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Company formation in Singapore

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Company formation in Singapore



Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	Private limited company (Pte. Ltd.) [2]
Registry	Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) [1]
Minimum capital	S$1 [2]
Directors	1 director ordinarily resident in Singapore [2]
Local director	Required (citizen, PR, or Employment Pass/EntrePass holder) [2]
Corporate tax	17% headline, with partial exemptions [3]
VAT / sales tax	9% GST [3]
Typical timeline	Often within one day [1]
Tax treaties	about 98 treaties [8]
Currency	Singapore dollar (SGD)

In short: To set up a company in Singapore, most founders form a private limited company, registered with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA). [1] Minimum capital: S$1. Corporate tax: 17% headline, with partial exemptions. Registration: often within one day (as of November 2026).

Singapore's **private limited company** (**Pte. Ltd.**) is registered online with **ACRA** through BizFile+. Companies can be 100% foreign-owned. At least one director must be ordinarily resident in Singapore, and non-residents usually file through a registered corporate service provider.

Business structures

Most founders in Singapore form a private limited company, registered with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA). [1] Other forms are listed below.

- **Private limited company (Pte. Ltd.)** – the usual choice
- **Limited liability partnership (LLP)** – for professional firms
- **Sole proprietorship** – registered business name

- **Branch or subsidiary** – of a foreign company

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Singapore (2026): S$1. Directors required: 1 director ordinarily resident in Singapore. Local resident director: required (citizen, PR, or Employment Pass/EntrePass holder). [2]

- At least one director ordinarily resident in Singapore.
- At least one shareholder, who can be an individual or a company of any nationality.
- A company secretary, resident in Singapore and not the sole director, appointed within six months.
- A local registered office address.
- Paid-up capital of at least S$1, and registers of members and controllers.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Singapore (2026): often within one day. [1] The usual steps are:

1. Choose a name and check availability in BizFile+.
2. Prepare the constitution and director and shareholder details.
3. File the incorporation through BizFile+, directly or via a corporate service provider.
4. Receive the notice of incorporation and Unique Entity Number (UEN), usually the same day.
5. Open a bank account and register for GST once taxable turnover exceeds S$1 million.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Singapore in 2026 is 17% headline, with partial exemptions. [3] Standard VAT or sales tax: 9% GST. [3]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	17% headline rate; partial and start-up exemptions reduce the effective rate on the first S$200,000
Dividends and capital gains	Dividends are tax-free to shareholders; no capital gains tax
GST	9%; mandatory registration above S$1 million turnover

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Singapore: Companies hold an AGM (or dispense with it), file an annual return with ACRA within seven months of the financial year-end, and file corporate tax returns with IRAS. [1]

Double tax treaties

Singapore has about 98 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-residents

Dividends	Interest	Royalties
0%	15%	10%

Singapore has no withholding tax on dividends. The interest and royalty rates are final taxes for non-residents without a business or permanent establishment in Singapore. The MLI took effect for Singapore's covered treaties from 2019.

Treaty rates on payments from Singapore

Maximum withholding tax Singapore charges on payments to a company resident in each country covered by this wiki. Where several rates are shown (for example 5/15%), the lower rate applies only if conditions are met, usually a minimum shareholding, a holding period or a qualifying recipient such as a bank or pension fund.

Recipient's country	Dividends	Interest	Royalties
Cyprus	0%	7/10%	10%
Estonia	0%	10%	7.5%
Georgia	0%	0%	0%
Germany	0%	0%	5%
Ireland	0%	5%	5%
Netherlands	0%	10%	0%
Poland	0%	5%	2/5%
Switzerland	0%	5%	5%
United Arab Emirates	0%	0%	5%
United Kingdom	0%	5%	8%
United States	*No comprehensive income tax treaty; only an agreement on shipping and air transport income.* Domestic rates apply.		

Rates from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 2 July 2026). Treaty benefits require proof of tax residence and are subject to anti-abuse rules; check the treaty text before relying on a rate.

Frequently asked questions

How long does it take to register a company in Singapore?

Typical registration time in Singapore: often within one day (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 Singapore?

Minimum share capital in Singapore: S$1 (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Singapore in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Singapore in 2026 is 17% headline, with partial exemptions. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

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

Yes. There is no nationality requirement for shareholders. Local director rule in Singapore: required (citizen, PR, or Employment Pass/EntrePass holder).

How many tax treaties does Singapore have?

Singapore has about 98 treaties. Among the 12 countries whose treaty rates this wiki tabulates, there is no comprehensive treaty with the United States.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Singapore?

Singapore charges no withholding tax on dividends under domestic law. See the treaty table in the Double tax treaties section.

Can a foreigner be the only director?

No. At least one director must be ordinarily resident in Singapore: a citizen, permanent resident, or an Employment Pass or EntrePass holder. Many foreign founders appoint a nominee director.

How much tax does a new company really pay?

The headline rate is 17%, but partial and start-up exemptions reduce the effective rate on the first S$200,000 of chargeable income. Dividends are tax-free to shareholders.

Official registries and resources

- Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA)
- BizFile+
- Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS)

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 Hong Kong
- Company formation in Japan
- Company formation in India
- Company formation in Australia

- 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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7. How to Start a Business in Singapore in 2026 . Statrys. Accessed November 2026.
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