

Population

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1 Population Overview

The population across OECS Member States shows significant diversity, with Saint Lucia being the most populous. This demographic landscape provides insights into gender distribution and potential implications for education systems.

473,319	235,320	237,999	0.99
TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL MALE	TOTAL FEMALE	MALE-TO-FEMALE RATIO

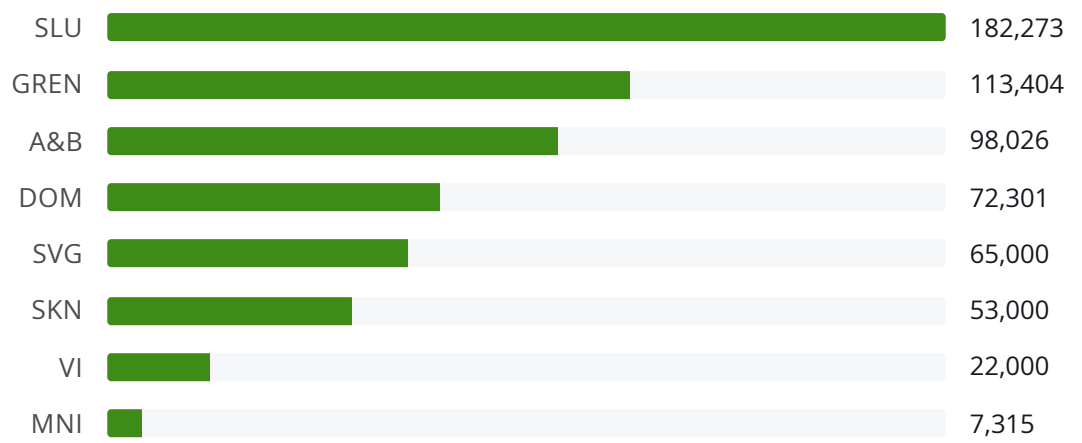
The total population of the OECS Member States is 473,319, with a nearly equal distribution between males and females. The male-to-female ratio stands at 0.99, indicating a slight female majority.

2 Population by Member State

Table 1 Population Distribution by Member State

MEMBER STATE	TOTAL POPULATION	MALE	FEMALE
Saint Lucia	182,273	91,870	90,403
Grenada	113,404	56,613	56,791
Antigua and Barbuda	98,026	49,333	48,693
Dominica	72,301	36,201	36,100
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	65,000	32,500	32,500
Saint Kitts and Nevis	53,000	26,500	26,500
Virgin Islands	22,000	11,000	11,000
Montserrat	7,315	3,701	3,614
Total	613,319	307,718	305,601

Figure 1 Population by Member State



Saint Lucia has the largest population, while Montserrat has the smallest. This range in population sizes highlights the diverse demographic landscape of the OECS subregion.

3 Gender Distribution

Table 2 Gender Distribution by Member State

MEMBER STATE	MALE (%)	FEMALE (%)
Saint Lucia	50.4%	49.6%
Grenada	49.9%	50.1%
Antigua and Barbuda	50.3%	49.7%
Dominica	50.1%	49.9%
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	50.0%	50.0%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	50.0%	50.0%
Virgin Islands	50.0%	50.0%
Montserrat	50.6%	49.4%
Total	50.0%	50.0%

Figure 2 Gender Distribution by Member State

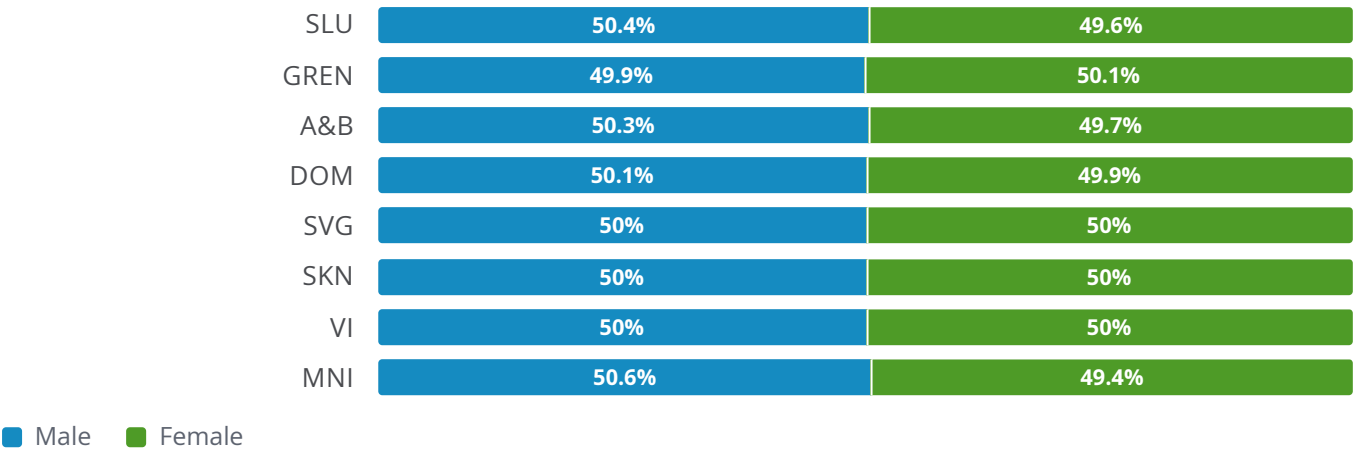
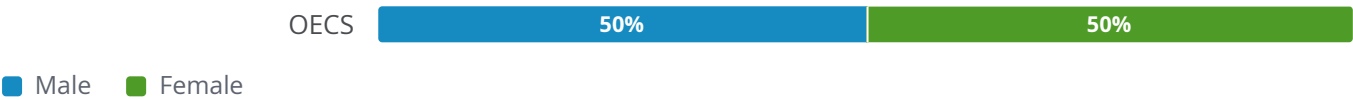


Figure 3 OECS Gender Composition



Gender distribution across the OECS is nearly balanced, with minor deviations in some countries. This parity suggests equitable gender representation across the region.

4 Demographic Implications for Education

Smaller populations, such as in Montserrat, pose challenges for maintaining educational institutions and can lead to higher per-pupil costs. Larger populations, like in Saint Lucia, may require more resources to meet educational demand.

Table 3 Population and Education Metrics

MEMBER STATE	TOTAL POPULATION	POTENTIAL STUDENTS	INSTITUTIONS
Saint Lucia	182,273	50,000	100
Grenada	113,404	30,000	60
Antigua and Barbuda	98,026	25,000	50
Dominica	72,301	20,000	40
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	65,000	18,000	30
Saint Kitts and Nevis	53,000	15,000	25
Virgin Islands	22,000	6,000	10
Montserrat	7,315	2,000	5
Total	613,319	166,000	320

KEY FINDING

Smaller populations face challenges in sustaining educational infrastructure, affecting cost efficiency and resource allocation.

5 Key Observations and Policy Implications

POSITIVE TREND

Gender parity across the OECS suggests balanced opportunities for both males and females.

AREA OF CONCERN

Smaller states may struggle with educational viability due to limited population sizes.

CRITICAL ISSUE

Resource allocation needs to be tailored to address the unique demographic challenges of each Member State.

Strategic planning is essential to address the diverse needs of OECS Member States. Policymakers should focus on equitable resource distribution, infrastructure development, and tailored educational

programmes to meet demographic demands.