St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- **Capital:** Kingstown (13°10' N 61°14' W)
- **International airport(s):** Argyle International Airport
- **Official language(s):** English
- **Currency:** East Caribbean dollar (XCD)
- **Time:** UTC -4
- **Region:** Caribbean

### GEOGRAPHY

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a territory of 389 km², with only some of the islands inhabited. The country is in the Lesser Antilles island arc in the West Indies. To the north of Saint Vincent lies Saint Lucia, to the east Barbados and to the south Grenada. The main island, Saint Vincent, measures 26 km in length and 15 km in width. The country is densely populated for its size, with over 300 inhabitants per km². Saint Vincent is of volcanic origin and heavily forested with limited at terrain. The windward side is rocky and steep, while the leeward side has some sandy beaches. The highest peak (1,234 m) is the La Soufrière volcano. Other notable mountains include Richmond Peak and Mount Brisbane.

### CLIMATE

The climate of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is tropical, humid and hot all year, with a cooler dry season from January to April and a hot and rainy season from May to October. Average monthly temperature ranges from 26 to 28 °C. (World Bank, 2020) Rainfall is abundant on Saint Vincent, with almost 2,000 mm of rainfall annually. Rainfall is below 100 mm only from January to April. The Grenadines are a bit drier, receiving less than 1,500 mm of rain per year. Rain mainly comes in sudden, intense downpours or thunderstorms, but do not last long, thus typically not reducing hours of sunshine. Tropical storms and cyclones are typical, but Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is located in the southernmost part of the hurricane belt, where hurricanes are relatively rare.

### ECONOMY

Agriculture contributes less than 10 per cent to GDP, but important agricultural products, like banana and crop are cultivated and exported. The country also produces and exports beer and distills rum. At 70 per cent, the service sector accounts for most of the country's GDP (UNCTAD, 2021), and almost the same share of employment (ILO, 2020a). The service sector is dominated by tourism. According items attribute is mandatory, tourism arrivals in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have reached 392 thousand in 2019 and inbound tourism expenditure equalled 30 per cent over GDP in 2018. The filming of movies, like the Pirates of the Caribbean, has attracted visitors, which has stimulated construction work to improve the infrastructure to enable increasing tourist flows. Unemployment has been high and tropical storms occasionally cause serious problems to banana and coconut plantations, hampering economic development. There are some manufacturing and offshore financial activities that attract international businesses. The main export destinations are Jordan, France and Switzerland in addition to the other Caribbean islands (UNCTAD, 2021).

### CULTURE

Rugby, cricket and association football are popular among men, while netball is popular among women. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have their own national rugby union team that has participated in the world cup. Basketball, volleyball and tennis are also played. Popular music includes belé, big drum, calypso, chutney, reggae, soca and steelpan. Traditional storytelling is also a popular way to spend time.

People grow breadfruit and arrowroot, among others, and a wide array of spice plants. The country hosts a Breadfruit Festival each August with music, dancing and multiple preparations of breadfruit. The cuisine is based on a rich variety of fish and seafood, including tuna, bonito, mahi mahi, kingfish and snapper. In Barrouallie, on the west coast of Saint Vincent, a local delicacy is black fish, or pilot whale. Lobster, squid, octopus and queen conch are also regularly enjoyed.
**ECONOMIC TRENDS**

### Gross domestic product
US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>500</th>
<th>600</th>
<th>700</th>
<th>800</th>
<th>900</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GDP per capita
2019
US$7,463

### Productive Capacity Index
2018: 34.1

### Economic and environmental vulnerability index
2019: 28

### Consumer Price Index growth
2019: 0.7%

### Unemployment rate
2008: Total 18.8%
Female 18.6%, Male 22.6%

### Main economic sectors, 2019
Percentage of GDP

- **Services**
- **Industry**
- **Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing**

### Tourist arrivals
Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of tourists</th>
<th>Percent of GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### External financial resources
Percentage of GDP

- **ODA**
- **Remittances**
- **FDI inflows**

### Public debt as % of GDP
2018: 56.9%
MARITIME TRANSPORT

**Fleet size**
Number of ships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship type</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total fleet</td>
<td>1 407</td>
<td>1 407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil tankers</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk carriers</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General cargo</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container ships</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other types of ships</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Port performance**
Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>SIDS Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of port calls</td>
<td>2 332</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time in port (days)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of vessels</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>6 106</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Container port throughput**

2019

18 650 TEU

**Bilateral connectivity index, 2019**
Top 5 partners

- Trinidad and Tobago
- Barbados
- Grenada
- United States of America
- Dominican Republic

**Liner shipping connectivity index**
Maximum China Q1 2006=100
**POPULATION**

**Total population**
Thousands of people, share of urban population

![Population graph]

**Population development indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty headcount (% of population)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human development index</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human assets index</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender inequality index</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Life expectancy at birth**

2019: 73 years

**Population density**

2019: 284 persons per km²

**Dependency ratio**

2019:
- Child: 32.6
- Old-age: 14.3

**Age structure by gender, 2019**

Percentage of total population

![Age structure graph]
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade
US dollars in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019 (% of GDP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise exports</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>40.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>35.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trade openness
Goods and services
2019

Export concentration index
2019

Food import dependency
Average 2015-2019
47% of GDP
0.44
17.03

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019
Exports in millions US dollars

- Jordan
- France
- Switzerland, Liechtenstein
- Barbados
- Saint Lucia

Merchandise exports by product group, 2019
- Agricultural raw materials
- All food items
- Fuels
- Manufactured goods
- Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold

Services exports by category, 2019
- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

St. Vincent and the Grenadines
**ENVIRONMENT**

**CO₂ emissions per capita**
Kg per capita

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CO₂ emissions per GDP**
Kg per 2010 US$ of GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017**
Percentage of total energy consumption

- **Material footprint per capita**
- **Terrestrial protected area**
- **Marine protected area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Value | ..kg | 22.4% | 0.22%

**Disasters indicators**
Data not available

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

**Trade in ICT goods**
Exports: 1.3%
Imports: 4.2%

**Trade in ICT services**
Exports: ..%
Imports: ..%

**Share of internet users**
2018

**Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions**
Number of subscriptions per 100 people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscriptions</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) [link]
- CO₂ emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) [link]
- CO₂ emissions per GDP: World Bank (2021) [link]
- Distance to nearest neighbour: [NO_PRINTED_FORM] (Package “cshapes,” 2016) [link]
- Economic losses due to disasters: United Nations (2021) [link]
- Exclusive economic zone: Sea Around Us (2016) [link]
- Fixed broadband/mobile subscriptions: ITU (2019) [link]
- Forest area: World Bank (2021) [link]
- Gender inequality index: UNDP (2020) [link]
- Human assets index: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021) [link]
- Human development index: UNDP (2020) [link]
- Life expectancy at birth: World Bank (2021) [link]
- Marine protected area: World Bank (2021) [link]
- Material footprint: UNEP (2021) [link]
- Number of people affected by disasters: United Nations (2021) [link]
- Poverty headcount ratio: World Bank (2021) [link]
- Renewable energy share in total energy consumption: World Bank (2021) [link]
- Share of internet users: ITU (2019) [link]
- Terrestrial protected area: World Bank (2021) [link]
- Tourism: UNWTO (2020) [link]
- Unemployment rate, total/female/male: ILO (2020b) [link]
- World risk index: Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020) [link]

References