

Pretax or Roth

Which retirement plan
contribution may be
right for you?

RETIREMENT PLAN
SERVICES

Overview

Should you pay taxes now or later?

If your retirement plan offers both pretax and Roth contributions, you have two ways to save for retirement. Pretax contributions give you a tax break right away, while Roth contributions provide tax advantages later. Understanding the difference can help you make confident, informed decisions for your future.

Pretax: Pay taxes later	Roth: Pay taxes now
Take home more pay today in exchange for paying taxes on your account when you retire.	Take home less pay today in exchange for not having to pay taxes on your account when you retire.
Pretax: Pay no taxes now on the money you invest, which lowers your taxable income right away.	After-tax: Pay taxes now on the money you invest so you can enjoy a tax break later.
You may pay a penalty if you begin withdrawing money before age 59½.	You may pay a penalty if you begin withdrawing money before age 59½. You can't withdraw funds until they've been in your account for five years.
In retirement, you'll pay taxes on the money you invested — and on the earnings.	In retirement, you won't pay taxes on the money you invested — or on the earnings.

If your employer matches your Roth contributions, the employer match is considered a pretax contribution. You'll have to pay taxes on that portion when it's withdrawn during retirement.

Take a look at two types of savers:



Pretax contributions are typically better if you expect your average tax rate to decrease in retirement.

Alex expects his taxes to be lower in retirement than they are now. The expected lower tax rate may make a pretax contribution more attractive for him — now and in the future.

The pretax option may be right for you if...

- You expect your taxes to be lower in retirement than they are today. You may save by lowering your taxable income now and paying taxes on your savings after you retire.
- You'd rather increase your take-home pay. Making contributions to a pretax plan reduces your current taxable income, and you pay taxes later on both your contributions and your earnings.



Roth contributions are typically better if you expect your average tax rate to increase in retirement.

Margo expects her taxes to be higher in retirement than they are now. If she can afford to pay the taxes today, she may be able to build an after-tax nest egg by choosing the Roth option.

The Roth option may be right for you if...

- You expect your taxes to be higher in retirement than they are today. You may save by paying a lower tax rate on your savings now.
- You have many years to accumulate savings before retirement. You'll pay taxes on what you put in today, but you won't pay taxes on the earnings, which have the opportunity to add up over your working years.
- You'd rather pay taxes now than later. If you're in your peak earning years, you may be able to afford to pay more taxes now.

Still undecided?

Everyone's situation is different, and many factors can affect whether pretax or Roth contributions are right for you. To learn more, talk with your retirement plan representative.

Other considerations

Can I contribute to both?

Not sure which type of contribution is right for you? Your plan may allow you to make both pretax and Roth contributions. Diversifying the timing of your tax payments between now and the future may help you balance the effects, no matter what happens later.

What if I leave my job?

If you leave your employer, you can roll your pretax retirement plan account into an IRA and your Roth account into a Roth IRA. You also may have the option of rolling your account into your next employer's retirement plan. Consider the pros and cons of each before deciding what's right for you.

Helping you reach a brighter future

We've helped approximately 1.5 million people save, plan, and retire. We're here to support you every step of the way—from enrollment up to and through retirement. We're optimistic about your future, and we think you should be, too.



For more information, contact your retirement plan representative or visit LincolnFinancial.com/Retirement.

Not a deposit
Not FDIC-insured
Not insured by any federal government agency
Not guaranteed by any bank or savings association
May go down in value

©2020 Lincoln National Corporation

LincolnFinancial.com/Retirement

Lincoln Financial Group is the marketing name for Lincoln National Corporation and its affiliates.

Affiliates are separately responsible for their own financial and contractual obligations.

LCN-3123213-061120

POD 07/20 **Z02**

Order code: **DC-ROTH-BRC002**



Lincoln Financial Group® affiliates, their distributors, and their respective employees, representatives and/or insurance agents do not provide tax, accounting or legal advice. Please consult an independent advisor as to any tax, accounting or legal statements made herein.

Lincoln Financial Distributors, Inc., a broker-dealer, is the wholesale distribution organization of Lincoln Financial Group and may act in a wholesale capacity for this product.

This material is provided by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, IN, and, in New York, Lincoln Life & Annuity Company of New York, Syracuse, NY, and their applicable affiliates (collectively referred to as "Lincoln"). This material is intended for general use with the public. Lincoln does not provide investment advice, and this material is not intended to provide investment advice. Lincoln has financial interests that are served by the sale of Lincoln programs, products and services.