**Custom DC plan benchmarks** 

# Wholesale trade



Strategic Retirement Consulting | June 2025

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Vanguard®

VIEWPOINTS

# **Benchmark population**

	Wholesale trade <500 participants	Wholesale trade 500+ participants	Vanguard DC plans
Number of plans	25	20	1,417
Number of participants	6,143	87,198	4,770,746
Average number of participants	246	4,360	3,367
Median number of participants	260	2,382	622
Amount of assets	\$936.2M	\$11.9B	\$706.8B
Average assets	\$37.4M	\$593.4M	\$498.80M
Median assets	\$32.3M	\$225.6M	\$92.1M

Wholesale trade is defined by NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) code 42.



### **Participant balances**

Average Median

# Number of fund options offered and used



Funds offered per plan (all life-cycle funds counted as one)



Funds used per participant

	Wholesale trade <500 participants	Wholesale trade 500+ participants	Vanguard DC plans
Average funds offered	15.0	16.1	17.5
Median funds offered	15	16	16
Average funds used	2.3	2.0	2.3
Median funds used	1	1	1

Bars in chart may not align precisely with percentages because of rounding. Source: Vanguard, as of December 31, 2024.

# **Types of investment options offered and used\***

		Wholesale trade <500 participants		Wholesale trade 500+ participants		Vanguard DC plans
	Percentage of plans offering	Percentage of participants using*	Percentage of plans offering	Percentage of participants using*	Percentage of plans offering	Percentage of participants using*
Cash	96%	17%	100%	12%	99%	11%
Money market	64%	7%	70%	7%	73%	5%
Stable value/GIC	76%	16%	75%	9%	68%	9%
Bond funds	96%	16%	100%	14%	98%	17%
Active	52%	8%	80%	6%	81%	6%
Index	92%	14%	90%	11%	90%	14%
Inflation-protected securities	16%	3%	30%	4%	36%	3%
Multisector	8%	2%	10%	2%	8%	1%
High-yield	8%	8%	5%	1%	18%	3%
International	24%	4%	15%	2%	19%	5%
Emerging markets	<0.5%	0%	<0.5%	0%	1%	1%
Balanced funds	100%	83%	100%	87%	99%	86%
Traditional balanced	72%	27%	50%	8%	60%	11%
Target-risk	<0.5%	0%	10%	1%	3%	1%
Target-date	96%	75%	100%	85%	96%	84%
Company stock	<0.5%	0%	5%	100%	8%	21%
Self-directed brokerage	8%	1%	35%	1%	22%	1%

\* Among participants offered the option.

Percentages should not equal 100% because of rounding.

Source: Vanguard, as of December 31, 2024.

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# **Types of investment options offered and used\*** (continued)

		Wholesale trade <500 participants		Wholesale trade 500+ participants		Vanguard DC plans
	Percentage of plans offering	Percentage of participants using*	Percentage of plans offering	Percentage of participants using*	Percentage of plans offering	Percentage of participants using*
Equity funds	96%	32%	100%	27%	99%	30%
Domestic equity funds	96%	31%	100%	26%	99%	29%
Large-cap index	96%	23%	100%	19%	98%	24%
Large-cap active	84%	20%	95%	14%	89%	15%
Large-cap value	88%	10%	95%	8%	86%	8%
Large-cap growth	92%	14%	90%	13%	89%	12%
Large-cap blend	96%	23%	100%	19%	98%	24%
Mid-cap index	72%	9%	80%	11%	83%	14%
Mid-cap active	56%	10%	60%	7%	52%	6%
Small-cap index	72%	8%	45%	9%	63%	11%
Small-cap active	64%	10%	60%	4%	64%	6%
Socially responsible	8%	1%	10%	1%	17%	6%
International equity funds Index international Active international Emerging markets	<b>96%</b> 64% 80% 16%	<b>16%</b> 10% 13% 4%	<b>100%</b> 100% 90% 20%	<b>15%</b> 10% 6% 2%	<b>97%</b> 82% 83% 33%	<b>18%</b> 14% 8% 9%
Global equity funds	<0.5%	0%	<0.5%	0%	15%	3%

\* Among participants offered the option.

Percentages should not equal 100% because of rounding.

# **Types of investment options offered and used\*** (continued)

		Wholesale trade <500 participants		Wholesale trade 500+ participants		Vanguard DC plans
	Percentage of plans offering	Percentage of participants using*	Percentage of plans offering	Percentage of participants using*	Percentage of plans offering	Percentage of participants using*
Sector funds	16%	7%	35%	3%	38%	5%
REIT	12%	4%	35%	2%	33%	4%
Health care	4%	46%	5%	2%	8%	6%
Energy	<0.5%	0%	<0.5%	0%	4%	4%
Precious metals	<0.5%	0%	<0.5%	0%	2%	2%
Technology	<0.5%	0%	5%	8%	3%	5%
Utilities	<0.5%	0%	10%	2%	1%	2%
Natural resources	<0.5%	0%	<0.5%	0%	1%	3%
Financials	<0.5%	0%	<0.5%	0%	0%	1%
Communications	<0.5%	0%	<0.5%	0%	0%	1%
Consumer	<0.5%	0%	<0.5%	0%	0%	1%
Industrials	<0.5%	0%	<0.5%	0%	0%	1%

\* Among participants offered the option. Percentages should not equal 100% because of rounding. Source: Vanguard, as of December 31, 2024.

# **Target-date fund availability and use**

		Wholesale trade <500 participants	Wholesale trade 500+ participants	Vanguard DC plans
Percentage of plans offering		96%	100%	96%
Plan assets invested*		37%	39%	42%
	<10%	4%	0%	4%
	10%–19%	17%	5%	8%
Deveenters of alex coosts*	20%–29%	25%	5%	16%
Percentage of plan assets*	30%–39%	8%	35%	20%
	40%–49%	17%	15%	18%
	50%+	29%	40%	34%
Percentage of participants using*		75%	85%	84%
Percentage of participant assets**		65%	61%	63%
	1%–24%	7%	6%	9%
Percentage of participant assets in	25%–49%	8%	6%	8%
target-date funds**	50%–74%	5%	2%	4%
	75%–99%	4%	5%	6%
	100%	75%	80%	73%
	One target-date fund only	73%	78%	71%
	One target-date fund plus other funds	23%	18%	23%
Percentage of participants owning**	Two or more target-date funds only	2%	2%	2%
	Two or more target-date funds plus other funds	3%	3%	4%

\* Among plans offering target-date options.

\*\* Among participants owning target-date options.

Percentages should not total 100% because of rounding.



#### **Participant equity exposure**

Bars in chart may not align precisely with percentages because of rounding. Source: Vanguard, as of December 31, 2024.

## **Asset and contribution allocations**

Asset allocation





Vanguard

DC plans

75%

79%

Wholesale trade

72%

75%

500+ participants

**Contribution allocation** 

70%

73%

\* Equities include company stock, diversified equity, and the equity portion of balanced funds. Bars in chart may not align precisely with percentages because of rounding. Source: Vanguard, as of December 31, 2024.

Percentage of contribution allocation in equities\*

Percentage of asset allocation in equities\*

## **Participants with professionally managed allocations**

		Wholesale trade <500 participants	Wholesale trade 500+ participants	Vanguard DC plans
	Single target-date fund	52%	66%	59%
All participanta	Single balanced fund	4%	0%	1%
All participants	Managed account program	3%	6%	7%
	Total	59%	71%	67%
	Single target-date fund	85%	93%	90%
New plan entrants during the year	Single balanced fund	2%	0%	0%
	Managed account program	1%	1%	2%
	Total	88%	94%	92%

Percentages should not total 100% because of rounding. Source: Vanguard, as of December 31, 2024.

# **Automatic enrollment options\***

		Wholesale trade <500 participants	Wholesale trade 500+ participants	Vanguard DC plans
Automatic enrollment*	Number of plans	12	15	795
	Percentage of plans	50%	75%	61%
	1%	0%	0%	2%
	2%	0%	0%	4%
Default automatic enrollment rate	3%	17%	40%	33%
Derault automatic enforment rate	4%	25%	20%	14%
	5%	25%	7%	17%
	6%+	33%	33%	30%
	1%	50%	87%	67%
Default automatic increase rate	2%	0%	0%	2%
Default automatic increase rate	Voluntary election	42%	13%	25%
	Service feature not offered	8%	0%	6%
	<6%	0%	0%	2%
	6%–9%	9%	0%	14%
Default automatic increase cap	10%–14%	45%	53%	49%
Default automatic increase cap	15%–19%	18%	20%	24%
	20%+	9%	13%	6%
	No cap	18%	13%	5%
	Target-date fund	92%	100%	98%
Default fund	Other balanced fund	0%	0%	1%
	Money market or stable value fund	8%	0%	1%

\* Limited to plans using Vanguard's automatic enrollment service. Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding. Source: Vanguard, as of December 31, 2024.



#### **Participation rates**

Participant weighted Plan weighted

Bars in chart may not align precisely with percentages because of rounding. Source: Vanguard, as of December 31, 2024.

# **Participant deferral rates**

		Wholesale trade <500 participants	Wholesale trade 500+ participants	Vanguard DC plans
Deferred refee	Average	7.0%	7.0%	7.7%
Deferral rates	Median	6.0%	6.0%	6.8%
	<4.0%	21%	26%	22%
	4.0%-6.0%	32%	22%	20%
Distribution of rates	6.1%–9.9%	27%	32%	33%
	10.0%–14.9%	13%	14%	18%
	15.0%+	6%	5%	7%

Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Source: Vanguard active plans with nondiscrimination testing completed during the past two years.

# **Aggregate participant and employer contribution rates**

		Wholesale trade <500 participants	Wholesale trade 500+ participants	Vanguard DC plans
Total saving rate	Average	10.9%	11.6%	12.0%
Total saving fate	Median	10.0%	11.1%	11.5%
	<5.0%	16%	13%	14%
	5.0%-8.9%	23%	20%	18%
Distribution of rates	9.0%–11.9%	34%	24%	21%
	12.0%-14.9%	12%	18%	20%
	15.0%+	15%	25%	26%

Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

Source: Vanguard active plans with nondiscrimination testing completed during the past two years.

# **Types of employer contributions**



Bars in chart may not align precisely with percentages because of rounding. Source: Vanguard active plans with nondiscrimination testing completed during the past two years.

## **Advice services**

Advice offered 80% 70% <sup>72%</sup> 70% 64% 58% Percentage of plans offering 60% 55% 55% 48% 50% 45% 40% 40% 29% 30% 25% 20% 20% 10% 0% Online advice Managed account Financial planning Any of these advice services programs Wholesale trade Wholesale trade Vanguard <500 participants 500+ participants DC plans Advice used



Bars in chart may not align precisely with percentages because of rounding. Source: Vanguard, as of December 31, 2024.



## **Matching contributions**

Bars in chart may not align precisely with percentages because of rounding. Source: Vanguard active plans with nondiscrimination testing completed during the past two years.

# **Matching formulas**



Bars in chart may not align precisely with percentages because of rounding. Source: Vanguard active plans with nondiscrimination testing completed during the past two years.



# **Nonmatching/Profit-sharing employer contributions**

	Wholesale trade <500 participants	Wholesale trade 500+ participants	Vanguard DC plans
Average value	3.7%	5.2%	5.3%
Median value	3.9%	3.8%	4.5%

Bars in chart may not align precisely with percentages because of rounding.

Source: Vanguard active plans with nondiscrimination testing completed during the past two years.

# **Roth availability and use**

		Wholesale trade <500 participants	Wholesale trade 500+ participants	Vanguard DC plans
Percentage of plans offering Roth (among plans with elective deferrals)		75%	100%	86%
Percentage of plan assets invested in Roth*		3%	3%	5%
	<1%	22%	5%	10%
	1%–2%	33%	50%	29%
Distribution of percentage of plan assets in Roth	3%–5%	22%	500+ participants   100%   3%   5%	36%
	6%–9%	22%	0%	16%
	10%–14%	0%	5%	6%
	15%+	0%	5%	3%
Percentage of participants with assets in Roth*		14%	13%	18%
Percentage of participant assets in Roth**		14%	14%	18%
	1%–24%	51%	54%	50%
	25%–49%	22%	22%	23%
Distribution of participant assets in Roth	50%-74%	13%	14%	14%
	75%–99%	6%	4%	6%
	100%	1%	1%	3%
Percentage of participants making Roth contributions (past 12 months)***		18%	15%	18%
Percentage of participant contributions going to Roth**		52%	51%	53%
	1%–24%	20%	23%	24%
	25%–49%	26%	28%	26%
Distribution of percentage of participant contributions to Roth	50%-74%	18%	75% $100%$ $3%$ $3%$ $22%$ $5%$ $33%$ $50%$ $22%$ $0%$ $22%$ $0%$ $0%$ $5%$ $0%$ $5%$ $14%$ $13%$ $14%$ $14%$ $51%$ $54%$ $22%$ $22%$ $13%$ $14%$ $51%$ $54%$ $22%$ $22%$ $13%$ $14%$ $51%$ $54%$ $22%$ $22%$ $13%$ $14%$ $6%$ $4%$ $1%$ $1%$ $1%$ $1%$ $52%$ $51%$ $20%$ $23%$ $26%$ $28%$ $18%$ $17%$ $4%$ $6%$	15%
	75%–99%	4%	6%	7%
ribution of participant assets in Roth** reintage of participant assets in Roth reentage of participants making Roth contributions (past 12 months)*** reentage of participant contributions going to Roth**	100%	31%	26%	28%

\* Among plans offering Roth.

\*\* Among participants using Roth.

\*\*\* Among participants making elective deferrals.

Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

## **Participant loans and in-service withdrawals**

		Wholesale trade <500 participants	Wholesale trade 500+ participants	Vanguard DC plans
Outstanding loans*	Percentage of participants with outstanding loans	16%	13%	13%
	Percentage of account balance in loans	8%	9%	9%
	Average loan balance	\$10,394	\$9,103	\$11,067
Percentage of active participants with outstanding loans*	No loans	84%	87%	87%
	One loan	13%	12%	10%
	Two loans	2%	1%	3%
	Three+ loans	1%	0%	0%
Loans issued past 12 months*	Average per 1,000 active participants	141	111	104
	Average loan amount	\$10,968	\$10,328	\$11,220
Nonhardship withdrawals taken past 12 months**	Average per 1,000 active participants	231	185	136
	Average withdrawal amount	\$30,913	\$19,635	\$18,304
Hardship withdrawals taken past 12 months**	Average per 1,000 active participants	75	80	100
	Average withdrawal amount	\$5,398	\$4,118	\$5,145

\* Among plans allowing loans.

\*\* Among participants allowed in-service withdrawals.

Percentages should not equal 100% because of rounding.

# Important information

All investing is subject to risk, including the possible loss of the money you invest. Be aware that fluctuations in the financial markets and other factors may cause declines in the value of your account. There is no guarantee that any particular asset allocation or mix of funds will meet your investment objectives or provide you with a given level of income. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against a loss.

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Investments in target-date funds are subject to the risks of their underlying funds. The year in the fund name refers to the approximate year (the target date) when an investor in the fund would retire and leave the workforce. The fund will gradually shift its emphasis from more aggressive investments to more conservative ones based on its target date. An investment in target-date funds is not guaranteed at any time, including on or after the target date.

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