



Perception Accounting
Accountants with Vision

NEWSLETTER

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KEY TAX DEADLINES

Don't miss out

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KEY TAX INFO FOR 2025

Don't Miss Out

A comprehensive guide to critical tax dates, including Self-Assessment deadlines, VAT submissions, and corporate tax deadlines, with practical tips for staying compliant.

Staying on top of tax deadlines is crucial for avoiding penalties and ensuring smooth financial operations. As we step into 2025, here's your comprehensive guide to the key tax deadlines for the year, including Self-Assessment, VAT submissions, and corporate tax obligations. Plus, we've included practical tips to help you stay compliant.



**TAX
2025**

Self-Assessment Deadlines

31 January 2026

Deadline for filing your Self-Assessment tax return online for the 2024/25 tax year.

31 July 2025

Second payment on account for the 2024/25 tax year.

Tip: Set aside funds in advance to ensure you have sufficient cash flow for these payments.

31 January 2026

Payment of any tax owed for the 2024/25 tax year and your first payment on account for the 2025/26 tax year.

Tip: File early to avoid last-minute stress and to allow time to resolve any errors.





VAT deadlines vary depending on your VAT accounting scheme. Here are some general rules:

Quarterly VAT Returns:

Typically due one month and seven days after the end of the VAT quarter. For example, if your VAT quarter ends on 31 March 2025, your return is due by 7 May 2025.

Annual VAT Accounting Scheme:

Final VAT return and any balancing payments are due two months after your accounting year ends.

Corporate Tax Deadlines

9 Months and 1 Day After Your Accounting Period Ends

Corporate tax payments are due by this date. For example, if your company's accounting period ends on 31 March 2025, the payment deadline is 1 January 2026.



Filing Deadline:

Corporation tax returns (CT600) must be filed within 12 months of the end of your accounting period.

Tip: Work with your accountant to ensure timely submissions and accurate calculations.

Practical Tips for Staying Compliant

- **Set Calendar Alerts:** Use digital calendars or accounting software to set reminders for each deadline.
- **Work with a Professional:** Partner with an accountant or tax advisor to ensure accuracy and compliance.
- **Review Financial Records Regularly:** Keep your records updated to avoid scrambling for information at the last minute.
- **Budget for Payments:** Plan for your tax obligations throughout the year to prevent cash flow issues.

What Happens If You Miss a Deadline?

Failing to meet tax deadlines can result in penalties, interest charges, and added stress. For example:

A late Self-Assessment return incurs an immediate £100 penalty, with additional charges for further delays.

Late VAT returns may trigger surcharges based on the amount owed and the frequency of missed deadlines.

This guide is designed to keep your business running smoothly throughout 2025. Save these dates, stay organised, and you'll be well-prepared for the year ahead.



Understanding the UK's New Green Tax Incentives

As the United Kingdom intensifies its efforts to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, the government has introduced several tax incentives to encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices. These initiatives not only contribute to environmental conservation but also offer financial benefits to companies committed to reducing their carbon footprint. Here's a breakdown of the key green tax incentives available to UK businesses in 2025:



1. Capital Allowances for Energy-Efficient Investments

Businesses investing in energy-efficient equipment can benefit from enhanced capital allowances (ECAs), allowing them to claim a 100% first-year tax deduction on qualifying expenditures. This incentive covers investments in energy-saving technologies and water-efficient equipment, effectively reducing taxable profits in the year of purchase.

How to Benefit:

Identify Qualifying Assets: Ensure that the equipment or technology you plan to invest in is listed on the government's Energy Technology Product List (ETPL) or Water Technology List (WTL).

Claim the Allowance: Include the claim in your company's tax return for the accounting period during which the investment was made.



2. Climate Change Levy (CCL) Exemptions

The Climate Change Levy is a tax on energy supplied to businesses and the public sector, aiming to encourage energy efficiency. However, businesses that use substantial amounts of energy may be eligible for reduced rates through Climate Change Agreements (CCAs). By entering into a CCA and committing to energy efficiency targets, companies can receive up to a 90% discount on electricity and 65% on other fuels.



How to Benefit:

- **Assess Eligibility:** Determine if your business falls within the energy-intensive sectors eligible for CCAs.
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- **Enter into a CCA:** Negotiate an agreement outlining specific energy reduction targets with the Environment Agency or the relevant sector association.

3. Landfill Tax

To discourage waste disposal in landfills, the UK imposes a Landfill Tax on waste sent to landfill sites. Businesses can reduce their tax liability by minimising waste production and increasing recycling efforts. Additionally, companies that dispose of waste in an environmentally friendly manner may benefit from lower tax rates.



How to Benefit:

- **Implement Waste Reduction Strategies:** Adopt practices that reduce waste generation and promote recycling within your operations.
-
- **Utilise Accredited Landfill Sites:** Ensure that waste is disposed of at sites compliant with environmental regulations to qualify for lower tax rates.

4. Plastic Packaging Tax

Introduced to incentivise the use of recycled plastic, the Plastic Packaging Tax applies to manufacturers and importers of plastic packaging containing less than 30% recycled content. The tax rate is set at £210.82 per tonne from April 2023, with potential adjustments in subsequent years.

How to Benefit:

- **Increase Recycled Content:** Modify packaging designs to incorporate at least 30% recycled plastic, thereby avoiding the tax.
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- **Maintain Accurate Records:** Keep detailed documentation of the recycled content in your packaging to demonstrate compliance.



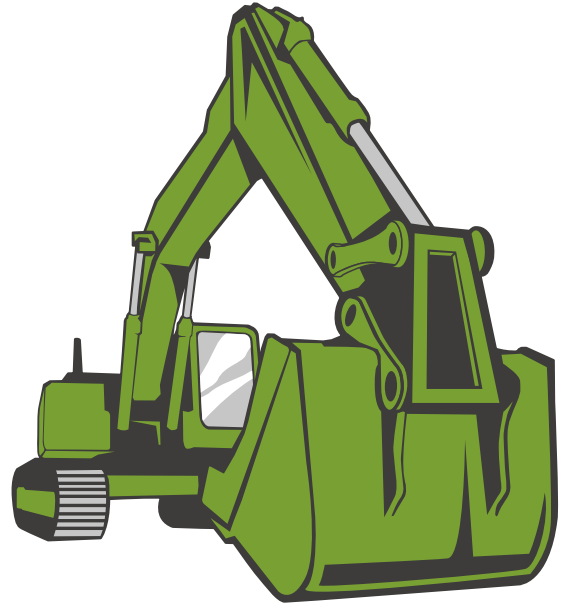
How to Benefit:

- **Plan Investments**

Strategically: Prioritise purchasing energy-efficient and environmentally friendly equipment to maximise tax relief.

- **Consult with Tax**

Professionals: Ensure that your investments qualify for these allowances and are claimed correctly in your tax filings.



6. Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Point Allowance

To support the transition to electric vehicles, businesses installing EV charging points can claim a 100% first-year allowance on the expenditure incurred, available until 31 March 2026. This initiative encourages the adoption of electric vehicles by reducing the associated infrastructure costs.

How to Benefit:

- **Install EV Charging Infrastructure:** Set up charging points at your business premises to support company vehicles and employees.
- **Claim the Allowance:** Include the expenditure in your tax return to benefit from the full deduction in the year of installation.



Embracing these green tax incentives not only contributes to environmental sustainability but also offers tangible financial benefits for businesses. By investing in energy-efficient technologies, reducing waste, and adopting eco-friendly practices, companies can position themselves advantageously in a market that increasingly values sustainability. Staying informed about available incentives and integrating them into your business strategy is essential for maximising benefits and supporting the UK's transition to a greener economy.





Avoiding Common Financial Pitfalls: Expert Tips for 2025

Businesses face an increasingly complex financial landscape shaped by economic uncertainties, rising costs, and heightened competition. To thrive in this environment, avoiding common financial pitfalls is essential. By effectively managing cash flow, optimising expenses, and preparing for potential challenges, businesses can safeguard their operations and position themselves for growth.

Cash flow remains the foundation of financial health. Without a steady cash flow, businesses risk falling behind on payments, losing opportunities, or even facing insolvency. Monitoring cash flow regularly is vital. Tools such as accounting software can provide real-time insights into money coming in and going out, allowing businesses to anticipate shortfalls and make informed decisions.

Accelerating receivables can be particularly effective; offering customers incentives like small discounts for early payments can ensure faster cash inflow. Meanwhile, negotiating favorable payment terms with suppliers can help businesses align their outgoing expenses with incoming revenue, creating a smoother financial rhythm. To prepare for unforeseen circumstances, maintaining a cash reserve equivalent to three to six months of operating costs is a prudent practice.



Controlling expenses is another critical factor in avoiding financial missteps. Regularly auditing expenditures can uncover inefficiencies or unnecessary costs. Technology plays an important role in this process. By adopting automation tools, businesses can streamline operations, reduce errors, and lower administrative overheads. Renegotiating contracts with suppliers or service providers can yield significant cost savings, while outsourcing non-core activities—such as payroll management or IT support—can convert fixed costs into more manageable variable expenses.

Economic uncertainty poses a persistent challenge for businesses in 2025. To mitigate risks, companies should engage in scenario planning. By preparing for best-case, moderate, and worst-case scenarios, businesses can identify proactive strategies to address each situation. Inflation is another pressing concern; locking in costs with long-term contracts or investing in assets that are resistant to inflation can help safeguard financial stability.



Diversifying revenue streams through new markets, products, or services reduces reliance on a single income source. Strengthening supplier relationships minimises supply chain risks.

Strong financial discipline is crucial. Clear budgets, accountable management, and regular financial reviews help identify and address issues early. Limiting debt and ensuring repayment capacity prevents over-leveraging. Consulting financial professionals can enhance decision-making.

Employee retention and development are often overlooked but are critical components of financial success. High turnover rates can lead to significant recruitment and training costs, not to mention the impact on productivity. Investing in employee training equips staff with the skills needed to adapt to changing technologies and business processes. Competitive benefits packages and open communication with employees foster loyalty, reducing the likelihood of turnover and creating a more engaged and motivated workforce.



Tax incentives can also play a significant role in strengthening financial resilience. Businesses should explore opportunities such as research and development (R&D) tax credits, which provide relief for eligible innovation activities. Capital allowances can reduce taxable profits through deductions for investments in equipment or machinery, while government incentives for energy-efficient or sustainable practices can yield additional financial benefits. Staying informed about these opportunities can significantly reduce a business's overall tax burden.

The rapid pace of digital transformation means that embracing technology is no longer optional. Upgrading financial systems to provide real-time analytics and automation can enhance decision-making and improve efficiency. At the same time, businesses must invest in robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive financial data from potential threats. Training staff on new technologies ensures that these investments deliver maximum returns, empowering employees to fully leverage the tools at their disposal.

Avoiding financial pitfalls requires a combination of strategic foresight, disciplined management, and adaptability. By focusing on cash flow, controlling expenses, planning for uncertainty, and investing in people and technology, businesses can confidently navigate the challenges of 2025.





EASTER EGG CAKE

Ingredients:

- For the Cake:
- 2 ½ cups (315g) self-raising flour
- 2 ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 cup (225g) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 ¾ cups (350g) granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup (240ml) milk

For the Buttercream Frosting:

- For the frosting
- 2 ½ cups (315g) all-purpose flour
- 2 ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 cup (225g) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 ¾ cups (350g) granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup (240ml) milk

Decorations

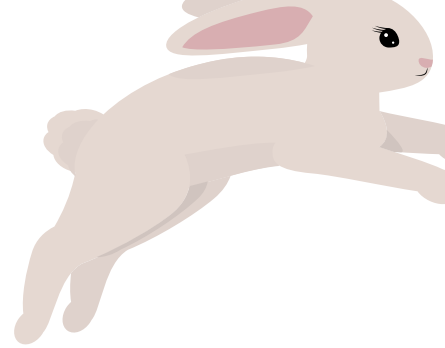
MINI CHOCOLATE EGGS OR CANDY-COATED EASTER EGGS

SPRINKLES

SHREDDED COCONUT (OPTIONAL, DYED GREEN FOR A GRASS EFFECT)



EASTER



1. Bake the Cake:

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease and flour an egg-shaped cake pan (or use a round cake pan and carve the shape later).
2. In a bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.
3. In a large mixing bowl, beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy (about 2 minutes).
4. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Mix in the vanilla extract.
5. Alternately add the flour mixture and milk, starting and ending with the dry ingredients. Mix until just combined.
6. Pour the batter into the prepared cake pan and bake for 30-35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
7. Let the cake cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

2. Make the Buttercream Frosting:

In a large bowl, beat butter until creamy.

Gradually add powdered sugar, mixing on low speed.

Add milk (1 tbsp at a time) and vanilla extract, then beat on high speed until fluffy.

Divide the frosting into bowls and mix in food coloring (pastel shades like pink, yellow, blue, or green).

3. Decorate the Cake:

Spread a thin layer of frosting over the cake for a crumb coat. Chill for 15 minutes.

Apply the final layer of frosting in soft pastel colors.

Arrange mini chocolate eggs or candy Easter eggs on top.

Sprinkle with shredded coconut (dyed green with food coloring) for a grass effect.

Add festive sprinkles or piped buttercream decorations for extra detail.





Congratulations to Jemma on passing her first AAT exam!

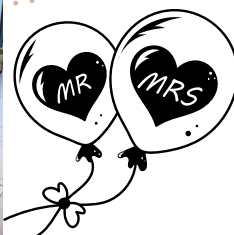


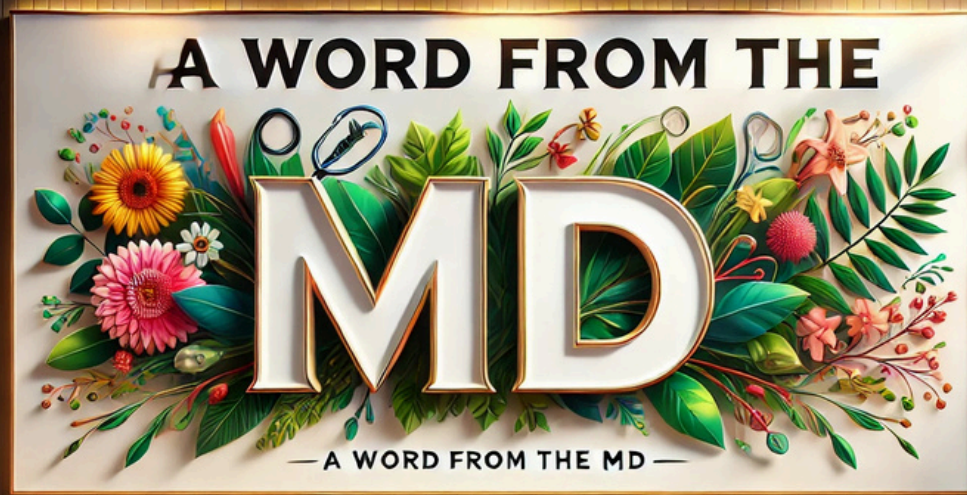
We are awaiting the results of Jakes AAT level 4 exam - good luck Jake

A huge welcome back to the office to Georgie after the birth of her beautiful son. And Georgie also made this editions Easter Cake recipe!



Congratulations to Hannah who has tied the knot





Dear All,

Can you believe we are almost at the end of another tax year! Happily, that means that Spring is upon us, and we can hopefully look forward to some lovely weather and getting out in the sunshine. Yes, I know we are in England, but I am ever the optimist 😊

The new tax year is going to bring its own challenges for small businesses as the new minimum wage and national insurance rates start from April. However, to mitigate the increase in national insurance costs (which, as a guide, will happen if you have 3 or more staff) you could look at changing the way you administer your pension. If you change to use salary sacrifice, you as an employer will save the employer's national insurance on the contributions you are paying, and the employee will save the employee's national insurance on their contributions. The savings may not be very much, but every little helps! We can help you with this if you would like to look at doing it. The only time it won't work is if your employees are being paid at the minimum wage rate, as you cannot do a salary sacrifice which brings their pay to below the minimum wage.

It goes without saying that once the tax year has ended, we would love to receive your tax return information!

Finally, I hope everyone has a happy and healthy few months to the next newsletter.

Lisa



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