibilities fall primarily to:

- Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force
- Coast Guard
- Special Service Unit

Defense cooperation occurs through:

- Regional Security System (RSS)
 - CARICOM
 - International partners
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Intelligence Assessment

Strategic Position

Although geographically small, SVG lies within important Caribbean maritime routes connecting:

- Southern Caribbean
- Eastern Caribbean
- Atlantic shipping lanes

The country possesses no major strategic military facilities.

Security Challenges

Primary concerns include:

- Maritime narcotics trafficking
- Illegal fishing
- Human smuggling

- Disaster response
- Hurricane resilience
- Volcanic emergency management
- Climate change adaptation

Violent extremism risk remains extremely low.

Maritime Domain

Exclusive Economic Zone provides:

- Fisheries
- Maritime resources
- Shipping oversight

Regional maritime cooperation remains essential due to limited domestic patrol capabilities.

Foreign Relations

Member of:

- United Nations
- Commonwealth
- CARICOM
- OECS
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- CELAC
- Regional Security System (RSS)

SVG generally pursues a foreign policy emphasizing:

- Regional integration
- Climate diplomacy

- Sustainable development
 - Multilateral cooperation
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Infrastructure

Strengths:

- Modern international airport
- Improving telecommunications
- Stable banking sector

Challenges:

- Small domestic market
 - High import dependence
 - Natural disaster exposure
 - Transportation costs
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Environmental Issues

Major concerns include:

- Coral reef degradation
 - Coastal erosion
 - Plastic pollution
 - Volcanic recovery
 - Forest conservation
 - Climate resilience
 - Water resource management
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Intelligence Risk Assessment (ATLAS Format)

Category	Risk	Trend
Political Stability	Low	Stable
Internal Security	Low	Stable
Economic Risk	Moderate	Stable
Natural Disaster Risk	Very High	Elevated
Maritime Security	Moderate	Stable
Organized Crime	Moderate	Stable
External Military Threat	Very Low	Stable
Infrastructure Resilience	Moderate	Improving

Overall Intelligence Assessment

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains one of the more politically stable microstates in the Caribbean, with democratic institutions, effective regional partnerships, and comparatively low levels of internal unrest. The country's principal strategic vulnerabilities stem not from military threats but from environmental and economic exposure.

Hurricanes, volcanic activity, and climate-related events present persistent risks capable of causing nationwide disruption. Maritime security challenges—including narcotics trafficking and illegal fishing—are mitigated through cooperation with neighboring states and regional organizations rather than through independent military capability.

From an intelligence perspective, SVG presents **low geopolitical risk, moderate economic vulnerability, and very high natural disaster exposure**, making resilience and regional cooperation the defining elements of its national security posture.