Vanguard set sail on May 1, 1975. Born of a leadership dispute at its predecessor firm, Wellington Management Company, Vanguard was founded by John C. Bogle as the first mutual fund company to be owned by its member funds and provide management services at cost. Vanguard had fewer than 50 employees (called “crew”) and total net assets under management of about $USD1.8 billion in 11 funds. Fund firms were still reeling from the 1973–74 bear market, and like many, Vanguard had more money leaving than coming in.

Vanguard launches the industry’s first two high-yield bond funds.

Vanguard offers industry’s first small-cap index fund.

Vanguard launches specialized portfolios (broad industry-sector funds).

Vanguard creates industry’s first balanced fund and total stock market index fund.

Vanguard launches international office in Australia.

Vanguard opens first international office in the U.S.

Vanguard launches international ETFs.

Vanguard passes $USD 100 billion outside the U.S.

Vanguard becomes the first fund manager in Australia to report after-tax returns.

Vanguard launches first ETF.

Target retirement funds launches.

Vanguard mutual funds passes $USD 1 trillion.

Vanguard UK office opens.

Vanguard Australia surpasses $70 billion in total AUM and $3 billion in ETF net assets.

John James appointed as Managing Director of Vanguard Investments Australia Ltd.


Vanguard Group surpasses $USD 3.3 trillion in global AUM.

Bill McNabb joins Vanguard.

Jack Brennan took over Vanguard’s leadership from John Bogle.

The first U.S.-listed exchange-traded fund (ETF) began trading in 1993, and others later followed.

Vanguard Investments Europe opens.

Vanguard launches first ETF.

Vanguard fund assets surpass $USD 500 billion.

Vanguard.com launches.

Vanguard money market assets surpass $USD 1 billion.

A historic bull market in stocks began quietly in August 1982 and would continue, with only brief interruptions, for nearly 20 years.

Vanguard launched the industry’s first high-yield bond fund.

Amid panic selling, the stock market crashed on October 19, 1987, suffering its largest-ever one-day loss on what became known as Black Monday.

The rapid rise of the internet and online client service allowed for huge economies of scale and dramatically reduced business costs, allowing Vanguard to lower expenses for shareholders.

Vanguard creates the first international shares index fund.

Vanguard launches international ETFs.

Vanguard passes $USD 100 billion outside the U.S.

Vanguard Group through the years

The first index mutual fund—First Index Investment Trust (now Vanguard 500 Index Fund)—was launched in 1976.

Vanguard Investment Australia Ltd (ABN 72 072 881 086 / AFS Licence 227263) is the product issuer. We have not taken your and your clients’ circumstances into account when preparing our website content so it may not be applicable to the particular situation you are considering. You should consider yours and your clients’ circumstances and our Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) or Prospectus before making any investment decision. You can access our PDS or Prospectus online or by calling us. Past performance is not an indication of future performance. © 2015 Vanguard Investments Australia Ltd. All rights reserved.