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Singapore vs Switzerland: company formation compared

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In short: Singapore: private limited company, corporate tax 17%, registration often within one day. Switzerland: GmbH / Sàrl, corporate tax ~12–21%, registration usually 2–4 weeks. Singapore and Switzerland have a double tax treaty. Figures as of November 2026.

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

Side by side

	Singapore	Switzerland
Common form	Private limited company (Pte. Ltd.)	GmbH / Sàrl (limited liability company)
Registry	Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) [1]	Cantonal commercial register [3]
Minimum capital	S$1	CHF 20,000, fully paid in
Directors	1 director ordinarily resident in Singapore	1 managing director
Local director	Required (citizen, PR, or Employment Pass/EntrePass holder)	At least 1 person authorised to represent the company must live in Switzerland
Corporate tax	17% headline, with partial exemptions [2]	About 11.9% (Zug) to 20.5% (Bern), combined
VAT / sales tax	9% GST	8.1%
Typical timeline	Often within one day	Usually 2–4 weeks
Tax treaties	about 98 treaties [4]	99 treaties in force [5]

	Singapore	Switzerland
Currency	Singapore dollar (SGD)	Swiss franc (CHF)

Tax treaty between Singapore and Switzerland

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 Singapore to Switzerland [4]	0%	5%	5%
From Switzerland to Singapore [5]	5/15%	5%	0%

Singapore withholds at most 0% on dividends, 5% on interest and 5% on royalties paid to a company resident in Switzerland. Switzerland withholds at most 5% or 15% (depending on conditions) on dividends, 5% on interest and 0% on royalties paid to a company resident in Singapore.

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 Singapore and Switzerland?

Yes. Singapore withholds at most 0% on dividends, 5% on interest and 5% on royalties paid to a company resident in Switzerland. Switzerland withholds at most 5% or 15% (depending on conditions) on dividends, 5% on interest and 0% on royalties paid to a company resident in Singapore. Rates from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 2 July 2026 and 1 July 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Singapore and Switzerland?

Singapore: 17% headline, with partial exemptions. Switzerland: about 11.9% (Zug) to 20.5% (Bern), combined. 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 Singapore compared with Switzerland?

Singapore: often within one day. Switzerland: usually 2–4 weeks. Opening a bank account and tax registrations often take longer than registration itself.

What is the minimum share capital in Singapore and Switzerland?

Singapore: S$1. Switzerland: CHF 20,000, fully paid in.

Do I need a local director in Singapore or Switzerland?

Singapore: required (citizen, PR, or Employment Pass/EntrePass holder). Switzerland: at least 1 person authorised to represent the company must live in Switzerland.

See also

- Company formation in Singapore
- Company formation in Switzerland
- UAE vs Singapore: company formation compared
- Germany vs Switzerland: company formation compared
- US vs Singapore: company formation compared
- Comparison of all 222 countries

References

1. Official Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) . Singapore. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Tax authority of Singapore . Singapore. Accessed November 2026.
3. Official Cantonal commercial register . Switzerland. Accessed November 2026.
4. Singapore: Corporate – Withholding taxes (reviewed 2 July 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

5. Switzerland: Corporate – Withholding taxes (reviewed 1 July 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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