



WEST VIRGINIA BUSINESS TAXES

This publication provides a brief description of the State's registration requirements and business taxes. This publication provides general information. It is not a substitute for tax laws or regulations.

BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS REQUIRED

- Businesses must obtain a business registration certificate from the State Tax Department before engaging in any business activity in the state. Operating a business without a certificate is a serious offense and can be subject to a fine of \$100.00 per day for each day a business operates without properly registering.
- Upon registration, a tax account will be established for the business, and the appropriate tax reporting forms will be provided.
- A separate certificate is required for each business location and must be displayed at all times.
- There are special licensing or bonding requirements for certain types of businesses, including employment agencies, collection agencies, telemarketers, motor carriers and transient vendors.
- A business registration certificate is permanent until the business is relocated, closed, or until the certificate is suspended, revoked or cancelled by the Tax Commissioner.
- To register a business with the Tax Department, complete an "Application for Registration Certificate" ([Form WV/BUS APP](#)), which is available from the State Tax Department, and pay a \$30.00 registration fee.

REGISTRATION OF CORPORATIONS REQUIRED

- All domestic and foreign corporations must register with the West Virginia Secretary of State before obtaining a business registration certificate.
- Corporate registration with the Secretary of State is NOT a substitute for a business registration certificate from the Tax Department.
- Corporate registration forms are available from:
West Virginia Secretary of State
State Capitol Complex Bldg. 1, Room W-157K,
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0770
Telephone: (304) 558-8000

CORPORATION NET INCOME TAX

- Any non-exempt corporation (domestic or foreign) that engages in business or that derives income from property, activity or other sources in West Virginia is subject to the corporation net income tax.
- The starting point in computing West Virginia taxable income is the federal taxable income of the corporation. The tax rate is 6.5%.
- Multistate corporations are required to allocate certain types of nonbusiness income to West Virginia and apportion their remaining income based on a three-factor formula consisting of property, payroll and double-weighted sales factors.
- Any Taxpayer engaged in a unitary business with one or more other corporations must file a combined report that includes the income, allocation, and apportionment of income of all corporations that are members of the unitary business.
 - Water's Edge reporting is required unless the Taxpayer elects to report on a worldwide basis.
 - A Taxpayer electing to report on a worldwide basis is required to do so for a period not less than ten years.
- Estimated tax payments are required for every corporation that reasonably expects its West Virginia taxable income to exceed \$10,000. Estimated payments are due on the 15th day of the fourth, sixth, ninth and twelfth months of the tax year. The annual return is due on the 15th day of the fourth month following the close of the tax year.

INCOME TAX FOR S CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Pass-through entities must file the income tax informational return ([Form WV/SPF-100](#)) for S corporations and partnerships.
 - This form is also used to report and pay West Virginia withholding tax for nonresident shareholders or partners in a West Virginia S corporation or partnership.
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PERSONAL INCOME TAX

- The personal income tax is imposed on the West Virginia taxable income of resident individuals, estates and trusts.
 - Self-employed persons and sole proprietors who are not subject to business taxes are taxed on business income to the extent that this income is includable in federal adjusted gross income.
 - Nonresident individuals, estates and trusts are also subject to the tax on the income they gain from West Virginia sources.
 - The West Virginia personal income tax is a federal conformity statute, meaning that any term used in the State income tax law has the same meaning as when it is used in a comparable context in federal income tax law.
 - The starting point in determining West Virginia taxable income is federal adjusted gross income, with state law providing increasing and decreasing modifications from there.
 - Marginal income tax rates range from 3% on taxable income under \$10,000 to 6.5% on taxable income over \$60,000.
 - The annual tax return is due on the 15th day of the fourth month following the close of the tax year. An extension of time granted to file the federal income tax return automatically extends the time for filing the State tax return but does not extend the time for payment of any tax due.
 - An earned income exclusion is available for low income Taxpayers – individuals, head of households and married couples who have federal adjusted income of \$10,000 or less for the taxable year. “Earned income” includes wages, salaries, tips and other employee compensation, including net income from self-employment.
 - Persons who have West Virginia taxable income not subject to income tax withholding may be required to make estimated tax payments. These payments are due on the 15th day of April, June and September of the tax year, and January of the following year.
 - Beginning January 1, 2015, individuals who have made total payments of \$100,000 during the period of July 1 through June 30 may be required to file and pay their West Virginia taxes electronically.
 - For additional personal income tax information, see Publications [TSD-390](#), [TSD-391](#), [TSD-411](#), [TSD-413](#), [TSD-418](#), [TSD-422](#), [TSD-430](#) and [TSD-432](#).
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WITHHOLDING – PERSONAL INCOME TAX

- Any employer who pays any wage or salary subject to the West Virginia personal income tax must deduct and withhold the tax from such wages or salaries and remit the tax withheld to the State Tax Department.
 - An employer must remit the withheld tax on or before the 15th day of the succeeding month.
 - Quarterly returns are due on or before the last day of the month following the end of the quarter.
 - Employers who withhold less than \$600 annually or employ certain domestic and household employees must continue to file the annual return and pay the withheld amount annually and are not required to file a quarterly return. For these employers only, the due date for the annual return is January 31st of the year succeeding the year for which the withholdings are deducted and withheld.
 - Beginning January 1, 2015, businesses that have made total payments of \$10,000 or more during the preceding tax year are required to file and pay their West Virginia taxes electronically. Beginning January 1, 2016, the threshold amount for electronic filing increased to \$25,000. Beginning January 1, 2019, the threshold amount for electronic filing increased to \$50,000.
 - In addition, an employer must file an annual reconciliation of tax withheld separate from the employer's quarterly or annual return on or before January 31st following the close of the year for which the withholdings are deducted or withheld. This form must be filed with all withholding tax statements (W-2s).
 - Employers must furnish employees two copies of the withholding tax statement on or before January 31st.
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- Any employer who is required to file a withholding return for 50 or more employees/payees must file all data by electronic media. Failure to do so can result in a penalty of \$25.00 per employee for whom the return was not filed electronically.
 - Those filing for 49 or less employees are encouraged, but are not required, to file information by **electronic** media.
- For additional withholding information, see Publication [TSD-381](#).

NONRESIDENT SALE OF REAL ESTATE

- A nonresident individual or nonresident entity transferring an interest in real property located in West Virginia must have West Virginia income tax withheld unless the transaction is otherwise exempt from the income tax withholding requirement.
- The person responsible for closing must file "Return of Income Tax Withholding for Nonresident Sale of Real Property" ([Form WV/NRSR](#)) with the State Tax Department.
- The amount withheld is equal to the lesser of 2.5% of the total sale price less expenses or 6.5% of the estimated capital gain.

SALES AND USE TAXES

- The consumers sales and service tax and the use tax require vendors to collect a tax from purchasers and to remit all receipts to the State Tax Department.
- The tax is imposed on the sale, lease or rental of tangible personal property and certain services but does not apply to food and food ingredients intended for "human consumption". All sales are presumed to be subject to the tax unless an exemption is clearly established.
- Vendors who fail to collect the tax are personally liable for payment of the tax.
- The State sales tax rate is 6%. The sales tax to be collected on any particular transaction is based on a rounding system. The purchase price is multiplied by 6%, carried to the third decimal place and rounded up to the next whole cent when the third decimal place is greater than four and rounded down to the lower whole cent when the third decimal place is four or less.

Price	× 6%	Tax Amount
\$10.00	.600	\$.60
\$29.99	1.799	\$ 1.80
\$66.74	4.004	\$ 4.00

- Certain businesses and organizations are allowed exemptions from the tax when they make purchases for use or consumption in their exempt business activities. There are three ways in which these exemptions may be claimed: (1) use of a tax exemption certificate; (2) a direct pay permit; or (3) a refund or credit of tax paid
 - Tax exemption certificates can be provided by the purchaser on certain exempt transactions. Other businesses may claim their exemption by applying to the State Tax Department and being granted a direct pay permit.
 - Persons granted direct pay permits pay sales tax on their taxable purchases directly to the State Tax Department.
 - The acceptance of a properly executed exemption certificate or proof of direct pay status from a purchaser relieves the vendor of the duty to collect the sales tax.
 - All other persons must pay sales tax on purchases to the vendor and then apply for a refund or credit of tax paid on their exempt purchases from the State Tax Department.
- The use tax and the consumers sales and service tax laws are complementary. The State use tax rate is 6%. The use tax is imposed on the use in this State of tangible personal property or services on which the West Virginia sales tax has not been paid.
 - Foreign vendors doing business in this State must collect the tax on sales to their West Virginia customers and remit the full amount of tax collected to the State Tax Department.
 - A credit against the use tax is allowed for the amount of sales tax legally imposed by and paid to another state.
 - The purchaser of property and services subject to the use tax is liable for the tax until it has been paid to the vendor or paid directly to the Tax Department.

- West Virginia has entered into reciprocal enforcement agreements with other states to ensure that sales and use taxes are paid to the state to which they are due.
 - All vendors must register with the State Tax Department.
 - Upon registration, a sales and use tax account will be established, and the appropriate tax reporting form ([WV/CST-200CU](#)) will be supplied to the vendor.
 - Vendors who collect sales tax in excess of \$250 a month must remit the tax monthly. If the average monthly remittance is no greater than \$250, the vendor may file on a quarterly basis. If the annual aggregate sales and use tax to be remitted is \$600 or less, the vendor may file only an annual return.
 - Returns are due the 20th day of the month following the close of the reporting period.
 - Both sales and use tax returns must be filed even if no tax is collected or due. Returns may be filed online at <https://MyTaxes.wvtax.gov>.
 - Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is mandatory for all Taxpayers having a sales tax liability of \$100,000 or more per month. To apply for EFT, complete the Electronic Funds Transfer Application ([Form WV/EFT-5](#)), and mail to:

WV State Tax Department, RD-EFT
PO Box 11895
Charleston, WV 25339-1895
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MUNICIPAL TAXES

- West Virginia municipalities have the authority to levy local sales and use taxes in their respective jurisdictions. Municipal sales tax may be imposed by the municipality where the tangible personal property or taxable service is delivered. A growing number of West Virginia municipalities impose local sales & use taxes. Municipal sales and use tax is collected by the State Tax Department and is reported on [Form WV/CST-200CU Schedule M](#).
 - In addition, certain cities may impose local registration taxes, license fees and other fees not collected by the State Tax Department. The major source of revenue for most West Virginia cities is a broadly-based municipal business and occupation tax. This tax is imposed on the privilege of engaging in certain business activities within the municipality. The measure of the tax is gross receipts with no deductions for the cost of doing business. There are different tax rates for different types of business activities, and rates may vary from city to city.
 - Before beginning business, representatives of the proposed business should contact the offices of the cities in which they will be doing business to determine each municipality's requirements.
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EXCISE TAXES

- The State imposes excise taxes on certain products. Excise taxes are normally paid by the manufacturers or distributors of these products and the tax is then included in the sales price. Wholesalers, retailers and others who purchase any of these products on which the excise tax has not been paid must report these purchases and pay the tax. State excise taxes are imposed on gasoline and special fuels, alcohol, tobacco products, soft drinks and soft drink syrups and powders.
 - Appropriate tax accounts for persons subject to these excise taxes will be established when they register with the State Tax Department.
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BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX

- Public utilities, electric power generators and natural gas storage operators are subject to the business and occupation tax. This tax is generally based upon gross receipts (public utilities), taxable generation capacity (electricity generators) or net dekatherms (gas storage).
 - Estimated tax payments are required.
 - Taxpayers whose tax liability exceeds \$12,000 per year must pay in monthly installments.
 - Taxpayers with annual tax liabilities of less than \$12,000 must file quarterly.
 - Returns are due as follows:
 - Gas storage returns are due on the 20th day of the month following the close of the reporting period.
 - All other returns are due by the end of the month following the close of the reporting period, except the monthly return for the month of May is due on or before June 15th.
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SEVERANCE TAXES

- The severance tax is imposed on the privilege of engaging or continuing in the activity of severing, extracting, reducing to possession and producing for sale, profit or commercial use any natural resource product or products. Certain types of processing and treatment of natural resources are also subject to the tax.
- The measure of the tax is the total gross value of the natural resource products severed. In the case of a processor who purchases natural resources and processes them into commercially usable products, the tax base is the value added by processing.
- The severance tax rates are:

Classification	Rate
Coal	5.00%
Oil, natural gas, sand and gravel	5.00%
Waste Coal	2.50%
Timber*	1.50%

* Beginning July 1, 2016, the timber severance tax rate is 1.50%. The timber severance tax ceased on June 30, 2019. The severance tax on limestone and sandstone also ceased June 30, 2019.

- All Taxpayers are allowed a \$500 annual exemption to the severance tax, but the exemption is pro-rated to reflect that portion of the year that the Taxpayer was actually engaged in business.
- Estimated tax payments are required. Taxpayers must pay in monthly installments. All tax returns and payments are due at the end of the month following the close of the reporting period, except the monthly return for the month of May is due on or before June 15th.
- An annual minimum severance tax of 75 cents per ton is imposed on coal that is sold or delivered for sale, profit or commercial use. A special two cents per ton tax is imposed on producers of coal. The measure of the tax is "tons of clean coal" that were produced by the seller of the coal and sold during the reporting period. An additional tax is levied on coal at \$0.35 cents per \$100 to benefit local governments.
- For additional information on coal severance taxes, see Publications [TSD-210](#) and [TSD-382](#). For additional information on timber severance, see Publication [TSD-211](#).

UNEMPLOYMENT TAX

- When a business registers with the State Tax Department, we provide appropriate information to Workforce West Virginia. Workforce West Virginia provides employers with the necessary forms and instructions concerning the Unemployment Tax. For information concerning employment security taxes, please contact:

Workforce West Virginia
112 California Avenue
Charleston, WV 25305
Telephone: (304) 558-2677

PROPERTY TAXES

- In West Virginia, property taxes are levied by the State, county governments, county boards of education and municipalities and are collected by the sheriffs of each of the 55 counties.
- Each county and municipality can impose its own rates of property taxation within the limits set by the West Virginia Constitution. The West Virginia Legislature sets the current levy rate of tax used by all county boards of education statewide. However, the total tax rate for county boards of education may differ from county to county due to excess levies.
- There are four classes of property in West Virginia, and the levy rates vary by class and location of the property within each county.
- The Property Tax Division of the State Tax Department is responsible for the supervision of county officials who administer the Property Tax. If you have questions concerning property taxes on specific property, you should contact the county assessor of the county in which the property is located.
- The Freeport Tax Exemption provides a property tax exemption for tangible personal property that is moving in interstate commerce through or over the territory of the State, or that was consigned from a

point of origin outside the State to a warehouse, public or private, within the State for storage in transit to a final destination outside the State.

**BUSINESS
INVESTMENT
CREDITS**

- The State provides a wide range of tax credits to encourage business development and increase employment opportunities. Some of the tax credits provided are: Industrial Expansion and Revitalization Credit for Electric Power Producers (W.Va. Code § 11-13D); Coal Loading Facilities Credit (W.Va. Code §11-13E); Economic Opportunity Tax Credit (W.Va. Code §11-13Q); Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit (W.Va. Code §11-13S).
- For additional information on various West Virginia tax credits, see Publication [TSD-110](#).
- For information on the advantages of doing business in West Virginia contact:

West Virginia Development Office
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 553
Charleston, WV 25305
Telephone: (304) 558-2234

**ASSISTANCE AND
ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION**

- For assistance or additional information, you may call a Taxpayer Service Representative at:

**1-800-WVA-TAXS
(1-800-982-8297)**

Or visit our website at:

www.tax.wv.gov

File and pay taxes online at:

<https://mytaxes.wvtax.gov>

Email questions to:

taxhelp@wv.gov
