FREE REFERENCE

Where's my tax refund?

Check a federal refund with the IRS Where's My Refund tool, using your Social Security number or ITIN, filing status and exact refund amount. Most e-filed refunds arrive within 21 days. Amended returns have their own tracker and take up to 16 weeks. For state refunds, use your state's link in the table below.

QUICK FACTS

- **E-filed.** Most e-filed refunds with direct deposit are issued within 21 days
- **Paper.** Paper returns take six weeks or more, and show in the tool about four weeks after mailing
- **Amended.** Form 1040-X shows in its own tracker about three weeks after filing

How do I check my federal refund?

Use Where's My Refund on irs.gov or the IRS2Go app. You need three things:

- Your Social Security number or ITIN
- Your filing status
- The exact whole-dollar refund amount on your return

Status shows within 24 hours of e-filing a current-year return, three or four days after e-filing a prior-year return, and about four weeks after mailing a paper return. It moves through three stages: Return Received, Refund Approved and Refund Sent. The tool updates once a day, usually overnight, so checking more often doesn't help.

How long do refunds take?

SITUATION	TYPICAL TIME
E-filed, direct deposit	Within 21 days
E-filed, refund by check	A week or two longer
Paper return	Six weeks or more
Earned income or additional child tax credit	Not before mid-February, by law
Amended return (Form 1040-X)	Up to 16 weeks, sometimes longer

General information, not tax advice for your situation.

The IRS is moving away from paper refund checks, so give your bank details for direct deposit when you file.

Why is my refund taking longer?

The common reasons: a math error or missing form, an identity check (the IRS may send Letter 5071C asking you to verify), a claim for the earned income or child tax credit, a mismatch with W-2s or 1099s, or a refund applied to an old debt. If part of your refund went to past-due federal or state debts, the Bureau of the Fiscal Service sends a notice. Got an IRS letter? Our guide to what to do when you get an IRS letter explains the next steps.

How do I track an amended return?

Use Where's My Amended Return with your SSN or ITIN, date of birth and ZIP code. It covers the current year and three years back. Our post on how to amend a tax return explains when to file one.

Can I track a business refund?

There's no online tracker for business returns like Form 1120 or 941-X. Call the IRS business line at 800-829-4933 with your EIN, or check your IRS business tax account. Partnerships and S-Corps rarely get refunds, since the tax passes through to the owners.

How do I check my state refund?

Each state with an income tax runs its own tracker. Nine states don't tax wages, so there's no state refund to track there: Alaska, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. Find your state below. Where a direct refund page couldn't be confirmed, the link goes to the state's revenue agency, which has a "Where's my refund" link on its home page.

STATE	CHECK YOUR REFUND	AGENCY
Alabama	Refund status	Revenue agency
Arizona	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Arkansas	Refund status	Revenue agency
California	Refund status	Revenue agency
Colorado	Refund status	Revenue agency
Connecticut	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Delaware	Refund status	Revenue agency
District of Columbia	Refund status	Revenue agency
Georgia	Refund status	Revenue agency
Hawaii	Refund status	Revenue agency

STATE	CHECK YOUR REFUND	AGENCY
Idaho	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Illinois	Refund status	Revenue agency
Indiana	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Iowa	Refund status	Revenue agency
Kansas	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Kentucky	Refund status	Revenue agency
Louisiana	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Maine	Refund status	Revenue agency
Maryland	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Massachusetts	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Michigan	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Minnesota	Refund status	Revenue agency
Mississippi	Refund status	Revenue agency
Missouri	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Montana	Refund status	Revenue agency
Nebraska	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
New Jersey	Refund status	Revenue agency
New Mexico	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
New York	Refund status	Revenue agency
North Carolina	Refund status	Revenue agency
North Dakota	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Ohio	Refund status	Revenue agency
Oklahoma	Refund status	Revenue agency
Oregon	Refund status	Revenue agency
Pennsylvania	Refund status	Revenue agency
Rhode Island	Refund status	Revenue agency
South Carolina	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency

General information, not tax advice for your situation.

STATE	CHECK YOUR REFUND	AGENCY
Utah	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Vermont	Refund status on the agency site	Revenue agency
Virginia	Refund status	Revenue agency
West Virginia	Refund status	Revenue agency
Wisconsin	Refund status	Revenue agency

Need your return done, or a refund that's stuck looked into? Our personal tax return service can help.

Common questions

How long does it take to get a tax refund in 2027?
Most e-filed returns with direct deposit are refunded within 21 days. Paper returns take six weeks or more.

Why does Where's My Refund say my information is wrong?
Usually the refund amount doesn't match exactly, or the return hasn't been processed far enough to show. Use the whole-dollar amount from your return and try again after 24 hours.

When should I call the IRS about my refund?
Only if it has been more than 21 days since e-filing or six weeks since mailing, or if the tool tells you to call. The refund line is 800-829-1954.

Does calling the IRS speed up my refund?
No. Phone agents see the same information as the online tool unless it has been longer than the normal timeframe.

Want your return done?

One fixed price, agreed before we start. Book a free 30-minute call at eminenttax.com/contact or call (972) 347-4590.

eminenttax.com