

# Rating Report

## Public Sector Pension Investment Board & PSP Capital Inc.

**DBRS Morningstar**  
December 2, 2022

### Contents

- 1 Ratings
- 1 Rating Update
- 2 Financial Information
- 2 Issuer Description
- 2 Rating Considerations
- 5 Investment Performance
- 7 Investment Profile
- 9 Net Asset Position
- 11 About PSP Investments
- 12 Ranking and Legal Issues
- 13 Structure of Guarantees from PSP Investments to PSP Capital
- 14 ESG Checklist
- 15 Rating History
- 15 Previous Action
- 15 CP Limit
- 15 Related Research
- 15 Previous Report

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### Ratings

Debt	Rating	Rating Action	Trend
<b>Public Sector Pension Investment Board</b>			
Issuer Rating	AAA	Confirmed	Stable
<b>PSP Capital Inc.</b>			
Medium-Term Notes	AAA	Confirmed	Stable
Canadian Short-Term Promissory Notes	R-1 (high)	Confirmed	Stable
U.S. Commercial Paper Notes	R-1 (high)	Confirmed	Stable

### Rating Update

DBRS Limited (DBRS Morningstar) confirmed the Public Sector Pension Investment Board's (PSP Investments or the Fund) Issuer Rating at AAA. DBRS Morningstar also confirmed PSP Capital Inc.'s (PSP Capital) Medium-Term Notes (MTNs) rating at AAA and both the Canadian Short-Term Promissory Notes and the U.S. Commercial Paper Notes ratings at R-1 (high), based on the unconditional and irrevocable guarantee provided by PSP Investments. The trends on all ratings remain Stable. The ratings are supported by PSP Investments' exclusive mandate to manage the assets of four depository pension plans, the role of the Government of Canada (rated AAA with a Stable trend by DBRS Morningstar) as sponsor of the plans, the high level of assets available to meet obligations, the strong liquidity position, and a record of strong long-term investment returns.

PSP Investments achieved a one-year rate of return of 10.9% for the year ended March 31, 2022 (F2022), outperforming its benchmark (BM) return of 9.4%. The strong result is attributable to positive returns across all asset classes, particularly in private assets classes and with the exception of fixed income. The outperformance was mostly driven by private equity, which delivered a 27.6% return compared with a BM return of 19.5%; public market equities, which gained 6.0%, outperforming their BM return of 3.3%; and credit investments, which delivered a 7.5% return, outperforming a BM return of 0.5%. On the other side, real asset classes generated double digit returns but underperformed their respective BMs, real estate gained 24.8% compared with a BM of 30.2%; Infrastructure gained 13.9% compared with a BM return of 16.1%; and natural resources gained 15.9% compared with a BM return of 26.3%.

Net assets rose to \$230.3 billion as of March 31, 2022, growing by 12.7% over the year. Debt with recourse to the Fund from the capital market debt program increased by \$6.0 billion to \$22.7 billion, or 9.0% as a share of adjusted net assets as of March 31, 2022, compared with

7.6% as of March 31, 2021. Subsequent to the fiscal year-end, PSP Capital issued USD 1 billion of 3.500% Senior Notes due 2027, AUD 230 million of 4.57% Senior Notes due 2032, re-opened the Floating-Rate Notes due 2025, by issuing an additional USD 400 million and \$750 million of 7.5% Senior Notes due 2029. DBRS Morningstar expects PSP Capital to continue to issue term notes to refinance maturing debt, provide liquidity, and finance additional investment activities. PSP Investments' recourse debt remains low, providing considerable room for cyclical fluctuations in asset values.

The Fund has a prudent approach to liquidity management and has ample sources of funding to draw upon. DBRS Morningstar notes the Fund meets the DBRS Morningstar criteria for commercial paper (CP) liquidity support, as outlined in the *Rating Canadian Public Pension Funds & Related Exclusive Asset Managers* methodology's appendix entitled "Self-Liquidity for Canadian Public Pension Funds and Related Exclusive Asset Managers' CP Programs" (Self-Liquidity Criteria). The Fund's liquidity position remains sound, with sufficient same-day available funds equal to at least five business days of upcoming liabilities and discounted assets equal to the remaining maximum authorized CP program limit; this is consistent with DBRS Morningstar's policy on backup liquidity support for pension plans and provides considerable short-term financial flexibility. The transfers from the Government of Canada have stayed positive in the last 20 years.

DBRS Morningstar notes F2022 was the first year of the board approved five-year strategy (PSP Forward), which takes into consideration long-term trends, risks, and priorities. PSP Forward focuses on enhancing the total Fund performance and global operations by aligning systems, resources, and investment focus; generating valuable insights; and building a high-performing team. Some of the key elements of PSP Forward include to increase the investment exposure to the Asia-Pacific Markets to more than \$60 billion by F2026, which will support diversification across geographies, asset classes, and investment strategies. Climate change is another area of focus. In F2022, PSP Investments further developed a climate change strategy that aims to reduce the portfolio greenhouse gas emissions intensity, which will include substantial investments in green assets and transition assets. In addition, PSP Capital issued an inaugural Green Bond (\$1 billion) with proceeds earmarked for climate-related and environmental projects. PSP Investments continues to advance the integration of various aspects of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors, including diversity, equity, and inclusion, into its investment approach and company operations.

The board also has a key responsibility of chief executive officer (CEO) succession planning. After Neil Cunningham announced his future retirement as President and CEO that will take place on March 31, 2023, the board appointed Deborah K. Orida as his successor effective September 1, 2022, enabling a transition period. Deborah K. Orida has 25 years of experience in the investments and finance industry and was most recently an executive at

the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, where she was the global head of Real Assets and Chief Sustainability Officer.

## Financial Information

(CAD millions)	For the year ended March 31				
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Net assets	230,273	204,299	169,682	167,853	152,994
Total recourse debt <sup>1</sup>	22,710	16,731	15,808	14,119	12,193
As a share of adjusted net assets (%) <sup>2</sup>	9.0	7.6	8.5	7.8	7.4
Total investment return (%)	10.9	18.4	(0.6)	7.1	9.8
BM return (%)	9.4	16.5	(1.6)	7.2	8.7

<sup>1</sup> Recourse debt from capital market debt financing reported at fair value.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of the ratio calculation, net assets are adjusted by adding back recourse debt.

## Issuer Description

### PSP Investments

PSP Investments is a nonagent Crown corporation created to manage the net contributions received since April 1, 2000, for the pension plans of the federal Public Service (the Public Service), the Canadian Forces, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP); and, since March 1, 2007, for the pension plan of the Reserve Force. As at March 31, 2022, PSP Investments held net assets of \$230.3 billion.

### PSP Capital

PSP Capital is a wholly owned subsidiary of PSP Investments that was created in 2005 to raise financing for investment activities through short-term and long-term borrowing. The ratings on the debts issued by PSP Capital are predicated on the unconditional and irrevocable guarantee provided by PSP Investments.

## Rating Considerations

### Strengths

#### 1. High level of unencumbered assets and liquidity

The Fund had net assets of \$230.3 billion as of March 31, 2022, and relatively low recourse debt, which provides the Fund with considerable flexibility in meeting its obligations. Current recourse debt raised from capital market debt financing represents 9.0% of net adjusted assets.

#### 2. Exclusive mandate to manage pension assets

PSP Investments was established for the sole purpose of managing some of the federal government's pension plan assets. The Public Service, Canadian Forces, and RCMP pension plans are required under their respective constituting acts to transfer all net pension contributions to PSP Investments for service costs following April 1, 2000. The Reserve Force Pension Plan is also required to transfer to PSP Investments all net contributions received on or after March 1, 2007. This makes depositors captive and adds certainty to cash flows and net assets.

#### 3. Ongoing net contributions

PSP Investments manages the net contributions received in relation to pension plan benefits earned by employees since April 1, 2000, through the Public Service, Canadian Forces, and RCMP pension plans. PSP Investments also has the mandate to manage the net contributions received after March 1, 2007, from the Reserve Force Pension Plan. The most recent actuarial valuations project positive cash flows to PSP Investments for at least five years, which will provide strong support to liquidity and asset growth. However, DBRS Morningstar notes as the Fund continues to gain scale, net pension contributions become less important to net asset growth. Since April 1, 2000, transfers received from the government represent about 38% of net assets; the remaining 62% is attributable to investment returns.

#### *4. Strong plan sponsor in the Government of Canada*

The Government of Canada is the sponsor of the four pension plans whose funds are managed by PSP Investments, which provides considerable stability and certainty of cash flows.

### **Challenges**

#### *1. Political risks that could weaken depositor relationships*

The R-1 (high) and AAA ratings partly reflect the high level of net assets available to meet obligations; however, new legislation could conceivably be introduced, allowing plan depositors to seek alternative asset managers, which could adversely affect net assets and therefore reduce debt coverage. Given that the Fund was set up specifically to service the pension plans, DBRS Morningstar considers any wholesale change in PSP Investments' role as a manager of public pension assets a remote possibility.

#### *2. Volatility inherent in investment activities*

Asset valuation fluctuates over time. The current outlook of slower economic growth and uncertainty arising from supply chain bottlenecks, increased geopolitical risk because of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, high inflation resulting in higher interest rates, and maturing demographics can lead to an increased exposure to riskier assets. Riskier assets can offer potentially higher long-term results, but may also add more volatility to the valuation of the asset base in the short term.

#### *3. Asset reallocation toward more illiquid assets*

The Fund has been increasing the allocation toward illiquid assets in recent years. Although this strategy has contributed to generating higher returns and reducing volatility in the portfolio, it can also make the Fund more vulnerable to liquidity risk. This risk is mitigated by PSP Investments' sound liquidity management practices based on a total fund approach, which includes access to diversified sources of liquidity, sensitivity and stress testing analysis of liquidity coverage for different time horizons, and frequent monitoring and reporting. The Fund maintains sufficient same-day available funds equal to at least five business days of upcoming liabilities and discounted assets equal to the remaining maximum authorized CP

program limit, consistent with DBRS Morningstar's Self-Liquidity Criteria, which further enhances financial flexibility and supports the short-term ratings. The Fund also receives semimonthly net contributions from the Government of Canada.

#### *4. Establishing framework to meet growth requirements*

The Fund has experienced rapid growth since its inception in 1999. It has grown to more than 895 employees and continues to mature as an organization. PSP Investments continues to implement and refine its process, systems, and resources to meet growth and return expectations.

#### **Investment Performance**

PSP Investments achieved a return of 10.9% in the year ended March 31, 2022, outperforming its BM return of 9.4%. The strong return is attributable to positive returns across all asset classes, particularly in private assets classes and with the exception of fixed income. PSP Investments has achieved an average annual return of 9.0% over the last five years, which compares positively with the BM return of 7.9% over the same period.

F2022 was a year of healthy returns. Private equities delivered 27.6%, outperforming its BM of return 19.5%. Public market equities also outperformed its BM because of strategic allocations that proved to be beneficial as economies began to reopen. Public market equities returned 6.0% compared with a BM return of 3.3%. Real assets delivered positive returns, but were not able to surpass their respective BMs. Real estate gained 24.8% compared with a BM return of 30.2%, infrastructure gained 13.9% compared with a BM of return 16.1%, and natural resources gained 15.9% compared with a BM return of 26.3%. Credit investments also brought positive results, delivering 7.5% versus a BM return of (0.5)%. The fixed-income strategy was the only asset class that delivered a negative return, at (1.7)%; however, it outperformed its BM return of (1.9)%. PSP Investments' policy is to maintain unhedged most of its exposure to foreign currencies. Some currencies are risk additive, being even more pro-cyclical than the Canadian dollar, and are therefore strategically hedged, given the hedging cost is reasonable. Furthermore, exposures to certain currencies may from time to time be hedged based on market conditions and outlook. In F2022, major currencies in the portfolio depreciated against the Canadian dollar, resulting in a net income decline of \$3.6 billion. Given that the majority of PSP Investments' assets are denominated in foreign currencies, currency fluctuations can have a significant short-term impact on investment returns. However, countercyclical currencies such as the U.S. dollar tend to move in opposite directions of the stock market and therefore are expected to reduce losses in times of crisis. The Fund expects the unhedged currency positions to be natural diversifiers and volatility stabilizers in the long run.

The Complementary Portfolio returned 16.9% in the year versus its BM return of 3.7%. The Complementary Portfolio includes investments that are beneficial to the Fund but that are outside of the existing asset classes' investment framework. The scope of investments

within the Complementary Portfolio has been recently broadened to include more innovative strategies, with the focus on alternative risk premium and knowledge-driven strategies. Since its inception in January 2017, the Complementary Portfolio has generated a 12.3% return compared with its BM return of 5.3%.

The fixed-income portfolio returned (1.7)%, outperforming its BM return of (1.9)%, as it was positioned to benefit from increasing policy rates to counter sustained levels of high inflation. Also, additional deployment of funds in emerging market debt investments contributed to the fixed-income outperformance in F2022.

**Investment Returns<sup>1</sup>**

	Five-Year Average	10-Year Average	For the year ended March 31				
			2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total investment return (%)	9.0	9.8	10.9	18.4	(0.6)	7.1	9.8
BM return (%) <sup>2</sup>	7.9	8.6	9.4	16.5	(1.6)	7.2	8.7

<sup>1</sup> Net returns.

<sup>2</sup> The Policy Portfolio BM is weighted using actual portfolio asset-class weightings.

**Returns by Major Portfolio<sup>1</sup>**

(For the year ended March 31)

	2022			2021	2020	2019	2018
	Return	BM	Variance	Return	Return	Return	Return
<b>Government Fixed Income</b>							
Cash and cash equivalents (%)	0.1	0.3	(0.2)	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.5
Fixed income (%)	(1.7)	(1.9)	0.2	(2.3)	10.0	4.8	1.6
<b>Credit</b>							
Credit investments (%)	7.5	(0.5)	8.0	10.5	4.3	9.2	8.2
<b>Equities</b>							
Public market equities (%)	6.0	3.3	2.7	48.1	(11.2)	4.3	11.3
Private equity (%)	27.6	19.5	8.1	28.4	5.2	16.1	12.9
<b>Real-Return Assets</b>							
Real estate (%)	24.8	30.2	(5.4)	3.8	(4.4)	7.6	13.6
Infrastructure (%)	13.9	16.1	(2.2)	4.5	8.7	7.1	19.3
Natural resources (%)	15.9	26.3	(10.4)	10.6	(5.2)	11.1	11.2
<b>Complementary Portfolio (%)</b>	16.9	3.7	13.2	0.2	13.6	0.04	33.0
<b>Net Return (%)</b>	10.9	9.4	1.5	18.4	(0.6)	7.1	9.8

<sup>1</sup> Net returns.

The investment approach includes a Reference Portfolio, a Policy Portfolio, and active management strategies. In 2021, the Government of Canada took over responsibility for the Reference Portfolio. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat now communicates a composition of the Reference Portfolio to PSP Investments on behalf of the president of the Treasury Board. The Reference Portfolio is a simple, passively managed portfolio of publicly traded securities that the government uses to communicate its funding risk tolerance to PSP Investments. It is currently composed of 59% equities and 41% fixed income. PSP Investments aims to outperform the Reference Portfolio over the long term within the Government's funding risk tolerance.

The Policy Portfolio represents the long-term target asset allocation and is reviewed at least annually by the board. PSP Investments has mostly finished the transition to the target asset mix identified in the Policy Portfolio. Historically, the Fund has been heavily allocated to

public equities; however, it continues to move toward private market asset classes, such as private equity, infrastructure, and natural resources, in search of higher returns. Post-2000 liabilities under the depository plans are expected to have minimal liquidity requirements from PSP Investments for pension payments before 2030, excluding the impact from potential contribution holidays. The long-term, illiquid private market investments help the Fund to match the risk/return profile of the portfolio with the long-term, inflation-sensitive nature of the pension obligations. This fiscal annual review kept the Policy Portfolio unchanged as it remains aligned with the government risk tolerance while enhancing the risk-return profile.

The final component of the investment mandate is active investment management implemented within set risk budgets to generate additional returns over and above the Policy Portfolio. Active management benefits from the Fund's proprietary research, in-house expert decision making, and analytic competence. In public market equities, for example, this may be achieved through over- and under-weighting specific securities relative to the portfolio equity BM.

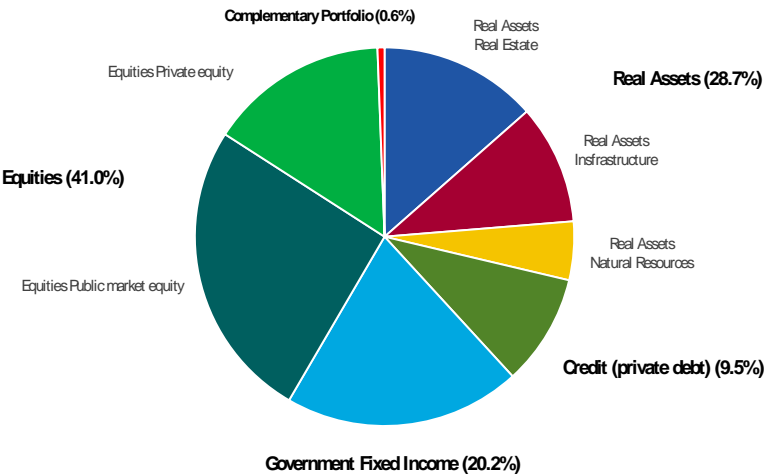
The Complementary Portfolio was introduced in F2017 to make investments that do not necessarily fit within an existing asset class but support PSP Investments' total fund investment approach and improve the long-term risk/reward profile. The Complementary Portfolio (0.6% of net assets under management (AUM) in F2022) does not have a target allocation; however, it has an upper bound of 3.0% of the Fund's value as per Board monitoring range. The Complementary Portfolio has returned 12.3% on an annual basis since its launch.

Over the last few years, the Fund has pursued few strategies such as: greater allocations toward credit investments, real assets, and emerging market debt as a means of increasing the portfolio diversification. Overall, all of the Fund's asset classes are currently at or around their targeted allocation limits.

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### **Investment Profile**

**Exhibit 1** Asset Mix as at March 31, 2022



Source: DBRS Morningstar.

Net Investments	Long-Term Target Asset Allocation		As at March 31				
	F2022	F2021	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Government fixed income (%)	21.0	21.0	20.2	21.0	19.7	20.5	18.1
<b>Credit</b>							
Credit investments (%)	9.0	9.0	9.5	7.1	7.8	6.2	5.8
<b>Equities</b>							
Public market equity (%)	27.0	27.0	25.7	29.4	28.5	30.4	33.8
Private equity (%)	12.0	12.0	15.3	15.5	14.2	14.0	12.7
<b>Total equities (%)</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>46.5</b>
<b>Real-return assets</b>							
Real estate (%)	14.0	14.0	13.5	13.1	14.0	14.0	15.2
Infrastructure (%)	12.0	12.0	10.2	9.0	10.8	10.0	9.8
Natural resources (%)	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.0	3.2
<b>Total real return assets (%)</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>28.2</b>
Complementary Portfolio (%)	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.9	1.4
<b>Total (%)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total do not add up because of rounding.

As part of PSP Forward, PSP Investments plans to further enhance the total fund performance and global operations, generate valuable insights, and continue to build a high-performing team. Some of the key priorities under PSP Forward include to increase the exposure to the Asia-Pacific region to more than \$60 billion by F2026, which will support greater diversification by geographies, asset classes, and investment types. On the sustainable-investing front, PSP Investments established a new climate change commitment in F2022 that includes the following:

- Increase investments in green assets to \$70 billion by 2026 from the 2021 baseline of \$40.3 billion
- Grow exposure to transition assets to \$7.5 billion by 2026 from the 2021 baseline of \$5.1 billion
- Decrease holdings of carbon-intensive assets that lack transition plans by 50% by 2026 from the 2021 baseline
- Ensure 10% of capital market debt financing is steered toward sustainable bonds by 2026

PSP Investments continues to make advances on their data-driven approach to analyze and monitor risk and opportunities through the lens of ESG.

**Net Asset Position**

<b>Change in Net Assets</b>					
For the year ended March 31					
(CAD millions)	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Investment income	23,562	32,588	203	12,195	14,420
Investment-related expenses	(502)	(497)	(703)	(579)	(445)
Net investment income	23,060	32,091	(500)	11,616	13,975
Operating expenses	(588)	(510)	(551)	(503)	(450)
Fund transfers	3,502	3,036	2,871	3,749	3,921
Other comprehensive income (loss)	-	-	9	(3)	(14)
<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>	<b>25,974</b>	<b>34,617</b>	<b>1,829</b>	<b>14,859</b>	<b>17,432</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>230,273</b>	<b>204,299</b>	<b>169,682</b>	<b>167,853</b>	<b>152,994</b>

PSP Investments' net assets increased to \$230.3 billion as of March 31, 2022, from \$204.3 billion last year, growing by 12.7% year over year. Net investment income generated gains of \$23.1 billion, while fund transfers added \$3.5 billion. Operating costs reduced net assets by \$588 million. The Fund's net asset position has been rapidly growing, fueled by strong investment returns (62% of net AUM) and solid net contributions (38% of net AUM) stemming from the Fund's mandate to manage assets for post-2000 pension liabilities.

The Fund's investment-related liabilities and capital market debt increased by 18.8% (\$5.3 billion) in the year ended March 31, 2022, mostly driven by the higher issuance of CP and MTNs. There was also an increase in the value of derivative-related liabilities and repurchase agreements in the year, which was largely offset by a decline in collateral payable. Derivative-related liabilities increased to \$2.5 billion in F2022 from \$1.5 billion in F2021. The Fund uses derivatives to enhance returns or to replicate investments synthetically and to manage duration in the fixed-income portfolio. DBRS Morningstar notes counterparty risk in derivative contracts has been mitigated through a quality selection of counterparties, the use of counterparty agreements, netting, and collateral exchanges; therefore, much of the remaining risk relates to underlying market risk.

The Fund has strict board-imposed limits on the amount of total leverage (25% of adjusted net assets). Furthermore, the Fund has internal guidelines limiting the amount of leverage that can come from its capital market program. As at F2022, recourse debt raised from the capital market debt program rose to \$22.7 billion, representing 9.0% of adjusted net assets. Subsequent to the fiscal year-end, PSP Capital issued USD 1 billion of 3.500% Senior Notes due 2027, AUD 230 million of 4.57% Senior Notes due 2032, re-opened the Floating-Rate Notes due 2025, by issuing an additional USD 400 million and \$750 million of 3.75% Senior Notes due 2029. DBRS Morningstar expects PSP Capital to continue to issue term notes to refinance maturing debt, provide liquidity, and finance additional investment activities. PSP Investments' recourse debt remains low, providing considerable room for cyclical fluctuations in asset values.

PSP Investments maintains a prudent approach to liquidity management. The Fund's treasury department monitors liquidity needs daily and maintains its own accounts to ensure that liquidity is available to meet near-term cash needs. Liquidity levels are set by senior management, which seeks to ensure that the treasury department has sufficient liquidity available to meet all cash commitments/requirements. The treasury department maintains liquidity in the form of cash, money market securities, floating-rate notes and government bonds. PSP Investments also maintains a \$2 billion committed line of credit and \$1 billion of demand facilities (both undrawn as of March 31, 2022) as additional sources of liquidity. In managing liquidity, PSP Investments employs a total fund approach through a centralized platform, the Corporate Liquidity Fund (CLF). The primary objectives of the CLF are safety of capital and liquidity and collateral eligibility. The CLF is composed primarily of highly rated government or government-related fixed-income securities to meet its collateral requirements.

The Fund's liquidity position remains sound, with sufficient same-day available funds equal to at least five business days of upcoming liabilities and discounted assets equal to the remaining maximum authorized CP program limit, which is consistent with DBRS Morningstar's policy on backup liquidity support for pension plans and further highlights the Fund's flexibility to meet short-term obligations through its diversified sources of liquidity for severe market disruptions.

PSP Investments employs an enterprise risk management framework covering a broad array of risks, including operational, strategic, investment, legal and regulatory, and reputational. Risk management is led by the Chief Financial and Risk Officer, who reports to the CEO, with oversight from the board. PSP Investments continues to enhance its risk management functions by working closely with the investment groups, and providing strategic risk analysis and daily reports. PSP Investments' risk framework includes comprehensive sensitivities analysis and stress-testing scenarios, which are a centerpiece in the implementation of its liquidity framework and which enabled it to prepare in advance for the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic-related crisis.

<b>Investment-Related Liabilities and Capital Market Debt</b>					
	For the year ended March 31				
(CAD millions)	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>Investment-Related Liabilities<sup>1</sup></b>					
Accounts payable from pending trades	1,069	1,524	1,016	956	1,164
Interest payable	81	71	94	69	56
Securities sold short	2,347	2,774	3,890	6,298	6,577
Collateral payable <sup>2</sup>	671	2,214	3,351	3,012	3,573
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	3,928	3,279	8,787	5,627	575
Derivative-related liabilities	2,538	1,463	4,535	962	1,734
Capital market debt <sup>1</sup>	22,710	16,731	15,808	14,119	12,193
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,344</b>	<b>28,056</b>	<b>37,481</b>	<b>31,043</b>	<b>25,872</b>

<sup>1</sup> Fair-market-value basis.

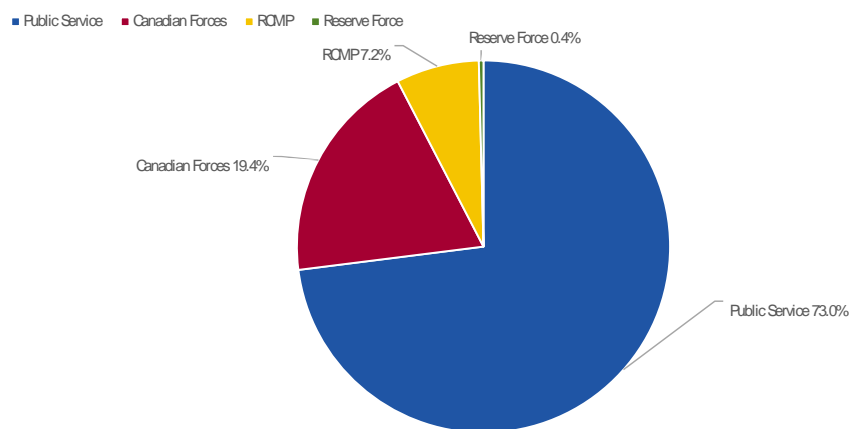


**Capital Market Debt Outstanding<sup>1</sup>**

(CAD millions)	Maturity	Interest Rate (%)	Amount <sup>1</sup>
Canadian Short-Term Promissory Notes <sup>2</sup>	30 days to 360 days	0.25 to 1.00	235
U.S. Commercial Paper Notes <sup>2</sup>	25 days to 365 days	0.15 to 1.15	7,874
Medium-Term Notes, Series 7	Apr. 2024	3.29	1,335
Medium-Term Notes, Series 9	Nov. 2023	2.09	1,410
Medium-Term Notes, Series 10	Jun. 2022	1.73	1,724
Medium-Term Notes, Series 11	Nov. 2025	3.00	1,261
Medium-Term Notes, Series 12	Jan. 2030	2.05	1,082
Medium-Term Notes, Series 13	Jun. 2026	0.90	1,390
Medium-Term Notes, Series 14	Mar. 2028	1.50	870
Medium-Term USD Notes, Series G1	Jun. 2026	1.00	1,159
Medium-Term USD Notes, Series G2	Sep. 2024	0.50	1,487
Medium-Term USD Notes, Series G3	Oct. 2028	1.63	1,172
Medium-term CAD Notes, Series G4 (Green Bonds)	Mar. 2032	2.60	962
Medium-term USD Notes, Series G5	Mar. 2025	SOFR+0.24%	749
<b>Total</b>			<b>22,710</b>

<sup>1</sup> Fair value.

<sup>2</sup> Maturity, principal, and the interest rate are Canadian dollar equivalent as of March 31, 2022.

**About PSP Investments****Exhibit 2 Net Assets per Pension Plan (March 31, 2022)**

Source: DBRS Morningstar.

PSP Investments is a Crown corporation created in 1999 under the Public Sector Pension Investment Board Act to manage the net contributions received in relation to pension plan benefits earned by employees since April 1, 2000, through the Public Service, Canadian Forces, and RCMP pension plans. PSP Investments also has the mandate to manage the net contributions received after March 1, 2007, from the Reserve Force Pension Plan. As at March 31, 2022, net investments under PSP Investments management and available to service pension benefits amounted to \$230.5 billion. PSP Investments operates at arm's length from the Government of Canada. Its mandate is to manage the funds transferred in the best interests of the contributors and beneficiaries to maximize investment returns

without undue risk of loss, considering the funding, policies, and requirements of the plans and the plans' abilities to meet their financial obligations.

Pension benefits accrued by plan members before April 1, 2000, under the Public Service, Canadian Forces, and RCMP pension plans are held separately in the accounts of the Government of Canada (Superannuation Accounts).

Actuarial valuations of the contributing pension plans are conducted in a staggered manner. The most recent actuarial valuation conducted as at March 31, 2020, for the Public Service; as at March 31, 2018, for the RCMP; and as at March 31, 2019 for Canadian Forces revealed a surplus position, while the latest valuations conducted as at March 31, 2019, for the Reserve Force showed a deficit position. The deficit positions in the pension funds are caused by a combination of factors, including demographic factors, investment losses and revisions of actuarial assumptions over the intervaluation periods. As is required under the governing acts of each of these plans, the actuarial deficits will be amortized with equal annual payments over 15 years, with special payments being made by the plan sponsor.

PSP Investments is governed by a board of directors consisting of 11 directors, including a chairperson. Each director is appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the president of the Treasury Board for a term not exceeding four years and is eligible for reappointment for one or more additional terms. The president of the Treasury Board's recommendation is made from a list of qualified candidates proposed by an external nominating committee. The board reports to Parliament through the president of the Treasury Board and is responsible for, among other things, appointing the CEO, approving policies and procedures for investment activities, remuneration, leverage, liquidity, and risk management. The board is currently operating at full capacity with no vacant positions.

### **Ranking and Legal Issues**

In contrast to pension funds, PSP Investments, as an exclusive asset manager, has no direct responsibility for the obligations faced by the depositors in relation to the benefits owed to their members. This greatly reduces the volatility of PSP Investments' net asset position. An updated legal opinion provided by PSP Investments' external legal counsel states that the obligation resulting from the guarantee ranks senior to amounts that become due to the pension plans compared with the *pari passu* opinion originally obtained when the ratings were first assigned. While this is a positive development, DBRS Morningstar generally puts limited emphasis on such legal opinions in its rating assessments for public pension funds, given the absence of legal certainty pertaining to this issue.

Under their respective constituting acts, the Public Service, Canadian Forces, and RCMP pension plans are required to deposit net contributions exclusively with PSP Investments. The Reserve Force Pension Plan also has similar requirements under its constituting regulations. This results in a fairly captive client base and solid cash inflows, given the

favourable demographics of the plans. In theory, depositors could seek legislative changes enabling them to deposit new pension contributions or transfer existing funds elsewhere. Should this happen, PSP Investments could see net assets fall considerably, potentially affecting its credit ratings; however, DBRS Morningstar perceives this scenario to be very remote because PSP Investments was created specifically to service those pension plans.

PSP Investments operates at arm's length from the federal government, which reduces the possibility of political intervention. Nonetheless, its constituting act permits the Governor in Council to make regulations in respect of the percentage of assets that must be allocated to Government of Canada bonds. As a result, the government could conceivably use the Fund as a lender of last resort in times of heavy financial stress. Given the Government of Canada's very robust credit profile and its moral obligation to protect the financial integrity of the pension plans, DBRS Morningstar views this scenario as very remote.

#### **Structure of Guarantees from PSP Investments to PSP Capital**

PSP Investments unconditionally and irrevocably guarantees the full payment of principal and interest in respect of the MTNs, Canadian Short-Term Promissory Notes, and U.S. Commercial Paper Notes issued by PSP Capital. Should PSP Capital fail to make required payments, investors can demand payment from PSP Investments under the guarantee without first exhausting recourse to PSP Capital. DBRS Morningstar has reviewed a legal opinion obtained by PSP Investments from its legal counsel stating that, subject to certain assumptions and qualifications, the guarantee is a legal, valid, and binding obligation of PSP Investments; enforceable against PSP Investments in accordance with its terms; and that PSP Investments has the necessary corporate power to guarantee the principal and interest of PSP Capital's MTNs, Canadian Short-Term Promissory Notes, and U.S. Commercial Paper Notes.

## ESG Checklist

There were no ESG factors or considerations with a significant or relevant impact on the

ESG Factor	ESG Credit Consideration Applicable to the Credit Analysis: Y/N	Extent of the Effect on the ESG Factor on the Credit Analysis: Relevant (R) or Significant (S)*	
<b>Environmental</b>		<b>Overall:</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Emissions, Effluents, and Waste</b>	Do we consider that the costs or risks for the issuer or its clients result, or could result, in changes to an issuer's financial, operational, and/or reputational standing?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Carbon and GHG Costs</b>	Does the issuer face increased regulatory pressure relating to the carbon impact of its or its clients' operations resulting in additional costs and/or will such costs increase over time affecting the long term credit profile?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Resource and Energy Management</b>	Does the scarcity of sourcing key resources hinder the production or operations of the issuer, resulting in lower productivity and therefore revenues?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Land Impact and Biodiversity</b>	Is there a financial risk to the issuer for failing to effectively manage land conversion, rehabilitation, land impact, or biodiversity activities?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Climate and Weather Risks</b>	In the near term, will climate change and adverse weather events potentially disrupt issuer or client operations, causing a negative financial impact? In the long term, will the issuer's or client's business activities and infrastructure be materially affected financially by a 2C rise in temperature?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Social</b>		<b>Overall:</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Social Impact of Products and Services</b>	Do we consider that the social impact of the issuer's products and services could pose a financial or regulatory risk to the issuer?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Human Capital and Human Rights</b>	Is the issuer exposed to staffing risks, such as the scarcity of skilled labour, uncompetitive wages, or frequent labour relations conflicts that could result in a material financial or operational impact?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
	Do violations of rights create a potential liability that can negatively affect the issuer's financial wellbeing or reputation?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
	<b>Human Capital and Human Rights:</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Product Governance</b>	Does failure in delivering quality products and services cause damage to customers and expose the issuer to financial and legal liability?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Data Privacy and Security</b>	Has misuse or negligence in maintaining private client or stakeholder data resulted, or could it result, in financial penalties or client attrition to the issuer?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Occupational Health and Safety</b>	Would the failure to address workplace hazards have a negative financial impact on the issuer?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Community Relations</b>	Does engagement, or lack of engagement, with local communities pose a financial or reputational risk to the issuer?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Access to Basic Services</b>	Does a failure to provide or protect with respect to essential products or services have the potential to result in any significant negative financial impact on the issuer?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Governance</b>		<b>Overall:</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Bribery, Corruption, and Political Risks</b>	Do alleged or actual illicit payments pose a financial or reputational risk to the issuer?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
	Are there any political risks that could impact the issuer's financial position or its reputation?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
	<b>Bribery, Corruption, and Political Risks:</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Business Ethics</b>	Do general professional ethics pose a financial or reputational risk to the issuer?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Corporate / Transaction Governance</b>	Does the issuer's corporate structure allow for appropriate board and audit independence?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
	Have there been significant governance failures that could negatively affect the issuer's financial wellbeing or reputation?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
	Does the Board and/or management have a formal framework to assess climate-related financial risks to the issuer?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
	<b>Corporate / Transaction Governance:</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Institutional Strength, Governance, and Transparency (Governments Only)</b>	Compared with other governments, do institutional arrangements provide a similar degree of accountability, transparency, and effectiveness?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
	Are regulatory and oversight bodies protected from inappropriate political influence?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
	Are government officials exposed to public scrutiny and held to high ethical standards of conduct?	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
	<b>Institutional Strength, Governance, and Transparency (Governments Only):</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Consolidated ESG Criteria Output:</b>		<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>

\* A Relevant Effect means that the impact of the applicable ESG risk factor has not changed the rating or rating trend on the issuer.  
A Significant Effect means that the impact of the applicable ESG risk factor has changed the rating or trend on the issuer.

credit ratings.

### Rating History

	Current	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>Public Sector Pension Investment Board</b>					
Issuer Rating	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA
<b>PSP Capital Inc.</b>					
Medium-Term Notes	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA
Canadian Short-Term Promissory Notes	R-1 (high)	R-1 (high)	R-1 (high)	R-1 (high)	R-1 (high)
U.S. Commercial Paper Notes	R-1 (high)	R-1 (high)	R-1 (high)	R-1 (high)	R-1 (high)

### Previous Action

- Confirmed, December 3, 2021.

### CP Limit

- PSP Capital Inc.: \$12.0 billion for Canadian Short-Term Promissory Notes and U.S. Commercial Paper Notes combined.

### Related Research

- *Rating Canadian Public Pension Funds & Related Exclusive Asset Managers*, April 26, 2022.
- *North American Structured Finance Flow-Through Ratings*, May 10, 2022.

### Previous Report

- Public Sector Pension Investment Board & PSP Capital Inc.: Rating Report, December 3, 2021.

#### Notes:

All figures are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

For the definition of Issuer Rating, please refer to Rating Definitions under Rating Policy on [www.dbrsmorningstar.com](http://www.dbrsmorningstar.com).

Generally, Issuer Ratings apply to all senior unsecured obligations of an applicable issuer, except when an issuer has a significant or unique level of secured debt.

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