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That's because Amazon actually owed money to the federal government in 2019. After two straight years of paying \$0 in U.S. federal income tax, Amazon was on the hook for a \$162 million bill in 2019, the company said in an SEC filing on Thursday.

Amazon has been the subject of much criticism over the fact that the company's final federal tax burden has been particularly lacking in recent years. The company also came under fire for seeking huge tax incentives worth billions of dollars as part of its search for a second headquarters, or "HQ2," in 2018.

President Donald Trump is a frequent critic of Amazon for paying "little or no taxes to state and local governments," though the Trump Administration's 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act helped to lower the statutory corporate tax rate.

Amazon also reported \$276 million in state tax payments in 2019, as well as an international tax bill of more than \$1.1 billion, according to Thursday's SEC filing. And, the company notes in its blog post that Amazon also paid roughly \$2.4 billion "in payroll taxes and customs duties" in 2019.

However, paying something like payroll tax is hardly something to boast about, according to Matthew Gardner, a senior fellow at the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, or ITEP, a nonpartisan and nonprofit tax policy think tank. In a blog post responding to Amazon's release of its 2019 tax bill, Gardner notes that "economists agree that payroll taxes are ultimately paid by employees in the form of reduced compensation."

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Decided December 9, 2021

Subsequent action(s) Smollett sentenced on March 10, 2022, to 150 days in jail () Tj T\* BT

n to Chicago, and \$25,000 fine

On March 10, 2022, Smollett was sentenced to 150 days in county jail,<sup>13</sup> and was also ordered to pay \$120,106 in restitution for the overtime spent by Chicago police officers.<sup>14</sup> During the sentencing hearing, which lasted more than five hours, Judge James B. Linn excoriated Smollett from the bench, repeatedly calling him "narcissistic, selfish, and arrogant." Linn also indicated that Smollett perjured himself during his trial testimony.<sup>117</sup> <sup>118</sup> After being sentenced, Smollett engaged in several outbursts in the courtroom, during which he proclaimed his innocence. He also repeatedly shouted that he is "not suicidal";

^ "Jussie Smollett Testifies at His Trial: 'There Was No Hoax'"