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Steuernummer vs Steuer-ID — Tax Numbers in Germany

Germany has two different tax numbers: Steuer-ID (11 digits, lifetime) and Steuernummer (13 digits, changes with relocation). Steuer-ID is issued automatically after registration, while Steuernummer is assigned during your first tax filing.

Deutsche Begriffe: Steuernummer | Steuer-ID | Identifikationsnummer | Finanzamt

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Steuernummer vs Steuer-ID

Two Different Numbers!

In Germany there are **TWO** tax numbers. Don't confuse them!

	Steuer-ID	Steuernummer
Length	11 digits	13 digits (format XX/XXX/XXXXX)
Issued by	Bundeszentralamt für Steuern	Local Finanzamt
When you get it	After Anmeldung (automatically)	At first tax filing
Does it change?	NO (for life)	YES (upon relocation)
Used for	Employer, bank, benefits	Tax filing

Steuer-ID (Identifikationsnummer)

How to get it?

- **Automatically** after Anmeldung
- Letter arrives by mail in 2-4 weeks
- If you didn't receive it: call Finanzamt

Where do you need it?

- Employer (when signing contract)
- Bank (when opening account)
- Familienkasse (Kindergeld)
- Krankenkasse

Don't have it / Lost it?

- bzst.de → you can request it again
- Or call: 0800 0 22 84 57 (free)

Steuernummer

When do you get it?

- At **first tax filing**
- Automatically issued by Finanzamt

Where do you need it?

- In tax declaration (Steuererklärung)
- As freelancer/business (invoices)

Relocation = new number!

If you change Finanzamt (different district), you'll get a new Steuernummer.

Summary:

Starting work in Germany?

1. Step 1: Anmeldung → wait for Steuer-ID letter

2. Step 2: Give Steuer-ID to employer

3. Step 3: After one year, file Steuererklärung → receive Steuernummer

Important!

- Steuer-ID is SENSITIVE DATA — don't share it with anyone
- You'll never receive Steuer-ID via email/phone (fraud!)
- Your employer can ask Finanzamt for your number
