

i-Watch Rating System:

Date January 9, 2025

Fund Manager Manulife Investment Management

i-Watch Status ● **In Good Standing**

- No concern(s)
- Moderate concern(s) requiring frequent and close monitoring
- Serious concern(s) that require a full review and may lead to removal from the fund platform

Product(s) Impacted:

Manulife Retirement Date Funds

Manulife Retirement Income

Manulife Retirement Date 2025

Manulife Retirement Date 2030

Manulife Retirement Date 2035

Manulife Retirement Date 2040

Manulife Retirement Date 2045

Manulife Retirement Date 2050

Manulife Retirement Date 2055

Manulife Retirement Date 2060

Manulife Retirement Date 2065

Manulife Retirement Date Index+ Funds

Manulife Retirement Index+ Income

Manulife Retirement Date Index+ 2025

Manulife Retirement Date Index+ 2030

Manulife Retirement Date Index+ 2035

Manulife Retirement Date Index+ 2040

Manulife Retirement Date Index+ 2045

Manulife Retirement Date Index+ 2050

Manulife Retirement Date Index+ 2055

Manulife Retirement Date Index+ 2060

Manulife Retirement Date Index+ 2065

Manulife Asset Allocation Funds

Manulife Conservative Asset Allocation Fund

Manulife Moderate Asset Allocation Fund

Manulife Balanced Asset Allocation Fund

Manulife Growth Asset Allocation Fund

Manulife Aggressive Asset Allocation Fund

Summary

- The benchmarks for the Manulife Retirement Date (RDFs) and Retirement Date Index Plus (RDI+) Funds have been updated to reflect a reduced equity weight within each portfolio as each fund transitions along its Retirement Date glide path.
- The benchmark for the Real Estate/Alternative Outcome asset class across all RDFs, RDI+, and Manulife Asset Allocation (AA) Funds will change from S&P/TSX Capped REIT Total Return Index to FTSE Canada 91 Day Treasury Bill Total Return + 4% to better reflect the investment objective of the asset class.
- Global Manager Research (GMR) has no concerns about the benchmark updates that are effective January 1, 2025.

Commentary

Manulife's Multi-Asset Solutions Team (MAST) reviews and updates the benchmarks of the Manulife RDFs, RDI+, and the AA Funds on at least an annual basis. Effective January 1, 2025, changes will be made to most of the benchmarks. Details of these changes, along with the tables with the updated benchmarks, are provided in this notice.

Impact

Annual Update of Glidepath for Manulife RDFs and RDI+ Funds

Each Manulife RDF and Manulife RDI+ Fund follows an asset glidepath that becomes progressively more risk-averse, with greater allocations to fixed income, as it approaches its target date. Once a Fund is within 23 years of its retirement date, it begins to annually reduce its equity allocation and increase its fixed income allocation. Consequently, the benchmarks are adjusted annually to reflect the ongoing changes to the asset mix of each Fund. For instance, in 2024, the benchmark for the Manulife Retirement Date 2030 Fund had an allocation of 66.9% to equities. For 2025, this benchmark allocation has been reduced to 64.7%. A table at the end of the notice compares the previous year's benchmarks with the updated benchmarks for 2025.

Benchmark Change for Real Estate/Alternative Outcome Asset Class

The Real Estate asset class was first introduced to the Manulife RDFs, RDI+ and AA Funds in 2021 as it was identified as an additional differentiated alpha source that could benefit portfolio outcomes over the longer term. As a result, the S&P/TSX Capped REIT Total Return Index was chosen to represent the asset class in the benchmarks.

Effective January 1, 2025, the benchmark of the Real Estate asset class will change from S&P/TSX Capped REIT Total Return Index to FTSE Canada 91 Day Treasury Bill Total Return + 4%. The change applies to the benchmarks across Manulife RDFs, RDI+ and AA Funds. The update provides a more accurate representation of the investment objective of the broader Alternative Outcome asset class and will enable more precise assessments of relative performance.

Closing Remarks

GMR has no concerns about the updates to the benchmarks. The changes to the benchmarks of the Manulife RDFs and Manulife RDI+ Funds resulting from the glidepath roll-down reflect the natural progression of the asset mix.

2025 Benchmarks

Asset Class	Benchmark
Canadian Large Cap	S&P/TSX Composite TR Index
Canadian SMID Cap	S&P/TSX Completion TR Index
US Large Cap	S&P 500 TR Index
US SMIDs	Nasdaq US 1300 Small Mid Cap Total Return Index
EAFE Large/Mid Cap	MSCI EAFE Net TR Index
EAFE Small Cap	MSCI EAFE Small Cap Net TR Index
EM Large/Mid Cap	MSCI Emerging Markets Net TR Index
Global Infrastructure	Dow Jones Brookfield Global Infrastructure Net TR Index
Real Estate	S&P/TSX Capped REIT TR Index
US High Yield Bonds (hedged CAD)	ICE BofA US High Yield Index (CAD Hedged)
Emerging Market Debt	JPM CEMBI Broad Diversified Core Index
Canadian Core Bonds	FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index
Short Canadian Bonds	FTSE Canada Short Term Overall Bond Index
Ultra Long Canadian Bonds	FTSE Canada 20+ Overall Bond Index
Canadian Mortgages	FTSE Canada 3-5YR Non-PrePayable MBS Index
Global IG Bonds (hedged CAD)	Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index (CAD Hedged)
Alternative Outcome	FTSE Canada 91 Day Treasury Bill TR + 4% (NEW)
* Total Return indices used where unspecified	

Manulife Asset Allocation Funds

	Benchmarks for Manulife Asset Allocation Funds									
	Aggressive		Growth		Balanced		Moderate		Conservative	
	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old
Total Equity Allocation	95.0%	95.0%	80.0%	80.0%	60.0%	60.0%	40.0%	40.0%	20.0%	20.0%
S&P/TSX Composite TR Index	21.5%	21.5%	18.5%	18.5%	15.0%	15.0%	10.0%	10.0%	4.0%	4.0%
S&P/TSX Completion TR Index	5.5%	5.5%	3.5%	3.5%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
S&P 500 TR Index	30.5%	30.5%	26.8%	26.8%	19.0%	19.0%	13.0%	13.0%	5.5%	5.5%
Nasdaq US 1300 Small Mid Cap Total Return Index	3.5%	3.5%	2.0%	2.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
MSCI EAFE Net TR Index	19.5%	19.5%	18.5%	18.5%	16.5%	16.5%	12.0%	12.0%	5.5%	5.5%
MSCI EAFE Small Cap Net TR Index	1.8%	1.8%	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
MSCI Emerging Markets Net TR Index	7.8%	7.8%	4.8%	4.8%	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Dow Jones Brookfield Global Infrastructure Net TR Index	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
S&P/TSX Capped REIT TR Index	-	3.0%	-	3.0%	-	3.0%	-	3.0%	-	3.0%
FTSE Canada 91 Day Treasury Bill TR + 4% (NEW)	3.0%	-	3.0%	-	3.0%	-	3.0%	-	3.0%	-
Total Fixed Income Allocation	5.0%	5.0%	20.0%	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%	60.0%	60.0%	80.0%	80.0%
ICE BofA US High Yield Index (CAD Hedged)	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	3.0%	6.3%	6.3%	7.5%	7.5%	8.0%	8.0%
JPM CEMBI Broad Diversified Core Index	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	3.0%	6.3%	6.3%	7.5%	7.5%	8.0%	8.0%
FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index	0.0%	0.0%	6.5%	6.5%	10.5%	10.5%	24.5%	24.5%	43.5%	43.5%
FTSE Canada 3-5YR Non-PrePayable MBS Index	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	7.5%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index (CAD Hedged)	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	2.5%	4.5%	4.5%	7.5%	7.5%	10.5%	10.5%
FTSE Canada 20+ Overall Bond Index	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Manulife Retirement Date Funds and Retirement Date Index Plus Fund

	Benchmarks for Manulife Retirement Date Funds/Manulife Retirement Date Index Plus Funds									
	2065		2060		2055		2050		2045	
	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old
Total Equity Allocation	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	91.2%	92.7%
S&P/TSX Composite TR Index	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	21.1%	21.3%
S&P/TSX Completion TR Index	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	5.3%	5.5%
S&P 500 TR Index	32.6%	32.6%	32.6%	32.6%	32.6%	32.6%	32.6%	32.6%	30.7%	31.3%
Nasdaq US 1300 Small Mid Cap Total Return Index	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
MSCI EAFE Net TR Index	20.2%	20.2%	20.2%	20.2%	20.2%	20.2%	20.2%	20.2%	19.6%	19.8%
MSCI EAFE Small Cap Net TR Index	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%
MSCI Emerging Markets Net TR Index	8.6%	8.6%	8.6%	8.6%	8.6%	8.6%	8.6%	8.6%	7.4%	7.8%
Dow Jones Brookfield Global Infrastructure Net TR Index	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.8%	0.7%
S&P/TSX Capped REIT Index	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.7%
FTSE Canada 91 Day Treasury Bill TR + 4% (NEW)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Income Allocation	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	8.8%	7.4%
ICE BofA US High Yield Index (CAD Hedged)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5%
JPM CEMBI Broad Diversified Core Index	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5%
FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6%	0.6%
FTSE Canada 3-5YR Non-PrePayable MBS Index	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index (CAD Hedged)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6%	0.5%
FTSE Canada 20+ Overall Bond Index	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.6%	5.3%
FTSE Canada Short Term Overall Bond Index	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(continued on next page)

	Benchmarks for Manulife Retirement Date Funds/Manulife Retirement Date Index Plus Funds									
	2040		2035		2030		2025		RI	
	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old
Total Equity Allocation	83.7%	85.3%	74.9%	76.8%	64.7%	66.9%	52.7%	55.3%	35.0%	35.0%
S&P/TSX Composite TR Index	19.4%	19.8%	17.4%	17.9%	15.0%	15.6%	12.3%	12.7%	7.0%	7.0%
S&P/TSX Completion TR Index	4.0%	4.3%	2.8%	3.0%	1.5%	1.8%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	-
S&P 500 TR Index	27.5%	28.1%	24.0%	24.7%	20.0%	20.8%	16.2%	16.3%	9.5%	9.5%
Nasdaq US 1300 Small Mid Cap Total Return Index	3.1%	3.2%	2.3%	2.5%	1.6%	1.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	-
MSCI EAFE Net TR Index	18.7%	18.9%	17.7%	17.9%	17.1%	16.5%	14.6%	14.5%	9.0%	9.0%
MSCI EAFE Small Cap Net TR Index	1.8%	1.9%	1.4%	1.5%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	-
MSCI Emerging Markets Net TR Index	5.4%	5.8%	3.7%	4.0%	1.9%	2.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	-
Dow Jones Brookfield Global Infrastructure Net TR Index	1.9%	1.7%	2.9%	2.7%	3.8%	3.6%	4.8%	4.6%	4.8%	4.8%
S&P/TSX Capped REIT Index	-	1.7%	-	2.7%	-	3.6%	-	4.6%	-	4.8%
FTSE Canada 91 Day Treasury Bill TR + 4% (NEW)	1.9%	-	2.9%	-	3.8%	-	4.8%	-	4.8%	-
Total Fixed Income Allocation	16.3%	14.7%	25.1%	23.2%	35.3%	33.1%	47.3%	44.7%	65.0%	65.0%
ICE BofA US High Yield Index (CAD Hedged)	2.4%	2.1%	4.0%	3.7%	5.6%	5.3%	7.2%	6.9%	7.8%	7.8%
JPM CEMBI Broad Diversified Core Index	2.4%	2.1%	4.0%	3.7%	5.6%	5.3%	7.2%	6.9%	7.8%	7.8%
FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index	2.7%	2.3%	2.8%	2.7%	5.8%	5.0%	12.0%	9.9%	31.5%	31.5%
FTSE Canada 3-5YR Non-PrePayable MBS Index	-	-	3.0%	2.4%	6.2%	5.6%	9.4%	8.7%	10.0%	10.0%
Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index (CAD Hedged)	1.9%	1.7%	3.1%	2.8%	4.2%	4.0%	5.4%	5.1%	8.0%	8.0%
FTSE Canada 20+ Overall Bond Index	6.9%	6.6%	8.2%	8.0%	5.1%	6.0%	-	1.7%	-	-
FTSE Canada Short Term Overall Bond Index	-	-	-	-	2.8%	2.1%	6.2%	5.5%	-	-



The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (Manulife)

Group Retirement products and services are offered through The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (Manulife). Manulife, Manulife & Stylized M Design, and Stylized M Design are trademarks of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and are used by it, and by its affiliates under license. The i-Watch® Alert and i-Watch® Notice are Manulife Global Manager Research ('GMR') publications. The information contained herein is neither all-inclusive nor guaranteed by GMR and is subject to change as market and other conditions warrant.

© 2025 The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company. All rights reserved. Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request. Visit [Manulife.ca/accessibility](https://www.manulife.ca/accessibility) for more information. Manulife, PO Box 396, Waterloo, ON N2J 4A9.