

MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT
North Atlantic Ocean
Saint Pierre and Miquelon
Snapshot Section

Country Name: Saint Pierre and Miquelon

Country Founded in: 1763

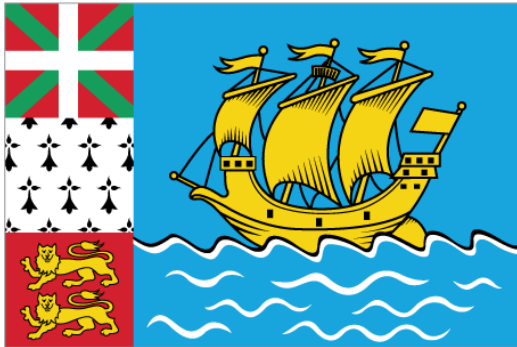
Population: 7,063

Government Type: territorial overseas collectivity of France

Geography/location in the world: Saint Pierre and Miquelon is an archipelago of about nine islands that are located just south of Newfoundland in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Number of people groups: 2

Picture of flag:



Religion: Roman Catholic: 99% Other: 1%

Government Interaction with Religion: The government provides for freedom of religion.

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name: Saint Pierre and Miquelon

Demographics

The estimated population of Saint Pierre and Miquelon is 7,063. Children up to fourteen years of age account for 21.9% of the population. There are 788 male children between the ages of newborn to fourteen years of age. There are 756 female children between these same ages. Adults between the ages of fifteen and sixty-four years of age account for 66.5% of the population. There are 2,378 males in this age category and 2,312 females. In the last age category, sixty-five years and above, there are 379 males and 438 females. The group of age 65 and over accounts for 11.6% of the population. The median age is 35.2 years old.

The birth rate is 12.74 births for every 1,000 people. There are an estimated 1.97 children born to every woman. The infant mortality rate is 7.05 deaths for every 1,000 live births. The death rate is 6.8 deaths for every 1,000 people. The life expectancy for the total population is 79.08 years.

There are approximately two different people groups living on Saint Pierre and Miquelon. People who are of French descent form the majority of the population. There are a smaller number of Anglo-Canadians who have migrated there over the years.

Language: French is the primary language. Some people may also speak and understand English.

Land/Geography:

Saint Pierre and Miquelon is an archipelago of about nine islands that are located just south of Newfoundland in the North Atlantic Ocean. St. Pierre and Miquelon are the two main islands where people live. However, there are six smaller islands, which are largely uninhabited for most of the year. The geographic coordinates are 46 50 N, 56 20 W.

The total area is 242 square kilometers. It is roughly 1.5 times the size of Washington D.C. The islanders claim 12 nautical miles of sea as their territory. They also declared about 200 nautical miles as an exclusive economic zone.

The climate is generally cold and wet. Much of the year, the temperatures are very low. The summers are warmer with temperatures around 68 degrees. Mist and fog tend to form easily. Winds blow often during the spring and autumn.

About 12.5% of the land is arable. There are no permanent crops. Vegetation is sparse. Most of the terrain is barren rock with steep seashores. There are deepwater ports, which allow cruise lines to dock.

Society/Culture:

The people predominantly follow traditional French customs. Being Roman Catholic, they are very conservative. Families may be large and members form strong attachments to one another. Parents treat their children with fondness but also expect respect and gratitude from their offspring. Most residents spend quite a bit of time indoors due to the cold weather. This necessity causes people to find ways to co-exist peacefully with their neighbors and family members.

Literacy: About 99% of the people can read and write.

Government:

The government is officially a self-governing territorial overseas collectivity of France. As such, the area is governed under the laws of the French Constitution. All people over the age of 18 have the right to vote. The people elect and send a representative to the French National Assembly and to the Senate to guard their interests. The French government sends a representative known as a prefect to oversee French interests in the area.

The people elect a body known as the General Council to deal with issues locally. This General Council has 19 seats. Fifteen of its members are from Saint Pierre, and 4 are from Miquelon. The representatives serve for six years. The last elections were held in March 2006 and the next will be held in March 2012.

Economy:

In 2003, the Gross Domestic Product was \$48.3 million. The GDP per capita was about \$7,000. In 2005, the inflation rate was 8.1%. Due to loss of revenues in the industrial sector, many people depend upon French aid.

In 2005, about 3,450 people were working. The unemployment rate ranged between 10 and 11 percent. About 18% were involved in agriculture. People raised chickens, cattle, and pigs. They also grew vegetables for local consumption.

About 41% worked in the industrial sector while another 41% were involved in service related endeavors. Fishing and the servicing of fishing vessels once brought the greatest revenues to the area. However, in 1992, Canada managed to change the exclusive economic zone while also putting limits on the islanders' ability to fish for cod. These changes have caused substantial losses to the islanders' incomes. To supplement the economy, the French and local authorities have encouraged the development of the tourism sector. Also, oil companies are exploring the possibility of offshore drilling. Both avenues could provide much needed revenue to the area's inhabitants.

History

The earliest inhabitants were seasonal Eskimos and Beothuk peoples who came due to the rich fishing grounds. The explorer, Giovanni Caboto, first brought Europeans to the area. Like the

Native Americans, these Europeans were largely seasonal visitors who came to fish. Eventually, Basque fishermen came to settle the island of Miquelon in 1579. They started a curing and salting industry.

For the next several hundred years, the area was plagued with continuing unrest as the British and French governments fought for control of the vast areas of modern day Canada. In 1713, the French settlers had to leave because of the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht, yet in 1763, they were able to return after the French once again gained authority over the islands. The French gained final authority in 1816.

In the 20th century, the islanders endured many hardships. During World War I, about ¼ of all of the military volunteers died. When the U.S. prohibited the sale of alcohol during the 1920's, the islanders actually profited from the export of alcohol through criminal syndicates, but this gain soon ended. During World War II, De Gaulle captured the islands and used the area as an enclave of the Free Fighting French against the corrupt Viche government. Today, the economy continues to need supplemental aid from the French. The best hope for a bright future remains the development of tourism and the finding of oil.

Religion

All information unless otherwise noted is gleaned from *Operation World*.

Non Christian

Jehovah's Witness—There is one congregation of 10 members.

Roman Catholic—About 99% of the people are Roman Catholic. Iles Saint-Pierre et Miquelon is a Vicariate Apostolic. In 2004, 6,300 people were attending mass. There were two parishes and each had a priest who officiated over the area.

<http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/diocese/diles.html>

Christian or Evangelical

Baptists—One small congregation was started in 1998. The number of members is unknown.

Assembly of God—French representatives of this denomination have begun evangelistic efforts. The number of members is unknown.

People Groups

All information unless otherwise noted is gleaned from www.joshuaproject.net

00000

Anglo-Canadian (300)

Anglo-Canadians may have moved to the islands during the times when the British or Canadian governments governed the islands. They primarily speak English and French. About 90% of the

people claim to have affiliations with a religious organization. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

00000

French (5,800)

The French are the predominant people group. Many are the descendents of earlier settlers who were from the Basque region. They speak French and are predominantly Roman Catholic. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches must realize that Catholicism on these islands is traditional and does not demonstrate true belief, even of Roman Catholic beliefs. Many people may attend mass but only do so because of tradition. They need a clear understanding of the Good News of Jesus Christ and an understanding of what a true relationship with Jesus Christ really means. Evangelicals could provide materials that would lead these peoples to the Good News.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to contribute economically. Many of the people depend upon French aid. People would welcome Christian businesses who could potentially provide jobs and new growth to the area.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to support the small Baptist and Assembly of God congregations that have initiated work around 1998.
4. Evangelical believers need prayer support as they endeavor to establish new biblical traditions.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/4562487.stm

<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0843141.html>

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

<http://www.frenchteachers.org/bulletin/articles/travel/excursmiquelon.pdf>

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/articles/cherchez-la-france/1>

<http://www.st-pierre-et-miquelon.com/english/gallery/>