

NEWS You Can Use

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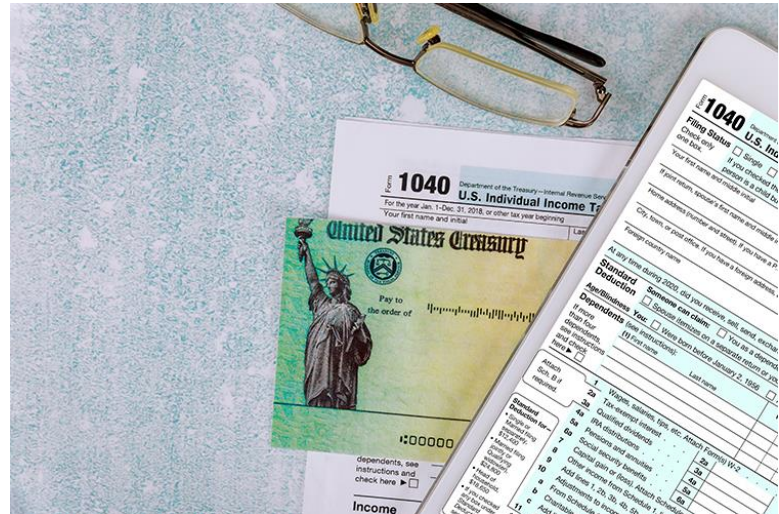
The IRS' annual inflation adjustments, released this Fall, are based on what's known as the chained Consumer Price Index, as required by the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act.

Standard deductions. For single taxpayers and married individuals filing separately for

37% for individual single taxpayers with incomes greater than \$626,350 (\$751,600 for married couples filing jointly).

35% for incomes over \$250,525 (\$501,050 for married couples filing jointly).

32% for incomes over \$197,300 (\$394,600 for



tax year 2025, the standard deduction rises to \$15,000 for 2025, an increase of \$400 from 2024. For married couples filing jointly, the standard deduction rises to \$30,000, an increase of \$800 from tax year 2024. For heads of households, the standard deduction will be \$22,500 for tax year 2025, an increase of \$600 from the amount for tax year 2024.

Marginal rates. For tax year 2025, the top tax rate remains

married couples filing jointly).

24% for incomes over \$103,350 (\$206,700 for married couples filing jointly).

22% for incomes over \$48,475 (\$96,950 for married couples filing jointly).

12% for incomes over \$11,925 (\$23,850 for married couples filing jointly).

10% for incomes \$11,925 or less (\$23,850 or less for married couples filing jointly).

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-releases-tax-inflation-adjustments-for-tax-year-2025>

Little Known Facts About Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving Meats -

Turkey is traditionally the centerpiece of the Thanksgiving meal, but during the original Thanksgiving feast, turkey may not have been on the menu at all! Instead of turkey, settlers likely ate ducks, geese, and swans at the first Thanksgiving.¹

A Lot of Pumpkin -

Thanksgiving is filled with an incredible amount of food and consumption, so it's no surprise to find the amount of food eaten increases during this holiday. It's estimated that 50 million pumpkin pies are eaten on Thanksgiving Day, and that's second only to the even more popular apple pie!²

Bountiful Harvest - Today, Thanksgiving is a 1-day celebration. But the first Thanksgiving was three days long due to a shockingly good year with an abundant harvest!²

1- housebeautiful.com/lifestyle/a22792044/thanksgiving-fun-facts

2 - goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/thanksgiving-ideas/a35457/thanksgiving-trivia

2025 Retirement Rules And Tax Changes

Over the last several years, new retirement rules and changes to tax law affecting retirement account contributions and withdrawals have been implemented that impact nearly every taxpayer, including those inheriting a retirement account.



The End Nears For High Earners making more than \$145,000(indexed) To Make Pre-Tax Catch-Up Contributions: The Secure Act 2.0, starting in 2026, states that employees ages 50 or older can only make catch-up contributions to an after-tax Roth account. The new rule only impacts those 'high earners', making more than \$145,000 (indexed) in the prior year for the same employer.

This may be a planning opportunity for individuals older than 50 who change jobs

mid-year, as they could be eligible for pre-tax catch-up contributions for another year or two before triggering the compensation limit for the prior year. The changes will apply to 401(k), 401(a), 403(b), and 457(b) plans starting in 2026.

No Required Minimum Distributions In Roth 401(k)s:

Before passage of Secure Act 2.0, only Roth IRAs allowed the original account owner to skip lifetime RMDs. Starting in 2024, individuals with assets in a Roth 401(k) won't be subject to mandatory distributions during their lifetime.

SIMPLE and SEP IRAs are no longer limited to pre-tax options. The Secure Act 2.0 also made it possible for employers to offer after-tax Roth SEP or SIMPLE IRA funding if the employee elects. SIMPLE IRAs can be funded by both the employer and employee, while SEP IRAs are only funded by the employer.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kristinmc kenna/2024/09/27/6-new-retirement-rules-and-tax-changes-everyone-should-know/>



Though discontinued, technically, high-denomination bills (\$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$100,000) are still legal tender. They were last printed in 1945 and discontinued by July 14, 1969. The present denominations of U.S. currency in production are the \$1, \$2, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 bills.

A stack of dollar bills one mile high would be worth 14.5 million dollars.

The U.S. Secret Service was originally created on July 5, 1865, during the Civil War to fight counterfeiting, which was a huge problem. By the end of the war, between 1/3 and 1/2 of all U.S. paper currency in circulation was counterfeit.

The first coins with their value printed on them were minted around 600 B.C. in ancient Lydia (modern-day Turkey). The coins were made of electrum, which is an alloy of gold and silver.

<https://www.factretriever.com/money-facts>

Americans Believe They Will Need \$1.46 Million to Retire Comfortably

According to a 2024 Planning & Progress Study by Northwestern Mutual, Americans believe they will need \$1.46 Million to retire comfortably.

The 'Silver Tsunami' is here: 11,000 Americans will turn 65 every day through 2027. Only half of Boomers and Gen X believe they'll be financially ready for retirement.

U.S. adults believe they will need \$1.46 million to retire comfortably, a 15% increase over the \$1.27 million reported last year, far outpacing today's inflation. Over a five-year span, people's 'magic number' has jumped a whopping 53% from the \$951,000 target Americans reported in 2020. Younger generations, both Gen Z and Millennials expect to need more than \$1.6 million to retire comfortably. High-net-worth individuals – people with more than \$1 million in investable assets – say they'll need nearly \$4 million. Meanwhile, average retirement savings for Americans has fallen to \$88K – more than \$10,000 off its five-year peak of \$98,800 in 2021.

Across all segments, there are large gaps between what people think they'll need to retire and what they've saved to date. On average, Gen X believes there is a 42% chance they could outlive their savings, while Boomers put the probability at 37%. Across both generations, more than a third (37% and 38%, respectively) have not taken any steps to address the possibility of outliving their savings.



Only three in 10 (30%) Americans have a plan to minimize the taxes they pay on their retirement savings, including strategic withdrawals, charitable donations, and using tax advantaged vehicles like HSA's or permanent life insurance.

<https://news.northwesternmutual.com/2024-04-02-Americans-Believe-They-Will-Need-1-46-Million-to-Retire-Comfortably-According-to-Northwestern-Mutual-2024-Planning-Progress-Study>

It Happened In



November 1, 1993 – On the first day of November in 1993, the European Union as we know it today first came into existence. The Union came to be as a result of the historic Maastricht Treaty.

November 9, 1989 - The Berlin Wall, constructed in 1961, is first opened after nearly 30 years of separation between East and West Germany. It was a symbol of the end of the Cold War.

November 19, 1863 – President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address, commemorating the battle and dedicating the battlefield to be a National Cemetery. This 2 minute speech is considered one of the most poignant symbols of democracy.

November 24, 1859 - Charles Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was first published, theorizing that all living creatures descended from a common ancestor.

historyplace.com/specials/calendar/november.htm

Social Security Beneficiaries will get 2.5 Percent Bigger Payments in 2025

When the 2.5% COLA for 2025 goes into effect, the average monthly Social Security payment is expected to increase by \$49 per month from the 2024 average monthly benefit of \$ 1,976.

The 2025 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is the lowest since 2021, reflecting a continued cooling of inflation.



The 2025 adjustment represents the difference between the average CPI-W for July, August and September of 2024 and the average for those months in 2023. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Oct. 10 that the index rose at a 2.2 percent rate in September, following increases of 2.4 percent in August and 2.9 percent in July.

The Social Security Administration automatically deducts Medicare Part B premiums from Social Security benefits, and the next year's rates are generally announced in November. In their 2024 annual report, Medicare's trustees projected that the standard Part B premium paid by most Medicare beneficiaries — \$174.80 a month this year — will rise to \$185 a month in

2025. That would effectively reduce the Social Security COLA by \$10.20 a month for most recipients.

Social Security is almost entirely funded by a payroll tax of 12.4 percent on eligible wages, with employers and employees each paying 6.2 percent. (Self-employed people pay the full 12.4 percent.) The tax is applied to earnings up to a certain threshold, which will increase next year from \$168,600 to \$176,100.

<https://www.aarp.org/retirement/social-security/info-2024/cola-set-for-2025.html>