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While Americans often say they dread the April 15 income tax deadline, most regular workers who earn a wage, and have their taxes withheld, actually look forward to filing their income tax returns with the IRS, because they usually get some money back. Sometimes quite a bit. **[Note: For 2018, the income tax filing deadline is April 17, because April 15 is a Sunday, and April 16 is a holiday for federal workers in Washington D.C. (Emancipation Day).]**

But every year it seems like the income tax refund schedule is changed. In 2017, for example, returns with the earned income tax credit (EITC) or additional child tax credit (ACTC) were delayed by the IRS in order to deter fraud. For the 2018 income tax filing season, taxpayers with those tax credits can also expect the same delay.

The chart below offers a general guide for when taxpayers should receive their income tax refund, based on when they filed, when the IRS accepted their return, and whether they are receiving a direct deposit of the refund or a paper check. For a more specific determination of when you might receive your refund, ask your tax professional or visit the IRS **“Where’s My Refund?”** website.

There are also [apps for Apple, Android and other devices](#) that help track refund status.

Note: The IRS will start processing most returns on January 29, but will not start processing returns with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) until mid-February 2018.

# 2018 Income Tax Refund Schedule

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FEB 16	FEB 23	MAR 2
Feb 23	Mar 4	Mar 16
Mar 2	Mar 11	Mar 23
Mar 9	Mar 18	Mar 30
Mar 16	Mar 25	Apr 6
Mar 23	Apr 1	Apr 13
Mar 30	Apr 8	Apr 20
Apr 6	Apr 15	Apr 27
Apr 13	Apr 22	May 4
Apr 20	Apr 29	May 11
Apr 27	May 6	May 18
May 4	May 13	May 25
May 11	May 20	Jun 1

The IRS will begin processing tax returns on January 29, 2018, for income earned in 2017. In general, the IRS says that returns with refunds are processed and payments issued within 21 days. For paper filers, this can take much longer, however. The IRS and tax professionals strongly encourage electronic filing.

Taxpayers can use “Where’s My Refund?” to start checking on the status of their return within 24 hours after IRS has received an e-filed return or four weeks after receipt of a mailed paper return. “Where’s My Refund?” has a tracker that displays progress through three stages: (1) Return Received, (2) Refund Approved and (3) Refund Sent.

The IRS2Go phone app is another fast and safe tool taxpayers can use to check the status of a refund. In addition, users can use the app to find free tax preparation help, make a payment, watch the IRS YouTube channel, get the latest IRS news, and subscribe to filing season updates and tax tips. The app is free for Android devices from the Google Play Store or from the Apple App Store for Apple devices.

Users of both the IRS2Go app and “Where’s my Refund” tools must have information

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The chart above provides a general estimate of when taxpayers can expect their refund, based on date filed and type of refund payment.

Income Tax • IRS

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