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Company formation in Barbados

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Company formation in Barbados



Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	Company (Companies Act) [1]
Registry	Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office (CAIPO) [1]
Minimum capital	None [1]
Directors	1 director [1]
Local director	Not required [1]
Corporate tax	9% [2]
VAT / sales tax	17.5% [2]
Typical timeline	Usually 1–2 weeks [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [7]
Currency	Barbadian dollar (BBD)

In short: To set up a company in Barbados, most founders form a company, registered with the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office (CAIPO). [1] Minimum capital: none. Corporate tax: 9%. Registration: usually 1–2 weeks (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 09 October 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office (CAIPO) before filing.

Barbados taxes company profits at 9% after its 2024 reforms, which also introduced a 15% minimum tax for large multinational groups. Companies are registered with **CAIPO**.

Business structures

Most founders in Barbados form a company, registered with the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office (CAIPO). [1] Other forms are listed below.

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

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Barbados (2026): none. Directors required: 1 director. Local resident director: not required. [1]

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: none.
- Directors: 1 director.
- Local residency: not required.
- A registered office address in Barbados.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Barbados (2026): usually 1–2 weeks. [1] 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 Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office (CAIPO).

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 Barbados Revenue Authority.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Barbados in 2026 is 9%. [2] Standard VAT or sales tax: 17.5%. [2]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	9%
VAT / indirect tax	17.5%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	5%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Barbados: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Barbados Revenue Authority, and keep their details up to date with the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office. [1]

Double tax treaties

Barbados has a network of double tax treaties. A double tax treaty decides which country may tax cross-border income and usually caps the withholding tax the paying country can charge.

Domestic withholding tax on payments to non-resident companies

Dividends	Interest	Royalties
5%	0%	0%

The reduced rate for each partner country is set by the treaty concerned; PwC's withholding tax summary for Barbados lists them.

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 Barbados?

Typical registration time in Barbados: 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 Barbados?

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

What is the corporate tax rate in Barbados in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Barbados in 2026 is 9%. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

Can a foreigner own 100% of a company in Barbados?

Yes, for most activities, though some sectors restrict foreign ownership or require approval. Local director rule in Barbados: not required.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Barbados?

Barbados withholds 5% on dividends paid to non-resident companies under domestic law, often reduced by a tax treaty. See the Double tax treaties section.

Official registries and resources

- Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office (CAIPO)
- Barbados Revenue Authority

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. Official Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office (CAIPO) . Government of Barbados. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Barbados Revenue Authority . Government of Barbados. Accessed November 2026.
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4. Quick charts: Corporate income tax (CIT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
5. Quick charts: Value-added tax (VAT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
6. Quick charts: Withholding tax (WHT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
7. Barbados: Corporate – Withholding taxes . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

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