

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Limit	Individual	Family
HSA contribution	\$3,600	\$ 7,200
HSA catch-up contribution	\$1,000	\$ 1,000
Minimum high-deductible health plan (HDHP) deductible	\$1,400	\$ 2,800
Maximum HDHP out-of-pocket costs	\$7,000	\$14,000

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT CONTRIBUTIONS

Health care FSA	\$2,750
Dependent care FSA	\$5,000

RETIREMENT BENEFIT LIMITS

Benefit	Limit
Contributions to 401(k), 403(b), 457(b)(2), 457(c)(1) and SARSEP plans	\$ 19,500
Contributions to defined contribution plans	\$ 58,000
Contributions to SIMPLEs	\$ 13,500
Contributions to IRAs	\$ 6,000
Catch-up contributions to 401(k), 403(b), 457(b)(2), 457(c)(1) and SARSEP plans	\$ 6,500
Catch-up contributions to SIMPLEs	\$ 3,000
Catch-up contributions to IRAs	\$ 1,000
Compensation for benefit purposes for qualified plans and SEPs	\$290,000
Highly compensated employee threshold	\$130,000
Annual benefit for defined benefit plans	\$230,000

LONG-TERM-CARE INSURANCE

Age	Premium deduction limit
40 and under	\$ 450
41 to 50	\$ 850
51 to 60	\$1,690
61 to 70	\$4,520
Over 70	\$5,640

EARNINGS THRESHOLDS FOR PHASEOUT OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Retirement age status	Earnings limit
Before Full Retirement Age (FRA)	\$18,960 per year
Pre-FRA in year you reach FRA	\$4,210 per month
FRA and after	None

GIFT AND ESTATE TAX EXEMPTIONS AND RATES

Exemption	Top rate
\$11,700,000	40%

A surviving spouse may be able to use the deceased spouse's unused estate tax exemption. The annual gift tax exclusion is \$15,000 per recipient (\$30,000 if spouses elect "split-gift" treatment).

CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATES

C corporations and professional services corporations are taxed at a flat 21% rate.

SECTION 199A DEDUCTION FOR OWNERS OF PASS-THROUGH ENTITIES¹

20% of qualified business income.

When an owner's taxable income exceeds \$164,900 (\$329,800 for joint filers, \$164,925 if married filing separately), the following limits are phased in over a \$50,000 range (\$100,000 range for joint filers):

- Deduction isn't available for income from specified service businesses.
- Deduction can't exceed the greater of the owner's share of:
 - 50% of the amount of W-2 wages paid to employees by the qualified business during the tax year, or
 - The sum of 25% of W-2 wages plus 2.5% of the cost of qualified property.

¹ Including sole proprietors.

SECTION 179 EXPENSING AND BONUS DEPRECIATION

Sec. 179 expensing limit	\$1,050,000
Sec. 179 phaseout threshold	\$2,620,000
Bonus depreciation limit	100%

DEPRECIATION CLASSES AND METHODS

Class	Method	Examples
36-month	Straight-line	Software
3-year	200% DB ¹	Dies, molds, small tools
5-year	200% DB ¹	Vehicles, computers, office equipment
7-year	200% DB ¹	Manufacturing equipment, office furniture
7-year	150% DB ¹	Farm equipment
27.5-year	Straight-line	Rental residential buildings
39-year	Straight-line	Nonresidential buildings

¹ Declining-balance.

MACRS DEPRECIATION RATES (with half-year convention)

Year	Asset class		
	3-year	5-year	7-year
1	33.33%	20.00%	14.29%
2	44.45%	32.00%	24.49%
3	14.81%	19.20%	17.49%
4	7.41%	11.52%	12.49%
5	—	11.52%	8.93%
6	—	5.76%	8.92%
7	—	—	8.93%
8	—	—	4.46%

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2021 POCKET TAX GUIDE



AS OF
JANUARY 2021—
TAX RATES
SUBJECT
TO CHANGE

INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATES¹

Single

If taxable income is ...	... tax is ...	... of amount over
\$ 0 – \$ 9,950	10%	\$ 0
\$ 9,951 – \$ 40,525	\$ 995.00 + 12%	\$ 9,950
\$ 40,526 – \$ 86,375	\$ 4,664.00 + 22%	\$ 40,525
\$ 86,376 – \$164,925	\$ 14,751.00 + 24%	\$ 86,375
\$164,926 – \$209,425	\$ 33,603.00 + 32%	\$164,925
\$209,426 – \$523,600	\$ 47,843.00 + 35%	\$209,425
Over \$523,600	\$157,804.25 + 37%	\$523,600

Head of household

If taxable income is ...	... tax is ...	... of amount over
\$ 0 – \$ 14,200	10%	\$ 0
\$ 14,201 – \$ 54,200	\$ 1,420.00 + 12%	\$ 14,200
\$ 54,201 – \$ 86,350	\$ 6,220.00 + 22%	\$ 54,200
\$ 86,351 – \$164,900	\$ 13,293.00 + 24%	\$ 86,350
\$164,901 – \$209,400	\$ 32,145.00 + 32%	\$164,900
\$209,401 – \$523,600	\$ 46,385.00 + 35%	\$209,400
Over \$523,600	\$156,355.00 + 37%	\$523,600

Married filing jointly

If taxable income is ...	... tax is ...	... of amount over
\$ 0 – \$ 19,900	10%	\$ 0
\$ 19,901 – \$ 81,050	\$ 1,990.00 + 12%	\$ 19,900
\$ 81,051 – \$172,750	\$ 9,328.00 + 22%	\$ 81,050
\$172,751 – \$329,850	\$ 29,502.00 + 24%	\$172,750
\$329,851 – \$418,850	\$ 67,206.00 + 32%	\$329,850
\$418,851 – \$628,300	\$ 95,686.00 + 35%	\$418,850
Over \$628,300	\$168,993.50 + 37%	\$628,300

Married filing separately

If taxable income is ...	... tax is ...	... of amount over
\$ 0 – \$ 9,950	10%	\$ 0
\$ 9,951 – \$ 40,525	\$ 995.00 + 12%	\$ 9,950
\$ 40,526 – \$ 86,375	\$ 4,664.00 + 22%	\$ 40,525
\$ 86,376 – \$164,925	\$ 14,751.00 + 24%	\$ 86,375
\$164,926 – \$209,425	\$ 33,603.00 + 32%	\$164,925
\$209,426 – \$314,150	\$ 47,843.00 + 35%	\$209,425
Over \$314,150	\$ 84,496.75 + 37%	\$314,150

¹ These rates generally apply to earned income, business income, interest and nonqualified dividends. Long-term capital gains rates apply to qualified dividends.

FICA RATES AND ADDITIONAL MEDICARE TAX

The rate for the employee portion of Social Security tax is 6.2%, and the maximum earned income it applies to is \$142,800, while the Medicare rate is 1.45% and applies to all earned income.

Self-employed individuals pay both the employee and employer portions, but get a deduction for the employer portion.

Cash wages totaling \$2,300 or more to a household employee are also subject to FICA taxes.

An additional 0.9% Medicare tax applies to FICA wages and self-employment income exceeding \$200,000 (singles and heads of households), \$250,000 (joint filers) or \$125,000 (separate filers).

Employers must withhold the additional Medicare tax beginning in the pay period when wages exceed \$200,000 for the calendar year, without regard to an employee's filing status.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX RATES

Type of gain	Maximum rate ¹
Short-term gain (assets held 12 months or less)	37%
Long-term gain (generally assets held more than 12 months)	15% or 20% ²
Long-term gain on collectibles	28%
Long-term gain attributable to certain depreciation recapture	25%
Gain on qualified small business stock held more than 5 years	14% ³
Most long-term gain that would be taxed at 12% or less based on the taxpayer's ordinary-income rate	0%

¹ The 3.8% net investment income tax applies to net investment income to the extent that modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) exceeds \$200,000 (singles and heads of households), \$250,000 (joint filers) or \$125,000 (separate filers).

² The 20% rate applies only to those with taxable income exceeding \$445,850 (singles), \$473,750 (heads of households), \$501,600 (joint filers), \$250,800 (separate filers) or \$13,250 (estates and trusts).

³ Effective rate based on 50% exclusion from a 28% rate. If stock was acquired after February 17, 2009, and before September 28, 2010, the rate is 7% (75% exclusion from a 28% rate). If stock was acquired on or after September 28, 2010, the rate is 0%.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

Single, head of household or married filing jointly

If taxable income is ...	... tax is ...	... of amount over
\$ 0 – \$199,900	26%	\$ 0
Over \$199,900	\$51,974 + 28%	\$199,900

Married filing separately

If taxable income is ...	... tax is ...	... of amount over
\$ 0 – \$ 99,950	26%	\$ 0
Over \$ 99,950	\$25,987 + 28%	\$99,950

Exemptions

Filing status	Exemption amount
Single or head of household	\$ 73,600
Married filing jointly	\$114,600
Married filing separately	\$ 57,300

Exemption phaseouts based on AMT income

Filing status	Income range of phaseout
Single or head of household	\$ 523,600 – \$ 818,000
Married filing jointly	\$1,047,200 – \$1,505,600
Married filing separately	\$ 523,600 – \$ 752,800

ESTATE AND TRUST INCOME TAX RATES

If taxable income is ...	... tax is ...	... of amount over
\$ 0 – \$ 2,650	10%	\$ 0
\$2,651 – \$ 9,550	\$ 265 + 24%	\$ 2,650
\$9,551 – \$13,050	\$1,921 + 35%	\$ 9,550
Over \$13,050	\$3,146 + 37%	\$13,050

“KIDDIE” TAX

This tax generally applies to unearned income beyond \$2,200 of children under age 19, or under 24 if a full-time student. Such income is generally taxed according to the parents' marginal tax bracket.

STANDARD DEDUCTIONS

Filing status	Deduction
Single	\$ 12,550
Head of household	\$ 18,800
Married filing jointly or surviving spouse	\$25,100
Married filing separately	\$ 12,550

ITEMIZED DEDUCTION LIMITS¹

State and local tax

Up to \$10,000 on a combined basis for property tax and either income tax or sales tax (\$5,000 for separate filers).

Home mortgage interest

Acquisition debt of up to \$750,000. (This limit is generally for indebtedness incurred after Dec. 15, 2017; a \$1 million limit still applies to indebtedness incurred on or before that date.)

Miscellaneous itemized deductions subject to the 2% floor

No longer deductible. (Examples include investment expenses, certain professional fees and unreimbursed employee business expenses.)

Casualty and theft losses

No longer deductible except for losses due to an event officially declared a disaster by the President.

Medical expenses

Unreimbursed medical expenses in excess of 7.5% of adjusted gross income are deductible.

¹ Additional rules and limits may affect these deductions.

STANDARD MILEAGE RATES

Use of vehicle	Deduction per mile
Business	56 cents
Medical or moving	16 cents
Charitable	14 cents

CHILD AND EDUCATION BREAKS¹

Tax break	Maximum	MAGI ² phaseout range	
Credit		Single/Head of household ³	Married filing jointly
Child	\$2,000	\$200,000–\$240,000	\$400,000–\$440,000
Adoption	\$14,440	\$216,660–\$256,660	\$216,660–\$256,660
Dependent care ⁴	\$600	\$ 15,000–\$ 43,000	\$ 15,000–\$ 43,000
American Opportunity	\$2,500	\$ 80,000–\$ 90,000	\$160,000–\$180,000
Lifetime Learning	\$2,000	\$ 80,000–\$ 90,000	\$160,000–\$180,000
Other			
Student loan interest deduction	\$2,500	\$ 70,000–\$ 85,000	\$140,000–\$170,000
ESA contribution	\$2,000	\$ 95,000–\$110,000	\$190,000–\$220,000

¹ Assumes one child or student. Amounts may vary for more than one child or student. Other rules and limits might reduce the break.

² Modified adjusted gross income.

³ These ranges also apply to married taxpayers filing separately, except that separate filers aren't eligible for the American Opportunity or Lifetime Learning credit or the student loan interest deduction.

⁴ The phaseout is based on AGI rather than MAGI. The credit doesn't phase out altogether, but the minimum credit percentage of 20% applies to AGIs above \$43,000.