

Chapter Tax 2

INCOME TAXATION, RETURNS, RECORDS AND GROSS INCOME

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**Tax 2.01 Residence.** (Section 71.01, Wis. Stats.) (1) The residence of a wife is that of her husband unless there is affirmative evidence to the contrary or unless the husband and wife are permanently separated. The residence of a minor child, unless emancipated, is that of its father, or of the mother, if the father is deceased.

(2) Individuals claiming a change of residence (domicile) from Wisconsin to another state shall file a "declaration of residence" with the Central Audit section of the Department of Taxation by delivery to 315 West Gorham Street, Madison, Wisconsin, or by mailing to Post Office Box 80, Madison, Wisconsin 53701, and shall furnish such other information as the department may require.

**History:** 1-2-56; r. (1); renum. (2) to be (1); renum. (3) to be (2) and am., Register, September, 1964, No. 105, eff. 10-1-64.

**Tax 2.02 History:** 1-2-56; r. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.021 History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60; r. Register, September, 1964, No. 105, eff. 10-1-64.

**Tax 2.03 Corporation returns.** For the purpose of filing franchise or income tax returns, the tax commissioner has designated the following forms for the use of corporations:

Form 4. Return of income for the calendar or fiscal year.

Form 4A. Balance sheets as of beginning and end of taxable year; analysis of surplus account; reconciliation of book income with net income reported.

Form 4B. Apportionment data (when applicable to the corporation).

Form 4C. Separate accounting data (when applicable to the corporation).

All returns, statements, schedules and information required to be filed or furnished by corporations shall be mailed to the Corporation Section of the Wisconsin Department of Taxation, P. O. Box 98, Madison, Wisconsin 53701 or delivered to the Corporation Section at 317 West Gorham Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

**Note:** Blank forms may be obtained from the department at the Processing Center, 149 East Wilson Street, Madison, or by mail request to P. O. Box 98, Madison, Wisconsin 53701.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, September, 1964, No. 105, eff. 10-1-64; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.04 Information returns; forms WT-9, 9b and 9X for corporations.** (Sections 71.04 (1) and (2), 71.10 (1) (8m) and (8n) Wis. Stats.). All corporations carrying on activities within this state, whether taxable or not under this chapter, shall file with the department of taxation, on or before January 31 of each year on forms WT-9 or 9b statements of payments made within the preceding calendar year to residents of Wisconsin of salaries, wages, bonuses, commissions, retirement pay, fees or other remuneration for services whether subject to withholding or not, and to non-residents of all payments for the performance of personal services in Wisconsin, whether subject to withholding or not, provided that salaries, wages, bonuses, commissions, retirement pay, fees or other remuneration for services, and payments for the performance of personal services in Wisconsin paid by a corporation to an individual in a calendar year and aggregating less than \$500 need not be so reported if no part thereof was within the definition of wages in section 71.19 (1) Wis. Stats. Form WT-7 (Employers Annual Reconciliation of Wisconsin Income Tax Withheld from Wages) should accompany forms WT-9. Statements of payments to residents of Wisconsin within the preceding calendar year of interest and dividends, including dividends paid in capital stock, and payments to residents and non-residents of Wisconsin of

DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

TAX ON INCOMES OF \$10,000 AND OVER

IF TAXABLE INCOME IS		GROSS NORMAL TAX IS	
At least	But less than	This amt. + this % on excess over	
\$10,000 —	\$11,000.....	\$482.50 plus	8.0% — \$10,000
11,000 —	12,000.....	562.50 plus	8.5% — 11,000
12,000 —	13,000.....	647.50 plus	9.0% — 12,000
13,000 —	14,000.....	737.50 plus	9.5% — 13,000
14,000 —	.....	832.50 plus	10.0% — 14,000

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1960, No. 49, eff. 2-1-60; r. and recr. Register, May, 1964, No. 101; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.14 Aggregate personal exemption of husband and wife.** The aggregate personal exemption allowable to a husband and wife pursuant to section 71.09 (6) (a), Wis. Stats., when each files a return, may be divided between them according to their choice.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, February, 1958, No. 26, eff. 3-1-58; am. Register, February, 1960, No. 50, eff. 3-1-60; r. and recr., Register, September, 1964, No. 105, eff. 10-1-64; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.15 Methods of accounting for corporations.** (Section 71.11 (8), Wis. Stats.) No uniform method of accounting can be prescribed for all corporations, and the law contemplates that each corporation may return its income in accordance with the method of accounting regularly employed in keeping its books. If no method of accounting is regularly employed or if the method employed does not clearly reflect the income, the department of taxation may prescribe the method to be used. A method of accounting will not be regarded as clearly reflecting the income unless all items of gross income and all deductions are treated with reasonable consistency.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.16 Changes in method of accounting for corporations.** (Section 71.11 (8), Wis. Stats.) No change in the method of accounting used in reporting income may be made without first obtaining the written permission of the department of taxation. Applications for such change must set forth clearly the nature of the business, the method of accounting used in keeping the books, and the reasons for changing the method of reporting. In changing from a cash basis of accounting to an accrual basis of accounting, income accrued but not yet collected as of the close of the year of change shall be added to income actually received in cash during the year, and expenses accrued but not yet paid as of the close of the year shall be added to expenses actually paid during the year.

**History:** 1-2-56, am. Register, September, 1964, No. 105, eff. 10-1-64.

**Tax 2.17 Cash method of accounting for corporations.** (Section 71.11 (8), Wis. Stats.) The use of the cash method of accounting and reporting does not properly reflect taxable income in cases where, at the end of the taxable year, the records reflect accounts receivable, accounts payable, or inventories.

**Tax 2.18 Accrual method of accounting for corporations.** (Section 71.11 (8), Wis. Stats.) In all cases in which the production, purchase or sale of merchandise of any kind is an income producing factor, inventories are necessary, and no accounting method in regard to purchases and sales will correctly reflect the income except the accrual

method. Special methods of accounting employed in special trades or businesses may, with the written approval of the department of taxation, be used in reporting income.

**History:** 1-2-56, am. Register, September, 1964, No. 105, eff. 10-1-64.

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**Tax 2.19 Instalment method of accounting for corporations.** (Section 71.11 (8), Wis. Stats.) (1) The instalment method of reporting income may be used only in the case of sales of real estate and infrequent, isolated sales of personal property, and then only subject to the provisions of section 71.03 (1) (g), Wis. Stats. (See also Wis. Adm. Code section Tax 2.71).

(2) Corporations regularly engaged in the business of selling personal property and keeping records on the instalment basis will be required to report for franchise or income tax purposes on the accrual basis.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (2), Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.20 Accounting for acceptance corporations, dealers in commercial paper, mortgage discount companies and small loan companies.** (Section 71.11 (8), Wis. Stats.) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) hereof, acceptance corporations and dealers in commercial paper must report the discount on the purchase of paper as income in the year of such purchase.

(2) Where the records of such acceptance corporations and dealers in commercial paper are kept upon the deferred profit basis, schedules should be attached to the tax returns clearly setting forth the unrealized profit accounts and reconciling the income and surplus per books with the taxable net income.

(3) Acceptance corporations and dealers in commercial paper may elect to report their taxable income on the deferred profit basis, provided that their books and records are kept on that basis and provided further that both the deferment of income and the expenses incurred in producing said income is made in accordance with accepted accounting principles and practice. The election to so report must be made before the close of the year for which the return is made, and after having made such election the deferred profit basis of reporting must be adhered to in all subsequent periods.

**Tax 2.21 Accounting for incorporated contractors.** (Section 71.11 (8), Wis. Stats.) (1) The general rules for reporting income on the accrual basis apply to incorporated contractors except that, in the case of contracts upon which work is performed in 2 or more consecutive income years, the percentage of completion basis may be used provided such basis clearly reflects the income taxable under chapter 71, Wis. Stats.

(a) Under this method of accounting at the close of the taxable year, a portion of the total contract price is treated as sales for the current period, such portion being based upon the percentage of completion, as determined by an engineer's or an architect's estimate or such other records as will most clearly reflect the income realized to date. By this method the difference between the sales thus determined and the total cost applicable to the sales is treated as taxable income.

(2) The profit on jobs taken on a cost plus basis and uncompleted at the close of a taxable year should be computed in accordance with

instalment payments are made under the insurance contract, and no part of the payment is taxable income.

**History:** 1-2-56, r. (1), (3) (b), (3) (c) and (3) (d) and renum. (2) to be (1) and (3) (a) to be (1) (d), Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.57 Annuity payments received by corporations.** Annuity payments under an endowment or annuity contract are income to the extent of any payment after the income tax cost (aggregate premiums or consideration) has been recovered. However, when the contract provides for the separation of the periodic payments into principal and interest, the interest so received is taxable when received.

**Tax 2.60 Dividends on stock sold "short" by corporations.** (Section 71.03 (1) (d), Wis. Stats.) When stock is sold "short" for later delivery, the purchaser receives the dividend, since he is the owner of the borrowed stock, and the amount credited to the lender of the stock and charged to the "short" seller is income upon which the lender is subject to tax. The amount charged to the "short" seller becomes part of the cost of the stock sold.

**Tax 2.61 Building and loan dividends on instalment shares received by corporations.** (1) An amount (dividend) credited to shareholders of a building and loan association has a taxable status as income for the year of the credit to the extent of the amount available to the shareholder.

(2) An amount (dividend) received by such shareholder at maturity of his share in excess of the accumulated amounts so reported as income shall be treated as income in the year of such receipt.

**Tax 2.63 Dividends accrued on stock.** (Section 71.03 (1) (d), Wis. Stats.) In the case of stock purchased by a corporation between dividend dates, the entire amount of the dividend is income to the vendee and must be included in its income when received. The amount advanced by the vendee to the vendor in contemplation of the next dividend payment is an investment of capital.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.65 Interest received by corporations.** (Section 71.03 (1) (c), Wis. Stats.) (1) In general, all interest is includable in the income by which the franchise tax is measured, including interest received on monies invested in obligations of the United States government and its instrumentalities and agencies. If a corporation is not subject to the franchise tax, but subject to net income taxation, interest on federal obligations is not taxable, but interest on postal savings and federal tax refunds is taxable to corporations subject to net income taxation. Profit or loss on the sale or other disposition of federal obligations is a taxable gain or deductible loss for purposes of both the franchise tax measured by net income and the net income tax. (See Section 71.07 (1) Wis. Stats. for situs of interest income).

(2) Interest is deemed to be received when accrued or received in cash, depending upon the method of accounting used by the taxpayer corporation. Interest becomes taxable to a corporation reporting on a cash basis when it is made available to it. Coupons on bonds which are due but have not been cashed are considered as received provided that the cash for payment of the coupons is available. Accrued inter-

est paid on bonds purchased between interest payment dates shall be treated as a deduction from the interest thereon received.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.67 History:** 1-2-56; r. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.69 Income from Wisconsin business.** (Sections 71.01 and 71.07, Wis. Stats.) All of the income realized from business carried on in Wisconsin is taxable. The fact that a person or corporation is licensed to do business in Wisconsin is evidence that it is doing business in the state, within the meaning of this chapter. However, a person or corporation may be doing business in this state within the meaning of this chapter even though not licensed. In all cases of doubt the complete facts should be reported to the commissioner of taxation for determination.

**History:** 1-2-56, am. Register, September, 1964, No. 105, eff. 10-1-64; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.70 Gain or loss on capital assets of corporations; basis of determining.** (Section 71.03 (1) (g), Wis. Stats.) (1) Profits or losses resulting from the sale or other disposition of capital assets are ordinarily taxable income or deductible losses for the year in which the sale or other disposition takes place. In certain cases of real estate sales involving deferred payments, the profit may be treated as not wholly realized in the year of sale and may be deferred in accordance with the terms of payment. (See Wis. Adm. Code section Tax 2.71.)

(a) The fair market value at January 1, 1911 must be determined in the light of the facts and circumstances known as of that date. In the absence of competent evidence to the contrary, cost less depreciation sustained to January 1, 1911 will be considered the fair market value as of that date. The method of arriving at the January 1, 1911 value must be clearly set forth in the income tax returns.

(b) Stocks, bonds and other securities are considered as capital assets when held by a person other than a dealer in securities. The profit or loss on sale or other disposition of securities is, therefore, determined in the same manner and on the same basis as that used for other capital assets.

(c) In determining the profit or loss on the sale of stock received as a stock dividend subsequent to January 1, 1926, the total income tax cost of the original shares on which the dividend was declared is allocated to the new and old shares with due regard to the fair market value of the new and old shares at the date of the dividend.

**Tax 2.71 Sales of capital assets by corporations on deferred payments.** (Section 71.03 (1) (g), Wis. Stats.) (1) Subject to the approval of the department of taxation, corporations may elect to defer profits on real estate sales and report them on the instalment basis. The election with respect to any sale will be approved by the department only if the amount received during the first contract year is not substantial (usually 30% or less of the sale price, or, in the case of mortgages assumed by the purchaser, 30% of the net equity) and provided the department is satisfied that the method of accounting will correctly reflect the income. The expenses incident to each sale must be deferred on the same basis that the profit arising from the sale is deferred.

(a) When the contract year does not correspond with the corporation's income year and the amount receivable during the first con-

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tract year is substantial, but a relatively small amount is received in the first income year, the sale may be reported for the first income year on the instalment basis. In such case, however, the total profit less the amount of the profit reported in the first income year must be reported as income in the second income year.

(2) Losses sustained on sales of real estate cannot, under any condition, be deferred beyond the income year of sale.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1), Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.72 Exchanges of property by corporations generally.** (Section 71.03 (1) (g), Wis. Stats.) (1) Except where otherwise specifically provided by chapter 71, where property is exchanged for other property which has a fair market value, a taxable gain or deductible loss may result, and such fair market value must be treated as the price realized for the property exchanged and the cost price of the property received, for purposes of future sale. When the property received in exchange has no determinable market value, the property received takes the place of the property exchanged, and no profit or loss is recognized. In the event of future sale in such case, the income tax cost of the original property exchanged becomes the basis for computing the gain or loss on the property received in exchange.

(2) Except where otherwise specifically provided by chapter 71, where property of two different kinds is received in exchange for property, one kind having a determinable fair market value and the other no determinable fair market value, the gain is measured by the excess of the fair market value of the property received over the income tax cost of the property exchanged. The property received which has no determinable fair market value is considered as having no cost in case of future sale, the entire proceeds of such sale being taxable income. If the income tax cost of the property exchanged is in excess of the fair market value of the property received in exchange, such excess shall be taken as the income tax cost of the property received which has no determinable fair market value, no loss being recognized in such cases.

(3) Taxable gain or deductible loss must be computed when used working assets such as automobiles and machinery were traded in on the purchase price of new assets of a like kind in all cases in which the exchange occurred in a taxable year ending prior to December 31, 1957. The only exception to this rule occurs in the case of a taxpayer who has been permitted or required to use a composite rate of depreciation. (For the handling of such exchanges occurring in taxable years ending on and after December 31, 1957, when both the property exchanged and the property received have a situs in Wisconsin, see section 71.03 (6) Wis. Stats.)

(4) In general there are 4 types of exchanges upon which exemption from tax may be claimed:

(a) Exchanges made pursuant to a plan of reorganization.

(b) Exchanges in which the property received in trade has no determinable market value.

(c) Exchanges of property held for productive use or investment pursuant to section 71.03 (5) when the exchange occurred in a taxable year ended on or after December 31, 1957.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, February, 1958, No. 26, eff. 3-1-58; r. (4) (c) and renum. (4) (d) to be (4) (c) and am., Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.721 Exchanges of property held for productive use or investment by corporations.** (Section 71.03 (5), Wis. Stats.)

(1) Property held for productive use in trade or business may be exchanged tax free for property of a like kind held for investment as well as for property of a like kind held for productive use in trade or business, and, similarly, property held for investment may be exchanged tax free for property of a like kind held for productive use in trade or business as well as for property of a like kind held for investment.

(2) The phrase "of a like kind" has reference to the nature or character of the property and not its grade or quality. One kind or class of property may not be exchanged tax free for property of a different kind or class.

(3) A leasehold interest in land cannot be exchanged tax free for a fee title unless the lease has 30 years or more to run.

(4) Where as part of the consideration to the taxpayer another party to the exchange assumed a liability of the taxpayer or acquired from the taxpayer property subject to a liability, such assumption or acquisition (in the amount of the liability) shall be considered as money received by the taxpayer on the exchange.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1958, No. 26, eff. 3-1-58; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.73 Involuntary conversion by corporations.** (Section 71.03 (1) (g), Wis. Stats.) (1) In all cases of gain on involuntary conversion where such gain is not recognized for franchise or income tax purposes, the property acquired in the replacement is deemed to take the place of the property destroyed for purposes of depreciation, depletion and profit or loss on subsequent sale or other disposition.

(2) In all cases of involuntary conversion which result in losses, such losses are allowable in the year in which the conversion takes place.

(3) This section does not apply when insurance money received on the conversion of Wisconsin assets is used in replacement outside of Wisconsin. In such case, the gain or loss must be reported in the year of conversion.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 2.74 Gain or loss on disposition of property by corporations; adjustments to basis.** (Section 71.03 (1) (g), Wis. Stats.) (1) In determining gain or loss disposition of property on or after August 1, 1963 the cost or other basis shall be decreased for exhaustion, wear and tear, obsolescence, amortization, write-offs and depletion by the greater of the following 2 amounts:

(a) The amount allowed as deductions in computing taxable income, to the extent resulting in a reduction of the corporation's income taxes, or

(b) The amount allowable for the years involved.

(2) The determination of the amount properly allowable for exhaustion, wear and tear, obsolescence, amortization, write-offs and depletion shall be made on the basis of the facts reasonably known to exist at the end of the taxable year. A corporation is not permitted to take advantage in a later year of its prior failure to take any such allowance or its taking an allowance plainly inadequate under