



Saver's Tax Credit

An instant markdown on your tax bill

For shoppers, nothing's better than a store credit. It represents extra money in your pocket. Wouldn't it be nice if you could apply the same concept to your annual tax bill? With the Saver's Credit, you can.

Savings for those who need it most

If you think you can't afford to save for retirement, the Saver's Tax Credit offers you a valuable incentive to start putting money away today. Designed for those with low to moderate incomes, the Saver's Credit can reduce your tax bill – by up to \$1,000 – when you make contributions to your 457 Deferred Compensation Plan.

What's your cut?

The deduction to your annual tax bill is in the form of a tax credit, which is a percentage ranging from 10 to 50% of your annual contribution (the maximum annual contribution eligible for the credit is \$2,000). The actual percentage is based on your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and filing status.

To calculate your tax credit:

- First, determine your AGI, which is your total income minus all deductions for which you may qualify.
- Once you've determined your AGI, refer to the chart below to see how much of a credit you'll receive.

Saver's Credit in action

The following examples show how the Saver's Credit can help you save:

Example 1:

Kate is a single administrative assistant whose AGI is \$20,000 after making a \$2,000 contribution to her 457 Plan. She falls under the "All other filers" category on the chart below. This means Kate qualifies for a tax credit equal to 10% of her total contribution – a \$200 savings on her tax bill.

Example 2:

Val and Matt, employees of VRS employers, are married, filing jointly, with an AGI of \$30,000. They each contribute \$1,000 to their 457 Plans – for a total contribution of \$2,000. Referring to the chart below, they qualify for a 50% tax credit. That means they can reduce their tax bill by \$1,000!

2012 Tax Credit Rates (Subject to Cost of Living Adjustments)

(AGI) Filing Jointly	(AGI) Filing as head of household	(AGI) All other filers	Credit %
Up to \$34,500	Up to \$25,875	Up to \$17,250	50%
\$34,501-\$37,500	\$25,876-\$28,125	\$17,251-\$18,750	20%
\$37,501-\$57,500	\$28,126-\$43,125	\$18,751-\$28,750	10%

Who gets all the credit?

To qualify for the Saver's Credit, you must be:

- At least 18 years old
- Not a full-time student
- Not claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return

The maximum AGI (as adjusted for 2012) to be eligible for a tax credit is:

- \$57,500 if filing jointly
- \$42,375 if filing as head of household
- \$28,750 for all other filers

Blue-light special

Your tax credit is in addition to other incentives you already receive for making contributions, such as tax-deferral of pretax contributions (which means that you pay no current federal income taxes on the money you contributed – or any of its earnings – until you receive a distribution). Also, your contribution reduces the overall amount of your income that's taxed. This means the tax credit is like applying yet another markdown to your year-end tax bill for the same contribution!

Please note that the Saver's Credit does not apply to employer cash match contributions when calculating your actual tax credit.

Also, the Saver's Tax Credit may be reduced by any taxable distributions you or your spouse receive from any plans eligible for

the credit during the year the credit is claimed; during the period after the end of that year and before the due date (including extensions) for filing your tax return for that year; and during the two preceding years for which the credit is claimed. You should consult with your financial advisor or tax attorney for additional details on the impact of distributions on your tax credit.

Finally, the tax credit is non-refundable, which means it can't be more than your total tax bill.

Taking credit for saving

The Saver's Credit can help you save on your next tax bill, while putting away money for your future. It's like being paid to save!

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