

Retirement Contribution Planner

Step 1: Know Your Retirement Accounts

- 401(k) (Traditional, Roth, After-Tax)
- IRA (Traditional or Roth – tax advantages vary)
- SEP/SIMPLE IRA (For business owners or small firms)
- Brokerage Accounts (For additional investing beyond retirement limits)

Step 2: Track Your Contributions

➤ Year	401(k)	Employer Match	IRA	Brokerage
➤ 2025	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____
➤ 2026	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____
➤ 2027	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____

- Tip: If you're 50+, take advantage of catch-up contributions to boost savings.

Step 3: Employer Match – Don't Leave Money on the Table!

- Check if your firm offers a match (e.g., 100% up to 5% of salary)
- Consider contributing at least enough to get the full match (free money!)
- Consider maximizing contributions to reduce taxable income
- Example: If your salary is \$200,000 and your firm matches 5%, that's an extra \$10,000 per year added to your retirement—just by contributing!

Step 4: Investment Strategy Tips – Where Should You Invest?

- Aggressive (Stocks & ETFs, Growth Funds) → Early Career
- Balanced (Stocks, Bonds, Real Estate) → Mid-Career
- Conservative (Bonds, Fixed Income) → Pre-Retirement
- Consider diversify your portfolio to manage risk while aiming to maximize returns.

Step 5: Set Your Retirement Goal

- Target Retirement Age: _____ years old
- Savings Goal: \$_____
- Current Progress: \$_____
- Use a retirement calculator to project your savings growth over time.

Pro Tip: Automate & Reassess Annually

- Set up automatic contributions to your retirement accounts
- Re-evaluate your investment strategy based on market trends
- Adjust contributions as your income grows