

2017 PAYROLL TAX ALERT

This year there are several payroll tax changes that affect all employers. **The Alloy Silverstein Group** strives to provide the information you need to run your business successfully.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017:

Social Security/Medicare

The wage base increases to **\$127,200** for Social Security and remains UNLIMITED for Medicare. For Social Security, the tax rate is **6.20%** for both employers and employees. (Maximum SS tax withheld from wages is \$7,886.40 in 2017). For Medicare, the rate remains unchanged at **1.45%** for both employers and employees.

Additional Medicare Tax

A **0.9%** additional Medicare tax must be withheld from an individual's wages paid in excess of \$200,000 in a calendar year. There is no employer match for the additional Medicare tax.

Federal Unemployment Tax

The wage base remains at **\$7,000**. The effective tax rate for 2017 is **0.6%**.

Minimum Wage

The effective hourly rates for 2017 are:

Federal	\$7.25 effective 7/24/09
New Jersey	\$8.44 effective 1/01/17
Pennsylvania	\$7.25 effective 7/24/09

New Jersey Gross Income Tax

The withholding rates for 2017 reflect graduated rates from **1.4%** to **8.97%**. The 8.97% tax rate applies to individuals with taxable income over \$500,000.

Pennsylvania Income Tax

The withholding rate for 2017 remains at **3.07%**.

New Jersey Unemployment Tax

The wage base increases to **\$33,500** for 2017. The employee withholding rate will increase to **0.765%**. The maximum unemployment tax withheld from wages will be \$256.27 (SUI- \$175.87, SDI \$80.40). The base week for 2017 will remain at \$168.00.

January 1 through December 31, 2017	Employee % Breakdown
Unemployment Insurance	0.3825 %
Disability Insurance	0.2400 %
Family Leave Insurance	0.1000 %
Workforce Development	0.0425 %
Total	0.765 %

Pennsylvania Unemployment Tax

The employee rate for 2017 is **0.07%**. Wages subject to unemployment contributions for employees are unlimited. Wages subject to unemployment contributions for employers increase to **\$9,750**.

Effective January 1, 2017 employers are required to pay unemployment compensation (UC) contributions and reimbursement Statement of Accounts electronically if the total liability owed equals or exceeds \$5,000 for a payment period.

City of Philadelphia Wage Tax

Effective July 1, 2016 tax rates are **3.9004%** for Philadelphia residents and **3.4741%** for nonresidents. These rates are adjusted by the City of Philadelphia on July 1 of each year.

Pennsylvania Local Tax

Act 32 is a law that reformed and standardized the local earned income tax (EIT) system, which requires uniform withholding of earned income taxes and local services tax with remittance to a single local collector or Tax Officer. For more details, see www.dced.pa.gov.

Earnings Under Social Security

A social security beneficiary under full retirement age can earn **\$16,920** before benefits are reduced. For every \$2 a person under full retirement age earns over \$16,920, \$1 is withheld from benefits. In the year an employee reaches full retirement age, \$1 in benefits will be withheld for each \$3 they earn above \$44,880 until the month the employee reaches full retirement age. Once an employee reaches full retirement age or older, their benefits are not reduced regardless of how much they earn.

401(K) Plan Limits

The maximum employee pretax contribution remains unchanged at **\$18,000** in 2017. The "catch-up" contribution limit remains at **\$6,000** in 2017 for individuals who are age 50 or older.

SIMPLE Plan Limits

The maximum salary deferral contribution remains unchanged at **\$12,500** in 2017. The "catch-up" contribution remains at **\$3,000** in 2017 for individuals who are age 50 or older.



COMPLIMENTARY PAYCHECK CALCULATORS AVAILABLE AT WWW.ABACUSPAY.COM/CALCULATORS

Forms W-4, I-9 and W-9

All new employees are required to file Forms W-4 and I-9 which are to be kept on file by the employer. A new Form W-4 should be obtained when an employee's filing status or exemption changes. Be sure to request and keep on file a completed Form W-9 from all non-corporate taxpayers to whom your company pays commissions, interest, rents, etc., totaling \$600 or more, and also payments made to certain incorporated entities such as attorneys for legal services and providers of medical and health care services.

New Hire Reporting Requirements

All employers in the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania are required to report basic information about employees who are newly hired, rehired and returning to work after separation of employment or leave of absence, temporary employees, and contracted entities. Employers must report this information within 20 days via the internet at www.nj-newhire.com and at www.cwds.pa.gov. Failure to report a new employee could result in a fine up to \$25 per violation. New employers should receive instruction booklets upon registration with the state. Basic employee information which **must** be provided is as follows:

- 1) Employee's name
- 2) Employee's address
- 3) Employee's social security number
- 4) Employee's date of hire and birth
- 5) Employer's name and address
- 6) Employers federal ID number

For further information please contact our office or call the State of New Jersey at 1-877-NJ-HIRES (1-877-654-4737) or Pennsylvania at 1-888-PA-HIRES (1-888-724-4737).

Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS)

Employers must pay their Federal Tax Liabilities through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System unless they pay less than \$2,500 in quarterly payroll tax liabilities and pay their liability when filing their employment tax returns (Forms 941 and 944).

NJ Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

New Jersey taxpayers with a prior year tax liability of \$10,000 or more are required to make tax payments by EFT. Once the taxpayer is required to make EFT deposits applying the threshold, all future payroll and business tax deposits must be made through EFT, regardless if the threshold is met each year after. Business taxpayers required to use EFT, and failing to do so, may be subject to severe penalties. Please contact us if you have any questions or need assistance in completing the enrollment applications, which can be obtained online or by calling 609-984-9830.

Household Employment-Domestic Workers

Household employers are required to withhold and pay FICA for domestic workers (age 18 and older) if paid cash wages of \$2,000 or more in 2017. The \$1,000 per calendar quarter threshold continues to apply for FUTA. These taxes are reported on Schedule H of the employer's personal tax return (Form 1040), but must be remitted through withholding or estimated payments during the year.

For PA and NJ, unemployment coverage applies for domestic service in an employer's private home for cash wages of \$1,000 or more in a calendar quarter in the current or preceding calendar year.

Filing of Form W-2 and 1099

Social Security has eliminated the use of magnetic tapes, cartridges and diskettes as a means for filing W-2 reports to SSA. Reports containing 250 or more W-2's must be filed electronically via the Social Security's Business Services Online (BSO). Visit <http://socialsecurity.gov/employer> for more information about using BSO.

Employers filing 250 or more Forms 1099 with the IRS must file electronically. Form 1099 must provide the payer telephone number or will be subject to penalties.

New W-2 and 1099 Filing Deadline for Employers

The due date for filing 2016 Form W-2 with the Social Security Administration is now **January 31**. This also applies to certain Form 1099-MISC reporting for non-employee compensation such as payments to independent contractors.

Prior deadlines were end of February for paper filing and end of March for electronic, which still applies to Form 1099-MISC other than payments reported in box 7.

Health Benefits W-2 Reporting

Employers are required to include the aggregate cost of employer sponsored health benefits on the 2016 W-2's in Box 12 with code DD. It is for informational purposes only and will not be included in taxable income. Please contact us regarding the specific types of health benefits to be recorded.

Small employers who file fewer than 250 Forms W-2 are exempt.



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2017 WAGE TAX RATE SUMMARY

Federal	2017 Current Year	2016 Prior Year
FICA		
Employee Rate	6.20 %	6.20 %
Maximum Liability - Employee	\$ 7,886.40	\$ 7,347.00
Employer Rate	6.20 %	6.20 %
Maximum Liability - Employer	\$ 7,886.40	\$ 7,347.00
Wage Limit	\$ 127,200.00	\$ 118,500.00
MEDICARE		
Employee and Employer Rate	1.45 %	1.45 %
Maximum Deduction/Liability (each)	No Limit	No Limit
Wage Limit	No Limit	No Limit
Add'l Employee Rate on wages exceeding \$200,000	0.90 %	0.90 %
FUTA		
Employer Rate	0.60 %	0.60 %
Wage Limit	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS		
<i>Earned income may be received without forfeiting benefits:</i>		
Under Full Retirement Age	\$ 16,920.00	\$ 15,720.00
After Full Retirement Age	No Limit	No Limit
New Jersey	2017 Current Year	2016 Prior Year
WAGES		
Minimum Wage	\$8.44	\$ 8.38
UNEMPLOYMENT & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT		
Maximum Taxable Earnings	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 32,600.00
Employee Deduction	0.425 %	0.425 %
DISABILITY		
Maximum Taxable Earnings	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 32,00.00
Employee Deduction	0.24 %	0.20 %
PAID FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE		
Maximum Taxable Earnings	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 32,600.00
Employee Deduction	0.10 %	0.08 %
Employer Deduction	None	None
Pennsylvania	2017 Current Year	2016 Prior Year
WAGES		
Minimum Wage	\$ 7.25	\$ 7.25
UNEMPLOYMENT		
Maximum Taxable Earnings	\$ 9,750.00	\$ 9,500.00
Employee Deduction	0.07 %	0.07 %
City of Philadelphia	2017 Current Year	2016 Prior Year
CITY WAGE TAX		
Residents	3.9004 %	3.9102 %
Nonresidents	3.4741 %	3.4828 %



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