



**COMPTROLLER
of MARYLAND**
Serving the People

MARYLAND WITHHOLDING TAX FACTS

January 2009 – December 2009

This edition of Withholding Tax Facts offers information about filing your employer withholding tax form, reconciliation statement and other forms you'll find in your 2009 return booklet.

INCOME TAX RATE

The General Assembly has amended Section 10-105(a) to alter the Maryland income tax rates and rate brackets for individuals for all tax years beginning after December 31, 2007. The local income tax is computed without regard to the impact of the state tax rate. The new rates and rate brackets are indicated below:

Tax rate schedule I

(for taxpayers filing as Single, Married Filing Separately, or as Dependent Taxpayers. This rate is also used for taxpayers filing as Fiduciaries.)

Taxable Net Income is:		Maryland Tax is:
Over	But Not Over	
\$ 0	\$ 1,000	2% of the amount
1,000	2,000	\$20 plus 3% of the excess over \$1,000
2,000	3,000	\$50 plus 4% of the excess over \$2,000
3,000	150,000	\$90 plus 4.75% of the excess over \$3,000
150,000	300,000	\$7,072.50 plus 5% of the excess over \$150,000
300,000	500,000	\$14,572.50 plus 5.25% of the excess over \$300,000
500,000	1,000,000	\$25,072.50 plus 5.5% of the excess over \$500,000
1,000,000	-----	\$52,572.50 plus 6.25% of the excess over \$1,000,000

Tax rate schedule II

(for taxpayers filing Joint Returns, Head of Household, or for Qualifying Widows / Widowers.)

Taxable Net Income is:		Maryland Tax is:
Over	But Not Over	
\$ 0	\$ 1,000	2% of the amount
1,000	2,000	\$20 plus 3% of the excess over \$1,000
2,000	3,000	\$50 plus 4% of the excess over \$2,000
3,000	200,000	\$90 plus 4.75% of the excess over \$3,000
200,000	350,000	\$9,447.50 plus 5% of the excess over \$200,000
350,000	500,000	\$16,947.50 plus 5.25% of the excess over \$350,000
500,000	1,000,000	\$24,822.50 plus 5.5% of the excess over \$500,000
1,000,000	-----	\$52,322.50 plus 6.25% of the excess over \$1,000,000

PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS

The statute was amended to change the personal exemption amount. If your FAGI will be \$100,000 or less, you are allowed:

- \$3,200 each for taxpayer and spouse.
- \$1,000 each for taxpayer and spouse if age 65 or over and/or blind.
- \$3,200 for each allowable dependent, other than taxpayer and spouse. The amount is doubled for allowable dependents age 65 or over.

If your federal AGI is between		If you have filed as:	
		Single or Married filing separately Your Exemption is	Joint, Head of household or Widow(er) Your Exemption is
\$0	\$100,000	\$3,200	\$3,200
\$100,001	\$125,000	\$2,400	\$3,200
\$125,001	\$150,000	\$1,800	\$3,200
\$150,001	\$175,000	\$1,200	\$2,400
\$175,001	\$200,000	\$1,200	\$1,800
\$200,001	\$250,000	\$600	\$1,200
In excess of \$250,000		\$600	\$600

COUNTY RATES

Local tax is based on taxable income and not on Maryland state tax. Listed below are the actual 2009 local income tax rates.

Allegany	3.05%	Howard	3.20%
Anne Arundel	2.56%	Kent	2.85%
Baltimore County	2.83%	Montgomery	3.20%
Calvert	2.80%	Prince George's	3.20%
Caroline	2.63%	Queen Anne's	2.85%
Carroll	3.05%	St. Mary's	3.00%
Cecil	2.80%	Somerset	3.15%
Charles	2.90%	Talbot	2.25%
Dorchester	2.62%	Washington	2.80%
Frederick	2.96%	Wicomico	3.10%
Garrett	2.65%	Worcester	1.25%
Harford	3.06%	Baltimore City	3.05%

We provide separate tables for the convenience of employers who do not withhold using an automated or computerized system, or who prefer to look up the amounts to be withheld manually. For these tables, we have continued our practice of grouping the local income tax rates into rate brackets. For 2009, we will use nine brackets: 1.25%, 2.25%, 2.60%, 2.65%, 2.85%, 2.95%, 3.00%, 3.10% and 3.20%. Refer to the county listing above and use the table that agrees with, or is closest to, without going below the actual local tax rate.

Withholding tables can be downloaded from the Comptroller's Web site at www.marylandtaxes.com. If you do not have Internet access, you may call 410-260-7951 from Central Maryland or 1-800-MD TAXES from elsewhere.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- Accelerated taxpayers may request a waiver allowing monthly returns for the remainder of the calendar year. A renewal of the waiver is also available if eligibility to file federal withholding tax returns on a monthly basis is unchanged.
- Payors of distributions that are Eligible Rollover Distributions (ERDs) under IRC Section 3405 (c), subject to mandatory federal income tax withholding, are required to withhold Maryland income tax from these distributions paid to Maryland residents at the rate of 7.75%.
- Designated Distributions are only subject to Maryland income tax withholding if the payee affirmatively elects to have withholding made by the payor. The amount required to be withheld from the Designated Distributions is the amount that the payee requests using Form MW507P.

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ELECTRONIC FILING

Save time and money by meeting your business tax filing obligations electronically. The payment methods listed below qualify as Electronic Fund Transfers and will meet the EFT requirement. These electronic filing and payment options are also available to taxpayers who must file and pay Maryland sales tax.

File over the Internet and pay by direct debit: Use bFile, the Comptroller's free internet filing service for businesses, to file and pay online at www.marylandtaxes.com. bFile is a **free service** that allows you to file and make your payment by electronic funds withdrawal (direct debit). Zero reports may also be filed through the bFile service.

File and pay by ACH Credit: File and pay through your bank using the ACH Credit method. Contact your bank to see if it offers this service. Your bank may charge a nominal fee for an ACH Credit transaction.

File and pay by phone: Use your telephone and the free ACH Debit Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) service to pay your employer withholding, sales and use tax, motor fuel tax and corporation income tax payments. You must preregister for EFT payments. Visit www.marylandtaxes.com or call 410-260-7601 for more information on the EFT program and registration requirements.

File and pay by credit card: Pay with your MasterCard®, VISA®, Discover® or American Express® card by calling Official Payments Corp. at 1-800-2PAYTAX or by visiting www.officialpayments.com. Official Payments Corp., a private credit card payment services provider, charges a convenience fee per transaction. The State does not receive this fee.

File zero reports: If you **did not** withhold any Maryland income tax for a reporting period, **do not mail us your MW 506**. Instead, file online using bFile or call 410-260-7225 to file the zero report by phone. Please have the form in front of you when you call.

ANNUAL WITHHOLDING FILERS

Annual withholding tax filers receive a coupon book with four quarterly reports. Use the report with the quarter ending that corresponds with your tax end. For example, if your tax year ends between October 1 and December 31, use the fourth quarter coupon to report and pay tax withheld. The annual reconciliation Form MW 508 and state copy of federal Form W-2s issued for the previous calendar year is due on the last day of February, regardless of the quarter in which your year ends.

FILING YOUR RETURN

- The number one error is sending in the wrong coupon. Send in the coupon marked for the correct month.
- The number two error is incorrect figures. Please double-check your entries.
- If you are filing accelerated (MW506M) you must enter the pay date (the day you pay your employees) on the MW506M.
- Use your account number on all correspondence and checks relating to your income tax withholding account.
- If a due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the return is due on the next business day.
- File the "final report" form in your coupon book if you are

closing your business to avoid unnecessary delinquent notices and collection action.

- You must provide each employee with a wage and tax statement, federal Form W-2, on or before January 31 each year.
- If you don't have the window envelope but do have your Form MW 506, mail it with your payment to: Revenue Administration Division, P.O. Box 17132, Baltimore, MD 21297-0175.

YEAR END RECONCILIATION DUE FEB. 28, 2010

The annual employer withholding reconciliation report (MW508) included in the coupon book is due February 28, 2010. You must send in the bar coded MW508 corresponding with the proper tax year along with the state copy of Form W-2 for each person for whom income tax was withheld.

Employers have three options to file their year-end reconciliation (Form MW508). Employers who have 100 or more W-2s to report must select option 2 or 3. However, we encourage all employers regardless of the number of statements to file using magnetic media or electronically.

1) Employers with less than 100 W-2s to report may file their year-end reconciliation on paper.

2) **Employers with 0-250 W-2s to report can file their year-end reconciliation electronically using bFile at www.marylandtaxes.com.** The bFile application is free of charge. Employers can key up to 250 W-2s and their MW508 directly to our Web site and receive confirmation of the filing.

3) **All employers may file on magnetic media.**

The RE record was changed to include an agent indicator code, an agent for EIN, third-party sick pay indicator, date sent, and time sent.

The RS and RV records were changed to include date and time sent.

The RV record is an electronic version of the paper form, MW 508, Annual Employer Reconciliation Return. The RV record contains all of the data from the MW508 and is a required record if you file using magnetic media.

To obtain a complete copy of The Magnetic Media Specification Booklet please visit www.marylandtaxes.com.

For questions on magnetic media reporting please contact the Revenue Administration Division at 410-260-7150.

Send Year End Reconciliations to:
Revenue Administration Division
Magnetic Media Unit, Room 214
110 Carroll Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21411-0001

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT...

Withholding, obtaining withholding guides or forms, lost or destroyed return booklets, corporation income tax, personal income tax, nonresident shareholders' or partners' tax, e-mail taxhelp@comp.state.md.us, or call 410-260-7980 from Central Maryland or 1-800 MD TAXES from elsewhere.

If you have a delinquent withholding tax collection problem, call 410-649-0633.

For the hearing impaired: TTY users call via Maryland Relay at 711. If you need a reasonable accommodation for a disability, or need the information in this *Tax Facts* in an alternate format, contact the Comptroller's Office.