

2021 tax rates, schedules, and contribution limits

Income tax

	If taxable income is over	But not over	The tax is	Of the amount over
Married/Filing jointly and qualifying widow(er)s	\$0	\$19,900	\$0.00 + 10%	\$0
	\$19,900	\$81,050	\$1,990 + 12%	\$19,900
	\$81,050	\$172,750	\$9,328 + 22%	\$81,050
	\$172,750	\$329,850	\$29,502 + 24%	\$172,750
	\$329,850	\$418,850	\$67,206 + 32%	\$329,850
	\$418,850	\$628,300	\$95,686 + 35%	\$418,850
	\$628,300		\$168,993.50 + 37%	\$628,300
Single	\$0	\$9,950	\$0.00 + 10%	\$0
	\$9,950	\$40,525	\$995 + 12%	\$9,950
	\$40,525	\$86,375	\$4,664 + 22%	\$40,525
	\$86,375	\$164,925	\$14,751 + 24%	\$86,375
	\$164,925	\$209,425	\$33,603 + 32%	\$164,925
	\$209,425	\$523,600	\$47,843 + 35%	\$209,425
	\$523,600		\$157,804.25 + 37%	\$523,600
Estates and trusts	\$0	\$2,650	\$0.00 + 10%	\$0
	\$2,650	\$9,550	\$265 + 24%	\$2,650
	\$9,550	\$13,050	\$1,921 + 35%	\$9,550
	\$13,050		\$3,146 + 37%	\$13,050

Tax on corporations and other businesses

- 21% tax rate applied on C-corporation income
- Taxpayers may generally deduct up to 20% of the qualified business income (QBI) of S corporations, partnerships, and sole proprietorships (reduced by net capital gain and qualified dividends), subject to limitations:
 - Deduction generally not available for a Specified Service Trade or Business (SSTB) if taxable income exceeds \$214,900 (single) or \$429,800 (married/filing jointly); the deduction is subject to a phaseout unless taxable income is at or below \$164,900 (single) or \$329,800 (married/filing jointly)
 - If taxable income exceeds \$214,900 (single) or \$429,800 (married/filing jointly), the deduction is limited to the lesser of: (a) 20% of QBI or (b) the greater of (i) 50% of W-2 wages paid by each business or (ii) 25% of W-2 wages paid by each business plus 2.5% of the unadjusted basis of qualified property; wage and qualified property limitations are not applicable to taxable incomes at or below \$164,900 (single) or \$329,800 (married/filing jointly) and are fully phased in once taxable income exceeds \$214,900 (single) or \$429,800 (married/filing jointly)

Employer retirement plans

Maximum elective deferral to retirement plans, e.g., 401(k), 403(b)	\$19,500
Catch-up contribution limit for 401(k), 403(b), and certain 457 plans	\$6,500
Maximum elective deferral to SIMPLE plans	\$13,500
Catch-up contribution limit for SIMPLE plans	\$3,000
Maximum elective deferral to 457 plans of gov't and tax-exempt employers	\$19,500
Limit on annual additions to defined contribution plans	\$58,000
Annual compensation threshold requiring SEP contribution	\$650
Limit on annual additions to SEP plans	\$58,000
Maximum annual compensation taken into account for contributions	\$290,000
Annual benefit limit under defined benefit plans	\$230,000
Used in definition of highly compensated employee	\$130,000
Health flexible spending account maximum salary reduction contribution	\$2,750

Sources: IRS and Social Security Administration updates 2021.

Tax on capital gains and qualified dividends

Income		Tax rate
Single	Married/Filing jointly/Qualifying Widow(er)	
\$0-\$40,400	\$0-\$80,800	0%
Over \$40,400 but not over \$445,850	Over \$80,800 but not over \$501,600	15%
Over \$445,850	Over \$501,600	20%

Additional 3.8% federal net investment income (NII) tax applies to individuals on the lesser of NII or modified AGI in excess of \$200,000 (single) or \$250,000 (married/filing jointly and qualifying widow(er)s). Also applies to any trust or estate on the lesser of undistributed NII or AGI in excess of the dollar amount at which the estate/trust pays income taxes at the highest rate (\$13,050).

Kiddie tax*

Child's unearned income above \$2,200 is generally subject to taxation at the parent's marginal tax rate; unearned income above \$1,100 but not more than \$2,200 is taxed at the child's tax rate.

* Applies if either parent of the child is alive at the close of the taxable year, the child does not file a joint return for the taxable year, and the child either (a) has not attained age 18 by close of the year, (b) has attained age 18 before the close of the year, but the child's earned income represents not more than one half of support needs and the child has not attained age 19 by the close of the year, or (c) the child is a full-time student who has not attained age 24 as of the close of the year and the child's earned income represents not more than one half of support needs.

Preferential rates on long-term capital gains and qualified dividends are applicable; 3.8% federal NII tax is imposed separately on each child if modified AGI exceeds threshold amounts stated above.

Child tax credit

- \$2,000 per "qualifying child" (who has not attained age 17 during the year); phased out as income exceeds \$400,000 (married/filing jointly) or \$200,000 (all other); \$1,400 per child is refundable
- \$500 nonrefundable credit for qualified dependents other than qualifying children (without limits)

Standard deductions

	Annual	Additional age 65+ or blind
Married/Filing jointly and qualifying widow(er)s	\$25,100	\$1,350
Single	\$12,550	\$1,700

Health savings accounts contribution limits

Individual	\$3,600
Family	\$7,200

Catch-up contribution: Taxpayers who are 55 or older in 2021 may contribute an additional \$1,000, or a total of \$4,600 for individuals and \$8,200 for families.

Deduction for mortgage interest

- Deduction on interest for qualifying mortgages up to \$750,000 (\$375,000 if married/filing separately); homes under agreement before 12/15/17 for purchase prior to 1/1/18 (provided purchase occurred by 4/1/18) grandfathered under previous \$1,000,000 (\$500,000 if married/filing separately) limits
- Interest on home equity lines of credit (HELOC) deductible in certain cases where proceeds are utilized to acquire or improve a residence

Deduction for state and local taxes

Individuals may deduct state and local income (or sales) taxes and real and personal property taxes up to \$10,000 (\$5,000 if married filing separately) in the aggregate.

Maximum Qualified Long-Term-Care insurance premiums eligible for deduction

Age	40 or less	>40, ≤50	>50, ≤60	>60, ≤70	Over 70
2021	\$450	\$850	\$1,690	\$4,520	\$5,640

Traditional IRAs

Maximum annual contribution

- Lesser of compensation or \$6,000
- Up to \$6,000 contribution can also be made for nonworking spouse
- Catch-up contributions (age 50 and over): \$1,000

Traditional IRA deductibility table

Filing status	Covered by employer's retirement plan	Modified AGI 2021	Modified AGI 2020	Deductibility
Single	No	Any amount	Any amount	Full
	Yes	\$66,000 or less	\$65,000 or less	Full
	Yes	\$66,001–\$75,999	\$65,001–\$74,999	Partial
	Yes	\$76,000 or more	\$75,000 or more	None
Married/Jointly	Neither spouse covered	Any amount	Any amount	Full
	Both spouses covered	\$105,000 or less \$105,001–\$124,999 \$125,000 or more	\$104,000 or less \$104,001–\$123,999 \$124,000 or more	Full Partial None
Married/Jointly	Yes, but spouse is not covered	\$105,000 or less \$105,001–\$124,999 \$125,000 or more	\$104,000 or less \$104,001–\$123,999 \$124,000 or more	Full Partial None
	No, but spouse is covered	\$198,000 or less \$198,001–\$207,999 \$208,000 or more	\$196,000 or less \$196,001–\$205,999 \$206,000 or more	Full Partial None

Roth IRAs

Maximum annual contribution

- Lesser of compensation or \$6,000
- Up to \$6,000 contribution can also be made for nonworking spouse
- Catch-up contributions (age 50 and over): \$1,000

Contribution eligibility

Modified AGI is less than \$125,000 (single) or \$198,000 (married/filing jointly); phaseouts apply if modified AGI is \$125,000–\$139,999 (single) or \$198,000–\$207,999 (married/filing jointly).

Deductibility

Contributions to Roth IRAs are not deductible.

Conversion eligibility

There is no income restriction on eligibility for a Roth IRA conversion.

Base amount of modified AGI causing Social Security benefits to be taxable

	Up to 50% taxable	Up to 85% taxable
Married/Filing jointly	\$32,001–\$44,000	> \$44,000
Single	\$25,001–\$34,000	> \$34,000

Maximum earnings before Social Security benefits are reduced

Under full retirement age (\$1 withheld for every \$2 above limit)	\$18,960
Full retirement age and over	No limit*

* Interim annual limit of \$50,520 applies for months prior to attaining full retirement age during year individual reaches full retirement age (\$1 withheld for every \$3 above limit).

This information is general in nature and is not meant as tax or legal advice. Tax laws are subject to change. Please consult your legal or tax advisor.

Maximum compensation subject to FICA taxes

OASDI (Social Security) maximum	\$142,800
HI (Medicare) maximum	No limit

OASDI and HI tax rate: 12.4% OASDI and 2.9% HI (15.3% combined) for self-employed; 6.2% and 1.45% (7.65% combined) for employees. An additional 0.9% HI tax imposed on individuals with wages or self-employment income in excess of \$200,000 (single and qualifying widow(er)s) or \$250,000 (married/filing jointly).

Death/gifts occurring in 2021*

(subtract applicable credit from calculated tax)

If gift/gross estate is over	But not over	The tax is	Of the amount over
\$0	\$10,000	\$0 + 18%	\$0
\$10,000	\$20,000	\$1,800 + 20%	\$10,000
\$20,000	\$40,000	\$3,800 + 22%	\$20,000
\$40,000	\$60,000	\$8,200 + 24%	\$40,000
\$60,000	\$80,000	\$13,000 + 26%	\$60,000
\$80,000	\$100,000	\$18,200 + 28%	\$80,000
\$100,000	\$150,000	\$23,800 + 30%	\$100,000
\$150,000	\$250,000	\$38,800 + 32%	\$150,000
\$250,000	\$500,000	\$70,800 + 34%	\$250,000
\$500,000	\$750,000	\$155,800 + 37%	\$500,000
\$750,000	\$1,000,000	\$248,300 + 39%	\$750,000
\$1,000,000		\$345,800 + 40%	\$1,000,000

* Annual gift tax exclusion: individual, \$15,000; married electing split gifts, \$30,000.

Combined lifetime gift tax and gross estate tax exemption: \$11,700,000.

GST tax exemption: \$11,700,000.

Higher education tax credits

Modified AGI phaseouts for American Opportunity Tax Credit

Married/Filing jointly	\$160,001–\$179,999
Others	\$80,001–\$89,999

Modified AGI phaseouts for Lifetime Learning Credit

Married/Filing jointly	\$119,001–\$138,999
Single	\$59,001–\$68,999

2021 AMT exemptions

Single	\$73,600
Married/Filing jointly and qualifying widow(er)s	\$114,600

Phases out beginning with alternative minimum taxable income over \$1,047,200 (married/filing jointly and qualifying widow(er)s) or \$523,600 (single filers); AMT ordinary income rate increases from 26% to 28% for alternative minimum taxable income over \$199,900 (married/filing jointly and qualifying widow(er)s), and single.