



# Rhode Island Division of Taxation

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
Department of Revenue

## **Advisory**

May 22, 2014

ADVISORY: ADV 2014-10

## Total amount of refunds up; average refund now stands at \$544

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation has issued a combined total of more than \$224 million in personal income tax refunds so far this year, up 0.3 percent from the same point a year ago.

For the calendar year to date, the average Rhode Island personal income tax refund is \$544, up 2.3 percent compared with the corresponding period a year ago, when the average refund was \$532.

	Calendar year 2013	Calendar year 2014	Difference
Number of refunds	421,129	413,187	-1.9%
Total amount refunded	\$ 223,878,294	\$ 224,579,147	+0.3%
Average refund	\$ 532	\$ 544	+2.3%

Cumulative figures for tax year 2012 returns filed through May 17, 2013, and for tax year 2013 returns filed through May 16, 2014. Figures are before interest and offset, and do not include refunds for tax years other than those stated.

Although this year's tax-filing season ended for most taxpayers on April 15, the Division of Taxation continues to process returns and refunds for tax year 2013 – including returns that are being filed on extension, said Rhode Island Tax Administrator David M. Sullivan.

In addition, as happens each year at this time, the Division of Taxation continues to work on thousands of returns that have been set aside for review for various reasons, including errors in calculations and missing documentation.

"This happens every year, in other states as well as in Rhode Island," Sullivan said. "We have many returns that we are still working on. If you expect a refund but still have not received it, please be patient," Sullivan said. He urged taxpayers to check the ["Where's My Tax Refund?" online tool](#), which is updated once a week with fresh information, usually by Friday. The Division has also published a [guide about personal income tax refunds](#).

---

## Tax news in brief

---

■ **Retailers of tobacco products:** The Division of Taxation will hold a public hearing next month on [a revised regulation](#) involving the taxation of tobacco products other than cigarettes (sometimes referred to as “other tobacco products” or “OTP”). A regulation proposed earlier this year has since been revised mainly to clarify record-keeping requirements. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., at the Powers Building, One Capitol Hill, Providence, diagonally across from the State House.

■ **Repeal of regulations:** The Division of Taxation will hold a public hearing next month on a proposal to repeal two regulations. The Division [proposes to repeal regulation EFT 00-01, “Electronic Funds Transfer,”](#) because a more recent regulation covering the same subject is available: EFT 09-01, “Payment of Taxes by Electronic Funds Transfer.” The Division also [proposes to repeal regulation CR 02-12, “ISO Certification Credit,”](#) because the underlying statute, Rhode Island General Laws § 44-11-42, was repealed some while ago. The public hearing is to take place on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., at the Powers Building, One Capitol Hill, Providence, diagonally across from the State House.

■ **Administrative Decisions:** The Division of Taxation recently posted two Administrative Decisions. One deals with [a claim for a refund of personal income tax](#). The other focuses on a [sales tax assessment on a corporation](#).

■ **Letters of Good Standing:** A reminder that requests for letters of good standing are now being handled by the Division of Taxation’s Compliance & Collections section, which can be reached at (401) 574-8941 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. business days.

---

For questions about this Advisory, 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