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Self-Employment Tax

For use in preparing
2000 Returns



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Purpose

The purpose of this publication is to help you understand self-employment tax. It explains:

- What self-employment tax is,
- Why you pay it,
- How you pay it,
- Who must pay it, and
- How to report it on your tax return.

How to use this publication. This publication is designed to be used with **Schedule SE (Form 1040)** and its instructions. Schedule SE is used to figure and report the self-employment tax. This publication may help you if you need more information than the form or instructions provide.

Important Changes

Tax rates and maximum net earnings for self-employment taxes. The self-employment tax rate on net earnings remains the same for tax year 2000 and 2001. This rate, 15.3%, is a total of 12.4% for social security (old-age, survivors, and disability insurance) and 2.9% for Medicare (hospital insurance).

The maximum amount subject to the social security part for tax years beginning in 2000 is \$76,200. For 2001, that amount increases to \$80,400. All your net earnings of at least \$400 are subject to the Medicare tax.

Revocation of religious exemption. Ministers, members of religious orders not under vows of poverty, and Christian Science practitioners who previously elected exemption from social security coverage and self-employment tax now have a limited period of time to revoke that exemption. For more information, see *Revocation of exemption from SE tax* later under *Minister or Member of Religious Order*.

Photographs of missing children. The Internal Revenue Service is a proud partner with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Photographs of missing children selected by the Center may appear in this publication on pages that would otherwise be blank. You can help bring these children home by looking at the photographs and calling **1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)** if you recognize a child.

Introduction

Comments and suggestions. We welcome your comments about this publication and your suggestions for future editions.

You can e-mail us while visiting our web site at www.irs.gov/help/email2.html.

You can write to us at the following address:

Internal Revenue Service
Technical Publications Branch
W:CAR:MP:FP:P
1111 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20224

We respond to many letters by telephone. Therefore, it would be helpful if you would include your daytime phone number, including the area code, in your correspondence.

Useful Items

You may want to see:

Publication

- 15** Circular E, Employer's Tax Guide
- 15-A** Employer's Supplemental Tax Guide
- 225** Farmer's Tax Guide
- 505** Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax
- 517** Social Security and Other Information for Members of the Clergy and Religious Workers
- 541** Partnerships
- 911** Direct Sellers

Form (and Instructions)

- 1040** U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
- Sch C (Form 1040)** Profit or Loss From Business
- Sch C-EZ (Form 1040)** Net Profit From Business
- Sch SE (Form 1040)** Self-Employment Tax
- 2031** Revocation of Exemption From Self-Employment Tax for Use by Ministers, Members of Religious Orders, and Christian Science Practitioners
- 4029** Application for Exemption From Social Security and Medicare Taxes and Waiver of Benefits

- 4361** Application for Exemption From Self-Employment Tax for Use by Ministers, Members of Religious Orders, and Christian Science Practitioners

See *How To Get Tax Help* near the end of this publication for information about getting publications and forms.

What Is Self-Employment Tax?

Self-employment tax (SE tax) is a social security and Medicare tax for individuals who work for themselves. It is similar to the social security and Medicare taxes withheld from the pay of wage earners.

You must figure SE tax yourself using Schedule SE. Social security and Medicare taxes of wage earners are figured by their employers. Also, you can deduct half of your SE tax from your adjusted gross income. Wage earners cannot deduct social security and Medicare taxes.

SE tax rate. The self-employment tax rate is **15.3%**. The rate consists of two parts: 12.4% for social security (old-age, survivors, and disability insurance) and 2.9% for Medicare (hospital insurance).

Maximum earnings subject to SE tax. Only the first \$76,200 of your combined wages, tips, and net earnings in 2000 is subject to any combination of the 12.4% social security part of SE tax, social security tax, or railroad retirement (tier 1) tax.

All your combined wages, tips, and net earnings in 2000 are subject to any combination of the 2.9% Medicare part of SE tax, social security tax, or railroad retirement (tier 1) tax.

Fiscal year filer. If you use a tax year other than the calendar year, you must use the tax rate and maximum earnings limit in effect at the beginning of your tax year. Even if the tax rate or maximum earnings limit changes during your tax year, continue to use the same rate and limit throughout your tax year.

Self-employment tax deduction. You can deduct half of your SE tax in figuring your adjusted gross income. This deduction only affects your income tax. It does not affect either your net earnings from self-employment or your SE tax.

To deduct the tax, enter on **Form 1040**, line 27, the amount shown on the "Deduction for one-half of self-employment tax" line of the Schedule SE.

Why Pay Self-Employment Tax?

Social security benefits are available to self-employed persons just as they are to wage earners. Your payments of SE tax contribute to your coverage under the social security system. Social security coverage provides you with retirement benefits, disability benefits, survivor benefits, and hospital insurance (Medicare) benefits.



By not reporting all your self-employment income, you could cause your social security benefits to be lower when you retire.

How to become insured under social security. You must be insured under the social security system before you begin receiving social security benefits. You are insured if you have the required number of credits (also called quarters of coverage). It does not matter whether the income is earned in one quarter or is spread over two or more quarters.

Earning credits in 2000 and 2001. You can earn a maximum of four credits per year. For 2000, you earn one credit for each \$780 (\$830 for 2001) of income subject to social security taxes. You need \$3,120 (\$780 × 4) of self-employment income and wages to earn four credits in 2000. For 2001, you will need \$3,320 (\$830 × 4) of self-employment income and wages to earn four credits.

For an explanation of the number of credits you must have to be insured and the benefits available to you and your family under the social security program, consult your nearest Social Security Administration (SSA) office.



Making false statements to get or to increase social security benefits may subject you to penalties.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) time limit for posting self-employment income. Generally, the Social Security Administration will give you credit only for self-employment income reported on a tax return filed within 3 years, 3 months, and 15 days after the taxable year you earned the income. If you file your tax return or report a change in your self-employment income after this time limit, SSA may change its records, but only to remove or reduce the amount. SSA will not change its records to increase your self-employment income.

How To Pay Self-Employment Tax

To pay SE tax, you must have a social security number (SSN). This section explains how to:

- Obtain a social security number, and
- Pay your SE tax using estimated tax.

Obtaining a Social Security Number

If you never had an SSN, apply for one using **Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card**. You can get this form at any Social Security office or by calling **1-800-772-1213**.



You can also download Form SS-5 from the Social Security Administration web site, **www.ssa.gov**.

If you have a social security number from the time you were an employee, you must use that SSN. Do not apply for a new one.

Replacing a lost social security card. If you have a number but lost your card, file **Form SS-5**. You will get a new card showing your original number, not a new number.

Name change. If your name has changed since you received your social security card, complete Form SS-5 to report the name change.

Paying Estimated Tax

Estimated tax is the method used to pay tax (including SE tax) on income not subject to withholding. You generally have to make estimated tax payments if you expect to owe tax, including self-employment tax, of \$1,000 or more when you file your return. Use **Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals**, to figure and pay the tax.

How to avoid paying estimated tax. If you are self-employed and you are also an employee, you may be able to avoid paying estimated tax by having your employer increase the income tax taken out of your pay. Use **Form W-4** to increase your withholding.

Penalty for underpayment of estimated tax. You may have to pay a penalty if you do not pay enough estimated tax by its due date.

More information. For more information on estimated tax, see Publication 505.

Who Must Pay Self-Employment Tax?

You must pay SE tax and file Schedule SE if either of the following applies.

- 1) You were self-employed and your net earnings from self-employment (excluding income described in (2)) were \$400 or more.
- 2) You performed services for a church as an employee and received income of \$108.28 or more.



The SE tax rules apply no matter how old you are and even if you are already getting social security or Medicare benefits.

Aliens. Resident aliens are generally subject to the same rules as U.S. citizens. Nonresident aliens do not pay SE tax. Residents of the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, the CNMI, or American Samoa, however, are subject to the tax. For SE tax purposes, they are not nonresident aliens.

Church employee. If you work for a church or a qualified church-controlled organization (other than as a minister or member of a religious order) that elected an exemption from social security and Medicare taxes, you must pay SE tax if you receive \$108.28 or more in wages from the church or organization.

However, you can elect to be exempt from SE taxes if you are a member of a qualifying religious sect. See

Member of Recognized Religious Sect, later. Both you and your employer must receive an approved copy of the application for exemption from social security coverage before the exemption can take effect. Employees use **Form 4029** to apply for an exemption.

State or local government employee. You must pay SE tax if you are an employee of a state or local government, are paid solely on a fee basis, and your services are not covered under a federal-state social security agreement.

Foreign government or international organization employee. You are subject to SE tax if both the following conditions are true.

- 1) You are a U.S. citizen employed in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), or the Virgin Islands by:
 - a) A foreign government,
 - b) A wholly-owned instrumentality of a foreign government, or
 - c) An international organization.
- 2) Your employer does not deduct social security and Medicare taxes from your income.

U.S. citizen or resident alien residing abroad. If you are a self-employed U.S. citizen or resident alien living outside the United States, in most cases you must pay SE tax. Do not reduce your foreign earnings from self-employment by your foreign earned income exclusion.

Exception. The United States has social security (totalization) agreements with many countries to eliminate double taxation under two social security systems. (See *Table 1.*) Under these bilateral agreements, you must generally pay social security and Medicare taxes to only the country you live in. The country to which you must pay the tax will issue a certificate which serves as proof of exemption from social security tax in the other country.

Table 1. Countries With Social Security Agreements

The following countries have social security agreements with the United States.

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| ● Austria | ● Luxembourg |
| ● Belgium | ● The Netherlands |
| ● Canada | ● Norway |
| ● Finland | ● Portugal |
| ● France | ● Spain |
| ● Germany | ● Sweden |
| ● Greece | ● Switzerland |
| ● Ireland | ● The United Kingdom |
| ● Italy | |

More information. For more information, contact the social security agency of the country in which you are living, visit the United States Social Security Administration web site at www.ssa.gov/international, or you can write to:

Social Security Administration
Office of International Programs
P.O. Box 17741
Baltimore, MD 21235-7741

Are You Self-Employed?

You are self-employed if any of the following apply to you.

- 1) You carry on a trade or business as a sole proprietor or an independent contractor.
- 2) You are a member of a partnership that carries on a trade or business.
- 3) You are otherwise in business for yourself.

Trade or business. A trade or business is generally an activity carried on for a livelihood or in good faith to make a profit. The facts and circumstances of each case determine whether or not an activity is a trade or business. The regularity of activities and transactions and the production of income are important elements. You do not need to actually make a profit to be in a trade or business as long as you have a profit motive. You do need, however, to make ongoing efforts to further the interests of your business.

Part-time business. You do not have to carry on regular full-time business activities to be self-employed. Having a part-time business in addition to your regular job or business may also be self-employment.

Example. You are employed full time as an engineer at the local plant. You fix televisions and radios during the weekends. You have your own shop, equipment, and tools. You get your customers from advertising and word-of-mouth. The income you earn from your repair shop is SE income.

Sole proprietor. You are a sole proprietor if you own an unincorporated business by yourself.

Independent contractor. People such as lawyers, accountants, contractors, subcontractors, public stenographers, or auctioneers who are in an independent trade, business, or profession in which they offer their services to the general public are generally not employees. The general rule is that an individual is an independent contractor if the payer has the right to control or direct only the result of the work and not what will be done and how it will be done. Income earned by a person who is working as an independent contractor is SE income. However, whether those people are independent contractors or employees depends on the facts in each case.

You are not an independent contractor if you perform services that can be controlled by an employer (what will be done and how it will be done). This applies even if you are given freedom of action. What matters is that the employer has the legal right to control the details of how the services are performed. If an employer-employee relationship exists (regardless of what the relationship is called), you are not an independent contractor and your income is not subject to SE tax.

More information. For more information on determining whether you are an independent contractor or an employee, see Publication 15–A.

Guidelines for Selected Occupations

This section provides information to help you determine whether your income from one of the following occupations is subject to SE tax.

- Retired or former insurance agent.
- Fishing crew member.
- Newspaper carrier or distributor.
- Notary public.
- Public official.
- Real estate agent or direct seller.
- Dealer in securities.
- Executor or administrator.
- Minister or member of religious order.
- Member of recognized religious sect.
- Trader in securities.

Retired Insurance Agent

Income paid by an insurance company to a retired insurance agent based on a percentage of commissions received before retirement is SE income. Also, renewal commissions and deferred commissions for sales made before retirement are generally SE income.

However, renewal commissions paid to the survivor of an insurance agent are not SE income.

Former Insurance Agent

Certain termination payments made to a former insurance agent by an insurance company for services performed for that company are exempt from SE tax if all the following requirements are met.

- The payments are made after December 31, 1997.
- The payments are received after the agent's agreement to perform services for the company has ended.
- The agent performs no services for the company after the service agreement ends and before the end of the tax year.
- The agent enters into a covenant not to compete against the company for at least the 1-year period beginning on the date the service agreement ended.
- The payment depends primarily on policies sold by or credited to the account of the agent during the last year of the service agreement or on the extent to which those policies remain in force for some period after the service agreement ends, or both.
- The amount of the payment does not depend to any extent on the length of service or overall earnings from services performed for the company (regardless of whether eligibility for payment depends on length of service).

Fishing Crew Member

If you are a member of the crew on a boat that catches fish or other water life, you are self-employed if all the following conditions apply.

- 1) You do not get any pay for the work except your share of the catch or the proceeds from the sale of the catch, unless the pay meets all the following conditions.
 - a) The pay is not more than \$100 per trip.
 - b) The pay is received only if there is a minimum catch.
 - c) The pay is solely for additional duties (such as mate, engineer, or cook) for which additional cash pay is traditional in the fishing industry.
- 2) You get a share of the catch or a share of the proceeds from the sale of the catch.
- 3) Your share depends on the amount of the catch.
- 4) The boat's operating crew normally numbers fewer than 10 individuals. (An operating crew is considered as normally made up of fewer than 10 if the average size of the crew on trips made during the last four calendar quarters is fewer than 10.)

More information. For more information, see Publication 595, *Tax Highlights for Commercial Fishermen*.

Newspaper Carrier or Distributor

A special rule applies to services you perform as a newspaper carrier or distributor.

Treated as self-employed. You are a direct seller and you are treated as self-employed for federal tax purposes if all the following conditions apply.

- 1) You are in the business of delivering/distributing newspapers or shopping news, including directly related services such as soliciting customers and collecting receipts.
- 2) Substantially all your pay for these services directly relates to sales or other output rather than to the number of hours worked.
- 3) You perform the delivery services under a written contract between you and the service recipient that states you will not be treated as an employee for federal tax purposes.

This rule applies whether or not you hire others to help you make deliveries. It also applies whether you buy the papers from the publisher or are paid based on the number of papers you deliver.

Treated as an employee. If you do not meet the above conditions, you may be an employee subject to having taxes withheld from your pay. As an employee, you would not have to pay SE tax on this income. Wages newspaper carrier employees receive for delivering newspapers or shopping news to customers are subject to withholding for social security and Medicare taxes if

the carrier is 18 or over. See Publication 15–A for more information about who is an employee.

Carrier, distributor, or vendor under age 18. Your income is not subject to SE tax if you are under age 18 and you are a newspaper carrier or distributor (who does not deliver or distribute to any point for subsequent delivery or distribution) or a vendor (who works under a buy-sell arrangement).

Notary Public

Fees received for services performed as a notary public are not subject to SE tax.

Public Official

Public officials generally do not pay SE tax on what they earn for serving in public office. This rule applies to payments received by an elected tax collector from state funds on the basis of a fixed percentage of the taxes collected. Public office includes any elective or appointive office of the United States or its possessions, the District of Columbia, a state or its political subdivisions, or a wholly owned instrumentality of any of these.

Exception. Public officials of state or local governments must pay SE tax on their fees if they are paid solely on a fee basis and if their services are eligible for, but not covered by, social security under a federal-state agreement.

Real Estate Agent or Direct Seller

If you are a licensed real estate agent or a direct seller, you may be treated as self-employed if both the following apply.

- Substantially all your pay for services as a real estate agent or direct seller is directly related to sales or other output rather than to hours worked.
- The services are performed under a written contract that provides the real estate agent or direct seller will not be treated as an employee for federal tax purposes. As a self-employed real estate agent or direct seller, your income is subject to SE tax.

For more information, see Publication 15–A. Direct sellers should also see Publication 911.

Dealer in Securities

If you are a dealer in options and commodities, you must figure net earnings from self-employment by including gains and losses from dealing or trading in section 1256 contracts (regulated futures contracts, foreign currency contracts, nonequity options, and dealer equity options) or property related to those contracts, such as stock used to hedge options. See sections 1256 and 1402(i) of the Internal Revenue Code for more information.

Executor or Administrator

If you administer a deceased person's estate, your fees are included in net earnings from self-employment if you are one of the following.

- 1) A professional fiduciary.
- 2) A nonprofessional fiduciary (personal representative), and:
 - a) The estate includes an active trade or business in which you actively participate, and
 - b) Your fees are related to the operation of that trade or business.
- 3) A nonprofessional fiduciary of a single estate that requires extensive managerial activities on your part for a long period of time, provided these activities are enough to be considered a trade or business.

Report fees that are included in net earnings on Schedule C or C–EZ. If the fees are not included in net earnings, report them on line 21 of **Form 1040**.

Minister or Member of Religious Order

In most cases, you must pay SE tax on salaries and other income for services you performed as a minister, **Christian Science practitioner**, or member of a religious order who has not taken a vow of poverty. But you can get an exemption from SE tax on certain earnings by filing **Form 4361**.

For more information on getting an exemption, see Publication 517.

Revocation of exemption from SE tax. If you previously elected the exemption from social security coverage and SE tax, you now have from January 1, 2000, to April 15, 2002, to revoke this exemption by filing **Form 2031** with the IRS. This period is extended beyond April 15, 2002, if you get an extension to file your 2001 return. The revocation will be effective for the year the revocation was made (2000 or 2001) and for all later years. You will be covered under the social security system and your earnings will be subject to SE tax during those years. Once you revoke the exemption, you can **never again** elect an exemption from SE tax and social security coverage.

Member of religious order who has taken a vow of poverty. If you belong to a religious order and took a vow of poverty, you are automatically exempt from SE tax for amounts received while working for a church or an integral agency of the church. However, amounts you receive for performing services for an organization other than the church are not exempt from SE tax.

Member of Recognized Religious Sect

If you belong to a recognized religious sect opposed to insurance, you may qualify for an exemption from the SE tax. To qualify, you must be conscientiously opposed to accepting the benefits of any public or private insurance that makes payments because of death, disability, old age, retirement, or medical care, or that provides services for medical care. If you buy a retirement annuity from an insurance company, you will not be eligible for this exemption. Religious opposition based on sect teachings is the only legal basis for the

exemption. In addition, your religious sect (or division) must have existed since December 31, 1950.

To get the exemption, you must file in triplicate **Form 4029** and waive all social security benefits.

Trader in Securities

You are a trader in securities if you are engaged in the business of buying and selling securities for your own account. As a trader in securities, your gain or loss from the disposition of securities is not taken into account when you figure net earnings from self-employment. However, see *Dealer in Securities*, earlier, for an exception that applies to section 1256 contracts. For more information about traders in securities, see Publication 550.

What Are Net Earnings From Self-Employment?

The net profit subject to SE tax is called net earnings from self-employment. Your net profit is shown on the lines of the following schedules:

Schedule C (Form 1040)	Line 31
Schedule C-EZ (Form 1040)	Line 3
Schedule F (Form 1040)	Line 36
Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	Line 15a
Schedule K-1 (Form 1065-B)	Box 9

Some of the types of income you include in net earnings from self-employment are discussed next.

Community Income

If any of the income from a trade or business, other than a partnership, is community income under state law, it is included in the net earnings of the spouse carrying on the trade or business. The identity of the spouse carrying on the trade or business is determined by the facts in each case.

Dividends

Include dividends on securities you own in net earnings from self-employment if you are a dealer in securities who is not holding the securities for speculation or investment.

Gain or Loss

Do not include in net earnings a gain or loss from the disposition of property that is neither stock in trade nor held primarily for sale to customers. It does not matter whether the disposition is a sale, exchange, or an involuntary conversion. For example, gains or losses from the disposition of the following types of property are not included in net earnings.

- Investment property.
- Depreciable property or other fixed assets used in your trade or business.
- Livestock held for draft, dairy, breeding, or sporting purposes and not held primarily for sale, regardless of how long the livestock were held or whether they were raised or purchased.
- Standing crops sold with land held more than one year.

- Timber, coal, or iron ore held for more than one year, if an economic interest was retained, such as a right to receive coal royalties.

A gain or loss from the cutting of timber is not included in net earnings if the cutting is treated as a sale or exchange. For more information on electing to treat the cutting of timber as a sale or exchange, see *Timber* in chapter 2 of Publication 544.

Interest Income

Include in net earnings from self-employment interest income you receive in the ordinary course of your trade or business. This includes interest you receive on the following items.

- 1) Notes or accounts receivable.
- 2) Loans (if you are in the business of making loans).
- 3) Bonds, notes, or other debt issued with interest coupons or in registered form by a corporation or governmental entity if:
 - a) You are a dealer in stocks or securities, and
 - b) You do not hold the securities for speculation or investment.

Lost Income Payments

If you are self-employed and reduce or stop your business activities, any payment you receive from insurance or other sources for the lost business income is included in net earnings from self-employment. If you are not working when you receive the payment, it still relates to your business and is included in net earnings, even though your business is temporarily inactive.

If there is a connection between any payment you receive and your trade or business, the payment is included in net earnings. A connection exists if it is clear the payment would not have been made but for your conduct of the trade or business.

Partnership Income or Loss

If you are a member of a partnership that carries on a trade or business, your distributive share of its income or loss from the trade or business is included in your net earnings from self-employment. Guaranteed payments from your partnership should be included, along with your share of income or losses, when you figure your net earnings from self-employment.

For information on partnerships, see Publication 541.

Inactive partner. If you are an inactive partner, your net earnings from self-employment include your distributive share of partnership income (or loss) and any guaranteed payments.

Limited partner. If you are a limited partner, your net earnings from self-employment include guaranteed payments, such as salary and professional fees received for services performed during the year. They do not include the distributive share of partnership income (or loss).

Retired partner. If you are a retired partner, your retirement income received from the partnership under a written plan is not subject to SE tax if all the following apply.

- You receive lifelong periodic payments.
- Your share of the partnership capital was fully paid to you.
- You did not perform any services for the partnership during the year.
- You are owed nothing but the retirement payments by the partnership.

Husband and wife partners. If you and your spouse join together in the conduct of a business and share in the profits and losses, you have created a partnership. The partnership must report the business income and expenses on **Form 1065, U.S. Return of Partnership Income**, along with Schedule K-1 showing each partner's share of the net income. Both of you must report the net income on Form 1040 and file separate Schedules SE (Form 1040) to report your individual SE tax.

However, if your spouse is your employee, not your partner, you must pay social security and Medicare taxes for him or her. For more information, see Publication 15.

Investment club partner. If you are a member of an investment club partnership, your share of the club's income is not included in net earnings from self-employment if the club limits its activities to the following activities.

- Investing in savings certificates, stock, or securities.
- Collecting interest or dividends for its members' accounts.

Community income from a partnership. If you are a partner and your distributive share of any income or loss from a trade or business carried on by the partnership is community income, treat your share as your net earnings from self-employment. Do not treat any of your share as net earnings of your spouse.

Different tax years. If your tax year is not the same as your partnership's, report your share of partnership income (or loss) on your return for the year that includes the end of the partnership tax year.

Example. You file your return on a calendar year basis, but your partnership uses the fiscal year ending January 31. You must include on your return for calendar year 2000 your distributive share of partnership earnings and your guaranteed payments for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2000.

Death of a partner. When a partner dies, his or her distributive share of partnership income (or loss) is figured through the end of the month in which the death occurs. This is true even though the decedent's estate

or heirs may succeed to rights in the partnership. The partnership income (or loss) for the year is treated as though it was earned in equal amounts each month.

Example. ABC Partnership operates a business. Its tax year ends on December 31. A partner dies on August 18. The deceased partner's (and his or her estate's) distributive share of partnership income for the year of death is \$12,000. That partner's SE income from the partnership is \$8,000 ($\frac{8}{12} \times \$12,000$).

Corporate Director, Employee, or Shareholder

This section provides information to help you determine whether your income is subject to SE tax if you are one of the following.

- Corporate director.
- Corporate employee or officer.
- Shareholder or officer of an S corporation.

Corporate director. Fees you receive for performing services as a director of a corporation are included in net earnings from self-employment. It does not matter whether the fees are for going to directors' meetings or for serving on committees.

Corporate employee or officer. Even if you own most or all of the stock of a corporation, your income as an employee or officer of the corporation is not subject to SE tax.

S corporation shareholder and officer. If you are a shareholder in an S corporation, your share of the corporation's taxable income is not SE income, even though you include it in your gross income for income tax purposes.

If you are a shareholder and also an officer of an S corporation and perform substantial services, you are an employee of the S corporation. Your payment for services is subject to withholding for social security and Medicare taxes and is not SE income, regardless of what the S corporation calls the payments.

Real Estate Rent

Rental income from real estate and personal property leased with real estate is not included in net earnings from self-employment unless either of the following applies to you.

- You are a real estate dealer.
- You provide services for your tenants.

Real estate dealer. You are a real estate dealer if you are engaged in the business of selling real estate to customers with the purpose of making a profit from those sales. Rent you receive from real estate held for sale to customers is included in net earnings from self-employment. However, rent you receive from real estate held for speculation or investment is not SE income.

Trailer park owner. Rental income from a trailer park is included in net earnings from self-employment if you are a trailer park owner who provides trailer lots and facilities and substantial services for the convenience of your tenants.

You generally are considered to provide substantial services for tenants if they are primarily for the tenants' convenience and are not normally provided to maintain the lots in a condition for occupancy. Services are substantial if the compensation for the services makes up a material part of the tenants' rental payments.

Examples of services that are for the tenants' convenience include supervising and maintaining a recreational hall provided by the park, distributing a monthly newsletter to tenants, operating a laundry facility, and helping tenants buy or sell their trailers.

Examples of services that are normally provided to maintain the lots in a condition for tenant occupancy include city sewerage, electrical connections, and roadways.

Hotels, boarding houses, and apartments. Rental income you receive for the use or occupancy of hotels, boarding houses, or apartment houses is included in net earnings from self-employment if you provide services for the occupants.

Generally, you are considered to provide services for the occupants if the services are primarily for their convenience and not services normally provided with the rental of rooms for occupancy only. An example of a service provided for the convenience of the occupants is maid service. However, providing heat and light, cleaning stairways and lobbies, and collecting trash are not services primarily for the occupants' convenience.

Depreciation Recapture

If you recaptured any depreciation, including any section 179 deduction, because the business use of certain property was reduced to 50% or less, these recaptured amounts are included in net earnings from self-employment. This rule does not apply to amounts recaptured on the disposition of property. For more information, see the instructions for **Form 4797, Sales of Business Property**.

U.S. Possession Self-Employment Income

If you have income from self-employment in a U.S. possession, include it in net earnings from self-employment, even if your U.S. possession income is exempt from U.S. income tax.

Places treated as U.S. possessions. The following places are treated as U.S. possessions.

- Guam
- American Samoa
- The Virgin Islands
- The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

- Puerto Rico

Form to file. Use the following table to select the appropriate form to file to report your net earnings.

Table 2. **Form To File**

If you ...	Then you ...
Must file Form 1040	Must report all of your net earnings on Schedule SE. This applies even if your possession income is not otherwise reported on Form 1040.
Do not have to file Form 1040	Use Form 1040-SS to report your net earnings.
Are a resident of Puerto Rico	Can file Form 1040-PR instead of Form 1040-SS.

More information. For more information on U.S. citizens in U.S. possessions, see Publication 570, *Tax Guide for Individuals With Income From U.S. Possessions*.

Research Grant

If you receive payments under a research grant and perform services for the grantor as an independent contractor, the payments you receive are subject to SE tax.

For more information about whether you are an independent contractor, see *Independent contractor*, earlier.

Wages, Salaries, and Tips

Wages and salaries received for services performed as an employee and covered by social security or railroad retirement are not included in net earnings. Tips received for similar services as an employee are not included in net earnings.

Methods for Figuring Net Earnings

There are three ways to figure your net earnings from self-employment.

- 1) The regular method.
- 2) The nonfarm optional method.
- 3) The farm optional method.

Which Method Should You Use?

You must use the regular method unless you are eligible to use one or both of the optional methods. See *Table 4. Can I Use the Optional Methods?*

Why use an optional method? You can generally use the optional methods (discussed later) when you have a loss or a small amount of net income from self-employment and any one of the following applies.

- You want to receive credit for social security benefit coverage.
- You incurred child or dependent care expenses for which you could claim a credit. (An optional method will increase your earned income, which could increase your credit.)
- You are entitled to the earned income credit. (An optional method will increase your earned income, which could increase your credit.)

Effects of using an optional method. Using an optional method could increase your self-employment tax. Paying more self-employment tax can result in your getting higher benefits when you retire.

If you use either or both optional methods, you must figure and pay the SE tax due under these methods even if you would have had a smaller tax or no tax using the regular method.

The optional methods may be used only to figure your SE tax. To figure your income tax, include your actual SE income in gross income, regardless of which method you use to determine SE tax.

Regular Method

Multiply your net SE income by 92.35% (.9235) to get your net earnings under the regular method. See *Short Schedule SE*, line 4, or *Long Schedule SE*, line 4a.

You must use the regular method unless you are eligible to use one or both of the optional methods.

Nonfarm Optional Method

Use the nonfarm optional method only for SE income that does not come from farming. You may use this method if you meet all the following tests.

- 1) You are self-employed on a regular basis. This means that your actual net earnings from self-employment were \$400 or more in at least 2 of the 3 tax years before the one for which you use this method. The net earnings can be from either farm or nonfarm earnings or both.
- 2) You have not previously used this method more than 4 years. (There is a 5-year lifetime limit.) The years do not have to be one after another.
- 3) Your net nonfarm profit is:
 - a) Less than \$1,733, and
 - b) Less than 72.189% of your gross nonfarm income.

You can find your net nonfarm profit on:

- Line 31, Schedule C (Form 1040),
- Line 3, Schedule C-EZ (Form 1040),
- Line 15a, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065), or
- Box 9, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065-B).

Optional net earnings less than actual earnings.

You cannot use this method to report an amount less than your actual net earnings from self-employment. Your actual net earnings are your net earnings figured using the regular method, explained earlier.

Figuring Nonfarm Net Earnings

If you meet the three tests explained earlier, use the following table to figure your net earnings from self-employment under the nonfarm optional method.

Table 3. Figuring Nonfarm Net Earnings

If your gross income from all nonfarm trades or businesses is ...	Then your net earnings from self-employment are equal to ...
\$2,400 or less	Two-thirds of the gross income from your nonfarm self-employment.
More than \$2,400	\$1,600

Gross income of \$2,400 or less. The following examples illustrate how to figure net earnings when gross income from all nonfarm trades or businesses is \$2,400 or less.

Example 1—net nonfarm profit less than \$1,733 and less than 72.189% of gross nonfarm income.

Ann Green had actual net earnings from self-employment of \$800 in 1998 and \$900 in 1999 from her craft business. She meets the test for being self-employed on a regular basis. Her gross income and net profit in 2000 are as follows:

Gross income	\$2,100
Net profit	\$1,200

Because her net profit is less than \$1,733 and less than 72.189% of her gross nonfarm income, Ann can use her nonfarm optional method net earnings of \$1,400 ($\frac{2}{3} \times \$2,100$).

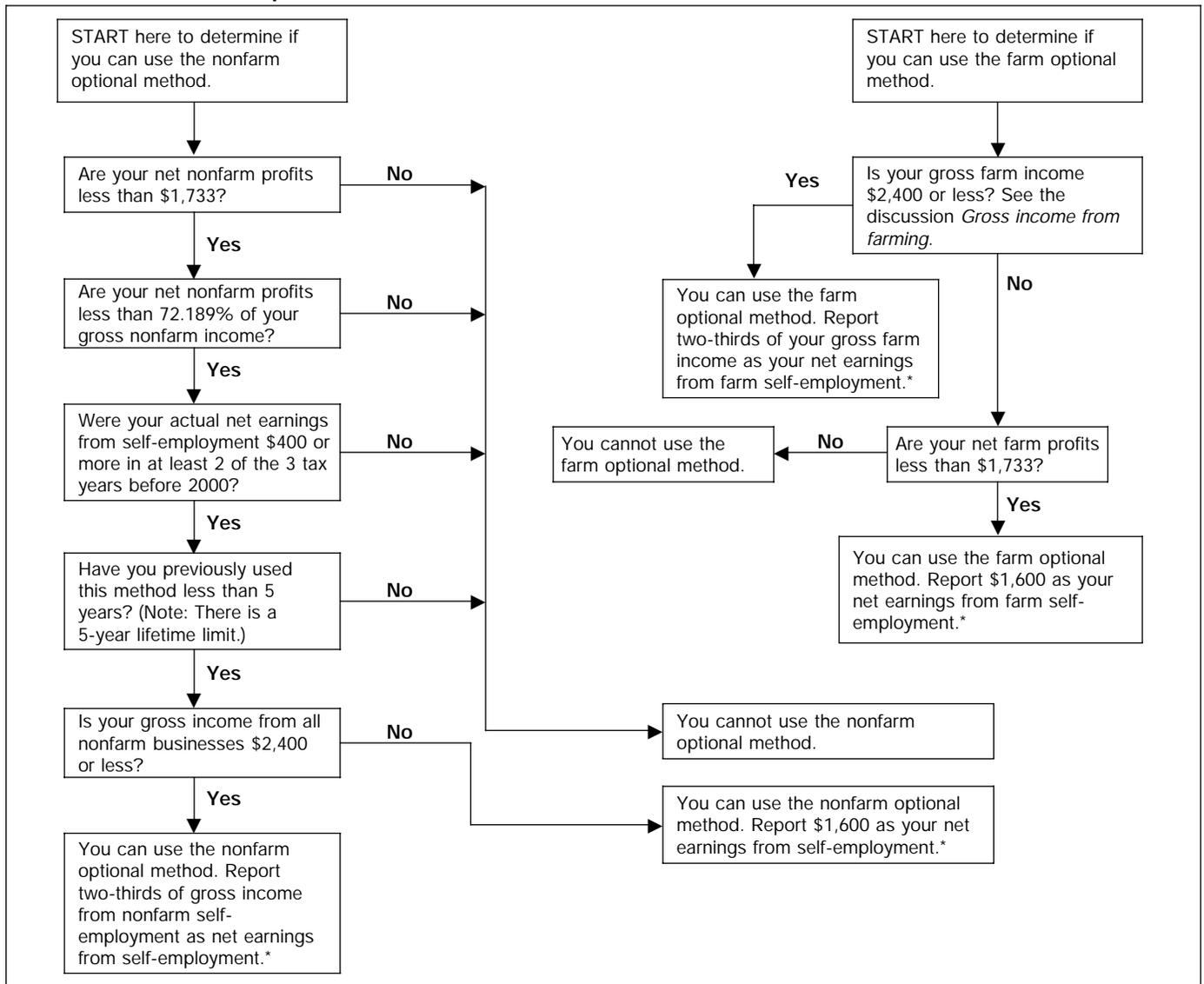
Example 2—net nonfarm profit less than \$1,733 but not less than 72.189% of gross nonfarm income.

Assume that in *Example 1* Ann's gross income is \$1,000 and her net profit is \$800. She must use the regular method to figure her net earnings. She cannot use the nonfarm optional method because her net profit is not less than 72.189% of her gross nonfarm income.

Example 3—net loss from a nonfarm business.

Assume that in *Example 1* Ann has a net loss of \$700. In this situation, she can use \$1,400 ($\frac{2}{3} \times \$2,100$) as her net earnings under the nonfarm optional method.

Table 4. Can I Use the Optional Methods?



* If you use both optional methods, see *Using Both Optional Methods* for limits on the amount to report.

Example 4—net earnings less than \$400. Assume that in *Example 1* Ann has gross income of \$525 and a net profit of \$175. In this situation, she would not pay any SE tax under either the regular method or the nonfarm optional method because her net earnings under both methods are less than \$400.

Gross income of more than \$2,400. The following examples illustrate how to figure net earnings when gross income from all nonfarm trades or businesses is more than \$2,400.

Example 1—net nonfarm profit less than \$1,733 and less than 72.189% of gross nonfarm income. John White runs an appliance repair shop. His actual net earnings from self-employment were \$8,500 in 1997, \$10,500 in 1998, and \$9,500 in 1999. He meets the test for being self-employed on a regular basis. His gross income and net profit in 2000 are as follows:

Gross income	\$12,000
Net profit	\$1,200

Because his net profit is less than \$1,733 and less than 72.189% of his gross nonfarm income, John may use \$1,600 as his net earnings.

Example 2—net nonfarm profit not less than \$1,733. Assume that in *Example 1* John's net profit is \$1,800. He must use the regular method. He cannot use the nonfarm optional method because his net nonfarm profit is not less than \$1,733.

Example 3—net loss from a nonfarm business. Assume that in *Example 1* John has a net loss of \$700. He can use the nonfarm optional method and report \$1,600 as his net earnings from self-employment.

Farm Optional Method

If you are in the farming business, either as a sole proprietor or as a partner, you may be able to use the farm optional method to figure your net earnings from farm self-employment.

Figuring Farm Net Earnings

Use *Table 5* to determine what you may report as your net earnings from self-employment under the farm optional method.

Table 5. Figuring Farm Net Earnings

If your gross income from farming is ...	Then you ...
\$2,400 or less	Report two-thirds of the gross income from farming as your net earnings from self-employment.
More than \$2,400, and your net farm profits are less than \$1,733	Report \$1,600 as your net earnings from self-employment.
More than \$2,400, and your net farm profits are \$1,733 or more	Cannot use this optional method. Use the regular method as discussed earlier.

Optional earnings less than actual earnings. If your net earnings under the farm optional method are less than your actual net earnings, you can still use the farm optional method. Your actual net earnings are your net earnings figured using the regular method, explained earlier.

Example. Your actual net earnings from self-employment are \$425 and your net earnings figured under the farm optional method are \$390. You owe no SE tax if you use the optional method because your net earnings under the farm optional method are below \$400.

Gross income from farming. Farming income includes what you receive from cultivating the soil or raising or harvesting any agricultural commodities. It also includes income from the operation of a livestock, dairy, poultry, bee, fish, fruit, or truck farm, or plantation, ranch, nursery, range, orchard, or oyster bed. This includes income in the form of crop shares if you materially participate in production or management of production.

Government commodity program payments. If you receive government commodity program payments on land you rent out, do not include these payments unless you meet the material participation test. For more information on material participation, see chapter 15 in Publication 225.

Gross income from a farm sole proprietorship. If you operate your farm as a sole proprietorship, use the following table to determine your gross farm income.

Table 6. Gross Farm Sole Proprietorship Income

If you file your return using ...	Your gross income is the amount shown on ...
The cash method of accounting	Line 11 of Schedule F.
An accrual method of accounting	Line 51 of Schedule F.

Determining gross income from a farm partnership. If you are a member of a farm partnership, your gross income includes your distributive share of the partnership's gross income from farming. The partnership must follow the steps in *Table 7* to determine your distributive share of gross farm income.

Table 7. Gross Farm Partnership Income

Step	Action
1	Figure the partnership's gross income from farming.
2	Subtract any guaranteed payments to partners for services or the use of capital if the payments are determined without regard to partnership income.
3	Determine your (the partner's) share of what is left. The gross income that remains after Steps 1 and 2 is divided among the partners in the same way they share the ordinary income (or loss) of the partnership (unless the partnership agreement provides otherwise).

The result determined in (3) above is your distributive share of the partnership's gross income from farming. Use this distributive share of gross income, any guaranteed payments (discussed next), and any other gross income from farming to determine whether you can use the farm optional method to figure your net earnings from self-employment.

Guaranteed payments. Any guaranteed payments you receive from a farm partnership that are determined without regard to partnership income are gross income from your farming business (not the partnership's). Use the total of these guaranteed payments, your distributive share of gross income from a farm partnership, and any other gross income you receive from farming to determine whether you can use the farm optional method to figure your net earnings from self-employment.

Using Both Optional Methods

If you have self-employment income from both farming and nonfarming businesses, you may be able to use both optional methods to determine your net earnings from self-employment.

To figure your net earnings using both optional methods, you must:

- 1) Separately figure your earnings from farming and nonfarming under each method. Do **not** combine farming income with nonfarm income to figure your net earnings under either method.
- 2) Add the net earnings figured under each method to arrive at your total net earnings from self-employment.

You can report less than your total actual net earnings from farm and nonfarm self-employment but not less than actual net earnings from nonfarm self-employment. If you use both optional methods, you can report no more than \$1,600 as your combined net earnings from self-employment.

Example 1. You are a self-employed farmer. You also operate a retail grocery store. Your gross income, actual net earnings from self-employment, and optional farm and optional nonfarm net earnings from self-employment are as follows:

Table 8. Example 1—Farm and Nonfarm Earnings

Income and Earnings	Farm	Nonfarm
Gross income	\$1,200	\$1,500
Actual net earnings	\$900	\$500
Optional net earnings (2/3 of gross income)	\$800	\$1,000

You can figure your net earnings from self-employment in any of the four combinations shown below:

Table 9. Example 1—Net Earnings

Net Earnings	1	2	3	4
Actual farm	\$ 900		\$ 900	
Optional farm		\$ 800		\$ 800
Actual nonfarm	\$ 500	\$ 500		
Optional nonfarm			\$1,000	\$1,000
Amount you can report:	\$1,400	\$1,300	\$1,900	\$1,600*

*Limited to \$1,600 because you used both optional methods.

Example 2. Assume that in Example 1 your gross income, actual net earnings from self-employment, and 2/3 of your gross income from self-employment are as follows:

Table 10. Example 2—Farm and Nonfarm Earnings

Income and Earnings	Farm	Nonfarm
Gross income	\$2,600	\$1,000
Actual net earnings	\$ 400	\$ 800
Two-thirds of gross income	\$1,733	\$ 667

Your net earnings from self-employment may be either of the amounts figured below:

Table 11. Example 2—Net Earnings

Net Earnings	1	2
Actual farm	\$ 400	
Optional farm		\$1,600*
Actual nonfarm	\$ 800	\$ 800
Optional nonfarm		
Amount you can report:	\$1,200	\$2,400

*Limited to \$1,600.

You can not use the nonfarm optional method for the year because your actual net earnings from nonfarm self-employment (\$800) are not less than 72.189% of gross nonfarm income ($.72189 \times \$1,000 = \721.89).

Reporting Self-Employment Tax

Use **Schedule SE** (Form 1040) to report and figure your SE tax. Then enter the SE tax on line 52 of Form 1040 and attach Schedule SE to Form 1040.

Most taxpayers can use **Section A—Short Schedule SE** to figure their SE tax. However, certain taxpayers must use **Section B—Long Schedule SE**. Use the chart on page 1 of Schedule SE (reproduced later in this publication) to find out which one to use.



If you have to pay SE tax, you must file a Form 1040 (with Schedule SE attached) even if you do not otherwise have to file a federal income tax return.

Joint return. If you file a joint return, you cannot file a joint **Schedule SE (Form 1040)**. This is true whether one spouse or both spouses have SE income. If both of you have SE income, each of you must complete a separate Schedule SE (Form 1040). Attach both

schedules to the joint return. If you and your spouse operate a business as a partnership, see *Husband and wife partners*, earlier, under *Partnership Income or Loss*.

More than one business. If you have more than one trade or business, you must combine the net profit (or loss) from each business to determine your net SE income. A loss from one business will reduce your profit from another business. File one Schedule SE showing the net SE income, but file a separate Schedule C or F for each business.

Example. You are the sole proprietor of two separate businesses. You operate a restaurant that made a net profit of \$25,000. You also have a cabinetmaking business that had a net loss of \$500. You file Schedule SE showing net SE income of \$24,500. You must also file a Schedule C for each business—a Schedule C for the restaurant showing your net profit of \$25,000 and another Schedule C for the cabinetmaking business—showing your net loss of \$500.

Filled-In Form Examples

The following examples illustrate the use of the short and long forms of Schedule SE.

Short Schedule SE Example

The following example shows how Susan J. Brown fills out *Section A—Short Schedule SE*.

Background

Susan J. Brown is sole proprietor of a dress shop, “Milady Fashions.” She received no wages and she does not own any other business. Her husband has no interest in her business. Her Schedule C (Form 1040) shows a net profit of \$35,100 in 2000.

Completing Schedule SE

Susan’s completed Schedule SE (Form 1040) with Short Schedule SE filled out is shown later.

The following table describes how Susan completes each line on her schedule.

Table 12. **Completing Short Schedule SE**

Line	Description
1	Since Susan has no farm income, she leaves line 1 blank.
2	Susan enters the net profit from her Schedule C, \$35,100.
3	Since Susan has no farm income, she enters the same amount on line 3, \$35,100.
4	Susan multiplies the \$35,100 by 92.35% (0.9235) to get her net earnings and enters \$32,414.85.
5	Susan now figures her SE tax as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She multiplies the \$32,414.85 on line 4 by the tax rate (15.3%), • She enters the result, \$4,959.47, on line 5 (this is the SE tax that she owes), and • She also enters \$4,959.47 on line 52 of Form 1040 (not illustrated).
6	Susan multiplies \$4,959.47 (from line 5) by 0.50 and enters the result (\$2,479.74) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line 6 of the Schedule, and • Line 27 of Form 1040. This is the amount of SE tax she can deduct.

If Susan Owned More Than One Business

If Susan were the sole proprietor of more than one business, she would have combined the profits and losses from all of them and completed a single Schedule SE.

If Susan Earned Wages

If, in addition to operating her dress shop, she had worked for wages and the total of her wages and her SE income was more than \$76,200, she would have filled out Long Schedule SE.

If Susan's Husband Had Income from Self-Employment

Susan’s husband has no interest in her business and does not pay SE tax on this income. If her husband was a partner in the business or had other income from self-employment of his own, he would file a separate Schedule SE.

**SCHEDULE SE
(Form 1040)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Self-Employment Tax

▶ See Instructions for Schedule SE (Form 1040).

▶ Attach to Form 1040.

OMB No. 1545-0074

2000

Attachment
Sequence No. **17**

Name of person with **self-employment** income (as shown on Form 1040)
Susan J. Brown

Social security number of person
with **self-employment** income ▶

123 : 00 : 6789

Who Must File Schedule SE

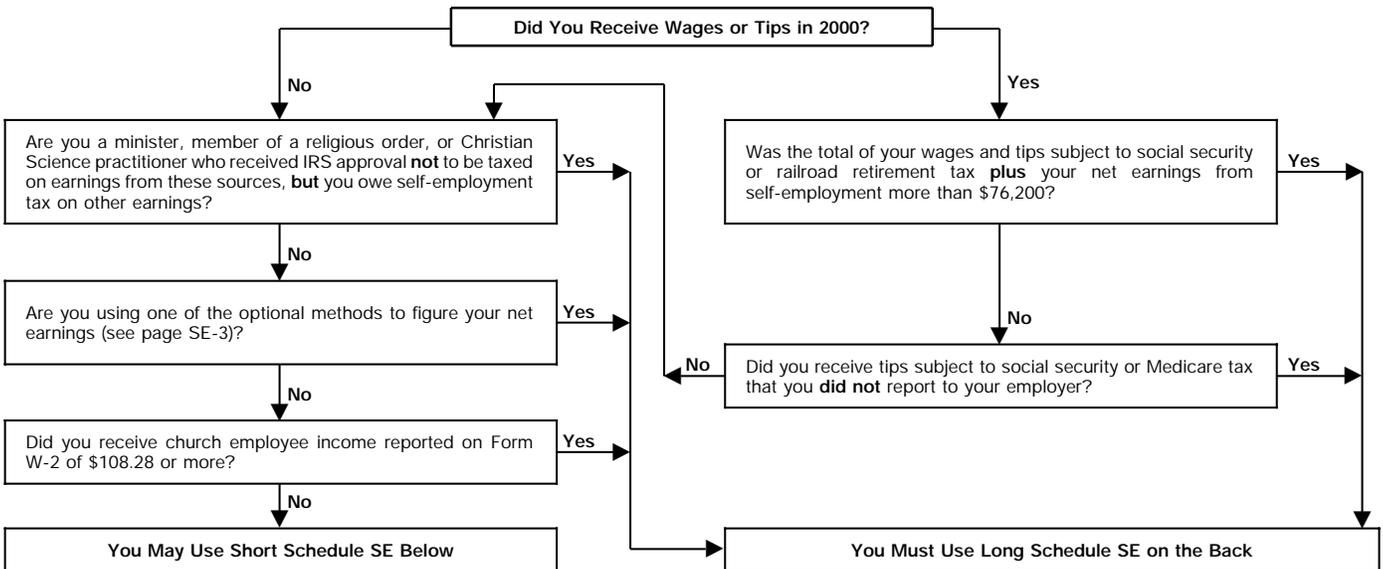
You must file Schedule SE if:

- You had net earnings from self-employment from **other than** church employee income (line 4 of Short Schedule SE or line 4c of Long Schedule SE) of \$400 or more **or**
- You had church employee income of \$108.28 or more. Income from services you performed as a minister or a member of a religious order **is not** church employee income. See page SE-1.

Note. Even if you had a loss or a small amount of income from self-employment, it may be to your benefit to file Schedule SE and use either "optional method" in Part II of Long Schedule SE. See page SE-3.

Exception. If your only self-employment income was from earnings as a minister, member of a religious order, or Christian Science practitioner **and** you filed Form 4361 and received IRS approval not to be taxed on those earnings, **do not** file Schedule SE. Instead, write "Exempt-Form 4361" on Form 1040, line 52.

May I Use Short Schedule SE or Must I Use Long Schedule SE?



Section A—Short Schedule SE. Caution: Read above to see if you can use Short Schedule SE.

1	Net farm profit or (loss) from Schedule F, line 36, and farm partnerships, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065), line 15a	1		
2	Net profit or (loss) from Schedule C, line 31; Schedule C-EZ, line 3; Schedule K-1 (Form 1065), line 15a (other than farming); and Schedule K-1 (Form 1065-B), box 9. Ministers and members of religious orders, see page SE-1 for amounts to report on this line. See page SE-2 for other income to report	2	35,100	00
3	Combine lines 1 and 2	3	35,100	00
4	Net earnings from self-employment. Multiply line 3 by 92.35% (.9235). If less than \$400, do not file this schedule; you do not owe self-employment tax ▶	4	32,414	85
5	Self-employment tax. If the amount on line 4 is: • \$76,200 or less, multiply line 4 by 15.3% (.153). Enter the result here and on Form 1040, line 52. • More than \$76,200, multiply line 4 by 2.9% (.029). Then, add \$9,448.80 to the result. Enter the total here and on Form 1040, line 52.	5	4,959	47
6	Deduction for one-half of self-employment tax. Multiply line 5 by 50% (.5). Enter the result here and on Form 1040, line 27	6	2,479	74

Long Schedule SE Example

The following example illustrates how John Clarke fills out *Section B-Long Schedule SE*.

John Clarke is single. He is employed as a full-time history professor at a local university. His wages from this job were \$69,800. John also gives lectures around the country on a freelance basis. His net profit from these lectures was \$15,000, which he reported on Schedule C-EZ (not shown).

Because his net profit from lecturing and his wages total more than \$76,200, he must fill out Long Schedule SE.

Completing Schedule SE

John only needs to complete Part I of Long Schedule SE since he is not using an optional method.

John's completed Long Schedule SE (Form 1040) is shown later.

The following table describes how John completes each line.

Table 13. Completing Long Schedule SE

Line	Description
1	Because John has no farm income, he leaves line 1 blank.
2	John enters his net profit from his Schedule C-EZ, \$15,000.
3	Since John has no farm income, he enters the same amount on line 3, \$15,000.
4a	John multiplies the \$15,000 by 0.9235 to get his net earnings and enters \$13,852.50.
4b	Since John did not elect an optional method, he leaves this line blank.
4c	Since John did not elect an optional method, he enters the same amount he entered on line 4a (\$13,852.50).
5a 5b	John had no church employee income. He leaves these lines blank.
6	Since line 5b is blank, John enters the same amount he entered on line 4c, \$13,852.50.
8a	John enters his total wages, \$69,800.
8b	Since this line does not apply to him, John leaves it blank.
8c	Since line 8b is blank, John enters the same amount he entered on line 8a, \$69,800.
9	He subtracts line 8c (\$69,800) from line 7 and enters the result, \$6,400.
10	John multiplies the smaller of line 6 (\$13,852.50) or line 9 (\$6,400) by 12.4% and enters the result, \$793.60.
11	John multiplies line 6 (\$13,852.50) by 2.9% and enters the result, \$401.73.
12	John adds lines 10 and 11 and enters the total, \$1,195.33 here and on line 52 of Form 1040 (not illustrated).
13	John multiplies line 12 (his SE tax) by 50% and enters the result (\$597.67) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Line 13 of this schedule, and ● Line 27 of Form 1040. This is the amount of SE tax he can deduct.

Name of person with self-employment income (as shown on Form 1040) John Clarke	Social security number of person with self-employment income ▶	379 : 00 : 9900
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------

Section B—Long Schedule SE

Part I Self-Employment Tax

Note. If your only income subject to self-employment tax is **church employee income**, skip lines 1 through 4b. Enter -0- on line 4c and go to line 5a. Income from services you performed as a minister or a member of a religious order is **not** church employee income. See page SE-1.

A If you are a minister, member of a religious order, or Christian Science practitioner **and** you filed Form 4361, but you had \$400 or more of **other** net earnings from self-employment, check here and continue with Part I

1 Net farm profit or (loss) from Schedule F, line 36, and farm partnerships, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065), line 15a. Note. Skip this line if you use the farm optional method. See page SE-3	1		
2 Net profit or (loss) from Schedule C, line 31; Schedule C-EZ, line 3; Schedule K-1 (Form 1065), line 15a (other than farming); and Schedule K-1 (Form 1065-B), box 9. Ministers and members of religious orders, see page SE-1 for amounts to report on this line. See page SE-2 for other income to report. Note. Skip this line if you use the nonfarm optional method. See page SE-3	2	15,000	00
3 Combine lines 1 and 2	3	15,000	00
4a If line 3 is more than zero, multiply line 3 by 92.35% (.9235). Otherwise, enter amount from line 3	4a	13,852	50
b If you elect one or both of the optional methods, enter the total of lines 15 and 17 here	4b		
c Combine lines 4a and 4b. If less than \$400, do not file this schedule; you do not owe self-employment tax. Exception. If less than \$400 and you had church employee income , enter -0- and continue ▶	4c	13,852	50
5a Enter your church employee income from Form W-2. Caution: See page SE-1 for definition of church employee income	5a		
b Multiply line 5a by 92.35% (.9235). If less than \$100, enter -0-	5b		
6 Net earnings from self-employment. Add lines 4c and 5b	6	13,852	50
7 Maximum amount of combined wages and self-employment earnings subject to social security tax or the 6.2% portion of the 7.65% railroad retirement (tier 1) tax for 2000	7	76,200	00
8a Total social security wages and tips (total of boxes 3 and 7 on Form(s) W-2) and railroad retirement (tier 1) compensation	8a	69,800	00
b Unreported tips subject to social security tax (from Form 4137, line 9)	8b		
c Add lines 8a and 8b	8c	69,800	00
9 Subtract line 8c from line 7. If zero or less, enter -0- here and on line 10 and go to line 11 ▶	9	6,400	00
10 Multiply the smaller of line 6 or line 9 by 12.4% (.124)	10	793	60
11 Multiply line 6 by 2.9% (.029)	11	401	73
12 Self-employment tax. Add lines 10 and 11. Enter here and on Form 1040, line 52	12	1,195	33
13 Deduction for one-half of self-employment tax. Multiply line 12 by 50% (.5). Enter the result here and on Form 1040, line 27	13	597	67

Part II Optional Methods To Figure Net Earnings (See page SE-3.)

Farm Optional Method. You may use this method only if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your gross farm income¹ was not more than \$2,400 or • Your net farm profits² were less than \$1,733. 			
14 Maximum income for optional methods	14	1,600	00
15 Enter the smaller of: two-thirds (2/3) of gross farm income ¹ (not less than zero) or \$1,600. Also include this amount on line 4b above	15		
Nonfarm Optional Method. You may use this method only if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your net nonfarm profits³ were less than \$1,733 and also less than 72.189% of your gross nonfarm income⁴ and • You had net earnings from self-employment of at least \$400 in 2 of the prior 3 years. Caution: You may use this method no more than five times.			
16 Subtract line 15 from line 14	16		
17 Enter the smaller of: two-thirds (2/3) of gross nonfarm income ⁴ (not less than zero) or the amount on line 16. Also include this amount on line 4b above	17		

¹From Sch. F, line 11, and Sch. K-1 (Form 1065), line 15b. ²From Sch. C, line 31; Sch. C-EZ, line 3; Sch. K-1 (Form 1065), line 15a; and Sch. K-1 (Form 1065-B), box 9.
³From Sch. F, line 36, and Sch. K-1 (Form 1065), line 15a. ⁴From Sch. C, line 7; Sch. C-EZ, line 1; Sch. K-1 (Form 1065), line 15c; and Sch. K-1 (Form 1065-B), box 9.

How To Get Tax Help

You can get help with unresolved tax issues, order free publications and forms, ask tax questions, and get more information from the IRS in several ways. By selecting the method that is best for you, you will have quick and easy access to tax help.

Contacting your Taxpayer Advocate. If you have attempted to deal with an IRS problem unsuccessfully, you should contact your Taxpayer Advocate.

The Taxpayer Advocate represents your interests and concerns within the IRS by protecting your rights and resolving problems that have not been fixed through normal channels. While Taxpayer Advocates cannot change the tax law or make a technical tax decision, they can clear up problems that resulted from previous contacts and ensure that your case is given a complete and impartial review.

To contact your Taxpayer Advocate:

- Call the Taxpayer Advocate at **1-877-777-4778**.
- Call the IRS at **1-800-829-1040**.
- Call, write, or fax the Taxpayer Advocate office in your area.
- Call **1-800-829-4059** if you are a TTY/TDD user.

For more information, see Publication 1546, *The Taxpayer Advocate Service of the IRS*.

Free tax services. To find out what services are available, get Publication 910, *Guide to Free Tax Services*. It contains a list of free tax publications and an index of tax topics. It also describes other free tax information services, including tax education and assistance programs and a list of TeleTax topics.

 **Personal computer.** With your personal computer and modem, you can access the IRS on the Internet at **www.irs.gov**. While visiting our web site, you can select:

- *Frequently Asked Tax Questions* (located under *Taxpayer Help & Ed*) to find answers to questions you may have.
- *Forms & Pubs* to download forms and publications or search for forms and publications by topic or keyword.
- *Fill-in Forms* (located under *Forms & Pubs*) to enter information while the form is displayed and then print the completed form.
- *Tax Info For You* to view Internal Revenue Bulletins published in the last few years.
- *Tax Regs in English* to search regulations and the Internal Revenue Code (under *United States Code (USC)*).
- *Digital Dispatch* and *IRS Local News Net* (both located under *Tax Info For Business*) to receive our electronic newsletters on hot tax issues and news.

- *Small Business Corner* (located under *Tax Info For Business*) to get information on starting and operating a small business.

You can also reach us with your computer using File Transfer Protocol at **ftp.irs.gov**.



TaxFax Service. Using the phone attached to your fax machine, you can receive forms and instructions by calling **703-368-9694**. Follow the directions from the prompts. When you order forms, enter the catalog number for the form you need. The items you request will be faxed to you.



Phone. Many services are available by phone.

- *Ordering forms, instructions, and publications.* Call **1-800-829-3676** to order current and prior year forms, instructions, and publications.
- *Asking tax questions.* Call the IRS with your tax questions at **1-800-829-1040**.
- *TTY/TDD equipment.* If you have access to TTY/TDD equipment, call **1-800-829-4059** to ask tax questions or to order forms and publications.
- *TeleTax topics.* Call **1-800-829-4477** to listen to pre-recorded messages covering various tax topics.

Evaluating the quality of our telephone services. To ensure that IRS representatives give accurate, courteous, and professional answers, we evaluate the quality of our telephone services in several ways.

- A second IRS representative sometimes monitors live telephone calls. That person only evaluates the IRS assistor and does not keep a record of any taxpayer's name or tax identification number.
- We sometimes record telephone calls to evaluate IRS assistors objectively. We hold these recordings no longer than one week and use them only to measure the quality of assistance.
- We value our customers' opinions. Throughout this year, we will be surveying our customers for their opinions on our service.



Walk-in. You can walk in to many post offices, libraries, and IRS offices to pick up certain forms, instructions, and publications. Also, some libraries and IRS offices have:

- An extensive collection of products available to print from a CD-ROM or photocopy from reproducible proofs.

- The Internal Revenue Code, regulations, Internal Revenue Bulletins, and Cumulative Bulletins available for research purposes.



Mail. You can send your order for forms, instructions, and publications to the Distribution Center nearest to you and receive a response within 10 workdays after your request is received. Find the address that applies to your part of the country.

- **Western part of U.S.:**
Western Area Distribution Center
Rancho Cordova, CA 95743-0001
- **Central part of U.S.:**
Central Area Distribution Center
P.O. Box 8903
Bloomington, IL 61702-8903
- **Eastern part of U.S. and foreign addresses:**
Eastern Area Distribution Center
P.O. Box 85074
Richmond, VA 23261-5074



CD-ROM. You can order IRS Publication 1796, *Federal Tax Products on CD-ROM*, and obtain:

- Current tax forms, instructions, and publications.
- Prior-year tax forms, instructions, and publications.
- Popular tax forms which may be filled in electronically, printed out for submission, and saved for recordkeeping.
- Internal Revenue Bulletins.

The CD-ROM can be purchased from National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling **1-877-233-6767** or on the Internet at **www.irs.gov/cdorders**. The first release is available in mid-December and the final release is available in late January.

IRS Publication 3207, *The Business Resource Guide*, is an interactive CD-ROM that contains information important to small businesses. It is available in mid-February. You can get one free copy by calling **1-800-829-3676** or visiting the IRS web site at **www.irs.gov/prod/bus_info/sm_bus/smbus-cd.html**.

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