

Martinique

(overseas department of France)

Geography

Location: Caribbean, island in the Caribbean Sea, north of Trinidad and Tobago

Area:

total area: 1,100 sq km

land area: 1,060 sq km

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 290 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: tropical; moderated by trade winds; rainy season (June to October)

Terrain: mountainous with indented coastline; dormant volcano

Natural resources: coastal scenery and beaches, cultivable land

Land use:

arable land: 10%

permanent crops: 8%

meadows and pastures: 30%

forest and woodland: 26%

other: 26%

Irrigated land: 60 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

natural hazards: hurricanes, flooding, and volcanic activity (an average of one major natural disaster every five years)

People

Population: 394,787 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 23% (female 44,960; male 46,512)

15-64 years: 67% (female 134,439; male 130,642)

65 years and over: 10% (female 22,058; male 16,176) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 1.1% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 16.92 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 5.82 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -0.1 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 7.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 78.67 years

male: 75.94 years

female: 81.53 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.81 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Martiniquais (singular and plural)

adjective: Martiniquais

Ethnic divisions: African and African-Caucasian-Indian mixture
90%, Caucasian 5%, East Indian, Lebanese, Chinese less than 5%

Religions: Roman Catholic 95%, Hindu and pagan African 5%

Languages: French, Creole patois

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1982)

total population: 93%

male: 92%

female: 93%

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Department of Martinique

conventional short form: Martinique
local long form: Departement de la Martinique
local short form: Martinique

Type: overseas department of France

Capital: Fort-de-France

Independence: none (overseas department of France)

National holiday: National Day, Taking of the Bastille, 14 July
(1789)

Constitution: 28 September 1958 (French Constitution)

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: the flag of France is used

Economy

Overview: The economy is based on sugarcane, bananas, tourism, and light industry. Tourism has become more important than agricultural exports as a source of foreign exchange.

Industries: construction, rum, cement, oil refining, sugar, tourism

Agriculture: including fishing and forestry, accounts for about 10% of GDP; principal crops - pineapples, avocados, bananas, flowers, vegetables, sugarcane for rum; dependent on imported food, particularly meat and vegetables

Illicit drugs: transshipment point for cocaine and marijuana bound for the US and Europe

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:
total: 1,680 km

Ports: Fort-de-France, La Trinite

Airports:
total: 2

Defence Forces

Note: defence is the responsibility of France