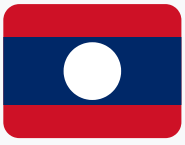
CompanyFormationWiki
The free encyclopedia of company formation
companyformationwiki.com

Company formation in Laos

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

Company formation in Laos



Flag



Emblem

Common form	Limited company
Registry	Ministry of Industry and Commerce (enterprise registration)
Minimum capital	Set by activity and investment law
Directors	1 director
Local director	Not required
Corporate tax	20%
VAT / sales tax	10%
Typical timeline	Usually 1–2 months
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [5]
Currency	Lao kip (LAK)

In short: To set up a company in Laos, most founders form a limited company, registered with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (enterprise registration). Minimum capital: set by activity and investment law. Corporate tax: 20%. Registration: usually 1–2 months (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 07 August 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (enterprise registration) before filing.

Companies in **Laos** register with the **Ministry of Industry and Commerce**; foreign investors may also need an investment licence, depending on the activity.

Business structures

Most founders in Laos form a limited company, registered with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (enterprise registration). Other forms are listed below.

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

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Laos (2026): set by activity and investment law. Directors required: 1 director. Local resident director: not required.

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: set by activity and investment law.
- Directors: 1 director.
- Local residency: not required.
- A registered office address in Laos.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Laos (2026): usually 1–2 months. 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 Ministry of Industry and Commerce (enterprise registration).
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 Department, Ministry of Finance.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Laos in 2026 is 20%. Standard VAT or sales tax: 10%.

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	20%
VAT / indirect tax	10%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	10%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Laos: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Tax Department, Ministry of Finance, and keep their details up to date with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Double tax treaties

Laos 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%	10%	5%

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

Typical registration time in Laos: usually 1–2 months (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 Laos?

Minimum share capital in Laos: set by activity and investment law (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Laos in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Laos in 2026 is 20%. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

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

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

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Laos?

Laos 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

The official websites of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (enterprise registration) and the Tax Department, Ministry of Finance 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 Singapore

- Company formation in Hong Kong
- Company formation in Japan
- Company formation in India
- 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. Laos: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 07 August 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
2. Quick charts: Corporate income tax (CIT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
3. Quick charts: Value-added tax (VAT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
4. Quick charts: Withholding tax (WHT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
5. Laos: Corporate – Withholding taxes . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

Source: https://companyformationwiki.com/company-formation/laos/
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.