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# Chapter 1

## 36

### 1.1 36.guide

Texified version of data for British Virgin Islands.

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British Virgin Islands

### 1.2 36.guide/British Virgin Islands

British Virgin Islands  
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Header (British Virgin Islands)  
 Geography (British Virgin Islands)  
 People (British Virgin Islands)  
 Government (British Virgin Islands)  
 Economy (British Virgin Islands)  
 Communications (British Virgin Islands)  
 Defense Forces (British Virgin Islands)

### 1.3 36.guide/Header (British Virgin Islands)

Header (British Virgin Islands)  
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Affiliation:  
     (dependent territory of the UK)

### 1.4 36.guide/Geography (British Virgin Islands)

Geography (British Virgin Islands)  
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Location:  
     in the eastern Caribbean Sea, about 110 km east of Puerto Rico  
 Map references:  
     Central America and the Caribbean  
 Area:  
     total area:  
         150 km<sup>2</sup>  
     land area:  
         150 km<sup>2</sup>  
     comparative area:  
         about 0.8 times the size of Washington, DC  
 note:  
     includes the island of Anegada  
 Land boundaries:  
     0 km  
 Coastline:  
     80 km  
 Maritime claims:  
     exclusive fishing zone:  
         200 nm  
     territorial sea:  
         3 nm  
 International disputes:  
     none  
 Climate:

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subtropical; humid; temperatures moderated by trade winds  
Terrain:  
coral islands relatively flat; volcanic islands steep, hilly  
Natural resources:  
negligible  
Land use:  
arable land:  
20%  
permanent crops:  
7%  
meadows and pastures: 33%  
forest and woodland:  
7%  
other:  
33%  
Irrigated land:  
NA km2  
Environment:  
subject to hurricanes and tropical storms from July to October  
Note:  
strong ties to nearby US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico

## 1.5 36.guide/People (British Virgin Islands)

People (British Virgin Islands)

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Population:  
12,707 (July 1993 est.)  
Population growth rate:  
1.22% (1993 est.)  
Birth rate:  
20.37 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
Death rate:  
6.11 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
Net migration rate:  
-2.1 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
Infant mortality rate:  
19.68 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
Life expectancy at birth:  
total population:  
72.62 years  
male:  
70.77 years  
female:  
74.6 years (1993 est.)  
Total fertility rate:  
2.28 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
Nationality:  
noun:  
British Virgin Islander(s)  
adjective:  
British Virgin Islander

## Ethnic divisions:

black 90%, white, Asian

## Religions:

Protestant 86% (Methodist 45%, Anglican 21%, Church of God 7%, Seventh-Day Adventist 5%, Baptist 4%, Jehovah's Witnesses 2%, other 2%), Roman Catholic 6%, none 2%, other 6% (1981)

## Languages:

English (official)

## Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1970)

total population:

98%

male:

98% female:

98%

## Labor force:

4,911 (1980)

by occupation:

NA

## 1.6 36.guide/Government (British Virgin Islands)

Government (British Virgin Islands)

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## Names:

conventional long form:

none

conventional short form:

British Virgin Islands

## Abbreviation:

BVI

## Digraph:

VI

## Type:

dependent territory of the UK

## Capital:

Road Town

## Administrative divisions:

none (dependent territory of the UK)

## Independence:

none (dependent territory of the UK)

## Constitution:

1 June 1977

## Legal system:

English law

## National holiday:

Territory Day, 1 July

## Political parties and leaders:

United Party (UP), Conrad MADURO; Virgin Islands Party (VIP), H. Lavity STOUTT; Independent Progressive Movement (IPM), Cyril B. ROMNEY

## Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

**Elections:****Legislative Council:**

last held 12 November 1990 (next to be held by November 1995); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (9 total) VIP 6, IPM 1, independents 2

**Executive branch:**

British monarch, governor, chief minister, Executive Council (cabinet)

**Legislative branch:**

unicameral Legislative Council

**Judicial branch:**

Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court

**Leaders:****Chief of State:**

Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor Peter Alfred PENFOLD (since NA 1991)

**Head of Government:**

Chief Minister H. Lavity STOUTT (since NA 1986)

Member of: CARICOM (associate), CDB, ECLAC (associate), IOC, OECS (← associate), UNESCO (associate)

**Diplomatic representation in US:**

none (dependent territory of UK)

**Flag:**

blue with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and the ← Virgin

Islander coat of arms centered in the outer half of the flag; the coat of arms depicts a woman flanked on either side by a vertical column of six oil lamps above a scroll bearing the Latin word VIGILATE (Be Watchful)

## 1.7 36.guide/Economy (British Virgin Islands)

### Economy (British Virgin Islands)

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**Overview:**

The economy, one of the most prosperous in the Caribbean area, is highly dependent on the tourist industry, which generates about 21% of the ← national

income. In 1985 the government offered offshore registration to companies wishing to incorporate in the islands, and, in consequence, incorporation fees generated about \$2 million in 1987. The economy slowed in 1991 because of the poor performances of the tourist sector and tight commercial bank credit. Livestock raising is the most significant agricultural activity. ←

The islands' crops, limited by poor soils, are unable to meet food requirements ←

**National product:**

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$133 million (1991)

**National product real growth rate:**

2% (1991)

**National product per capita:**

\$10,600 (1991)

**Inflation rate (consumer prices):**

2.5% (1990 est.)



Unemployment rate:  
 NEGL% (1992)

Budget:  
 revenues \$51 million; expenditures \$88 million, including capital  
 expenditures of \$38 million (1991)

Exports:  
 \$2.7 million (f.o.b., 1988)  
 commodities:  
 rum, fresh fish, gravel, sand, fruits, animals  
 partners:  
 Virgin Islands (US), Puerto Rico, US

Imports:  
 \$11.5 million (c.i.f., 1988)  
 commodities:  
 building materials, automobiles, foodstuffs, machinery  
 partners:  
 Virgin Islands (US), Puerto Rico, US

External debt:  
 \$4.5 million (1985)

Industrial production:  
 growth rate 4.0% (1985)

Electricity:  
 10,500 kW capacity; 43 million kWh produced, 3,510 kWh per capita (1990)

Industries:  
 tourism, light industry, construction, rum, concrete block, offshore  
 financial center

Agriculture:  
 livestock (including poultry), fish, fruit, vegetables

Economic aid:  
 NA

Currency:  
 US currency is used

Exchange rates:  
 US currency is used

Fiscal year:  
 1 April - 31 March

## 1.8 36.guide/Communications (British Virgin Islands)

Communications (British Virgin Islands)

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Highways:  
 106 km motorable roads (1983)

Ports:  
 Road Town

Airports:  
 total:  
 3  
 usable:  
 3  
 with permanent-surface runways:  
 2

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

0

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

0

Telecommunications:

3,000 telephones; worldwide external telephone service; submarine cable communication links to Bermuda; broadcast stations - 1 AM, no FM, 1 TV

## 1.9 36.guide/Defense Forces (British Virgin Islands)

Defense Forces (British Virgin Islands)

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Note:

defense is the responsibility of the UK