

## Information for Employees



### What information do I need to open an account?

In order to complete our easy, online application, you will need the following items on hand:

- Your social security number (taxpayer identification number),
- Your driver's license number or state ID and expiration date,
- Your bank or credit union routing number and account number of the checking or savings account you'd like to use,
- A valid e-mail address, and
- A browser that supports our technical requirements. If you would like to download the latest browser versions available visit <http://www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/help/128bit.htm>. Once you have all this information, you are ready to open your TreasuryDirect account.

### How does Treasury Direct work with payroll savings?

You establish your own TreasuryDirect account and, with payroll direct deposit that is just like any other direct deposit, purchase a Certificate of Indebtedness (C of I). The C of I is a Treasury security that does not earn any interest and is used as a source of funds to purchase electronic Series EE and/or Series I savings bonds and/or Treasury bills, notes, bonds, and Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS). You redeem the C of I to purchase the electronic securities. You can schedule automatic recurring purchases for convenience.

# Electronic Payroll Savings with TreasuryDirect®

## What is TreasuryDirect?

TreasuryDirect is a Web-based system that allows investors to establish accounts to buy, hold, and manage Treasury securities online. You can purchase electronic Series EE and I savings bonds, Treasury bills, notes, bonds, and Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) through TreasuryDirect. Paper savings bonds are not sold through TreasuryDirect.

## What are the advantages of TreasuryDirect?

TreasuryDirect is an easy way for you to save on a regular basis by purchasing electronic Treasury securities. With TreasuryDirect:

- You can buy, manage, and redeem Treasury securities online 24/7, all from the convenience of home or work, wherever you have secure Internet access.
- You can diversify your holdings since TreasuryDirect also offers Treasury bills, notes, bonds, and TIPS.
- You can establish multiple registrations in one account.
- You can schedule recurring purchases for savings bonds for up to five years in advance. Marketable securities purchases can also be scheduled in advance. If you're interested in this option, you'll find more information on our web site, [www.treasurydirect.gov](http://www.treasurydirect.gov) and in your TreasuryDirect account.
- Savings bonds purchased through TreasuryDirect are generally added to the account in just one business day.

- When the funds are needed, after the minimum term of ownership has been reached, you can redeem part or all of your savings bond(s). The payment will be deposited to the checking or savings account you choose. Redemption funds should reach your bank or credit union in just one business day.
- TreasuryDirect tracks details such as issue date and current value for you.
- Since the securities are electronic, there is no paper to lose, nor do you need to go to your local bank to redeem them.
- You can even set up accounts for minor children, as well as custom accounts for specific purposes such as a vacation, within your TreasuryDirect account.
- TreasuryDirect provides a summary of account activity, including recent purchases, payments, and account balance.

## Can I participate in TreasuryDirect without using payroll direct deposit?

Absolutely! You can open a TreasuryDirect account and make purchases by having TreasuryDirect debit your savings or checking account.

## What is the minimum term of ownership?

Savings bonds must be held for a minimum of 12 months before they can be redeemed. Also, if you cash a savings bond within the first five years after it is issued, you give up the last three months' worth of interest.

Treasury bills have maturities of 4 weeks, 13 weeks, 26 weeks, and 52 weeks. Treasury notes have maturities of greater than 1 year but no more than 10 years. Treasury bonds have a maturity of greater than 10 years. TIPS are issued with maturities of 5, 10, and 30 years.

## How do I get started with TreasuryDirect?

Open your TreasuryDirect account at [www.treasurydirect.gov](http://www.treasurydirect.gov). Instructions for setting up payroll direct deposit can be found in "View my Funding Options" under the ManageDirect® tab within the application. It's that simple.

## To use TreasuryDirect, do I need to have Internet access and an e-mail account?

Yes, to use TreasuryDirect, you must have Internet access to log in to your TreasuryDirect account and an e-mail address to receive important messages from TreasuryDirect, including a message providing your account number.

## How do I establish payroll savings with TreasuryDirect?

### It's simple ...

1. You open a TreasuryDirect account at [www.treasurydirect.gov](http://www.treasurydirect.gov).
2. You submit a request to your employer for a payroll direct deposit (an instruction sheet is available once you have opened an account in TreasuryDirect).
3. Your employer establishes a direct deposit from your pay in the amount you request.
4. You can buy a savings bond after accumulating a minimum of \$25 in your account. The bond is then posted to your TreasuryDirect account. Treasury bills, notes, bonds, and TIPS are purchased in increments of \$100.

[www.treasurydirect.gov](http://www.treasurydirect.gov)



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Department of the Treasury  
Bureau of the Public Debt  
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## Why would my employer want to offer payroll savings through TreasuryDirect?

With TreasuryDirect your employer can provide you with a convenient method of automatic savings. Your employer sends the direct deposit to TreasuryDirect each payday.

- Your employer doesn't need to accumulate funds toward the purchase price of a savings bond.
- You, not your employer, request the issuance of savings bonds.

## Why must I enter a bank or credit union account number when I open my TreasuryDirect account?

Your bank or credit union account information is part of how TreasuryDirect confirms your identity when you open your account. Also, if you redeem a security, TreasuryDirect will deposit the payment to the bank or credit union account you select.

## Does TreasuryDirect confirm my identity?

TreasuryDirect confirms your identity while you wait, using information you provide online.

## How long will it take to verify my information?

Your personal information will be verified within one (1) minute after your TreasuryDirect account information has been submitted.

## What if you are unable to verify my information?

If we are unable to verify your information, we will offer you the opportunity to complete a convenient, printable authentication form. You complete the form according to the instructions and submit it to the address we provide.

## Is it safe to send all this information over the Internet?

Yes, the infrastructure TreasuryDirect resides on is well protected and the TreasuryDirect system uses several features to ensure the safety of the information you provide and the transactions you perform. For example:

- **Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) Technology:** TreasuryDirect uses SSL which is a common protocol for sending payment information securely over the Internet. SSL works by using a private, mathematical key to encrypt (or scramble) data transferred between your web browser and the website you're visiting.
- **Access Card:** When you open a TreasuryDirect account, we will send you an access card in the mail within two weeks. Your account number, password, and access card are needed each time you log in to your TreasuryDirect account. You can view a demonstration of how an access card works at [www.treasurydirect.gov](http://www.treasurydirect.gov). ([www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/help/TDTutorial/tutorial.htm](http://www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/help/TDTutorial/tutorial.htm)).
- **Virtual Keyboard:** TreasuryDirect uses a virtual keyboard to help protect your password.

- **Password:** You choose your own password and can change it any time.
- **Customer Hold:** As an added security feature, TreasuryDirect allows you to place a hold on your account if you feel your account access information has been compromised.
- **Paper Forms:** For your protection, changes to your bank information and certain security transfers require the submission of a signed and certified paper form.

## I buy savings bonds in multiple registrations. How does this work in TreasuryDirect?

You establish each registration in your TreasuryDirect account. Registration refers to the name and social security number (SSN) of the person(s) associated with a security and maintained on record. When you schedule a purchase, you select the amount of the purchase and the registration desired. You can schedule one or more purchases



with the same registration or multiple purchases with various registrations. For example, you can schedule a purchase on the 15th of each month for a daughter and on the 30th for a son, or schedule a purchase for each on the 15th and 30th of each month.

## In TreasuryDirect, do I need a separate direct deposit for each registration?

No. One direct deposit can be used to cover multiple purchases. You simply use the C of I as the source of funds when scheduling each purchase.

## What is the smallest denomination savings bond I can buy in TreasuryDirect?

Electronic savings bonds are not sold by denomination. The minimum amount to purchase a savings bond in TreasuryDirect is \$25 and the maximum is \$5,000. In between, you can purchase any amount – down to the penny. There is a \$5,000 annual limit per savings bond series per person.

Treasury bills, notes, bonds, and TIPS are purchased in increments of \$100.

## Does a direct deposit need to be at least \$25?

No. You can request a direct deposit of as little as a penny; however, your payroll system may have a minimum dollar amount on direct deposits. The funds will accumulate in a C of I in your TreasuryDirect account until you make a purchase.

## When is the issue date established on a savings bond I buy in TreasuryDirect?

Savings bonds purchased in TreasuryDirect are posted to your account one business day after they are purchased. The issue date of the savings bond is the first day of the month in which the savings bond is posted. For example, if the purchase is made on May 31 and the savings bond posts on June 1, the issue date is June 1; but if the purchase is made on May 26 and the savings bond posts on May 27, the issue date is May 1.

## What happens if I forget to schedule a purchase?

The C of I will remain in your TreasuryDirect account and will not earn any interest.

## What happens if I stop my direct deposit, and the value of the C of I is not enough to buy a savings bond?

You can redeem the C of I at any time, directing the payment to a checking or savings account at your bank or credit union.

## What happens if I stop my direct deposit, but forget to stop scheduled future purchases of savings bonds?

When the C of I is insufficient to cover the purchase of a savings bond, the purchase will not take place. TreasuryDirect will notify you by e-mail.

## Does my employer need to provide Internet access to TreasuryDirect?

No. Although we encourage employers to consider providing access to TreasuryDirect at the employee's workstation, in a break room, or through the payroll and benefits office, they are not required to do so.

## Are there other ways to purchase besides payroll direct deposit?

Yes. You can purchase by having your pension provider, annuity holder, or other financial partner direct deposit funds to your TreasuryDirect account. Please check with the relevant institution and be sure to ask about any fees that may apply. You can also initiate a purchase from within your TreasuryDirect account, using your savings or checking account as a source of funds.

[www.treasurydirect.gov](http://www.treasurydirect.gov)