

SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

Public Administration Country Profile

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ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

[Click here](#) for map of Latin America and the Caribbean



Source: [The World Factbook](#) - [St. Vincent & the Grenadines](#)

Government type

Parliamentary democracy;
independent sovereign state
within the Commonwealth

Independence

27 October 1979 (from UK)

Constitution

27 October 1979 ([in brief](#))

Legal system

Based on English common law

Administrative divisions

6 parishes (Charlotte,
Grenadines, Saint Andrew,
Saint David, Saint George,
Saint Patrick)

Source: [The World Factbook](#) –
[St. Vincent & the Grenadines](#)

The State of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines comprises Saint Vincent, the main island on which the capital city, Kingstown, is located, seven smaller islands and other islets amounting to a total of 150 square miles.

The country attained its independence from Britain in 1979 and since then has developed a closer relationship with the other Windward Islands and some of the islands of the Lesser Antilles which comprise the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Through the OECS, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has developed a common currency and a shared system for the administration of justice. It is in the process of developing a common approach in other areas, such as education, telecommunications, health and environmental management.

The country has a multi-party system in place and elections are constitutionally due every five years.

Source: [UN OHCHR](#) - [State Party Report \(5 December 2000\)](#)

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a small open economy. Agriculture, dominated by banana production, is the most important sector of the economy, with a growing tourism industry dominating the services sector.

Source: [European Commission \(Development\)](#) - [Country Strategy Paper \(2002-2007\)](#)

1. General Information

1.1 People	SVG	Grenada	Saint Lucia	¹
Population				a
Total estimated population (,000), 2003	120	103 ⁱ	149	
Female estimated population (,000), 2003	60	52 ⁱ	76	
Male estimated population (,000), 2003	60	51 ⁱ	73	
Sex ratio (males per 100 females), 2003	101	98 ⁱ	97	
Average annual rate of change of pop. (%), 2000-2005	0.58	-0.26	0.78	
Youth and Elderly Population				b
Total population under age 15 (%), 2003	30	..	30	
Female population aged 60+ (%), 2003	10	..	9	
Male population aged 60+ (%), 2003	8	..	7	
Human Settlements				c
Urban population (%), 2001	56	38	38	
Rural population (%), 2001	44	62	62	
Urban average annual rate of change in pop. (%), '00-'05	2.55	1.67	1.74	
Rural average annual rate of change in pop/ (%), '00-'05	-2.02	-0.62	0.65	
Education				d
Total school life expectancy, 2000/2001	..	9.7	..	1
Female school life expectancy, 2000/2001	..	..	..	1
Male school life expectancy, 2000/2001	..	4.8	..	1
Female estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	..	..	..	2
Male estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	..	..	..	2
Employment				e
Unemployment rate (15+) (%), 2000	19.8 ⁱⁱ	17 ⁱⁱⁱ	20.5 ^{iv}	1
Female adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2000	36 ⁱⁱ	62 ^{iv}	60 ^{iv}	2
Male adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2000	81 ⁱⁱ	75 ^{iv}	78 ^{iv}	2

Notes: ⁱ 2001; ⁱⁱ 1991; ⁱⁱⁱ 1996; ^{iv} 1997

1.2 Economy	SVG	Grenada	Saint Lucia	²
GDP				a
GDP total (millions US\$), 2002	361	414	660	
GDP per capita (US\$), 2002	3,085	4,059	4,151	
PPP GDP total (millions int. US\$), 2002	626	711	848	
PPP GDP per capita(int. US\$), 2002	5,350	6,971	5,333	
Sectors				b
Value added in agriculture (% of GDP), 2002	10.5	7.5	6.7	
Value added in industry (% of GDP), 2002	25.2	22.6	18.8	
Value added in services (% of GDP), 2002	64.3	69.8	74.5	
Miscellaneous				c
GDP implicit price deflator (annual % growth), 2003	0.2	3.5	0.7	
Private consumption (% of GDP), 2002	59.9	61.0	57.2	
Government consumption (% of GDP), 2002	21.4	16.8	27.6	

Notes:

¹ [United Nations Statistics Division](#):

^a [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); ^b [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); ^c [Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); ^{d1} [UNESCO](#); ^{d2} [UNESCO](#); ^{e1} [ILO](#); ^{e2} [ILO/OECD](#)

² [World Bank - Data and Statistics](#):

^a [Quick Reference Tables](#); ^b [Data Profile Tables](#); ^c [Country at a Glance](#)

1.3 Public Spending	SVG	Grenada	Saint Lucia	
Public expenditures				3
Education (% of GNP), 1985-1987	6	4.5	5.5	a
Education (% of GNP), 1995-1997	6.3 ¹	4.7	9.8 ¹	a
Health (% of GDP), 1990	4.4	3.3	2.1	
Health (% of GDP), 1998	4.2	2.9	2.4	
Military (% of GDP), 1990	..	..	..	b
Military (% of GDP), 2000	..	..	..	b
Total debt service (% of GDP), 1990	2.2	1.9	1.6	
Total debt service (% of GDP), 2000	4.6	2.9	5.7	

Notes: ¹ Data refer to a year or period other than that specified

1.4 Public Sector Employment and Wages						
<i>Data from the latest year available</i>		St. Vincent & the Grenadines 1991-1995	St. Vincent & the Grenadines 1996-2000	Latin America & Caribbean average ⁴ 1996-2000	Caribbean average ⁴ 1996-2000	Middle income group average ⁴ 1996-2000
Employment						
Civilian Central Government ⁵	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.69	0.54	0.59
Sub-national Government ⁵	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.69	0.54	0.59
Education employees	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.58	1.48	1.20
Health employees	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	..	..	0.70
Police	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	..	..	0.30
Armed forces	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.34	0.21	0.46
SOE Employees	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	2.16	..	3.61
Total Public Employment	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	..	..	6.05
Wages						
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of GDP)	..	..	6.6	14.2	8.5
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of exp)	..	..	20.3	..	21.6
Average gov't wage	(,000 LCU)	..	..	
Real ave. gov't wage ('97 price)	(,000 LCU)	..	..	
Average gov't wage to per capita GDP ratio		..	..	1.8	0.7	4.2

Source: [World Bank](#) - [Public Sector Employment and Wages](#)

³ [UNDP - Human Development Report 2002](#)

^a Data refer to total public expenditure on education, including current and capital expenditures.

^b As a result of a number of limitations in the data, comparisons of military expenditure data over time and across countries should be made with caution. For detailed notes on the data see SIPRI (2001).

⁴ Averages for regions and sub regions are only generated if data is available for at least 35% of the countries in that region or sub region.

⁵ Excluding education, health and police – if available (view [Country Sources](#) for further explanations).

2. Legal Structure

A 25-member Constitutional Review Commission (CRC), consisting of representatives of the major non-governmental organizations and the political parties, has been established by Parliament to conduct a root-and-branch review of the Constitution. The Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) commenced its work in January 2003. The entire exercise of constitutional reform, from start to finish, is expected to take about three years

Source: [Constitutional Review Commission](#) - [Local Governance in Small States](#) (14 April 2003)

2.1 Legislative Branch

Unicameral House of Assembly (21 seats, 15 elected representatives and 6 appointed senators; representatives are elected by popular vote from single-member constituencies to serve five-year terms).⁶
women in parliament: 5 out of 21 seats: (24%).⁷

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines House of Assembly consists of 21 members. There are 15 elected representatives one for each of the constituencies into which the island is divided. Representatives are elected by secret ballots under the simple plurality system, i.e. 'first-past-the-post system'.

In addition to the representatives there are six senators; four of the senators are appointed by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, and two are appointed by the Governor-General acting in accordance with the advice of the Leader of the Opposition. A senator's appointment may be revoked by the Governor-General if his dismissal is ordered by the person on whose advice he was appointed, that is to say, either by the Prime Minister or by the Leader of the Opposition.

Parliament continues for five years from the date of the first sitting of the House after dissolution. It is, however, provided that the Governor-General may refuse to dissolve Parliament.

Source: [Constitutional Review Commission](#) - [Constitutional Review Informational Booklet](#)

Fact box:

elections: Last held 28 March 2001 (next to be held by July 2006)
election results: seats by party - ULP 12, NDP 3

2.2 Executive Branch

cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the governor general on the advice of the prime minister
elections: none; the monarch is hereditary; the governor general is appointed by the monarch; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party is usually appointed prime minister by the governor general; deputy prime minister appointed by the governor general on the advice of the prime minister

The executive authority of Saint Vincent is vested in her Majesty. It may be exercised on behalf of Her Majesty by the Governor-General.

The Prime Minister is appointed by the Governor-General. The Governor-General appoints a Representative who appears likely to command the support of the majority of the Representatives. The Governor-General holds the power to remove the Prime Minister from office if a resolution of no confidence in the Government is

⁶ Source of fact boxes if nothing else stated: [The World Factbook](#) - [St. Vincent & the Grenadines](#)

⁷ [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association](#) - [Parliament of St. Vincent and the Grenadines](#)

passed by the House and the Prime Minister does not within three days either resign from his office or advise the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament.

In accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, the Governor-General appoints members of the House to the office of Minister. Not more than two ministers of the Cabinet may be appointed from among the senators. The Cabinet consists of the Prime Minister and the other Ministers.

The functions of the Cabinet are to advise the Governor-General in the government of the country and the Cabinet is collectively responsible to the House for any advice given to the Governor-General or any action in the execution of office.

The Prime Minister has power over the appointment of the following authorities or persons:

- i. the Deputy Governor-General, on his advice;
- ii. four senators are appointed and removed on his advice;
- iii. one member of the Constituency Boundaries Commission is appointed on his advice;
- iv. the size and membership of the Cabinet and the allocation of portfolios to Ministers and their removal is determined by the Prime Minister;
- v. The Chairman and all members of the Public Service Commission and the Police Service Commission are appointed by the Governor-General on his advice. However, he has to consult with the Civil Service Association and the Police Welfare Association respectively; and the Leader of the Opposition on the appointment of Members other than the Chairman, before tendering advice to the Governor-General.
- vi. one member of the Public Service Board of Appeal, on his advice.

The Prime Minister initiates the process for the removal from office of members of the Public Service Commission and the Police Service Commission.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister has veto power over the appointment of all public officers to whom section 79 of the constitution applies (e.g. Secretary to the Cabinet, Permanent Secretaries and Heads of departments of Government)

Under the present Constitution there is no limit on the number of terms a Prime Minister may serve.

The Governor-General appoints a Leader of the Opposition.

Source: [Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines & Constitutional Review Informational Booklet](#)

2.3 Judiciary Branch

Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (based on Saint Lucia; one judge of the Supreme Court resides in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

The judiciary consists of lower courts and a High Court, with appeal to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal and final appeal to the Privy Council in the United Kingdom.

Fact box:

chief of state: Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor General Sir Fredrick
head of government: Prime Minister Ralph E. GONSALVES (since 29 March 2001) Nathaniel BALLANTYNE (since 2 September 2002)

There are three official magistrates, including the Chief Magistrate, a senior magistrate, and one other magistrate. In addition, the Registrar of the High Court had the authority to sit as a magistrate if called upon. The Chief Magistrate was also president of the family court.

Source: [U.S. Department of State \(Human Rights\) - St. Vincent and the Grenadines \(2003\)](#)

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), a group of six countries and three territories with a common jurisdiction. The structure and organization of justice sector institutions are therefore quite similar throughout the OECS member states and unified in regard to the judicial branch.⁸

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court was established in 1967 by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court Order No. 223 of 1967. It is a superior court of record for six Member States and three Territories.⁹

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction in the Member States, in accordance with the respective Supreme Court Acts. Section 17 of the Courts Order empowers the Chief Justice and two judges of the Supreme Court, selected by the Chief Justice, to make rules of court for regulating the practice and procedure of the Court of Appeal and the High Court.

The four member Court of Appeal is itinerant and sits in each Member Territory to hear appeals. The Court of Appeal hears appeals from the decisions of the High Court and Magistrates' Courts in Member Territory in both civil and criminal matters.

Each Member Territory has its own High Court. There are thirteen High Court Judges who are assigned as resident Judges in the various member states.

National legislation confers rule-making authority on the Chief Justice in relation to matters outside the Court of Appeal and the High Court.

Source: [Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court - About the ECSC](#)

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council serves as the highest court of appeal for several independent countries that were formerly part of the British Empire, the UK overseas territories, and the British crown dependencies. However, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is a nascent regional judicial body intended to replace the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The 'Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice' ([click here](#)) was initially signed on 14 January 2001¹⁰, and the Revised Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice Trust Fund entered into force on 27 January 2004 on signature by ten of the CARICOM Member States.¹¹

The Caribbean Court of Justice is to be implemented as of March 2005. The CCJ will be based in Port of Spain, Trinidad.¹²

Source: [Project on International Courts and Tribunals - Caribbean Court of Justice](#)

⁸ [Centro de Estudios de Justicia de las Americas - St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Institutions](#)

⁹ Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and three British Overseas Territories (Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat).

¹⁰ [Click here](#) for background documents

¹¹ The States that have signed the Revised Agreement as of February 2004 are: Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago; [CARICOM - Press release \(11 February 2004\)](#)

¹² [Caribbean Net News - "The Caribbean Court of Justice: Is CARICOM ready?" \(9 November 2004\)](#)

2.4 Local Government

As early as November 18, 1897, the colonial government passed a Kingstown Board Ordinance in order to establish a corporate body for the capital city, Kingstown, and to make provision in other respects for its government. This Kingstown Board ceased to exist in the 1970s, however, the Kingstown Board (Termination of Dissolution) Act, which restored a local government structure albeit centrally-directed, was passed in Parliament on 6 October 1981, almost two years after formal constitutional independence

Outside of the capital city Kingstown, there was for some years prior to 1951, a limited measure of structured local government in the other towns on mainland St. Vincent, namely, Calliaqua, Georgetown, Layou, Barrouallie and Chateaubelair and in the Grenadine Islands of Bequia and Union Island. On 29 May 1951, a Local Government Act was passed establishing local government authorities in the main population centers outside of Kingstown, partly elected and partly nominated. They were imbued with limited authority. Over time, local government of a narrow kind was dispersed to other geographical areas until they, too, were dissolved in the 1970s. However, they were also restored by the Local Authorities (Termination of Dissolution) Act of 1981 and placed under the central direction of the relevant Ministry through the Local Government Officer, in reality, the Permanent Secretary.

Today, in Kingstown and the remainder of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, local government is but an administrative mechanism for effecting central government direction and authority in a limited sphere of activities.

Parliament has debated the re-introduction of local government and on March 12, 2002, by resolution, it mandated the Executive to appoint a Commission on Local Government to examine the issue and make appropriate recommendations for the establishment democratic local government on a timely basis.

Source: [Constitutional Review Commission - Local Governance in Small States \(14 April 2003\)](#)

3. The State and Civil Society

3.1 Ombudsperson

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

3.2 NGOs

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

3.3 Civil Society

The functioning trade unions are the Commercial Technical and Allied Workers' Union (CTA WU), the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers' Union (SVGTU), the Public Service Union (PSU), the National Workers Movement (NWM), the LIAT Workers' Union, the Windward Islands Farmers' Association (WINFA), and the Medical Association, Nurses' Association and the Employers' Federation - registered under the Trade Union Act (Cap. 154 of the revised Laws of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Name of Union / Association	Members
CTA WU	3000
SVGTU	1700
PSU	1200
NWM	950
NFU/WINFA	800
LIAT Workers' Union	20
SVG Nurses' Association	270
SVG Medical Association	70

Source: [Institution](#) - [Bargaining in the Civil Service \(May 2003\)](#)

4. Civil Service

4.1 Legal basis

Chapter VI of the SVG Constitution establishes the Public Service and the Police Service Commissions. The power to make appointments to the relevant service, promotions and transfers within the service and the power to remove and exercise disciplinary control over members of the service is vested in the Public Service and the Police Commission.

The Public Service Commission consists of: a chairman appointed by the Governor-General in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister; one member appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister¹³; and not less than one or not more than three other members appointed by the Governor-General in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister¹⁴.

In short, the Public Service Commission may consist of a minimum of three or a maximum of five persons all of whom are appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Source: [Constitutional Review Commission](#) - [Constitutional Review Informational Booklet](#)

4.2 Recruitment

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

4.3 Promotion

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

4.4 Remuneration

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

4.5 Training

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

¹³ Before tendering advice to the Governor-General, the Prime Minister must consult with the Civil Service Association.

¹⁴ Before tendering advice to the Governor-General, the Prime Minister must consult the Leader of the Opposition.

4.6 Gender

Employment in the Public Sector by Grade and Sex (2002):

Grade	Male	Female	Total
16	2	1	3
15	1	1	2
14	3	1	4
13	9	11	21
12	3	3	6
11	1	5	6
10	9	5	15
09	1	7	8
08	6	4	10

Source: [OAS \(Inter-American Commission of Women\) - Status of Women Report \(October 2002\)](#)

5. Ethics and Civil Service

5.1 Corruption

2003 CPI Score" relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts and ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).

Corruption Perceptions Index							
		2003 CPI Score	Surveys Used	Standard Deviation	High-Low Range	Number Inst.	90 percent confidence range
Rank	Country						
1	Highly clean	9.7	8	0.3	9.2 - 10.0	4	9.5 - 9.9
..	St. Vincent/Grenadines	..	..	..	..	..	..
133	Highly corrupt	1.3	8	0.7	0.3 - 2.2	6	0.9 - 1.7

Source: [Transparency International](#) - [Corruption Perceptions Index 2003](#)

Surveys Used: Refers to the number of surveys that were used to assess a country's performance. 17 surveys were used and at least 3 surveys were required for a country to be included in the CPI.

Standard Deviation: Indicates differences in the values of the sources. Values below 0.5 indicate agreement, values between 0.5 and c. 0.9 indicate some agreement, while values equal or larger than 1 indicate disagreement.

High-Low Range: Provides the highest and lowest values of the sources.

Number Institutions: Refers to the number of independent institutions that assessed a country's performance. Since some institutions provided more than one survey.

90 percent confidence range: Provides a range of possible values of the CPI score. With 5 percent probability the score is above this range and with another 5 percent it is below.

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

5.2 Ethics

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

6. e-Government

e-Government Readiness Index:

The index refers to the generic capacity or aptitude of the public sector to use ICT for encapsulating in public services and deploying to the public, high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools that support human development.

The index is comprised of three sub-indices: Web Measure Index, Telecommunications Infrastructure Index and Human Capital Index.

Web Measure Index:

A scale based on progressively sophisticated web services present. Coverage and sophistication of state-provided e-service and e-product availability correspond to a numerical classification.

Telecommunications Infrastructure Index:

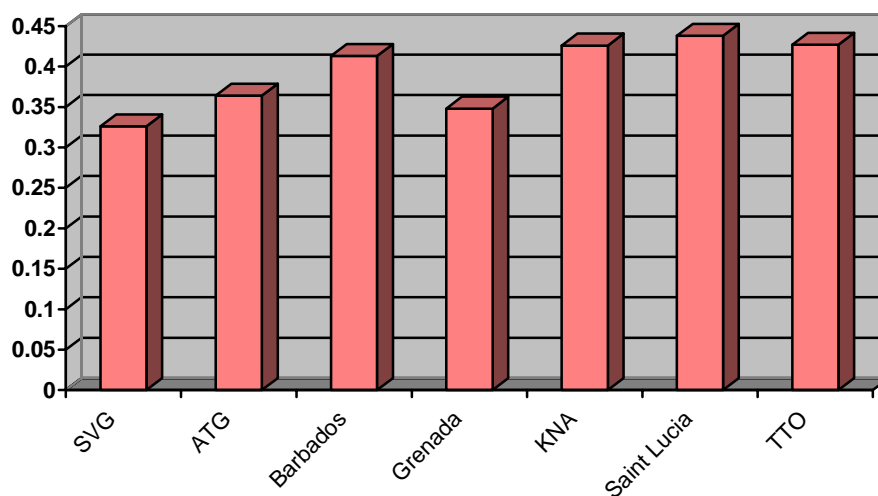
A composite, weighted average index of six primary indices, based on basic infrastructural indicators that define a country's ICT infrastructure capacity.

Primary indicators are: PC's, Internet users, online population and Mobile phones. Secondary indicators are TVs and telephone lines.

Human Capital Index:

A composite of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio, with two thirds of the weight given to adult literacy and one third to the gross enrolment ratio.

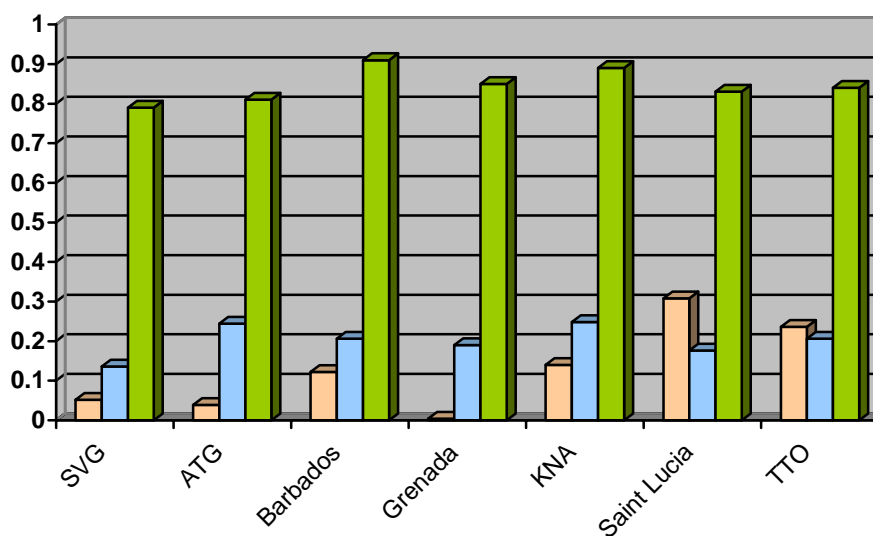
e-Government Readiness Index



ATG – Antigua and Barbuda; KNA – St. Kitts & Nevis; TTO – Trinidad & Tobago

Source: United Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003

Web Measure Index Telecom. Infrastructure Index Human Capital Index



Source: United Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003

e-Participation Index:

Refers to the willingness, on the part of the government, to use ICT to provide high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools for the specific purpose of empowering people for able participation in consultations and decision-making both in their capacity as consumers of public services and as citizens.

e-information:

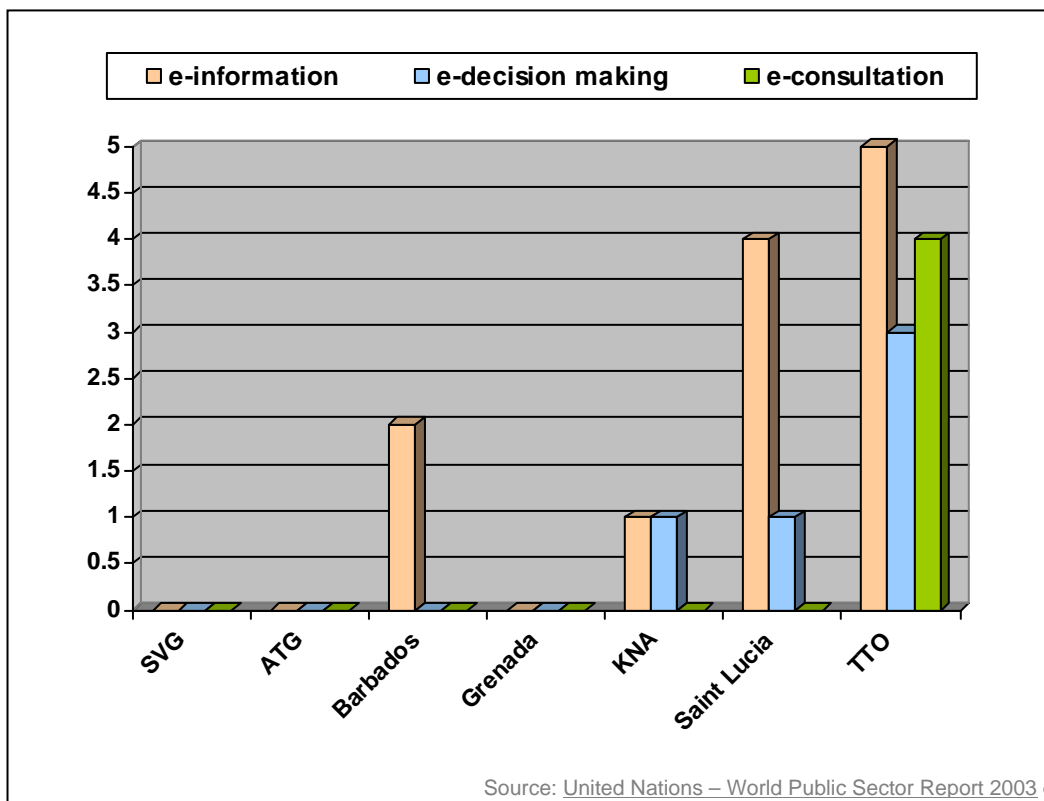
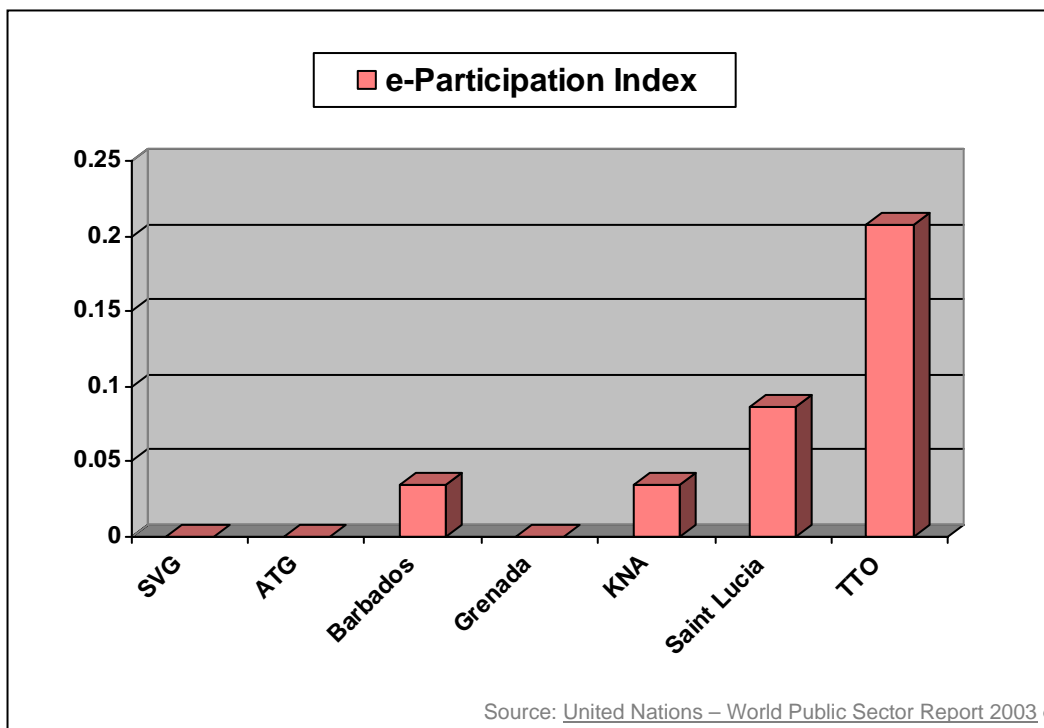
The government websites offer information on policies and programs, budgets, laws and regulations, and other briefs of key public interest. Tools for disseminating of information exist for timely access and use of public information, including web forums, e-mail lists, newsgroups and chat rooms.

e-decision making:

The government indicates that it will take citizens input into account in decision making and provides actual feedback on the outcome of specific issues.

e-consultation:

The government website explains e-consultation mechanisms and tools. It offers a choice of public policy topics online for discussion with real time and archived access to audios and videos of public meetings. The government encourages citizens to participate in discussions.



7. Links

7.1 National sites	
Authority	Topic
Constitutional Review Commission	http://www.crc.vincy.com
Constitutional Review Commission	http://www.crc.vc/
Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court	http://www.ecsupremecourts.org.lc/

7.2 Miscellaneous sites	
Institution	Topic
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)	http://www.caricom.org/
Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)	http://www.caribank.org/
Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM)	http://www.capam.comnet.mt/
Development Gateway	http://www.developmentgateway.org/countryprofile/...
European Union (EU)	http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/country/...
Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)	http://www.iadb.org
Organization of American States (OAS)	http://www.oas.org
Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)	http://www.oecs.org/
Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) - OAS	http://www.upd.oas.org
UNPAN	http://www.unpan.org/virtual_library-byregion.asp
World Bank (WB)	http://www.worldbank.org/oecs