

### State of Vermont 940050

As Of: March 31, 2022

Report contains information up through the last business day of end period.





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# **Section I** Plan Summary





### **Historical Plan Statistics**

	4/1/2018 -	4/1/2019 -	4/1/2020 -	4/1/2021 -
	3/31/2019	3/31/2020	3/31/2021	3/31/2022
Total Participants Balances	\$492,215,407	\$455,905,295	\$627,482,566	\$646,895,599
Contributions*	\$25,371,004	\$29,253,478	\$27,342,375	\$31,529,995
Distributions*	(\$33,690,073)	(\$34,365,139)	(\$28,347,632)	(\$37,003,114)
Cash Flow	(\$8,319,069)	(\$5,111,660)	(\$1,005,257)	(\$5,473,119)
Market Value Gain / Loss**	\$25,112,429	(\$25,570,405)	\$174,817,320	\$28,240,702
Account Balances				
Average Participant Balance	\$64,919	\$57,520	\$78,770	\$78,099
National Average Benchmark**	\$102,586	\$103,108	\$110,278	\$116,541
Participation / Deferrals				
Participation Rate	83.8%	83.9%	81.9%	89.1%
National Average Benchmark***	79.2%	78.9%	79.0%	79.7%
Total Participants with a Balance	7,582	7,926	7,966	8,283
Asset Allocation				
% of Plan Assets in Stable Value	20.5%	23.7%	18.4%	18.1%
Prudential % of Plan Assets in Stable Value	25.8%	22.1%	20.7%	18.3%
% of Plan Assets for GoalMaker Participants	7.3%	11.4%	13.0%	14.8%
Participation Rate in GoalMaker	16.1%	23.0%	25.3%	28.7%
Number of Participants in GoalMaker	1,218	1,826	2,022	2,386
Number of Participants in One Fund	1,782	1,826	1,847	1,970
Number of Participants in Four or More Funds	4,358	4,739	4,812	5,041
Distributions				
Number of Distributions*	3,540	3,830	3,128	3,712
Termination	\$26,095,056	\$25,792,631	\$21,347,858	\$28,003,245
Hardship	\$93,610	\$81,314	\$28,916	\$16,827
In Service	\$111,591	\$288,893	\$22,006	\$120,752
Coronavirus-Related Withdraw al	\$0	\$0	\$1,051,388	\$0
Amount of Distributions	\$33,690,073	\$34,365,139	\$28,347,632	\$37,003,114
Amount of Distributions Representing Rollovers	\$22,684,711	\$22,059,194	\$17,687,753	\$24,628,254
% of Assets Distributed*	6.8%	7.5%	4.5%	5.7%

<sup>\*</sup>Includes Rollovers, Coronavirus-Related Distributions & Repayments, and Qualified Birth or Adoption Distributions & Repayments if applicable on the plan.

<sup>\*\*</sup>This is not the equivalent of a plan level return on investment due to the timing of additions, distributions and underlying investment performance.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>External Benchmark Source: PLANSPONSOR Defined Contribution Annual Survey

### **Plan Demographics Summary**

	1/1/2021- 3/31/2021	1/1/2022- 3/31/2022
Total Participants*	7,966	8,283
Active Participants	5,785	5,431
Terminated Participants	2,166	2,831
Other Participants**	1	1
Multiple Status Participants***	14	20
Average Participant Balance	\$78,770	\$78,099
Average Account Balance for Active Participants	\$67,120	\$60,127
Median Participant Balance	\$28,977	\$27,147
Median Participant Balance for Active Participants	\$24,328	\$21,045
Participants Age 50 and Over	4,695	4,794
Total Assets for Participants Age 50 and Over	\$524,707,900	\$541,546,050
Total (Contributions + Rollovers In)	\$6,835,351	\$7,734,103
Employee Contributions	\$6,221,084	\$7,012,319
Rollovers In	\$614,267	\$721,784
Total Distributions	(\$7,412,398)	(\$10,149,381)
Percentage of Assets Distributed	1.2%	1.6%
Market Value Gain / Loss****	\$172,768,585	\$22,550,095
Total Participant Balances	\$627,482,566	\$646,895,599

<sup>\*</sup>Participant(s) with an account balance greater than \$0.

Rollovers In is the total dollars credited to participant accounts within the period defined that originated in other qualified retirement plan accounts.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Participant(s) who are not active, terminated or suspended, but have an account balance greater than \$0 (e.g. break-in-service, rehire, etc.).

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Participant(s) with an account balance greater than \$0 in more than one participant status category (e.g. Active status in one subplan but Terminated status in another subplan).

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>This is not the equivalent of a plan level return on investment due to the timing of additions, distributions and underlying investment performance.

### **Plan Features**

GoalMaker	3/31/2021	3/31/2022
Plan Assets for Participants in GoalMaker	\$81,793,067	\$95,699,623
% of Plan Assets for GoalMaker Participants	13.0%	14.8%
# of Participants in GoalMaker	2,022	2,386
Participation Rate in GoalMaker	25.3%	28.7%
Prudential % of Participants in GoalMaker - As of 12/31/2021	54.6%	

Roth	3/31/2021	3/31/2022
Roth Assets	\$21,496,893	\$25,695,517
# of Participants in Roth	1,688	1,918
Participation Rate in Roth	21.2%	23.2%
Prudential % of Participants in Roth - As of 12/31/2021	15.9%	

Stable Value	3/31/2021	3/31/2022
Participation Rate in Stable Value	59.6%	57.8%
% of Plan Assets in Stable Value	18.4%	18.1%
Prudential % of Plan Assets in Stable Value - As of 12/31/2021	18.4	4%

eDelivery	3/31/2021	3/31/2022
# of Participants Enrolled in eDelivery	4,358	4,721
# of Participants Affirmatively Elected eDelivery	4,358	4,704
# of Participants Defaulted into eDelivery	0	17
% of Participants in eDelivery	54.2%	56.6%
Prudential % of Participants in eDelivery - As of 12/31/2021	49.6	6%

### **Enrollment by Age Group**

1/1/2022-3/31/2022							
	Less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Grand Total
Total	17	61	41	18	22	2	161

### **Participant Activity**

Call Center	1/1/2021 - 3/31/2021	1/1/2022 - 3/31/2022
Total Call Volume	573	577

### **Transaction Summary**

Transactions	1/1/2021 - 3/31/2021	1/1/2022 - 3/31/2022
Total Enrollees*	120	161
Number of Participants with Transfers	2,275	2,627
Distributions	796	898

\*Number of participants that were enrolled into the plan within the reporting period. This can include those individuals who self enrolled or auto enrolled, if applicable on the plan. Rehires may not be included if their original enrollment date falls outside the reporting period.

eDelivery by Document Type	3/31/2021	3/31/2022
Statements	4,272	4,609
Confirms	4,351	4,703
Tax Forms	4,271	4,611
Plan Related Documents	N/A	4,681

### **Benchmark Trends - Plan Features**

<u>Plan Features</u>	Your Plan	Prudential Book of Business	<u>Industry</u> <u>Average*</u>	Plan Sponsor Survey 2021**	Plan Sponsor Survey 2022***
Auto Enrollment (Administered Through Prudential)	N/A	57.3%	25.8%	49.1%	43.2%
Auto Enrollment Default Rate	N/A	3% (41.4% of Plans)	14.3%	36.0%	37.5%
Contribution Accelerator (Administered Through Prudential)	N/A	60.0%	35.5%	42.3%	39.3%
GoalMaker®	Yes	62.7%	NA	N/A	N/A
Investment Options	24.0	13.7	20.2	22.7	22.3
IncomeFlex®	N/A	28.4%	27.8%	11.1%	7.0%
Loans	N/A	63.0%	64.5%	80.5%	79.7%
Plan Allows Roth	Yes	35.5%	62.1%	81.1%	75.9%
Plan Allows Catch-Up Contributions (Administered Through Prudential)	Yes	47.1%	NA	N/A	N/A
Default eDelivery	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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The information is being presented by us solely in our role as the plan's service provider and/or record keeper.

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Prudential's Book of Business averages are as of 12/31/2021

External Benchmark Source: PLANSPONSOR Defined Contribution Annual Survey

\*Annual Survey, 2022 (Industry Specific Results) - Government Municipal

<sup>\*\*2021</sup> Annual Survey, 2021 (Overall)

<sup>\*\*\*2022</sup> Annual Survey, 2022 (Overall)

**Benchmark Trends – Participant Behavior** 

<u>Plan Features</u>	<u>Your Plan</u>	Prudential Book of Business	Industry <u>Average*</u>	Plan Sponsor Survey 2021**	Plan Sponsor Survey 2022***
Participation Rate	86.4%	70.3%	74.0%	79.0%	77.9%
Average Contribution Rate (%)	N/A	8.0%	7.6%	7.5%	7.3%
Average Account Balance	\$78,099	\$87,819	\$107,090	\$110,278	\$116,541
Median Account Balance	\$27,147	\$80,720	\$98,000	\$83,441	\$89,421
% of Plan Assets in Stable Value	18.1%	18.4%	NA	N/A	N/A
% of Plan Assets in Day One Funds	N/A	1.3%	NA	N/A	N/A
Average # of Funds Held	5.2	5.4	5.8	5.0	5.0
% of 55+ Participants Utilizing IncomeFlex®	N/A	9.2%	NA	N/A	N/A
% of Participants Utilizing GoalMaker®	28.7%	54.6%	NA	N/A	N/A
% of Participants have Outstanding Active Loans	N/A	10.9%	11.1%	12.8%	11.6%
Average Loan Balance	N/A	\$8,044	\$8,068	\$10,709	\$10,368
% of Participants Utilizing eDelivery	56.6%	49.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A

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\*Annual Survey, 2022 (Industry Specific Results) - Government Municipal

<sup>\*\*2021</sup> Annual Survey, 2021 (Overall)

<sup>\*\*\*2022</sup> Annual Survey, 2022 (Overall)

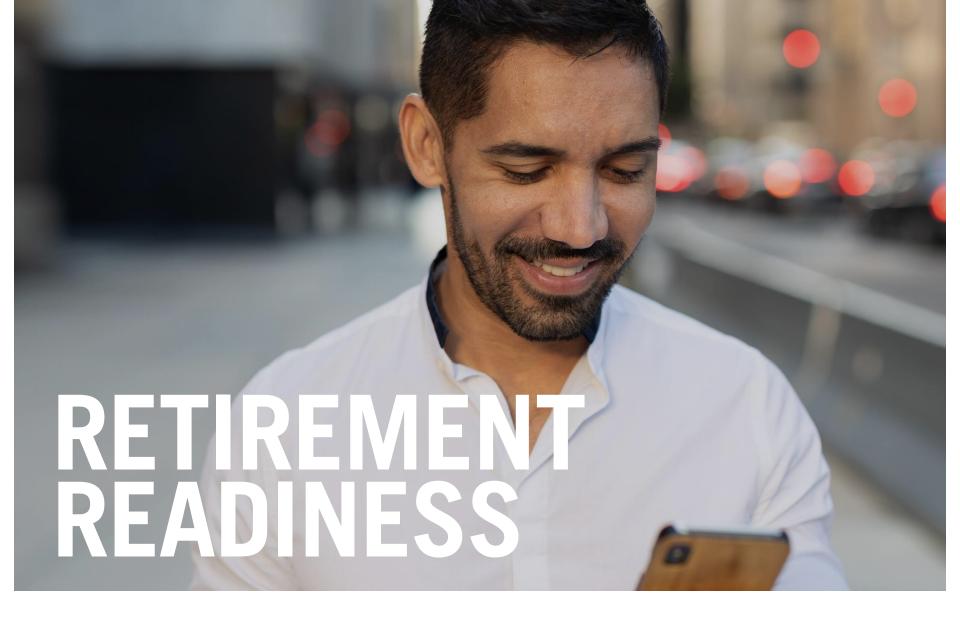
### **Asset Allocation/Net Activity By Age**

January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022

	Less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Total Participant Balances	\$359,683	\$13,907,245	\$45,758,742	\$119,378,342	\$201,556,628	\$265,934,958	\$646,895,599
% Assets	0.1%	2.1%	7.1%	18.5%	31.2%	41.1%	100.0%
Average Contribution Rate (\$)	\$0	\$0	\$52	\$196	\$276	\$503	\$261
Prudential Avg. Contribution Rate (%) as of 12/31/2021	5.3%	6.4%	7.3%	8.4%	10.0%	11.5%	8.0%
Contributions	\$68,938	\$758,476	\$1,326,182	\$1,994,160	\$2,372,258	\$492,304	\$7,012,319
Rollovers In*	\$3,675	\$85,847	\$352,348	\$40,202	\$233,281	\$6,431	\$721,784
Total (Contributions + Rollovers In)	\$72,613	\$844,323	\$1,678,530	\$2,034,363	\$2,605,539	\$498,735	\$7,734,103
Cash Distributions	(\$6,479)	(\$42,978)	(\$129,189)	(\$229,006)	(\$909,544)	(\$1,700,587)	(\$3,017,782)
Rollovers Out	\$0	(\$25,183)	(\$159,756)	(\$861,102)	(\$2,964,915)	(\$3,120,643)	(\$7,131,599)
Total (Cash Distributions + Rollovers Out)	(\$6,479)	(\$68,161)	(\$288,945)	(\$1,090,108)	(\$3,874,459)	(\$4,821,230)	(\$10,149,381)
Net Activity	\$66,135	\$776,162	\$1,389,585	\$944,255	(\$1,268,920)	(\$4,322,495)	(\$2,415,279)
Total Participants**	108	1,060	1,502	1,885	2,003	1,728	8,286
Average Account Balance	\$3,330	\$13,120	\$30,465	\$63,331	\$100,627	\$153,898	\$78,071
Prudential Avg. Account Balance as of 12/31/2021	\$3,960	\$19,216	\$54,743	\$106,729	\$149,490	\$150,044	\$87,819
Median Account Balance	\$1,683	\$6,051	\$13,858	\$27,595	\$51,599	\$76,689	\$27,147
Prudential Median Account Balance as of 12/31/2021	\$4,078	<i>\$14,595</i>	\$36,092	\$61,673	\$91,013	\$123,138	\$80,722

<sup>\*</sup>Rollovers In is the total dollars credited to participant accounts within the period defined that originated in other qualified retirement plan accounts.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Total column for participant count is a sum of participants across each age group. E.g. If a participant has both a main account and beneficiary account within different age groups (decedent's date of birth), that participant will be counted twice.





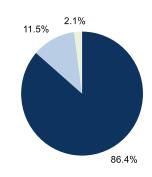
### **Participation Rate**

	1/1/2021-3/31/2021	1/1/2022-3/31/2022
Total Eligible To Contribute Population	6,003	5,639
Contributing (A)	4,748	4,871
Enrolled Not Contributing (B)	1,134	649
Eligible Not Enrolled (C)	121	119

	1/1/2021-3/31/2021	1/1/2022-3/31/2022				
Participation Rate *	79.1%	86.4%				
Prudential Book of Business 12/31/2021	70.3%					
Plan Sponsor Survey 2022 - National Average	77.9%					

<sup>\*</sup> Participation Rate is calculated by A/(A+B+C)

#### 1/1/2022-3/31/2022



■ Contributing ■ Enrolled Not Contributing ■ Eligible Not Enrolled

#### Definitions:

Contributing – Count of participants who are active/eligible and have a contribution rate (%) or amount (\$) greater than zero (as of close of business on the last business day of the period).

Enrolled Not Contributing – An individual who is enrolled in the plan, but does not have a contribution rate (%, \$) greater than zero (as of close of business on the last business day of the period).

Eligible Not Enrolled – An individual who meets the requirements to join the plan, but has not enrolled in the plan (as of close of business on the last business day of the period).

Due to rounding, pie chart may not equal 100%





### **Contributions by Fund**

INVESTMENT OPTIONS	1/1/2021 - 3/31/2021	%	1/1/2022 - 3/31/2022	%	Change	%
STATE OF VERMONT STABLE VALUE FUND	\$831,898	13.4%	\$843,482	12.0%	\$11,584	1.4%
VANGUARD DEVELOPED MARKETS INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$597,631	9.6%	\$765,871	10.9%	\$168,240	28.2%
VANGUARD U.S. GROWTH FUND ADMIRAL SHARES	\$0	0.0%	\$636,317	9.1%	\$636,317	N/A
VANGUARD VALUE INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$452,095	7.3%	\$575,029	8.2%	\$122,935	27.2%
VANGUARD TOTAL BOND MARKET INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$498,489	8.0%	\$524,314	7.5%	\$25,824	5.2%
VANGUARD MID-CAP INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$434,368	7.0%	\$522,270	7.5%	\$87,902	20.2%
VANGUARD INSTITUTIONAL INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$436,584	7.0%	\$490,066	7.0%	\$53,482	12.3%
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2030 FUND I CLASS	\$438,497	7.1%	\$437,447	6.2%	(\$1,051)	-0.2%
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2040 FUND I CLASS	\$342,395	5.5%	\$435,716	6.2%	\$93,321	27.3%
T. ROWE PRICE SMALL-CAP STOCK FUND I CLASS	\$352,403	5.7%	\$403,890	5.8%	\$51,487	14.6%
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2050 FUND I CLASS	\$201,863	3.2%	\$298,088	4.3%	\$96,225	47.7%
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2020 FUND I CLASS	\$300,041	4.8%	\$269,985	3.9%	(\$30,056)	-10.0%
VANGUARD FTSE SOCIAL INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$158,775	2.6%	\$151,792	2.2%	(\$6,983)	-4.4%
DODGE & COX BALANCED FUND	\$126,319	2.0%	\$138,212	2.0%	\$11,893	9.4%
DODGE & COX INTERNATIONAL STOCK FUND	\$125,360	2.0%	\$123,566	1.8%	(\$1,794)	-1.4%
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2010 FUND I CLASS	\$90,786	1.5%	\$87,831	1.3%	(\$2,956)	-3.3%
LAZARD EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY PORTFOLIO INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$83,909	1.4%	\$76,255	1.1%	(\$7,653)	-9.1%
CALVERT BOND FUND CLASS I	\$54,580	0.9%	\$53,606	0.8%	(\$974)	-1.8%
PAX GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETS FUND INSTITUTIONAL CLASS	\$35,368	0.6%	\$49,243	0.7%	\$13,875	39.2%
PIMCO TOTAL RETURN ESG FUND INSTITUTIONAL CLASS	\$48,798	0.8%	\$47,426	0.7%	(\$1,372)	-2.8%
PAX SUSTAINABLE ALLOCATION FUND INVESTOR CLASS	\$30,527	0.5%	\$33,008	0.5%	\$2,481	8.1%
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT BALANCED I FUND I CLASS	\$39,461	0.6%	\$31,322	0.5%	(\$8,139)	-20.6%
FPA NEW INCOME FUND	\$31,956	0.5%	\$17,582	0.3%	(\$14,374)	-45.0%
AMERICAN FUNDS THE GROWTH FUND OF AMERICA CLASS R-6	\$508,980	8.2%	\$0	0.0%	(\$508,980)	-100.0%
Total Assets Contributed	\$6,221,084	100.0%	\$7,012,319	100.0%	\$791,235	12.7%

### **Interfund Transfers**

#### 1/1/2022 to 3/31/2022

INVESTMENT OPTIONS	IN	оит	NET
VANGUARD TOTAL BOND MARKET INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$1,679,475	(\$603,311)	\$1,076,164
VANGUARD U.S. GROWTH FUND ADMIRAL SHARES	\$1,825,653	(\$857,213)	\$968,440
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2030 FUND I CLASS	\$814,725	(\$198,897)	\$615,828
FPA NEW INCOME FUND	\$392,600	(\$231,061)	\$161,539
STATE OF VERMONT STABLE VALUE FUND	\$3,591,873	(\$3,434,908)	\$156,965
VANGUARD DEVELOPED MARKETS INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$603,565	(\$447,391)	\$156,174
PAX GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETS FUND INSTITUTIONAL CLASS	\$208,279	(\$116,728)	\$91,551
DODGE & COX BALANCED FUND	\$415,412	(\$391,766)	\$23,646
CALVERT BOND FUND CLASS I	\$134,442	(\$111,171)	\$23,271
VANGUARD INSTITUTIONAL INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$891,680	(\$901,196)	(\$9,516)
PAX SUSTAINABLE ALLOCATION FUND INVESTOR CLASS	\$50,732	(\$69,464)	(\$18,732)
SELF DIRECTED BROKERAGE ACCOUNT	\$2,942	(\$28,000)	(\$25,058)
T. ROWE PRICE SMALL-CAP STOCK FUND I CLASS	\$917,078	(\$946,890)	(\$29,812)
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2050 FUND I CLASS	\$48,458	(\$102,073)	(\$53,615)
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT BALANCED I FUND I CLASS	\$244,766	(\$304,703)	(\$59,936)
LAZARD EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY PORTFOLIO INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$73,597	(\$171,568)	(\$97,971)
PIMCO TOTAL RETURN ESG FUND INSTITUTIONAL CLASS	\$104,713	(\$209,004)	(\$104,292)
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2020 FUND I CLASS	\$218,136	(\$340,349)	(\$122,213)
VANGUARD FTSE SOCIAL INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$274,161	(\$413,644)	(\$139,482)
DODGE & COX INTERNATIONAL STOCK FUND	\$112,399	(\$297,695)	(\$185,296)
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2010 FUND I CLASS	\$61,113	(\$361,493)	(\$300,380)
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2040 FUND I CLASS	\$32,310	(\$541,123)	(\$508,813)
VANGUARD VALUE INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$1,075,051	(\$1,775,123)	(\$700,071)
VANGUARD MID-CAP INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$376,531	(\$1,294,922)	(\$918,391)
TOTAL	\$14,149,693	(\$14,149,693)	\$0

### **Participant Distribution Statistics**

Amount of Withdrawals Taken

# of Withdrawals

	1/1/2021 -	1/1/2022 -			1/1/2021 -	1/1/2022 -		
Distribution Type	3/31/2021	3/31/2022	Change	% Change	3/31/2021	3/31/2022	Change	% Change
Termination	\$5,191,542	\$8,096,735	\$2,905,193	56%	272	306	34	13%
Direct Transfer	\$672,115	\$676,311	\$4,196	1%	22	11	(11)	(50%)
Installment Payment	\$501,109	\$655,987	\$154,878	31%	417	480	63	15%
Death Distribution	\$759,761	\$274,674	(\$485,087)	(64%)	27	24	(3)	(11%)
Required Minimum Distribution	\$280,870	\$342,035	\$61,165	22%	53	65	12	23%
In-Service Withdrawal	\$6,830	\$91,860	\$85,029	1,245%	3	5	2	67%
QDRO	\$0	\$11,727	\$11,727	N/A	0	3	3	N/A
Gross Adjustment	\$72	\$52	(\$20)	(28%)	1	4	3	300%
Return of Excess Deferrals/Contributions	\$99	\$0	(\$99)	(100%)	1	0	(1)	(100%)
Grand Total	\$7,412,398	\$10,149,381	\$2,736,983	37%	796	898	102	13%

1/1/2022 - 3/31/2022								
	Amou	nt of Withdrawals <sup>-</sup>	Taken		# of Withdrawals			
Distribution Sub-Type	Age < 50	Age >= 50	Total	Age < 50	Age >= 50	Total		
Rollover	\$649,601	\$6,481,999	\$7,131,599	17	48	65		
Cash	\$284,397	\$2,733,385	\$3,017,782	21	812	833		
Grand Total	\$933,997	\$9,215,384	\$10,149,381	38	860	898		

Termination - A withdrawal that is taken when the participant is active and terminating from employment or is already in a 'Terminated' status.

Direct Transfer - Non-taxable transfer of participant assets from one type of tax-deferred retirement plan or account to another.

Installment Payment - An Installment distribution is a payment option that disburses funds over time (i.e. monthly, quarterly, yearly).

Death Distribution - Distribution taken by a beneficiary. This could include required minimum distributions, installment payments, etc.

Required Minimum Distribution - Minimum amounts that a participant must withdraw annually upon reaching a certain age or retirement. This would exclude any beneficiary or QDRO accounts.

In-Service Withdrawal - A distribution that is taken while the participant is still active, before termination from employment.

QDRO - Distribution taken by the recipient of a QDRO. This could include required minimum distributions, installment payments, etc.

Gross Adjustment - The total of all adjustments made to an account or plan in absolute terms, regardless of whether or not the adjustments were positive or negative.

Return of Excess Deferrals/Contributions - Could include Actual Contribution Percentage (ACP), Actual Deferral Percentage (ADP), Excess Deferrals, Excess Annual Editions and/or Ineligible Contributions.

**Participant Transaction Statistics** 

	4/1/2021 - 6/30/2021	7/1/2021 - 9/30/2021	10/1/2021 <b>-</b> 12/31/2021	1/1/2022 <b>-</b> 3/31/2022
Call Center				
Unique Callers	326	324	362	362
Total Call Volume	526	544	570	577
Participant Website				
Registered Participants	5,882	5,921	5,942	5,923
Unique Web Logins	2,906	2,924	3,085	3,382
Total Web Logins	43,823	43,948	37,302	37,930

Call Center Reason Category	4/1/2021 - 6/30/2021	7/1/2021 - 9/30/2021	10/1/2021 - 12/31/2021	1/1/2022 - 3/31/2022
Account Explanations	136	121	137	114
Allocation Changes & Exchange	7	10	10	12
Contributions	22	23	15	14
Disbursements	266	285	286	284
Enrollments	2	2	5	1
Forms	2	4	2	3
Fund Information	6	7	2	4
Hardships	15	10	4	7
IFX	0	0	0	0
IVR or Web Assistance	13	19	24	22
Loans	0	3	1	2
Other	19	19	32	35
Payment Questions	0	0	0	0
Plan Explanations	16	22	27	19
Regen Reg Letter	0	0	0	0
Status of Research	4	2	1	2
Tax Information	7	0	0	27
Website Processing	11	17	24	31
Total	526	544	570	577

#### Definitions:

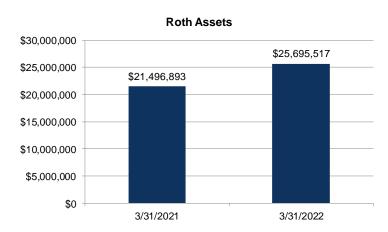
**Unique Callers** – The number of individuals that spoke to a Participant Service Center Representative during the reporting period (e.g., If the same individual called five times during the reporting period, they would only be counted once).

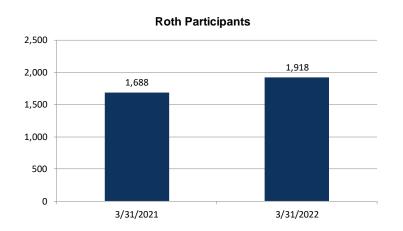
Total Call Volume – The number of calls to a Participant Service Center Representative during the reporting period (e.g., If the same individual called five times during the reporting period, they would be counted five times).

Registered Participants - The total number of individuals that established an account as of the reporting end date, for which they can access their retirement plan via the Participant Website.

For Plan Sponsor Use Only. Not to be distributed to plan participants or the general public | Please refer to the end of this section for important notes and disclaippers.

### **Roth Summary**



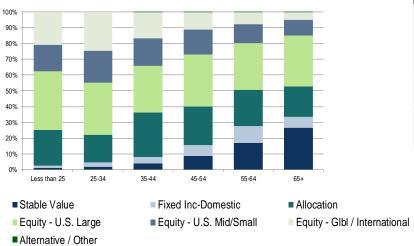


	3/31/2021	3/31/2022
Roth Assets	\$21,496,893	\$25,695,517
# of Participants in Roth	1,688	1,918
Partcipation Rate in Roth	21.2%	23.2%
Prudential % of Participants in Roth - As of 12/31/2021	15.	9%





### Assets by Asset Class and Age As of March 31, 2022



### **Asset Allocation**

	Your Plan Assets as of	Your Plan % as of
Asset Class	3/31/2022	3/31/2022
Stable Value	\$117,143,701	18.1%
Fixed Inc-Domestic	\$50,044,026	7.7%
Allocation	\$143,180,509	22.1%
Equity - U.S. Large	\$202,713,279	31.3%
Equity - U.S. Mid/Small	\$80,810,036	12.5%
Equity - Glbl / International	\$51,946,866	8.0%
Alternative / Other	\$1,057,181	0.2%
Total Participant Balances	\$646,895,599	100.0%

### **Fund Utilization By Age**

As of March 31, 2022

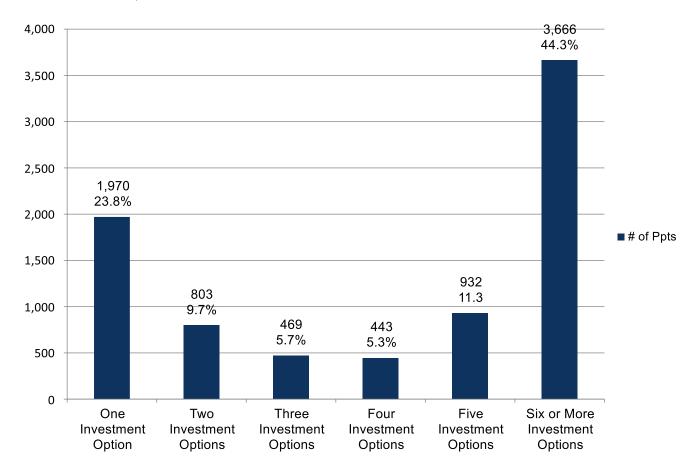
	Less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Participants Invested in Only One Fund	44	230	333	396	467	501	1,971
Average # of Funds per Participant	3.6	5.6	6.1	5.6	5.1	4.1	5.2
Prudential Participants Avg. # of Funds per Participant as of 12/31/2021	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	4.4	5.4
% of Plan Assets in Stable Value	1.2%	1.8%	3.7%	8.7%	17.0%	26.5%	18.1%
Prudential % of Plan Assets in Stable Value as of 12/31/2021	6.6%	5.7%	7.5%	11.8%	21.3%	34.4%	18.3%
Self Directed Brokerage Account # of Participants	0	0	3	3	6	3	15

# Utilization by Fund as of March 31, 2022

INVESTMENT OPTIONS	Balance	%Invested in Fund	# of Ppts	Ppts Using as Sole Investment
STATE OF VERMONT STABLE VALUE FUND	\$117,143,701	18.1%	4,784	523
VANGUARD INSTITUTIONAL INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$75,961,189	11.7%	2,327	91
VANGUARD U.S. GROWTH FUND ADMIRAL SHARES	\$52,136,732	8.1%	4,539	20
VANGUARD VALUE INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$46,252,591	7.1%	4,443	11
T. ROWE PRICE SMALL-CAP STOCK FUND I CLASS	\$42,019,275	6.5%	4,505	7
DODGE & COX BALANCED FUND	\$40,312,676	6.2%	958	48
VANGUARD MID-CAP INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$38,790,761	6.0%	4,509	13
VANGUARD TOTAL BOND MARKET INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$31,747,012	4.9%	3,185	9
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2020 FUND I CLASS	\$30,724,104	4.7%	514	210
VANGUARD DEVELOPED MARKETS INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$29,600,235	4.6%	3,828	1
VANGUARD FTSE SOCIAL INDEX FUND INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$28,362,767	4.4%	649	34
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2030 FUND I CLASS	\$28,165,348	4.4%	618	263
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2040 FUND I CLASS	\$20,097,260	3.1%	550	282
DODGE & COX INTERNATIONAL STOCK FUND	\$12,840,869	2.0%	1,625	4
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2010 FUND I CLASS	\$10,320,901	1.6%	248	92
FPA NEW INCOME FUND	\$6,810,382	1.1%	323	6
LAZARD EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY PORTFOLIO INSTITUTIONAL SHARES	\$6,273,425	1.0%	1,528	7
PIMCO TOTAL RETURN ESG FUND INSTITUTIONAL CLASS	\$5,947,193	0.9%	1,483	3
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT I 2050 FUND I CLASS	\$5,540,758	0.9%	450	305
CALVERT BOND FUND CLASS I	\$5,539,439	0.9%	1,214	0
T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT BALANCED I FUND I CLASS	\$4,726,872	0.7%	219	37
PAX SUSTAINABLE ALLOCATION FUND INVESTOR CLASS	\$3,292,589	0.5%	187	1
PAX GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETS FUND INSTITUTIONAL CLASS	\$3,232,337	0.5%	553	3
SELF DIRECTED BROKERAGE ACCOUNT	\$1,057,181	0.2%	15	0
Total	\$646,895,599	100.0%		

The funds in **bold** type denote inclusion in the GoalMaker® product.

# Investment Utilization as of March 31, 2022



Due to rounding, bar graph may not equal 100%

### GoalMaker® Participation

#### as of 3/31/2022

	6/30/2021	9/30/2021	12/31/2021	3/31/2022
Plan Assets for Participants in GoalMaker	\$89,075,987	\$91,966,555	\$97,266,406	\$95,699,623
# of Participants in GoalMaker	2,125	2,197	2,299	2,386
Participation Rate in GoalMaker	26.4%	27.1%	27.9%	28.7%
% of Plan Assets for GoalMaker Participants	13.5%	14.0%	14.2%	14.8%

#### Prudential Book of Business For Plans Offering GoalMaker - As of 12/31/2021

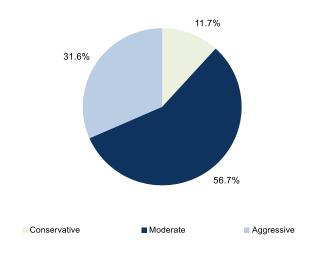
The participation rate in GoalMaker is 54.6%.

The percentage of plan assets for GoalMaker participants is 21.3%.

Participant Age Range	Conserv	ative	Moderate		Aggres	Total	
r articipant Age Mange	Active/Suspended	Terminated	Active/Suspended	Terminated	Active/Suspended	Terminated	Total
Less than 25	2	0	13	1	29	9	54
25-34	22	3	184	26	289	26	550
35-44	28	2	250	21	236	18	555
45-54	35	7	308	29	182	19	580
55-64	57	29	276	38	93	12	505
65+	13	29	43	44	6	7	142
Total	157	70	1,074	159	835	91	2,386

Participant Age Range	Conserva	ative	Moderate		Aggres	Total	
r articipant Age Mange	Active/Suspended	Terminated	Active/Suspended	Terminated	Active/Suspended	Terminated	Total
Less than 25	\$7,226	\$0	\$41,633	\$283	\$135,370	\$13,238	\$197,749
25-34	\$135,554	\$8,768	\$1,891,611	\$271,044	\$4,009,128	\$249,268	\$6,565,373
35-44	\$428,565	\$20,671	\$4,757,398	\$332,261	\$5,667,536	\$363,816	\$11,570,248
45-54	\$1,146,922	\$290,835	\$11,817,924	\$1,281,097	\$7,303,053	\$1,084,479	\$22,924,311
55-64	\$2,512,721	\$2,151,944	\$17,988,197	\$3,340,149	\$7,205,092	\$1,564,311	\$34,762,415
65+	\$972,565	\$3,560,483	\$4,002,179	\$8,531,231	\$1,115,464	\$1,497,605	\$19,679,527
Total	\$5,203,553	\$6,032,701	\$40,498,942	\$13,756,066	\$25,435,644	\$4,772,717	\$95,699,623

### Percentage of Assets by GoalMaker® Participation Portfolio As of 3/31/2022



2.5 Years

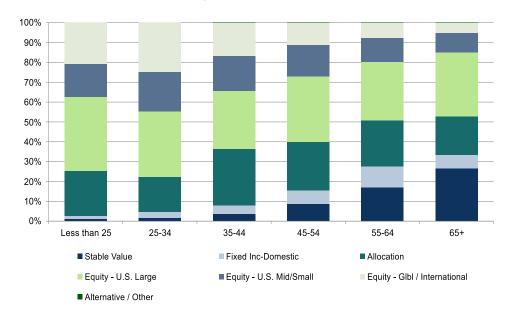
average length of time GoalMaker participants have been enrolled in GoalMaker

28.7%

GoalMaker participation rate for those who actively elected GoalMaker

Due to rounding, pie chart may not equal 100%

### **Asset Allocation by Age Group**



#### As of March 31, 2022

Asset Class	Less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Stable Value	\$4,289	\$248,925	\$1,714,107	\$10,436,213	\$34,219,011	\$70,521,156	\$117,143,701
Fixed Inc-Domestic	\$5,062	\$400,398	\$1,932,536	\$7,961,277	\$21,182,694	\$18,562,058	\$50,044,026
Allocation	\$81,294	\$2,447,206	\$13,001,196	\$29,383,509	\$47,041,470	\$51,225,834	\$143,180,509
Equity - U.S. Large	\$133,972	\$4,575,147	\$13,419,729	\$39,426,712	\$59,382,737	\$85,774,981	\$202,713,279
Equity - U.S. Mid/Small	\$60,703	\$2,796,519	\$8,010,459	\$19,027,587	\$24,403,646	\$26,511,122	\$80,810,036
Equity - Glbl / International	\$74,362	\$3,439,050	\$7,592,189	\$12,950,036	\$15,094,003	\$12,797,226	\$51,946,866
Alternative / Other	\$0	\$0	\$88,526	\$193,007	\$233,067	\$542,581	\$1,057,181
Total Assets	\$359,683	\$13,907,245	\$45,758,742	\$119,378,342	\$201,556,628	\$265,934,958	\$646,895,599
% of Assets	0.1%	2.1%	7.1%	18.5%	31.2%	41.1%	100.0%
Total Participants	108	1,060	1,502	1,885	2,003	1,728	8,286
Avg Account Balance	\$3,330	\$13,120	\$30,465	\$63,331	\$100,627	\$153,898	\$78,071

### **Rep Stats**

	4/1/2021- 6/30/2021	7/1/2021- 9/30/2021	10/1/2021- 12/31/2021	1/1/2022- 3/31/2022	Total
Group Presentations	10	9	14	15	48
Individual Participant Meetings	841	794	489	725	2,849
New Enrollments as a result of Group/Individual Meeting*	122	122	128	79	451
GoalMaker as a result of Group/Individual Meeting*	111	101	113	99	424
Contribution Rate Increases	120	120	134	119	493
Number of Rollovers	25	13	26	23	87
Rollover Dollars	\$978,000	\$452,000	\$825,000	\$287,000	\$2,542,000

### **ESG Funds**

					% of AUM
Plan # - Plan Name	Fund	Ticker	AUM as of 3/31/2022	# of PPT	of the Plan
940010 - 940060 - 403(b) Exclusive & Non-Exclusive					
	Calvert Equity Fund Class I	CEYIX	\$3,880,142	160	
	Pax Global Environmental Markets Fund Institutional Class	PGINX	\$520,159	76	
	PIMCO Total Return ESG Fund Institutional Class	PTSAX	\$4,593,644	1,089	
940020 - State Defined Contribution					
	Pax Global Environmental Markets Fund Institutional Class	PGINX	\$425,135	8	
	PIMCO Total Return ESG Fund Institutional Class	PTSAX	\$265,621	13	
940030 - Muni Defined Contribution					
	Pax Global Environmental Markets Fund Institutional Class	PGINX	\$4,291	1	
940050 - 457b Plan					
	Pax Global Environmental Markets Fund Institutional Class	PGINX	\$3,232,337	553	
	Pax Sustainable Allocation Fund Individual Investor Class	PAXWX	\$3,292,589	187	
	PIMCO Total Return ESG Fund Institutional Class	PTSAX	\$5,947,193	1,483	
	Vanguard FTSE Social Index Fund Institutional Shares	VFTNX	\$28,362,767	649	

### State of Vermont ICMA-RC Stable Income fund Performance Reporting As of 12/31/2021

Market-to-Book Value Ratio as of 12/31/2021 ......101.45%

	Account Performance	Benchmark: ICE BofA US 3M Treasury Bill
	3/31/	2022
1 MONTH	0.16%	0.03%
3 MONTH	0.48%	0.04%
YTD	0.48%	0.04%
1 YEAR	2.02%	0.06%
3 YEAR	2.30%	0.81%
5 YEAR	2.34%	1.13%
10 YEAR	2.34%	0.63%
SINCE INCEPTION	2.45%	N/A

<sup>\*</sup>Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized.

Assets and contributions reflect actual participant account balances and do not include outstanding loan balances, forfeitures, and / or expense account assets. Customer should promptly report any inaccuracy or discrepancy to the brokerage firm(s).

All oral communications should be re-confirmed in writing to protect the customer's legal rights, including rights under the Securities Investor Protection act (SIPA).

This information should not be considered an offer or solicitation of securities, insurance products or services. No offer is intended nor should this material be construed as an offer of any product. The information is being presented by us solely in our role as the plan's service provider and or record keeper.

Retirement products and services are provided by Prudential Retirement Insurance and Annuity Company, Hartford, CT, or its affiliates.

Securities products and services are offered through Prudential Investment Management Services LLC (PIMS), Newark, NJ, a Prudential Financial company.

Prudential Retirement's registered representatives are registered with Prudential Investment Management Services, LLC, Newark, NJ. A Prudential Financial Company.

In providing this information Prudential Retirement is not undertaking to provide impartial investment advice, or to give advice in a fiduciary capacity. Prudential Retirement may benefit from advisory and other fees paid to it or its affiliates for managing, selling, or settling of the Prudential mutual funds and other investment products or securities offered by Prudential Retirement or its affiliates. Investment vehicles sponsored or managed by a Prudential Retirement affiliate generate more revenue for the Prudential enterprise than non-proprietary investment vehicles. Prudential Retirement's sales personnel generally receive greater compensation if plan assets are invested in proprietary investment vehicles. Prudential Retirement may benefit directly from the difference between investment earnings of Prudential Retirement's stable value funds and the amount credited to deposits in those funds. Prudential Retirement may also benefit from broker-dealer or other entities' co-sponsorship of Prudential conferences.

Prudential Retirement's separate accounts are available under group variable annuity contracts issued by Prudential Retirement Insurance and Annuity Company (PRIAC), Hartford, CT. PRIAC is a Prudential Financial company.

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Prudential's Book of Business averages are as of 12/31/2021.

#### **Important Information Regarding the Empower Transition**

On April 1, 2022, Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company (GWLA), the parent company of Empower Retirement, LLC (Empower) acquired the full-service retirement business of Prudential Financial, Inc. In connection with the transaction, GWLA acquired all shares of the following entities, which are no longer affiliated with Prudential Financial, Inc.: Prudential Retirement Insurance and Annuity Company; Prudential Bank & Trust, FSB; Global Portfolio Strategies, Inc.; TBG Insurance Services Corporation; MC Insurance Agency Services, LLC; and Mullin TBG Insurance Agency Services, LLC.

Please use the following to determine if Empower is now the service provider for an account or product. If an individual has multiple accounts, they may be a customer of Prudential Financial, Inc. and its affiliates (together, Prudential) and Empower.

Account Type	Service Provider
If an individual is an annuitant, contingent annuitant or other beneficiary under a group annuity contract issued or reinsured by Prudential's pension risk transfer business or a plan participant whose benefit is administered by Prudential's pension risk transfer business  How does an individual know if this applies?  They were previously issued an annuity certificate from the Prudential Insurance Company of America in connection with their employer's defined benefit plan, OR they previously received a communication from their employer that Prudential has issued a guaranteed annuity covering all or a portion of their pension benefit or pays their pension benefit.	The account remains with Prudential and was not impacted by the transaction.  The "Important Disclosures Regarding the Empower Transaction" listed below <b>do not</b> apply to the account.
<ul> <li>If an individual independently purchased an individual annuity, life insurance or investment product with Prudential</li> <li>How does an individual know if this applies?</li> <li>They independently purchased a product from Prudential (other than a SmartSolution IRA) that is unrelated to an employer workplace plan.</li> <li>The product purchased is issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America (PICA), Prudential Annuities Life Assurance Corporation (PALAC), Pruco Life Insurance Company, or Pruco Life Insurance Company of New Jersey.</li> <li>They purchased an investment product or service through Pruco Securities, LLC.</li> </ul>	The account remains with Prudential and was not impacted by the transaction.  The "Important Disclosures Regarding the Empower Transaction" listed below <b>do not</b> apply to the account.

If an individual is a participant in a retirement plan previously serviced by Prudential Retirement that may include defined benefit plans, nonqualified plans, defined contribution plans and 401(k) plans (including a plan that permits self-directed brokerage accounts), or is an account holder of a SmartSolution IRA, an Auto Roll IRA or an NFS Prudential Brokerage Account...

This category includes certain Stable Value products on third party recordkeeping platforms where the service provider will transfer to Empower. These clients will be notified directly.

How does an individual know if this applies?

- They receive a notification from Prudential Retirement notifying them that Empower will become the service provider for their account.
- They receive a welcome email or letter from Empower.

...Empower is now the service provider for the account. However, with respect to SmartSolution IRAs and certain Auto Roll IRAs, Prudential Investment Management Services LLC (PIMS) remains the broker-dealer for a transitional period.

Please carefully review the "Important Disclosures Regarding the Empower Transaction" below that **apply**.

If an individual is a participant in the Prudential Supplemental Employee Savings Plan; the Prudential Financial, Inc. 2021 Omnibus Incentive Plan and the attendant Prudential Long-Term Incentive Program; the Prudential Financial, Inc. 2016 Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors; or the PGIM, Inc. Omnibus Deferred Compensation Plan...

How does an individual know if this applies?

 They receive statements and other notifications from Prudential in connection with one or more of these plans. ...Prudential remains the service provider for the plans. Empower is currently providing services as a sub-contractor for a transitional period.

Please carefully review the "Important Disclosures Regarding the Empower Transaction" below that **apply to the account as applicable.** 

#### **Important Disclosures Regarding the Empower Transaction**

Effective April 1, 2022, the following will apply:

- All references to "Prudential Retirement" refer to Empower. Prudential Retirement is no longer a business unit of Prudential.
- Certain insurance products written by The Prudential Insurance Company of America were reinsured to GWLA and Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York (for New York business). Empower Retirement will become the administrator of this business acquired from Prudential.
- Empower Retirement refers to the products and services offered by GWLA and its subsidiaries, including Empower Retirement, LLC. Empower Retirement is not affiliated with Prudential or its affiliates.
- Full-service retirement sales personnel and certain service personnel are no longer registered representatives of Prudential Investment Management Services LLC (PIMS) and are registered representatives of GWFS Equities, Inc. For a transition period, certain back office and service personnel will remain registered representatives of PIMS.
- During a transition period, Prudential and, as applicable, its affiliates will continue to provide services to Empower. PIMS will continue to provide certain broker-dealer services under the terms of existing services agreements for certain plans and will continue to be the broker-dealer of record for existing SmartSolution IRAs and certain Auto Roll IRAs for a transitional period.
- Any documents pertaining to fraud or security commitments by Prudential Retirement are no longer applicable and are replaced with Empower's commitments as set forth at participant.empower-retirement.com/participant/#/articles/securityGuarantee.
- If Empower is the service provider for an account, Prudential's Privacy Statements and Privacy Notices are replaced with Empower's Privacy Notice as set forth at <a href="mailto:empower-retirement.com/privacy">empower-retirement.com/privacy</a> for the account.

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**Empower Sponsor 4.2022** 

### **Section II Economic Outlook**





The labor market is in the process of normalization, manifested in accelerating growth in the supply of workers. The labor force has increased by more than three million workers since the end of last year, a 5% annual growth rate; labor force growth in 2021 was less than 1%. The crucial implication is that labor shortages could become less of a problem for employers over the next two years, suggesting that the growth rate in labor costs could soon begin to stabilize.

### **HOW SUSTAINABLE IS THE BOOM IN HIRING?**

by Robert F. DeLucia, CFA Consulting Economist

#### Summary and Major Conclusions:

- The probability that the Federal Reserve will engineer a soft economic landing is less than 50%. It is
  more likely that persistently high inflation will force the Fed to raise its policy rate to prohibitively
  high levels, ultimately triggering a recession.
- The demand for labor remains exceptionally strong, with hiring broadly distributed across most sectors. There are also severe shortages in certain key industries, partially attributable to a mismatch between record high job openings and record low unemployed workers. Wages are in a clear uptrend.
- A combination of a low unemployment rate and record high job openings reveals a skills mismatch
  in the labor market in other words, a less efficient matching process between workers and
  firms. This phenomenon is acting as a headwind to hiring.
- There is also an unprecedented divergence in hiring between large and small firms. For the first quarter of this year, large firms added 1.1 million workers, while small firms added only 84,000 workers. These numbers are consistent with my long-term structural theme of industry consolidation.
- Strength in the labor market is captured in virtually all traditional indicators. Job creation averaged more than 550,000 monthly during the first quarter, more than triple the monthly average of 180,000 during the ten years ending in 2019.
- Nationwide job openings currently exceed 11 million, an all-time high by a wide margin.
   By comparison, the number of unemployed workers has declined to only 6.3 million.
- The number of workers who are currently filing jobless claims is only 220 thousand, the lowest level since the 1960s when the US population was much smaller. Because of concerns over labor shortages, firms have reduced layoffs to achieve workforce stability.
- There are a number of developments that should result in a better functioning labor market. These
  pertain to public health conditions, demographic factors, and household finances.
   A continued low level of coronavirus infections should culminate in a full reopening of the
  economy and a loosening of supply chains.
- A recent Census Bureau survey found that ten million adults had exited the labor market because they were either sick with COVID-19, caring for sick family members, or afraid of becoming infected.
- Many workers left their jobs in 2020 and 2021 because of financial reasons: Large excess savings
  and soaring stock portfolios. However, savings are dwindling and investor confidence in the stock
  market has reversed course.



- There is a strong statistical correlation between the labor participation rate and the growth rate in wages. The sharp increase in wages should act as an incentive for workers to reenter the labor force.
- The bottom line is that the labor market is in the process of normalization, meaning that the supply of workers is increasing at an accelerating pace. The labor force has increased by more than three million workers since the end of last year, a 5% annual growth rate; labor force growth in 2021 was less than 1%.
- My forecast assumes continued strength in the labor market in coming months. Following net growth of six million in 2021, nonfarm payrolls are expected to increase by another four million this year and close to two million in 2023.
- Currently at 3.6%, the unemployment rate could decline to 3.3% by the summer and to 3% by yearend. I expect wages to remain strong over the next two years, rising by 5.5% this year and in 2023.
- The economic implications are mixed: Lower unemployment and rising wages are obvious positives, but a tighter labor market with worker shortages is a negative. Implications are also negative for monetary conditions, as continued strengthening in the labor market will encourage the Fed to tighten policy more aggressively.
- The combination of rising wages and a sustained uptrend in Fed policy rates should cause longterm interest rates to move higher, resulting in further capital losses in bond portfolios. Full-year losses in the fixed-income market are virtually assured.
- The equity market will likely experience several phases over the next year, with continued weakness in the short term followed by a meaningful rally during the second half of this year. The equity market could end 2022 with a low single-digit rate of return.

There are numerous crosscurrents affecting the US labor market, both favorable and unfavorable. These forces have accentuated uncertainty regarding the outlook for economic growth and the direction of financial markets. This week's *Economic Perspective* provides an analysis of current labor market trends and the critical implications for financial markets.

#### **Broad Overview:** The most significant characteristics of the labor market are as follows:

- A very strong business demand for labor
- Hiring broadly distributed across many sectors
- Severe worker shortages in certain industries
- A mismatch between record high job openings and declining unemployed workers
- Significant divergence in labor demand by company size
- Current supply/demand shortage exerting upward pressure on wages
- The labor market should reach full employment by yearend



Importantly, the job market appears to be in the process of returning to normal with an improving balance between supply and demand, although certain imbalances and distortions could persist in future years.

**The Beveridge Curve:** The most notable aspect of the market is the almost unprecedented imbalance between the demand for and supply of workers. There is also a distinct mismatch between job openings and workers seeking employment. The Beveridge Curve — named after William Beveridge of the London School of Economics — captures the statistical relationship between job openings and the unemployment rate. The curve moves outward during periods when job openings are high and the unemployment rate is low — emblematic of a mismatch between job openings and people searching for work.

Match Efficiency: A combination of a very low unemployment rate and record high job openings — as is currently the case —reveals a skills mismatch in the market. In other words, there is currently a less efficient matching process between workers and firms. Specifically, this situation is a result of the expanded need for highly skilled workers. This decline in "match efficiency" means that employers need to post more vacancies to fill a given number of positions. It also means sustained upward pressure on wages for job categories in short supply.

Job Growth and Company Size: There is an unprecedented divergence in hiring between large and small firms. For the first quarter of this year, large firms (more than 500 employees) added 1.1 million workers, while small firms (fewer than 50 employees) added only 84,000 workers. Medium-sized firms — with an employment base ranging from 50 to 500 — added 345,000 workers in the first quarter.

Industry Consolidation: These numbers are consistent with my long-term structural theme of industry consolidation, whereby the largest companies in an industry will gain market share and become even more dominant. This trend has been reinforced by developments associated with the pandemic.

Fundamental Indicators: Private sector demand for labor is unambiguously robust. <u>Strength</u> in the labor market is captured in virtually all traditional indicators:

- Nonfarm payrolls are expanding at an annual rate of 3%, the fastest pace in decades.
   Job creation has averaged more than 550,000 per month over the past three months.
- Nationwide job openings currently exceed 11 million, an all-time high by a wide margin. By comparison, the number of unemployed workers has declined to only 6.3 million.
- According to Challenger, Gray, & Christmas, nationwide job cuts of 21,387 are at one-half the long-term average of 44,400.



- The number of workers who are currently filing jobless claims is only 220 thousand, the lowest level since the 1960s when the labor force was much larger. Because of concerns over labor shortages, firms are reluctant to lay off workers.
- The unemployment rate has fallen to a pandemic low of 3.6%. Based upon current trends, the rate could soon match the recent record low of 3.5% in 2019 and possibly fall to 3% prior to the next recession, the lowest level since 1953.
- The number of workers <u>involuntarily working in part-time jobs</u> is at the lowest level in two decades. At 6.9%, the underemployment rate has fallen to pre-pandemic levels.

**Economic Shocks:** What explains the extraordinary rebound in hiring? The answer involves the nature of the recession. Employment tends to be a notable laggard following traditional recessions caused by monetary tightening. However, history shows that employment surges following recessions caused by exogenous shocks, such as natural disasters, pandemics, and war. Another factor is the unprecedented government stimulus in response to the economic collapse caused by the pandemic.

**Return to Normal:** There are a number of developments that should result in a better functioning labor market over the next one to two years. These pertain to public health conditions, demographic factors, and household finances.

- A recent Census Bureau survey found that ten million adults had exited the labor market because they were either sick with COVID-19, caring for sick family members, or afraid of becoming infected.
- An easing of coronavirus infections should culminate in a full reopening of the economy and a loosening of supply chains.
- A record 48 million workers quit their jobs in 2021, but this trend appears to have peaked and is trending lower.
- Retirements doubled from their normal pace in 2020, but this trend appears to be reversing, as many older Americans decide to return to work. Large numbers of seniors are returning to work on a part-time basis.
- Many workers left their jobs in 2020 and 2021 because of financial reasons: Large excess savings and soaring stock portfolios. However, savings are dwindling and investor confidence in the stock market has reversed course.
- According to the Law of Supply, the sharp increase in labor compensation should act as an incentive for workers to reenter the labor force. There is a strong statistical correlation between the labor participation rate and wage growth.



The bottom line is that the labor market is in the process of normalization, manifested in accelerating growth in the supply of workers. The labor force has increased by more than three million workers since the end of last year, a 5% annual growth rate; labor force growth in 2021 was less than 1%. The crucial implication is that labor shortages could become less of a problem for employers over the next two years, suggesting that labor costs could soon begin to stabilize.

**Employment Forecast:** My forecast assumes continued strength in the labor market for the remainder of this year and most of 2023. Following net growth of six million in 2021, nonfarm payrolls are expected to increase by another four million this year and close to two million in 2023. Currently at 3.6%, the unemployment rate could decline to 3.5% by the middle of this year and to less than 3.3% early next year.

Labor Compensation: Wages are growing at an annual rate of close to 6%, the fastest rate since the 1980s. A tight market for both high-skilled and low-skilled workers has resulted in a surge in labor compensation. However, I believe that the current shortage of low-skilled workers is temporary and that wage pressures in that segment of the market could moderate over the next two years. The same is not true for high-skilled workers, who could remain in short supply until the next recession. I expect wages to remain strong over the next two years, rising by 5.5% this year and again in 2023.

**Economic Implications:** There are several important economic implications stemming from continued strength in the labor market:

- Consumer Spending: Household spending should remain well supported by job growth and steadily increasing wages. Personal income has increased by 8% on a year-to-date basis.
- Business Capital Investment: There is a very high positive correlation between hiring and capital spending. It is logical that businesses add to both payrolls and their capital stocks when in an expansion mode.
- Housing Market: Both home sales and new construction benefit from strong job creation and rapid wage growth.
- Consumer Inflation: Wages affect consumer prices through service inflation, which comprises 85% of the Consumer Price Index. The worst-case scenario would be a wage/price spiral whereby a vicious feedback loop develops between wages and selling prices.
- Monetary Policy: All else equal, the Federal Reserve will tighten policy more aggressively in an environment of low and falling unemployment and rapidly rising wage inflation. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell recently described the labor market as "tight to an unhealthy degree." The implication is that the Fed will tighten monetary conditions until inflationary pressures abate.



#### **INVESTMENT CONCLUSIONS**

The current labor market is a good news, bad news story. The combination of robust labor demand and rising wages helps improve social conditions and reduce poverty. Strong income growth should also generate rapid growth in consumer spending and provide support for the housing market. The bad news pertains to an increasingly tight labor market and the implications for inflation and monetary policy. These divergences will result in increased volatility in world financial markets.

The combination of rising wages and a sustained uptrend in Fed policy rates should cause long-term interest rates to move higher, resulting in further capital losses in bond portfolios. Full-year losses in the fixed-income market are virtually assured. The equity market will likely experience several phases over the next year, with continued weakness in the short term followed by a meaningful rally during the second half of this year. The domestic equity market could end 2022 with a low single-digit total rate of return.



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**Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index:** is a broad base, market capitalization-weighted bond market index representing intermediate term investment grade bonds traded in the United States. Investors frequently use the index as a stand-in for measuring the performance of the US bond market.

**Dow Jones Industrial Average:** is a stock market index that measures the stock performance of 30 large companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States.

**MSCI World Excluding US Equity Index:** is a stock market index comprising of non-U.S. stocks from 23 developed markets and 26 emerging markets. The index is calculated with a methodology that focuses on liquidity, investability, and replicability.

**NASDAQ:** is an American stock exchange at One Liberty Plaza in New York City. It is ranked second on the list of stock exchanges by market capitalization of shares traded, behind the New York Stock.

**Russell 2000 Index:** is a small-cap stock market index of the smallest 2,000 stocks in the Russell 3000 Index. It was started by the Frank Russell Company in 1984. The index is maintained by FTSE Russell, a subsidiary of the London Stock Exchange Group.

**Russell 3000 Growth Index:** is a market capitalization-weighted index based on the Russell 3000 index. The Russell 3000 Growth Index includes companies that display signs of above-average growth. The index is used to provide a gauge of the performance of growth stocks in the United States.

**Russell 3000 Value Index:** is a market-capitalization weighted equity index maintained by the Russell Investment Group and based on the Russell 3000 Index, which measures how U.S. stocks in the equity value segment perform by including only value stocks.

**S&P 500® Index:** Measures the performance of 500 widely held stocks in US equity market. Standard and Poor's chooses member companies for the index based on market size, liquidity and industry group representation. Included are the stocks of industrial, financial, utility, and transportation companies. Since mid-1989, this composition has been more flexible and the number of issues in each sector has varied. It is market capitalization-weighted.

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