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refund. If yours is delayed, use the "Where's My Refund?" tool on the IRS website - Or download the IRS2Go app to check your refund status.

Nov. 20, 2018



The tax reform law officially kicked in on January 1, 2018, but the taxes you are filing now (by April 15, 2019) will be the first that most Americans see of the changes. To clarify: This is for Tax Year 2018, which are the tax forms that most Americans **will be filing by April 15, 2019** (for their income earned in 2018). See the chart below for an estimated date.

Will You Get a Bigger Income Tax Refund in 2019?

Maybe, maybe not. For many, there may be no effect on their refund, particularly if

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When Will You Get Your 2019 Income Tax Refund?

This is the question you probably came here for. First, with all of the major changes to the tax law, **the IRS is likely to delay the start of tax season.** In recent years, even comparably minor changes have resulted in about a week delay, so it would not be surprising to see tax season start in February instead of late January.

Those with the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** or **Child Tax Credit (CTC)** are **also likely to have their forms delayed**, since the IRS pays special attention to these credits, which have been abused in past years.

This chart shows an estimated timeline for when a taxpayer is likely to receive their refund. If yours is delayed, use the **“Where’s My Refund?”** tool on the IRS website – Or download the **IRS2Go app** to check your refund status.

“When Can I Expect My 2019 Income Tax Refund?”

IRS Accepts Between These Dates	=====	Direct Deposit Sent (Or Check Mailed)	
1/21/19 – 1/25/19		Friday 2/1/19	*
1/28/19 – 2/1/19		Friday 2/8/19	
2/4/19 – 2/8/19		Friday 2/15/19	**
2/11/19 – 2/15/19		Friday 2/22/19	**
2/18/19 – 2/22/19		Friday 3/1/19	
2/25/19 – 3/1/19		Friday 3/8/19	
3/4/19 – 3/8/19		Friday 3/23/19	***
3/11/19 – 3/15/19		Friday 3/30/19	
3/18/19 – 3/22/19		Friday 4/5/19	
3/25/19 – 3/29/19		Friday 4/12/19	

* = IRS may delay tax filing season by one week or more due to changes in tax law.

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4/19/19	Friday 5/3/19
4/22/19 –	Friday
4/26/19	5/10/19
4/29/19 – 5/3/19	Friday
	5/17/19
5/6/19 – 5/10/19	Friday
	5/24/19
5/13/19 – 5/17/19	Friday
	5/31/19
5/20/19 –	Friday 6/7/19
5/24/19	
5/27/19 –	Friday
5/31/19	6/14/19
6/3/19 – 6/7/19	Friday
	6/21/19

IMPORTANT: If you file electronically (using an online tax program or preparer), the IRS will notify you of the actual date they “accepted” your return. This is often 1-3 days from the time you actually hit the “file” button, and it is this date that you need to use for the above chart.

Taxpayers who mail their income tax return can expect at least a 3-4 week delay at the front-end of the process, as the return has to be digitized before it can be processed.

Be Safe – Hire a Professional

Taxpayers who use a professional, such as a CPA or EA, can ask that professional for

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Other Notes:

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, is usually for those who file in April.

What If I Can't File My Income Taxes By April 15?

If you realize you don't have all of the paperwork you need in order to file your taxes, you or your tax pro can easily file an extension form, **"Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return."** – This will give you until October 15 to file your tax return. You don't need any reason or excuse to receive this extension, and as the title states, it is automatically granted.

However, if you owe taxes, it is still your obligation to pay those taxes by April 15, even if you request an extension. A professional can assist with this. If you are due a refund, all you need to do is file the extension request by April 15. Any tax professional and most do-it-yourself tax program can perform this task.

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