



## The Qualified Business Income Tax Deduction



The Qualified Business Income deduction, also known as the pass-through deduction, enables most self-employed taxpayers and small business owners to exclude as much as 20% of their qualifying business income from federal tax. This document provides an overview of the QBI Deduction and how it may help in reducing your tax liability.

## What is the QBI Deduction?

The QBI deduction was created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and will be in effect from tax years 2018 to 2025. It enables a taxpayer to deduct up to 20% of qualifying pass-through business income, REIT dividends, or qualified publicly traded partnership income on their individual income tax returns. Pass-through entities include sole proprietorships, partnerships, S corporations, and limited liability companies.

The deduction is based on Qualifying Business Income which is the net amount of qualified items of income, gain, deduction, and loss with respect to any trade or business. It does not include capital gains or losses, dividends, interest income, income earned outside the US, or certain wage and guaranteed payments made to partners and shareholders.

## How to Qualify for the Deduction

To qualify for the full deduction, the owner's taxable income, before the QBI deduction, must be below \$163,300 for single taxpayers and \$326,600 for married filing jointly for the 2020 tax year. For the 2021 tax year, the thresholds are \$164,900 for single taxpayers and \$329,800 for married filing jointly.

If an owner's taxable income exceeds those amounts, the deduction is reduced or eliminated altogether, depending on the type of the business and the amount of income. IRS rules place restrictions on which trades or businesses qualify for full or partial deductions. Limitations on deductions focus on factors such as trade or business type, taxable income, and the amount of W-2 wages the company has paid.



Certain service-based businesses such as lawyers, accountants, doctors, dentists, athletes, and investment brokers fall into the “specified service trade or business” category. For these types of businesses, the income levels for phasing out and eliminating the deduction are higher and subject to different formulas.

## How to Claim the Deduction

A taxpayer who owns multiple businesses may use aggregate amounts from their various businesses, but there are specific rules in doing so. It’s important to note that a taxpayer may not aggregate multiple entities classified as a specified service trade or business.

The qualified business income deduction is claimed on form 1040, your individual income tax return. The deduction can be taken regardless of whether or not the taxpayer itemizes deductions. Therefore, any taxpayer who qualifies should claim this deduction.

Form **1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service  
**U.S. Individual Income Tax**  
 For the year Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2016, or other tax year beginning  
 Your first name and initial  
 If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial  
 Home address (number and street), if you have a P.O. box, use that box  
 City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code  
 Foreign country name  
 Filing Status  
 Check only one  
 Exemptions  
 Daytime phone  
 If the IRS sent you an ID, enter it here (see inst.)  
 PTIN  
 Check ☐ if self-employed  
 Firm's EIN  
 Phone no.

# Final Thoughts

The formulas and calculations for the qualified business income deduction can be complicated and this document is only meant to provide a brief overview. If you would like help determining your eligibility and potential deduction, please contact our office.



## About Olsen Thielen

Olsen Thielen is a full service accounting and consulting firm, and a "Top 25" firm in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. We focus on providing top quality solutions for our clients through our traditional accounting and tax services, as well as non-traditional services like valuations, business succession planning, employee benefits and human resources consulting, back-office cloud accounting solutions, estate, gift and financial planning, and fraud and forensic accounting.

Olsen Thielen was founded on the belief that personal attention, trust, and quality service were the key elements to helping our clients succeed. As we celebrate our centennial, that commitment remains stronger than ever. Our longevity and growth can be attributed to building strong relationships with our clients and continuing to earn their trust.



Olsen Thielen  
Roseville Office:  
2675 Long Lake Road  
Roseville, MN 55113

Eden Prairie Office:  
300 Prairie Center Dr. Ste. 300  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344



Roseville: 651-483-4521  
Eden Prairie: 952-941-9242



[resources@otcpas.com](mailto:resources@otcpas.com)



<http://www.otcpas.com>

