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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