

Employer pension plans (trusteed pension funds), first quarter 2012

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The market value of employer-sponsored pension funds totaled \$1.1 trillion at the end of the first quarter, up 4.1% from the previous quarter and the largest gain since the fourth quarter of 2010.

Pension fund investments in stocks rose 9.0% to \$369.1 billion. The gain reflects a 14.7% increase in the value of foreign stocks and a 3.2% gain in Canadian stocks.

Foreign investments accounted for 31.9% of total pension fund assets in the first quarter, up from 29.8% in the previous quarter.

Investments in bonds edged down 0.3% to \$423.6 billion. The share of pension fund assets in bonds fell from 38.8% in the fourth quarter of 2011 to 37.2% in the first quarter of 2012, while the share in stocks increased from 30.9% to 32.4%.

Pension fund revenues increased 26.7% to \$37.0 billion in the first quarter, the result of significant gains from the sale of securities. Expenditures fell 18.1% to \$14.4 billion, mainly as a result of lower losses from the sale of securities.

As a result, net income nearly doubled from \$11.6 billion to \$22.6 billion in the first quarter, the highest net income since the fourth quarter of 2010.

Just over six million Canadian workers are members of employer pension plans. Of this group, five million workers are members of trusteed plans. The remaining one million members with employer pensions are in plans managed principally by insurance company contracts. Data in this release refer only to trusteed plans and their pension funds.

Table 1
Trusteed pension funds: Market value of assets by type

	Fourth quarter 2011 ^P	Fourth quarter 2011 ^P	First quarter 2012 ^P	First quarter 2012 ^P	Fourth quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012
	millions of dollars	% of total assets	millions of dollars	% of total assets	% change
Total assets	1,094,569	100.0	1,139,924	100.0	4.1
Bonds	424,833	38.8	423,548	37.2	-0.3
Stocks	338,486	30.9	369,047	32.4	9.0
Mortgages	12,185	1.1	12,809	1.1	5.1
Real estate	83,295	7.6	85,129	7.5	2.2
Short-term	36,845	3.4	39,091	3.4	6.1
Other assets	192,465	17.6	203,536	17.9	5.8
Assets, funds under \$10 million	6,460	0.6	6,765	0.6	4.7

^P preliminary

Table 2
Trusted pension funds: Revenue and expenditures

	Fourth quarter 2011 ^P	First quarter 2012 ^P	Fourth quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012
	millions of dollars		% change
Total revenue	29,169	36,955	26.7
Revenue from contributions	15,639	13,634	-12.8
Investment income	10,052	8,584	-14.6
Net profit on sale of securities	2,814	13,688	386.4
Miscellaneous revenue	367	762	107.6
Revenue, funds under \$10 million	297	287	-3.4
Total expenditures	17,541	14,371	-18.1
Pension payments out of funds	11,069	11,108	0.4
Cost of pensions purchased	129	80	-38.0
Cash withdrawals	1,650	1,535	-7.0
Administration costs	1,097	981	-10.6
Net loss on sale of securities	2,977	291	-90.2
Other expenditures	534	301	-43.6
Expenditures, funds under \$10 million	85	75	-11.8
Net income	11,628	22,584	94.2

^P preliminary

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 280-0002 to 280-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2607.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).