China vs Germany

More ownership. More scale. Room to grow.

A practical guide to ownership, tax, visas and business growth.

COMPARE	CHINA | THE OPPORTUNITY	GERMANY
Foreign ownership	**100% foreign-owned** in many sectors; activity restrictions apply.	**100% foreign ownership** generally available; investment screening applies in sensitive sectors.
Corporate income tax	**5% effective CIT** for qualifying small companies with annual taxable profit up to RMB3m.* Standard rate: 25%.	**Around 30% combined** on average: 15% CIT, solidarity surcharge and municipal trade tax.
VAT / sales tax	**1% on eligible transactions** for small-scale taxpayers, generally with sales up to RMB5m.*	**19% standard VAT**; reduced rates and exemptions apply.
Dividend tax	**20% for foreign individuals** from 1 Sep 2026. Corporate shareholders have different rules.	Generally **26.375% withholding** including solidarity surcharge; treaty relief may reduce this.
Repatriating profits	**Permitted after tax and distribution compliance.** Banks review corporate, financial and tax records.	**Generally transferable abroad** after lawful distribution and tax compliance; bank checks apply.
Family visa rights	**S1:** eligible spouse, parents, children under 18 and parents-in-law; residence application required.	Eligible **spouse and minor children**; income, housing and language conditions may apply.
Hiring & capital	**No general nationwide 4:1 hiring rule.** Local work-permit and capital requirements apply.	**GmbH: EUR25,000 capital**, usually EUR12,500 paid at cash formation. Lower-capital UG available.
Work & residence	Eligible founders can apply through a **genuine operating company**; applicant and job criteria apply.	**Self-employment residence route** requires a viable project, funding and economic or regional benefit.
Market size	**Around 1.4 billion people.** A large domestic customer base; demand varies by product.	**Around 83.5 million people** (end-2025); a high-income market with access to the EU.
Supply chain & talent	**Broad industrial supply chains** and a large workforce for sourcing and scaling.	Advanced engineering and skilled talent; China offers a much larger production ecosystem.
Banking & setup	**Multilingual local support** for documents, appointments and bank coordination. Bank approval required.	Notarial incorporation, commercial registration and bank KYC; translations may be required.

* China: 5% CIT needs total profit <= RMB3m, <= 300 staff, assets <= RMB50m and eligible activity. Small-scale VAT conditions apply; input VAT generally not deductible. Both concessions end 31 Dec 2027. Standard China VAT rates differ. Dividend figures concern foreign individuals/nonresidents, not total personal tax; treaties may reduce rates. Family rights depend on route; work rights vary. Population figures are rounded 2025/26 estimates. Reviewed 29 Oct 2026.

LET'S TALK CHINA.

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