

# Vanguard® Health Care Index Fund

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## Investment Approach

Seeks to track the performance of the MSCI US Investable Market Health Care 25/50 Index.  
Multicapitalization equity in the health care sector.  
Passively managed, uses full-replication strategy when possible.  
If regulatory constraints prevent full replication, uses sampling strategy to approximate the index's key characteristics.  
Fund remains fully invested.  
Low expenses minimize net tracking error.

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## Quarterly Commentary

The fourth quarter of 2023 was a volatile period for the financial markets. Stocks and bonds continued to lose ground early on amid concerns that interest rates might remain elevated for an extended period. They went on to post strong gains, however, as inflation remained on a downward trend and economic growth softened, leading the markets to anticipate that policy rates had reached their peak and that cuts were likely not too far down the road.

Global stocks returned about 11% for the quarter, as measured by the FTSE Global All Cap Index, with equities in Europe and the United States climbing a little more than those in Asia and emerging markets.

Overall, yields of U.S. bonds finished the quarter lower and their prices higher. The yield for the bellwether 10-year U.S. Treasury note, for example, climbed to around 5% in October before sliding to end the year at less than 4%. The broad U.S. investment-grade bond market returned 6.72% (as measured by the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Float Adjusted Index).

The MSCI US Investable Market Health Care 25/50 Index returned 7.12% for the three-month period. The MSCI US Investable Market 2500 Index, which measures the U.S. stock market, returned 12.14%.

The top contributors were Eli Lilly (+8.7%), UnitedHealth Group (+4.8%), and Abbott Laboratories (+14.3%).

Pfizer (–12.0%), Bristol-Myers Squibb (–10.7%), and Becton, Dickinson and Company (–5.3%) detracted most.

For the 12-month period ended December 31, 2023, the MSCI US Investable Market Health Care 25/50 Index returned 2.56%. Eli Lilly (+60.9%), Vertex Pharmaceuticals (+40.9%), and Intuitive Surgical (+27.1%) were the top contributors. Pfizer (–41.2%), Bristol-Myers Squibb (–26.2%), and Johnson & Johnson (–8.6%) were the biggest detractors.

## People and Process

Vanguard Health Care Index Fund seeks to track the investment performance of the MSCI US Investable Market Health Care 25/50 Index, a benchmark of large-, mid-, and small-cap U.S. stocks in the health care sector, as classified under the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS). This GICS sector is made up of two main industry groups. The first group includes companies that manufacture health care equipment and supplies or provide health care related services (such as distributors of health care products, providers of basic healthcare services, and owners and operators of health care facilities and organizations). The second group includes companies primarily involved in the research, development, production, and marketing of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology products. Whenever possible, the fund attempts to fully replicate the target index, holding each stock in approximately the same proportion as its weighting in the index. However, the fund will use a sampling strategy if regulatory constraints or other considerations prevent it from replicating the index. Vanguard's Equity Index Group uses proprietary software to implement trading decisions that accommodate cash flows and maintain close correlation with index characteristics. Vanguard's refined indexing process, combined with low management fees and efficient trading, has provided tight tracking net of expenses.

## Vanguard Equity Index Group

Launched in 1975, The Vanguard Group, Malvern, Pennsylvania, is among the world's largest equity and fixed income managers. As chief investment officer, Gregory Davis, CFA, oversees Vanguard's Equity Index, Investment Strategy, Quantitative Equity, and Fixed Income Groups. Rodney Comegys, Principal and global head of Vanguard's Equity Index Group, is responsible for all equity index funds. The Equity Index Group manages indexed equity portfolios covering U.S. and international markets. It has developed sophisticated portfolio construction methodologies and efficient trading strategies that seek to deliver returns that are highly correlated with target portfolio benchmarks. The group has advised Vanguard Health Care Index Fund since 2004.

## Investment Manager Biographies

Walter Nejman. Portfolio manager. Advised the fund since 2015. Worked in investment management since 2008. B.A., Arcadia University. M.B.A., Villanova University.

Michelle Louie, CFA. Portfolio manager. Advised the fund since 2017.  
 Worked in investment management since 2011. B.S., The American  
 University. M.B.A., Georgia Institute of Technology.

### Total Returns

	Expense Ratio	Quarter	Year to Date	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Health Care Index Fund							
Admiral Shares (2/5/2004)	0.10%	7.10%	2.48%	2.48%	5.28%	10.97%	11.04%
Spliced U.S. Investable Market Health Care 25/50 Index							
	—	7.12	2.56	2.56	5.37	11.04	11.10

**The performance data shown represent past performance, which is not a guarantee of future results. Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate, so investors' shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data cited. For performance data current to the most recent month-end, visit our website at [vanguard.com/performance](https://www.vanguard.com/performance). The performance of an index is not an exact representation of any particular investment, as you cannot invest directly in an index.** Figures for periods of less than one year are cumulative returns. All other figures represent average annual returns. Performance figures include the reinvestment of all dividends and any capital gains distributions. All returns are net of expenses.

Note: Spliced U.S. Investable Market Health Care 25/50 Index: MSCI US Investable Market Health Care Index through February 26, 2010; MSCI US Investable Market Health Care 25/50 Index thereafter. Admiral class shareholders are required to maintain specific minimum balances and meet other special criteria.

## Quarterly Returns

Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year-End		
					Health Care Index	Spliced US IMI Health Care 25/50 Index	Assets (Millions)
2023	-3.59%	3.11%	-3.75%	7.10%	2.48%	2.56%	\$2,825
2022	-4.15	-7.21	-4.73	11.52	-5.50	-5.43	2,959
2021	2.44	8.48	0.42	7.97	20.50	20.61	3,049
2020	-13.14	16.48	6.15	10.09	18.24	18.28	2,155
2019	8.16	1.47	-3.25	14.87	21.97	22.03	1,484
2018	-0.30	4.26	13.68	-10.67	5.55	5.62	1,224
2017	9.11	7.39	3.69	1.54	23.36	23.44	971
2016	-6.87	6.07	2.27	-4.31	-3.33	-3.26	722
2015	7.81	3.43	-11.60	8.77	7.21	7.23	847
2014	5.75	4.36	4.84	8.40	25.42	25.45	532
2013	15.62	4.15	7.97	9.74	42.68	42.84	308

## Fund Facts

Fund Number	5485
Ticker	VHCIX
Newspaper Listing	HltCixAd
CUSIP Number	92204A827
Assets (millions)	\$2,825
Inception	2/5/2004
Expense Ratio (as of 12/2023)	0.10%

## Volatility Measures

	R-Squared	Beta
Spliced US IMI Health Care 25/50	1.00	1.00
MSCI US Investable Market 2500 Idx	0.65	0.66

R-squared and beta are calculated from trailing 36-month fund returns relative to the associated benchmark.

## Equity Characteristics

	Health Care Index	MSCI US IMI Health Care 25/50
Number of stocks	421	412
Median market cap	\$113.8 Billion	\$113.8 Billion
Average market cap	\$193.7 Billion	\$193.5 Billion
Price/earnings ratio	29.2x	29.2x
Price/book ratio	4.4x	4.4x
Return on equity	21.4%	21.4%
Earnings growth rate	20.0%	20.0%
Equity yield (dividend)	1.5%	1.5%
Foreign holdings	0.0%	0.0%
Short-term reserves	0.0%	—
Turnover rate (fiscal year end)	4.1%	—

## Top 10 Largest Holdings

	% of Total Net Assets
UnitedHealth Group Inc.	8.4%
Eli Lilly & Co.	8.1
Johnson & Johnson	6.5
Merck & Co. Inc.	4.8
AbbVie Inc.	4.7
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.	3.5
Abbott Laboratories	3.3
Pfizer Inc.	2.8
Danaher Corp.	2.8
Amgen Inc.	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>47.6%</b>

The holdings listed exclude any temporary cash investments and equity index products.

**Sector Diversification (% of Stocks)**

	Health Care Index	MSCI US IMI Health Care 25/50	Overweight/ Underweight
Biotechnology	19.1%	19.2%	-0.1
Health Care Distributors	2.4	2.4	0.0
Health Care Equipment	18.6	18.6	0.0
Health Care Facilities	1.7	1.7	0.0
Health Care Services	4.9	4.9	0.0
Health Care Supplies	1.3	1.3	0.0
Health Care Technology	0.9	0.9	0.0
Life Sciences Tools & Services	11.2	11.3	-0.1
Managed Health Care	12.6	12.6	0.0
Pharmaceuticals	27.3	27.3	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Sector categories are based on the Global Industry Classification Standard ("GICS"), except for the "Other" category (if applicable), which includes securities that have not been provided a GICS classification as of the effective reporting period.



## Important information

**For more information about Vanguard funds or Vanguard ETFs, visit [vanguard.com](https://vanguard.com) or call 800-523-1036 to obtain a prospectus or, if available, a summary prospectus. Investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information are contained in the prospectus; read and consider it carefully before investing.**

**Vanguard ETF Shares are not redeemable with the issuing Fund other than in very large aggregations worth millions of dollars. Instead, investors must buy or sell Vanguard ETF Shares in the secondary market and hold those shares in a brokerage account. In doing so, the investor may incur brokerage commissions and may pay more than net asset value when buying and receive less than net asset value when selling.**

All investing is subject to risk, including the possible loss of the money you invest.

Please remember that all investments involve some risk. Be aware that fluctuations in the financial markets and other factors may cause declines in the value of your account. There is no guarantee that any particular asset allocation or mix of funds will meet your investment objectives or provide you with a given level of income. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against a loss. Funds that concentrate on a relatively narrow market sector face the risk of higher share-price volatility.

Investments in bond funds and ETFs are subject to interest rate, credit, and inflation risk. Although the income from a municipal bond fund is exempt from federal tax, you may owe taxes on any capital gains realized through the fund's trading or through your own redemption of shares. For some investors, a portion of the fund's income may be subject to state and local taxes, as well as to the federal Alternative Minimum Tax.

High-yield bonds generally have medium- and lower-range credit quality ratings and are therefore subject to a higher level of credit risk than bonds with higher credit quality ratings.

The Factor Funds are subject to investment style risk, which is the chance that returns from the types of stocks in which a Factor Fund invests will trail returns from U.S. stock markets. The Factor Funds are also subject to manager risk, which is the chance that poor security selection will cause a Factor Fund to underperform its relevant benchmark or other funds with a similar investment objective, and sector risk, which is the chance that significant problems will affect a particular sector in which a Factor Fund invests, or that returns from that sector will trail returns from the overall stock market.

Investments in derivatives may involve risks different from, and possibly greater than, those of investments in the underlying securities or assets.

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