

Note: The form, instructions, or publication you are looking for begins on the next page of this PDF. Before viewing it, however, please see the important update information below.



Employee Retention Credit for Employers Subject to Closure Due to COVID-19 Crisis

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act supports certain employers that operate a business during 2020 and retain employees, despite experiencing economic hardship related to the COVID-19 crisis, with an employee retention credit. The refundable tax credit is equal to 50% of qualified wages paid to employees after March 12, 2020, and before January 1, 2021. If you paid any qualified wages between March 13, 2020, and March 31, 2020, inclusive, you will include 50% of those wages together with 50% of any qualified wages paid during the **second** quarter of 2020 on your second quarter Form 941, 941-SS, or 941-PR to claim the employee retention credit. Do **not** include the credit on your first quarter Form 941, 941-SS, or 941-PR.

This update supplements this form, instructions, or publication. Filers should rely on this update for the change described.



This page intentionally left blank.

Employer identification number (EIN) -

Name (not your trade name)

Trade name (if any)

Address
Number Street Suite or room number

City State ZIP code

Foreign country name Foreign province/county Foreign postal code

Report for this Quarter of 2020
 (Check one.)

1: January, February, March

2: April, May, June

3: July, August, September

4: October, November, December

Go to www.irs.gov/Form941 for instructions and the latest information.

Read the separate instructions before you complete Form 941. Type or print within the boxes.

Part 1: Answer these questions for this quarter.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Number of employees who received wages, tips, or other compensation for the pay period including: Mar. 12 (Quarter 1), June 12 (Quarter 2), Sept. 12 (Quarter 3), or Dec. 12 (Quarter 4) | 1 | <input type="text"/> |
| 2 | Wages, tips, and other compensation | 2 | <input type="text"/> |
| 3 | Federal income tax withheld from wages, tips, and other compensation | 3 | <input type="text"/> |
| 4 | If no wages, tips, and other compensation are subject to social security or Medicare tax | <input type="checkbox"/> | Check and go to line 6. |
| | Column 1 | | Column 2 |
| 5a | Taxable social security wages | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 5b | Taxable social security tips | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 5c | Taxable Medicare wages & tips | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 5d | Taxable wages & tips subject to Additional Medicare Tax withholding | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 5e | Add Column 2 from lines 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d | 5e | <input type="text"/> |
| 5f | Section 3121(q) Notice and Demand—Tax due on unreported tips (see instructions) | 5f | <input type="text"/> |
| 6 | Total taxes before adjustments. Add lines 3, 5e, and 5f | 6 | <input type="text"/> |
| 7 | Current quarter's adjustment for fractions of cents | 7 | <input type="text"/> |
| 8 | Current quarter's adjustment for sick pay | 8 | <input type="text"/> |
| 9 | Current quarter's adjustments for tips and group-term life insurance | 9 | <input type="text"/> |
| 10 | Total taxes after adjustments. Combine lines 6 through 9 | 10 | <input type="text"/> |
| 11 | Qualified small business payroll tax credit for increasing research activities. Attach Form 8974 | 11 | <input type="text"/> |
| 12 | Total taxes after adjustments and credits. Subtract line 11 from line 10 | 12 | <input type="text"/> |
| 13 | Total deposits for this quarter, including overpayment applied from a prior quarter and overpayments applied from Form 941-X, 941-X (PR), 944-X, or 944-X (SP) filed in the current quarter | 13 | <input type="text"/> |
| 14 | Balance due. If line 12 is more than line 13, enter the difference and see instructions | 14 | <input type="text"/> |
| 15 | Overpayment. If line 13 is more than line 12, enter the difference | <input type="text"/> | Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Apply to next return. <input type="checkbox"/> Send a refund. |

Name (not your trade name)

Employer identification number (EIN)

Part 2: Tell us about your deposit schedule and tax liability for this quarter.

If you are unsure about whether you are a monthly schedule depositor or a semiweekly schedule depositor, see section 11 of Pub. 15.

16 Check one: [] Line 12 on this return is less than \$2,500 or line 12 on the return for the prior quarter was less than \$2,500, and you didn't incur a \$100,000 next-day deposit obligation during the current quarter. If line 12 for the prior quarter was less than \$2,500 but line 12 on this return is \$100,000 or more, you must provide a record of your federal tax liability. If you are a monthly schedule depositor, complete the deposit schedule below; if you are a semiweekly schedule depositor, attach Schedule B (Form 941). Go to Part 3.

[] You were a monthly schedule depositor for the entire quarter. Enter your tax liability for each month and total liability for the quarter, then go to Part 3.

Tax liability: Month 1 []

Month 2 []

Month 3 []

Total liability for quarter []

Total must equal line 12.

[] You were a semiweekly schedule depositor for any part of this quarter. Complete Schedule B (Form 941), Report of Tax Liability for Semiweekly Schedule Depositors, and attach it to Form 941.

Part 3: Tell us about your business. If a question does NOT apply to your business, leave it blank.

17 If your business has closed or you stopped paying wages [] Check here, and enter the final date you paid wages [] / [] / [] .

18 If you are a seasonal employer and you don't have to file a return for every quarter of the year . . . [] Check here.

Part 4: May we speak with your third-party designee?

Do you want to allow an employee, a paid tax preparer, or another person to discuss this return with the IRS? See the instructions for details.

[] Yes. Designee's name and phone number [] []

Select a 5-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) to use when talking to the IRS. [] [] [] [] []

[] No.

Part 5: Sign here. You MUST complete both pages of Form 941 and SIGN it.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.



Sign your name here

[]

Print your name here

[]

Print your title here

[]

Date [] / [] / []

Best daytime phone []

Paid Preparer Use Only

Check if you are self-employed . . . []

Preparer's name []

PTIN []

Preparer's signature []

Date [] / [] / []

Firm's name (or yours if self-employed) []

EIN []

Address []

Phone []

City []

State []

ZIP code []

Form 941-V, Payment Voucher

Purpose of Form

Complete Form 941-V if you're making a payment with Form 941. We will use the completed voucher to credit your payment more promptly and accurately, and to improve our service to you.

Making Payments With Form 941

To avoid a penalty, make your payment with Form 941 **only if**:

- Your total taxes after adjustments and credits (Form 941, line 12) for either the current quarter or the preceding quarter are less than \$2,500, you didn't incur a \$100,000 next-day deposit obligation during the current quarter, and you're paying in full with a timely filed return; or
- You're a monthly schedule depositor making a payment in accordance with the Accuracy of Deposits Rule. See section 11 of Pub. 15 for details. In this case, the amount of your payment may be \$2,500 or more.

Otherwise, you must make deposits by electronic funds transfer. See section 11 of Pub. 15 for deposit instructions. Don't use Form 941-V to make federal tax deposits.



Use Form 941-V when making any payment with Form 941. However, if you pay an amount with Form 941 that should've been deposited, you may be subject to a penalty. See Deposit Penalties in section 11 of Pub. 15.

Specific Instructions

Box 1 – Employer identification number (EIN). If you don't have an EIN, you may apply for one online by visiting the IRS website at www.irs.gov/EIN. You may also apply for an EIN by faxing or mailing Form SS-4 to the IRS. If you haven't received your EIN by the due date of Form 941, write "Applied For" and the date you applied in this entry space.

Box 2 – Amount paid. Enter the amount paid with Form 941.

Box 3 – Tax period. Darken the circle identifying the quarter for which the payment is made. Darken only one circle.

Box 4 – Name and address. Enter your name and address as shown on Form 941.

- Enclose your check or money order made payable to "United States Treasury." Be sure to enter your EIN, "Form 941," and the tax period ("1st Quarter 2020," "2nd Quarter 2020," "3rd Quarter 2020," or "4th Quarter 2020") on your check or money order. Don't send cash. Don't staple Form 941-V or your payment to Form 941 (or to each other).

- Detach Form 941-V and send it with your payment and Form 941 to the address in the Instructions for Form 941.

Note: You must also complete the entity information above Part 1 on Form 941.

✂ **Detach Here and Mail With Your Payment and Form 941.** ✂

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Form 941-V Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service | | Payment Voucher | | OMB No. 1545-0029 2020 | |
| 1 Enter your employer identification number (EIN). | | 2 Enter the amount of your payment. ▶ Make your check or money order payable to "United States Treasury" | | Dollars | Cents |
| 3 Tax Period | | 4 Enter your business name (individual name if sole proprietor). | | | |
| <input type="radio"/> 1st Quarter | <input type="radio"/> 3rd Quarter | Enter your address. | | | |
| <input type="radio"/> 2nd Quarter | <input type="radio"/> 4th Quarter | Enter your city, state, and ZIP code; or your city, foreign country name, foreign province/county, and foreign postal code. | | | |

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.

We ask for the information on Form 941 to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. We need it to figure and collect the right amount of tax. Subtitle C, Employment Taxes, of the Internal Revenue Code imposes employment taxes on wages and provides for income tax withholding. Form 941 is used to determine the amount of taxes that you owe. Section 6011 requires you to provide the requested information if the tax is applicable to you. Section 6109 requires you to provide your identification number. If you fail to provide this information in a timely manner, or provide false or fraudulent information, you may be subject to penalties.

You're not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books and records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law.

Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103. However, section 6103 allows or requires the IRS to disclose or give the information shown on your tax return to others as described in the Code. For example, we may disclose your tax information to the Department of

Justice for civil and criminal litigation, and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and possessions for use in administering their tax laws. We may also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.

The time needed to complete and file Form 941 will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is:

Recordkeeping 13 hr., 52 min.

Learning about the law or the form 47 min.

Preparing, copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS 1 hr., 3 min.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making Form 941 simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can send us comments from www.irs.gov/FormComments. Or you can send your comments to Internal Revenue Service, Tax Forms and Publications Division, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, IR-6526, Washington, DC 20224. Don't send Form 941 to this address. Instead, see *Where Should You File?* in the Instructions for Form 941.