

Fidelity Institutional Insights

Plan Sponsor Attitudes Survey

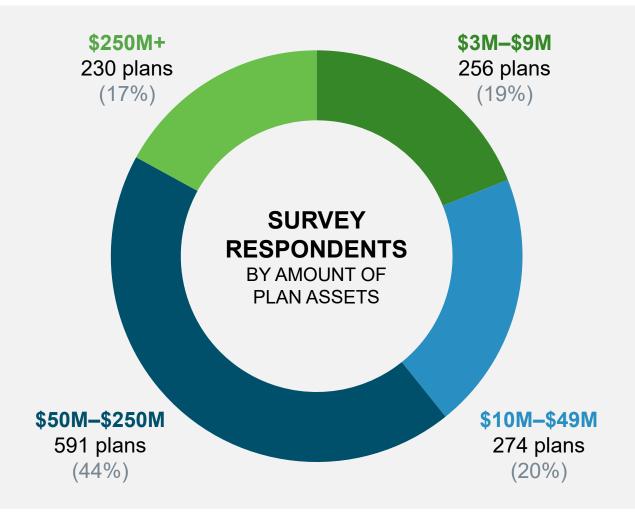
14th edition

Not FDIC Insured • May Lose Value • No Bank Guarantee



Survey Respondents: 1,351 Defined Contribution Plan Sponsors

Survey covers plan sponsors across multiple recordkeepers



Respondents are key decision-makers for:

81%
76%
71%
69%
58%



Fidelity's Plan Sponsor Attitudes Survey Has Tracked the Evolution of Our Industry



2022 RESEARCH FEATURED IN:				
Ignites	401(k) Specialist	NAPA Net	Bloomberg	
InvestmentNews	Pensions & Investments	Plan Sponsor	Wealthmanagement.com	



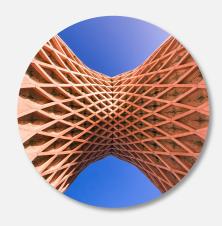
Third-party companies named are independent entities and are not affiliated with Fidelity Investments.

Rising Complexity Creates Opportunity for Greater Advisor Impact

Plan Sponsor and Advisor Relationship



Investment Menu Insights



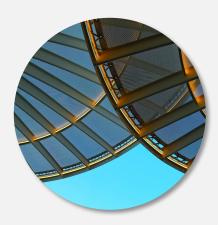
Retirement Plan
Evolution and
Participant Engagement



Sponsors Aim to Provide Holistic Benefit Programs



Growing Expectations for Recordkeepers





Plan Sponsor and Advisor Relationship



94% of Plan Sponsors Are Working with an Advisor/Consultant

TOP REASONS SPONSORS STARTED WORKING WITH AN ADVISOR

- We want to better understand how well the plan is working for employees, and how we can improve it
- To work directly with employees and assist them with their retirement saving needs
- We have **less time** to devote to the 401(k) plan now, so **we need someone to help us**

76% of sponsors were very satisfied or extremely satisfied with their advisor, a level maintained from last year.

75% of plan sponsors agree that their advisors provide very good or excellent value.

of plan sponsors do not work with an advisor or consultant

REASONS PLAN SPONSORS DON'T HAVE ADVISORS

Our recordkeeper provides the assistance we need

We have an internal team to work on the plan

Informed enough to do it myself

29%



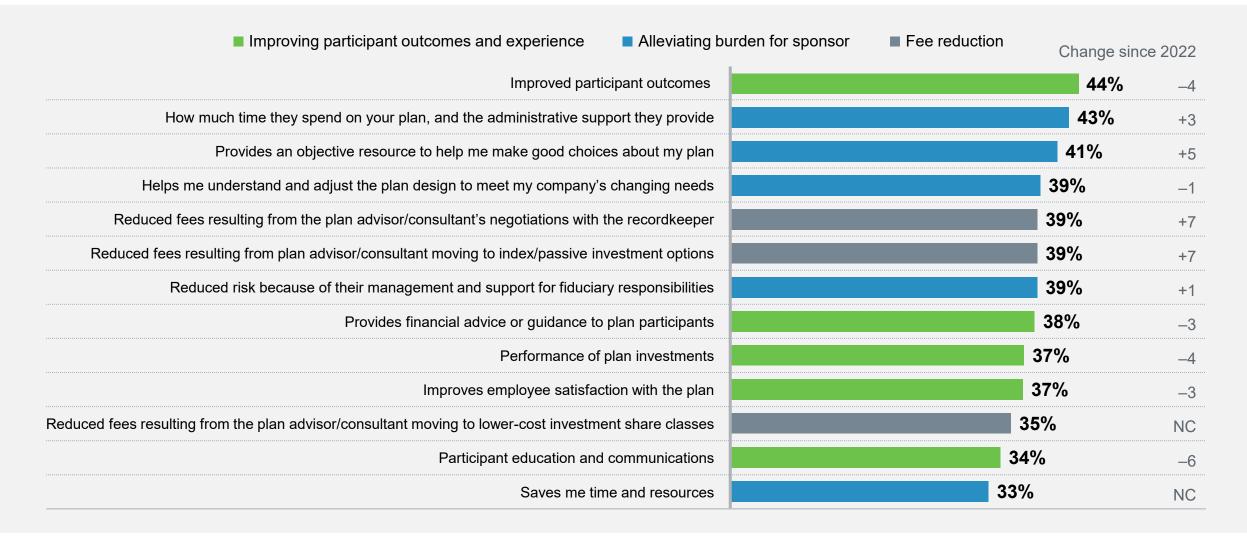
Plan Sponsors Note Broad Range of Advisor Services

SUITE OF SERVICES OFFERED BY PLAN ADVISORS

- Education around industry, legislative, and fiduciary issues related to the plan
- Help develop and monitor the investment lineup and make changes when needed
- Employee education about the retirement plan and investment options
- Analyze plan metrics and make recommendations for improved outcomes
- Guidance around employee communications and employee engagement strategies
- Information about financial wellness initiatives
- Help with individual retirement planning needs for employees
- Information and education about plan design, testing, and other aspects of plan administration
- Help determine **reasonableness of fees** for plan administration and investments
- Fee and fiduciary disclosure
- Day-to-day support and troubleshooting with administration



What Plan Sponsors Value Most about Their Plan Advisor

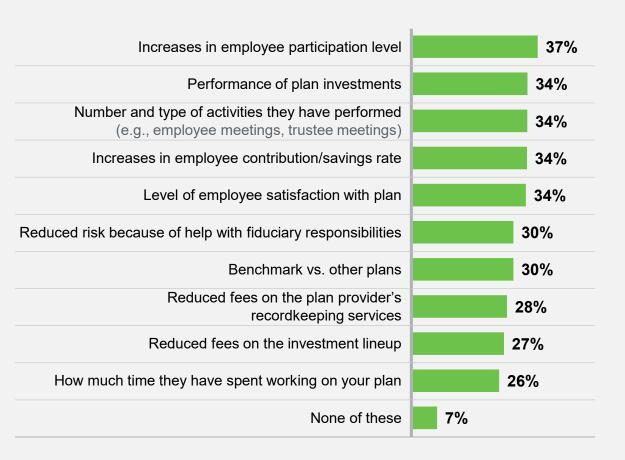




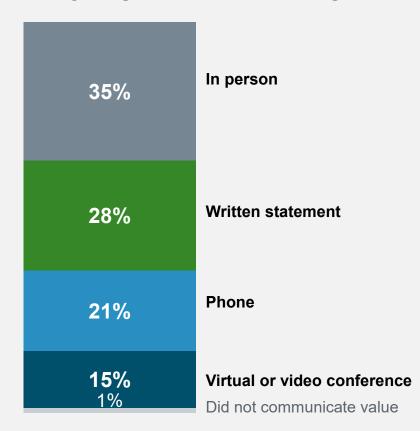
How Advisors Measure Success

87% of advisors illustrated their impact on helping meet plan goals

MEASURES ADVISOR USES TO UNDERSCORE VALUE



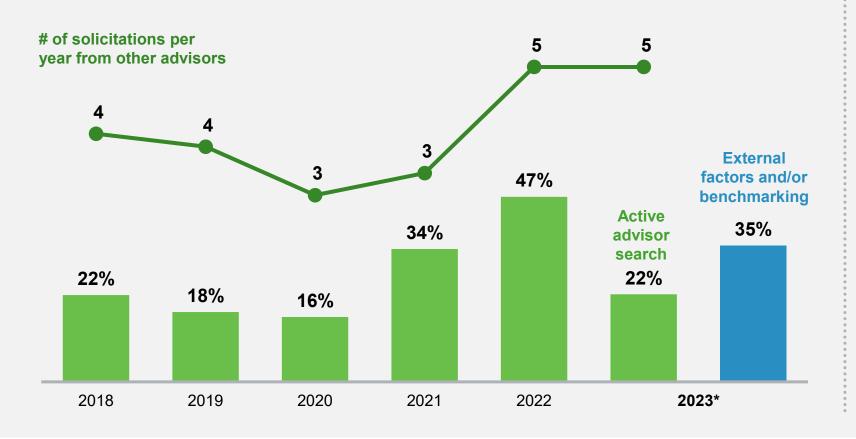
CHANNELS ADVISORS USED TO COMMUNICATE THEIR VALUE





Search Activity Drives Opportunity for Advisors

CONDUCTING A SEARCH FOR NEW ADVISOR



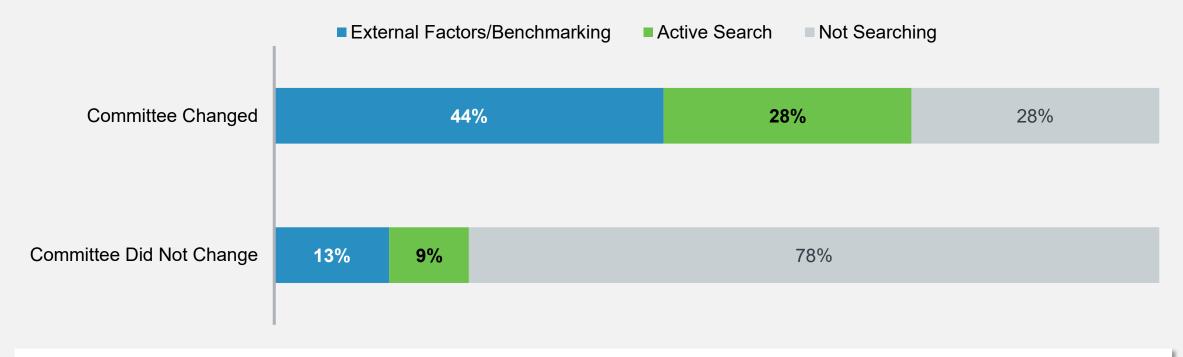
37% of sponsors have changed advisors in the last 12 months



^{*} Question options changed in 2023 to allow sponsors to indicate the type of search they are conducting. Some of those search types now include benchmarking costs or conducting searches due to external factors like advisors retiring or advisory firms being merged or acquired. To differentiate searches that are actively seeking a new advisor to solve a problem or obtain new services versus those that are driven by external forces this year, there are two bars representing the percentage of sponsors conducting searches.

69% of Plan Sponsors Reported an Internal Committee Change

SPONSORS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A SEARCH FOR A NEW PLAN ADVISOR/CONSULTANT



29% of sponsors with a committee change said they are switching because the new advisor has a relationship with key company executives.

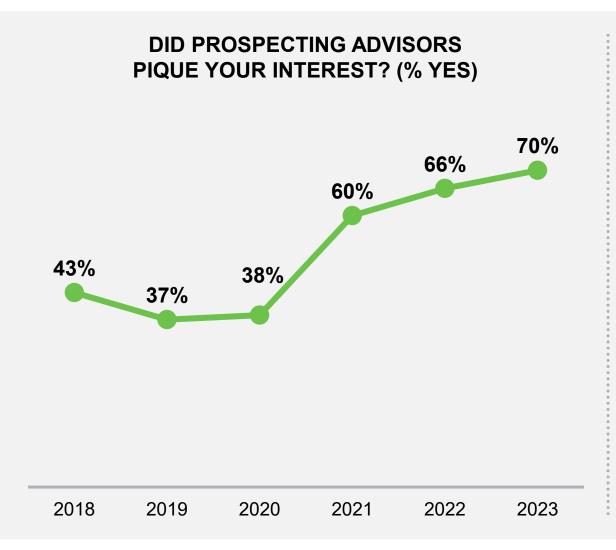


Top Reasons Plan Sponsors Searched for a New Advisor

Benchmarking or external factors Competing advisor offered something better Deficiencies with current advisor **ACTIVE SEARCHES** A new advisor/consultant A new advisor/consultant Need an advisor Need an advisor/ A new advisor/consultant offered a strategy with more offered a strategy with better consultant who contacts offered a strategy with lower who is more effective dealing with servicing issues me more frequently stated fees extensive services employee communications with the plan provider and education 31% 38% 34% 36% 34% EXTERNAL FACTOR AND/OR BENCHMARKING SEARCHES Need an advisor/ Merger or acquisition of Current plan Not intending to replace Need an advisor the company your advisor advisor/consultant retired/ current advisor/consultant. consultant who contacts who is more effective left the business just benchmarking services me more frequently works for dealing with servicing issues being offered with the plan provider 43% 38% 30% 31% 29%



Prospecting Advisors Continue to Pique Sponsors' Interest



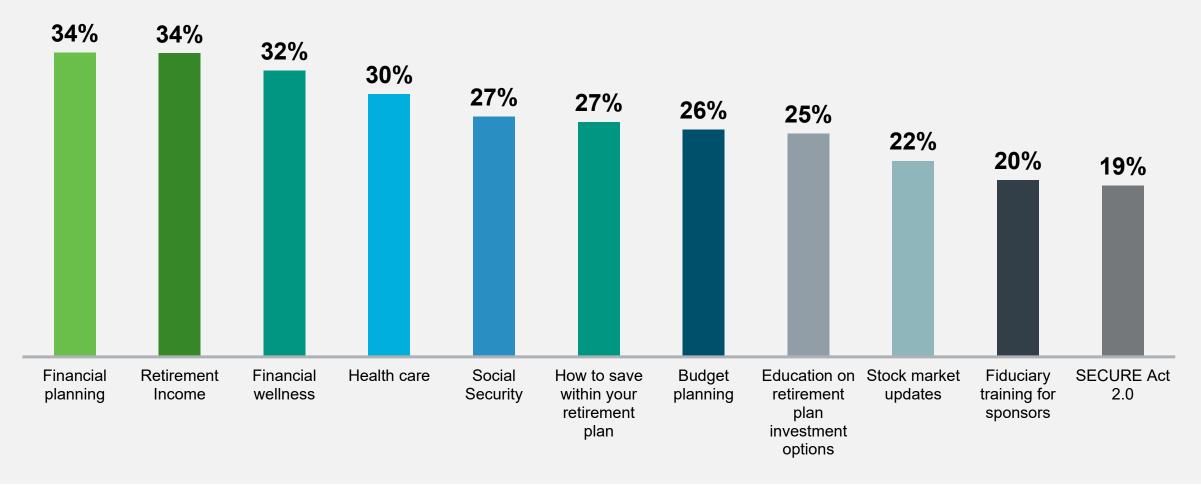
WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE? (TOP FIVE RESPONSES SHOWN)

- Prospecting advisor seemed very knowledgeable about 401(k) plans
- Prospecting advisor could help with **fiduciary** responsibility
- 3 Prospecting advisor discussed lowering costs
- 4 Always good to be informed
- 5 New advisor/consultant was referred to us



Sponsors Seek Information on Education Topics from Advisors

TOPICS SPONSORS WANT ADVISORS TO PROVIDE CONTENT/EDUCATION ON IN NEXT 12 MONTHS



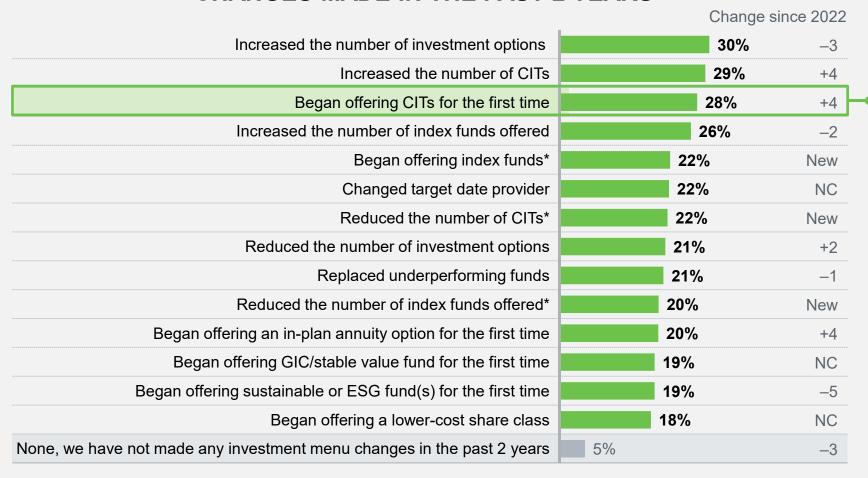


Investment Menu Insights



Investment Menu Changes Are on the Rise

CHANGES MADE IN THE PAST 2 YEARS

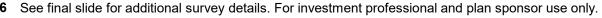


CITs had a 10% annual growth rate from 2018 to 2023.

Sponsors offering passive and active investment options has remained consistent at around 80% over the last three years (81% of advised sponsors and 60% of non-advised sponsors).

CIT: Collective Investment Trust/Commingled Investment Pool.

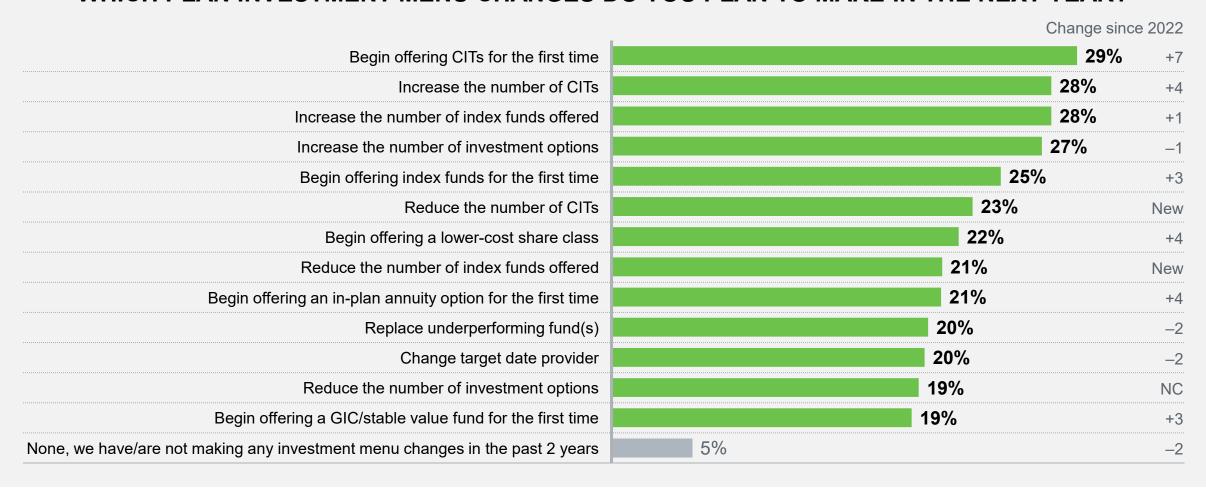
^{*} New options for 2023. ** Only asked to sponsors that increased the number of investment options on their plan menu.





A Look at Future Offerings

WHICH PLAN INVESTMENT MENU CHANGES DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE IN THE NEXT YEAR?

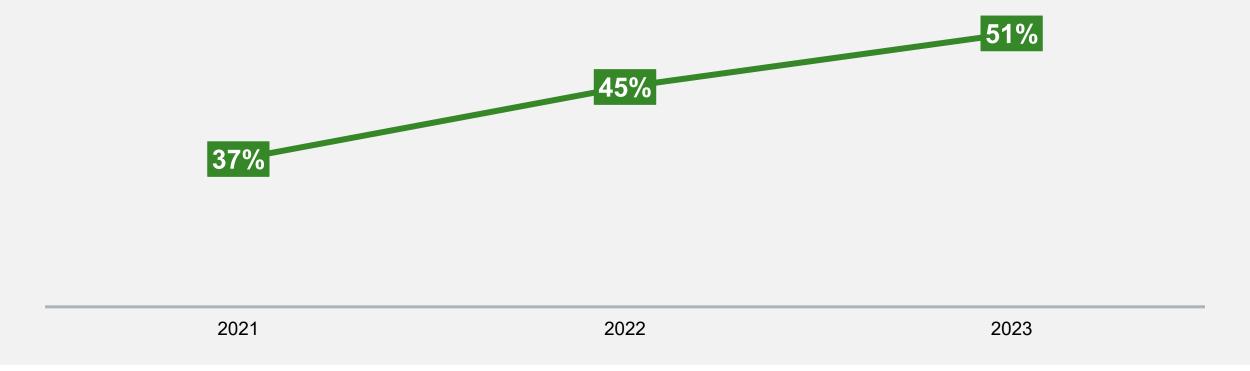




Outsourcing for Small Plan Management Is on the Rise

Responses from small plans (\$3 million-\$9 million)

RESPONDENTS PREFERRING THEIR ADVISOR OWN RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING INVESTMENTS AND PLAN DESIGN WITHOUT REQUIRING SPONSOR APPROVAL





Process and Performance Matter in Target Date Selection

MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS



78%

of sponsors did a full search when initially selecting their target date fund

2 out of 3

sponsors prefer higher-performing target date funds, even if that means higher cost

71%

of sponsors rated communications explaining target date options as "very important"



Sponsor Appetite for Target Date Review

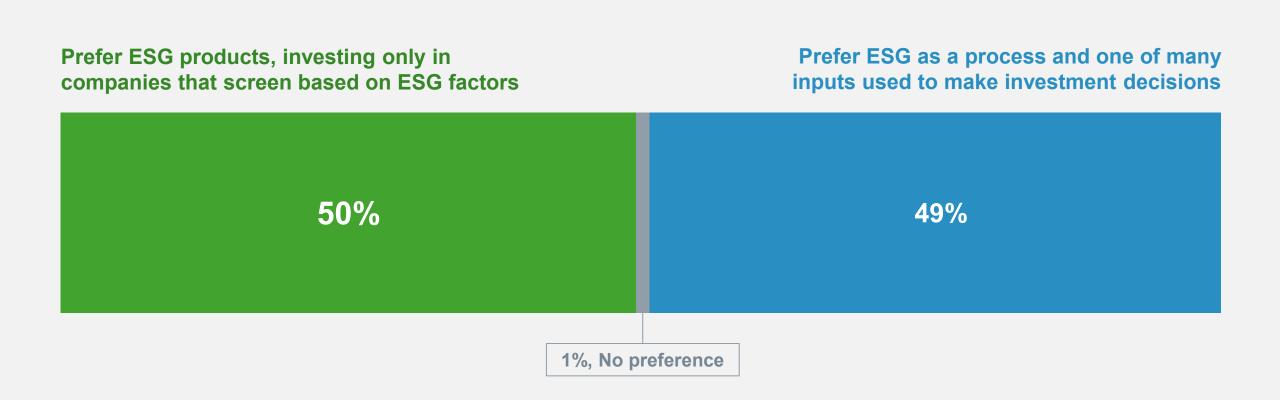
CONSIDERING MAKING CHANGES TO TARGET DATE FUNDS OFFERED IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS



81% of sponsors said target date investment options impact fiduciary liability.



ESG Attracts Interest, but Differences on Definition





Elevated Plan Sponsor Interest in Retirement Income

Conversations occur across advisors, recordkeepers, and target date managers

80%

of advised sponsors **have discussed** retirement income options with their advisors in the past two years.

73%

of plan sponsors reported their **recordkeeper** had spoken with them about retirement income in the past two years.

71%

of plan sponsors reported their **target date manager** had spoken with them about retirement income in the past two years.



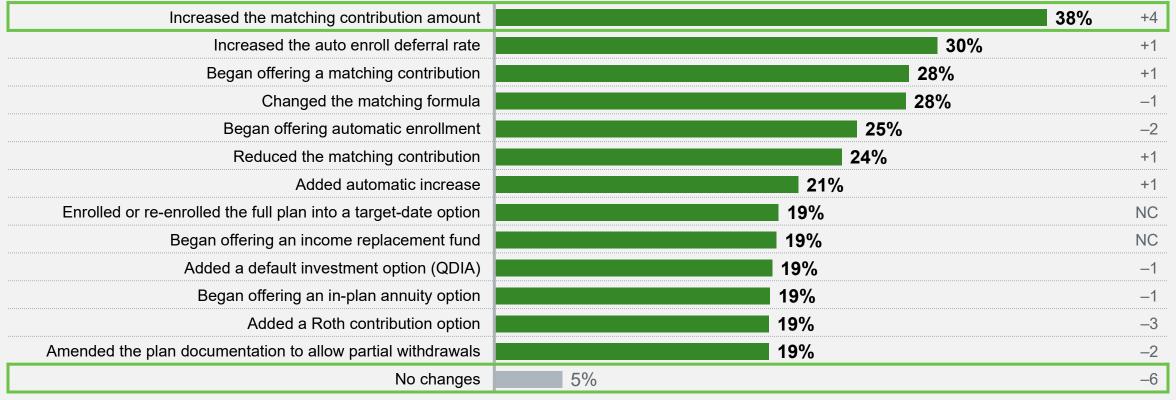
Retirement Plan Evolution and Participant Engagement



Increasing Company Match Continues to Lead Plan Design Changes

PLAN DESIGN CHANGES SPONSORS MADE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS

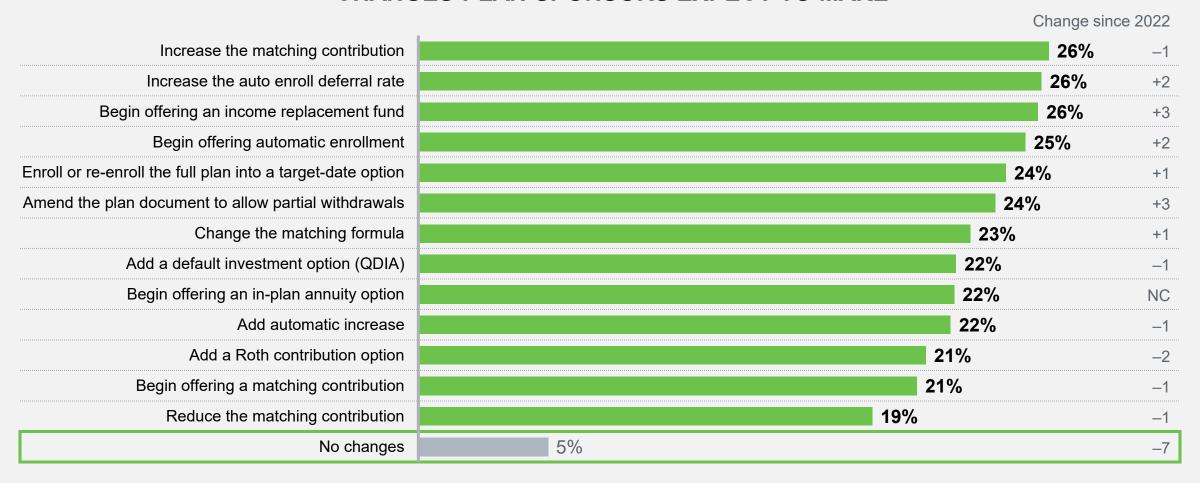
Change since 2022





95% of Sponsors Expect to Make Plan Design Changes in 2023

CHANGES PLAN SPONSORS EXPECT TO MAKE





Top Retirement Plan Goals and Concerns

PRIMARY GOAL FOR OFFERING A PLAN

30%	Provide adequate retirement savings to successfully replace income from their working years
28%	Ensure participants save at a specific rate throughout their working years, until their retirement date
25%	Attract and retain top employees to remain competitive in the workplace
18%	Provide savings opportunities while working, though without specific time frame or savings rates

74% are very satisfied the plan meets their company objectives.

TOP CONCERNS FOR PLANS



70% of sponsors' top concerns focus on employees.



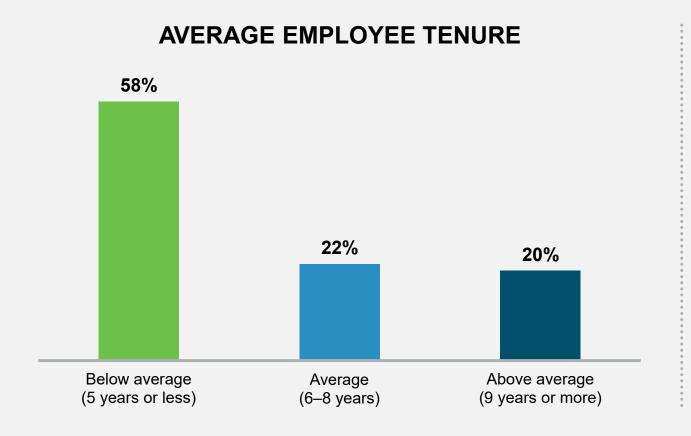
Sponsors Use Different Gauges to Measure Plans' Success

TOP 3 PRIMARY METRICS USED TO GAUGE PLAN PERFORMANCE





Sponsors Face Challenges with Employee Turnover



On average, plan sponsors reported they had hired

37% of their employees in the past two years

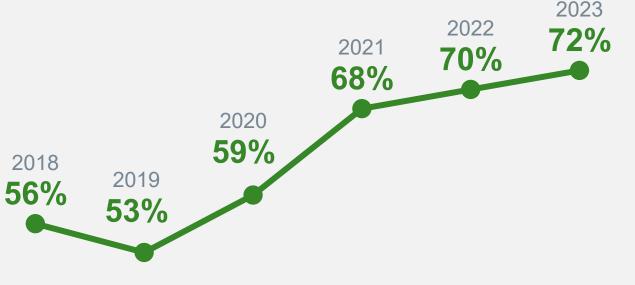
71%

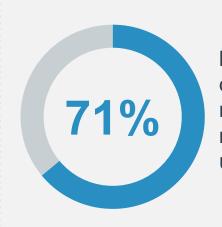
of plan sponsors said turnover has created 401(k) plan education challenges in the past year



Plan Sponsor Perception about Employee Retirement Readiness



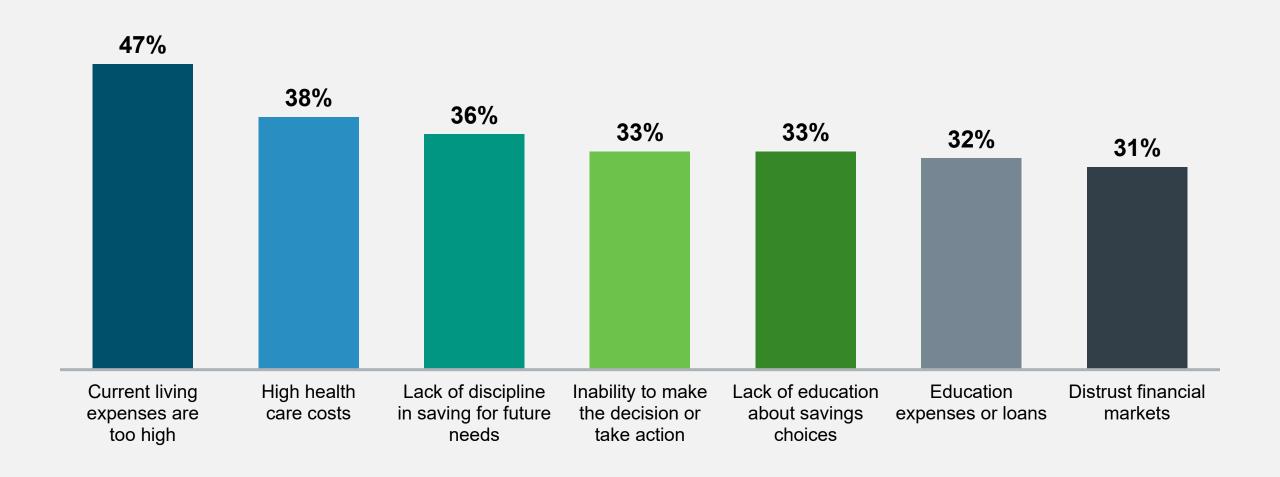




believe the auto-enrollment deferral rate and company match are a sufficient retirement savings rate, up from 46% in 2018.



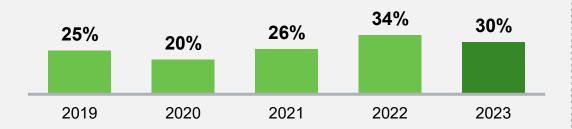
Competing Financial Priorities Are Headwinds to Employee Saving



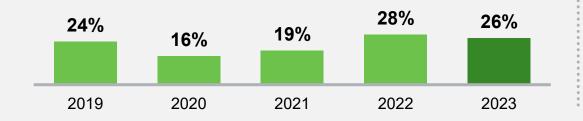


56% of Employees Retire Early, Emphasizing Need for Greater Retirement Savings

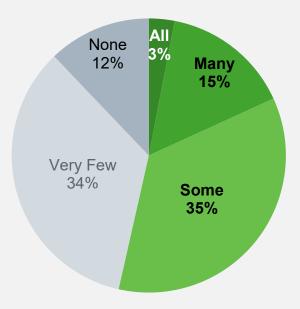
EMPLOYEES WHO RETIRE EARLY FOR REASONS WITHIN THEIR CONTROL



EMPLOYEES WHO RETIRE EARLY FOR REASONS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL



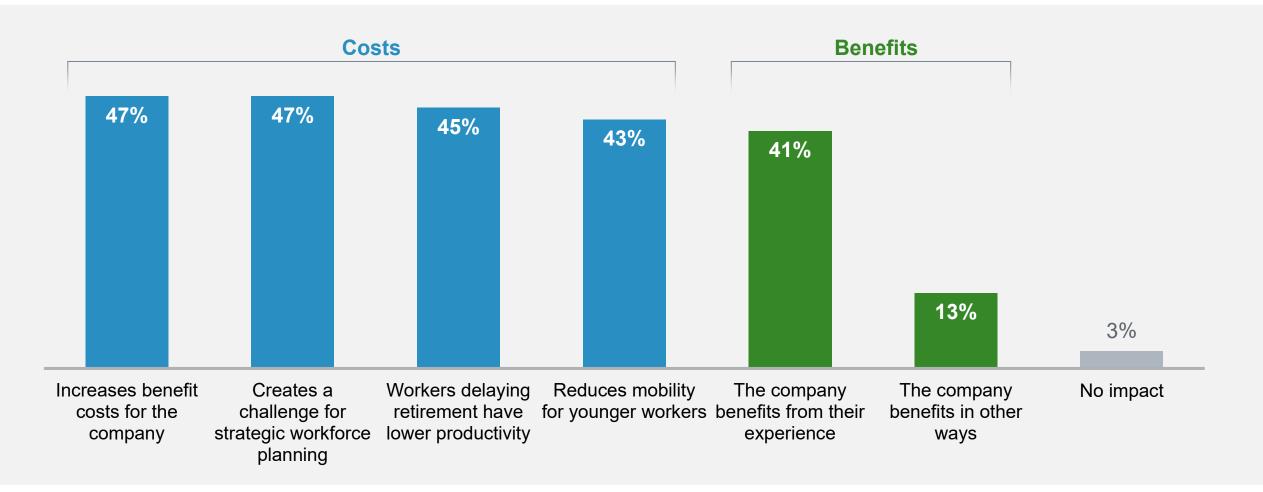
PROPORTION OF EMPLOYEES WHO ARE DELAYING RETIREMENT DUE TO LACK OF RETIREMENT SAVINGS



53% of sponsors state that some, many, or all employees delay retirement due to lack of savings.



Sponsors Recognize Impacts of Employees Working Beyond Retirement Age





Key Highlights of Savings Behavior Best Practices

Retirement savings targets

67

Retirement age

10X

Savings factor

45%

Income replacement rate

How do we get there?

15% Savings

Contribution and Company Match

Longevity of Savings (ages 25–67)

rate Asset Allocation

Best practices to help participants save enough:

Years Saving: Start early

Auto-enrollment for all employees

Total Savings Rate: Save enough

- 6% default rate
- Automatic 1% annual deferral increase up to at least 15%
- · Strategic match to encourage deferrals

Investment Returns: Asset allocation

- Align investment menu options with plan goals
- Use QDIA options that align with plan income replacement goals

Goal

Mathematically align plan design for success



Continued Plan Sponsor Focus on Attracting and Retaining Talent

74%

of plan sponsors

actively promote their retirement plans
to drive employee acquisition and retention

61%

of plan sponsors

made changes to employee benefits

to attract and retain talent

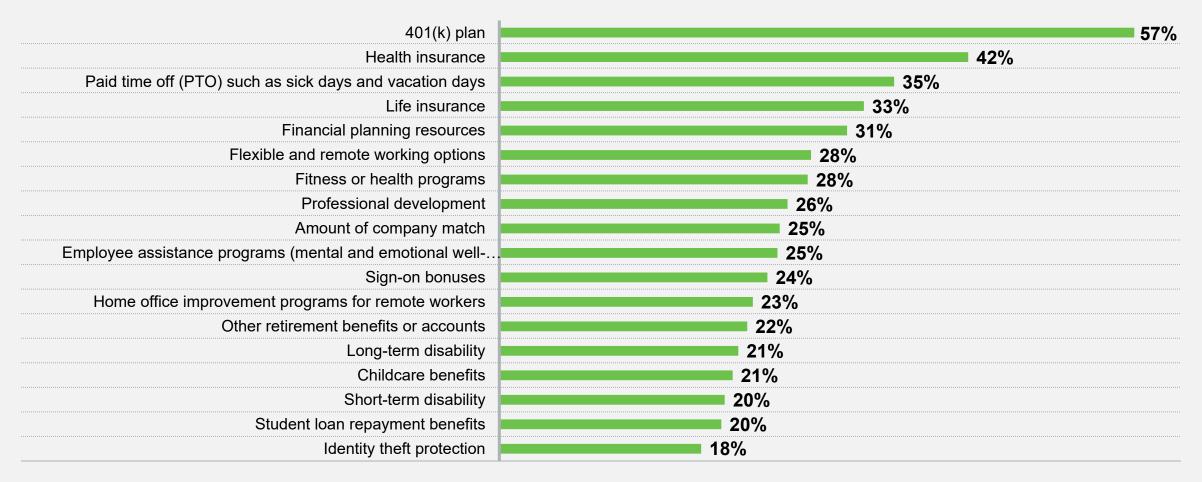
89%

of plan sponsors say their advisors have **helped promote their retirement plans** to drive employee acquisition/retention



Sponsors Enhance Benefits for Employees

TOP BENEFITS FOR ATTRACTING AND RETAINING TALENT





Increasing Employee Engagement



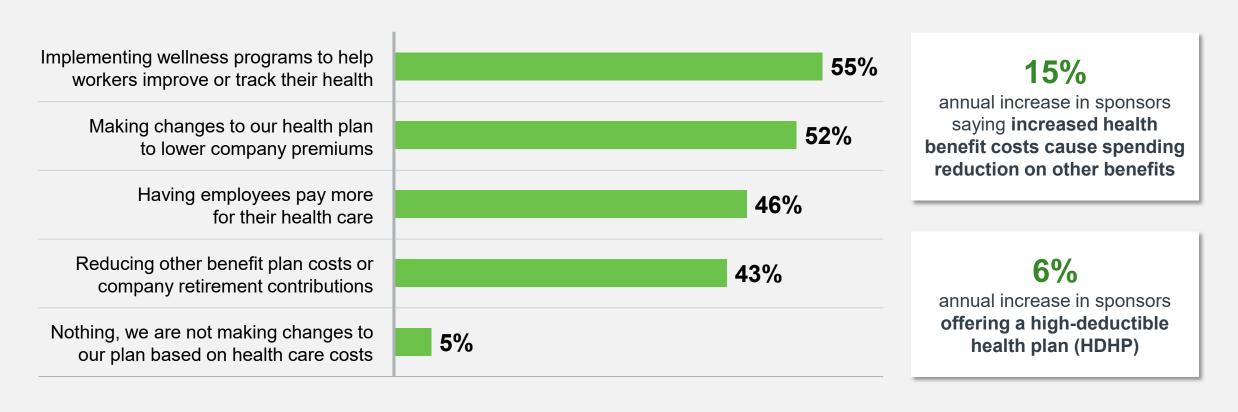


Sponsors Aim to Provide Holistic Benefit Programs



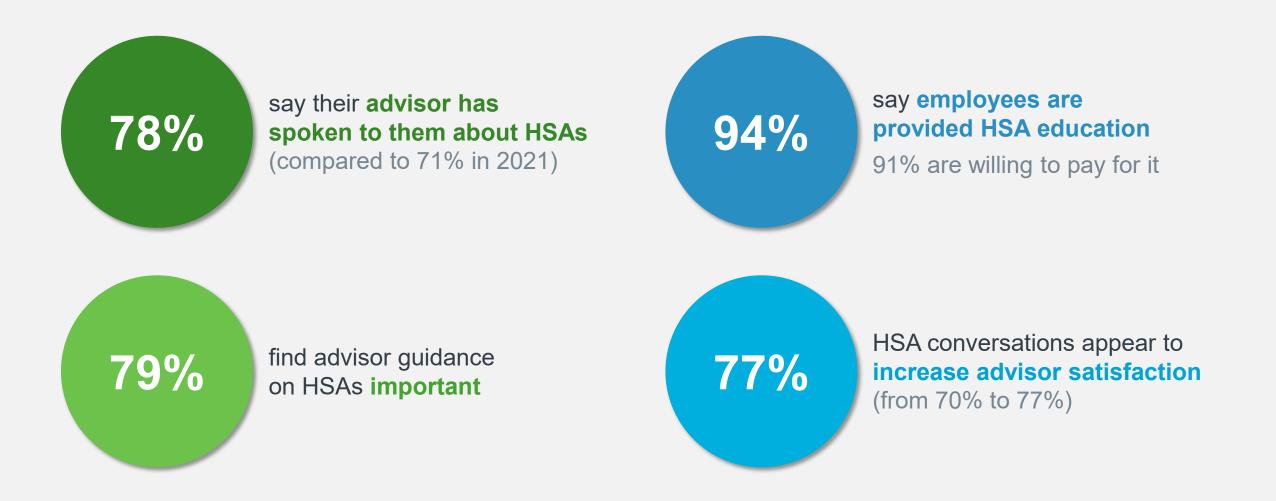
Sponsors Alter Benefit Options amid Rising Healthcare Costs

HOW ARE YOU ADDRESSING RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS?





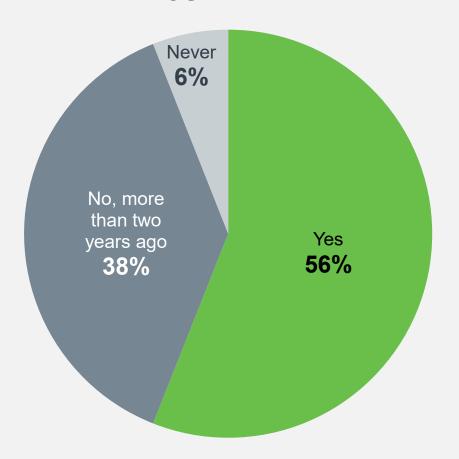
Advisors Play a Key Role Providing Guidance on HSAs





Financial Wellness Programs Continue to Make an Impact

HAVE YOU IMPLEMENTED A FINANCIAL WELLNESS PROGRAM IN THE PAST TWO YEARS?



76% of sponsors reported their advisors have spoken to them about financial wellness programs.

Financial wellness conversations appear to increase advisor satisfaction, from 70% to 77%.

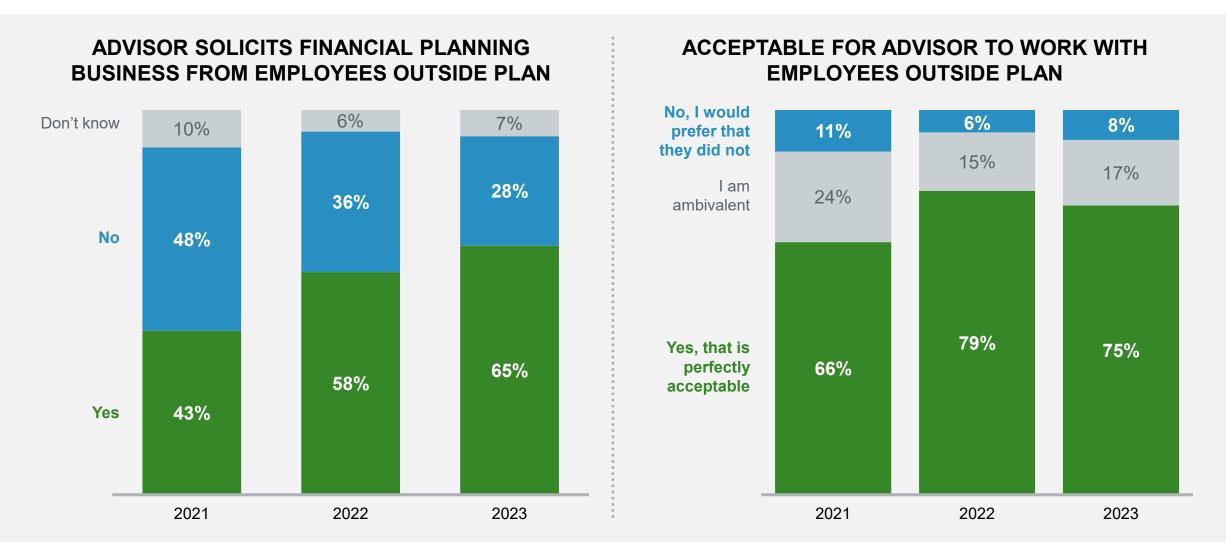
71% of sponsors find financial wellness programs **very impactful**.

REASONS SOME PROGRAMS LACKED IMPACT

- Lack of awareness of the program (65%)
- Lack of understanding of program benefits (55%)
- Program features (52%)



Broader Advisor Financial Engagement with Employees





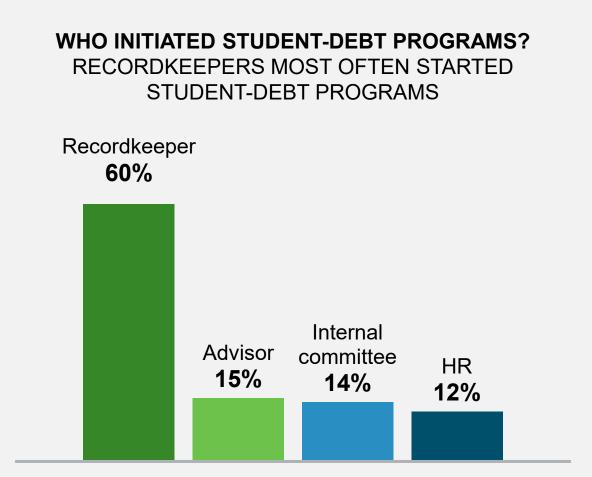
Sponsors Anticipate More Interest in Student-Debt Programs

71%

of plan sponsors expect
employee interest
in a student-debt program

68%

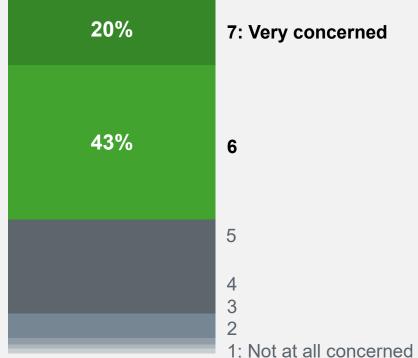
of plan sponsors stated they had **interest** in a student-debt program



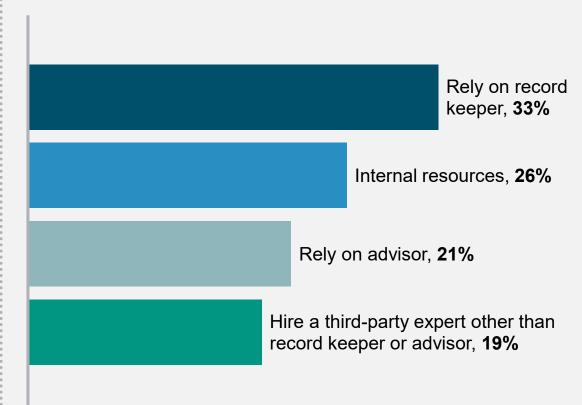


63% of Sponsors Are Concerned about Cybersecurity

DEGREE OF CONCERN ABOUT CYBERSECURITY **RISKS RELATED TO PLAN**



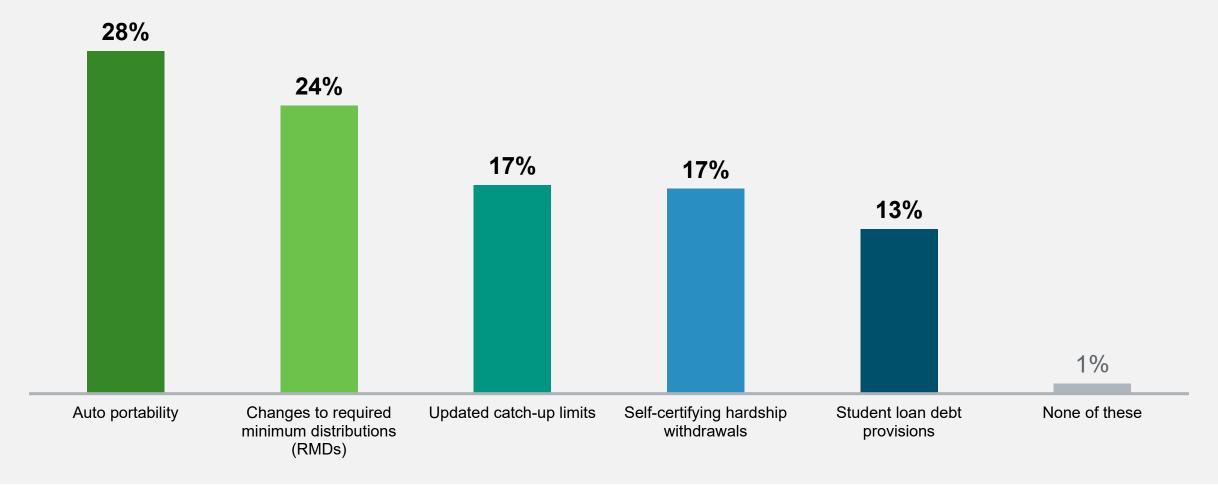
HOW CYBERSECURITY PLAN RISKS ARE EVALUATED





71% of Sponsors Are Familiar with SECURE Act 2.0

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS OF SECURE ACT 2.0 ARE OF MOST INTEREST?

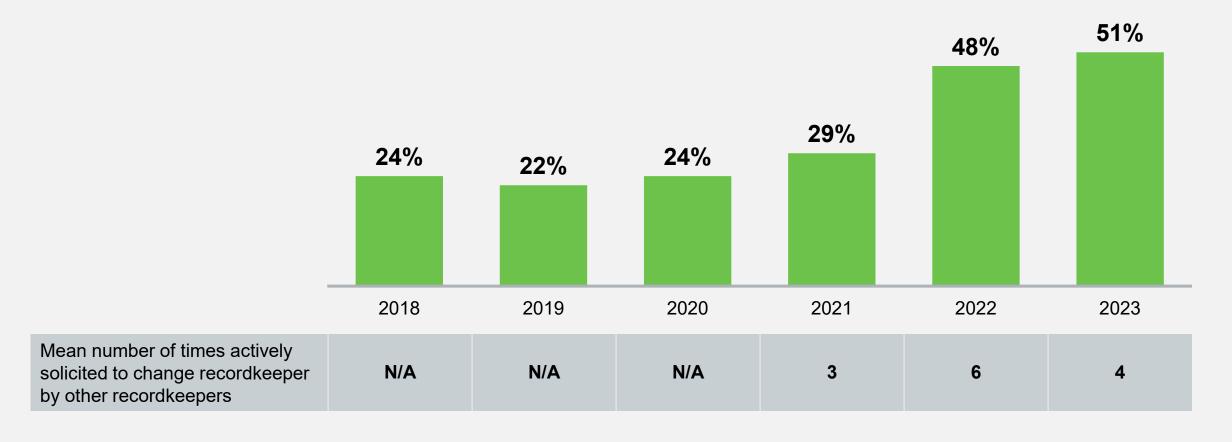






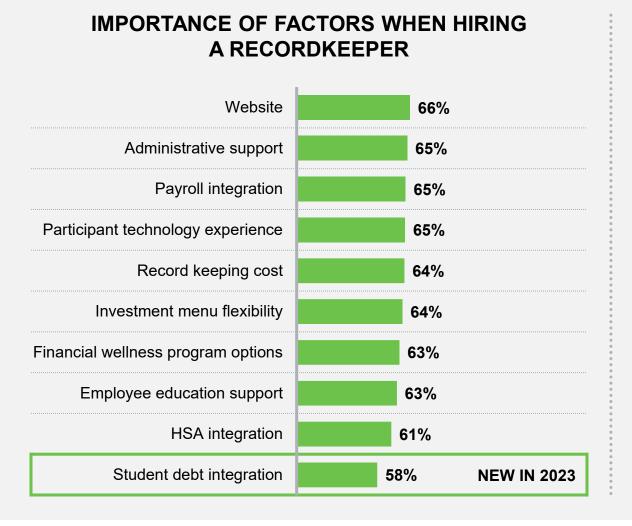
More Sponsors Are Looking to Change Recordkeepers

ACTIVELY LOOKING TO CHANGE RECORDKEEPER

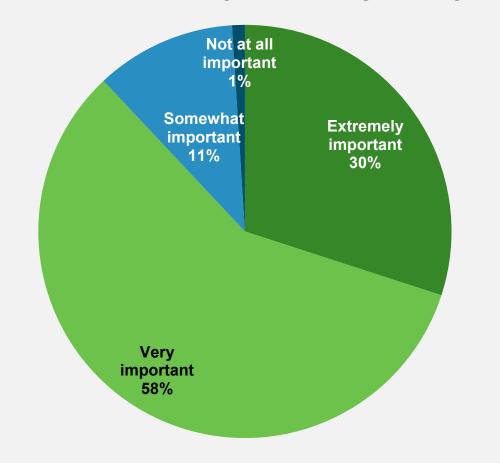




Finding the Right Recordkeeper



IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL/WEB/MOBILE EXPERIENCE IN RECORDKEEPER SELECTION



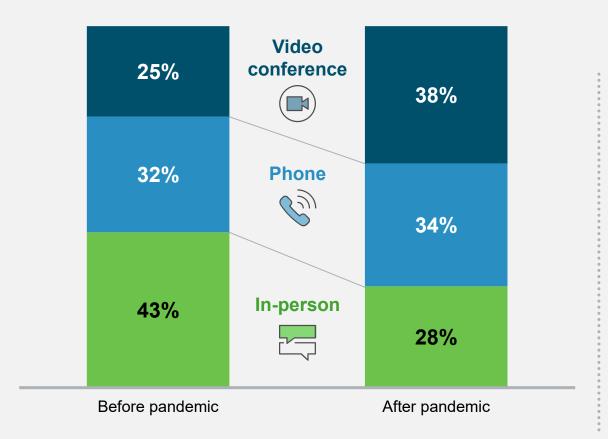


Appendix

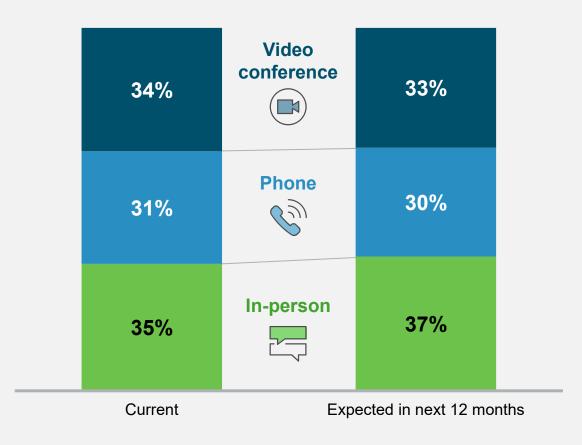


Changes in Advisor Relationship and Contact Channels

2022: TYPES OF CONTACT WITH PLAN ADVISORS

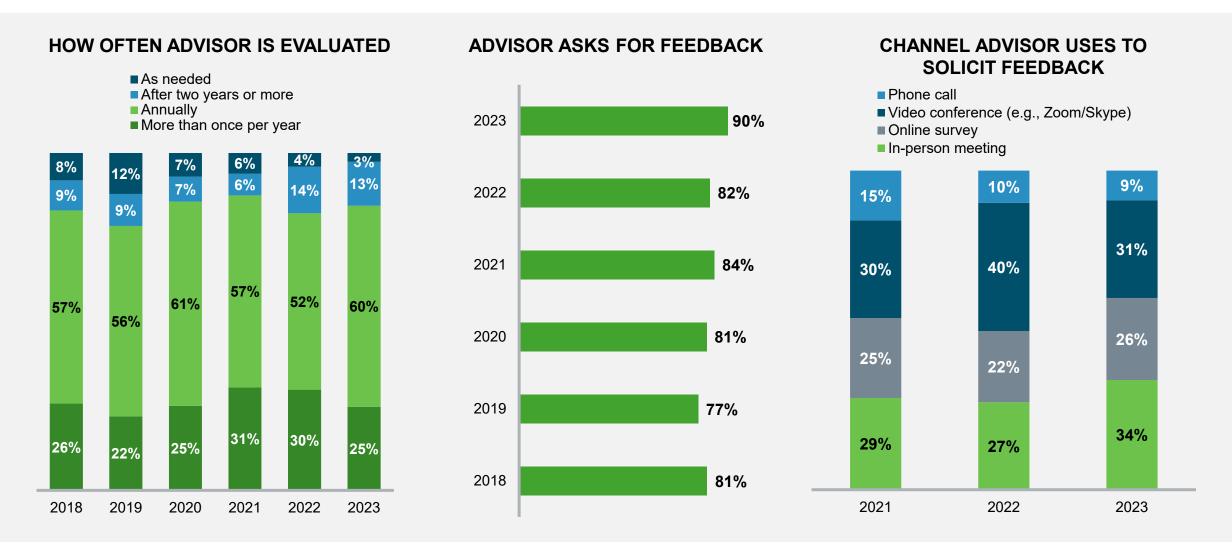


2023: TYPES OF CONTACT WITH PLAN ADVISORS





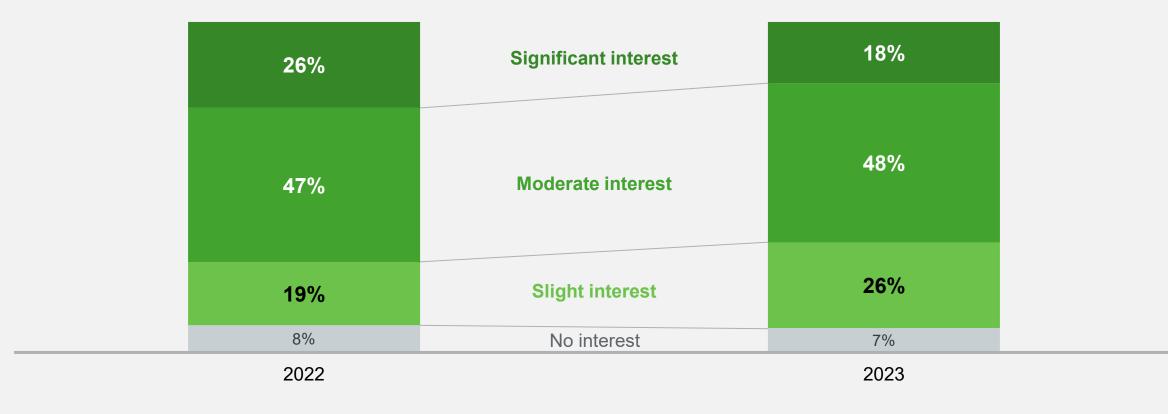
Evaluating Advisor/Consultant Performance





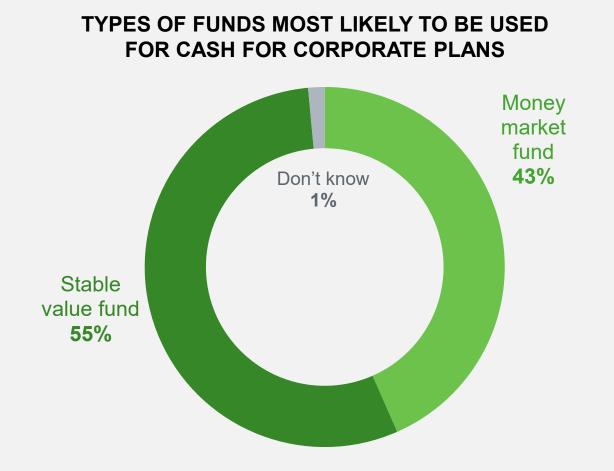
Employees' Interest in Digital Assets and Cryptocurrencies

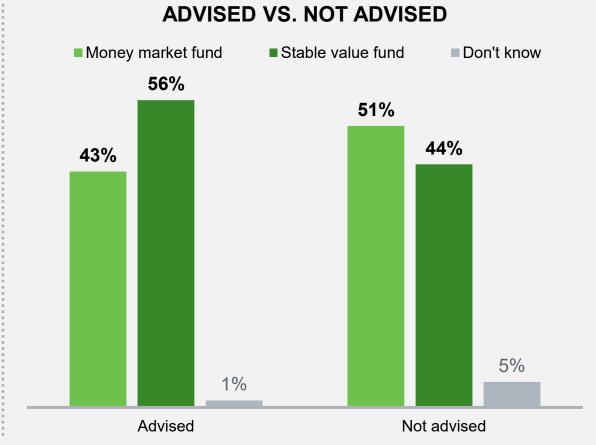
TO WHAT EXTENT (IF AT ALL) HAVE EMPLOYEES EXPRESSED INTEREST IN INVESTING IN DIGITAL ASSETS OR CRYPTOCURRENCIES LIKE BITCOIN OR ETHEREUM?





The Role of Money Market and Stable Value Funds vs. Cash







Important Information

Savings Factor Research

Fidelity has developed age-based retirement savings factors to help participants plan amid uncertainty. We estimate that saving 10x (times) a participants' preretirement income by age 67, together with other steps, may help ensure that participants have enough income to maintain their current lifestyle in retirement. Our savings factors are based on the assumption that a person saves 15% of their income annually beginning at age 25, invests more than 50% on average of their savings in stocks over their lifetime, retires at age 67, and plans to maintain their preretirement lifestyle in retirement. We have applied a "strong plan" framework to our analysis, stress-testing these guidelines to be successful in 9 out of 10 market conditions across a broad range of investment mixes.

Fidelity has developed a series of salary multipliers in order to provide participants with one measure of how their current retirement savings might be compared to potential income needs in retirement. The salary multiplier suggested is based solely on a participant's current age. In developing the series of salary multipliers corresponding to age, Fidelity assumed age-based asset allocations consistent with the equity glide path of a typical target date retirement fund, a 15% savings rate, a 1.5% constant real wage growth, a retirement age of 67, and a planning age through 93. The replacement annual income target is defined as 45% of preretirement annual income and assumes no pension income. This target is based on Consumer Expenditure Survey (BLS), preretirement Statistics of Income Tax Stat, IRS tax brackets, and Social Security Benefit Calculators. Fidelity developed the salary multipliers through multiple market simulations based on historical market data, assuming poor market conditions to support a 90% confidence level of success. These simulations take into account the volatility that a typical target date asset allocation might experience under different market conditions. Volatility of the stocks, bonds, and short-term asset classes is based on the historical annual data from 1926 through the most recent year-end data available from Ibbotson Associates, Inc. Stocks (domestic and foreign) are represented by Ibbotson Associates SBBI S&P 500 Total Return Index, bonds are represented by Ibbotson Associates SBBI US Intermediate Term Government Bonds Total Return Index, and short term are represented by Ibbotson Associates SBBI 30-day US Treasury Bills Total Return Index, respectively. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. All indices include reinvestment of dividends and interest income. All calculations are purely hypothetical, and a suggested salary multiplier is not a guarantee of future results; it does not reflect the return of any particular investment or take into consideration the com

Fidelity's suggested total pretax savings goal of 15% of annual income (including employer contributions) is based on our research, which indicates that most people would need to contribute this amount from an assumed starting age of 25 through an assumed retirement age of 67 to potentially support a replacement annual income rate equal to 45% of preretirement annual income (assuming no pension income) through age 93.

The savings factor, savings rate, and withdrawal rate targets are based on simulations based on historical market data. These simulations take into account the volatility that a variety of asset allocations might experience under different market conditions. Given the above assumptions for retirement age, planning age, wage growth, and income replacement targets, the results were successful in 9 out of 10 hypothetical market conditions where the average equity allocation over the investment horizon was more than 50% for the hypothetical portfolio. Remember, past performance is no guarantee of future results. Performance returns for actual investments will generally be reduced by fees or expenses not reflected in these hypothetical calculations. Returns will also generally be reduced by taxes.



Important Information (continued)

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You must make a determination whether an investment in any particular security or securities is consistent with your client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and overall financial situation.

IMPORTANT: All data and information are from the following sources unless otherwise specified:

Survey summary: Harris Insights and Analytics, an independent market research company, conducted an online survey of 1,351 plan sponsors on behalf of Fidelity. Fidelity Investments was not identified as the survey sponsor. The survey was conducted during the month of March 2023. Respondents were identified as the primary person responsible for managing their organization's 401(k) plan. All plan sponsors confirmed their plans had at least 25 participants and at least \$3 million in plan assets. Though the survey is broad in scope, the experiences of the plan sponsors participating in the survey may not be representative of all plan sponsors.

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