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Company formation in Venezuela

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Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	SA or SRL
Registry	Autonomous Service of Registries and Notaries (SAREN), Mercantile Registry
Minimum capital	No statutory minimum for most companies
Directors	A board or 1 administrator
Local director	Not required
Corporate tax	34% headline (progressive brackets) [1]
VAT / sales tax	16% [1]
Typical timeline	Usually 1–2 months
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [6]
Currency	Venezuelan bolívar (VES)

In short: To set up a company in Venezuela, most founders form an SA or SRL, registered with the Autonomous Service of Registries and Notaries (SAREN), Mercantile Registry. Minimum capital: no statutory minimum for most companies. Corporate tax: 34% headline (progressive brackets). Registration: usually 1–2 months (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 30 September 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Autonomous Service of Registries and Notaries (SAREN), Mercantile Registry before filing.

In **Venezuela**, companies are entered in the **Mercantile Registry** run by SAREN and then registered with the tax authority, SENIAT. Exchange controls, high inflation and international sanctions significantly affect doing business.

Business structures

Most founders in Venezuela form an SA or SRL, registered with the Autonomous Service of Registries and Notaries (SAREN), Mercantile Registry. Other forms are listed below.

- **SA or SRL** – the usual company form for private businesses

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Venezuela (2026): no statutory minimum for most companies. Directors required: a board or 1 administrator. Local resident director: not required.

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: no statutory minimum for most companies.
- Directors: a board or 1 administrator.
- Local residency: not required.
- A registered office address in Venezuela.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Venezuela (2026): usually 1–2 months. 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 Autonomous Service of Registries and Notaries (SAREN), Mercantile Registry.
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 National Integrated Service of Customs and Tax Administration (SENIAT).

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Venezuela in 2026 is 34% headline (progressive brackets). [1] **Standard VAT or sales tax: 16%.** [1]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	34% headline (progressive brackets)
VAT / indirect tax	16%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	34%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Venezuela: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the National Integrated Service of Customs and Tax Administration (SENIAT), and keep their details up to date with the Autonomous Service of Registries and Notaries.

Double tax treaties

Venezuela 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
34%	varies	varies

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

Typical registration time in Venezuela: usually 1–2 months (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 Venezuela?

Minimum share capital in Venezuela: no statutory minimum for most companies (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Venezuela in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Venezuela in 2026 is 34% headline (progressive brackets). See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

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

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

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Venezuela?

Venezuela withholds 34% 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

- National Integrated Service of Customs and Tax Administration (SENIAT)

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. Official National Integrated Service of Customs and Tax Administration (SENIAT) . Government of Venezuela. Accessed November 2026.
2. Venezuela: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 30 September 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
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6. Venezuela: Corporate – Withholding taxes . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

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