

2022 Stable Value Study

Key capital preservation findings

For this fifth study MetLife commissioned to gain strategic insight into the use of stable value in defined contribution (DC) plans, MetLife surveyed plan sponsors, advisors and fund providers.

Prevalence of stable value

Stable value, which is the only capital preservation option designed specifically for qualified retirement plans, continues to be widely offered to DC plan participants.



82% of DC plan sponsors offer stable value as a capital preservation option

98%

Nearly all plan sponsors say they are not planning to make any changes to their stable value offering

Decline of money market funds

Designed to offer DC plan participants the greatest total return consistent with protection of principal, stable value has consistently outperformed money market funds. As a result, the use of money market in DC plans has steadily declined.

91%

When looking at why companies offer stable value, almost all stable value fund providers say it is stable value's better returns than money market funds and other capital preservations options



The use of money market funds has declined significantly since 2015

Importance of advisor recommendations

Plan sponsors rely heavily on their plan advisor's recommendation to offer stable value.



82% of plan sponsors say stable value was recommended by their plan advisor



90%

Among the advisors that recommend stable value, nearly all cite stable value's superior performance compared to money market funds

Stable value structures

Plan sponsors are split on offering stable value individually or through a pooled fund.

Individual stable value account managed by a stable value manager



Individual stable value account negotiated directly with providers



Through a recordkeeper's proprietary stable value pooled fund



Through a stable value pooled fund unbundled from the recordkeeper



Don't know



■ Plan sponsors ■ Plan advisors

Net individual: 40%
vs. 48% in 2017

Net individual: 45%

Net pooled: 49%
vs. 42% in 2017

Net pooled: 43%

To read the 2022 Stable Value Study, visit: metlife.com/stablevaluestudy
Contact a member of our [Stable Value team](#) to discuss MetLife's stable value solutions.

METHODOLOGY

MetLife commissioned Greenwald Research to conduct surveys of plan sponsors, advisors and stable value fund providers between June and October 2021. A total of 222 interviews were completed among plan sponsors who offer a 401(k), 457 or 403(b) plan. Assets under management for plans included in the study ranged from under \$10 million to over \$1 billion. Each respondent had to work for a company that offers a DC plan with TDFs or target risk options, offer a capital preservation option, and have at least a moderate amount of influence over decisions regarding stable value or related funds for their company's defined contribution plan(s). Online surveys were also completed by 49 DC plan advisors and 11 stable value fund providers.

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