

## DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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## Chapter Tax 3

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**Tax 3.01 Rents paid by corporations.** (s. 71.04 (2), Stats.) Rents paid on property used in producing taxable income are deductible from gross income. The cost of leaseholds, acquired for cash or property, represents rent paid in advance and as such is deductible from gross income in equal amounts over the life of the leaseholds. Taxes paid by the lessee for the lessor are to be treated as additional rent paid and are a deductible expense.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123. eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 3.03 Dividends received, deductibility of.** (s. 71.04 (4), Stats.) (1) In determining whether 50% or more of the net income or loss for the preceding year of the corporation paying the dividend was used in computing taxable income, if the corporation paying the dividend was subject to the franchise tax measured by net income, interest income from the federal government and its instrumentalities must be included but deduct-

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ible dividends must be disregarded. If the corporation paying the dividend was subject to the net income tax, non-taxable interest from the federal government or its instrumentalities and deductible dividends must both be disregarded.

(2) When a corporation keeps its records on the basis of a fiscal year ending not later than June 30, the dividends received from such corporation during the calendar year will be presumed to have been paid from the income of the corporation for its fiscal year ending within the calendar year when such dividends are paid. When a corporation keeps its records on the basis of a fiscal year ending subsequent to June 30, the dividends received from such corporation during the calendar year will be presumed to have been paid from the income of the corporation for its fiscal year ending in the year prior to the calendar year when such dividends are paid.

(3) All dividends must be reported in full on the income tax return of the person receiving them, regardless of the deductibility of certain dividends received by corporations. Corporate taxpayers should deduct such dividends as they believe to be deductible. Whether or not the dividends are deductible will be determined in accordance with the records on file with the department of revenue and proper adjustment will be made.

(4) All corporations doing business within Wisconsin must report the dividends paid to residents of Wisconsin on forms 9b. (See s. Tax 2.04).

(5) Distributions received from corporations which may deduct dividends paid from gross income for tax purposes do not qualify as deductible dividends.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, September, 1964, No. 105, eff. 10-1-64; am. (1), Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66; am. Register, February, 1975, No. 230, eff. 3-1-75; cr. (5), Register, July, 1978, No. 271, eff. 8-1-78.

**Tax 3.05 Profit-sharing distributions by corporations.** (s. 71.04 (1), Stats.) (1) Payments made to officers and employes for services rendered under the terms of a profit-sharing agreement, in lieu of or in addition to fixed salaries or other compensation, are proper deductions from gross income. Payments made to the stockholders of a corporation who are not actively engaged in the business are not allowable deductions. If profit-sharing distributions are based on stock holdings, they will be treated as dividends and, therefore, are not allowable deductions.

(a) The form or method of fixing compensation is not decisive as to the deductibility thereof. If payments are made pursuant to a profit-sharing agreement entered into between employer and employe before services are rendered, which is not influenced by any consideration on the part of the employer other than that of securing the services of the employe on fair and advantageous terms, they will be allowable as deductions from gross income even though in the actual working out of the contract such payments may prove to be greater than the amounts which would ordinarily be paid.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 3.07 Bonuses and retroactive wage adjustments paid by corporations.** (s. 71.04 (1), Stats.) Bonuses for services actually rendered but not based upon a prearranged bonus agreement or established policy are allowable when actually paid, provided the payments when added to the stipulated

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salaries or other compensation do not exceed a reasonable compensation for the services rendered. Bonuses paid to employees and others which do not have in them the element of compensation or are excessive in comparison to the services rendered are not deductible from gross income. Christmas bonuses, if paid as additional compensation, are proper deductions from gross income if included on federal form W-2 or Wisconsin form 9b as a part of the compensation paid. Retroactive wage adjustments, if reasonable in amount, may be taken as a deduction from gross income in the year in which they are finally determined to be payable. The adjustments are to be reported on federal form W-2 or Wisconsin form 9b.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66; am. Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

**Tax 3.08 Retirement and profit-sharing payments by corporations.** (s. 71.04, Stats.) (1) Retirement payments to retired officers or employes or to their families or dependents, to be deductible from gross income must:

- (a) Qualify as ordinary and necessary expense.
- (b) Be made pursuant to a retirement plan agreement.
- (c) Be reasonable in amount.
- (d) Have been reported on informational returns when required by s. Tax 2.04 or 2.06.

Credits to retirement reserves are not deductible, but actual retirement payments made and charged against such reserves may be deductible in the year made.

(2) Payments to an employe retirement or profit-sharing trust are deductible if:

- (a) Such payments qualify as ordinary and necessary expense.
- (b) The trust is an irrevocable trust and no part of its funds may revert to the employer.
- (c) Payments to the trust are made in accordance with an established policy or agreement.
- (d) The trust is established for the benefit of officers or employes.
- (e) Such payments are reasonable in amount.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, March, 1966, No. 123, eff. 4-1-66.

**Tax 3.085 Retirement plan distributions.** (s. 71.07 (1), Stats.) (1) **NON-RESIDENTS.** Employe annuity, pension, profit-sharing or stock bonus plan distributions (including self-employed retirement plan distributions) received by a person while a nonresident of Wisconsin shall be exempt from the Wisconsin income tax, regardless of whether any of these distributions may be attributable to personal services performed in Wisconsin.

(2) **RESIDENTS.** Employe annuity, pension, profit-sharing or stock bonus plan distributions (including self-employed retirement plan distributions) received by a person while a resident of Wisconsin shall be subject to the Wisconsin income tax, regardless of whether any of these distribu-



- (a) Bank for Cooperative debentures.
- (b) Farmer's Home Administration insured notes.
- (c) Federal Home Loan Bank bonds, debentures and notes.
- (d) Federal Housing Authority debentures.
- (e) Federal Intermediate Credit Bank debentures.
- (f) Federal Land Bank bonds.
- (g) Federal Reserve Bank dividends.

(h) Government National Mortgage Association bonds, if payment of such obligations, together with interest thereon, is guaranteed by the United States. (In 1968, the Federal National Mortgage Association became 2 separate corporations. One corporation retained the original name and the other is known as the Government National Mortgage Association.)

- (i) Production Credit Association debentures.

(j) Small Business Investment Company debentures, if payment of such obligations, together with interest thereon, is guaranteed by the United States.

- (k) Tennessee Valley Authority bonds.

- (l) Territory of Hawaii bonds.

- (m) Territory of Puerto Rico bonds.

- (n) United States Postal Service bonds.

- (o) United States Savings bonds.

- (p) United States Treasury bills and notes.

(3) Interest and dividends, less related expenses, payable on the following types of municipal securities shall be subject to the state income tax on individuals and fiduciaries:

- (a) Municipal bonds.

(b) Public housing authority bonds issued by municipalities located outside Wisconsin.

(4) Interest and dividends, less related expenses, payable on public housing authority bonds of Wisconsin municipalities shall be exempt from the state income tax on individuals and fiduciaries.

Note: Section 71.05 (1) (a) 1, Stats., provides for the inclusion in Wisconsin income of natural persons and fiduciaries of any interest, less related expenses, received on state and municipal obligations.

Section 71.05 (1) (b) 1, Stats., provides for the exclusion from Wisconsin income of natural persons and fiduciaries of any interest or dividend income, less related expenses, which is by federal law exempt from taxation by Wisconsin.

This rule sets out examples of interest and dividends payable on municipal and federal obligations which are taxable and tax exempt.

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**Tax 3.096 Interest paid on money borrowed to purchase exempt government securities** (s. 71.05 (1) (b) 1, Stats.). (1) Any amount of interest or dividend income which is by federal law exempt from the Wisconsin income tax shall be reduced by any related expense before it is claimed as a subtraction modification on a Wisconsin income tax return.

(2) Interest expense is a "related expense" if it is incurred to purchase securities producing exempt interest or dividend income and if it is deducted in computing Wisconsin taxable income.

(3) Interest expense is not a "related expense" if it is incurred to purchase securities producing exempt interest or dividend income but is not deducted in computing Wisconsin taxable income (for example, because the taxpayer elects the standard rather than to itemize deductions).

Note: The following examples illustrate the proper treatment of the interest expense described in this rule:

<i>Example A:</i>	U.S. bond interest exempt from Wisconsin income tax.	\$ 600
	Interest which was paid on funds used to acquire exempt securities and which was claimed as an itemized deduction.	<u>400</u>
	Subtraction modification.	<u>\$ 200</u>
<i>Example B:</i>	U.S. bond interest exempt from Wisconsin income tax.	\$ 400
	Interest paid to acquire the exempt securities which was claimed as an itemized deduction.	<u>600</u>
	Subtraction modification.	<u>\$ 0</u>
<i>Example C:</i>	U.S. bond interest exempt from Wisconsin income tax.	\$ 400
	Interest paid to acquire the exempt securities but <i>not</i> claimed as an itemized deduction	<u>600</u>
	Subtraction modification	<u>\$ 400</u>

History: Cr. Register, January, 1977, No. 253, eff. 2-1-77.

**Tax 3.098 Railroad retirement supplemental annuities.** (s. 71.05 (1) (b) 4, Stats.). Railroad retirement supplemental annuities paid under 45 U.S.C.A. s. 228c are exempt from the Wisconsin taxable income of their recipients.

Note: The Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C.A. s. 428L) provides that, "Notwithstanding any other law of the United States, or of any State . . . no annuity or pension payment shall be . . . subject to any tax. . . ."

Another provision of the Act (45 U.S.C.A. s. 228c (j) (3)), however, relates specifically to supplemental Retirement Annuities paid in amounts between \$45 and \$70 per month, and qualifies the above provision by stating "The provisions of Section 228L of this title shall not operate to exclude the supplemental annuities herein provided for from income taxable pursuant to the Federal income tax provisions of Title 26."

While such supplemental annuities are taxable for federal income tax purposes, 45 U.S.C.A. s. 228 (c) (j) 3 continues to prohibit states from taxing the payments. As the supplemental annuity must be reported for federal income tax purposes, a Wisconsin taxpayer may make a modification to federal adjusted gross income to remove such income from Wisconsin adjusted gross income.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1977, No. 253, eff. 2-1-77.

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