

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHANGES AFFECTING 2013

**Congress Health Care Taxes Take Effect** – As part of the Patient Protection Act (Health Care Law) four significant provisions take effect in 2013:

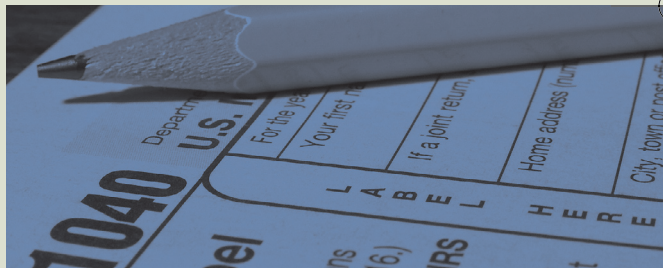
- Increased Health Insurance (HI) Payroll Tax** – The Hospital Insurance (HI) payroll tax, currently at 1.45%, will be increased to 2.35% to the extent an individual taxpayer's earnings (wages and self employment) exceed \$200,000 (\$250,000 for joint filing taxpayers). An individual's employer is required to withhold the extra amount based upon the income from that employer. Individuals with multiple employers and married couples both working (incomes must be combined for purposes of the tax) should be aware that they may not have enough withheld and could find themselves owing additional HI tax when they file their 2013 return.
- Surtax on Investment Income** – Also referred to as the "unearned income Medicare contribution tax." A 3.8% surtax is imposed on the lesser of a taxpayer's net investment income, or the excess of the taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income over \$200,000 (\$250,000 for joint filing taxpayers). Net investment income includes interest, dividend, annuity, capital gains, and passive rental income less expenses associated with the income. It also includes the capital gain from the sale of a taxpayer's home in excess of the excludable gain.
- Medical Deduction Threshold** – For taxpayers under the age of 65 the medical itemized deduction threshold will increase from 7.5% to 10% of the taxpayer's AGI. For taxpayers age 65 and over the threshold remains at 7.5% through 2016.
- FSA Maximum Annual Medical Expense** – Beginning in 2013 the medical reimbursements that can be from an FSA are capped at \$2,500 per year.

**New Tax Law** – Congress passed the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 shortly after the start of 2013. Here are highlights of some of the changes:

**Residential Energy-Efficient Property Credit** – The tax credit for installing energy saving home improvements such as doors, windows, insulation, attic fans, etc., has been retroactively extended for 2012 through 2013. A taxpayer can claim a 10% credit on the cost of: (1) qualified energy efficiency improvements, and (2) residential energy property expenditures, with a lifetime credit limit of \$500 (\$200 for windows and skylights).

Also available is a tax credit designed for alternative energy equipment that equals 30% of the cost of qualifying property, such as solar electric systems, solar hot water heaters, geothermal heat pumps, wind turbines and fuel cell property through 2016.

**Child Tax Credit** – The child tax credit was made permanent at \$1,000 per qualifying child.



**Childcare Credit** – The higher allowable childcare expenses, \$3,000 for one child and \$4,800 for 2 or more children, along with the higher credit percentage of 35%, which were set to expire, are made permanent.

**Tax Rates Increase** – For tax years beginning after 2012, the income tax rates for individuals will stay at 10%, 15%, 25%, 28%, 33% and 35%, but with a new 39.6% rate applying for income above the threshold of \$450,000 for joint filers and surviving spouses; \$425,000 for heads of household; \$400,000 for single filers; and \$225,000 married filing separately. These amounts will be inflation-adjusted in future years.

**Capital Gains (CG) Rates** – For tax years beginning after 2012, the top rate for long-term (LT) capital gains and qualifying dividends will permanently rise to 20% (up from 15%) for taxpayers with taxable incomes exceeding \$400,000 (\$450,000 for married taxpayers, \$425,000 for heads of household); amounts are subject to inflation adjustment. For taxpayers whose taxable income is subject to a rate below 25%, LT capital gains and qualifying dividends will be subject to a 0% rate. Taxpayers who are subject to a 25%-or-greater rate, but whose income levels fall below the \$400,000/\$450,000 thresholds, will continue to be subject to a 15% rate on LT capital gains and qualifying dividends.

**Personal Exemptions Phased-Out** – A phase-out of personal exemptions for higher income taxpayers will apply starting with 2013 returns; each exemption allowance will be reduced by 2% for each \$2,500 of income (AGI) above \$250,000 for single individuals, \$275,000 for heads of household and \$300,000 for married individuals filing jointly.

**Itemized Deductions Phased-Out** – Itemized deductions of higher-income individuals will be reduced by 3% of AGI above the same income (AGI) thresholds as for exemptions, also effective in 2013. However, the reduction cannot exceed 80% of the deductions.

**Education Credits** – The American Opportunity Credit which provided up to \$2,500 tuition tax credit for the first four years of post-secondary education, a portion of which was refundable, has been extended for five years through 2017.

**Other extended tax benefits include:** The above-the-line higher education tuition deduction, higher education loan interest deduction, the teacher's above-the-line classroom supplies deduction, the treatment of mortgage insurance premiums as qualified residence interest, the election to deduct state and local sales tax in lieu of state and local income tax, the tax free IRA to charity transfers for taxpayers 70.5 and older, and the exclusion of cancellation of debt income for acquisition debt forgiveness on a taxpayer's principal residence.

## \$1 LUMP SUM AT VARIOUS RATES (Future Value of \$1, Compounded Annually)

Interest Rate	5th Year	10th Year	15th Year	20th Year	25th Year	30th Year
2%	1.104	1.219	1.346	1.486	1.641	1.811
4	1.217	1.480	1.801	2.191	2.666	3.243
6	1.338	1.791	2.397	3.207	4.292	5.743
8	1.469	2.159	3.172	4.661	6.848	10.063
10	1.611	2.594	4.177	6.727	10.835	17.449

**Example:** If you invest \$10,000 at an interest rate of 6%, at the end of 30 years you will have \$57,430 (\$10,000 multiplied by 5.743).

## \$1 PER YEAR AT VARIOUS RATES (Future Value, Compounded Annually)

Interest Rate	5th Year	10th Year	15th Year	20th Year	25th Year	30th Year
2%	5.310	11.17	17.64	24.78	32.67	41.38
4	5.416	12.006	20.024	29.778	41.646	56.085
6	5.637	13.181	23.276	36.786	54.865	79.058
8	5.867	14.487	27.152	45.762	73.106	113.283
10	6.105	15.937	31.772	57.275	98.347	164.494

**Example:** If you put \$1,000 at the end of each year in an investment paying 6% a year compounded annually, at the end of the 30th year, you will have \$79,058 saved (\$1,000 x 79.058).

## LIFE EXPECTANCY\*

Current Age	Remaining Years	Current Age	Remaining Years
25	57.0	55	28.6
30	52.2	60	24.2
35	47.3	65	20.0
40	42.5	70	16.0
45	37.7	75	12.5
50	33.1	80	9.5

Assume a planned retirement age of 60. Based on average statistics, you will need to accumulate retirement assets by age 60 to last for 24.2 yrs.

\* Life expectancy rates based on the IRS Unisex Single Life Tables.

## TAXABLE-EQUIVALENT YIELD OF MUNICIPAL BONDS BASED ON VARIOUS FEDERAL INCOME TAX BRACKETS

Tax Bracket	Tax-Free Yield						
	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%	4.5%	5.0%
10%	2.2	2.8	3.3	3.9	4.4	5.0	5.6
15	2.4	2.9	3.5	4.1	4.7	5.3	5.9
25	2.7	3.3	4.0	4.7	5.3	6.0	6.7
28	2.8	3.5	4.2	4.9	5.6	6.2	6.9
33	3.0	3.7	4.5	5.2	6.0	6.7	7.5
35	3.1	3.8	4.6	5.4	6.2	6.9	7.7

**Example:** A taxpayer in the 25% tax bracket would have to purchase a taxable investment yielding more than 5.3% to outperform a 4.0% tax-free investment.

### DISCLAIMER

The information provided is an abbreviated summary of tax and financial information for the 2013 tax year. Pending or future tax legislation and regulations could alter contents of this brochure. The accuracy and completeness of this information is not guaranteed. Specific questions relating to your specific tax or financial situation should be directed to your tax and financial advisor.

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# 2013 Pocket Tax Guide

