

Traditional IRA Deduction Checklist

Can you deduct your contribution for 2026? Tax year 2026 | Reviewed October 2026

Anyone with earned income can put money into a Traditional IRA. Whether you can **deduct** it on your tax return is a separate question. These steps help you find out.

Step 1: Your 2026 limit

- ☐ I will be under age 50 on December 31, 2026. My limit is **\$7,500**.
- ☐ I will be age 50 or older on December 31, 2026. My limit is **\$8,600**.

You also need earned income at least this large. My 2026 earned income: \$ _____

Step 2: Are you covered by a plan at work?

Look at box 13 on your W-2 (the "Retirement plan" box), or ask your employer. Count your spouse too.

- ☐ **Neither** my spouse nor I are covered by a retirement plan at work. **My contribution is fully deductible.** Skip to Step 4.
- ☐ I **am covered** by a plan at work (401(k), 403(b), pension, etc.). Go to Step 3.
- ☐ I **am not covered, but my spouse is.** Go to Step 3.

Step 3: Check your income range

Your **modified adjusted gross income (MAGI)** is compared with these 2026 ranges. Below the range you can deduct the full amount. Inside it, the deduction shrinks. At the top, there is no deduction. For other situations, ask your tax preparer.

My situation	Full deduction if MAGI is under	Reduced deduction between	No deduction at
Single, covered by a plan at work	\$81,000	\$81,000 to \$91,000	\$91,000 or more
Married filing jointly, I am covered at work	\$129,000	\$129,000 to \$149,000	\$149,000 or more
Married filing jointly, I am not covered but my spouse is	\$242,000	\$242,000 to \$252,000	\$252,000 or more
Married filing separately, covered at work	\$0	\$0 to \$10,000	\$10,000 or more

My MAGI (estimate): \$ _____

- ☐ **Under** the range: I can deduct the full amount.
- ☐ **Inside** the range: I will ask my tax preparer for my reduced deduction.
- ☐ **At or above** the range: I can still contribute, but may not be able to deduct it.

Step 4: Before you put money in

- ☐ The deadline for 2026 contributions is **April 15, 2027** (not counting extensions).
- ☐ I will tell my account company **which tax year** the contribution is for.
- ☐ If it is not deductible, I will ask whether I need to **report it on my return**.

Questions to ask my tax professional

Sources: IRS news release IR-2025-111 (Nov. 13, 2025), IRS Notice 2025-67, and IRS Publication 590-A.