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Company formation in Jamaica

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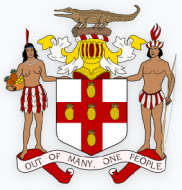

Coat of arms

Common form	Private company limited by shares [1]
Registry	Companies Office of Jamaica [1]
Minimum capital	None [1]
Directors	1 director [1]
Local director	Not required [1]
Corporate tax	25% for unregulated companies; 33⅓% for regulated companies [2]
VAT / sales tax	General consumption tax (GCT) 15% [2]
Typical timeline	Often within a few days online [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [7]
Currency	Jamaican dollar (JMD)

In short: To set up a company in Jamaica, most founders form a private company limited by shares, registered with the Companies Office of Jamaica. [1] Minimum capital: none. Corporate tax: 25% for unregulated companies; 33⅓% for regulated companies. Registration: often within a few days online (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 29 September 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Companies Office of Jamaica before filing.

In **Jamaica**, companies are registered online with the **Companies Office of Jamaica** using its Business Registration Form. Unregulated companies pay 25% income tax; regulated companies, such as banks, pay 33⅓%.

Business structures

Most founders in Jamaica form a private company limited by shares, registered with the Companies Office of Jamaica. [1] Other forms are listed below.

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

Requirements

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

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

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Jamaica (2026): often within 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 Companies Office of Jamaica.
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 Tax Administration Jamaica.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Jamaica in 2026 is 25% for unregulated companies; 33⅓% for regulated companies. [2] **Standard VAT or sales tax: general consumption tax (GCT) 15%.** [2]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	25% for unregulated companies; 33⅓% for regulated companies
VAT / indirect tax	General consumption tax (GCT) 15%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	15%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Jamaica: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Tax Administration Jamaica, and keep their details up to date with the Companies Office of Jamaica. [1]

Double tax treaties

Jamaica 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%	33⅓%	33⅓%

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

Typical registration time in Jamaica: often within 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 Jamaica?

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

What is the corporate tax rate in Jamaica in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Jamaica in 2026 is 25% for unregulated companies; 33⅓% for regulated companies. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

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

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

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Jamaica?

Jamaica 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

- Companies Office of Jamaica
- Tax Administration Jamaica

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 Companies Office of Jamaica . Government of Jamaica. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Tax Administration Jamaica . Government of Jamaica. Accessed November 2026.
3. Jamaica: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 29 September 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. Jamaica: Corporate – Withholding taxes . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

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