CompanyFormationWiki
The free encyclopedia of company formation
companyformationwiki.com

Company formation in Ecuador

From CompanyFormationWiki, the free encyclopedia of company formation · Last updated 25 November 2026

Company formation in Ecuador



Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	SAS (sociedad por acciones simplificada) [1]
Registry	Superintendency of Companies, Securities and Insurance [1]
Minimum capital	None for an SAS [1]
Directors	1 legal representative [1]
Local director	A legal representative in Ecuador is needed in practice [1]
Corporate tax	25% (22% or 28% in certain cases) [2]
VAT / sales tax	15% [2]
Typical timeline	Often a few days online [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [7]
Currency	US dollar (USD)

In short: To set up a company in Ecuador, most founders form an SAS, registered with the Superintendency of Companies, Securities and Insurance. [1] Minimum capital: none for an SAS. Corporate tax: 25% (22% or 28% in certain cases). Registration: often a few days online (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 23 July 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Superintendency of Companies, Securities and Insurance before filing.

Ecuador uses the US dollar. Companies such as the **SAS** are formed online with the **Superintendency of Companies**; the standard corporate tax rate is 25%.

Business structures

Most founders in Ecuador form an SAS, registered with the Superintendency of Companies, Securities and Insurance. [1] Other forms are listed below.

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

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Ecuador (2026): none for an SAS. Directors required: 1 legal representative. Local resident director: a legal representative in Ecuador is needed in practice. [1]

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: none for an SAS.
- Directors: 1 legal representative.
- Local residency: a legal representative in Ecuador is needed in practice.
- A registered office address in Ecuador.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Ecuador (2026): often a few days online. [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 Superintendency of Companies, Securities and Insurance.
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 Internal Revenue Service (SRI).

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Ecuador in 2026 is 25% (22% or 28% in certain cases). [2] **Standard VAT or sales tax: 15%.** [2]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	25% (22% or 28% in certain cases)
VAT / indirect tax	15%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	10%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Ecuador: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service (SRI), and keep their details up to date with the Superintendency of Companies, Securities and Insurance. [1]

Double tax treaties

Ecuador 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
10%	0 or 25%	0, 25 or 37%

The reduced rate for each partner country is set by the treaty concerned; PwC's withholding tax summary for Ecuador 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 Ecuador?

Typical registration time in Ecuador: often a few days online (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 Ecuador?

Minimum share capital in Ecuador: none for an SAS (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Ecuador in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Ecuador in 2026 is 25% (22% or 28% in certain cases). See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

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

Yes, for most activities, though some sectors restrict foreign ownership or require approval. Local director rule in Ecuador: a legal representative in Ecuador is needed in practice.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Ecuador?

Ecuador withholds 10% 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

- Superintendency of Companies, Securities and Insurance
- Internal Revenue Service (SRI)

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 Superintendency of Companies, Securities and Insurance . Government of Ecuador. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Internal Revenue Service (SRI) . Government of Ecuador. Accessed November 2026.
3. Ecuador: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 23 July 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
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. Ecuador: Corporate – Withholding taxes . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

Source: https://companyformationwiki.com/company-formation/ecuador/
Version: last updated 25 November 2026. Check the online version for later changes.

© 2026 CompanyFormationWiki. CompanyFormationWiki is a free encyclopedia of company formation, business structures and international tax across 222 jurisdictions. General information, not legal or tax advice. Confirm with the official registry, the tax authority or a qualified adviser before acting.