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Company formation in Trinidad and Tobago

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Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	Company limited by shares
Registry	Companies Registry (Registrar General's Department)
Minimum capital	None
Directors	1 director
Local director	Not required
Corporate tax	30% (35% for commercial banks and petrochemical companies)
VAT / sales tax	12.5%
Typical timeline	Usually 1–3 weeks
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [5]
Currency	Trinidad and Tobago dollar (TTD)

In short: To set up a company in Trinidad and Tobago, most founders form a company limited by shares, registered with the Companies Registry (Registrar General's Department). Minimum capital: none. Corporate tax: 30% (35% for commercial banks and petrochemical companies). Registration: usually 1–3 weeks (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 02 June 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Companies Registry (Registrar General's Department) before filing.

Trinidad and Tobago, a major Caribbean energy producer, taxes most companies at 30%. Companies are registered with the **Companies Registry** of the Registrar General's Department.

Business structures

Most founders in Trinidad and Tobago form a company limited by shares, registered with the Companies Registry (Registrar General's Department). Other forms are listed below.

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

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Trinidad and Tobago (2026): none. Directors required: 1 director. Local resident director: not required.

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: none.
- Directors: 1 director.
- Local residency: not required.
- A registered office address in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Trinidad and Tobago (2026): usually 1–3 weeks. 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 Companies Registry (Registrar General's Department).
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 Board of Inland Revenue.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Trinidad and Tobago in 2026 is 30% (35% for commercial banks and petrochemical companies). Standard VAT or sales tax: 12.5%.

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	30% (35% for commercial banks and petrochemical companies)
VAT / indirect tax	12.5%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	3 or 8%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Trinidad and Tobago: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Board of Inland Revenue, and keep their details up to date with the Companies Registry.

Double tax treaties

Trinidad and Tobago 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
3 or 8%	15%	15%

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

Typical registration time in Trinidad and Tobago: 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 Trinidad and Tobago?

Minimum share capital in Trinidad and Tobago: none (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Trinidad and Tobago in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Trinidad and Tobago in 2026 is 30% (35% for commercial banks and petrochemical companies). See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

Can a foreigner own 100% of a company in Trinidad and Tobago?

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

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Trinidad and Tobago?

Trinidad and Tobago withholds 3 or 8% 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

The official websites of the Companies Registry (Registrar General's Department) and the Board of Inland Revenue have not yet been verified by our editors, so they are not linked here. Use the names above to find them, and beware of unofficial look-alike sites.

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 States
- Company formation in Canada
- Company formation in Mexico
- Company formation in Brazil
- 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. Trinidad and Tobago: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 02 June 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
2. Quick charts: Corporate income tax (CIT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
3. Quick charts: Value-added tax (VAT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
4. Quick charts: Withholding tax (WHT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
5. Trinidad and Tobago: Corporate – Withholding taxes . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

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