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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

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 km²
 land area:
 150 km²
 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:

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