How Do I Read My Paystub If I Don’t Get a Paper Check?

Video Transcript

Description: This instructional content explains how to understand and read your first paycheck, particularly when using direct deposit.

So I just got my first job and my first paycheck is coming soon.

With direct deposit, I might not even see a paper check. So what should I look for and how do I actually read my pay stub?

Your first paycheck can feel a little confusing, especially when most of it just lands in your bank account through direct deposit. A good first step is to take a quick look at your pay stub. Even with direct deposit, you'll still get a digital version And it's the best place to see exactly what you earned, what was taken out for taxes and benefits, and what actually ends up in your account. You'll see the gross pay at the top, which is your full earnings, along with net pay, which is the amount you were paid after deductions for items like taxes, social security, Medicare, and any benefits are withheld.

With direct deposit, that net pay amount goes straight into your account automatically, which is fast and awards check cashing fees. You don't have to manually deposit anything. You just need to fill out a quick direct deposit form when you start working. Reviewing your pay stub regularly helps you understand where your money's going and catch any mistakes early.

If you ever have any questions or need help figuring out what something means, your employer's payroll team is usually a great resource.