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WRITTEN BY		August 10, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

67

1.1 67.guide

Texified version of data for Dominica.

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Dominica

1.2 67.guide/Dominica

Dominica

Geography (Dominica)
 People (Dominica)
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 Government (Dominica 2. usage)
 Economy (Dominica)
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1.3 67.guide/Geography (Dominica)

Geography (Dominica)

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Location:

in the eastern Caribbean, about halfway 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:

750 km²

land area:

750 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than four times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

148 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes: none

Climate:

tropical; moderated by northeast trade winds; heavy rainfall

Terrain:

rugged mountains of volcanic origin

Natural resources:

timber

Land use:

arable land:

9%

permanent crops:

13%

meadows and pastures:
 3%
 forest and woodland:
 41%
 other:
 34%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 flash floods a constant hazard; occasional hurricanes

1.4 67.guide/People (Dominica)

People (Dominica)

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Population:
 86,547 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.31% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 20.82 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 5.06 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -2.63 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 10.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 76.72 years
 male:
 73.89 years
 female:
 79.71 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.03 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Dominican(s)
 adjective:
 Dominican
 Ethnic divisions:
 black, Carib Indians
 Religions: Roman Catholic 77%, Protestant 15% (Methodist 5%, Pentecostal ←
 3%,
 Seventh-Day Adventist 3%, Baptist 2%, other 2%), none 2%, unknown 1%, other
 5%
 Languages:
 English (official), French patois
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over having ever attended school (1970)
 total population:

94%
 male:
 94%
 female:
 94%
 Labor force:
 25,000
 by occupation:
 agriculture 40%, industry and commerce 32%, services 28% (1984)

1.5 67.guide/Government (Dominica)

Government (Dominica)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Commonwealth of Dominica
 conventional short form:
 Dominica
 Digraph:
 DO
 Type:
 parliamentary democracy
 Capital:
 Roseau
 Administrative divisions:
 10 parishes; Saint Andrew, Saint David, Saint George, Saint John, Saint Joseph, Saint Luke, Saint Mark, Saint Patrick, Saint Paul, Saint Peter
 Independence:
 3 November 1978 (from UK)
 Constitution:
 3 November 1978
 Legal system:
 based on English common law
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 3 November (1978)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Dominica Freedom Party (DFP), (Mary) Eugenia CHARLES; Dominica Labor Party (DLP), Rosie DOUGLAS; United Workers Party (UWP), Edison JAMES
 Other political or pressure groups:
 Dominica Liberation Movement (DLM), a small leftist group
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 House of Assembly:
 last held 28 May 1990 (next to be held May 1995); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (30 total; 9 appointed senators and 21 elected representatives) DFP 11, UWP 6, DLP 4
 President:
 last held 20 December 1988 (next to be held December 1993); results - President Sir Clarence Augustus SEIGNORET was reelected by the House of Assembly

Executive branch:

president, prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

unicameral House of Assembly

Judicial branch:

Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court

Leaders:**Chief of State:**

President Sir Clarence Augustus SEIGNORET (since 19 December 1983)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister (Mary) Eugenia CHARLES (since 21 July 1980, elected for a third term 28 May 1990)

Member of:

ACCT, ACP, C, CARICOM, CDB, ECLAC, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTERPOL, LORCS, NAM (observer), OAS, OECS, OPANAL, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WHO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:

there is no chancery in the US

US diplomatic representation:

no official presence since the Ambassador resides in Bridgetown (Barbados), but travels frequently to Dominica

1.6 67.guide/Government (Dominica 2. usage)

Government (Dominica 2. usage)

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Flag:

green with a centered cross of three equal bands - the vertical part is yellow (hoist side), black, and white - the horizontal part is yellow (top) ↔

black, and white; superimposed in the center of the cross is a red disk bearing a sisserou parrot encircled by 10 green five-pointed stars edged in yellow; the 10 stars represent the 10 administrative divisions (parishes)

1.7 67.guide/Economy (Dominica)

Economy (Dominica)

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Overview:

The economy is dependent on agriculture and thus is highly vulnerable to climatic conditions. Agriculture accounts for about 30% of GDP and employs 40% of the labor force. Principal products include bananas, citrus, mangoes ↔

root crops, and coconuts. In 1991, GDP grew by 2.1%. The tourist industry remains undeveloped because of a rugged coastline and the lack of an international airport.

National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$174 million (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

2.1% (1991 est.)

National product per capita:

\$2,100 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4.5% (1991)

Unemployment rate:

15% (1991)

Budget:

revenues \$70 million; expenditures \$84 million, including capital expenditures of \$26 million (FY91 est.)

Exports:

\$66.0 million (c.i.f., 1991)

commodities:

bananas, soap, bay oil, vegetables, grapefruit, oranges

partners:

UK 50%, CARICOM countries, US, Italy

Imports:

\$110.0 million (c.i.f., 1991)

commodities:

manufactured goods, machinery and equipment, food, chemicals

partners:

US 27%, CARICOM, UK, Canada

External debt:

\$87 million (1991)

Industrial production:

growth rate 4.5% in manufacturing (1988 est.); accounts for 18% of GDP

Electricity:

7,000 kW capacity; 16 million kWh produced, 185 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

soap, coconut oil, tourism, copra, furniture, cement blocks, shoes

Agriculture:

accounts for 26% of GDP; principal crops - bananas, citrus, mangoes, root crops, coconuts; bananas provide the bulk of export earnings; forestry and fisheries potential not exploited

Economic aid:

Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$120 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:

1 July - 30 June

1.8 67.guide/Communications (Dominica)

Communications (Dominica)

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Highways:

750 km total; 370 km paved, 380 km gravel and earth
Ports:
Roseau, Portsmouth
Airports:
total:
2
usable:
2
with permanent-surface runways:
2
with runways over 3,659 m:
0 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
0
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
1
Telecommunications:
4,600 telephones in fully automatic network; VHF and UHF link to Saint
Lucia; new SHF links to Martinique and Guadeloupe; broadcast stations - 3
AM, 2 FM, 1 cable TV

1.9 67.guide/Defense Forces (Dominica)

Defense Forces (Dominica)

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Branches:
Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force
Manpower availability:
NA
Defense expenditures:
exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP