

# Changes to the W-4 Tax Forms as of 2020

## Form W-4 (2019)

**Future developments.** For the latest information about any future developments related to Form W-4, such as legislation enacted after it was published, go to [www.irs.gov/FormW4](http://www.irs.gov/FormW4).

**Purpose.** Complete Form W-4 so that your employer can withhold the correct federal income tax from your pay. Consider completing a new Form W-4 each year and when your personal or financial situation changes.

**Exemption from withholding.** You may claim exemption from withholding for 2019 if **both** of the following apply.

- For 2018 you had a right to a refund of all federal income tax withheld because you had **no** tax liability, **and**

- For 2019 you expect a refund of all federal income tax withheld because you expect to have **no** tax liability.

If you're exempt, complete only lines 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 and sign the form to validate it. Your exemption for 2019 expires February 17, 2020. See Pub. 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax, to learn more about whether you qualify for exemption from withholding.

### General Instructions

If you aren't exempt, follow the rest of these instructions to determine the number of withholding allowances you should claim for withholding for 2019 and any additional amount of tax to have withheld. For regular wages, withholding must be based on allowances you claimed and may not be a flat amount or percentage of wages.

You can also use the calculator at [www.irs.gov/W4App](http://www.irs.gov/W4App) to determine your tax withholding more accurately. Consider

using this calculator if you have a more complicated tax situation, such as if you have a working spouse, more than one job, or a large amount of nonwage income not subject to withholding outside of your job. After your Form W-4 takes effect, you can also use this calculator to see how the amount of tax you're having withheld compares to your projected total tax for 2019. If you use the calculator, you don't need to complete any of the worksheets for Form W-4.

Note that if you have too much tax withheld, you will receive a refund when you file your tax return. If you have too little tax withheld, you will owe tax when you file your tax return, and you might owe a penalty.

**Workers with multiple jobs or working spouses.** If you have more than one job at a time, or if you're married filing jointly and your spouse is also working, read all of the instructions including the instructions for the Two-Earners/Multiple Jobs Worksheet before beginning.

**Nonwage income.** If you have a large amount of nonwage income not subject to withholding, such as interest or dividends, consider making estimated tax payments using Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals. Otherwise, you might owe additional tax. Or, you can use the Deductions, Adjustments, and Additional Income Worksheet on page 3 or the calculator at [www.irs.gov/W4App](http://www.irs.gov/W4App) to make sure you have enough tax withheld from your paycheck. If you have pension or annuity income, see Pub. 505 or use the calculator at [www.irs.gov/W4App](http://www.irs.gov/W4App) to find out if you should adjust your withholding on Form W-4 or W-4P.

**Nonresident alien.** If you're a nonresident alien, see Notice 1392, Supplemental Form W-4 Instructions for Nonresident Aliens, before completing this form.

### Specific Instructions

#### Personal Allowances Worksheet

Complete this worksheet on page 3 first to determine the number of withholding allowances to claim.

**Line C. Head of household please note:** Generally, you may claim head of household filing status on your tax return only if you're unmarried and pay more than 50% of the costs of keeping up a home for yourself and a qualifying individual. See Pub. 501 for more information about filing status.

**Line E. Child tax credit.** When you file your tax return, you may be eligible to claim a child tax credit for each of your eligible children. To qualify, the child must be under age 17 as of December 31, must be your dependent who lives with you for more than half the year, and must have a valid social security number. To learn more about this credit, see Pub. 972, Child Tax Credit. To reduce the tax withheld from your pay by taking this credit into account, follow the instructions on line E of the worksheet. On the worksheet you will be asked about your total income. For this purpose, total income includes all of your wages and other income, including income earned by a spouse if you are filing a joint return.

**Line F. Credit for other dependents.** When you file your tax return, you may be eligible to claim a credit for other dependents for whom a child tax credit can't be claimed, such as a qualifying child who doesn't meet the age or social security number requirement for the child tax credit, or a qualifying relative. To learn more about this credit, see Pub. 972. To reduce the tax withheld from your pay by taking this credit into account, follow the instructions on line F of the worksheet. On the worksheet, you will be asked about your total income. For this purpose, total

<b>W-4</b>		<b>Employee's Withholding Certificate</b>		OMB No. 1545-0074
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service		▶ Complete Form W-4 so that your employer can withhold the correct federal income tax from your pay. ▶ Give Form W-4 to your employer. ▶ Your withholding is subject to review by the IRS.		<b>2020</b>
<b>Step 1:</b> Enter Personal Information	(a) First, last, and middle initial	Last name		(b) Social security number
	Address			
	City or town, state, and ZIP code			
(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Single or Married filing separately <input type="checkbox"/> Married filing jointly (or Qualifying widow(er)) <input type="checkbox"/> Head of household (Check only if you're unmarried and pay more than half the costs of keeping up a home for yourself and a qualifying individual.)				

Complete Steps 2 through 4 ONLY if they apply to you. To see if you are exempt from withholding or if you have concerns about your privacy, see page 2. Everyone must complete Step 5. See instructions on page 2.

**Step 2:** Complete this step if you (1) hold more than one job at a time, or (2) are married filing jointly and your spouse also works. The correct amount of withholding depends on income earned from all of these jobs.

Do **only one** of the following.

- (a) Use the estimator at [www.irs.gov/W4App](http://www.irs.gov/W4App) for most accurate withholding; or
- (b) Use the Multiple Jobs Worksheet on page 3 and enter the result in Step 4(c) below for roughly accurate withholding; or
- (c) If there are only two jobs total, you may check this box. Do the same on Form W-4 for the other job. This option is accurate for jobs with similar pay; otherwise, more tax than necessary may be withheld. . . . . ▶

**CAUTION:** If you have privacy concerns, choose (a) or (b). If you and/or your spouse have income from self-employment, including as an independent contractor, choose (a).

Complete Steps 3 through 4(b) on Form W-4 for only one of these jobs. Leave those steps blank for the other jobs. (Your withholding will be most accurate if you complete Steps 3 through 4(b) on the Form W-4 for the highest paying job.)

<b>Step 3:</b> Claim Dependents	If your income will be \$200,000 or less (\$400,000 or less if married filing jointly): Multiply the number of qualifying children under age 17 by \$2,000 ▶ \$		
	Multiply the number of other dependents by \$500 . . . . . ▶ \$		
	Add the amounts above and enter the total here . . . . .	<b>3</b>	\$

<b>Step 4 (optional):</b> Other Adjustments	(a) <b>Other income.</b> If you want tax withheld for other income you expect this year that won't have withholding, enter the amount of other income here. This may include interest, dividends, and retirement income. You should not include income from any jobs . . . . .	<b>4(a)</b>	\$
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	(b) <b>Deductions.</b> If you expect to claim deductions other than the standard deduction and want to reduce your withholding, use the Deductions Worksheet on page 3 and enter the result here . . . . .	<b>4(b)</b>	\$
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	(c) <b>Extra withholding.</b> Enter any additional tax you want withheld each pay period . . . . .	<b>4(c)</b>	\$
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### Exempt

**Step 5:** Sign Here Under penalties of perjury, I declare that this certificate, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is true, correct, and complete.

Employee's signature (This form is not valid unless you sign it.)	Date
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<b>Employers Only</b>	Employer's name and address	First date of employment	Employer identification number (EIN)
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For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see page 3. Cat. No. 102200 Form W-4 (2020)

Separate here and give Form W-4 to your employer. Keep the worksheet(s) for your records.

<b>W-4</b>		<b>Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate</b>		OMB No. 1545-0074
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service		▶ Whether you're entitled to claim a certain number of allowances or exemption from withholding is subject to review by the IRS. Your employer may be required to send a copy of this form to the IRS.		<b>2019</b>
1 Your first, last, and middle initial		Last name		2 Your social security number
Home address (number and street or rural route)		3 <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Married, but withheld at higher Single rate. Note: If married filing separately, check "Married, but withheld at higher Single rate."		
City or town, state, and ZIP code		4 If your last name differs from that shown on your social security card, check here. You must call 800-772-1213 for a replacement card. ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
5 Total number of allowances you're claiming (from the applicable worksheet on the following pages)		5		6 \$
6 Additional amount, if any, you want withheld from each paycheck		7 I claim exemption from withholding for 2019, and I certify that I meet <b>both</b> of the following conditions for exemption. • Last year I had a right to a refund of all federal income tax withheld because I had <b>no</b> tax liability, <b>and</b> • This year I expect a refund of all federal income tax withheld because I expect to have <b>no</b> tax liability. If you meet both conditions, write "Exempt" here . . . . . ▶ 7		
Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this certificate and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.				
Employee's signature (This form is not valid unless you sign it.)		Date		
8 Employer's name and address (Employer: Complete boxes 8 and 10 if sending to IRS and complete boxes 8, 9, and 10 if sending to State Directory of New Hires.)		9 First date of employment		10 Employer identification number (EIN)

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Note the corresponding colors to determine where the original areas have been moved.