

Year-End Tax Guide 2021/22



HOW TO USE THIS TAX GUIDE

Throughout 2021/22, COVID-19 has continued to dominate. Millions of employees and directors on payroll were furloughed, and the self-employed continued to rely on grants available via the income support schemes.

Arranging your financial affairs as tax-efficiently as possible before the start of the new tax year on 6 April 2022 is arguably more important than ever – particularly with rising inflation expected to put household finances under even more pressure in 2022/23.

Ask yourself, have you maximised all of your tax-free allowances? Have you claimed all reliefs available?

This guide will help you to answer these questions and more, with summaries of the tax rates, allowances and reliefs that apply to businesses and individuals for the remainder of 2021/22.

Each section comes with a set of planning points, too, which you can use as a checklist to ensure you consider all of the key areas. And, of course, contact us if you have any questions or want to discuss your tax planning further.

Important information

The way in which tax charges (or tax relief, as appropriate) are applied depends on individual circumstances and may be subject to future change. ISA and pension eligibility depend on individual circumstances.

FCA regulation applies to certain regulated activities, products and services, but does not necessarily apply to all tax-planning activities and services.

This document is solely for information purposes and nothing in it is intended to constitute advice or a recommendation.

While considerable care has been taken to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate and up-to-date, no warranty is given as to the accuracy or completeness of any information.

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PERSONAL ALLOWANCES & RELIEFS

The personal allowance is £12,570. Non-savings and non-dividend income above this threshold is taxed at rates from 20% to 45% (or 19% to 46% in Scotland).

A higher marginal tax rate may be payable between £100,000 and £125,140, as the personal allowance reduces by £1 for every £2 above £100,000. This means those with non-savings and savings income in this band have a marginal rate of 60% (61.5% in Scotland).

You may be able to transfer £1,260 of your unutilised personal allowance to your spouse or civil partner if you do not pay income tax, if certain conditions are met. This is known as the marriage allowance and could save you as a couple up to £252 in income tax.

Tax on savings & investments

The personal savings allowance allows a basic-rate taxpayer to receive up to £1,000 of savings income tax-free, while a higher-rate taxpayer can get up to £500 of savings income without any tax being due.

There is no relief for additional-rate (45%) taxpayers.

You may be able to get up to £5,000 of interest and not have to pay tax on it. This is known as the starting rate for savings.

The first £2,000 of income from dividends in 2021/22 is tax-free, while income from dividends that exceeds this amount is usually taxed at rates of 7.5%, 32.5% or 38.1%.

Key considerations

- Are you and your spouse or civil partner using all of your personal allowance? If not, consider the availability of the marriage allowance.
- Are there opportunities to utilise any yet unused allowances this tax year?
- Can you reduce exposure to high marginal tax rates by retaining your full personal allowance?
- Is it worth considering tax-free alternatives instead of a bonus or a salary increase?
- Can you utilise rent-a-room relief which, for individuals, is £7,500 or £3,750 for co-owners?



ISAS

If you are planning to use this year's £20,000 ISA allowance, you need to use it before 5 April 2022. There's no rollover from one tax year to the next.

Growth, income and withdrawals are not liable for income or capital gains tax, but the value of an ISA will form part of your estate for inheritance tax purposes.

Under-18s, or those who wish to save on behalf of a minor, can put up to £9,000 into a junior ISA.

As part of the £20,000 ISA allowance, it's possible to invest up to £4,000 in a lifetime ISA which receives an annual government bonus of up to £1,000 a year.

You must be over 18 but under 40 years old to open a lifetime ISA, which can be used to buy a first home or fund retirement. Further scheme rules and early withdrawal penalties apply.

Existing savers into help-to-buy ISAs can continue to put up to £200 a month towards securing a mortgage to purchase their first home.

Providing the funds are used to buy a first home, the savings will earn interest and qualify for a 25% government bonus of up to £3,000.

Key considerations

- If you don't already have an ISA, should you start one this tax year?
- If you have used your ISA allowance, can excess savings be put into a spouse or civil partner's ISA?
- Make sure you have used the maximum tax-free ISA allowance before 5 April 2021.



PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS

Making the most of the annual pensions allowance is a particularly attractive option for higher earners.

Personal tax relief applies on pension contributions, although this may be restricted by the annual allowance or net-relevant earnings.

The annual allowance is usually £40,000 for those with an adjusted annual income from all sources, including pension contributions under £240,000 and threshold income of £200,000 or less.

For every £2 of adjusted income over £240,000, an individual's annual allowance reduces by £1 – down to a minimum of £4,000, although this usually applies to those with total income of £312,000 or more.

Provided you had a pension fund during a previous tax year (up to a maximum of three years), it is possible to carry forward any unused allowances for those years.

If your total pension savings exceed the lifetime allowance of £1,073,100 in 2021/22, you might be liable to tax when you draw benefits.

Key considerations

- Consider making the most of 20% tax relief on personal pension contributions.
- If you are over 55, consider the potentially serious tax implications before accessing your pension early – and always seek advice before doing this.
- Do you have unused allowances from previous tax years which expires soon and may be utilised?
- Have you reviewed both you and your partner's pension contributions?
- Can you afford to pay more into your pension?
- Are you aware of the potential inheritance tax benefits of maximising your pension fund?
- Review your letter of instruction to the trustees of your pension fund.



INHERITANCE TAX

Inheritance tax is usually due at a rate of 40% on the portion of your estate that exceeds £325,000.

An extra tax-free threshold of £175,000 – known as the residence nil-rate band – is available in certain conditions. These include leaving the family home, or share of the family home, to direct descendants.

The residence nil-rate band gives a total tax-free threshold of £500,000 for individuals – or £1m for married couples or civil partners. However, this band reduces by £1 for every £2 of value by which an estate exceeds the £2m taper threshold.

The percentage of any unused nil-rate band from the first death may be transferred to the surviving spouse or civil partner, allowing up to double the nil-rate band applicable at the date of the second death.

Gifts or transfers made within seven years of death are also added back into the estate and might be taxable.

Where the gift was made between three years and seven years, prior to death, taper relief may be available on any inheritance tax due.

Key considerations

- Do you have an up-to-date will that reflects your wishes and are you happy with its executors?
- Are you taking advantage of exemptions, such as the annual £3,000 exemption, gifts from income, and gifts on marriage or civil partnership?
- Do you have surplus assets that you can give away and thus potentially reduce the value of your estate that is chargeable to inheritance tax?
- Should you consider altering the spread of your investment portfolio into more inheritance tax-efficient products?



PROPERTY TAXES

Stamp duty land tax in England & Northern Ireland

People who are moving house can no longer take advantage of temporary property tax holidays that were in place around the UK.

The stamp duty land tax holiday in England and Northern Ireland was the last of these to close, ending on 30 September 2021. The pre-pandemic regime is back in place.

This means buyers will not be liable to stamp duty land tax on residential purchases of up to £125,000.

The 2% tax rate which applies on the portion of the residential property price above £125,000 up to £250,000 has returned. This did not apply throughout the stamp duty holiday.

The 5% tax rate has fallen back to £250,000 and applies on the excess up to £925,000. The higher stamp duty land tax rates and thresholds remain unchanged.

For taxpayers trying to purchase additional residential property, a 3% stamp duty land tax surcharge applies from £40,000. Above this, the 3% surcharge is added to the other tax rates on the whole purchase price.

Residential property price*	Rate	Non-residential property price	Rate
£0 - £125,000	0%	£0 - £150,000	0%
Over £125,000 - £250,000	2%	Over £150,000 - £250,000	2%
Over £250,000 - £925,000**	5%	Above £250,000	5%
Over £925,000 - £1.5m	10%		
Above £1.5m	12%		

*First-time buyers pay nothing on the first £300,000 for properties up to £500,000. A rate of 5% applies between £300,000 and £500,000.

**For residential purchases by 'non-natural persons' of more than £500,000, a rate of 15% applies subject to certain exclusions.

Land & building transaction tax in Scotland

In Scotland, the pre-pandemic land and buildings transaction tax regime has applied since 1 April 2021.

For people buying a residential property in Scotland, no land and buildings transaction tax will be owed on the first £145,000 of the property price.

The 2% land and buildings transaction tax rate kicks in for homes worth between £145,000 and £250,000. This 2% tax rate was reinstated on 1 April 2021.

A 5% rate applies on the slice of the residential property price between £250,000 and £325,000, while a 10% rate kicks in between £325,000 to £750,000. Above this, a 12% rate is levied.

People trying to buy additional residential property in Scotland pay a surcharge at 4% on properties more than £40,000. This 'additional dwelling supplement' also applies to the rest of the total purchase price.

First-time buyers in Scotland pay no land and buildings transaction tax on the first £175,000. Tax will apply at various rates on any excess above this amount.

Land transaction tax in Wales

In Wales, the pre-pandemic land transaction tax regime has applied since 1 July 2021.

If you do not own other property, no land transaction tax is owed on the first £180,000 of a residential property in Wales.

A 3.5% rate applies on the portion between £180,000 and £250,000, before a 5% rate is liable on the residential property price worth between £250,000 and £400,000.

Above £400,000 and up to £750,000, a 7.5% tax rate is in place. A 10% rate applies between £750,000 and £1.5m, with a 12% rate on any excess.

When you buy a residential property in Wales for £180,000 or more and you already own one or more residential properties, you may need to pay higher residential rates.



CAPITAL GAINS TAX

The capital gains annual allowance for 2021/22 is £12,300, or £6,150 for trusts.

Married couples and civil partners each have a £12,300 exemption, with gains above this usually taxed at a rate depending on their income levels and the type of asset.

If you jointly own an asset with another person, you can use both of your allowances to double the amount you can make (£24,600) before capital gains tax is due.

Where taxable income is less than the basic-rate limit of £37,430, the capital gains tax rate for gains up to the remaining basic-rate band allowance is 10%. After this it rises to 20%, while the standard rate for a trust is 20%.

Gains from the sale of residential properties, which are not your main residence, and carried interest are taxed at rates of 18% in the basic-rate band and 28% in the higher or additional-rate bands.

The rate usually applicable to disposals of residential properties by trustees is 28%.

Key considerations

- Have you used your £12,300 annual exemption?
- What can be saved by maximising family member tax-free exemptions?
- To utilise the spouse annual exemption, should an asset be put into joint names before being sold?
- Do you have other assets that can be used to reduce your gains by creating a capital loss?
- If a negligible value claim can be made on any shares you hold, they do not need to be sold to create a capital loss to offset against any gains made in the tax year.
- If tax is owed, can you defer or rollover the gain?
- Have you made a main residence election?
- Did you know you must report and pay any capital gains tax on the sale of additional UK residential property within 60 days of completion?



BUSINESS ASSET DISPOSAL RELIEF

Business asset disposal relief can reduce the rate of capital gains tax due on disposal of all or part of your business from 20% to 10%. Prior to 6 April 2020, this relief was known as entrepreneurs' relief.

To qualify, you must have owned the business – either as a sole trader or in a business partnership – for the last two years.

If you sell shares or securities, you may also qualify if you have been an employee or office holder of a 'trading' company for two years up to the date the shares are sold.

You must also have at least 5% of both the shares and voting rights, plus be entitled to at least 5% of either the profits that are available for distribution and the assets on winding up, or the disposal proceeds if the company is sold.

Different rules apply to shares from an Enterprise Management Incentive Scheme.

If you are closing your business, the same conditions apply, and you must also dispose of any assets owned by the business within three years.

There is no cap on the number of times you can claim the relief, but you can only claim up to £1 million of business asset disposal relief in your lifetime. Before 11 March 2020, this lifetime limit was £10m.

If you have already claimed business asset disposal relief on gains of £1m or more, any future disposals will not qualify for business asset disposal relief.

Alternatively, if you have never previously claimed this relief, only the first £1m will qualify for the 10% with the rest of the disposal taxable at 20% in 2021/22.



NON-DOMICILE TAXATION

A non-dom is a UK resident whose permanent home, or domicile, is outside of the UK.

An individual may have more than one tax residence but can only have one domicile at any given time.

Domicile status is incredibly difficult to change and is significant because it determines an individual's liability to UK income tax, capital gains tax and inheritance tax.

As a non-dom taxpayer you can choose to be taxed on either the arising basis or the remittance basis.

Under the arising basis you are taxed as any other UK domiciled and resident taxpayer would be, on your worldwide income and gains.

Under the remittance basis you are only taxed on your UK earnings and gains.

Any income or gains arising outside of the UK are not taxed unless you choose to bring that money into, or enjoy use of it in, the UK.

New deemed-domicile rules were introduced from 6 April 2017 to limit the time that these beneficial rules can be used.

Non-doms will be deemed UK-domiciled for income tax, capital gains tax and inheritance tax purposes if they've been a UK resident for at least 15 out of the past 20 tax years immediately before the start of the current tax year.

If you become deemed domiciled moving forward you will no longer be able to claim the remittance basis and will be assessed on your worldwide income and gains on the arising basis.

You will also potentially be liable to inheritance tax on worldwide assets.



TAX-EFFICIENT STAFF BENEFITS

Working-from-home allowance

Millions of employees continue to work from home due to COVID-19 and have seen household bills increase as a result. As such, it may be possible to claim tax relief of £26 a month from HMRC. Alternatively, employers can pay the allowance to employees tax-free via payroll.

Electric vehicles

Drivers of electric vehicles and some hybrids provided by an employer will pay 1% on this benefit-in-kind in 2021/22. This will rise to 2% for the 2022/23 tax year.

Hybrid company cars need to be registered from 6 April 2020, have CO² emissions of less than 50g/km, and travel at least 130 miles on a single electric charge to qualify for the existing 1% rate.

Other low benefit-in-kind rates apply depending on the CO² emissions and the electric miles it can travel on a single charge.

Trivial benefits

Employers can provide trivial benefits worth up to £50 per employee, as long as it's not cash or a cash voucher, not a performance-related bonus and not in their contracts. No tax or Class 1A NICs will be due.

Directors also qualify, although it is limited to six occasions per tax year (e.g. £300 per tax year).

Key considerations

- Have you or your employer claimed homeworking relief in 2021/22?
- Employers that provide pure electric cars in 2021/22 will save Class 1A NICs and employees may see significant income tax benefits.
- The employer can also pay for vehicle repairs and servicing, car insurance and car tax, as part of the benefit, and if VAT-registered may be able to claim back 50% of the VAT on any lease charges.



VAT

Around 2.7 million businesses in the UK are registered for VAT, which is usually charged at 20% on the sale of goods and services.

Your business must register for VAT when it has a taxable turnover of more than £85,000 in the previous 12 months or if it expects to exceed this threshold in the next 30 days.

Your VAT taxable turnover is the total of everything sold that is not exempt.

You can voluntarily register for VAT, and also voluntarily deregister if your taxable turnover is expected to be less than £83,000 over the next 12 months.

Schemes exist to simplify accounting for VAT, including the cash accounting scheme, annual accounting scheme, and the flat-rate scheme.

COVID-19 led to several temporary changes to VAT, such as the reduced rate of 12.5% relating to certain supplies made in hospitality, hotel and holiday accommodation and admissions to certain attractions. This rate applies until 31 March 2022.

MTD for VAT

Most VAT-registered firms need to keep digital records of their sales, and file monthly or quarterly VAT returns using digital software under the Making Tax Digital (MTD) regime.

From April 2022, HMRC will be moving to a points-based penalties system to encourage good taxpayer behaviour.

This is also when stringent rules around the way businesses digitally link their software and how they must upload their VAT returns.

At the same time, MTD will apply to VAT-registered businesses with taxable turnover below the current VAT-registration threshold that are not currently required to operate MTD for their VAT reporting and record-keeping obligations.

Key considerations

- Could your business use one of the simplified accounting schemes?
- Does your business need to be VAT-registered?
- Are you entitled to claim VAT bad debt relief?
- Are you accounting for VAT correctly on the fuel used for private motoring? Should you be accounting for the appropriate scale charge?
- Are you reclaiming VAT only where you are entitled to? You are not entitled to reclaim VAT on certain assets or expenses. For example, only certain types of business may be entitled to reclaim VAT on cars.
- If you are just registering for VAT, you can reclaim the VAT on certain pre-registration expenses including services you have paid for in the six months prior to registration and any goods of fixed assets you still have (or that were used to make other goods you still have) in the four years before registration.



CORPORATION TAX

Most incorporated businesses making profits in the UK pay the main rate of corporation tax at 19% in 2021/22.

Companies need to keep accounting records and prepare company tax returns.

Payment is usually due nine months and one day after the company's accounting period, while company tax returns are usually due 12 months after the company's accounting period. However, larger companies may be required to pay via quarterly instalments depending on the profits being made.

Business deductions

When you're working out your business's taxable profit, you can deduct any costs that were incurred "wholly and exclusively" for the purposes of the trade.

These could include the cost of travel, staff salaries, pension contributions, bills for your business premises, advertising and marketing, and training.

Directors' bonuses can also be claimed as a deductible cost, as long as they are paid within nine months of the company year-end, and the entitlement to the bonus is established before the accounting date.

You may also be able to claim capital allowances for things you buy to keep in your business, such as equipment, machinery and business vehicles.

A 130% super-deduction capital allowance is available on qualifying plant and machinery investments until 31 March 2023. This could cut your corporation tax bill by up to 25p for every £1 invested.

Key considerations

- If you are due a director's bonus, have you accrued it in the annual accounts as a deductible cost?
- Have you paid any employer pension contributions? These must be paid before the year-end to get tax relief in the accounting period.
- Are you paying a member of your family a salary? Salaries can be paid to family members as long as they are justifiable and at commercial rates.
- Have you considered tax-efficient ways of extracting profits, such as dividends, pension contributions and benefits-in-kind?
- Have you brought qualifying capital expenditure forward to take advantage of the super-deduction or the 100% annual investment allowance? The latter provides same-year tax relief on capital investments in plant and machinery worth up to £1 million until 31 March 2023.



PENALTIES

Fines are in place for non-compliance with income tax, corporation tax, VAT and inheritance tax.

The self-assessment deadline for income tax is midnight on 31 January 2022. If you miss this deadline, you will not receive a late-filing penalty as long as you file online by 28 February 2022. However, interest will still accrue at 2.75% on the outstanding liability from 1 February 2022.

If you are unable to pay your tax bill by 31 January 2022, you will not get a late-payment penalty if you pay your tax in full or set up a time-to-pay arrangement by 1 April 2022.

A 5% late-payment penalty will be charged if tax remains outstanding and a payment plan has not been set up, by midnight on 1 April 2022.

The usual late-filing penalties (daily penalties from three, six and 12 months) will operate from 1 March 2022.

New businesses also face being fined for not notifying HMRC that they have commenced trading.

If the business is a company then it will also need to ensure it submits its annual accounts ahead of their deadline to avoid incurring a penalty.

Penalties vary from £150 for a private company filing its annual accounts one month late to £7,500 for a public company filing its accounts more than six months late.

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