

— FREE GUIDE FOR JERSEY BUSINESSES

Becoming a sole trader in Jersey

The steps and the costs

Working for yourself in Jersey: the licence, the business name, Social Security and tax, with 2026 figures from gov.je and the JFSC.

GETTING STARTED

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By Josh, Jersey Web · Updated 21 October 2026 · Read it online: jerseyweb.je/guides/sole-trader-in-jersey/

Being a sole trader is the simplest way to work for yourself in Jersey: you are the business, with no company to set up. There are still a few registrations to make. This guide sets them out in order, with figures checked against gov.je, the JFSC and Social Security on 21 October 2026.

We are a web studio, not legal or tax advisers. For your own situation, speak to the Business Hub, Revenue Jersey or an accountant.

Do sole traders need a business licence?

Usually, yes. You apply online through one.gov.je. The exception is a sole trader with no employees working under eight hours a week who holds an eligible residential status; other exemptions are set out in the Control of Housing and Work rules. Our guide to [starting a business in Jersey](#) covers the licence in more detail.

Do I need to register a business name?

Only if you trade under a name that is not your own. Sole traders are registered for a business name at the same time as they apply for the licence. The JFSC's [2026 fees](#) are **£77** for a business name statement and **£62** to renew it every three years.

Social Security: Class 2 contributions

Self-employed people pay Class 2 contributions to Social Security. In 2026 the [standard rate](#) is **£757.75 a month**. New businesses may qualify for the Startup Plan at **£252.58 a month**, for up to two years. Rates are recalculated each January.

How sole traders pay income tax

Self-employed income is not covered by an ITIS rate. Instead you [pay tax on account](#), on 30 November and 31 May, based on the previous year's bill, and declare your self-employed income on your tax return. If you also have a job and your self-employed income is less than three times your employed income, you may pay through ITIS instead.

GST and data protection

Most sole traders are well below the £300,000 GST registration threshold: our [GST guide](#) explains it. If you hold any customer details, you will almost certainly need to [register with the JOIC](#).

Keep your records

Keep business records for at least [six years](#): income, expenses, invoices and receipts.

THE SHORT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Business licence from one.gov.je, unless you are exempt.
- ☐ Business name registered if you trade under a name that is not yours (£77, then £62 every three years).
- ☐ Class 2 Social Security set up (Startup Plan if eligible).
- ☐ Income tax: payments on account, and self-employed income on your tax return.
- ☐ JOIC registration if you hold customer details.
- ☐ Records kept for six years.

Starting out and need a website?

Our first business websites are built for new sole traders: builds from £100, hosting from £20 a month, with the domain registered in your name.

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