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Company formation in Sweden

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Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	AB (aktiebolag, private limited company) [1]
Registry	Swedish Companies Registration Office (Bolagsverket) [1]
Minimum capital	SEK 25,000 [1]
Directors	Board of at least 1 member plus 1 deputy (if fewer than 3) [1]
Local director	At least half of the board must live in the EEA, unless an exemption is granted [1]
Corporate tax	20.6% [2]
VAT / sales tax	25% [2]
Typical timeline	Usually 1–2 weeks [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [7]
Currency	Swedish krona (SEK)

In short: To set up a company in Sweden, most founders form an AB, registered with the Swedish Companies Registration Office (Bolagsverket). [1] Minimum capital: SEK 25,000. Corporate tax: 20.6%. Registration: usually 1–2 weeks (as of November 2026).

Sweden's private limited company, the **aktiebolag (AB)**, is registered with **Bolagsverket**. It needs SEK 25,000 of share capital, and at least half of the board must live in the EEA.

Business structures

Most founders in Sweden form an AB, registered with the Swedish Companies Registration Office (Bolagsverket). [1] Other forms are listed below.

- **AB** – private limited company
- **Publikt AB** – public limited company
- **Enskild firma** – sole trader
- **Handelsbolag** – trading partnership

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Sweden (2026): SEK 25,000. Directors required: board of at least 1 member plus 1 deputy (if fewer than 3). Local resident director: at least half of the board must live in the EEA, unless an exemption is granted. [1]

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: SEK 25,000.
- Directors: board of at least 1 member plus 1 deputy (if fewer than 3).
- Local residency: at least half of the board must live in the EEA, unless an exemption is granted.
- A registered office address in Sweden.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.
- Beneficial owners reported to the register of beneficial owners.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Sweden (2026): usually 1–2 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 Swedish Companies Registration Office (Bolagsverket).
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 Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket).

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Sweden in 2026 is 20.6%. [2] Standard VAT or sales tax: 25%. [2]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	20.6%
VAT / indirect tax	25%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	30%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Sweden: Companies file an annual report with Bolagsverket and an income tax return with the Swedish Tax Agency. [1]

Double tax treaties

Sweden 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
30%	0%	20.6%

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 Sweden 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 Sweden?

Typical registration time in Sweden: usually 1–2 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 Sweden?

Minimum share capital in Sweden: SEK 25,000 (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Sweden in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Sweden in 2026 is 20.6%. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

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

Yes. There is no nationality requirement for shareholders. Local director rule in Sweden: at least half of the board must live in the EEA, unless an exemption is granted.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Sweden?

Sweden withholds 30% 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

- Swedish Companies Registration Office (Bolagsverket)
- Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket)

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.

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2. Official Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket) . Government of Sweden. Accessed November 2026.
3. Sweden: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 22 September 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
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