

Simplified Employee Pension Plan

A **Simplified Employee Pension Individual Retirement Account (SEP-IRA)** is a powerful retirement savings option for:

- Self-employed individuals
- Small business owners Freelancers and independent contractors

You can grow retirement savings fast—often up to 10x more than a traditional or Roth IRA.

Who Can Open One?

Anyone with earned self-employment income and no employees can open a SEP-IRA.

Contribution Limits

For 2024:

- Up to 25% of compensation, or \$69,000 max (whichever is less)
- If self-employed, you're generally capped at 20% of net income
- **Comp limit**: \$345,000 (2024), \$350,000 (2025)
- **2025 max**: \$70,000

SEP-IRA vs. Traditional & Roth IRAs

Feature	SEP-IRA	Traditional IRA	Roth IRA
Max Contribution (2025)	\$70,000	\$7,000 / \$8,000 (50+)	\$7,000 / \$8,000 (50+)
Income Limit	None (unless Roth SEP option)	Deductibility may phase out	Contribution phases out
Tax-Free Growth	V	√ (tax-deferred)	√ (tax-free)
Tax-Free Withdrawals	×	×	✓ (after 59½ and 5 yrs)
Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)	✓ (starting at age 73)	✓	×

SEP-IRA is like a retirement **booster shot** for the self-employed.



Roth SEP Option?

The **SECURE 2.0 Act** allows Roth contributions for SEP-IRAs, but **Vanguard doesn't currently offer Roth SEP features.** For tax-free retirement growth, consider:

- Supplementing with a Roth IRA
- Or using a **DF4L wealth-building account** with tax-free compounding

Individual Limitations

SEP-IRAs do not allow salary deferrals.

But you can make traditional IRA contributions to a SEP-IRA:

- \$7,000 (under 50)
- **\$8,000 (50+)** for 2025 Still counts toward your total IRA limit

