

Tax Guide 2024-25



Tax on residential property purchase

Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) in England and Northern Ireland; Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) in Scotland; Land Transaction Tax (LTT) in Wales.

Residential property (first property only):

<i>SDLT - England & Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Up to £250,000	Nil
£250,001 – £925,000	5%
£925,001 – £1,500,000	10%
Over £1,500,000	12%

- The SDLT cut announced on 23 September 2022 is a temporary measure which will remain in place until 31 March 2025
- First time buyers are exempt from SDLT for purchases up to £425,000 with 5% SDLT due on the portion from £425,001 to £625,000, if the property is priced over £625,000, you cannot claim the relief
- A 2% supplement applies where a property is purchased by a non-resident
- A 15% flat rate SDLT applies to 'non-natural persons' purchasing residential properties (enveloped properties) valued above £500,000 unless relief is available
- Higher rates for additional properties - a 3% supplement is payable on top of the SDLT rates if buying a new residential property means you'll own more than one
- From 1 June 2024 Multiple Dwellings Relief (MDR) will be abolished.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT)

- The annual CGT exemption for 2024-25 is £3,000
- For individuals the flat rate of CGT that applies to gains in excess of the annual exemption is 10% up to the higher rate tax threshold
- Surcharge for residential property and carried interest of 8%
- Chargeable gains in excess of the higher rate threshold: 20%
- £1,500 CGT exemption for trusts, 20% rate applies thereafter

- The higher rate of CGT on residential property will be cut from 28% to 24% from April 2024, the lower rate will remain at 18%
- Lifetime Allowance on gains eligible for Business Asset Disposal Relief is £1m.

Personal Allowances

	<i>2024-25</i>
Personal Allowance	£12,570
Personal Savings Allowance (basic rate taxpayer)	£1,000
Personal Savings Allowance (higher rate taxpayer)	£500
Rent-a-room tax-free income	£7,500
Dividend Allowance	£500

- The Personal Allowance for those with adjusted net income over £100,000 reduces by £1 for every £2 of income
- Interest on savings is tax-free to a threshold of £1,000 for basic rate taxpayers and £500 for those who pay higher rate tax
- Married Couple's Allowance is given at 10%, claimants must be born before 6 April 1935; the full allowance is £11,080
- Spouses or civil partners are able to transfer £1,260 of their unused Personal Allowance to their partner; this is available provided neither partner pays tax at the higher rate and is not available if the couple are in receipt of Married Couple's Allowance.

Income Tax rates

The following allowances and rates will apply in 2024-25 for the UK (excluding Scotland)

<i>Rate of tax</i>		<i>2024-25</i>
Starting rate (savings income only)	0%	£0-£5,000
Basic rate	20%	£12,571-£50,270
Higher rate	40%	£50,271 - £125,140
Additional rate	45%	£125,140+
Basic rate on dividends	8.75%	Over the £500 Dividend Allowance
Higher rate on dividends	33.75%	
Additional rate on dividends	39.35%	

- Income Tax is paid on the amount of taxable income remaining after allowances have been deducted
- From April 2024, the Dividend Allowance was reduced to £500
- The Income Tax additional rate threshold (ART) for non-savings and non-dividend income will apply to taxpayers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The ART for savings and dividend income will apply UK-wide
- From 6 April 2025, the remittance basis of taxation for non-UK domiciled individuals will be abolished and replaced with a residence-based regime.

National Insurance

Class 1 National Insurance contributions (NIC) rates are:

- Employees NIC – 8% (from April 2024), Employers NIC – 13.8%
- There is no NIC on first £242 per week (employee) and £175 per week (employer), then the main rate is charged up to £967 per week (employee), no limit for employer. A 2% rate applied for employees on earnings above £967 per week
- There is nil rate employer NIC on earnings up to £967 per week for employees aged under 21 and apprentices aged under 25.

Class 2 (self-employed) NIC rates are:

- From 6 April 2024, self-employed individuals earning over £6,725 are no longer obligated to make payments for Class 2 NICs, but they will still be eligible for contributory benefits
- Those with profits under £6,725 pay Class 2 NICs voluntarily to access contributory benefits.

Class 3 NIC rate is a voluntary contribution at a flat rate of £17.45 per week.

Class 4 NIC is payable at 6% on self-employed profits from £12,570 to £50,270, over this there is a 2% rate.

Pension Allowances

Some significant changes took place from April 2023:

- The Annual Allowance (AA) threshold increased to £60,000
- The Money Purchase Annual Allowance (MPAA) and the minimum Tapered Annual Allowance (TAA) increased to £10,000
- The adjusted income threshold for the TAA increased to £260,000
- The Lifetime Allowance and charge have been abolished, replaced by the Lump Sum and Death Benefit Allowance (LSDBA) of £1,073,100 and the Lump Sum Allowance (LSA) of £268,275 from 6 April 2024.

Tax-free savings for individuals

- Overall ISA limit £20,000
- Junior ISA allowance £9,000
- Lifetime ISA £4,000.

The government has published a consultation on a new UK ISA (£5,000 allowance, invested in UK equities).

Some tax relief options for individuals

Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs)

- Relief on investment in certain qualifying companies up to £200,000 per annum
- Income Tax relief at 30%, provided shares held at least five years
- Capital gains exemption on disposal (only if Income Tax relief received)
- Dividends received from VCTs may be exempt from Income Tax

Enterprise Investment Schemes (EIS)

- Relief on investments in certain unquoted trading companies up to £1m per annum (or £2m as long as at least £1m of this is invested in knowledge intensive companies)
- Income Tax relief at 30%
- Capital gains exemption on disposal
- Unlimited amounts of capital gains from the disposal of other assets may be able to be deferred by making an EIS investment

Venture Capital Trusts (VCT) invest in assets that are high risk and can be difficult to sell such as shares in unlisted companies. The value of the investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back what they originally invested, even taking into account the tax benefits.

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Corporation Tax

- Corporation Tax for company profits up to £50,000 is 19%
- An effective rate of 26.5% is applied to profits between £50,001 and £250,000
- A Corporation Tax rate of 25% applies for companies with over £250,000 in profits.

Inheritance Tax (IHT)

- The nil-rate IHT band is £325,000, with 40% IHT payable above this threshold
- A lower rate of IHT (36%) applies if you leave 10% of your net assets to charity
- Main residence nil-rate band of £175,000 where a residence is passed on death to a direct descendant

The proportion of the threshold 'unused' on the first death of husband or wife (or civil partners) is effectively transferable to the surviving partner and serves to increase his or her threshold by corresponding percentage.

Chargeable lifetime transfers and potentially exempt transfers attract taper relief, if made up to seven years before death on the amount of gift over the nil-rate band.

Certain gifts are IHT-free however soon death occurs, including:

- Gifts between UK domiciled husband and wife or between civil partners
- Total gifts up to £3,000 in a year (can be carried forward one year)
- Small gifts to other recipients (up to £250 each in year)
- Gifts in consideration of marriage or civil partnership ranging from £5,000 from each parent of the couple, to £1,000 from anyone else.

State Pension entitlement

- A flat rate, single tier State Pension of £221.20 per week is payable from 6 April 2024 (35 qualifying years of National Insurance contributions needed for full rate), available to those reaching state pension age (SPA) on or after 6 April 2016
- For those who reached SPA before 6 April 2016, the basic State Pension of £169.50 applies (30 qualifying years needed for full rate), plus any additional State Pension.

Principal state benefits

<i>Weekly benefits</i>	<i>2024-25</i>
Statutory Sick Pay	£116.75
Statutory Maternity Pay – first 6 weeks	90% of weekly earning
Statutory Maternity Pay – next 33 weeks	£184.03*
Ordinary Statutory Paternity Pay – 2 weeks	£184.03*
Additional Statutory Paternity Pay – variable period	£184.03*

* or 90% of earnings, if lower

Self Assessment dates

- 31 Jul 2024 Second payment on account for 2023-24 due to HMRC
- 05 Oct 2024 Deadline to notify chargeability and advise HMRC of need to register for Self Assessment
- 31 Oct 2024 Deadline for submitting paper Self Assessment returns to HMRC
- 30 Dec 2024 Deadline for filing online return with HMRC if tax is to be collected through PAYE
- 31 Jan 2025 Deadline for filing 2023-24 returns, balancing payment due for 2023-24, first payment due for 2024-25

NOTE: The information contained in this leaflet is based on our understanding of the Autumn Statement 2023 and Spring Budget 2024, proposals, which are subject to change. No action should be taken without further advice being sought. We can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Information is based on our current understanding of taxation legislation and regulations. Any levels and bases of, and reliefs from taxation, are subject to change. Tax treatment is based on individual circumstances and may be subject to change in the future.