# **TD** Asset Management



# **TD Greystone Target Date Plus Funds:** Annual Glide Path Update

# **Creating the 2022 Strategic Glide Path**

Consistent with the process for the TD Greystone Target Date Plus Funds (the Funds), on an annual basis the glide path is formally examined through the Annual Glide Path Update. This involves running the proprietary TD Asset Management Glide Path Analytics (GPA) to incorporate any evolutions in available asset classes or funds, long-term asset class assumptions or demographics. The most recent Annual Glide Path Update was conducted in November 2021 and the resulting changes were implemented in January 2022.

# **Long-Term Asset Class Assumptions**

Consistent with the firm-wide approach for multi-asset solutions, TD Asset Management Inc. (TDAM) sets its Long-Term Asset Class Assumptions using an objective building block approach for expected returns, and historical quarterly returns for standard deviations and correlations.

TDAM's asset class assumptions are long-term in nature, 7 – 10 years. The strategic asset mix decisions

rely on intermediate and long-term trends rather than attempting to time the business cycle itself. For more information on how long-term asset class assumptions are set, please reference our Methodology paper, which is available upon request. The data in Figure 1 is based on inputs as of September 30, 2021.

#### Figure 1: TDAM's Long-Term Asset Class Assumptions for Target Date Plus Funds

Equities			
2022 Annual Assumptions	Expected Return	Standard Deviation	
Canadian Core	6.7	16.1	
Canadian Low Volatility	6.7	11.2	
Global Core	6.0	13.6	
Global Income & Growth	6.0	12.5	
All Country Low Volatility	5.7	9.2	
China A-Shares	8.9	30.2	
Fixed Income			
2022 Annual Assumptions	Expected Return	Standard Deviation	
Canadian Short Bonds	1.1	2.2	
Canadian Universe Bonds	1.9	4.0	
Canadian Long Bonds	3.0	7.3	
Real Return Bonds	2.6	6.7	
High Yield Bonds	3.9	11.2	
Global Unconstrained Bonds	2.2	2.1	
Alternatives			
2022 Annual Assumptions	Expected Return	Standard Deviation	
Commercial Mortgages	3.0	2.9	
Global Real Estate	5.3	7.0 <sup>1</sup>	
Canadian Real Estate	5.0	8.4 <sup>1</sup>	
Global Infrastructure	7.2	7.2 <sup>1</sup>	

<sup>1</sup>We use a de-smoothing technique on the historical returns of real estate and infrastructure to correct for serial correlation. There is no assurance that expected returns will be achieved.

Source: TD Asset Management. As of Sep 30, 2021.

Within GPA, the long-term asset class assumptions are used to construct the efficient frontier, which provides the optimal asset mix given a defined standard deviation. Each point along the strategic glide path is then defined by a standard deviation, which corresponds to this efficient frontier.

# **Canadian Socio-economic and Demographic Assumptions**

Demographic assumptions used by GPA can be broken down to two categories: government-driven assumptions and population-driven demographic assumptions.

#### **Government-Driven Assumptions**

Government-driven assumptions are published directly on the Government of Canada or Bank of Canada website and are updated each year through the annual process (Figure 2). All year-over-year changes were in line with expectations.

#### Figure 2: Government-Driven Assumptions

Metric	2021	2020	Year-over-year Change
Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE)	61,600	58,700	4.9%
Old Age Security (OAS) (Maximum Payout Amount)	7,623	7,370	3.4%
Canada Pension Plan (CPP) (Maximum Payout Amount)	14,445	14,110	2.4%
Inflation Target	2.0	2.0	_

Source: Bank of Canada, Government of Canada. As of Sep 30, 2021.

### Impacts from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Although the Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE) year-over-year increase was higher than typically witnessed, this increase was expected. The YMPE increase was primarily a result of the average income going up during the COVID-19 pandemic due to workers with disproportionately lower wages being excluded from average income calculations as a result of job loss. It is expected that as the workforce returns to pre-pandemic norms, a period of lower-thanaverage increases to YMPE will follow.

In 2021, seniors received one-time Old Age Security (OAS) payments as part of Canada's pandemic relief program. It is not expected that additional payments will become recurring and, therefore, there is no resulting impact on the demographic assumptions for government benefits.

#### Enhancements to Canada Pension Plan

TDAM monitors the Canadian landscape for material developments or changes that affect demographic and socioeconomic assumptions.

Starting in 2019, enhancements to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) were introduced with the objective to increase income replacement from 25% to 33%. Changes to CPP contributions are being gradually phased in over seven years. Members contributing to CPP in 2019 or later will be eligible for higher postretirement benefits.<sup>1</sup> Figure 3 summarizes some key changes.

#### Figure 3: CPP Program Changes

Metric	Pre-Enhancement (2018)	Post-Enhancement (2023)	
Total Contribution to CPP <sup>1</sup>	9.9%	11.9%	
Maximum Pensionable Earnings	\$55,900	\$65,700	
Target Income Replacement	1/4 of YMPE	⅓ of YMPE	

<sup>1</sup> Up to the first earnings ceiling (estimated to be \$69,700 in 2025). Source: Government of Canada. As of Sep 30, 2021.

<sup>1</sup> Government of Canada.

Starting in 2024, a second higher earnings ceiling will be introduced (estimated to be \$79,400) through a phase-in approach over 2 years. Once phased in, annual earnings between the first earnings ceiling and the second earnings ceiling will be subject to a total contribution rate of 8%. This will in turn increase postretirement benefits for those who contributed under the second earnings ceiling.

TDAM will continue to monitor and assess the impact of these developments, particularly in how they tie in with socio-economic data such as contribution rates and retirement expenditure.

# **Upcoming Change to OAS**

Starting July 2022, seniors aged 75 and over will receive a 10% increase to their OAS pension. Based on the effective date, TDAM will look to incorporate this change through the next annual glide path.

## **Population-Driven Assumptions**

Population-driven demographic assumptions are primarily derived from Statistics Canada's annual surveys or its quadrennial Census of Population. Typically, population-driven assumptions have a lag of 1 or 2 years before they are published. TDAM will adjust each assumption as needed to ensure a consistent base year for the data used in GPA.

There were no updates required for TDAM's assumption for Year of Entry and Year of Retirement. The assumption for Starting Salary at Age 25 increased by 4.9% to approximately \$48,900. The assumption for Retirement Expenditure increased by 6.3% to approximately \$66,217. TDAM's assumed contribution rate continues to follow a step pattern and ranges from 10.6% to 12.1%.

# **Strategic Glide Path**

The long-term asset class assumptions and demographic and socio-economic assumptions are inputs into GPA for the Strategic Glide Path. TDAM imposes constraints on its Annual Glide Path Update to ensure that the Strategic Glide Path does not see volatile year-over-year swings between asset classes or individual funds resulting from changes in asset class assumptions (Figure 4).

#### Figure 4: Constraints for Year-over-Year Glide Path Changes

Strategy	Constraint	Asset Class	Constraint	
Canadian Equity	+/- 10%			
Canadian Low Volatility Equity	+/- 10%		+/- 5%	
Global Equity	+/- 10%	Equity		
Global Income & Growth Equity	+/- 10%			
China Income & Growth Equity	+/- 10%			
ACWI Low Volatility Equity	+/- 10%			
Short Bonds	+/- 10%			
Universe Bonds	+/- 10%		+/- 5%	
Global Unconstrained Bonds	+/- 10%	Fixed Income		
Long Bonds	+/- 10%			
Real Return Bonds	+/- 10%			
High Yield Bonds	+/- 10%			
Private Commercial Mortgages	+/- 2%			
Real Estate <sup>1</sup>	+/- 2%	Alternatives	+/- 5%	
Infrastructure	+/- 2%			

<sup>1</sup> Includes domestic and global real estate.

Source: TD Asset Management. As of Sep 30, 2021.

The output of the Annual Glide Path Update process is the TDAM Strategic Glide Path, shown in Figure 5.





Commercial Mortgages included in both the alternatives and fixed income sub glide path. Source: TD Asset Management. As of Dec 31, 2021. Glide path effective Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022.



Figure 5B: Alternatives Sub Glide Path

Commercial Mortgages included in both the alternatives and fixed income sub glide path. Source: TD Asset Management. As of Dec 31, 2021. Glide path effective Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022.





Commercial Mortgages included in both the alternatives and fixed income sub glide path. Source: TD Asset Management. As of Dec 31, 2021. Glide path effective Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022.





Source: TD Asset Management. As of Dec 31, 2021. Glide path effective Jan 1, 2022 - Dec 31, 2022.

# **Summary of Changes**

Bond yields increased significantly over the course of 2021, while credit and high yield spreads continued to narrow from their widest levels in 2020. Long-term expected returns for equities decreased, narrowing the spread between expected returns for fixed income and equities. Despite this narrowing, total portfolio expected returns remain challenged and GPA continues to favour equities and private alternatives over fixed income. As a result, we witnessed the following shifts:

# **Trading and Execution**

The transition of glide path changes was completed in January 2022 with the exception of global real estate. We anticipate this change to be incorporated in 2022 as regulatory relief and fund policy updates are completed. As a proxy for global real estate, the Funds will hold an overweight to commercial mortgages and Canadian real estate.

Through 2021, the portfolio management team

# Performance

We are proud of the demonstrated track record of the TD Greystone Target Date Plus Funds. The Funds have demonstrated strong absolute and peer-relative performance since inception. This performance has been achieved with below-median, peer-relative

- An overall reduction in fixed income with an increased allocation to equities in longer-dated vintages
- Diversification within equities with increased allocations towards growth/core equities and low volatility equities
- Greater allocation to unconstrained bonds in order to enhance the yield of the program while maintaining the liquidity, duration and aggregate credit profile

incorporated discretion on the timing and magnitude of rebalancing decisions to be consistent with other balanced mandates. In 2022, the Funds will allow portfolio management discretion relative to the strategic glide path in line with the team's broader tactical asset allocation views. We believe this change will aid in cash flow deployment and proxying for alternative asset classes and has no impact to the quarterly glide path roll-down process.

standard deviation, resulting in a high peer-relative Sharpe Ratio. We believe this is particularly relevant as plan members are often subject to behavioural biases triggered by investment volatility, which can negatively impact overall savings.



## Figure 6: Performance of the TD Greystone Target Date Plus Funds

Returns as of Dec 31, 2021	3 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since Inception
Retirement Plus Fund	4.57%	11.30%	10.26%	8.12%	7.78%
Benchmark	4.30%	9.26%	10.01%	7.69%	7.38%
2025 Target Date Plus Fund	4.75%	10.91%	10.28%	8.21%	7.86%
Benchmark	4.30%	9.26%	10.01%	7.76%	7.43%
2030 Target Date Plus Fund	4.95%	11.51%	10.80%	8.54%	8.27%
Benchmark	4.48%	9.97%	10.57%	8.06%	7.80%
2035 Target Date Plus Fund	5.26%	12.85%	11.62%	9.17%	9.07%
Benchmark	4.79%	11.50%	11.50%	8.73%	8.58%
2040 Target Date Plus Fund	5.92%	15.51%	13.30%	10.54%	10.29%
Benchmark	5.34%	14.55%	13.51%	10.17%	9.83%
2045 Target Date Plus Fund	6.08%	16.75%	14.04%	11.10%	10.79%
Benchmark	5.52%	15.97%	14.35%	10.78%	10.37%
2050 Target Date Plus Fund	5.91%	16.68%	14.04%	11.20%	10.93%
Benchmark	5.55%	16.24%	14.52%	10.96%	10.57%
2055 Target Date Plus Fund	6.06%	16.09%	13.84%	11.14%	10.90%
Benchmark	5.55%	16.24%	14.60%	11.05%	10.66%
2060 Target Date Plus Fund	8.15%	20.72%	-	-	12.75%
Benchmark	5.93%	17.40%	-	_	12.83%

Note: Returns for periods over one year are annualized. Inception of Retirement – 2055 Fund is Jan 1, 2015. Inception of 2060 Fund is Jan 1, 2020. Details regarding benchmark mix are available upon request. C\$. Includes cash. Gross of investment management fees; may be subject to rounding.

# Grget Date



#### Figure 7: Since Inception<sup>1</sup> Annualized Return

#### <sup>1</sup> Inception is Jan 1, 2015 (7 years).

<sup>2</sup> eVestment Alliance, LLC - Fund Category: TDF Income Fund - Canadian Universe. Current number of funds in the category: 3-6. Note: Each TD Greystone Target Date Plus Fund is compared against Canadian dollar denominated peers within the respective vintage's eVestment peer group. Quartile rankings are intended to measure how well a fund has performed compared to other funds in its peer group. Quartile rankings are compiled by ranking all of the funds in a category by return over a given time period. The top performing 25% of funds in the category are assigned a quartile rankings of 1, the next 25% a 2, the next 25% a 3, and the bottom 25% of funds a 4. Quartile rankings can change over time.

Source: eVestment Alliance, LLC. As of Dec 31, 2021. Data pulled Jan 14, 2022.



#### **Figure 8:** Since Inception<sup>1</sup> Annualized Standard Deviation

<sup>1</sup> Inception is Jan 1, 2015 (7 years).

<sup>2</sup> eVestment Alliance, LLC - Fund Category: TDF Income Fund - Canadian Universe. Current number of funds in the category: 3-6. Note: Each TD Greystone Target Date Plus Fund is compared against Canadian dollar denominated peers within the respective vintage's eVestment peer group. Quartile rankings are intended to measure how well a fund has performed compared to other funds in its peer group. Quartile rankings are compiled by ranking all of the funds in a category by return over a given time period. The top performing 25% of funds in the category are assigned a quartile ranking of 1, the next 25% a 2, the next 25% a 3, and the bottom 25% of funds a 4. Quartile rankings can change over time.

Source: eVestment Alliance, LLC. As of Dec 31, 2021. Data pulled Jan 14, 2022.





<sup>1</sup> Inception is Jan 1, 2015 (7 years).

<sup>2</sup> Each TD Greystone Target Date Plus Fund is compared against Canadian dollar denominated peers within the respective vintage's Fund Category on eVestment Alliance, LLC. Current number of reporting funds in each Fund Category: 3-6.

Note: Quartile rankings are intended to measure how well a fund has performed compared to other funds in its peer group. Quartile rankings are compiled by ranking all of the funds in a category by return over a given time period. The top performing 5-25% of funds in the category are assigned a quartile ranking of 1, the next 25% a 2, the next 25% a 3, and the bottom 75-95% of funds a 4. Quartile rankings can change over time.

Source: eVestment Alliance, LLC. As of Dec 31, 2021. Data pulled Jan 14, 2022.

# Connect with TD Asset Management



#### Numbers may not add due to rounding.

The information contained herein has been provided by TD Asset Management Inc. and is for information purposes only. The information has been drawn from sources believed to be reliable. Graphs and charts are used for illustrative purposes only and do not reflect future values or future performance of any investment. The information does not provide financial, legal, tax or investment advice. Particular investment, tax, or trading strategies should be evaluated relative to each individual's objectives and risk tolerance. Certain statements in this document may contain forward-looking statements ("FLS") that are predictive in nature and may include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "believes", "estimates" and similar forward-looking expressions or negative versions thereof. FLS are based on current expectations and projections about future general economic, political and relevant market factors, such as interest and foreign exchange rates, equity and capital markets, the general business environment, assuming no changes to tax or other laws or government regulation or catastrophic events. Expectations and projections about future events are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, which may be unforeseeable. Such expectations and projections may be incorrect in the future. FLS are not guarantees of future performance. Actual events could differ materially from those expressed or implied in any FLS. A number of important factors including those factors set out above can contribute to these digressions. You should avoid placing any reliance on FLS. All products contain risk. Important information about the pooled fund is contained in their offering circular, which we encourage you to read before investing. Please obtain a copy. The indicated rates of return are the historical annual compounded total returns of the funds including changes in unit value and reinvestment of all distributions. Yields, investment returns and unit values will fluctuate for all funds. All performance data represent past returns and are not necessarily indicative of future performance. Pooled Fund units are not deposits as defined by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government deposit insurer and are not guaranteed by The Toronto-Dominion Bank. Investment strategies and current holdings are subject to change. TD Pooled Funds are managed by TD Asset Management Inc. Sharpe Measure is a ratio of returns generated by the fund, over and above the risk-free rate of return and the total risk associated with it and can change monthly. A high and positive ratio shows superior performance and a low and negative ratio is an indication of unfavourable performance. Standard deviation is a statistical measure of the range of a fund's performance. When a fund has a high standard deviation, its range of performance has been very wide, indicating that there is a greater potential for volatility than those with low standard deviations. TD Asset Management Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. ®The TD logo and other trademarks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank or its subsidiaries.