



TaxNewsFlash

United States



No. 2021-117
March 17, 2021

IRS to extend tax filing deadline to May 17

The IRS has decided to extend the federal tax deadline from April 15 to May 17, 2021, according to various reports.

A [release](#) from the House Ways and Means Committee reports that the IRS decision to extend the filing deadline affords U.S. individuals and other affected taxpayers more flexibility to file their 2020 returns. The Ways and Means release also notes that the IRS itself started the filing season late, continues to be behind schedule, and now must implement changes from the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (enacted March 11, 2021).

The IRS in the evening of March 17, 2021, issued a release ([IR-2021-59](#)) further announcing:

- Individual taxpayers can also postpone federal income tax payments for the 2020 tax year due on April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021, without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. This postponement applies to individual taxpayers, including individuals who pay self-employment tax. Penalties, interest and additions to tax will begin to accrue on any remaining unpaid balances as of May 17, 2021. Individual taxpayers will automatically avoid interest and penalties on the taxes paid by May 17.
- This relief does not apply to estimated tax payments that are due on April 15, 2021. These payments are still due on April 15.
- Individual taxpayers do not need to file any forms or call the IRS to qualify for this automatic federal tax filing and payment relief.
- Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the May 17 deadline can request a filing extension until October 15, 2021.

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