

IRS Announces New 2026 Qualified Retirement Plan Limits

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PRACTICES Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation

The IRS recently announced the following cost-of-living adjusted limits for qualified retirement plans in 2026:

- Annual compensation limit used in calculating a participant's benefit accruals: increased to \$360,000.
- Elective deferrals to Code Section 401(k) and 403(b) plans: increased to \$24,500.
- Annual additions to a defined contribution plan: increased to \$72,000.
- Catch-up contributions for employees aged 50 and over to Code Section 401(k) and 403(b) plans: increased to \$8,000.
- "Super catch-up" contributions for employees aged 60, 61, 62, and 63 to Code Section 401(k) and 403(b) plans: remains unchanged at \$11,250.
- Annual benefit limit for a defined benefit plan: increased to \$290,000.
- Compensation dollar limit for defining a "key employee" in a top-heavy plan: increased to \$235,000.
- Compensation dollar limit for defining a "highly compensated employee": remains unchanged at \$160,000.

The above and other 2026 qualified retirement plan limits are available [here](#).