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issued within 21 days. For paper filers, this can take much longer, however.

Nov. 22, 2016

If you're one of the millions of Americans who are asking, "When can I expect my income tax refund?" we have the answer. It depends on a couple of things, but the good news is that there are several tools to help find out.

First of all, taxpayers who use a professional, such as a CPA or EA, can ask that professional for an estimated date. Taxpayers who've already filed can also go to the [Internal Revenue Service's website](#), which has a tool designed specifically for that called, "[Where's My Refund?](#)"

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 24, but will not start processing returns with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) until Feb. 15, 2017.

IRS Accepts Between These Dates Direct Deposit Sent Paper Check Mailed

Tuesday 1/24/2017	Friday 1/27/17	Friday 2/3/17	Friday 2/3/17
1/27/17	2/3/17	Friday 2/10/17	Friday 2/10/17
2/3/17	2/10/17	Friday 2/17/17	Friday 2/17/17
2/10/17	2/15/17	Friday 2/24/17	Friday 2/24/17
Wednesday 2/15/17	2/24/17	Friday 3/3/17	Friday 3/3/17
2/24/17	3/3/17	Friday 3/10/17	Friday 3/10/17
3/3/17	3/10/17	Friday 3/17/17	Friday 3/17/17
3/10/17	3/17/17	Friday 3/24/17	Friday 3/24/17

3/17/17

3/24/17

Friday 3/31/17

Friday 3/31/17

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4/21/17

4/28/17

Friday 5/5/17

Friday 5/5/17

4/28/17

5/5/17

Friday 5/12/17

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8/4/17

Friday 8/11/17

Friday 8/11/17

8/4/17

8/11/17

Friday 8/18/17

Friday 8/18/17

8/11/17

8/18/17

Friday 8/25/17

Friday 8/25/17

The IRS will begin processing tax returns on January 24, 2017, for taxes paid/owed in 2016. 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.

How quickly a taxpayer receives a refund also depends on when they file and whether they have requested a direct deposit of their refund, or a paper check. This is because during some time frames there is increased traffic, with more filers getting

their forms in. The busiest time, and which can experience longer waits on refunds,

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