This SARS tax guide has been developed to provide a synopsis of the most important tax, duty and levy related information.

INCOME TAX: INDIVIDUALS AND TRUSTS

Tax rates (year of assessment ending 28 February 2014)

Individuals and special trusts

Taxable Income (R)	Rate of Tax (R)
0 – 165 600	18% of taxable income
165 601 – 258 750	29 808 + 25% of taxable income above 165 600
258 751 – 358 110	53 096 + 30% of taxable income above 258 750
358 111 – 500 940	82 904 + 35% of taxable income above 358 110
500 941 – 638 600	132 894 + 38% of taxable income above 500 940
638 601 and above	185 205 + 40% of taxable income above 638 600

Trusts other than special trusts

Rate of Tax 40%

Tax Rebates

Rebates

Primary	R12 080
Secondary (Persons 65 and older)	R6 750
Tertiary (Persons 75 and older)	R2 250

Tax Thresholds

Age	**Tax Threshold**
Below age 65	R67 111
Age 65 to below 75	R104 611
Age 75 and over	R117 111

Provisional Tax

A provisional taxpayer is any person who earns income other than remuneration or an allowance or advance payable by the person's principal. The following individuals are exempt from the payment of provisional tax–

- Individuals below the age of 65 who do not carry on a business and whose taxable income –
  - will not exceed the tax threshold for the tax year; or
  - from interest, foreign dividends and rental will be R20 000 or less for the tax year.
- Individuals age 65 and older if their taxable income for the tax year–
  - consists exclusively of remuneration, interest, foregin dividends or rent from the letting of fixed property; and
  - is R120 000 or less.

A provisional tax return showing an estimation of total taxable income for the year of assessment is only to be submitted if the Commissioner for SARS so requires.

Retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefits

Taxable Income (R)	Rate of Tax (R)
0 – 22 500	0% of taxable income
22 501 - 600 000	18% of taxable income above 22 500
600 001 - 900 000	103 950 + 27% of taxable income above 600 000
900 001 and above	184 950 + 36% of taxable income above 900 000

Retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefits consist of lump sums from a pension, pension preservation, provident, provident preservation or retirement annuity fund on withdrawal (including assignment in terms of a divorce order).
Tax on a specific retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefit (X) is equal to–

- tax determined by applying the tax table to the aggregate of that lump sum X plus all other retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefits accruing from March 2009, all retirement fund lump sum benefits accruing from October 2007 and all severance benefits accruing from March 2011; less
- tax determined by applying the tax table to the aggregate of all retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefits accruing before lump sum X from March 2009, all retirement fund lump sum benefits accruing from October 2007 and all severance benefits accruing from March 2011.

Retirement fund lump sum benefits or severance benefits

Taxable Income (R)	Rate of Tax (R)
0 – 315 000	0% of taxable income
315 001 - 630 000	18% of taxable income above 315 000
630 001 – 945 000	56 700 + 27% of taxable income above 630 000
945 001 and above	141 750 + 36% of taxable income above 945 000

Retirement fund lump sum benefits consist of lump sums from a pension, pension preservation, provident, provident preservation or retirement annuity fund on death, retirement or termination of employment due to redundancy or termination of employer's trade.

Severance benefits consist of lump sums from or by arrangement with an employer due to relinquishment, termination, loss, repudiation, cancellation or variation of a person's office or employment.

Tax on a specific retirement fund lump sum benefit or a severance benefit (Y) is equal to–

- tax determined by applying the tax table to the aggregate of that lump sum or severance benefit Y plus all other retirement fund lump sum benefits accruing from October 2007 and all retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefits accruing from March 2009 and all other severance benefits accruing from March 2011; less
- tax determined by applying the tax table to the aggregate of all retirement fund lump sum benefits accruing before lump sum Y from October 2007 and all retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefits accruing from March 2009 and all severance benefits accruing before severance benefit Y from March 2011.

Foreign Dividends

Most foreign dividends received by individuals from foreign companies (shareholding of less than 10 per cent in the foreign company) are taxable at a maximum effective rate of 15 per cent. No deductions are allowed for expenditure to produce foreign dividends.

Exemptions

Interest

- Interest from a South African source earned by any natural person under 65 years of age, up to R23 800 per annum, and persons 65 and older, up to R34 500 per annum, is exempt from taxation.
- Interest is exempt where earned by non-residents who are physically absent from South Africa for at least 183 days during the 12 month period before the interest accrues or is paid and who are not carrying on business in South Africa through a fixed place of business.

Deductions

Current pension fund contributions

The greater of

- 7,5% of remuneration from retirement funding employment, or
- R1 750.

Any excess may not be carried forward to the following year of assessment.

Arrear pension fund contributions

Maximum of R1 800 per annum. Any excess over R1 800 may be carried forward to the following year of assessment.

Current retirement annuity fund contributions

The greater of

- 15% of taxable income other than from retirement funding employment, or
- R3 500 less current deductions to a pension fund, or
- R1 750.

Any excess may be carried forward to the following year of assessment.

Arrear retirement annuity fund contributions

Maximum of R1 800 per annum. Any excess over R1 800 may be carried forward to the following year of assessment.

Medical and disability expenses

- Taxpayers 65 and older may claim all qualifying expenditure.
- Taxpayers under 65, where the taxpayer or the taxpayer's spouse or child is a person with a disability may in determining tax payable deduct monthly contributions to medical schemes (a tax rebate to be known as a medical scheme fees tax credit) up to R242 for each of the taxpayer and the first dependant on the medical scheme and R162 for each additional dependant. When determining taxable income they can also claim a deduction for medical scheme contributions exceeding four times the amount of the medical schemes fees tax credits and claim all qualifying medical expenses (which excludes medical scheme contributions).
- Other taxpayers under 65 may in determining tax payable deduct monthly contributions to medical schemes (a tax rebate to be known as a medical scheme fees tax credit) up to R242 for each of the taxpayer and the first dependant on the medical scheme and R162 for each additional dependant. When determining taxable income they can also claim a deduction for the aggregate of medical scheme contributions exceeding four times the amount of the medical schemes fees tax credits and any other medical expenses, limited to the amount which exceeds 7,5% of taxable income (excluding retirement fund lump sums).

Donations

Deductions in respect of donations to certain public benefit organisations are limited to 10% of taxable income before deducting medical expenses (excluding retirement fund lump sums).

Allowances

Subsistence allowances and advances

Where recipients are obliged to spend at least one night away from their usual place of residence on business and the accommodation to which that allowance or advance relates is in the Republic and the allowance or advance is granted to pay for—

- meals and incidental costs, an amount of R319 per day is deemed to have been expended;
- incidental costs only, an amount of R98 for each day which falls within the period is deemed to have been expended

Where the accommodation to which that allowance or advance relates is outside the Republic, a specific amount per country is deemed to have been expended. Details of these amounts are published on the SARS website under Legal & Policy / Legislation / Regulations and Government Notices / Income Tax Act, 1962

Travelling allowance

Rates per kilometre which may be used in determining the allowable deduction for business-travel, where no records of actual costs are kept are determined by using the following table.

Value of the vehicle (including VAT) (R)	Fixed cost (R p.a.)	Fuel cost (c/km)	Maintenance cost (c/km)
0 - 60 000	19 310	81.4	26.2
60 001 - 120 000	38 333	86.1	29.5
120 001 - 180 000	52 033	90.8	32.8
180 001 - 240 000	65 667	98.7	39.4
240 001 - 300 000	78 192	113.6	46.3
300 001 - 360 000	90 668	130.3	54.4
360 001 - 420 000	104 374	134.7	67.7
420 001 - 480 000	118 078	147.7	70.5
exceeding 480 000	118 078	147.7	70.5

Note: 80% of the travelling allowance must be included in the employee's remuneration for the purposes of calculating PAYE. The percentage is reduced to 20% if the employer is satisfied that at least 80% of the use of the motor vehicle for the tax year will be for business purposes.

No fuel cost may be claimed if the employee has not borne the full cost of fuel used in the vehicle and no maintenance cost may be claimed if the employee has not borne the full cost of maintaining the vehicle (e.g. if the vehicle is the subject of a maintenance plan).

The fixed cost must be reduced on a pro-rata basis if the vehicle is used for business purposes for less than a full year.

The actual distance travelled during a tax year and the distance travelled for business purposes substantiated by a log book are used to determine the costs which may be claimed against a travelling allowance.

Alternatively:

- Where the distance travelled for business purposes does not exceed 8 000 kilometres per annum, no tax is payable on an allowance paid by an employer to an employee up to the rate of 324 cents per kilometre, regardless of the value of the vehicle.
- This alternative is not available if other compensation in the form of an allowance or reimbursement is received from the employer in respect of the vehicle.

Other deductions

Other than the deductions set out above an individual may only claim deductions against employment income or allowances in limited specified situations, e.g. bad debt in respect of salary.

Fringe Benefits

Employer-owned vehicles

- The taxable value is 3,5% of the determined value (the cash cost including VAT) per month of each vehicle. Where the vehicle is–
  - the subject of a maintenance plan when the employer acquired the vehicle the taxable value is 3,25% of the determined value; or

- acquired by the employer under an operating lease the taxable value is cost incurred by the employer under the operating lease plus the cost of fuel.
- 80% of the fringe benefit must be included in the employee's remuneration for the purposes of calculating PAYE. The percentage is reduced to 20% if the employer is satisfied that at least 80% of the use of the motor vehicle for the tax year will be for business purposes.
- On assessment the fringe benefit for the tax year is reduced by the ratio of the distance travelled for business purposes substantiated by a log book divided by the actual distance travelled during the tax year.
- On assessment further relief is available for the cost of licence, insurance, maintenance and fuel for private travel if the full cost thereof has been borne by the employee and if the distance travelled for private purposes is substantiated by a log book.

Interest-free or low-interest loans
The difference between interest charged at the official rate and the actual amount of interest charged, is to be included in gross income.

Residential accommodation
The fringe benefit to be included in gross income is the greater of the benefit calculated by applying a prescribed formula or the cost to the employer

The formula will apply if the accommodation is owned by the employer, by an associated institution in relation to the employer, or under certain limited circumstances where it is not owned by the employer.

DIVIDENDS TAX

Dividends tax is imposed at 15% on dividends paid by resident companies and by non-resident companies in respect of shares listed on the JSE. Dividends are tax exempt if the beneficial owner of the dividend is a South African company, retirement fund or other exempt person. The tax is to be withheld by companies paying the taxable dividends or by regulated intermediaries in the case of dividends on listed shares.

INCOME TAX: COMPANIES

Financial years ending on any date between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014

Type	Rate of Tax
Companies	28%

INCOME TAX: SMALL BUSINESS CORPORATIONS

Financial years ending on any date between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014

Taxable Income (R)	Rate of Tax (R)
0 – 67 111	0% of taxable income
67 112 – 365 000	7% of taxable income above 67 111
365 001 – 550 000	20 852 + 21% of taxable income above 365 000
550 001 and above	59 702 + 28% of the amount above 550 000

TURNOVER TAX FOR MICRO BUSINESSES

Financial years ending on any date between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014

Taxable turnover (R)	Rate of tax (R)
0 – 150 000	0% of taxable turnover
150 001 – 300 000	1% of taxable turnover above 150 000
300 001 – 500 000	1 500 + 2% of taxable turnover above 300 000
500 001 – 750 000	5 500 + 4% of taxable turnover above 500 000
750 001 and above	15 500 + 6% of taxable turnover above 750 000

RESIDENCE BASIS OF TAXATION

Residents are taxed on their worldwide income, subject to certain exclusions. Foreign taxes on that income are allowed as a credit against South African tax payable. This is applicable to individuals, companies, close corporations and trusts.

TAXATION OF CAPITAL GAINS

Capital gains on the disposal of assets are included in taxable income.

Maximum effective rate of tax:

Individuals and special trusts	13.3%
Companies	18.6%
Other trusts	26.6%

Events that trigger a disposal include a sale, donation, exchange, loss, death and emigration.

The following are some of the specific exclusions:
- R2 million gain/loss on the disposal of a primary residence
- most personal use assets
- retirement benefits
- payments in respect of original long-term insurance policies
- annual exclusion of R30 000 capital gain or capital loss is granted to individuals and special trusts
- small business exclusion of capital gains for individuals (at least 55 years of age) of R1.8 million when a small business with a market value not exceeding R10 million is disposed of
- instead of the annual exclusion, the exclusion granted to individuals is R300 000 for the year of death.

OTHER TAXES DUTIES AND LEVIES

Value-added Tax (VAT)
VAT is levied at the standard rate of 14% on the supply of goods and services by registered vendors.

A vendor making taxable supplies of more than R1 million per annum must register for VAT and a vendor making taxable supplies of more than R50 000 but not more than R1 million per annum may apply for voluntary registration. Certain supplies are subject to a zero rate or are exempt from VAT.

Transfer Duty

Transfer duty is payable at the following rates on transactions which are not subject to VAT:
Acquisition of property by all persons:

Value of property (R)	Rate
0 – 600 000	0%
600 001 – 1 000 000	3% of the value above R600 000
1 000 001 – 1 500 000	R12 000 + 5% of the value above R 1000 000
1 500 001 and above	R37 000 + 8% of the value exceeding R1 500 000

Estate Duty

Estate duty is levied at a flat rate of 20% on property of residents and South African property of non-residents.

A basic deduction of R3.5 million is allowed in the determination of an estate's liability for estate duty as well as deductions for liabilities, bequests to public benefit organisations and property accruing to surviving spouses.

Donations Tax

- Donations tax is levied at a flat rate of 20% on the value of property donated.
- The first R100 000 of property donated in each year by a natural person is exempt from donations tax.
- In the case of a taxpayer who is not a natural person, the exempt donations are limited to casual gifts not exceeding R10 000 per annum in total.
- Dispositions between spouses and donations to certain public benefit organisations are exempt from donations tax.

Securities Transfer Tax

The tax is imposed at a rate of 0.25 of a per cent on the transfer of listed or unlisted securities. Securities consist of shares in companies or member's interests in close corporations.

Tax on International Air Travel

R190 per passenger departing on international flights excluding flights to Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland, in which case the tax is R100.

Skills Development Levy

A skills development levy is payable by employers at a rate of 1% of the total remuneration paid to employees. Employers paying annual remuneration of less than R500 000 are exempt from the payment of Skills Development Levies.

Unemployment Insurance Contributions

Unemployment insurance contributions are payable monthly by employers on the basis of a contribution of 1 per cent by employers and 1 per cent by employees, based on employees' remuneration below a certain amount.

Employers not registered for PAYE or SDL purposes must pay the contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Commissioner.

SARS INTEREST RATES

Rate of interest (from 1 August 2012)	Rate
Fringe benefits - interest-free or low-interest loan (official rate)	6% p.a.
Rates of interest (from 1 March 2011)	**Rate**
Late or underpayment of tax	8.5% p.a.
Refund of overpayment of provisional tax	4.5% p.a.
Refund of tax on successful appeal or where the appeal was conceded by SARS	8.5% p.a.
Refund of VAT after prescribed period	8.5% p.a.
Late payment of VAT	8.5% p.a.
Customs and Excise	8.5% p.a.

2013 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Personal income tax relief of R7 billion
- An employment tax incentive targeted to support young workers and those employed in special economic zones
- Individuals whose taxable income is from one employer and is below R250 000 a year are not required to submit income tax returns
- Levies on fuel increase by 23c per litre from 3 April 2013
- From March 2014 an employer's contribution to retirement funds on behalf of an employee will be treated as a taxable fringe benefit in the hands of the employee. Individuals will from that date be allowed to deduct up to 27.5 per cent of the higher of taxable income or employment income for contributions to pension, provident and retirement annuity funds with a maximum annual deduction of R350 000. Contributions above the cap are carried forward to future tax years
- Streamlining registration with SARS and reducing compliance requirements for the submission of tax returns by businesses
- Requiring foreign businesses supplying e-books, music and other electronic services in South Africa to register as VAT vendors
- Several measures are proposed to limit the deduction of interest on specific types of debt to protect the tax base
- An automated tax clearance system will be implemented this year
- Policy paper on carbon emissions tax to be published in 2013 with the view of introducing a carbon tax from 2015.

To see how your tax touches lives, visit
www.sars.gov.za

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Tax Guide
Budget 2013

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