

4 Ways to Pump Up Your TSP Savings



Making consistent contributions to your TSP account is a smart way to steadily increase your savings. But there are other ways to boost your TSP savings too.

1. Combine and Save. Whether you're currently a civilian employee, a member of the uniformed services, or a separated participant, you can transfer or roll over other eligible retirement plans¹ into your TSP account. There are no limits on how much you can transfer or roll over into your account. This is something to consider since our low fees let you keep more of what you save, and our investment options are comprehensive and simple. Also, combining your retirement savings into one account is a convenient way to save for the future by making it easier to see if you're on track to meet your savings goals.

Here's How: Visit the Forms & Publications section of tsp.gov, print and fill out Form TSP-60, *Request for Transfer Into the TSP*, and send it to us. To transfer Roth money, fill out Form TSP-60-R, *Request for a Roth Transfer Into the TSP*. (Please note that you cannot transfer or roll over Roth IRAs into your TSP account.) You can also call the ThriftLine at 1-877-968-3778 and press option 3 to request these forms from a Participant Service Representative.

To learn more about moving money into your TSP account, watch our video, "Combine and Save: Transfer Into the TSP," at youtube.com/tsp4gov.

2. Meet Your Match. If you're a FERS employee, one of the great benefits of

saving with the TSP is that you receive free money in your TSP account if you contribute a certain amount. On top of your salary, your agency will also contribute up to 5% of your pay with each paycheck. But you only get the full amount if you contribute at least 5% every pay period as well. If you haven't checked your contribution amount lately, make sure you're contributing enough to get the full match.

Here's How: To see how much you're contributing, or to increase your contributions, log in to your electronic payroll system (Employee Express, myPay, LiteBlue, EBIS, NFC EPP) at any time.

3. Make Incremental Increases. Each time you get a raise or cost of living increase, consider increasing your TSP contributions. Small, steady increases over time are a painless yet effective way to add money to your TSP account. Depending on your investment earnings, raising your savings rate by as little as 1% of your pay could mean tens of thousands of dollars over time in your TSP account.

Here's How: Log into your electronic payroll system (Employee Express, myPay, LiteBlue, EBIS, NFC EPP) to increase your contributions.

Visit the Planning & Tools section of tsp.gov for more examples of how small contributions can add up to big savings over time. And if you're a member of the uniformed services, check our video, "Three Ways to Add \$100,000 to Your TSP Account," at youtube.com/tsp4gov.

4. Consider Catch-Up Contributions.

Starting in the year you turn 50, you may be eligible to make payroll deductions *in addition* to regular employee contributions by making catch-up contributions. Catch-up contributions can be either traditional (pre-tax) or Roth (after-tax). To be eligible to make catch-up contributions, you must already be contributing an amount that will reach the IRC elective deferral limit by the end of the year. In 2017, the limit is \$18,000. If you're contributing at a rate that will meet that limit, you can contribute an additional \$6,000 in catch-up contributions.

Here's How: Visit the Forms & Publications section of tsp.gov, print and fill out Form TSP-1-C, *Catch-Up Contribution Election*, and send it to your agency. If you're a member of the uniformed services,² fill out Form TSP-U-1-C and send it to your service. You can also call the ThriftLine at 1-877-968-3778 and press option 3 to request these forms from a Participant Service Representative.

To learn more about catch-up contributions, read our fact sheet *Catch-Up Contributions* on the Forms & Publications section of tsp.gov.

It all adds up! Taking one or more of these actions could boost your TSP savings, resulting in a more comfortable retirement for you.

¹ These are plans qualified under IRC § 401(a) (including a § 401(k) plan, profit-sharing plan, defined benefit plan, stock bonus plan, and money purchase plan); an IRC § 403(a) annuity plan; an IRC § 403(b) tax-sheltered annuity; or an IRC § 457(b) plan maintained by a governmental employer.

² You can't make catch-up contributions from incentive pay, special pay, or bonus pay. Your traditional catch-up contributions will stop if you are receiving tax-exempt pay in a combat zone. Only Roth catch-up contributions are allowed from tax-exempt pay.