

# Consulting German business data by foreign administrative bodies



## General

The [business register](#) (*Unternehmensregister*) is a central database that gathers relevant information on German companies.

The public website managed by the *Bundesanzeiger-Verlag* provides information on announcements of various German registers such as the business register (*Handelsregister*), the register of cooperatives (*Genossenschaftsregister*), the register of partnerships (*Partnerschaftsregister*), the register of associations (*Vereinsregister*) and, in addition, announcements of the insolvency courts and deposited annual financial statements of companies. The website does not only keep announcements from the registers, but also documents submitted by companies themselves.

The German business register can therefore provide a wide range of information about a company, irrespective of its legal form. Less information is available on Civil Law Partnerships (*Gesellschaften bürgerlichen Rechts*; GbR), as these are not subject to any obligation to be entered in a central register.

The website is available in German, English and French. The terms of use can also be accessed in these languages.

## Access

In principle, no registration is required to search and consult the German business register. Registration is only necessary for the inspection of deposited annual financial statements of small corporations. For registration for the purpose of retrieving annual financial statements, the name, address and e-mail address of the user must be entered.

## Search criteria

In a quick search, information can only be found by using the name of the company. It is not possible though to search by the name of specific persons.

Using the advanced search, however, it is also possible to search by other criteria such as the location of the company's registered office or the competent court that organizes the land register.

## Consultable data

- Name, legal form and registered office of the company
- Annual accounts filed by companies
- Information on the power of representation
- Information on the shareholders

## Costs

Registration, research on individual companies and access to publications and company data are free of charge. For the retrieval of data or deposited balance sheets, fees of usually 1.50 - 4.50 Euro are charged.

Questions or more information?

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