

WELCOME TO SOUTH CAROLINA

A TAX GUIDE FOR NEW RESIDENTS

dor.sc.gov/moving-to-sc

INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX

SC's simplified Income Tax structure generally follows Federal Income Tax laws. Your Federal Taxable Income is the starting point in determining your State Income Tax liability.

- SC has a range of tax rates depending on your income, and our tax brackets are adjusted annually.
- South Carolina taxpayers can claim a variety of tax credits based on their eligibility. These include the state Earned Income Tax Credit, the Tuition Tax Credit, and the Classroom Teacher Expenses Credit.
- Deductions are available for retirement income, Social Security income, National Guard or reservist pay, and disability income.
- During your first year in SC, you are generally considered a part-year resident and may file as a full-year resident or a non-resident, whichever method benefits you best.

Estimated Tax

Pay Estimated Tax on income that is not subject to withholding, including, but not limited to:

- Rent
- Self-employment income
- Interest
- Income earned as a contractor
- Capital gains
- Not enough tax being withheld from your salary

Filing Individual Income Tax

South Carolina Individual Income Tax returns are generally due **April 15**. However, you will not be subject to penalties and interest if you file and pay electronically by **May 1**. *This incentive does not apply to paper returns or federal returns.*

- *Filing online using approved tax preparation software or with a trusted tax professional is the most convenient, secure, and accurate way to file.*
- *Learn about your filing options at dor.sc.gov/iit-filing.*

SALES & USE TAX

The statewide Sales & Use Tax rate is 6%. Counties and municipalities may have additional local taxes.

- Sales Tax is charged and collected when you make purchases from South Carolina retailers.
- Use Tax is due on out-of-state purchases for use in South Carolina when Sales Tax has not been charged.
- ***You can report out-of-state purchases on your South Carolina Individual Income Tax return.***

PROPERTY TAX

Most property, including cars and homes, are taxed through your county, **not by the SCDOR.**

Personal Property

- Personal motor vehicles are assessed annually at 6%.
- Contact your county auditor's office for more information on the taxation of RVs, boats, and airplanes.

Residential Property

- A legal residence's fair market value is assessed at 4%, and second homes are assessed at 6%.
- If you are over age 65, totally and permanently disabled, or legally blind, you may be eligible for the **Homestead Exemption**, which is an exemption of taxes on the first \$50,000 of your legal residence's fair market value.

Contact your county auditor's office for more information.

MORE RESOURCES

Vehicle Registration and Driver's Licenses:

- SC Department of Motor Vehicles - **scdmvonline.com**

Boating, Hunting, and Fishing Licenses:

- SC Department of Natural Resources - **dnr.sc.gov**

Information for starting or relocating your business:

- South Carolina Business One Stop - **scbos.sc.gov**

*Find more SC government services and information at **sc.gov**.*