



# Rhode Island Division of Taxation

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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
Department of Revenue

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## **Advisory**

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## Filing season starts today; 'Guide to Refunds' now available

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The Rhode Island Division of Taxation today began accepting electronically filed personal income tax returns for tax year 2013 – signaling the formal start to tax-filing season.

“We’re now open for business to receive e-filed Rhode Island personal income tax returns,” said Rhode Island Tax Administrator David M. Sullivan. “Many taxpayers have most or all of the documentation they need to file their taxes. So now is a good time to file – and to do so electronically.”

E-filing results in fewer errors, faster processing, and swifter issuing of refunds, said Peter McVay, associate director of revenue services. Also, only e-filers have the option to have their refunds deposited directly into their bank or credit union accounts. (The direct deposit option is not available to paper filers.)

Through a longstanding federal-state partnership, e-filed Rhode Island personal income tax returns are transmitted to the Internal Revenue Service then downloaded by the Division of Taxation. But the start of the process this time around was postponed, until today, due to delays that the IRS said were caused by the federal government shutdown in October 2013.

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation today began accepting e-filed personal income tax returns and will promptly issue acknowledgements of their receipt. (When preparers and taxpayers receive their acknowledgements will depend on the vendor they use.)

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## Free File opens

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The Rhode Island Division of Taxation’s website now includes links to several online tax preparation programs that allow eligible taxpayers to prepare and file their federal and Rhode Island personal income tax returns at no charge. Taxpayers must first meet the eligibility requirements, then read each program’s terms and conditions carefully.

“Taxpayers should check to see if they’re eligible, and then review each program’s rules to make sure the program suits their needs” before choosing a program, Sullivan said. The links are available at: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/misc/efile.php>.

In addition, the website [MyFreeTaxes.com](http://MyFreeTaxes.com) – a venture of the Walmart Foundation, Goodwill Industries International, National Disability Institute, and United Way – provides free online federal and state tax preparation and filing in all 50 states for individuals and families with a household income of \$58,000 or less in 2013.

Although the Rhode Island Division of Taxation does not prepare tax returns on a walk-in basis, many locations in Rhode Island will prepare personal income tax returns -- and property-tax relief claims on Form RI-1040H -- all at no charge for eligible taxpayers. To find a volunteer tax preparation site near you:

- Call the United Way of Rhode Island’s helpline at 211, or click [here](#) for the website.
- Call the VITA program toll-free at 1-800-906-9887, or click [here](#) for the website.
- Call the AARP Tax-Aide program toll-free at 1-888-227-7669, or click [here](#) for the website.

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## Guide to refunds

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New for this season, the Division of Taxation has published a “Guide to Tax Refunds,” which provides answers to frequently asked questions about personal income tax refunds. “This guide, put together by our Personal Income Tax section, answers a lot of the questions that taxpayers have during tax season about their refunds,” Sullivan said.

Among the topics in the guide: how to find out the status of your refund; what to do when a direct deposit goes astray; why your refund amount may be more – or less – than you expected; and common errors that lead to refund delays. Click [here](#) for a copy of the guide.

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## Forms 1099-G, 1099-INT

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The Division of Taxation recently completed the mailing of Forms 1099-G and 1099-INT to taxpayers. Neither form is a bill; each is for information purposes.

The Form 1099-G shows the amount of Rhode Island personal income tax refund a taxpayer received in 2013. The Form 1099-INT reports any interest a taxpayer earned on their income tax refund. The forms are typically used to help prepare one’s tax returns. Altogether, the Division of Taxation ended up mailing 216,400 Forms 1099-G and 6,716 Forms 1099-INT.

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## Answers to practitioner questions

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The Division of Taxation recently made presentations to practitioner groups and posted answers to certain of their questions. The posting has been revised. Click [here](#) for a copy.

Also, substantially all tax forms for tax year 2013 are now posted on the Division of Taxation's website for viewing, downloading, and printing: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/taxforms/>  
The Division of Taxation's website has separate sections for business tax forms, individual tax forms, and other tax forms, so you can quickly find what you're looking for.

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## Tax news in brief

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- **Employer tax:** Employers have until 11:59 p.m. tonight to file and pay their state unemployment insurance tax (also known as the employment security or ES tax) and job development fund tax, and to file and remit the amount of Rhode Island temporary disability insurance (TDI) tax withheld from employees' wages. It is the fourth quarterly payment for the 2013 tax year. (It is also the deadline for filing federal FUTA tax.)
- **Sales tax:** Tonight is also the deadline for most retailers to file their annual sales tax reconciliation form. The only exception is for liquor stores and package stores, whose annual sales tax reconciliation return is due on or before 11:59 p.m. on Monday, February 3.
- **Business returns:** The Division of Taxation on January 15 began accepting and processing business tax returns for tax year 2013 on Form RI-1120C for businesses organized as C corporations, Form RI-1120S for businesses organized as subchapter S corporations, and Form RI-1065 for limited liability companies (LLCs), limited partnerships (LPs), limited liability partnerships (LLPs), general partnerships, and single-member limited liability companies (SMLLCs). Rhode Island began enforcing the state's [corporate e-file mandate](#) effective January 1, 2013. The mandate generally applies to returns filed on Form RI-1120C, Form RI-1120S, and Form RI-1065 by paid preparers.
- **Fiduciaries:** Rhode Island now allows for the e-filing of Form RI-1041, the fiduciary return, which deals with income from a trust or estate. But whether you'll actually be able to e-file your Form RI-1041 will depend on whether your software program allows for it.
- **Tobacco products:** The Division of Taxation has proposed a regulation to provide guidance to cigarette dealers and distributors on how to appropriately pay tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes. The proposed regulation also provides guidance on how to maintain records for such products. Click [here](#) for the proposed regulation, [here](#) for the formal notice.
- **Administrative Decisions:** The Division of Taxation has posted four Administrative Decisions so far in 2014. One involves the cigarette tax, two focus on the timely filing of refund (overpayment) claims for the personal income tax, and the other is a determination on whether a business is subject to the public service corporation tax. All Administrative Decisions are archived here: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/AdministrativeDecisions/>
- **Contact information:** For a complete listing of contact information for the Division of Taxation, use the "Contact Us" section of the website: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/contact/>

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Contact:

Neil Downing,  
Chief Revenue Agent  
Rhode Island Division of Taxation  
[Neil.Downing@tax.ri.gov](mailto:Neil.Downing@tax.ri.gov)  
(401) 574-8115