

TAX FACTS for April 15, 2013 – Montana Department of Revenue

Deadline

The Department of Revenue (DOR) reminds taxpayers that today's the deadline to file state individual income taxes. The department has made it easy for taxpayers to meet the filing deadline by providing free and convenient electronic filing and payment methods. The department genuinely appreciates and thanks all those who have taken the time to file and pay their taxes.

What tax dollars pay for

Your taxes help to fund the services that Montanans enjoy and use each and every day. These services include public education, clean water and air, parks and recreation, public health and safety, road construction and maintenance, higher education, to name a few. Next time you see a child board a school bus or see a young man or woman walk down the aisle to receive a diploma, you can be proud that you, as a taxpayer, helped to make that happen.

How are we doing?

DOR encourages and appreciates public comments and suggestions so we're able to continue improving our service to Montanans. Please call or visit the department website to comment.

How many returns are processed?

DOR has processed more than 377,300 individual income tax returns for the current tax year.

How many refunds are issued?

DOR has issued more than 295,480 refunds averaging \$418 for a total of more than \$123.5 million.

Where's My Refund?

If taxpayers would like to check the status of their refund, they can go to the DOR website and click on "Where's My Refund." This will take them to the department's Taxpayer Access Point (TAP) where they should select the "Individual" box. From there, click on "Where's My Refund." This feature allows taxpayers to check the status of their refunds and gauge when they might appear in their bank accounts or mailbox.

Call Center services

Taxpayers who need assistance filing today can call the department's call center toll free at (866) 859-2254, or in Helena at 444-6900. Staff will be available today from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Regular call center hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and staff are here to help. This tax season the call center has answered about 50,000 calls.

E-Filing options

Taxpayers can file electronically using the department's free e-filing service TAP, or one of the many commercial e-filing products. For electronic filing options, visit www.revenue.mt.gov.

Taxpayers who file electronically are receiving their state refunds on average in about 5 to 7 days.

Mobile payment option

Taxpayers can pay their income taxes using their mobile devices. The department recently added the mobile option to its online service, Income Tax Express. To access Income Tax Express, visit <https://app.mt.gov/ite>.

Paper filing

DOR employees have been working extended hours and on weekends to process the paper filed returns as quickly as possible. Even with the extended hours, paper filed returns requesting refunds are typically taking about 22 to 25 days for the refund to be issued.

On-site assistance

In addition to contacting the DOR call center, taxpayers can also receive assistance by visiting the Mitchell Building in Helena, 126 North Sanders, until 4 p.m. Assistance is also available at the department's offices in Missoula at 2681 Palmer Street. There are also more than 100 volunteer tax preparation sites around the state through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and AARP Tax-Aide Montana. To find out if you qualify and to see a comprehensive listing of locations, visit www.montanafreefile.org. For more information, visit www.revenue.mt.gov.

What if someone can't get their taxes done by April 15?

Those who aren't able to file their taxes by April 15 can qualify for an automatic six-month filing extension. In order to qualify for the automatic extension to file, the taxpayer will need to, by April 15, have paid either 90% of his or her current year income tax liability, or 100% of his or her prior year income tax liability. Starting this tax year, taxpayers also qualify for an automatic extension if their 2012 tax liability is \$200 or less. Please note that filing a federal request for an extension does not have any bearing on receiving a Montana extension.

What if someone can't pay their taxes by April 15?

If you can't pay all of your taxes by April 15, please contact the department as soon as possible. We have payment options that are available to assist taxpayers in paying their taxes. If a taxpayer doesn't have an extension to file and hasn't paid all of his or her tax liability, late payment penalties and interest will begin accruing from April 15 until the tax liability is paid in full. We encourage taxpayers to make payment arrangements with the department as soon as possible in order to avoid or minimize the amount of penalties and interest that may accrue.

Mission

The quality of life for all Montanans is better because the Montana Department of Revenue excels at public service and effective administration of the tax and liquor laws of Montana. We do this by ensuring that revenues intended by the legislature to be raised are collected to serve Montanans, by advancing equity and integrity in taxation, by providing respectful service and improving public understanding of Montana's revenue system.

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www.revenue.mt.gov