



2009 Instructions for Schedule C

Profit or Loss From Business

Use Schedule C (Form 1040) to report income or loss from a business you operated or a profession you practiced as a sole proprietor. An activity qualifies as a business if your primary purpose for engaging in the activity is for income or profit and you are involved in the activity with continuity and regularity. For example, a sporadic activity or a hobby does not qualify as a business. To report income from a nonbusiness activity, see the instructions for Form 1040, line 21, or Form 1040NR, line 21.

Also, use Schedule C to report (a) wages and expenses you had as a statutory employee, (b) income and deductions of qualified joint ventures, and (c) certain income shown on Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income. See the *Instructions for Recipients* (back of Copy B of Form 1099-MISC) for the types of income to report on Schedule C.

Small businesses and statutory employees with expenses of \$5,000 or less may be able to file Schedule C-EZ instead of Schedule C. See Schedule C-EZ for details.

You may be subject to state and local taxes and other requirements such as business licenses and fees. Check with your state and local governments for more information.

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

What's New

Single-member limited liability companies (LLCs) with employees. Single-member LLCs that are disregarded as entities separate from their owner for federal income tax purposes are now required to file employment tax returns (effective for wages paid on or after January 1, 2009) using the LLC's name and employer identification number (EIN) rather than the LLC owner's name and EIN. This new requirement to use the LLC's name and EIN also went into effect for certain excise tax returns beginning in 2008. Single-member LLCs not previously needing an EIN may now need to obtain an EIN for the payment and reporting of these taxes. For more information, see the Instructions for Form SS-4.

Increased section 179 deduction extended. The dollar limit for the section 179 deduction to expense certain depreciable business property is \$250,000 for property placed in service in 2009. This limit will be reduced when the total cost of section 179 property placed in service during the tax year exceeds \$800,000. For more information, see Pub. 946.

Special depreciation allowance. For qualifying property acquired and placed in service in 2009, you may be able to take a depreciation deduction equal to 50% of the adjusted basis of the property. Qualifying property includes certain property with a recovery period of 20 years or less, certain computer software, water utility property, or qualified leasehold improvements. For more information, see Pub. 946.

General Instructions

Other Schedules and Forms You May Have To File

- Schedule A to deduct interest, taxes, and casualty losses not related to your business.
- Schedule E to report rental real estate and royalty income or (loss) that is not subject to self-employment tax.
- Schedule F to report profit or (loss) from farming.
- Schedule J to figure your tax by averaging your farming or fishing income over the previous 3 years. Doing so may reduce your tax.
- Schedule SE to pay self-employment tax on income from any trade or business.
- Form 3800 to claim any of the general business credits.
- Form 4562 to claim depreciation (including the special allowance) on assets placed in service in 2009, to claim amortization that began in 2009, to make an election under section 179 to expense certain property, or to report information on listed property.
- Form 4684 to report a casualty or theft gain or loss involving property used in your trade or business or income-producing property.
- Form 4797 to report sales, exchanges, and involuntary conversions (not from a casualty or theft) of trade or business property.
- Form 6198 to figure your allowable loss if you have a business loss and you have amounts invested in the business for which you are not at risk.
- Form 8582 to figure your deductible loss from passive activities.

• Form 8594 to report certain purchases or sales of groups of assets that constitute a trade or business.

• Form 8824 to report like-kind exchanges.

• Form 8829 to claim expenses for business use of your home.

• Form 8903 to take a deduction for income from domestic production activities.

Single-member limited liability company (LLC). Generally, a single-member domestic LLC is not treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes. If you are the sole member of a domestic LLC, file Schedule C or C-EZ (or Schedule E or F, if applicable). However, you can elect to treat a domestic LLC as a corporation. See Form 8832 for details on the election and the tax treatment of a foreign LLC.

Heavy highway vehicle use tax. If you use certain highway trucks, truck-trailers, tractor-trailers, or buses in your trade or business, you may have to pay a federal highway motor vehicle use tax. See the Instructions for Form 2290 to find out if you must pay this tax.

Information returns. You may have to file information returns for wages paid to employees, certain payments of fees and other nonemployee compensation, interest, rents, royalties, real estate transactions, annuities, and pensions. You may also have to file an information return if you sold \$5,000 or more of consumer products to a person on a buy-sell, deposit-commission, or other similar basis for resale. For details, see the 2009 General Instructions for Forms 1099, 1098, 3921, 3922, 5498, and W-2G.

If you received cash of more than \$10,000 in one or more related transactions in your trade or business, you may have to file Form 8300. For details, see Pub. 1544.

Husband-Wife Business

Generally, if you and your spouse jointly own and operate an unincorporated business and share in the profits and losses, you