



# What happened to MPF in 2022?

First impressions of the MPF's performance in 2022 might reasonably be of continued market volatility and poor investment performance. Let us provide a brief recap of 2022 and look forward to the development of the MPF in 2023.

## **Gloomy investment return for most funds**

The investment market was full of challenges in 2022. The US Federal Reserve raised interest rates several times to curb inflation. The interest rate has increased by 4.25% since March 2022. In the shadow of global economic recession, both stock and bond prices reduced considerably, thus many funds, including MPF funds generally experienced negative performance.

The net rate of return over the calendar year for the total MPF asset was about -15.5%, which was somewhere between the return achieved on major stock market indices and those on global bond market indices. Only a few funds such as the conservative funds provided a non-negative return.

MPF is a long-term investment for retirement savings. It is inevitable that investment performance fluctuates from time to time over the period to retirement. Members should review and possibly adjust the fund allocation periodically. A diversified portfolio can help to reduce risk in the portfolio. Members should not place too much emphasis on short-term fluctuations but should focus on the longer term.

## **Continue to increase fund selection**

In terms of fund choice, only two new funds were launched in 2022, fewer than in the past few years. Both newly launched funds are funds that are specially designed to meet the needs of those who are at or are approaching retirement. When members retire, they can

choose to withdraw benefits regularly as a source of income or they can continue investing in the MPF. Having said that, these funds are also available to others who may want to invest in them for other particular reasons.

Not all MPF providers offer dedicated retirement funds, and they have only been around for a relatively short time. If you are interested in investing one of these retirement funds, you should read the relevant terms to understand the operational details.


Looking forward to 2023, a number of MPF providers are proactively looking into introducing different types of fund options to enhance the diversity of their existing fund range to meet different members' needs, investment expectations and risk appetites. The MPFA have stated that they will prioritize applications related to China A-shares; funds that mainly invest in the stock market with large market capitalization; and special funds that meet certain conditions (such as ESG-themed funds). The future availability of additional, more innovative funds is exciting news for all members.

## **Delay in the implementation of eMPF**

The eMPF platform is expected to significantly simplify administrative procedures, therefore improving both the employer's and members' experience. Also, the expected improvement in administrative efficiency will help reduce administrative fees. Therefore, all members, employers, and the MPF industry need to adapt to digital transformation at a faster pace.

The eMPF platform was originally scheduled to be launched in the 1st half of 2023, with five providers joining the platform initially to kickstart the transition. However,

the MPFA has recently announced that due to the epidemic and the shortage of available talent, the introduction of the eMPF is expected to be delayed by about 8 months from the original schedule. The MPFA still maintains a target of full implementation by 2025.



## 2022 強積金到底發生過什麼事

在 2022 年，大家對強積金的第一個印象可能是充滿波動的投資市場，回報表現不似預期。現在是新一年之始，就讓我們作一個簡單的回顧，並展望一下 2023 年的強積金發展。

### 基金回報普遍受壓

2022 年投資市場充滿挑戰，美國聯儲局連番加息以抑壓通脹，至 3 月起合共加息 4.25%。在環球經濟衰退的陰霾下，股票及債券價格雙雙出現虧損，導致強積金基金的表現亦未如理想。

以整年結算，強積金的淨回報率約為 -15.5%，跌幅介乎於主要股票市場指數與全球債券市場指數之間。只有少數基金如保守基金能夠幸免於難。

強積金是為退休所作的長遠投資，期間投資表現必然有上有落。成員應該適時調整基金配置，適當分散投資以降低風險，而無須過份著眼短期波動。

### 持續增加基金選擇

基金選擇方面，2022 合共只推出了兩隻基金，較過往數年沉寂。兩隻基金皆為退休基金，專為應對臨近退休 / 退休後的需求而設，成員退休時可選擇設立行常指示以定期提取權益，作為另類收入來源及繼續投資。當然，其他成員也可選擇投資於這一類基金。

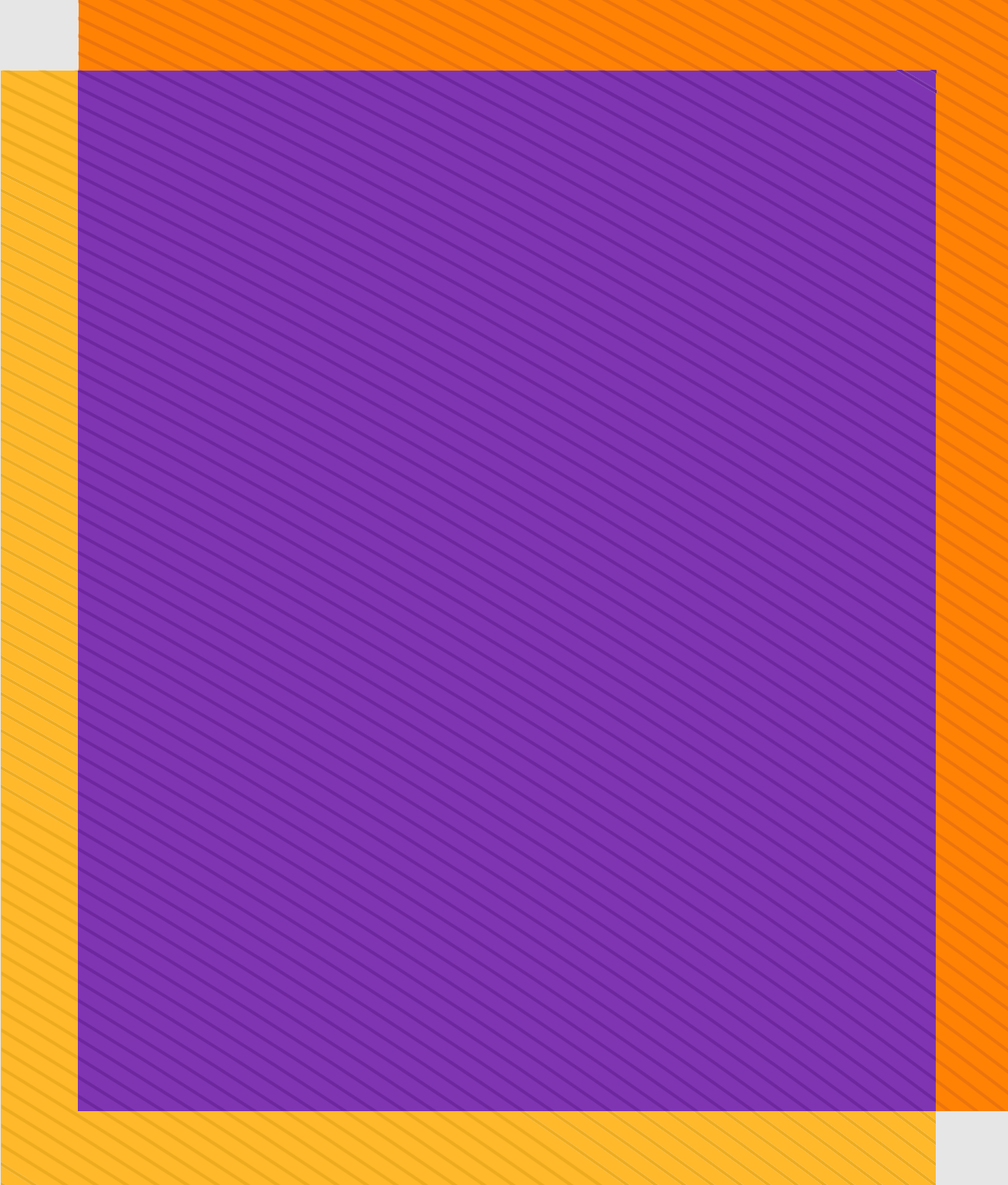
退休基金只推出了一段短時間，而且不是每家受託人都提供。成員若要選擇，應先細閱相關條款，從而明白運作細節。

展望 2023 年，有鑑於積金局修改基金審批標準，受託人或會更踴躍推出不同類型的基金選擇，以達致選擇多樣化、分散投資及控制風險的需要。積金局表示會優先考慮中國 A 股、主要投資於市值較大的股票之基金及符合一定條件的特殊基金（如 ESG 主題基金）的申請。對於業界有更多創新的基金，相信成員也樂見其成。

### 積金易延期啟用

積金易平台推出後，相信行政流程大幅簡化能夠提升成員的體驗，行政效率大幅提升也有利行政費下調。因此，成員、僱主和強積金從業員都需加快適應數碼轉型的步伐。

積金易平台原定於 2023 年上半年啟用，首階段將有 5 家受託人作為先行者，率先加入積金易平台。然而承辦商表示受疫情影響，人才供應短缺下，積金易平台的構建進度可能較原定時間表延遲約 8 個月。目前為止，積金局仍維持積金易平台於 2025 年全面運作的目標。



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