



British Virgin Islands



Background	First inhabited by Arawak and later by Carib Indians, the Virgin Islands were settled by the Dutch in 1648 and then annexed by the English in 1672. The islands were part of the British colony of the Leeward Islands (1872-1960); they were granted autonomy in 1967. The economy is closely tied to the larger and more populous US Virgin Islands to the west, and the US dollar is the legal currency. In 2017, Hurricane Irma devastated the island of Tortola. An estimated 80% of residential and business structures were destroyed or damaged, communications disrupted, and local roads rendered impassable.
Capital	name: Road Town
Government type	Overseas Territory of the UK with limited self-government; parliamentary democracy
Area	total : 151 sq km land: 151 sq km water: 0 sq km
Climate	subtropical; humid; temperatures moderated by trade winds
Natural resources	NEGL; pleasant climate, beaches foster tourism
Population	total: 40,102 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	1.82% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	African/Black 76.3%, Latino 5.5%, White 5.4%, mixed 5.3%, Indian 2.1%, East Indian 1.6%, other 3%, unspecified 0.8% (2010 est.)
Religions	Protestant 70.2% (Methodist 17.6%, Church of God 10.4%, Anglican 9.5%, Seventh Day Adventist 9.0%, Pentecostal 8.2%, Baptist 7.4%, New Testament Church of God 6.9%, other Protestant 1.2%), Roman Catholic 8.9%, Jehovah's Witness 2.5%, Hindu 1.9%, other 6.2%, none 7.9%, unspecified 2.4% (2010 est.)
Languages	English (official), Virgin Islands Creole
Executive branch	chief of state: King CHARLES III (since 8 September 2022); represented by Governor Daniel PRUCE (since 29 January 2024) head of government: Premier Dr. Natalio WHEATLEY (since 5 May 2022)
Legislative branch	legislature name: House of Assembly
Diplomatic representation from the US	embassy: none (overseas territory of the UK)
Economic overview	British Caribbean island territorial economy; strong tourism and services industries; vulnerable to hurricanes; navigating public debt insolvency since 2008 Crisis; considered a tax haven; high electrification costs; major rum exporter

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$1.634 billion (2024 est.) \$1.579 billion (2023 est.) \$1.537 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$40,500 (2024 est.) \$38,600 (2023 est.) \$38,400 (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	Malta 33%, Guyana 22%, Greece 11%, Germany 7%, Indonesia 4% (2023)
Exports - commodities	ships, refined petroleum, aircraft, molasses, precious stones (2023)
Imports - partners	USA 34%, Italy 10%, France 9%, China 8%, Luxembourg 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	ships, refined petroleum, aircraft, railway cargo containers, jewelry (2023)

Population Pyramid

