

MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT

CARIBBEAN DOMINICA

Snapshots Section

Country Name: Dominica

Country Founded in: Discovered on November 3, 1492 during Christopher Columbus's second voyage to the "New World. After two centuries of continuous British rule, Dominica became an independent republic on November 3, 1978.

<http://www.everyculture.com/Cr-Ga/Dominica.html>

Population: 72,660 (July 2009 est.)

Government Type: (national, regional and local): Parliamentary democracy; republic within the Commonwealth

Geography/location in the world:

Dominica is a Caribbean island located between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, about half way between Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago. The terrain consists of a mountainous island dominated by volcanic peaks.

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/do.html>

Number of people groups: 11

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot: Major Religion and % of population - Roman Catholic 61.4%

All religions and % for each:

Seventh Day Adventist 6%

Pentecostal 5.6%

Baptist 4.1%

Methodist 3.7%

Church of God 1.2%,

Jehovah's Witnesses 1.2%

Other Christian 7.7%

Rastafarian 1.3%

Other or unspecified 1.6%

None 6.1%

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/do.html><http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?page=country&skip=0&coi=DMA&x=13&y=15>

Government interaction with religion: All religions have freedom of expression in Dominica.

Country Profile Basic Facts

Country Name: Dominica

Demographics:

The total population is 72,660. The birth rate is 15.73 births for every 1,000 people. The infant mortality rate is 13.65 deaths for every 1,000 live births. The death rate is 8.2 deaths for every 1,000 people. The life expectancy for the total population is 75.55 years. The life expectancy for males is slightly lower at 72.61 while the life expectancy for females is slightly higher at 78.64 years.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/do.html>

Language:

English is the official language, and has been since the British took control in 1763. There are variations depending if one is in the city or in a village. An English-based Creole widely used is called *Kokoy*. A French-based Creole, known as *Kwéyo`l* or commonly called *Patois* or *Patwa*, is also used on the island.

<http://www.everyculture.com/Cr-Ga/Dominica.html>

Society/Culture:

The culture in Dominica is influenced by the English and French occupations from its history. Today much of the language and lifestyle on the island is very similar to other Creole speaking islands in the Caribbean.

<http://www.everyculture.com/Middle-America-Caribbean/Carib-of-Dominica-History-and-Cultural-Relations.html>

The majority of the people live in single-story wooden houses with corrugated iron roofs. The road system is in relatively good condition following improvements in 1986. The winding narrow mountain roads can be difficult to maneuver through. There are plans underway for construction of a new international airport to help encourage tourism.

The soil and climate in Dominica provides good growing conditions for a variety of vegetable, root crops, and fruits which are sold at markets or by street vendors. People typically have their own gardens which helps provide food for their families. A staple found in many diets include bananas and plantains.

Dominica dishes are a combination of French, African, and English influences. A tiny white fish known as the *ti-ti-ri* is served fried with lime and garlic. Crapaud or "mountain chicken" (a type of frog), is the national dish. A popular Creole dish consists of roasted breadfruit with salted codfish, peppers, and onions cooked in oil. Other favorites include stuffed crabshells, *funchi*, an

okra-cornmeal pudding, and *boija*, coconut-cornmeal bread. A popular milkshake-type beverage is made from vanilla, algae, and milk.

Women and girls are mainly responsible for childcare and household duties. Women in rural areas often grow their own vegetables in addition to raising small livestock for family use. Vendors in open-air markets are usually women who sell homemade sweets and baked goods to help make extra money for their families. Other women weave baskets or work as house cleaners or childcare providers.

The men usually do the hard work of harvesting and sell bananas and care for other crops. They handle the large livestock, fish, hunt, and work in construction. Men will hold the positions of authority in the churches. Both men and women are active in politics and village affairs.

Although Dominicans will participate in formal marriages, common-law relationships are very common. Other relationships consist of "visiting unions," where the man and woman live apart and the household is headed by the female.

Fathers of children born outside of marriage are expected to contribute financially to their children's upbringing, regardless of their relationship with the mother. The marriage usually takes place after age thirty, except among the upper classes. Even though divorce is legal, it is rare and still seen as unacceptable.

Holidays: Dominica's main religious holidays are Christmas and Easter. Independence Day on November 3, commemorates the date in 1978 when Dominica became an independent nation. Creole Day usually occurs on the Friday before Independence Day. Dominica's public holidays are New Year's day (January 1), Carnival (February 14-15), Good Friday and Easter Monday (late March or early April), May Day (May 1), Whit Monday, August Monday (August 1), National Day—also called Independence Day (November 3), Community Service Day (November 4), and Christmas Day and Boxing Day (December 25 and 26).

<http://www.everyculture.com/CR-GA/Dominica.html>

Gall, Timothy L., and Hobby, Jeneen M., Ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations: Americas*, 12th Edition (Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2007), s.v. "Dominica."

Government:

Executive Branch: The Chief of State for Dominica is President Nicholas J. O. Liverpool, who has held this position since October, 2003. The head of the government is appointed by the president. Currently, the Prime Minister is Roosevelt Skerrit, who has held this position since January, 2004. The president also appoints the cabinet, on the advice of the prime minister. The president is elected by the House of Assembly for a term of five-years. The last election was held October 1, 2003. The next election will be held in 2013. Nicholas Liverpool consented to a second term in 2008 at the request of the prime minister and leaders.

Legislative Branch: Dominica's legislative branch consists of the Unicameral House of Assembly. This consists of 30 seats, with 9 members appointed, and 21 members elected by

popular vote to serve five-year terms. The last elections were held May 5, 2005; the next to be held by August 5, 2010.

Judicial Branch: Dominica's Judicial Branch consists of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court which consists of the Court of Appeals and the High Court which is located in Saint Lucia. One of the six judges must reside in Dominica and preside over the Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/do.html>

Economy:

Dominica's labor force totals approximately 25,000 people. Of these, approximately 40% are agricultural employees while 32% are employed in industry and commerce. Others find work in on nearby islands such as St. Thomas. Unemployment is somewhere between 10% and 15%. Dominica has the lowest per capita income of any country in the Antilles. Earnings are low for all workers.

Tourism has developed more slowly than on neighboring islands because the beaches are not nearly so inviting. However, Dominica's rugged mountains, rainforests, freshwater lakes, hot springs, waterfalls, and diving spots make it an attractive eco-tourism destination. Tourism is on the increase following the development of modern docking and waterfront facilities for cruise ships in Dominica's capital.

Dominica's currency is the Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$), a regional currency shared among members of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU). The ECCB has kept the EC\$ pegged at EC\$2.7=U.S. \$1.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2295.htm>

Though Dominica's economy has been behind other nations, it grew by 3.5% in 2005 and 4.0% in 2006. Tourism, construction, the banana industry, along with offshore and other services, resulted in growth in 2006.

Nearly one-third of Dominica's labor work force is in agriculture. Agriculture business is vulnerable to weather conditions. In 2007 Hurricane Dean caused significant damage to the agricultural sector as well as the country's infrastructure, especially roads. As the market for bananas has diminished, the government has diversified the agricultural sector by introducing coffee, patchouli, aloe vera, cut flowers, and exotic fruits such as mangoes, guavas, and papayas. There has been some success in increasing manufactured exports, primarily soap.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/do.html>
www.caribbeanpressreleases.com/.../Dominica.../Page1.html

Literacy: It is estimated nearly 94% of the Dominican population is literate, with equal rates between males and females.

Land/Geography:



<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/do.html>

Dominica is known as, "The Nature Island of the Caribbean" due to its impressive and varied flora and fauna. These natural assets are protected by an extensive natural park system. The most mountainous of the Lesser Antilles, Dominica's volcanic peaks are cones of lava craters and include Boiling Lake, the second-largest, thermally active lake in the world.

History

The Arawak people were indigenous on Dominica, but were run off or killed by Caribs in the 14th century. When Columbus landed on the island in November 1493 it was the Caribs he encountered. In the 16th century, Spanish ships frequently landed on Dominica, but fierce resistance by the Caribs discouraged Spain's efforts to settle the island.

France claimed Dominica in 1635. French missionaries arrived shortly after. They became the island's first European inhabitants. As a result the Caribs continued attacks, however, the French and British agreed, in 1660, that both Dominica and St. Vincent should be abandoned. Although Dominica was officially neutral for the next century, its resources remained an enticement resulting in rival expeditions of British and French foresters who began harvesting timber by the start of the 18th century.

France eventually became a predominant force on neighboring islands and a settlement was established and flourished on Dominica. After the 1763 Treaty of Paris, that ended the Seven Years' War, the island became a British possession.

In 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, the French mounted a successful invasion on Dominica, which included the support of the population. However, the 1783 Treaty of Paris, which ended the war, returned the island to Britain. Additional invasions by France in 1795 and 1805 both ended in failure.

The British established a legislative assembly in 1763 which represented the white population only. The Brown Privilege Bill, of 1831, gave political and social rights to free nonwhites. Three blacks were actually elected to the legislative assembly in 1832. Following the abolition

of slavery, in 1838, Dominica became the first and only British Caribbean colony to have a Black-controlled legislature in the 19th century. Because most Black legislators were merchants and small landholders, they held social and economic views which were opposite to the interests of the wealthy English planter class. The planters lobbied for more direct British rule.

In 1865, following tension in the government, the colonial office replaced the elective assembly with one-half appointed members and one-half elected. Planters sided with colonial administrators and outmaneuvered the elected legislators on numerous occasions.

Dominica became part of the Leeward Island Federation in 1871. The power of the Black population grew less, resulting in the Crown Colony government being re-established in 1896 and the political rights for the vast majority of the population being greatly limited.

Following World War I, there was a heightened political consciousness throughout the Caribbean which led to the formation of the Representative Government Association. This group won one-third of the popularly elected seats of the legislative assembly in 1924 and one-half in 1936. Shortly after, Dominica was transferred from the Leeward Island Administration and was governed as part of the Windwards until 1958, when it joined the short-lived West Indies Federation.

After the West Indies Federation was no more, Dominica became an associated state of the United Kingdom in 1967, taking responsibility for its internal affairs. On November 3, 1978, the Commonwealth of Dominica was granted independence by the United Kingdom.

However, independence did little to solve the problems accumulating from centuries of economic underdevelopment. By the late 1970's, political discontent led to the formation of an interim government which was replaced after the 1980 elections by a government led by the Dominica Freedom Party under Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, the Caribbean's first female prime minister. The economic problems were compounded by the severe impact of hurricanes in 1979 and in 1980. By the end of the 1980s, the economy began to recover, but weakened again in the 1990s due to a decrease in banana prices.

In the January 2000 elections, the Edison James of the United Workers Party (UWP) was defeated by the Dominican Labour Party (DLP), led by Roosevelt P. "Rosie" Douglas. Douglas died after only a few months in office and was replaced by Pierre Charles, who died in office in January 2004.

Roosevelt Skerrit, also of the DLP, replaced Charles as Prime Minister. Under Prime Minister Skerrit's leadership, the DLP won elections in May 2005. This gave the party 12 seats in the 21-member Parliament to the UWP's 8 seats. An independent candidate affiliated with the DLP won a seat as well. Since that time, the independent candidate has joined the government and one UWP member has switched parties, making the current total 14 seats for the DLP and 7 for the UWP

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2295.htm>

Christian History

Dominican priests first began work in 1642. From 1702 to 1730 there was no Catholic presence on the island. French Franciscans arrived in 1747, but were expelled when the British assumed control in 1782. Roseau became a Catholic diocese in 1850.

Today, Dominica is predominantly Catholic and the island now makes up the entire diocese of Roseau. In 1974 there were 16 parishes, 31 stations, 28 religious, and 3 diocesan priests, and 35 Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Holy See has diplomatic relations with Dominica and in AD 2000 was represented to the government and the Catholic hierarchy by a pro-nuncio residing in Port of Spain.

Methodists first came to Dominica in 1787. It is the principal non-Catholic faith. Adventists are next, followed by Anglicans. In the 4 Windward Islands, Anglicans are strong in Grenada and St. Vincent and weak in St. Lucia and Dominica. Several other small missionary societies are active in Dominica. Since 1975, Pentecostals have become increasingly influential.

Religion

Non Christian

Roman Catholic Church - According to 1995 statistics, there were 18 congregations with 30,000 members.

Jehovah's Witness - In 1995 there were 6 churches in this denomination with 263 members.

Christian/Evangelical

Anglican Church (D Antigua) - According to 1995 statistics, there are 3 congregations with 650 members.

Baptist Convention in Dominica—Began around 1975. In 1995 there were 5 congregations consisting of 152 adults.

Berean Mission—originated in 1973. In 1995 there were 3 churches with a total of 140 members.

Church of God of Prophecy—began around 1993. In 1995 there were 10 congregations consisting of 300 members.

Church of God Cleveland—Began in 1993. As of 1995, there were 3 congregations with 140 members.

Church of Nazarene—this church began in 1974. In 1995 there were 3 congregations with a membership of 201.

Churches of in Christ in Christian Union—this denomination started in 1943. In 1995 there were 16 churches reported with a membership of 900.

Maranatha Baptist Church—in 1995 there were 3 churches with 13 members.

Methodist Church in Caribbean & Americas—began in 1787 and, as of 1995, there were 5 churches with a total membership of 1,250.

New Apostolic Church—began around 1985. There were 2 churches and 70 members as of 1995.

Seventh-day Adventist Church—in 1995, there were 11 churches with a membership of 2,200.

Other Pentecostal bodies—began in 1960 and in 1995 there were 9 congregations with a membership of 660.

Other Protestant denominations—in 1995 there were 10 churches and a total membership of 900.

Barrett, David B., George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson. *World Christian Encyclopedia: A Comparative Survey of Churches and Religions in the Modern World*, vol. 1: *The World by Segments: Religions, Peoples, Languages, Cities, Topics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001).

http://www.caribbeanonlineyellowpages.com/listings_7/7_category_C_4198.html

People Groups

People code and population in this country, listed below, unless otherwise noted is taken from <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

106882

Afro West Indians (3,900)

The alternate people name for the West Afro Indians is *Black* and their primary language is Saint Lucian Creole French. Approximately 95% have some type of religious beliefs while approximately 10.78% are evangelical Christian. Although the complete Bible is not yet available, the entire New Testament was made available in 1999. Audio bibles and World Christian Videos are available in this language.

110448

Americans (300)

The Americans live throughout the country, although most probably choose urban areas. They speak English and are probably familiar with Spanish. About 87% are affiliated with some type of religious organization. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. Many Christian resources are available to them.

102537

Amerindian, Carib (2,500)

The Amerindian (Carib) people group is also known as Chocó Creole. Their primary language is English. Approximately 80% have some type of religious affiliation. The percentage of evangelical Christians is unknown. The complete Bible was made available in 2002. Christian resources consist of audio Scriptures, the *Jesus* film, and radio broadcasts.

100425

Arabs (100)

The first Muslims in Dominica came on European slave ships. A large portion of the Atlantic Slave trade, beginning in the 1500s, came from Muslim West African areas. The Muslim population is currently around 300 and is growing.

The alternate name for this people group is Anglolan Arabs. The primary language is Standard Arabic. Approximately 25% have a religious affiliation. The primary religion is Islam. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. A variety of Christian resources are available to them.

<http://www.caribbeanmuslims.com/categories/Our-Region/Dominica/>

102927

British (1,500)

The British are alternately called Anglo-Pakistani. They speak English, but many are probably also familiar with Spanish. About 70% are part of some type of religious group. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. Since they speak English, many Christian resources are accessible to them.

114916

Deaf (Unknown)

The deaf population in Dominica is not known. While some may have been trained to use Spanish Sign Language, most likely others do not have the opportunity to learn this version and may use basic hand gestures to communicate with family and friends. It is reported that 94.90% are part of some religious group and the number of evangelical Christians is approximately 12.81%.

103642

Haitian (6,700)

The alternate people name for the Haitians is Haitian Black. Although the number of evangelical Christians is unknown, approximately 90% are part of some religious belief group. Their primary language is Haitian and there are several resources available to them including the entire Bible, the *Jesus* film, and evangelism tracts and audio recordings of Scriptures.

103686

Han Chinese, Mandarin (100)

The Han Chinese is the largest ethnic group in the world, numbering about 1.3 billion. Only a small population actually lives in Dominica. Their alternate people name is: Beijinhua and their primary language is Chinese Mandarin.

Approximately 40% of the population in Dominica belongs to various religious systems of belief. The percentage of evangelical Christians is unknown. The Han Chinese have generally maintained their traditional Chinese religion. There are minimal Christian resources available for this people group. The complete Bible was made available in 1983.

104026

Indo-Pakistani (300)

The Indo-Pakistani people are originally from the subcontinent of India. Many of them may actually be Gujarati, Hindi, or Punjabi; but together, they are simply known as "Indo-Pakistani.

In Dominica, their primary religion is shown to be Christianity. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. 70% adhere to some other type of religious belief.

104189

Japanese (800)

The Japanese people predominantly practice Buddhism. About 4.7% of the people have adopted some other type of religious belief system. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. The complete Bible was made available in 1987. Other resources in their native Japanese language include the *Jesus* film. Audio recordings and radio broadcasting are also available.

109546

Saint Lucian (45,000)

The primary language of the Saint Lucian people group is Saint Lucian Creole French. About 96% of the population has some type of religious affiliation. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. Few Christian resources are available other than portions of the Bible and the New Testament and audio recordings of the Bible and Bible stories.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should champion reaching the 45,000 Saint Lucian Creole French people in Dominica. These people have historically been and remain predominantly Catholic. Evangelical Christians have, however, increased from 2% in 1970 to over 13% in 2000. The Association of Evangelicals has been providing good leadership. There has been interest in a saturation church-planting program. Evangelicals should share in what seems an opening to the Gospel.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to aid the local congregations in overcoming some challenges they face. These churches face economic problems that

force many pastors work at a second job to support themselves. The financial problem leads to Pastoral 'burn-out.' The churches face mounting social and religious problems as well. Almost the entire population is God-fearing and open to spiritual things, yet there is much complacency and moral laxness. Over 75% of children are born out of wedlock despite their parents' profession of Christianity. Formerly, slave owners forbade their slaves from marrying which caused a distortion of moral and Scriptural principles. Pray for this curse of slavery to be broken, a right understanding of scriptural principles to be gained, and a spirit of repentance be given to all.

3. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop an openness toward the Carib Indicants who are on an isolated reservation on the northeast coast of Dominica. They are the last of the indigenous peoples in the Caribbean to survive the arrival of colonialism and subsequent waves of immigrants. Most are nominally Christian, but few have a living faith in Christ. Pray that these socially deprived people may find their true identity and fulfillment in Him.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should emphasize evangelism and church starting among the Haitian people (6,700), the Carib Indians (3,500), and the Japanese (800) in Dominica.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should emphasize evangelism and church starting among the Han Chinese people group, while small in population (approximately 100), are in great need of evangelistic tools/resources in their Chinese dialects. As of 2009, the *Jesus* film was not available to them. In addition, there are no Christian broadcasts or evangelical literature available to them. Pray that God will reveal Himself to these precious people and will use Christian businessmen to boldly share the Good News with the Han Chinese. Pray that evangelical Christians will claim authority over the spiritual principalities and powers that are keeping the Han Chinese bound and that the Holy Spirit will soften the hearts of the Han Chinese towards the Gospel Message.

Johnstone, Patrick and Jason Mandryk. *Operation World*, 21st Century Edition. Updated and Revised. (Harrisonburgh: R.R. Donnelley & Sons, 2005), s.v. "Dominica."
www.joshuaproject.net

Links:

<http://www.fotosearch.com/photos-images/dominica.html>
http://images.google.com/images?sourceid=navclient&rlz=1T4GGLG_enUS341&q=photos+of+dominica&um=1&ie=UTF8&ei=AGQpS9D8DInnAfBqrSbDQ&sa=X&oi=image_result_group&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CBcQsAQwAA
<http://www.imagesdominica.com/photogallery.html>