





Tax Preparation Checklist

By Robert Cassel, EA

Personal Data

- Social Security Numbers (including spouse and children)
- Child care provider: name, address, and tax I.D. or social security number
- Alimony paid: name and social security number of former spouse

Employment & Income Data

- □ W-2 forms for this year
- Unemployment compensation: Forms 1099-G
- Rental income: Form 1099-MISC
- Partnership, S Corporation, & trust income: Schedules K-1
- Pensions and annuities: Forms 1099-R
- Social Security/Railroad benefits: Forms RRB-1099
- Miscellaneous income: jury duty, gambling and lottery
- winning, prizes and awards
- Scholarships and fellowships
- State and local income tax refunds: Form 1099-G

Homeowner/Renter Data

- ☐ Mortgage interest: Form 1098 for all residences (include home equity loans and boat loans)
- □ Sale of your home or other real estate: Form 1099-S
- Real estate taxes paid
- Moving expenses (if connected with change of employment)

Financial Assets

- ☐ Interest and Dividend income statements: Form 1099-INT, 1099-DIV & 1099-OID
- Proceeds from broker transactions: Form 1099-B
- Retirement plan withdrawal: Form 1099-R

Financial Liabilities

- Auto loans and leases if vehicle used for business
- Student loan interest paid
- Early withdrawal penalties on CDs and other time deposits

Expenses

- Gifts to charity (written statement from charity for any single donations of \$250 or more)
- Unreimbursed expenses related to volunteer work
- Unreimbursed expenses related to your job (travel expenses, uniforms, union dues, subscriptions)
- Investment expenses
- ☐ Job-hunting expenses
- ☐ Job-related education expenses
- Child care expenses
- Medical Savings Accounts
- Adoption expenses
- Alimony paid
- Tax return preparation expenses and fees

Self-employment Data

- Business income: Forms 1099-MISC and/or your own records
- Business-related expenses: receipts, related documents & your own records
- Employment taxes & other business taxes paid for current year: payment records

Miscellaneous Tax Documents

- Federal & state estimated taxes paid. List the date and amount of each payment
- ☐ IRA, Keogh and other retirement plan contributions: Identify employer and employee contributions
- Casualty or theft losses
- Records for any other income or sales of property that may be taxable or reportable

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2009 Key Tax Figures

Retirement Plans			
IRA contribution limits			
Under Age 50	\$	5,000	
Age 50 and older		6,000	
SIMPLE IRA elective deferral limits			
Under Age 50	\$	11,500	
Age 50 and older		14,000	
401(k) elective deferral limits			
Under Age 50	\$	16,500	
Age 50 and older		22,000	
Profit-sharing plans/SEPs			
Contribution limit	\$	49,000	
Compensation limit (for contributions)		245,000	
Maximum contribution percentage (SE/employer)		20/25%	
Section 179 Limits			
Deduction	\$	250,000	
Qualifying property phase-out threshold	\$	800,000	
Education			
Education Credits			
Hope scholarship credit (maximum per student)	\$	2,500	
Lifetime learning credit (maximum per family)		2,000	
Student loan interest deduction	\$	2,500	
Education savings account (ESA) contribution limit	\$ 2	2,000/ben.	
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Health Savings Accounts Self-only coverage Contribution (deduction) limit Plan minimum deductible Plan out-of-pocket limit Family Coverage	\$ 3,000 1,150 5,800
Family Coverage Contribution (deduction) limit Plan minimum deductible Plan out-of-pocket limit Catch-up contribution (age 55 and older)	\$ 5,950 2,300 11,600 1,000
Estate and Gift Tax Estate Tax	
Estate Tax Exclusion Maximum tax rate	\$ 3,500,000 45%
Gift Tax Annual exclusion Lifetime exemption	\$ 12,000 1,000,000
Social Security/SE tax	
Maximum earnings subject to tax Social Security tax Medicare tax	\$ 102,000 No Limit
Maximum earnings and still receive full benefits Under full retirement age (FRA) at year-end Year FRA reached (months up to FRA only) Month FRA reached and later	\$ 14,160 37,680 No Limit

2009 AGI Phase-Out Amounts/Ranges

Filing Status MFJ QW Single HOH MFS	65,000 /	60,000 80,000 80,000 80,000 80,000	<i>Interest</i> \$120,000 60,000 60,000 60,000	- 75,000	Education Savings Bond Interest Exclusion \$104,900 - \$134,900 104,900 - 134,900 69,950 - 84,950 69,950 - 84,950 Do Not Qualify	Lifetime Learning Credit \$100,000 - \$120,000 50,000 - 60,000 50,000 - 60,000 50,000 - 60,000 Do Not Qualify	Hope Scholarship (American Opportunity Credit \$160,000 - \$180,000 80,000 - 90,000 80,000 - 90,000 80,000 - 90,000 Do Not Qualify	t) Account	- 110,000 - 110,000
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	Child	Earn	ed Income	Credit	Passive Loss in Active	Roth IRA	Traditional IRA	Itemized	Saver's
	Tax Credit	No Child	1 Child	2 Children	Rental Real Estate	Contribution	Deduction	Deductions	Credit
MFJ	\$110,000	\$18,440	\$40,463	\$45,295	\$100,000 - \$150,000	\$166,000 - \$176,000	\$89,000 - \$109,000	\$159,950	\$55,500
QW	75,000	13,440	35,463	40,295	100,000 - 150,000	166,000 - 176,000	89,000 - 109,000	159,950	27,750
Single	75,000	13,440	35,463	40,295	100,000 - 150,000	105,000 - 120,000	55,000 - 65,000	159,950	27,750
HOH	75,000	13,440	35,463	40,295	100,000 - 150,000	105,000 - 120,000	55,000 - 65,000	159,950	41,625
MFS	55,000	D	o Not Qual	ify	50,000 - 75,000	0 - 10,000	0 - 10,000	79,975	0 -10,000

IRAs—Traditional vs. Roth (2009)

Contributions:		Traditional	Roth
Limit, under age 50		\$5,000	\$5,000
Limit, age 50 or older		\$6,000	\$6,000
Deductible	Yes, b	ut may be limited if covered by employer retirement plan	No
Income (AGI) limitations:	Yes, fo	r deductible contribution when covered by employer plan	Yes
Married, joint return		\$89,000 - 109,000	\$166,000 - 176,000
Single		\$55,000 - 65,000	\$105,000 - 120,000
	No limits if not co	vered by employer retirement plan or for nondeductible contribu	tions
Maximum Age		701/2	No age limit
Distributions:			
Taxation	All or	linary income (unless nondeductible contributions made)	Nontaxable if qualified distribution
Age distributions must begin		701/2	No age restrictions
10% penalty for distributions before age 59½		Yes, subject to certain exceptions	Yes; NA to withdrawal of contributions
Withdrawal of nondeductible con	ntributions (basis)	Pro-rata based on all traditional IRAs	First, before earnings

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