

August 2022

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IRS TAX TIPS

On June 22, 2022, National Taxpayer Advocate Erin M. Collins released her statutorily mandated midyear report to Congress. The report expresses concern about continuing delays in the processing of paper-filed tax returns and the consequent impact on taxpayer refunds. At the end of May 2022, the agency had a backlog of 21.3 million unprocessed paper tax returns, an increase of 1.3 million over the same time last year.

More than 90% of individual income taxpayers e-file their returns, yet last year, about 17 million taxpayers filed their returns on paper. Some choose to file on paper. Some have no choice because they encounter e-filing barriers, such as when they are required to file a tax form or schedule the IRS cannot accept electronically. Before the pandemic, the IRS typically delivered refunds to paper-filers within four to six weeks. Over the past year, refund delays on paper-filed returns have generally exceeded six months, with delays of 10 months or more common for many taxpayers.

The report says the IRS has failed to make progress in eliminating its paper backlog because "its pace of processing paper tax returns has not kept up with new receipts." During the month of May, the IRS processed an average of about 205,000 individual income tax returns (Forms 1040) per week. Its Form 1040 backlog at the end of May stood at 8.2 million, with millions more paper tax returns not yet classified or expected to arrive before the extended filing deadline of October 15. The report says the IRS would have to process well over 500,000 Forms 1040 per week – more than double its current pace – to eliminate the backlog this year. "The math is daunting," the report says.

The report credits the IRS with taking recent steps to address the backlog but notes "missed opportunities" to have acted earlier. "The IRS's paper processing delays were evident more than a year ago, and the IRS could have addressed them more aggressively at that time," Collins wrote. "Had the IRS taken steps a year ago to reassign current employees to processing functions, it could have reduced the inventory backlog carried into this filing season and accelerated the payment of refunds to millions of taxpayers. Had the IRS quickly used some of the \$1.5 billion of additional funds provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), which was enacted 15 months ago, to hire and train additional employees, it could have worked through the backlog, answered more taxpayer telephone calls and otherwise improved taxpayer service."

The Internal Revenue Service is reminding the estimated 19 million taxpayers who requested an extension to file their 2021 tax return that they don't have to wait until mid-October to file. If a taxpayer has all the necessary information to file an accurate return, they can file electronically at any time before the October deadline and avoid a last-minute rush to file. Those who have what they need to file, however, should file as soon as possible to avoid delays in processing their return.

Taxpayers who have questions can get help with most tax issues online or by phone. The IRS.gov website has free and easy to use online tools and resources to help taxpayers get answers 24 hours a day. Voice bots help callers navigate interactive voice responses to simple payment or notice questions, and quickly get responses to Frequently Asked Questions.

At the end of May 2021, the IRS had an additional 15.8 million returns that had been suspended during processing and required manual review by IRS employees. The suspended returns consisted largely of e-filed returns on which taxpayers claimed Recovery Rebate Credit amounts that differed from the allowable amounts shown on IRS records. As of May 2022, the IRS had reduced the number of suspended returns to 5.4 million. The report credits the IRS with developing procedures to reduce delays among suspended returns, in part by automating the review process. However, e-filed returns suspended during processing did not generally result in extended refund delays. By contrast, unprocessed paper-filed tax returns have resulted in refund delays of six to 10 months or longer.

Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) is an *independent* organization within the Internal Revenue Service. TAS protects taxpayers' rights by striving to ensure that all taxpayers are treated fairly and know and understand their rights under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. The TAS website can help taxpayers with common tax issues and situations. These include what to do if a taxpayer made a mistake on their tax return, if they got a notice from the IRS, or they're thinking about hiring a tax return preparer. TAS has offices in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Call TAS toll-free at 877-777-4778.

Awesome Facts about August

On [August 6, 1762](#), the first-ever sandwich was created, at least with such a name. It was named after the Earl of Sandwich when he requested a dish involving meat between two pieces of bread. As the story goes, he requested it as he was in the middle of a gambling game and didn't want to interrupt it.

August was a big month for the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. It was on [August 28, 1963](#), that Martin Luther King Jr gave his famous "I have a dream" speech to 250,000 people on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. King's speech is considered to be one of the most iconic speeches in U.S. history.

August was a fateful month for the ancient Roman city of Pompeii. On [August 24, 79AD](#), Mount Vesuvius erupted near the city. The mountain spewed out great clouds of ash, smoke, and pumice, which rained down on Pompeii's citizens. Unfortunately for Pompeii, that wasn't the end of it either – next came molten lava, which buried the remaining residents 7 feet deep!

The US also has some pretty delicious-sounding observances for the month relating to food! In August the US celebrates National Goat Cheese Month, National Panini Month, Sandwich Month, and Peach Month.





Crispy Smashed Potatoes

These crispy smashed potatoes can really be as basic as potatoes + salt + oil. But herbs and garlic make them just a bit more exciting for very little extra effort. Some people like to sprinkle the finished potatoes with a dusting of freshly grated Parm, too.

<https://themodernproper.com/crispy-smashed-potatoes>

Here's what you'll need:

- 1.5 lbs Baby potatoes
- 1 Tbsp Kosher salt
- 3 Tbsp Olive oil
- 2 tsp Granulated garlic
- 3 Tbsp Fresh herbs (dill, chives, or parsley)

Here's how to make them:

1. Boil the baby potatoes.
2. Drain them and let them dry out.
3. Lay them on an oiled baking sheet and....
4. SMASH those potatoes! Using the bottom of a glass to gently press down on potatoes until potatoes. .
5. Brush the smashed potatoes with olive oil and finish them with salt and garlic.
6. Bake! 450°F for about 25 minutes.
7. Eat up!

Nutritional Information

Calories per serving	143
Protein	2 g
Carbs	18 g
Total Fat	7 g
Dietary Fiber	2 g
Cholesterol	0 g
Sodium	448 g
Total Sugars	1 g

AUGUST

August 3

National Watermelon Day

August 4

National Coast Guard Day

August 5

International Beer Day

August 7

Purple Heart Day



August 17

National Thrift Shop Day

August 19

National Potato Day

August 24

National Waffle Day



August 26

National Dog Day

August 30

National Beach Day

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SUMMER

Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

T	C	I	N	C	I	P	H	G	N	I	M	M	I	W	S
S	L	A	D	N	A	S	E	S	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y
U	D	D	E	N	G	B	A	B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L
P	P	E	A	N	F	R	O	A	P	N	C	E	E	O	F
M	U	S	I	S	H	E	R	A	O	O	N	O	O	M	S
A	F	K	T	E	E	R	S	A	T	I	O	U	S	U	M
M	I	R	E	S	R	R	A	T	H	I	T	L	I	N	C
H	S	E	R	S	G	I	S	S	I	D	N	O	N	A	E
O	U	W	E	A	F	N	N	T	O	V	E	G	N	H	E
M	N	O	M	L	K	U	I	O	O	U	A	O	R	E	C
I	B	M	M	G	S	C	R	N	C	M	E	L	P	R	A
E	U	S	U	N	S	S	O	E	E	I	I	V	S	E	M
S	R	P	S	U	E	C	B	M	N	D	T	A	C	L	P
E	N	S	O	S	F	R	T	G	M	H	R	E	P	L	I
A	N	T	T	R	A	V	E	L	W	A	O	A	R	L	N
D	P	T	B	B	J	B	K	J	M	H	H	R	G	G	G

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Barbecue
Baseball
Boating
Camping
Canoeing
Festivals
Gardening

Hammock
Hiking
Holiday
Mower
Outdoors
Picnic
Pool

Sandals
Summer
Sunburn
Sunglasses
Sunshine
Swimming
Travel

Tax Times August 2022

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