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Company formation in the United States Virgin Islands

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Flag

Common form	Corporation or LLC
Registry	Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Division of Corporations and Trademarks
Minimum capital	No statutory minimum
Directors	1 director (corporation)
Local director	A registered agent in the territory
Corporate tax	21% under the mirror of the US Internal Revenue Code, plus a 10% surtax (23.1% in total); Economic Development Commission incentives can cut it by up to 90%
VAT / sales tax	None; gross receipts tax 5%
Typical timeline	Usually 1–2 weeks
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [2]
Currency	US dollar (USD)

In short: To set up a company in the United States Virgin Islands, most founders form a corporation or LLC, registered with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Division of Corporations and Trademarks. Minimum capital: no statutory minimum. Corporate tax: 21% under the mirror of the US Internal Revenue Code, plus a 10% surtax (23.1% in total); Economic Development Commission incentives can cut it by up to 90%. Registration: usually 1–2 weeks (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from the sources listed under References; company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Division of Corporations and Trademarks before filing.

The **United States Virgin Islands** apply a mirror image of the US Internal Revenue Code, with tax paid to the territory instead of the US Treasury. Businesses approved by the **Economic Development Commission** can obtain large tax reductions in return for local investment and jobs.

Business structures

Most founders in the United States Virgin Islands form a corporation or LLC, registered with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Division of Corporations and Trademarks. Other forms are listed below.

- **Corporation or LLC** – the usual company form for private businesses

Requirements

Minimum share capital in the United States Virgin Islands (2026): no statutory minimum. Directors required: 1 director (corporation). Local resident director: a registered agent in the territory.

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: no statutory minimum.
- Directors: 1 director (corporation).
- Local residency: a registered agent in the territory.
- A registered office address in the United States Virgin Islands.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in the United States Virgin Islands (2026): usually 1–2 weeks. The usual steps are:

1. Choose the company form and check that the name is available.
2. Prepare and sign the articles of association.
3. File the registration with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Division of Corporations and Trademarks.
4. Receive the company's registration number, and pay in the share capital where required.
5. Register for corporate tax and VAT or sales tax with the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in the United States Virgin Islands in 2026 is 21% under the mirror of the US Internal Revenue Code, plus a 10% surtax (23.1% in total); Economic Development Commission incentives can cut it by up to 90%. Standard VAT or sales tax: none; gross receipts tax 5%.

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	21% under the mirror of the US Internal Revenue Code, plus a 10% surtax (23.1% in total); Economic Development Commission incentives can cut it by up to 90%
VAT / indirect tax	None; gross receipts tax 5%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	Depends on the payer and recipient; see the Double tax treaties section

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in the United States Virgin Islands: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue, and keep their details up to date with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Division of Corporations and Trademarks.

Double tax treaties

US tax treaties generally do not apply to the US Virgin Islands; the mirror code governs payments to non-residents.

Domestic withholding tax on payments to non-resident companies

Domestic withholding rates on dividends, interest and royalties could not be confirmed from a current source for this short guide; confirm them with the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The reduced rate for each partner country is set by the treaty concerned; confirm it with the tax authority.

Domestic rates from the sources listed under References. Treaty benefits require proof of tax residence and are subject to anti-abuse rules.

Frequently asked questions

How long does it take to register a company in the United States Virgin Islands?

Typical registration time in the United States Virgin Islands: usually 1–2 weeks (as of November 2026), once all documents are ready. Opening a bank account and tax registrations can take longer.

What is the minimum share capital for a company in the United States Virgin Islands?

Minimum share capital in the United States Virgin Islands: no statutory minimum (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in the United States Virgin Islands in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in the United States Virgin Islands in 2026 is 21% under the mirror of the US Internal Revenue Code, plus a 10% surtax (23.1% in total); Economic Development Commission incentives can cut it by up to 90%. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

Can a foreigner own 100% of a company in the United States Virgin Islands?

Yes, for most activities, though some sectors restrict foreign ownership or require approval. Local director rule in the United States Virgin Islands: a registered agent in the territory.

Official registries and resources

The official websites of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Division of Corporations and Trademarks and the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue have not yet been verified by our editors, so they are not linked here. Use the names above to find them, and beware of unofficial look-alike sites.

Figures as of November 2026. Rates, thresholds and procedures change; confirm with the official registry, the tax authority or a local adviser before filing.

See also

- Comparison of company formation by country
- Company formation in the United States
- Company formation in Canada
- Company formation in Mexico
- Company formation in Brazil
- All countries

References

Entries marked **Official** are the registry, government and tax authority sources for this country; footnote numbers in the infobox point to them.

1. List of countries by tax rates (US Virgin Islands) . Wikipedia. Accessed November 2026.
2. Country tax rates (January 2026 update, compiled from PwC and KPMG) . Damodaran Online, NYU Stern. Accessed November 2026.

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