Internal Revenue Code Section 166(a)(1)
Bad debts.

(a) General rule.

(1) Wholly worthless debts. There shall be allowed as a deduction any debt which becomes worthless within the taxable year.

(2) Partially worthless debts. When satisfied that a debt is recoverable only in part, the Secretary may allow such debt, in an amount not in excess of the part charged off within the taxable year, as a deduction.