

# IRS: 2012 retirement plan limits

To make it possible for voluntary retirement savings to keep up with inflation, the various numerical limits embedded within qualified retirement plans are indexed for inflation. In October, the IRS announced the numbers that will apply in 2012, as shown in the following table:

<b>Item</b>	<b>2012 limit</b>
401(k) and 403(b) employee deferral limit	\$17,000
457 employee deferral limit (most plans)	\$17,000
Catch-up contribution limit	\$5,500
Defined contribution dollar limit	\$50,000
Defined benefit dollar limit	\$200,000
Compensation limit	\$250,000
Highly compensated employee income limit	\$115,000
Key employee in a top heavy plan	\$165,000

Catch-up contributions are permitted by those employees who are 50 or older during the calendar year.

Saving for retirement is probably never harder than during rocky economy times. It is during those times when it is also most important.

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