



## News Release

**CONTACT** Lisa Erickson  
**PHONE** 651-556-NEWS (6397)  
**E-MAIL** lisa.erickson@state.mn.us

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 18, 2012

### 2011 Minnesota income tax filing season begins

*Department of Revenue encourages taxpayers to file electronically for an accurate and faster return*

**St. Paul** – The state income tax filing season kicks off this week and the Minnesota Department of Revenue is now accepting individual income tax returns for tax year 2011. Taxpayers have until April 17 to file their tax returns.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue encourages taxpayers to electronically file (e-file) as it is the best way to ensure accurate tax returns and get faster refunds.

While both e-filed and paper filed tax returns are subject to review for accuracy, e-filing has proven to be faster, more accurate and more secure. Taxpayers who e-file typically receive their refunds an average of two weeks earlier than those who paper file their returns. Ninety percent of e-filed returns received before April 17, 2012 are processed within one week. Last year, more than 2.1 million returns (80 percent) were filed electronically, up four percent from 2010.

“We want your income tax return to be accurate. If you e-file, errors are significantly reduced and you will receive your refund faster than if you paper file,” said Terri Steenblock, Assistant Commissioner for Individual Taxes. “Paper returns received before April 17, 2012 can take thirty days or longer to process and tend to have more errors than returns filed electronically.”

#### Other tax filing tips:

- *Have your refund electronically deposited.* Both paper and electronic filers can opt to have their refund electronically deposited by selecting “direct deposit of your refund” on line 31 of the M1 individual income tax form. Requesting electronic deposit on paper or electronic returns will allow for a quicker refund.
- *Opt to make payments electronically* to control when the money is transferred. For more information about making your payment electronically, please visit our [website](#)
- *Find a list of approved software products* for e-filing on our website.
- *Find M1 tax instruction booklets* on our website or at a library. The department no longer mails Form M1 tax booklets.
- *Get free tax assistance.* Depending on income, some taxpayers may qualify to e-file for free. Visit the [IRS website](#) or [Minnesota Department of Revenue website](#) for more information.
- *File taxes on time.* Due to Emancipation Day falling on Monday, April 16 this year, the due date for filing state returns is Tuesday, April 17, 2012.
- *Understand your options.* Refund Anticipation Loans (RAL) offered by some tax preparers often charge very high interest rates and reduce a taxpayer’s refund.
- *Access the Department’s website* for additional information on tax filing requirements,

instructions, and get answers to many frequently asked questions.

Follow the latest news and updates from the Minnesota Department of Revenue on [Twitter](#).

###