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Company formation in Eswatini

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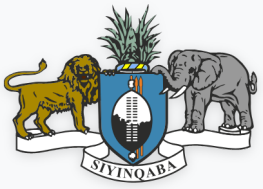

Coat of arms

Common form	Private company ((Pty) Ltd)
Registry	Registrar of Companies (Ministry of Commerce)
Minimum capital	None
Directors	1 director
Local director	Not required
Corporate tax	25% for years starting after 1 July 2024 (previously 27.5%) [1]
VAT / sales tax	15% [1]
Typical timeline	Usually 1–3 weeks
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [6]
Currency	Swazi lilangeni (SZL), at par with the South African rand

In short: To set up a company in Eswatini, most founders form a private company, registered with the Registrar of Companies (Ministry of Commerce). Minimum capital: none. Corporate tax: 25% for years starting after 1 July 2024 (previously 27.5%). Registration: usually 1–3 weeks (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 30 March 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Registrar of Companies (Ministry of Commerce) before filing.

Companies in **Eswatini** are registered with the **Registrar of Companies**. The corporate tax rate fell to 25% for years starting after 1 July 2024.

Business structures

Most founders in Eswatini form a private company, registered with the Registrar of Companies (Ministry of Commerce). Other forms are listed below.

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

Requirements

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

- 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 Eswatini.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Eswatini (2026): usually 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 Registrar of Companies (Ministry of Commerce).

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 Eswatini Revenue Service.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Eswatini in 2026 is 25% for years starting after 1 July 2024 (previously 27.5%). [1] **Standard VAT or sales tax: 15%.** [1]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	25% for years starting after 1 July 2024 (previously 27.5%)
VAT / indirect tax	15%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	15%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Eswatini: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Eswatini Revenue Service, and keep their details up to date with the Registrar of Companies.

Double tax treaties

Eswatini 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
15%	15%	15%

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

Typical registration time in Eswatini: usually 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 Eswatini?

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

What is the corporate tax rate in Eswatini in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Eswatini in 2026 is 25% for years starting after 1 July 2024 (previously 27.5%). See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

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

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

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Eswatini?

Eswatini withholds 15% 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

- Eswatini Revenue 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 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. Official Eswatini Revenue Service . Government of Eswatini. Accessed November 2026.
2. Eswatini: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 30 March 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
3. Quick charts: Corporate income tax (CIT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
4. Quick charts: Value-added tax (VAT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
5. Quick charts: Withholding tax (WHT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
6. Eswatini: Corporate – Withholding taxes . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

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