



Overview

Starting, Operating or Closing a Business

Whether you are a budding entrepreneur, or an established business owner, you will find everything you need to start and manage your business venture.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=110417,00.html>

Business Taxes

The form of business you operate determines what taxes you must pay and how you pay them.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=98966,00.html>

Getting Started

Tax Information for Businesses

If you run a small business or are self-employed, the IRS web site offers a wide variety of information to help you.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/index.html>

Checklist for Starting a Business

This checklist provides the basic steps you should follow to start a business.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=98810,00.html>

Business Structure

When beginning a business, you must decide what structure to use. Legal and tax considerations enter into this decision.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=98359,00.html>

Employer ID Number

An Employer Identification Number (EIN) is also known as a federal tax identification number, and is used to identify a business entity. Generally, businesses need an EIN.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=98350,00.html>

Online Application - Form SS-4

Apply online for the Employer Identification Number (EIN), also known as a Federal Tax Identification Number.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=102767,00.html>



IRS Forms and Publications

Forms and Publications

Need an IRS form or publication?

<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>

Electronic Filing

IRS e-file for Business and Self-Employed Taxpayers

The IRS offers several electronic filing options designed specifically for the business filer. There are several ways you may choose to participate in the IRS *e-file* for Business programs.

<http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=118520,00.html>

Electronic Federal Tax Payments (EFTPS)

Businesses and individuals can use the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System to pay all their federal taxes electronically, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, via the phone, personal computer (PC) software or the Internet. Visit the EFTPS web site for all the latest information! Or visit the Department of Treasury's Financial Management Services web page on EFTPS.

<http://www.eftps.gov/>

Quick Alert

Get on board and be one of the thousands of tax professionals that currently receive information on "up-to-the-minute" *e-file* events.

<http://www.irs.gov/taxpros/providers/article/0,,id=97623,00.html>

Employees

Employees

Information about hiring, recordkeeping, and other topics for business owners with employees.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=98862,00.html>

Employee vs. Independent Contractor

Before you can determine how to treat payments you make for services, you must first know the business relationship that exists between you and the person performing the services.



IRS Tax Center

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=99921,00.html>

Employment Tax for Small Business

If you have employees, you are responsible for Federal Income Tax Withholding, Social Security and Medicare taxes and Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/content/0,,id=172179,00.html>

Withholding Calculator

This easy-to-use calculator can help you figure your employees' Federal income tax withholding so you can withhold the correct amount from their pay.

<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96196,00.html>

Tax Information for Employee Retirement Plans

Are you looking for information on employee retirement plans in order to provide better service to all your employees?

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=101119,00.html>

Talk With The IRS

Contact Your Local IRS Office

IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers are your one-stop resource for face-to-face tax help and solutions to tax problems, every business day.

<http://www.irs.gov/localcontacts/index.html>

The Taxpayer Advocate's Office

The Taxpayer Advocate is an independent organization within the IRS. They help taxpayers resolve problems with the IRS and recommend changes that will prevent the problems.

<http://www.irs.gov/advocate/index.html>

Learning Center

On-Line Classroom

View a streaming video of an IRS Small Business Workshop, take an IRS course or complete an online self-directed version of a workshop taught live around the country.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=97726,00.html>

Small Business Tax Workshops

Throughout the country various non-profit and government organizations offer small business workshops.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=99202,00.html>



Resources

Small Business Resources

This section offers links to a broad range of resources across federal and state agencies.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/content/0,,id=98864,00.html>

Small Business Products Online Ordering

Looking for a tool to help you meet your tax requirements? Choose from our free products, developed especially for the Small Business/Self-Employed person, and obtain updated information on existing products.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=101169,00.html>

Join the SB/SE Mailing List

The Small Business/Self-Employed Division has a free electronic mail service designed to provide tax information for small business owners. Sign-up for the Small Business/Self-Employed mailing list and you will receive information about important upcoming tax dates, what's new on the IRS Web site, recently added tax forms and publications, IRS News Releases and special IRS announcements.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/content/0,,id=154826,00.html>

[Note for partners: *the URL for the mailing list is subject to change without notice, and should be reviewed monthly for viability.*]

Abusive Tax Schemes

Abusive Scheme Toolkits

To reach the maximum audience, the IRS recognizes the importance of partnering with external stakeholders. As a result, toolkits have been developed to aid stakeholders in assisting the IRS with counter-marketing against abusive tax schemes.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=106788,00.html>

Resources for Specific Communities

Industries and Professions Index Page

Specific tax information for Agriculture, Automotive, Child Care, Construction, Cosmetology, Entertainment, Fishing, Gaming, Gas Retailers, Manufacturing, Real Estate, Restaurants, Tax Professionals, and other industries.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/industries/index.html>



Tax Information for International Businesses

This section provides information on international taxes.

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/international/index.html>

Tax Information for Tax Professionals

This section provides information for tax practitioners and other tax professionals.

<http://www.irs.gov/taxpros/index.html>

IRS Updates & News Releases:

2008 Small Business Resource Guide (SBRG) CD-ROM Out of Stock

The Small Business Resource Guide 2008 CD is out of stock. Please use the online version at <http://www.missouribusiness.net/IRS>. In order to provide you with the most up to date information, beginning in 2009, The Small Business Resource Guide will be available exclusively online.

Tax Credit to Aid First-Time Homebuyers; Must Be Repaid Over 15 Years

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=186831,00.html>

First-time homebuyers should begin planning now to take advantage of a new tax credit included in the recently enacted Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

Available for a limited time only, the credit:

- Applies to home purchases after April 8, 2008, and before July 1, 2009.
- Reduces a taxpayer's tax bill or increases his or her refund, dollar for dollar.
- Is fully refundable, meaning that the credit will be paid out to eligible taxpayers, even if they owe no tax or the credit is more than the tax that they owe.

However, the credit operates much like an interest-free loan, because it must be repaid over a 15-year period.

Recent Articles from e-News for Small Businesses

Small business retirement plan deadlines

Small business owners thinking about setting up retirement plans for their employees should be aware of important deadlines coming up in October.

A [SIMPLE](#), or Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees, must be established by Oct. 1 for 2008 contributions. Business owners who requested an extension to file their 2007 tax return have until Oct. 15 to set up a [SEP](#), or Simplified Employee Plan and take a deduction for 2007.

Related Links:

[Publication 3998](#), Choosing a Retirement Solution for Your Small Business

[IRA Online Resource Guide](#)

[Order](#) the IRA Resource Guide on CD-ROM

[Publication 560](#), Retirement Plans for Small Business

Fall SSA/IRS Reporter

Some of the features in the fall issue of the [SSA/IRS Reporter](#) now available on IRS.gov:

- Social Security enhancements to Business Services Online
- Major changes to filing Forms 1042-S and 8027 electronically
- How to protect against identity theft
- Guidance on employee gifts

U.S. Department of Labor new "elaws" tool



IRS Tax Center

The U.S. Department of Labor new FirstStep Recordkeeping, Reporting and Notices [Advisor](#) helps employers determine which of the department's recordkeeping, reporting, and notice requirements (including posters) apply to them.

New Web Page for Small Businesses

Small business owners and self-employed individuals who file Schedule C will find useful links to information on the most common issues many small business owners face. Check out the [Self-Employed Individuals Tax Center](#).

Order a bookmark with IRS tax information for small businesses

Publication 4667, Tax Information for Small Businesses and the Self-Employed, provides Key Search Words to help you locate important tax information on IRS.gov quickly and easily. Order this free laminated bookmark on the [Small Business Products Online Ordering](#) page.

Subscribe to e-News for Small Businesses

If you would like to receive e-News for Small Businesses, please visit this link to subscribe: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/content/0,,id=154826,00.html>

Recommend e-News for Small Businesses

If you already receive e-News for Small Businesses, you can share it with a business acquaintance, colleague or employee. Just forward this [link](#) to them to view a sample edition and subscribe.

2009 Small Business Resource Guide Available! It's on the Web

<http://www.sbrg.irs.gov/>

The IRS Small Business Resource Guide is changing from a CD to an [online](#) format for 2009, and it now has its very own web address! This will allow updates to be made as needed. Be sure to mark it as a "favorite" on your web browser.

Small Business Video and Audio Presentations

A new page on IRS.gov features video and audio presentations on a variety of topics for small businesses and self-employed taxpayers. Visit it here:

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=97726,00.html>

An online audio podcast for first-time Schedule C filers includes basic tips to help new business owners avoid potential problems. Visit it here:

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=200424,00.html>

New Page on IRS.gov - Bartering Income

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=187904,00.html>

In today's economy, small-business owners are looking at other sources of commerce, including the exchange of goods and services, or bartering. Bartering is the trading of one product or service for another. Usually there is no exchange of cash. Any business owner or professional who has a product or service to offer can barter. While our ancestors may have exchanged eggs for corn, today you can barter computer services for auto repair. Another example of a one-on-one, non-barter exchange transaction is a plumber doing repair work for a dentist in exchange for dental services. The fair market value of the goods and services exchanged must be reported as income by both parties. Barter may take place on an informal one-on-one basis between individuals and businesses, or it can take place on a third party basis through a modern barter exchange company. For tax purposes, barter is treated like ordinary sales, and its value must be reported. The barter exchanges record all transactions and report them to the Internal Revenue Service. Taxpayers should treat barter income like any other business activity. Keep good records, work with a reputable barter exchange and consult the IRS or a tax professional with any questions.



See the Bartering Income page for more information on your how barter income is taxed, including depreciated assets, appreciated assets, how to report it if bartering is your trade or business, and a video on barter income.

New Page on IRS.gov - Online Auction Sellers Tax Center

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/industries/article/0,,id=163622,00.html>

This page includes links to information on reporting income and deducting expenses for online auction sellers, maintaining records, taxability of Online Auction sales proceeds, and how to tell if your online auction activity is a hobby or a business. There is also a link to a video which provides an overview of online auction seller tax responsibilities.

Tax Tips for 2009

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/content/0,,id=104608,00.html?portlet=2>

The Internal Revenue Service is offering a daily series of Tax Tips for the 2009 federal tax filing season that began this month. Tax Tips offer concise, useful information on topics affecting millions of taxpayers. More than 70 tips on federal taxes will be available with a new one for each business day until the April 15 tax filing deadline. Tips are available as easy-to-understand [text](#) as well as several [audio](#) files for podcast.

Sample text-based Tax Tip topics include:

- Choosing a tax preparer
- How e-file can make filing easier and getting you your refund faster
- What tax records to keep
- First-Time Homebuyer Credit

Taxpayers can receive new text-based Tax Tips via email when they are published by subscribing through the [e-News Subscriptions](#) page on IRS.gov.

Recent Articles from e-News for Small Businesses

2009 SB/SE Customer Base Survey in progress

The Small Business/Self-Employed division is conducting its annual [telephone survey](#) of small business and self-employed taxpayers through mid-April. If you are contacted to take the survey, please help us improve our products and services by sharing your thoughts and opinions.

Upcoming Events:

Utah Small Business Workshops

Employment Tax Workshop – April 23rd and May 21st
8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Employment Tax Workshops prepare businesses with employees for their employment tax responsibilities. Federal & State tax issues are discussed. Information also presented on other issues facing employers

Choosing a Business Entity Workshop – May 13th
8:30 am – 12:00 pm

This workshop deals with choosing the correct entity for your business. It provides legal aspects of each entity to determine the most appropriate for your business. The SBDC will also provide a summary of the services it offers to small business owners.

Entity Workshops
8:30 am – 12:00 pm
S-Corporation – May 7th



IRS Tax Center

Partnership – June 4th

Entity workshops deal with tax situations specific to each entity type.

All workshops are held at the Salt Lake Community College, Larry Miller Campus – 9750 S 300 W. Sandy. Call 801-.957-4654 to register.

Utah Sales Tax Workshops – May 27th
8:30 am – 11:30 am

Sales tax workshops deal with sales tax situations for Utah business.

Sales tax workshops are all held at the State Tax Commission. 210 N. 1950 W. SLC, Room 1030. **Register online at tax.utah.gov/training.**

IRS Updates & News Releases:

Special Tax Break Available for New Car Purchases This Year

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=205863,00.html>

Taxpayers who buy a new passenger vehicle this year may be entitled to deduct state and local sales and excise taxes paid on the purchase on their 2009 tax returns next year. The vehicle must be purchased after Feb. 16, 2009, and before Jan. 1, 2010, to qualify for the deduction. The deduction is limited to the state and local sales and excise taxes paid on up to \$49,500 of the purchase price of a qualified new car, light truck, motor home or motorcycle. The amount of the deduction is phased out for taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross income is between \$125,000 and \$135,000 for individual filers and between \$250,000 and \$260,000 for joint filers. The special deduction is available regardless of whether a taxpayer itemizes deductions on their return. The deduction may not be taken on 2008 tax returns.

Primary web page for updates to Tax Provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009:

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204335,00.html?portlet=6>

The Recovery web page is also available in Spanish: [Información en Español](#) --

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=205057,00.html>

To see basic information on the ARRA Business Provisions, go here:

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=205330,00.html>

IRS Urges Taxpayers To e-file Extension Requests by April 15 Filing Deadline

<http://www.irs.gov/irs/article/0,,id=206233,00.html>

Taxpayers who need more time to complete their returns should submit their requests for an automatic extension electronically by April 15. This year, anyone, regardless of income, can e-file their extensions at no cost from a home computer using IRS traditional [FreeFile](#) or [FreeFile Fillable Forms](#). E-filing a request for an extension using either form of FreeFile is convenient, safe and secure, and taxpayers receive confirmation to keep with their records. The extension gives taxpayers until Oct. 15 to file the tax return. An extension does not give the taxpayer an extension of time to pay. Those who owe taxes can make a payment when they file the extension either by mailing a check or by several electronic payment methods, such as electronic funds withdrawals from bank accounts and credit card payments.

IRS Offers Tax Payment Options

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=206246,00.html>



IRS Tax Center

The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers to file their federal tax returns and pay any taxes they owe by the April 15 deadline. Aware that the economic downturn has affected many people, the agency urged taxpayers in difficult financial situations to file a tax return, pay what they can and work with the IRS to establish a payment plan that will keep them compliant. Taxpayers who can't pay the full amount would still benefit from filing their return and paying as much as they can by April 15. Interest and failure-to-pay penalties are due on any unpaid balance and increase the amount that the taxpayer owes. IRS offers various electronic payment options to taxpayers to make it as easy as possible to make a full or partial payment with their return. Taxpayers who find they can't make a full payment by the April 15 deadline may consider applying for an [installment agreement](#).

Credit and Debit Card Fees Related to Tax Payment are Deductible

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=206235,00.html>

Credit or debit card convenience fees charged for paying federal individual income taxes electronically are deductible for some taxpayers who itemize. Federal law bars the IRS from paying any fees associated with these credit or debit transactions. Card processors normally charge taxpayers for convenience fees when they use their credit or debit card to pay taxes. Fees vary but average about 2.5 percent of the tax payment. In reassessing a previous position, the IRS decided that the convenience fees associated with the payment of federal tax, including payment of estimated tax, can be included as a miscellaneous itemized deduction. However, only those miscellaneous expenses that exceeded 2 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income can be deducted.

IRS Issues Guidance on New Build America Bonds

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=206037,00.html>

The Internal Revenue Service today issued guidance on the new Build America Bond program. This program allows state and local governments to issue taxable bonds for capital projects and to receive a new direct federal subsidy payment from the Treasury Department for a portion of their borrowing costs. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 creates the new Build America Bond program, which authorizes state and local governments to issue Build America Bonds as taxable bonds in 2009 and 2010 to finance any capital expenditures for which they otherwise could issue tax-exempt governmental bonds. State and local governments receive a direct federal subsidy payment for a portion of their borrowing costs on Build America Bonds equal to 35 percent of the total coupon interest paid to investors.

Spring SSA/IRS Reporter Available

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=109886,00.html>

The spring issue of the [SSA/IRS Reporter](#) covers Social Security's online retirement application, guidelines on personal use of employer-provided vehicles and more.

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Recent Articles from e-News for Small Businesses

Tips for choosing a tax preparer

Taxpayers are legally responsible for what's on their tax returns even if prepared by someone else. While most return preparers are professional and honest the IRS offers some [points](#) to keep in mind when someone else prepares your return.

Related link:

- [FS-2009-7](#), How to Choose a Tax Preparer and Avoid Preparer Fraud

More new forms for employment tax adjustments

The latest additions to the series of new forms for [correcting errors](#) on employment tax returns are now available.

- [Form 943X](#), Adjusted Employer's Annual Federal Tax Return for Agricultural Employees or Claim for Refund
- [Form 944X](#), Adjusted Employer's Annual Federal Tax Return or Claim for Refund
- [Form 945X](#), Adjusted Annual Return of Withheld Federal Income Tax or Claim for Refund

Filing extensions changing for some business taxpayers

To reduce the burden on taxpayers who report information from partnerships, estates and trusts on their individual tax returns the automatic extension period for filing Forms 1065, 1041 and 8804 was reduced from 6 months to 5 months. [IR-2008-84](#) has more information.

Is it too good to be true? Home-based business tax avoidance schemes

Taxpayers should be wary of any investment scheme or promotion that claims a small business can deduct what would normally be personal expenses and not ordinary and necessary business expenses. [Headliner 263](#) has more information.

Surviving in a down economy: SBA offers new online resources

The Small Business Administration is offering free [online training](#) and other resources to help small businesses during these challenging economic times.

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