

## Assets

The Foundation's assets, amounting to about 4.3 billion euros, are invested as profitable and sustainable as possible. The Foundation is economically independent and autonomous in its decision-making. Apart from financing the Foundation's ongoing operations, the investments of the Foundation capital pursue above all two objectives: The first one is to secure funding for research on a continuous basis, while the second is to maintain the real value of the Foundation's capital.

## Strategy

The proceeds from the conversion of the Volkswagenwerk to a joint stock company at the beginning of the 1960s formed the starting capital of the Foundation; these were equivalent to a good 0.5 billion euros.

The capital of the Foundation meanwhile amounts to 4.3 billion euros and could thus be more than eightfold. The Foundation manages this capital on an autonomous basis.

The money expended on funding derives from the investment of these assets; it also includes the countervalue of the profits from some 30.234.600 VW ordinary shares held by the State of Lower Saxony. In terms of the volume of funding granted, the Volkswagen Foundation is the biggest institution of this kind in Germany.

### Investment Management Objectives

The Foundation is economically independent and thus autonomous in its decisions. Apart from financing the Foundation's ongoing operations, the investments of the Foundation capital pursue above all two objectives: One is to secure funding for research on a continuous basis, while the second is to keep the real value of the Foundation capital intact.

The fact that the Foundation is oriented to sustained existence prohibits it from touching the Foundation capital to provide the means for funding. It is therefore exclusively the current income from the investment management that is used for this purpose. To ensure that such income maintains at least a constant figure in terms of its material counter-value, the assets of the Foundation must be protected against certain risks such as for example inflation-induced devaluation. This is achieved by forming reserves from a part of the annual proceeds – a measure permitted by law – as well as by generating growth in value.

### Earnings-Oriented and Risk-Conscious

The investments of the Foundation's assets are therefore based not only on interest-bearing securities, but also on stocks and real estate as well as alternative investments. It is these that additionally contribute to maintaining the real value of the assets through their ongoing growth.

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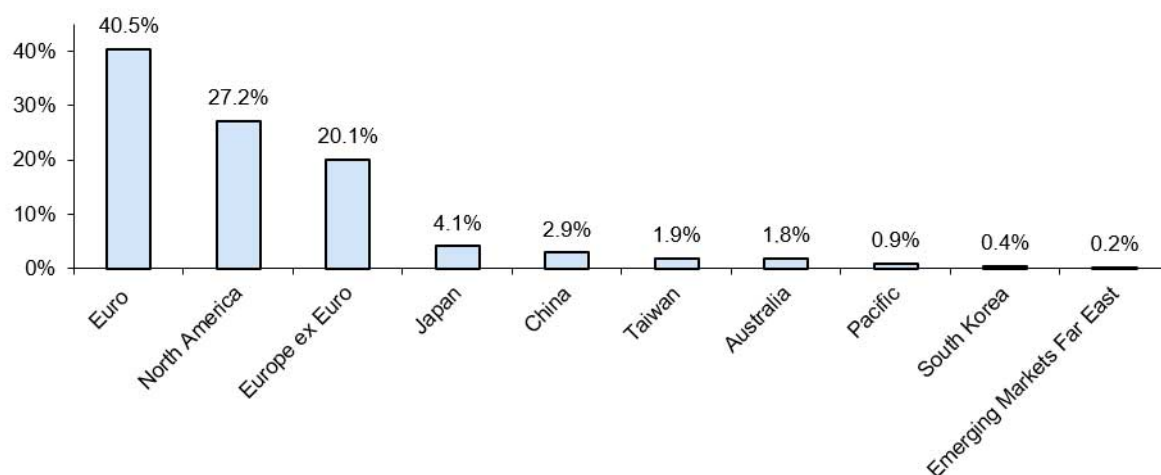
The capital is invested in accordance with the principles of the portfolio theory: the more broadly the individual risks and thus also the chances are spread through the choice of the kind of investment, the better secured is the overall success. In this way, the Foundation exploits the risk diversification effect.

This investment strategy ensures the Foundation a successful asset management – not only earnings-oriented, but also risk-conscious – corresponding to the objectives of the Foundation as set forth in its Statutes.

At the end of the 1980s the Foundation set up an Investment Advisory Committee to advise the Foundation on its investment strategy as well as on evaluating the results achieved.

## Equity Investment

We also adhere to the principle of the portfolio theory when investing on the stock market. Here too, the objective is to spread the risks and chances on a broad basis in order to achieve a steady increase in value.



Investment in Shares by Countries (June 2026)

At present, equities make up 57.2 percent of the disposable Foundation's assets. Of these, around 41 percent are shares in companies from Euro area countries. The other assets are distributed among shares from the USA, Canada, the countries of Europe outside of the Eurozone, various countries in South-East Asia and also in the Pacific region. In this case, external mandates for special funds have been given to various financial investment management companies.

In the interest of diversification, when investing in equities the Volkswagen Foundation attaches paramount importance to being present in markets of different geographical regions. The investments of the Foundation in equities are structured by separate portfolios for the individual market segments. Each portfolio is assigned a certain benchmark. These benchmarks contain typical indices for the corresponding investment sectors, which reflect their development and serve as measures of performance for individual markets.

A passive management approach was selected for most of the special funds, as also for the stock holdings managed by the Foundation itself. Here the fund management is set the task of achieving the corresponding benchmark. Possible negative market trends are taken into account, as these are generally compensated by positive trends elsewhere in the Foundation's portfolio. On aggregate this results in a smoothing of the fluctuations in value accompanied by reduced risks. An exception is a portfolio that contains European Small, Mid and Micro Caps and is managed actively.

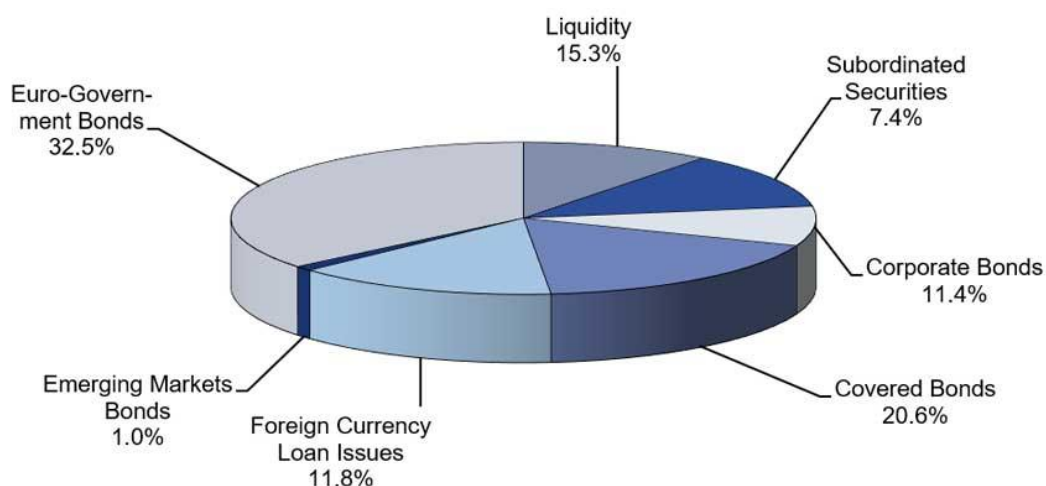
For the special fund mandates, mainly benchmark indices were chosen that pay particular attention to ecological and ethical as well as good corporate governance criteria in the selection of their individual securities. In addition, the Volkswagen Foundation reserves the right to refrain from certain investments in individual cases.

When selecting shares for its own portfolio, the Volkswagen Foundation applies its own sustainability criteria. These include both exclusion and positive criteria, and aspects of the UN Global Compact are also taken into account. The Volkswagen Foundation regularly receives corresponding evaluations from an ESG research agency.

All the Foundation's financial assets – in the direct portfolio as well as in the special funds – are subjected to an ex-post analysis with regard to comprehensive ESG criteria. In this respect, a key determinant provides information on the extent to which a portfolio meets the defined criteria.

## Interest-bearing Securities

About a third of the Foundation's assets are nominal values and can thus be categorized as interest-bearing securities. The traditionally rather high share of nominal values ensures a regular income that can be planned and is generally associated with low risk. That is especially important for providing funds which are financed exclusively from ordinary income. Furthermore, this approach avoids large price fluctuations and depreciation.



Interest-bearing Securities (June 2026)

June 2026

The nominal values are managed in-house, another part by two special bond funds. The volume of the in-house managed titles amounts at the moment to 1,212 million euros, the volume of the special bond funds to 876 million euros. Besides a liquidity position that is held in the form of account balances, overnight money and short term money as well as short term bonds, the self-administered securities include corporate bonds, mortgage bonds, public sector bonds, and subordinated securities. A breakdown of the in-house managed securities can also be seen from the diagram above.

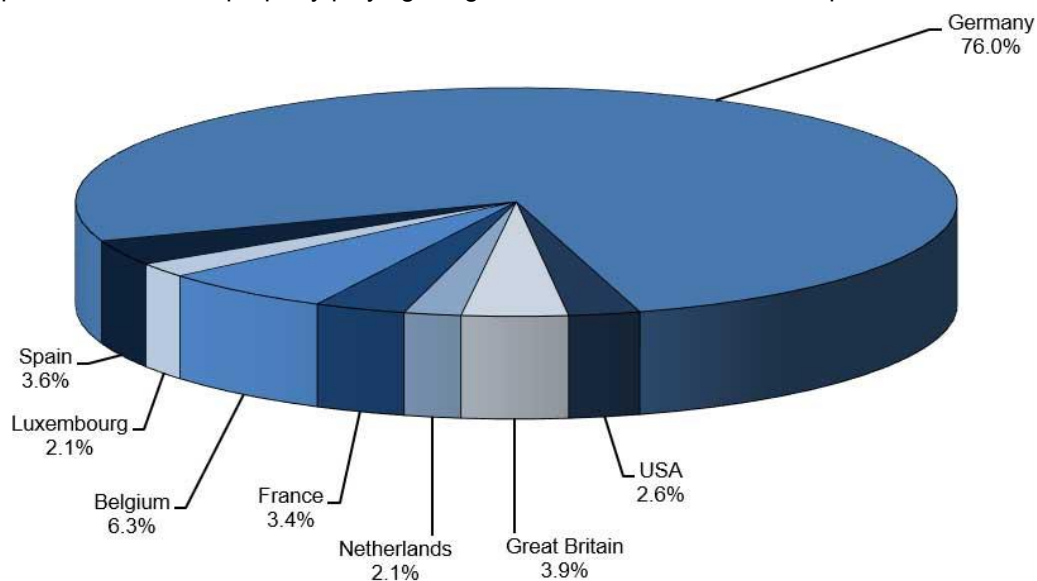
The basis of the investment in securities is a semi-active approach in connection with a "steady hand" investment policy. The objective is to achieve the highest possible, and yet safe current interest, while price gains achieved by regroupings of assets do not constitute a major objective. The advantages deriving from this strategy are continuously checked out by means of benchmarking and total return concepts.

Both bond funds are managed actively and with the aid of quantitative models. One mandate contains New Zealand, Canadian, Norwegian and Australian government bonds, each denominated in the corresponding national currency. The second external mandate comprises UK government bonds, US corporate bonds and emerging markets bonds.

The aspect of sustainability is also becoming increasingly important for interest-bearing securities. This area is therefore also regularly subjected to a comprehensive examination, in which a corresponding valuation coefficient is determined by incorporating a large number of defined sustainability criteria. This ensures continuous optimization regarding the sustainability of investments.

## Real Estate Investments

The principle of diversification is also applied within the property sector. Like shares, real property investments represent tangible assets designed to provide protection against inflation risks. At the same time, rental income is a key component in generating current returns and securing funding. Both aspects contribute to property playing a significant role within the overall portfolio.



Real Estate Investments by Countries (June 2026)

Within the real property sector, risk diversification is achieved through the geographical spread of investments. Historically, the focus has been on domestic investments. The German properties are held through subsidiaries, which are managed externally and overseen and monitored by the Foundation. These consist of residential and office properties spread across Germany. In addition, there are two office buildings in London and Washington, let to academic institutions, which are also owned by subsidiaries of the Volkswagen Foundation. As part of its investment activities, a subsidiary also undertook the reconstruction of Herrenhausen Palace in Hanover. The palace is leased to external operators for use as a museum and conference centre.

The European property investments are concentrated in the Foundation's special property fund. The fund's investments – all of which are office buildings – are spread across France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Spain.