



January 15, 2021

2021 tax-filing season for taxpayers during the Covid-19 pandemic

The IRS 2021 tax filing season takes place from Feb. 12 through April 15. In 2020, the traditional April 15 tax return due date was extended to July 15, along with other filing and penalty extensions, in response to U.S. economic disruptions from the Covid-19 pandemic. A repeat for 2021 may not be out of the question. Taxpayers eligible for but not automatically receiving economic impact payments authorized by the coronavirus relief package and federal spending bill signed into law Dec. 27 may have to claim a recovery relief credit on 2020 tax returns for payment.

With the exception of 2020, taxpayers have had an average of 87 days to file taxes during tax filing seasons. Start dates have sometimes been delayed so that the IRS could include extensions of sunseting tax laws in the tax processing system.

Tax filing season start and end dates for taxpayers



Note: 2012, 2016 and 2020 tax filing seasons included an additional day, Feb. 29.

*Taxpayers who lived in Maine or Massachusetts had until April 17 to file returns because of the Patriots' Day holiday on April 15 in Maine and Massachusetts and the Emancipation Day holiday on April 16 in the District of Columbia.



Sources: IRS, POLITICO staff reports