Computation of Social Security Self-Employment Tax

Part I: Computation of Net Earnings from BUSINESS Self-Employment (other than farming)

1. Net profit (or loss) shown in Schedule C (Form 1040), line 27 (Enter combined amount if more than one business).

2. Add to net profit (or subtract from net loss) losses of business property shown in Schedule C, line 23.

3. Total (difference).

4. Net income (or loss) from excluded services or sources included on line 3.
   Specify excluded services or sources.

5. Net earnings (or loss) from business self-employment (subtract line 4 from line 3). Enter here and on line 1(a), Part III, below.

Part II: Computation of Net Earnings from FARM Self-Employment

A farmer may elect to compute net farm earnings using the OPTIONAL METHOD (line 3, below) INSTEAD OF REGULAR METHOD (line 2, below) if his gross profits are: (1) $2,400 or less, or (2) more than $2,400 and net profits are less than $1,600. If your gross profits from farming are not more than $2,400 and you elect to use the optional method, you need not complete lines 1 and 2.

Computation under Regular Method

1. Net farm profit (or loss) from:
   (a) Schedule F, line 52 (cash method), or line 69 (accrual method).
   (b) Farm partnerships.

2. Net earnings from self-employment from farming. Add lines 1(a) and (b).

Computation under Optional Method

3. If gross profits from farming are:
   (a) Not more than $2,400, enter two-thirds of the gross profits.
   (b) More than $2,400 and the net farm profit is less than $1,600, enter $1,600.

*Note. — Gross profits from farming are the total of the gross profits from Schedule F, line 28 (cash method), or line 67 (accrual method), plus the distributive share of gross profit from farm partnerships as explained in Instructions for Schedule SE.

4. Enter here and on line 1(b), Part III, below, the amount on line 2 (or line 3, if you use the optional method).

Part III: Computation of Social Security Self-Employment Tax

1. Net earnings (or loss) from self-employment:
   (a) From business (other than farming)—from line 5, Part I, above.
   (b) From farming (from line 4, Part II, above).
   (c) From partnerships, joint ventures, etc. (other than farming).
   (d) From service as a minister, member of a religious order, or a Christian Science practitioner. If you filed Form 4561, check here □ and enter zero on this line.
   (e) From service with a foreign government or international organization.
   (f) Other (director's fees, etc.). Specify.

2. Total net earnings (or loss) from self-employment reported on line 1.
   (If line 2 is under $400, you are not subject to self-employment tax. Do not fill in rest of page.)

3. The largest amount of combined wages and self-employment earnings subject to social security tax is

4. (a) Total "F.I.C.A." wages as indicated on Form W-2.
   (b) Unreported tips, if any, subject to F.I.C.A. tax from Form 4137, line 9.

   (c) Total of lines 4(a) and 4(b).

5. Balance (subtract line 4(c) from line 3).

6. Self-employment income—line 2 or 5, whichever is smaller.

7. If line 6 is $7,800, enter $538.20; if less, multiply the amount on line 6 by .069.

8. Railroad employee's and railroad employee representative's adjustment for hospital insurance benefits tax from Form 4469.

9. Self-employment tax (subtract line 8 from line 7). Enter here and on Schedule T, line 16.
Instructions for Schedule SE (Form 1040)—1969

Schedule SE provides the Social Security Administration with the information on self-employment income necessary for computing benefits under the social security program. Self-employment tax must be paid regardless of whether the individual is receiving social security benefits.

To assure proper credit to your account, enter your name and social security number on Schedule SE exactly as they are shown on your social security card.

Ministers, members of religious orders, and Christian Science practitioners.—Duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of churches, members of religious orders (who have not taken a vow of poverty), and Christian Science practitioners are now subject to self-employment tax, but may under certain conditions request to exempt their income from service as a minister, member or practitioner by filing Form 4361. Forms, schedules and publications may be obtained from the District Director. If you previously filed an effective waiver certificate Form 2031, to pay self-employment tax, you may now file for an exemption. See Publication 484, Social Security benefits.

Ministers and members of religious orders must include in their earnings from self-employment (but not for income tax) the rental value of a parsonage or allowance for the rental value of their residence, and the value of meals and lodging furnished them for the convenience of their employers.

Members of Certain Religious Orders.—If you have conscientious objections to social security benefits and of your adherence to the established teachings of a recognized religious sect of which you are a member, you may file Form 4361 to exempt your self-employment tax. If you have filed Form 4029, do not file Schedule SE; however, write, “Except Form 4029” on the back of Form 1040.

U.S. citizens employed by foreign governments or international organizations.—A U.S. citizen employed in the United States, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, or the Virgin Islands by a foreign government, an instrumentality wholly owned by a foreign government, or an international organization which is organized under the International Organizations Immunities Act, is subject to the social security self-employment tax. Report income from such employment on line 1(e), Part III, of this Schedule.

Fee basis State or local government employees.—Fee received for functions and services performed by employees (including public officials who in such capacity are employees) are subject to self-employment tax if such functions and services are performed in positions which are: (1) compensated solely on a fee basis; and (2) not covered under a Federal basic social security coverage agreement. If you filed Form 4416, write, “Except Form 4416” on the back of Form 1040.

Exclusions

Income (or loss) from the following sources and deductions attributable thereto are not taken into account in figuring net earnings from self-employment. Use Part I, line 4 to exclude any amount irrevocably reported on separate Schedule C that should not be taken into account in figuring your self-employment income. Any item of income or expense which was included in line 2, Part II and which does not enter into the computation of net earnings from farm self-employment should be eliminated from line 2, Part II and an explanation attached.

Employees and public officials.—Income (fees, salaries, etc.) from the performance of service as: (a) a public official (except as noted above); (b) an employee or employee representative under the railroad retirement system; or (c) an employee (except as indicated above).

Note.—Income of an employee 18 or over from the sale of newspapers or magazines to an ultimate subscriber is subject to self-employment tax if the income consists of retained profits from such sale.

Certain payments to retired partners.—In come received under a written plan of the partnership which provides for lifetime periodic retirement payments if the retired partner no longer has any interest in the partnership (except for the right to the retirement payments) and did not perform services for the partnership during the year.

Real estate rentals.—Rentals from real estate, except rentals received for the course of a trade or business as a real estate dealer. This includes cash and crop shares received from a tenant or sharearmer. Report these amounts in Schedule E, Part I, line 10. However, rental income from a farm is not excluded from the rental arrangement provides for material participation by the landlord and he does participate in the production or in the management of the production of one or more farm products on his land. Such income represents farm earnings and should be reported on Schedule F and SE.

Payments for the use or occupancy of rooms or other space where services are also rendered to the occupant, such as rooms in hotels, boarding houses, apartment houses, furnished hotel rooms, trailer camps or homes, or space in parking lots, warehouses, or storage garages do not constitute rentals from real estate and are included in determining net earnings from self-employment.

Dividends and interest.—Dividends on shares of stock, and interest on bonds, debentures, notes, certificates, or other evidences of indebtedness, issued with interest coupons or in registered form by a corporation, or by a government or political subdivision thereof, unless received in the course of a trade or business as a dealer in securities.

Property gains and losses.—Gain or loss: (a) from the sale or exchange of a capital asset; (b) to which sections 631 and 1231 are applicable; or (c) from the sale, exchange, involuntary conversion, or disposition of property if such property is neither (1) stock in trade or other property of a kind which would properly be included in inventory on hand at the close of the taxable year, nor (2) property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of the trade or business.

Net operating losses.—No deduction for net operating losses of other years shall be allowed in determining the net earnings from self-employment. Such deduction should be entered as a “Net operating loss” figure on Schedule E, Part III, under “Miscellaneous income.”

More Than One Trade or Business

If an individual is engaged in farming and in one or more other trades or businesses, his net earnings from self-employment are the combined net earnings from self-employment of all of his trades or businesses. Thus, the loss sustained in one trade or business will operate to reduce the income derived from another trade or business. In such cases, use both Schedule F and Schedule C to determine net profit from the farm and nonfarm activities, respectively. Make the combined computation of self-employment tax on Schedule SE.

Joint Returns

For a joint return, show the name of the one who has the self-employment income on Schedule SE. If both husband and wife have self-employment income, each must file a separate Schedule SE. However, include the total of profits (or loss) from all the trades or businesses conducted by either an individual, under the husband’s name and control of operation, all of such income is considered the income of the wife. (See “Partnerships” below.)

If separate returns are filed, Schedules C and SE or Schedules F and SE must be attached to the return of the one with self-employment income. Community income included on such schedules must, however, be allocated for income tax purposes on the basis of the community property laws.

Partnerships

In computing his combined net earnings from self-employment, a partner should include on his entire share of profits and losses from a partnership including any guaranteed payments. No part of that share may be allocated to the partner’s wife (or husband) even though the income may, under State law, be community income. However, in the case of a husband and wife farm partnership, like other partnerships, the distributive share of each must be entered into the partnership income in separate Schedule E, Part III, line 1(c), income tax purposes, and on Schedule SE, Part II, line 1(b) for self-employment tax purposes. (Report nonfarm partnership income on Part III, line 1(c) for social security purposes.)

Note.—If a member of a continuing partnership dies, a portion of the deceased partner’s distributive share of the partnership’s ordinary income (or loss) for the taxable year of the partnership in which he died must be included in the partner’s net earnings from self-employment.

Optional Method for Computing Net Earnings From Farm Self-Employment

If a farmer’s gross profits for the year from farming are not more than $3,500 he may report two-thirds of his gross profits from farming instead of his actual net earnings from farming. If his gross profits from farm self-employment are more than $2,400 and his actual net earnings from farming are less than $1,600, he may report $1,600. For the optional method, a partner should compute his share of gross profits from a farm partnership in accordance with the partnership agreement. In the case of guaranteed payments, his share in the partnership’s gross profits is his guaranteed payment. Plus his share of the gross profits after such gross profits are reduced by all guaranteed payments of the partnership.

Share-Farming Arrangements

An individual undertakes to produce a crop or livestock on land belonging to another for a proportionate share of the crop or livestock produced, or the proceeds thereof, is considered self-employment income of an employee. His net earnings should be reported on Schedule F for income tax and on Schedule SE for self-employment tax purposes.