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deadline falls on Sunday this year, which would normally give taxpayers ...

Jan. 29, 2018



Marking the beginning of the nation's tax season, the Internal Revenue Service said today that it successfully started accepting and processing 2017 federal individual income tax returns. More than 155 million returns are expected to be filed this year.

People have until Tuesday, April 17, 2018, to file their 2017 returns and pay any taxes due. The filing tax deadline is later this year due to several factors. The usual April 15 deadline falls on Sunday this year, which would normally give taxpayers until at least the following Monday. However, Emancipation Day, a Washington, D.C., holiday, is observed on Monday, April 16, giving taxpayers nationwide an additional day to file. By law, Washington holidays impact tax deadlines for everyone in the

same way federal holidays do. Taxpayers requesting an extension will have until

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off reflects many months of hard work by the nation's tax community and IRS employees. And we also appreciate the time and attention taxpayers take as they prepare and file their taxes.”

Use e-File and Free File

The IRS expects about 90 percent of returns to be filed electronically. Choosing [e-file](#) and [direct deposit](#) remains the fastest and safest way to file an accurate income tax return and receive a refund.

The [IRS Free File](#) program, available at [IRS.gov](#), gives eligible taxpayers a dozen options for brand-name products. Free File is a partnership with commercial partners offering free brand-name software to about 100 million individuals and families with incomes of \$66,000 or less. About 70 percent of the nation's taxpayers are eligible for IRS Free File. People who earned more than \$66,000 may use Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms.

Refunds in 2018: More than 90 Percent in Less than 21 days; EITC/ACTC Refunds Starting Feb. 27

The IRS issues more than nine out of 10 refunds in less than 21 days. However, it's possible a tax return may require additional review and take longer. “[Where's My Refund?](#)” has the most up to date information available about refunds. The tool is updated no more than once a day, so taxpayers don't need to check more often.

The IRS also notes that refunds cannot be issued before mid-February for tax returns that claim the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit. This applies to the entire refund — even the portion not associated with the EITC and ACTC. While the IRS will process the EITC and ACTC returns when received, these refunds cannot be issued before mid-February. The IRS expects the earliest EITC/ACTC related refunds to be available in taxpayer bank accounts or on debit

cards starting on Feb. 27, 2018, if they chose direct deposit and there are no other

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This law change gives the IRS more time to detect and prevent fraud. Even with the EITC and ACTC refunds and the additional security safeguards, the IRS still expects to issue more than nine out of 10 refunds in less than 21 days. However, it's possible a particular tax return may require additional review and take longer. Taxpayers are reminded that state tax agencies have their own refund processing timeframes that vary, and some states may make additional reviews to ensure their refunds are being issued properly. Even so, taxpayers and tax return preparers should file when they're ready. For those who usually file early in the year and are ready to file a complete and accurate return, there is no need to wait to file.

Free Tax Help

Low- and moderate-income taxpayers can get help filing their tax return for free. More than 90,000 volunteers around the country can help people correctly complete their return.

To get this help, taxpayers can visit one of the more than 12,000 community-based tax help sites that participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs. To find the nearest site, use the [VITA/TCE Site Locator](#) on IRS.gov or the IRS2Go mobile app.

Filing Assistance

No matter who prepares a federal tax return, by signing the return, the taxpayer becomes legally responsible for the accuracy of all information included. IRS.gov offers a number of [tips about selecting a preparer](#) and information about [national tax professional groups](#).

The IRS urges all taxpayers to make sure they have all their year-end statements in hand before filing. This includes Forms W-2 from employers and Forms 1099 from

banks and other payers. Doing so will help avoid refund delays and the need to file an

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Taxpayers can go to [IRS.gov/account](https://irs.gov/account) to securely access information about their federal tax account. They can view the amount they owe, pay online or set up an online payment agreement; access their tax records online; review the past 18 months of payment history; and view key tax return information for the current year as filed. Visit [IRS.gov/secureaccess](https://irs.gov/secureaccess) to review the required identity authentication process.

The IRS urges taxpayers to take advantage of the many tools and other resources available on IRS.gov. IRS phone lines will be busy again this year, so to save time, people should first visit the IRS website for tax assistance.

The IRS continues to work with state tax authorities and the tax industry to address tax-related identity theft and refund fraud. As part of the [Security Summit](#) effort, stronger protections for taxpayers and the nation's tax system are in effect for the 2018 tax filing season.

The new measures attack tax-related identity theft from multiple sides. Many changes will be invisible to taxpayers but will help the IRS, states and the tax industry provide new protections. New security requirements will better protect tax software accounts and personal information.

Renew ITIN to Avoid Refund Delays

Many Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) expired on Dec. 31, 2017. This includes any ITIN not used on a tax return at least once in the past three years. Also, any ITIN with middle digits of 70, 71, 72 or 80 (Example: 9NN-70-NNNN or 9NN-80-NNNN) is now expired. ITINs that have middle digits 78 or 79 expired Dec. 31, 2016, but taxpayers can still renew them. Affected taxpayers should act soon to avoid refund delays and possible loss of eligibility for some key tax benefits until the

ITIN is renewed. An ITIN is used by anyone who has tax-filing or payment

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software product for the first time may need their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) amount from their prior-year tax return to verify their identity.

Taxpayers using the same tax software they used last year will not need to enter their prior year information to electronically sign their 2017 tax return. Taxpayers can learn more about how to verify their identity and electronically sign tax returns at [Validating Your Electronically Filed Tax Return](#).

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