Use Schedule SE (Form 1040) to figure the tax due on net earnings from self-employment. The Social Security Administration uses the information from Schedule SE to figure your benefits under the social security program. This tax applies no matter how old you are and even if you are already getting social security or Medicare benefits.

Additional Information. See Pub. 533.
Community income included on Schedule(s) C, C-EZ, or F must be divided for income tax purposes on the basis of the community property laws.

**Fiscal Year Filers**

If your tax year is a fiscal year, use the tax rate and earnings base that apply at the time the fiscal year begins. Do not prorate the tax or earnings base for a fiscal year that overlaps the date of a rate or earnings base change.

**Specific Instructions**

Read the chart on page 1 of Schedule SE to see if you can use Section A, Short Schedule SE, or if you must use Section B, Long Schedule SE. For either section, you need to know what to include as net earnings from self-employment. Read the following instructions to see what to include as net earnings and how to fill in lines 1 and 2 of either Short or Long Schedule SE. Enter all negative amounts in parentheses.

**Net Earnings From Self-Employment**

**What Is Included in Net SE Earnings?**

In most cases, net earnings include your net profit from a farm or nonfarm business. If you were a partner in a partnership, see the following instructions.

**Partnership Income or Loss**

If you were a general or limited partner in a partnership, include on line 1 or line 2, whichever applies, the amount from line 15a of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065) or the amount identified as net earnings from self-employment in box 9 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065-B). General partners should reduce this amount before entering it on Schedule SE by any section 179 expense deduction claimed, unreimbursed partnership expenses claimed, and depletion claimed on oil and gas properties. If you reduce the amount you enter on Schedule SE, attach an explanation.

If a partner died and the partnership continued, include in SE income the deceased’s distributive share of the partnership’s ordinary income or loss through the end of the month in which he or she died. See Internal Revenue Code section 1402(f).

If you were married and both you and your spouse were partners in a partnership, each of you must pay SE tax on your own share of the partnership income. Each of you must file a Schedule SE and report the partnership income or loss on Schedule E (Form 1040), Part II, for income tax purposes.

SE income belongs to the person who is member of the partnership and cannot be treated as SE income by the nonmember spouse even in community property states.

**Share Farming**

You are considered self-employed if you produced crops or livestock on someone else’s land for a share of the crops or livestock produced (or a share of the proceeds from the sale of them). This applies even if you paid another person (an agent) to do the actual work or management for you. Report your net earnings for income tax purposes on Schedule F (Form 1040) and for SE tax purposes on Schedule SE. See Pub. 225 for details.

**Other Income and Losses Included in Net Earnings From Self-Employment**

- Rental income from a farm if, as landlord, you materially participated in the production or management of the production of farm products on this land. This income is farm earnings. To determine whether you materially participated in farm management or production, do not consider the activities of any agent who acted for you. The material participation tests are explained in Pub. 225.
- Cash or a payment-in-kind from the Department of Agriculture for participating in a land diversion program.
- Payments for the use of rooms or other space when you also provided substantial services. Examples are hotel rooms, boarding houses, tourist camps or homes, parking lots, warehouses, and storage garages.
- Income from the retail sale of newspapers and magazines if you were age 18 or older and kept the profits.
- Amounts received by current or former self-employed insurance agents and salespersons that are:
  1. Paid after retirement but figured as a percentage of commissions received from the paying company before retirement,
  2. Renewal commissions, or
  3. Deferred commissions paid after retirement for sales made before retirement.

However, certain termination payments received by former insurance salespersons are not included in net earnings from self-employment (as explained below).
- Income of certain crew members of fishing vessels with crews of normally fewer than 10 people. See Pub. 595 for details.
- Fees as a state or local government employee if you were paid only on a fee basis and the job was not covered under a Federal-state social security coverage agreement.
- Interest received in the course of any trade or business, such as interest on notes or accounts receivable.
Income and Losses Not Included in Net Earnings From Self-Employment

- Salaries, fees, etc., subject to social security or Medicare tax that you received for performing services as an employee, including services performed as a public official (except as a fee basis government employee as explained earlier under Other Income and Losses Included in Net Earnings From Self-Employment) or as an employee or employee representative under the railroad retirement system.
- Fees received for services performed as a notary public. If you have no other income subject to SE tax, write “Exempt-Notary” on Form 1040, line 52. However, if you have other earnings of $400 or more subject to SE tax, write “Exempt-Notary” and, in parentheses, the amount of your net profit as a notary public from Schedule C or Schedule C-EZ on the dotted line to the left of line 3, Schedule SE. Subtract that amount from the total of lines 1 and 2 and enter the result on line 3.
- Income you received as a retired partner under a written partnership plan that provides for lifelong periodic retirement payments if you had no other interest in the partnership and did not perform services for it during the year.
- Income from real estate rentals if you did not receive the income in the course of a trade or business as a real estate dealer. Report this income on Schedule E.
- Income from farm rentals (including rentals paid in crop shares) if, as landlord, you did not materially participate in the production or management of the production of farm products on the land. See Pub. 225 for details.
- Dividends on shares of stock and interest on bonds, notes, etc., if you did not receive the income in the course of your trade or business as a dealer in stocks or securities.
- Gain or loss from:
  1. The sale or exchange of a capital asset;
  2. The sale, exchange, involuntary conversion, or other disposition of property unless the property is stock in trade or other property that would be includible in inventory, or held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of the business; or
  3. Certain transactions in timber, coal, or domestic iron ore.
- Net operating losses from other years.
- Termination payments you received as a former insurance salesperson if all of the following conditions are met.
  1. The payment was received from an insurance company because of services you performed as an insurance salesperson for the company.
  2. The payment was received after termination of your agreement to perform services for the company.
  3. You did not perform any services for the company after termination and before the end of the year in which you received the payment.
  4. You entered into a covenant not to compete against the company for at least a 1-year period beginning on the date of termination.
  5. The amount of the payment depended primarily on policies sold by or credited to your account during the last year of the agreement, or the extent to which those policies remain in force for some period after termination, or both.
  6. The amount of the payment did not depend to any extent on length of service or overall earnings from services performed for the company (regardless of whether eligibility for the payment depended on length of service).

Statutory Employee Income

If you were required to check the box on line 1 of Schedule C or C-EZ because you were a statutory employee, do not include the net profit or (loss) from line 31 of that Schedule C (or the net profit from line 3 of Schedule C-EZ) on line 2 of Short or Long Schedule SE. But if you file Long Schedule SE, be sure to include statutory employee social security wages and tips from Form W-2 on line 5a.

Optional Methods

How Can the Optional Methods Help You?

Social Security Coverage. The optional methods may give you credit toward your social security coverage even though you have a loss or a small amount of income from self-employment.

Earned Income Credit. Using the optional methods may qualify you to claim the earned income credit or give you a larger credit if your net SE earnings (determined without using the optional methods) are less than $1,600. Figure the earned income credit with and without using the optional methods to see if the optional methods will benefit you.

Child and Dependent Care Credit. The optional methods may also help you qualify for this credit or give you a larger credit if your net SE earnings (determined without using the optional methods) are less than $1,600. Figure this credit with and without using the optional methods to see if the optional methods will benefit you.

Note. Using the optional methods may give you the benefits described above but they may also increase your SE tax.

Farm Optional Method

You may use this method to figure your net earnings from farm self-employment if your gross farm income was $2,400 or less or your net farm profits (defined below) were less than $1,733. There is no limit on how many years you can use this method.

Under this method, you report on line 15, Part II, two-thirds of your gross farm income, up to $1,600, as your net earnings. This method can increase or decrease your net SE farm earnings even if the farming business had a loss.

You may change the method after you file your return. That is, you can change from the regular to the optional method or from the optional to the regular method.

For a farm partnership, figure your share of gross income based on the partnership agreement. With guaranteed payments, your share of the partnership’s gross income is your guaranteed payments plus your share of the gross income after it is reduced by all guaranteed payments made by the partnership. If you were a limited partner, include only guaranteed payments for services you actually rendered to or on behalf of the partnership.

Net farm profits is the total of the amounts from Schedule F (Form 1040), line 36, and Schedule K-1 (Form 1065), line 15a, from farm partnerships.

Nonfarm Optional Method

You may be able to use this method to figure your net earnings from nonfarm self-employment if your nonfarm profits (defined below) were less than $1,733 and also less than 72.189% of your gross nonfarm income. To use this method, you also must
be regularly self-employed. You meet this requirement if your actual net earnings from self-employment were $400 or more in 2 of the 3 years preceding the year you use the nonfarm method. The net earnings of $400 or more could be from either farm or nonfarm earnings or both. The net earnings include your distributive share of partnership income or loss subject to SE tax. Use of the nonfarm optional method from nonfarm self-employment is limited to 5 years. The 5 years do not have to be consecutive.

Under this method, you report on line 17, Part II, two-thirds of your gross nonfarm income, up to $1,600, as your net earnings. But you may not report less than your actual net earnings from nonfarm self-employment.

You may change the method after you file your return. That is, you can change from the regular to the optional method or from the optional to the regular method. To do so, file Form 1040X.

Figure your share of gross income from a nonfarm partnership in the same manner as a farm partnership. See Farm Optional Method on page SE-3 for details.

Net nonfarm profits is the total of the amounts from Schedule C (Form 1040), line 31 (or Schedule C-EZ (Form 1040), line 3), Schedule K-1 (Form 1065), line 15a (from other than farm partnerships), and Schedule K-1 (Form 1065-B), box 9.

Using Both Optional Methods

If you can use both methods, you may report less than your total actual net earnings from farm and nonfarm self-employment, but you cannot report less than your actual net earnings from nonfarm self-employment alone.

If you use both methods to figure net earnings, you cannot report more than $1,600 of net SE earnings.