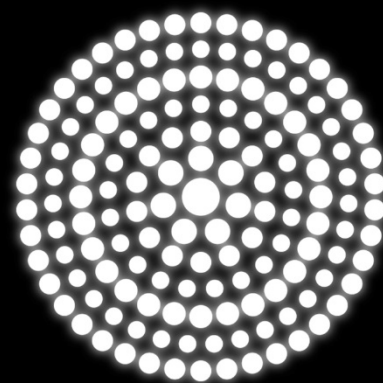


International Tax Palestinian Highlights 2021

Updated January 2021



Investment basics

Currency: New Israeli Shekel (NIS)

Foreign exchange control: There are no foreign exchange controls or restrictions on the import or export of capital. Cash may be repatriated in any currency. Both residents and nonresidents may hold bank accounts in any currency.

Accounting principles/financial statements: IAS/IFRS are required for financial services entities and companies listed on the Palestine stock exchange. Financial statements must be prepared annually. Semi-annual financial statements must be prepared for financial institutions and listed companies.

Principal business entities: These are the public shareholding company, private shareholding company with limited liability, partnership, sole proprietorship, and branch of a foreign corporation.

Corporate taxation

Rates	
Corporate income tax rate	15% (in general)
Branch tax rate	15% (in general)
Capital gains tax rate	0%/15% (in general)

Residence: A corporation is resident if it is incorporated in Palestine, or managed and controlled in Palestine.

Basis: Residents and legal entities, including branches of foreign entities, are taxed on their taxable income in Palestine computed in accordance with the tax law. Branches are taxed in the same way as subsidiaries.

Taxable income: Corporate tax is imposed on a company's net profits, which consist of business/trading income and passive income. Taxable income of resident persons and companies includes foreign income derived from their funds or deposits sourced from Palestine.

Income is taxable on an accruals basis, except for interest and commissions on doubtful debts of financial institutions, which are taxable on a cash basis. Taxable income of certain professions is calculated on a cash basis in accordance with directives issued by the tax authorities.

Rate: The standard rate is 15%. Life insurance businesses are subject to a reduced rate of 5% on premium income. The taxable income of telecommunication companies and companies that enjoy specific privileges or monopolies is taxed at 20%.

Surtax: There is no surtax.

Alternative minimum tax: There is no alternative minimum tax.

Taxation of dividends: Dividends received by a resident company from another resident company are tax exempt. Dividends received from a nonresident entity are taxed at the regular corporate tax rate.

Capital gains: Capital gains derived from the sale of investments in equity securities and bonds are exempt. Capital gains derived from the sale of tangible assets and real property are taxable at the regular corporate tax rate.

Losses: Tax losses may be carried forward for five years. Such losses do not include unrealized losses from revaluations or losses incurred on tax-exempt transactions. Losses may not be carried back.

Foreign tax relief: There is no relief for foreign tax.

Participation exemption: There is no participation exemption.

Holding company regime: There is no holding company regime.

Incentives: Certain entities are granted tax incentives if approved by the Palestine Promotion Agency. Incentives are in the form of tax rate reductions for specified periods.

Compliance for corporations

Tax year: The tax year generally is the calendar year. Approval is required to use an alternative fiscal year.

Consolidated returns: Consolidated returns are not permitted; each company must file a separate tax return.

Filing and payment: A self-assessment regime applies. Advance payments on account of tax liabilities for the year must be made, and the timing and incentives for early payment are determined based on directives issued by the minister of finance.

The tax return must be filed within four months of the end of the tax year. If the tax return is filed within two months of the end of the tax year, a discount of 4% is granted on the balance of tax payable as per the self-assessment (after deducting advance payments made on which a discount already has been granted). A discount of 2% is granted where the tax return is submitted during March or April of the following year.

Penalties: A penalty equal to 3% of the tax liability per month, up to a maximum of 20%, is imposed for the late payment of tax. The minimum penalty is NIS 3,000 for corporations. Penalties of 2% of the tax liability per month also apply for the late payment of payroll and withholding tax.

Rulings: There is no ruling procedure.

Individual taxation

Rates

Individual income tax rate	Taxable income	Rate
	Up to NIS 75,000	5%
	NIS 75,001 – NIS 150,000	10%
	Over NIS 150,000	15%

Capital gains tax rate	0%/5%/10%/15%
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Residence: The following individuals are considered to be resident in Palestine (i) Palestinian individuals who have lived in and maintained their principal activities in Palestine for at least 120 days during the year, and (ii) non-Palestinian individuals who have resided in Palestine for at least 183 days during the year.

Basis: Palestinian residents and nonresidents are taxed only on Palestinian source income.

Taxable income: Taxable income comprises income from all sources (unless specifically exempt by law), less allowable expenses incurred in the production of the income and the standard deduction (see under “Deductions and allowances”).

Rates: Individual income tax is charged at progressive rates ranging from 5% to 15%. The first NIS 75,000 is taxed at 5%, the next NIS 75,000 at 10%, and the remainder at 15%.

Capital gains: Capital gains are taxed at regular rates, but capital gains derived from the sale of investments not held for trading are tax exempt.

Deductions and allowances: Individual income is reduced by a standard deduction of NIS 36,000 per year. There is a one-time deduction of NIS 30,000 for the purchase of a residence, or NIS 4,000 per year in interest deductions on a home mortgage for a maximum period of 10 years. A university education deduction of NIS 6,000 per year is granted for up to two dependents at university. Up to 10% of an individual’s salary is tax-exempt as a transportation cost.

Foreign tax relief: There is no relief for foreign tax.

Compliance for individuals

Tax year: Calendar year

Filing status: Each individual must file a tax return unless the individual’s only income is from employment. Joint filing is not permitted unless approved by the tax authorities.

Filing and payment: Tax on employment income is withheld by the employer and remitted to the tax authorities. Self-employed individuals and employed individuals with income from other sources must file a self-assessment return within four months after the end of the tax year.

Penalties: Penalties are imposed for the late payment of tax.

Rulings: There is no ruling procedure.

Withholding tax

Type of payment	Residents		Nonresidents	
	Company	Individual	Company	Individual
Dividends	10%	10%	10%	10%
Interest	0%	0%	0%	0%
Royalties	0%	0%	10%	10%
Fees for technical services	0%	0%	10%	10%

Dividends: A 10% withholding tax is levied on dividends paid to a resident or a nonresident, unless the rate is reduced or an exemption is available under an applicable tax treaty. The withholding tax was suspended from 2015-17 and in practice, is not applied in 2018 and subsequent years, although no official guidance has been issued on the status.

Interest: The Palestinian Territories do not levy withholding tax on interest.

Royalties: No withholding tax is levied on royalties paid to residents. A 10% withholding tax is levied on royalties paid to a nonresident, unless the rate is reduced or an exemption is available under an applicable tax treaty.

Fees for technical services: No withholding tax is levied on technical service fees paid to residents. Payments made for services provided by nonresidents are subject to a 10% withholding tax, unless the rate is reduced or an exemption is available under an applicable tax treaty.

Branch remittance tax: There is no branch remittance tax.

Other: Payments for goods and services are subject to withholding tax at rates ranging from 5% to 10%, unless the payee provides a tax certificate issued by the tax department.

Anti-avoidance rules

Transfer pricing: There are no transfer pricing rules.

Interest deduction limitations: There are no interest deduction limitation rules.

Controlled foreign companies: There are no controlled foreign company rules.

Hybrids: There are no hybrid rules.

Economic substance requirements: There are no economic substance requirements.

Disclosure requirements: Audited financial statements and related notes, as well as a reconciliation between financial income and taxable income approved by a licensed auditor, must be attached to the corporate income tax return.

Exit tax: There are no exit taxes.

General anti-avoidance rule: The Palestinian Territories has not implemented a general anti-avoidance rule.

Value added tax

Rates	
Standard rate	16%
Reduced rate	0%

Taxable transactions: VAT is levied on the sale of goods and the provision of services, and on imports.

Rates: The standard VAT rate is 16%. Certain transactions are zero-rated or exempt. For financial institutions, VAT is levied at a rate of 16% on gross salaries and on taxable income.

Registration: All business entities and individuals must register for VAT purposes; there is no minimum threshold.

Filing and payment: A VAT return generally must be filed on a monthly basis or other basis, as required.

Other taxes on corporations and individuals

Unless otherwise stated, the taxes in this section apply both to companies and individuals and are imposed at the national level.

Social security contributions – Implementation of a new social security law introducing compulsory monthly social security contributions for all Palestinian private sector employers and employees, and foreign employees working in Palestine where a work permit has been issued, and voluntary contributions for the self-employed, has been put on hold by the president.

Payroll tax: There is no payroll tax.

Capital duty: There is no capital duty.

Real property tax – Tax on property is levied at a rate of 17% on the assessed value of rental income. A deduction for 40% of the tax is allowed as an expense in computing taxable income, with the remaining 60% available as a credit against the income tax liability.

Transfer tax: There is no transfer tax.

Stamp duty: There is no stamp duty.

Net wealth/worth tax: There is no net wealth tax or net worth tax.

Inheritance/estate tax: There is no inheritance tax or estate tax.

Tax treaties: The Palestinian Territories has signed tax treaties with Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

Tax authorities: Income Tax Authority, VAT Authority, Ministry of Finance

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