

Exploring Your IRA Options



Explore what each type of IRA has to offer to get the most out of saving for your retirement.

How does a Traditional IRA differ from a Roth IRA?

Which one is right for you? Once you know the answer to the first question, you may be able to answer the second question.

Learn more today.

This side-by-side comparison gives a general overview of the main differences between Traditional and Roth IRAs. Use it to help you decide which IRA is right for you. You also may want to talk with your competent tax advisor.

A Traditional IRA may make sense if you

- are eligible for a Traditional IRA deduction,
- are not eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA,
- anticipate a higher tax rate while saving,
- anticipate a lower tax rate during retirement,
- plan to withdraw at least the required minimum distribution (RMD) amounts during retirement, or
- are not concerned about tax implications to beneficiaries.

A Roth IRA may be more fitting if you

- are not eligible for a Traditional IRA deduction,
- anticipate a lower tax rate while saving,
- anticipate a higher tax rate during retirement,
- want to avoid RMDs,
- are concerned about tax implications to beneficiaries, or
- are not eligible to contribute to a Traditional IRA because of the age limit.

If you are eligible for both, why choose? You can contribute to both a Traditional and Roth IRA as long as your total contributions for the year do not exceed the annual limit.

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Roth IRA

Traditional IRA

Can I contribute?

You are eligible to contribute if you earn compensation (or file a joint tax return with a spouse who earns compensation) and your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is less than or within the defined limits. See the MAGI chart below.

You are eligible to contribute if you are under age 70½ and earn compensation (or file a joint return with a spouse who earns compensation).

Can I take an income tax deduction for my contribution?

No. Roth IRA contributions are not tax-deductible.

Whether your Traditional IRA contribution is deductible on your federal income tax return depends on your marital and tax-filing status, your MAGI, and whether you or your spouse actively participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan. If neither you nor your spouse is an active participant, you are eligible to deduct your full contribution. Otherwise, see the MAGI chart below.

What are the MAGI* limits?

*MAGI is your adjusted gross income before certain deductions or adjustments to income are made. MAGI limits are subject to annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).

Tax-Filing Status		Full Contribution	Partial Contribution	No Contribution Allowed
Single	2014	\$114,000 or less	\$114,000–\$129,000	\$129,000 or more
	2015	\$116,000 or less	\$116,000–\$131,000	\$131,000 or more
Married, Filing Jointly	2014	\$181,000 or less	\$181,000–\$191,000	\$191,000 or more
	2015	\$183,000 or less	\$183,000–\$193,000	\$193,000 or more

Tax-Filing Status	Active Participant		Full Deduction	Partial Deduction	No Deduction Allowed
Single	Yes	2014	\$60,000 or less	\$60,000–\$70,000	\$70,000 or more
		2015	\$61,000 or less	\$61,000–\$71,000	\$71,000 or more
Married, Filing Jointly	Yes	2014	\$96,000 or less	\$96,000–\$116,000	\$116,000 or more
		2015	\$98,000 or less	\$98,000–\$118,000	\$118,000 or more
Married, Filing Jointly	No, but spouse is	2014	\$181,000 or less	\$181,000–\$191,000	\$191,000 or more
		2015	\$183,000 or less	\$183,000–\$193,000	\$193,000 or more

How much can I contribute each year?

*These contribution limits are subject to annual COLAs.

Depending on your MAGI, you may be able to contribute up to \$5,500* for 2014 and for 2015, or if you are age 50 and older, up to \$6,500 for 2014 and for 2015. Regular contributions to both Traditional and Roth IRAs in aggregate cannot exceed these limits.

Contributions cannot exceed your annual compensation.

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Contributions cannot exceed your annual compensation.

*These limits are subject to annual cost-of-living adjustments.

What are the benefits?

*A Roth IRA qualified distribution occurs when money is withdrawn from your Roth IRA after you have owned a Roth IRA for at least five years, and you are age 59½ or older, disabled, a first-time homebuyer, or deceased.

- You may qualify for a saver's tax credit of up to \$1,000 when you make a contribution.
 - Because all Roth IRA contributions must be included in your taxable income, and therefore are not tax-deductible, you can withdraw your contributions at any time, tax and penalty free.
 - Any earnings generated within the IRA are tax-deferred (you do not pay tax on the earnings until you withdraw them).
 - If you satisfy the qualified distribution* requirements, you can withdraw the earnings tax free, which is the ultimate advantage of having a Roth IRA.
 - You are never required to take money out of your Roth IRA, no matter what your age.
- You may qualify for a saver's tax credit of up to \$1,000 when you make a contribution.
 - Any earnings generated within the IRA are tax-deferred (you do not pay tax on the earnings until you withdraw them).
 - If your Traditional IRA contributions are tax-deductible and therefore tax-deferred, you do not pay taxes on them until you withdraw the money.
 - Any after-tax amounts (nondeductible contributions) within your IRA can be withdrawn tax and penalty free.

Will I ever be required to withdraw the money?

No. Roth IRA owners are never required to take distributions. After your death, however, your beneficiaries may be subject to required distributions.

Yes. Traditional IRA owners are required to take annual minimum distributions beginning for the year they turn age 70½. Your beneficiaries also will be subject to required distributions.

NOTE: You may be subject to a 10 percent early distribution penalty tax on any taxable amount taken from either a Traditional or Roth IRA before you reach age 59½, unless you qualify for one of these penalty exceptions: disability, certain health insurance costs, certain medical expenses, higher education expenses, first-time homebuyer expenses, substantially equal periodic payments, IRS tax levy, qualified military reservist distributions, or death (beneficiary distributions).

For More Information

Talk to us—we'll be glad to provide you with more information on Roth and Traditional IRAs.