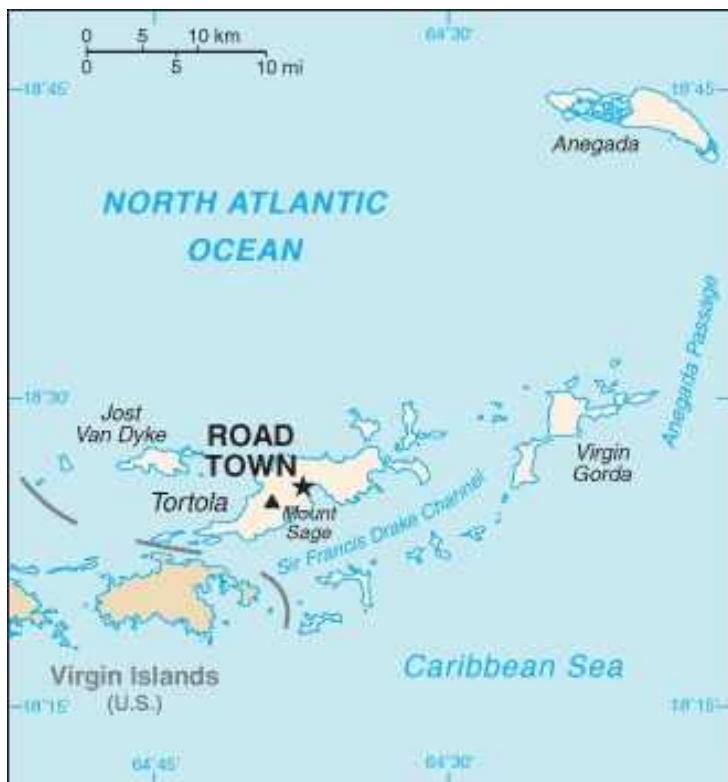




British Virgin Islands



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

