

# TSP vs IRA

## 1. Your TSP and your IRA are **completely separate accounts**.

	TSP	IRA
Contribution Limit	\$18,500	\$5,500
Catch-up Limit*	\$6,000	\$1,000
Account Type	Employer-sponsored. Same laws as a 401(k) plan.	Individual Retirement Account. Anyone can have one.
Notes	Employer contributions (government match) do NOT count toward these limits.  \$18,500 / 26 pay periods = \$712 / pay period	

\*"Catch-up" contributions are for age 50+, and extend the limits above the regular contribution limit  
Yes, you may contribute both \$18,500 to your TSP and \$5,500 to your IRA.

## 2. "Roth" and "Traditional" are tax treatments. **NOT accounts**.

	Contributions "now"	Withdrawals "later"
Traditional	Tax-exempt	Taxed
Roth	Taxed	Tax-exempt

## 3. You may mix Roth & Traditional within each account.

TSP	Traditional TSP	Roth TSP	Maximum Sum
	\$18,500	0	\$18,500
	0	\$18,500	\$18,500
	\$10,000	\$8,500	\$18,500

IRA	Traditional IRA	Roth IRA	Maximum Sum
	\$5,500	0	\$5,500
	0	\$5,500	\$5,500
	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$5,500

Roth IRA has income limits: (You can still do traditional IRA)

Single: \$120,000 - \$135,000

Married filing jointly: \$189,000 - \$199,000