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GST/HST Quick Method

The Quick Method is a simplified accounting option available to help small businesses calculate their net tax for GST/HST purposes. This method reduces paperwork and makes it easier to calculate GST/HST remittances and file GST/HST returns because it eliminates the need to report the actual GST/HST paid on most purchases.

When you use the Quick Method, you still charge your customers the GST/HST at the applicable rate (see the chart *GST/HST Rates* below). However, you only need to remit a portion of that GST/HST to the Canada Revenue Agency when you prepare your GST return. The part of the tax that you keep under the Quick Method accounts for the approximate value of the input tax credits (ITCs) you would have claimed for GST/HST paid on your purchases if you had used the Regular Method to prepare your GST return. However under the Quick Method, you are allowed to claim ITCs on purchases of real property, capital property (such as computers, equipment and vehicles), eligible capital property, and improvements to those properties.

For example, let's assume ABC Company's office is located in British Columbia and all of their sales are made to customers located in British Columbia and they have elected to use the Quick Method in 2012 (see *Who can make this election?* below). To calculate the amount of GST/HST to remit on their GST return, they would multiply the total amount invoiced (Sales + GST/HST) by the Quick Method remittance rates that applied in their situation (see the chart *What are my Quick Method remittance rates?* below).

If ABC Company had billed \$100,000 for services they provided in 2012, they would charge 12% HST (because their office is located in BC and their customers are all located in BC) and would collect \$112,000 in total from their customers. If they had not purchased any real, capital, or eligible capital property in 2012, the net tax owing on their 2012 GST return, would be calculated as follows:

Total billed in 2012 (Sales + GST/HST)	\$112,000	Line 101
Applicable Quick Method Remittance Rate	<u>x 8.2%</u>	
	\$ 9,184	
Less 1% Credit on the 1st \$30,000 billed	<u>(300)</u>	
Total GST/HST Collected	\$ 8,884	Line 103
GST/HST Paid	<u>0</u>	Line 106
Net Tax Owing	<u>\$ 8,884</u>	Line 109

If ABC Company had used the Regular Method and they had not paid any GST/HST on purchases during the year, they would have reported the following on their 2012 GST return:

Total Sales in 2012 (not including GST/HST)	\$100,000	Line 101
Applicable GST/HST Rate	<u>x 12%</u>	
Total GST/HST Collected	\$ 12,000	Line 103
GST/HST Paid	<u>0</u>	Line 106
Net Tax Owing	<u>\$ 12,000</u>	Line 109

By electing to use the Quick Method, the **company has saved \$3,116** in 2012.

Who can make this election?

You can use the Quick Method if you meet all of the following conditions:

- you have been in business continuously throughout the year (365 days) OR you are a new registrant and you can reasonably expect your worldwide taxable supplies to be **\$200,000 or less** in your first full year of business;
- you did **not** revoke an election for the Quick Method during that 365-day period;
- you are **not** a person listed under Exceptions, below; and
- your annual worldwide taxable supplies (including GST/HST and zero-rated supplies) **including those of any associated company** are **not more than \$200,000**. When you calculate your annual worldwide taxable supplies, exclude supplies of financial services and sales of real property, capital property, and eligible capital property (including goodwill).

Exceptions

The following persons **cannot** use the Quick Method:

- accountants or bookkeepers;
- financial consultants;
- lawyers (or law offices);
- actuaries;
- notaries public;
- listed financial institutions;
- audit services;
- tax return preparers or tax consultants;
- municipalities, or local authorities designated as municipalities;
- public colleges, school authorities, or universities, established and operated not for profit;
- hospital authorities;
- charities; and
- non-profit organizations with at least 40% government funding in the year

How do you elect to use the Quick Method?

To elect to use the Quick Method, complete and send **Form GST74 - Election and Revocation of an Election to Use the Quick Method of Accounting**, to your tax services office.

PLEASE NOTE

This is a brief summary of the Quick Method rules for discussion purposes only. For the complete rules, please refer to **RC4058 Quick Method of Accounting for GST/HST**
<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/gp/rc4058/README.html>.

Please contact our office if you would like to discuss how the rules apply to your specific situation.

GST/HST Rates	
British Columbia	HST at 12%
Nova Scotia	HST at 15%
Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador	HST at 13%
Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon	GST at 5%

Remittance rates for businesses that PROVIDE SERVICES					
		Your office is located in:			
		British Columbia	Nova Scotia	Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador	Other province or territory
Your customer is located in:	British Columbia	8.2%	7.6%	8.0%	9.7%
	Nova Scotia	10.6%	10.0%	10.4%	12.0%
	Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador	9.0%	8.4%	8.8%	10.5%
	Other province or territory	2.1%	1.4%	1.8%	3.6%

Remittance rates for businesses that PURCHASE GOODS FOR RESALE					
		Your office is located in:			
		British Columbia	Nova Scotia	Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador	Other province or territory
Your customer is located in:	British Columbia	4.1%	2.5%	3.6%	8.0%
	Nova Scotia	6.6%	5.0%	6.1%	10.4%
	Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador	5.0%	3.3%	4.4%	8.8%
	Other province or territory	0% (and 2.3% credit)	0% (and 4.0% credit)	0% (and 2.8% credit)	1.8%