

How do I read a W-2?

Each section on your W-2 contains important information related to your taxes. Here is a box-by-box guide of Copy B and what each section means.

Box A: Your Social Security number, which the IRS uses to identify you.

Box B: The employer identification number, or EIN, which the IRS uses to identify your employer.

Box C: An employer may choose to include a code in this section to identify your individual form. It may be left blank.

Box D: An employer may choose to include a code in this section to identify your individual form. It may be left blank.

Box E: Your legal name.

Box F: Your address and ZIP code.

Box 1: The total amount of taxable wages, reported tip income and other taxable compensation the employer paid you in the last tax year, but not including any money you had deferred from your pay for qualifying benefits like a 401(k) plan or IRA.

Box 2: The amount of federal income tax the employer withheld from your wages for the tax year.

Box 3: The total wages paid that are subject to Social Security tax. Because certain income may be

Box 4: The Social Security tax withheld on wages and tips reported to your employer. For 2020, the maximum amount of wages that Social Security tax can be withheld on is \$137,700 - this amount is Social Security tax on wages you earn in excess of that amount. The employee portion of Social Security tax is 6.2% of their wages, up to the SS wage base. Box 4 cannot be more than \$8,537.40 ($\$137,700 \times 6.2\%$) for 2020.

Box 5: The total wages and tips reported to your employer, which are subject to Medicare tax. Unlike Social Security tax, there is no wage base limit for Medicare tax. That means this number may be larger than in Box 1 or Box 3.

Box 6: The amount of Medicare tax withheld for the tax year. There is no Medicare wage base limit, so the Medicare

Box 10:

< Z · Income under a nonqualified deferred compensation plan that fails to satisfy section