

### 1. What are the advantages of doing business in Jamaica?

Here are some of the advantages of doing business in Jamaica:

Well-developed infrastructure with world-class highways, airports and seaports

- Robust telecommunications infrastructure with built-in redundancy
- Vibrant and stable democracy with elections held every five years
- Strong air connectivity – Frequent flights to major gateways worldwide
- Impressive sea connectivity – #1 transshipment port in the region
- Near shore advantage – Located within a 4-hour flight radius of 500 million people
- Access to world class products and services
- Benefit from major trade agreements that Jamaica has with other countries

### 2. How are businesses registered in Jamaica?

Companies operating in Jamaica are required to register with Companies Office of Jamaica. Their contact information is as follows:

1 Grenada Way  
Kingston 5 Telephone:  
Telephone: (876) 908-4419-26  
Email: [custsupport@orcjamaica.com](mailto:custsupport@orcjamaica.com)  
Website: <https://www.orcjamaica.com>

Before going to the Companies Office of Jamaica, it is important to determine the legal structure best suited to your needs. The two basic options to choose from are:

- A Company - a commercial enterprise registered or incorporated under the Companies Act.
- A Business - a sole trader or partnership registered under the Business Names Act.

### 3. What will you receive after the processing of your business registration?

Having successfully completed the registration process, you will receive a certificate of incorporation (limited liability Company) or a certificate of business registration (sole trader and partnership).



The certificate received will also bear the Tax Registration Number (TRN), NIS and GCT numbers for your business.

### 4. What are the general requirements for business registration?

- Completion of the Business Registration form (BRF 1) / " Super Form"
- (Forms are available - Website: [www.orcjamaica.com](http://www.orcjamaica.com) or visit the Companies Office of Jamaica). As it relates to the registration of a limited liability company, the Articles of Incorporation (Form 1A, 1B, 1C or 1D) Stamp Duty applies to this document.
- An original valid government issued identification of the Principal Director and the person declaring to the accuracy of the form.
- Information on applicable fees can be viewed at on the website of the Companies Office of Jamaica at <https://www.orcjamaica.com/Fees.aspx> or by visiting their office.

### 5. Where do you go to apply for protection for your intellectual property?

The Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO), an agency of the Government, is responsible for administering Intellectual Property (IP) systems in Jamaica, in the areas of Trade Marks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, Copyright and Related Rights, Patent, New Plant Varieties and Layout-Designs (Topographies).

JIPO's contact details are outlined below:  
JAMPRO Building  
18 Trafalgar Road, Kingston 10  
Telephone: 876.946-1300, 946-0789, 946-9216  
Fax: 876.927-6744  
Website: <http://www.jipo.gov.jm>

### 6. What are the applicable employee taxes and deductions?

Deduction	Payment as a percentage of gross salary	
	Employee	Employer
National Insurance Scheme (N.I.S.)	2.45%	2.45%
National Housing Trust (N.H.T.)	2%	3%
Education Tax	2%, reduced by the amount of N.I.S.*	3%
Income Tax (P.A.Y.E.)	25%, reduced by the N.I.S. amount and the Tax Relief amount **	

### 7. What is the percentage paid for Corporate Income Tax (CIT) in Jamaica?

The Company Income Tax in Jamaica is 25%, however there are special instances in which companies may pay as low as 12.5% (companies operating within the Special Economic Zone, which is discussed below).

NB: Jamaica does not impose taxes on capital, and is a signatory to 12 Double Taxation Treaties. Jamaica has also signed 27 Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) with international partners. [Click here](#) to view additional information on applicable taxes.

### 8. What are some employment and labour laws that address employer-employee relations?

Jamaica is a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which governs international issues related to labour and worker rights. The following are several local laws that ensure harmony in the labour market:

- Minimum Wage, which is currently set at J\$7,000.00 per 40 hour week. This figure is subject to annual review by the Government of Jamaica.
- Maternity Leave, generally, female staff members are entitled to two months paid maternity leave.

- Expatriates are required to secure a work permit from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS), to engage in any gainful business venture or employment. JAMPRO works closely with MLSS to facilitate the expeditious processing of work permit applications for foreign investors.
- Holiday with Pay Act (1973), employees are entitled to sick leave and vacation leave after working continuously for a period of 110 days, but less than 220 days, to earn leave at a rate of one (1) day for every 22 days worked. After working 220 days in a year of employment, the worker is entitled to two (2) normal weeks of vacation (10 business days). Sundays, Good Friday and other public holidays cannot be counted towards vacation leave.

### 9. What licences and permits are required for development activities in Jamaica?

To carry out development activities in Jamaica, a combination of all or any of the following permissions may be required:

#### Environmental

- Required under the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act
- Applications submitted to National Environment & Planning Agency (NEPA)
- Approving entity - Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA)

#### Planning

- Required under Town & Country Planning Act
- Applications submitted to the Local Planning Authority in the respective parish councils and the Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC)
- Approving entities - Town and Country Planning Authority and Local Planning Authorities

#### Subdivision

- Required under the Local Improvements Act
- Applications submitted to the Local Authority
- Approving entities - Local authorities (Parish Councils & KSAC); Recommendation from NEPA

#### Building

- These are handled by the respective local authority in each parish under the relevant Building Acts.

NB: JAMPRO guides investors through the development approvals process, and works closely with the relevant government ministries and agencies involved to ensure seamless and efficient service delivery.

### 10. What is the incentive framework in Jamaica?

Jamaica now boasts a modern and responsive legislative and administrative fiscal incentive system that has created a business environment that is built on greater efficiencies, effectiveness and productivity.

There is an attractive suite of legislation, known collectively as the Omnibus Incentives, which creates a transparent and automatic fiscal incentive framework, where eligibility is not based on sector alignment but rather on productive activity. [Click here to view additional information on this and other incentives.](#)

### 11. Does Jamaica have a Special Economic Zone (SEZ)?

Yes, Jamaica has a Special Economic Zone, which replaced the Freezone Regime with the passing of the SEZ Act in 2016.

### 12. What are the benefits of operating under the Special Economic Zone?

Approved SEZ Developers or Occupants benefit from a range of fiscal incentives, including:

- Duty-free importation
- Value Added Tax (General Consumption Tax (GCT)) free importation
- Lower CIT rate of 12.5% (half of the standard rate)
- 10% Productive Tax Credit (PTC)
- 30% Employment Tax Credit (ETC)
- Withholding Tax exemptions

Other non-fiscal incentives include expedited business services.

NB: The SEZ regime does not allow for operations in the following: extractive industries, telecommunications, financial services, catering, retail trade, health services (excluding R&D), construction services, public utilities, real estate and property management and tourism services.

### 13. What are the priority sectors of the Government of Jamaica?

The priority sectors of the Government of Jamaica are:

- Tourism

- Information Technology Enabled Services
- Agro processing
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Film & Animation
- Logistics & Infrastructure
- Energy

### 14. What is the government of Jamaica policy regarding overseas companies doing business in Jamaica?

The laws of Jamaica guarantee equal treatment for domestic and foreign entities. Additionally one of the top Government priorities is to attract Foreign Direct Investments to the country.

JAMPRO, the Government's trade and investment promotions agency, targets companies in priority sectors to meet potential investors.

### 15. Can foreign investors acquire real estate in Jamaica?

Yes, foreign investors can acquire and own real estate in Jamaica.

### 16. How will JAMPRO assist you in doing business in Jamaica?

JAMPRO plays an active role in the facilitation of trade and investments, which includes:

- Facilitating the implementation of investments within the priority sectors;
- Ensuring that the ecosystem is in place to facilitate the growth/expansion of your business;
- Offer guidance and facilitate location scouting and selection;
- Facilitating introductions to key stakeholders and support services providers;
- Providing Business Information as it relates to export procedures;
- Identify business linkage opportunities and generate local supply contracts;
- Where possible, identify export opportunities and access markets for your products.



**JAMPRO**  
TRADE & INVESTMENT JAMAICA

# Doing Business in Jamaica

## Frequently Asked Questions



### CONTACT US

#### HEAD OFFICE

18 Trafalgar Road  
Kingston 10, Jamaica W.I.  
Phone: +1 876 978 7755; 978-3337  
Toll Free: +1 888 INVESTJA (468 4352)  
Fax: +1 876 946 0090  
Email: [info@jamprocorp.com](mailto:info@jamprocorp.com)

#### WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Montego Bay Convention Centre  
Rose Hall, Montego Bay  
St. James, Jamaica W.I.  
Email: [jampromobay@jamprocorp.com](mailto:jampromobay@jamprocorp.com)

#### NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL OFFICE

303 Eglinton Avenue East, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1L3, Canada  
Tel: 416 932 2200 (main) 416-598-3008  
Fax: 416 932 2207  
Toll-Free: 1 877 744 2208  
Email: [jamprocanada@jamprocorp.com](mailto:jamprocanada@jamprocorp.com)

#### 767 3RD Avenue, Second Floor

New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: 646-213-0101  
Email: [JamproNewYork@jamprocorp.com](mailto:JamproNewYork@jamprocorp.com)

#### LONDON OFFICE

JAMPRO / Jamaica Trade Commission  
1 Prince Consort Road,  
London SW7 2BZ, England  
Phone: + 44 20 7 584 8894  
Fax: + 44 20 7 823 9886  
email: [jamprouk@jamprocorp.com](mailto:jamprouk@jamprocorp.com)

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