

BUSINESS TAX RETURN - INSTRUCTIONS

Classification 4

NOTE: A taxpayer with a location within the limits of a Tennessee city that has enacted the business tax must file two business tax returns for that location - one return for the city and one return for the county. These returns must be filed with the Tennessee Department of Revenue.

A taxpayer with a location outside the limits of any Tennessee city, or inside the limits of a city that has not enacted the business tax, must file one business tax return for that location for the county. The return must be filed with the Tennessee Department of Revenue.

Classification 4 contractors are liable for the business tax in each county and city in which the taxpayer receives \$50,000 or more in contracts during the business tax reporting period. When a Classification 4 contractor meets or exceeds the \$50,000 threshold in a county or city in which the contractor's business is not domiciled, the contractor must, at that time, contact the county clerk or designated city business tax official to obtain a business license and register for business tax in that county and city.

When filing a business tax return in a jurisdiction that is not the contractor's jurisdiction of domicile but in which \$50,000 or more in contracts were received during the period covered by the return, mark the return as a "Final Return" unless certain that the contractor will have \$50,000 or more in contracts in the jurisdiction during the next business tax year. If the contractor has filed a final return for the jurisdiction but reaches \$50,000 in contracts in the jurisdiction during the next business tax year, the contractor will need to obtain a new business license in that jurisdiction.

Classification 4 contractors will pay business tax on gross receipts for the county and city jurisdictions in which the taxpayer's business is domiciled on gross receipts derived from all locations less any amounts reported for business tax purposes for counties and/or cities in which the taxpayer's contracts totaled or exceeded \$50,000 during the taxable period.

TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION: Ensure that the return contains the correct name and address, business tax account number, Federal Employer Identification Number/Social Security Number/Taxpayer Identification Number issued by the IRS, business class, and business license number for the reporting entity. **If using a blank return downloaded from the Department of Revenue's web site, the taxpayer must ensure that the taxpayer has entered all required items of information in the fields at the top of the return.**

- Line 1: Enter the gross sales total for the reporting period. Do not report amounts of sales tax collected. Do not report amounts of liquor-by-the-drink tax collected. Do include commissions received for sales of lottery tickets.
- Line 2: Enter the total amount for all deductions allowed from Schedule A, Line 18 on back of the return form.
- Line 3: Calculate the taxable gross sales for the tax period by subtracting Line 2 from Line 1.
- Line 4: Compute the amount of business tax due. Multiply the amount reported on Line 3 by the class rate indicated on the return. If the tax rate is not preprinted on the return, refer to the tax rate chart on the second page of the return.
- Line 5: Enter the amount of personal property taxes that can be taken as a deduction for the reporting period. **The amount reported cannot exceed more than 50% of the tax amount reported on Line 4.** The tax must be paid prior to or during the reporting period for which this return is filed and must be paid in the jurisdiction for which this return is filed. **Real property taxes may not be deducted.**
- Line 6: Calculate the total business tax due by subtracting Line 5 from Line 4. Enter that amount or \$22, whichever is greater, here. **The amount reported cannot be less than 50% of the amount of business tax reported on Line 4 or \$22, whichever is greater.**
- Line 7: If your account has a credit balance from an overpayment on a prior return, enter the amount on this line.
- Line 8: If the return is filed and or payment is made after the due date reflected on the return, compute the amount of penalty due for the number of days delinquent. Subtract Line 7 from Line 6 and compute penalty as follows: 1 - 30 days = 5%; 31 - 60 days = 10%; 61 - 90 days = 15%; 91 - 120 days = 20%; 121 days and over = 25%. The maximum penalty amount is 25%. The minimum penalty amount is \$15.
- Line 9: Calculate the interest due. Multiply the amount of tax due and reported on Line 6 less Line 7 by the number of days delinquent. Multiply that result by the current interest rate. Divide that result by 365.25. Enter here.
- Line 10: Add Lines 6, 8, and 9. Subtract Line 7. Enter here. **This is the amount due with the return. Make payment payable to the Tennessee Department of Revenue.**

Schedule A: Deductions for Business Tax Purposes

- Line 1: Enter the gross sales of services that were substantially performed in states other than Tennessee.
- Line 2: Enter the proceeds from sales of goods, wares, or merchandise returned by the customer when the sales price was refunded either in cash or by credit. This amount should equal the amounts reported on Schedule A, Line E on all Tennessee Sales and Use Tax Returns due from the taxpayer during the business tax reporting period.

Schedule A: Deductions for Business Tax Purposes

- Line 3:** Enter the gross sales amount for bona fide sales in interstate commerce where the purchaser took possession outside Tennessee for use or consumption outside Tennessee and the item was actually delivered by the seller or a common carrier.
- Line 4:** Enter the total amounts of cash discounts allowed and taken on sales made during the taxpayer's business tax reporting period. These amounts are included on Schedule A, Line I on all Tennessee Sales and Use Tax Returns due during the business tax reporting period.
- Line 5:** Enter that portion of the unpaid principal balance in excess of \$500 due on all items of tangible personal property repossessed from customers during the taxpayer's business tax reporting period. This amount should equal the amounts reported on Schedule A, Line H of all Tennessee Sales and Use Tax Returns due during the business tax reporting period.
- Line 6:** Enter the total amount allowed as trade-in value for any articles sold during the taxpayer's business tax reporting period. These amounts are included on Schedule A, Line I on all Tennessee Sales and Use Tax Returns due during the business tax reporting period.
- Line 7:** Enter the total amount of bad debts written off during the business tax reporting period and eligible to be deducted for federal income tax purposes.
- Line 8:** Enter the total amount paid by a contractor to a subcontractor holding either a business license or contractor's license for performing activities described in Tenn. Code Ann. Section 67-4-708(4)(A). **To receive the deduction, contractors must attach Schedule B, a list of the names and license numbers of the subcontractors as well as the amount paid to each subcontractor and date paid.** A copy of Schedule B is available at <http://www.tn.gov/revenue/forms/business/scheduleb.pdf>.

Note: For federal and state privilege and excise taxes deducted on Lines 9 through 16, the deductions may be taken by the taxpayer who made direct payment of the taxes to the applicable government agency and by all subsequent resellers of the product on which the tax was paid, provided the taxpayer is licensed to do business in Tennessee. Enter the amounts of deduction taken in each line. **All deductions must have adequate records maintained to substantiate the amount claimed or they will be disallowed.**

- Line 9:** Deduct the Federal and Tennessee privilege and excise taxes paid for gasoline tax.
- Line 10:** Deduct the Federal and Tennessee privilege and excise taxes paid for motor fuel use tax.
- Line 11:** Deduct the Federal and Tennessee privilege and excise taxes paid for cigarettes.
- Line 12:** Deduct the Federal and Tennessee privilege and excise taxes paid for other tobacco products.
- Line 13:** Deduct the Federal and Tennessee privilege and excise taxes paid for beer.
- Line 14:** Deduct the Tennessee special tax on petroleum products.
- Line 15:** Deduct the Tennessee liquified gas tax for motor vehicles.
- Line 16:** Deduct the 17% Tennessee beer wholesale tax.
- Line 17:** Enter any other deductions from business tax for the business tax reporting period. Examples of items that may be listed in the "Other" line are accommodation sales and proceeds of sales of school supplies and meals to students and school employees on campus by secondary or elementary schools (but not such sales made by independent contractors).
- Accommodation sales are occasional and isolated sales of tangible personal property for resale by one person regularly engaged in the business of making sales of that type of property to another person regularly in the business of making sales of that type of property. The amount paid by the buyer to the seller cannot exceed the amount paid by the seller to the vendor, plus freight, storage, and transportation costs from the seller to the buyer. Accommodation sales can be deducted here if included in the gross sales reported on Line 1 of the return.
- Line 18:** Calculate the total deductions by adding Schedule A, Lines 1 through 17. Enter the total here and on Page 1, Line 2.

CERTIFICATION:

Complete the certification block by signing and dating the return. If the return is completed by someone other than the taxpayer, the preparer must sign the return and enter the preparer's title and date the return is completed.