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Just as each tax return is unique and individual, so is each taxpayer's refund. There are a few things taxpayers should keep in mind if they are waiting on their refund ...

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The Internal Revenue Service is reminding taxpayers today that the best way to check on their tax refund is by using the “[Where’s My Refund?](#)” tool on the IRS website [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov) or through the [IRS2Go Mobile App](#).

As of Feb. 21, the IRS had already issued more than [37.4 million refunds averaging \\$3,125](#).

While the majority of tax refunds are issued within 21 days, some may take longer. Just as each tax return is unique and individual, so is each taxpayer’s refund. There

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- Some tax returns require additional review.
- The return may include errors or be incomplete.
- The return could be affected by identity theft or fraud.
- The return includes a claim for the Earned Income Tax Credit or Additional Child Tax Credit.
- The time between the IRS issuing the refund and the bank posting it to an account since many banks do not process payments on weekends or holidays.

The IRS will contact taxpayers by mail if more information is needed to process a return.

### **Fast and easy refund updates**

Taxpayers can use “Where’s My Refund?” to start checking on the status of their return within 24 hours after the IRS acknowledges receipt of an electronically filed return or four weeks after the taxpayer mails a paper return. The tool’s tracker displays progress through three phases: (1) Return Received; (2) Refund Approved; and (3) Refund Sent. To use it a taxpayer must [enter](#) their Social security number or ITIN, their filing status and the exact whole dollar amount of their refund. The IRS updates “Where’s My Refund?” once a day, usually overnight, so there’s no need to check more frequently.

### **Ignore refund myths**

Some taxpayers mistakenly believe they can expedite their refund by ordering a tax transcript, calling the IRS or calling their tax preparer. Ordering a tax transcript will not help a taxpayer get their refund faster or find out when they’ll get their refund. The information available on “Where’s My Refund?” is the same information available to IRS telephone assistors.

Filing [electronically](#) and using direct deposit is the fastest and safest way to file an

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[Choosing a Tax Professional](#), which includes a list of consumer tips for selecting a tax professional.

The [Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications](#) is a free searchable and sortable database. It includes the name, city, state and zip code of credentialed return preparers who are CPAs, enrolled agents or attorneys, as well as those who have completed the requirements for the IRS [Annual Filing Season Program](#). A search of the database can help taxpayers verify credentials and qualifications of tax professionals.

Taxpayers can find answers to questions, forms and instructions and easy-to-use tools online at IRS.gov anytime. No appointment required and no waiting on hold.

Income Tax • IRS

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