



Population & Demographics

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Summary of Findings

- **The population of the US Virgin Islands is shrinking.** According to the US Virgin Islands of Economic Research, the most recent population estimate for the US Virgins Islands is 87,146. This is an 18.1% decrease from the 2010 population. As of 2015, there was nearly an even split between residents who were born in the US Virgin Islands and those who migrated from elsewhere.
- **The median age in the US Virgin Islands is 44.5.** St. Croix is the youngest of the islands and is closest in age to the US.
- **Incomes in the US Virgin Islands are considerably lower than those in the US.** As of 2015, the median household income across the US Virgin Islands was \$33,964 compared to \$53,889 in the US. The largest proportion of households, 19%, fall into the \$15,000 to \$24,999 income bracket.
- **While about 70% of adults in the US Virgin Islands hold at least a high school diploma, 15% of adults possess a Bachelor's degree or higher.** Across all of the islands, there is a disparity in educational attainment by race. The disparity is most pronounced in the proportion of adults with a Bachelor's degree or higher. 38% of White Virgin Islands residents have obtained at least a Bachelor's degree compared to 16% of Black residents and 13% of other races.
- **A quarter of households in the US Virgin Islands are below the poverty line.** Within the US Virgin Islands, household poverty rates are the highest in St. Croix and the lowest in St. John.



St. Croix Agrifest (St. Croix Tourism).



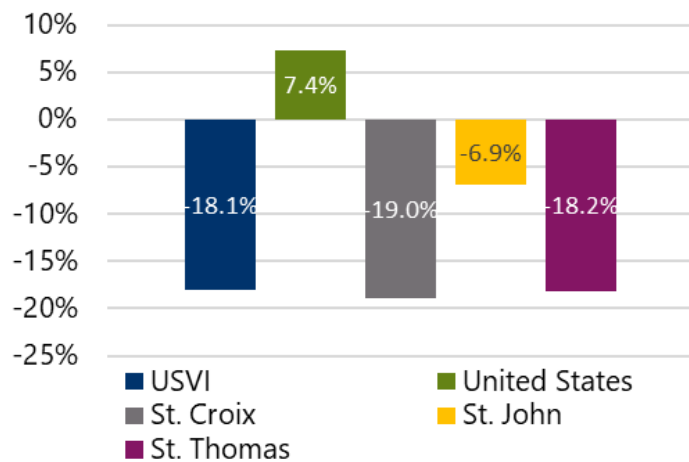
View overlooking Charlotte Amalie in St. Thomas (Horsley Witten Group).

Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Population and Households

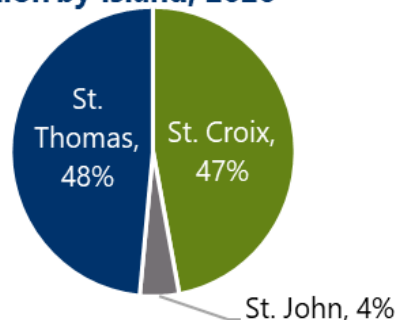
The population of the US Virgin Islands is shrinking. According to the US Virgin Islands of Economic Research, as of 2020, the population is estimated to be 87,146, 18.1% lower than the population level in 2010. This is compared to the United States Population growth of 7.4% over the same period. Recent declines in school enrollment and local observations suggest that the actual population may be even less than this estimate.

Population Change, 2010-2020



Source: USVI Bureau of Economic Research, US Bureau American Community Survey, US Decennial Census

Population Distribution by Island, 2020



Source: USVI Bureau of Economic Research, US Bureau American Community Survey

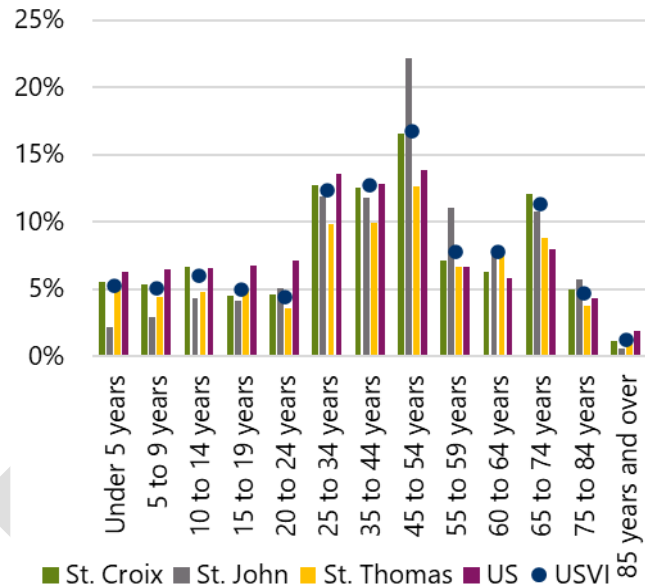
The available data also indicated that 48% of the 2020 population lives on St. Thomas, 47% on St. Croix, and 4% on St. John

Population by Age

The median age in the US Virgin Islands is 44.5. St. Croix is the youngest of the islands and is closest in age to the US. The Virgin Islands have an overall lack of young adults aged 15-24 compared to the US.

Overall, the population of the Islands is similarly distributed by age, except for St. John, as it has a much higher proportion of its population in the age 44 to 59 cohort. St. John has fewer young adults and children than the other islands, specifically lagging in the age 0-19 cohorts.

Age Distribution, 2015



Source: 2015 USVI Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands

Language and Race

Language

Across the US Virgin Islands, 75% of residents speak only English. Spanish is the next most common language followed by French, Patois, and Creole. Of the 25% that speak a language other than English, the majority also speak English at a level categorized as well or very well. Leading to 97% of the US Virgin Islands residents being fluent in English with this percentage holding across the islands.

English Fluency*, 2015

	USVI	St. Croix	St. John	St. Thomas
Speak only English at home	75%	72%	70%	79%
Speaks English Very Well/Well	22%	26%	26%	17%
English Fluent Population	97%	97%	96%	97%

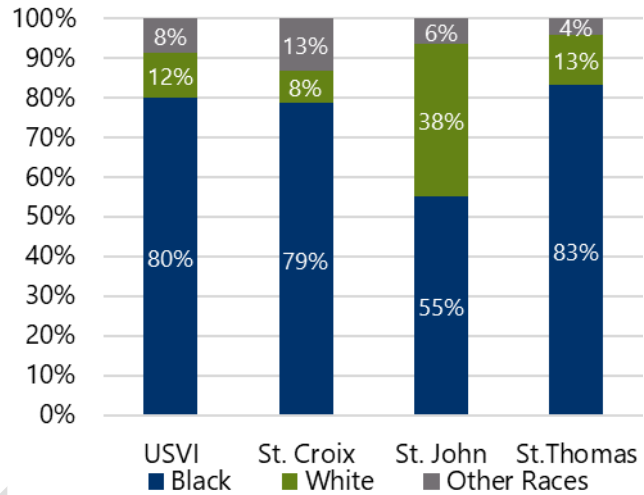
*English Fluency is defined as being able to at least speak English well

Source: 2015 USVI Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands

Race

In terms of race, most of the US Virgin Islands population is Black (80%). 12% of the population is White, and the remaining 8% is comprised of other races. Other races include Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian or Native American, and any other race category not previously described. Among the islands, St. Croix and St. Thomas have a similar racial makeup, with St. John having a higher proportion of White residents (38%) and a smaller proportion of Black residents (55%) than the other islands.

Population by Race, 2015



Source: 2015 USVI Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands

Income

Incomes in the US Virgin Islands are considerably lower than those in the US. As of 2015, the median household income across the US Virgin Islands was \$33,964 compared to \$53,889 in the US. The highest median household income was in St. John at \$48,820 with the lowest being in St. Thomas at \$33,193.

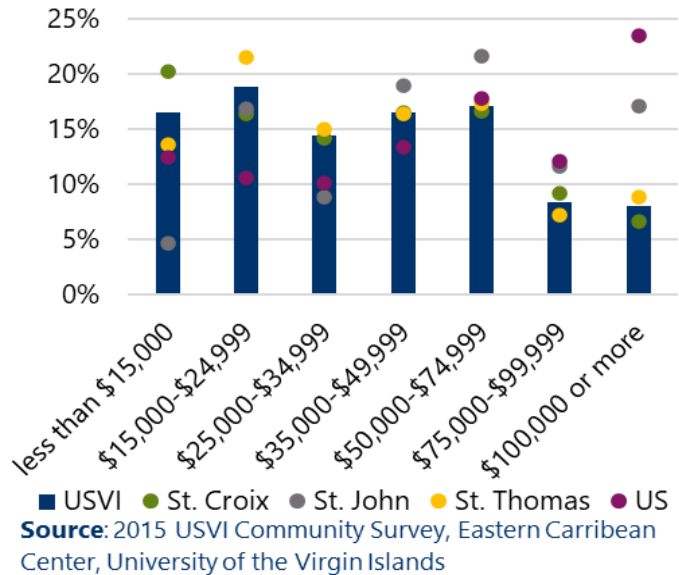
Households by Income, 2015

	USVI	St. Croix	St. John	St. Thomas	US
less than \$15,000	7,430	4,460	79	2,893	14,615,788
\$15,000-\$24,999	8,452	3,608	289	57	12,394,188
\$25,000-\$34,999	6,474	3,138	152	163	11,809,557
\$35,000-\$49,999	7,444	3,643	325	253	15,668,125
\$50,000-\$74,999	7,707	3,661	371	790	20,812,882
\$75,000-\$99,999	3,761	2,031	199	230	14,148,083
\$100,000 or more	3,611	1,450	293	307	27,477,682
Median	\$33,964	\$33,606	\$48,820	\$ 33,193	\$ 53,889
Mean	\$45,256	\$42,642	\$65,042	\$ 46,373	\$ 75,558

Source: 2015 USVI Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands, US Census Bureau

19% of US Virgin Islands households fall into the \$15,000 to \$24,999 income bracket. This was followed by \$50,000-\$74,999 (17%), less than \$15,000 (17%), and \$35,000-\$49,999 (17%). Households with an income of \$75,000 or greater are the remaining 16%.

Household Income Distribution, 2015



Education

70.2% of adults in the US Virgin Islands hold at least a high school diploma and 14.8% of adults possess a Bachelor’s degree or higher. Within the US Virgin Islands, St. Thomas has the highest level of high school educational attainment with 71.8 % holding at least a high school diploma. St. John has the highest level of post-secondary educational attainment, with 18.6% of adults holding at least a Bachelor’s degree. In high school educational attainment and post-secondary educational attainment, St. Croix is the lowest of all the islands.

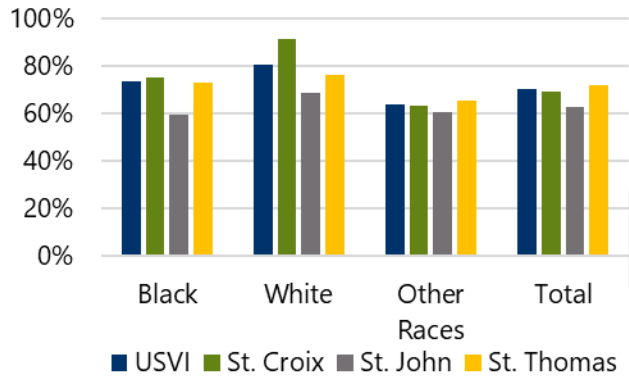
Educational Attainment of Population Over 25 Years Old, 2015

	USVI		St. Croix		St. John		St. Thomas	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Less than High School	22,381	30%	10,985	31%	1,164	59%	10,232	28%
High school graduate (or GED)	29,022	39%	13,244	37%	817	42%	14,960	41%
Some college, no degree	8,656	12%	4,743	13%	211	11%	3,702	10%
Associate degree, occupational	1,534	2%	757	2%	209	11%	568	2%
Associate degree, academic	2,356	3%	1,123	3%	147	7%	1,087	3%
Bachelor degree	8,515	11%	3,276	9%	434	22%	4,805	13%
Post-Bachelor degree	2,572	3%	1,450	4%	147	7%	975	3%
High school or above	52,655	70.2%	24,593	69.1%	1,965	62.8%	26,097	71.8%
Bachelor degree or above	11,087	14.8%	4,726	13.3%	581	18.6%	5,780	15.9%

Source: 2015 USVI Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands

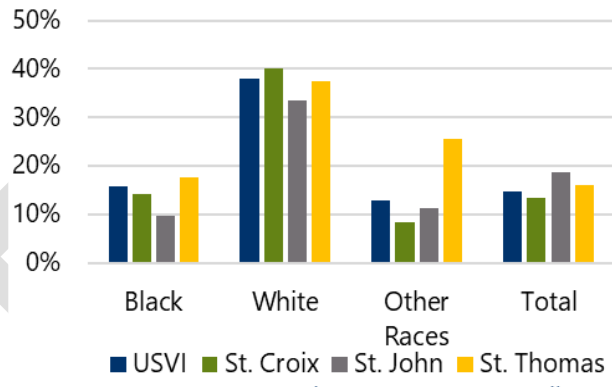
Across all of the islands, there is a disparity in educational attainment by race. A higher proportion of White residents have obtained a high school diploma or higher than black residents or residents of other races. The disparity is more pronounced in the proportion of adults with a Bachelor’s degree or higher. 38% of White Virgin Islands residents have obtained at least a Bachelor’s degree compared to 16% of Black residents and 13% of other races.

Percent High School Attainment by Race, 2015



Source: 2015 USVI Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands

Percent College Attainment by Race, 2015



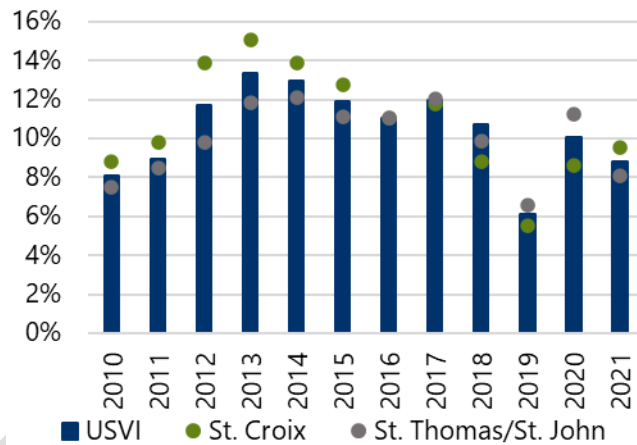
Source: 2015 USVI Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands

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Unemployment and Poverty

Since 2010, unemployment in the US Virgin Islands has trended the highest in St. Croix, with the island having a higher unemployment rate in 7 of the twelve years and most recently in 2021. The lowest unemployment rate was in 2019 at 6.1%. Across the Territory, the unemployment rate increased in 2020 to 10.1% before falling slightly to 8.8%.

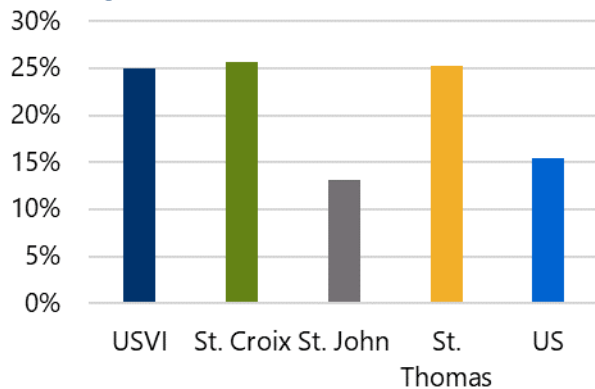
Unemployment Rate



Source: USVI Department of Labor

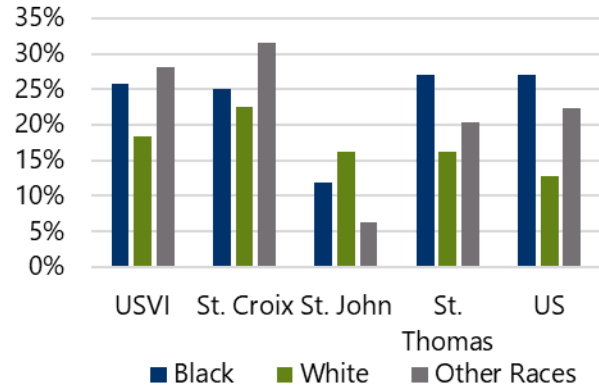
More households are below the poverty line in the US Virgin Islands than in the US (25% vs 16%). Within the US Virgin Islands, household poverty rates are the highest in St. Croix and the lowest in St. John. In looking at the percentage of people below the poverty level, in the US Virgin Islands, White residents fare better than Black residents and people of other races; overall 18% of White people are below the poverty level, while 26% of Black residents and 28% of all other races are below the poverty level in the US Virgin Islands.

Percent of Households below Poverty Rate



Source: 2015 USVI Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands

Percent below Poverty Rate by Race



Source: 2015 USVI Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands

Migration Patterns

As of 2015, half of the US Virgin Islands residents were born in the US Virgin Islands, and half migrated from elsewhere.

Concerning the reason for migration, 33% of residents migrated to the US Virgin Islands for employment, followed by 23% who were dependent on an employed person, and 18% who were family members of an employed resident. At 54% of total residents, St. John has the highest proportion of residents born outside of the US Virgin Islands. St. Croix has the highest percentage of residents born in the US Virgin Islands (53%).

Migration Patterns, 2015

	USVI		St. Croix		St. John		St. Thomas	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Born in Virgin Islands	50,246	50%	25,487	53%	1,780	46%	22,978	47%
Born outside Virgin Islands	50,522	50%	23,015	47%	2,060	54%	25,447	53%
Reason for migration*								
Employment	16,706	33%	5,250	23%	689	33%	10,768	42%
Spouse of employed person	3,159	6%	1,106	5%	105	5%	1,948	8%
Dependent of employed person	11,660	23%	4,815	21%	127	6%	6,719	26%
Family member of employed resident	9,151	18%	5,659	25%	377	18%	3,115	12%
Student attending college	547	1%	134	1%	-	-	413	2%
Medical reasons	107	0%	-	-	-	-	107	0%
Visiting/vacation	7,123	14%	4,561	20%	595	29%	1,967	8%
Other	2,068	4%	1,490	6%	168	8%	410	2%
Total	100,768	100%	48,502	100%	3,841	100%	48,425	100%

*Reason for migration only pertains to those born outside of the USVI

Source: 2015 USVI Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands