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**Less than three weeks to deadline for personal income tax returns**  
*Tax Administrator urges practitioners, taxpayers to use e-file*

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Rhode Island Division of Taxation today reminded taxpayers that they have less than three weeks left to have their Rhode Island personal income tax returns completed and filed. Returns must be e-filed or postmarked on or before April 15, 2015.

Rhode Island Tax Administrator David M. Sullivan urged taxpayers to file electronically and beat the rush. “There is always a last-minute rush each year. It’s human nature. But you can beat the rush by filing early – and by filing electronically,” Sullivan said.

Rhode personal income tax returns -- Tax Year 2014		
	Number	Percent
Electronically filed returns	280,805	94.18%
Paper returns	17,355	5.82%
Total	298,160	100.00%
Cumulative figures for tax year 2014 returns filed through March 18, 2015.		

E- filing saves time and money, and results in fewer errors and faster processing, said Neena S. Savage, associate director of revenue services. And only by e-filing can you have your refund deposited directly into your bank or credit union account; you cannot have direct deposit if you file your Rhode Island return on paper.

Of all Rhode Island personal income tax returns filed so far, more than 94 percent have been e-filed, about the same as last year at this time. Overall, 298,160 returns have been filed so far this season, compared with 301,022 returns at approximately the same point last year.

**Resources available**

■ **Forms:** Forms, instructions, booklets, and additional information are available for download from [the Division of Taxation’s website](#). You may order forms, instructions, and booklets by calling (401) 574-8970. Forms, instructions, and booklets can be picked up by visiting the agency’s first-floor lobby, One Capitol Hill, Providence, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. business days.

■ **Preparers:** There are many certified public accountants, enrolled agents, public accountants, registered tax return preparers, and other paid preparers in the Rhode Island area who are available to prepare and file your federal and state returns. For information about locations and times of volunteer tax preparers, call the United Way of Rhode Island’s helpline at 211 or [use its website](#). For information on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, call toll-free at 1-800-906-9887, or [use the IRS website](#). For information on the AARP Tax-Aide program, call toll-free at 1-888-227-7669, or [use its website](#).

■ **Free File:** The Division of Taxation’s website includes [links to a number of online tax preparation programs](#) that allow low-income and other eligible taxpayers to prepare and e-file their federal and Rhode Island personal income tax returns at no charge. Taxpayers must first meet the eligibility requirements, then read each program’s terms and conditions carefully.

■ **Refund Guide:** The Division of Taxation has posted this year’s version of the [“Guide to Tax Refunds.”](#) It includes information on how to check the status of your refund; what to do when a direct deposit goes astray; why your refund amount may be more – or less – than you expected; and common errors that lead to refund delays. The average refund so far this season is \$526, compared with \$559 at about the same point in last year’s filing season.

Rhode personal income tax refunds		
	Tax Year 2013	Tax Year 2014
Number of refunds	245,675	250,729
Total amount refunded	\$ 137,245,386	\$ 131,913,362
Average refund	\$ 559	\$ 526
Cumulative figures for tax year 2013 refunds through March 23, 2014, and for tax year 2014 refunds through March 24, 2015. Figures are before interest and offset, and do not include refunds for tax years other than those stated.		

■ **Extensions:** If you can’t file your Rhode Island personal income tax return by the April 15 deadline, you can file for an automatic six-month extension. It’ll push your filing deadline out to October 15, 2015. The extension is for resident and nonresident returns. For information about how to make a proper estimate when filing for an extension, please [click here](#).

- If you are not required to make a payment by April 15 – because your calculations show that you paid in a sufficient amount last year, for example – don’t file the Rhode Island extension form. But when you file your Rhode Island return by the October 15 deadline, attach a copy of your federal extension application.
- If you have a balance due, you still must pay what you owe by April 15 or face penalty and interest charges. (It’s an extension of the time to file, not of the time to pay.) If you’ll have a balance due, file Form RI-4868 on paper. (If you’ll have a balance due and [pay it by credit card](#), you don’t have to file a Form RI-4868. A third-party fee is charged when you pay by credit card.) If you can’t pay what you owe by April 15, file anyway to avoid the failure-to-file penalty – and enter into an agreement to pay over time, in installments. To learn more about such payment plans, call the Tax Division’s Compliance & Collections section, at (401) 574-8941 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. business days. (Have a copy of your return handy when you call.)

■ **Other Forms, Payments Due:** April 15 is the final deadline for property-tax relief claims on Form RI-1040H and for the residential lead abatement credit on Form RI-6238. Even if you plan to file your regular return on extension, you still must file your claims for property-tax relief and for the residential lead abatement credit by April 15. If you make quarterly estimated payments of Rhode Island personal income tax, don't forget that the deadline for the first such payment of 2015 is April 15, 2015. If you didn't receive a booklet in the mail, you may use the payment coupons and instructions posted on the Division of Taxation website.

■ **Business Filings:** April 15 is the filing deadline for calendar-year limited liability companies (LLCs) that are taxed as pass-through entities and that file their return on Form RI-1065. It is also the deadline for calendar-year limited partnerships (LPs), limited liability partnerships (LLPs), general partnerships, and single-member LLCs that file their annual return on Form RI-1065. April 15 is also the due date for fiduciary returns, using a calendar year, on Form RI-1041, and for calendar-year composite and pass-through filings.

■ **Contact Information:** For a complete listing of contact information for the Division of Taxation, use the "Contact Us" section of the website: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/contact/>

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