

Pick Your Path: Pre-Tax or Roth After-Tax



Pre-tax or Roth after-tax — which contributions are right for you? The Supplemental Retirement Plan lets you save both ways. Read on to learn more. Then, consult your tax adviser and check out the tools on **MillimanBenefits.com**.

What Are the Different Tax Advantages?

Pre-tax and Roth after-tax accounts offer different tax advantages.

- Pre-tax contributions are deducted from your paycheck before income taxes are withheld, so you lower your taxes every pay period. You pay taxes on these contributions and earnings later when you withdraw them from the Supplemental Retirement Plan.
- **Roth after-tax contributions** are deducted from your paycheck **after** income taxes are withheld. So you're paying your taxes up front. At retirement, qualified distributions come out tax free.

What's a Qualified Distribution?

With a qualified distribution, you never pay taxes on the earnings. A qualified distribution means:

- You have your Roth after-tax account open for at least 5 years, and
- You take your distribution after age 59½ or due to death or disability.

How Much Can You Save?

If you're under age 50, you can save up to the 2019 IRS limit of \$38,000 - a combined limit for pre-tax and Roth after-tax contributions. If you'll be age 50 or older in 2019, you can make additional catch-up contributions of up to \$12,000. These IRS limits are double the limits of traditional 401(k) or 403(b) plans because you can also make 457(b) contributions to the Supplemental Retirement Plan.

Milliman Has an App for That



How Do You Decide?

It's up to you to decide which kind of contributions will work best for you. Here are a few things to consider.

Pre-tax contributions may make sense if you:

- Are parents and homeowners in the 10% tax bracket
- Expect to be in a lower tax bracket during retirement
- Would reduce your contributions if you didn't get the tax savings on pre-tax contributions

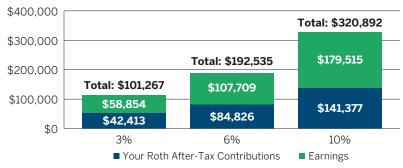
Roth after-tax contributions may make sense if you:

- Expect to be in a higher tax bracket during retirement
- Hope to avoid taxes on Social Security if applicable (unlike pre-tax contributions, distribution income for Roth after-tax contributions is not included in the Social Security taxation calculation)
- Are a high earner and not eligible to make Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) contributions
- Want to pass on some of your account to your heirs (qualified distributions from an inherited Roth after-tax account won't be subject to income tax)

Remember, you can choose to split your contributions between both pre-tax and Roth after-tax contributions, and you can change your future contributions from year to year.

Roth After-Tax Contributions in Action: An Example*

This example shows how Roth after-tax contributions can grow over time. With a qualified distribution, the entire amount makes it to your pocket; you pay no taxes on the earnings. That's the beauty of Roth after-tax contributions. The green portion of the bar represents the earnings on your Roth after-tax account. As you can see, over time those earnings can really add up — which means a lot of money that will never be taxed if withdrawn as part of a qualified distribution.



^{*} Assumptions: \$40,000 salary, 27 years until retirement, 2% annual raise and a 6% rate of return compounded annually.

Online Roth Calculator Tools Help You Decide

The calculators on **MillimanBenefits.com** can help you analyze your savings approach. To access these planning tools, click on "Financial Wellness" located at the top of each page. Then, click on "Calculators" under Resources along the left side of the page.

Access Your Account

- Website: Visit MillimanBenefits.com (choose English or Spanish).
- Milliman Mobile Benefits App: Download from the App Store or Google Play. You can even enroll from the app.
- Benefits Service Center: Use Web Chat on MillimanBenefits.com. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central time.