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Company formation in Belize

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Company formation in Belize



Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	Company limited by shares (Companies Act 2022)
Registry	Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry (BCCAR)
Minimum capital	No statutory minimum
Directors	1 director
Local director	Not required
Corporate tax	Business tax on gross receipts at rates set by type of activity (for example 6% on professional services); income tax at 25% applies mainly to petroleum companies [1]
VAT / sales tax	General Sales Tax (GST) 12.5% [1]
Typical timeline	Usually 1–2 weeks
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [5]
Currency	Belize dollar (BZD)

In short: To set up a company in Belize, most founders form a company limited by shares, registered with the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry (BCCAR). Minimum capital: no statutory minimum. Corporate tax: business tax on gross receipts at rates set by type of activity (for example 6% on professional services); income tax at 25% applies mainly to petroleum companies. 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 Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry (BCCAR) before filing.

Belize taxes most companies through a **business tax on gross receipts** rather than a tax on profit. Former international business companies (IBCs) are now registered as ordinary local companies with the **Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry** and fall under the Belize Tax Service.

Business structures

Most founders in Belize form a company limited by shares, registered with the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry (BCCAR). Other forms are listed below.

- **Company limited by shares** – the usual company form for private businesses

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Belize (2026): no statutory minimum. Directors required: 1 director. Local resident director: not required.

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: no statutory minimum.
- Directors: 1 director.
- Local residency: not required.
- A registered office address in Belize.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Belize (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 Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry (BCCAR).
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 Belize Tax Service.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Belize in 2026 is business tax on gross receipts at rates set by type of activity (for example 6% on professional services); income tax at 25% applies mainly to petroleum companies. [1] **Standard VAT or sales tax: general Sales Tax (GST) 12.5%.** [1]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	Business tax on gross receipts at rates set by type of activity (for example 6% on professional services); income tax at 25% applies mainly to petroleum companies
VAT / indirect tax	General Sales Tax (GST) 12.5%
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 Belize: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Belize Tax Service, and keep their details up to date with the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry.

Double tax treaties

Belize has few comprehensive double tax treaties, so domestic withholding rates usually apply; check whether a treaty covers the other country before relying on a reduced rate.

Domestic withholding tax on payments to non-resident companies

Dividends paid to non-residents are generally subject to 15% withholding tax. Confirm other rates with the Belize Tax Service.

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 Belize?

Typical registration time in Belize: 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 Belize?

Minimum share capital in Belize: no statutory minimum (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Belize in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Belize in 2026 is business tax on gross receipts at rates set by type of activity (for example 6% on professional services); income tax at 25% applies mainly to petroleum companies. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

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

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

Official registries and resources

- Belize Tax Service

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 Belize Tax Service . Government of Belize. Accessed November 2026.
2. Friendly tax regime (business tax rates) . BELTRAIDE (Government of Belize). Accessed November 2026.
3. Notice to former IBCs now registered as local companies . Belize Tax Service. Accessed November 2026.
4. Belize tax and accounting requirements . Vistra and Biz Latin Hub. Accessed November 2026.
5. VAT, GST and sales tax rates by country . VATCalc. Accessed November 2026.

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