

1862	Abraham Lincoln enacts emergency measure to pay for Civil War: Minimum 3% tax rate.
1872	Lincoln's income tax law lapses.
1894	2% federal income tax enacted.
1895	Income tax ruled unconstitutional by U.S. Supreme Court in Pollack v. Farmer's Loan and Trust.
1909	16th amendment that authorizes Congress to collect taxes on income is proposed.
1913	Wyoming casts 37th vote, ratifying the 16th amendment. One in 271 people pays 1% rate.
1926	Revenue Act of 1926 reduces taxes: Too much money being collected.
1939	Revenue statutes codified. One out of 32 citizens pays 4% rate.
1943	One out of three people pays taxes. Withholding on salaries and wages introduced.
1954	875-page Internal Revenue Code of 1954 passes. Considered the most monumental overhaul of federal income tax system to date. 3,000 changes to tax rules.
1969	Tax Reform Act: Major amendments to 1954 overhaul.
1984	Reagan Tax Reform Act: Most complex bill ever, requires over 180 technical corrections.
1986	Tax Reform Act reduces tax brackets from five or two.
1993	Clinton's Revenue Reconciliation Act passes by one Vice Presidential vote.
1996	Four bills make over 700 changes, including Medical Savings Accounts and SIMPLE plans.
1997	Taxpayer Relief Act brings more than 800 changes. Child tax credit, Roth IRAs, capital gains reduction, breaks for higher education enacted.
2001	Tax Relief Act creates 441 changes. Lowers tax rates, repeals estate tax, increases contribution limits on 401(k)s and IRAs.
2002	The Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act brings business tax relief, including a 5-year net operating loss carryback and extends and adds depreciation.
2003	Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act lowers taxes on capital gains and dividends, accelerates marginal tax rate cuts, brings marriage penalty relief, increases child tax credit, extends bonus depreciation and more. Bills passed late in the year bring military tax relief and Medicare reform.
2004	Back-to-back tax bills, Working Families Tax Relief Act and American Jobs Creation Act, brought the most tax law changes since 1986. The American Jobs Creation Act gave ordinary taxpayers, as well as businesses of all sizes, tax relief.
2005	Congress used the tax code to encourage energy savings and cope with natural disasters in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 and the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005.
2006	Congress passed three major laws affecting taxes and several minor ones, making more than 500 changes to the Internal Revenue Code altogether. Among other things, temporary capital gains and dividend rates of 15% (0% for the bottom two brackets) were extended for two years beyond 2008 and the AMT exemption was increased, but for 2006 only.
2007	Congress passed another temporary "fix" for the AMT, extended the reach of the "kiddie tax" to age 18 (age 23 for students) beginning in 2008 and changed the rules on forgiveness of debt to benefit homeowners facing foreclosure or reworking their mortgages.
2008	Six big tax laws passed: Economic Stimulus Act; Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act; Housing Assistance Tax Act; Emergency Economic Stabilization Act; Worker, Retiree and Employer Recovery Act; and Heartland, Habitat, Harvest and Horticulture Act. Among the major provisions of these laws were economic stimulus rebates, a first-time homebuyers credit, an additional standard deduction for real property taxes, extension of expiring deductions and yet another temporary AMT "fix."
2009	Congress passed a major stimulus bill with nearly \$300 billion in tax relief, providing for a Making Work Pay Credit, an American Opportunity Credit to expand on existing higher education credits, expansion of the first-time homebuyer credit, an enhanced child credit, expanded net loss carrybacks for business and expanded energy credits. The homebuyer credit and net loss provisions were later extended and expanded in the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act.
2010	Congress at year-end extended tax breaks that had expired at the end of 2009 for two years through 2011 and extended tax breaks from the 2001 and 2003 Tax Acts scheduled to sunset at the end of 2010 for two years through 2012; a payroll tax reduction was also enacted for 2011. Other legislation enacted during the year included tax provisions with respect to health care reform, hiring stimulus and small business stimulus.
2013	Congress permanently extends tax cuts from 2001 and 2003 for all but the highest income taxpayers. New Net Investment Income tax and Medicare Contribution tax become effective. Leading tax, accounting and audit information, software and services provider Wolters Kluwer Tax & Accounting US celebrates its 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary serving professionals since 1913 — the year the modern federal income tax became law in the U.S.
2014	New penalty for failure to obtain health insurance and credit to assist with health insurance premiums become effective.
2015	New penalty for employers who fail to provide health insurance becomes effective. States are authorized to set up plans to allow tax-favored accounts for disabled persons.