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Tax Card 2023



Montenegro

TAX CARD 2023 – MONTENEGRO

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I. Individuals

1.1 Personal Income Tax

Residents are subject to tax on their worldwide income. Non-residents are taxed on their Montenegrin-sourced income only. Income tax is assessed in the year during which the income is earned on a current year basis.

1.1.1 Tax Rates

Personal Income tax rate up to EUR 700 Gross	0%
Personal Income tax rate from EUR 701 to EUR 100 Gross	9%
Personal Income tax rate over EUR 1000 Gross	15%

1.1.2 Taxable Incomes

Income type	Taxable amount
Incomes from salaries and bonuses arising from employment	100%
Any income arising from immovable property	100%
Incomes from dividends or other types of profit distribution	100%
Interest incomes	100%
Royalties	100%
Capital gains	100%
Other incomes not specifically mentioned above	100%

1.1.3 Exempt Income

Income type	%
Income received as a result of being insured in the social and health insurance scheme	100%
Inheritance and gifts	100%
Pensions	100%
Income from games of chance	100%
Organized social and humanitarian help	100%
Income derived in line with legislative related to disabled persons	100%
Unemployment benefits	100%
Child protection welfare	100%
Scholarships and loans to students	Subject to limitations
Goods, life and property insurance incomes	100%

1.1.4 Deductible Expenses

Expense type	%
Freelancers' income – income from self-employment	30% of the generated revenue

1.1.5 Non-Deductible Expenses

Generally, no deductions are allowable on aggregate income.

Expense type	%
Expenses that cannot be documented	100%
Penalties	100%
Mortgage interest	100%
Life insurance premiums	100%
Educational and medical expenses	100%

1.2 Social and Health Insurance Contributions

Contribution	Employees	Employer
Pension Fund	15.0%	5.5%
Health Fund	0.0%	0.0%
Unemployment Fund	0.5%	0.5%
Labor Fund		0.2%
Chamber of Commerce Membership contribution		0.27%
Prevention of Disability Fund		0.2%
Total	15,5%	6,47%

1.3 Submission of Tax Returns

The deadline for submission of the tax return is 30th April of the following year (the tax year coincides with the calendar year). The tax should be paid by the same deadline.

Individuals who received no income other than employment one and were working only with one employer during the tax year are not obliged to submit a tax return.

II. Corporate Taxation

2.1 Corporate Income Tax

Resident companies are subject to profit tax on their worldwide income, while non-resident companies are taxed only on their incomes derived from sources in Montenegro. Capital gains, dividends, interests and royalties are included in the income of companies and are taxed as part of corporate income tax.

2.1.1 Residency

Tax residency is established when a company has a permanent establishment, or the management and control is exercised in Montenegro.

2.1.2 Tax Rates

Montenegro applies a flat tax system.

Corporate Income Tax rate up to 100,000 taxable profit	9%
Corporate Income Tax rate from 100,001 to 1,500,000 taxable profit	9%
Corporate Income Tax rate over 1,500,001 taxable profit	15%

2.1.3 Taxable Incomes

Income type	Taxable amount
Incomes derived from the ordinary course of business activity of a company or closely connected to the ordinary course of business activity	100%
Incomes from the transfer of immovable properties	100%
Any income arising from immovable property	100%
Incomes from dividends or other types of profit distribution	100%
Interest incomes	100%
Royalties	100%
Other incomes not specifically defined above	100%

2.1.4 Exempt Income

The following are exempt from payment of corporate income tax:

- Local and central government bodies;
- Public enterprises, tourism organisations, sport clubs, sport associations, art associations, political parties;
- Non-governmental organizations;

- Entities which conduct only religious, humanitarian, charitable, scientific or educational activities;
- Labour organisations and commercial chambers; and
- Dividends and other profit distribution arising from holding shares in resident legal entities are tax-exempt.

2.1.5 Deductible Expenses

All expenses incurred wholly and exclusively for the generation of income are deductible for tax purposes if supported by relevant documents such as tax invoices, foreign invoices, receipts issued by state entities or other documents compiled and issued according to the Ministry of Finance Directives.

Deductible expenses include, among others:

Expense type	Deductible amount
Expenses for the repair of premises, plant, machinery and means of transport	100%
Social and health insurance contributions paid on behalf employees	100%
Interest and royalty payments	100%
Bad debts only after the company has undertaken all legal steps to cash in the debt	100%

2.1.6 Non-deductible Expenses

Expenses that were not wholly and exclusively incurred for the generation of income, or expenses that have not been documented properly are not deductible for tax purposes.

Non-deductible expenses include:

Expense type	Non-deductible amount
Expenses not related to business activity	100%
Expenses that cannot be documented	100%
Penalties, fines and interest for late payment of taxes	100%
Interests paid to non-residents in amount above market rate	100%
Expenses made for business entertainment, accommodation, hospitality of any kind when the overall amount exceeds 3% of the total revenue	100%
Business trip allowances that exceed the limits set by the Ministry of Finance	100%
Donations to political organisation	100%
Expenses resulting from the correction of accounting records related to previous periods	100%
Administrative expenses paid to non-resident head office	100%
Representation cost over 1% of total turnover	100%
Expenses of salaries that are not paid in period	100%

2.2 Withholding Taxes

The withholding tax rate is 15%.

All residents, including companies, sole entrepreneurs, central and local governmental bodies, non-profit organisations and any other legal entity registered in Montenegro are obliged to withhold tax from the following payments generated in Montenegro:

Taxable payments	Tax rate
Dividends	15%
Interest Profit shares	15%
Interests paid to non-residents	15%
Royalties paid to non-residents	15%
Capital gain paid to non-residents	15%
Income derived from consulting services paid to non-residents	15%
Rent of movable and immovable property paid to non-residents	15%
Market research services paid to non-residents	15%
Audit services paid to non-residents	15%

The payer is obliged to withhold the tax and pay it to the account of the Tax Authorities on behalf of the beneficiary of the payment.

The domestic withholding tax rate (15%) may be reduced when a double tax treaty exists with more favorable rates.

Double tax treaty network in force for 2023

Albania	Germany	Portugal
Austria	Hungary	Romania
Azerbaijan	Ireland	Russia
Belarus	Iran	Serbia
Belgium	Italy	Slovakia
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Kuwait	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Latvia	Sri Lanka
China	Malta	Sweden
Croatia	Malaysia	Switzerland
Cyprus	Moldova	Turkey
Czech Republic	Netherlands	Ukraine
Denmark	North Korea	United Arab Emirates
Egypt	North Macedonia	United Kingdom
Finland	Norway	
France	Poland	

Foreign companies whose headquarters are in "territories with tax sovereignty withholding tax of 30% instead of 15%.

III. Indirect taxation

3.1 Value Added Tax (VAT)

3.1.1 VAT Registration Threshold

The VAT turnover registration threshold is determined by the Ministry of Finance, according to the economic and administrative factors. The current turnover threshold is EUR 30,000 in a 12-month period.

Voluntary registration: Every physical person or legal entity that is not obliged to be registered for VAT according to the abovementioned conditions but offers taxable supplies of goods or services in Montenegro, has the right to a voluntary VAT registration at the respective Tax Office.

3.1.2 Rates

General rate - applied on domestic transactions and on imports of goods	21%
Basic food supplies (bread, milk, meat, fat, oil, sugar), medical drugs, books, water supplies, hotel accommodation, public transport, service of preparation and serving of food, bottled drinking water and non-alcoholic non-carbonated drinks in restaurants and facilities where catering services are provided, etc..	7%
Exports of goods out of Montenegro and international transport of goods and passengers, services provided to foreign legal entities, medicines and medical devices, determined by the list of medicines, etc	0%

3.1.3 VAT Exempt supplies of goods and services:

Financial services and banks
Postage stamps supply
Supply provided by a non-profit organisation
Educational services
Supply of newspapers, magazines and books (other than imported) and advertising in electronic and traditional media services
International air and sea transport
Supply of services performed outside the territory of Montenegro by a taxpayer whose place of business is in Montenegro

3.1.4 Fiscalisation (e-invoicing)

From 1st June 2021, all legal entities that are obliged to harmonise their business in accordance with the law on fiscalisation in such a way that they are obliged to report their turnover through electronic toll collection devices that will be connected to the Tax administration.

3.2 Custom Duty

Customs duty in the Republic of Montenegro is applied on the import of goods, by the custom authorities. The liability to pay customs duty is always on the importer of goods, but it is added to the cost of goods and in this way it is finally passed on to the consumers.

Customs duty is based generally on the value of goods or upon the weight, dimensions, or other criteria, depending on the item. The rate of customs duty in Montenegro is different for each product and it also varies by country(ies) of origin. The customs authorities have the obligation to publish and update the list of the customs rates for each product and each country.

3.3 Excise Duty

Excise duty in the Republic of Montenegro is an indirect tax applied on certain goods, such as tobacco products, alcoholic drinks, coffee, petroleum (and petroleum byproducts), packaging products etc. The liability to pay excise duty is always on the manufacturer or producer of goods. Nevertheless, it is normally added to the cost of goods and is collected by the manufacturer from the buyer of goods.

There is no universal excise duty rate, as the duty for each product is different and is calculated on a kg, litre or pieces basis.

IV. Local and Other Taxes, Fees

Real estate tax on buildings. Property tax – calculated on the surface (square meters) of the buildings – its amount depends on the region where the building is located.
Real estate tax on agricultural land – calculated on the surface (hectares) of the agricultural land – its amount depends on the region where the land is located.
Tax on environment and waste collection
Fees on occupying a public place in the market for business purposes.
Transfer tax – Second and subsequent transfers of real estate property are subject to transfer tax at the rate of 3%. For the property valued over 150 000, from 1 January 2024 transfer tax rate at 5%
Municipality tax - City surtax - Municipality tax calculated on the base of personal income tax. Depending on municipality surtax rate can be from 10% to 15%.

V. Tax Calendar

Activity	Deadline
Declaration and payment of VAT	15th of the following month
Declaration and payment of social and health insurance contribution	15th of the following month
Declaration of dividend distribution and payment of related withholding tax	28th February for previous year
Submission of Financial Statements to the Tax Office	31st March for previous year
Declaration and payment of annual corporate income tax return	31st March for previous year
Annual personal income tax return	30th April for previous year
Immovable Property Declaration	30th April for previous year

VI. Administrative Penalties

Activity	Penalty
Personal Income Tax Law: - Failure to submit an annual personal tax return within legal deadline - Late or incorrect payment - Other related offense	EUR 2,000 to EUR 10,000
Corporate Income Tax Law: - Late submission of withholding tax return or corporate income tax return - Late payment of corporate income tax or withholding tax - Other related offense	EUR 550 – EUR 16,500
Value Added Tax: - Failure to register for VAT - Failure to submit VAT return - Other VAT related offense - Fiscalisation offense	EUR 3,000 to EUR 40,000

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