

Taxpayers who mail a paper version of their income tax return can expect at least a 3-4 week delay (or longer) at the front-end of the process, as the return has to be manually entered into the IRS system before it can be processed.

## **The Tax Deadline is April 18, 2023**

Why is the 2023 tax deadline April 18 instead of April 15? Because April 15, the standard deadline, falls on a Saturday. When the deadline falls on a weekend, the IRS moves the deadline day to the next business day. However, that Monday, April 17, 2023, is Emancipation Day, a holiday recognized in Washington, D.C., where the IRS is headquartered.

Depending on when a taxpayer files, they can often receive their tax refund payments (check or direct deposit) within 2-3 weeks.

## **When will the IRS Start Accepting 2023 Tax Returns and Issuing Refunds?**

The IRS usually starts accepting tax returns during the last week of January. So, early tax filers who are due a refund can often see them as early as mid- or late February. However, taxpayers with the **Earned Income Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit** generally have their refunds delayed by about **one month** while the IRS confirms eligibility for these credits.

Several factors can determine when a taxpayer may receive their tax return, including:

- How early they file
- If the taxpayer is claiming certain credits (especially EITC and CTC)
- Whether the return is e-filed or sent by mail
- Whether the taxpayer has existing debts to the federal government

## Estimated 2023 IRS Income Tax Return Chart

IRS Accepts Return By:	Direct Deposit (Paper Check Mailed one week later)
Jan. 23, 2023*	Feb. 3 (Feb. 10)**
Jan. 30, 2023*	Feb. 10 (Feb. 17)**
Feb. 6	Feb. 17 (Feb. 24)**
Feb. 13	Feb. 24 (Mar. 3)**
Feb. 20	Mar. 3 (Mar. 10)**
Feb. 27	Mar. 10 (Mar 17)
Mar. 6	Mar. 17 (Mar. 24)
Mar. 13	Mar. 24 (Apr. 1)
Mar. 20	Mar. 31 (April 7)
Mar. 27	Apr. 7 (Apr. 14)***
Apr. 3, 2023	Apr. 14 (Apr. 21)***
Apr. 10	Apr. 21 (Apr. 28)***
Apr. 17	Apr. 28 (May 5)
Apr. 24	May 5 (May 12)
May 1	May 12 (May 19)
May 8	May 19 (May 26)
May 15	May 26 (June 3)
May 22	June 3 (June 10)

\* = IRS may delay start of tax season by a week or so.

\*\* = Returns with EITC or CTC may have refunds delayed until March to verify credits.

\*\*\* = Filing during peak season can result in slightly longer waits.

## What If You Can't File Your Income Taxes By April 15?

Taxpayers who don't have all of the paperwork needed in order to file their taxes can easily file an extension form, "Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return." – This will give the taxpayer until October 17, 2023 to file their tax return. No reason or excuse is needed to receive this extension, and as the title states, it is automatically granted.

However, if a person will owe taxes, it is still their obligation to pay those taxes by April 18, 2023, even if they have requested an extension to file. A professional can assist with this. Those who are due a refund generally only need to file the extension request by April 18, 2023. Any tax professional and most do-it-yourself tax programs can perform this task.