



NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT
OF STATISTICS

ISSUE NO. 01

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2 WHAT'S PUSHING PRICES?

The cost of living story unfolds through Consumer Price Index data. See what is driving inflation and which categories are moving most in price.

4 THE TOURISM PICTURE

From cruise ships to flights, tourism has regained momentum post-pandemic. Arrival data shows which source markets drive the recovery and its seasonal patterns.

6 THE ECONOMY IN FOCUS

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shows which sectors are driving growth. The Balance of Payments (BoP) tracks how money flows in and out of the country. See how recent performance stacks up against previous years.

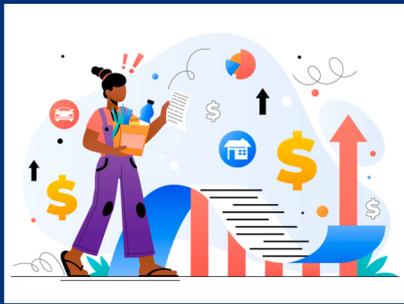
ALSO INSIDE: Import & Exports • Climate and Environment • Census 2022 Findings

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING STATISTICS WEEK 2025

This inaugural edition of *Inside The Numbers* is strategically launched during **Statistics Week 2025**, observed across the Caribbean from October 12th to the 17th. This year celebrates improving lives through statistics while strengthening regional cooperation and innovating together in data communication.

Throughout the week, the Department of Statistics joins our regional partners by reaffirming its commitment to make national statistics more accessible and meaningful to all citizens.

Inside The Numbers is our innovation in action, bringing statistics to life for everyone.



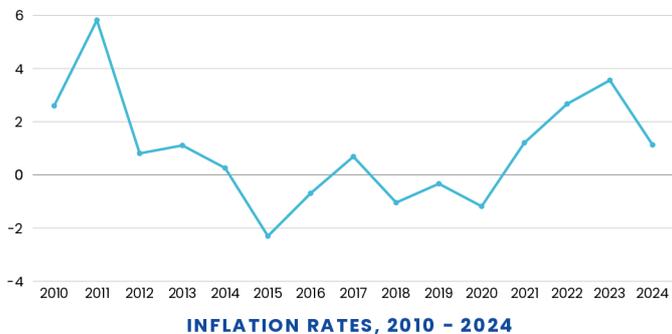
WHAT'S PUSHING PRICES?

AN INFLATION SNAPSHOT FROM THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Every month, price collectors from the Department of Statistics go out across both islands, recording actual prices for specific goods and services, from a loaf of bread to a gallon of gas to a haircut. These prices are then compiled to produce the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures how the cost of a typical household basket of goods and services changes over time in St. Kitts and Nevis. Each item in the basket is weighted to reflect practical family spending habits, so essentials like food and housing carry more influence than occasional splurges. By comparing these prices over time, the CPI tracks inflation – the pace at which the cost of living is rising and falling. When prices climb quickly, paychecks don't go as far; when increases slow or prices fall, household budgets can go further.

INSIDE THE CPI



In 2024, inflation fell to 1.13%, down from the faster pace seen in 2021 – 2023 and well below earlier rises like 2011. So far in 2025 the trend remains calm: the CPI rose 0.3% in the second quarter, putting prices 0.6% higher for the year to June. Unless the second half picks up, 2025 is on track for another year of modest inflation.

But even modest inflation reflects a mix of changes across categories – some prices rose, others held steady and a few became more affordable.

BIGGEST INCREASES ↑	BIGGEST DECREASES ↓
Education +14.47%	Restaurants & Hotels -2.02%
Clothing & Footwear +2.30%	Transport -1.72%
Health +2.24%	

BIGGEST CPI MOVERS: Q2 2025 VS. Q2 2024

In the second quarter of 2025, education costs rose the most in the Consumer Price Index, pushed up by pricier overseas tuition and fees. Restaurant prices recorded the largest drop, offering some relief to diners, while transport costs also declined, thanks in part to cheaper airfares.

Food prices rose 2.24% in Q2 2025 compared to Q2 2024. Although food makes up only 16% of the CPI basket, it has risen faster than non-food items since 2021. The larger non-food share, about 84%, has helped to keep overall inflation moderate.

What's pushing prices?

As a small island developing state, our prices are influenced by both global and local factors. Since most goods are imported, changes in international prices, shipping costs, and import tariffs directly affect what we pay. Local factors such as utility rates and weather can also drive up the cost of everyday essentials.

Want to explore more? 
CPI Data tables are available at www.stats.gov.kn



INSIDE THE MANIFEST

A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT'S MOVING ACROSS OUR BORDERS

Our federation continues to be a net-importing economy. Goods imports are about twenty times the value of exports. The biggest imports tend to be machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods like building materials, food and live animals. This reflects how the country's service and tourism economy relies on bringing in most consumer goods and capital items to keep businesses and households running. Fuel imports are smaller but still important since changes in global energy prices affect transport and electricity costs here.

Exports are smaller but have clear strengths. Beverages and tobacco remain the top export products and grew stronger in 2024. Miscellaneous manufactured goods also made a meaningful contribution, reflecting niche industries and re-export activities. These exports show where local businesses are building a presence abroad through branding, regional demand and targeted production. While exports don't yet come close to covering imports, they play an important role in bringing in foreign money and point to areas with growth potential.

Total imports grew by almost 11% between 2023 and 2024, with exports rising 8.7% over the same period.



TRACKING TRADE

Every shipment entering or leaving St. Kitts and Nevis must first be declared to Customs. The Department of Statistics compiles and analyzes these records on a quarterly basis to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Each item is matched to internationally recognized product codes, ensuring alignment with global trade standards. Reported quantities and values are verified, and goods are classified into broad categories such as food, fuel, vehicles, machinery and building materials.

Through this detailed cleaning and analysis process, thousands of cargo entries are transformed into a clear, accurate snapshot of trade activity passing through our ports and airports.



Want to explore more?
Trade tables are available at www.stats.gov.kn



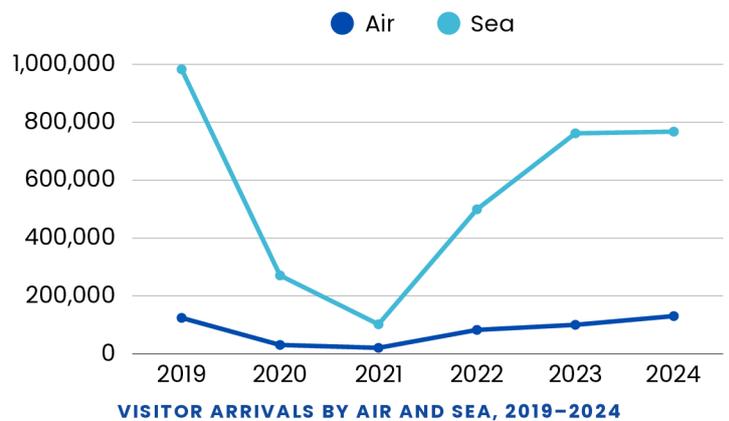
SOURCE: ST. KITTS AND NEVIS INFORMATION SERVICE (SKNIS)

THE TOURISM PICTURE

Tourism is gaining strong momentum in the post-pandemic period, with increasing numbers of travellers arriving by air and sea.

Arrival statistics track how many people enter the country and why. They include visitors arriving for holidays, business trips or to visit family. Visitors usually stay less than a year and don't live or work here permanently. Tourists, a major part of this group, typically spend at least one night for leisure or business. Sea and air tell different stories. Cruise travel brings large single-day visitor numbers once the season ramps up; air arrivals drive overnight stays and spending across hotels, villas, restaurants and tours. Both matter – just on different clocks.

The data is collected through immigration kiosks and ETA forms, then carefully compiled and analysed by the Department of Statistics. This information supports planning, strengthens tourism and paints a clearer picture of travel trends.



INSIDE THE VISITORS ARRIVALS

TOURISM'S REBOUND IN MOTION

Tourism has steadily rebuilt since the near standstill of 2020. Air travel is now the strongest it's been since 2019. Sea travel, after a full pause, has also made a strong return, with big port days marking the cruise season.

In 2024, roughly two-thirds of air visitors came from the United States, with the Caribbean, Europe and Canada making up most of the rest. These markets continue to shape seasonal travel patterns and support tourism year round.

MID-YEAR TOURISM SNAPSHOT

Tourism is gaining momentum in 2025, with more visitors arriving by air in the first half of the year compared to the same period in 2024. From January to June, air arrivals topped 78,000 – up 15% from the same period in 2024. Notably, each month in the first half of 2025 outperformed its 2024 counterpart, underscoring a consistent and encouraging upward trend.

Cruise and yacht travel are also showing steady growth. Sea arrivals are tracking about 15% above last year so far, with the busiest months still to come. The real wave hits later in the year, when cruise calls stack up and the ports come alive.

 Want to explore more?
Tourism tables are available at www.stats.gov.kn

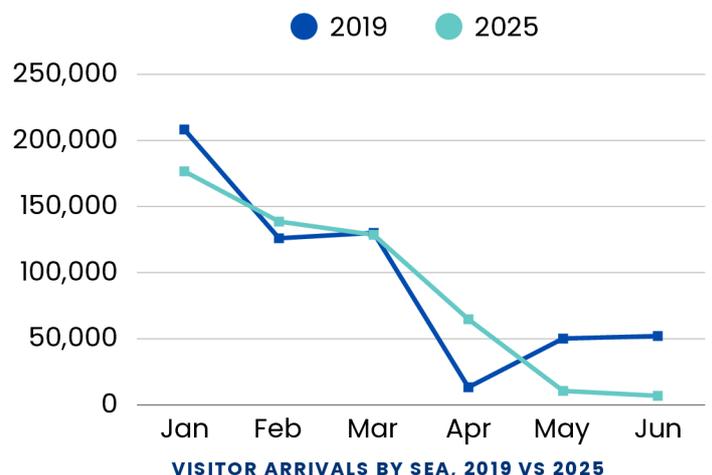
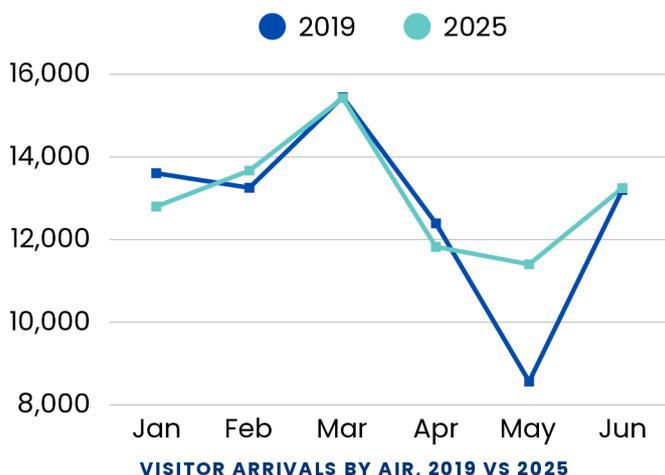


HIGH NOTES IN JUNE

June brought a welcome boost to the season. With the St. Kitts Music Festival in full swing, air arrivals climbed to around 13,200 – about 16% more than May and 6% higher than June 2024. The island felt the lift: flights were fuller, nights were livelier and the summer tourism season got off to a vibrant start.

SOURCE: ST. KITTS AND NEVIS INFORMATION SERVICE (SKNIS)

WILL 2025 MARK A FULL RECOVERY?

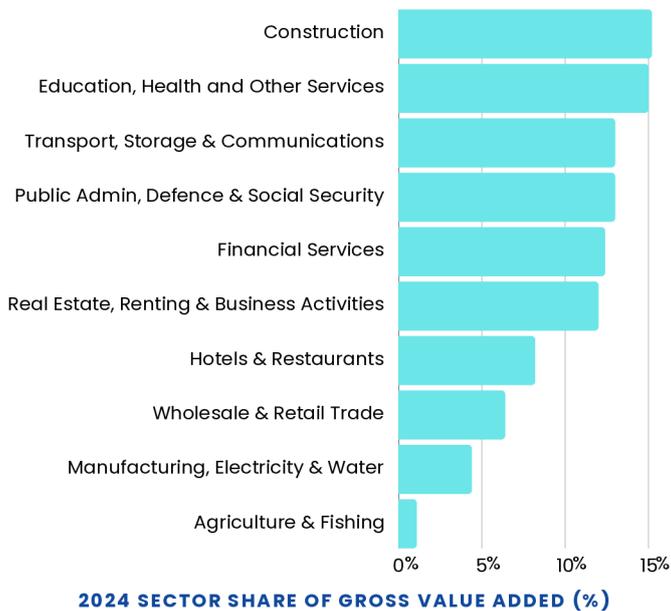


THE ECONOMY IN FOCUS

Each year, the economy of St. Kitts and Nevis generates value through sectors such as tourism, construction, retail, transport, financial services, and the public sector. These activities are measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – the total value of goods and services produced within the country, usually over a 12-month period. Quarterly estimates are also produced to give more timely information to policymakers.

The Department of Statistics compiles GDP using various data sources, including business financials, Customs records, government accounts and selected administrative data, including utilities, tourism and transport. Estimates are revised periodically – quarterly or annually – as more complete information becomes available, in line with international standards.

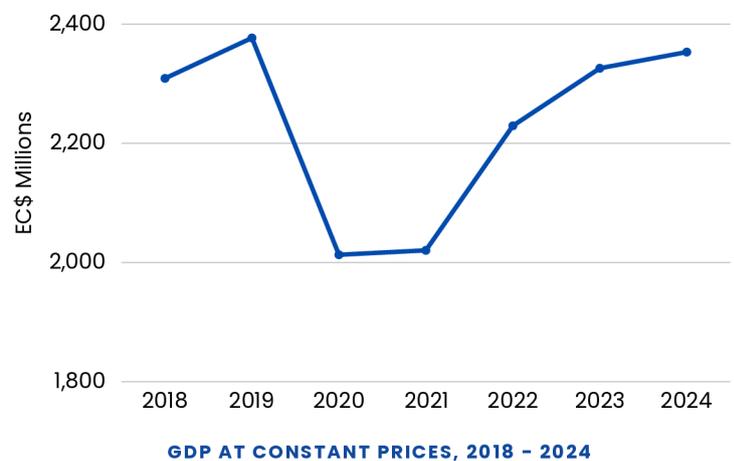
INSIDE THE GDP



In 2024, the largest parts of the economy comprised of Construction; Transport and Communications; Public Administration and related services; Real Estate and Business Services; and Hotels and Restaurants. Sectors producing goods such as agriculture, manufacturing and mining make up a smaller portion.

This breakdown of the economy by Gross Value Added shows which sectors contribute the most to the country's wealth and jobs. It highlights how services and construction are the main engines of growth today, while goods-producing sectors like agriculture and manufacturing still play an important role in supporting communities and providing essential products.

In real terms (constant prices), the economy followed a clear path from 2018 to 2024: stable before the pandemic, a sharp drop in 2020 due to the widespread impact of COVID-19, and a steady rebound through to 2024. By the latest year, activity had more or less returned to pre-pandemic levels – a sign of recovery and stability, rather than rapid expansion. Looking ahead, further growth will depend less on broad economy-wide shifts and more on increased activity within key sectors.



Together, these changes remind us that behind every number are the people and businesses driving the nation's progress. When key sectors grow, it often leads to more jobs, increased local spending, busier supermarkets, more visits to hardware stores and more frequent travel.

Want to explore more? 
Data tables are available at www.stats.gov.kn

BEYOND THE BORDERS

OUR ECONOMY WORLDWIDE

Every time money enters or leaves St. Kitts and Nevis – whether through trade, tourism, investment or remittances – it affects the country's economic balance. These transactions are measured through the Balance of Payments (BoP), which records how funds move between the local economy and the rest of the world. It shows whether the country is earning more from abroad or spending more overseas.

The Department of Statistics collects BoP data from businesses and agencies involved in international transactions. These entities receive forms to report any cross-border activity, such as trade, investment or financial transfers. The data helps build a clearer picture of the country's economic links with the rest of the world. It also supports informed decisions on trade, investment and national development.

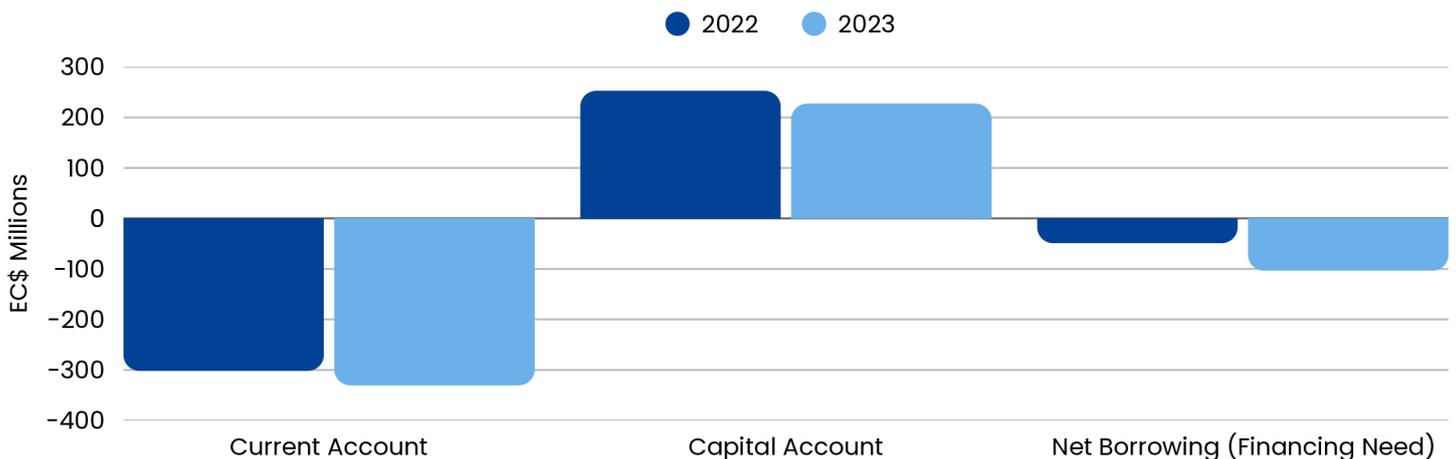


INSIDE THE BOP – 2023

In 2023, the overall gap widened, with the current account deficit growing by about 10%. This shift wasn't due to major price swings at home – it reflected what we earned and spent abroad, particularly in trade and other cross-border flows.

The biggest drag came from goods: exports dropped while imports stayed relatively flat, widening the goods deficit. Services, especially tourism, provided a boost but not enough to fully offset weaker goods performance. The capital account, which has offered support in past years, also shrank by about 10%.

Tourism was the strongest positive contributor, helping to offset declines in goods exports and a smaller capital account surplus. Income flows also improved as both the primary income deficit and the secondary income deficit narrowed. The overall shortfall was financed through a combination of foreign exchange reserves and net inflows from portfolio and other investments. Direct investment remained positive but came in lower than the year before. Key areas to watch include the strength of tourism, the pace of export recovery and the timing of investment inflows. If tourism stays strong and exports stabilize, the external position is likely to improve without major policy shifts.



BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, KEY BALANCES – 2023 VS 2022



CENSUS 2022: A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

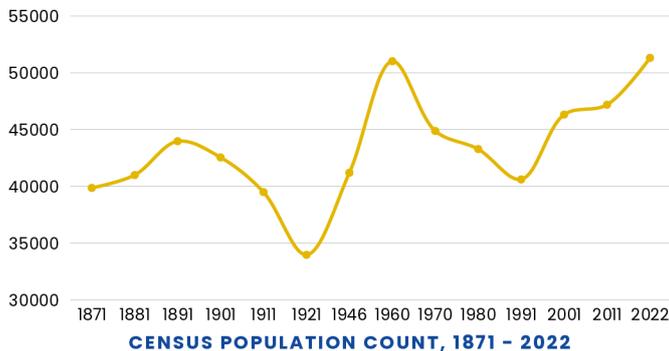
WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY ABOUT OUR CHANGING FEDERATION

Every ten years, the Department of Statistics leads the Population and Housing Census in St. Kitts and Nevis, coordinating trained enumerators who visit households across both islands to collect detailed information. More than numbers, the census reveals who we are, where we live and how our communities are changing.

A Population and Housing Census is a detailed count of everyone living in the country and the conditions in which they live. It goes beyond just numbers to provide a full picture of the population's size, distribution and living arrangements.

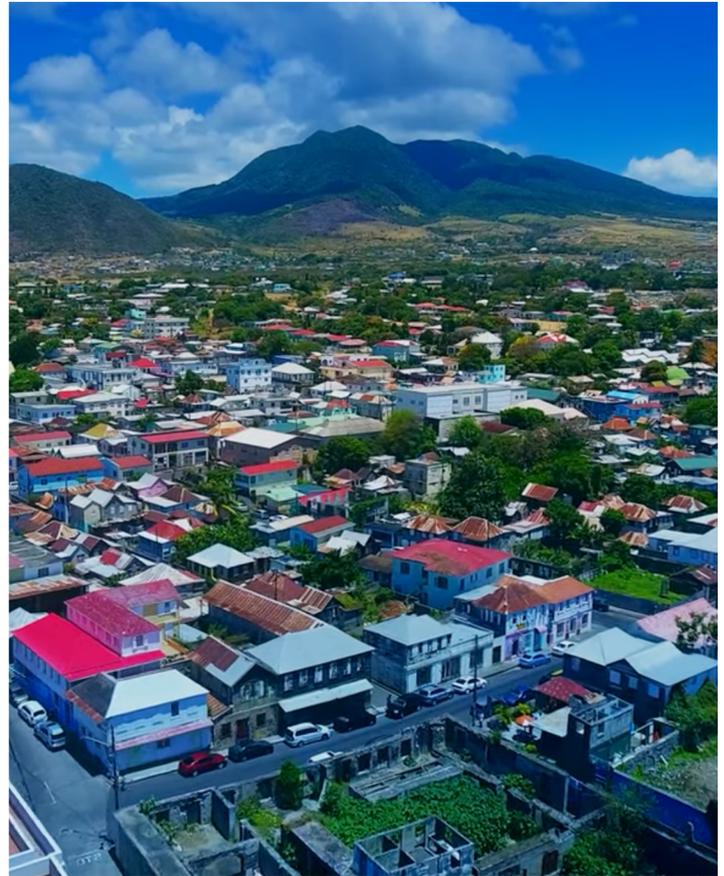
Extensive preparation goes into the process. Enumerators are trained to collect accurate data and detailed maps ensure every community and household is covered.

INSIDE THE COUNT



The 2022 Census recorded 51,320 people living across St. Kitts and Nevis, an 8.7% increase since the last count and the highest total ever recorded. Most of the population (around 74%) resides on St. Kitts, with Nevis accounting for the remaining 26%.

The age profile is also shifting. The median age is now 34, with residents of Nevis slightly older on average than those on St. Kitts. This reflects a growing number of adults in their prime working years, more seniors and fewer children compared to a decade ago.



SOURCE: MIROSLAW WAWAK

Households are changing too. There are 28% more households than in 2011 and they tend to be smaller (more one and two-person homes), which is reshaping demand for housing across both islands.

Changing Communities

Population growth varies across the federation. Trinity parish grew by 38% since 2011, while St. Mary declined slightly by 2.7%. On Nevis, St. John increased 15%, whereas St. George fell by nearly 7%. This uneven growth reflects shifting patterns across the islands. They offer a glimpse into how communities are evolving.

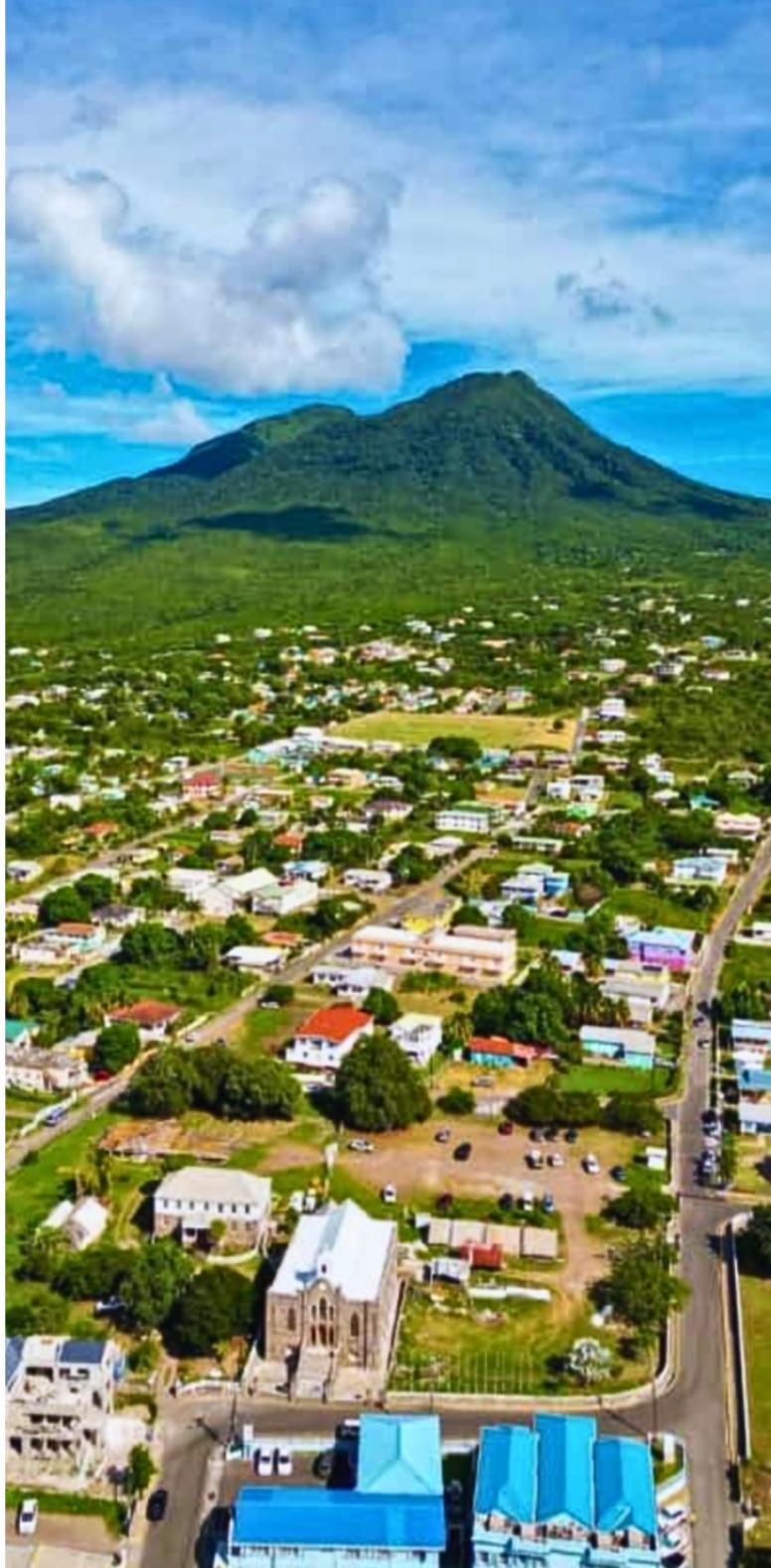
HOMES, HOUSING & DAILY LIFE

Owning a home continues to be the norm across the federation, with about 60% of households living in properties they own, while roughly 32% rent or lease. In terms of housing types, the majority of households (around 64%) reside in undivided private houses, reflecting a preference for standalone homes, while approximately 20% live in flats, apartments or condominiums. The remaining households occupy parts of private houses or other less common dwelling arrangements.

These patterns of homeownership and dwelling types exist alongside a demographic balance where, on average, there are about 41 dependents for every 100 working-age individuals. This demographic structure influences housing needs, economic planning and social service demands.

Together, tenure, housing types and demographic makeup shape daily life, guiding decisions on where to develop new housing and how to allocate resources for clinics, schools and community centres to meet the evolving needs of the population.

 *Want to explore more?
Read the 2022 Preliminary Population & Housing
Census Summary Report available at www.stats.gov.kn*



WHY PARTICIPATION MATTERS

Much of what we know about housing, households and community needs comes directly from national surveys such as the Population and Housing Census, the Labour Force Survey and other household surveys. Every household that takes part helps build a clearer picture of how people live, work and move through daily life.

These surveys provide critical data that helps shape decisions about jobs, education, healthcare, infrastructure and public services across the federation. That's why honest participation matters – whether it's the 2031 Census, other national surveys or forms for social assistance and other public services. The more accurate the information, the better programmes and policies can be designed to serve communities fairly and effectively.

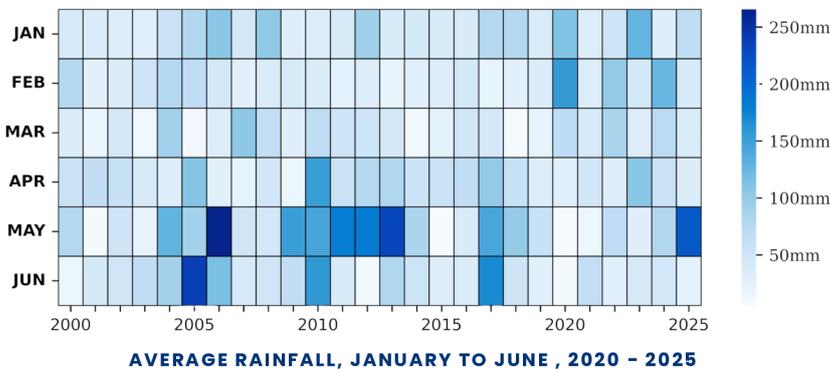
THE ECO SNAPSHOT

A QUICK LOOK AT CLIMATE AND CONSUMPTION INDICATORS

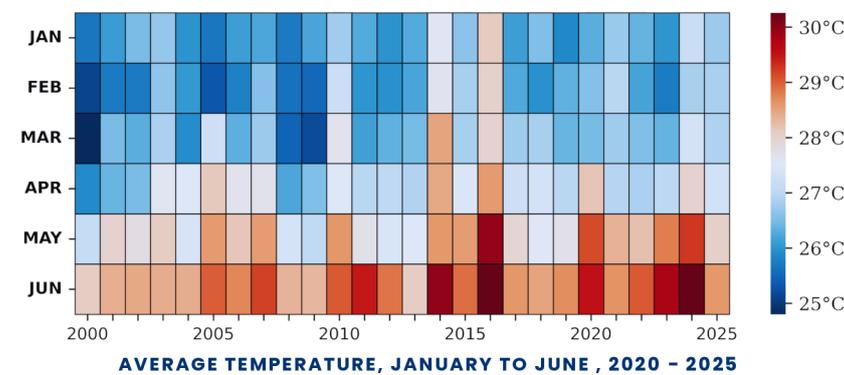
Climate and environmental statistics are essential for tracking the health of our natural environment. The Department of Statistics compiles and analyzes data from key sources across the federation. This information guides strategic planning and policy-making and is regularly shared with international organizations like the United Nations, providing a comprehensive understanding of our environmental conditions and resource usage compared to global standards.



RAIN OR SHINE?



Rainfall in 2025 is showing the same kind of unpredictable shifts we've seen in recent years. While some months saw only small amounts of rain, May 2025 brought one of the highest rainfall totals in the last 25 years. Such extremes reflect increasing climate unpredictability.



Temperatures in 2025 are following the same warming trend we've seen in recent years, with many months now hotter than they were about 20 years ago. Even the cooler months, like January and February, aren't as cold as they used to be. The warming now affects the whole year, not just summer.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Recent data show that recycling is becoming a more established part of waste management across the federation. Over the most recent years, there has been a consistent increase in the collection of recyclable materials such as plastics, cardboard and metals.

In 2024 alone, the amount of material recycled rose by just over 21% compared with the previous year. While recycling still accounts for a relatively small portion of total waste, the continued increase points to meaningful progress in reducing landfill use and promoting more sustainable waste practices.

NOTE: Climate data are sourced from the Met Offices of both St. Kitts and Nevis, while waste management data comes from the St. Kitts Solid Waste Management Corporation and the Nevis Solid Waste Authority.

Want to explore more?
Tables are available at www.stats.gov.kn

Release Calendar — 2026

Monthly

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Quarterly

Quarterly Gross Domestic Product by Expenditure

Tourism Updates

Trade Updates

Annually

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Digest of Statistics

Environmental Statistics Compendium

Tourism Report

Upcoming Events On The Calendar

Statistics Week 2025

October 12th – 17th, 2025

School visits will take place across both islands, featuring fun and informative sessions with live polling in selected schools. Students will explore how data connects to daily life through interactive activities designed to spark interest in statistics.

Census 2022 Community Outreach

October 13th – 31st, 2025

Post-Census engagement continues with results being shared in selected parishes across both islands. Activities include community meetings and radio segments focused on what the data shows and why it matters.

Note: Data release schedules depend on availability and can vary between indicators.

Published by

The Department of Statistics
Ministry of Sustainable Development, St. Kitts & Nevis



Tel: (869) 467 - 1257

General email: statistics@gov.kn

Publications and outreach: statsinfo@gov.kn

Website: <https://www.stats.gov.kn/>

No part of this information may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without the prior consent of the Department of Statistics, St. Kitts.