



IRS has refunds totaling \$1.3 billion for people who have not filed a 2017 federal income tax return

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WASHINGTON – Unclaimed income tax refunds worth more than \$1.3 billion await an estimated 1.3 million taxpayers who did not file a 2017 Form 1040 federal income tax return, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

"The IRS wants to help taxpayers who are due refunds but haven't filed their 2017 tax returns yet," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "Time is quickly running out for these taxpayers. There's only a three-year window to claim these refunds, and the window closes on May 17. We want to help people get these refunds, but they will need to quickly file a 2017 tax return."

The IRS estimates the midpoint for the potential refunds for 2017 to be \$865 — that is, half of the refunds are more than \$865 and half are less.

In cases where a federal income tax return was not filed, the law provides most taxpayers with a three-year window of opportunity to claim a tax refund. If they do not file a tax return within three years, the money becomes the property of the U.S. Treasury. For 2017 tax returns, the window closes May 17, 2021, for most taxpayers. The law requires taxpayers to properly address, mail and ensure the tax return is postmarked by that date.

The IRS reminds taxpayers seeking a 2017 tax refund that their checks may be held if they have not filed tax returns for 2018 and 2019. In addition, the refund will be applied to any amounts still owed to the IRS or a state tax agency and may be used to offset unpaid child support or past due federal debts, such as student loans.

By failing to file a tax return, people stand to lose more than just their refund of taxes withheld or paid during 2017. Many low- and moderate-income workers may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). For 2017, the credit was worth as much as \$6,318. The EITC helps individuals and families whose incomes are below certain thresholds. The thresholds for 2017 were:

- \$48,340 (\$53,930 if married filing jointly) for those with three or more qualifying children;
- \$45,007 (\$50,597 if married filing jointly) for people with two qualifying children;
- \$39,617 (\$45,207 if married filing jointly) for those with one qualifying child, and;
- \$15,010 (\$20,600 if married filing jointly) for people without qualifying children.

Current and prior year tax forms (such as the tax year 2017 Form 1040, 1040-A and 1040-EZ) and instructions are available on the IRS.gov [Forms and Publications](#) page or by calling toll-free 800-TAX-FORM ([800-829-3676](tel:800-829-3676)).

Taxpayers who are missing Forms W-2, 1098, 1099 or 5498 for the years 2017, 2018 or 2019 should request copies from their employer, bank or other payer. Taxpayers who are unable to get missing forms from their employer or other payer can order a free wage and income transcript at IRS.gov using the [Get Transcript Online](#) tool. Alternatively, they can file Form 4506-T to request a wage and income transcript. A wage and income transcript shows data from information returns received by the IRS, such as Forms W-2, 1099, 1098, Form 5498 and IRA contribution information. Taxpayers can use the information from the transcript to file their tax return.

First-time filers and EIP eligible

The IRS reminds first-time filers and those who usually don't have a federal filing requirement that they must file a 2020 tax return to claim the [Recovery Rebate Credit \(RRC\)](#), if they were eligible but did not receive the first or second Economic Impact Payment (EIP), or received less than the full amounts. The IRS offers free options to prepare and file a return at [How to File](#) on IRS.gov. Taxpayers who received the full amounts of both EIPs cannot claim the RRC and should not include any information about the payments on their 2020 tax return.

State-by-state estimates of individuals who may be due 2017 income tax refunds

State or District	Estimated Number of Individuals	Median Potential Refund	Total Potential Refunds *
Alabama	21,700	\$848	\$21,542,300
Alaska	5,000	\$960	\$5,527,400
Arizona	32,900	\$766	\$30,655,500
Arkansas	12,600	\$811	\$12,150,900
California	132,800	\$833	\$129,793,500
Colorado	27,000	\$813	\$26,020,400
Connecticut	13,200	\$928	\$13,945,100
Delaware	5,200	\$853	\$5,254,600
District of Columbia	3,600	\$878	\$3,765,500
Florida	89,600	\$870	\$89,767,400
Georgia	46,300	\$791	\$44,234,300
Hawaii	7,600	\$913	\$7,827,400
Idaho	6,200	\$727	\$5,572,300
Illinois	49,000	\$901	\$50,355,300
Indiana	30,800	\$894	\$31,291,100
Iowa	13,500	\$922	\$13,851,800
Kansas	13,400	\$865	\$13,313,500
Kentucky	17,700	\$875	\$17,612,600

State or District	Estimated Number of Individuals	Median Potential Refund	Total Potential Refunds *
Louisiana	21,700	\$837	\$21,659,900
Maine	5,300	\$853	\$5,158,000
Maryland	26,700	\$872	\$27,241,700
Massachusetts	28,000	\$978	\$30,469,100
Michigan	43,100	\$863	\$43,189,300
Minnesota	20,400	\$808	\$19,400,200
Mississippi	11,800	\$776	\$11,087,800
Missouri	30,500	\$831	\$29,778,200
Montana	4,400	\$808	\$4,255,500
Nebraska	7,200	\$853	\$6,982,000
Nevada	15,500	\$845	\$15,310,600
New Hampshire	5,900	\$968	\$6,391,000
New Jersey	34,200	\$924	\$35,778,700
New Mexico	9,000	\$837	\$8,913,100
New York	66,700	\$956	\$71,361,600
North Carolina	43,500	\$837	\$42,307,200
North Dakota	3,600	\$958	\$3,779,100
Ohio	48,700	\$852	\$47,892,500

State or District	Estimated Number of Individuals	Median Potential Refund	Total Potential Refunds *
Oklahoma	19,800	\$869	\$19,890,300
Oregon	21,200	\$765	\$19,733,900
Pennsylvania	50,900	\$931	\$52,861,200
Rhode Island	3,600	\$921	\$3,792,500
South Carolina	16,800	\$768	\$15,740,900
South Dakota	3,600	\$912	\$3,665,500
Tennessee	27,100	\$851	\$26,534,100
Texas	133,000	\$904	\$138,355,200
Utah	11,100	\$771	\$10,251,900
Vermont	2,600	\$852	\$2,505,200
Virginia	36,600	\$827	\$36,159,900
Washington	36,900	\$928	\$38,924,900
West Virginia	6,400	\$946	\$6,769,600
Wisconsin	18,900	\$798	\$17,759,900
Wyoming	3,100	\$944	\$3,273,400
Totals	1,345,900	\$865	\$1,349,654,800

* Excluding credits.

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