Income Tax Information Index

Property Tax Rent/Heat Rebate
Filing Statistics (History of PTC Filing)

The Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat (PTC) Rebate was implemented in 1972 to provide property tax assistance to low income Colorado residents over age 65 and surviving spouses over age 58. Assistance for heat expenses was added in 1980. The rebate was made available to disabled individuals in 1987.

Funds for the rebate come from the General Fund and are continuously appropriated by a permanent statutes; §39-31-101, and §39-31-102, C.R.S.

Colorado's House and Senate Finance Committee is presented a bi-annual PTC presentation by the Department of Revenue as required by statute 39-31-101(2.5), C.R.S.

The information below reflects PTC filing and poverty index statistics in addition to PTC rebate amounts and phase out rules.

PTC filings statistics date listed on this page date back to 1995 - 2007.

- C.R.S. 39-31-101 (Real property tax assistance, eligibility, applicability)
- Regulation 39-31-101 (Property Tax/Rent-Heat Grant/Rebate)

2002 REPORT:

Filing Statistics (1995-2001)

During the 1998 legislative session, the PTC rebate was modified for the first time in several years effective for years beginning on or after January 1, 1999. The following chart illustrates the recent history of PTC filings.

Fiscal year ending June 30	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**
Number of PTC Returns	37,055	36,117	33,351	32,416	33,557	37,797	32,549
Total rebates issued	$12,332,539	$11,562,717	$10,406,673	$9,972,485	$9,072,554	$21,752,204	$18,921,910
Average Rebate	333	320	312	308	270	576	581
% Change - Number of Returns	--	-2.53%	-7.66%	-2.80%	3.52%	12.64%	-13.88%
% Change – Total issued	--	-6.24%	-10.00%	-4.17%	-9.02%	139.76%	-13.01%
% Change - Average Rebate	--	-3.90%	-2.50%	-1.28%	-12.34%	113.33%	0.87%

As income rises each year, the number of individuals qualified for the rebate decreases because the rebate available begins to phase out once an individual's income reaches a certain dollar threshold. The increase in income also results in lower average rebates due to the phase out rules.

Fiscal year 1999: The increase in the number of filers was due to increased interest in filing for the $142 state sales tax refund (TABOR). However, most of these new filers were higher income individuals who received small rebates.

Fiscal year 2000: The significant increase in rebate claims and average rebate are a result of the increased maximum rebate amount and the more liberal phase out rules included in the 1998 law change.

Fiscal year 2001: The trend of declining applicants and rebates returns due to an increase in personal income. The rate of decline was expedited by the strong economy that provided many applicants additional income from wages.

PTC Rebate Amounts and Phase Out Rules

Pre 1999 rules

The PTC rebate allowed a maximum credit of $660; $500 for the property tax/rent credit and $160 for the heat credit. Individuals with gross income over $5000 and married couples with gross income over $8700 were required to reduce the amount of their rebate by a percentage of the amount their income exceeded these dollar amounts.

Post 1999 rules

The law change increased the maximum credit to $792; $600 for the property tax/rent credit and $192 for the heat credit. The phase out percentages were also decreased in order to increase benefits.

The following chart illustrates these rules.

	Old law	New law
Maximum PTC Rebate allowed	$660	$792
Maximum Property Tax/ Rent Rebate	$500	$600
Maximum Heat Rebate	$160	$192
% of income over base ($5000 single, $7500 joint) that reduces the property tax/rent rebate that can be claimed	20%	10%
% of income over base ($5000 single, $7500 joint) that reduces the heat rebate that can be claimed	6.4%	3.2%
Income level where phase out reduces the rebate to $0 - Single filer	$7,500	$11,000
Income level where phase out reduces the rebate to $0 - Joint filer	$11,200	$14,700

Poverty Statistics

The following poverty statistics may be used to assist in the analysis of the PTC statistics:

2001 preliminary estimate of the poverty threshold from the U.S. Census Bureau

Size of family unit	Estimated Threshold
1 person (unrelated individual)	$9,044
Under 65 years	9,214
65 years and over	8,494
2 persons	11,559
Householder under 65 years	11,920
Householder 65 years and over	10,715
3 persons	14,129
4 persons	18,104
5 persons	21,411
6 persons	24,197
7 persons	27,514
8 persons	30,546
9 persons or more	36,058

2002 Dept of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines for the 48 contiguous states and Washington DC

Size of family unit	Threshold

1 person	$ 8,860
2 persons	11,940
3 persons	15,020
4 persons	18,100
5 persons	21,180
6 persons	24,260
7 persons	27,340
8 persons	30,420
For each additional person add	3,080

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2004 REPORT:

Filing Statistics (1997-2003)

During the 1998 legislative session, the PTC rebate was modified for the first time in several years effective for years beginning on or after January 1, 1999. The following chart illustrates the recent history of PTC filings.

Fiscal year ending June 30	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number of PTC Returns	33,351	32,416	33,557	37,797	32,549	40,366	47,154
Total rebates issued	$10,406,673	$11,562,717	$9,072,554	$12,718,721	$10,036,033	$13,557,568	$16,787,635
Average Rebate	312	320	270	337	308	336	356
% Change - Number of Returns		-2.8%	3.5%	12.6%	-13.9%	24.0%	16.8%
% Change – Total issued		-4.2%	-9.0%	40.2%	-21.1%	35.1%	23.8%
% Change - Average Rebate		-1.3%	-12.3%	24.8%	-8.6%	9.1%	6.0%

As income rises each year, the number of individuals qualified for the rebate decreases because the rebate available begins to phase out once an individual's income reaches a certain dollar threshold. The increase in income also results in lower average rebates due to the phase out rules.

Fiscal year 2000: The increase in rebate claims and average rebate are a result of the increased maximum rebate amount and the more liberal phase out rules included in the 1998 law change.

Fiscal years 2002/2003: The increase in rebate claims is due to the downturn in the economy, which moved many low income earners down into the PTC income range.

PTC Rebate Amounts and Phase Out Rules

Pre 1999 rules

The PTC rebate allowed a maximum credit of $660; $500 for the property tax/rent credit and $160 for the heat credit. Individuals with gross income over $5000 and married couples with gross income over $8700 were required to reduce the amount of their rebate by a percentage of the amount their income exceeded these dollar amounts.

Current rules

The law change increased the maximum credit to $792; $600 for the property tax/rent credit and $192 for the heat credit. The phase out percentages were also decreased in order to increase benefits.

	1998 law	Current law
Maximum PTC Rebate allowed	$660	$792
Maximum Property Tax/ Rent Rebate	$500	$600
Maximum Heat Rebate	$160	$192
Base income level – Single	$5,000	$5,000
Base income level – Married	$8,700	$8,700
% of income over base that reduces the property tax/rent rebate that can be claimed	20%	10%
% of income over base that reduces the heat rebate that can be claimed	6.4%	3.2%
Income level where phase out reduces the rebate to $0 - Single filer	$7,500	$11,000
Income level where phase out reduces the rebate to $0 - Joint filer	$11,200	$14,700

Poverty Statistics

The following poverty statistics may be used to assist in the analysis of the PTC statistics:

2002 poverty threshold from the U.S. Census Bureau

Size of family unit	Estimated Threshold
1 person (unrelated individual)	$ 9,183
Under 65 years	9,359
65 years and over	8,628
2 persons	11,756
Householder under 65 years	12,110
Householder 65 years and over	10,885
3 persons	14,348
4 persons	18,392
5 persons	21,744
6 persons	24,576
7 persons	28,001
8 persons	30,907
9 persons or more	37,062

2003 Dept of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines for the 48 contiguous states and Washington DC

Size of family unit	Threshold
1 person	$ 8,980
2 persons	12,120
3 persons	15,260
4 persons	18,400
5 persons	21,540
6 persons	24,680
7 persons	27,820
8 persons	30,960
For each additional person add	3,140

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2006 REPORT:

Filing Statistics (1999-2005)

During the 1998 legislative session, the PTC rebate was modified for the first time in several years effective for years beginning on or after January 1, 1999. The following chart illustrates the recent history of PTC filings.

Fiscal year ending June 30	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Number of PTC Returns	33,557	37,797	32,549	40,366	47,154	47,239	44,620
Total rebates issued	$9,072,554	$12,718,721	$10,036,033	$13,557,568	$16,787,635	$15,731,515	$13,917,904
Average Rebate	$270	$337	$308	$336	$356	$333	$312
% Change - Number of Returns		12.6%	-13.9%	24.0%	16.8%	.2%	-5.5%
% Change – Total issued		40.2%	-21.1%	35.1%	23.8%	-6.3%	-11.5%
% Change - Average Rebate		24.8%	-8.6%	9.1%	6.0%	-6.5%	-6.3%

Annual increases in Social Security income and disability payments reduces the number of individuals qualified for the rebate each year because the rebate phases out as an individual's income increases. The lower average rebates are a function of the increase in income coupled with the phase out rules.

Changes in the economy affect the rebate claims by increasing or decreasing the wages earned by applicants. A downturn in the economy moves many low-income individuals down into the PTC income range, while an upturn in the economy moves marginal applicants up out of the PTC income range.

Fiscal year 2000: The increases are a result of the modified rebate calculations included in a 1998 law change, which became effective for 1999.

PTC Rebate Amounts and Phase Out Rules
Pre 1999 rules

The PTC rebate calculation starts with the maximum credit allowed, which consists of two components; a property tax/rent rebate and a heat expense rebate. Individuals with gross income over a base amount are required to reduce the maximum rebate available by a percentage of the amount their income exceeds the base income level.

	1998 law	Current law	Proposed law
Maximum PTC Rebate allowed	$660	$792	$792
Maximum Property Tax/ Rent Rebate	$500	$600	$600
Maximum Heat Rebate	$160	$192	$192
Base income level – Single	$5,000	$5,000	$7,000
Base income level – Married	$8,700	$8,700	$10,700

% of income over base that reduces the property tax/rent rebate that can be claimed	20%	10%	10%
% of income over base that reduces the heat rebate that can be claimed	6.4%	3.2%	3.2%
Income level where phase out reduces the rebate to $0 - Single filer	$7,500	$11,000	$13,000
Income level where phase out reduces the rebate to $0 - Joint filer	$11,200	$14,700	$16,700

Poverty Statistics

The following poverty statistics may be used to assist in the analysis of the PTC statistics:

2004 poverty threshold from the U.S. Census Bureau

Size of family unit	Estimated Threshold
1 person (unrelated individual)	
Under 65 years	$ 9,827
65 years and over	9,060
2 persons	
Householder under 65 years	12,649
Householder 65 years and over	11,418
3 persons	14,776
4 persons	19,484
5 persons	23,497
6 persons	27,025
7 persons	31,096
8 persons	34,778
9 persons or more	41,836

2005 Dept of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines for the 48 contiguous states and Washington DC

Size of family unit	Threshold
1 person	$ 9,570
2 persons	12,830
3 persons	16,090
4 persons	19,350
5 persons	22,610
6 persons	25,870
7 persons	29,130
8 persons	32,390
For each additional person add	3,260

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2008 REPORT:

Filing Statistics (2001-2007)

The following chart illustrates the recent history of PTC filings.

Fiscal year ending June 30	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of PTC Returns	32,549	40,366	47,154	47,239	44,620	38,827	32,673
Total rebates issued	$10,036,033	$13,557,568	$16,787,635	$15,731,515	$13,917,904	$11,676,772	$8,255,633
Average Rebate	$308	$336	$356	$333	$312	$301	$253
% Change - Number of Returns		24.0%	16.8%	0.2%	-5.5%	-13.0%	-15.9%
% Change – Total issued		35.1%	23.8%	-6.3%	-11.5%	-16.1%	-29.3%
% Change - Average Rebate		8.9%	6.0%	-6.5%	-6.3%	-3.6%	-16.0%

Annual increases in Social Security income and disability payments reduces the number of individuals qualified for the rebate each year because the rebate phases out as an individual's income increases. The lower average rebates are a function of the increase in income coupled with the phase out rules.

Changes in the economy affect the rebate claims by increasing or decreasing the wages earned by applicants. A downturn in the economy moves many low-income individuals down into the PTC income range, while an upturn in the economy moves marginal applicants up out of the PTC income range.

Fiscal year 2007: The decreases are a result of the legal presence requirements that were introduced.

PTC Rebate Amounts and Phase Out Rules

The PTC rebate calculation starts with the maximum credit allowed, which consists of two components; a property tax/rent rebate and a heat expense rebate. Individuals with gross income over a base amount are required to reduce the maximum rebate available by a percentage of the amount their income exceeds the base income level.

	1998 law	1999-2007 law	2008 law*
Maximum PTC Rebate allowed	$660	$792	$792
Maximum Property Tax/ Rent Rebate	$500	$600	$600
Maximum Heat Rebate	$160	$192	$192
Base income level – Single	$5,000	$5,000	$6,000
Base income level – Married	$8,700	$8,700	$9,700
% of income over base that reduces the property tax/rent rebate that can be claimed	20%	10%	10%
% of income over base that reduces the heat rebate that can be claimed	6.4%	3.2%	3.2%
Income level where phase out reduces the rebate to $0 - Single filer	$7,500	$11,000	$12,000
Income level where phase out reduces the rebate to $0 - Joint filer	$11,200	$14,700	$15,700

* For years after 2008 the income levels will be indexed for inflation.

Poverty Statistics

The following poverty statistics may be used to assist in the analysis of the PTC statistics:

2006 poverty threshold from the U.S. Census Bureau

Size of family unit	Estimated Threshold
1 person (unrelated individual)	
Under 65 years	$10,488
65 years and over	9,669
2 persons	
Householder under 65 years	13,569
Householder 65 years and over	12,201
3 persons	16,079
4 persons	20,614
5 persons	24,382
6 persons	27,560
7 persons	31,205
8 persons	34,774
9 persons or more	41,499

2007 Dept of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines for the 48 contiguous states and Washington DC

Size of family unit	Threshold
1 person	$10,210
2 persons	13,690
3 persons	17,170
4 persons	20,650
5 persons	24,130
6 persons	27,610
7 persons	31,090
8 persons	34,570
For each additional person add	3,480

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