

Summary of Arizona Taxes

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This publication is for general information about Arizona taxes. For complete details, refer to the Arizona Revised Statutes and the Arizona Administrative Code. In case of inconsistency or omission in this publication, the language of the Arizona Revised Statutes and the Arizona Administrative Code will prevail.

Personal Income Tax

Arizona's personal income tax is levied on residents and on nonresidents earning income in Arizona. Taxpayers must file an Arizona income tax return if they meet Arizona's filing threshold. The threshold amount(s) are based on the taxpayer's filing status. These amounts apply to all taxpayers. To determine if you are required to file an individual income tax return for the current tax year, see the threshold amounts provided in the tax return instructions under

Do you have to file?

The starting point for Arizona's individual income tax computation for resident individuals is the federal adjusted gross income (Arizona gross income). This amount is then subject to certain additions and subtractions to arrive at Arizona taxable income. Since the starting point for the Arizona income tax computation for resident individuals is the federal adjusted gross income, income taxable for federal purposes will likewise be taxable for Arizona purposes, unless such income is specifically excludable under Arizona law.

All income earned or received while you are a resident (if taxable to the federal government) is taxable to Arizona with a few exceptions. The most common addition in arriving at Arizona taxable income is interest income from non-Arizona municipal bonds. The Resident Income Tax Return, Arizona Form 140, instructions contain a complete list of the additions to income.

Subtractions in arriving at Arizona taxable income include interest income received from United States government obligations, Social Security income received under Title II of the Social Security Act, and railroad retirement benefits received from the Railroad Retirement Board under the Railroad Retirement Act. Arizona allows a subtraction of up to

\$2,500 for U.S. Government civil service and Arizona state or local pension income. Public retirement pensions from states other than Arizona do not qualify for this subtraction. Arizona also allows a subtraction of up to \$3,500 for benefits, annuities and pensions received for retired or retainer pay of the uniformed services of the United States.

Arizona statutes also provide for either a standard deduction or itemized deductions. Arizona allows itemized deductions as claimed on the federal income tax return, plus a more liberal medical deduction. Since Arizona itemized deductions are tied to the federal itemized deductions, the amount of home mortgage interest and property taxes which can be deducted for federal purposes may likewise be deducted for Arizona purposes. If a taxpayer chooses not to itemize deductions, a standard deduction may be taken. These amounts are adjusted annually for inflation. If a taxpayer elects to take the standard deduction, the taxpayer may increase the standard deduction amount by 25% (.25) of the total amount of the taxpayer's charitable deductions that would have been allowed if the taxpayer elected to claim itemized deductions on the federal tax return. The allowable increase is subject to certain limitations. See the individual income tax return for more information. Taxpayers filing Form 140A or 140EZ cannot increase the standard deduction amount.

Arizona also allows a property tax credit for low income, full year residents, age 65 or older, or recipients of Title 16 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) if they own or rent property upon which Arizona property tax is paid. For more information, please refer to the Arizona Form 140PTC, *Property Tax Refund (Credit) Claim*.

Arizona also allows a credit for the increased excise tax. Taxpayers must meet certain criteria for this credit. For more information, please refer to Arizona Form 140ET, *Credit for Increased Excise Taxes*.

Arizona Transaction Privilege Tax

Arizona transaction privilege taxes are imposed on persons engaged in certain business classifications, including retail sales. Some counties and most Arizona cities impose an additional transaction privilege tax.

Although the transaction privilege tax is usually passed on to the consumer, it is actually a tax on the vendor for the privilege of doing business in Arizona. The State of Arizona does not tax the sale of food for home consumption or drugs prescribed by a licensed physician or dentist.

Arizona Use Taxes

The State of Arizona imposes a use tax under A.R.S. § 42-5155(A). The tax is imposed on any person who uses, stores, or consumes in Arizona any tangible personal property purchased from a retailer upon which tax has not been collected by the retailer. The person's liability is not extinguished until the tax has been paid to this state. Some of the cities in Arizona may impose a use tax.

General Property Taxes

Arizona does not have a property tax on household goods. Taxing jurisdictions set tax rates on the basis of the total assessed valuation within their boundaries and the amount of the levy to be raised. For additional information, contact the assessor's office of the specific county you are seeking information.

Estate and Inheritance Tax

Federal law repealed the federal state death tax credit (upon which the Arizona estate tax was based) which effectively cancelled the Arizona estate tax. Following the federal repeal, the Arizona legislature repealed the Arizona estate tax provisions (Laws 2006, Ch. 262, §3). Arizona does not impose an inheritance or gift tax. An inheritance tax waiver is not required for decedents dying after 2004 as there is no possibility of tax due.

Vehicle License Tax

Arizona charges a Vehicle License Tax (VLT) in lieu of a personal property tax on vehicles. The VLT is based on an assessed value of 60% of the manufacturer's base retail price reduced by 16.25% for each year since the vehicle was first registered in Arizona. As of December 1, 2000, the rate is calculated at \$2.80 (new vehicles)/\$2.89 (used vehicles) for each \$100 of the assessed value. The Arizona Department of Transportation administers this tax. For additional information visit their website at azdot.gov or servicearizona.com.

For Additional Information, call:

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Write

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