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IR-2015-64: IRS Lists Ways to Avoid Common Errors for Millions of Taxpayers Meeting the April 15 Deadline

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) sent this bulletin at 04/02/2015 02:08 PM EDT



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April 2, 2015

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IRS Lists Ways to Avoid Common Errors for Millions of Taxpayers Meeting the April 15 Deadline

WASHINGTON — The tax filing deadline is less than two weeks away, and the Internal Revenue Service has already received 90 million individual tax returns – roughly three out of five returns expected to be received in 2015.

For the millions of taxpayers who will file in the next two weeks, the IRS offers the following reminders:

File electronically. Filing electronically, whether through [e-file](#) or [IRS Free File](#), vastly reduces tax return errors, as the tax software does the calculations, flags common errors and prompts taxpayers for missing information. And best of all, there is a free option for everyone.

Mail a paper return to the right address. Paper filers should check IRS.gov or their form instructions for the appropriate address [where to file](#) to avoid processing delays.

IRS Resources

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Take a close look at the tax tables. When figuring tax using the [tax tables](#), taxpayers should be sure to use the correct column for the filing status claimed.

Fill in all requested information clearly. When entering information on the tax return, including Social Security numbers, take the time to be sure it is correct and easy to read. Also, check only one filing status and the appropriate exemption boxes.

Review all figures. While software catches and prevents many errors on e-file returns, math errors remain common on paper returns.

Get the right routing and account numbers.

Requesting direct deposit of a federal refund into one, two or even three accounts is convenient and allows the taxpayer access to his or her money faster. Make sure the financial institution routing and account numbers entered on the return are accurate. Incorrect numbers can cause a refund to be delayed or deposited into the wrong account.

Sign and date the return. If filing a joint return, both spouses must sign and date the return. E-filers can sign using a self-selected personal identification number (PIN).

Attach all required forms. Paper filers need to attach W-2s and other forms that reflect tax withholding, to the front of their returns. If requesting a payment agreement with the IRS, also attach [Form 9465](#) to the front of the return. Attach all other necessary schedules and forms in the sequence number order shown in the upper right-hand corner.

Keep a copy of the return. Once ready to be filed, taxpayers should make a copy of their signed return and all schedules for their records.

Request a Filing Extension. For taxpayers who cannot meet the April 15 deadline, requesting a filing extension is easy and will prevent late filing penalties. Either use Free File (link again) or [Form 4868](#). But keep in mind that while an extension grants additional time to file, tax payments are still due April 15.

Owe tax? If so, a number of [e-payment](#) options are available. Or send a check or money order payable to the "United States Treasury."

Taxpayers may find additional help and resources on IRS.gov, including the [IRS Services Guide](#).

2014 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative statistics comparing 3/28/14 and 3/27/15

Individual Income Tax Returns:	2014	2015	% Change
Total Receipts	90,762,000	90,256,000	-0.6
Total Processed	89,127,000	88,298,000	-0.9
E-filing Receipts:			
TOTAL	82,441,000	82,905,000	0.6
Tax Professionals	48,787,000	47,565,000	-2.5
Self-prepared	33,654,000	35,340,000	5.0
Web Usage:			
Visits to IRS.gov	220,978,418	247,014,240	11.8
Total Refunds:			

Number	73,035,000	71,685,000	-1.8
Amount	\$206.785 Billion	204.504 Billion	-1.1
Average refund	\$2,831	\$2,853	0.8

**Direct
Deposit
Refunds:**

Number	61,223,000	62,129,000	1.5
Amount	\$180.687 Billion	186.868 Billion	3.4
Average refund	\$2,951	\$3,008	1.9

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