

# MONTSERAT

*Capital:* Plymouth

*Population:* 11,252 (1978)

*GNP per capita:* US\$500 (1976)

**HISTORY.** Montserrat was discovered by Columbus in 1493 and colonized by Irish settlers in 1632.

**AREA AND POPULATION.** Montserrat is situated in the Caribbean Sea 25 miles south-west of Antigua. The area is 39.5 sq. miles (106 sq. km). Population, 1978, 11,252. Chief town, Plymouth, 3,200 inhabitants.

**CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.** Montserrat is a crown colony. The Executive Council is composed of 4 unofficial members (the Chief Minister and 3 other Ministers) and 2 official members (Attorney-General and Financial Secretary). The Legislative Council consists of 7 elected and 2 official members (the Attorney-General and Financial Secretary). The Executive Council is presided over by the Governor and the Legislative Council by the Speaker.

*Governor:* G. W. Jones, CBE.

*Chief Minister:* J. A. Osborne.

*Flag:* The British Blue Ensign with the shield of Montserrat in the fly.

**FINANCE.** In 1978 the budget estimates balanced at EC\$17,691,991 (including grant-in-aid).

**TRADE.** Imports in 1978 totalled EC\$26,927,266; domestic exports, EC\$1,921,052. Chief imports were manufactured goods, food and beverages. Chief exports in 1978 were hot peppers, tomatoes and manufactured articles.

**AGRICULTURE.** Livestock (1978); Cattle, 8,000; pigs, 3,000; sheep, 3,000; goats, 3,000; poultry, 30,000.

**TOURISM.** In 1978, 15,350 tourists arrived in Montserrat.

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Aviation.** At the modernized Blackburne airport 2,513 aircraft landed in 1978, disembarking 25,017 passengers and 467 tons of cargo.

**Shipping.** In 1978, 506 vessels arrived, landing 24,104 and loading 13,897 tons of cargo.

**Post.** Number of telephones (1978), 1,978.

## JUSTICE, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

**Justice.** There are 2 magistrates' courts, at Plymouth and Cudjoe Head. Strength of the police force (1978), 2 gazetted officers, 4 inspectors and 88 other ranks.

**Education.** There are 12 government elementary, 1 government secondary, 2 grant-aided denominational elementary schools, 2 junior secondary schools, 2 preparatory private schools for children between the ages of 5 and 12 and 11 nursery schools. In 1978, 2,164 children were enrolled in the primary schools, with 110 teachers; 700 in the secondary schools, with 32 teachers. There was 1 technical college with 56 students and 8 teachers.

**Health.** In 1978 there were 9 doctors and 65 hospital beds.

## Books of Reference

*Overseas Trade 1976.* Montserrat Government

*Statistical Digest 1977.* Montserrat Government

*Library:* Public Library, Plymouth. *Librarian:* Mrs J. Grell.