



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

[www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov)

Note: This booklet does not contain tax forms.

# 1998 1040EZ

## Instructions

### Taxpayer News

**Explore  
IRS e-file!**

**IRS e-file**

- Quickest way to file.
  - Fastest way to get your refund.
  - Best way to avoid errors and notices.
- See page 2.

**Need Help?**

Quick and easy access to tax help and forms.  
See page 15.

**SSN Needed!**

**We heard you!**

To protect your privacy, we took your social security number (SSN) off the label. But we still

need your SSN. So be sure to complete the SSN area at the top of Form 1040EZ.  
See page 3.

**New Tax Benefits!**

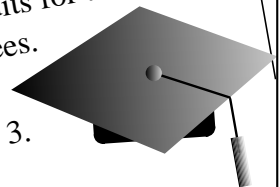
**Child Tax Credits!**

You may be able to claim credits of up to \$400 for each child under 17.  
See page 3.

**Benefits for College and Other Higher Education!**

- Student loan interest deduction.
- Credits for tuition and fees.

See page 3.



# IRS *e-file*. Click. Zip. Fast Round Trip!



Take advantage of the benefits of IRS *e-file*!

- Get your **REFUND** in half the time
- Take advantage of the **FASTEST** and most **ACCURATE** way possible to file your tax return (thereby reducing your likelihood of receiving an error notice)
- Get **PROOF** your return has been accepted
- File your Federal and state tax returns together
- **New this year**—Pay your balance due electronically when you use an authorized IRS *e-file* provider or when you *e-file* from your home computer.



IRS *e-file* means a fast refund—even faster with **Direct Deposit!**



Look for this sign! An authorized IRS *e-file* provider can prepare **AND** *e-file* your return or *e-file* a tax return you have prepared yourself.

## IRS *e-file* From Your Personal Computer

File electronically from your home using tax preparation software, a personal computer, and a modem. Check out the IRS web site at [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov) for a list of companies who participate in this IRS *e-file* program. You can also find a listing of partnerships the IRS has with private sector companies offering low-cost IRS *e-file* options.

## IRS *e-file* By Phone

10 minutes is all it takes to file your tax return with a touch tone phone through TeleFile. This system is **FREE**, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for those taxpayers who receive the *TeleFile Tax Package*.

Get all the details on page 25.

"People are quickly discovering how easy it is to take care of their taxes by telephone or personal computer. This year millions will file electronically and millions more will get tax information by computer or telephone. Beginning in 1999, if you file electronically you can also pay your balance due electronically. These are some of the ways the IRS is providing the same ease and convenience you have come to expect from firms in the private sector."

Robert E. Barr, Assistant Commissioner,  
Electronic Tax Administration, IRS

## A Message From the Commissioner

Dear Taxpayer:

As part of its ongoing efforts to improve customer service, the IRS is working to provide you with even more reliable and helpful assistance for the coming tax filing season. Whether it is in person or on the phone, we want to answer your questions correctly, promptly and courteously. We want to process your return quickly and accurately and make sure that more of you can file by computer and telephone and get information and forms over the Internet. To find out more about the many different services the IRS offers this tax season, see page 15 of this booklet.

Paperless filing is the wave of the future. The IRS is greatly expanding and promoting the use of electronic filing through our *e-file* program. You can ask a tax professional to *e-file* your return, or if you prefer, you can file from home using your personal computer. There are also more than 5,000 tax products, including forms, on the IRS Home Page ([www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov)) that can be downloaded to your computer.

Beginning in January 1999, our phone helpline will also be open for business 24-hours-a-day/seven days a week, all year long. New technology will reduce even further hold time

and allow callers to get specific information and help on, for example, the sale of a house, retirement, or job changes.

During the 1998 tax filing season, we offered more walk-in office hours at locations and times convenient to you. We will expand this option beginning in January with walk-in service on 13 Saturdays at 250 sites across the nation.

We will continue to hold Problem Solving Days every month throughout the year when taxpayers can sit down and meet face-to-face with an IRS representative to help resolve a particular problem. When and where a Problem Solving Day will be held near you can be found on the IRS Home Page at [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov) and the events are publicized in local newspapers and on radio and television.

We still have a ways to go before we can provide world class customer service but we are taking some important steps in the right direction. We have also begun a multi-year modernization of the IRS with customer service as its focus and the goal of giving America's taxpayers the services they expect and deserve.

Sincerely,

Charles O. Rossotti

---

## The IRS Mission

Provide America's taxpayers top quality service by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities and by applying the tax law with integrity and fairness to all.

---



## IRS Customer Service Standards

At the IRS our goal is to continually improve the quality of our services. To achieve that goal, we have developed customer service standards in the following areas:

- Easier filing
- Access to information
- Accuracy

- Prompt refunds
- Initial contact resolution
- Canceling penalties
- Resolving problems
- Simpler forms

If you would like information about the IRS standards and a report of our accomplishments, see **Pub. 2183**.

---

## Before You Fill in Form 1040EZ

---

### What's New for 1998?



*For details on these and other changes, see **Pub. 553** or **What's Hot** at [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov).*

### Put Your Social Security Number on Form 1040EZ!

To protect your privacy, your social security number (SSN) is not printed on the peel-off label that came in the mail with this booklet. This means that you must now enter your SSN in the space provided on Form 1040EZ. If you are married filing jointly, also enter your spouse's SSN. Be sure to list the SSNs in the same order as the first names.



*If you are married filing jointly, make sure you list the names and SSNs in the same order each year.*

### Student Loan Interest Deduction

If you paid interest on a qualified student loan, you may be able to deduct up to \$1,000 of the interest. But you must use Form 1040A or 1040 to do so. For details, see **Pub. 970** or use TeleTax topic 456 (see page 17). However, you **cannot** take the deduction if you **are** claimed as a dependent on your parents' (or someone else's) 1998 tax return.

### Education Credits

If you paid certain higher education expenses in 1998, you may be able to take the Hope credit. For qualified expenses paid after June 30, 1998, you may be able to take the lifetime learning credit. But you must use

**Form 8863** and Form 1040A or 1040 to do so. For details, see Form 8863 or **Pub. 970** or use TeleTax topic 605 (see page 17). The Hope credit only applies to the first 2 years of postsecondary education.

### New Child Tax Credits

If you have a child who was under age 17 at the end of 1998, you may be able to claim the child tax credit and the additional child tax credit. But you must use Form 1040A or 1040 to do so. The total of these credits can be as much as \$400 for each qualifying child. Use TeleTax topic 606 (see page 17) for details.

### Credit for Federal Tax Paid on Kerosene

If you bought undyed kerosene after June 30, 1998, for heating or certain other nonhighway uses, you may be able to take a credit of 24.4 cents for each gallon. But you must use **Form 4136** and Form 1040 to do so. You can get a refund of the credit even if you do not owe tax.

### Payment of Tax

If you owe tax, make your check or money order payable to the "**United States Treasury**." See the instructions for line 12 on page 14 for more details.

### Earned Income Credit

You may be able to take this credit if you earned less than \$10,030. See the instructions for lines 8a and 8b that begin on page 9.

---

## Do Both the Name and Social Security Number (SSN) on Your Tax Forms Agree With Your Social Security Card?

If not, your refund may be delayed or you may not receive credit for your social security earnings. If your Form W-2, Form 1099, or other tax document shows an incorrect name or SSN, notify your employer or the form-issuing agent as soon as possible to make sure your earnings are credited to your social security record. If the name or SSN on your social security card is incorrect, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213.

---

## What if a Taxpayer Died?

If a taxpayer died before filing a return for 1998, the taxpayer's spouse or personal representative may have to file and sign a return for that taxpayer. A personal representative can be an executor, administrator, or anyone who is in charge of the deceased taxpayer's property. If the deceased taxpayer did not have to file a return but had tax withheld, a return must be filed to get a refund. The person who files the return should print "**DECEASED**," the deceased taxpayer's name, and the date of death across the top of the return.

If your spouse died in 1998 and you did not remarry in 1998, or if your spouse died in 1999 before filing a return for 1998, you can file a joint return. A joint return should show your spouse's 1998 income before death and your income for all of 1998. Print "Filing as surviving spouse" in the area where you sign the return. If someone else is the personal representative, he or she must also sign.

The surviving spouse or personal representative should promptly notify all payers of income, including financial institutions, of the taxpayer's death. This will ensure the proper reporting of income earned by the taxpayer's estate or heirs. A deceased taxpayer's social security number should not be used for tax years after the year of death, except for estate tax return purposes.

**Claiming a Refund for a Deceased Taxpayer.** If you are filing a joint return as a surviving spouse, you only need to file the tax return to claim the refund. If you are a court-appointed representative, file the return and attach a copy of the certificate that shows your appointment. All other filers requesting the deceased taxpayer's refund must file the return and attach **Form 1310**.

For more details, use TeleTax topic 356 (see page 17) or see **Pub. 559**.

## What Are the Filing Dates and Penalties?



*If you were a participant in Operation Joint Guard or Operation Joint Forge, or you were in the Persian Gulf area combat zone, see **Pub. 3**.*

## When Is Your Tax Return Due?

Not later than **April 15, 1999**.

## What if You Cannot File on Time?

You can get an automatic 4-month extension by filing **Form 4868** with the IRS by April 15, 1999. If you later find that you still need more time, **Form 2688** may get you an additional extension. However, even if you get an extension, the tax you owe is still due April 15, 1999. If you make a payment with Form 4868 or Form 2688, see the instructions for line 9 on page 12.

## What if You File or Pay Late?

The IRS can charge you interest and penalties on the amount you owe.

If you file late, the penalty is usually 5% of the amount due for each month or part of a month your return is late, unless you have a reasonable explanation. If you do, attach it to your return. The penalty can be as much as 25% (more in some cases) of the tax due. We will charge you interest on the penalty from the due date of the return (including extensions). If your return is more than 60 days late, the minimum penalty will be \$100 or the amount of any tax you owe, whichever is smaller.

If you pay your taxes late, the penalty is usually 1/2 of 1% of the unpaid amount for each month or part of a month the tax is not paid. The penalty can be as much as 25% of the unpaid amount. It applies to any unpaid tax on the return.

## Are There Other Penalties?

Yes. Other penalties can be imposed for negligence, substantial understatement of tax, and fraud. We will charge you interest on these penalties from the due date of the return (including extensions). Criminal penalties may be imposed for willful failure to file, tax evasion, or making a false statement. See **Pub. 17** for details.

In addition to any other penalties, the law imposes a penalty of \$500 for filing a frivolous return. A frivolous return is one that does not contain information needed to figure the correct tax or shows a substantially incorrect tax, because you take a frivolous position or desire to delay or interfere with the tax laws. This includes altering or striking out the preprinted language above the space where you sign.

---

## Where Do You File?

See page 28.

## Private Delivery Services

You can use certain private delivery services designated by the IRS to meet the "timely mailing as timely filing/paying" rule for tax returns and payments. The IRS publishes a list of the designated private delivery services in September of each year. The list published in September 1998 includes only the following:

- Airborne Express (Airborne): Overnight Air Express Service, Next Afternoon Service, and Second Day Service.
- DHL Worldwide Express (DHL): DHL "Same Day" Service and DHL USA Overnight.
- Federal Express (FedEx): FedEx Priority Overnight, FedEx Standard Overnight, and FedEx 2Day.

- United Parcel Service (UPS): UPS Next Day Air, UPS Next Day Air Saver, UPS 2nd Day Air, and UPS 2nd Day Air A.M.

The private delivery service can tell you how to get written proof of the mailing date.

## Filing Requirements

### Do You Have To File?

**Note:** These rules apply to all U.S. citizens, regardless of where they live, and resident aliens.

Were you (or your spouse if filing a joint return) age 65 or older on January 1, 1999?

**Yes.** Use TeleTax topic 351 (see page 17) to find out if you must file a return. If you do, you must use Form 1040A or 1040.

**No.** You must file a return if **either 1 or 2** below applies to you.

1. Your filing status is...	And your gross income* was at least...
Single	\$ 6,950
Married filing jointly**	\$12,500

\*Gross income means all income you received in the form of money, goods, property, and services that is not exempt from tax, including any income from sources outside the United States (even if you may exclude part or all of it).

\*\*If you did not live with your spouse at the end of 1998 (or on the date your spouse died), you must file a return if your gross income was at least \$2,700.

**2.** Your parents (or someone else) can claim you as a dependent (even if they chose not to claim you) and **any** of the following apply.

- Your **unearned income** (see below) was over \$700.
- Your **earned income** (see below) was over \$4,250 if single; over \$3,550 if married.
- The total of your unearned and earned income was more than the **larger** of-

<u>This amount:</u>	<b>OR</b>	<u>This amount:</u>
\$700		Your earned income (up to \$4,000 if single; \$3,300 if married) plus \$250

**Unearned income** includes taxable interest. **Earned income** includes wages, tips, and taxable scholarship and fellowship grants.

**Caution:** If your gross income was \$2,700 or more, you usually cannot be claimed as a dependent unless you were under age 19 or a student under age 24. For details, use TeleTax topic 354 (see page 17).



*Even if you do not otherwise have to file a return, you should file one to get a refund of any Federal income tax withheld. You should also file if you are eligible for the earned income credit.*

### Exception for Children Under Age 14

If you are planning to file a tax return for your child who was under age 14 on January 1, 1999, and certain other conditions apply, you can elect to include your child's income on your return. But you must use **Form 8814** and Form 1040 to do so. If you make this election, your child does not have to file a return. For details, use TeleTax topic 553 (see page 17) or see Form 8814.

### Other Situations When You Must File

You must also file a return using Form 1040A or 1040 if you received any advance earned income credit payments from your employer. These payments should be shown in box 9 of your W-2 form.

You must file a return using Form 1040 if **any** of the following apply for 1998.

- You owe any special taxes, such as social security and Medicare tax on tips you did not report to your employer.
- You owe uncollected social security and Medicare or RRTA tax on tips you reported to your employer or on your group-term life insurance.
- You had net earnings from self-employment of at least \$400.
- You earned wages of \$108.28 or more from a church or qualified church-controlled organization that is exempt from employer social security and Medicare taxes.
- You owe tax on a qualified retirement plan, including an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), or on a medical savings account (MSA). But if you are filing a return only because you owe the tax on a qualified retirement plan, you can file **Form 5329** by itself.

### Nonresident Aliens and Dual-Status Aliens

These rules also apply to nonresident aliens and dual-status aliens who were married to U.S. citizens or residents at the end of 1998 and who have elected to be taxed as resident aliens. Specific rules apply to determine if you are a resident or nonresident alien. See **Pub. 519** for details.

## Should You Use Form 1040EZ?

You can use Form 1040EZ if **all eight** of the following apply:

1. Your filing status is **single** or **married filing jointly** (see page 7). If you were a **nonresident alien** at any time in 1998, see **Nonresident Aliens** on this page.
2. You do not claim any dependents.
3. You do not claim a student loan interest deduction or an education credit (see page 3).
4. You (and your spouse if married filing a joint return) were under age 65 on January 1, 1999, and not blind at the end of 1998.
5. Your taxable income (line 6 of Form 1040EZ) is less than \$50,000.
6. You had **only** wages, salaries, tips, and taxable scholarship or fellowship grants, unemployment compensation, or Alaska Permanent Fund dividends, and your taxable interest income was not over \$400.
7. You did not receive any advance earned income credit payments.
8. You did not owe any **household employment taxes** on wages you paid to a household employee. To find out who owes these taxes, use TeleTax topic 756 (see page 17).

If you do not meet **all eight** of the requirements, you must use Form 1040A or 1040. Use TeleTax topic 352 (see page 17) to find out which form to use.

Even if you can use Form 1040EZ, it may benefit you to use Form 1040A or 1040 instead. For example, you can claim the head of household filing status (which usually results in a lower tax than single) only on Form 1040A or 1040. Use TeleTax topic 353 (see page 17). Also, you can itemize deductions only on Form 1040. It would benefit you to itemize deductions if they total more than your standard deduction, which is \$4,250 for most single people and \$7,100 for most married people filing a joint return. Use TeleTax topic 501 (see page 17). But if someone can claim you (or your spouse if married) as a dependent, your standard deduction is the amount entered on line E of the worksheet on page 2 of Form 1040EZ.

**Nonresident Aliens.** If you were a nonresident alien at any time in 1998, your filing status must be **married filing jointly** to use Form 1040EZ. If your filing status is not married filing jointly, you may have to use **Form 1040NR** or **1040NR-EZ**. Specific rules apply to determine if you were a nonresident or resident alien.

See **Pub. 519** for details, including the rules for students and scholars who are aliens.

## Where To Report Certain Items From 1998 Forms W-2 and 1099

Report on Form 1040EZ, line 7, any amounts shown on these forms as **Federal income tax withheld**.

Form	Item and Box in Which it Should Appear	Where To Report on Form 1040EZ
W-2	Wages, salaries, tips, etc. (box 1) Allocated tips (box 8) Advance EIC payment (box 9) Dependent care benefits (box 10) Adoption benefits (box 13, code T) Employer contributions to an MSA (box 13, code R)	Line 1 See <b>Tip income</b> on page 8  Must file Form 1040A or 1040  Must file Form 1040
W-2G	Gambling winnings (box 1)	Must file Form 1040
1098-E	Student loan interest	Must file Form 1040A or 1040 to deduct
1099-C	Canceled debt (box 2)	Must file Form 1040 if taxable (see the instructions on Form 1099-C)
1099-DIV	Dividends and distributions	Must file Form 1040A or 1040
1099-G	Unemployment compensation (box 1)	Line 3. But if you repaid any unemployment compensation in 1998, see the instructions for line 3 on page 8
1099-INT	Interest income (box 1) Interest on U.S. savings bonds and Treasury obligations (box 3) Early withdrawal penalty (box 2) Foreign tax paid (box 5)	Line 2 See the instructions for line 2 on page 8  Must file Form 1040
1099-LTC	Long-term care and accelerated death benefits	Must file Form 1040 if required to file Form 8853 (see the instructions for Form 8853)
1099-MISC	Miscellaneous income	Must file Form 1040
1099-MSA	Distributions from medical savings accounts	Must file Form 1040
1099-OID	Original issue discount (box 1) Other periodic interest (box 2) Early withdrawal penalty (box 3)	See the instructions on Form 1099-OID Must file Form 1040
1099-R	Distributions from pensions, annuities, IRAs, etc.	Must file Form 1040A or 1040

## Single

You may use this filing status if **any** of the following was true on December 31, 1998:

- You were never married, or
- You were legally separated, according to your state law, under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance, or
- You were widowed before January 1, 1998, and did not remarry in 1998.

## Married Filing Joint Return

You may use this filing status if **any** of the following is true:

- You were married as of December 31, 1998, even if you did not live with your spouse at the end of 1998, or

- Your spouse died in 1998 and you did not remarry in 1998, or
- Your spouse died in 1999 before filing a 1998 return.

A husband and wife may file a joint return even if only one had income or if they did not live together all year. However, both persons must sign the return. If you file a joint return for 1998, you may not, after the due date for filing that return, amend it to file as married filing a separate return.

**Joint and Several Tax Liability.** If you file a joint return, both you and your spouse are generally responsible for the tax and any interest or penalties due on the return. This means that if one spouse does not pay the tax due, the other may have to. However, see **Innocent Spouse Relief** on page 14.

---

## Line Instructions for Form 1040EZ

---

### Name and Address

#### Use the Peel-Off Label

Using your peel-off name and address label in this booklet will speed the processing of your return. It also prevents common errors that can delay refunds or result in unnecessary notices. Attach the label after you have finished your return. Cross out any errors and print the correct information. Add any missing items, such as your apartment number.

#### Address Change

If the address on your peel-off label is not your current address, cross out your old address and print your new address. If you plan to move after you file your 1998 return, see page 14.

#### Name Change

If you changed your name, be sure to report the change to your local Social Security Administration office **before** you file your return. This prevents delays in processing your return and issuing refunds. It also safeguards your future social security benefits. If you received a peel-off label, cross out your former name and print your new name.

#### What if You Don't Have a Peel-Off Label?

Print the information, including your SSN(s), in the spaces provided.



*If you filed a joint return for 1997 and you are filing a joint return for 1998 with the same spouse, be sure to enter your names and SSNs in the same order as on your 1997 return.*

#### P.O. Box

Enter your P.O. box number **only** if your post office does not deliver mail to your home.

### Foreign Address

Print the information in the following order: city, province or state, and country. Follow the country's practice for entering the postal code. Please **do not** abbreviate the country name.

### Social Security Number (SSN)

Make sure your return includes the correct SSN for you and your spouse. If it does not, at the time we process your return, we may disallow the exemption(s) and any earned income credit you claim.

**To apply for an SSN**, get **Form SS-5** from your local Social Security Administration (SSA) office or call the SSA at 1-800-772-1213. Fill in Form SS-5 and return it to the SSA. It usually takes about 2 weeks to get an SSN.

**IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) for Aliens.** The IRS will issue you an ITIN if you are a nonresident or resident alien and you do not have and are not eligible to get an SSN. **To apply for an ITIN**, file **Form W-7** with the IRS. It usually takes about 30 days to get an ITIN. **Enter your ITIN wherever your SSN is requested on your tax return.**

**Note:** *An ITIN is for tax use only. It does not entitle you to social security benefits or change your employment or immigration status under U.S. law.*

**Nonresident Alien Spouse.** If your spouse is a nonresident alien, he or she must have either an SSN or an ITIN.

---

### Presidential Election Campaign Fund

This fund helps pay for Presidential election campaigns. The fund reduces candidates' dependence on large contributions from individuals and groups and places candidates on an equal financial footing in the general election. If you want \$3 to go to this fund, check the "Yes" box. If you are filing a joint return, your spouse may also have \$3 go to the fund. If you check "Yes," your tax or refund will not change.

---

## Income

### Rounding Off to Whole Dollars

You may find it easier to do your return if you round off cents to the nearest whole dollar. To do so, drop amounts under 50 cents and increase amounts from 50 to 99 cents to the next whole dollar. For example, \$129.39 becomes \$129 and \$235.50 becomes \$236. If you do round off, do so for all amounts. But if you have to add two or more amounts to figure the amount to enter on a line, include cents when adding and only round off the total.

**Example.** You received two W-2 forms, one showing wages of \$5,009.55 and one showing wages of \$8,760.73. On Form 1040EZ, line 1, you would enter 13,770.00 (\$5,009.55 + \$8,760.73 = \$13,770.28).

### Refunds of State or Local Income Taxes

If you received a refund, credit, or offset of state or local income taxes in 1998, you may receive a **Form 1099-G**. None of your refund is taxable if, in the year you paid the tax, you filed Form 1040EZ or 1040A or you used TeleFile. But if the refund, credit, or offset was for a tax you deducted as an **itemized deduction**, you may have to report part or all of it as income on Form 1040 for 1998. For details, use TeleTax topic 405 (see page 17).

### Social Security Benefits

You should receive a **Form SSA-1099** or **Form RRB-1099**. These forms will show the total social security and equivalent railroad retirement benefits paid to you in 1998 and the amount of any benefits you repaid in 1998. Use the worksheet on page 9 to see if any of your benefits are taxable. If they are, you **must** use Form 1040A or 1040. For more details, see **Pub. 915**.

---

## Line 1

### Wages, Salaries, and Tips

Enter the total of your wages, salaries, and tips. If a joint return, also include your spouse's income. For most people, the amount to enter on this line should be shown in box 1 of their **Forms W-2**. But the following types of income must also be included in the total on line 1.

- Wages received as a **household employee** for which you did not receive a W-2 form because your employer paid you less than \$1,100 in 1998.
- **Tip income** you did not report to your employer. But you must use Form 1040 and **Form 4137** instead of Form 1040EZ if **(1)** you received tips of \$20 or more in any month and did not report the full amount to your employer OR **(2)** your W-2 form(s) shows **allocated tips** that you **must** report as income. You must report the allocated tips shown on your W-2 form(s) unless you can prove that you received less. Allocated tips should be shown in box 8 of your W-2 form(s). They are not included as income in box 1. See **Pub. 531** for more details.
- **Scholarship and fellowship grants** not reported on a W-2 form. Also, print "SCH" and the amount in the space to the right of the words "W-2 form(s)" on line 1.

**Exception.** If you were a degree candidate, include on line 1 **only** the amounts you used for expenses other than tuition and course-related expenses. For example, amounts used for room, board, and travel must be reported on line 1.

**Note:** You must use Form 1040A or 1040 if you received **dependent care benefits** or **employer-provided adoption benefits** for 1998.

### Missing or Incorrect Form W-2?

If you do not get a W-2 form from your employer by February 1, 1999, use TeleTax topic 154 (see page 17) to find out what to do. Even if you do not get a W-2, you must still report your earnings on line 1. If you lose your W-2 or it is incorrect, ask your employer for a new one.

---

## Line 2

### Interest

Each payer should send you a **Form 1099-INT** or **Form 1099-OID**. Report **all** of your **taxable interest** income on line 2 even if you did not receive a Form 1099-INT or 1099-OID.

Include taxable interest from banks, savings and loan associations, money market certificates, credit unions, savings bonds, etc. If interest was credited in 1998 on deposits that you could not withdraw because of the bankruptcy or insolvency of the financial institution, you may be able to exclude part or all of that interest from your 1998 income. But you must use Form 1040A or 1040 to do so. See **Pub. 550** for details.

If you cashed series EE U.S. savings bonds in 1998 that were issued after 1989 and you paid certain higher education expenses during the year, you may be able to exclude from income part or all of the interest on those bonds. But you must use **Form 8815** and Form 1040A or 1040 to do so.

You must use Form 1040A or 1040 if **either** of the following applies:

- You received interest as a nominee (that is, in your name but the interest income actually belongs to someone else), or
- You received a 1998 Form 1099-INT for U.S. savings bond interest that includes amounts you reported before 1998.

### Tax-Exempt Interest

If you had tax-exempt interest, such as from municipal bonds, print "TEI" in the space to the right of the words "Form 1040EZ" on line 2. After "TEI," show the amount of your tax-exempt interest. **Do not** add tax-exempt interest in the total on line 2.

---

## Line 3

### Unemployment Compensation

You should receive a **Form 1099-G** showing the total unemployment compensation paid to you in 1998.

If you received an overpayment of unemployment compensation in 1998 and you repaid any of it in 1998, subtract the amount you repaid from the total amount you received. Enter the result on line 3. Also,



print "Repaid" and the amount you repaid in the space to the right of the words "(see page 8)" on line 3. If you repaid unemployment compensation in 1998 that you included in gross income in an earlier year, you can deduct the amount repaid. But you must use Form 1040 to do so. See **Pub. 525** for details.

**Note:** If you received *Alaska Permanent Fund dividends*, report them on line 3.

**Line 6**

Subtract line 5 from line 4. Your tax is figured on this amount.

**If You Want, the IRS Will Figure Your Tax and Your Earned Income Credit**

**Tax.** If you have paid too much, we will send you a refund. If you did not pay enough, we will send you a bill. For details, including who is eligible and what to do, see **Pub. 967**.

**Earned Income Credit (EIC).** Answer the questions on page 10 to see if you can take the EIC. If you can take this credit and you want us to figure it for you, follow the instructions for question 6.

**Payments and Tax**

**Line 7**

**Federal Income Tax Withheld**

Enter the total amount of Federal income tax withheld. This should be shown in box 2 of your 1998 Form(s) W-2.

If you received a 1998 Form 1099-INT, 1099-G, or 1099-OID showing Federal income tax withheld, include the tax withheld in the total on line 7. This tax should be shown in box 4 of these forms.

If Federal income tax was withheld from your Alaska Permanent Fund dividends, include the tax withheld in the total on line 7.

**Lines 8a and 8b**

**Earned Income Credit (EIC)**

The EIC reduces the tax you owe and may give you a refund even if you do not owe any tax.

The credit can be as much as \$341 if you **do not** have a qualifying child (defined on page 10). If you **do** have a qualifying child, the credit can be as much as \$2,271 (\$3,756 if more than one qualifying child). But if you have a qualifying child, you must use **Schedule EIC** and Form 1040A or 1040 to claim the credit.

**Who Can Take the EIC**

Answer the questions on page 10 to see if you can take this credit. **But you cannot** take the credit if you (or your spouse if filing a joint return):

- Were the qualifying child of another person in 1998, or
- Do not have a social security number (defined on page 10).

If you cannot take the credit for either of these reasons, print "No" in the space to the right of the word "below" on line 8b.

**Caution:** If it is determined that you are not entitled to the earned income credit due to reckless or intentional disregard of the rules, you **cannot** claim the credit for the next 2 years. If you fraudulently claim the credit, you **cannot** claim it for the next 10 years. If your 1997 earned income credit was disallowed as the result of deficiency procedures, you must complete and attach **Form 8862** to claim the credit this year.

(continued)

**Worksheet To See if Any of Your Social Security Benefits Are Taxable** (keep for your records)



If you are filing a joint return, be sure to include any amounts your spouse received when entering amounts on lines 1, 3, and 4 below.

1. Enter the amount from **box 5** of **all** your **Forms SSA-1099** and **Forms RRB-1099**. If the amount on line 1 is zero or less, stop; none of your social security benefits are taxable . . . . . **1.** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Enter one-half of line 1 . . . . . **2.** \_\_\_\_\_
3. Enter your total wages, salaries, tips, etc., from Form(s) W-2. Also, include any taxable unemployment compensation and Alaska Permanent Fund dividends you received (see the instructions for line 3 that begin on page 8) . . . . . **3.** \_\_\_\_\_
4. Enter your total interest income, including any tax-exempt interest . . . . . **4.** \_\_\_\_\_
5. Add lines 2 through 4 . . . . . **5.** \_\_\_\_\_
6. Enter \$25,000 if single; \$32,000 if filing a joint return . . . . . **6.** \_\_\_\_\_
7. Subtract line 6 from line 5. If zero or less, enter -0- . . . . . **7.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Is line 7 more than zero?**

**No.** None of your social security benefits are taxable this year. You can use Form 1040EZ. **Do not** list your benefits as income.

**Yes.** Some of your benefits are taxable this year. You **MUST** use Form 1040A or 1040.

**Social Security Number (SSN).** For purposes of the EIC, an SSN means a number issued by the Social Security Administration to a U.S. citizen or to a person who has permission from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to work in the United States.

### Qualifying Child

A qualifying child is a child who:

1. Is your son, daughter, adopted child, grandchild, stepchild, or foster child, **and**
2. Was (at the end of 1998)—
  - under age 19, or
  - under age 24 and a full-time student, or
  - any age and permanently and totally disabled,**and**
3. Either lived with you in the United States for more than half of 1998 (for all of 1998 if a foster child) OR was born or died in 1998 and your home was the child's home for the entire time he or she was alive during 1998.

Special rules apply if the child was married or was also a qualifying child of another person (other than your spouse if filing a joint return). For details, use TeleTax topic 601 (see page 17) or see **Pub. 596**.

**Caution:** *The child must have an SSN (defined above) unless the child was born and died in 1998.*

### Taxable Earned Income

This is usually the amount reported on Form 1040EZ, line 1. But if line 1 includes any of the following amounts, subtract the amount from the total on line 1.

The result is your taxable earned income for purposes of the earned income credit.

- A taxable scholarship or fellowship grant that was not reported on a W-2 form.
- An amount paid to an inmate in a penal institution. Print "PRI" and the amount subtracted to the right of the words "W-2 form(s)" on line 1 of Form 1040EZ.
- **Workfare payments.** These are cash payments certain families receive from a state or local agency that administers public assistance programs funded under the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program in return for (1) work experience activities (including work associated with remodeling or repairing publicly assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not available, or (2) community service program activities. Print "WP" and the amount subtracted to the right of the words "W-2 form(s)" on line 1 of Form 1040EZ.

Also, if line 1 of Form 1040EZ includes any amount paid to a household employee who did not receive a W-2 form, see **Special Rules** on page 12.

### Nontaxable Earned Income

**Caution:** *Be sure to include all your nontaxable earned income on line 8b of Form 1040EZ.*

Certain earned income is not taxable, but it must be included to see if you can take the earned income credit. It is also used to figure the credit. Nontaxable earned income includes anything of value (money, goods, or services) that is not taxable which you received from your employer for your work. But it does

---

## Questions To See if You Can Take the Earned Income Credit

---

**Before you begin,** if you were in the military stationed outside the United States, see **Special Rules** on page 12.

---

1. Is the amount on Form 1040EZ, line 4, plus any tax-exempt interest you received, less than \$10,030?
  - No. Stop.** You **cannot** take the credit.
  - Yes.** Go to question 2.

---
2. Do you have at least one qualifying child (defined on this page)?
  - Yes. Stop.** You may be able to take the credit but you must use **Schedule EIC** and Form 1040A or 1040 to do so. For details, see **Pub. 596**.
  - No.** Go to question 3.

---
3. Were you (or your spouse if filing a joint return) at least age 25 but under age 65 at the end of 1998?
  - No. Stop.** You **cannot** take the credit. Print "No" to the right of the word "below" on line 8b.
  - Yes.** Go to question 4.

---
4. Can you (or your spouse if filing a joint return) be claimed as a dependent on someone else's 1998 tax return?
  - Yes. Stop.** You **cannot** take the credit.
  - No.** Go to question 5.

---
5. Was your home (and your spouse's if filing a joint return) in the United States for more than half of 1998?
  - No. Stop.** You **cannot** take the credit. Print "No" to the right of the word "below" on line 8b.
  - Yes.** Go to question 6.

---
6. Is the total of your **taxable and nontaxable earned income** (see this page) less than \$10,030? (Nontaxable earned income includes military housing and subsistence, and contributions to a 401(k) plan.)
  - No. Stop.** You **cannot** take the credit. Print "No" to the right of the word "below" on line 8b.
  - Yes.** You can take the credit. **If you want the IRS to figure it for you,** print "EIC" in the space to the right of the word "below" on line 8b. Also, enter the type and amount of any nontaxable earned income in the spaces marked "Type" and "\$" on line 8b. **If you want to figure the credit yourself,** fill in the worksheet on page 11.

---

not include workfare payments (defined on page 10). Some examples of nontaxable earned income follow.

- Basic quarters and subsistence allowances, the value of in-kind quarters and subsistence, and combat zone excluded pay received from the U.S. military. These amounts should be shown in box 13 of your 1998 W-2 form with code Q.
- Housing allowances or rental value of a parsonage for clergy members.
- Meals and lodging provided for the convenience of your employer.
- Salary deferrals. If you chose to have your employer contribute part of your pay to certain retirement plans (such as a 401(k) plan or the Federal Thrift Savings Plan) instead of having it paid to you, the "Deferred compensation" box in box 15 of your W-2 form should be checked. The amount deferred should be shown in box 13 of your W-2 form.

- Salary reductions, such as under a cafeteria plan, unless they are included in box 1 of your W-2 form(s). For details, see **Pub. 596**.



*Nontaxable earned income does not include welfare benefits, such as those listed next.*

**Effect of Credit on Certain Welfare Benefits**

Any refund you receive as the result of claiming the earned income credit will not be used to determine if you are eligible for the following benefit programs, or how much you can receive from them.

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (formerly Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC)).
- Medicaid and supplemental security income (SSI).
- Food stamps and low-income housing.

**Earned Income Credit Worksheet—Line 8a** (keep for your records)



**Before you begin**, if you were a household employee who did not receive a Form W-2 because your employer paid you less than \$1,100 in 1998, see **Special Rules** on page 12. Also, see **Special Rules** if Form 1040EZ, line 1, includes workfare payments or any amount paid to an inmate in a penal institution.

**Caution:** Be sure to include all your income on lines 1, 2, 4, and 7 below. An incorrect amount may increase your tax or reduce your refund.

1. Enter the amount from Form 1040EZ, line 1 . . . . . 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. If you received a taxable scholarship or fellowship grant that was not reported on a W-2 form, enter that amount here . . . . . 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Subtract line 2 from line 1 . . . . . 3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Enter any **nontaxable earned income** (see page 10). Types of nontaxable earned income include contributions to a 401(k) plan, and military housing and subsistence. These should be shown in box 13 of your W-2 form . . . . . 4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Add lines 3 and 4 . . . . . 5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Caution:** If line 5 is \$10,030 or more, you **cannot** take the credit. Print "No" to the right of the word "below" on line 8b of Form 1040EZ.

6. Look up the amount on **line 5** above in the **EIC Table** on page 13 to find your credit. Enter the credit here . . . . . 6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Enter the total of the amount from Form 1040EZ, line 4, plus any tax-exempt interest entered to the right of the words "Form 1040EZ" on line 2 . . . . . 7. \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Is line 7 \$5,600 or more?**

- Yes.** Look up the amount on **line 7** above in the **EIC Table** on page 13 to find your credit. Enter the credit here . . . . . 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- No.** Go to line 9.

**9. Earned income credit.**

- If you checked "Yes" on line 8, enter the **smaller** of line 6 or line 8. }
  - If you checked "No" on line 8, enter the amount from line 6. }
- . . . 9. \_\_\_\_\_

**Next:** Take the amount from line 9 above and enter it on Form 1040EZ, line 8a.

**AND**

If you had any nontaxable earned income (see line 4 above), enter the type and amount of that income in the spaces marked "Type" and "\$" on line 8b.

## Special Rules

If you were in the **military** on extended active duty outside the United States, your home is considered to be in the United States during that duty period. See **Pub. 596** for the definition of extended active duty.

If you were a **household employee** who did not receive a W-2 form because your employer paid you less than \$1,100 in 1998, be sure to include the amount you were paid on Form 1040EZ, line 1. Print "HSH" and the amount that was not reported on a W-2 form in the space to the right of the words "W-2 form(s)" on line 1.

**Workfare payments** and amounts paid to **inmates** in penal institutions for their work are not earned income for purposes of the EIC. If the total on Form 1040EZ, line 1, includes such income, subtract that income from the amount on line 1. Enter the result on line 1 of the worksheet on page 11. Also, print "WP" or "PRI" and the amount subtracted in the space to the right of the words "W-2 form(s)" on line 1 of Form 1040EZ.

## Line 9

Add lines 7 and 8a. Enter the total on line 9.

### Amount Paid With Extensions of Time To File

If you filed **Form 4868** to get an automatic extension of time to file, include in the total on line 9 any amount you paid with that form. To the left of line 9, print "Form 4868" and show the amount paid. Also, include any amount paid with **Form 2688**.

## Refund

### Line 11a

If line 11a is under \$1, we will send the refund only if you request it when you file your return. If you want to check on the status of your refund, please wait at least 4 weeks after you file to do so. See page 17 for details.



*If your refund is large, you may want to decrease the amount of income tax withheld from your pay. See **Income Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax Payments for 1999** on page 14.*

### Refund Offset

If you have not paid child support or certain Federal nontax debts, such as student loans, all or part of the refund on line 11a may be used (offset) to pay the past-due amount. To find out if you may have an offset, contact the agency(ies) you owe the debt to. **Do not** call the IRS because offsets are now made by the Treasury Department's Financial Management Service (FMS) and IRS will not longer have nontax debt information. If there is an offset, you will receive a notice from FMS showing the amount of the offset and the agency receiving it.

**Injured Spouse Claim.** If you file a joint return and your spouse has not paid tax, child support, or a Federal nontax debt, such as a student loan, part or all of the refund on line 11a may be used (offset) to pay

the past-due amount. But **your** part of the refund may be refunded to you after the offset occurs if certain conditions apply and you complete and attach Form 8379. For details, use TeleTax topic 203 (see page 17) or see **Form 8379**.

## Lines 11b Through 11d

### Direct Deposit of Refund

Complete lines 11b through 11d if you want us to directly deposit the amount shown on line 11a into your account at a bank or other financial institution (such as a mutual fund, brokerage firm, or credit union) instead of sending you a check.

### Why Use Direct Deposit?

- You get your refund fast—even faster if you *e-file!*
- Payment is more secure—there is no check to get lost.
- More convenient. No trip to the bank to deposit your check.
- Saves tax dollars. A refund by direct deposit costs less than a check.



*You can check with your financial institution to make sure your direct deposit will be accepted and to get the correct routing and account numbers.*

**Line 11b.** The routing number **must** be **nine** digits. If the first two digits are not 01 through 12 or 21 through 32, the direct deposit will be rejected and a check sent instead. On the sample check on this page, the routing number is 250250025.

Your check may state that it is payable through a bank different from the financial institution at which you have your checking account. If so, do not use the routing number on that check. Instead, contact your financial institution for the correct routing number to enter on line 11b.

**Line 11d.** The account number can be up to 17 characters (both numbers and letters). Include hyphens but omit spaces and special symbols. Enter the number from left to right and leave any unused boxes blank. On the sample check on this page, the account number is 20202086. Be sure **not** to include the check number.

**Caution:** *Some financial institutions will not allow a joint refund to be deposited into an individual account. The IRS is not responsible if a financial institution refuses a direct deposit.*

The image shows a sample check from Anytown Bank. The payee is Paul Maple and Deborah Maple, 1234 Windy Oaks Drive, Anytown, MD 20000. The check number is 1234. The routing number is 250250025 and the account number is 20202086. A note says "Do not include the check number." The check is dated 1999.

**Note:** *The routing and account numbers may be in different places on your check.*

# 1998 Earned Income Credit (EIC) Table

To find your credit: First, read down the "At least—But less than" columns and find the line that includes the amount you entered on line 5 or line 7 of the **Earned Income Credit Worksheet** on page 11. Next, read across and find the credit. Then, enter the credit on line 6 or line 8 of the worksheet, whichever applies.

Caution: *This is not a tax table.*

If the amount on line 5 or line 7 of the worksheet is—			Your credit is—			If the amount on line 5 or line 7 of the worksheet is—			Your credit is—			If the amount on line 5 or line 7 of the worksheet is—			Your credit is—		
At least	But less than		At least	But less than		At least	But less than		At least	But less than		At least	But less than		At least	But less than	
\$1	\$50	\$2	2,600	2,650	201	5,200	5,250	341	7,800	7,850	169						
50	100	6	2,650	2,700	205	5,250	5,300	341	7,850	7,900	165						
100	150	10	2,700	2,750	208	5,300	5,350	341	7,900	7,950	161						
150	200	13	2,750	2,800	212	5,350	5,400	341	7,950	8,000	157						
200	250	17	2,800	2,850	216	5,400	5,450	341	8,000	8,050	153						
250	300	21	2,850	2,900	220	5,450	5,500	341	8,050	8,100	150						
300	350	25	2,900	2,950	224	5,500	5,550	341	8,100	8,150	146						
350	400	29	2,950	3,000	228	5,550	5,600	341	8,150	8,200	142						
400	450	33	3,000	3,050	231	5,600	5,650	337	8,200	8,250	138						
450	500	36	3,050	3,100	235	5,650	5,700	333	8,250	8,300	134						
500	550	40	3,100	3,150	239	5,700	5,750	329	8,300	8,350	130						
550	600	44	3,150	3,200	243	5,750	5,800	326	8,350	8,400	127						
600	650	48	3,200	3,250	247	5,800	5,850	322	8,400	8,450	123						
650	700	52	3,250	3,300	251	5,850	5,900	318	8,450	8,500	119						
700	750	55	3,300	3,350	254	5,900	5,950	314	8,500	8,550	115						
750	800	59	3,350	3,400	258	5,950	6,000	310	8,550	8,600	111						
800	850	63	3,400	3,450	262	6,000	6,050	306	8,600	8,650	107						
850	900	67	3,450	3,500	266	6,050	6,100	303	8,650	8,700	104						
900	950	71	3,500	3,550	270	6,100	6,150	299	8,700	8,750	100						
950	1,000	75	3,550	3,600	273	6,150	6,200	295	8,750	8,800	96						
1,000	1,050	78	3,600	3,650	277	6,200	6,250	291	8,800	8,850	92						
1,050	1,100	82	3,650	3,700	281	6,250	6,300	287	8,850	8,900	88						
1,100	1,150	86	3,700	3,750	285	6,300	6,350	283	8,900	8,950	85						
1,150	1,200	90	3,750	3,800	289	6,350	6,400	280	8,950	9,000	81						
1,200	1,250	94	3,800	3,850	293	6,400	6,450	276	9,000	9,050	77						
1,250	1,300	98	3,850	3,900	296	6,450	6,500	272	9,050	9,100	73						
1,300	1,350	101	3,900	3,950	300	6,500	6,550	268	9,100	9,150	69						
1,350	1,400	105	3,950	4,000	304	6,550	6,600	264	9,150	9,200	65						
1,400	1,450	109	4,000	4,050	308	6,600	6,650	260	9,200	9,250	62						
1,450	1,500	113	4,050	4,100	312	6,650	6,700	257	9,250	9,300	58						
1,500	1,550	117	4,100	4,150	316	6,700	6,750	253	9,300	9,350	54						
1,550	1,600	120	4,150	4,200	319	6,750	6,800	249	9,350	9,400	50						
1,600	1,650	124	4,200	4,250	323	6,800	6,850	245	9,400	9,450	46						
1,650	1,700	128	4,250	4,300	327	6,850	6,900	241	9,450	9,500	42						
1,700	1,750	132	4,300	4,350	331	6,900	6,950	238	9,500	9,550	39						
1,750	1,800	136	4,350	4,400	335	6,950	7,000	234	9,550	9,600	35						
1,800	1,850	140	4,400	4,450	339	7,000	7,050	230	9,600	9,650	31						
1,850	1,900	143	4,450	4,500	341	7,050	7,100	226	9,650	9,700	27						
1,900	1,950	147	4,500	4,550	341	7,100	7,150	222	9,700	9,750	23						
1,950	2,000	151	4,550	4,600	341	7,150	7,200	218	9,750	9,800	20						
2,000	2,050	155	4,600	4,650	341	7,200	7,250	215	9,800	9,850	16						
2,050	2,100	159	4,650	4,700	341	7,250	7,300	211	9,850	9,900	12						
2,100	2,150	163	4,700	4,750	341	7,300	7,350	207	9,900	9,950	8						
2,150	2,200	166	4,750	4,800	341	7,350	7,400	203	9,950	10,000	4						
2,200	2,250	170	4,800	4,850	341	7,400	7,450	199	10,000	10,030	1						
2,250	2,300	174	4,850	4,900	341	7,450	7,500	195									
2,300	2,350	178	4,900	4,950	341	7,500	7,550	192									
2,350	2,400	182	4,950	5,000	341	7,550	7,600	188									
2,400	2,450	186	5,000	5,050	341	7,600	7,650	184									
2,450	2,500	189	5,050	5,100	341	7,650	7,700	180									
2,500	2,550	193	5,100	5,150	341	7,700	7,750	176									
2,550	2,600	197	5,150	5,200	341	7,750	7,800	173									

**\$10,030**  
 or more—you  
 cannot take  
 the credit

---

## Amount You Owe

### Line 12



*You do not have to pay if line 12 is under \$1.*

Enclose in the envelope with your return a check or money order payable to the **"United States Treasury"** for the full amount when you file. **Do not** attach the payment to the return. **Do not** send cash. Write "1998 Form 1040EZ" and your name, address, daytime phone number, and social security number (SSN) on your payment. If you are filing a joint return, enter the SSN shown first on your return.



*You may need to increase the amount of income tax withheld from your pay. See **Income Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax Payments for 1999** on this page.*

### Installment Payments

If you cannot pay the full amount shown on line 12 with your return, you may ask to make monthly installment payments. However, you will be charged interest and may be charged a late payment penalty on the tax not paid by April 15, 1999, even if your request to pay in installments is granted. You must also pay a fee. To limit the interest and penalty charges, pay as much of the tax as possible when you file. But before requesting an installment agreement, you should consider other less costly alternatives, such as a bank loan.

To ask for an installment agreement, use **Form 9465**. You should receive a response to your request for installments within 30 days. But if you file your return after March 31, it may take us longer to reply.

### Penalty for Not Paying Enough Tax During the Year

You may have to pay a penalty if line 12 is at least \$1,000 and it is more than 10% of the tax shown on

your return. The "tax shown on your return" is the amount on line 10 minus the amount on line 8a. You may choose to have the IRS figure the penalty for you. If you owe a penalty, the IRS will send you a bill. However, if you want to figure the penalty yourself on **Form 2210**, you must file Form 1040A or 1040 to do so.

The penalty may be waived under certain conditions. See **Pub. 505** for details.

**Exceptions to the Penalty.** You will not owe the penalty if your 1997 tax return was for a tax year of 12 full months and **either 1 or 2** below applies.

1. You had no tax liability for 1997 and you were a U.S. citizen or resident for all of 1997, **or**
2. Line 7 on your 1998 return is at least as much as the tax liability shown on your 1997 return.

---

## Sign Your Return

Form 1040EZ is not considered a valid return unless you sign it. If you are filing a joint return, your spouse must also sign. Be sure to date your return and enter your occupation(s). If you are filing a joint return as a surviving spouse, see **What if a Taxpayer Died?** on page 4.

**Child's Return.** If your child cannot sign the return, either parent may sign the child's name in the space provided. Then, add "By (your signature), parent for minor child."

**Paid Preparers Must Sign Your Return.** Generally, anyone you pay to prepare your return must sign it in the space provided on page 2 of Form 1040EZ and put an "X" in box 10 of the "For Official Use Only" area on page 1. The preparer must give you a copy of the return for your records. Someone who prepares your return but does not charge you should not sign your return.

---

## General Information

### What Are Your Rights as a Taxpayer?

You have the right to be treated fairly, professionally, promptly, and courteously by IRS employees. Our goal at the IRS is to protect your rights so that you will have the highest confidence in the integrity, efficiency, and fairness of our tax system. To ensure that you always receive such treatment, you should know about the many rights you have at each step of the tax process. For details, see **Pub. 1**.

### Innocent Spouse Relief

You may qualify for relief from liability for tax on a joint return if **(1)** there is an understatement of tax because your spouse omitted income or claimed false deductions or credits, **(2)** you are divorced, separated, or no longer living with your spouse, or **(3)** given all the facts and circumstances, it would not be fair to hold you liable for the tax. See **Form 8857** or **Pub. 971** for more details.

### What Should You Do if You Move?

If you move after you file your return, always notify in writing the Internal Revenue Service Center where you filed your last return, or the Chief, Customer Service Division, at your local IRS district office. You can use **Form 8822** to notify us of your new address. If you are expecting a refund, you should also notify the post office serving your old address. This will help forward your check to your new address.

### Income Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax Payments for 1999

If the amount you owe the IRS or the refund the IRS owes you is large, you may want to file a new **Form W-4** with your employer to change the amount of income tax withheld from your 1999 pay. In general, you do not have to make estimated tax payments if you expect that your 1999 tax return will show a tax refund OR a tax balance due the IRS of less than \$1,000. See **Pub. 505** for more details.

# Quick and Easy Access to Tax Help and Forms



## PERSONAL COMPUTER

Access the IRS's Internet Web Site at [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov) to do the following:

- Download Forms, Instructions, and Publications
- See Answers to Frequently Asked Tax Questions
- Search Publications On-Line by Topic or Keyword
- Figure Your Withholding Allowances Using our W-4 Calculator
- Send Us Comments or Request Help via E-Mail
- Sign up to Receive Hot Tax Issues and News by E-Mail From the IRS Digital Dispatch

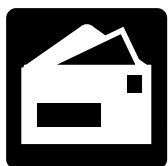
### You can also reach us using:

- Telnet at [iris.irs.ustreas.gov](http://iris.irs.ustreas.gov)
- File Transfer Protocol at [ftp.irs.ustreas.gov](http://ftp.irs.ustreas.gov)
- Direct Dial (by modem) 703-321-8020



## FAX

Just call **703-368-9694** from the telephone connected to the fax machine to get over 100 of the most requested forms and instructions.



## MAIL

Send your order for forms, instructions, and publications to the IRS Distribution Center nearest you. You should receive your order within 10 days after we receive your request.

Western United States:

Western Area Distribution Center

Rancho Cordova, CA 95743-0001

Central United States:

Central Area Distribution Center

P.O. Box 8903  
Bloomington, IL 61702-8903

Eastern United States and foreign addresses:

Eastern Area Distribution Center

P.O. Box 85074  
Richmond, VA 23261-5074



## PHONE

You can get forms, publications, and information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by phone.

### Forms and Publications

Call **1-800-TAX-FORM** (1-800-829-3676) to order current and prior year forms, instructions, and publications. You should receive your order within 10 days.

### TeleTax Topics

You can listen to pre-recorded messages covering about 150 tax topics. (See page 17 for the number to call and page 19 for a list of the topics.)

### Refund Information

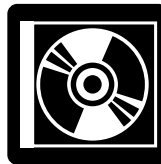
You can check on the status of your 1998 refund using TeleTax's Refund Information service. (See page 17.)



## WALK-IN

You can pick up some of the most requested forms, instructions, and publications at many post offices, libraries, and IRS offices. Some IRS offices and libraries have an

extensive collection of products available to photocopy or print from a CD-ROM.



## CD-ROM

Order **Pub. 1796, Federal Tax Products on CD-ROM**, and get:

- Current Year Forms, Instructions, and Publications
- Prior Year Forms and Instructions
- Popular Forms That May Be Filled in Electronically, Printed out for Submission, and Saved for Recordkeeping

Buy the CD-ROM on the Internet at [www.irs.ustreas.gov/cdorders](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/cdorders) from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) for \$13 (plus a \$5 handling fee), and save 35%, or call **1-877-CDFORMS** (1-877-233-6767) toll-free to buy the CD-ROM for \$20 (plus a \$5 handling fee).

---

## How Long Should You Keep Your Tax Return?

Keep a copy of your tax return, worksheets you used, and records of all items appearing on it (such as W-2 and 1099 forms) until the statute of limitations runs out for that return. Usually, this is 3 years from the date the return was due or filed, or 2 years from the date the tax was paid, whichever is later. You should keep some records longer. For example, keep property records (including those on your home) as long as they are needed to figure the basis of the original or replacement property. For more details, see **Pub. 552**.

---

## How Do You Amend Your Tax Return?

Use **Form 1040X** to change the return you already filed. Generally, Form 1040X must be filed within 3 years after the date the original return was filed, or within 2 years after the date the tax was paid, whichever is later. But you may have more time to file Form 1040X if you are physically or mentally unable to manage your financial affairs. See **Pub. 556** for details.

---

## How Do You Make a Gift To Reduce the Public Debt?

If you wish to do so, make a check payable to "Bureau of the Public Debt." You can send it to: Bureau of the Public Debt, Department G, Washington, DC 20239-0601. Or, you can enclose the check with your income tax return when you file. You may be able to deduct this gift if you itemize your deductions for 1999.

---

## How Do You Get a Copy of Your Tax Return?

Use TeleTax topic 156 (see page 17) or see **Form 4506**.

---

## You can get the following items from the IRS or get them at participating post offices or libraries.

### Form 1040

Instructions for Form 1040 & Schedules

**Schedule A** for itemized deductions

**Schedule B** for interest and ordinary dividends if over \$400; and for answering the foreign accounts or foreign trusts questions

**Schedule EIC** qualifying child information for the earned income credit

### Form 1040A

Instructions for Form 1040A & Schedules

**Schedule 1** for Form 1040A filers to report interest and ordinary dividends

**Schedule 2** for Form 1040A filers to report child and dependent care expenses

### Form 1040EZ

Instructions for Form 1040EZ

Many libraries also carry reference sets of forms and publications that can be photocopied and used for

filing. Ask the reference librarian for **Pub. 1132**, Reproducible Federal Tax Forms For Use in Libraries, and **Pub. 1194**, A Selection of IRS Tax Information Publications.

---

## Other Ways To Get Help

**Send Your Written Questions to the IRS.** You may send your written tax questions to your IRS District Director. You should get an answer in about 30 days. If you do not have the address, call us. See page 17.

**Assistance With Your Return.** IRS offices can help you prepare your return. An assister will explain a Form 1040EZ, 1040A, or 1040 with Schedules A and B to you and others in a group setting. You may also be able to file your return electronically by computer free of charge at some IRS offices. To find the IRS office nearest you, look in the phone book under "United States Government, Internal Revenue Service" or call us. See page 17.

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE).** These programs help older, disabled, low-income, and non-English-speaking people fill in their returns. For details, call us. See page 17 for the number. If you received a Federal income tax package in the mail, take it with you when you go for help. Also, take a copy of your 1997 tax return if you have it.

To find the nearest American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Tax-Aide site, visit AARP's Internet Web Site at—[www.aarp.org/taxaide/home.htm](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide/home.htm) or call **1-888-AARPNOW**.

**On-Line Services.** If you subscribe to an on-line service, ask if on-line filing or tax information is available.

**Help for People With Disabilities.** Telephone help is available using TTY/TDD equipment. See page 17. Braille materials are available at libraries that have special services for people with disabilities.

**Help With Unresolved Tax Issues.** Most problems can be solved with one contact either by calling, writing, or visiting an IRS office. But if you have tried unsuccessfully to resolve a problem with the IRS, you should contact the Taxpayer Advocate's **Problem Resolution Program (PRP)**. Someone at PRP will assign you a personal advocate who is in the best position to try to resolve your problem. The Taxpayer Advocate can also offer you special help if you have a significant hardship as a result of a tax problem.

You should contact the Taxpayer Advocate if:

- You have tried unsuccessfully to resolve your problem with the IRS and have not been contacted by the date promised, or
- You are on your second attempt to resolve a problem.

You may contact a Taxpayer Advocate by calling a new toll-free assistance number, **1-877-777-4778**. People with access to TTY/TDD equipment may call 1-800-829-4059 and ask for the Taxpayer Advocate. If you prefer, you can write to the Taxpayer Advocate at the IRS office that last contacted you.

While Taxpayer Advocates cannot change the tax law or make a technical tax decision, they can clear up problems that resulted from previous contacts and



ensure that your case is given a complete and impartial review. Taxpayer Advocates are working to

put service first. For more details about PRP, use TeleTax topic 104 (see this page) or see **Pub. 1546**.

---

## Calling the IRS

If you cannot answer your question by using one of the methods listed on page 15, please call us. You will not be charged for the call unless your phone company charges you for local calls. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



*If you want to check on the status of your 1998 refund, call TeleTax. See this page for the number.*

### Before You Call

IRS representatives care about the quality of the service we provide to you, our customer. You can help us provide accurate, complete answers to your questions by having the following information available.

- The tax form, schedule, or notice to which your question relates.
- The facts about your particular situation. The answer to the same question often varies from one taxpayer to another because of differences in their age, income, whether they can be claimed as a dependent, etc.
- The name of any IRS publication or other source of information that you used to look for the answer.

To maintain your account security, you may be asked for the following information, which you should also have available: **(1)** your social security number, date of birth, or personal identification number (PIN) if you have one, and **(2)** the amount of refund and filing status shown on your tax return, the "Caller ID Number" shown at the top of any notice you received, the numbers in your street address, or your ZIP code. If you are asking for an installment agreement to pay your tax, you will be asked for the highest amount you

can pay each month and the date on which you can pay it.

**Evaluation of Services Provided.** The IRS uses several methods to evaluate the quality of this telephone service. One method is for a second IRS representative to sometimes listen in on or record telephone calls. Another is to ask some callers to complete a short survey at the end of the call.

### Making the Call

Call **1-800-829-1040** (for TTY/TDD help, call 1-800-829-4059). If you have a pulse or rotary dial phone, stay on the line and one of our assisters will answer. If you have a touch-tone telephone, press **1** to enter our automated system. You can press the number for your topic as soon as you hear it. The system will direct you to the appropriate assistance. You may not need to speak to a representative to get your answer. You can do the following within the system: **(1)** order tax forms and publications, **(2)** find out the status of your refund or what you owe, **(3)** determine if we have adjusted your account or received payments you made, and **(4)** request a transcript of your account.

### Before You Hang Up

If you do not fully understand the answer you receive, or you feel our representative may not fully understand your question, our representative needs to know this. He or she will be happy to take additional time to be sure your question is answered fully.

By law, you are responsible for paying your share of Federal income tax. If we should make an error in answering your question, you are still responsible for the payment of the correct tax. Should this occur, however, you will not be charged any penalty.

---

## What Is TeleTax?

Call TeleTax at **1-800-829-4477** and you can get:

**Refund information.** Check the status of your **1998 refund**.

**Recorded tax information.** There are about 150 topics that answer many Federal tax questions. You can listen to up to three topics on each call you make.

### How Do You Use TeleTax?

#### Refund Information

**Note:** *Refund information is not available until at least 4 weeks after you file your return (3 weeks if you file electronically), and sometimes is not available for up to 6 weeks. Please wait at least 4 weeks before calling to check the status of your refund. If it has been more than 6 weeks and TeleTax does not give you the date your refund will be issued, please call us. See **Calling the IRS** on this page.*

Be sure to have a copy of your 1998 tax return available because you will need to know the first social

security number shown on your return, the filing status, and the **exact** whole-dollar amount of your refund. Then, call **1-800-829-4477** and follow the recorded instructions.



*The IRS updates refund information every 7 days, usually over the weekend. Refunds are sent out weekly, on Fridays. If you call to check the status of your refund and are not given the date it will be issued, please wait until the next week before calling back.*

#### Recorded Tax Information

A complete list of topics is on page 19. Recorded tax information is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Select the number of the topic you want to hear. Then, call **1-800-829-4477**. Have paper and pencil handy to take notes.

#### Topics by Personal Computer

TeleTax topics are also available using a personal computer and modem (connect to [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov)).

---

## Disclosure, Privacy Act, and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

The IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, the Privacy Act of 1974, and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 require that when we ask you for information we must first tell you our legal right to ask for the information, why we are asking for it, and how it will be used. We must also tell you what could happen if we do not receive it and whether your response is voluntary, required to obtain a benefit, or mandatory under the law.

This notice applies to all papers you file with us, including this tax return. It also applies to any questions we need to ask you so we can complete, correct, or process your return; figure your tax; and collect tax, interest, or penalties.

Our authority to ask for information is Internal Revenue Code sections 6001, 6011, and 6012(a), which require you to file a return or statement with us for any tax for which you are liable. Your response is mandatory under these sections. Code section 6109 requires that you provide your social security number or individual taxpayer identification number on what you file. This is so we know who you are, and can process your return and other papers. You must fill in all parts of the tax form that apply to you. However, you do not have to check the boxes for the Presidential Election Campaign Fund.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may be material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law.

We ask for tax return information to carry out the tax laws of the United States. We need it to figure and collect the right amount of tax.

If you do not file a return, do not give the information asked for, or give false information, you may be charged penalties and be subject to criminal prosecution. We may also have to disallow the exemptions, credits, or deductions shown on your tax

return. This could make the tax higher or delay any refund. Interest may also be charged.

Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as stated in Code section 6103. However, Code section 6103 allows or requires the Internal Revenue Service to disclose or give the information shown on your tax return to others as described in the Code. For example, we may disclose your tax information to the Department of Justice to enforce the tax laws, both civil and criminal, and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, U.S. commonwealths or possessions, and certain foreign governments to carry out their tax laws. We may disclose your tax information to other persons as necessary to obtain information which we cannot get in any other way in order to determine the amount of or to collect the tax you owe. We may also disclose your tax information to Federal, state, and local child support agencies; and to other Federal agencies for the purposes of determining entitlement for benefits or the eligibility for and the repayment of loans.

Please keep this notice with your records. It may help you if we ask you for other information. If you have any questions about the rules for filing and giving information, please call or visit any Internal Revenue Service office.

### The Time It Takes To Prepare Your Return

The time needed to complete and file Form 1040EZ will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is: **Recordkeeping**, 5 min.; **Learning about the law or the form**, 59 min.; **Preparing the form**, 1 hr., 23 min.; and **Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS**, 20 min. The total is 2 hr., 47 min.

### We Welcome Comments on Forms

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can e-mail us your suggestions and comments through the IRS Internet Home Page ([www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov)) or write to the Tax Forms Committee, Western Area Distribution Center, Rancho Cordova, CA 95743-0001. **DO NOT** send your return to this address. Instead, see **Where Do You File?** on page 28.

TeleTax Topics		Topic No.	Subject	Topic No.	Subject	Topic No.	Subject
Topic No.	Subject	Topic No.	Subject	<b>Adjustments to Income</b>		Topic No.	Subject
	<b>IRS Help Available</b>	305	Recordkeeping	451	Individual retirement arrangements (IRAs)	856	Foreign tax credit
101	IRS services— Volunteer tax assistance, toll-free telephone, walk-in assistance, and outreach programs	306	Penalty for underpayment of estimated tax	452	Alimony paid	857	IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number— Form W-7
102	Tax assistance for individuals with disabilities and the hearing impaired	307	Backup withholding	453	Bad debt deduction	858	Alien tax clearance
103	Small Business Tax Education Program (STEP)—Tax help for small businesses	308	Amended returns	454	Tax shelters	<b>Tax Information for Puerto Rico Residents (in Spanish)</b>	
104	Problem Resolution Program—Help for problem situations	309	Roth IRA contributions	455	Moving expenses	901	Who must file a U.S. income tax return in Puerto Rico
105	Public libraries—Tax information tapes and reproducible tax forms	310	Education IRA contributions	456	Student loan interest deduction	902	Deductions and credits for Puerto Rico filers
	<b>IRS Procedures</b>	311	Power of attorney information	<b>Itemized Deductions</b>		903	Federal employment taxes in Puerto Rico
151	Your appeal rights	<b>Filing Requirements, Filing Status, and Exemptions</b>		501	Should I itemize?	904	Tax assistance for Puerto Rico residents
152	Refunds—How long they should take	351	Who must file?	502	Medical and dental expenses	<b>Other Topics in Spanish</b>	
153	What to do if you haven't filed your tax return	352	Which form—1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ?	503	Deductible taxes	951	IRS services— Volunteer tax assistance, toll-free telephone, walk-in assistance, and outreach programs
154	Form W-2—What to do if not received	353	What is your filing status?	504	Home mortgage points	952	Refunds—How long they should take
155	Forms and publications—How to order	354	Dependents	505	Interest expense	953	Forms and publications—How to order
156	Copy of your tax return—How to get one	355	Estimated tax	506	Contributions	954	Highlights of tax changes
157	Change of address—How to notify IRS	356	Decedents	507	Casualty losses	955	Who must file?
158	Ensuring proper credit of payments	<b>Types of Income</b>		508	Miscellaneous expenses	956	Which form to use?
159	Hardship assistance applications	401	Wages and salaries	509	Business use of home	957	What is your filing status?
	<b>Collection</b>	402	Tips	510	Business use of car	958	Social security and equivalent railroad retirement benefits
201	The collection process	403	Interest received	511	Business travel expenses	959	Earned income credit (EIC)
202	What to do if you can't pay your tax	404	Dividends	512	Business entertainment expenses	960	Advance earned income credit
203	Failure to pay child support and other Federal obligations	405	Refunds of state and local taxes	513	Educational expenses	961	Alien tax clearance
204	Offers in compromise	406	Alimony received	514	Employee business expenses		
205	Innocent spouse relief	407	Business income	515	Disaster area losses	<b>Tax Computation</b>	
	<b>Alternative Filing Methods</b>	408	Sole proprietorship	551	Standard deduction	751	Social security and Medicare withholding rates
251	Form 1040PC format return	409	Capital gains and losses	552	Tax and credits figured by the IRS	752	Form W-2—Where, when, and how to file
252	Electronic filing	410	Pensions and annuities	553	Tax on a child's investment income	753	Form W-4—Employee's withholding allowance certificate
253	Substitute tax forms	411	Pensions—The general rule and the simplified general rule	554	Self-employment tax	754	Form W-5—Advance earned income credit
254	How to choose a tax preparer	412	Lump-sum distributions	555	Five- or ten-year tax options for lump-sum distributions	755	Employer identification number (EIN)—How to apply
255	TeleFile	413	Rollovers from retirement plans	556	Alternative minimum tax	756	Employment taxes for household employees
	<b>General Information</b>	414	Rental income and expenses	557	Tax on early distributions from traditional IRAs	757	Form 941—Deposit requirements
301	When, where, and how to file	415	Renting vacation property and renting to relatives	558	Tax on early distributions from retirement plans	758	Form 941—Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return
302	Highlights of tax changes	416	Farming and fishing income	<b>Tax Credits</b>		759	Form 940/940-EZ— Deposit requirements
303	Checklist of common errors when preparing your tax return	417	Earnings for clergy	601	Earned income credit (EIC)	760	Form 940/940-EZ— Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment Tax Return
304	Extensions of time to file your tax return	418	Unemployment compensation	602	Child and dependent care credit	761	Tips—Withholding and reporting
		419	Gambling income and expenses	603	Credit for the elderly or the disabled	762	Independent contractor vs. employee
		420	Bartering income	604	Advance earned income credit	<b>Magnetic Media Filers—1099 Series and Related Information Returns</b>	
		421	Scholarship and fellowship grants	605	Education credits	801	Who must file magnetically
		422	Nontaxable income	606	Child tax credits	802	Applications, forms, and information
		423	Social security and equivalent railroad retirement benefits	607	Adoption credit	803	Waivers and extensions
		424	401(k) plans	608	Excess social security and RRTA tax withheld	804	Test files and combined Federal and state filing
		425	Passive activities— Losses and credits	<b>IRS Notices</b>		805	Electronic filing of information returns
		426	Other income	651	Notices—What to do	<b>Tax Information for Aliens and U.S. Citizens Living Abroad</b>	
		427	Stock options	652	Notice of underreported income—CP 2000	851	Resident and nonresident aliens
		428	Roth IRA distributions			852	Dual-status alien
						853	Foreign earned income exclusion—General
						854	Foreign earned income exclusion—Who qualifies?
						855	Foreign earned income exclusion—What qualifies?

Topic numbers are effective January 1, 1999.









1998 1040EZ Tax Table—Continued

If Form 1040EZ, line 6, is—		And you are—		If Form 1040EZ, line 6, is—		And you are—	
At least	But less than	Single	Married filing jointly	At least	But less than	Single	Married filing jointly
Your tax is—				Your tax is—			
<b>45,000</b>				<b>48,000</b>			
45,000	45,050	9,312	7,102	48,000	48,050	10,152	7,942
45,050	45,100	9,326	7,116	48,050	48,100	10,166	7,956
45,100	45,150	9,340	7,130	48,100	48,150	10,180	7,970
45,150	45,200	9,354	7,144	48,150	48,200	10,194	7,984
45,200	45,250	9,368	7,158	48,200	48,250	10,208	7,998
45,250	45,300	9,382	7,172	48,250	48,300	10,222	8,012
45,300	45,350	9,396	7,186	48,300	48,350	10,236	8,026
45,350	45,400	9,410	7,200	48,350	48,400	10,250	8,040
45,400	45,450	9,424	7,214	48,400	48,450	10,264	8,054
45,450	45,500	9,438	7,228	48,450	48,500	10,278	8,068
45,500	45,550	9,452	7,242	48,500	48,550	10,292	8,082
45,550	45,600	9,466	7,256	48,550	48,600	10,306	8,096
45,600	45,650	9,480	7,270	48,600	48,650	10,320	8,110
45,650	45,700	9,494	7,284	48,650	48,700	10,334	8,124
45,700	45,750	9,508	7,298	48,700	48,750	10,348	8,138
45,750	45,800	9,522	7,312	48,750	48,800	10,362	8,152
45,800	45,850	9,536	7,326	48,800	48,850	10,376	8,166
45,850	45,900	9,550	7,340	48,850	48,900	10,390	8,180
45,900	45,950	9,564	7,354	48,900	48,950	10,404	8,194
45,950	46,000	9,578	7,368	48,950	49,000	10,418	8,208
<b>46,000</b>				<b>49,000</b>			
46,000	46,050	9,592	7,382	49,000	49,050	10,432	8,222
46,050	46,100	9,606	7,396	49,050	49,100	10,446	8,236
46,100	46,150	9,620	7,410	49,100	49,150	10,460	8,250
46,150	46,200	9,634	7,424	49,150	49,200	10,474	8,264
46,200	46,250	9,648	7,438	49,200	49,250	10,488	8,278
46,250	46,300	9,662	7,452	49,250	49,300	10,502	8,292
46,300	46,350	9,676	7,466	49,300	49,350	10,516	8,306
46,350	46,400	9,690	7,480	49,350	49,400	10,530	8,320
46,400	46,450	9,704	7,494	49,400	49,450	10,544	8,334
46,450	46,500	9,718	7,508	49,450	49,500	10,558	8,348
46,500	46,550	9,732	7,522	49,500	49,550	10,572	8,362
46,550	46,600	9,746	7,536	49,550	49,600	10,586	8,376
46,600	46,650	9,760	7,550	49,600	49,650	10,600	8,390
46,650	46,700	9,774	7,564	49,650	49,700	10,614	8,404
46,700	46,750	9,788	7,578	49,700	49,750	10,628	8,418
46,750	46,800	9,802	7,592	49,750	49,800	10,642	8,432
46,800	46,850	9,816	7,606	49,800	49,850	10,656	8,446
46,850	46,900	9,830	7,620	49,850	49,900	10,670	8,460
46,900	46,950	9,844	7,634	49,900	49,950	10,684	8,474
46,950	47,000	9,858	7,648	49,950	50,000	10,698	8,488
<b>47,000</b>				<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 20px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p><b>\$50,000 or over— use Form 1040</b></p> </div>			
47,000	47,050	9,872	7,662				
47,050	47,100	9,886	7,676				
47,100	47,150	9,900	7,690				
47,150	47,200	9,914	7,704				
47,200	47,250	9,928	7,718				
47,250	47,300	9,942	7,732				
47,300	47,350	9,956	7,746				
47,350	47,400	9,970	7,760				
47,400	47,450	9,984	7,774				
47,450	47,500	9,998	7,788				
47,500	47,550	10,012	7,802				
47,550	47,600	10,026	7,816				
47,600	47,650	10,040	7,830				
47,650	47,700	10,054	7,844				
47,700	47,750	10,068	7,858				
47,750	47,800	10,082	7,872				
47,800	47,850	10,096	7,886				
47,850	47,900	10,110	7,900				
47,900	47,950	10,124	7,914				
47,950	48,000	10,138	7,928				





## Explore IRS e-file!

Millions of people just like you file their tax returns electronically using an IRS *e-file* option because they offer:

- A fast refund in half the time—even faster with **Direct Deposit**.
- Faster processing and increased accuracy.
- An acknowledgment of IRS receipt within 48 hours.
- The ability to pay your balance due electronically and specify the date the money is debited from your bank account.

In many cases, IRS *e-file* options allow you to file your state tax return with your Federal return. What's more, with IRS *e-file*, your return is less likely to have errors therefore lessening your chances of receiving a letter from the IRS. Here's how you can participate with IRS *e-file*:

### Use an Authorized IRS e-file Provider



Many tax professionals file returns electronically for their clients. You can prepare your own return and have a professional transmit it electronically or

you can have your return both prepared AND transmitted electronically. Look for the "AUTHORIZED IRS *e-file* PROVIDER" sign. Tax professionals may charge a fee to *e-file* your return and fees may vary depending on the professional and the specific services requested.

This year, if you owe money with your return, you may take advantage of paying your balance due electronically. This option allows you to file your return electronically now and authorize the debit of your bank account on the date you select—any time up to April 15th.

### Use a Personal Computer

If you have a modem, personal computer, and tax preparation software, you can *e-file* your tax return from the convenience of your home. Tax preparation software is available at your local computer retailer or through various web sites over the Internet. Through a tax return transmitter, you can file 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A tax return transmitter may charge a fee for transmitting your return.

Check out the IRS web site at [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov) for a list of companies who participate in this IRS *e-file* program. You can also find a listing of partnerships that the IRS has entered into with private sector companies to provide low cost IRS *e-file* options. You may also take advantage of paying your balance due electronically now and authorize the debit of your bank account on the date you select—any time up to April 15th.

### Visit a VITA/TCE Site

The IRS offers FREE Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE)

programs. Many of these sites also offer IRS *e-file*. See page 16 for details on these programs.

### Ask Your Employer or Financial Institution

Some businesses offer IRS *e-file* FREE to their employees as a benefit. Others offer it for a fee to customers. Ask your employer or financial institution if they offer electronic filing. If they do not, why not suggest that they offer it as a benefit or service?

### Use a Phone



For millions of eligible taxpayers, *TeleFile* is the easiest way to file. The call only takes about 10 minutes. It allows taxpayers to file simple Federal tax returns using a touch-tone telephone. It's completely paperless. Eligible taxpayers will automatically receive the *TeleFile Tax Package* in the mail. **Parents! If your children receive a *TeleFile Tax Package*, please encourage them to use *TeleFile*!**

### How To Avoid Common Mistakes

Mistakes may delay your refund or result in notices being sent to you.

1. Be sure to enter your social security number (SSN) in the space provided on Form 1040EZ. If you are married filing jointly, also enter your spouse's SSN.
2. If you think you can take the earned income credit, read the instructions for lines 8a and 8b that begin on page 9 to make sure you qualify.
3. Check your math, especially when figuring your taxable income, Federal income tax withheld, and your refund or amount you owe.
4. Remember to sign and date Form 1040EZ and enter your occupation.
5. Use the amount from **line 6** to find your tax in the tax table. Be sure you enter the correct tax on line 10.
6. Check the "Yes" box on line 5 if you (or your spouse) can be claimed as a dependent on someone's 1998 return, such as your parents' return. Check "Yes" even if that person chooses not to claim you (or your spouse). If no one can claim you (or your spouse) as a dependent, check the "No" box.
7. Be sure to enter an amount on line 5. If you check the "Yes" box on line 5, fill in the worksheet on the back of Form 1040EZ to figure the amount to enter. If you check the "No" box, enter 6,950.00 if single; 12,500.00 if married filing jointly.
8. If you got a peel-off label, make sure it shows the correct name(s) and address. If not, enter the correct information. If you did not get a peel-off label, enter your name and address in the spaces provided on Form 1040EZ.
9. Attach your W-2 form(s) to the left margin of your return.
10. If you owe tax, be sure to include all the required information on your payment. See the instructions for line 12 on page 14 for details.

## Major Categories of Federal Income and Outlays for Fiscal Year 1997

On or before the first Monday in February of each year, the President is required to submit to the Congress a budget proposal for the fiscal year that begins the following October. The budget sets forth the President's proposed receipts, spending, and deficit or surplus for the Federal Government. The plan includes recommendations for new legislation as well as recommendations to change, eliminate, and add programs. After receiving the President's proposal, the Congress reviews it and makes changes. It first passes a budget resolution setting its own targets for receipts, outlays, and deficit or surplus. Individual spending and revenue bills are then enacted consistent with the goals of the budget resolution.

In fiscal year 1997 (which began on October 1, 1996, and ended on September 30, 1997), Federal income was \$1,579 billion and outlays were \$1,601 billion, leaving a deficit of \$22 billion.

### Federal Income

Income and social insurance taxes are, by far, the largest source of receipts. In 1997, individuals paid \$737 billion in income taxes and corporations paid \$182 billion. Social security and other insurance and retirement contributions were \$539 billion. Excise taxes were \$57 billion. The remaining \$63 billion of receipts were from Federal Reserve deposits, customs duties, estate and gift taxes, and other miscellaneous receipts.

### Federal Outlays

About 99% of total outlays were financed by tax receipts and the remaining 1% was financed by borrowing. Government receipts and borrowing finance a wide range of public services. The following is the breakdown of total outlays for fiscal year 1997\*:

**1. Social security, Medicare, and other retirement:** \$632 billion. These programs were about 38% of total outlays. They provide income support for the retired and disabled and medical care for the elderly.

**2. National defense, veterans, and foreign affairs:** \$325 billion. About 16% of total outlays were to equip, modernize, and pay our armed forces and to fund other national defense activities; about 2% went for veterans benefits and services; and about 1% went for international activities, including military and economic assistance to foreign countries and the maintenance of U.S. embassies abroad.

**3. Net interest:** \$244 billion. About 15% of total outlays were for net interest payments on the public debt.

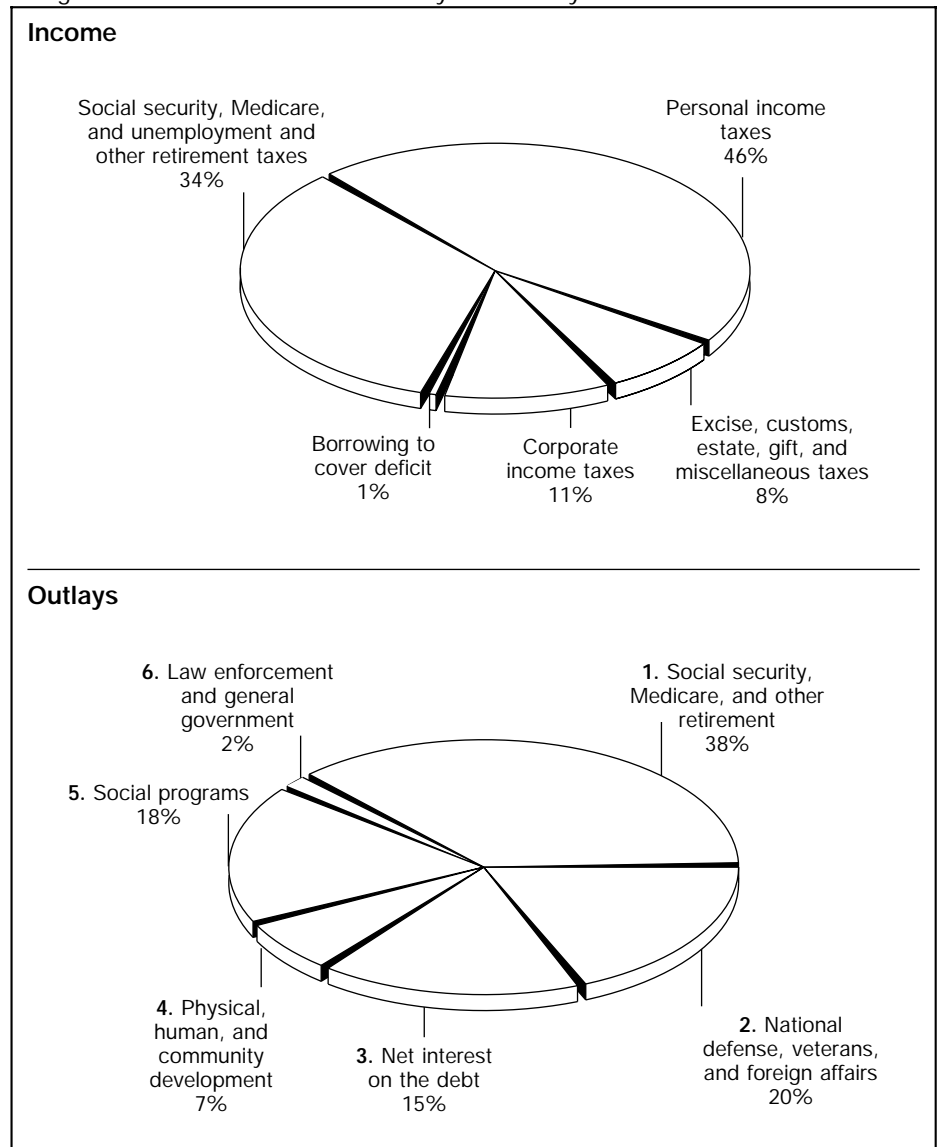
**4. Physical, human, and community development:** \$123 billion. About 7% of total outlays were for agriculture; natural resources and environmental programs; transportation programs; aid for elementary and secondary education and direct assistance to college students; job training programs; deposit insurance, commerce and housing credit, and community development; and space, energy, and general science programs.

**5. Social programs:** \$294 billion. The Federal Government spent 12% of total outlays to fund Medicaid, food stamps, temporary assistance for needy families, supplemental security income, and related programs. 6% was spent for health research and public health programs, unemployment compensation, assisted housing, and social services.

**6. Law enforcement and general government:** \$33 billion. About 2% of total outlays were for judicial activities, Federal law enforcement, and prisons; and to provide for the general costs of the Federal Government, including the collection of taxes and legislative activities.

**Note:** Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

**Income and Outlays**—These pie charts show the relative sizes of the major categories of Federal income and outlays for fiscal year 1997.



\* The percentages on this page exclude undistributed offsetting receipts, which were -\$50 billion in fiscal year 1997. In the budget, these receipts are offset against spending in figuring the outlay totals shown above. These receipts are for the U.S. Government's share of its employee retirement programs, rents and royalties on the Outer Continental Shelf, and proceeds from the spectrum auction.

## Index to Instructions

- A**  
Address Change 7, 14  
Addresses of Internal Revenue Service Centers 28  
Alaska Permanent Fund Dividends 9  
Allocated Tip Income 8  
Amended Return 16  
Amount You Owe 14
- C**  
Common Mistakes, How To Avoid 25  
Customer Service Standards 3  
Credits—  
Child Tax 3  
Education 3  
Federal Tax Paid on Kerosene 3
- D**  
Death of Spouse 4  
Death of Taxpayer 4  
Debt, Gift To Reduce the Public 16  
Dependent Care Benefits 8  
Direct Deposit of Refund 12  
Disclosure, Privacy Act, and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice 18
- E**  
Earned Income Credit 3, 9–12  
Nontaxable Earned Income 10  
Earned Income Credit Table 13  
Electronic Filing 2  
Employer-Provided Adoption Benefits 8  
Extensions of Time To File 4, 12
- F**  
Filing Instructions—  
When To File 4  
Where To File 28  
Filing Requirements 5  
Filing Status 7  
Form W-2 8  
Forms W-2 and 1099,  
Where To Report Certain Items From 6  
Forms, How To Get 15–16
- H**  
Help (free) 15–17  
Help With Unresolved Tax Issues 16  
Household Employment Taxes 6
- I**  
Income Tax Withheld (Federal) 9  
Injured Spouse Claim 12  
Innocent Spouse Relief 14  
Installment Payments 14  
Interest Income—  
Taxable 8  
Tax-Exempt 8  
Interest—Late Payment of Tax 4
- L**  
Line Instructions 7–14
- M**  
Married Persons 7
- N**  
Name and Address 7  
Name Change 4, 7  
Nonresident Alien 5, 6, 7
- P**  
Payments and Tax 9  
Amount You Owe 3, 14  
Penalty—  
Late Filing 4  
Late Payment 4  
Underpayment of Tax 14  
Preparer, Tax Return 14  
Presidential Election—\$3 Check-Off 7  
Private Delivery Services 4  
Problem Resolution Program 16  
Public Debt, Gift To Reduce the 16  
Publications, How To Get 15–16
- R**  
Railroad Retirement Benefits Treated as Social Security 8  
Recordkeeping 16  
Refund 12  
Refunds of State and Local Income Taxes 8  
Rights of Taxpayers 14  
Rounding Off to Whole Dollars 8
- S**  
Salaries 8  
Scholarship and Fellowship Grants 8  
Sign Your Return 14  
Single Person 7  
Social Security Benefits 8  
Social Security Number 3, 4, 7  
State and Local Income Taxes, Refunds of 8  
Student Loan Interest Deduction 3
- T**  
Tax Assistance 15–17  
Tax-Exempt Interest 8  
Tax Figured by the IRS 9  
Tax Table 20–24  
Telephone Assistance—Federal Tax Information 15, 17  
TeleTax 15, 17–19  
Tip Income 8
- U**  
Unemployment Compensation 8
- W**  
Wages 8  
When To File 4  
Where To File 28  
Who Can Use Form 1040EZ 5  
Who Must File 5  
Who Should File 6  
Withholding and Estimated Tax Payments for 1999 14



## Where Do You File?

If an envelope addressed to the Internal Revenue Service came with your booklet, please use it. If you do not have one, or if you moved during the year, mail your return to the **Internal Revenue Service Center** for the place where you live. **No street address is needed.** Envelopes without enough postage will be returned by the post office.

**Alabama**—Memphis, TN 37501-0014  
**Alaska**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**Arizona**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**Arkansas**—Memphis, TN 37501-0014  
**California**—*Counties of Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo, and Yuba*—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
*All other counties*—Fresno, CA 93888-0014  
**Colorado**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**Connecticut**—Andover, MA 05501-0014  
**Delaware**—Philadelphia, PA 19255-0014  
**District of Columbia**—Philadelphia, PA 19255-0014  
**Florida**—Atlanta, GA 39901-0014  
**Georgia**—Atlanta, GA 39901-0014  
**Hawaii**—Fresno, CA 93888-0014  
**Idaho**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**Illinois**—Kansas City, MO 64999-0014  
**Indiana**—Cincinnati, OH 45999-0014  
**Iowa**—Kansas City, MO 64999-0014  
**Kansas**—Austin, TX 73301-0014  
**Kentucky**—Cincinnati, OH 45999-0014  
**Louisiana**—Memphis, TN 37501-0014  
**Maine**—Andover, MA 05501-0014  
**Maryland**—Philadelphia, PA 19255-0014  
**Massachusetts**—Andover, MA 05501-0014  
**Michigan**—Cincinnati, OH 45999-0014  
**Minnesota**—Kansas City, MO 64999-0014  
**Mississippi**—Memphis, TN 37501-0014  
**Missouri**—Kansas City, MO 64999-0014  
**Montana**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**Nebraska**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**Nevada**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**New Hampshire**—Andover, MA 05501-0014  
**New Jersey**—Holtsville, NY 00501-0014  
**New Mexico**—Austin, TX 73301-0014  
**New York**—*New York City and counties of Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester*—Holtsville, NY 00501-0014  
*All other counties*—Andover, MA 05501-0014  
**North Carolina**—Memphis, TN 37501-0014  
**North Dakota**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**Ohio**—Cincinnati, OH 45999-0014  
**Oklahoma**—Austin, TX 73301-0014  
**Oregon**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**Pennsylvania**—Philadelphia, PA 19255-0014  
**Rhode Island**—Andover, MA 05501-0014  
**South Carolina**—Atlanta, GA 39901-0014  
**South Dakota**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**Tennessee**—Memphis, TN 37501-0014  
**Texas**—Austin, TX 73301-0014  
**Utah**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**Vermont**—Andover, MA 05501-0014  
**Virginia**—Philadelphia, PA 19255-0014  
**Washington**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**West Virginia**—Cincinnati, OH 45999-0014  
**Wisconsin**—Kansas City, MO 64999-0014  
**Wyoming**—Ogden, UT 84201-0014  
**American Samoa**—Philadelphia, PA 19255-0014  
**Guam: Permanent residents**—Department of Revenue and Taxation Government of Guam P.O. Box 23607 GMF, GU 96921  
**Guam: Nonpermanent residents**—Philadelphia, PA 19255-0014  
**Puerto Rico**—Philadelphia, PA 19255-0014  
**Virgin Islands: Permanent residents**—V.I. Bureau of Internal Revenue 9601 Estate Thomas Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas, VI 00802  
**Virgin Islands: Nonpermanent residents**—Philadelphia, PA 19255-0014  
**Foreign country**—Philadelphia, PA 19255-0014  
**All APO and FPO addresses**—Philadelphia, PA 19255-0014

---

## What's inside?

**When to file (page 4)**  
**What's new for 1998 (page 3)**  
**Commissioner's message (page 2)**  
**How to comment on forms (page 18)**  
**How to avoid common mistakes (page 25)**  
**Problem Resolution Program (page 16)**  
**Free tax help (pages 15–17)**  
**How to get forms and publications (page 15)**  
**Tax table (page 20)**  
**How to make a gift to reduce the public debt (page 16)**



