

## Sint Maarten (Saint Maarten)

**Overview:**

The island area of Sint Maarten (Dutch: Eilandgebied Sint Maarten) is one of five island areas of the Netherlands Antilles, encompassing the southern half of the island of Saint Martin/Sint Maarten, the Overseas Colectivity of France.

**Territory:**

Island) 33 sq miles (85 sq km) St. Martin: 20 sq miles (52 sq km) Sint Maarten: 13 sq miles (34 sq km) The highest points are in the 1,200 ft. range. There are no significant rivers.

**Location:**

Northeast of Caracas, Venezuela 574 miles (924 km); 150 miles southeast of Puerto Rico.

**Latitude and Longitude:**

Latitude/Longitude 17° 59N, 63° 10W

**Time Zone:**

GMT -4

**Total Land Area:**

16

**EEZ:**

12

**Climate:**

Average wind speed of 4.1 m/s. The average temperature of St. Maarten is 80 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius) in the winter and 86 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius) in the summer. The sun shines for approximately 8 hours a day. The average rainfall yearly is 40 inches. The water temperature is approximately 78 degrees Fahrenheit (25.6 degrees Celsius). Gentle trade winds keep the humidity low.

**Natural Resources:**

**ECONOMY:**

<b>Total GDP:</b>
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<b>Per Capita GDP:</b>
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<b>% of GDP per Sector:</b>		
<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Tertiary</b>

<b>% of Population Employed by Sector</b>		
<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Tertiary</b>

**External Aid/Remittances:**

CEDP (Comprehensive Economic Development Plan) which is part of the Sustainable Economic Development Program to rebuild the Island infrastructure after the hurricanes of the 1990s and 9/11 attack economic downturn.

**Growth:**

Stay-over tourism went up by 16.24% when compared to the first half of 2003, compared to 2002, there was an increase of almost 26%.

<b>Labour Force:</b>	
2005	18,072
2001	15,495
2003	16,200

<b>Unemployment</b>	
<b>Year:</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate (% of pop.)</b>

**Industry:**

**Niche Industry:**

The St. Maarten Zoo.

**Tourism:**

Tourism is the primary engine of St. Maarten's economy. The success of this industry is primarily attributed to the country's history of political stability. Over twenty (20) cruise lines presently visit St. Maarten, and 37 tourist beaches. More than 1.2 million tourists visit the St. Marten Island each year.

<b>Imports and Exports:</b>



<b>Tot. Value of Imports</b>	0.00 ()
<b>From Eu:</b>	
<b>Import Partners (EU:)</b>	
<b>Partners Outside EU:</b>	
<b>Import Partners:</b>	
<b>Tot. Value of Exports</b>	()
<b>To Eu:</b>	
<b>Export Partners:</b>	
<b>Partners Outside EU::</b>	
<b>Export Partners:</b>	
<b>Main Imports:</b>	
<b>Main Exports:</b>	

## TRANSPORTATION/ACCESS

### External:

#### Number of Airports: 1

Princess Juliana International Airport. (SMX). paved

#### Number of Main Ports:

### Internal:

#### Air

#### Road:

#### Sea:

#### Other Forms of Transportation:

### Economic Zones:

St. Maarten's no import taxes and/ or true duty free status coupled with trade preference within the European Union (EU) and the United States

### Energy Policy:

Total electricity and water production increased in 2004 over the same period in 2003. Electricity demand has been on the rise due to two main factors: an expansion in the commercial sector due to an increase in small businesses and the drop in air-conditioning prices which led to an increase in purchases as well as electricity usage.

Year	Total Energy Production (Mwh)	Type			Total Energy Consumption (Mwh)	Sector				
		Thermic (Mwh)	Geothermic (Mwh)	Other (Mwh)		Domestic (Mwh)	Commercial (Mwh)	Public Service (Mwh)	Industry (Mwh)	Public Lighting (Mwh)

### Official Currency:

Netherlands Antillean Guilder

### Banking and Insurance:

Number of Banks and Credit Unions: 5

Number of Agricultural Credit Unions:

Number of Insurance Companies: 7

### Financial Services:

St. Maarten's no import taxes and/ or true duty free status coupled with trade preference within the European Union (EU) and the United States

### Communications/E-Commerce:

### Public Ownership:

### Land Use:

### Agriculture/Forestry:

### Marine Activity:

### Fishing:

### Marine Life:

### Critical Issues:

Oil spills in the port area is a public health concern (2001 Census).

## JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES

### Capital:

Philipsburg;



**Political System:**

Parliamentary. The Antilles is governed by a popularly elected unicameral "Staten" (parliament) of 22 members. It chooses a prime minister (called minister president) and a Council of Ministers consisting of six to eight other ministers. A governor, who serves a 6-year term, represents the monarch of the Netherlands. Local government is assigned authority independently on each island. Under the direction of a kingdom-appointed island governor, these local governments have a "Bestuurscollege" (administrative body) made up of commissioners who head the separate government departments.

**Political Parties:**

2007 Election results: Democratische Partij (DP) - six seats National Alliance (NA) - five seats People's Progressive Alliance (PPA)- 0 Democratic Labour Party (DLP)- 0 National Democratic Party (NDP) - 0 St. Maarten People's Believers Independent Movement (SPBIM) - 0

**Important Legislation:**

June 2000, Sint Maarten held a nonbinding referendum in which 69% of the population voted for status aparte--independence from the federation within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. A planned restructuring of the Netherlands Antilles would see Sint Maarten become a separate country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands (like the Netherlands Antilles are now) on December 15, 2008.

**Principal Taxes:**

overall government revenues declined slightly by less than 1 percent in the first six months of 2004 over this period in 2003. This was attributable mainly to decreases in income tax and "other" revenues. The largest contributor towards total collected government revenues was wage tax; a moderate increase of approximately six percent relative to last year was recorded.(June 2004)

**Associated Power:**

Netherland Antilles,

**Citizenship:**

Dutch Antillean. EU passport.

**Paradiplomacy:**

The island area of Sint Maarten is ruled by an island council, an executive council, and an administrator (gezaghebber in Dutch) appointed by the Dutch Crown. The Netherlands Antilles conducts foreign affairs primarily through the Dutch Government. However, the Netherlands Antilles recently has strengthened its relations with other Caribbean governments. It has been granted observer status at the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and in December 1998, signed an agreement with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) that made the Netherlands Antilles an associate member.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Population: 38,959. Males: 18,839; Females: 20,120. Area: 34 sq. km. Population density per sq. km. Dec. 2004: 1146.

2007			
Island	Area (km sq.)	Population	% of Total Population

94% - 97% of household dwellings use cisterns or ground water. The island has a water water treatment plant.

<b>Population:</b>	
Year	Resident Population

Age of Population:	0-14	15-24	25-49	50-64	65 and up
2007	9332	4,713	18,191	5,514	1,209

**Migration:**

Data 2004: Immigration: 2277; Emigration: 770.

<b>Crude Birth Rate:</b>
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**Life Expedctancy:**

total population: 76.24 years male: 73.96 years female: 78.65 years (2007 est.)

<b>Crude Death Rate:</b>
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**Ethnicity:**

mixed black 85%, other 15% (includes Carib Amerindian, white, East Asian)

**Class Division:****Languages:**

Papiamento 65.4% (a Spanish-Portuguese-Dutch-English dialect), English 15.9% (widely spoken), Dutch 7.3% (official), Spanish 6.1%, Creole 1.6%, other 1.9%, unspecified 1.8% (2001 Netherland Antilles census)

**Religion:**

Adventist, Anglican, Baptist, Jehovah's Witness, Jewish, Lutheran, Methodist, Roman Catholic, and Seventh-Day Adventist.

**Literacy:**

96.3% male/female adults (2005)

**Education System:**

<b>Total Pre-schools:(2007)</b>	4
<b>Total Primary Schools</b>	
<b>First Level:</b>	8
<b>Second Level:</b>	
<b>Third Level:</b>	



<b>Total Secondary Schools:</b>	6
<b>Total Professional Schools</b>	2
<b>Universities:</b>	2

<b>Number of Schools per Island:</b>										
	Pre-school		Elementary			High-school		Prof.	University	
	Pub	Priv	1	2	3	Pub	Priv		Pub	Priv
Sint Maarten (Saint Maarten)	18		8		4	1			1	

<b>Students Enrolled:</b>					
Year:	Pre-School	Elementary	High-school	Prof.	University
2007	3,991	2,752	232	0	0

<b>Teachers</b>							
Year	Pre-School	Elementary			High-School	Prof.	University
		1	2	3			

American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine (AUC), University of St. Martin (USM) 2003-2004 school year total 7698: 1026 kindergarten, 3957 in primary, 2715 secondary. 74% enrolment: eight private schools funded by government. The largest enrolment is the public schools (26%) The largest private-subsidized school board is the Catholic with an enrolment of 1567 students (20.3%) of the school population. CBSNA only collects data for public schools.

#### **Medical Services:**

No hospital; three medical clinics; 1 Chiropractic & Massage Clinic; 9 pharmacies. No psychiatric facilities. St. Maarten Medical Center: 79 beds, general surgery.

## **HISTORY AND CULTURE**

### **History:**

The Dutch were the first to colonize Sint Maarten in 1631, but within 2 years the Spanish invaded and evacuated the settlers. The Dutch failed in an attempt to regain the island in 1644, but 4 years later the Spanish abandoned the island of their own accord. In 1648 the island was divided between the Dutch and the French; however, complete control of the island was seized numerous times in a series of conflicts. The British became involved as well, taking power for first 6 and then 10 years. Finally, in 1817, the current partition line between the Netherlands and France was established. The island flourished under a slave-based plantation economy and the exportation of salt until abolition of slavery in 1863.

### **Referenda:**

The Netherlands Antilles is to be disbanded by December 15, 2008.

### **Recent Significant Events:**

### **Music, Dance, Handicraft and Patrimony:**

### **Sources:**

WorldAtlas.com <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/namerica/caribb/stmartin.htm> CIA factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/nt.html> St. Maarten Chamber of Commerce & Industry <http://www.sintmaartenchamber.org/about/contactus.asp> Investinsxm.com <http://www.investinsxm.com/sxminfo/economy.htm> Sint Maarten Direct: <http://www.caribbean-direct.com/St-Martin-Direct/Helpful%20Info/SMFhelpfulinfoM.html> Yellow Pages St. Maarten: <http://www.yellowpages-sintmaarten.com/Categories/Education+%26+Instruction/Schools>. The St. Maarten Zoo: [http://sxmzoo.networkid.net/\\_private/info.htm](http://sxmzoo.networkid.net/_private/info.htm) St. Maarten Dept of Eco Policy & Research, Eco. Rpt: [http://www.investinsxm.com/publication/eco\\_reports/2004-halfy-exe-sum.htm](http://www.investinsxm.com/publication/eco_reports/2004-halfy-exe-sum.htm) PanAmHO: <http://www.paho.org/HIA/archivosvol2/paisasing/Netherlands%20Antilles%20English.pdf>. Central Bureau of Statistics Netherlands antilles: [http://p9797-131.202.3.117.rproxy.upei.ca/MuseHost=www.cbs.an/MuseFirst=1/MuseSessionID=5f7c4b63c122295a116a3810ebb910a7/MusePath/education/education\\_f1.asp](http://p9797-131.202.3.117.rproxy.upei.ca/MuseHost=www.cbs.an/MuseFirst=1/MuseSessionID=5f7c4b63c122295a116a3810ebb910a7/MusePath/education/education_f1.asp). Princess Juliana Airport: <http://www.pjiaa.com/main.html>

### **Useful Links:**

[IslandStudies.ca](http://IslandStudies.ca)  
[www.upei.ca](http://www.upei.ca)  
[www.google.ca](http://www.google.ca)

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