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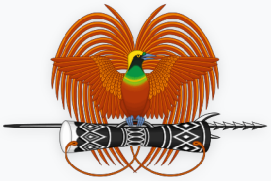
Company formation in Papua New Guinea

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Company formation in Papua New Guinea



Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	Company limited by shares [1]
Registry	Investment Promotion Authority (Registrar of Companies) [1]
Minimum capital	None [1]
Directors	1 director [1]
Local director	Foreign enterprises need certification from the Investment Promotion Authority [1]
Corporate tax	30% [2]
VAT / sales tax	GST 10% [2]
Typical timeline	Usually 2–4 weeks [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [7]
Currency	Papua New Guinean kina (PGK)

In short: To set up a company in Papua New Guinea, most founders form a company limited by shares, registered with the Investment Promotion Authority (Registrar of Companies). [1] Minimum capital: none. Corporate tax: 30%. Registration: usually 2–4 weeks (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 23 September 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Investment Promotion Authority (Registrar of Companies) before filing.

Companies in **Papua New Guinea** are registered with the **Investment Promotion Authority**, which also certifies foreign enterprises before they can do business.

Business structures

Most founders in Papua New Guinea form a company limited by shares, registered with the Investment Promotion Authority (Registrar of Companies). [1] Other forms are listed below.

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

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Papua New Guinea (2026): none. Directors required: 1 director. Local resident director: foreign enterprises need certification from the Investment Promotion Authority. [1]

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: none.
- Directors: 1 director.
- Local residency: foreign enterprises need certification from the Investment Promotion Authority.
- A registered office address in Papua New Guinea.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Papua New Guinea (2026): usually 2–4 weeks. [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 Investment Promotion Authority (Registrar of Companies).
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 Commission.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Papua New Guinea in 2026 is 30%. [2] Standard VAT or sales tax: GST 10%. [2]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	30%
VAT / indirect tax	GST 10%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	15%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Papua New Guinea: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Internal Revenue Commission, and keep their details up to date with the Investment Promotion Authority. [1]

Double tax treaties

Papua New Guinea 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%	10 or 30%

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

Typical registration time in Papua New Guinea: usually 2–4 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 Papua New Guinea?

Minimum share capital in Papua New Guinea: none (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Papua New Guinea in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Papua New Guinea in 2026 is 30%. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

Can a foreigner own 100% of a company in Papua New Guinea?

Yes, for most activities, though some sectors restrict foreign ownership or require approval. Local director rule in Papua New Guinea: foreign enterprises need certification from the Investment Promotion Authority.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Papua New Guinea?

Papua New Guinea 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

- Investment Promotion Authority (Registrar of Companies)
- Internal Revenue Commission

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.

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2. Official Internal Revenue Commission . Government of Papua New Guinea. Accessed November 2026.
3. Papua New Guinea: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 23 September 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
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