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Chapter 1

255

1.1 255.guide

Texified version of data for Virgin Islands.

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Virgin Islands

1.2 255.guide/Virgin Islands

Virgin Islands

Header (Virgin Islands)
 Geography (Virgin Islands)
 People (Virgin Islands)
 Government (Virgin Islands)
 Government (Virgin Islands 2. usage)
 Economy (Virgin Islands)
 Communications (Virgin Islands)
 Defense Forces (Virgin Islands)

1.3 255.guide/Header (Virgin Islands)

Header (Virgin Islands)
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Affiliation:
 (territory of the US)

1.4 255.guide/Geography (Virgin Islands)

Geography (Virgin Islands)
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Location:
 in the eastern Caribbean Sea, about 110 km east and southeast of Puerto Rico ↔

Map references:
 Central America and the Caribbean

Area:
 total area:
 352 km²
 land area:
 349 km²
 comparative area:
 slightly less than twice the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries:
 0 km

Coastline:
 188 km

Maritime claims:
 contiguous zone:
 24 nm
 continental shelf:
 200 m or depth of exploitation
 exclusive economic zone:
 200 nm
 territorial sea:

12 nm
 International disputes:
 none
 Climate:
 subtropical, tempered by easterly tradewinds, relatively low humidity,
 little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season May to November
 Terrain:
 mostly hilly to rugged and mountainous with little level land
 Natural resources:
 sun, sand, sea, surf
 Land use:
 arable land:
 15%
 permanent crops:
 6%
 meadows and pastures:
 26%
 forest and woodland:
 6%
 other:
 47%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 rarely affected by hurricanes; subject to frequent severe droughts, floods,
 earthquakes; lack of natural freshwater resources
 Note:
 important location along the Anegada Passage - a key shipping lane for the
 Panama Canal; Saint Thomas has one of the best natural, deepwater harbors ←
 in
 the Caribbean

1.5 255.guide/People (Virgin Islands)

People (Virgin Islands)

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Population:
 98,130 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 -0.76% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 20.26 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 5.2 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate: -22.64 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 12.54 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 75.29 years
 male:
 73.6 years

female:
 77.2 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.64 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Virgin Islander(s)
 adjective:
 Virgin Islander; US citizens
 Ethnic divisions:
 West Indian (45% born in the Virgin Islands and 29% born elsewhere in the West Indies) 74%, US mainland 13%, Puerto Rican 5%, other 8%; black 80%, white 15%, other 5%; Hispanic origin 14%
 Religions:
 Baptist 42%, Roman Catholic 34%, Episcopalian 17%, other 7%
 Languages:
 English (official), Spanish, Creole
 Literacy:
 total population:
 NA%
 male:
 NA%
 female:
 NA%
 Labor force:
 45,500 (1988)
 by occupation:
 tourism 70%

1.6 255.guide/Government (Virgin Islands)

Government (Virgin Islands)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Virgin Islands of the United States
 conventional short form:
 Virgin Islands
 Digraph:
 VQ
 Type:
 organized, unincorporated territory of the US administered by the Office of Territorial and International Affairs, US Department of the Interior
 Capital:
 Charlotte Amalie
 Administrative divisions:
 none (territory of the US)
 Constitution: Revised Organic Act of 22 July 1954
 Legal system:
 based on US
 National holiday:
 Transfer Day, 31 March (1917) (from Denmark to US)

Political parties and leaders:

Democratic Party, Marilyn STAPLETON; Independent Citizens' Movement (ICM),
Viridin C. BROWN; Republican Party, Charlotte-Poole DAVIS

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

Governor:

last held 6 November 1990 (next to be held November 1994); results -
Governor Alexander FARRELLY (Democratic Party) 56.5% defeated Juan LUIS
(independent) 38.5%

Senate:

last held 3 November 1992 (next to be held 2 November 1994); results -
percent of vote by party NA; seats - (15 total) number of seats by party NA

US House of Representatives:

last held 3 November 1992 (next to be held 2 November 1994); results - Ron
DE LUGO reelected as delegate; seats - (1 total); seat by party NA; note -
the Virgin Islands elect one representative to the US House of
Representatives

Executive branch:

US president, popularly elected governor and lieutenant governor

Legislative branch:

unicameral Senate

Judicial branch:

US District Court:

handles civil matters over \$50,000, felonies (persons 15 years of age and
over), and federal cases

Territorial Court:

handles civil matters up to \$50,000, small claims, juvenile, domestic,
misdemeanors, and traffic cases

Leaders:

Chief of State:

President William Jefferson CLINTON (since 20 January 1993); Vice President
Albert GORE, Jr. (since 20 January 1993)

Head of Government:

Governor Alexander A. FARRELLY (since 5 January 1987); Lieutenant Governor
Derek M. HODGE (since 5 January 1987)

Member of:

ECLAC (associate), IOC

1.7 255.guide/Government (Virgin Islands 2. usage)

Government (Virgin Islands 2. usage)

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Diplomatic representation in US:

none (territory of the US)

Flag:

white with a modified US coat of arms in the center between the large blue
initials V and I; the coat of arms shows an eagle holding an olive branch ↔
in

one talon and three arrows in the other with a superimposed shield of
vertical red and white stripes below a blue panel

1.8 255.guide/Economy (Virgin Islands)

Economy (Virgin Islands)

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Overview:

Tourism is the primary economic activity, accounting for more than 70% of GDP and 70% of employment. The manufacturing sector consists of textile, electronics, pharmaceutical, and watch assembly plants. The agricultural sector is small, most food being imported. International business and financial services are a small but growing component of the economy. One of the world's largest petroleum refineries is at Saint Croix.

National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$1.2 billion (1987)

National product real growth rate:

NA%

National product per capita:

\$11,000 (1987)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

NA%

Unemployment rate:

3.7% (1992)

Budget:

revenues \$364.4 million; expenditures \$364.4 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (FY90)

Exports:

\$2.8 billion (f.o.b., 1990)

commodities:

refined petroleum products

partners:

US, Puerto Rico

Imports:

\$3.3 billion (c.i.f., 1990)

commodities:

crude oil, foodstuffs, consumer goods, building materials

partners:

US, Puerto Rico

External debt:

\$NA

Industrial production:

growth rate 12%; accounts for NA% of GDP

Electricity:

380,000 kW capacity; 565 million kWh produced, 5,710 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

tourism, petroleum refining, watch assembly, rum distilling, construction, pharmaceuticals, textiles, electronics

Agriculture:

truck gardens, food crops (small scale), fruit, sorghum, Senepol cattle

Economic aid:

Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), ↔
\$42
million

Currency:
 US currency is used
 Fiscal year:
 1 October - 30 September

1.9 255.guide/Communications (Virgin Islands)

Communications (Virgin Islands)

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Highways:
 856 km total
 Ports:
 Saint Croix - Christiansted, Frederiksted; Saint Thomas - Long Bay, Crown Bay, Red Hook; Saint John - Cruz Bay
 Airports:
 total:
 2
 usable:
 2
 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:
 2
 note:
 international airports on Saint Thomas and Saint Croix
 Telecommunications:
 modern telephone system using fiber-optic cable, submarine cable, microwave radio, and satellite facilities; 58,931 telephones; 98,000 radios; 63,000 ↔ TV sets in use; broadcast stations - 4 AM, 8 FM, 4 TV (1988)

1.10 255.guide/Defense Forces (Virgin Islands)

Defense Forces (Virgin Islands)

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Note:
 defense is the responsibility of the US