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February 2009: Tax Time

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www.irs.gov



# Its tax time!

Are you ready this year? If not, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has added several online services to make the process a little less painful.

Did you know that if your adjusted gross income was \$56,000 or less in 2008, you can get help with your tax preparation and file your taxes for free? The Free File program provides free federal income tax preparation and electronic filing through a partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance LLC, a group of private sector tax software companies. For more information and a list of participating companies click **Free File**.

You can also e-file your taxes through a tax preparer or with your personal computer. For instructions and a list of IRS e-file partners go to the **Electronic Tax Filing Program**.

## Online Services from the IRS

#### **Tax Information for Students**

Do you earn money working or have a bank account that earns interest? These questions will help you determine if you need to file a Federal Income Tax return.

#### **Tax Forms and Publications**

Official Federal tax forms, instructions, and help pages to aid you in your tax preparation. Includes a topical index and tax form archives back to 1990.

#### **Highlights of Recent Tax Changes**

Check here for articles on newly-enacted tax law and other changes that will be reflected in future versions of the tax products.



Income Tax Bureau Stenographers, 1920

#### **IRS Withholding Calculator**

Are you sure the amount of income tax you have withheld from your pay check isn't too high or too low? The IRS Withholding Calculator can help you find out.

#### **How Much Was my Stimulus Payment?**

Find out how much your 2008 economic stimulus payment was.

#### **Online Employer Identification Number (EIN)**

Receive your EIN within minutes.

#### **Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) Assistant**

If you are not using software to prepare your Form 1040 return, you can use this tool to determine whether you may be subject to the AMT.

#### Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Assistant - Available in English and Spanish

Find out if you are eligible for EITC by answering questions and providing basic income information. You can also estimate the amount of your credit.



**Income Tax Bureau, 1922** 

#### **Search for Tax Exempt Charities**

Find out whether an organization is exempt from federal taxation and, if so, determine how much of your contributions to that organization are tax deductible.

#### **Tax Trails**

Get answers to many common tax questions by answering a series of simple online questions.

#### **Estate and Gift Taxes**

The Estate and Gift Tax web site.

#### **Need a Copy of Your Tax Return Information?**

Get copies of your federal tax return transcripts and tax account transcripts
-- by phone or by mail.



Rush for the tax deadline in NY, 1944

#### Filing Late and/or Paying Late

Before you decide not to file your tax return on time or not pay all of your taxes when they are due, consider this.

#### **IRS Criminal Enforcement**

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is! Seek expert advice before you subscribe to any scheme that offers instant wealth or exemption from taxes.

#### Criminal Tax Fraud Publications, Facts-Figures-Closed Cases, and News Releases

The publicity of criminal tax cases demonstrates IRS's commitment to ensuring that everyone is paying their fair share of taxes.

#### **IRS Auctions**

Listing of property that has been seized or acquired for nonpayment of internal revenue taxes and will be sold.



James A. Farley post office, NY

#### **Frequently Asked Tax Questions and Answers**

IRS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

#### **Contact the IRS.gov Web Site Help Desk**

If you need help with file formats, printing files, or any similar technical problem, to seek assistance here.

#### **Call the IRS With Your Tax Questions**

Telephone Assistance for Individuals:
Toll-Free, 1-800-829-1040
Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

#### **Taxpayer Assistance Center Office Locator**

If you need face-to-face assistance, you can search online for the walk-in Taxpayer Assistance Centers closest to you.



#### Tax Stats from the IRS

The IRS links to individual, partnership, international, and domestic tax statistics, statistics by topic, and an overview of IRS statistics.

#### Where's My Refund?

You can check the status of your refund online after 72 hours if you e-filed or 3-4 weeks if you mailed your return.

### **South Carolina Tax Information and Forms**

#### **South Carolina Department of Revenue**

# Tax Forms in the Library

Federal tax forms and South Carolina tax forms are available in the foyer of Dacus Library and upstairs in the Government Documents Department. Please visit our IRS exhibit featuring Internal Revenue Reports, Income statistics, Tax Product CD-ROMs, and other IRS publications.

Disclaimer: Dacus Library personnel are not able to help you with your tax preparation, determine which forms you need to fill out, or offer advice. However, we would be glad to help you access federal and state tax forms and instructions.



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