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Cyprus vs Ireland: company formation compared

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

In short: Cyprus: private company limited by shares, corporate tax 15%, registration usually one to two weeks. Ireland: private company limited by shares, corporate tax 12.5%, registration usually within about a week online. Cyprus and Ireland have a double tax treaty. Figures as of November 2026.

This page compares the standard private company in Cyprus and Ireland. Each figure links to the official source; the full rules, step-by-step registration and FAQs are in the Company formation in Cyprus and Company formation in Ireland guides.

Side by side

	Cyprus	Ireland
Common form	Private company limited by shares (Ltd)	Private company limited by shares (LTD)
Registry	Registrar of Companies [1]	Companies Registration Office (CRO) [3]
Minimum capital	No statutory minimum	None (one share is enough)
Directors	1 director and a company secretary	1 director plus a separate company secretary
Local director	Not required by law; management in Cyprus for tax residency	1 EEA-resident director, or a €25,000 Section 137 bond
Corporate tax	15% (since 1 January 2026) [2]	12.5% on trading income (25% non-trading) [4]
VAT / sales tax	19%	23%
Typical timeline	Usually one to two weeks	Usually within about a week online
Tax treaties	67 treaties [5]	78 treaties signed, 75 in effect [6]

	Cyprus	Ireland
Currency	Euro (EUR)	Euro (EUR)

Tax treaty between Cyprus and Ireland

A double tax treaty caps the withholding tax one country may charge on payments to a company resident in the other. Where two rates are shown (for example 5/15), the lower rate applies only if conditions are met, usually a minimum shareholding.

Payment	Dividends	Interest	Royalties
From Cyprus to Ireland [5]	0%	0%	0/5%
From Ireland to Cyprus [6]	0%	0%	0/5%

Cyprus withholds at most 0% on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% or 5% (depending on conditions) on royalties paid to a company resident in Ireland. Ireland withholds at most 0% on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% or 5% (depending on conditions) on royalties paid to a company resident in Cyprus.

Treaty benefits require proof of tax residence and are subject to anti-abuse rules. See corporate tax residence and permanent establishment.

Frequently asked questions

Is there a double tax treaty between Cyprus and Ireland?

Yes. Cyprus withholds at most 0% on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% or 5% (depending on conditions) on royalties paid to a company resident in Ireland. Ireland withholds at most 0% on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% or 5% (depending on conditions) on royalties paid to a company resident in Cyprus. Rates from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 4 August 2026 and 11 August 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Cyprus and Ireland?

Cyprus: 15% (since 1 January 2026). Ireland: 12.5% on trading income (25% non-trading). The effective burden also depends on reliefs, the type of income and when profit is distributed.

How long does it take to register a company in Cyprus compared with Ireland?

Cyprus: usually one to two weeks. Ireland: usually within about a week online. Opening a bank account and tax registrations often take longer than registration itself.

What is the minimum share capital in Cyprus and Ireland?

Cyprus: no statutory minimum. Ireland: none (one share is enough).

Do I need a local director in Cyprus or Ireland?

Cyprus: not required by law; management in Cyprus for tax residency. Ireland: 1 EEA-resident director, or a €25,000 Section 137 bond.

See also

- Company formation in Cyprus
- Company formation in Ireland
- Cyprus vs Estonia: company formation compared
- UK vs Ireland: company formation compared
- Ireland vs Netherlands: company formation compared
- UAE vs Cyprus: company formation compared
- Comparison of all 222 countries

References

1. Official Registrar of Companies . Cyprus. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Tax authority of Cyprus . Cyprus. Accessed November 2026.
3. Official Companies Registration Office (CRO) . Ireland. Accessed November 2026.
4. Official Tax authority of Ireland . Ireland. Accessed November 2026.

5. Cyprus: Corporate – Withholding taxes (reviewed 4 August 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
6. Ireland: Corporate – Withholding taxes (reviewed 11 August 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

General information, not legal or tax advice. Figures as of November 2026; confirm with the official registry, the tax authority or a qualified adviser before filing.

Source: https://companyformationwiki.com/compare/cyprus-vs-ireland/
Version: last updated 25 November 2026. Check the online version for later changes.

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