



Key Dates for the 2026 Filing Season

- **January 26, 2026:** The official start date for the 2026 filing season, when the IRS begins accepting and processing all individual e-filed and paper tax returns.
- **April 15, 2026:** The deadline for most taxpayers to file their 2025 tax returns and pay any tax owed.
- **October 15, 2026:** The deadline to file if a taxpayer requests an automatic 6 month extension by the April 15 deadline.

Important Notes

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- **E-filing and Direct Deposit:** The IRS strongly encourages electronic filing combined with direct deposit as it is the fastest and most reliable way to receive a refund. The agency is phasing out paper refund checks due to a federal executive order.
- **Tax Law Changes:** This filing season incorporates several new tax law provisions from the "One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA), including potential tax exemptions on tips, overtime pay, and car loan interest, as well as enhanced deductions for seniors.
- **Online Account:** Taxpayers can use their IRS Individual Online Account to check their balance, make payments, and access tax records.
- **Refund Status:** Refund status information is generally available through the "Where's My Refund?" tool on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) within 24 hours after e-filing a current-year return.