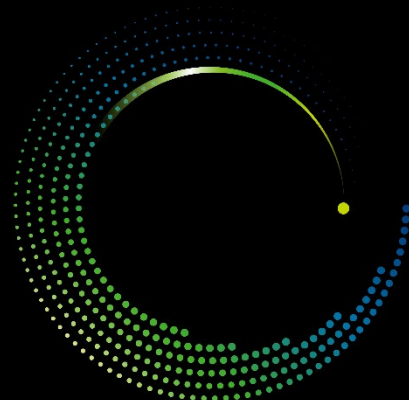


## International Tax British Virgin Islands Highlights 2024

Updated January 2024



### Recent developments

For the latest tax developments relating to the British Virgin Islands (BVI), see [Deloitte tax@hand](#).

### Investment basics

**Currency:** US dollar (USD)

**Foreign exchange control:** There are no foreign exchange controls.

**Accounting principles/financial statements:** IFRS and US, UK, and Canadian GAAP are accepted. Other internationally recognized GAAP also are accepted but these must be approved by the local regulators.

For financial years commencing on or after 1 January 2023, certain companies incorporated or registered in the BVI must prepare and file an annual financial return with the company's registered agent. The annual financial return must be filed within nine months of the end of each financial year.

**Principal business entities:** These are the company, partnership, and trust.

### Corporate taxation

There is no concept of residence applicable to BVI corporate taxation. Under the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004, as amended, BVI companies generally are exempt from income taxation; however, for BVI companies that own land in the BVI, certain transactions are subject to stamp duty (see "Stamp duty" under "Other taxes on corporations and individuals," below).

### Compliance for corporations

**Tax year:** The tax year is the calendar year.

**Consolidated returns:** There are no return filing requirements for corporate income tax purposes.

**Filing and payment:** There are no filing requirements for corporate income tax purposes, but filing requirements apply for the purposes of payroll tax, social security, and national health insurance.

**Penalties:** There are penalties applicable for failure to comply with the law.

**Rulings:** There is no formal system of advance rulings for tax purposes.

## Individual taxation

There is a zero-rated income tax regime for individuals.

## Compliance for individuals

**Tax year:** The tax year is the calendar year.

**Filing status:** There is no income tax filing obligation.

**Filing and payment:** There is no income tax filing obligation.

**Penalties:** There are typically penalties applicable for failure to comply with the law.

**Rulings:** There is no formal system of advance rulings for tax purposes.

## Withholding tax

There is no withholding tax on dividends, interest, royalties, or fees for technical services in the BVI, and no branch remittance tax.

## Anti-avoidance rules

**Transfer pricing:** There are no transfer pricing rules.

**Interest deduction limitations:** There are no interest deduction limitation rules.

**Controlled foreign companies:** There are no controlled foreign company rules.

**Anti-hybrid rules:** There are no anti-hybrid rules.

**Economic substance requirements:** The Economic Substance (Companies and Limited Partnerships) Act, 2018, as amended (ESA), requires all BVI legal entities that carry on a “relevant activity” to comply with the economic substance requirements prescribed by the ESA. Legal entities include BVI companies and limited partnerships (LPs) (unless they are considered nonresident for purposes of the ESA), as well as all foreign companies and LPs doing business in the BVI.

Relevant activities include activities in the following businesses: banking, insurance, fund management, finance and leasing, headquarters, shipping, holding, intellectual property, and distribution and service center.

All BVI legal entities must provide information on an annual basis to enable the International Tax Authority (ITA) to monitor whether the entity is carrying on relevant activities and, if so, assess whether the entity is complying with the economic substance requirements.

**Disclosure requirements:** Country-by-country (CbC) reporting requirements are applicable in the BVI. The rules require all BVI resident constituent entities of an in-scope multinational group to submit a CbC notification to the ITA, and any BVI resident ultimate parent entity of an in-scope multinational group to submit a CbC report to the ITA.

**Exit tax:** There is no exit tax.

**General anti-avoidance rule:** There is no general anti-avoidance rule.

## Value added tax

The BVI does not levy VAT or sales tax.

## Other taxes on corporations and individuals

Unless otherwise stated, the taxes in this section apply to both companies and individuals and are imposed at the territorial level.

**Social security contributions:** The employer must pay 4.5% of the employee's salary, while 4% is paid by the employee (both are subject to a cap). Both the employer and the employee pay 3.75% of the employee's salary for national health insurance (subject to a cap).

**Payroll tax:** Payroll tax is levied on both the employer and the employee. The employer pays 2% or 6% of the gross salary (depending on whether the employer falls within the definition of a "Class 1" or a "Class 2" employer), and the employee 8% (the latter is deducted at source), on remuneration in excess of USD 10,000 per annum.

The Inland Revenue Department implemented a new online tax receivable system in 2023. All applicable taxpayers over the age of 16, businesses, and nonprofit organizations are required to register and submit their payroll tax returns electronically using the new system.

**Capital duty:** There is no capital duty.

**Real property tax:** Land tax is levied at USD 50 for a half acre or less. For greater than a half acre, but less than one acre, the tax is USD 150 per year. Any additional acre or part of an acre is taxed at USD 50 per year. Lower fees apply if the land is owned by a "BVI Islander" or a BVI company.

House tax is levied at a rate of 1.5% of the assessed annual rental value.

**Transfer tax:** There is no transfer tax.

**Stamp duty:** A 12% stamp duty (4% if the transferee is a "Belonger," i.e., a person deemed to "belong" to the territory, as defined by the BVI constitution) is levied on property transactions; minimal duty is levied on other conveyances.

**Net wealth/worth tax:** There is no net wealth tax or net worth tax.

**Inheritance/estate tax:** There is no inheritance tax or estate tax.

**Other:** A 3.5% tax applies on all monies leaving the territory through money transfer agencies.

**Tax treaties:** The BVI has no tax treaties, but it has concluded more than 25 bilateral tax information exchange agreements.

**Tax authorities:** Inland Revenue Department, International Tax Authority

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