

Department of

IOWA REVENUE

Income Tax Returns and the W-2

Are you about to file your first income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service or with Iowa?

If so, you need to understand the W-2: Wage and Tax Statement.

A Typical W-2

22222	a Employee's social security number	OMB No. 1545-0008					
b Employer identification number (EIN)		1 Wages, tips, other compensation		2 Federal income tax withheld			
		c Employer's name, address, and ZIP code		3 Social security wages		4 Social security tax withheld	
				5 Medicare wages and tips		6 Medicare tax withheld	
d Control number		7 Social security tips		8 Allocated tips			
		9 Advance EIC payment		10 Dependent care benefits			
e Employee's first name and initial Last name Suff.		11 Nonqualified plans		12a			
		13 Statutory employee Retirement plan Third-party sick pay <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		12b			
		14 Other		12c			
				12d			
f Employee's address and ZIP code							
15 State Employer's state ID number		16 State wages, tips, etc.	17 State income tax	18 Local wages, tips, etc.	19 Local income tax	20 Locality name	

Form **W-2** Wage and Tax Statement
 Copy 1—For State, City, or Local Tax Department

2009

Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service

What is a W-2?

Your employer will send you or give you this form by January 31. The form contains the tax information the federal and state governments need to know about your job with your employer. The information is for the previous calendar year.

You will receive a W-2 for each job you had during the year if your employer withheld tax for you.

Why do you need a copy of the W-2?

You need this form in order to file your federal and state income tax returns, and you need a copy for your records. It is proof of how much money you made and how much federal and state taxes you already paid during the previous year.

Here is an example of a typical W-2.

22222		a Employee's social security number 333-22-1111		OMB No. 1545-0008				
b Employer identification number (EIN) 98-7654321			1 Wages, tips, other compensation 6,604.04		2 Federal income tax withheld 572.00			
c Employer's name, address, and ZIP code Wylie's Widget Factory 711 Convenience Street Mytown, IA 55555-5555			3 Social security wages 6,604.00		4 Social security tax withheld 409.24			
			5 Medicare wages and tips 6,604.00		6 Medicare tax withheld 95.76			
			7 Social security tips		8 Allocated tips			
d Control number 333-22-1111			9 Advance EIC payment		10 Dependent care benefits			
e Employee's first name and initial		Last name		Suff.		11 Nonqualified plans		12a
John Q. Public		0000 Elm Street		Yourtown, IA 33333-3333		13 Statutory employee Retirement plan Third-party sick pay <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		12b
						14 Other		12c
								12d
f Employee's address and ZIP code								
15 State	Employer's state ID number		16 State wages, tips, etc.	17 State income tax	18 Local wages, tips, etc.	19 Local income tax	20 Locality name	
IA	01-1234567-007		6,604.00	208.00				

Form **W-2** Wage and Tax Statement
Copy 1—For State, City, or Local Tax Department

2009

Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service

What is on a W-2?

Information about your employer

22222	a Employee's social security number 333-22-1111
b Employer identification number (EIN) 98-7654321	
c Employer's name, address, and ZIP code Wylie's Widget Factory 711 Convenience Street Mytown, IA 55555-5555	
d Control number	
e Employee's first name and initial Last name John Q. Public 0000 Elm Street Yourtown, IA 33333-3333	
f Employee's address and ZIP code	
15 State Employer's state ID number	16 State wages, tips, etc.

Your Employer's I.D. Number:

You will need this if you electronically file your return.

Your employer's name and address

What is on a W-2?

Information about you

22222	a Employee's social security number 333-22-1111
b Employer identification number (EIN) 98-7654321	
c Employer's name, address, and ZIP code Wylie's Widget Factory 711 Convenience Street Mytown, IA 55555-5555	
d Control number 333-22-1111	
e Employee's first name and initial Last name John Q. Public 0000 Elm Street Yourtown, IA 33333-3333	
f Employee's address and ZIP code	
15 State Employer's state ID number	16 State wages, tips, etc.

Information about you:
Social Security Number
Name and address

Be sure this information is correct!
Contact your employer if it is not.

What is on a W-2?

The amount of Iowa income tax you paid

15 State	Employer's state ID number	16 State wages, tips, etc.	17 State income tax
IA	01-1234567-007	6,604.00	208.00

Form **W-2** Wage and Tax Statement
Copy 1—For State, City, or Local Tax Department

2009

The amount of Iowa tax that was taken out of your paycheck throughout the year.


You will need this amount for your Iowa return. Your employer sent this amount to the Iowa Department of Revenue.

What is on a W-2?

The amount of federal income tax you paid

The amount of federal tax that was taken out of your paycheck throughout the year.

You will need this amount to file your Iowa and your federal returns. Your employer sent this amount to the IRS in your name.



1 Wages, tips, other compensation 6,604.04	2 Federal income tax withheld 572.00
3 Social security wages 6,604.00	4 Social security tax withheld 409.24
5 Medicare wages and tips 6,604.00	6 Medicare tax withheld 95.76
7 Social security tips	8 Allocated tips
9 Advance EIC payment	10 Dependent care benefits
11 Nonqualified plans	12a
13 Statutory employee Retirement plan Third-party sick pay <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	12b
14 Other	12c
	12d

What is on a W-2?

Amounts you will not claim on your tax return

These amounts are **NOT** needed for your tax returns. These amounts were deducted from your checks over the year. They were sent to the federal government on your behalf.

◆ **Social Security Tax:** Every employee is required to contribute. The amount is based on the amount of your income. It is used to determine how much you will receive in Social Security when you retire. This is a federal tax. You cannot receive a refund of this tax.

◆ **Medicare Tax:** Every employee is required to contribute. The amount is based on the amount of your income. Medicare helps with medical costs for senior citizens. This is a federal tax. You cannot receive a refund of this tax.

1 Wages, tips, other compensation 6,604.04	2 Federal income tax withheld 572.00
3 Social security wages 6,604.00	4 Social security tax withheld 409.24
5 Medicare wages and tips 6,604.00	6 Medicare tax withheld 95.76
7 Social security tips	8 Allocated tips
9 Advance EIC payment	10 Dependent care benefits
11 Nonqualified plans	12a
13 Statutory employee Retirement plan Third-party sick pay <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	12b
14 Other	12c
	12d

What do you do with a W-2?

If you file your income tax returns on paper:

Your employer will give you multiple copies of your W-2. If you file your income tax return on paper, you will attach one to the federal return and one to the state return. Keep one copy in your file.

If you file electronically:

You will keep all copies of the W-2 in your tax file.

Why file electronically?

- ◆ Faster: A paper-filed return will take weeks to process. With an eFiled return, your refund may be deposited into your checking account in days.
- ◆ Cheaper: It costs less to process eFiled returns than to process paper returns. Your tax dollars are spent more wisely.
- ◆ Cleaner: eFiled returns have significantly fewer errors than paper-filed returns.

Didn't get your W-2s by January 31?

**The Iowa Department of Revenue
cannot give you a copy of your W-2
because employers do not provide us with copies.**

**First contact your employer to see if
your mailing address is correct.**

**If you need additional help,
contact the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-1040.**

Questions about W-2s?

The W-2 is a federal form. Call the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-1040 if you have questions.

If the information on it is incorrect, be sure to talk to your employer!