

IRS releases 2022 limits for deferred compensation arrangements and certain welfare plans.

	<u>Applicable period</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Individual deferral limit 401(k), 403(b), and 457(b)	Calendar year, regardless of plan year	\$20,500	\$19,500	\$19,500
Age 50 Catch-up deferral limit 401(k) and 403(b)	Calendar year, regardless of plan year	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500
Maximum compensation	Generally, limit as of 1 st day of plan year. See note below.	\$305,000	\$290,000	\$285,000
Highly compensated employee	Plan year based on “lookback” year. See note below.	\$135,000	\$130,000	\$130,000
Key employee (officer)	Plan year. See note below	\$200,000	\$185,000	\$185,000
Defined contribution 415 limit	Use limit as of last day of plan year	\$61,000	\$58,000	\$57,000
Defined benefit 415 limit	Use limit as of last day of plan year	\$245,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
Healthcare flexible spending	Use limit as of 1st day of plan year	<i>Not yet published</i>	\$2,750	\$2,750
HSA contribution limits: Self-only Family	Calendar year	\$3,650 \$7,300	\$3,600 \$7,200	\$3,550 \$7,100
High Deductible Health Plan minimums/out of pocket maximums: Self-only Family	Calendar year, regardless of plan year	\$1,400/\$7,050 \$2,800/\$14,100	\$1,400/\$7,000 \$2,800/\$14,000	\$1,400/\$6,900 \$2,800/\$13,800
Transportation fringe benefit limit	Calendar year, regardless of plan year.	<i>Not yet published</i>	\$270 per month	\$270 per month
Social Security (OASDI) taxable wage base	Calendar year	\$147,000	\$142,800	\$137,700

Notes:

Maximum compensation: *Many plans determine compensation for benefit accruals and allocations based on the plan year. These plans must use the annual compensation limit in effect for the calendar year in which the plan year begins. Some plans use a separate 12-consecutive-month period (or sometimes multiple 12-month periods), instead of the plan year. In that case, for each 12-month period used, the plan would apply the limit in effect for each calendar in year in which each 12-month period begins.*

Lookback year: *Highly compensated employees (“HCEs”) are determined based on their compensation in a “lookback year.” For a 2022 calendar year plan, HCE status will be based on whether the employee’s 2021 compensation exceeded the 2021 amount of \$130,000. For fiscal year plans, the “lookback year” will either be the previous plan year or, if elected on a consistent basis for all of an employer’s plans, the calendar year ending in the current plan year.*

Key employees. *In addition to 5% owners, and 1% owners earning \$150,000 or more, officers earning more than an indexed amount are key employees. **Key employee balances as of the last day of a previous plan year are considered**, with certain distributions, in determining a plan’s top heavy status for a current year.*

You can find these and other recently announced 2022 limits in [IRS Notice 2021-61](#) and [Rev. Proc. 2021-25](#).