

## What information is on a paystub – and what does it mean?

Your paycheck shows your gross pay – the total amount earned before any deductions – and your net pay, the amount of your take-home pay after all withholdings. Here are different types of deductions you might see on your paycheck, as well as the tax categories they may fall under.

### Paycheck example:

Employer	Employee	Pay Period
Leo's Landscaping 123 Main Street Hometown, MO 65001	Oliver Smith 321 Second Street Hometown, MO 65004	Period Beginning: 4/03/2023 Period Ending: 4/14/2023 Pay Date: 4/21/2023 Total Hours: 80

Gross Pay	Hours	Rate	Current	YTD
Regular pay	80.00	30.00	2400.00	16800.00

Taxes	Current	YTD
Federal income tax	209.10	1463.70
FICA	162.82	1139.74
State income tax	63.00	441.00
Local tax	13.40	93.80

### Mandatory deductions.

- Federal tax withholding based on the information you provide on your W-4.
- State and local income tax if applicable, based on where you live.
- Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA), which includes Medicare and Social Security based on a percentage of your income.
- Wage garnishments if applicable.

### Mandatory deductions example:

Deductions	Current	YTD
Pre-tax health insurance	62.50	437.50
Pre-tax dental insurance	8.50	59.50
Roth retirement	315.12	2205.84
Disability insurance	5.45	38.15
Charitable fund	15.00	105.00

## Voluntary Deductions.

These optional deductions require employee consent and may include:

- Health insurance
- Group term life insurance
- Childcare
- Retirement plans
- Commuter plans
- Health savings accounts and flexible savings accounts (HSAs and FSAs)

### Voluntary deductions fall under two categories:

- **Pre-tax deductions** are taken before any taxes are withheld, lowering your overall taxable income. These can include health insurance, HSAs, FSAs, group term life insurance and certain types of retirement plans, like a 401(k).
- **Post-tax deductions** are taken after all required taxes are withheld and do not reduce your overall taxable income. These include retirement plans like Roth IRAs, disability insurance, union dues and donations to charity.

### Voluntary deductions example:

Leave	Used	Available
Sick	8.0	75.0
Vacation	0.5	110.5

### Withholding

**Filing status:** Single

**Dependents:** 1

Summary	Current	YTD
Gross pay	2400.00	16800.00
Taxes	448.32	3138.24
Deductions	406.57	2845.99
Net pay	1541.11	10815.77

Your paystub may include other information too, like sick and vacation time balances, filing status according to your W-4, pay period dates, current earnings and year-to-date earnings.