

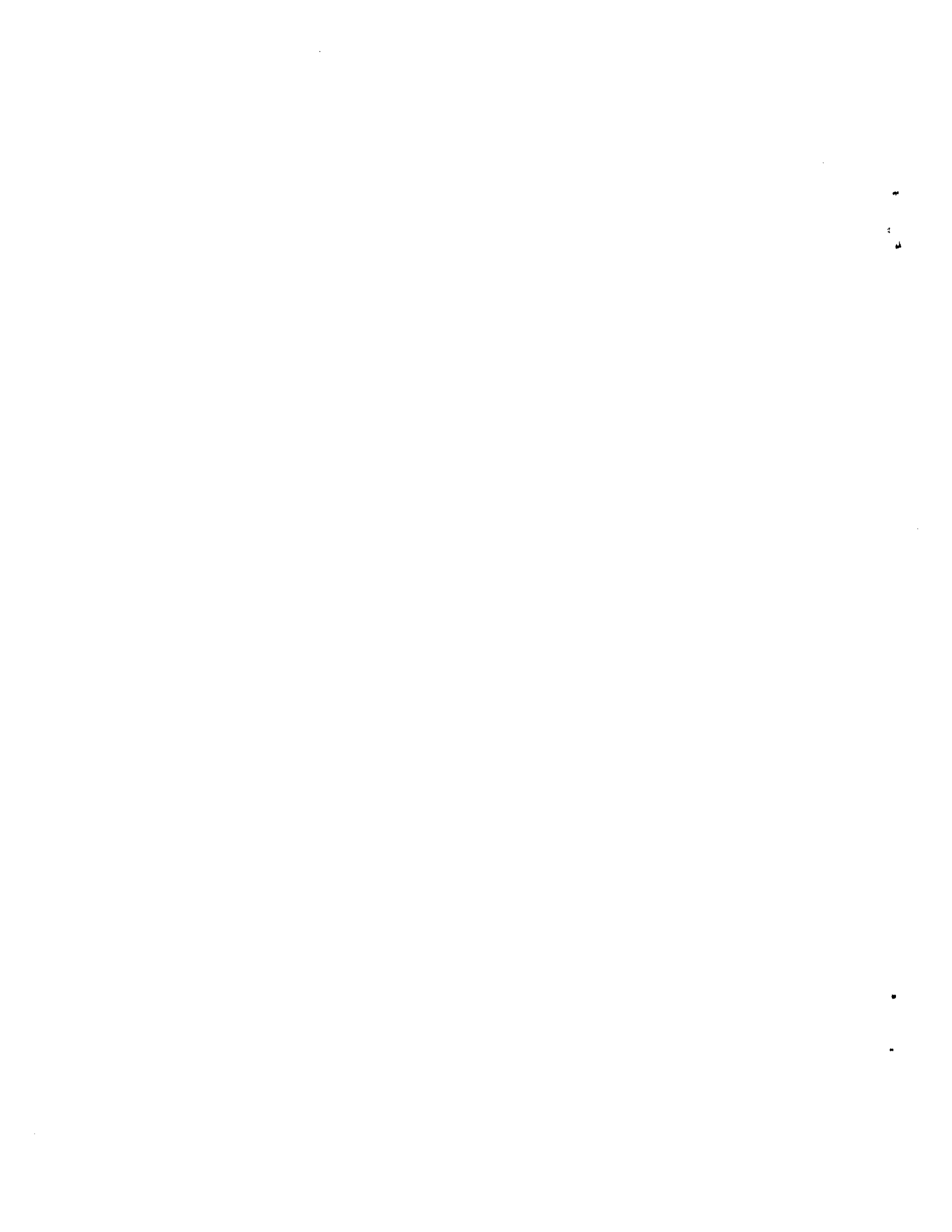
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Office for the Caribbean



SELECTED INFORMATION ON GRENADA



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Grenada and its dependencies in the Windward islands comprise the islands of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique. Its capital city is St. George's on the South-east and on the North lies its second town, Grenville.

### 1. GEOGRAPHY

Location: Between latitude 11° 58' to 12° 30' N., and longitude 61° 20' to 61° 35' W.

Area: 133 square miles (344.5 km<sup>2</sup>).

Topography: Very mountainous and thickly wooded. The soil is of volcanic origin except for some lime deposits. The coastline is generally steep but deeply indented in the south and south-east.

Climate: Tropical - prevailing winds are the North-east trades. Average temperature is around 83°F., and rainfall ranges from 40 to 150 inches per annum.

### 2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The island was discovered by Christopher Columbus on 15 August 1498. In the 17th and 18th centuries possession passed between the French and the British several times until finally ceded to the British Crown in 1783 under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

Grenada joined the Federation of the West Indies on its formation on 3 January 1958 and remained so until its dissolution on 23 May 1962.

### 3. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL

Grenada attained independence on 7 February 1974. Earlier, from 3 March 1967, it was one of the Associated States of the West Indies. After its independence Grenada was admitted to the United Nations. The Governor is the Constitutional head of the State and the Government. The country has a bicameral legislature, the Parliament consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

#### The Parliament

The Senate comprises nine members appointed by the Governor. The House of Representatives consists of fifteen members elected from single-member constituencies through universal adult suffrage.

#### The Executive

The Governor is appointed by Her Majesty, the Queen, on advice of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and acts as her representative.

#### The Cabinet

The Cabinet consists of the Prime Minister and appointed Ministers. The portfolios are as follows:

1. Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs,  
Home Affairs and Planning and Development -  
(Hon. Eric M. Gairy)
2. Finance, Trade and Production
3. Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries
4. Education and Social Affairs
5. Communication and Works
6. Health, Housing and Labour
7. Youth Development, Sports and Cooperatives
8. Tourism and Natural Resources
9. Attorney General

4. NATURAL RESOURCES

Land: About 51,900<sup>1/</sup> acres of arable land - 39,500<sup>1/</sup> acres of which are under economic and agricultural pursuits. The soil is very fertile and vegetation lush.

Mineral resources: No known mineral deposits.

Marine resource: The sea is reasonably rich in marine life, but fishing potential remains underdeveloped. White sandy beaches abound in the indented coastal areas.

Forestry: Mostly uncultivated and uneconomic forests - recent drive to cultivate teak.

5. DEMOGRAPHY

The population as of 7 April 1970 (the most recent census) was 94,500. The mid-year 1973 estimate is 95,000. In terms of racial structure, persons of African origin account for the largest share of the total, followed by those of mixed races. Together these two groups account for more than 95 per cent of the total population. The average annual rate of increase of the population between census dates 1960 and 1970 was 0.64 per cent.

<u>Population:</u> Density	- 1970 = 711 per sq. mile or 274 per km <sup>2</sup>
Birth rate	- 1970 = 27.9 per thousand
Death rate	- 1970 = 7.8
Labour force	- 1970 = 43,624 <sup>2/</sup>
Dependent Population: (Ages 0-14 and 65 and over) as percentage of total population	50,876    1970 Census    53.8% 46,873    1960 Census    52.9%

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<sup>1/</sup> 1967 figures.

<sup>2/</sup> Persons between the age groups 15-64.

6. FISCAL AND MONETARY

Currency: East Caribbean dollar (EC\$)

Exchange rates: During 1973 EC\$1.957 = US\$1.00

EC\$4.80 = £1 Sterling

The Grenadian currency is tied to the Pound Sterling and foreign reserves are held almost entirely in Sterling assets.

Government Expenditure - 1973

Total expenditure = EC\$24.6 million

Total recurrent expenditure = EC\$20.0 million

Total recurrent revenue = EC\$18.1 million

7. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The economy is small, open and highly dependent on agriculture which is the single largest employer and major source of exports.

Principal Agricultural Products:

Bananas, nutmegs, mace and cocoa beans.

Bananas are the principal export earner of foreign exchange about EC\$1.7 million in 1973.

Manufactured Goods: Mainly food products and beverages.

GDP at factor cost: 1973 was approximately EC\$62 million

Per capita income : 1973 = EC\$650

Tourism:

Visitors in 1973 including cruise-ship passengers were 165,787. 1974 was a poor year for tourism but higher receipts from agricultural exports helped to compensate.

8. EXTERNAL TRADE

Imports: 1973 -- estimated value EC\$42.5 million

Exports: 1973 - estimated value EC\$14.4 million

Deficit on merchandise trade 1973 = EC\$28.1 million

Origin of imports 1972: CARIFTA - 27%

U.K. - 26%

U.S.A. - 10%

EEC - 13%

Destination of exports 1972: CARIFTA - 9%

U.K. - 34%

EEC - 33%

Value of exports of four main agricultural crops amounted to 88% of domestic exports in 1973.

9. COMMUNICATION LINKS

Sea: There are two harbours. The St. George's deep water harbour with berthing facilities alongside an 800 foot long pier and Grenville harbour. The latter is only suitable for schooners and small motor vessels. Several international shipping lines include Grenada as a port of call. Vessels are available for transportation between Grenada and the Grenadine islands.

Air: Pearls airport is located in the North-west end of the island. The airport is below international standard and only smaller aircraft can land there. The main airline serving Grenada is the Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT) which has regular flights in and out of Pearls each day. LIAT aircraft makes connections with the international airports in Antigua, Barbados and Trinidad, as well as in the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. A landing strip is located on Carriaccu in the Grenadine islands.

Wireless and Telephone: Grenada is served by international telecommunication through Cable and Wireless telephone and telex services and has a local radio station, Windward Island Broadcasting Service (WIBS). Postal and telephone services are also available locally.

10. MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Regional

- West Indies Associated States
- East Caribbean Common Market
- CARIFTA/CARICOM
- University of the West Indies
- Caribbean Development Bank
- East Caribbean Currency Authority
- Caribbean Meteorological Service

International

- United Nations
- Commonwealth Institute
- International Telecommunication Union
- Pan American Health Organization/WHO
- Membership in OAS expected during 1975.

NOTE: Grenada also participates in the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference.



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G R E N A D A

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