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Company formation in Thailand

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Emblem

Common form	Private limited company [1]
Registry	Department of Business Development (DBD) [1]
Minimum capital	No statutory minimum, but foreign-majority companies generally need THB 2 million or more [1]
Directors	1 director [1]
Local director	Not required; the Foreign Business Act limits foreign ownership in many service sectors to 49% unless a licence or BOI promotion applies [1]
Corporate tax	20% [2]
VAT / sales tax	7% [2]
Typical timeline	Usually 1–3 weeks [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [7]
Currency	Thai baht (THB)

In short: To set up a company in Thailand, most founders form a private limited company, registered with the Department of Business Development (DBD). [1] Minimum capital: no statutory minimum, but foreign-majority companies generally need THB 2 million or more. Corporate tax: 20%. Registration: usually 1–3 weeks (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 24 August 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Department of Business Development (DBD) before filing.

Companies in **Thailand** are registered with the **Department of Business Development**. Under the Foreign Business Act, many service businesses must be majority Thai-owned unless they obtain a foreign business licence or Board of Investment (BOI) promotion.

Business structures

Most founders in Thailand form a private limited company, registered with the Department of Business Development (DBD). [1] Other forms are listed below.

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

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Thailand (2026): no statutory minimum, but foreign-majority companies generally need THB 2 million or more. Directors required: 1 director. Local resident director: not required; the Foreign Business Act limits foreign ownership in many service sectors to 49% unless a licence or BOI promotion applies. [1]

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: no statutory minimum, but foreign-majority companies generally need THB 2 million or more.
- Directors: 1 director.
- Local residency: not required; the Foreign Business Act limits foreign ownership in many service sectors to 49% unless a licence or BOI promotion applies.
- A registered office address in Thailand.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Thailand (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 Department of Business Development (DBD).
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 Revenue Department.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Thailand in 2026 is 20%. [2] Standard VAT or sales tax: 7%. [2]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	20%
VAT / indirect tax	7%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	10%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Thailand: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Revenue Department, and keep their details up to date with the Department of Business Development. [1]

Double tax treaties

Thailand 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%	15%	15%

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

Typical registration time in Thailand: 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 Thailand?

Minimum share capital in Thailand: no statutory minimum, but foreign-majority companies generally need THB 2 million or more (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Thailand in 2026?

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

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

Yes, for most activities, though some sectors restrict foreign ownership or require approval. Local director rule in Thailand: not required; the Foreign Business Act limits foreign ownership in many service sectors to 49% unless a licence or BOI promotion applies.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Thailand?

Thailand 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

- Department of Business Development (DBD)
- Revenue Department

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 Revenue Department . Government of Thailand. Accessed November 2026.
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