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Company formation in Djibouti

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Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	SARL (société à responsabilité limitée)
Registry	Djibouti Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (ODPIC)
Minimum capital	Set by the Commercial Code
Directors	1 manager
Local director	Not required
Corporate tax	25%
VAT / sales tax	10%
Typical timeline	Often 1–3 weeks
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [2]
Currency	Djiboutian franc (DJF)

In short: To set up a company in Djibouti, most founders form an SARL, registered with the Djibouti Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (ODPIC). Minimum capital: set by the Commercial Code. Corporate tax: 25%. Registration: often 1–3 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 Djibouti Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (ODPIC) before filing.

Companies in **Djibouti** are registered with the **ODPIC**. The country is a logistics hub on the Red Sea, and companies in its free zones benefit from tax exemptions.

Business structures

Most founders in Djibouti form an SARL, registered with the Djibouti Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (ODPIC). Other forms are listed below.

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

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Djibouti (2026): set by the Commercial Code. Directors required: 1 manager. Local resident director: not required.

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: set by the Commercial Code.
- Directors: 1 manager.
- Local residency: not required.
- A registered office address in Djibouti.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Djibouti (2026): often 1–3 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 Djibouti Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (ODPIC).

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 General Tax Directorate.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Djibouti in 2026 is 25%. Standard VAT or sales tax: 10%.

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	25%
VAT / indirect tax	10%
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 Djibouti: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the General Tax Directorate, and keep their details up to date with the Djibouti Office of Industrial and Commercial Property.

Double tax treaties

Djibouti 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

Domestic withholding rates on dividends, interest and royalties could not be confirmed from a current source for this short guide; confirm them with the General Tax Directorate.

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 Djibouti?

Typical registration time in Djibouti: often 1–3 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 Djibouti?

Minimum share capital in Djibouti: set by the Commercial Code (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Djibouti in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Djibouti in 2026 is 25%. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

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

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

Official registries and resources

The official websites of the Djibouti Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (ODPIC) and the General Tax Directorate 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 South Africa
- Company formation in Mauritius
- Company formation in Angola
- Company formation in Botswana

- 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. Country tax rates (January 2026 update, compiled from PwC and KPMG) . Damodaran Online, NYU Stern. Accessed November 2026.
2. Global indirect tax rates . Deloitte. Accessed November 2026.

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