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Ireland vs Netherlands: company formation compared

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In short: Ireland: private company limited by shares, corporate tax 12.5%, registration usually within about a week online. The Netherlands: BV, corporate tax 19–25.8%, registration typically a few days after the notary has all documents. Ireland and the Netherlands have a double tax treaty. Figures as of November 2026.

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

Side by side

	Ireland	Netherlands
Common form	Private company limited by shares (LTD)	BV (besloten vennootschap)
Registry	Companies Registration Office (CRO) [1]	Netherlands Chamber of Commerce (KVK) [3]
Minimum capital	None (one share is enough)	€0.01 (no meaningful minimum)
Directors	1 director plus a separate company secretary	1 director
Local director	1 EEA-resident director, or a €25,000 Section 137 bond	Not required
Corporate tax	12.5% on trading income (25% non-trading) [2]	19% up to €200,000; 25.8% above [4]
VAT / sales tax	23%	21%
Typical timeline	Usually within about a week online	Typically a few days after the notary has all documents

	Ireland	Netherlands
Tax treaties	78 treaties signed, 75 in effect [5]	about 100 treaties [6]
Currency	Euro (EUR)	Euro (EUR)

Tax treaty between Ireland and the Netherlands

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 Ireland to Netherlands [5]	0/15%	0%	0%
From Netherlands to Ireland [6]	0/15%	0%	0%

Ireland withholds at most 0% or 15% (depending on conditions) on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% on royalties paid to a company resident in the Netherlands. The Netherlands withholds at most 0% or 15% (depending on conditions) on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% on royalties paid to a company resident in Ireland.

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 Ireland and the Netherlands?

Yes. Ireland withholds at most 0% or 15% (depending on conditions) on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% on royalties paid to a company resident in the Netherlands. The Netherlands withholds at most 0% or 15% (depending on conditions) on dividends, 0% on interest and 0% on royalties paid to a company resident in Ireland. Rates from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 11 August 2026 and 29 May 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Ireland and the Netherlands?

Ireland: 12.5% on trading income (25% non-trading). The Netherlands: 19% up to €200,000; 25.8% above. 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 Ireland compared with the Netherlands?

Ireland: usually within about a week online. The Netherlands: typically a few days after the notary has all documents. Opening a bank account and tax registrations often take longer than registration itself.

What is the minimum share capital in Ireland and the Netherlands?

Ireland: none (one share is enough). The Netherlands: €0.01 (no meaningful minimum).

Do I need a local director in Ireland or the Netherlands?

Ireland: 1 EEA-resident director, or a €25,000 Section 137 bond. The Netherlands: not required.

See also

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

References

1. Official Companies Registration Office (CRO) . Ireland. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Tax authority of Ireland . Ireland. Accessed November 2026.
3. Official Netherlands Chamber of Commerce (KVK) . Netherlands. Accessed November 2026.

4. Official Tax authority of the Netherlands . Netherlands. Accessed November 2026.
5. Ireland: Corporate – Withholding taxes (reviewed 11 August 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
6. Netherlands: Corporate – Withholding taxes (reviewed 29 May 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.

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