



Instructions for Form CT-601

Claim for Empire Zone (EZ) Wage Tax Credit

CT-601-I

(formerly DTF-601-I)

New for 2001

Empire zone (EZ) and zone equivalent area (ZEA) tax credit forms renumbered

Because of increased participation in the tax incentives established by the New York State Empire Zones Program Act, the Tax Department has improved the forms associated with EZ and ZEA credits by making them specific to either corporation franchise tax or personal income tax. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2001, EZ credit forms previously numbered with a "DTF" prefix have been separated and renumbered into corporation tax forms (with a "CT" prefix) and income tax forms (with an "IT" prefix), as shown in the following table. The titles of the forms will remain unchanged.

Banking corporations, insurance corporations, general business corporations, and New York S corporations will compute their EZ and ZEA credits on the appropriate corporation tax forms. Shareholders of a New York S corporation will compute their pro rata share of the credits, carryforwards, and refunds of credits on the corresponding income tax forms.

Individuals, partnerships, estates and trusts should compute their EZ and ZEA credits on the appropriate income tax forms.

Form title and previous form number	New form number	
	Corporation tax	Personal income tax
Claim for EZ Wage Tax Credit Form DTF-601	CT-601	IT-601
Claim for ZEA Wage Tax Credit Form DTF-601.1	CT-601.1	IT-601.1
Claim for EZ Capital Tax Credit Form DTF-602	CT-602	IT-602
Claim for EZ Investment Tax Credit and EZ Employment Incentive Credit Form DTF-603	CT-603	IT-603
Claim for EZ Investment Tax Credit and EZ Employment Incentive Credit for the Financial Services Industry Form DTF-605	CT-605	IT-605

Enhancements to the EZ wage tax credit

For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2001, the following enhancements have been made to the EZ wage tax credit:

- the EZ wage tax credit for each targeted employee in Schedule B, Part I, has been increased to \$3,000; and
- the EZ wage tax credit for each employee in Schedule B, Part II, has been increased to \$1,500.

General information

In order to claim the EZ wage tax credit, a taxpayer must be certified under Article 18-B of the General Municipal Law as eligible to receive the credit. A copy of the certification must be attached to Form CT-601 each year the credit (or carryforward of the credit) is being claimed. For information on certification, call Empire State Development at (518) 292-5240.

The EZ wage tax credit is allowed for up to five consecutive tax years, beginning in the first tax year in which all three eligibility requirements in Schedule A are met.

Schedule A — Eligibility requirements

The EZ wage tax credit must be claimed in the first tax year in which all three of the following eligibility requirements are met:

- EZ wages are paid; and

- the average number of full-time employees in New York State for the current tax year (line 2) exceeds the average number of full-time employees in New York State during the four years immediately preceding the first tax year in which the EZ wage tax credit is claimed (line 3); and
- the average number of full-time employees in the EZ for the current year (line 4) exceeds the average number of full-time employees in the EZ or area comprising the EZ during the four years immediately preceding the first tax year in which the EZ wage tax credit is claimed (line 5).

The average number of employees on line 3 and line 5, once computed, remains the same for each of the five tax years for which the credit is claimed.

Schedule B — Computation of the EZ wage tax credit for the current tax year

If you meet the three eligibility requirements in Schedule A, then compute the EZ wage tax credit in Schedule B, Part I and Part II.

The EZ wage tax credit in Part I is \$3,000 multiplied by the average number of qualified employees on line 6.

The EZ wage tax credit in Part II is \$1,500 multiplied by the average number of qualified employees on line 9.

An EZ wage tax credit cannot be computed in Schedule B for any tax year unless all three eligibility requirements in Schedule A are met for that tax year.

Schedule C — Computation of the EZ wage tax credit allowed for the current tax year

A taxpayer not allowed to compute an EZ wage tax credit in Schedule B may claim any available EZ wage tax credit carryforward from a preceding tax year in Schedule C. An EZ wage tax credit carryforward in Schedule C is available until used.

The EZ wage tax credit allowed in Schedule C (including any EZ wage tax credit carryforward) is limited to the following:

- 50% of the tax imposed under section 209 of Article 9-A, General Business Corporations, before addition of the MTA surcharge or the deduction of any tax credit; or
- 50% of the tax imposed under section 1455 of Article 32, Banks, before the addition of the MTA surcharge or the deduction of any tax credit; or
- 50% of the sum of the taxes imposed under sections 1501 and 1510 of Article 33, Insurance Corporations, or 50% of the limitation on tax computed under section 1505 of Article 33 (whichever is less) before the addition of the MTA surcharge or the deduction of any tax credit.

In addition, the EZ wage tax credit allowed in Schedule C (including any EZ wage tax credit carryforward) may not be applied against the following taxes:

- the larger of the tax on minimum taxable income base or fixed dollar minimum tax as computed under Article 9-A; or
- the fixed minimum tax of \$250 computed under Article 32; or
- the minimum tax of \$250 under Article 33; or
- the metropolitan transportation business tax (MTA surcharge) under Articles 9-A, 32 or 33.

Any portion of the EZ wage tax credit disallowed in Schedule C as a result of the above limitations may be carried forward on subsequent tax returns.

Refer to your franchise tax return instructions to determine the order of credits that applies.

Combined filers — A taxpayer filing a combined return as a member of a combined group is allowed to claim an EZ wage tax credit. The EZ wage tax credit is computed on a separate basis in Schedules A and B and applied against the combined tax (see Schedule C, line 16).

Schedule D — Computation of refundable EZ wage tax credit

For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1994, an Article 9-A taxpayer qualifying as a new business under section 210.12(j) may elect to treat 50% of the EZ wage tax credit available as a carryforward to following years as an overpayment to be refunded or credited.

Revocation of Article 18-B certification

Once certification under Article 18-B of the General Municipal Law is revoked, any wages paid by the taxpayer on or after the effective date of such revocation will not constitute EZ wages.

Definition of terms

An *empire zone* (EZ) is an area within New York State that has been designated as an EZ pursuant to Article 18-B of the General Municipal Law. The area must be characterized by pervasive poverty, high unemployment and general economic distress.

Empire zone wages are wages paid by a certified taxpayer for full-time employment (excluding general executive officers) during the tax year in an area designated or previously designated as an EZ, if such employment is in a job created in the EZ during the period of its designation as an EZ or within four years of the expiration of such EZ designation. This provides a taxpayer who located in the EZ in the last year of its designation the opportunity to compute the EZ wage tax credit for five consecutive tax years.

Wages paid to individuals employed before an EZ is designated do not qualify as EZ wages.

General executive officers are the chairman, president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, comptroller and any other officer charged with the general affairs of the corporation. A general executive officer is, therefore, an appointed or elected officer of the corporation having company-wide authority with respect to assigned functions or responsibility for an entire division of the company.

Full-time employment means a job consisting of at least 35 hours per week, or two or more jobs that together constitute the equivalent of a job of at least 35 hours per week. A seasonal job that meets these requirements constitutes full-time employment if the job is continuous for at least three months.

A *targeted employee* is a New York State resident who received EZ wages during the current tax year and who is one or more of the following:

- an eligible individual under the provisions of the Federal Work Opportunity Credit (IRC section 51); or
- an individual eligible for benefits under the provisions of the Job Training Partnership Act (Public Law 97-300, as amended); or
- a recipient of public assistance benefits at any time during the previous two years; or
- an individual whose income is below the most recently established poverty rate promulgated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census; or
- a member of a family whose family income is below the most recently established poverty rate promulgated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

Any employee who qualified as a targeted employee at the time of initial employment will qualify as a targeted employee for subsequent years as long as he or she continues to receive EZ wages and remains a resident of New York State.

The Department of Labor (DOL) is required to provide a certificate verifying the targeted status of an individual for use by an employer seeking wage tax credits under the EZ program. The Tax Department will only recognize Form ES 450, issued by the DOL, and signed by a DOL representative as proof of targeted status under the Wage Tax Credit program.

Family means a group of two or more persons (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage or adoption and residing together; all such persons (including related subfamily members) are considered members of the same family.

New business under Article 9-A, section 210.12(j), means any corporation **except**:

- a corporation in which over 50% of the number of shares of stock entitling their holders to vote for the election of directors or trustees is owned or controlled either directly or indirectly by a taxpayer subject to tax under Article 9-A; Article 9, section 183, 184, 185 or 186; Article 32; or Article 33 of the Tax Law; or
- a corporation that is substantially similar in operation and in ownership to a business entity taxable, or previously taxable, under Article 9-A; Article 9, section 183, 184, 185 or 186; Article 32; Article 33; or Article 23 of the Tax Law, or that would have been subject to tax under Article 23, as such article was in effect on January 1, 1980; or the income or losses of which are or were includable under Article 22 of the Tax Law, whereby the intent and purposes of section 210.19(e) with respect to refunding of credit to new businesses would be evaded; or
- a corporation that has been subject to tax under Article 9-A for more than four tax years (excluding short periods) before each tax year during which the taxpayer became eligible for the EZ wage tax credit (that is, the year for which the credit is allowed).

Line instructions

General business corporations filing Forms CT-3 or CT-3-A, complete Form CT-601, Schedules A, B, C, and if applicable, Schedule D.

Banking and insurance corporations filing Forms CT-32, CT-32-A, CT-33, or CT-33-A, complete Form CT-601, Schedules A, B, and C. Article 32 and 33 taxpayers are not eligible to complete Schedule D.

New York S corporations (corporations filing Forms CT-3-S, CT-3-S-A, or CT-32-S) complete Form CT-601 as follows:

- a New York S corporation completes Form CT-601, Schedules A and B. The New York S corporation records the EZ wage tax credit computed on Schedule B, line 12 on Form CT-34-SH; and
- the shareholders of the New York S corporation record their pro rata share of the EZ wage tax credit that was computed on Form CT-601, Schedule B, line 12, on Form IT-601.

Schedule A — Part I

Line 1 — Check the *Yes* box if EZ wages were paid by the taxpayer during the current tax year. Wages paid to an individual employed before an EZ is designated do not qualify as EZ wages.

Check the *No* box if EZ wages were not paid during the current tax year. The taxpayer **will not** qualify to compute the EZ wage tax credit in Schedule B for the current tax year. However, the taxpayer may claim as an EZ wage tax credit for the current tax year any EZ wage tax credit carryforward from a preceding tax year in Schedule C.

Schedule A — Part II

Line 2 — Enter for each date specified of the current tax year the number of full-time employees (excluding general executive officers) in New York State. Add the number of these employees on each date for the current tax year and divide by the number of such

dates occurring during the current tax year to obtain the average number of full-time employees for the current tax year.

If the taxpayer provided full-time employment for only part of the current tax year, then the current tax year will be deemed to refer to that part.

Example:

Current tax year	March 31	June 30	September 30	December 31	Total
Number of full-time employees in New York State 2001	0	100	125	175	400
2. Average number of full-time employees in New York State for current tax year (400 divided by 4)					100

Line 3 — Enter for each date specified of the four-year period immediately preceding the first tax year in which the EZ wage tax credit is claimed (i.e., the four-year test period), the number of full-time employees (excluding general executive officers) in New York State. Add the number of full-time employees for the four-year test period and divide by the number of such dates occurring during the four-year test period to obtain the average number of full-time employees for the four-year test period.

If the taxpayer provided full-time employment in New York State for only part of the four years immediately preceding the first year in which the EZ wage tax credit is claimed, then the *four-year period* will be deemed to refer to that part.

If the taxpayer did not provide full-time employment in New York State in any of the four years immediately preceding the first year in which the EZ wage tax credit is claimed, enter "0" on line 3.

Example:

Number of full-time employees in New York State during four-year test period	March 31	June 30	September 30	December 31	Total
First year 2000	100	100	100	100	400
Second year 1999	50	75	75	100	300
Third year 1998			40	50	90
Fourth year 1997					
Total number of full-time employees in New York State for four-year test period					790
3. Average number of full-time employees in New York State for four-year test period					
Average number of full-time employees on line 2 must exceed average number of full-time employees on line 3					79*

* If the taxpayer began providing full-time employment in New York State on July 1, 1998, and had full-time employees in New York State for the dates September 30, 1998, through December 31, 2000, the taxpayer would make no entries for the dates prior to July 1, 1998. Thus, the taxpayer would divide 790 by 10 to obtain 79.

The average number of full-time employees in New York State for the current tax year (line 2) must exceed the average number of full-time employees in New York State for the four-year test period (line 3). If line 2 does not exceed line 3, the taxpayer will **not** qualify to compute the EZ wage tax credit in Schedule B for the current tax year. However, the taxpayer may claim as an EZ wage tax credit for the current tax year any EZ wage tax credit carryforward from a preceding tax year in Schedule C.

Schedule A — Part III

Line 4 — Enter, for each date specified of the current tax year, the number of full-time employees (excluding general executive officers) in the EZ. Compute the average number of full-time employees for the current tax year in the same manner as line 2.

Line 5 — Enter for each date specified of the four-year period immediately preceding the first tax year in which the EZ wage tax credit is claimed (i.e., the four-year test period), the number of full-time employees (excluding general executive officers) in the area that currently constitutes the EZ. Compute the average number of such employees for the four-year test period in the same manner as line 3.

The average number of full-time employees in the EZ for the current tax year (line 4) must exceed the average number of full-time employees in the area that currently constitutes the EZ for

the four-year test period (line 5). If line 4 does not exceed line 5, you do **not** qualify to compute the EZ wage tax credit in Schedule B for the current tax year. However, you may claim as an EZ wage tax credit for the current tax year any EZ wage tax credit carryforward from a preceding tax year in Schedule C.

Schedule B — Computation of the EZ wage tax credit for the current tax year

Part I — Computation of EZ wage tax credit

Line 6 — Enter for each date specified of the current tax year the number of qualified employees (excluding general executive officers) who meet all three of the following requirements:

- were targeted employees; and
- received EZ wages for more than half of the current tax year (see *Example* below); and
- received an hourly wage that is at least 135% of the minimum wage specified in section 652 of the Labor Law for more than half of the employee's period of employment during the current tax year.

Add the number of qualified employees for the current tax year and divide by the number of such dates (include "0" dates) occurring during the current tax year to obtain the average number of qualified employees for the current tax year (see the example at line 2 instructions).

Example:

On March 1, 2001, a calendar-year taxpayer located in an EZ applies for certification under Article 18-B of the General Municipal Law. The taxpayer is notified that such certification is effective September 1, 2001. For purposes of the EZ wage tax credit, the taxpayer is deemed to have been certified as of January 1, 2001, the first day of the taxpayer's tax year in which the taxpayer applied for certification. The taxpayer files a tax return for the tax year January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001. Assuming the taxpayer met the eligibility requirements on Schedule A, the taxpayer would include in Schedule B, Part I, line 6, and Part II, line 9, any qualified employees who received EZ wages for more than six months of the tax year January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001. If the taxpayer filed a tax return for the short tax year September 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001, the taxpayer would include in Schedule B, Part I, line 6, and Part II, line 9, any qualified employees who received EZ wages for more than two months of the tax year September 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001.

Part II — Computation of EZ wage tax credit for employees not included in Schedule B, Part I

Line 9 — Enter for each quarter of the current tax year the number of qualified employees (excluding general executive officers) who meet both of the following requirements:

- were not included in Schedule B, Part I, line 6; and
- received EZ wages for more than half of the current tax year (see the example for line 6).

Add the number of qualified employees for the current tax year and divide by the number of such dates (include "0" dates) occurring during the current tax year to obtain the average number of qualified employees for the current tax year (see the example at line 2 instructions).

Part III — Computation of EZ wage tax credit for the current year

Line 12 — General business, banking, and insurance corporations enter the line 12 amount on line 14.

New York S corporations transfer the line 12 amount to Form CT-34-SH. A New York S corporation is not required to complete Form CT-601, lines 13 through 29. Shareholders of the New York S corporation compute their pro rata share of the EZ wage tax credit, carryforward, and refund of the EZ wage tax credit on Form IT-601.

All filers: If you computed an EZ wage tax credit on line 12, you must complete the additional information requested for Schedule B.

Schedule C — Computation of the EZ wage tax credit allowed for the current tax year

Line 13 — Enter the amount of the EZ wage tax credit carryforward from the tax year immediately preceding the current tax year.

Line 14 — Enter the EZ wage tax credit computed for the current tax year as shown on line 12.

Line 16 — Enter the current year's tax after the addition of the tax on subsidiary capital and before the deduction of any tax credit or the addition of the MTA surcharge. The EZ wage tax credit cannot be applied against the MTA surcharge.

Article 9-A taxpayers: enter tax shown on Form CT-3, line 78 or Form CT-3-A, line 77.

Article 32 taxpayers: enter tax shown on Form CT-32, line 5, or Form CT-32-A, Schedule A, line 5.

Article 33 taxpayers: enter tax shown on Form CT-33, line 9a or 10a (for life insurance companies), whichever is less; or line 9a or 10b (for non-life companies), whichever is less; or Form CT-33-A, line 12a or line 15 (for all Form CT-33-A filers), whichever is less.

Line 18 — Article 33 taxpayers: enter tax shown on Form CT-33, line 9a, (for all Form CT-33 filers); or Form CT-33-A, line 12a (for all Form CT-33-A filers).

Line 19 — If you are claiming more than one tax credit for this tax year, enter the amount of the tax credit(s) claimed before the EZ wage tax credit. Otherwise enter "0" on line 19.

Line 21 — Enter the tax limitation to which the EZ wage tax credit cannot be applied.

Line 23 — Enter the EZ wage tax credit limitation for the current tax year, which is the lesser of line 17 or line 22. *Example: If line 17 is \$4,500 and line 22 is \$3,000, enter \$3,000 on line 23.*

Line 24 — Article 9-A taxpayers: transfer the line 24 amount to Form CT-3, line 100a; or Form CT-3-A, line 101a.

Article 32 taxpayers: transfer the line 24 amount to Form CT-32, line 6, or Form CT-32-A, Schedule A, line 6.

Article 33 taxpayers: transfer the line 24 amount to Form CT-33, line 9b; or Form CT-33-A, line 12b.

Line 25 — To determine the unused EZ wage tax credit, which can be carried forward to future years, subtract line 24 from line 15. You will need to refer to this figure when completing your year 2002 Form CT-601. Any portion of the EZ wage tax credit (including any

wage tax credit carryforward from a preceding tax year) that is disallowed in the current tax year as a result of the limitations may be carried forward. If line 24 is equal to or larger than line 15, enter "0."

Schedule D — Computation of refundable EZ wage tax credit

Line 26 — Certain taxpayers may elect to treat a portion of the current year's EZ wage tax credit available as a carryforward as an overpayment of tax to be refunded. The election applies to an EZ wage tax credit computed for a current tax year beginning on or after January 1, 1994. Any EZ wage tax credit or EZ wage tax credit carryforward computed for a tax year beginning before January 1, 1994, does not qualify.

The election may be made by an Article 9-A taxpayer qualifying as a new business under section 210.12(j).

Once made, the election may not be revoked. Interest will not be paid on any overpayment of tax refunded on line 28.

Line 28 — Article 9-A taxpayers: enter the EZ refundable wage tax credit on Form CT-3, line 99; or Form CT-3-A, line 100.

Taxpayers not eligible for the refundable wage tax credit: enter "0" on line 28.

Privacy notification

The Commissioner of Taxation and Finance may collect and maintain personal information pursuant to the New York State Tax Law, including but not limited to, sections 171, 171-a, 287, 308, 429, 475, 505, 697, 1096, 1142, and 1415 of that Law; and may require disclosure of social security numbers pursuant to 42 USC 405(c)(2)(C)(i).

This information will be used to determine and administer tax liabilities and, when authorized by law, for certain tax offset and exchange of tax information programs as well as for any other lawful purpose.

Information concerning quarterly wages paid to employees is provided to certain state agencies for purposes of fraud prevention, support enforcement, evaluation of the effectiveness of certain employment and training programs and other purposes authorized by law.

Failure to provide the required information may subject you to civil or criminal penalties, or both, under the Tax Law.

This information is maintained by the Director of the Registration and Data Services Bureau, NYS Tax Department, Building 8, Room 338, W A Harriman Campus, Albany NY 12227; telephone 1 800 225-5829. From areas outside the United States and Canada, call (518) 485-6800.