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Company formation in Italy

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Flag



Emblem

Common form	S.r.l. (società a responsabilità limitata) [1]
Registry	Companies Register (Registro delle Imprese), kept by the Chambers of Commerce [1]
Minimum capital	€1 (below €10,000 it must be paid in full, in cash) [1]
Directors	1 director (amministratore) [1]
Local director	Not required; each founder needs an Italian tax code [1]
Corporate tax	24% (IRES), plus regional tax IRAP of usually 3.9% [2]
VAT / sales tax	22% [2]
Typical timeline	Usually 1–2 weeks after notarisation [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [7]
Currency	Euro (EUR)

In short: To set up a company in Italy, most founders form an S.r.l., registered with the Companies Register (Registro delle Imprese), kept by the Chambers of Commerce. [1] Minimum capital: €1 (below €10,000 it must be paid in full, in cash). Corporate tax: 24% (IRES), plus regional tax IRAP of usually 3.9%. Registration: usually 1–2 weeks after notarisation (as of November 2026).

The **S.r.l.** is Italy's standard limited company. Its deed of incorporation is signed before a notary, who files it with the **Companies Register** kept by the Chambers of Commerce. Companies pay corporate income tax (IRES) at 24% plus regional production tax (IRAP).

Business structures

Most founders in Italy form an S.r.l., registered with the Companies Register (Registro delle Imprese), kept by the Chambers of Commerce. [1] Other forms are listed below.

- **S.r.l.** – limited liability company
- **S.r.l.s.** – simplified S.r.l. with standard articles
- **S.p.A.** – joint-stock company, €50,000 capital
- **Ditta individuale** – sole trader

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Italy (2026): €1 (below €10,000 it must be paid in full, in cash). Directors required: 1 director (amministratore). Local resident director: not required; each founder needs an Italian tax code. [1]

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: €1 (below €10,000 it must be paid in full, in cash).
- Directors: 1 director (amministratore).
- Local residency: not required; each founder needs an Italian tax code.
- A registered office address in Italy.
- Articles of association signed before a notary.
- Beneficial owners reported to the register of beneficial owners.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Italy (2026): usually 1–2 weeks after notarisation. [1] The usual steps are:

1. Choose the company form and check that the name is available.

2. Sign the articles of association before a notary.
3. File the registration with the Companies Register (Registro delle Imprese), kept by the Chambers 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 Revenue Agency (Agenzia delle Entrate).

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Italy in 2026 is 24% (IRES), plus regional tax IRAP of usually 3.9%. [2] Standard VAT or sales tax: 22%. [2]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	24% (IRES), plus regional tax IRAP of usually 3.9%
VAT / indirect tax	22%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	0 or 26%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Italy: Companies file annual financial statements with the Companies Register, and IRES, IRAP and VAT returns with the Revenue Agency. [1]

Double tax treaties

Italy 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
0 or 26%	0 or 26%	0 or 30%

Within the EU, the Parent-Subsidiary and Interest and Royalties Directives can reduce these rates to 0% for qualifying group payments.

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

Typical registration time in Italy: usually 1–2 weeks after notarisation (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 Italy?

Minimum share capital in Italy: €1 (below €10,000 it must be paid in full, in cash) (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Italy in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Italy in 2026 is 24% (IRES), plus regional tax IRAP of usually 3.9%. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

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

Yes. There is no nationality requirement for shareholders. Local director rule in Italy: not required; each founder needs an Italian tax code.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Italy?

Italy withholds 0 or 26% on dividends paid to non-resident companies under domestic law, often reduced by a tax treaty or the EU Parent-Subsidiary Directive. See the Double tax treaties section.

Official registries and resources

- Companies Register (Registro delle Imprese), kept by the Chambers of Commerce
- Revenue Agency (Agenzia delle Entrate)

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 Kingdom
- Company formation in Germany
- Company formation in Poland
- Company formation in Ireland
- 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 Companies Register (Registro delle Imprese), kept by the Chambers of Commerce . Government of Italy. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Revenue Agency (Agenzia delle Entrate) . Government of Italy. Accessed November 2026.
3. Italy: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 13 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.
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7. Italy: Corporate – Withholding taxes . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

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