

# Resources for Small Business Owners on the IRS website

## [Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center](#)

What you'll find here: Resources for taxpayers who file Form 1040, Schedules C, E, F or Form 2106, as well as small businesses with assets under \$10 million.

## [Small Business Taxes: The Virtual Workshop](#)

The [Small Business Taxes: The Virtual Workshop](#) is composed of nine interactive lessons designed to help new small business owners learn their tax rights and responsibilities.

[Publication 5104](#) (PDF) provides a list of the available features in this virtual, interactive workshop and outlines the topics covered in the various lessons.

For more audio and video presentations, visit the [IRS Video Portal](#).

## [Publication 583, Starting a Business and Keeping Records](#)

This publication provides basic federal tax information for people who are starting a business. It also provides information on keeping records and illustrates a recordkeeping system.

## [Publication 463, Travel, Entertainment, Gift, and Car Expenses](#)

This publication explains what expenses are deductible, how to report them on your return, what records you need to prove your expenses, and how to treat any expense reimbursements you may receive.

## [Deducting Business Expenses](#)

Business expenses are the cost of carrying on a trade or business. These expenses are usually deductible if the business operates to make a profit.

- [What Can I Deduct?](#)
- [Cost of Goods Sold](#)
- [Capital Expenses](#)
- [Personal versus Business Expenses](#)
- [Business Use of Your Home](#)
- [Business Use of Your Car](#)
- [Other Types of Business Expenses](#)

## [Direct Pay](#)

Use this secure service to pay your individual tax bill or [estimated tax payment](#) directly from your checking or savings account at no cost to you. You'll receive instant confirmation that your payment has been submitted. Bank account information is not retained in IRS systems after payments are made.

## [IRS Tax Calendar for Businesses and Self-Employed](#)

View due dates and actions for each month. You can see all events or filter them by monthly depositor, semiweekly depositor, excise, or general event types. Visit this page on your Smartphone or tablet, so you can view the Online Calendar on your mobile device.

## Recordkeeping

### Why should I keep records?

Good records will help you monitor the progress of your business, prepare your financial statements, identify sources of income, keep track of deductible expenses, keep track of your basis in property, prepare your tax returns, and support items reported on your tax returns.

### What kinds of records should I keep?

You may choose any recordkeeping system suited to your business that clearly shows your income and expenses. Except in a few cases, the law does not require any special kind of records. However, the business you are in affects the type of records you need to keep for federal tax purposes.

### How long should I keep records?

The length of time you should keep a document depends on the action, expense, or event the document records. You must keep your records as long as needed to prove the income or deductions on a tax return.

## Independent Contractor (Self-Employed) or Employee?

**Determining Whether the Individuals Providing Services are Employees or Independent Contractors:** Before you can determine how to treat payments you make for services, you must first know the business relationship that exists between you and the person performing the services.

**Business owners should ask vendors and subcontractors to fill out this form at the outset: [Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number \(TIN\) and Certification](#)**

[Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income](#)

[Form SS-8, Determination of Worker Status for Purposes of Federal Employment Taxes and Income Tax Withholding](#)

## Secure Access Authentication

The IRS offers many online tools, such as [Get Transcript](#). The online tools use Secure Access Authentication. To better protect taxpayers, the IRS recently upgraded its identity verification process for certain online self-help tools. The purpose is to prevent taxpayer impersonations and account takeovers by identity thieves. Because the Secure Access Authentication platform is more rigorous, it helps if you prepare to register in advance. See [Tips for Successfully Authenticating Your Identity through Secure Access](#)

## Sharing Economy Tax Center

If you use one of the many online platforms available to rent a spare bedroom, provide car rides, or to connect and provide a number of other goods or services, you're involved in what is sometimes called the sharing economy.

## Other Tax Centers for various industries and professions