

Washoe County 401(a) Plan

01/01/2022 through 03/31/2022





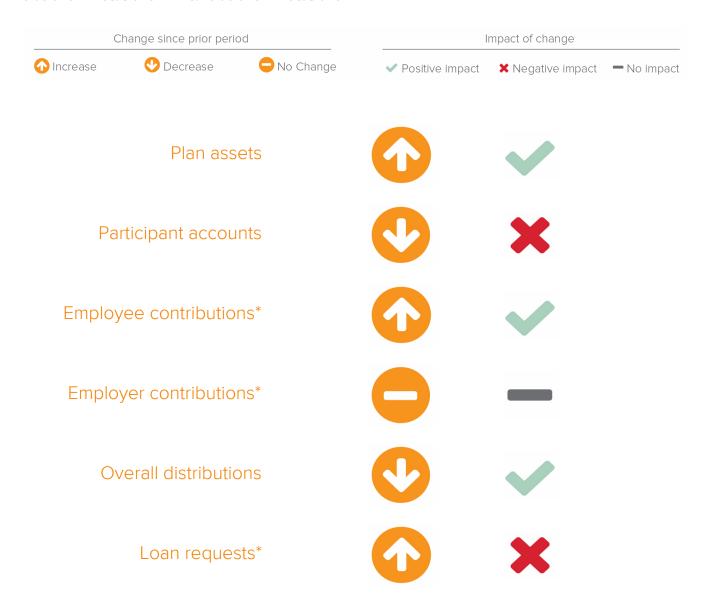
## Client Health Review

Capture the pulse of your plan with the Client Health Review. This section provides an overview of plan performance through an intuitive analysis of key elements, including participation, deferrals, participant engagement, and more.

### **PLAN PULSE**

Gauge the direction and health of your plan by reviewing how key plan statistics have increased, decreased or stayed the same over time.

### 01/01/2021 - 03/31/2021 vs. 01/01/2022- 03/31/2022



For sponsor use only. Not for distribution to plan participants.

Plan statistics for: Washoe County 401(a) Plan

<sup>\*</sup> If applicable to your plan.

#### **PLAN STATEMENT**

Here's a summary of your plan's current and prior period assets. In addition, total assets are graphed in the chart below for the 5 most recent periods. Please note, in some cases there may be differences between amounts noted here and in other reports or statements you receive. Differences may be due to timing and reporting methods. For this reason, we suggest you do not rely solely on the Plan Review for audit purposes.

### Plan summary

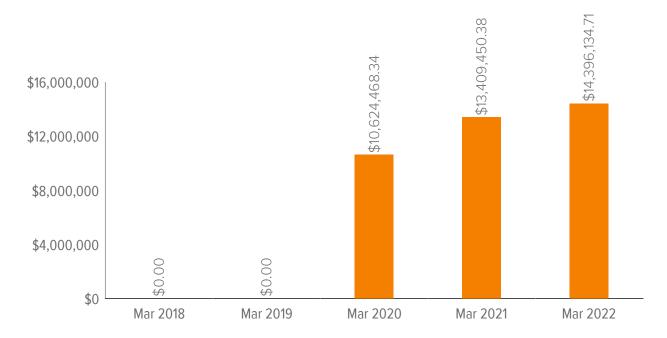
Compare by period

	(01/01/2021 - 03/31/2021)	(01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022)
Beginning of Period Plan Assets	\$12,984,413.05	\$14,979,197.48
Contributions	\$129,179.28	\$136,267.61
Distributions	-\$210,236.01	-\$50,795.02
Loan Activity	\$68,362.58	\$6,569.27
Other Activity	-\$255.21	-\$2,308.43
Dividends	\$26,717.91	\$24,364.54
Appreciation/Depreciation	\$411,268.78	-\$697,160.74
End of Period Plan Assets	\$13,409,450.38	\$14,396,134.71

Appreciation/Depreciation reflects the investment gains/losses during the period reported excluding assets held outside Voya. If applicable, Dividends may represent dividends earned on assets held in NAV Funds or Self Directed Brokerage Option accounts.

### Total plan assets

Compare by period end



For sponsor use only. Not for distribution to plan participants.

Plan statistics for: Washoe County 401(a) Plan

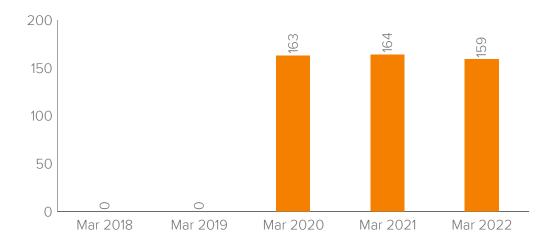
### **PARTICIPATION**

Participation is a key indicator of the success of your plan. Check out your progress. We can help you devise a plan to boost participation among employees as well as increase the deferral rates of existing participants.

### Participant account reconciliation

	01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022
Beginning of Period	159
New Accounts	1
Closed Accounts	-1
End of Period	159
Terminated Employees with an account balance	68
Terminated Employees with an account balance < \$5,000	4

### Participant accounts by year

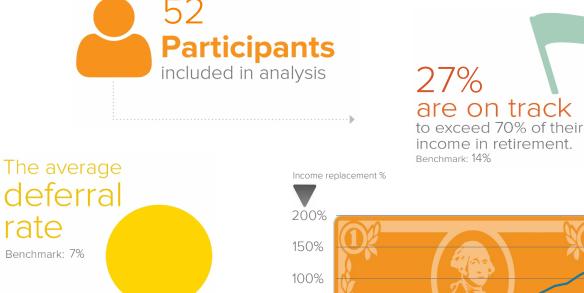


### Participant accounts by age group

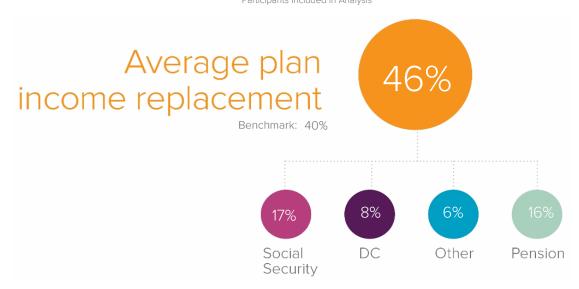
	Mar	2018	Mar 2	2019	Mar 2	2020	Mar	2021	Ma	r 2022
<30	0	0.00%		0.00%	1	0.61%	1	0.61%	2	1.26%
30 - 39	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	18	11.04%	20	12.20%	17	10.69%
40 - 49	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	43	26.38%	39	23.78%	39	24.53%
50 - 59	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	45	27.61%	44	26.83%	44	27.67%
60+	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	55	33.74%	60	36.59%	57	35.85%
Unknown	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.61%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

### **PLAN HEALTH INSIGHTS**

#### As of 03/31/2022



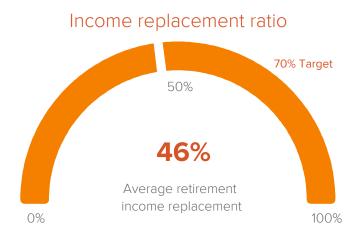


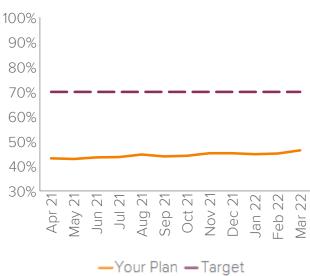


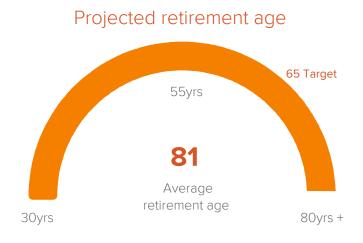
Benchmark data derived from Voya book of business statistics Source of Data: Voya Retirement Readiness Data Mart

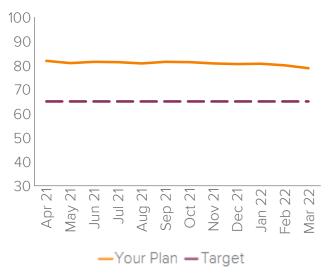
### PLAN HEALTH TRENDING

#### As of 03/31/2022

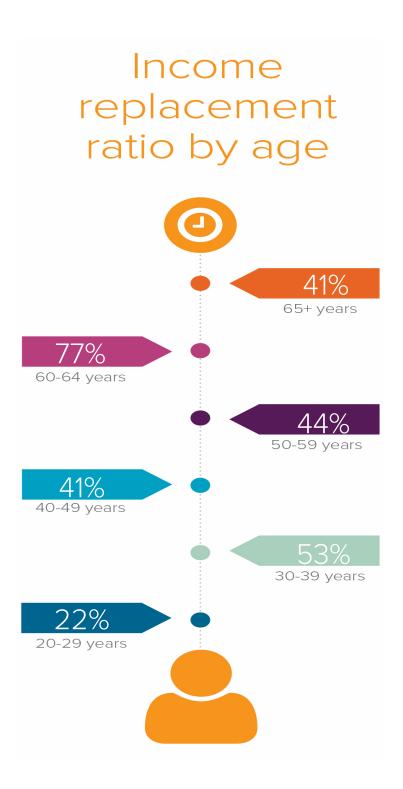








Source of Data: Voya Retirement Readiness Data Mart



Source of Data: Voya Retirement Readiness Data Mart CN0428-33960-0519D

### PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT

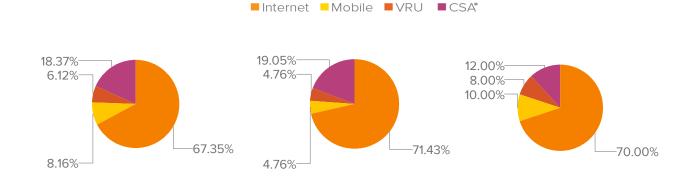
Offering a variety of services helps create a more engaging experience for participants, which encourages action and drives results. The Participant Engagement report provides an overview of participant activity with central services, such as the toll-free Customer Service Center, Internet, Mobile, and the Voice Response line. Use this report to gain key insight into the actions and engagement levels of plan participants.

### Participant access statistics

01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022

	Internet	Mobile	VRU	CSA*
Inquiries by type				
Total participants (unique)	35	5	4	6
Total inquiries	638	76	5	11

### Unique participant inquiries by type



01/01/2020 - 03/31/2020

01/01/2021 - 03/31/2021

01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022

	Internet	Mobile	VRU	CSA*
Actions by type				
Catch up contribution elections	0	0	0	0
Contribution rate escalations	0	0	0	0
Deferral updates	0	0	0	0
Fund transfers	4	0	0	1
In-service/partial withdrawals	1	N/A	N/A	1
Investment election changes	6	0	0	0
Investment reallocations	9	0	0	1
Loan requests	0	N/A	N/A	1
Lump sum withdrawals	2	N/A	N/A	1
Rebalance elections	0	0	0	0
Total	22	o	o	5

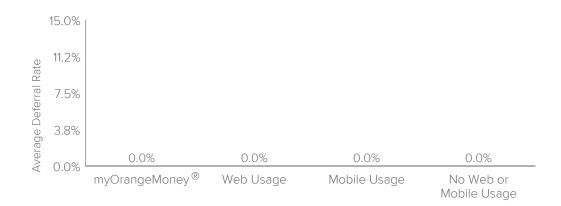
<sup>\*</sup> CSA - Customer Service Associate

	Count
Engagement	
myOrangeMoney <sup>®</sup>	3
Personal Financial Dashboard	1
Total participants (unique)	3
Action taken through engagement	
Change current/future asset allocation	1
Participants taking action (unique)	1

### Web engagement impact on deferral rates

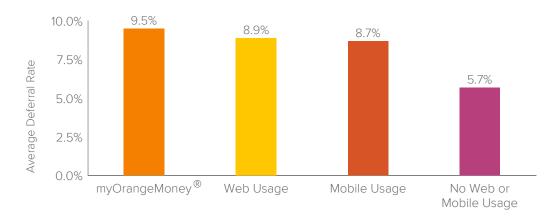
01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022

### Your plan



Important Note - Your plan's rates are calculated based on the information provided to Voya.

### All Voya plans



Rates derived from Voya Retirement Readiness Data Mart as of February 2022



# Plan Activity

The Plan Activity is designed to lighten your burden and provide you with several easy-to-read analysis tools. These tools will empower you to actively analyze plan performance and objectively make recommendations for optimizations.

### TRANSACTION ACTIVITY DETAIL

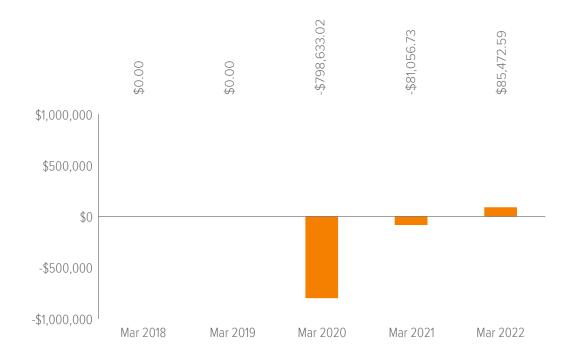
Below is a summary of your plan's transaction activity and net cash flow, along with highlights of the more notable transactions for the current period and prior periods. Monitor this data over time to ensure contribution levels are satisfactory and that distributions haven't risen unexpectedly, possibly indicating a need for further employee education.

### Summary activity

	Prior P 01/01/2021	eriod - 03/31/2021	Current Period 01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022		
	Amount	Participants	Amount	Participants	
Contributions	\$129,179.28	95	\$136,267.61	92	
Distributions	-\$210,236.01	7	-\$50,795.02	6	
Loan Activity	\$68,362.58	19	\$6,569.27	15	
Other Activity	\$26,462.70	167	\$22,056.11	160	

The Summary Activity section does not include daily valuations of investment options; thus it does not reflect market appreciation or depreciation. Net Cash Flow below is determined by subtracting the total Distributions from the total Contributions for the period.

# Net cash flow by period end (contributions vs. distributions)



### **Activity Highlights**

, 9 9							
		Prior Period 01/01/2021 - 03/31/2021		t Period - 03/31/2022	Change Over Prior Period		
Contributions	Amount	Participants	Amount	Participants	Amount	Participants	
414H Pickup	\$129,179.28	95	\$136,267.61	92	5.49%	-3	
Total	\$129,179.28		\$136,267.61		5.49%		
Distributions	Amount	Participants	Amount	Participants	Amount	Participants	
Minimum Distribution	-\$8,692.26	1	-\$2,424.80	1	-72.10%	0	
Periodic Payment	-\$3,250.00	2	-\$4,650.00	2	43.08%	0	
Withdrawal	-\$198,293.75	5	-\$43,720.22	3	-77.95%	-2	
Total	-\$210,236.01		-\$50,795.02		-75.84%		
Loan Activity	Amount	Participants	Amount	Participants	Amount	Participants	
Loan	\$0.00	0	-\$10,000.00	1	0.00%	1	
Loan Repayment	\$68,362.58	19	\$16,569.27	15	-75.76%	-4	
Total	\$68,362.58		\$6,569.27		-90.39%		
Other Activity	Amount	Participants	Amount	Participants			
Asset Transfer	\$1,898.37	1	\$0.00	0			
Dividends	\$26,717.91	96	\$24,364.54	96			
Fee	-\$2,650.10	162	-\$2,977.36	160			
Revenue Credit	\$496.52	78	\$668.93	77			
Total	\$26,462.70		\$22,056.11				

If applicable, "Asset Transfer" may refer to internal or external transfers of assets as a result of various transactions including, but not limited to, 90-24 transfers, 1035 exchanges, rollover contributions, mergers or product conversions. If applicable, "Fee," aside from "TPA Fee Deduction" and "Maintenance Fee," may refer to asset based administration, service or loan fees. If applicable, "Dividends" may represent dividends earned on assets held in NAV Funds or Self Directed Brokerage Option accounts.

### **CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY**

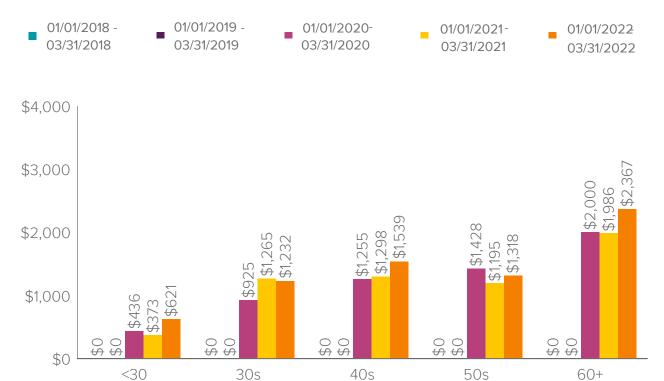
Examine contribution levels in a simple year-over-year format. Find out if your employees' contribution levels increased or decreased over the last five years.

### Contributions by source and participants

	01/01/2018 - 03/31/2018	01/01/2019 - 03/31/2019	01/01/2020 - 03/31/2020	01/01/2021 - 03/31/2021	01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022
Employee					
414H Pickup	\$0.00 (0)	\$0.00 (0)	\$128,425.30 (95)	\$129,179.28 (95)	\$136,267.61 (92)
Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$128,425.30	\$129,179.28	\$136,267.61
Grand Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$128,425.30	\$129,179.28	\$136,267.61

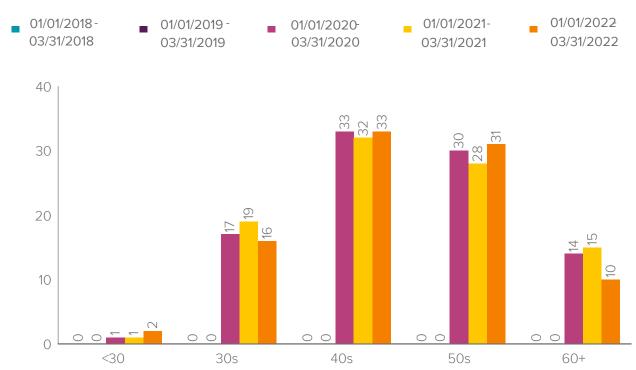
(Numbers) represent number of participants

### Average participant contributions by age group



Average participant contributions include employee sources only

### Contributing participant counts by age group



Contributing participant counts include employee sources only

### **CURRENT PARTICIPATION AND ENROLLMENT STATISTICS**

Review key plan enrollment statistics at a glance including participation, deferrals, auto enrollment, and more. Use this report to spot trends and understand the overall activity and enrollment health of the plan.

### Current participation

	Year End 2018	Year End 2019	Year End 2020	Year End 2021	Q1 2022	
Participant accounts	0	165	160	159	159	
Deferral summary				Eligibility track	ing	
As of				As of 03/31/20	022	
Average deferral rate for all	participants		%	Total eligible em	ployees	
Average deferral rate for HC	CE participants		%	Eligible employe	es not enrolled	
Average deferral rate for NH	HCE participant	s	%			
Participants included in defe	erral rate calcul	ation		Plan participat	ion	
Participants who changed d	eferral rate to 0	)	N/A	As of		
in the last 3 months				Participation rate		
Contribution summary						
As of 03/31/2022				Terminated en	nployees	
				As of 04/27/2	022	
Total participants actively de 4 months	eferring in last		90	With an account	balance	
				With an account	balance < \$5,000	

### **Enrollment summary**

### 01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022

New enrollments	1
Participants who opted for auto-escalation	0

Your plan's data is calculated based on information provided to Voya. Participants actively deferring in last 4 months excludes those who've been suspended or currently have an inactive account status.

### PARTICIPANT BALANCE

Monitoring your participants' account balances and comparing them to benchmark data helps you encourage employees to remain on track with their retirement.

### Your average participant account balance compared to benchmark data

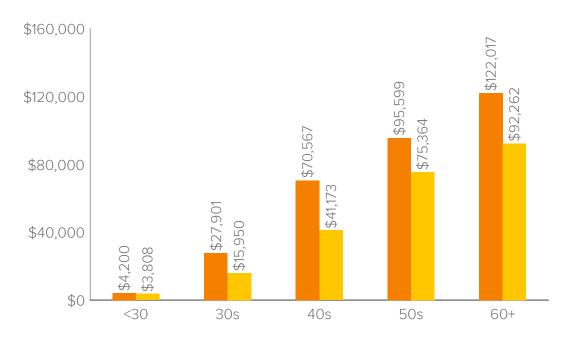
♦ Your balance is above the benchmark
Your balance is below the benchmark
Solution
No change

	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	Mar 2022
Your Plan	\$0	\$0	\$65,181	\$81,765	\$90,542
Benchmark	\$35,773	\$40,381	\$46,823	\$52,286	
			•	•	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Voya Universe of Government Plans as of December 2018

### Your average participant account balance by age group





Voya Universe of Government Plans as of December 2021

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 2}$  Voya Universe of Government Plans as of December 2019

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Voya Universe of Government Plans as of December 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Voya Universe of Government Plans as of December 2021

### **DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY**

Compare your plan's total distribution dollars over a five year span. See how these dollars change according to type of distribution, in addition to your number of transactions.

### Distributions by type and participants

	01/01/2018 -	01/01/2019 -	01/01/2020 -	01/01/2021 -	01/01/2022 -
	03/31/2018	03/31/2019	03/31/2020	03/31/2021	03/31/2022
Minimum	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$10,359.38	-\$8,692.26	-\$2,424.80
Distribution	(0)	(0)	(3)	(1)	(1)
Periodic	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$1,650.00	-\$3,250.00	-\$4,650.00
Payment	(0)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(2)
Withdrawal	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$915,048.94	-\$198,293.75	-\$43,720.22
	(0)	(0)	(4)	(5)	(3)
Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$927,058.32	-\$210,236.01	-\$50,795.02

(Numbers) represent number of participants

### **LOAN SUMMARY**

Review your plan's outstanding loans over a five year period and see details on loan types as well as the number of loans per participants. Use this data to spot trends and monitor loan activity to determine opportunities for participant education.

### Outstanding loans by type

	03/31/2018	03/31/2019	03/31/2020	03/31/2021	03/31/2022
General Purpose	\$0.00 (0)	\$0.00 (0)	\$240,246.00 (21)	\$163,260.75 (18)	\$163,547.65 (15)
Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$240,246.00	\$163,260.75	\$163,547.65

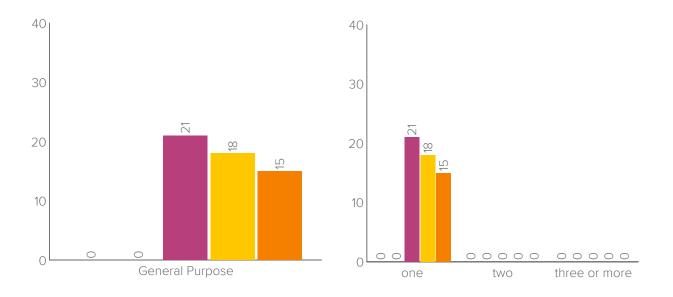
(Numbers) represent number of outstanding loans

### Loan detail



### Number of loans by type

### Number of loans by participants



#### **DIVERSIFICATION**

It's sensible for each participant to hold a well-diversified retirement portfolio. Doing so reduces each investor's exposure to risk while optimizing his/her potential for return. The information that follows provides some insight as to how your participants are diversifying their investments.

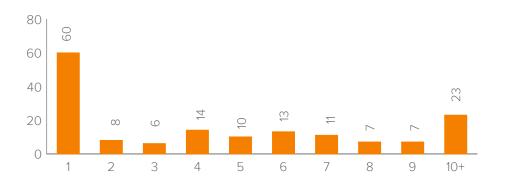
### Investment diversification

As of 04/27/2022



Voya views a person as diversified if their investment mix is made up of at least one fixed fund, one U.S. fund, and one Non U.S. fund and less than 20% in company stock, as applicable. Alternately they are considered diversified if they are invested in an asset allocation fund.

## Diversification of participant assets by number of participants As of 03/31/2022



### Average number of investment options utilized per participant

Number of investment options

	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	Mar 2022
With Asset Allocation Funds	0.0	5.0	4.6	4.6
Without Asset Allocation Funds	0.0	5.7	5.4	5.4

The average number of investment options utilized per participant without asset allocation funds excludes those participants who are invested solely in an asset allocation fund.

Please remember, using diversification as part of an investment strategy neither assures nor guarantees better performance and cannot protect against loss in declining markets.

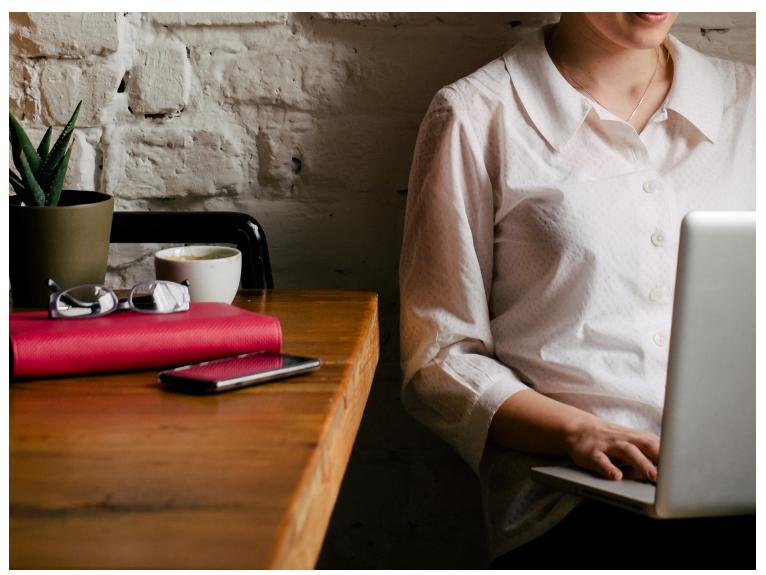


Plan statistics for: Washoe County 401(a) Plan

<sup>\*</sup> Voya Universe of Government Plans as of Dec. 2021; includes ppts invested solely in an asset allocation fund

## Diversification detail of participants utilizing one investment option

Investment Option/Fund Name (by Asset Class)	Participants	Invested
Asset Allocation	Total:	29
American Funds 2010 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		1
American Funds 2015 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		0
American Funds 2020 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		0
American Funds 2025 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		2
American Funds 2030 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		6
American Funds 2035 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		6
American Funds 2040 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		7
American Funds 2045 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		1
American Funds 2050 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		5
American Funds 2055 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		0
American Funds 2060 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		1
American Funds 2065 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6		0
Stability of Principal	Total:	26
Voya Fixed Account - 457/401 II		26
Bonds	Total:	0
Balanced	Total:	3
American Funds American Balanced Fund® - Class R-6		3
Large Cap Value/Blend	Total:	0
Large Cap Growth	Total:	1
American Funds The Growth Fund of America® - Class R-6		1
Small/Mid/Specialty	Total:	1
Vanguard® Mid-Cap Index Fund - Admiral Shares		1
Global / International	Total:	0
Grand total of participants utilizing one investment option		60



## Plan Investment Review

The Plan Investment Review provides a comprehensive overview of all of the investment options under your plan. It highlights multiple investment analysis tools, employee diversification, and several key facets to help you determine if the plan is on track to achieve the desired performance goals.

# TOTAL PLAN ASSETS AND CONTRIBUTIONS BY INVESTMENT OPTION

Compare the allocation of existing assets with that of the current period. Do you see a dramatic change where assets are currently being allocated? Does that shift make sense given current market conditions...or your employees? Are the participants well diversified across the asset classes?

### Diversification of Participant Assets and Contributions

Investment Option/Fund Name (by Asset Class)	Assets as of 03/31/2022	% of Total Assets	Participants Invested	Contributions 01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022	% of Total Contributions	Participants Contributing
Asset Allocation						
American Funds 2010 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$135,763.93	0.94%	1	\$0.00	0.00%	0
American Funds 2015 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$11.09	0.00%	1	\$0.00	0.00%	0
American Funds 2020 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0.00	0.00%	0
American Funds 2025 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$192,379.91	1.34%	2	\$2,825.76	2.11%	1
American Funds 2030 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$773,538.85	5.37%	8	\$17,618.28	13.14%	7
American Funds 2035 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$191,634.85	1.33%	7	\$5,632.30	4.20%	4
American Funds 2040 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$165,749.62	1.15%	7	\$6,351.42	4.74%	7
American Funds 2045 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$4,022.53	0.03%	1	\$1,188.93	0.89%	1
American Funds 2050 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$87,813.41	0.61%	5	\$3,098.09	2.31%	5
American Funds 2055 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0.00	0.00%	0
American Funds 2060 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$15,166.25	0.11%	1	\$955.44	0.71%	1

Investment Option/Fund Name (by Asset Class)	Assets as of 03/31/2022	% of Total Assets	Participants Invested	Contributions 01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022	% of Total Contributions	Participants Contributing
American Funds 2065 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0.00	0.00%	0
Total	\$1,566,080.44	10.88%		\$37,670.22	28.10%	
Stability of Principal						
Voya Fixed Account - 457/401 II	\$4,476,548.04	31.10%	92	\$28,324.82	21.13%	43
Total	\$4,476,548.04	31.10%		\$28,324.82	21.13%	
Bonds						
Hartford Total Return Bond HLS Fund - Class IA	\$152,711.81	1.06%	26	\$1,263.81	0.94%	9
PIMCO High Yield Fund - Institutional Class	\$39,901.21	0.28%	14	\$820.16	0.61%	7
PIMCO International Bond Fund (U.S. Dollar-Hedged) - Class I	\$7,751.15	0.05%	8	\$185.67	0.14%	5
Total	\$200,364.17	1.39%		\$2,269.64	1.69%	
Balanced						
American Funds American Balanced Fund® - Class R-6	\$1,005,802.99	6.99%	38	\$7,311.22	5.45%	23
Total	\$1,005,802.99	6.99%		\$7,311.22	5.45%	
Large Cap Value/Blend						
Allspring Disciplined U.S. Core Fund - Institutional Class	\$968,450.72	6.73%	48	\$2,426.98	1.81%	22
American Century Equity Income Fund - R6 Class	\$613,009.08	4.26%	45	\$4,324.88	3.23%	28
Vanguard® Institutional Index Fund - Institutional Shares	\$1,750,201.88	12.16%	70	\$22,542.64	16.82%	44
Total	\$3,331,661.68	23.14%		\$29,294.50	21.85%	
Large Cap Growth						
American Funds The Growth Fund of America® - Class R-6	\$1,183,582.38	8.22%	63	\$7,803.01	5.82%	37
Total	\$1,183,582.38	8.22%		\$7,803.01	5.82%	
Small/Mid/Specialty						
Allspring Small Company Growth Fund - Class R6	\$178,531.71	1.24%	33	\$2,018.83	1.51%	20
AMG GW&K Small Cap Value Fund - Class N	\$413,008.31	2.87%	46	\$1,343.32	1.00%	18

For sponsor use only. Not for distribution to plan participants.

Plan statistics for: Washoe County 401(a) Plan

Investment Option/Fund Name (by Asset Class)	Assets as of 03/31/2022	% of Total Assets	Participants Invested	Contributions 01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022	% of Total Contributions	Participants Contributing
Hartford MidCap HLS Fund - Class IA	\$747,521.67	5.19%	70	\$4,644.32	3.46%	37
Vanguard® Mid-Cap Index Fund - Admiral Shares	\$606,221.23	4.21%	64	\$6,062.19	4.52%	38
Vanguard® Small-Cap Index Fund - Admiral[] Shares	\$343,066.33	2.38%	46	\$3,627.47	2.71%	27
Total	\$2,288,349.25	15.90%		\$17,696.13	13.20%	
Global / International						
American Funds EuroPacific Growth Fund® - Class R-6	\$343,745.76	2.39%	36	\$3,686.88	2.75%	18
Total	\$343,745.76	2.39%		\$3,686.88	2.75%	
Grand Total	\$14,396,134.71			\$134,056.42		

#### PERFORMANCE UPDATE

#### **WASHOE COUNTY 401A PLAN**

#### Average Annual Total Returns as of: 03/31/2022 (shown in percentages)

Variable annuities and mutual funds offered through a retirement plan are intended as long-term investments designed for retirement purposes. Money distributed from a 403(b) plan, 401(a)/(k) plan, or a 457 plan will be taxed as ordinary income in the year the money is distributed. Early withdrawals from a 403(b) plan and a 401(a)/(k) plan, if taken prior to age 59 1/2, will be subject to the IRS 10% premature distribution penalty tax, unless an exception applies. This IRS premature distribution penalty tax does not apply to 457 plans. Account values fluctuate with market conditions, and when surrendered the principal may be worth more or less than the original amount invested.

The performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results. For monthend performance which may be lower or higher than the performance data shown please call 800-584-6001. Investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that, when sold, an investment may be worth more or less than the original cost.

The returns assume reinvestment of all dividends (ordinary income and capital gains) and are net of management fees and other fund operating expenses. Voya will assess an annual administrative fee of 0.03% on all investments including assets held in the Voya Fixed Account - 457/401 II. This fee is deducted from your account monthly and will be pro-rated across balances held in each of the investment options. A separate quarterly fee of 0.05% will be deducted from your account to reimburse the plans independent consultant for its services. These returns do not reflect any plan level administrative fees, if applicable; if reflected, returns would be less favorable. The performance data shown below also does not reflect an expense reimbursement which may be applied to participant accounts on a monthly basis. If this expense reimbursement did apply and had been reflected, the performance data shown for each option would have been higher. Please contact your local representative for more information.

You should consider the investment objectives, risks and charges, and expenses of the funds carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other information. Anyone who wishes to obtain a free copy of the fund prospectuses may call their Voya representative or the number above. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.

Returns less than one year are not annualized. Fund Inception Date is the date of inception for the underlying fund, and is the date used in calculating the periodic returns. This date may also precede the portfolio's inclusion in the product.

Investment Options	1-Mo	3-Mo	YTD	1-Yr	3-Yr	5-Yr	10-Yr	Incept	Fund Inception Date	Gross Fund Exp %*	Net Fund Exp %*
Stability of Principal											
Stability of Principal											_
Voya Fixed Account - 457/401 II - 4301 (1)(5)	0.10	0.29	0.29	1.35	1.60	1.76	2.09				
Bonds											
High Yield Bond											
PIMCO High Yield Fund - Institutional Class - 814	-0.89	-4.70	-4.70	-0.90	3.77	4.13	5.15		12/15/1992	0.56	0.56
Intermediate Core-Plus Bond											
Hartford Total Return Bond HLS Fund - Class IA - 7691	-2.86	-6.82	-6.82	-4.60	2.39	2.78	2.93		08/31/1977	0.51	0.51
World Bond											
PIMCO International Bond Fund (U.S. Dollar-Hedged) - Class I - 8514	-1.39	-3.73	-3.73	-4.04	1.56	2.64	4.14		12/02/1992	0.52	0.52
Asset Allocation											
Lifecycle											
American Funds 2010 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - 1971	-0.25	-3.23	-3.23	3.59	7.49	6.54	6.65		02/01/2007	0.28	0.28
American Funds 2015 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - 1973	-0.16	-3.59	-3.59	3.82	8.06	7.04	7.22		02/01/2007	0.29	0.29
American Funds 2020 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - 1975	-0.15	-3.91	-3.91	3.83	8.49	7.57	7.89		02/01/2007	0.30	0.30
American Funds 2025 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - 1977	0.00	-4.76	-4.76	3.65	9.64	8.62	8.99		02/01/2007	0.31	0.31



Investment Options	е Репоі <b>1-Мо</b>	3-Mo	ntroduction <b>YTD</b>	1-Yr	3-Yr	5-Yr	10-Yr	Incept	Fund Inception Date	Gross Fund Exp %*	Net Fund Exp %*
American Funds 2030 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - 1979	0.30	-5.48	-5.48	3.93	10.70	9.71	9.92	•	02/01/2007	0.33	0.33
American Funds 2035 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - 1981	0.82	-6.27	-6.27	4.56	12.36	11.14	10.78		02/01/2007	0.35	0.35
American Funds 2040 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - 1983	1.15	-6.85	-6.85	4.67	13.08	11.72	11.15		02/01/2007	0.36	0.36
American Funds 2045 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - 1985	1.28	-7.12	-7.12	4.56	13.27	11.89	11.28		02/01/2007	0.37	0.37
American Funds 2050 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - 1987	1.30	-7.49	-7.49	4.11	13.27	11.95	11.32		02/01/2007	0.37	0.37
American Funds 2055 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - 1989	1.24	-7.82	-7.82	3.76	13.13	11.86	11.26		02/01/2010	0.38	0.38
American Funds 2060 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - 9639 (6)	1.23	-7.89	-7.89	3.69	13.10	11.82		10.29	03/27/2015	0.38	0.38
American Funds 2065 Target Date Retirement Fund®-Class R-6 - E410 (7)	1.24	-7.94	-7.94	3.67				25.90	03/27/2020	0.44	0.38
Balanced											
Allocation50% to 70% Equity American Funds American Balanced Fund® - Class R-6 - 7027	0.85	-3.94	-3.94	7.43	11.17	9.95	10.09		07/26/1975	0.26	0.26
Large Cap Value/Blend											
Large Blend Allspring Disciplined U.S. Core Fund - Institutional Class - 9369 (2)	3.58	-3.83	-3.83	16.64	18.88	14.87	14.38		02/28/1990	0.53	0.48
Vanguard® Institutional Index Fund - Institutional Shares - 566	3.72	-4.60	-4.60	15.60	18.90	15.96	14.61		07/31/1990	0.04	0.04
<b>Large Value</b> American Century Equity Income Fund - R6 Class - 6298	3.02	0.52	0.52	12.10	10.42	9.32	10.81		03/07/1997	0.57	0.57
Large Cap Growth											
Large Growth  American Funds The Growth Fund of America® - Class R-6 - 1724	3.01	-10.62	-10.62	4.32	18.64	16.72	15.39		12/01/1973	0.30	0.30
Small/Mid/Specialty											
Mid-Cap Blend  Vanguard® Mid-Cap Index Fund - Admiral™ Shares - 756	2.69	-6.32	-6.32	8.82	15.67	13.00	12.94		11/12/2001	0.05	0.05
Mid-Cap Growth	0.14	10.22	10.22	6 21	10 00	10.05	12 11		07/14/1007	0.70	0.70
Hartford MidCap HLS Fund - Class IA - 7696  Small Blend	0.14	-10.32	-10.32	-6.31	10.88	12.25	13.11		07/14/1997	0.70	0.70
AMG GW&K Small Cap Value Fund - Class N - 8355 (3)	-1.42	-5.66	-5.66	5.03	13.92	7.81	10.67		04/23/1987	1.18	1.15
Vanguard® Small-Cap Index Fund - Admiral™ Shares - 757	1.48	-5.74	-5.74	0.68	13.16	11.34	12.11		11/13/2000	0.05	0.05
<b>Small Growth</b> Allspring Small Company Growth Fund - Class R6 - 6460 (4)	-0.39	-11.51	-11.51	-2.73	13.13	12.63	12.21		06/01/1997	0.91	0.86
Global / International											
Foreign Large Growth  American Funds EuroPacific Growth Fund® - Class R-6 - 1723	-0.98	-12.24	-12.24	-9.35	8.36	8.01	7.32		04/16/1984	0.46	0.46

The risks of investing in small company stocks may include relatively low trading volumes, a greater degree of change in earnings and greater short-term volatility.

### See Performance Introduction Page for Important Information

Foreign investing involves special risks such as currency fluctuation and public disclosure, as well as economic and political risks.

Some of the Funds invest in securities guaranteed by the U.S. Government as to the timely payment of principal and interest; however, shares of the Funds are not insured nor guaranteed.

High yielding fixed-income securities generally are subject to greater market fluctuations and risks of loss of income and principal than are investments in lower yielding fixed-income securities.

Sector funds may involve greater-than average risk and are often more volatile than funds holding a diversified portfolio of stocks in many industries. Examples include: banking, biotechnology, chemicals, energy, environmental services, natural resources, precious metals, technology, telecommunications, and utilities.

\*The Gross Expense Ratios shown do not reflect temporary fee or expense waivers that may be in effect for a fund. The Net Expense Ratios reflect any applicable temporary fee or expense waivers. The performance of a fund with a temporary fee or expense waiver would have been lower if the gross fund fees/expenses listed had been reflected.

#### **Additional Notes**

(1)The current rate for the Voya Fixed Account - 457/401 II MC 902, Fund 4301 is 1.20%, expressed as an annual effective yield. The current rate may change and be higher or lower than the previously identified rate but is guaranteed not to be less than 1.00%. VRIAC will not apply a decrease to the current rate following a rate change initiated solely by us prior to the last day of the three-month period measured from the first day of the month in which such change was effective. Note: The current rate for an initial investment in the fixed account previously identified may be in effect for less than a full three-month period.

Voya Fixed Account - 457/401 II - Voya will credit interest at an annual effective rate of at least 3.00% through 2019, 2.5% for 2020 and 2.25% for 2021. Each of these is higher than the standard Voya Fixed Account - 457/401 II credited rate which is currently 1.75%. Beginning in 2022 and thereafter, the credited rate for your plan will be the same as the standard Voya Fixed Account - 457/401 II credited rate in effect at that time. Please note the Guaranteed Minimum Interest Rate is 1.00%. Guarantees are based on the claims-paying ability of Voya Retirement Insurance and Annuity Company. Restrictions may apply to transfers of funds from the Voya Fixed Account - 457/401 II to other contract investment options. Please refer to your product prospectus / disclosure booklet or call Voya at (800) 584-6001 for more information.

(2)Allspring Disciplined U.S. Core Fund - Institutional Class: The Manager has contractually committed through November 30, 2021, to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to the extent necessary to cap Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver at 0.48% for Institutional Class. Brokerage commissions, stamp duty fees, interest, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses (if any), and extraordinary expenses are excluded from the expense cap. Prior to or after the commitment expiration date, the cap may be increased or the commitment to maintain the cap may be terminated only with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

(3)AMG GW&K Small Cap Value Fund - Class N: AMG Funds LLC (the "Investment Manager") has contractually agreed, through at least May 1, 2022, to waive management fees and/or pay or reimburse the Fund's expenses in order to limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursements (exclusive of taxes, interest (including interest incurred in connection with bank and custody overdrafts and in connection with securities sold short), shareholder servicing fees, distribution and service (12b-1) fees, brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, dividends payable with respect to securities sold short, acquired fund fees and expenses, and extraordinary expenses) of the Fund to the annual rate of 0.90% of the Fund's average daily net assets (this annual rate or such other annual rate that may be in effect from time to time, the "Expense Cap"), subject to later reimbursement by the Fund in certain circumstances. In general, for a period of up to 36 months after the date any amounts are paid, waived or reimbursed by the Investment Manager, the Investment Manager may recover such amounts from the Fund, provided that such repayment would not cause the Fund's Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursements (exclusive of the items noted in the parenthetical above) to exceed either (i) the Expense Cap in effect at the time such amounts were paid, waived or reimbursed, or (ii) the Expense Cap in effect at the time of such repayment by the Fund. The contractual expense limitation may only be terminated in the event the Investment Manager or a successor ceases to be the investment manager of the Fund or a successor fund, by mutual agreement between the Investment Manager and the AMG Funds Board of Trustees or in the event of the Fund's liquidation unless the Fund is reorganized or is a party to a merger in which the surviving entity is successor to the accounting and performance information of the Fund.

(4)Allspring Small Company Growth Fund - Class R6: The Manager has contractually committed through September 30, 2018, to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to the extent necessary to cap the Fund's Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers at the amount shown in the fund's prospectus. Brokerage commissions, stamp duty fees, interest, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses from funds in which the master portfolio invests, and extraordinary expenses are excluded from the expense cap. All other acquired fund fees and expenses from the affiliated master portfolio are included in the expense cap. After this time, the cap may be increased or the commitment to maintain the cap may be terminated only with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

(5)The Investment Option is neither a mutual fund nor part of a Separate Account. The returns listed do not include the impact of contract charges. Please refer to the contract or disclosure book to determine which Fixed Interest Options are available for your specific plan. The Investment Option is offered through Voya Retirement Insurance and Annuity Company.

(6)American Funds Target Date: Depending on the proximity to its target date, which we define as the year that corresponds roughly to the year in which the investor expects to retire, the fund will seek to achieve the following objectives to varying degrees: growth, income and conservation of capital. The fund will increasingly emphasize income and conservation of capital by investing a greater portion of its assets in fixed income, equity-income and balanced funds as it approaches and passes its target date. In this way, the fund seeks to balance total return and stability over time.

### See Performance Introduction Page for Important Information

### **Additional Notes**

(7)American Funds 2065 Target Date Retirement Fund-Class R-6: The investment adviser is currently reimbursing a portion of the other expenses. This reimbursement will be in effect through at least January 1, 2022. The adviser may elect at its discretion to extend, modify or terminate the reimbursement at that time.

Creation Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022

## War, inflation and hawkish policy pressure the financial markets

The world and markets continuously change, but over the first three months of 2022 there have been shocking shifts in the landscape and asset prices. Russia's invasion of Ukraine caught many off-guard. Beyond the terrible hardships this war has already caused for those directly involved, the distressing circumstances have cast a dark shadow of uncertainty over Europe and exacerbated existing risks. Geopolitical tensions between the West and the rest are as strained as they have been in decades. Stresses have been felt most acutely in the energy arena, as Russia produces about 10% of global oil and provides Europe with more than 40% of its natural gas. This disruption makes it more difficult for policy makers to quell inflation, which the Federal Reserve now admits is not transitory. Even stripping out food and energy, core CPI and personal consumption expenditures (PCE) are up 6.4% and 5.4% year-over-year (YoY), respectively. Labor markets are extremely tight: job openings now exceed estimates of unemployed workers by nearly 2:1 (Figure 1). As a result, the Fed has set a more hawkish tone in recent communications and left investors wondering how aggressive it will be.

The situation has not been favorable for stocks. Except for Latin America, a commodity-centric region, most major markets sold off during the quarter. In the United States, larger-capitalization, more value-oriented stocks outperformed smaller, growth-oriented stocks. Overseas, countries most exposed to the war, either geographically or economically, struggled. What made this a particularly painful period, however, was the lack of safety generally offered by bonds. The move-up in yields was astounding, not only for the size of the move—the 157 basis point increase in the two-year U.S. Treasury yield was a five-standard-deviation move—but also for the speed at which it occurred. Rising rates, along with wider yield spreads across the quality and product spectrum, caused core bonds to underperform stocks during a risk-off period, which is highly unusual.

#### **Tactical indicators**



### **Economic growth (positive)**

U.S. real GDP growth was 6.9% in 4Q21. We expect it will slow in 2022, with full-year GDP growing about 3%



#### Fundamentals (positive)

U.S. earnings appear most resilient to rising prices and economic instability, but their pace of growth is likely to slow from past quarters and current expectations



#### Valuations (negative)

Stocks still look more attractively valued than bonds, but the spread has narrowed and is less appealing with each successive interest rate hike

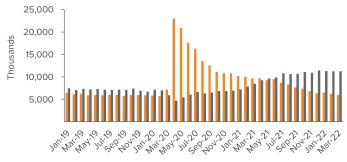


#### Sentiment (neutral)

Market sentiment is mixed but generally bearish. Consumer sentiment is highly negative

Figure 1. U.S. job openings exceed the estimate of unemployed workers by nearly 2:1

Unemployment versus job openings

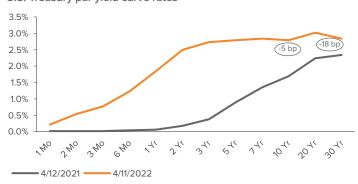


■U.S. Unemployed Workers (SA) ■U.S. Job Openings (SA)

Source: Bloomberg, as of 3/31/22.

Figure 2. The long end of the yield curve has slightly inverted. The short end is still steep, but expected to flatten

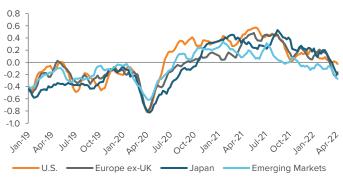
#### U.S. Treasury par yield curve rates



Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Voya Investment Management, as of 4/11/22.

Figure 3. Global earnings revisions are rolling over in every region of the world

Citi Earnings Revisions index, four-week moving average



Source: Bloomberg, Voya Investment Management, as of 4/8/22



#### Portfolio positioning

Larger companies are better situated to absorb high wages, pass inflation through to consumers and maintain margins in an environment where multiples are likely to be pressured.  Valuation spreads to small caps are wide, which may present opportunities, but we prefer larger U.S. companies for their greater pricing power.  Europe is likely to enter recession as it contends with energy supply issues and heightened geopolitical risks.  Outlook mixed by region. Covid driven lockdowns across China have disrupted economic activity. They and EM Europe are adversely exposed to Russia–Ukraine conflict.
greater pricing power.  Europe is likely to enter recession as it contends with energy supply issues and heightened geopolitical risks.  Outlook mixed by region. Covid driven lockdowns across China have disrupted economic activity. They and EM Europe are adversely
Outlook mixed by region. Covid driven lockdowns across China have disrupted economic activity. They and EM Europe are adversely
Rising rate environment likely to be a headwind for REITs.
Favor credit given yield pickup over sovereign bonds and generally healthy corporate balance sheets, but expectation for higher rates keeps us underweight the asset class.
Break-evens look expensive as inflation has come in at 40-year highs and we believe core inflation is in the process of peaking.
Tight high-yield spreads imply limited room for compression, especially considering our less sanguine view of the macro environment. We believe risk budget is better deployed through equities.
Low relative yields and scope for stronger U.S. dollar keep us favoring U.S. bonds.

#### Investment outlook

We know growth is slowing, but is a U.S. recession on the horizon? The probability has risen but we don't think a recession is imminent or inevitable over the next twelve months. As the effects from the pandemic continue to fade, mobility has picked up and formerly left-behind sectors — travel, leisure and lodging — should become recipients of an increased amount of consumer spending in the spring and summer months. Demand for labor remains strong — the unemployment rate fell to 3.6% in March and could go lower. The labor force participation rate has increased recently, and we think higher wages will increase participation more, at some point softening an extremely tight labor market. We do, however, acknowledge our later stage position in the business cycle and are aware that policymakers need to take action to reel in prices. This involves cutting aggregate demand in a manner that results in a soft landing. The war and sanctions on Russia have made that task more difficult; particularly in Europe, which imports significant energy resources from Russia, making it probable Europe will experience a recession. The U.S. is essentially energy independent and thus more insulated against prolonged disruption in Russian oil and gas supplies. What's more, the winding down of Covid will provide inflation relief on consumer prices for autos and shipping costs. We also realize the yield curve has inverted in spots (Figure 2) on several occasions, most notably in the long end, and has a concerning track record of forecasting future recessions. Not all yield curve segments have the same predictive ability, however; the Fed has published research suggesting the short end of the curve is a better indicator. The short end doesn't incorporate a term premium and is currently significantly negative. Moreover, the current level of policy accommodation needs to be considered. A good measure of this is the difference between the real Fed funds rate and the estimate of the neutral rate (R\*), which is still clearly negative. In

our view, the key to maintaining positive U.S. growth this year will be a transition from accommodative fiscal and monetary policies to a period of increased private sector investment that leads to productivity enhancing technologies such as robotics and automation, the adoption of which already were accelerated by the pandemic.

Despite our view that a U.S. economic contraction is avoidable in the near term, the outlook for equities has deteriorated since the beginning of the year and we think this sour spot is likely to last as monetary policy becomes tighter. If the Fed can anchor long-term inflation expectations, there could be room for equities to outperform, but global earnings revisions reflect the slower growth future and are rolling over in every region of the world - most meaningfully in the emerging markets (Figure 3). There are also several tail risks that appear uncomfortably fat; and in light of a smaller equity risk premium and other not particularly appealing valuation measures, we have reduced our allocation to stocks and now hold a neutral to slight overweight in most portfolios. We continue to prefer U.S. assets over the rest of the world, as its relative geographic and economic insulation provides a layer of defense against some of the most material risks. Within the U.S., large cap stocks remain our favorite asset class. Larger companies are in a better position to absorb high wages, pass through inflation to consumers and maintain margins in an environment where earnings multiples are likely to be pressured. Although earnings growth is coming down, our models forecast mid-teen earnings growth in 2022. This butts against the Fed tightening financial conditions and the likely countervailing force of contracting multiples. Taken together, we think U.S. large caps can deliver positive, albeit modest returns over the balance of 2022.



Paul Zemsky, CFA Chief Investment Officer, Multi-Asset Strategies



Barbara Reinhard, CFA Head of Asset Allocation, Multi-Asset Strategies

### Multi-Asset Strategies and Solutions Team

Voya Investment Management's Multi-Asset Strategies and Solutions (MASS) team, led by Chief Investment Officer Paul Zemsky, manages the firm's suite of multi-asset solutions designed to help investors achieve their long term objectives. The team consists of 25 investment professionals who have deep expertise in asset allocation, manager selection and research, quantitative research, portfolio implementation and actuarial sciences. Within MASS, the asset allocation team, led by Barbara Reinhard, is responsible for constructing strategic asset allocations based on their long term views. The team also employs a tactical asset allocation approach, driven by market fundamentals, valuation and sentiment, which is designed to capture market anomalies and/or reduce portfolio risk.

#### Past performance does not guarantee future results.

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The opinions, views and information expressed in this commentary regarding holdings are subject to change without notice. The information provided regarding holdings is not a recommendation to buy or sell any security. Fund holdings are fluid and are subject to daily change based on market conditions and other factors.

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## The U.S. Federal Reserve's U-Turn



**Douglas Coté, CFA** Head of Global Perspectives

#### **Executive Summary**

- The inflation genie is out of the bottle; the Fed let inflation run a little hot, now its scorching due to macro factors and the heat will be felt for some time to come.
- Through all the gloom, don't forget the economic boom, which is only now downshifting from great to good.
- Manufacturing is beginning to strain under weight of inflation, but the gamechanging Consumer continues to deliver.
- The Fed's policy shift, if it goes ahead, represents a historical and intentionally aggressive U-turn.

### The Inflation Genie

If you don't turn on the TV, things can feel quite good. In America, we are at full employment, businesses are making record profits, and the value of our homes are going up like meme stocks and NFTs. What could go wrong?

Unfortunately, a lot. Costs for gas, food, and cars are all increasing, as are interest rates on mortgages and consumer credit, just to name a few. But price increases are good, right? Not so fast: These rising prices are key contributors to inflation, which at first is good – until it's not. Indeed, inflation is a systemic risk to the markets. And what this all means is that the proverbial "inflation genie" is now out of the bottle, and it takes a long time to coax the genie back in.

9 8.50 8 7 6.50 6 5.40 Percent (%) 5 4 3 2 2017 2019 2020 2021 2022 PCE YoY -CPI – Core Inflation YoY ——— CPI – Headline Inflation YoY

Figure 1. The inflation genie is out of the bottle

Source: FactSet, as of 3/31/2022



So, how did this happen? The reasons are many, but it was truly codified on August 27th, 2020 when the U.S. Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee instituted the "Federal Reserve Average Inflation Targeting" initiative. Basically, the FOMC decided to let inflation run "just a little hot" and they would know when it's time to cool it down. They failed. Sure, there are other contributing factors including the Russia-Ukraine war, which exacerbated a budding energy crisis, a nascent food crisis - not to say anything about China – and so on. But, to paraphrase Shakespeare, "inflation by any other name is still inflation". Inflation is bad for markets – both stock and bonds — because it is a discounting mechanism that hits long duration assets, like long maturity bonds and growth stocks, especially hard.

### First quarter 2022 Review

It was a rough first quarter: Stocks and bonds were negative, with bonds underperforming equities; rampant inflation was the biggest concern as it hit an 8%-handle in March; and the Russia-Ukraine war worsened an already strained energy market, with Europe hit especially hard.

Global REITs and the S&P 500 were the best equity performers but were still negative. Indeed, growth stocks were slammed across all market capitalizations. Emerging Markets – dominated by China shares – performed the worst, losing 6.9% due in part to China's support and aid of Russia in its war against Ukraine. From a sector perspective, Energy dominated with a 39% return while Technology stocks faltered to an 8.4% loss. Commodities gushed across the spectrum, dominated by energy, and the CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) rose 19.4% to 20.56.

Meanwhile, U.S. Treasury 20+-year bonds were hit the hardest by surging inflation and interest rates, losing 11% in the quarter.

Figure 2. Markets in the First Quarter of 2022

Index	Q1 2022	2021	2020
Equity			
S&P 500	-4.6	28.7	18.4
S&P Midcap	-4.9	24.8	13.7
S&P Smallcap	-5.6	26.8	11.3
Global REITs	-3.8	27.2	-8.2
EAFE	-5.8	11.8	8.3
Emerging Mkts	-6.9	-2.2	18.7
Average	-5.3	19.5	10.4
Fixed Income			
Corporate	-7.7	-1.0	9.9
U.S. Treasury 20+	-11.0	-4.4	18.1
Global Aggregate	-6.2	-4.7	9.2
High Yield	-4.8	5.3	7.1
Average	-7.4	-1.2	11.1
Overall Average	-6.1	11.2	10.6

Figure 3. Equity Markets

Index	Q1 2022	2021	3 years	5 years
Broad Market				
Dow Industrial	-4.1	20.9	18.5	15.5
S&P 500	-4.6	28.7	26.1	18.5
S&P 100 (OEX)	-4.6	29.4	27.6	19.5
Nasdaq Composite	-8.9	22.2	34.3	25.0
Large-Cap				
Russell 1000	-5.1	26.5	26.2	18.4
Russell 1000 Value	-0.7	25.2	17.6	11.2
Russell 1000 Growth	-9.0	27.6	34.1	25.3
Mid-Cap				
Russell Mid-Cap	-5.7	22.6	23.3	15.1
Russell Mid-Cap Value	-1.8	28.3	19.6	11.2
Russell Mid-Cap Growth	-12.6	12.7	27.5	19.8
Small-Cap				
Russell 2000	-7.5	14.8	20.0	12.0
Russell 2000 Value	-2.4	28.3	18.0	9.1
Russell 2000 Growth	-12.6	2.8	21.2	14.5

Source: FactSet, FTSE NAREIT, Voya Investment Management. The Overall Average model allocation includes 10 asset classes, equally weighted: S&P 500, S&P 400 Midcap, S&P 600 Smallcap, MSCI U.S. REIT Index/FTSE EPRA REIT Index, MSCI EAFE Index, MSCI BRIC Index, Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Bonds, Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Treasury Bonds, Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Bonds, Bloomberg Barclays U.S. High Yield Bonds. Returns are annualized for periods longer than one year. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results. An investment cannot be made in an index.** 

### **Advancing Corporate Earnings**

The most recently reported quarterly results for the S&P 500 were for the fourth quarter of 2021, and it was big: Earnings grew 32% overall, with topline revenue growth at 15.1%, which was led by the Energy sector's 91.3% growth. Gross domestic product (GDP) notched a blistering 6.9% pace, led by a buildup in inventories, especially autos. Key components of fourth quarter GDP growth include:

- Consumption grew 2.5%, most notable was the durables component's 2.5% increase after dropping 24.6% in Q3; services continued their run at 3.3% growth
- Business fixed investment increased 2.8% after falling 2.3% in Q3
- Residential construction rebounded 2.2% after two quarters of losses

The nearly 7% GDP growth signals that the economic boom continued through year-end, though expectations are for a weak first quarter, due in part to difficult comparisons to a big fourth quarter.

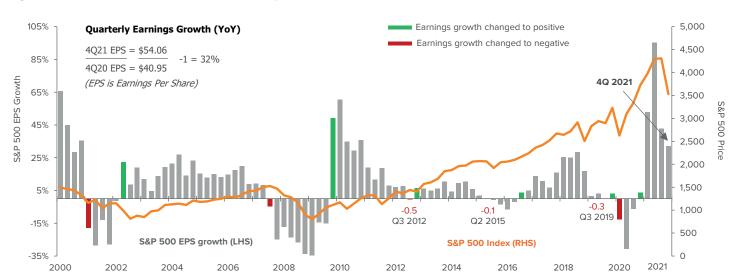


Figure 4. Fundamentals Drive Markets with an Explosive Q4 EPS Growth

Source: Refinitiv – Thomson Reuters and FactSet, Voya Investment Management. Earnings per share (EPS) is the portion of a company's profit allocated to each outstanding share of common stock. The S&P 500 index is a gauge of the U.S. stock market that includes 500 leading companies in major industries of the U.S. economy. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indices are unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

This was yet another too-low miss by the cognoscenti of Wall Street on their estimates for corporate earnings. Wall Street analysts were behind the curve; on January 1st 2022, their estimate was for 22.3% earnings growth, versus the 32.1% actual growth. This is market-positive.

### **Broadening Manufacturing**

The U.S. Institute for Supply Management manufacturing index fell 1.5 points to 57.1 in March, more than erasing the 1-point increase to 58.6 in February from January. This is the lowest since September 2020. The index was at 63.7 last March and weakness was fairly broad-based.

Despite the pullback, March readings remain historically elevated. Producers have benefited from higher prices despite rising input costs, and the need to rebuild inventories into 2022 after stimulus-induced 2021 sales surge. However, Eurozone industrial production stagnated in January, leaving production down 1.3% year-over-year at the start of the year.

Eurozone manufacturing PMI was revised down to 14-month low. The S&P Global Eurozone manufacturing PMI came in at 56.5, down from 58.2 in February. The German industrial sector is being adversely impacted by the Russia-Ukraine war and subsequent uncertainties in its gas and energy supplies, among other factors.

Inflation is rampant and widespread, as was evidenced by the prices-paid component, which jumped to 87.1 from 75.6, an increase not seen since December 2020. While this was the lowest recorded ISM level in 18 months, it was also the 21st consecutive month the United States has been in expansion territory.

### Consumer the Gamechanger

Retail and food services sales in the U.S. for February 2022 were \$658.1 billion, an increase of 0.3% from the previous month, and 17.6% year-over-year. It is worth noting that this number is in nominal dollars and is not inflation adjusted. Consumer confidence in March rose to 107.2 versus a 16-month high of 128.9 in June of 2021 and a 6-year low of 85.7 in April of 2020.

Consumer spending is predicated on job growth, and the March nonfarm payroll report pushed the unemployment rate down to 3.6%, adding 431,000 jobs. Inflation does have an upside for homeowners as U.S. Household net worth in the fourth quarter totaled \$150.3 trillion, rising 8.2% from the previous quarter and 14.4% from a year ago.

Figure 5. Consumer as a Gamechanger



Source: FactSet. U.S. retail sales as of 2/28/22.

United States home price statistics revealed big December gains that extended the streak of outsized increases to 19 months. Statistics such as the S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-City Composite, which increased to a record high of 285.63 points in December 2021, which is an 18.6% year-over-year increase, illustrate this point. Mortgage rates are rising fast, and the expectation is that costlier financing will slow the housing market - like it always does - but it may not stop this tsunami any time soon. As good as this is for current homeowners, it is not so good for first time home buyers.

### Looking Ahead: The Fed's U-turn

The Fed's policy shift represents a historical and intentionally aggressive U-turn. Indeed, it may have waited too long to start reducing the balance sheet, but it's coming at a time when the markets are vulnerable. Asset valuations are high and mortgages rates are climbing substantially. Let's hope the Fed doesn't overcompensate for lateness with overaggressive reductions. But, in the meantime keep in mind that corporate earnings are at record highs, manufacturing is booming, and U.S. household wealth is higher than ever before.

This sudden U-turn in the markets is a hurricane-force stress-test of not only a portfolio's construction but also whether the manager "sticks to the plan" when emotional, fear-based errors are most likely to occur. We recommend and integrate a rules-based investment plan for markets such as this one.

#### Disclosures

General Investment Risks: All investing involves risks of fluctuating prices and the uncertainties of rates of return and yield inherent in investing. All security transactions involve substantial risk of loss. Diversification does not guarantee a profit or ensure against loss. MSCI EAFE Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure the developed markets' equity performance, excluding the U.S. and Canada, for 21 countries. MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that measures emerging market equity performance of 23 countries. MSCI BRIC Equity Index is a market capitalization weighted index of about 320 companies located in Brazil, Russia, India and China. S&P MidCap 400 Index is a benchmark for mid-sized companies, which covers over 7% of the U.S. equity market and reflects the risk and return characteristics of the broad mid-cap universe. S&P SmallCap 600 Index covers approximately 3% of the domestic equities market and is designed to represent a portfolio of small companies that are investable and financially viable. MSCI U.S. REIT Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index comprised of equity REITs that generate most of their revenue and income from real estate rental and leasing operations. The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) is a real-time index that represents expectations for the relative strength of near-term price changes of the S&P 500 index. Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is composed of U.S. securities in Treasury, Government-Related, Corporate and Securitized sectors that are of investment-grade quality or better, have at least one year to maturity, and have an outstanding par value of at least \$250 million. Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Bond Index is a component of the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index. Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High-Yield Bond Index tracks the performance of non-investment grade U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed rate, taxable corporate bonds includi

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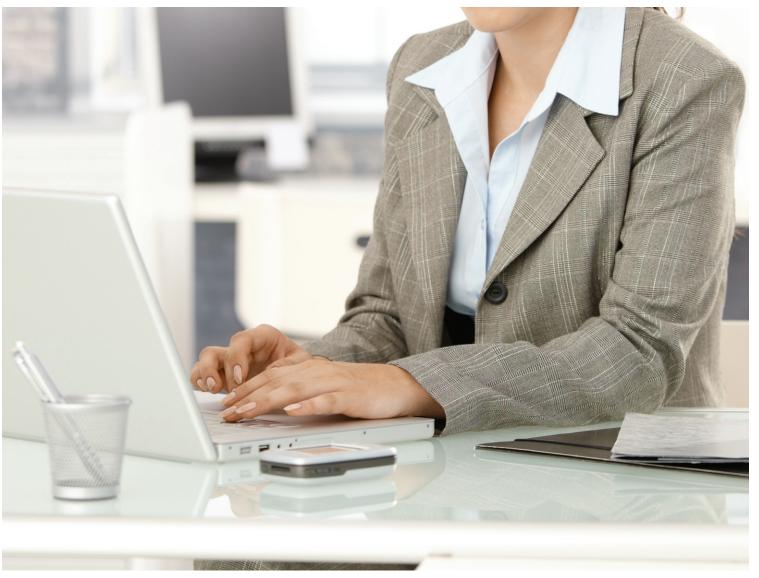
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# Communication & Education

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## 2022 Cost of Living Adjustments Announced

On November 4, 2021, the Internal Revenue Service issued Notice 2021-61, providing for the following 2022 cost of living dollar limits:

<u>LIMIT</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Defined Benefit Plans The lesser of the maximum dollar limitation for annual benefits under defined benefit plans under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 415(b)(1)(A) or 100% of the participant's average compensation for his high 3 years.	\$245,000	\$230,000
<b>Defined Contribution Plan 415 dollar limit</b> The lesser of the dollar limitation for annual additions under defined contribution plans under IRC Section 415(c)(1)(A) or 100% of compensation.	\$61,000	\$58,000
401(k)/403(b)/Existing SARSEP Elective deferral limit  All elective deferrals (including designated Roth contributions) in a tax year made by a participant to a 401(k), 403(b) tax deferred annuity, simplified employee pension, and SIMPLE retirement plan are aggregated under IRC Section 402(g).	\$20,500	\$19,500
<b>457 Deferral Limits</b> The lesser of the limitation on vested contributions to 457 plans under IRC Section 457(e)(15) or 100% of includible compensation.	\$20,500	\$19,500
403(b) Catch-up limit  The maximum available 402(g) elective deferral limit plus the special catch-up election for employees participating in a 403(b) tax deferred annuity who have had at least 15 years of service with an educational organization, hospital, home health agency, health and welfare service agency, church or convention or association of churches. Note: The additional 403(b) special catch-up of up to \$3,000 per year cannot exceed cumulatively \$15,000 over the lifetime of the 403(b) participant.	\$23,500	\$22,500

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<u>LIMIT</u>	2022	<u>2021</u>
457 Catch-up limit		
The special catch-up election for employees participating in an eligible 457 deferred compensation who have elected the special catch-up available in the three years prior to the year of normal retirement age.	\$41,000	\$39,000
<u>Note</u> : The participant in a governmental 457(b) plan may make catch-up contributions in a year equal to the greater of (a) the amount permitted under the age 50+ catch-up, or (b) the amount permitted under the 457 catch-up.		
Age 50+ Catch-up Limits		
The special catch-up available under IRC Section 414(v) for individuals at least 50 years old in 2022 and make eligible pre-tax contributions to 401(k), 403(b), and governmental 457 plans.	\$6,500	\$6,500
The special catch-up is available for individuals who are at least 50 years old in 2022 and make eligible pre-tax contributions to a SIMPLE plan.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Definition of Key Employee		
The compensation threshold used for determining key employees under IRC Section $416(i)(1)(A)(i)$ .	\$200,000	\$185,000
Definition of Highly Compensated Employees		
The compensation threshold used for determining highly compensated employees under IRC Section 414(q)(1)(B).	\$135,000	\$130,000
Compensation Limit		
The annual limit of compensation that may be taken into account for contribution purposes in accordance with IRC Section 401(a)(17).	\$305,000	\$290,000
The annual limit of compensation that may be taken into account for contribution purposes in accordance with IRC Section 401(a)(17) (certain governmental plan participants who first became participants in that governmental plan before the 1996 plan year).	\$450,000	\$430,000
Adjusted Gross Income Limit for Saver's Credit		
The highest adjusted gross income (based on federal income tax filing status) taken into account for eligibility for the Saver's Credit under IRC Section 25B.	\$68,000 (joint) \$34,000 (single) \$51,000 (head of household)	\$66,000 (joint) \$33,000 (single) \$49,500 (head of household)
2		

- 2 -

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<u>LIMIT</u>	2022	<u>2021</u>
SIMPLE Retirement Accounts  Compensation taken into account that an employee may elect to defer under a SIMPLE retirement plan described in IRC Section 408(p)(2).	\$14,000	\$13,500
Compensation for SEPs  Compensation taken into account to determine eligibility for simplified employee pensions (SEPs).	\$650	\$650

On October 13, 2021, the Social Security Administration released its cost of living information for 2022:

Taxable Wage Base	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Maximum amount of earnings subject to payroll tax.	\$147.000	\$142.800



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