Tax and Duty Manual Part 15-02A-02

High Income Individuals' Restriction

Income chargeable to tax at the standard rate in joint assessment cases

Part 15-02A-02

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The information in this document is provided as a guide only and is not professional advice, including legal advice. It should not be assumed that the guidance is comprehensive or that it provides a definitive answer in every case.

In joint assessment cases, section 15 Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA) provides for an increase in the amount of income chargeable to income tax at the standard rate where each spouse or civil partner is in receipt of income. The increase is set at the lower "specified income" of the spouses or civil partners, subject to a maximum amount of €33,000¹ for the year of assessment 2024 and subsequent years. "Specified income" is defined in section 15 TCA by reference to total income after deductions attributable to specific income sources and relevant interest for the purposes of Chapter 4 of Part 8 TCA.

Where the high-income individuals' restriction applies, the entitlement under section 15 TCA to the additional amount chargeable at the standard rate may be calculated by reference to the recalculated taxable income of the spouse or civil partner in question where this is more beneficial than calculation by reference to total income.

2007: €25,000

2008: €26,400

2009 - 2010: €27,400

2011 - 2014: €23,800

2015 - 2017: €24,800

2018: €25,500

2019 - 2021: €26,300

2022: €27,800 2023: €31,000

The high-income individuals' restriction applies to civil partners from 2011, the year civil partnerships were introduced.

¹ The additional amount liable at the standard rate in earlier years in which the high-income individuals' restriction applied are as follows.