START

# Starting a business

If you’re considering starting or buying a business, New Zealand is an excellent choice.

We’re the easiest country in the world to do business in, according to the 2016 World Bank *Doing Business* survey. They also rate us the easiest place in the world to start a business.

There are few restrictions on establishing, owning and operating a business here. In fact, by using the Government's online portals, the process of reserving a name and incorporating your company can be completed in a matter of hours.

## Business structures

Businesses in New Zealand generally use one of these three structures - Sole trader, Partnership, or Limited Liability.

#### [Sole trader](https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/investing-in-nz/investment-options/starting-a-business#collapse-1)

#### [Partnership](https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/investing-in-nz/investment-options/starting-a-business#collapse-2)

#### [Limited liability](https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/investing-in-nz/investment-options/starting-a-business#collapse-3)

## Other start-up issues

As well as establishing the structure of your business, there are several other issues you’ll need to consider.

### Sourcing market information

Obviously you’ll want to know as much as you can about the market and opportunities for your business. [Statistics New Zealand](http://www.stats.govt.nz/) has a wide range of online information tables and tools that can help.

### Check local authority rules

Before setting up with premises, check with your local council. Each territorial authority has its own rules and regulations about what business activity is allowed in different areas. For instance, it is unlikely that you’d be able to run an automotive repair business in a residential area.

### Set up tax numbers

Depending on the business structure you use, you will either need individual tax numbers or a company tax number. For more information visit [Inland Revenue](http://www.ird.govt.nz/).

### Get a lawyer, accountant and bank

Any New Zealand bank can help you with setting up bank accounts for business purposes, and many can also help you with transferring funds from overseas and other specialist migrants’ services. You may also want to seek legal and financial advice.

* [Registered New Zealand banks](http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/regulation-and-supervision/banks/list-of-registered-banks-in-new-zealand-past-and-present)
* [New Zealand Law Society](http://www.nzls.org.nz/)
* [New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants](http://www.nzica.com/)

### Check your business name

Before committing to logos, signage and stationery for your new business, search the [Companies Office](http://www.companies.govt.nz/) and the [Intellectual Property Office](http://www.iponz.govt.nz/) to ensure the name you want is not already protected.

## More information

To learn more about starting or buying a business in New Zealand visit [business.govt.nz](http://www.business.govt.nz/getting-started/taking-the-first-steps/questions-to-ask-yourself-before-you-start/).

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Business Name

Industry/ Type of Business

Location

Regulatory Authority

Links for Forms

Tax Responsibilities

Registered with IRD? For Income

Registered for GST?

Business Income over $60,000? If yes Register (Link)

Employer?

Tax responsibilities for Employees

Business Responsibilities

Specific to Industry eg Food Safety

General eg WorkSafe