



## **Caution: *DRAFT—NOT FOR FILING***

This is the second early release draft of the 2020 IRS Form W-4, which the IRS is providing now so that programming of payroll systems can begin. The title of Form W-4 has been changed to Employee's Withholding Certificate (removing the word "Allowance").

Note that in this second early release draft of Form W-4, the computation of withholding has not changed from the first early release posting. The next early release of Publication 15-T is scheduled for the middle of August and will expand on the first draft including separate computations for figuring withholding for employees who file a 2020 Form W-4 in 2020 and for a 2019 or earlier Form W-4.

Although the final Form W-4 will not be posted for a few months, there will be no further substantive changes. One of the primary reasons the IRS is releasing the drafts is so that this draft and the forthcoming draft Pub. 15-T can be used for programming payroll systems now.

See [IRS.gov/W4](https://www.irs.gov/W4) for information on the Form W-4, and [IRS.gov/Pub 15-T](https://www.irs.gov/Pub15-T) for the latest information on the employer instructions.

Draft forms generally are subject to OMB approval before they can be officially released. Early release drafts are at [IRS.gov/DraftForms](https://www.irs.gov/DraftForms), and may remain there even after the final release is posted at [IRS.gov/LatestForms](https://www.irs.gov/LatestForms). We plan to issue the final revision of the 2020 Form W-4 and Publication 15-T in late Fall. If you have comments on this draft, you can submit them to [WI.W4.Comments@IRS.gov](mailto:WI.W4.Comments@IRS.gov) by September 9, 2019. We can't respond to all comments due to the high volume we receive.

# Employee's Withholding Certificate

▶ **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.**

**2020**

<b>Step 1:</b> <b>Enter Personal Information</b>	(a) First name and middle initial	Last name	(b) Social security number
	Address		▶ <b>Does your name match the name on your social security card?</b> If not, to ensure you get credit for your earnings, contact SSA at 800-772-1213 or go to <a href="http://www.ssa.gov">www.ssa.gov</a> .
	City or town, state, and ZIP code		
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Single or Married filing separately</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Married filing jointly</b> (or Qualifying widow(er)) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Head of household</b> (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: Multiple Jobs or Spouse Works**

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> <b>Claim Dependents</b>	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): Other Adjustments</b>	<b>(a) 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> \$ _____
	<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> \$ _____
	<b>(c) Extra withholding.</b> Enter any additional tax you want withheld each pay period . . . . .		<b>4(c)</b>

<b>Step 5:</b> <b>Sign Here</b>	Under penalties of perjury, I declare that this certificate, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is true, correct, and complete.		
	▶ _____ <b>Employee's signature</b> (This form is not valid unless you sign it.)		▶ _____ <b>Date</b>

<b>Employers Only</b>	Employer's name and address	First date of employment	Employer identification number (EIN)

## General Instructions

### Future Developments

For the latest information about 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 of Form

Complete this withholding allowance certificate so that your employer can withhold the correct federal income tax from your pay. If too little is withheld, generally you will owe tax when you file your tax return and may owe a penalty. If too much is withheld, generally you will be due a refund.

Complete a new Form W-4 when changes to your personal or financial situation would change the entries on the form. For more information on withholding and when you must furnish a new Form W-4, see Pub. 505.

**Exemption from withholding.** You may claim exemption from withholding for 2020 if you meet both of the following conditions: you owed no federal tax in 2019 **and** you expect to owe no federal income tax in 2020. You owed no federal income tax in 2019 if your total tax on line 16 on your 2019 Form 1040 is zero or if line 16 is less than the refundable credits on the total of lines 18a, 18b, and 18c. You expect to owe no federal income tax in 2020 if you expect the same result in 2020. If you claim exemption, you will have no income tax withheld from your paycheck and may owe taxes and penalties when you file your 2020 tax return. To claim exemption from withholding, certify that you meet both of the conditions above by writing "Exempt" on Form W-4 in the space below Step 4(c) and complete Steps 1 and 5. Do not complete any other steps on Form W-4. If you claim an exemption from withholding, you will need to submit a new Form W-4 by February 16, 2021.

### Your Privacy

If you want additional withholding and are concerned about your privacy in Steps 2 and/or 4(a), you may check the box in Step 2(c) or enter an additional amount you want withheld per pay period in Step 4(c).

**When to use the estimator.** Consider using the estimator at [www.irs.gov/W4App](http://www.irs.gov/W4App) if you:

1. Expect to work only part of the year;
2. Have dividend or capital gain income or are subject to additional taxes, such as the net investment income tax;
3. Have self-employment income (see below);
4. Prefer the most accurate withholding for multiple job situations; or
5. Prefer to limit information provided in Steps 2 through 4 but don't want to sacrifice accuracy.

**Self-employment.** Generally, you will owe both income and self-employment taxes on any self-employment income you receive separate from the wages you receive as an employee. If you want to pay these taxes through withholding from your wages, use the estimator at [www.irs.gov/W4App](http://www.irs.gov/W4App) to figure the amount to have withheld.

**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

**Step 1(c).** Check your anticipated filing status. This will determine the standard deduction and tax rates used to compute your withholding.

**Step 2.** Use this step if you have more than one job at the same time or are married filing jointly and you and your spouse both work.

Consider checking the box in Step 2 if there are only two jobs in the household. The standard deduction and tax brackets will be divided equally between the two jobs.



**Multiple job households.** Complete Steps 3 through 4(b) on only one Form W-4 in the household. Withholding will be most accurate if you do this on the Form W-4 for the highest paying job.

**Step 3.** Step 3 of Form W-4 provides instructions for determining the amount of the child tax credit and the credit for other dependents that you may be able to claim when you file your tax return. To qualify for the child tax credit, the child must be under age 17 as of December 31, must be your dependent who generally lives with you for more than half the year, and must have the required social security number. You may be able to claim a credit for other dependents for whom a child tax credit can't be claimed, such as an older child or a qualifying relative. For additional eligibility requirements for these credits, see Pub. 972, Child Tax Credit and Credit for Other Dependents. You can also include **other tax credits** in this step, such as education tax credits and the foreign tax credit. To do so, add an estimate of the amount for the year to your credits for dependents and enter the total amount in Step 3. Including these credits will increase your paycheck and reduce the amount of any refund you may receive when you file your tax return.

### Step 4 (optional).

**Step 4(a).** Enter in this step the total of your other estimated income for the year, if any. You shouldn't include income from any jobs. If you complete Step 4(a), you likely won't have to make estimated tax payments for that income. If you prefer to pay estimated tax rather than having tax on other income withheld from your paycheck, see Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals.

**Step 4(b).** Enter in this step the amount from the Deductions Worksheet, line 5, if you expect to claim deductions other than the basic standard deduction on your 2020 tax return and want to reduce your withholding to account for these deductions. This includes both itemized deductions and other deductions such as for student loan interest and IRAs.

**Step 4(c).** Enter in this step any additional tax you want withheld from your pay **each pay period**, including any amounts from the Multiple Jobs Worksheet, line 4. Entering an amount here will reduce your paycheck and will either increase your refund or reduce any amount of tax that you owe.

Multiple Jobs Worksheet (Keep for your records.)



Use this worksheet if you choose the option in Step 2(b) on Form W-4. Complete this worksheet for only one of the jobs in the household and enter the result on the Form W-4 for that job. Withholding will be most accurate if you enter the result on the Form W-4 for the highest paying job.

Note: If more than one job has annual wages of more than \$99,000 or there are more than three jobs, see Pub. 505 for additional tables; or, you can use the online withholding estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App.

- 1 Two jobs. If you have two jobs or you're married filing jointly and your spouse also works, find the amount from the appropriate table on page 4. Using the "Higher Paying Job" row and the "Lower Paying Job" column, find the value at the intersection of the two household salaries and enter that value on line 1. Then, skip to line 3
2 Three jobs. If you and/or your spouse have three jobs at the same time, complete lines 2a, 2b, and 2c below. Otherwise, skip to line 3.
a Find the amount from the appropriate table on page 4 using the annual wages from the highest paying job in the "Higher Paying Job" row and the annual wages for your next highest paying job in the "Lower Paying Job" column. Find the value at the intersection of the two household salaries and enter that value on line 2a
b Add the annual wages of the two highest paying jobs from line 2a together and use the total as the wages in the "Higher Paying Job" row and use the annual wages for your third job in the "Lower Paying Job" column to find the amount from the appropriate table on page 4 and enter on line 2b
c Add the amounts from lines 2a and 2b and enter the result on line 2c
3 Enter the number of pay periods per year for the highest paying job. For example, if that job pays weekly, enter 52; if it pays every other week, enter 26; if it pays monthly, enter 12, etc.
4 Divide the annual amount on line 1 or line 2c by the number of pay periods on line 3. (You may round this to the closest whole dollar amount.) Enter this amount here and in Step 4(c) of Form W-4 for the highest paying job (along with any other additional amount you want withheld)

Deductions Worksheet (Keep for your records.)



- 1 Enter an estimate of your 2020 itemized deductions. Such deductions may include qualifying home mortgage interest, charitable contributions, state and local taxes (up to \$10,000), and medical expenses in excess of 10% of your income
2 Enter: { • \$XX,XXX if you're married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er) • \$XX,XXX if you're head of household • \$XX,XXX if you're single or married filing separately }
3 If line 1 is greater than line 2, subtract line 2 from line 1. If line 2 is greater than line 1, enter "-0-"
4 Enter an estimate of your student loan interest, deductible IRA contributions, and certain other adjustments. See Pub. 505 for more information
5 Add lines 3 and 4. Enter the result here and in Step 4(b) of Form W-4

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. Internal Revenue Code sections 3402(f)(2) and 6109 and their regulations require you to provide this information; your employer uses it to determine your federal income tax withholding. Failure to provide a properly completed form will result in your being treated as a single person with no other entries on the form; providing fraudulent information may subject you to penalties. Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation; to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and possessions for use in administering their tax laws; and to the Department of Health and Human Services for use in the National Directory of New Hires. We also may disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by Code section 6103.

The average time and expenses required to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. For estimated averages, see the instructions for your income tax return.

If you have suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. See the instructions for your income tax return.

