



Virgin Islands



Background	The Danes secured control over the southern Virgin Islands of Saint Thomas, Saint John, and Saint Croix during the 17th and early 18th centuries. Sugarcane, produced by African slave labor, drove the islands' economy during the 18th and early 19th centuries. In 1917, the US purchased the Danish holdings, which had been in economic decline since the abolition of slavery in 1848. In 2017, Hurricane Irma passed over the northern Virgin Islands of Saint Thomas and Saint John and inflicted severe damage to structures, roads, the airport on Saint Thomas, communications, and electricity. Less than two weeks later, Hurricane Maria passed over the island of Saint Croix in the southern Virgin Islands, inflicting considerable damage with heavy winds and flooding rains.
Capital	name: Charlotte Amalie
Government type	unincorporated organized territory of the US with local self-government; republican form of territorial government with separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches
Area	total : 1,910 sq km land: 346 sq km water: 1,564 sq km
Climate	subtropical, tempered by easterly trade winds, relatively low humidity, little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season September to November
Natural resources	pleasant climate, beaches foster tourism
Population	total: 104,377 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	-0.54% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	African-American or African descent 71.4%, White 13.3%, Indigenous 0.4%, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander 0.1%, other 6.3%, mixed 7.5% (2020 est.)
Religions	Protestant 65.5%, Roman Catholic 27.1%, other Christians 2.2%, other 1.5%, none 3.7% (2010 est.)
Languages	English 71.6%, Spanish or Spanish Creole 17.2%, French or French Creole 8.6%, other 2.5% (2010 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: President Donald J. TRUMP (since 20 January 2025) head of government: Governor Albert BRYAN, Jr. (since 7 January 2019)
Legislative branch	note: the Virgin Islands delegate to the US House of Representatives can vote when serving on a committee and when the House meets as the Committee of the Whole House, but not when legislation is submitted for a "full floor" House vote

Economic overview high-income, tourism-based American territorial economy; severe COVID-19 economic disruptions; major rum distillery; high public debt; sluggish reopening of large oil refinery; environmentally susceptible to hurricanes; many informal industries

Real GDP (purchasing power parity) \$4.9 billion (2022 est.)
\$4.965 billion (2021 est.)
\$4.789 billion (2020 est.)

Real GDP per capita \$46,500 (2022 est.)
\$46,900 (2021 est.)
\$45,100 (2020 est.)

Exports \$4.549 billion (2022 est.)
\$4.069 billion (2021 est.)
\$1.62 billion (2020 est.)

Exports - partners Haiti 14%, Guadeloupe 7%, Malaysia 7%, Martinique 7%, Barbados 7%, British Virgin Islands 5% (2019)

Exports - commodities refined petroleum, jewelry, recreational boats, watches, rum (2019)

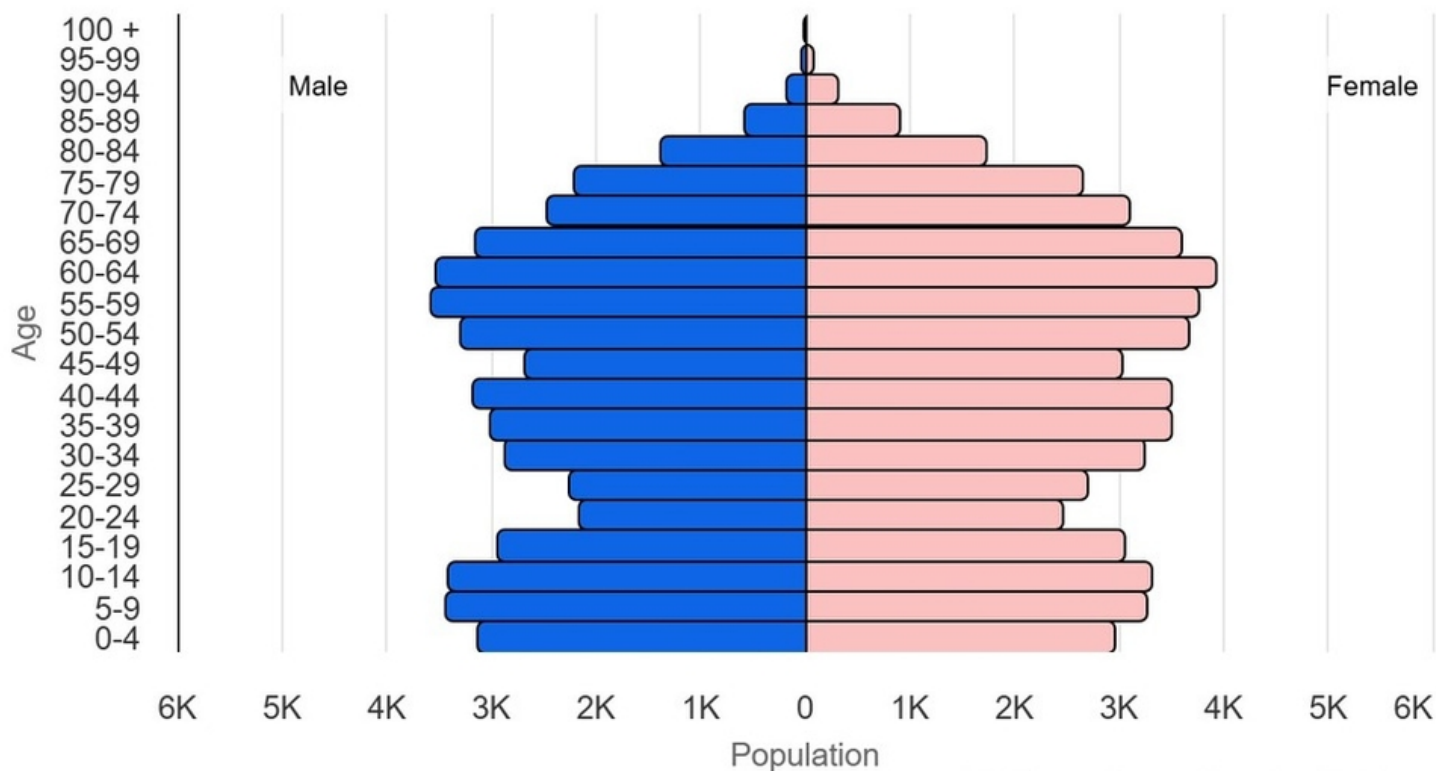
Imports \$5.058 billion (2022 est.)
\$4.057 billion (2021 est.)
\$3.184 billion (2020 est.)

Imports - partners India 18%, Algeria 14%, South Korea 9%, Argentina 9%, Sweden 7%, Brazil 5% (2019)

Imports - commodities refined petroleum, crude petroleum, rubber piping, jewelry, beer (2019)

Population Pyramid

Virgin Islands, U.S. (2024)



U.S. Census Bureau, International Database