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## Department issues \$248 million in refunds, prepares to issue rebates

With about a month left before the deadline for filing 2021 Personal Income Tax returns, the Taxation and Revenue Department has received more than 476,000 returns and issued almost \$248 million in refunds to taxpayers.

Returns are due on Monday, April 18 this year. Taxpayers are encouraged to file electronically, either through a commercial service or directly on the Department's website through the [Taxpayer Access Point](#) (TAP). Filing electronically minimizes delays in processing and results in faster refunds.

Thanks to legislation enacted in the 2022 legislative session, the Department is preparing to issue one-time tax rebates starting in July 2022. A rebate of \$500 will be available for heads of household, surviving spouses, and married individuals filing joint returns for tax year 2021 with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$150,000. A \$250 rebate will be available for single filers and married individuals filing separate returns with tax year 2021 adjusted gross incomes of less than \$75,000.

The law establishing the rebates takes effect July 1, 2022, and Taxation and Revenue will begin issuing them on that date. Taxpayers do not need to apply for the rebates but will receive them automatically if they qualify through the same means they chose for receiving refunds or making payments.

Two important benefits for low- and moderate-income New Mexicans have been expanded for the 2021 tax year due to 2021 legislation:

- The Working Families Tax Credit is now worth 20 percent of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. It also is now available to taxpayers who file using an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) and to taxpayers between the ages of 18 and 25 with or without children. Eligibility for the credit depends on earned income and family size.

- The Low Income Comprehensive Income Tax Rebate is now available to taxpayers with up to \$36,000 in modified gross income. The average rebate is expected to rise from \$78 to \$195.

In both cases, taxpayers may receive a refund back from the state even if they don't have any tax liability.

Expansion of the programs, signed into law last year by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, means they are now available to more than 500,000 New Mexicans.

Tax preparation help for low-income New Mexicans is available through the AARP and Tax Help New Mexico, along with some senior citizen centers and social service agencies. More information is available from the AARP and at [TaxHelpNM.org](http://TaxHelpNM.org).

A [list of agencies](#) that provide filing assistance is available at [tax.newmexico.gov](http://tax.newmexico.gov).

Also new for the 2021 tax year is a top Personal Income Tax rate of 5.9%. The new rate applies to taxable income above \$210,000 for single filers and above \$315,000 for married couples filing jointly. The previous top income tax rate was 4.9%.

The new top bracket is still well below the 8.2% top rate in effect in New Mexico prior to 2003, and it is expected to affect the top 3% highest earning New Mexico taxpayers.

The Department does sometimes reach out to taxpayers by mail to verify Personal Income Tax returns to combat identity theft. It will not contact taxpayers by phone unsolicited, except when conducting collection efforts. Confirming identity can take 6 to 8 weeks after the requested information is received.

Personal Income Tax forms and instructions are available at [tax.newmexico.gov](http://tax.newmexico.gov) in the Income Taxes folder on the Forms & Publications page.

Paper forms also are available in many libraries throughout the state and may be ordered by calling 1-866-285-2996. In Albuquerque, forms are available in the lobby of the Taxation and Revenue Department's Copper Pointe Office at 10500 Copper Ave. NE.

The Taxation and Revenue Department serves the State of New Mexico by providing fair and efficient tax and motor vehicle services. It administers more than 35 tax programs and distributes revenue to the State and to local and tribal governments throughout New Mexico.

The Department strives to reduce taxpayer burden through clearer communication, statutes, regulations, forms, correspondence and instructions.

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