



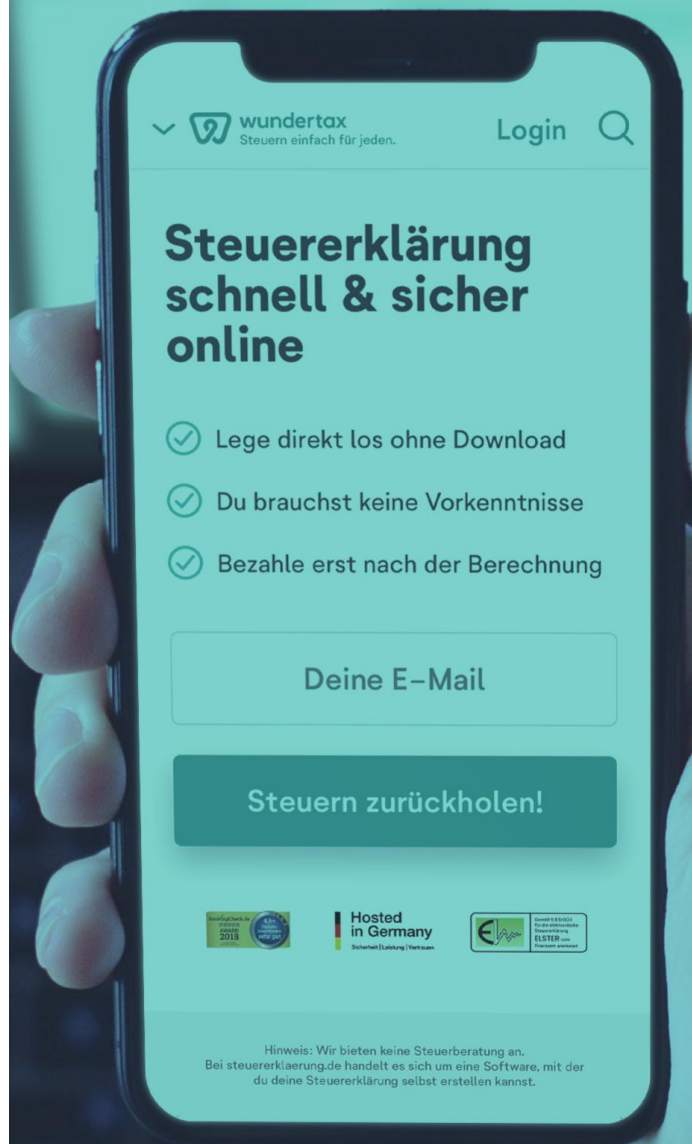
wundertax

Tax returns made easy

Tax Guide 2025/2026

Everything You Need to Know About Your 2025 Tax Return

Berlin, 29.03.2026



Most taxpayers will find that it's worthwhile to file a tax return – even if they're not required to. 90% of the time you will receive an average tax refund of **1,172 euros!**¹ Who would want to miss out on so much money?

wundertax offers the opportunity to submit your tax return quickly and without any prior knowledge. Since our debut in 2016, our goal has been to make filing your tax return online easy, uncomplicated, and secure. Our tax tools ensure that you'll save plenty of time filing while simultaneously maximizing your refund.

With our help and guidelines, we'll ensure that your tax return is an immediate success – no need to call up an expensive tax consultant. No more panicking about deadlines and no more incomprehensible tax forms!

We hope you enjoy our tax tool and wish you a large tax refund!

If you think we've missed any important topics in this guide, please reach out to us via the e-mail support@wundertax.de so we can include it in the next edition.

Table of Contents

1	What is a tax return (Steuererklärung)?	2
2	Everything you need to know for your 2025 German tax return.....	8
3	Saving taxes as a family.....	12
4	Income-related expenses (Werbungskosten)	15
5	Special expenses (Sonderausgaben)	19
6	Extraordinary expenses (außergewöhnliche Belastungen).....	22
7	Household-related expenses (Haushaltsnahe Aufwendungen).....	24
8	Capital gains, rental income, and foreign income – how are they taxed?.....	24
9	Lump sums (Pauschalen) and allowances (Freibeträge) you need to know	26
10	Monetary benefits and one-fifth method.....	27
11	German taxes 2026: changes you need to know	28
12	The simplest way to file your taxes: wundertax	32

¹ Source: Federal Office of Statistics: employees receive an average tax refund of 1,172 euros.

1 What is a tax return (Steuererklärung)?

Your **income tax return** provides the tax office (Finanzamt) with information about your income and deductible expenses. Through this, they can determine how much tax you owe.

It's possible that you've paid too much tax in advance within the calendar year which leads to a tax refund – however, it's also possible that you paid too little, leading to a tax back payment.

You can claim all of your tax-deductible expenses on your tax return and either increase your tax refund (Steuererstattung) or reduce your tax back payment (Steuernachzahlung).

1.1 Tax ID (Steuer-Identifikationsnummer)

All residents of Germany receive a personal and permanent 11-digit **tax ID** (Steuer-ID). Expats typically receive them upon registering their address (Anmeldung).

1.2 Tax number (Steuernummer)

Tax numbers consist of 13 digits and change when one moves residences, newly generated tax numbers are issued by one's local tax office (Finanzamt). Tax numbers are not to be confused with tax IDs which never change. Employees who haven't yet received a tax number will receive one with their first income tax assessment notice (Einkommensteuerbescheid).

1.3 How to apply for a tax number as a freelancer

You need to register your self-employed work. It's best to do this as soon as you start your business, but no later than one month after beginning your business.

Freelancers (Freiberufler) need to register with their local tax office. You will then receive a tax registration form (**Fragebogen zur steuerlichen Erfassung**) and your tax number (Steuernummer). The tax registration form can only be submitted electronically. To do this, you need a user account ("Mein ELSTER") on the ELSTER portal of the German tax authorities.

Please note: If you're considered filing your tax return via ELSTER, keep in mind that the tax authorities are not interested in helping you save taxes. On the contrary, **wundertax** offers you a tax solution *and* tax tips that enable you to receive the highest possible tax refund.

Tradespeople (Gewerbetreibende) must first register with the trade office (Gewerbeamt), which will notify the relevant tax office of the registration. You must then also complete the tax registration questionnaire. Here, you must enter your anticipated profits to register them for taxes. After this, you will receive your tax number.

1.4 Your local tax office (zuständiges Finanzamt)

Your local tax office varies depending on where you generate your income.

- An employee's local tax office is the one responsible for their area of residency.
- The tax office in charge of self-employed people depends on the district where their professional activity takes place.
- The tax office assigned to tradespeople manages the district where the trade's management is located.
- If a taxpayer moved away from Germany, their local tax office is the one in charge of their last area of residency in Germany.

[You can find your local tax office here.](#)

1.5 Tax classes (Steuerklassen)

In Germany, there are six different **tax classes** (sometimes called “tax brackets”), your **primary job if you are unmarried** is typically assigned to tax class 1. If you take on a second or side job, this is usually taxed according to class 6.

If you get **married**, you and your spouse are automatically assigned to tax class 4/4. You also have the option to choose the tax class combination 3/5. This also applies to registered partners (eingetragene Lebenspartnerschaft).

For income tax purposes, it does not matter which tax class you are assigned to: your tax liability remains the same in the end. The tax class only affects the amount of tax you pay in advance - the monthly wage tax deduction. The person assigned to tax class 3 has the lowest deductions. That’s because they receive both their own basic tax-free allowance (Grundfreibetrag) and the one of the person in tax class 5. Therefore, the deductions in tax class 5 are significantly higher, and there is less net income.

Couples with the tax class combination 3/5 are required to file a tax return and often have to pay a back tax payment (Steuernachzahlung) because the person in tax class 3 has made too low advanced payments.

Since 2010, married couples can apply for a combination of tax classes 4/4 with a factor procedure (Faktorverfahren). In this case, the income tax is distributed fairly, and the amount of monthly deductions is adjusted to the expected annual salaries. This largely avoids back tax payments. The splitting procedure (Splittingverfahren) is also already considered during the year.

Single parents choose tax class 2 and already benefit from the relief amount for single parents (Entlastungsbetrag für Alleinerziehende) in their monthly wage tax deduction. The allowance amounts 4,260 euros per year as of 2023.

List of tax classes	
Tax class 1	Single, separated, divorced or widowed
Tax class 2	Single parent (single, separated, divorced or widowed)
Tax class 3	Married, combination with tax class 5 (tax return is mandatory)
Tax class 4/4	Married
Tax class 4/4 with factor procedure	Married (splitting procedure is considered throughout the year) (tax return is mandatory)
Tax class 5	Married, combination with tax class 3 (tax return is mandatory)
Tax class 6	Second and side job (tax return is mandatory)

1.6 Changing your tax class (Steuerklassenwechsel)

As of January 1st, 2020, married couples are permitted to change their tax classes multiple times throughout the year in order to choose the most beneficial combination. You can simply apply for the change at your local tax office and the change will take effect in the following month. Even if only one partner applies for the change, it applies to both.

1.7 Joint taxation (Zusammenveranlagung)

There are two ways for spouses or registered partners to file their tax returns: either by being assessed individually (Einzelveranlagung) or together (joint taxation, *Zusammenveranlagung*). Each year, married couples or partners can choose which assessment they'd prefer.

If married couples choose to be assessed together, they file one joint tax return, receive one tax assessment notice (Steuerbescheid), and if a tax refund is granted, it will only be transferred to one bank account and will not be split. If you submit a [joint tax return](#), the splitting method, also known as "Ehegattensplitting", is then used to calculate your taxes.

Requirements for joint assessment that must be met simultaneously (for at least one day of the year)
· Both partners have unlimited income tax liability
· The couple may not live permanently separated
· The marriage must be legally valid

This is how your tax liability is calculated in a joint assessment: both spouses' incomes are initially assessed individually and then both incomes are added together. The total income is halved again, and the income tax is then applied to one half. The result of this is multiplied by two, which yields the tax payment that is owed. Since both spouses' incomes are considered, both of their expenses are as well. Extraordinary expenses (außergewöhnliche Belastungen), special expenses (Sonderausgaben), and more can therefore be declared on the couple's tax return – even when the expenses only affect one spouse.

If the couples' salaries greatly vary, joint assessment can be more lucrative due to tax progression: their tax rate does not increase linearly with their income amount, it increases disproportionately. If there is less or no difference in wages, the splitting procedure no longer has any tax-saving effect.

If one spouse received wage replacement benefits (Lohnersatzleistungen), it is probably more advantageous to submit [separate tax returns](#) (Einzelveranlagung) so that the so-called *Progressionsvorbehalt* only affects the partner who received the benefits.

Good to know: Even though men and women share equal rights in Germany, the male partner must be entered first in the joint tax return (partner A) and the female partner second (partner B). This is due to the IT systems of the tax authorities. For persons of the same sex, the alphabetical order of surnames or first names applies.

1.8 Types of income (Einkommensarten)

The German tax system recognizes seven different types of income:

- Income from employment
- Income from capital assets
- Income from renting and leasing
- Other income
- Income from agriculture and forestry
- Income from business operations
- Income from self-employment

In this guide, we focus on income from traditional employment.

1.9 Wage tax (Lohnsteuer) and annual payslip (Lohnsteuerbescheinigung)

All taxpayers in Germany are required to pay income tax (Einkommensteuer) if their income exceeds the **basic tax-free allowance** (Grundfreibetrag). The basic tax-free allowance exists to ensure the existence minimum and amounts to **12,096 euros** for 2025 and **12,348 euros** for 2026.

Wage tax (Lohnsteuer) is an advanced payment on your annual income tax and is deducted from your monthly gross wage (for non-independent work). Your wage tax is calculated according to your personal electronic wage tax deduction details (Lohnsteuerabzugsmerkmale or ELStAM for short) and transmitted monthly to the tax office (Finanzamt) – details about these deductions can be seen in your monthly pay slip (Gehaltsabrechnung).

At the end of each calendar year – by the end of February at the latest – your employer submits your **annual payslip** (Lohnsteuerbescheinigung) to the tax office and provides you with either a printout or electronic copy. The data from the annual payslip is the basis for your tax return

1.10 Wage replacement benefits and *Progressionsvorbehalt*

Wage replacement benefits (Entgeltersatzleistungen) are governmental benefits provided by social insurance institutions to compensate for the loss of earnings in the event of unemployment, illness, parenthood, etc.

Wage replacement benefits include:

- Unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld)
- Short-term work benefits (Kurzarbeitergeld)
- Maternity benefits (Mutterschaftsgeld)
- Parental benefits (Elterngeld)
- Sick pay (Krankengeld) after discontinuation of payment from your employer
- Transitional allowance (Übergangsgeld)
- Injury benefits (Verletztengeld)
- Subsistence payment (Unterhaltsgeld) as a supplement
- Care assistance benefits (Pflegeunterstützungsgeld)
- Employer supplements to wages and salaries (Arbeitgeberzuschüsse zum Arbeitsentgelt)
- Insolvency allowance (Insolvenzgeld)
- Compensation for loss of earnings (Verdienstausfallentschädigung) in accordance with the Infection Protection Act (Infektionsschutzgesetz)

If you receive more than **410 euros** in wage replacement benefits throughout the year, you are required to file a tax return in the following year. Wage replacement benefits themselves are tax-free – but there is a catch: they are subject to the so-called **Progressionsvorbehalt**. Although these benefits are not taxed, the amount is added to your total taxable income – if this increase pushes you into the next tax bracket (Steuertarif), it leads to a higher tax rate (Steuersatz) which is then applied to your regular income.

On a more positive note, it is also possible that you've paid too much wage tax outside of your short-term work (Kurzarbeit) and are entitled to a tax refund.

1.11 Mandatory tax assessment (Abgabepflicht)

Income tax is deducted directly from employee wages each month, but in certain cases, the government wants to ensure that your tax liability is in accordance with the law and not detrimental to the government. In such cases, one must file a tax return to be assessed.

You cannot avoid filing a tax return if:

- the tax office (Finanzamt) entered an income tax reduction (Lohnsteuerermäßigung) for you. However, you are not required to file if your gross annual salary doesn't exceed 13,362 euros or 25.494 euros if you are jointly assessed (applicable for 2025).
- you received wage replacement benefits (Lohnersatzleistungen) that amount to more than 410 euros.
- you received taxable supplementary income (Nebeneinkünfte) besides your wage exceeding 410 euros.
- you are separated and haven't split the education allowance (Ausbildungsfreibetrag), disability allowance (Behindertenpauschbetrag), or survivors' allowance (Hinterbliebenen-Pauschbetrag) for your children 50/50.
- you received income from a second job in tax class 6.
- you received a severance package which is taxed according to the one-fifth method (Fünftelregelung).
- you received capital gains (Kapitalerträge) that are subject to withholding tax (Abgeltungsteuer), but no withholding tax was paid yet.
- you received vacation pay (Urlaubsvergütung) from the wage compensation fund for the construction industry (Lohnausgleichskasse der Bauwirtschaft).
- you are married and both spouses receive employee wages and have chosen the tax classes 3/5 or 4/4 with factor procedure.
- the employee's marriage was ended by divorce or death during the tax assessment period and one partner remarried in the same year.
- your minimum pension lump sum (Mindestvorsorgepauschale) is higher than your pension expenses (Vorsorgeaufwendungen).
- income from self-employment, renting, leasing, or other income exceeds the tax-free basic allowance (Grundfreibetrag).

Learn more about [Mandatory tax assessment - Who has to file a tax return?](#)

1.12 Deadlines (Fristen) / Extensions (Fristverlängerung)

Anyone required to submit a tax return has until **July 31st of the following year**, missing this deadline can lead to penalty payments. If the deadline falls on a holiday or weekend, it will be extended to the following workday.

Note: Due the Corona pandemic, the deadlines for 2020-2023 tax returns were extended. Starting with the tax return for the tax year 2024, the deadline will once again be July 31st.

If the deadline is missed, tax authorities (Finanzbehörde) can charge a **lateness penalty fee** of 0.25% of the assessed tax for each month (or part of the month) past the deadline with a minimum penalty charge of 25 euros. Taxpayers who are required to file their tax return and choose not to while ignoring reminders from the tax office can be issued with an estimated tax assessment, which is typically to their disadvantage. Even if you receive an estimated tax assessment, you still have to file your tax return!

Extension requests for mandatory tax returns must be received and approved before the deadline and the tax office typically only grants these requests in exceptional and justified cases.

Those who are not required to file but wish to file a **voluntary tax return** have up to **4 years** to submit it. For example, if you wish to file your 2022 tax return voluntarily, your deadline is December 31st, 2026. The deadline is always December 31st, 4 years later and there are no extensions.

1.13 Obligation to provide proof (Nachweispflicht)

Since 2017, you no longer have to submit proof (receipts/invoices) of all your expenses together with your tax return. Instead, you are required to preserve original proof in case the tax office requests it. This can include bills, receipts, certificates, and purchase contracts.

If you are claiming certain expenses for the first time which cause your tax return to significantly differ when compared with previous years, it is still advisable to submit receipts with your tax return.

Some examples of this could include claiming a home office or second household for the first time, high medical expenses, large donations, etc. In such cases, the tax office will most likely request proof and by submitting them in advance, you end up saving yourself time and receiving your tax refund sooner.

Obligation to preserve records (Aufbewahrungspflicht): You are required to retain relevant receipts and invoices until your tax return is final. Your tax return becomes final one month after you receive your tax assessment notice (Steuerbescheid), which is also when the period to make an appeal ends.

If you choose to file an appeal or lawsuit against your tax assessment notice, you are required to preserve your proof of expenses until the proceedings are complete. Donation receipts must be kept for 1 year after receiving your tax assessment notice and invoices for household-related expenses (haushaltsnahe Dienstleistungen) for 2 years following the year they are paid. Some receipts/invoices, such as medical certificates, are important to hang on to for even longer.

1.14 Tax assessment notices (Steuerbescheid)

Tax assessment notices are always structured the same way. You will receive a letter stating whether your tax assessment notice is provisional or final. You receive a provisional notice if a tax court ruling hasn't been issued yet - once they reach a judgement, a provisional notice is changed into a final one. Sometimes a second "final" notice is sent.

Your tax liability, determined by the tax office (Finanzamt), is listed in your assessment notice. This is divided into:

- Income tax (Einkommensteuer)
- Solidarity surcharge (Solidaritätszuschlag) which was eliminated in 2021 for 90% of taxpayers
- Church tax (Kirchensteuer) if applicable

Underneath this, you will find your personal data. It is important that you ensure that the correct bank details are listed so that any possible refunds are transferred to the correct account.

1.15 Correcting your tax assessment notice

There are two ways to contest your tax assessment notice in Germany. You can either file an appeal (Einspruch) if certain items are not recognized, or you can make a request for a simple amendment (Änderung).

Amendment request (Antrag auf Änderung)

Requirements and advantages	Reasons for an amendment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Selective review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Tax assessment notice contains errors (such as wrong address)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Tax assessment notice can only be amended if it leads to an advantage for the taxpayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Your case was not clearly described
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The deadline to submit an amendment request is a month after receiving your notice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · You forgot to claim certain expenses or expenditures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The request must be formulated in concrete terms (you must indicate exactly what needs to be changed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Only one item needs to be changed, not the whole assessment

Appeal (Einspruch)

Requirements and advantages	Reasons for an appeal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Essential data can be changed · Your appeal can be withdrawn later without consequences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Your household-related services (haushaltsnahe Dienstleistungen) weren't recognized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Tax burdens can be reduced (if the tax office recognizes the appeal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Your special expenses (Sonderausgaben) weren't observed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The deadline to file an appeal is one month after receiving your tax assessment notice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The tax office miscalculated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Initially, you can send an informal letter stating that you'd like to file an appeal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Taxpayer-friendly rulings and administrative instructions were disregarded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reasons for your appeal can be given following your initial letter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Income-related expenses (Werbungskosten) weren't recognized

Here you'll find a sample letter: [How do I file an appeal against the tax notice?](#)

2 Everything you need to know for your 2025 German tax return

The 2025 tax changes in Germany affect many areas of life - from tax-free allowances and child benefits to regulations for small business owners. To optimally prepare you, we explain the most important changes to tax 2025.

2.1 General tax changes for everybody

As of 2025, the regular **submission deadline** for mandatory tax returns will apply again: the tax return for 2024 must be submitted by **July 31st, 2025** to your local tax office. Anyone who does not meet this deadline risks late filing penalties (Verspätungszuschlag). Due to the Pandemic, the deadline had been temporarily extended for the tax years 2020 to 2023.

The **basic tax-free allowance** (Grundfreibetrag) will increase by 312 euros from 11,784 euros (2024) to 12,096 euros per person. This means that married couples with a joint assessment (Zusammenveranlagung) can now claim a basic tax-free allowance of 24,192 euros. Only your income above the basic allowance is taxable.

The **maximum amount for tax-deductible maintenance payments** is linked to the basic tax-free allowance. Therefore the maximum amount also increased to 12,096 euros. You can additionally deduct contributions to basic health and long-term care insurance (Kranken- und Pflegeversicherung). You can claim maintenance payments as extraordinary expenses (außergewöhnliche Belastungen) if the person you support is entitled to maintenance and is not wealthy.

Tax tip: From 2025, stricter controls will apply to maintenance payments (Unterhalt) that you deduct as extraordinary expenses (außergewöhnliche Belastungen). They will only be recognized for tax purposes if they are made by **bank transfer**. Cash payments will no longer be recognized.

In order to mitigate the so-called “**cold progression**” (kalte Progression), the benchmark values of the income tax rate (Einkommensteuertarif) will be shifted 2.6% to the right. The top tax rate (Spitzensteuersatz) of 42% will therefore only apply from a taxable income of 68,481 euros (previously: 66,761 euros) in 2025. The threshold for the maximum tax rate of 45% will remain at 277,826 euros.

The **exemption limit** (Freigrenze) for the **solidarity surcharge** (Solidaritätszuschlag) will be raised from 18,130 euros to 19,450 euros. For married couples with joint assessment (Zusammenveranlagung), the exemption limit is doubled.

2.2 Employees

The **application for reduction of wage tax** (Lohnsteuerermäßigung) for the following year can now be submitted until **November 1st** - previously the deadline was October 1st. This gives you more time to plan your tax relief.

2.3 Families and children

The **Child Allowance** (Kinderfreibetrag) will be increased by 60 euros and now amounts to 9,600 euros per child, including the BEA (allowance for care, education and training needs).

Child benefit (Kindergeld) will increase by 5 euros to 255 euros per month per child as of January 2025.

The maximum amount of **child supplement** (Kinderzuschlag, short: KiZ) will also increase by 5 euros per month and will now be 297 euros per child from January 1st, 2025. This also includes the **immediate supplement** (Sofortzuschlag) of now 25 euros per month and child (previously 20 euros). Low-income families can apply for the child supplement in addition to child benefit. Anyone who receives the KiZ also automatically receives the immediate supplement.

As of 2025, you will be able to deduct **80%** of **childcare costs** (Kinderbetreuungskosten) as special expenses (Sonderausgaben; previously: 67%). The maximum deductible amount has also been increased from 4,000 euros to **4,800 euros** per year.

2.4 Health and care

The **supplementary contribution** (Zusatzbeitrag) to statutory health insurance (gesetzliche Krankenversicherung) will increase from an average of 1.7% to an average of **2.5%** from January 2025. Each health insurance fund levies the additional contribution individually, in addition to the general contribution rate of 14.6%.

The contribution rate for **social long-term care insurance** (Pflegeversicherung) will increase by **0.2%**. For those without children, it will rise to 4.2%, while for families it will be between 2.6% and 3.6%, depending on the number of children.

Long-term care insurance (Pflegeversicherung) is increasing its **care benefits** (Pflegeleistungen) by 4.5%. This applies to home care (häusliche Pflege) as well as partial and full inpatient care (teil- und vollstationäre Pflege). The nursing care benefits (Pflegegeld) and Nursing Care Services (Pflegesachleistungen) had already increased by 5% each as part of the 2024 tax changes. This step will increase them by a further 4.5%.

The **electronic patient file** (ePA) has been tested in selected regions since mid-January, but software problems and security gaps are delaying its nationwide launch. Health insurance companies automatically create an electronic patient file for each insured person, in which health data (findings, doctor's letters, medication plans, laboratory results, etc.) are stored centrally. It is intended to facilitate communication between doctors, health authorities and patients. Use of the ePA is voluntary.

Bonus payments (Bonuszahlungen) from **health insurance funds** (Krankenkassen) for health-conscious behavior remain permanently **tax-free** up to **150 euros** per year. Up to this amount, it does not matter whether the bonus is a reimbursement of contributions (Beitragserstattung) or not. If you receive bonus payments in excess of the 150 euro allowance, the tax office will deduct the excess amount from your deductible health insurance contributions.

Tax tip: However, if you receive the bonus for measures that are not covered by the regular insurance cover (e.g. osteopathy, professional dental cleaning, etc.) and for which you have made advance payments, the bonus does not count as a reimbursement of contributions. In this case, it also remains tax-free beyond the 150 euros.

2.5 Retirement benefits and old-age provisions

To avoid double taxation (Doppelbesteuerung) of retirement benefits (Rente), the **taxable portion of pensions** only increase in 0.5% increments per year since 2023 (previously: 1% increments). This means that in 2025, the proportion of taxable pension will be **83.5%**.

Anyone drawing a **reduced earning capacity pension** (Erwerbsminderungsrente) will be able to earn more in 2025. The **supplementary income limits** (Hinzuverdienstgrenzen) will rise to around 19,661 euros (full disability pension) or 39,322 euros (partial disability pension).

Since 2023, your **pension contributions** (Altersvorsorgebeiträge) are be 100% deductible as special expenses (Sonderausgaben). The **tax-deductible maximum amount** (Höchstbetrag) will rise to 29,344 euros per person in 2025 (for joint assessment: 58,688 euros).

Retirements benefits increase (Rentenerhöhung): as of July 2025, pensions will increase nationwide by **3.74%**.

2.6 Small business owners (Kleinunternehmerregelung)

Since the 2024 tax year, small business owners (Kleinunternehmer) no longer have to submit a VAT return (Umsatzsteuererklärung). Nevertheless, they were still subject to VAT until now. Only the collection of VAT was waived. From January 1st, 2025, the sales of small business owners are now **exempt from VAT**.

Until now, the **small business regulation** (Kleinunternehmerregelung) only applied to domestic companies. Now, EU Directive 2020/285 is being implemented, which makes it possible to use the small business regulation **across borders**. German small business owners can then make use of the small business regulation throughout the **EU** - provided they meet the applicable national requirements.

Conversely, small business owners from other member states can use the German small business regulation.

In addition, the **turnover limits** (Umsatzgrenzen) for the application of the small business regulation in accordance with Section 19 UStG will be increased. From January 2025, the turnover limit for the previous year will increase from 22,000 euros to **25,000 euros** and from 50,000 euros to **100,000 euros** for turnover in the current year. These points are new:

- The turnover limit (Umsatzgrenze) refers to the **total net turnover** (Netto-Umsatz), i.e. without adding VAT (Umsatzsteuer).
- As soon as the total turnover in the current year exceeds 100,000 euros, the changeover to **standard taxation** (Regelbesteuerung) takes place during the year - from the time of exceeding the limit. This means that it is no longer the estimated annual turnover that plays a role, but the actual turnover.

In addition, small business owners **do not have to issue e-invoices**, which will be mandatory from January 1st, 2025. However, they must be able to receive and process electronic invoices. In their own invoices, they must continue to refer to the VAT exemption in accordance with Section 19 UStG.

2.7 Minimum wage, minijob and midijob

As of January 1st, 2025, the statutory **minimum wage** (gesetzlicher Mindestlohn) will increase from 12.41 euros to **12.82 euros** per hour.

Due to the increase in the minimum wage, the monthly earnings threshold for **minijobs** has risen from 538 euros to **556 euros**. The annual limit is now 6,672 euros. The income range for **midijobs** remains unchanged at 556.01 euros to 2,000 euros.

Note for students: income up to the annual earnings limit of 6,672 euros does not affect your BAFÖG entitlement. Family health insurance (Familierversicherung) is also possible for students up to this income limit.

2.8 Photovoltaics

Income from the operation of photovoltaic systems on single-family homes or commercial properties has been tax-free since 2022, up to a total output of 30 kW. In the case of apartment buildings and mixed-use buildings, the tax exemption previously applied to a total output of up to 15 kW per residential or commercial unit. This will now be **standardized at 30 kW** (peak) regardless of the type of building. In the case of multiple systems, income up to a maximum total output of 100 kW remains tax-free.

The tax exemption applies up to the aforementioned **tax exemption limit** (Freigrenze), i.e. it is not an allowance. This means that if the limit is exceeded, the entire sum becomes taxable.

2.9 Other changes

The price of the popular **Deutschlandticket** will rise from 49 euros to **58 euros** per month.

Housing benefits (Wohngeld) increases by **15% or 30 euros** per month. 2 million households will benefit from the increase.

The maximum period of entitlement to **short-term work benefits** (Kurzarbeitergeld) will be extended from 12 to **24 months**. This regulation applies for a limited period from January 1st to December 31st, 2025.

3 Saving taxes as a family

The German tax act entitles parents to certain allowances and tax benefits. A separate tax form “child” must be completed for each child in the tax return.

3.1 Child benefits (Kindergeld)

Child benefits (Kindergeld) must be applied for through the family benefits department (Familienkasse) by parents who are either residents of Germany and or are subject to unlimited tax liability in Germany.

Child benefits can be claimed for children up to 18 years of age. Once the child is no longer a minor, child benefits can be granted if the child is studying, in training (Ausbildung), or volunteering (or if they apply for one of these options).

Unless the child has a disability and cannot support themselves, child benefits can no longer be claimed once the child reaches the age of 25.

Child	as of January 1 st , 2023	as of January 1 st , 2025	as of January 1 st , 2026
1st child	250 euros	255 euros	259 euros
2nd child	250 euros	255 euros	259 euros
3rd child	250 euros	255 euros	259 euros
Each additional child	250 euros	255 euros	259 euros

3.2 Child supplements (Kinderzuschlag)

Families with little income can apply for a supplement to their child benefit. The amount is calculated individually and depends on income, number of children, and housing costs.

The maximum amount is 297 euros per child per month since January 1st, 2025. The **child supplement** (Kinderzuschlag) is always granted for 6 months and can then be reapplied for.

3.3 Child allowances (Kinderfreibeträge)

Unlike child benefits, child allowances are not paid to you directly and you also don't need to apply for them. Instead, they are deducted from your taxable income when calculating your income tax, thus, reducing your tax burden. Your child benefits (Kindergeld) can be considered advance payments on your child allowances (Kinderfreibeträge) at the end of the year.

Tax-free child benefits and child allowances both exist to ensure that parents have enough funds to secure their children's existence.

Child allowances are divided into two parts:

- allowance to secure the existence minimum for children and
- the allowance for childcare, daycare, and education needs (BEA)

	2024	2025	2026
Child allowance	6,612 euros	6,672 euros	6,828 euros
BEA	2,928 euros	2,928 euros	2,928 euros
total	9,540 euros	9,600 euros	9,756 euros

If each parent files an individual assessment, they each receive half of this amount. Single parents, widowed parents, and parents not subject to unlimited tax liability are also eligible for child allowances. The child's age limit is the same for child allowances as it is for child benefits, with the same exceptions.

3.4 Child benefits or child allowance: which is more beneficial?

Before you start worrying about whether [child benefits or child allowance](#) provide you with a tax advantage, you should know that the tax office (Finanzamt) automatically carries out a “more favorable tax assessment” (Günstigerprüfung) and applies the option that is most beneficial to you.

First, your tax burden on your taxable income is calculated, then, your tax burden is reduced by your child allowances. If the difference between these two amounts exceeds the amount of child benefits that you've received, then the result is beneficial – this means child allowances are most beneficial for parents with higher income.

3.5 Relief amount for single parents (Entlastungsbetrag für Alleinerziehende)

Single parents are entitled to the **tax relief amount for single parents**. It is an allowance that is deducted from the single parent's income and thus reduces tax. The tax relief amount is already taken into account in tax class 2 in the monthly wage deduction. However, you can also apply for it within your tax return.

The coronavirus pandemic has been especially tough on single parents trying to care for their child(ren) alone. For this reason, the second Corona Tax Relief Act (Corona-Steuerhilfe-Gesetz) raised the relief amount from 1,908 euros to 4,008 euros for single parents. This applies to 2020, 2021, and 2022. From 2023, the relief amount will permanently increase to 4,260 euros. For each additional child, you will continue to receive an additional 240 euros.

Please note: You are eligible to the relief amount if you are a single parent and divorced, permanently separated or widowed and do not share a household with another person of legal age. Exception: This person is your adult child for whom you are still entitled to child benefit.

3.6 Childcare costs (Kinderbetreuungskosten)

Up to the child's 14th birthday, 80% of childcare costs can be deducted from tax as special expenses (Sonderausgaben), up to a maximum of 4,800 euros per child per year (up until 2025: 4,000 euros). Childcare costs include, for example, the costs of crèches, day nurseries, kindergartens or childminders.

3.7 School fees (Schulgeld)

If your child attends a private school for which a fee is charged, you can deduct 30% of the school fees from your tax bill as special expenses (Sonderausgaben). A maximum of 5,000 euros per child per year is deductible. If the school is a boarding school, the costs for accommodation, care and meals must be deducted from the school fees.

3.8 Education allowance (Ausbildungsfreibetrag)

If you are entitled to child benefit for your adult child who is in a course of study (Studium) or in vocational training (Berufsausbildung) and does not live at home with you, you can claim the education allowance. As of 2023, the education allowance increased to up to 1,200 euros per year. For each

month in which the requirements for the education allowance are not met, the total amount is reduced by one twelfth.

3.9 Children's sick days and children's sick pay (Kinderkrankengeld)

Employed parents often have to care for their children and call off work on short notice when their children become sick. They can apply to their statutory health insurance (gesetzliche Krankenkasse) for children's sick pay (Kinderkrankengeld) as compensation for lost wages - even if they work from home. Typically, you receive 90% of your lost net wages in children's sick pay. To claim this sick pay, you and your child must have statutory health insurance and your child must be under 12 years of age.

The increased entitlement, which has been in effect since January 1st, 2024, will also apply in 2026: each parent is entitled to up to 15 days of sick leave per child, while single parents are entitled to 30 days. If there are multiple children, single parents and both parents together can claim a total of 70 days of sick leave per year.

Please note: Children's sick pay is subject to the so-called *Progressionsvorbehalt*. If you receive more than 410 euros in wage replacement benefits per year, you must submit a tax return in the following year.

3.10 Deducting maintenance payments (Unterhaltszahlungen)

Maintenance payments for dependent relatives to whom you are legally obliged to pay maintenance is tax-deductible. These are, for example, ex-spouses and adult children in vocational training or in a course of study. In addition to the maximum deductible amount, you can also deduct the contributions to basic health and long-term care insurance (Kranken- und Pflegeversicherung) for the person you support.

You can deduct **maintenance payments for ex-spouses** as special expenses (Sonderausgaben) or as extraordinary expenses (außergewöhnliche Belastungen). The deduction as special expenses is limited to 13,805 euros per year. The deduction as extraordinary expenses is linked to the annual basic tax-free allowance (Grundfreibetrag). In 2025, the maximum deductible amount is 12,096 euros and will rise to 12,348 euros in 2026.

The deduction as special expenses is therefore more tax-efficient, but it is only possible with the consent of the ex-partner. That's because they have to pay tax on the maintenance received as other income (sonstige Einkünfte). This is called *Realsplitting*. The person liable for maintenance can deduct the maintenance payments from taxes, but in return undertakes to compensate for any tax disadvantages incurred by the person receiving support.

Consent to the deduction of special expenses can also be given for only part of the maintenance payments. It is effective until it is revoked with the tax office.

You can deduct **child maintenance payments** as extraordinary expenses under certain conditions: if you are no longer entitled to child benefit or child allowance for the child and the child is not wealthy, you can deduct up to 12,348 euros (2026) plus basic contributions to health and long-term care insurance. No reasonable burden (zumutbare Belastung) is taken into account, i.e. the maintenance is taken into account from the first euro.

Please note: Alimony payments for minors (according to Düsseldorfer Tabelle) are not tax-deductible.

4 Income-related expenses (Werbungskosten)

Income-related expenses (Werbungskosten) include all expenses that arise from your profession. Income-related expenses are legally defined as “expenses incurred to acquire, secure, and maintain income” (§9 EStG).

Income-related expenses include:

- Relocation costs for work-related moves (Umzugskosten)
- Double household management (doppelte Haushaltsführung)
- Telephone and internet costs (Telefon- und Internetkosten)
- Business trip expenses (Dienstreisekosten)
- Job application costs (Bewerbungskosten)
- Contributions to professional associations (Berufsverbände)
- A home office (Arbeitszimmer)
- Work equipment (Arbeitsmittel)
- Training and further education costs (Fort- und Weiterbildungskosten)
- Home office lump sum (called “daily allowance” (Tagespauschale) as of 2023)
- Trade union fees (Gewerkschaftsbeiträge)
- Professional insurances

The **income-related expenses lump sum** (*Arbeitnehmer-Pauschbetrag*) is automatically deducted each year by the tax office (Finanzamt). As of 2022, the lump sum was increased from 1,000 to 1,200 euros per year and as of 2023, this will be increased again to 1,230 euros. No evidence is required for this lump sum. If you wish to claim more expenses that exceed this lump sum, you can claim them individually on your tax return and hold on to proof.

Tax tip: Even if you had minimal professional expenses throughout the year or you were only employed for a part of the year, the tax office still recognizes the entire lump sum automatically.

4.1 Commuting expenses (Fahrkosten)

For many employees, **commuting expenses** rack up the majority of their income-related expenses. The *Entfernungspauschale* (commuter allowance), provides a lump sum for each full kilometer traveled between the employee’s home and their primary place of work (one-way trip) for each workday. The mode of transportation is irrelevant.

As of January 1st, 2026, the lump sum will increase to 38 cents per kilometer for the first kilometer of a one-way trip (previously: 30 cents).

The commuter allowance, a part of your income-related expenses, has a deduction limit of 4,500 euros per year with a few exceptions. Proof is required for these exceptions:

- Journeys to your primary home if you have a second residence for work (double household)
- Public transportation costs that exceed 4,500 euros per year
- Trips in your own car or company car

The mobility premium (Mobilitätsprämie) was introduced on January 1st, 2021. This must be applied for within your tax return. The mobility premium applies to long-distance commuters whose income does not exceed the basic tax-free allowance.

The premium amounts to 14% of the increased commuter allowance. To be eligible, your income-related expenses (Werbungskosten) must exceed the income-related expenses lump sum (Arbeitnehmer-Pauschbetrag) of 1,200 euros (2022) or 1,230 euros (as of 2023). The assessment basis for the bonus is limited: at most, the difference between your taxable income and the basic tax-free allowance can be used for the calculation. The premium is transferred directly to your bank account.

Please note: The increase in the commuter allowance as well as the mobility premium apply regardless of means of transportation and for double household management (doppelte Haushaltsführung).

4.2 Work equipment (Arbeitsmittel)

All equipment that you require for your professional activities can be deducted as income-related expenses (Werbungskosten). The costs can only be deducted in full if they're almost exclusively (90%) used for work-related reasons – if you also use them privately, you will have to split up the costs and only deduct the professional portion.

You have two options: you can either claim the work equipment lump sum (Arbeitsmittel-Pauschale) of 110 euros, or you can prove your costs individually if they exceed the lump sum amount.

Tax tip: In addition to purchase costs, you can deduct repair, cleaning, and maintenance expenses for your work equipment.

Some examples of work equipment include:

- Computers
- Smartphones
- Work attire
- Technical literature
- Briefcases
- Tools
- User software
- Office furniture
- Office supplies

You can deduct up to 800 euros net (952 euros including VAT) in work equipment purchases per year. If you make a purchase that exceeds this limit, you have to depreciate it over the course of multiple years. The number of years varies depending on the device, the Federal Ministry of Finance (provided a full list in their "[AfA-Table](#)" (depreciation for wear and tear).

Please note: In February 2021, the Federal Ministry of Finance reduced the fixed "operating life" (Nutzungsdauer) of a computer from 3 years to 1 year. This means that, as of 2021, computers, application software, and all "peripheral devices" (printers, scanners, monitors, keyboard, etc.) that exceed costs of 952 euros can be fully deducted in the same year of purchase. The previous 3-year operating life will still apply to equipment purchased before 2021. Ensure you hang on to all invoices and receipts!

4.3 Working from home

Until the end of 2022, strict criteria applied to the deductibility of a home office (häusliches Arbeitszimmer). Due to the coronavirus pandemic, many employees switched to working from home - without having a tax-deductible home office. This is why the **home office lump sum** (Homeoffice-

Pauschale) was introduced. It acts as a tax relief for all employees who work from home and cannot claim a home office. The lump sum will apply indefinitely from 2023. At the same time, the regulations on home office have been aligned.

4.4 Home office room (Häusliches Arbeitszimmer)

Until the end of 2022, [an office in your home](#) (häusliches Arbeitszimmer) could only be deducted if no other workstation was provided to you by your employer (deduction of up to 1,250 euros) or when the core of your work activity took place in the room (full deduction).

The room had to meet a few requirements:

- It must be a separate room that is integrated into the *domestic sphere* of your apartment or home.
- It should be equipped like an office.
- It must be used at least 90% of the time for professional activities.
- All residents of the home must have sufficient living space outside of the office room.

4.5 The home office lump sum from 2020 to 2022

For each calendar day on which you work exclusively from home, you can claim a lump sum of 5 euros on your tax return. The lump sum is limited to 600 euros per year from 2020 to 2022. This means you can claim a maximum of 120 days working from home.

The home office lump sum is included in the income-related expenses lump sum (Arbeitnehmer-Pauschbetrag) of 1,200 euros (1,230 euros from 2023 onwards). Employees who exceed the income-related expenses lump sum can claim their expenses individually.

4.6 As of 2023: adjustment of regulations on home office

The **home office lump sum** (Homeoffice-Pauschale) now applies indefinitely as of January 2023. The lump sum was also increased: 6 euros per day spent working entirely from home can now be claimed and a total of 210 days per year. That means a maximum of 1,260 euros per year can now be claimed with the home office lump sum (which is now called *Tagespauschale*).

Regulations on **home offices** (häusliches Arbeitszimmer) have also been revised: up until now you could deduct up to 1,250 euros per year for your home office provided that no other professional workspace was made available to you by your employer (limited deduction).

To avoid unequal tax treatment from the home office lump sum, you are also able to claim the home office lump sum as of 2023 – even if you worked away from home or at your primary workplace on the same day. The maximum amount of 1,260 euros per year also applies here.

Example: A teacher can claim the lump sum for a working day on which she both worked at school and corrected exams in her home office. She can also claim the commuting allowance (Entfernungspauschale) for the journey to or from work.

If your home office is the core of your business and professional activity, you can continue to deduct the expenses in full or a lump sum of 1,260 euros per year.

4.7 Job application costs (Bewerbungskosten)

All expenses that arise from job applications are deductible as income-related expenses regardless of whether the application is successful. If they are not covered within the income-related expenses lump sum, the costs must be individually proven.

There are also job application lump sums: the tax office calculates an average of 8.50 euros per written application and 2.50 euros per electronic application.

Deductible application costs

Job application materials	Costs for self-marketing
· Application folders	· Application photos
· Printer cartridges	· Advertisements
· Envelopes	· Websites
· Transparent folders	· Proportionate telephone costs
· Writing paper	· Proportionate internet costs
· Writing utensils	· Resume/CV designs
· Adhesive utensils	· Application videos
· Postage	· Online advertisements
· Copies	

Research and training costs	Travel expenses
· Courses	· Travel to interviews
· Seminars	· Overnight stays
· Books, guides & journals	· Parking fees
· Translations	· Room & board
· Notarizations	· City maps
· Police clearing certificates	· Costs for accidents on a trip

4.8 Telephone and internet costs

Telecommunication and internet costs can be deducted as long as they were used for professional purposes. There is a flat rate of 20% of the costs with a limit of 20 euros per month.

You also have the option to provide the tax office (Finanzamt) with individual proof of the costs and information on the percentage of personal and professional use. If you do this, there is no limit.

Note: Proving these costs individually is worthwhile for those whose internet/telephone professional expenses exceed 20 euros per month or if the tax office rejects a flat rate calculation.

4.9 Double household management (Doppelte Haushaltsführung)

There are many expenses that can be claimed on your tax return when maintaining two households:

Requirements	Tax-deductible costs
· You have a second apartment/home (including a room in a shared apartment) for professional reasons	· Rent and utility costs · Additional board costs (Verpflegungsmehraufwand)
· Your second residence is closer to your job than your main residence	· Second residence taxes (Zweitwohnungsteuer)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have a primary residence outside of your place of work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadcasting fee (Rundfunkbeitrag) (Please note: you can be exempted for one of the two residents!)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your primary residence is the center of your life, family, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs for journeys back home (Familienheimfahrten)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You make a financial contribution to your primary residence (more than 10% of your double household expenses) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving costs (Umzugskosten) Furniture and equipment

5 Special expenses (Sonderausgaben)

Deductible expenses contributing to your personal life that cannot be claimed as income-related expenses (Werbungskosten) or business expenses (Betriebsausgaben) are called **special expenses** (Sonderausgaben). Unlike income-related expenses, the amount in special expenses that one can claim is regulated according to their income and sometimes limited to maximum amounts.

Special expenses can be divided into four categories:

- Expenses for retirement provisions (Altersvorsorge)
- Other provident expenses (Vorsorgeaufwendungen)
- General special expenses (allgemeine Sonderausgaben)
- Other special expenses (sonstige Sonderausgaben)

A **lump sum of 36 euros** (single taxpayers) or 72 euros (married taxpayers) for **general special expenses** is automatically deducted from your income for general special expenses – of course, most taxpayers can deduct much more if they list their expenses individually in their tax return. The extra effort is worthwhile as it can contribute towards a larger tax refund!

5.1 Expenses for retirement provisions (Altersvorsorge)

The deferred taxation (nachgelagerte Besteuerung) of pensions (Renten) was introduced in 2005. In return, contributions are tax-deductible during the pay-in phase.

The sum of deductible contributions to retirement provisions increases by 2% each year and should reach 100% by 2025. The federal government brought this forward by 2 years: **100% of your contributions** are tax-deductible as of 2023.

However, an **annual maximum** amount applies for the deduction of contributions to retirement provisions. In 2025, this maximum amount is 29,344 euros. For married couples with a joint tax return, double the maximum amount of 58,688 euros applies. In 2026, the maximum amount is **30,826 euros** and **61,652 euros** respectively.

Expenses for retirement provisions include
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory retirement insurance (gesetzliche Rentenversicherung)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certain private retirement insurances (private Rentenversicherung)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational pension schemes (berufsständige Versorgung)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riester pensions (Riester-Rentenversicherung)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rürup pensions (Rürup-Rentenversicherung)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural old-age insurance (landwirtschaftliche Alterskasse)

5.1.1 Information on retirement and life insurance policies

Contributions to retirement (private Rentenversicherung) and life insurance policies (Lebensversicherungen) can be deducted from your taxes as long as they meet a few requirements. Annuity insurance policies with or without a lump-sum option (Kapitalwahlrecht) as well as all life insurance policies must have at least a 12-year term. The first premium payment must also have been made before January 1st, 2005.

5.1.2 Riester Pensions

All employees are typically eligible for Riester pensions as long as they are also making contributions towards their statutory retirement insurance (gesetzliche Rentenversicherung). The state subsidy is always the same regardless of which Riester pension option is chosen. It consists of tax savings and direct allowances – the maximum allowance (Zulage) amount being 175 euros a year per employee.

If you are a parent, this allowance is increased to 185 euros with an increased allowance of 300 euros for children born after 2007. A one-time “career starter bonus (Berufseinsteigerbonus)” of 200 euros can be received by those under 25 years of age.

Tax savings consist of a separate special expenses deduction for Riester pension contributions: Up to 2,100 euros per year in Riester pension contributions can be deducted per year from your taxes.

Who can't profit from Riester	Riester pension variants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who are not subject to retirement insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund savings: recommended for younger people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those compulsorily insured with occupational pension schemes who are exempt from statutory pension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riester insurance „Wohn-Riester“
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marginally employed persons (mini-jobs) who do not pay retirement insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank savings: recommended for older people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who already receive pension/retirement insurance payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit-linked (fondsgebundene) insurance

5.1.3 Rürup pension

Rürup pensions are fully funded, not pay-as-you-go. Instead of being paid out in one lump sum, they are paid out monthly and earn interest over time. Rürup pensions are colloquially called “basic pension,” in which the state provides special support for the policyholder.

Note: Rürup pensions are primarily intended for self-employed persons that cannot take out state subsidized Riester contracts.

5.2 Other provident expenses (sonstige Vorsorgeaufwendungen)

Other provident expenses are costs that help protect your health and income. They are tax-deductible up to **1,900 euros** per year for employees and up to **2,800 euros** for self-employed workers.

Basic contributions to health insurance and nursing care insurance (Basisbeiträge zur Kranken- und Pflegeversicherung) can be **deducted in full** even if they exceed the maximum amount – however, in this case, you cannot deduct any additional provident expenses.

Other provident expenses include
· Unemployment insurance (Arbeitslosenversicherung)
· Health insurance (Krankenversicherung)
· Nursing care insurance (Pflegeversicherung)
· Accident insurance (Unfallversicherung)
· (Occupational) disability insurance (Erwerbs- und Berufsunfähigkeitsversicherung)
· Liability insurance (Haftpflichtversicherung)
· Risk insurance (Risikoversicherung)
· Life insurance (Lebensversicherung)

5.3 General special expenses (allgemeine Sonderausgaben)

The maximum deductible amount for general special expenses varies based on what the expense was for.

General special expenses include
· Maintenance payments (<i>Unterhalt</i>) for an ex-spouse when divorced or permanently separated (max. 13,805 euros plus contributions to health and nursing care insurance)
· Childcare costs (<i>Kinderbetreuungskosten</i> , 67% of the costs, max. 4,000 euros per child, as of 2025: 80% of the costs, max. 4,800 euros)
· Church tax (<i>Kirchensteuer</i> , no limit)
· School fees (<i>Schulgeld</i> , 30% of the costs, max. 5,000 euros)
· Donations (<i>Spenden</i> , see below)
· Expenses for first apprenticeship (Berufsausbildung) or first degree (max. 6,000 euros)

5.3.1 Donations (Spenden)

Money donations and donations in kind can both be deducted as special expenses if they meet certain conditions. The maximum deductible amount varies on their purpose: a sum amounting to 20% of your annual income can be deducted for donations to tax-privileged organizations. Donations up to 300 euros can be claimed without a donation receipt (simplified proof).

Donations to political parties and voter associations (as well as membership fees) are tax-deductible.

Regulation through 2025: For donations up to 1,650 euros, 50% of the donation is deducted directly from your tax liability. For larger donations, an additional maximum amount of up to 1,650 euros can be deducted in full from your taxable income.

Regulation effective from 2026: The two maximum amounts for the tax deduction of donations have been doubled to 3,300 euros each. For married couples filing a joint tax return, the doubled maximum amount of 6,600 euros applies.

Donations are deductible if...	You can submit a simplified proof for...
· non-profit organizations benefit from them	· donations following disasters (donations in unlimited amounts)
· they support tax-privileged purposes	· non-profit organizations (up to 300 euros)
· they are made voluntarily without a promise of compensation	· government agencies (up to 300 euros)
· they can be proven with donation receipts	· political parties and independent voter associations (up to 300 euros)

5.4 Other special expenses (sonstige Sonderausgaben)

Costs for the restoration or renovation of historical monuments and cultural artifacts which are occupied for your own residential purposes are tax-deductible as special expenses. 9% of these costs can be deducted annually over the course of 10 years.

6 Extraordinary expenses (außergewöhnliche Belastungen)

Extraordinary expenses are costs that exceed the 'reasonable burden' (zumutbare Belastung) that taxpayers with a similar income, family status, and assets face. These expenses can be claimed on your tax return if they are unavoidable and necessary – more specifically, they cannot be avoided for legal, moral, or factual reasons.

The purpose of extraordinary expenses is to prevent unreasonable hardships for those paying income tax, but this does not mean that they are unconditionally recognized by the tax office (Finanzamt).

Extraordinary expenses are divided into two groups:

6.1 Special extraordinary expenses

There are lump sums and allowances for special extraordinary expenses, they are deductible from the first cent. Special extraordinary expenses (besondere außergewöhnlichen Belastungen) are limited to:

- Maintenance payments (*Unterhaltsleistungen*, deductible up to the limit of the basic tax-free allowance)
- Educational allowance for adult children pursuing a degree/apprenticeship (*Ausbildungsfreibetrag*, up to 1.200 euros)
- Disability allowance (*Behinderten-Pauschbetrag*, maximum amount varies based on severity of disability)
- Nursing care allowance (*Pflege-Pauschbetrag*, maximum amount varies depending on the degree of care)
- Survivor allowance (*Hinterbliebenen-Pauschbetrag*, 370 euros one-time)

6.2 General extraordinary expenses

General extraordinary expenses (allgemeine außergewöhnlichen Belastungen) refer to expenses that arise from extraordinary life events such as illnesses or environmental disasters. These can include, but are not limited to:

- Medical expenses
- Travel costs to the doctor
- Care costs for your parents
- Funeral costs
- Equipment costs to make a residence suitable for handicapped persons
- Damage to your own occupied dwelling as well as the cost of replacing household goods and clothing after a natural disaster

General extraordinary expenses can only be deducted if they exceed the "reasonable burden" amount (*zumutbare Belastung*)

6.2.1 Reasonable burden (zumutbare Belastung)

Your individual “reasonable burden” amount varies based on your income and marital status. This amount is then deducted from your extraordinary expenses and only the costs that exceed this amount can be deducted from your taxes.

	Total income		
Marital status	up to 15.340 euros	from 15.340 euros to 51.130 euros	from 51.130 euros
Singles and individually assessed spouses without children	5%	6%	7%
Jointly assessed spouses without children	4%	5%	6%
Singles and married persons with 1 or 2 children	2%	3%	4%
Singles and married persons with 3 or more children	1%	1%	2%

Please note: Your reasonable burden is calculated in steps. Only the part of your income that falls into the next income bracket is subject to the next higher percentage.

6.2.2 Medical expenses

Medical expenses due to an illness can be deducted as extraordinary expenses if they meet certain conditions.

Your proof of your medical expenses must have been issued *before* the treatment/remedy started. A prescription from a doctor or practitioner is required as well a certificate from a public health officer (*amtsärztliches Gutachten*) or from your insurance.

To prove travel expenses when travelling to your spouse or child receiving medical treatment, a certificate from the hospital’s physician (where they’re being treated) is required.

Deductible medical expenses
· Expenses for inpatient or outpatient treatment
· Hospital costs
· Illness-related accommodation in a nursing home (for yourself)
· Laser eye surgery
· Healing remedies that are not recognized by your health insurance
· Cures that heal or relieve an illness
· Prescribed medicines, remedies, and aids
· Travel costs to the doctor or pharmacy
· Treatment for reading/writing disabilities
· Costs for an outpatient nurse

Please note: If your health insurance did not already refuse to cover your medical costs, they cannot be claimed on your tax return.

7 Household-related expenses (Haushaltsnahe Aufwendungen)

Household-related services (Haushaltsnahe Dienstleistungen) are services/activities in your household for which you hired a company or self-employed service provider. This can include domestic help, nursing services, and tradespeople services. Tradesperson labor and travel costs as well as consumables and machinery can be deducted from your taxes, while material costs cannot.

There is a distinction between **tradespeople services** (Handwerkerkosten) and other **household-related services** (haushaltsnahe Dienstleistungen): up to 20% of the costs for household-related services can be claimed per year (with a maximum limit of 4,000 euros), an additional 20% of labor costs can be deducted for tradespeople services (maximum limit of 1,200 euros).

Deducting **tradespeople services** from your taxes is limited to maintenance, repairs, or renovations – the service cannot create something new.

You are required to have an official itemized invoice from the company or freelancer that you paid with a bank transfer, direct debit, or credit card. You cannot claim services that were paid for in cash. Your household-related service expenses and tradespeople costs are deducted directly from your calculated tax liability, which can help result in a large tax refund.

Please note: Many don't know that part of your landlord's **utility bill** can also be claimed on your tax return. Simply review your utility bill, but keep in mind that you can only claim labor costs (chimney sweep, gardener, etc.), not material expenses.

· Home cleaning
· Meal prep
· Childcare / care for people in need
· Renovation costs
· Garden maintenance
· Repair costs
· Snow removal services
· Animal care and dog walking services
· Janitorial services
· Window cleaning

8 Capital gains, rental income, and foreign income – how are they taxed?

In this chapter we summarize for you which tax regulations apply to other income, for example income from renting and leasing, foreign income, and capital gains.

8.1 Capital gains (Kapitalerträge) and savers' allowances (Sparerpauschbetrag)

Profits from financial investments, also known as capital gains, are subject to **withholding tax** (Kapitalertragsteuer/Abgeltungsteuer) which is deducted directly from the source. This means that the bank, insurance company, etc. will automatically deduct the tax from your capital gains and forward it to the necessary financial authority.

The withholding tax rate is **25%, plus the solidarity surcharge** and, if applicable, church tax.

Examples of capital gains
· Share sales
· Income from funds
· Income from certificates
· Interest on checking or savings accounts
· Dividends

The **savers' allowance** (Sparer-Pauschbetrag) exempts up to 1,000 euros of your capital gains per year from being taxed, this amount is doubled (2,000 euros) for married couples who are assessed together (Zusammenveranlagung). Before 2023, the saver's allowance amounted to 801 euros and 1,602 euros respectively.

8.2 Rental income (Mieteinnahmen)

Rental income, a part of "income from renting and leasing" (in the Income Tax Act: *Einkünfte aus Vermietung und Verpachtung*) must be declared in your income tax return and taxed accordingly. The amount of tax that must be paid on rental income varies depending on your individual tax rate (Steuersatz).

Claiming allowances (Freibeträge) and income-related expenses (Werbungskosten) can help reduce the tax burden.

Examples of rental income
· Renting a house
· Subletting an owned apartment
· Subletting an apartment in your home
· Subletting a vacation home
· Renting property
· Subletting a room in your apartment

Please note: Income from renting and leasing is taxed domestically in the country where the property is located. Therefore, if you are renting out a vacation home in Spain, you have to declare the rental income and related expenses on your Spanish tax return.

8.3 Foreign income (ausländische Einkünfte)

Anyone registered as a German resident with their primary residence in Germany are subject to unlimited income tax liability. As a result, all income (whether domestic or abroad) is liable to German taxes.

In addition, the country where you've received your foreign income will also deduct tax – this is not unusual and is referred to as the "source principle" (German: Quellenprinzip).

Germany has signed a **double tax treaty** (Doppelbesteuerungsabkommen) with 70 countries so far to help taxpayers avoid double taxation. This can be avoided with two different methods:

8.3.1 Exemption method (Freistellungsmethode):

This is the most typical method. This ensures that income earned abroad is tax-exempt in Germany, however it is still subject to the *Progressionsvorbehalt* – meaning the amount is added to your taxable income to calculate your tax rate, and your tax rate is then applied to your income *without* the foreign income.

8.3.2 Imputation method (Anrechnungsmethode):

Your foreign income is recorded in Germany and the tax you paid abroad is deducted from your German tax burden.

9 Lump sums (Pauschalen) and allowances (Freibeträge) you need to know

To simplify the tax return and its processing, the Income Tax Act (Einkommensteuergesetz) introduces lump sums and allowances. As soon as you meet the respective requirements, you are entitled to be granted the corresponding lump sums and allowances.

Some are taken into account automatically, others you must apply for in your tax return. For example, the lump sum for special expenses (Sonderausgaben-Pauschbetrag) and the income-related expenses lump sum (Arbeitnehmer-Pauschbetrag) are automatically taken into account.

However, you must apply for the disability allowance (Behinderten-Pauschbetrag), nursing care allowance (Pflege-Pauschbetrag), and survivor allowance (Hinterbliebenen-Pauschbetrag) within your tax return.

9.1 Lump sums (Pauschalen)

Lump sums are deducted from tax without individual proof of costs. If certain expenses exceed the lump sum amount (e.g. income-related expenses or specific special expenses), you can write them off individually on your taxes. If the actual expenses are less than the lump sum, this is still granted in full. The lump sum for income-related expenses for employees and pensioners and the lump sum for special expenses are always deducted automatically.

Lump sum examples
• Work equipment lump sum (Arbeitsmittelpauschale): 110 euros
• Nursing care lump sum (Pflege-Pauschbetrag): care level 2: 600 euros, care level 3: 1,100 euros, care level 4 and 5: 1,800 euros
• Savers' allowance (Sparer-Pauschbetrag): 1,000 euros (from 2023, previously: 801 euros)
• Home office lump sum: 6 euros/day, max. 1,260 euros/year (2020 – 2022: 5 euros/day, max. 600 euros/year)
• Moving costs lump sum (Pauschale für sonstige Umzugskosten): as of March 1 st , 2024: 964 euros for the entitled person and 643 euros for each additional person
• Commuter allowance (Entfernungspauschale): 30 cents/km (from the 21 st km: 38 cents, from 2026: 38 cents from the 1 st kilometer)
• Exercise leader lump sum (Übungsleiterpauschale): 3,000 euros, as of 2026: 3,300 euros
• Income-related expenses lump sum (Werbungskostenpauschale): 1,200 euros (2022), 1,230 euros from 2023 (Retirees: 102 euros)
• Additional board lump sum (Verpflegungspauschale): 14 euro for 8+ hours absent, 28 euros for 24 hours absent
• Volunteering lump sum (Ehrenamtspauschale): 840 euros, as of 2026: 960 euros
• Special expenses lump sum (Sonderausgaben-Pauschbetrag): 36 euros for single persons, 72 euros for married persons
• Disability allowance (Behinderten-Pauschbetrag): 384 to 2,840 euros; For those in need of constant care according to §33 Paragraph 6 of the Income Tax Act: 7,400 euros

9.2 Allowances (Freibeträge)

There are allowances (Freibeträge) that exempt a certain amount of income from taxation, and those who exceed this amount must pay tax on the excess income. The most notable is the basic tax-free allowance (Grundfreibetrag) which is automatically deducted from your taxable income to secure the minimum subsistence level.

Please note: An exemption limit (Freigrenze) behaves differently: if the limit is exceeded the *entire* amount is taxed.

Important allowances
· Basic tax-free allowance (Grundfreibetrag): 12,096 euros (as of 2026: 12,348 euros)
· Education allowance (Ausbildungsfreibetrag): 1,200 euros (from 2023, previously: 924 euros)
· Child allowance (Kinderfreibetrag): 6,672 euros (as of 2026: 6,828 euros)
· BEA-Allowance (Allowance for childcare, daycare, and education) 2,928 euros
· Discount allowance (Rabatt-Freibetrag): 1,080 euros
· Age relief allowance (Altersentlastungsbetrag): 627 euros max. (13,2% of income) in 2025 (2026: 12,8% of income, 608 euros max.)

10 Monetary benefits and one-fifth method

10.1 Monetary benefits (Geldwerter Vorteil)

Monetary benefits can be awarded by your employer in addition to your salary and must be taxed the same way. There are a few exceptions to this rule that allow you to receive *tax-free* monetary benefits:

10.1.1 Discount allowance (Rabatt-Freibetrag)

Employees who receive discounts on wares and services that their company provides are entitled to 1,080 euros in tax-free company savings, any discounts above this tax-free limit are subject to tax. This includes discounts on (or free) hotel rooms for hotel employees, cars for auto salespeople, etc.

Frequent flyers can also use their bonus miles from business travels for a personal vacation if their employer approves it – but the rule remains the same, if the received benefits extend above the 1,080-euro limit, the excess amount will be taxed.

10.1.2 De minimis or exemption limit (Bagatell- or Freigrenze)

Tax-free benefits in kind are limited to a value of 50 euros per month (as of 2022, previously 44 euros). Contrary to allowances, the entire value of the benefits in kind must be taxed as soon as they exceed the exemption limit – not just the excess value.

Some examples of benefits in kind include merchandise or gasoline coupons, high-quality promotional gifts, a company Christmas party, company outings, job tickets for public transportation, or gym memberships.

Please note: Benefits in kind such as your employer taking over childcare costs for non-school age children, or a work cellphone/laptop are generally tax-free if they are an employer loan.

10.2 Severance packages, anniversary bonuses and the one-fifth method

Since 2006, severance packages (Abfindungen) and anniversary bonuses (Vergütung für mehrjährige Tätigkeit) have been treated as taxable wages, just like your typical salary. They are entered on your tax return as extraordinary income (außerordentliche Einkünfte).

Extraordinary income can be taxed according to the [one-fifth method](#) (Fünftelregelung) in Germany which divides the taxation over a course of five years, as if you had received the payment in five installments.

The tax office automatically checks if it is more beneficial for you to tax your severance package according to the one-fifth method (Günstigerprüfung). If this method is applied, you're required to file a tax return in the following year.

Please note: From 2025, the one-fifth rule can no longer be applied by employers, but only by the tax office as part of processing your tax return.

11 German taxes 2026: changes you need to know

On December 19th, 2025, the German Bundesrat approved the tax changes for 2026. Whether it's the basic tax-free allowance (Grundfreibetrag), commuter allowance (Entfernungspauschale), active retirement income (Aktivrente), or the volunteering allowance - here you'll find the most important tax changes for your 2026 taxes.

11.1 Adjustment of income tax brackets

Tax rates

To offset inflation-related "cold progression," **income tax brackets** (Einkommensteuertarife) are adjusted upward in 2026. The **42% top tax rate** (Spitzensteuersatz) now begins at **69,879 euros** of taxable income (previously 68,481 euros). The **45% maximum tax rate** (Höchststeuersatz) continues to apply from **277,826 euros**.

Increase of the basic tax-free allowance

From 1. January 2026, the basic tax-free allowance (Grundfreibetrag) rises to **12,348 euros** per taxpayer and 24,696 euros for married couples filing jointly. This amount represents the minimum subsistence level that remains exempt from income taxation.

Solidarity Surcharge (Solidaritätszuschlag)

The **exemption threshold** for the solidarity surcharge increases to **20,350 euros** (single assessment) and **40,700 euros** (joint assessment). If the assessed income tax does not exceed this threshold, no solidarity surcharge is levied. Above it, the surcharge applies gradually.

Maintenance payments (Unterhalt)

The maximum amount of [maintenance payments](#) you can deduct as extraordinary expenses (außergewöhnliche Belastungen) always corresponds to the annual **basic tax-free allowance** (Grundfreibetrag). In **2026**, this means you can deduct up to **12,038 euros** in maintenance payments, plus contributions to basic health and long-term care insurance.

Please note: Maintenance payments for your **minor child** are **not** tax-deductible.

Child maintenance can only be claimed as extraordinary expenses if the child:

- is legally entitled to maintenance from you
- does not have significant assets, and
- is no longer entitled to child benefit (Kindergeld)

11.2 Increase of child benefit and child allowance

Child benefit (Kindergeld) increases to **259 euros** per month per child from 2026.

At the same time, the total child allowance (Kinderfreibeträge) rises to **9,756 euros** per child. As usual, the tax office automatically performs a comparison calculation (“Günstigerprüfung”) to determine whether the allowance or the direct child benefit results in a greater advantage.

	2025	2026
Child allowance	6,672 euros (per parent: 3,336)	6,828 euros (per parent: 3,414)
BEA	2,928 euros (per parent: 1,464)	2,928 euros (per parent: 1,464)
total	9,540 euros (per parent: 4,770)	9,756 euros (per parent: 4,878)

11.3 Commuter allowance increases

The **commuting allowance** (Entfernungspauschale) will increase from January 1st, 2026. Previously, the higher rate of **38 cents** per kilometer applied only from the **21st kilometer** of your one-way commute. For the first 20 kilometer, 30 cents per kilometer could be claimed. From **2026**, the higher rate of **38 cents** per kilometer **applies from the very first kilometer**.

The commuter allowance always applies to the **one-way trip** to work (either outbound or return) and is **independent of the mode of transport**. You can claim it whether you commute by car, public transport, or bicycle.

11.3.1 Mobility premium (Mobilitätsprämie) becomes permanent

At the same time, the **mobility premium** (Mobilitätsprämie) will become **permanent**. It was originally set to expire at the end of 2026. The mobility bonus must be **applied** for in your **tax return** and is paid directly to your bank account.

The mobility bonus was introduced in 2021 to ensure that long-distance commuters whose income does not exceed the annual basic tax-free allowance can also benefit from the increased commuting allowance. Since those below the basic tax-free allowance do not pay income tax, they cannot otherwise benefit from tax deductions.

11.4 Higher tax-free allowances for volunteers & instructors

If you work as a volunteer or as an instructor (e.g. sports coach) and receive compensation, this income is tax-free up to a certain limit. From January 1st, 2026, the tax-free allowances increase:

- The **volunteer allowance** (Ehrenamtszuschale) rises from 840 euros to **960 euros** per year.
- The **instructor allowance** (Übungsleiterzuschale) increases from 3,000 euros to **3,300 euros** per year.

11.5 Minimum wage, mini-job & midi-job

As of January 1st, 2026, the statutory **minimum wage** increases from 12.82 euros to **13.90 euros** per hour. It is planned to rise further to 14.60 euros in 2027.

As a result, the **minijob** income limit increases from 556 euros to **603 euros** per month. The **midijob** transition zone therefore begins at **603.01 euros** per month. The upper limit for midi-jobs remains unchanged at 2,000 euros gross per month.

11.6 Higher tax relief for donations to political parties

Donations and membership fees to political parties are tax-deductible as special expenses (Sonderausgaben) in two steps:

Step 1: 50% of the donation amount is directly deducted from your assessed income tax. The maximum amount has now been doubled: from January 1st, 2026, donations of up to **3,300 euros** can be deducted this way. For jointly assessed couples, the limit is **6,600 euros**.

Step 2: If you donate more than 3,300 euros, the excess amount can also be deducted as special expenses. However, it no longer reduces your tax liability directly but instead reduces your taxable income (zu versteuerndes Einkommen). Here too, the maximum amount has been doubled to **3,300 euros** (or **6,600 euros** for joint assessment).

11.7 Pension: “Aktivrente”, disability pension & basic pension

11.7.1 Deductibility of contributions to retirement provision increases

Your contributions to retirement provision are **100% tax-deductible** as special expenses. This includes contributions:

- to the statutory pension insurance (gesetzliche Rentenversicherung)
- to professional pension schemes (berufständisches Versorgungswerk)
- to the basic pension (Rürup-Rente)

A maximum annual amount applies to the special expense deduction. In 2026, this limit is **30,826 euros**. Married couples filing jointly can claim **61,652 euros**.

11.7.2 The “Active Pension” is introduced

From January 1st, 2026, employees who have reached the statutory retirement age may earn up to **2,000 euros per month tax-free** (“Aktivrente”). This applies regardless of whether they are already receiving a pension or defer pension receipt. Earnings above 2,000 euros are taxed normally.

The Aktivrente is currently only available to employees subject to social insurance contributions. However, the Federation of Taxpayers (Bund der Steuerzahler) plans to file a lawsuit to allow self-employed individuals to also take advantage of the Active Pension.

11.7.3 Earnings limit for disability pension is increased

If you receive a full disability pension (Erwerbsminderungsrente), you may earn up to **20,763.75 euros** gross per year in addition to your disability pension. This is about 1,730 euros per month. For partial disability pension (teilweise Erwerbsminderung), the limit is at least **41,527.50 euros** gross per year.

For partial disability pension, the earnings limit can be higher because it is based on your work income in the 15 years prior to the onset of disability. If you exceed the earnings limit, 40% of the excess income is offset against the disability pension.

Tax tip: Before taking up employment, have your individual earnings limit calculated by the pension provider. This ensures you stay on the safe side.

11.8 Better tax treatment of union contributions

Union contributions (Gewerkschaftsbeiträge) are tax-deductible as income-related expenses. From January 1st, 2026, their tax treatment improves:

Until now, union contributions were included in the income-related expenses lump sum (Arbeitnehmer-Pauschbetrag) deduction of 1,230 euros like all other income-related expenses. The new rule allows them to be considered **in addition to the Arbeitnehmer-Pauschbetrag**. Even if your total income-related expenses do not exceed the lump sum, your union contributions will reduce your taxable income in addition to the standard deduction from the 2026 tax return onward.

11.9 Other changes

11.9.1 Reduced VAT rate for meals permanently lowered

To further support the restaurant industry, the reduced VAT rate of **7% will apply permanently** since January 1st, 2026. Beverages are excluded.

11.9.2 Digital tax assessment notice as standard postponed to 2027

Originally, the digital tax assessment notice was to become standard from January 1st, 2026. Taxpayers with a valid Elster certificate submitting a digital tax return would **automatically receive a digital tax assessment**. Paper notices would only be sent if explicitly requested. The option will be available in Mein Elster from April 2026.

The new rule postpones the standard introduction of the digital tax assessment notice to **January 1st, 2027**.

11.9.3 Accommodation costs for double households abroad capped at 2,000 euros

If you maintain a double household for work, you can deduct actual accommodation costs as income-related expenses (Werbungskosten), including abroad. From January 1st, 2026, accommodation costs (rent and utilities) for double households abroad are capped at **2,000 euros** per month. Exceptions apply if you are required to use employer-provided housing.

11.9.4 Deutschlandticket becomes more expensive

The price of the Deutschlandticket increases from 58 euros to **63 euros** from 1. January 2026. The ticket allows nationwide use of local public transport for a flat monthly fee. Long-distance trains are excluded except in a few cases.

11.9.5 Additional contribution for health insurance rises again

The additional contribution to statutory health insurance, individually set by each insurer, rose to an average of 2.5% in 2025. In 2026, it rises to an average of **2.9%** and is expected to remain stable throughout 2026.

11.9.6 Tax exemption for electric cars extended

The exemption from vehicle tax for electric cars was originally set to end on December 31st, 2025. It applies to fully electric vehicles first registered or fully converted to electric drive. The exemption is now extended by five years until **December 31st, 2030**.

12 The simplest way to file your taxes: **wundertax**

wundertax offers a simple, fast, and stress-free way to file your taxes – no prior knowledge required! We designed interview questions tailored to different professional groups so that you don't miss any deductible expenses. While you enter your data into our easy-to-understand templates, our live tax calculator is constantly updating to show you your estimated tax refund based on your entries.

Our tax tool is connected to ELSTER, Germany's official state tax software. Therefore, your data submission to the tax office is protected by the same high security standards.

Other advantages that **wundertax has to offer:**

- **Clever** tax tips and integrated optimization checks
- **wundertax's** online tools are **cheaper** than any tax consultant
- **Simple** interview questions instead of complicated tax forms
- Automatic submission of your official documents
- Good for those with little time to spare
- Good for those without prior tax knowledge or who are submitting their first tax return
- **wundertax** considers all professional costs and lump sums
- **wundertax's** tools are recognized by all German tax offices (Finanzämter)
- Your tax return can be submitted up to 4 years retroactively
- Claim a loss carryforwards up to 7 retroactively
- Our customer support will assist you every step of the way

Secure your tax refund now!

About wundertax

We are **wundertax** and our goal is to provide you with your ideal tax solution by making taxes simple and stress-free. With us, you can submit your tax return easily, fast, and inexpensively – without any prior knowledge!

Our live tax calculator makes sure that you can always see your estimated tax refund and our app tells you whether you are required to file. If you have any questions, our customer service is always happy to assist you.

wundertax doesn't only help traditional employees – we strive to provide a tax solution for everyone including students, apprentices, expats, police officers, teachers, fire fighters, and soldiers. You can find the portal that fits your needs on our website: <https://wundertax.de/en/>



Legal imprint:

wundertax GmbH
Beliner Straße 80-82
13189 Berlin
support@wundertax.de
<https://wundertax.de/en>

Updated: March 2026

Note from the publisher:

wundertax does not offer tax consultancy – **wundertax** is a service provider that assists you in completing your tax return yourself. This guide should help you submit your tax return quickly and easily. For this purpose, we've compiled the most important information for you and have tried to present the necessary facts as simply as possible.