



Rhode Island Department of Revenue Division of Taxation

ADV 2017-12
TAX ADMINISTRATION

ADVISORY FOR TAX PROFESSIONALS
APRIL 4, 2017

Tax-filing deadline two weeks away

Returns for calendar-year C corporations – and for individuals – due April 18, 2017

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Rhode Island Division of Taxation today issued a reminder to tax professionals, business entities, and others that returns for calendar-year C corporations, individuals, and some others are due on April 18, 2017.

As a result of recent statutory changes enacted at the federal and Rhode Island levels, calendar-year C corporations, which formerly filed in March, now must file in April. The changes apply for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, so they apply for the first time this filing season.

The due date for calendar-year C corporations this filing season is April 18, 2017, for both federal and Rhode Island purposes, and the extended due date is October 16, 2017.¹ Thus, calendar-year C corporations will have the same deadlines for federal and Rhode Island tax purposes.

The following table shows the April filing deadline and the October extended due date for a number of business entities and tax types.

Rhode Island due date of April 18, 2017, for calendar-year filers

Entity/tax type	Form	Due date	Extended due date
Corporate income tax	RI-1120C	April 18, 2017	October 16, 2017
Public service gross earnings tax	T-72	April 18, 2017	October 16, 2017
Bank excise tax	T-74	April 18, 2017	October 16, 2017
Insurance gross premiums tax	T-71	April 18, 2017	October 16, 2017
Individual income tax	RI-1040	April 18, 2017	October 16, 2017
Single-member LLC*	RI-1065	April 18, 2017	October 16, 2017
Income tax of trust, estate	RI-1041	April 18, 2017	October 2, 2017**

Formulas and deadlines for estimated taxes have not changed.

* Single-member limited liability company (SMLLC) uses same due date and extended due date as its owner. Table assumes owner is calendar-year individual.

** Extended due date would normally be September 30 this year, but that falls on a weekend, so extended due date is moved to next business day: October 2, 2017.

The April 18, 2017, deadline also applies to personal income tax payments due for tax year 2016; property-tax relief claims on Form RI-1040H for tax year 2016; residential lead abatement credit claims on Form RI-6238 for tax year 2016; and first-quarter estimated payment of 2017 personal income tax.

¹ The deadlines also apply to those subject to mandatory unitary combined reporting.

BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATION

Legislation approved by Congress and signed into law by then-President Barack H. Obama on July 31, 2015, changed the original due dates for C corporations and partnerships.² The new federal law also made changes to extended due dates for certain entities.

Legislation approved by the Rhode Island General Assembly and signed by Rhode Island Governor Gina M. Raimondo on June 24, 2016, conforms Rhode Island law to federal law regarding C corporation and partnership due dates.³

The Division of Taxation has since updated its extended due dates in response to Internal Revenue Service changes with the goal of having the same deadline for purposes of filing federal and Rhode Island returns – a convenience for taxpayers and tax professionals.

Example:

XYZ Corp. is a calendar-year C corporation for federal tax purposes. The due date for its tax year 2016 return this season is April 18, 2017, for federal and Rhode Island purposes, and the extended due date is October 16, 2017, for federal and Rhode Island purposes.

WHERE'S MY REFUND?

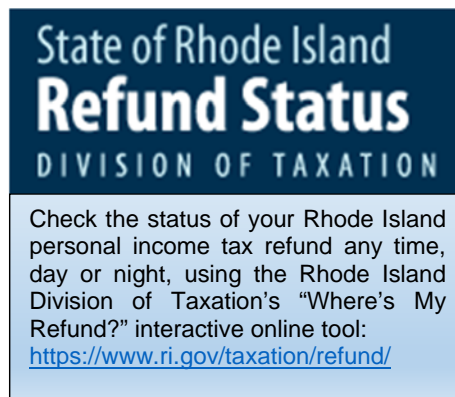
Before calling the Division of Taxation to check on the status of a refund, use the agency's "Where's My Refund?" interactive online tool. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Taxpayers and tax professionals use the secure website to find out if the Division of Taxation has received a return and whether any associated refund has been processed.

The Division of Taxation's "Where's My Refund?" online tool is updated with fresh information at least once a week, typically late each Friday.

The online tool has been made more user-friendly this filing season by providing additional information about the status of returns, refunds, and related information.

For details, use the following link:

<http://go.usa.gov/x9JSP>. That link also includes guidance on how soon you should start using the tool, after you've filed your return, to check on the status of your refund.



² U.S. Public Law 114-41.

³ Rhode Island Public Law 2016, ch. 142, art. 13.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX REFUNDS

As of late March, the average Rhode Island personal income tax refund for the current filing season stood at \$554.64 for tax year 2016 returns (before interest and offset). That is an increase of 12.3 percent over the average of \$493.74 for tax year 2015 returns (before interest and offset) that were filed in the corresponding period last filing season.

The total amount of refunds issued so far this filing season, as of late March, is up 21.9 percent, to more than \$145.9 million.

The number of refunds issued so far this season, as of late March, is up 8.5 percent compared with the corresponding period last filing season.

Rhode Island personal income tax refunds – year to date			
	Filing season 2016 (Tax year 2015 returns)	Filing season 2017 (Tax year 2016 returns)	
Year-to-date number of refunds:	242,499	263,201	+ 8.5%
Year-to-date total amount refunded:	\$ 119,730,880.38	\$ 145,981,347.52	+ 21.9%
Year-to-date average refund:	\$ 493.74	\$ 554.64	+ 12.3%

Cumulative, year-to-date, tax year 2015 refunds processed through March 28, 2016, and tax year 2016 refunds processed through March 27, 2017. Numbers are before interest and offset, and do not include refunds for tax years other than those stated.

VICTIMS OF TAX-RELATED IDENTITY THEFT

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses your stolen Social Security number to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund. You may not be aware that it has happened until you e-file your return and discover that a return already has been filed using your Social Security number.

If this has happened to you, read Internal Revenue Service Publication 5027, “Identity Theft Information for Taxpayers,” available online: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5027.pdf>. Also be sure to fill out and file IRS Form 14039, “Identity Theft Affidavit”, which is available online: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f14039.pdf>, and fill out and file a report with your local police department.



For Rhode Island tax purposes, mail a letter of explanation to the Rhode Island Division of Taxation. Include in your mailing a copy of your completed IRS Form 14039 (as mentioned above) and a copy of your police report. Mail to: Rhode Island Division of Taxation, Personal Income Tax Section, Identity Theft, One Capitol Hill, Providence, R.I. 02908. The Division will get in touch with you regarding the next steps to take.

To learn more about tax-related identity theft, and what steps you can take to avoid it, use the following link: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/taxpayer-guide-to-identity-theft>.

Employers and businesses that have been tricked into handing over employee Form W-2 wage statements to a criminal, or whose systems have been breached either by force or by trickery, should notify the IRS by sending an email to: DataLoss@IRS.gov.

Employers and businesses in such a situation should also let state tax agencies know by sending an email to: StateAlert@taxadmin.org. The Federation of Tax Administrators, an umbrella organization for the heads of state tax agencies across the country, will then share the information with all state tax agencies and guide the victimized firm to submitting the detail on the stolen data through a secured portal.

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation, the IRS, and the tax industry have joined as the “Security Summit” to implement a series of initiatives to help guard against tax refund fraud and tax-related identity theft.

The Summit partners also warn businesses and individual taxpayers that cybercriminals are using more sophisticated tactics to try to steal even more data that will allow them to impersonate taxpayers.

The Security Summit supports a national taxpayer awareness campaign called “Taxes. Security. Together.” and a national tax professional awareness effort called “Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself.” These campaigns offer simple tips that can help make data more secure. To learn more: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/security-summit>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Division of Taxation is located on the first floor of the Powers Building, at One Capitol Hill, diagonally across from the Smith Street entrance of the State House. The Division is typically open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. Obtain forms and instructions at any time, day or night, through the Division of Taxation’s website: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/taxforms/>. The main phone number is (401) 574-8829. (For questions about personal income tax, choose option # 3.) To see a list of phone numbers and email addresses to various sections within the agency, use the following link: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/contact/>.

The Division of Taxation cannot directly respond to taxpayer inquiries via social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, because of State statutes protecting taxpayer confidentiality. For the same reason, individual taxpayer inquiries cannot be directly addressed when made through traditional media, such as TV stations and talk-show programs. The Division recommends using the contact information listed in this Advisory – including the email address, phone number, and office visit information. The Division also recommends checking the “Where’s My Refund?” interactive online tool: <https://www.ri.gov/taxation/refund/>.