

## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** Federation of St Christopher and Nevis

**Head of State:** Queen Elizabeth II; represented by Governor General Sir Cuthbert Montroville-Sebastian (since 1996)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Denzil Douglas (SKNLP) (since 1995; re-elected 25 Jan 2010)

**Ruling party:** St Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) (since 1995; re-elected 25 Jan 2010)

**Area:** 269 square km

**Population:** 57,000 (2012)\* (54,841; 2010, census figure)

**Capital:** Basseterre (St Kitts)

**Official language:** English

**Currency:** East Caribbean dollar (EC\$) = 100 cents

**Exchange rate:** EC\$2.70 per US\$ (fixed)

**GDP per capita:** US\$12,804 (2012)

**GDP real growth:** -0.86% (2012)\*

**GDP:** US\$734.00 million (2012)\*

**Inflation:** 1.36% (2012)\*

**Balance of trade:** -US\$157.05 million (2012)\*

**Annual FDI:** US\$114.06 million (2011)

\* estimated figure

# St Kitts and Nevis

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) fourth review, completed in late 2012, of St Kitts and Nevis' economic performance under a programme supported by a 36-month Stand-by arrangement said that the country had made 'significant progress' on restructuring the country's public debt. The completion allowed the immediate disbursement of US\$4.9 million, bringing total disbursements under the programme to US\$66.15 million.

Naoyuki Shinohara, deputy managing director and Acting Chair of the Fund's Executive Board, was reported in a statement as saying that 'The St Kitts and Nevis authorities have continued steadfast implementation of their Fund-supported programme, despite the sluggish global environment and economic contraction... The near-term outlook for the economy is for a modest recovery.'

He went on to say that 'Over the near-to medium-term, it will be important to accelerate the pace of structural reforms to further boost revenue and promote growth-enhancing public expenditure. The financial system has remained resilient, with adequate capitalisation and continued deposit growth. Continued monitoring of the financial sector will be needed, in close collaboration with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), including in the context of addressing the impact of the restructuring of public debt on banks' NPLs, liquidity, and profitability.'

St Kitts and Nevis is currently elaborating its budget for 2013, and the IMF said emphasis needed to be given to bolstering the tax base, containing current outlays, and increasing capital spending as well as the capacity to buffer shocks.

## No confidence?

Opposition Leader Mark Brantley filed a motion of no confidence against the government of Prime Minister Dr Denzil Douglas of the St Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) in early December 2012. If the motion achieves a majority of the 11 members of parliament eligible to vote, Mr Douglas, who is the longest serving leader in the Caribbean Community (Caricom) after 17 years in power, would have to

resign within a period of three days or dissolve Parliament. The motion alleged that the current government had 'constantly and willfully disregarded the constitution of the country,' among other charges. (The motion had only just been filed at the time this edition of *Americas Review* went to press.)

## COUNTRY PROFILE

### Historical profile

1623 Britain settled St Christopher (known as St Kitts), which became the first British colony in the West Indies.

1628 Nevis was settled by the British.

1816 Anguilla was joined to the territory.

1932 The St Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) was formed and campaigned for independence for the islands.

1958 St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla became a member of the attempted West Indies Federation.

1962 The West Indies Federation was dissolved after the departure of Jamaica.

1967 St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, became a self-governing state in association with the UK. A House of Assembly replaced the Legislative Council, the administrator became governor and the chief minister became the state's first premier. The pro-independence SKNLP, became the ruling political party. The UK retained responsibility for defence and foreign relations.

1971 Anguilla reverted to being a British Dependent Territory after renouncing the rule of St Kitts.

1980 The SKNLP lost power to a coalition of the People's Action Movement (PAM) and the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP).

1983 Independence from Britain was attained.

1995 The SKNLP returned to power.

1997 The Nevis Island Assembly (NIA) elections were won by the Concerned Citizens' Movement (CCM).

1998 A referendum on independence for Nevis failed to achieve the two-thirds majority required for approval.

2000 The ruling SKNLP was re-elected and Denzil Douglas began a second term as prime minister.

2003 The largest hotel complex in the eastern Caribbean region opened at Frigate Bay.

2004 The NaturalSweet Corporation invested US\$90 million for the cultivation and commercial development of stevia, a natural herbal plant. The ruling SKNLP won the parliamentary elections.

2005 The last harvest of sugar cane was delivered to the only remaining refinery, which ceased operations after the last run was made, and ended a centuries' old industry.

2006 The Nevis Reform Party (NRP) won NIA elections; Joseph Parry became prime minister of Nevis.

2008 Cotton lint from the first crop of Sea Island cotton since 2004 was ginned on Nevis. A total of 10,000kg was exported.

2009 An inquiry began into the governance of Nevis, particularly the financial instructions under which it was governed by the CCM party before 2006. A representative of the Japanese development fund visited Nevis and proposed financial assistance for an irrigation system in cotton production. Scheduled parliamentary elections were postponed until 2010.

Basseterre was announced as the proposed headquarters of the Libyan Development Bank of the Eastern Caribbean.

2010 In general elections, the incumbent SKNLP won six seats out of 11 and continued in power; Prime Minister Douglas remained in office. Four electricity generators were delivered, two of which produced an additional 15.6MW of power for St Kitts. The US-based airline, American Eagle, began daily flights between Puerto Rico and Nevis.

2011 The NRP won NIA elections held in July; Joseph Parry remained in post as premier of Nevis. In August citizens of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) – Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines – were granted freedom of movement, allowing them to reside, work, establish businesses and provide services throughout the organisation. During the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit, in October, the 16 countries in which the British monarch is Head of State unanimously agreed to change the royal line of succession from that of first born son to the first born child (regardless of its gender). The change will be enacted after the succession of Prince William (currently second in line to the throne, after his father Prince Charles).

2012 On 27 August, the OECS Court of Appeal upheld the decision by the High Court that declared the 2011 elections on Nevis as null and void. On 10 November the NIA was dissolved ahead of new elections. St Kitts and Nevis and Kuwait established diplomatic relations on 16 November.

2013 In July the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported that St Kitts and Nevis was showing signs of an economic recovery following a four-year contraction in economic activity.

**Political structure**

**Constitution**

The constitution of 1983 gives the island of Nevis considerable autonomy within a federal framework.

**Form of state**

Independent parliamentary democratic state; it is a member of the Commonwealth with the British monarch as head of state, represented by a governor general, who exercises executive power.

Nevis has limited self-government.

**National legislature**

The legislature is the National Assembly comprising 11 members elected for a five-year term (eight from St Kitts, three from Nevis) plus three appointed members.

The cabinet headed by a prime minister is collectively responsible to the National Assembly.

**Legal system**

The legal system is based upon English common law. Appeals go to the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court based on Saint Lucia. The final court of appeal is the Privy Council in the UK.

**Last elections**

25 January 2010 (National Assembly); 11 July 2011 (Nevis Island Assembly (NIA))

**Results:** National Assembly: the Labour Party won 46.96 per cent of the vote (six seats out of 11), the People's Action Movement 32.24 per cent (two), Concerned Citizen's Movement 10.99 per cent (two), Nevis Reformation Party 9.75 per cent (one); turnout was 81.24 per cent.

NIA: Nevis Reformation Party (NRF) won 50.2 per cent of the vote (three seats out of five), Concerned Citizen Movement 49.8 per cent (two); turnout was 81.2 per cent.

**Next elections**

2015 (National Assembly); 2016 (NIA)

**Political parties**

**Ruling party**

St Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) (since 1995; re-elected 25 Jan 2010)

**Political situation**

St Kitts and Nevis has not avoided the economic pressures following the global economic downturn and despite record export sales to the US in the first half of 2010 – US\$25.7 million, up from US\$48.4 million in 2009 – it still has to contend with the introduction of several new taxes, including value added tax (VAT) of 17 per cent from 1 November 2010.

In May 2010 trade negotiators of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), including those of St Kitts and Nevis, had to discuss how the organisation was going to prepare for the removal of government subsidies for export, typically used to attract foreign direct investment, which will be removed by 2015, in accordance with World Trade Organisation (WTO) requirements.

**Population**

56,000 (2011)\* (54,841; 2010, census figure)

**Last census:** May 2001: 45,841

**Population density:** 114 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 32 per cent (2010 Unicef).

**Annual growth rate:** 1.3 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

KEY INDICATORS		St Kitts and Nevis				
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	*0.05	*0.05	-5	*0.06	*0.06
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	0.57	0.56	0.53	0.71	*0.73
GDP per capita	US\$	10,764	10,315	9,636	13,364	*12,804
GDP real growth	%	4.6	-5.5	-1.5	-2.0	*-0.9
Inflation	%	5.4	2.0	2.5	5.4	*1.4
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	69.0	57.6	57.9	54.3	-
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	285.8	266.0	200.7	218.3	-
Balance of trade	US\$m	-216.9	-208.5	-142.7	-164.0	-
Current account	US\$m	-180.8	-184.8	-96.0	-60.3	*-99.0
Total reserves minust gold	US\$m	110.4	136.4	168.9	201.1	-
Foreign exchange	US\$m	100.3	122.9	155.7	201.0	-
Exchange rate	per US\$	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70
* estimated figure						

### **Ethnic make-up**

Black African (91 per cent), mixed race (5 per cent), Asian (3 per cent), British, Portuguese and Lebanese descent (1 per cent).

### **Religions**

Anglican (25 per cent), Methodist (25 per cent), Pentecostal (8 per cent), Moravian (7 per cent), other Protestant (12 per cent), Roman Catholic (7 per cent), Hindu (1 per cent).

### **Education**

As part of an educational initiative, 2,400 laptops were delivered from Taiwan in August 2011, to be distributed to high school students (aged 14–16 years). Another batch of 2,400 is due in October–November for students aged 11–13 years.

**Compulsory years:** Five to 17

**Enrolment rate:** 101 per cent boys, 94 per cent girls gross primary enrolment of relevant age group (including repeaters) (Unicef 2004).

### **Main cities**

Basseterre (capital of St Kitts, estimated population 13,345 in 2012), St Paul's (1,364), Sadlers (1,056), Middle Island (899).

Charlestown (capital of Nevis, 2,294), Gingerland (612), Newcastle (611).

### **Languages spoken**

#### **Official language/s**

English

### **Media**

#### **Press**

There are no daily newspapers. Weekly publications include *The Democrat* ([www.pamdemocrat.org](http://www.pamdemocrat.org)), *The Leewards Times* ([www.leewardstimes.com](http://www.leewardstimes.com)), *Sun St Kitts Nevis* (<http://sunstkitts.com>), *The St Kitts and Nevis Observer* and the bi-weekly *Labour Spokesman* ([www.labourworksforme.com](http://www.labourworksforme.com)).

A regional online publication Caribbean Net News ([www.caribbeanetnews.com](http://www.caribbeanetnews.com)) covers news from St Kitts and Nevis.

#### **Broadcasting**

The government-owned commercial radio and television station is ZIZ ([www.zizonline.com](http://www.zizonline.com)).

**Radio:** There are ten radio stations, including two government-owned ZIZ and Big Wave. Commercial stations on St Kitts include Sugar City Rock ([www.sugarcityrock.com](http://www.sugarcityrock.com)) Kyss FM ([kyssonline.com](http://kyssonline.com)) and on Nevis, Voice of Nevis (VON) ([www.vonradio.com](http://www.vonradio.com)), Choice FM (<http://choicefm1053.com>) and Radio Paradise in Nevis.

**Television:** There is ZIZ Television which airs on two free cable channels and Winn FM ([www.winnfm.com](http://www.winnfm.com)).

### **Economy**

St Kitts and Nevis is one of the world's most indebted countries, so it was welcome news that in April 2012, the government cleared around 45 per cent of public debt by successfully concluding a deal with commercial creditors, ranging from commercial banks and bond holders, with an ultimate payment of just under US\$500 million. In May 2012, the government secured a stock-of-debt restructuring deal with the Paris Club of creditors. Multilateral restructuring was agreed of the entire debt, including arrears, which would be spaced out over a 20-year period, with a grace period on the principal repayments starting in 2019 and concessionary rates of interest applied to the rescheduling. The successful negotiations were based on the government's economic reforms, sound macro-economic path and debt restructuring to date. The agreement should cancel over 60 per cent of the debt, from multilateral restructuring and other concessions.

The economy of the islands is largely based on tourism, manufacturing and agriculture. The tourism sector is a major source of foreign exchange. Tourist numbers in 2009 increased, despite the depression in visitor numbers due to the global economic crisis, with cruise liner passenger numbers rising from 2,842 in 2008 to 12,516 in 2009. A new scheduled flight to St Kitts by British Airways also kept visitor numbers higher than could have been expected given the downturn in the tourist sector worldwide. Growth in light manufacturing is constrained by shipping costs which at a time of high fuel costs has added up to 11 per cent to manufacturing costs since 2008. Traditional sugar cane cultivation ceased in 2005, with plantations being cleared for land development. As the agricultural sector is unable to feed the population imported food is a major drain on foreign reserves. Commercial agricultural production is led by tropical fruit and coconuts. The cultivation of cotton was re-introduced in 2008, after a gap of four years, when a valuable contract for over 3,200kg of cotton lint for export to Japan was agreed.

St Kitts belongs to the East Caribbean Currency Union, under the supervision of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (which is based in Basseterre), with a common currency (the EC\$) and shared resources and reserves pooled for economic stability. It offers offshore banking and financial services.

GDP growth was 0.9 per cent in 2007, which rose to 2.4 per cent in 2008, before falling to a predicted -2.0 per cent in 2009 as the worldwide recession depressed the tourist sector and domestic

demand was dampened. Inflation was 4.5 per cent in 2007, rising to 5.4 per cent in 2008 as the prices of imported petroleum and food rose, before falling back to a predicted 3.4 per cent as world prices dropped.

### **External trade**

As a member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom), St Kitts and Nevis operates within the single market (Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME)), which became operational in 2006. Goods, services, businesses and money are free to move within the CSME without barriers and tariffs. It is also a member of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) using the East Caribbean Dollar (EC\$).

Since the closure of the sugar industry exports have fallen sharply so that light manufacturing and tourism provides foreign earnings. The cultivation of cotton was re-introduced in 2008, after a gap of four years, when a valuable contract for over 3,200kg of cotton lint for export to Japan was agreed.

#### **Imports**

Main imports are food, machinery, manufactured goods, petroleum and derivatives.

**Main sources:** US (typically 59 per cent of total), Trinidad and Tobago (11 per cent), Japan (4 per cent).

#### **Exports**

Main exports are electrical appliances, electronic items and instrumentation, plastics, food and beverages and cotton.

**Main destinations:** US (typically 87 per cent of total), UK (2 per cent), Antigua and Barbuda (2 per cent).

### **Agriculture**

#### **Farming**

The agricultural sector contributes around 3 per cent to GDP.

Historically, the most important crop had been sugar, however the sugar industry was closed down by the government and land re-deployed, although not necessarily for agricultural purposes.

Diversification into food crops has been encouraged to reduce dependence on imports.

The manufacture of cotton lint was re-introduced in 2008, after a gap of four years, when a valuable contract for over 3,200kg of cotton lint for export to Japan were agreed. Old, retired ginny equipment was renovated with new parts before the work could begin; when the operation is fully functional the machinery will be able to gin 900kg per day. Processing raw cotton began in 2008, however the only supply available came from government owned farms, after the first year of cotton cultivation, but supplies from

private sources are expected to maintain the volume of production in future.

### **Fishing**

Inshore fishing is a traditional occupation and a significant source of protein. The fisheries management unit introduced new fishing methods resulting in a fish catch that increased over 40 per cent during the first year. Other improvements include a new fisheries complex, housing commercial storage and a fish market, constructed in Basseterre on St Kitts, while on Nevis the largest fishing facility includes a fish processing plant, walk-in freezers and market, is sited in Charlestown.

### **Industry and manufacturing**

The industrial sector contributes around 24 per cent to GDP, with manufacturing contributing around 10 per cent. Manufacturing activities have declined, with contraction in electrical and electronic components, due to poor US demand. The recession also led to a decline in domestic demand for locally produced manufactured goods. In March 2004, the government approved a US\$90 million investment plan by NaturalSweet Corporation to proceed with the cultivation and commercial development of stevia, a natural herbal plant, and construction of a plant to produce a dietary supplement.

### **Tourism**

The two-island federation offers tourists a range of beach resorts that are not densely populated, but with leisure activities and quality dining. The industry is aimed at visitors from the US and Europe. However, in a move to open up its market base, it advertises regionally and in Asia and Australasia too.

The tourism sector was disrupted by external shocks beginning in 2007, at the beginning of the global economic crisis, when visitors from the US and Europe failed to arrive. As the crisis deepened so did the drop in tourism's contribution to GDP. In 2005, the tourism industry directly contributed 12.3 per cent of GDP, by 2009, at the lowest level during the crisis this figure had fallen to 7.1 per cent of GDP. Not only were visitor numbers down but their spending fell from US\$121 million in 2005 to US\$80 million in 2009.

In August 2011, St Kitts and Nevis was voted as the best Caribbean vacation destination and ranked sixth for affordable vacations. Visitors arriving by cruise liners make up around 80 per cent of all visitors, although air passengers stay for longer and use a greater variety of services and facilities.

### **Hydrocarbons**

There are no known hydrocarbon reserves. Consumption was 1,000 barrels per day of oil in 2008, all of which was imported. In 2005, St Kitts and Nevis, plus a number of other Caribbean states, signed an agreement with Venezuela to establish PetroCaribe, a multi-national oil company, owned by the participating states. PetroCaribe buys low-priced Venezuelan crude oil under long-term payment plans. The planned natural gas pipeline from Trinidad and Tobago linking the Caribbean islands could mean St Kitts and Nevis will be able to import natural gas in the future.

### **Energy**

Total installed generating capacity was 20MW in 2007, producing over 130 million kilowatt hours. The Nevis Electricity Company (Nevlec) provides energy for both islands. Plans for the commercial development of a geothermal-fuelled power plant, developed by the Eastern Caribbean Geothermal Development Project (ECGDP) (or Geo-Caraiibes) which is estimated will provide 60–120MW overall, will be operated by the West Indies Power Limited (WIPL), which is owned by ECGDP countries. The government invested US\$22 million in infrastructure and the purchase of four new 4MW electricity generators, delivered in 2010. Two were operational in Basseterre in November 2010 producing an additional 15.6MW of power for St Kitts and the remaining two became operational in 2011.

Energy from biomass is being considered. The sugar cane industry was closed down as uneconomical, but with the rise in hydrocarbon prices ethanol from sugar cane is seen as an alternative and a study to determine the viability of a limited revival of the sugar cane industry is underway.

### **Financial markets**

#### **Stock exchange**

Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange (ECSE)

#### **Banking and insurance**

The state-owned Development Bank provides credit to finance agriculture, industry, education and mortgages.

The seven members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines, share a common currency and central bank. The British Virgin Islands and Anguilla are associate members.

#### **Central bank**

East Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)

#### **Main financial centre**

Basseterre

### **Offshore facilities**

After St Kitts and Nevis was listed by the OECD as a tax haven which was unco-operative in fighting money laundering, the government passed the Money Laundering (Prevention) Bill, the Financial Services Intelligence Unit Bill and the Financial Services Commission Bill. The latter Bill established the Financial Services Commission as the main regulatory body for the offshore sector. In 2002, St Kitts and Nevis was removed from the blacklist drawn up by the OECD.

### **Time**

GMT minus four hours

### **Geography**

St Kitts and Nevis is situated at the northern end of the Leeward Islands chain of the West Indies, with Saba and St Eustatius (both in the Netherlands Antilles) to the north-west, Barbuda to the north-east and Antigua to the south-east. Nevis lies about 3km (2 miles) to the south-east of St Kitts, separated by a narrow strait.

They are rugged volcanic islands covered with either original rich tropical rainforests or cultivated sugar cane plantations. St Kitts has a large crater, Mount Liamuiga, of 1,200 metres (m) high. In the south-east a peninsula stretches into the Caribbean Sea. Nevis is a circular island with a range of mountains. The highest peak, Mount Nevis, is 985m high.

### **Hemisphere**

Northern

### **Climate**

Tropical, tempered by trade winds, with an annual mean temperature of 27 degrees Celsius. December–April are the driest months. Rain can occur throughout the year, although generally wetter from May–October.

### **Entry requirements**

#### **Passports**

Required by all except Canadian or US nationals with proof of identity (all US and Canadian nationals require a passport for re-entry to their country from January 2007). Passports must be valid for at least six months after date of entry.

#### **Visa**

Required by all with some exceptions; see [www.gov.kn](http://www.gov.kn) and follow link to *Information for non-citizens*, to view a list of those who require a visa and to download an application form. From May 2009 EU citizens may make a short-stay visit, for up to three months, without a visa.

Further information should be obtained from the nearest consulate.

#### **Currency advice/regulations**

The import of local and foreign currency is unlimited but must be declared; export

## Nations of the World: A Political, Economic and Business Handbook

of either is limited to the amount declared on arrival.  
Travellers cheques in major currencies are widely accepted.

### Health (for visitors)

#### Mandatory precautions

Vaccination certificates for yellow fever and cholera required when travelling from infected areas.

#### Advisable precautions

Typhoid, polio vaccinations. Water precautions.

### Hotels

Advisable to book in advance. A 9 per cent room tax is added to bills and 10 per cent service charge usual.

### Credit cards

Major credit and charge cards are widely accepted. ATMs are widely available.

### Public holidays (national)

#### Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 2 Jan (Carnival Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 12 Jun (Queen's Birthday), 19 Sep (Independence Day), 25–26 Dec (Christmas).

#### Variable dates

Good Friday and Easter Monday (Mar/Apr), Whit Monday (May/June), Queen's Official Birthday (second Sat in Jun), August Monday (first Mon in Aug).

### Working hours

#### Banking

Mon–Thu: 0800–1400; Fri: 0800–1600; Sat: 0830–1100.

#### Business

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200, 1300–1600/1630. Businesses generally close Thu afternoons and open Sat: 0800–1600.

#### Government

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200, 1300–1600/1630.

### Telecommunications

#### Mobile/cell phones

There are 850/1900 and 900/1800 GSM services in operation.

### Electricity supply

220V AC, 60 cycles. (Some hotel supplies are at 110V AC.)

Electricity is supplied from diesel engine generators and is available island-wide.

### Getting there

#### Air

There are no direct intercontinental flights, only flights from regional hubs land in St Kitts or Nevis.

**International airport/s:** Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw International Airport (RLB), 3.2km from Basseterre, duty-free shop, restaurant, hotel reservations. Taxis from the airport have regulated fares.

**Other airport/s:** Newcastle Airfield (NEV), 11km from Charlestown on Nevis.

**Airport tax:** Departure tax: EC\$60

#### Surface

**Water:** There are regular ferry services between St Maarten and St Kitts. Cruise ships visit.

**Main port/s:** Basseterre (St Kitts) has a deep-water harbour, Charlestown (Nevis).

### Getting about

#### National transport

**Road:** There is a 300km road network. Main routes cover perimeters of both islands.

In 2006 a new by-pass to reduce traffic congestion in Basseterre was opened. It was funded through a loan of US\$7.56 million by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

**Buses:** Privately operated buses provide a regular but unscheduled service.

**Water:** There are regular daily ferry services between the islands of St Kitts and Nevis.

#### City transport

**Taxis:** Serve both islands with set fare systems; 10 per cent tip usual.

#### Car hire

It is advisable to reserve a hire car well in advance. National licence required in order to obtain visitor's temporary licence. Traffic drives on the left.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

### Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling code (IDD) for St Kitts and Nevis is +1 869, followed by subscriber's number.

### Useful telephone numbers

Emergency: 911

Fire: 333

Air Ambulance: 465-2801

JNF General Hospital: 465-2551

### Chambers of Commerce

St Kitts/Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce, South Independence Square, PO Box 332, Basseterre (tel: 465-2980; fax: 465-4490; e-mail: skchamber@caribsurf.com).

### Banking

Bank of Nevis, The Main Street, Box 450, Charlestown, Nevis (tel: 469-5564/5796; fax: 469-5798).

Bank of Nova Scotia, Fort Street, Box 433, Basseterre, St Kitts (tel: 465-4141; fax: 465-8600).

Development Bank of St. Kitts & Nevis, Church Street, Box 249, Basseterre, St. Kitts (tel: 465-2288/2964/4041; fax: 465-4016).

National Bank, Central Street, Box 343, Basseterre, St Kitts (tel: 465-2204; fax: 465-1050).

Nevis Co-Op Banking Company, Chapel Street, Box 60, Charlestown, Nevis (tel: 469-5277/0113/4; fax: 469-1493).

Royal Bank of Canada, Cnr Bay Road & Fort Street, Box 91, Basseterre, St Kitts (tel: 465-2259/2409/2389/4374; fax: 465-1040).

### Central bank

Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, Bird Rock Road, PO Box 89, Basseterre (tel: 465-2537; fax: 465-5615; email: info@eccb-centralbank.org).

### Stock exchange

Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange (ECSE), www.ecseonline.com

### Travel information

Nevis Tourism Bureau, Charlestown, Nevis (tel: 469-1042; fax: 469-1066).

St Kitts-Nevis Hotel and Tourism Association, PO Box 438, Basseterre, St Kitts (tel: 465-5304; fax: 465-7746).

### Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism (National Development Corporation), Government Headquarters, Basseterre (tel: 465-2521, 465-4106; fax: 465-5202, 465-1778).

### National tourist organisation offices

St Kitts-Nevis Department of Tourism, Pelican Mall, PO Box 132, Basseterre, St Kitts (tel: 465-2620; fax: 465-4040).

### Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and Development, Education, Youth and Community Affairs, Government Headquarters, PO Box 186, Basseterre (tel: 465-2521; fax: 465-9069).

Ministry of Finance, Marketing and Development Department, Rams Building, Liverpool Row, Basseterre, St Kitts (tel: 465-1153; fax: 465-1154).

Ministry of Health, Labour and Women's Affairs, Government Headquarters, Basseterre (tel: 465-2521; fax: 456-1316).

Office of The Prime Minister, Government Headquarters, PO Box 186, Basseterre (tel: 465-2103; fax: 465-1001).

### Other useful addresses

Attorney General's Office, Government Headquarters, Basseterre (tel: 465-2521; fax: 465-5202).

Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange, PO Box 94, Bird Rock, Basseterre (tel:

466-7192; fax: 465-3798; email: Info@ECSEonline.com).

Financial Services Department, PO Box 186, Basseterre (tel: 466-5048; fax: 466-5317; internet: www.fsd.gov.kn).

Government Offices, Administration Building, Charlestown (465-5521; fax: 465-5202).

Investment Promotion Agency, Bay Road, Basseterre (tel: 465-4106).

Embassy of St Kitts and Nevis (USA), OECS Bldg, 3216 New Mexico Ave, NW Washington DC 20016 (tel: (+1-202) 686-2636; fax: (+1-202) 686-5740).

St Kitts-Nevis Information Service, Government Headquarters, Church Street, Basseterre (tel: 465-2521; fax: 466-4504; email: skninfo@caribsurf.com; internet: www.gov.kn).

St Kitts-Nevis Manufacturers' Association, PO Box 392, Basseterre (tel: 465-6226).

### **Internet sites**

Caribbean Export Development Agency: www.cartis.com/

Government website: www.gov.kn

Organisation of American States: www.oas.org