

Withholding Tables Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are these changes being made?

A: The new withholding tables are needed to reflect the changes in tax rates and tax brackets, increased standard deduction and repeal of personal exemptions that were included in the new tax reform law signed in December. The withholding guidance issued by the IRS is designed to work with existing W-4s that are already on file.

Q: How soon will I see the changes in my paycheck?

A: Employees should begin to see withholding changes in their checks in February.

Q: Will I need to take any action to get the new withholding rates?

A: No. We make required Payroll changes each year, so employees are not required to take any extra steps. However, we recommend that you review your withholding to make sure that it is accurate. IRS will be releasing a new calculator and Form W-4 soon, to help ensure your withholding is accurate.

Q: What is a withholding table?

A: A withholding table tells the Payroll system how much tax to withhold from employee paychecks, given each employee's wages, marital status, and the number of withholding allowances they claim.

Q: What is a Form W-4?

A: This is an IRS form that employees provide to their employers, to determine the amount of federal income tax to withhold from the employees' paychecks. The form helps employees adjust withholding based on their personal circumstances, such as whether they have children or a spouse who is also working.

Q: Will I need to fill out a new W-4 form right now?

A: No, the new withholding tables are designed to work with the Forms W-4 that are already on file. The IRS is working on revising the Form W-4 to more fully reflect the new law and provide information to determine whether you need to adjust your withholding.

Q: Is the IRS working on a new Form W-4 to reflect the new tax law?

A: Yes. The IRS is working on revising the Form W-4 to more fully reflect the new law and provide taxpayers information to determine whether they need to adjust their withholding. The IRS is also revising the withholding tax calculator on IRS.gov to help employees who wish to update their withholding in response to the new law or other changes in their personal circumstances in 2018. The IRS anticipates this calculator should be available by the end of February.

Q: Should I check my withholding after the 2018 Form W-4 and withholding calculator are available?

A: Yes. The IRS encourages all taxpayers to check their withholding when the new information is available in February. The intent is to help employees ensure that they are not having too much or too little tax withheld.

Q: Am I at risk of being under-withheld on my taxes with the changes to the withholding tables?

A: Some people have more complicated tax situations and face the possibility of being under-withheld. For example, people who itemize their deductions, couples with multiple jobs or individuals with more than one job a year should review their tax situations. The IRS is updating the 2018 Form W-4 and the IRS.gov withholding calculator to help with this process.