

Key Retirement and Tax Numbers for 2020

Every year, the Internal Revenue Service announces cost-of-living adjustments that affect contribution limits for retirement plans and various tax deduction, exclusion, exemption, and threshold amounts. Here are a few of the key adjustments for 2020.

Employer retirement plans

- Employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), and most 457 plans can defer up to \$19,500 in compensation in 2020 (up from \$19,000 in 2019); employees age 50 and older can defer up to an additional \$6,500 in 2020 (up from \$6,000 in 2019).
- Employees participating in a SIMPLE retirement plan can defer up to \$13,500 in 2020 (up from \$13,000 in 2019), and employees age 50 and older can defer up to an additional \$3,000 in 2020 (the same as in 2019).

IRAs

The combined annual limit on contributions to traditional and Roth IRAs is \$6,000 in 2020 (the same as in 2019), with individuals age 50 and older able to contribute an additional \$1,000. For individuals who are covered by a workplace retirement plan, the deduction for contributions to a traditional IRA phases out for the following modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) ranges:

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Single/head of household (HOH) | \$64,000 - \$74,000 | \$65,000 - \$75,000 |
| Married filing jointly (MFJ) | \$103,000 - \$123,000 | \$104,000 - \$124,000 |
| Married filing separately (MFS) | \$0 - \$10,000 | \$0 - \$10,000 |

Note: The 2020 phaseout range is \$196,000 - \$206,000 (up from \$193,000 - \$203,000 in 2019) when the individual making the IRA contribution is not covered by a workplace retirement plan but is filing jointly with a spouse who is covered.

The modified adjusted gross income phaseout ranges for individuals to make contributions to a Roth IRA are:

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Single/HOH | \$122,000 - \$137,000 | \$124,000 - \$139,000 |
| MFJ | \$193,000 - \$203,000 | \$196,000 - \$206,000 |
| MFS | \$0 - \$10,000 | \$0 - \$10,000 |

Estate and gift tax

- The annual gift tax exclusion for 2020 is \$15,000, the same as in 2019.
- The gift and estate tax basic exclusion amount for 2020 is \$11,580,000, up from \$11,400,000 in 2019.

Kiddie tax

Under the kiddie tax rules, unearned income above \$2,200 in 2020 (the same as in 2019) is taxed using the trust and estate income tax brackets. The kiddie tax rules apply to: (1) those under age 18, (2) those age 18 whose earned income doesn't exceed one-half of their support, and (3) those ages 19 to 23 who are full-time students and whose earned income doesn't exceed one-half of their support.

Standard deduction

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------|----------|----------|
| Single | \$12,200 | \$12,400 |
| НОН | \$18,350 | \$18,650 |
| MFJ | \$24,400 | \$24,800 |
| MFS | \$12,200 | \$12,400 |

Note: The additional standard deduction amount for the blind or aged (age 65 or older) in 2020 is \$1,650 (the same as in 2019) for single/HOH or \$1,300 (the same as in 2019) for all other filing statuses. Special rules apply if you can be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer.

Alternative minimum tax (AMT)

| | 2019 | 2020 | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|--|--|
| Maximum AMT exemption amount | | | | |
| Single/HOH | \$71,700 | \$72,900 | | |
| MFJ | \$111,700 | \$113,400 | | |
| MFS | \$55,850 | \$56,700 | | |
| Exemption phaseout threshold | | | | |
| Single/HOH | \$510,300 | \$518,400 | | |
| MFJ | \$1,020,600 | \$1,036,800 | | |
| MFS | \$510,300 | \$518,400 | | |
| 26% rate on AMTI* up to this amount, 28% rate on AMTI above this amount | | | | |
| MFS | \$97,400 | \$98,950 | | |
| All others | \$194,800 | \$197,900 | | |
| *Alternative minimum taxable income | | | | |

