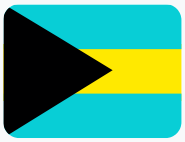
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Company formation in the Bahamas

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Company formation in the Bahamas



Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	International Business Company (IBC) or domestic company
Registry	Registrar General's Department
Minimum capital	None
Directors	1 director
Local director	An IBC needs a registered agent in The Bahamas
Corporate tax	None for most companies
VAT / sales tax	10%
Typical timeline	Usually 1–3 working days
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [5]
Currency	Bahamian dollar (BSD), at par with the US dollar

In short: To set up a company in the Bahamas, most founders form an international Business Company, registered with the Registrar General's Department. Minimum capital: none. Corporate tax: none for most companies. Registration: usually 1–3 working days (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 21 July 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Registrar General's Department before filing.

The Bahamas has no corporate income tax for most companies but charges VAT at 10%. International Business Companies (IBCs) are formed through a licensed registered agent with the **Registrar General's Department**.

Business structures

Most founders in the Bahamas form an international Business Company, registered with the Registrar General's Department. Other forms are listed below.

- **International Business Company** – the usual company form for private businesses

Requirements

Minimum share capital in the Bahamas (2026): none. Directors required: 1 director. Local resident director: an IBC needs a registered agent in The Bahamas.

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: none.
- Directors: 1 director.
- Local residency: an IBC needs a registered agent in The Bahamas.
- A registered office address in the Bahamas.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in the Bahamas (2026): usually 1–3 working days. 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 Registrar General's Department.
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 Department of Inland Revenue.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in the Bahamas in 2026 is none for most companies. Standard VAT or sales tax: 10%.

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	None for most companies
VAT / indirect tax	10%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	0%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in the Bahamas: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Department of Inland Revenue, and keep their details up to date with the Registrar General's Department.

Double tax treaties

The Bahamas have no comprehensive double tax treaties; their international agreements cover tax information exchange.

Domestic withholding tax on payments to non-resident companies

Dividends	Interest	Royalties
0%	0%	0%

Domestic rates from the PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries withholding tax quick chart (November 2026). 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 Bahamas?

Typical registration time in the Bahamas: usually 1–3 working days (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 Bahamas?

Minimum share capital in the Bahamas: none (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in the Bahamas in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in the Bahamas in 2026 is none for most companies. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

Can a foreigner own 100% of a company in the Bahamas?

Yes, for most activities, though some sectors restrict foreign ownership or require approval. Local director rule in the Bahamas: an IBC needs a registered agent in The Bahamas.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from the Bahamas?

The Bahamas charges no withholding tax on dividends paid to non-resident companies under domestic law. See the Double tax treaties section.

Official registries and resources

The official websites of the Registrar General's Department and the Department of Inland 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. Bahamas: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 21 July 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
2. Quick charts: Corporate income tax (CIT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
3. Quick charts: Value-added tax (VAT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
4. Quick charts: Withholding tax (WHT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
5. Bahamas: Corporate – Withholding taxes . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

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