

Self Assessment tax returns

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Deadlines

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) must receive your tax return and any money you owe by the deadline.

If you do not know your profit for the whole tax year, you still need to send a tax return. Check [how to send a return if you do not know your profit for the whole year \(/self-assessment-tax-returns/sending-return\)](#).

The last tax year started on 6 April 2025 and ended on 5 April 2026. The deadline for earlier tax returns has passed and you may have to pay a penalty. Send your tax return or payment as soon as possible to avoid further penalties.

Telling HMRC you need to complete a return

You must tell HMRC by 5 October if you need to complete a tax return for the previous year and you have either:

- not sent a tax return before
- registered before but did not need to send a tax return for the tax year 2024 to 2025

You can tell HMRC by registering for Self Assessment. [Check how to register for Self Assessment \(/register-for-self-assessment\)](#).

If you register after 5 October 2026

HMRC will send you a letter or email with a different deadline to send your tax return by - this will be 3 months from the date on the letter or email.

! You must still pay the tax you owe by 11:59pm on 31 January 2027 or you'll get a [penalty \(/self-assessment-tax-returns/penalties\)](#).

Sending a paper tax return

HMRC must receive your [paper tax return \(/self-assessment-tax-return-forms\)](#) by 11:59pm on 31 October 2026 or you'll get a [late filing penalty \(/self-assessment-tax-returns/penalties\)](#).

You can send it any time on or after 6 April 2026 as long as HMRC receives it by the deadline.

Submitting an online tax return

You must submit your online tax return (/log-in-file-self-assessment-tax-return) by 11:59pm on 31 January 2027 or you'll get a late filing penalty (/self-assessment-tax-returns/penalties).

If you want to pay your Self Assessment bill through your tax code (/pay-self-assessment-tax-bill/through-your-tax-code), you must submit it by 11:59pm on 30 December 2026. If you miss this deadline, you'll have to pay another way.

You can submit your return any time on or after 6 April 2026 up to the deadline.

Paying the tax you owe

You need to pay your Self Assessment tax (/pay-self-assessment-tax-bill) by 11:59pm on 31 January 2027 or you'll get a penalty (/self-assessment-tax-returns/penalties).

There is a second payment deadline of 31 July if you make payments towards your bill - these are known as 'payments on account (/understand-self-assessment-bill/payments-on-account)'.

You can estimate your Self Assessment tax bill (/self-assessment-tax-calculator) before sending your tax return to:

- give you an idea of what your bill is likely to be
- allow you to budget and pay on time

Find help on understanding the tax you owe (/understand-self-assessment-bill).

Trustees of a registered pension scheme or non-resident companies

HMRC must receive a paper tax return (/self-assessment-tax-return-forms) by 31 January 2027. You cannot send a return online.

You can send it any time on or after 6 April 2026 as long as HMRC receives it by the deadline.

Partnership returns if you have a company as a partner

If your partnership's accounting date is between 1 February and 5 April and one of your partners is a limited company, the deadline for:

- online returns is 12 months from the accounting date
- paper returns is 9 months from the accounting date

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[View a printable version of the whole guide \(/self-assessment-tax-returns/print\)](/self-assessment-tax-returns/print)



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