



Economic Impact Payments Operational FAQs for Financial Institutions

Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service (Fiscal Service)

1. Electronic Payment Volume and Timing

1.1. When will Treasury send economic impact payments and what will be the effective pay date? What ACH and check volume can financial institutions expect?

As of April 30, 2020, Fiscal Service has disbursed more than 120 million economic impact payments, on behalf of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), including more than 100 million of them electronically. For information about economic impact payment effective pay dates refer to the Treasury notice sent on May 1, 2020.

Fiscal Service transmitted the initial batch of 81 million economic impact payments for deposit by April 15, 2020. The volume for subsequent ACH transactions, while still potentially millions or tens of millions of payments depending on the week, is not expected to be near the 80 million payments in the initial round of payments.

Fiscal Service began mailing check payments on Saturday, April 18, 2020. Based on our check printing capacity and other planned check payments, the volume of economic impact payment checks will likely be approximately 5 to 7 million checks each week until all of the checks are in the mail.

1.2. What routing transit numbers (RTNs) will the Treasury use for distribution of economic impact payments and how will they be processed? How can financial institutions identify economic impact payments?

See Treasury notice dated April 3, 2020, explaining that economic impact payments will appear as a standard tax refund payment by ACH.

1.3. Is Fiscal Service using prenotification for accounts before sending live entries?

Fiscal Service will not be using prenotes.

1.4. Will Fiscal Service use Same Day ACH for economic impact payments?

Fiscal Service will not routinely use Same Day ACH for economic impact payment processing because the volume of payments is simply too large. Same Day ACH may be considered on a case-by-case basis in an emergency where an individual did not receive their payment as expected. Fiscal Service supports the use of same-day ACH and emerging faster payments options, when feasible and appropriate.

2. ACH Payment Processing and Post-Payment

2.1. How will payment processing exceptions be handled?

Unless subsequent Fiscal Service guidance provides direction otherwise, all exception processing for economic impact payments is the same as for tax refunds.

2.2. What should RDFIs do with Direct Deposits sent to closed accounts?

RDFIs should return economic impact payments made to closed accounts.

2.3. What is Treasury's plan for processing a high number of rejected transactions, especially those using older routing information? How will rejected transactions ultimately be delivered to the consumer?

IRS will re-issue rejected economic impact payments by mail, generally within 10-15 days after the rejection is received.

2.4. Is the U.S. Treasury anticipating receiving depository financial institutions send a Notification of Change (NOC) if they have to research and repair an ACH entry in order to post it to a Receiver's account?

RDFIs may choose to use NOCs. When NOCs are used, financial institutions should do so in the same way would for tax refund payments.

2.5. My operations are impacted due to work at home procedures. How do I send non-receipt responses and other post payment correspondence via mail or fax?

Procedures for post-payment correspondence have not changed, except as otherwise announced by Treasury. We have set up an email box for ACH non-receipt that banks can send responses to securely. The ACH non-receipt mailbox is PFC.teletrace@fiscal.treasury.gov.

2.6. How should RDFIs treat payments to deceased payees?

Unless the account is closed, you should generally post the funds in accordance with the payment instructions. ACH reclamation procedures apply only to benefit payments and therefore do not apply to economic impact payments.

For more information on how recipients can return economic impact payments to the IRS, please visit [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).

2.7. What should RDFIs do if an economic impact payment by ACH is being made to parties who the RDFI is aware are now divorced?

Unless the account is closed, RDFIs should process the payment in accordance with the payment instructions.

2.8. Will the stimulus payments be subject to reclamation as a government benefit payment?

The economic impact payments are not government benefit payments, so they are not subject to reclamation in the event that the payee is deceased.

2.9. How will economic impact payments be made when ACH payments are rejected or when account information is not available.

Where no bank account information is available, payment will be mailed to the recipient. Eligible recipients will be able to provide updated direct deposit information to receive their payment by direct deposit instead of by mail, if their mailed payment has not yet been scheduled. To learn more, please visit [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).

3. Checks

3.1. How can we identify economic impact payment checks?

Fiscal Service will be using Treasury check stock as is typical for tax refunds and other Federal payments, except that the checks will have identifying text in the memo field stating Economic Impact Payment on the first line and the President's name on the second line. As usual, the checks will be signed by a Fiscal Service disbursing official.

See Treasury notice dated May 1, 2020 (which updates an April 20, 2020 notice and an April 17, 2020 notice) for more information, including a sample image of an economic impact payment check. You can also learn more about identifying economic impact payments and view sample economic impact check images here:

<https://www.secretservice.gov/data/press/releases/2020/20-APR/Check-Security-Features-for-Economic-Impact-Payments.pdf>

3.2. If recipients are joint filers, will the check be in one party's name or will it be made out to both recipients?

In these cases, checks are made payable to both payees (e.g., to Payee A and Payee B).

3.3. How should financial institutions treat checks made payable to the deceased?

In general, checks to the deceased are payable if endorsed by an executor or administrator of an estate appointed in accordance with state law. The endorsement must be in the form “John Jones by Mary Jones, executor of the estate of John Jones”. Otherwise, the checks aren’t properly payable and could be reclaimed. Checks not properly endorsed by an executor should be returned.

For more information on how recipients can return economic impact payments to the IRS, please visit [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).

3.4. Where can financial institutions send checks that are not payable?

U.S. Treasury checks that are not properly payable can be returned to the address below. Financial institutions should include correspondence explaining the reason for return, which will be forwarded along to the IRS.

U.S. Department of the Treasury
Bureau of the Fiscal Service
Philadelphia Financial Center
P.O. Box 51320
Philadelphia, PA 19115

3.5. Tax refund checks could potentially be presented to a financial institution a few days before the pay date on the check. Will Treasury honor legitimately cashed checks before the pay date.

The possibility of a check being presented for payment before the pay date stems from a common practice in tax refund check processing, that is, the mailing of checks is timed to reach the payee by the pay date. Unless there are other issues, Treasury does not intend to dishonor a check that is cashed a few days before the pay date. Fiscal Service encourages financial institutions and check cashiers to verify the security features of a U.S. Treasury check and to use the Treasury Check Verification Application (<https://tcva.fiscal.treasury.gov>).

3.6. What security features are available for Treasury checks? What tools does Treasury offer to help financial institutions to verify checks?

Please visit <https://tcva.fiscal.treasury.gov> to learn about the security features U.S. Treasury checks and the Treasury Check Verification Application (TCVA). TCVA is a tool to help the financial industry verify U.S. Treasury checks and assist in fraud detection. Financial institutions are liable for the payee’s endorsement. Financial institutions using the TCVA still need to verify the security features of a US Treasury Check.

Beginning April 24, 2020, TCVA will have extended availability to support queries from Sunday 1:00 pm to Saturday 11:59 pm EST.

As a reminder, TCVA is unable to provide assurance that the check being presented is genuine (not counterfeit) or that it is properly payable.

3.7. Is positive pay capability available for Treasury checks?

No, this capability is not currently available through the Treasury Check Verification Application (TCVA). At this time, TCVA files are updated daily, not in real time, so the information on the site should be used only as a data point, and not for final verification purposes.

See the Treasury notice dated April 17, 2020 for information about enhancements to TCVA planned for April 24, 2020.

Please visit <https://tcva.fiscal.treasury.gov> to learn more about TCVA.

4. Delinquent Debt

4.1. Will economic impact payments be offset by the federal government? If so, what types of debts will be collected through the Treasury Offset Program?

The economic impact payments can be offset through the Treasury Offset Program only to collect delinquent child support obligations that have been referred by the state to the Treasury Offset program.

For additional questions about the offset of economic impact payments, please see <https://fiscal.treasury.gov/top/faqs-for-the-public-covid-19.html>.

5. Learn More

5.1. Where can I learn more about economic impact payments? What resources can I share with my customers? How can my customers learn more about if they are eligible, when they can expect their payment, how much it will be for, and how it will be delivered?

Visit [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://irs.gov/coronavirus) for more information about economic impact payments and tools your customers can use to check the status of their payment, provide the IRS with direct deposit information, or (for those who do not typically file taxes) file a simple form to request a payment. The IRS updates this website with more information as it becomes available.

The IRS has also prepared a page devoted to materials that can be shared by anyone. These materials are available at [IRS.gov/EIPpartners](https://www.irs.gov/EIPpartners).

5.2. Who should financial institutions contact if they have operational questions about economic impact payment processing?

The questions should go to the number in the Treasury notice transmitted through the Federal Reserve's secure portal. If you have additional questions please direct inquiries to the Department of the Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service Payment Center at payments@fiscal.treasury.gov or (855) 868-0151, option 2, option 0.