

# Grenada



## KEY FACTS

Joined Commonwealth:	1974
Population:	105,000 (2012)
GDP p.c. growth:	1.9% p.a. 1990–2012
UN HDI 2012:	world ranking 63
Official language:	English
Time:	GMT minus 4hr
Currency:	Eastern Caribbean dollar (EC\$)

## Geography

Area:	344.5 sq km
Coastline:	121 km
Capital:	St George's

Grenada consists of the island of Grenada, the most southerly of the Windwards in the Eastern Caribbean, and some of the southern Grenadine islands, the largest of which is Carriacou (33 sq km). Its Caribbean neighbours include St Vincent and the Grenadines (which includes the more northern Grenadines) and Trinidad and Tobago.

**Topography:** Mountains, chiefly of volcanic origin, form a backbone stretching the 33 km length of the island and rise to 840 metres at Mount St Catherine. The terrain slopes down to the

coast on the east and south-east. The island is watered by its many streams and springs, and a small lake, Grand Etang, occupies an old crater at 530 metres.

**Climate:** The tropical climate is especially pleasant in the dry season (February to May) when the trade winds prevail. The rainy season runs from June to December, when hurricanes may occur and in some years – for example, Hurricane Ivan in 2004 – cause extensive damage. The temperature and rainfall vary with altitude, with much heavier rainfall in the mountains.

**Vegetation:** The natural vegetation is tropical rainforest (about 75 per cent of surviving natural forest is state-owned) and brushwood. Species include the gommier, bois canot and blue mahoe. There are also mangrove swamps and stunted woods. Forest covers 50 per cent of the land area and there was no significant loss of forest cover during 1990–2011.

**Wildlife:** Mainly smaller species, such as the mona monkey, agouti, armadillo and mongoose. There is a large variety of birds; the Grenada dove and hookbilled kite (an endangered species) are unique to the island.

**Main towns:** St George's (capital, pop. 5,200 in 2010), Gouyave (3,000), Grenville (2,400), Victoria (2,300), St David's and Sauteurs on Grenada; and Hillsborough (800) on Carriacou.

**Transport:** There are 1,127 km of roads, 61 per cent paved. In the mountainous terrain roads are often narrow and winding.

St George's is a deep-water port. Anchorage and facilities for yachts are offered at St George's (at the Lagoon), Prickly Bay on the south-east coast and Secret Harbour, south of St George's. The port for the Grenadine island of Carriacou is at Hillsborough and ferry services run between Grenada and other islands.

Point Salines International Airport is 11 km south of St George's in the south-west of Grenada and there is a small airport at Lauriston on Carriacou.

## Society

### KEY FACTS 2012

Population per sq km:	306
Life expectancy:	73 years
Net primary enrolment:	87% (2009)

## Did you know?

Grenada is an archipelago comprising the island of Grenada – the most southerly of the Windward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean – and some of the Southern Grenadines.

Grenada is the world's second largest producer of nutmeg after Indonesia; a symbol of a clove of nutmeg is on the national flag.



**Population:** 105,000 (2012); 39 per cent of people live in urban areas; growth 0.4 per cent p.a. 1990–2012, depressed over this period by emigration; birth rate 19 per 1,000 people (28 in 1970); life expectancy 73 years (64 in 1970).

Most of the population is of African (82 per cent in 1991 census) or mixed African/European descent (13 per cent). The remainder is made up of small European and Asian groups.

**Language:** English is spoken by almost everyone. A French-based Creole is also spoken.

**Religion:** Mainly Christians (Roman Catholics 45 per cent, Anglicans 14 per cent, Seventh Day Adventists, Methodists).

**Health:** Public spending on health was three per cent of GDP in 2011. There are three hospitals: General Hospital (St George's), Princess Alice Hospital (St Andrew's) and Princess Royal Hospital (Carriacou). There are homes for handicapped children and geriatric patients. Health centres and district medical stations undertake maternity and child welfare work under the charge of a nurse/midwife. Government hospitals and clinics provide free medical and dental treatment. There is a piped-water supply to all

the towns and to many of the villages. Infant mortality was 11 per 1,000 live births in 2012.

**Education:** There are 12 years of compulsory education starting at the age of five. Primary school comprises seven years and secondary five. The school year starts in September.

Tertiary education centres on the T A Marryshow Community College, which hosts an open campus of the regional University of the West Indies. T A Marryshow Community College was established in 1988 when Grenada National College merged with several other tertiary institutions including Grenada Teachers College, Grenada Technical and Vocational Institute, and Institute for Further Education. The University of the West Indies has its main campuses in Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. St George's University – founded in 1977 – is an offshore American university specialising in medicine. The female–male ratio for gross enrolment in tertiary education is 1.40:1 (2009).

**Media:** There are no daily newspapers, but *The Grenada Guardian* (Grenada United Labour Party), *Grenada Informer*, *The Grenada Times* and *The Grenadian Voice* are weeklies; all in English.

## History



Before the 14th century, Grenada was settled by Caribs, who displaced the earlier population of Arawaks. Christopher Columbus visited the island in 1498 and named it 'Concepcion' (later being named by the Spaniards after their own city, Granada). European settlement was slow to follow, due to the fierce resistance of the warlike Caribs, although Britain and France in particular competed for control. A company of London merchants tried and failed to form a settlement in 1605. The French launched more concerted attacks until, by 1674, they had subdued the Caribs and gained control of the island. By 1753, Grenada was a flourishing French possession, with 100 sugar mills and 12,000 enslaved Africans working the industry. The Caribs had been exterminated.

Britain took over from France in 1763 under the Treaty of Paris and again (having meanwhile lost control) in 1783 under the Treaty of Versailles. Britain introduced the cultivation of cacao, cotton and nutmeg; by the time of the emancipation of slaves (1833), the slave population had reached 24,000.

National political consciousness developed through the labour movement, with the formation of the Grenada Manual and Mental Workers Union. In the new environment, a union organiser, Eric Matthew Gairy, formed the first political party, the pro-union, pro-independence Grenada United Labour Party (GULP). In 1951, GULP won the elections and Gairy became leader of the assembly. The Grenada National Party (GNP), led by Herbert Blaize held power between 1957–61 and 1962–67.

Grenada joined the Federation of the West Indies in 1958. When that was dissolved in 1962, it evolved first into an associated state with full internal self-government (1967), and then towards independence, the core of the GULP platform.

Independence was achieved in 1974; Grenada became a constitutional monarchy, with Gairy as Prime Minister, and Queen Elizabeth II as head of state, represented by a Governor-General. Strikes during the independence preparations, which almost prevented the transition, were suppressed by, it was claimed,

'Mongoose Gangs' operating in the manner of Haiti's 'Tonton-Macoutes'.

In 1979, while absent in the USA, Gairy was deposed in a coup by opposition leader Maurice Bishop, who took the New Jewel Movement (NJM) into power as the People's Revolutionary Government. The new government created state farms and industries, and forged links with the socialist world. With Cuba's assistance, it began construction of the modern international airport at Point Salines.

In October 1983, after a military coup in which Bishop, two other ministers, two union leaders and 13 bystanders were killed, Bishop's deputy, Bernard Coard, took control and set up a Revolutionary Military Council. At the request of OECS, in late 1983, the USA then invaded Grenada, supported by a token force of 300 police from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. The Governor-General, Sir Paul Scoon, took control of an interim administration, (almost fully) reinstated the 1974 constitution and organised elections for a new government.

The New National Party (NNP), a four-party merger led by Herbert Blaize and supported by the neighbouring islands, easily defeated Gairy's GULP at the December 1984 general election, and Blaize became Prime Minister.

In the elections in 1990 no single party gained an overall majority and another merger, the National Democratic Congress (NDC), formed the government under Nicholas Brathwaite.

The 1995 elections, contested by seven parties, were narrowly won by the NNP, now led by Dr Keith Mitchell, who became Prime Minister. The NNP gained eight seats, the NDC, now led by George Brizan, five and GULP, two.

Two no-confidence motions following the elections were unsuccessful. However, in May 1997, five opposition parties, including the NDC, GULP and the Democratic Labour Party formed an alliance to provide a common front against the NNP, leaving the government with a majority of one.

A public-private partnership, the Grenada Broadcasting Network, provides radio and television stations. MTV is privately owned and there are several privately-owned radio stations.

**Communications:** Country code 1 473; internet domain '.gd'. Coin- and card-operated payphones are widely available. There are internet cafés in St George's. The main post office is in St George's.

There are 270 main telephone lines, 1,213 mobile phone subscriptions and 421 internet users per 1,000 people (2012).

**Public holidays:** New Year's Day, Independence Day (7 February), Labour Day (1 May), Emancipation Day (first Monday in August), Carnival (second Monday and Tuesday in August), Thanksgiving Day (25 October), Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Religious festivals whose dates vary from year to year include Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday and Corpus Christi.

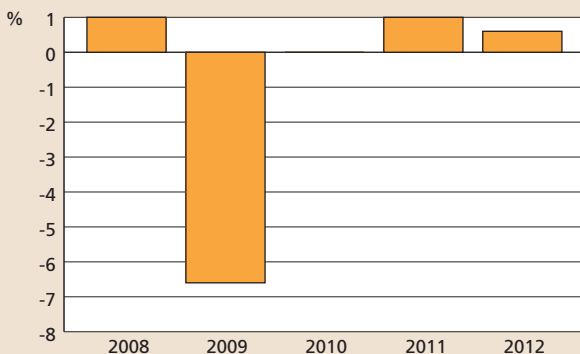
## Economy

### KEY FACTS 2012

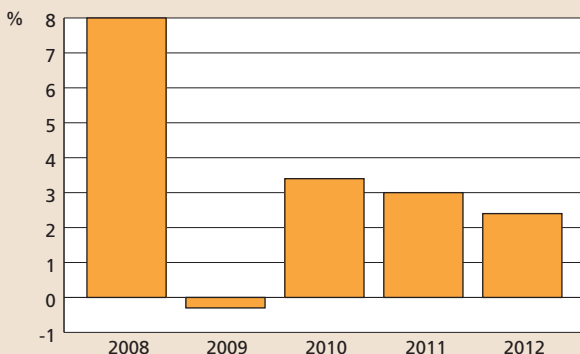
GNI:	US\$761m
GNI p.c.:	US\$7,220
GDP growth:	-0.9% p.a. 2008-12
Inflation:	3.3% p.a. 2008-12

The economy of Grenada (the 'spice island') is based on agriculture, notably nutmeg and mace, and tourism. Consequently it has an outward-looking and open economy, and enjoyed strong growth during the 1990s, even though the world market for spices was sluggish during most of the decade and tourism became increasingly competitive. Grenada is nonetheless vulnerable, its

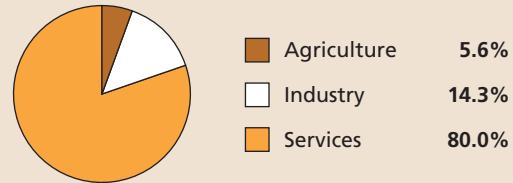
### Real Growth in GDP



### Inflation



### GDP by Sector (2012)



economy being so small, and high public expenditure has brought fiscal difficulties.

An IMF-backed economic adjustment programme was put in place in the 1990s, with fiscal reform, privatisation and staff reductions in the public sector to reduce the deficit, and improve the debt position. The government has encouraged development of industry to broaden the country's economic base, but Grenada's small scale and high costs hinder progress.

A small offshore sector was established in the 1990s, including internet gaming companies, but it failed to flourish in the 2000s. A US university, St George's University, with 800 mainly North American students, also brings in substantial foreign exchange.

After three years of strong growth, the economy stalled in 2001, reflecting the US economic downturn and fall in tourism, only picking up again in 2003. In September 2004 Grenada was devastated by Hurricane Ivan and the economy stalled again. Growth of more than ten per cent in 2005 was followed by shrinkage of 1.9 per cent in 2006, resuming strongly positive in 2007-08. However, global recession then caused a sharp fall in tourism and the economy shrank by 6.6 per cent in 2009, recovering weakly in 2010-14.

## Constitution

**Status:** Monarchy under Queen Elizabeth II

**Legislature:** Parliament

**Independence:** 7 February 1974

Grenada is a constitutional monarchy with Queen Elizabeth II as head of state. She is represented by a Governor-General. A parliamentary democracy, Grenada has a bicameral legislature. The House of Representatives has 15 members elected by universal suffrage for a five-year term, and the Senate 13 members appointed for a five-year term by the Governor-General in consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. The Prime Minister appoints the cabinet.

## Politics

**Last elections:** 19 February 2013

**Next elections:** 2018

**Head of state:** Queen Elizabeth II, represented by Governor-General, Dame Cecile La Grenade (2013-)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Dr Keith Mitchell

**Ruling party:** New National Party

**Women MPs:** 33%

In the general election in January 1999 – called early after a defection left the New National Party (NNP) government without a parliamentary majority – the NNP won a landslide victory, receiving

62 per cent of the votes and Dr Keith Mitchell continued as Prime Minister. It was not only the first time a party had taken all 15 seats, but also the first time for any party to have won two successive elections.

In another early election in November 2003 Mitchell and NNP were returned for a third term. NNP won eight seats, with 48 per cent of the votes, and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) seven, with 46 per cent, following a recount in two constituencies where the margin was very small.

In the July 2008 election, Mitchell failed in a bid to secure an unprecedented fourth consecutive term. In a relatively peaceful election, monitored by a strong contingent from the Organization of American States, where the main issues were concerned with management of the economy, NDC took 11 of the 15 House of Representatives seats and 51 per cent of votes; NNP won four seats and 48 per cent of votes. Tillman Thomas – NDC leader since 2000 – became Prime Minister.

In the general election in February 2013 Keith Mitchell and the NNP won a landslide victory, taking all 15 seats in the House of Representatives, a result which Mitchell had previously achieved in January 1999. Turnout was 88 per cent; the NNP secured 59 per cent of votes and the NDC 41 per cent. The election was observed by a Commonwealth election assessment team led by Irfan Abdool Rahman, the electoral commissioner of Mauritius.

## International relations

Grenada is a member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, Association of Caribbean States, Caribbean Community, Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, Organization of American States, United Nations and World Trade Organization.

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## Traveller information

**Immigration and customs:** Passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of departure. Visas are required by most Commonwealth nationals. Prohibited imports include some fresh food and soil.

**Travel within the country:** Driving is on the left. Visitors wishing to drive in Grenada need to purchase a local driving permit; they must be aged at least 25 years and in possession of a foreign driving licence.

There are regular flights from Grenada to Carriacou and Petite Martinique; and daily ferry services from St George's to the other islands. Taxis and minibuses serve the islands.

**Travel health:** Prevalent diseases where appropriate precautionary measures are recommended include dengue fever and hepatitis B.

There were 112,000 tourist arrivals in 2012.

## Further information

Government of Grenada: [www.gov.gd](http://www.gov.gd)

Parliament: [www.gov.gd/departments/parliament](http://www.gov.gd/departments/parliament)

Eastern Caribbean Central Bank: [www.eccb-centralbank.org](http://www.eccb-centralbank.org)

Grenada Tourism Authority: [www.grenadagrenadines.com](http://www.grenadagrenadines.com)

Commonwealth Secretariat: [www.thecommonwealth.org](http://www.thecommonwealth.org)

Commonwealth of Nations:

[www.commonwealthofnations.org/country/Grenada](http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/country/Grenada)

## Media

*Grenada Informer:* [www.thegrenadainformer.com](http://www.thegrenadainformer.com)

Grenada Broadcasting Network: [www.klassicgrenada.com](http://www.klassicgrenada.com)

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