

Taxes and tax returns

Taxes are important. They help the state to function. They provide the state with money for public spending. It can be used to build roads. It is used to pay teachers and police officers. It finances many important things.

You pay taxes everywhere. When you go shopping, when you eat out, when you fill up with petrol. That's the **sales tax**. And when you work. That's **income tax**. Are you employed? Then your employer has already deducted your taxes. Are you self-employed? Then you have to pay tax on your income yourself.

Tax identification number

The tax ID is an 11-digit number and is used for income tax purposes. The number is valid for your entire life. The authorities can always identify you with this number. Your place of work requires this number. You do not have this number in your documents? You can obtain it in person from the registration office. Or by filling in a form at the [Federal Central Tax Office](#).

💡 Do you need help with your tax return? It is best to contact one of the [local income tax associations](#). If you have further questions, the [tax office](#) can also help you:

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🌐 <https://www.finanzamt.nrw.de/mein-finanzamt/finan...>

💡 Please make [an appointment online](#) in advance.