

Select Portfolio Management, Inc. David M. Jones, MBA Wealth Advisor 120 Vantis, Suite 430 Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 949-975-7900 dave.jones@selectportfolio.com www.selectportfolio.com



Retirement Planning Key Numbers



An increasing number of retirement plan and IRA limits are indexed for inflation each year. For 2008, many of the limits eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) did in fact adjust upward. Some of the key numbers for 2008 are listed below, with the corresponding limit for 2007. (The sources for these 2008 adjustments are Information Releases 2007-171 and 2007-172, and Revenue Procedure 2007-66 from the IRS.)

	2007	2008
Elective deferral limits		
401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, 457(b) plans, and SAR-SEPs ¹ (includes Roth 401(k) and Roth 403(b) contributions)	Lesser of \$15,500 or 100% of participant's compensation	Lesser of \$15,500 or 100% of participant's compensation
SIMPLE 401(k) plans and SIMPLE IRA plans ¹	Lesser of \$10,500 or 100% of participant's compensation	Lesser of \$10,500 or 100% of participant's compensation
IRA contribution limits		
Traditional IRAs	Lesser of \$4,000 or 100% of earned income	Lesser of \$5,000 or 100% of earned income
Roth IRAs	Lesser of \$4,000 or 100% of earned income	Lesser of \$5,000 or 100% of earned income
Additional "catch-up" limits (individuals a	ge 50 or older)	
401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, 457(b) plans, and SAR-SEPs ²	\$5,000	\$5,000
SIMPLE 401(k) plans and SIMPLE IRA plans	\$2,500	\$2,500
IRAs (traditional and Roth)	\$1,000	\$1,000
Defined benefit plan annual benefit limits		
Annual benefit limit per participant	Lesser of \$180,000 or 100% of average compensation for highest three consecutive years	Lesser of \$185,000 or 100% of average compensation for highest three consecutive years
Defined contribution plan limits (qualified	plans, 403(b) plans, and SEP plans)	
Annual addition limit per participant (employer contributions; employee pretax, after-tax, and Roth contributions; and forfeitures)	Lesser of \$45,000 or 100% (25% for SEP) of participant's compensation	Lesser of \$46,000 or 100% (25% for SEP) of participant's compensation

¹Must aggregate employee deferrals to all 401(k), 403(b), SAR-SEP, and SIMPLE plans of all employers; 457(b) contributions are not aggregated.

²Special catch-up limits may also apply to 403(b) and 457(b) plan participants.

	2007	2008
Retirement plan compensation limits		
Maximum compensation per participant that can be used to calculate tax-deductible employer contribution (qualified plans and SEPs)	\$225,000	\$230,000
Compensation threshold used to determine a highly compensated employee	\$100,000 (when 2007 is the look-back year)	\$105,000 (when 2008 is the look-back year)
Compensation threshold used to determine a key employee in a top-heavy plan	\$1 for more-than-5% owners \$145,000 for officers \$150,000 for more-than-1% owners	\$1 for more-than-5% owners \$150,000 for officers \$150,000 for more-than-1% owners
Compensation threshold used to determine a qualifying employee under a SIMPLE plan	\$5,000	\$5,000
Compensation threshold used to determine a qualifying employee under a SEP plan	\$500	\$500
Income phaseout range for determining d	eductibility of traditional IRA contribu	tions for taxpayers:
Covered by an employer-sponsored plan and filing as:		
Single/Head of household	\$52,000 - \$62,000	\$53,000 - \$63,000
Married filing jointly	\$83,000 - \$103,000	\$85,000 - \$105,000
Married filing separately	\$0 - \$10,000	\$0 - \$10,000
2. Not covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan, but filing joint return with a spouse who is covered by a plan	\$156,000 - \$166,000	\$159,000 - \$169,000
Income phaseout range for determining a	bility to fund a Roth IRA for taxpayers	filing as:
Single/Head of household	\$99,000 - \$114,000	\$101,000 - \$116,000
Married filing jointly	\$156,000 - \$166,000	\$159,000 - \$169,000
Married filing separately	\$0 - \$10,000	\$0 - \$10,000
Annual income limit for determining ability to convert traditional IRA to Roth IRA	\$100,000	\$100,000

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State, national and international laws vary, as do individual circumstances; so always consult a qualified investment advisor, attorney, CPA, or insurance agent on all investment, legal, tax, or insurance matters.

The effectiveness of any of the strategies described will depend on your individual situation and on a number of other factors. After reviewing your personal situation, we may recommend that you not use any strategy in this document but instead consider various other strategies available through our practice.

Please fell free to contact me to discuss your particular situation.

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