

ReadyReturn

Your California tax return,
ready and waiting for you.

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State of California
Franchise Tax Board

Introduction

ReadyReturn is a free direct-to-government filing option that uses wage and withholding data that we already have in our databases to provide a pre-filled state income tax return to taxpayers who file simple returns. Taxpayers may accept the return as completed, make any needed changes, and e-file directly to us, or choose to use another filing method entirely.

The information on the ReadyReturn comes from:

- The name and address information from our account records.
- The filing status, exemptions, and number of dependents from the taxpayer's previous year California individual income tax return.
- The current tax year wage and withholding information that employers report to the Employment Development Department (EDD).

FTB deployed the ReadyReturn program as a pilot for tax years 2004 and 2005. Following the completion of the pilot, the three-member Franchise Tax Board directed staff to offer the program to all eligible taxpayers, beginning with tax year 2007.

ReadyReturn has grown in popularity by over 700 percent since its first fully implemented filing season. In 2007, 10,945 ReadyReturns were filed, and in 2012, 88,652 ReadyReturns were filed.

In 2013, approximately 2 million taxpayers qualify for ReadyReturn. The service is available from January 2, 2013 through December 15, 2013. We will update ReadyReturn with final 2012 wage information from January 15, 2013 through December 14, 2013.

For more information, go to ftb.ca.gov and search **ReadyReturn**.

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Eligibility

About 2 million taxpayers are eligible in 2013. Taxpayers may qualify for ReadyReturn if they filed a 2011 California resident return with:

- Single or head of household filing status.
- Income only from wages.
- No more than five dependents.
- No credits other than the renter's credit.
- Standard deduction.

In 2012, eligible taxpayers must have had only one employer and earned less than \$169,730 if single, or \$254,599 if head of household. Taxpayers who can claim the blind or senior exemption, or can be claimed as a dependent on another person's tax return, qualify for ReadyReturn.

How does a taxpayer find out if they are eligible?

We offer two ways for taxpayers to find out if they qualify:

- **Online** – Go to ftb.ca.gov/ReadyReturn and enter their last name and social security number. Taxpayers can sign up to receive an email once their ReadyReturn is available.
- **By phone** – Call 800.338.0505. Select Personal Income Tax, and then select ReadyReturn. Taxpayers enter their social security number and mailing address.

Does a taxpayer have to use ReadyReturn if they qualify?

No. ReadyReturn is a voluntary program. Taxpayers can choose to use ReadyReturn or the filing method of their choice.

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Benefits

Taxpayer benefits:

- Free – Direct-to-government e-filing option.
- Fast – Refunds usually in less than one week with direct deposit.
- Easy – Login, review and make changes, then submit.

State benefits:

- ReadyReturn speeds up return processing because the initial information already matches our records.
- ReadyReturn saves the state money by reducing the number of return correction notices we need to mail.
- ReadyReturn introduces taxpayers to e-file, which saves the state \$2.25 per return.

For more information, go to ftb.ca.gov and search **ReadyReturn**.

Testimonials

"I found ReadyReturn to be very simple to use and it made me feel more secure knowing that I was actually using a government site and not a third party. I will use ReadyReturn again next year. Made filing easier."

"Easy to understand and navigate secure web based forms made filing a snap! I will use ReadyReturn in the future for sure dude! "

"Very Easy, took me literally three minutes!!!"

"I am very, very grateful that the FTB provides this service to people like me, who cannot afford the price it costs to file a State tax return. Thank you."

"Nice to see that the return amount was exactly what it would have been had the website I had gone to originally been able to get over its issues. This was free and fast. Thank you."

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FAQs

How much do taxpayers pay to use ReadyReturn?

Nothing. ReadyReturn is free e-file for all taxpayers who qualify to use it.

What software is required to use ReadyReturn?

- Adobe Reader (version 7.0 or higher) to view and print the return. Taxpayers can download the latest version of Adobe Reader for free from [Adobe](#).
- A [compatible browser and operating system](#).

What should a taxpayer do if their ReadyReturn is not correct?

Because ReadyReturns are based on information from the taxpayer's previous tax return, some information may have changed. ReadyReturn guides the taxpayer through changing their address, reporting additional income, itemizing their deductions, and claiming tax credits they qualify for.

Why are some ReadyReturns not ready?

We begin updating our records on January 15, 2013. After that, we update our wage information every day. However, when we receive taxpayers' individual information depends on when their employer provides it to the EDD.

Employers are required to provide taxpayers with their Form W-2 by January 31. Employers often provide this information to EDD around the same time they mail it to taxpayers. We generally receive about 50% of all taxpayer wage information by mid-February, with 90% of the information received by mid-March. Taxpayers can provide an email address where we can reach them once their ReadyReturn is available. We will send a letter to taxpayers who do not provide an email address.

When can a taxpayer expect their refund with ReadyReturn?

Taxpayers can expect their refund in less than one week when they e-file their ReadyReturn and choose direct deposit.

If taxpayers owe money, can they use ReadyReturn?

Yes. Taxpayers who use ReadyReturn and owe money, can choose to pay by check, credit card, or send the payment electronically with their return. They can e-file their return now, and schedule their electronic payment for a later date. The taxpayer can also visit our website and use [Web Pay](#) to make a payment after they use ReadyReturn to e-file their return.

[More FAQs on our website](#)

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Statistics and Feedback

Statistics for Tax Year 2011:

- 2 million taxpayers were initially eligible.
- 933,000 returns were “readied” (meaning they hadn’t already filed and had not been excluded for any reason when we received their 4th quarter data).
- More than 88,000 ReadyReturns filed.
- Projections: 100,000 for tax year 2012.
- CalFile* and ReadyReturn made up 11% of all do-it-yourself e-file returns filed in 2012.

ReadyReturn user feedback for Tax Year 2011:

- **99%** stated they were satisfied with ReadyReturn.
- **97%** stated this is the type of service government should provide.
- **96%** stated it was more convenient than how they filed in the past.
- **95%** stated it saved them time.
- **98%** stated they would use it again.

Program Costs

- Annual Maintenance: \$100,000.
- Average Cost to Process a ReadyReturn: **\$0.34**.
- Average Cost to Process a Paper Return: **\$2.59**.
- ReadyReturn is expected to produce a net savings in 2011:

Cost to Process if Filed on Paper (100,000 x \$2.59)	\$259,100
Cost to Process ReadyReturns (100,000 x \$0.34)	\$34,000
Estimated Cost Savings/Avoidance	\$225,000
Projected 12/13 ReadyReturn Maintenance Costs	\$100,000
Net Savings to State due to ReadyReturn	\$125,000

* CalFile is FTB’s secure, free, direct, online program for taxpayers to complete and e-file their personal income tax returns.

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Available to copy and use in your newsletter, publication, or website.

Franchise Tax Board's ReadyReturn Simplifies State Tax Filing

A Free, Pre-Filled California Tax Return May Be Ready and Waiting Online

The Franchise Tax Board (FTB) offers ReadyReturn, a free, direct-to-government filing option that presents taxpayers with a pre-filled tax return online for their final approval and submission. FTB uses information already received from taxpayers' W-2s and previously-filed tax returns.

ReadyReturn simplifies tax filing by guiding the taxpayer through changing their address, reporting additional income, itemizing their deductions, and claiming tax credits they qualify for.

"This tax return was the easiest I have ever had to complete. All I have to do is verify and I am done. I will definitely recommend this to others," said a ReadyReturn survey participant.

About 2 million taxpayers qualify for ReadyReturn in 2013. Taxpayers must have filed a 2011 California resident return with single or head of household filing status, income only from wages, no more than five dependents, no credits other than the renter's credit, and the standard deduction. In 2012, they must have had only one employer. Taxpayers who can claim the blind or senior exemption, or can be claimed as a dependent on another person's tax return, qualify for ReadyReturn.

Taxpayers can check their eligibility online using their name and social security number or by calling 800.338.0505 with their name and address. They can sign up to receive an email once their ReadyReturn is available. Taxpayers will need to enter their FTB-assigned Customer Service Number to have secure access to their ReadyReturn online.

Taxpayers can e-file their return now, receive a refund within a week with direct deposit, or schedule their electronic payment for a later date.

ReadyReturn has grown in popularity by over 700 percent since its first fully implemented filing season. Ninety-nine percent of users reported they are satisfied with ReadyReturn and would use it again to file their taxes.

For more information, go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **ReadyReturn**.



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Logos

Click on the links below to open different variations of the ReadyReturn logo.

- Low Resolution (for web) - jpeg. file

[Color ReadyReturn logo](#)

[Black and White ReadyReturn logo](#)

- High Resolution - jpeg. file

[Color ReadyReturn logo](#)

[Black and White ReadyReturn logo](#)

Videos

Click on the links below to open the ReadyReturn videos (links to our YouTube page).

[Quotes from Real ReadyReturn Users \(HD\)](#)

[Tax Shortcut \(HD\)](#)

[I Want My ReadyReturn](#)

[Simply ReadyReturn](#)

[California State Controller John Chiang on ReadyReturn](#)

To see other videos, visit our [Franchise Tax Board YouTube](#) page.

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Website

ftb.ca.gov

Toll-Free Automated Phone

800.338.0505

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities

We comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Persons with hearing or speech impairments, please call TTY/TDD 800.822.6268.

Public Affairs Office

The Public Affairs Office responds to all media contacts. Members of the media can contact the Public Affairs Office at 916.845.4800 or publicaffairsoffice@ftb.ca.gov.