CompanyFormationWiki
The free encyclopedia of company formation
companyformationwiki.com

Company formation in Tanzania

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

Company formation in Tanzania



Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	Private company limited by shares [1]
Registry	Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) [1]
Minimum capital	None [1]
Directors	2 directors [1]
Local director	Not required [1]
Corporate tax	30% [2]
VAT / sales tax	18% (mainland) [2]
Typical timeline	Usually 1–3 weeks [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [7]
Currency	Tanzanian shilling (TZS)

In short: To set up a company in Tanzania, most founders form a private company limited by shares, registered with the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA). [1] Minimum capital: none. Corporate tax: 30%. Registration: usually 1–3 weeks (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 09 September 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) before filing.

Companies in mainland **Tanzania** are registered online with **BRELA**; Zanzibar has its own registry and VAT system. Corporate tax is 30%.

Business structures

Most founders in Tanzania form a private company limited by shares, registered with the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA). [1] Other forms are listed below.

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

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Tanzania (2026): none. Directors required: 2 directors. Local resident director: not required. [1]

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: none.
- Directors: 2 directors.
- Local residency: not required.
- A registered office address in Tanzania.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Tanzania (2026): usually 1–3 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 Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA).

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 Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Tanzania in 2026 is 30%. [2] **Standard VAT or sales tax: 18% (mainland).** [2]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	30%
VAT / indirect tax	18% (mainland)
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	5 or 10%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Tanzania: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), and keep their details up to date with the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency. [1]

Double tax treaties

Tanzania 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
5 or 10%	10%	10 or 15%

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

Typical registration time in Tanzania: usually 1–3 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 Tanzania?

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

What is the corporate tax rate in Tanzania in 2026?

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

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

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

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Tanzania?

Tanzania withholds 5 or 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

- Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA)
- Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)

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 South Africa
- Company formation in Mauritius
- Company formation in Angola
- Company formation in Botswana
- 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 Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) . Government of Tanzania. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) . Government of Tanzania. Accessed November 2026.
3. Tanzania: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 09 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. Tanzania: Corporate – Withholding taxes . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

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