Super contribution limits

The government limits the amount you can contribute to super, as well as the tax benefits available.

What types of contributions can you make?
A contribution is a sum of money that you add to your super. You can add to super in two ways:

**Before-tax:** includes Superannuation Guarantee (SG), before-tax employee (salary sacrifice), extra employer and tax-deductible personal contributions. These are also called 'concessional' contributions.

Anyone under 67 (and individuals aged 67–74 who meet the work test or work test exemption) can claim a tax deduction for personal contributions made into super, not just the self-employed.

**After-tax:** includes spouse contributions, after-tax employee and non-deductible personal contributions. These are also called 'non-concessional' contributions and are made from your after-tax, take-home pay.

Catch up on concessional contributions
From 1 July 2019 you can carry forward any unused portion of the concessional contributions cap for up to five previous financial years, if your total superannuation balance is less than $500,000 on 30 June of the previous financial year (this includes your AustralianSuper account and other super accounts held in your name). Unused concessional contribution cap amounts starting from the 2018/19 financial year may be carried forward in this manner. For example, if your concessional contributions in the 2019/20 financial year totalled $15,000, you could carry the additional $10,000 over to the 2020/21 financial year which means you can contribute up to $35,000 under the concessional cap.

Low income super tax offset
If you’re eligible and earn $37,000 or less, the government will refund 15% of your total before-tax contributions made by you or your employer, up to a maximum of $500 pa.
If you’re eligible, the amount will automatically be calculated by the ATO and deposited into your super account each year.

Remember to tell us your TFN
If you don’t tell us your Tax File Number, you’ll pay 47% tax on your before-tax contributions (this includes the Medicare Levy) and we can’t accept after-tax contributions from you.
Log into your account at [australiansuper.com/login](http://australiansuper.com/login)
What are the contribution limits and what tax do you pay?

The government limits the amounts you can contribute to super. If you go over the limits, you may pay extra tax.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of contribution</th>
<th>Tax rate</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Before-tax (concessional), earning less than $250,000 a year | 15% | A $25,000 limit applies to contributions made from your before tax income.
Your before-tax contributions are taxed at 15% if you earn less than $250,000 a year.
Any amounts over the $25,000 limit will be taxed at your marginal tax rate\(^*\), less a non-refundable tax offset of 15% (because you have already paid tax on this money), plus an interest charge. You can choose to withdraw up to 85% of excess contributions, which won’t count towards your after-tax limit.
Any excess before-tax contributions not released count towards your after-tax contributions cap. |
| Before-tax (concessional), earning more than $250,000 a year | 30% | A $250,000 limit applies to contributions made from your before tax income.
If your adjusted taxable income (including your before-tax contributions) is more than $250,000 pa, your before-tax contributions will be taxed at 30%, to that extent.
Any amounts over the $250,000 limit will be taxed at your marginal tax rate\(^*\), less a non-refundable tax offset of 15% (because you have already paid tax on this money), plus an interest charge. You can choose to withdraw up to 85% of excess contributions, which won’t count towards your after-tax limit.
Any excess before-tax contributions not released count towards your after-tax contributions cap. |
| After-tax (non-concessional) | No tax payable | If your total super balance is less than $1.6m, you can generally make after-tax contributions.
A $100,000 limit applies to contributions made from after tax sources (or, if you are aged under 65 at any time during the financial year and trigger the bring forward provisions, you can contribute up to $300,000 over up to 3 years – see table below). The period is automatically triggered in the first year that you add more than $100,000 after-tax to your super\(^*\). No tax is payable on amounts up to this limit. Any amounts over this limit will be taxed at 47%\(^*\), unless you ask your fund to release the amounts over the limit. The associated earnings withdrawn are taxed at your marginal tax rate\(^*\).
You will also be entitled to a 15% non-refundable tax offset of the associated earnings included in your assessable income. If you choose not to withdraw your excess after-tax contributions, they will remain in your super account and the excess will be taxed at 47%\(^*\). |

| Government co-contribution | No tax payable | To be eligible for a government co-contribution, you need to add to your super after tax and earn less than $54,837. The co-contribution itself is not taxable either when it goes into your super, or when you withdraw your super. Further eligibility criteria apply. For more information see the Add to your super with government co-contributions fact sheet at australiansuper.com/FactSheets |

\(^*\) Plus Medicare levy.
\(^*\) Includes Medicare levy.
\(†\) You should consider your debt levels before adding to your super.

Once you reach age 67, to add to your super yourself you will need to meet the work test – i.e. have worked at least 40 hours in 30 consecutive days in the financial year you wish to contribute. However, if your total super balance is under $300,000 you can contribute for an additional 12-month period from the end of the financial year you last met the work test. Once you reach age 75, you can’t add to your super yourself, although you may still receive employer contributions and Award payments if you’re eligible.

Non-concessional contributions bring-forward period\(^§\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total superannuation balance on 30 June 2020</th>
<th>Non-concessional contributions cap for the first year</th>
<th>Bring-forward period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $1.4 million</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1.4 million to less than $1.5 million</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1.5 million to less than $1.6 million</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>No bring forward period, general non-concessional contributions cap applies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1.6 million or more</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^§\) You must be under age 65 during the financial year you first contribute more than $100,000. The Federal Government has proposed increasing the age limit for contributions made under non-concessional bring-forward rules to age 67. These changes have not been legislated at the time of publication (1 July 2020). We recommend you check ato.gov.au/Super for the latest updates on non-concessional bring-forward rules. Source: ato.gov.au

Contact us

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