

Retirement Plan Comparison Chart



Feature	401(k)	Solo 401(k)	Safe Harbor 401(k)	SIMPLE 401(k)	Profit Sharing	SEP IRA	SIMPLE IRA
Basic Plan Type	Defined Contribution	Defined Contribution	Defined Contribution	Defined Contribution	Defined Contribution	IRA based	IRA based
Who Generally Adopts?	Corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies	Sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies and corporations with no common law employees	Sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies and corporations	Sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies and corporations with 100 or fewer eligible employees	Sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies and corporations	Sole proprietorships, partnerships, and small businesses	Sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies and corporations with 100 or fewer people
Can Employer sponsor other qualified retirement plans?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Who can contribute?	Employee; employer contributions are optional	Employee; employer contributions are optional	Employee and employer	Employee and employer	Employer	Employer	Employee and employer
Maximum Employee deferral contribution	The lesser of \$12,500 for 2011 (indexed for inflation each year) or %100 of compensation	The lesser of \$16,500 for 2011 (indexed for inflation each year) or 100% of compensation	The lesser of \$16,500 for 2011 indexed for inflation each year) or 100% of compensation	The lesser of \$11,500 for 2011 (indexed for inflation each year) or 100% of compensation	None	None contributions are generally by Employer only	The lesser of \$11,500 for 2011 (indexed for inflation each year) on 100% of compensation



Feature	401(k)	Solo 401(k)	Safe Harbor 401(k)	SIMPLE 401(k)	Profit Sharing	SEP IRA	SIMPLE IRA
Employer contributions	Discretionary; maximum tax-deductible employer contribution is 25% of eligible payroll, overall maximum contribution per eligible employee is 100% of compensation not to exceed \$49,000	Discretionary; maximum tax-deductible employer contribution is 25% of eligible payroll, overall maximum contribution per eligible employee is 100% of compensation not to exceed \$49,000	Required match of 100% on the first 3% of employee deferral plus 50% on the next 2% of employee deferral OR 3% of compensation to all eligible employees	Required match of 100% up to 3% of employee's compensation OR 2% of compensation to all eligible employees	Discretionary; maximum tax-deductible employer contribution is 25% of eligible payroll, overall maximum contribution per eligible employee is 100% of compensation not to exceed \$49,000	Discretionary; cannot exceed the lesser of 25% of the employee's compensation or \$49,000	Required match of 100% up to 3% of employee's compensation (may not be reduced to 1% in 2 of any 5 years) OR 2% of compensation to all eligible employees
Catch-up contributions for those over 50 and older	\$5,500 for 2011 (indexed for inflation each year)	\$5,500 for 2011 (indexed for inflation each year)	\$5,500 for 2011 (indexed for inflation each year)	\$2,500 for 2011 (indexed for inflation each year)	N/A	N/A	\$2,500 for 2011 (indexed for inflation each year)
Employee eligibility	Age requirement cannot exceed 21; service requirement can't exceed one year; may exclude union employees	Age requirement cannot exceed 21; service requirement can't exceed one year	Age requirement cannot exceed 21; service requirement can't exceed one year; may exclude union employees	Age requirement cannot exceed 21; service requirement can't exceed one year; may exclude union employees	Age requirement cannot exceed 21; service requirement can't exceed one year; two years if 100% vested; may exclude union employees	Age requirement cannot exceed 21; have earned compensation in three of the past five years; received compensation of at least \$500; may exclude union employees	All employees earning \$5,000 for any past two years and is expected to do so in current year; no age limit permitted; may exclude union employees
Who directs investments?	Employer/Trustee or plan may allow individual direction	Individual	Employer/Trustee or plan may allow individual direction	Individual	Employer/Trustee or plan may allow individual direction	Individual	Individual
IRS reporting by employer	Form 5500	Form 5500-EZ when plan assets reach \$100,000	Form 5500	Form 5500	Form 5500	None	None
Establishment deadline	By the last day of the plan year for which the plan is effective	By the last day of the plan year for which the plan is effective	Any date between January 1 and October 1 may not have an effective date that is before the date plan actually adopted	Any date between January 1 and October 1 as soon as administratively feasible for businesses established after October 1st	By the last day of the plan year for which the plan is effective	Established by the time the corporate tax return (with extensions) is filed for the tax year in which the deduction is being taken	Any date between January 1 and October 1; as soon as administratively feasible for businesses established after October 1st