Salary *and* Tax

TAKE-HOME PAY COMPARISON

Tax year **2026**
Amounts **per year**

A — $20,000 *a year in* **Alberta**
B — $20,000 *a year in* **Ontario**

A and B take home the same

$18,589 per year each

LINE ITEM	A · ALBERTA	B · ONTARIO	B − A
INCOME			
Gross income	$20,000	$20,000	±0
Taxable income after the CPP enhanced deduction	$19,835	$19,835	±0
PAYROLL PROGRAMS			
CPP + CPP2	$982	$982	±0
EI premium	$326	$326	±0
INCOME TAX			
Federal tax after credits	$104	$104	±0
Provincial tax after credits	$0	$288	+$288
Ontario surtax a tax on Ontario tax	–	$0	±0
Low-income credits ON reduction + LIFT · BC reduction	$0	-$288	+$288
Ontario health premium	–	$0	±0
BOTTOM LINE			
Total deductions	$1,411	$1,411	±0
Take-home	**$18,589**	**$18,589**	±0
Effective deduction rate share of gross lost to tax, CPP and EI	7.1%	7.1%	±0
True marginal rate on the next $100	20.5%	20.5%	±0

Amounts per year; rates are annual. Green favours B, red favours A. Full statements for A and B follow, their bracket figures drawn on one scale.

Employment income only, single filer resident in the stated province on Dec 31. Basic credits only (no RRSP, dependant or tuition). Validated against TaxTips.ca and Wealthsimple, October 2026. An estimate, not tax advice.
Sources: CRA tax rates · CRA payroll deductions tables · Adjust these numbers: salaryandtax.ca/compare?a=20000-ab&b=20000-on

Salary *and* Tax

TAKE-HOME PAY STATEMENT

SCENARIO A

Tax year **2026**
Amounts **per year**

Prepared for an employee earning **$20,000** *a year in* **Alberta**.

INCOME

Gross pay — **$20,000**
Your salary before any deductions — $20,000 a year, the number on your offer letter.

PAYROLL PROGRAMS — taken before income tax

CPP — Canada Pension Plan — − $982
5.95% of earnings between $3,500 and $74,600. Its enhanced slice is deductible, which lowers your taxable income below.

EI — Employment Insurance — − $326
1.63% of earnings up to $68,900. Funds job-loss, parental and sickness benefits.

INCOME TAX

Taxable income — $19,835
Gross minus the deductible part of CPP. Income tax is worked out on this, not on your gross.

Federal income tax — − $104
14% on all of your taxable income — it stays in the lowest band — less credits for the basic personal amount, CPP, EI and the Canada employment amount.

Alberta income tax — $0
Alberta brackets from 8%, less credits for the basic personal amount, CPP and EI.

TOTAL

Total deductions — **− $1,411**
Everything taken off the top: income tax, CPP and EI.

NET TAKE-HOME PAY

$18,589

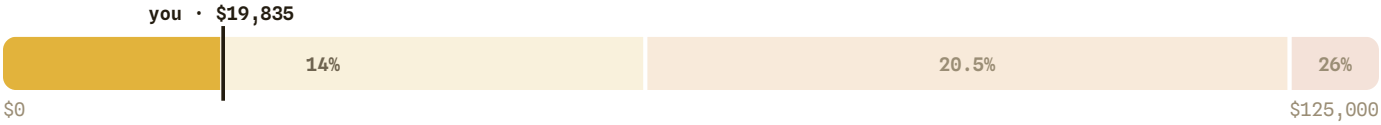
per year · 92.9% of your gross stays with you

KEEPS 93%

FIGURE 1

How your income tax was built

FEDERAL BRACKETS — **$104 federal tax per year**



ALBERTA BRACKETS — **$0 provincial tax per year**



Each band taxes only the income that falls inside it. The marker is where your taxable income reaches — everything to its left was taxed at the lower bands first, which is why your effective rate is well below your top bracket. Bars show tax before credits.

SCHEDULE A

What lands each payday

PAY FREQUENCY	GROSS	DEDUCTIONS	TAKE-HOME
Weekly	$384.62	$27.14	**$357.48**
Bi-weekly	$769.23	$54.28	**$714.95**
Semi-monthly	$833.33	$58.80	**$774.53**
Monthly	$1,666.67	$117.60	**$1,549.06**
Yearly	$20,000.00	$1,411.25	**$18,588.76**

EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

0.5%

The share of your whole income that goes to income tax — your true average.

TRUE MARGINAL RATE

20.5%

What your next $100 loses to tax, CPP and EI. On your next $1,000 raise you'd keep about $795 — a raise never lowers your take-home.

Employment income only, single filer resident in Alberta on Dec 31, 2026. Basic credits only (no RRSP, dependant or tuition). Validated against TaxTips.ca and Wealthsimple, October 2026. An estimate, not tax advice.
Sources: CRA tax rates · CRA payroll deductions tables · Adjust these numbers: salaryandtax.ca/?income=20000&province=ab

Salary *and* Tax

TAKE-HOME PAY STATEMENT

SCENARIO B

Tax year **2026**
Amounts **per year**

Prepared for an employee earning **$20,000** *a year in* **Ontario**.

INCOME

Gross pay — **$20,000**
Your salary before any deductions — $20,000 a year, the number on your offer letter.

PAYROLL PROGRAMS — taken before income tax

CPP — Canada Pension Plan — − $982
5.95% of earnings between $3,500 and $74,600. Its enhanced slice is deductible, which lowers your taxable income below.

EI — Employment Insurance — − $326
1.63% of earnings up to $68,900. Funds job-loss, parental and sickness benefits.

INCOME TAX

Taxable income — $19,835
Gross minus the deductible part of CPP. Income tax is worked out on this, not on your gross.

Federal income tax — − $104
14% on all of your taxable income — it stays in the lowest band — less credits for the basic personal amount, CPP, EI and the Canada employment amount.

Ontario tax after credits — $288
Ontario brackets from 5.05%, less credits for the basic personal amount, CPP and EI.

Ontario tax reduction — − $288
A low-income reduction that shrinks as your Ontario tax grows.

Ontario income tax — **$0**
The provincial total: the lines above, added up.

TOTAL

Total deductions — **− $1,411**
Everything taken off the top: income tax, CPP and EI.

NET TAKE-HOME PAY

$18,589

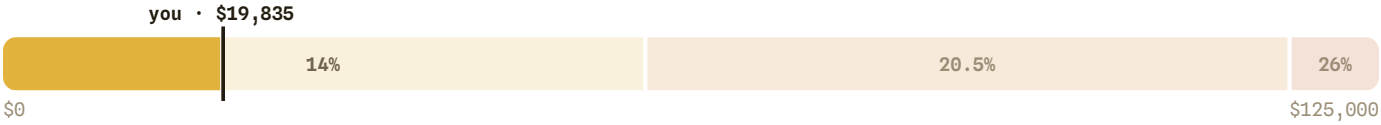
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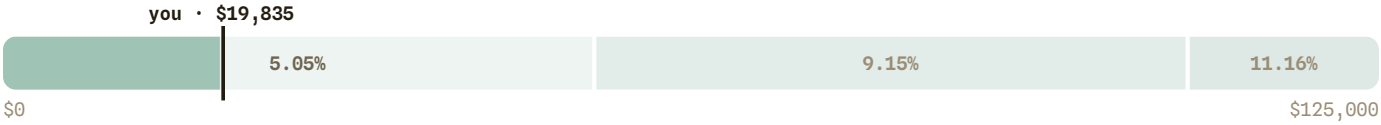
FIGURE 1

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