



## **Annual Management Report of Fund Performance**

## December 2023

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can request a copy of the annual financial statements, at no cost, by calling 514-350-5050 or toll free 1-888-377-7337 or by writing to us at 2 Complexe Desjardins, East Tower, 31st Floor, P. O. Box 1116, Montréal, Québec H5B 1C2, or by visiting our website at fdpgp.ca/en or SEDAR+'s website at www.sedarplus.ca.

You may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Portfolio's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure records and quarterly portfolio disclosure.

# **Performance Analysis**

#### **Investment Objective and Strategies**

The Portfolio seeks to achieve, through investment diversification, a return comprised mostly of steady income and also medium-term capital growth. The Portfolio invests primarily in equity securities of Canadian and foreign issuers, and in debt instruments of Canadian and foreign issuers. The Portfolio Manager uses a top-down global approach for both the asset allocation and geographic allocation, being mixes of Canadian, American, European, Asian and emerging markets equities. The Portfolio invests in different types of assets, including Canadian and foreign bonds and units issued by other investment funds. These underlying investment funds are selected according to their overall contribution to yield and risk/return profile of the Portfolio. The Portfolio invests mainly in its family of Portfolios, but could also invest in funds of other families of funds. To the extent that investments are made by certain of our Portfolios in underlying funds, the investment principles and strategies used to select the securities of the other funds will follow the same criteria as those used to select individual securities.

## Risk

The Portfolio invests primarily in debt securities and equities, both Canadian and foreign. Derivatives may also be used for hedging or to establish market positions. The Portfolio's investment risks are as set forth in the Simplified Prospectus. The risks associated with the Portfolio and its holdings are as follows: stock market risk, credit risk, sector risk, foreign securities risk, specific issuer risk, currency risk, interest rate risk, derivatives risk, securities lending risk, emerging markets risk, exchange-traded funds risk, underlying funds risk, asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities risk, multi-series risk, short selling risk, loss restrictions risk, cybersecurity risk and liquidity risk.

## **Operating Results**

The FDP Balanced Income Portfolio, Series A posted a net return of 8.0% for 2023, versus -8.8% for 2022.

The bond market, as measured by the FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index, posted a 6.7% return for the year. The index's positive return is mainly attributable to key interest rates having apparently reached their peak (the Bank of Canada hiked its key interest rate by 75 basis points [bps] in the first half of the year and kept it unchanged thereafter), the prospect of rate cuts in the near future, as well as credit spreads narrowing and bond yields to maturity rising.

Rate hikes weighed heavily on Canadian markets, but the unexpectedly resilient Canadian economy drove investors' optimism. The Canadian stock market, as measured by the S&P/TSX Composite Index, posted an 11.8% return for 2023, led by technology stocks such as Shopify and Constellation Software.

In the United States, the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) continued to hike rates throughout the year, lifting its key interest rate from a 4.25 – 4.50% to a 5.25 – 5.50% range. Late in the year, the Fed signalled it might cut rates in the near future, injecting a healthy dose optimism in the market. The U.S. stock market, as measured by the S&P 500 Index, posted a net return of 22.9% in Canadian dollars in 2023. As was the case in the MSCI World Index, growth-style stocks (especially those in the Magnificent Seven, the seven largest U.S. technology companies) contributed the most to performance during the year.

The global stock market, as measured by the MSCI World Index, posted a 20.5% return in Canadian dollars for 2023, which offset most of the losses suffered in 2022. All eurozone markets (MSCI Europe) yielded positive returns of 17.4%, while Asian markets (MSCI AC Asia Pacific) gained 8.1% and emerging markets (iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF) 5.6% in Canadian dollars.

The Canadian dollar appreciated about 2.1% against the U.S. dollar, which impeded returns for Canadian investors.

On a relative basis and gross of management fees, the FDP Balanced Income Portfolio underperformed its blended index by 32 bps. The portfolio's negative relative performance is essentially due to its Canadian and global equity holdings.

In terms of positioning, the Portfolio remained overweight to equities relative to its peers and maintained an overweight to Canadian securities.

As was the case in 2022, inflation, the labour shortage and interest rate increases (which were not as steep as the previous year) undermined investor sentiment. However, resilient economies and disinflation generally supported stock markets.

#### **Recent Developments**

There are no events to report for 2023.

# **Description of the Benchmark Index**

The benchmark is weighted as follows: 25% in securities from the S&P/TSX Composite Dividend Index, 10% in securities from the MSCI World Index, 64% in securities from the FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index and 1% in securities from the FTSE Canada 91-Day T-Bill Index.

#### **Related Party Transactions**

The Manager of the FDP Balanced Income Portfolio is Professionals' Financial – Mutual Funds Inc. The Manager is in charge of the portfolio's research, analyses, selections and transactions. The Investment Committee of Professionals' Financial – Mutual Funds Inc. supervises the execution of the mandates entrusted to the internal managers and to other external managers, as the case may be. With regard to the management of the Portfolio, any transaction between related parties must receive the Independent Review Committee's (IRC) positive recommendation or approval beforehand.

Monthly management fees, calculated daily at an annual percentage of the Portfolio's net assets after deducting the value of interfund investments, are paid to the Manager.

# FDP Balanced Income Portfolio, Series A (continued)

## **Financial Highlights**

The following tables illustrate key financial data concerning the Portfolio. Their purpose is to help you understand its financial results for the past five years.

This information comes from the December 31, 2023 audited annual financial statements of the Portfolio. You can obtain the financial statements on the website at fdpgp.ca/en.

#### Portfolio's Distributions and Net Assets per Unit (in dollars)

Years ended December 31				
2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
11.812	13.216	12.565	11.915	10.859
0.239	0.201	0.183	0.207	0.229
(0.007)	(0.010)	(0.009)	(0.011)	(0.009)
0.584	0.281	0.401	0.257	0.099
0.099	(1.675)	0.238	0.378	0.950
			-	
0.915	(1.203)	0.813	0.831	1.269
0.203	0.143	0.129	0.149	0.179
0.035	0.035	0.032	0.040	0.034
0.498	0.063	0.004	_	-
_	_	-	_	-
0.736	0.241	0.165	0.189	0.213
12.003	11.812	13.216	12.565	11.915
	0.239 (0.007) 0.584 0.099 0.915 0.203 0.035 0.498	2023 2022 11.812 13.216  0.239 0.201 (0.007) (0.010) 0.584 0.281 0.099 (1.675)  0.915 (1.203)  0.203 0.143 0.035 0.035 0.498 0.063 0.736 0.241	2023         2022         2021           11.812         13.216         12.565           0.239         0.201         0.183           (0.007)         (0.010)         (0.009)           0.584         0.281         0.401           0.099         (1.675)         0.238           0.915         (1.203)         0.813           0.203         0.143         0.129           0.035         0.035         0.032           0.498         0.063         0.004           -         -         -           0.736         0.241         0.165	2023         2022         2021         2020           11.812         13.216         12.565         11.915           0.239         0.201         0.183         0.207           (0.007)         (0.010)         (0.009)         (0.011)           0.584         0.281         0.401         0.257           0.099         (1.675)         0.238         0.378           0.915         (1.203)         0.813         0.831           0.203         0.143         0.129         0.149           0.035         0.035         0.032         0.040           0.498         0.063         0.004         -           -         -         -         -           0.736         0.241         0.165         0.189

<sup>(1)</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase or decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

## **Ratios and Supplemental Data**

	Years ended December 31				
Series A (created in 2010)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net asset value (in thousands of dollars) (1)	134,097	155,732	190,278	193,466	186,791
Number of units outstanding (thousands) (1)	11,172	13,185	14,397	15,397	15,677
Management expense ratio (%) (2)	1.306	1.338	1.342	1.350	1.372
Management expense ratio before waivers and absorptions (%)	1.306	1.338	1.342	1.350	1.372
Portfolio turnover rate (%) (3)	2.61	2.12	3.68	2.72	9.79
Trading expense ratio (%) (4)	0.03	0.04	0.08	0.02	0.03
Net asset value per unit	12.003	11.812	13.216	12.565	11.915

<sup>(1)</sup> The information is derived from audited annual financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In compliance with these Standards, net assets per unit presented in the financial statements generally equal the net asset value calculated to establish unit prices.

# **Management Fees**

The Portfolio pays management fees to the Manager, Professionals' Financial – Mutual Funds Inc., for service rendered to the unitholders, and investment management and administration services. The annual management fees of 0.95% are calculated daily according to the net assets and paid monthly after deducting the value of interfund investments. For 2023, the Portfolio paid \$16,000 to its Manager.

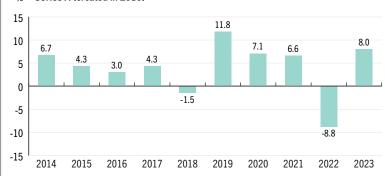
## **Past Performance**

Information on performance presupposes that the Portfolio's distributions during the years presented have been totally reinvested in additional units. The returns do not include deductions for sales, transfer, redemption or other optional fees (because there are none) or income taxes payable, and would be lower if they included such items. The Portfolio's past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance.

#### **Annual Performance**

The following bar graph indicates the Portfolio's annual returns for each year. It shows the year-to-year variation in the Portfolio's return. The graph presents, in percentage form, what would have been the upward or downward variation, on the last day of the year, of an investment made on the first day of that year.

#### % Series A (created in 2010)



#### **Annual Compound Returns**

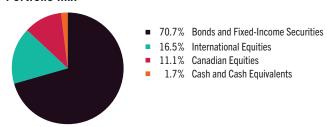
The following table indicates the Portfolio's annual composite returns and highlights Portfolio performance fluctuations from one fiscal year to the next, ending on December 31, for each year, as well as those of the Portfolio's benchmark index.

	1 yr	3 yrs	5 yrs	10 yrs
	%	%	%	%
FDP Balanced Income Portfolio, Series A	7.97	1.61	4.66	4.00
Benchmark index	8.81	2.01	5.04	4.81

The benchmark index is weighted as follows: 25% in securities from the S&P/TSX Dividend Composite Index, 10% in securities from the MSCI World Index, 64% in securities from the FTSE Universe Index, and 1% in securities from the FTSE 91 Day T-Bill Index.

#### **Overview of Portfolio**

## Portfolio Mix



#### **Top Portfolio Holdings**

	% of net asset value
FDP Canadian Bond Portfolio	57.9
FDP Global Equity Portfolio	16.5
FDP Global Fixed Income Portfolio	12.7
FDP Canadian Dividend Equity Portfolio	10.5
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1.7
iShares Core S&P/TSX Capped Composite Index ETF	0.6

This portfolio may change due to continual trading in the Portfolio. An update of this data is available every quarter on our website at fdpgp.ca/en.

<sup>(2)</sup> Distributions were reinvested in additional units of the Portfolio.

<sup>(2)</sup> Management expense ratio includes management fees and operating expenses. It excludes income tax withheld on dividend income and transaction costs, and is expressed as a percentage of the daily average annualized net asset value during the fiscal year.

<sup>(3)</sup> The Portfolio's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Portfolio's portfolio manager manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Portfolio buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a Portfolio's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the Portfolio in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Portfolio.

<sup>(4)</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the year.