

High-Income Taxpayers



Ashmead & Associates PLLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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In addition to being subject to higher federal tax rates, taxpayers whose income exceeds certain levels have tax deductions and credits that are reduced or eliminated.

The provisions listed may have additional qualifications and restrictions. Other provisions of the tax code, such as fringe benefit limitations and taxation on the sale of a principal residence, may further restrict a taxpayer's ability to take deductions or cause the taxpayer to pay additional tax. Ask your tax professional for more details.

Capital Gain Tax Rates

Long-Term Capital Gain and Qualified Dividend Income Maximum Tax Rates			
Taxable Income	Maximum Rate	Taxable Income	Maximum Rate
Single		MFJ or QW	
\$0 to \$40,400.....	0%	\$0 to \$80,800.....	0%
\$40,401 to \$445,850	15%	\$80,801 to \$501,600	15%
\$445,851 and over.....	20%	\$501,601 and over.....	20%
HOH		MFS	
\$0 to \$54,100.....	0%	\$0 to \$40,400.....	0%
\$54,101 to \$473,750	15%	\$40,401 to \$250,800	15%
\$473,751 and over.....	20%	\$250,801 and over.....	20%
Estates and Trusts			
\$0 to \$2,700	0%		
\$2,701 to \$13,250.....	15%		
\$13,251 and over.....	20%		

Itemized Deductions and Personal Exemptions

Taxes paid. The itemized deduction for state and local taxes is limited to \$10,000 (\$5,000 MFS). Foreign real property taxes are not deductible.

Home mortgage interest. A taxpayer may treat no more than \$750,000 as acquisition indebtedness (\$375,000 MFS). The \$1,000,000 (\$500,000 MFS) limitation continues to apply for any indebtedness incurred prior to December 15, 2017.

The deduction for home equity indebtedness (other than debt for acquisition or improvement) is not allowed.

Personal exemptions. The deduction for personal exemptions is suspended for tax years 2018 through 2025.

Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)

IRA Individual Contribution Limits		
	2021	2020
Under age 50	\$6,000.....	\$6,000
Age 50 or older	\$7,000.....	\$7,000

Traditional IRA Phaseout Based on Modified AGI (MAGI)

If an individual is an active participant in an employer-sponsored pension plan, the deduction for a traditional IRA contribution is phased out when MAGI is between the following.

Tax Year	MFJ	Single, HOH	MFS
2021	\$105,000 to \$125,000	\$66,000 to \$76,000	\$0 to \$10,000
2020	\$104,000 to \$124,000	\$65,000 to \$75,000	\$0 to \$10,000

If the individual is not an active participant, but the spouse is, the non-active participant's deduction is phased out when modified AGI is between the following.

Tax Year	MFJ	MFS
2021	\$198,000 to \$208,000.....	\$0 to \$10,000
2020	\$196,000 to \$206,000.....	\$0 to \$10,000



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Roth IRA Phaseouts

	2021	2020
MFJ or QW	\$198,000 to \$208,000	\$196,000 to \$206,000
Single, HOH, or MFS*	\$125,000 to \$140,000	\$124,000 to \$139,000
MFS	\$0 to \$10,000	\$0 to \$10,000

* MFS and did not live with spouse during the year.

Child Tax Credit

- \$3,000 credit (age 6 to 17), \$3,600 credit (under age 6), reduced with modified AGI of \$150,000 MFJ or QW, \$112,500 HOH, and \$75,000 Single or MFS.
- \$2,000 credit (under age 18), reduced with modified AGI of \$400,000 MFJ, and \$200,000 for all others.

Credit for Other Dependents

A nonrefundable credit of up to \$500 is allowed for dependents other than a qualifying child for the Child Tax Credit.

Adoption Expenses

2021 maximum credit	\$14,440
2021 maximum exclusion	\$14,440
AGI phaseout	\$216,660 – \$256,660
Unused credit carryforward	5 years

Additional Medicare Tax

Increased Medicare Tax on Earned Income

The employee portion of the hospital insurance (Medicare) tax is increased by an additional tax of 0.9% on wages received in excess of the threshold amount. However, unlike the general 1.45% hospital insurance (Medicare) tax on wages, this additional tax is on the combined wages of the employee and the employee's spouse, in the case of a joint return.

Medicare Tax on Unearned Income

Individuals. The tax is 3.8% on the lesser of net investment income or the excess of modified adjusted gross income over the threshold amount.

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Threshold Amount

Joint return or surviving spouse	\$250,000
Married individual filing separately	\$125,000
All other tax filers	\$200,000

Education Benefits

2021 Education Benefits Comparison Chart

	Benefit	Annual Limit	Modified AGI Phaseout
<i>American Opportunity/ Hope Credit</i>	40% of the credit may be refundable (limited to \$1,000).	\$2,500 credit per student.	\$80,000 – \$90,000 \$160,000 – \$180,000 (MFJ)
<i>Lifetime Learning Credit</i>	Tax credit (non-refundable).	\$2,000 credit per tax return.	\$80,000 – \$90,000 \$160,000 – \$180,000 (MFJ)
<i>Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA)</i>	Tax-free earnings.	\$2,000 contribution per beneficiary.	\$95,000 – \$110,000 \$190,000 – \$220,000 (MFJ)
<i>U.S. Savings Bond Interest Exclusion</i>	Tax-free interest.	Amount of qualified education expenses.	\$83,200 – \$98,200 \$124,2800 – \$154,880 (MFJ)
<i>Student Loan Interest Deduction</i>	Above-the-line tax deduction.	\$2,500 deduction.	\$70,000 – \$85,000 \$124,800 – \$154,800 (MFJ)

Qualified Business Income

Threshold amounts for qualified business income limitations are:

- \$329,800 Married Filing Jointly.
- \$164,900 Single, Head of Household, Qualifying Widow(er).
- \$164,925 Married Filing Separately.

Gift Exclusion

The annual gift exclusion for gifts to any person is \$15,000.

Estate Tax Exclusion

The basic estate tax exclusion amount is \$11,700,000.

Contact Us

There are many events that occur during the year that can affect your tax situation. Preparation of your tax return involves summarizing transactions and events that occurred during the prior year. In most situations, treatment is firmly established at the time the transaction occurs. However, negative tax effects can be avoided by proper planning. Please contact us in advance if you have questions about the tax effects of a transaction or event, including the following:

- Pension or IRA distributions.
- Significant change in income or deductions.
- Job change.
- Marriage.
- Attainment of age 59½ or 72.
- Sale or purchase of a business.
- Sale or purchase of a residence or other real estate.
- Retirement.
- Notice from IRS or other revenue department.
- Divorce or separation.
- Self-employment.
- Charitable contributions of property in excess of \$5,000.