Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2021

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A This return/report is for:
- [ ] a multiemployer plan
- [ ] a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
- [X] a single-employer plan
- [ ] a DFE (specify) ____

B This return/report is:
- [ ] the first return/report
- [ ] the final return/report
- [ ] an amended return/report
- [ ] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

D Check box if filing under:
- [X] Form 5558
- [ ] automatic extension
- [ ] the DFVC program
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

1c Effective date of plan 05/01/1989

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)
STAPLES, INC.

P.O. BOX 9274
500 STAPLES DR.
FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702-9274

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 04-2896127

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 508-253-5000

2d Business code (see instructions) 453210

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/04/2022	MELANIE MCGRATH
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor

3b Administrator's EIN

3c Administrator's telephone number

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:

a Sponsor's name

c Plan Name

4b EIN

4d PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	22227
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	15071
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	13447
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	7484
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**	**6d**	20931
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	173
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**	**6f**	21104
g	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g**	19057
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	76
7	Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2S 2T

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

(1)	[X]	Insurance
(2)	[ ]	Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	[X]	Trust
(4)	[ ]	General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

(1)	[X]	Insurance
(2)	[ ]	Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	[X]	Trust
(4)	[ ]	General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

(1)	[X]	**R** (Retirement Plan Information)
(2)	[ ]	**MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
(3)	[ ]	**SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary

b General Schedules

(1)	[X]		**H** (Financial Information)
(2)	[ ]		**I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3)	[X]	1	**A** (Insurance Information)
(4)	[X]		**C** (Service Provider Information)
(5)	[X]		**D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
(6)	[ ]		**G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2021 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2021 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____

SCHEDULE A (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Insurance Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).

OMB No. 1210-0110

2021

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan
STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
STAPLES, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
04-2896127

Part I **Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions** Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
GREAT-WEST LIFE & ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	**(c)** NAIC code	**(d)** Contract or identification number	**(e)** Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	**(g)** To
84-0467907	68322	150552-01	2709	01/01/2021	12/31/2021

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	**(b)** Total amount of fees paid

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

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(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

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(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	113939060
5	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end	5	0

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:

a State the basis of premium rates ▶

b	Premiums paid to carrier	6b	
c	Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year	6c	
d	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount.	6d	

Specify nature of costs ▶

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity

(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶

f If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐

7 Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee

(3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT

b	Balance at the end of the previous year			7b	123375042
c	Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	4217220		
	(2) Dividends and credits	7c(2)	0		
	(3) Interest credited during the year	7c(3)	2233020		
	(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)	25183341		
	(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)	1157965		
	▶ LOAN PAYMENTS				
	(6) Total additions			7c(6)	32791546
d	Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**)			7d	156166588
e	Deductions:				
	(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)	18122304		
	(2) Administration charge made by carrier	7e(2)	44520		
	(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)	24060704		
	(4) Other (specify below)	7e(4)			
	▶				
	(5) Total deductions			7e(5)	42227528
f	Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)			7f	113939060

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- **a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
- **b** ☐ Dental
- **c** ☐ Vision
- **d** ☐ Life insurance
- **e** ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
- **f** ☐ Long-term disability
- **g** ☐ Supplemental unemployment
- **h** ☐ Prescription drug
- **i** ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
- **j** ☐ HMO contract
- **k** ☐ PPO contract
- **l** ☐ Indemnity contract
- **m** ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:				
a Premiums: (1) Amount received	**9a(1)**			
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	**9a(2)**			
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	**9a(3)**			
(4) Earned (**(1)** + **(2)** - **(3)**)			**9a(4)**	0
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid	**9b(1)**			
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	**9b(2)**			
(3) Incurred claims (add **(1)** and **(2)**)			**9b(3)**	0
(4) Claims charged			**9b(4)**	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --				
(A) Commissions	**9c(1)(A)**			
(B) Administrative service or other fees	**9c(1)(B)**			
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	**9c(1)(C)**			
(D) Other expenses	**9c(1)(D)**			
(E) Taxes	**9c(1)(E)**			
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies	**9c(1)(F)**			
(G) Other retention charges	**9c(1)(G)**			
(H) Total retention			**9c(1)(H)**	0
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.)			**9c(2)**	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement			**9d(1)**	
(2) Claim reserves			**9d(2)**	
(3) Other reserves			**9d(3)**	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line **9c(2)**.)			**9e**	
10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:				
a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier			**10a**	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount.			**10b**	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**	**2021** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan	**B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	
STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN		002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500	**D** Employer Identification Number (EIN)	
STAPLES, INC.	04-2896127	

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

GREAT-WEST LIFE & ANNUITY INSURANCE

84-0467907

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
64 37 15 50	NONE	816540	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	0	Yes [X] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes [ ] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes [ ] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III	**Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)** (complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

DFE/Participating Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2021

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan
STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
STAPLES, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
04-2896127

Part I **Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	BLACKROCK RUSSELL 1000 GROWTH F		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST CO.		
c EIN-PN	94-3330725-001	**d** Entity code	C
e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	191967493		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	BLACKROCK RUSSELL 1000 VALUE F		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST CO.		
c EIN-PN	94-3330726-001	**d** Entity code	C
e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	98456297		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2005 TR-B		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN	61-6434302-001	**d** Entity code	C
e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	3360280		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2010 TR-B		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN	32-6199795-001	**d** Entity code	C
e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	6377596		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2015 TR-B		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN	35-6941654-001	**d** Entity code	C
e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	24176805		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2020 TR-B		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN	36-7594871-001	**d** Entity code	C
e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	43824653		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2025 TR-B		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN	37-6495447-001	**d** Entity code	C
e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	112365961		

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2030 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
38-7010946-001	C	118351663

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2035 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
36-7595013-001	C	118860662

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2040 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
35-6941729-001	C	91779983

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2045 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
32-6199848-001	C	91793084

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2050 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
30-6303214-001	C	49440665

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2055 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
35-6941728-001	C	27806218

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE RETIREMENT 2060 TR-B

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): T. ROWE PRICE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
47-1088316-001	C	7458491

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II **Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Financial Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2021

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan
STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
STAPLES, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
04-2896127

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	16054333	16591970
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	119737	169224
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	0	0
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	0
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	0	0
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	16920524	15457071
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	871999495	986019851
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	446798481	481677907
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	123375042	113939060
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	0

			(a) Beginning of Year	**(b)** End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:			
	(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	0	0
	(2) Employer real property	1d(2)	0	0
e	Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	0	0
f	Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	1475267612	1613855083
	Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	1g	0	0
h	Operating payables	1h		
i	Acquisition indebtedness	1i	0	0
j	Other liabilities	1j	0	0
k	Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	0	0
	Net Assets			
l	Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	1475267612	1613855083

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

	Income		**(a)** Amount	**(b)** Total
a	**Contributions:**			
	(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	2a(1)(A)	16591561	
	(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	57663039	
	(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	6472005	
	(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	
	(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		80726605
b	**Earnings on investments:**			
	(1) Interest:			
	(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	0	
	(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	0	
	(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	0	
	(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	0	
	(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	908936	
	(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	2232197	
	(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		3141133
	(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	0	
	(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
	(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	25508276	
	(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		25508276
	(3) Rents	2b(3)		0
	(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	0	
	(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	0	
	(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
	(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)	0	
	(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	0	
	(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		153326614
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		51528204
c Other income	2c		119613
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		314350445
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	174184147	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)	0	
(3) Other	2e(3)	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		174184147
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		6447
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		755840
h Interest expense	2h		0
i Administrative expenses: **(1)** Professional fees	2i(1)	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	0	
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)	0	
(4) Other	2i(4)	816540	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(4)**	2i(5)		816540
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		175762974
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		138587471
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		0
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) [X] Unmodified **(2)** [ ] Qualified **(3)** [ ] Disclaimer **(4)** [ ] Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) [X] DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 **(2)** [ ] DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) **(3)** [ ] neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: ERNST & YOUNG LLP **(2)** EIN: 34-6565596

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) [ ] This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. **(2)** [ ] It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	4a		X	

			Yes	No	Amount
b	Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	**4b**		X	
c	Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	**4c**		X	
d	Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	**4d**		X	
e	Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**	X		1000000
f	Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	**4f**		X	
g	Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4g**		X	
h	Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4h**		X	
i	Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4i**	X		
j	Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4j**		X	
k	Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	**4k**		X	
l	Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**		X	
m	If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**4m**		X	
n	If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3	**4n**			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	**5b(2)** EIN(s)	**5b(3)** PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Retirement Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2021

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan
STAPLES, INC. EMPLOYEES' 401(K) SAVINGS PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
STAPLES, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
04-2896127

Part I Distributions

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions ..... | **1** | 0

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):

EIN(s): 84-1455663

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year ..... | **3**

Part II Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 **a** Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) ..... | **6a**

b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year ..... | **6b**

c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount) ..... | **6c**

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

Part III Amendments

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ..... ☐ **Increase** ☐ **Decrease** ☐ **Both** ☐ **No**

Part IV ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

11 **a** Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	**14a**	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14b**	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14c**	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**15a**	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	**15b**	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	**16a**	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	**16b**	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:
☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?
☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify):

20 **PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation _____

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020
With Report of Independent Auditors

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule
Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

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Building a better working world

Report of Independent Auditors

The Plan Administrator and Participants

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit for the 2021 Financial Statements

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2021, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of the financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2021, and for the year then ended, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- the information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the 2021 Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the Plan, and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit for the 2021 Financial Statements section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2021, (referred to as the "supplemental schedule"), is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements

themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion

- the form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Auditor's Report on the 2020 Financial Statements

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of the Plan as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020. As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the plan administrator instructed us not to perform and we did not perform any auditing procedures with respect to the investment information certified by a qualified institution. In our report dated October 8, 2021, we indicated that (*a*) because of the significance of the information that we did not audit, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion and accordingly, we did not express an opinion on those financial statements, and (*b*) the form and content of the information included in those financial statements other than that derived from the certified investment information, were presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Ernst & Young LLP

September 22, 2022

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

	December 31,	
	2021	**2020**
Assets		
Investments, at fair value	$ 1,467,697,758	$ 1,318,797,976
Fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, at contract value	113,939,060	123,375,042
Receivables:		
Participant notes receivable	15,457,071	16,920,524
Employer contributions	16,591,970	16,054,333
Employee contributions	169,224	119,737
Net assets available for benefits	$ 1,613,855,083	$ 1,475,267,612

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2021	2020
Additions		
Investment income:		
Interest and dividend income	$ 27,741,296	$ 13,931,790
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	204,854,818	176,401,079
	232,596,114	190,332,869
Interest income on participant notes receivable	1,026,420	1,093,553
Contributions:		
Employee contributions	57,663,039	54,298,312
Employer contributions	16,459,263	16,032,728
Employee rollovers	6,332,266	7,784,105
	80,454,568	78,115,145
Other income	119,539	116,482
Transfer in	—	79,425
Total additions	314,196,641	269,737,474
Deductions		
Benefit payments	174,792,630	172,677,400
Administrative expenses	816,540	768,821
Total deductions	175,609,170	173,446,221
Net increase	138,587,471	96,291,253
Net assets available for benefits		
Beginning of year	1,475,267,612	1,378,976,359
End of year	$ 1,613,855,083	$ 1,475,267,612

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information about the Plan's provisions. Participants and all others should refer to the Plan Document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"), covering certain employees of Staples, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries (the "Company"). The Plan is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

Great-West Trust Company, LLC. ("Trustee") served as Trustee and Custodian of the Plan during 2021 and 2020, and Empower Retirement, LLC provided the recordkeeping services for the Plan.

In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law. The Plan has elected to implement certain provisions of the CARES Act that are available to tax qualified retirement plans and their participants. These provisions include, among other things, permitting special COVID-19 related distributions, deferring payments on Plan loans due between March 27 to December 31, 2020 for up to one year, and suspending required minimum distributions for 2020.

Eligibility

All U.S. employees ("associates") of the Company, except for those covered by a collective bargaining agreement (the terms of which provide for participation in the Plan), are eligible to participate in the Plan. Leased employees are specifically excluded from participation in the Plan.

Effective January 1, 2021, full-time associates may begin making contributions to the Plan on the first day of the month after he or she has completed 30 days of service from their date of hire and once they have reached age 21.

Prior to January 1, 2021, full-time associates could begin making contributions to the Plan on the first day of the month after he or she had completed 60 days of service from their date of hire and once they had reached age 21. Full-time eligible associates that had failed to complete the requisite 60 consecutive days of employment during the twelve-month period following the date of hire could begin making pre-tax contributions, as of the first day of the month following the later of the one-year anniversary date; or the date following the attainment of age 21.

Part-time associates may begin making contributions to the Plan on the first day of the month after they have completed one year of service from their date of hire and 1,000 hours of service. If the associate does not complete 1,000 hours of service in their first year of employment, he or she will be eligible for the Plan when they complete 1,000 hours of service in a single plan year. In addition, the associate must be at least 21 years of age.

On July 1, 2021, the Plan was amended to specifically exclude associates employed as an intern or who are eligible to participate in an ongoing SIMPLE IRA from participation in the Plan.

Employee Contributions

All non-highly compensated participants may contribute from 1% up to 100% of their eligible compensation on a pre- or post-tax (Roth) basis, within limits prescribed by Section 401(k) of the Code. All highly compensated participants may contribute amounts as described and limited in the Plan Document. Participants' contributions are recorded each pay period when the Company makes payroll deductions from participants' wages. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. The Plan provides for auto-enrollments for eligible employees who have completed three years of service with a deferral amount of 1% of compensation as pretax contribution. Effective January 1, 2021, full-time associates are auto-enrolled at 1% at the time they become eligible to participate in the Plan, provided the associate does not opt out. For employees who are auto-enrolled, the deferral amount is automatically increased by one percentage point annually until the total deferral amount reaches 10% of compensation, or until the employee updates the deferral amount manually.

Company Contributions

The Company matches 50% of employee contributions, not to exceed 6% of the participant's compensation. The Company's matching contributions are normally made annually at the end of each Plan year. Effective January 1, 2021, associates are eligible to receive matching contributions from the Company immediately upon becoming eligible to participate in the Plan.

Transfers In

There were no transfers into the plan during 2021. Transfers into the Plan during 2020 were immaterial.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with any participant contributions, Company contributions, and any investment earnings and losses. The participant account is also net of expenses as well as any benefit payments made to the participant. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account, subject to vesting restrictions.

Vesting

Participants are immediately 100% vested in their contributions, any rollover contributions, and actual earnings thereon. The Company's matching contributions, plus actual earnings thereon, vest over three years, as further defined in the Plan.

Forfeited Amounts

Forfeited amounts (as defined in the Plan Document) are used to reduce future Company contributions and administrative expenses, as also defined in the Plan Document. During 2021 and 2020, the total forfeitures used to offset employer contributions and administrative expenses amounted to $564,972 and $394,520, respectively. Forfeitures available to reduce future Company contributions at December 31, 2021 and 2020 amounted to $379,382 and $418,675, respectively.

Benefit Payments

Benefits are payable in a lump sum upon retirement or normal retirement age, death, separation from service, reasons of proven hardship, or attainment of age 59 ½. In any event, payment of benefits must

commence when the participant reaches either age 70 ½ (for those who turned 70 ½ prior to January 1, 2020) or 72 as provided for by the SECURE Act of 2019. Participants may also have distributions from rollovers of prior qualified plans at any time.

Participant Notes Receivable

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of $1,000, up to a maximum equal to the lesser of $50,000 or 50% of their vested participant account balance, comprised of employee contributions, their respective earnings or losses and rollover monies. Loan terms range from one to five years, or up to ten years for the purchase of a principal residence. The notes receivable are secured by the vested balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rate consistent with local prevailing rates as determined by the Plan. All notes receivable are subject to the principal repayment terms and interest rate guidelines set forth in the Plan Document.

Termination Provision

Although the Company has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company reserves the right to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of termination of the Plan, participants become fully vested in all accounts and the assets of the Plan shall be distributed to the participants in proportion to their respective account balances. The Company shall not be liable to participants for benefits other than those which can be provided by the Plan's net assets.

Administrative Expenses

Recordkeeping and most administrative fees are paid by the Plan. Certain other plan expenses are paid by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP").

Valuations of Investments and Income Recognition

Investments held by the Plan are stated at fair value, except the Great-West Life Stable Value Option, which is a fully benefit responsive investment contract, stated at fair value. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (an exit price). See Note 4 for further discussion of fair value measurements.

Shares of mutual funds are valued at quoted market prices, which represent the net asset values of shares held by the Plan at year-end.

The Great-West Life Stable Value Option is a group annuity contract fully backed by the assets of Great-West Life. This contract is reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measurement attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The

contract value represents contributions plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses.

Collective trust funds are valued using the Net Asset Value ("NAV") published by the issuer.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on the investments bought and sold, as well as held, during the year.

Payment of Benefits

Benefit payments to the participants are recorded upon distribution.

Participant Notes Receivable

Participant notes receivable are valued at their outstanding principal balances, plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on participant notes receivable is recorded when it is earned. Related fees, if any, are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2021 or 2020. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the plan administrator deems the participant loan to be a distribution, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires the Plan's management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements, accompanying notes and supplemental schedule. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

3. Investments

Certain information related to investments and notes receivable from participants disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule, including investments held and notes receivable from participants at December 31, 2021 and 2020, and net appreciation in fair value of investments, interest, dividends and interest income on notes receivable from participants for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, was obtained or derived from information provided to the plan administrator and certified as complete and accurate by the Trustee of the Plan, for 2021 and 2020.

4. Fair Value Measurements

ASC 820 *Fair Value Measurement* ("ASC 820") establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value, the three levels of which are described below:

Level 1 - Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible to the reporting entity at the measurement date for identical assets and liabilities.

Level 2 - Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. Level 2 inputs include the following:

- quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets
- quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active
- observable inputs other than quoted prices that are used in the valuation of the asset or liability (e.g., interest rate and yield curve quotes at commonly quoted intervals)
- inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means

Level 3 - Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability (i.e., supported by little or no market activity). Level 3 inputs include management's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk).

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is classified is determined based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

The following table sets forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments carried at fair value as of December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	December 31, 2021			
	Level 1	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Total**
Mutual funds	$ 481,677,907	$ —	$ —	$ 481,677,907
Collective trust funds	986,019,851	—	—	986,019,851
	$ 1,467,697,758	$ —	$ —	$ 1,467,697,758

	December 31, 2020			
	Level 1	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Total**
Mutual funds	$ 446,798,481	$ —	$ —	$ 446,798,481
Collective trust funds	871,999,495	—	—	871,999,495
	$ 1,318,797,976	$ —	$ —	$ 1,318,797,976

5. Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contract

The Plan holds a traditional investment contract, The Great-West Life Stable Value Option, that meets the fully benefit-responsive investment contract criteria and therefore is reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measure for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, because this is the amount received by participants if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. Contract value represents contributions made under each contract, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals, and administrative expenses.

The following table sets forth the balance of the investment contract held by the Plan:

	December 31,	
	2021	**2020**
Fully benefit-responsive investment contract	$ 113,939,060	$ 123,375,042

The contract issuer is contractually obligated to repay the principal and interest at a specific interest rate that is guaranteed by the Plan. The crediting rate is based on a formula established by the contract issuer, but may not be less than zero. The crediting rate is reviewed on a quarterly basis.

There are certain events that might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuer. Examples of such events include: the Plan's failure to qualify under Section 401(a) of the Code, premature termination of the contracts by the Plan, Plan termination or merger, bankruptcy of the plan sponsor and changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options. Plan management noted no events that are probable of occurring as of December 31, 2021.

In addition, the following events allow the issuer to terminate the contracts with the Plan and settle at an amount different from contract value: a violation of the Plan's investment guidelines, a breach of material obligation under the contract, or a material misrepresentation.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan and its participants invest in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market volatility, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term, and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the financial statements.

7. Income Tax Status

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated March 13, 2014 stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code and, therefore, the related trust is tax-exempt. Subsequent to the receipt of the determination letter, the Plan was amended and restated. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualified status. The plan administrator believes that the Plan has been designed to comply with, and is operating in accordance with, the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt.

U.S. GAAP requires plan management to evaluate uncertain tax positions taken by the Plan. The financial statement effects of a tax position are recognized when the position is more likely than not, based on the technical merits, to be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2021, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

8. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net increase in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to the amount per Form 5500 for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2021	**2020**
Net increase per financial statements	$ 138,587,471	$ 96,291,253
Less: Transfers In	—	(79,425)
Net increase per Form 5500	$ 138,587,471	$ 96,211,828

9. Related Party Transactions

The Plan holds shares of an investment contract issued by the Trustee. This transaction qualifies as a party-in-interest transaction, however, this is exempt from the prohibited transactions under ERISA.

10. Subsequent Events

Management evaluated subsequent events for the Plan through September 22, 2022, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Supplemental Schedule

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
EIN #04-2896127 Plan #002
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2021

Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	Description of Investments		Current Value
Mutual Funds			
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund	242,748	shares	$ 2,716,350
American Funds New World	19,397	shares	1,667,530
Vanguard Total International Stock Index Admiral	93,966	shares	3,213,647
JP Morgan Small Cap Growth	190,846	shares	4,910,479
Victory Sycamore Small Company	768,189	shares	40,268,490
Champlain Mid Cap Institutional	3,074,127	shares	88,504,123
Fidelity Extended Market Index Fund	61,345	shares	5,349,898
Dodge & Cox Income Fund	3,469,276	shares	48,778,025
Fidelity 500 Index Fund	1,153,491	shares	190,695,171
PIMCO Income Institutional	1,302,582	shares	15,552,835
Vanguard Inflation-Protected	298,176	shares	8,480,112
American EuroPacific Growth	879,125	shares	56,905,747
Goldman Sachs Small Cap Fund	—	shares	4
MFS International Value	275,310	shares	14,635,496
Collective Trust Funds			
Blackrock Russell 1000 Growth Fund	6,403,653	shares	191,967,493
Blackrock Russell 1000 Value Fund	5,890,866	shares	98,456,297
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2005 Advisor	168,689	shares	3,360,280
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2010 Advisor	301,399	shares	6,377,596
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2015 Advisor	1,051,165	shares	24,176,805
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2020 Advisor	1,755,795	shares	43,824,653
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2025 Advisor	4,137,186	shares	112,365,961
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2030 Advisor	4,033,799	shares	118,351,663
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2035 Advisor	3,812,080	shares	118,860,662
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2040 Advisor	2,811,887	shares	91,779,983
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2045 Advisor	2,761,525	shares	91,793,084
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2050 Advisor	1,486,490	shares	49,440,665
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2055 Advisor	836,529	shares	27,806,218
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2060 Advisor	349,344	shares	7,458,491
			$ 1,467,697,758
Great-West Life Stable Value Option[1]	Net crediting rate of 1.81%		$ 113,939,060
Participant notes receivable[1]	Varying maturities with interest rates of 4.25% - 10.50%		$ 15,457,071
Total			$ 1,597,093,889

[1]Indicates party-in-interest to the Plan.

Staples, Inc. Employees' 401(k) Savings Plan
EIN #04-2896127 Plan #002
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2021

Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	Description of Investments		Current Value
Mutual Funds			
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund	242,748	shares	$ 2,716,350
American Funds New World	19,397	shares	1,667,530
Vanguard Total International Stock Index Admiral	93,966	shares	3,213,647
JP Morgan Small Cap Growth	190,846	shares	4,910,479
Victory Sycamore Small Company	768,189	shares	40,268,490
Champlain Mid Cap Institutional	3,074,127	shares	88,504,123
Fidelity Extended Market Index Fund	61,345	shares	5,349,898
Dodge & Cox Income Fund	3,469,276	shares	48,778,025
Fidelity 500 Index Fund	1,153,491	shares	190,695,171
PIMCO Income Institutional	1,302,582	shares	15,552,835
Vanguard Inflation-Protected	298,176	shares	8,480,112
American EuroPacific Growth	879,125	shares	56,905,747
Goldman Sachs Small Cap Fund	—	shares	4
MFS International Value	275,310	shares	14,635,496
Collective Trust Funds			
Blackrock Russell 1000 Growth Fund	6,403,653	shares	191,967,493
Blackrock Russell 1000 Value Fund	5,890,866	shares	98,456,297
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2005 Advisor	168,689	shares	3,360,280
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2010 Advisor	301,399	shares	6,377,596
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2015 Advisor	1,051,165	shares	24,176,805
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2020 Advisor	1,755,795	shares	43,824,653
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2025 Advisor	4,137,186	shares	112,365,961
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2030 Advisor	4,033,799	shares	118,351,663
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2035 Advisor	3,812,080	shares	118,860,662
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2040 Advisor	2,811,887	shares	91,779,983
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2045 Advisor	2,761,525	shares	91,793,084
T. Rowe Price Retirement 2050 Advisor	1,486,490	shares	49,440,665
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