

Communiqué

INVESTMENTS

WINTER 2023-24

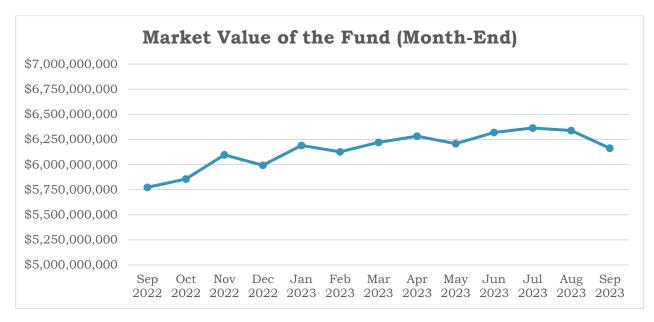
The UAPP Fund experienced a loss of 2.2% in the third quarter of 2023, resulting in a year-to-date return of 3.8%.

Market Value and Asset Mix of the Fund	30-Sep-2023		31-Dec-2022	
Asset Class	(\$million)	Actual Mix (%)	(\$million)	Actual Mix (%)
Cash & Short-term	39.5	0.6	13.7	0.2
Universe Bonds	685.6	11.1	685.8	11.4
Mortgages	275.7	4.5	250.1	4.2
Real Return Bonds	329.5	5.3	355.6	5.9
Long Bonds	652.6	10.6	617.7	10.3
Total Cash & Fixed Income	1,983.0	32.2	1,922.9	32.1
Canadian Equities	224.9	3.6	265.2	4.4
Global Equities	1,889.8	30.7	1,839.6	30.7
Emerging Market Equities	356.4	5.8	350.9	5.9
Private Equity	684.7	11.1	648.4	10.8
Total Equities	3,155.9	51.2	3,104.1	51.8
Real Estate	537.4	8.7	518.0	8.6
Infrastructure	438.7	7.1	399.6	6.7
Timberland	47.7	0.8	48.6	0.8
Total Alternative Classes	1,023.9	16.6	966.2	16.1
Total Investments	6,162.7	100.0	5,993.2	100.0





Rates of Return of the Fund (%)	Quarter ending	One Year ending	Four Year ending
	30-Sep-2023	30-Sep-2023	30-Sep-2023
Total Investment Return	-2.2	8.1	5.1
Policy Benchmark Return	-2.5	7.5	3.5
Cash & Short-Term	1.5	6.0	1.8
FTSE Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index	1.2	4.4	1.7
Universe Bonds	-4.3	-1.4	-1.8
FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index	-3.9	-1.4	-2.2
Mortgages	-1.2	2.0	1.4
FTSE Short/Mid-Term Bond Index + 75 bps	-1.4	1.1	0.5
Real Return Bonds	-7.4	-4.7	-2.6
FTSE Canada Real Return Bond Index	-7.5	-5.1	-2.8
Long Bonds	-9.7	-5.5	-5.7
FTSE Canada Overall Long-Term Bond Index	-9.5	-5.6	-6.0
Canadian Equities	-2.2	9.5	5.5
S&P/TSX Capped Composite Index	-2.2	9.5	7.3
Global Equities	-1.4	20.3	7.7
MSCI World Total Return Net Index	-1.4	20.0	9.2
Emerging Market Equities	-0.9	9.7	0.1
MSCI Emerging Markets Net Index	-0.8	9.9	1.7
Private Equity	2.5	9.0	27.5
CPI + 650 bps	2.4	10.5	10.6
Real Estate	-0.3	2.4	2.3
MSCI/REALpac Canadian Property Index	-0.3	-1.6	1.3
Infrastructure	0.8	9.3	13.8
CPI + 600 bps	2.3	10.0	10.1
Timberland	-0.8	18.0	12.5
CPI + 400 bps	1.8	7.9	8.0





PLAN DEMOGRAPHICS

Metrics				
Member Type	30-Sep-2023	31-Dec-2022	30-Sep-2022	31-Dec-2021
Number of Members at Quarter I	End			
Active Members	8,143	7,868	7,731	7,814
Deferred Members	2,814	2,631	2,655	2,551
Pensioners	6,794	6,720	6,629	6,424
Total	17,751	17,219	17,015	16,789
Average Age of Members at Qua	rter End			
Active Members	49.2	49.3	49.6	49.4
Deferred Members	51.7	51.4	51.3	51.2
Pensioners	74.9	74.6	74.6	74.5
Number of Events during Quarte	er			
Retirements	48	153	102	109
Lump Sum Payouts	56	77	84	73
Deaths	63	52	38	35
Retirement Planner Accesses	2,327	1,603	2,290	2,323

2024 COLA for UAPP Pensioners is 2.34%

The 2024 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for pensioners who retired prior to January 1, 2023 is 2.34%. For persons who retired during 2023, the COLA increase is prorated based on the number of complete months the person was on pension in the year. The increase is applied to the base pension, including any bridge benefit that is being paid. COLA is not applied to any coordination amounts. The COLA increase will be included with the January 2024 payment.

The COLA is set at 60% of the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (Alberta) as reported by Statistics Canada. The CPI increase for the relevant period was 3.9%. The percentage increase in CPI is derived by comparing the average CPI for the 12 months ending in October 2023 with the corresponding figure for the previous year.

Tax withholdings starting in January will reflect the 2024 rates applicable to the province or country of the recipient's residence. CIBC Mellon will be issuing 2023 T4A slips in mid-February 2024.

CIBC Mellon can be contacted in North America at 1.800.565.0479 and those outside North America can call collect at 1.519.873.2218. CIBC Mellon can be contacted in writing at CIBC Mellon Pension Benefits Department, PO Box 5858, Station B, London, ON N6A 6H2.



The CIBC Mellon website www.cibcmellon.com is also available to assist pensioners with current information, frequently asked questions, as well as the "Retiree Assistance" page to submit address changes, banking changes, specific questions, etc.

The average annual COLA increase over the past twenty years, including the current year increase, is 1.38%. This year's increase is the third highest increase in that time period. Of the past twenty years, the lowest increase was 0.06% that was applied January 1, 2010 and last year's increase of 3.72% that was applied January 1, 2023 was the highest increase.

Federal Programs - 2024 Facts

Canada Pension Plan

Base Contributions			
Employer/Employee Contribution Rate (each)	5.95%		
Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE)	\$68,500		
Year's Basic Exemption (YBE)	\$3,500		
Maximum Annual Employer/Employee Contribution (each)	\$3,867.50		
Additional Contributions			
Employer/Employee Contribution Rate (each)	4.00%		
Year's Additional Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YAMPE)	\$73,200		
Maximum Annual Employer/Employee Contribution (each)	\$188.00		

Maximum Monthly Benefits		
Retirement Pension (Age 65)	\$1,364.60	
Survivor's Pension - Under age 65	\$739.31	
Survivor's Pension - Age 65 and over	\$818.76	
Disability Pension	\$1,606.78	
Children of disabled or deceased contributors benefit	\$294.12	

Old Age Security

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For First Quarter Commencing January 1, 2024	
Benefits are indexed quarterly to reflect CPI changes	
Maximum Old Age Security Pension - Under age 75	\$713.34
Maximum Old Age Security Pension - Age 75 and over	\$784.67

- Pensioners with individual net incomes above \$90,997 must repay all or part of the maximum OAS pension amount.
- The repayment amounts are normally deducted from their monthly payments before they are issued.
- The full OAS pension is eliminated when a pensioner's net income is \$148,065 or above for recipients under age 75 and \$153,771 or above for recipients age 75 and over.

Tax-Free Savings Accounts

Maximum Annual Contribution	\$7,000.00
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Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings under CPP for 2024 increases to \$68,500 from \$66,600 in 2023

The Canada Revenue Agency has announced that the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings under the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) for 2024 will be \$68,500 – up 2.9% from \$66,600 in 2023. The new ceiling was calculated according to a CPP-legislated formula that takes into account the growth in average weekly wages and salaries in Canada.

For base CPP, the employee and employer contribution rates for 2024 will be 5.95%, unchanged from 2023. The maximum employer and employee contribution to the base CPP for 2024 will be \$3,867.50 each, up from \$3,754.45 in 2023. The basic exemption amount will remain at \$3,500.00.

Effective January 1, 2024, as part of the CPP enhancement program that began in 2019, a second earnings ceiling is being implemented at \$73,200, known as the Year's Additional Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YAMPE). Additional employee and employer contribution rates for 2024 will be 4.00%, on earnings above the YMPE, up to the YAMPE. The maximum additional employee and employer contribution to the CPP for 2024 will be \$188.00 each.

Maximum Pensionable Salary under the UAPP for 2024 increases to \$201,050.00

The increase in the YMPE to \$68,500 combined with the announced maximum pension benefit of \$3,610.00 in 2024 for each year of service under defined benefit pension plans means that the maximum pensionable salary (sometimes called the pensionable salary cap) under the UAPP will rise to \$201,050.00 in 2024, up from \$195,313.33 in 2023.

In 2024, the maximum pensionable salary under the UAPP is going up by 2.9%.

New Website

The UAPP has revamped its website in the first major change since the last version was launched at the beginning of 2015. Importantly, the domain, uapp.ca, has not changed. In addition to updating the photos and layout, the new site has also been created in a new platform that will make it easier for the Trustees' Office to manage the website. All the previous content has been carried over to the new site, though some things have moved around.

As one of the most popular features of the website, it was important that the Retirement Planner maintain a prominent place on the homepage. One of the few changes includes the moving of the FAQ section to its own link along the top of the homepage.

The Trustees' Office would like to thank the team at Cutting Edge Digital Marketing for their work in updating the website.

We encourage you to check it out!

U/IPMORE INFORMATION

Retirement Planner

Active members of UAPP have automatic access to the Retirement Planner, only needing to register. The link is on <u>UAPP's home page</u>, scrolling down to Key Information:



KEY INFORMATION

Retirement Planner

On your first visit to the Retirement Planner, please click Register Now after selecting the link below. You can prepare retirement estimates that use your actual data and you can access your annual member statement. For assistance, please call the UAPP Administration Centre at 1.866.709.2092 between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Alberta time during business days.



Within the Retirement Planner, you can perform retirement calculations by running an unlimited number of pension estimates, adjusting for important details like retirement dates and future salary adjustments. You can also access your Annual Member Statement. If you have questions about your pension or the Retirement Planner, please call the UAPP Administration Centre toll-free at 1.866.709.2092.

Publications

The UAPP website includes a host of publications intended to assist members in understanding their pension plan. In addition to this <u>Communique</u>, these publications include the <u>Member Handbook</u>, <u>Annual Report</u>, and several <u>Information Sheets</u>, covering a range of topics such as New Member Basics, Pension Options, Death or Leaving the Plan Before Retirement, Preparing For Retirement, and the Retired Member Guide.

Contact Us

If you terminate employment and leave your funds in UAPP, ensure we have your current address and beneficiary information. <u>Email us</u> to update your address. Beneficiaries can be updated by using the <u>UAPP Designation of Spouse and Non-Spouse Beneficiary form</u>. Make sure your family and executor know you are entitled to a benefit from the UAPP.

Universities Academic Pension Plan - Board of Trustees Office

#1002, Park Plaza, 10611-98 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7

Email: board@uapp.ca Fax: 780.415.8871

UAPP Administration Centre

201 City Centre Drive, Suite 1000, Mississauga, ON L5B 4E4 Call: 1.866.709.2092 Email: uapp.pensions@buck.com