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Find sweet spot for your tax withholding

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Your payroll department will be ever-so-grateful if you use one of these online calculators to fine-tune your tax withholding amounts instead of bugging them.

Make adjustments if your tax refund is too big. (Did we say that? It could never be too big. But you could enjoy having more of it in your pocket throughout the year instead of getting it in a lump after the government has used your money free of charge for more than a year.)

Also make adjustments if you owe more tax than you're withholding -- if you have a lot of dividend or interest income, for example. That can create ugly surprises in April.

Here are places to punch in your numbers and to learn more about the ins and outs of payroll taxes:

www.paycheckcity.com/pages/personal.asp, sponsored by Symmetry Software, an Arizona company that developed software for figuring withholding allowances.

www.payroll.com, sponsored by Intuit Inc., the company that developed TurboTax, Quicken and other financial software.

www.americanpayroll.org, the American Payroll Association's Web site.

-- Julie Tripp

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