
# 2019 Tax Filing Season

28 June 2019

## Let's talk

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## In brief

On Friday, 28 June 2019 the SA Revenue Service ("SARS") issued a public notice requiring taxpayers to submit their tax returns for the 2019 year of assessment. This notice follows the media briefing held on Tuesday, 4 June 2019. Tax Season starts on Monday 1 July 2019.

## In detail

### General

SARS has increased the income threshold for submitting returns from R350 000 to R500 000 for employees who received a single source of income from one employer during the year of assessment.

The e-filing system and Mobile App have been revamped in order to make it simpler for taxpayers to submit their returns.

### Periods for filing

Tax Season officially starts on 1 July 2019. Different filing periods apply depending on the mechanism a taxpayer uses to submit the return.

Taxpayers who use e-filing or the mobile app to submit their returns have from 1July 2019 until 4 December 2019 (with provisional taxpayers having until 31 January 2020).

Those who prefer to visit a SARS branch to physically submit their returns may submit between 1 August and 31 October 2019. This allows them three months to submit.

It seems that SARS is encouraging taxpayers who have access to the online platforms to rather use these and avoid queues at SARS branches (a longer time period is allowed for submission via e-filing and the mobile app).

### Persons required to submit returns

The following are key categories of persons required to submit returns:

- Every company or other juristic person, which is not a resident and:
    - carried on a trade through a permanent establishment in South Africa;
    - derived income from a source in South Africa; or
    - derived any capital gain or

  - derived any capital gain or loss from a disposal of an asset to which the Eighth Schedule of the Act applies.

- Every South African-incorporated company which is not a resident in South Africa (as a result of a Double Taxation Agreement).

- Every individual (natural person) who:

  - is a resident and carried on any trade (other than solely as an employee);

  - is not a resident and carried on a trade in South Africa (other than solely as an employee);

  - was paid or granted certain allowances relating to business travel, accommodation or subsistence;

  - was granted certain taxable benefits or advantages derived by reason of employment or the holding of any office and whose gross income exceeded R78 150 (if under 65), R121 000 (if older than 65 but under 75) or R135 300 (if older than 75 years);

  - is a resident and had capital gains or losses exceeding R40 000;

  - is not a resident and derived any capital gain or loss from the disposal of any asset to which the Eighth Schedule of the Act applies;

  - is a resident and held foreign currency or owned assets outside of South Africa which had a value of more than R225 000 at any stage during the year;

  - is a resident to whom any income or capital gains could be attributed due to fluctuations in the value of the South African currency relative to any foreign currency;

  - is a resident and held any participation rights in a controlled foreign company; or

  - is issued with a tax return or is requested by SARS to file a return (irrespective of income).

- Estates of a deceased persons which had gross income.

- Every non-resident with South African-sourced interest income if:

  - the person is an individual who was present for 183 days in total in the 12 months before receipt or accrual of the interest; or

  - the debt from which the interest arises is connected to a permanent established of the person in South Africa.

- Any representative taxpayer of any person listed above.

## Persons not required to submit returns

A natural person or estate of a deceased person is not required to submit a return if their gross income consists solely of any one or more of the following:

- Remuneration not exceeding R500 000 from a single source with no additional benefits or claimable allowances, and employees' tax has been withheld in respect of that remuneration;

- Interest income from South Africa (excluding a tax free investment) not exceeding

  - R23 800 for a person younger than 65;

  - R34 500 person aged between 65 and 75; or

  - R23 800 for a deceased person's estate;

- Dividends where the individual was a non-resident throughout the year of assessment; and

- Amounts received or accrued from a tax free investment.