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Company formation in Vietnam

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Flag



Emblem

Common form	Limited liability company (LLC) [1]
Registry	Department of Planning and Investment (National Business Registration Portal) [1]
Minimum capital	No general minimum; licensing authorities assess capital against the investment project [1]
Directors	1 legal representative [1]
Local director	At least one legal representative must reside in Vietnam [1]
Corporate tax	20% [2]
VAT / sales tax	10% standard [2]
Typical timeline	Usually 1–2 months for foreign investors [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [7]
Currency	Vietnamese đồng (VND)

In short: To set up a company in Vietnam, most founders form a limited liability company, registered with the Department of Planning and Investment (National Business Registration Portal). [1] Minimum capital: no general minimum; licensing authorities assess capital against the investment project. Corporate tax: 20%. Registration: usually 1–2 months for foreign investors (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 23 September 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Department of Planning and Investment (National Business Registration Portal) before filing.

Foreign investors in **Vietnam** usually obtain an Investment Registration Certificate before registering the company itself. At least one legal representative must live in Vietnam.

Business structures

Most founders in Vietnam form a limited liability company, registered with the Department of Planning and Investment (National Business Registration Portal). [1] Other forms are listed below.

- **Limited liability company** – the usual company form for private businesses

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Vietnam (2026): no general minimum; licensing authorities assess capital against the investment project. Directors required: 1 legal representative. Local resident director: at least one legal representative must reside in Vietnam. [1]

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: no general minimum; licensing authorities assess capital against the investment project.
- Directors: 1 legal representative.
- Local residency: at least one legal representative must reside in Vietnam.
- A registered office address in Vietnam.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Vietnam (2026): usually 1–2 months for foreign investors. [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 Planning and Investment (National Business Registration Portal).
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 General Department of Taxation.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Vietnam in 2026 is 20%. [2] **Standard VAT or sales tax: 10% standard.** [2]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	20%
VAT / indirect tax	10% standard
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	0%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Vietnam: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the General Department of Taxation, and keep their details up to date with the Department of Planning and Investment. [1]

Double tax treaties

Vietnam 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
0%	5%	10%

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

Typical registration time in Vietnam: usually 1–2 months for foreign investors (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 Vietnam?

Minimum share capital in Vietnam: no general minimum; licensing authorities assess capital against the investment project (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Vietnam in 2026?

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

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

Yes, for most activities, though some sectors restrict foreign ownership or require approval. Local director rule in Vietnam: at least one legal representative must reside in Vietnam.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from Vietnam?

Vietnam charges no withholding tax on dividends paid to non-resident companies under domestic law. See the Double tax treaties section.

Official registries and resources

- Department of Planning and Investment (National Business Registration Portal)
- General Department of Taxation

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 General Department of Taxation . Government of Vietnam. Accessed November 2026.
3. Vietnam: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 23 September 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
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