**INCOME TAX: INDIVIDUALS AND TRUSTS**

Tax rates for the period 1 March 2018 to 28 February 2019

**Individuals and special trusts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxable Income ($)</th>
<th>Rate of Tax ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D – 0 950 18% of taxable income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 951 - 3 050 25 23% of taxable income above 0 950</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 051 - 63 850 43 3% of taxable income above 3 050</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 851 - 242 300 61 6% of taxable income above 63 850</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>242 301 - 555 560 68 1% of taxable income above 242 300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>555 561 - 708 310 74 8% of taxable income above 555 560</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>708 311 –1 500 000 81 5% of taxable income above 708 310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 500 001 and above 84 4% of taxable income above 1 500 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Trusts other than special trusts: rate of tax 45%**

**Rebates**

- Primary: R14 067
- Secondary (Persons 65 and older): R7 113
- Tertiary (Persons 75 and older): R2 574

**Age**

- Below age 65: Tax Threshold
- Age 65 to below 75: R121 000
- Age 75 and over: R135 300

**Provisional Tax**

A provisional taxpayer is any person who earns income by way of remuneration from an unregistered employer, or income that is not remuneration or an allowance or advance payable by the person’s principal. An individual is not required to pay provisional tax if the individual does not carry on any business and the individual’s taxable income –

- will not exceed the tax threshold for the tax year; or
- from interest, dividends, foreign dividends, rental from the letting of fixed property and remuneration from an unregistered employer will be R30 000 or less for the tax year.

Provisional tax returns showing an estimation of total taxable income for the year of assessment are required from provisional taxpayers.

Deceased estates are not provisional taxpayers.

**Retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxable Income ($)</th>
<th>Rate of Tax ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D – 25 000 0% of taxable income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 001 – 600 000 16% of taxable income above 25 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 001 – 990 000 114 300 + 27% of taxable income above 600 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>990 001 and above 233 400 + 35% of taxable income above 990 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefits consist of lump sums from a pension, preservation, provident, provident preservation or retirement annuity fund on withdrawal (including assignment in terms of a divorce order).

- Tax on a specific retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefit (lump sum X) is equal to –
  - the tax determined by the application of the tax table to the aggregate of lump sum X plus all other retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefits accruing from March 2009, all retirement fund lump sum benefits accruing from October 2007 and all other severance benefits accruing from March 2011; less
  - the tax determined by the application of the tax table to the aggregate of all retirement fund lump sum withdrawal benefits accruing before lump sum X from March 2009 and all severance benefits accruing before severance benefit Y from March 2011.

**Dividends**

Dividends received by individuals from South African companies are generally exempt from income tax, but dividends tax at a rate of 20% is withheld by the entities paying the dividends to the individuals. Dividends received by South African resident individuals from REITs (listed and regulated property owning companies) are subject to income tax and non-residents in receipt of those dividends are only subject to dividends tax.

**Foreign Dividends**

Most foreign dividends received by individuals from foreign companies (shareholding of less than 10% in the foreign company) are taxable at a maximum effective rate of 20%. No deductions are allowed for expenditure to produce foreign dividends.

**Interest exemptions**

- Interest earned from a South African source by any individual under 65 years, up to R23 800 per annum, and individuals 65 and older, up to R3 500 per annum, is exempt from income tax.
- Interest earned by non-residents who are physically absent from South Africa for at least 181 days during the 12-month period before the interest accrues and the debt from which the interest arises is not effectively connected to a fixed place of business in South Africa, is exempt.

**Deductions**

**Retirement fund contributions**

Amounts contributed to pension, provident and retirement annuity funds during a year of assessment are deductible by members of those funds. Amounts contributed by employers and taxed as fringe benefits are treated as contributions by the individual employees. The deduction is limited to 27.5% of the greater of remuneration for PAYE purposes or taxable income (both excluding retirement fund lump sums and severance benefits). The deduction is further limited to the lower of R350 000 or 27.5% of taxable income before the inclusion of a taxable capital gain. Any contributions exceeding the limitations are carried forward to the immediately following year of assessment and are deemed to be contributed in that following year. The amounts carried forward are reduced by contributions set off against retirement fund lump sums and against retirement annuities.

**Medical and disability expenses**

In determining taxable pension, individuals are allowed to deduct —

- monthly contributions to medical schemes (a tax rebate referred to as a medical scheme fees tax credit) up to R310 each for the individual who paid the contributions and the first dependant on the medical scheme and R209 for each additional dependant; and
- in the case of —
  - an individual who is 65 and older, or if an individual, his or her spouse, or his or her child is a pensioner, a disability, 33.3% of the sum of qualifying medical expenses paid and borne by the individual and an amount by which medical scheme contributions paid by the individual exceed 3 times the medical scheme fees tax credits for the tax year; or
  - any other individual, 25% of an amount equal to the sum of qualifying medical expenses paid and borne by the individual and an amount by which medical scheme contributions paid by the individual exceed 4 times the medical scheme fees tax credits for the tax year, limited to the amount which exceeds 7.5% of taxable income (excluding retirement fund lump sums and severance benefits).

**Donations**

Deductions in respect of donations to certain public benefit organisations are limited to 10% of taxable income (excluding retirement fund lump sums and severance benefits). The amount of donations exceeding 10% of the taxable income is treated as a donation to qualifying public benefit organisations in the following tax year.

**Allowances**

**Subsidise allowances and advances**

Where the recipient is obliged to spend at least one night away from his or her usual place of residence on business and the accommodation to which that allowance or advance relates is in the Republic of South Africa, a specific amount per country is deemed to have been expended. Details of these amounts are published on the SARS website under Legal Counsel / Secondary Legislation / Income Tax Notices / 2018.

**Travelling allowances**

Rates per kilometre, which may be used in determining the allowable deduction for business travel, are set out in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value of the vehicle (excluding VAT) (R)</th>
<th>Fixed cost (R)</th>
<th>Fuel cost (c/km)</th>
<th>Maintenance cost (c/km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 85 000</td>
<td>28 952</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 001 – 1 700 000</td>
<td>50 631</td>
<td>106.8</td>
<td>43.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 700 001 – 250 000</td>
<td>122 983</td>
<td>116.2</td>
<td>47.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 001 – 340 000</td>
<td>124 681</td>
<td>124.8</td>
<td>47.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>340 001 – 425 000</td>
<td>112 483</td>
<td>133.5</td>
<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>425 001 – 510 000</td>
<td>113 147</td>
<td>153.2</td>
<td>42.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>510 001 – 600 000</td>
<td>154 054</td>
<td>171.6</td>
<td>49.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exceeding 550 000</td>
<td>150 890</td>
<td>186.9</td>
<td>49.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**

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

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

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

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

**Alternative simplified method:**

Where an allowance or advance is based on the actual distance travelled by the employee for business purposes, no tax is payable on an allowance paid by an employee to an employee up to the rate of 361 cents per kilometre, regardless of the value of the vehicle. However, this alternative is not available if other compensation in the form of an allowance or reimbursement (other than for parking or toll fees) is received from the employer in respect of the vehicle.
Other deductions
Other than the deductions set out above an individual may only claim deductions against employment income or allowances in limited specified situations, e.g. bad debt in respect of salary.

Fringe Benefits
Employer-owned vehicles
- The taxable value is 3.5% of the determined value (the cash cost including VAT) per month of each vehicle. Where the vehicle is –
  - the subject of a maintenance plan when the employer acquired the vehicle the taxable value is 3.25% of the determined value; or
  - acquired by the employer under an operating lease the taxable value is the cost incurred by the employer under the operating lease plus the cost of fuel.
- 80% of the fringe benefit must be included in the employee’s remuneration for the purposes of calculating PAYE. The percentage is reduced to 20% if the employer is satisfied that at least 80% of the use of the fringe vehicle for the tax year will be for business purposes.
- On assessment the fringe benefit for the tax year is reduced by the ratio of the distance travelled for business purposes subsidized by a log book divided by the actual distance travelled during the tax year.
- On assessment further relief is available for the cost of licence, insurance, maintenance and fuel for private travel if the full cost thereof has been borne by the employee and if the distance travelled for private purposes is substantiated by a log book.

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

Residential accommodation
The value of the fringe benefit to be included in gross income is the lower of the benefit calculated by applying a prescribed formula or the cost to the employer if the employer does not have full ownership of the accommodation.

The formula will apply if the accommodation is owned by the employer, but it does not apply to holiday accommodation hired by the employer from non-associated institutions.

INCOME TAX: COMPANIES
Financial years ending on any date between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Rate of Tax (R)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Companies</td>
<td>28% of taxable income</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INCOME TAX: SMALL BUSINESS CORPORATIONS
Financial years ending on any date between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxable Income (R)</th>
<th>Rate of Tax (R)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 78 150</td>
<td>0% of taxable income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78 151 – 385 000</td>
<td>3% of taxable income above 78 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>385 001 – 550 000</td>
<td>22 040 + 2% of taxable income above 385 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550 001 and above</td>
<td>58 930 + 28% of the amount above 550 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TURNOVER TAX FOR MICRO BUSINESSES
Financial years ending on any date between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxable turnover (R)</th>
<th>Rate of Tax (R)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 335 000</td>
<td>0% of taxable turnover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>335 001 – 500 000</td>
<td>1% of taxable turnover above 335 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 001 – 750 000</td>
<td>1 650 + 2% of taxable turnover above 500 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750 001 and above</td>
<td>6 650 + 3% of taxable turnover above 750 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESIDENCE BASIS OF TAXATION
Residents are taxed on their worldwide income, subject to certain exclusions. The general principle is that foreign taxes on foreign sourced income are allowed as a credit against South African tax payable. This is applicable to individuals, companies, close corporations, trusts and estates.

TAXATION OF CAPITAL GAINS
Capital gains on the disposal of assets are included in taxable income.

Maximum effective rate of tax:
- Individuals and special trusts: 18%
- Other trusts: 22.4%
- Companies: 36%

Events that trigger a disposal include a sale, donation, exchange, loss, death and emigration. The following are some of the specific exclusions:
- R2 million gain or loss on the disposal of a primary residence
- most personal use assets
- retirement benefits
- payments in respect of original long-term insurance policies
- annual exclusion of R40 000 capital gain or capital loss is granted to individuals and special trusts
- small business exclusion of capital gains for individuals (at least 55 years of age) of R1.8 million when a small business with a market value not exceeding R10 million is disposed of
- instead of the annual exclusion, the exclusion granted to individuals is R300 000 for the year of death.

DIVIDENDS TAX
Dividends Tax is a final tax at a rate of 20% on dividends paid by resident companies and by non-resident companies in respect of shares listed on the JSE. Dividends tax is exempt if the beneficial owner of the dividend is a South African company, retirement fund or other exempt person. Non-resident beneficial owners of dividends may benefit from reduced tax rates in limited circumstances. The tax is to be withheld by companies paying the taxable dividends or by regulated intermediaries in the case of dividends on listed shares. The tax on dividends in kind (other than in cash) is payable and is borne by the company that declares and pays the dividend.

OTHER WITHHOLDING TAXES
In certain cases the applicable tax rate may be reduced in terms of a tax treaty with the country of residence of a non-resident.

Royalties
A final tax at a rate of 15% is imposed on the gross amount of royalties from a South African source payable to non-residents.

Interest
A final tax at a rate of 15% is imposed on interest from a South African source payable to non-residents. Interest is exempt if payable by any sphere of the South African government, a bank or if the debt is listed on a recognised exchange.

Foreign entertainers and sportspersons
A final tax at the rate of 15% is imposed on gross amounts payable to non-residents for activities exercised by them in South Africa as entertainers or sportspersons.

Disposal of immovable property
A provisional tax is withheld on behalf of non-resident sellers of immovable property in South Africa to be set off against the normal tax liability of the non-residents. The tax to be withheld from payments to the non-residents is at a rate of 7.5% for a non-resident individual, 10% for a non-resident company and 15% for a non-resident trust that is selling the immovable property.

OTHER TAXES DUTIES AND LEVIES
Value-Added Tax (VAT)
VAT is levied at the standard rate of 15% on the supply of goods and services by registered vendors. The tax rate was 14% until 31 March 2018.

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

Transfer Duty
Transfer duty is payable at the following rates on transactions which are not subject to VAT –

- **Acquisition of property by all persons:**
  - **Value of property (R)**
  - **Rate**
  - **0 – 900 000**
  - **0%**
  - **900 001 – 1 200 000**
  - **3% of the value above 900 000**
  - **1 200 001 – 1 750 000**
  - **R10 500 + 6% of the value above 1 200 000**
  - **1 750 001 – 2 500 000**
  - **R18 000 + 8% of the value above 1 750 000**
  - **2 501 001 – 10 000 000**
  - **R80 500 + 11% of the value above 2 500 000**
  - **10 001 001 and above**
  - **R300 000 + 13% of the value exceeding 10 000 000**

**Estate Duty**
Estate duty is levied on property of residents and South African property of non-residents less allowable deductions. The duty is levied on the dutiable value of an estate at a rate of 20% on the first R30 million and at a rate of 25% above R30 million.