## TOP FEDERAL INCOME TAX RATES SINCE 1913 (top brackets in nominal dollars)

| Year | Top Regular Rates |  | Above Taxable Inc. (joint) of | Capital Gains Max | Capital Gains Taxation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Wages \& Other Earned | Unearned except cap gains |  |  |  |
| 1913-15 | 7\% | 7\% | \$ 500,000 | 15\% | Realized gains taxed same as other income |
| 1916 | 15\% | 15\% | 2,000,000 | 15\% | " |
| 1917 | 67\% | 67\% | 2,000,000 | 67\% | " |
| 1918 | 77\% | 77\% | 1,000,000 | 77\% | " |
| 1919-21 | 73\% | 73\% | 1,000,000 | 73\% | " |
| 1922 | 58\% | 58\% | 200,000 | 12.5\% | Maximum rate |
| 1923 | 43.5\% | 43.5\% | 200,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1924 | 46\% | 46\% | 500,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1925-28 | 25\% | 25\% | 100,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1929 | 24\% | 24\% | 100,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1930-31 | 25\% | 25\% | 100,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1932-33 | 63\% | 63\% | 1,000,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1934-35 | 63\% | 63\% | 1,000,000 | 31.5\% | Sliding exclusion of $70 \%>10 \mathrm{yrs} ; 0 \%<1 \mathrm{yr}$. |
| 1936-37 | 78\% | 78\% | 2,000,000 | 39\% | " |
| 1938-40 | 78\% | 78\% | 2,000,000 | 30\% | Excl. 50\%>2yrs; 67\% 18-24mo; 0\%<18mo; 30\%Max |
| 1941 | 80\% | 80\% | 2,000,000 | 30\% | " |
| 1942-43 | 88\% | 88\% | 200,000 | 25\% | Exclusion $50 \%>6$ months; $25 \%$ maximum |
| 1944-45 | 94\% | 94\% | 200,000 | 25\% | " |
| 1946-47 | 86.5\% | 86.5\% | 200,000 | 25\% | " |
| 1948-49 | 82.1\% | 82.1\% | 200,000 | 25\% | " |
| 1950 | 84.4\% | 84.4\% | 200,000 | 25\% | " |
| 51-64 | 91\% | 91\% | 200,000 | 25\% | " |
| 64-67 | 70\% | 70\% | 200,000 | 25\% | " |
| 1968 | 75.3\% | 75.3\% | 200,000 | 26.9\% | Transition |
| 1969 | 77\% | 77\% | 200,000 | 27.5\% | " |
| 1970 | 50\% | 70\% | 200,000 | 32.3\% | " |
| 1971 | 50\% | 70\% | 200,000 | 34.3\% | " |
| 1972-75 | 50\% | 70\% | 200,000 | 36.5\% | $50 \%$ exclusion, minimum tax effects |
| 1976-77 | 50\% | 70\% | 203,200 | 39.9\% | " |
| 1978 | 50\% | 70\% | 203,200 | 39\% | " |
| 1979-80 | 50\% | 70\% | 215,400 | 28\% | 60\% exclusion |
| 1981 | 50\% | 70\% | 215,400 | 23.7\% | $50 \%$ or 60\% exclusion, etc.,transition |
| 1982 | 50\% | 50\% | 85,600 | 20\% | 60\% exclusion |
| 1983 | 50\% | 50\% | 109,400 | 20\% | " |
| 1984-86 | 50\% | 50\% | 168,900 | 20\% | " |
| 1987 | 38.5\% | 38.5\% | 90,000 | 28\% | Maximum rate |
| 1988-90* | 28\%/33\% | 28\%/33\% | * | 28\%/33\% | Realized gains taxed same as other income |
| 1991-92 | 31.9\% | 31.9\% | 84,100 | 28.9\% | Maximum rate |
| 1993-96 | 43.7\% | 40.8\% | 255,100 | 29.2\% | " |
| 1997-2000 | 43.7\% | 40.8\% | 275,000 | 21.2\% | " |
| 2001 | 43.2\% | 40.3\% | 297,350 | 21.2\% | " |
| 2002 | 42.7\% | 39.8\% | 307,050 | 21.2\% | 18\% top capital gains rate in rare cases |
| 2003-05 | 39.0\% | 36.1\% | 319,200 | 16.1\% | Reduced maximum rate, which also applied to dividends |
| 2006-07 | 38.6\% | 35.7\% | 343,100 | 15.7\% | " |
| 2008-09 | 38.3\% | 35.4\% | 365,300 | 15.4\% | " |
| 2010-12 | 37.9\% | 35.0\% | 379,300 | 15\% | " |
| 2013-on | 44.6\% | 44.6\% | 390,100 | 25\% | 21.2\% income tax plus 3.8\% Medicare tax; also on dividends |
| *1988-90 | 28\% | 28\% | 31,050 | 28\% |  |
| detail: | 33\% | 33\% | 75,050 | 33\% |  |
|  | 28\% | 28\% | 155,780 | 28\% |  |

## Notes:

1. 1991-2009 and post 2010 rates include the tax-rate effects of the personal exemption phase-out and the partial itemized deduction disallowan enacted in 1990. These provisions began to be phased out in 2006, were eliminated in 2010-12, and are scheduled to be reinstated in 2013.
2. 1993-2012 top regular rates on earned income include the $2.9 \%$ Medicare tax.
3. 2013-on top rates include the $3.8 \%$ Medicare tax on most earned and unearned income for high-income taxpayers enacted in 2010, and the scheduled expiration of the Bush tax cuts after 2012.
4. The definition of taxable income varied very substantially over the years. Taxable income is always substantially below actual income.
5. For multi-year periods with indexed tax brackets (post-1984) the top-bracket starting points are the averages for the periods.

## Citizens for Tax Justice, November 2011.

TOP FEDERAL INCOME TAX RATES SINCE 1913 (top brackets in 2010 dollars)

| Year | Top Regular Rates |  | Above Taxable Inc. (joint) of | Capital Gains Max | Capital Gains Taxation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Wages \& Other Earned | Unearned except cap gains |  |  |  |
| 1913-15 | 7\% | 7\% | \$ 10,903,000 | 15\% | Realized gains taxed same as other income |
| 1916 | 15\% | 15\% | 40,010,000 | 15\% | " |
| 1917 | 67\% | 67\% | 34,071,000 | 67\% | " |
| 1918 | 77\% | 77\% | 14,441,000 | 77\% | " |
| 1919-21 | 73\% | 73\% | 11,851,000 | 73\% | " |
| 1922 | 58\% | 58\% | 2,596,000 | 12.5\% | Maximum rate |
| 1923 | 43.5\% | 43.5\% | 2,550,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1924 | 46\% | 46\% | 6,376,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1925-28 | 25\% | 25\% | 1,251,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1929 | 24\% | 24\% | 1,275,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1930-31 | 25\% | 25\% | 1,367,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1932-33 | 63\% | 63\% | 16,334,000 | 12.5\% | " |
| 1934-35 | 63\% | 63\% | 16,093,000 | 31.5\% | Sliding exclusion of $70 \%>10 \mathrm{yrs} ; 0 \%<1 \mathrm{yr}$. |
| 1936-37 | 78\% | 78\% | 30,821,000 | 39\% | " |
| 1938-40 | 78\% | 78\% | 31,151,000 | 30\% | Excl. $50 \%>2 \mathrm{yrs} ; 67 \%$ 18-24mo; $0 \%<18 \mathrm{mo} ; 30 \% \mathrm{Max}$ |
| 1941 | 80\% | 80\% | 29,667,000 | 30\% | " |
| 1942-43 | 88\% | 88\% | 2,596,000 | 25\% | Exclusion $50 \%>6$ months; $25 \%$ maximum |
| 1944-45 | 94\% | 94\% | 2,450,000 | 25\% | " |
| 1946-47 | 86.5\% | 86.5\% | 2,087,000 | 25\% | " |
| 1948-49 | 82.1\% | 82.1\% | 1,821,000 | 25\% | " |
| 1950 | 84.4\% | 84.4\% | 1,810,000 | 25\% | " |
| 51-64 | 91\% | 91\% | 1,536,000 | 25\% | " |
| 64-67 | 70\% | 70\% | 1,360,000 | 25\% | " |
| 1968 | 75.3\% | 75.3\% | 1,253,000 | 26.9\% | Transition |
| 1969 | 77\% | 77\% | 1,188,000 | 27.5\% | " |
| 1970 | 50\% | 70\% | 1,124,000 | 32.3\% | " |
| 1971 | 50\% | 70\% | 1,077,000 | 34.3\% | " |
| 1972-75 | 50\% | 70\% | 921,500 | 36.5\% | 50\% exclusion, minimum tax effects |
| 1976-77 | 50\% | 70\% | 754,200 | 39.9\% | " |
| 1978 | 50\% | 70\% | 679,600 | 39\% | " |
| 1979-80 | 50\% | 70\% | 606,100 | 28\% | 60\% exclusion |
| 1981 | 50\% | 70\% | 516,700 | 23.7\% | $50 \%$ or 60\% exclusion, etc.,transition |
| 1982 | 50\% | 50\% | 193,400 | 20\% | 60\% exclusion |
| 1983 | 50\% | 50\% | 239,500 | 20\% | " |
| 1984-86 | 50\% | 50\% | 344,100 | 20\% | " |
| 1987 | 38.5\% | 38.5\% | 172,800 | 28\% | Maximum rate |
| 1988-90* | 28\%/33\% | 28\%/33\% | * | 28\%/33\% | Realized gains taxed same as other income |
| 1991-92 | 31.9\% | 31.9\% | 132,600 | 28.9\% | Maximum rate |
| 1993-96 | 43.7\% | 40.8\% | 376,900 | 29.2\% | " |
| 1997-2000 | 43.7\% | 40.8\% | 379,150 | 21.2\% | " |
| 2001 | 43.2\% | 40.3\% | 379,150 | 21.2\% | " |
| 2002 | 42.7\% | 39.8\% | 379,150 | 21.2\% | 18\% top capital gains rate in rare cases |
| 2003-05 | 39.0\% | 36.1\% | 379,150 | 16.1\% | Reduced maximum rate, which also applied to dividends |
| 2006-07 | 38.6\% | 35.7\% | 379,150 | 15.7\% | " |
| 2008-09 | 38.3\% | 35.4\% | 379,150 | 15.4\% | " |
| 2010-12 | 37.9\% | 35.0\% | 379,150 | 15\% | " |
| 2013-on | 44.6\% | 44.6\% | 379,150 | 25\% | 21.2\% income tax plus 3.8\% Medicare tax; also on dividends |
| *1988-90 | 28\% | 28\% | 54,500 | 28\% |  |
| detail: | 33\% | 33\% | 131,600 | 33\% |  |
|  | 28\% | 28\% | 273,200 | 28\% |  |

## Notes:

1. 1991-2009 and post 2010 rates include the tax-rate effects of the personal exemption phase-out and the partial itemized deduction disallowanct enacted in 1990. These provisions began to be phased out in 2006, were eliminated in 2010-12, and are scheduled to be reinstated in 2013.
2. 1993-2012 top regular rates on earned income include the $2.9 \%$ Medicare tax.
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