



The most important points in brief

	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
Total of balance sheet (million CHF)	1168	1209
Performance	2.00%	5.14%
Performance Benchmark	3.17%	8.09%
Coverage ratio	115.01%	115.42%
Actuarial interest rate	2.50%	2.50%
Annual interest of savings capital	2.50%	3.00%
Minimal rate of interest according to BVG	1.75%	1.75%
Total affiliation contracts (more than 1 member)	25	23
Total actively insured persons	936	992
Total pension recipients	2761	2863
Cost transparency ratio	98.31%	97.58%
Administration expenses in % of the transparent asset investments	0.40%	0.37%
Administrative expenses per member (in CHF)	282.00	259.00



Excerpt from the Annual Report 2015

Economic environment

- From a Swiss perspective, 2015 remains the year in which the Swiss National Bank (SNB) surprised both the general public and financial experts with its decision to give up its minimum exchange rate policy. This resulted in widespread negative interest rates.
- The Swiss economy withstood the strong Swiss franc better than many people expected.
- The trend towards a lower oil price, which started during the previous year, continued throughout the year under review. During the course of the year, the price was corrected by another good 30.00 %.
- In spite of some rays of hope on the horizon, the growth forecasts continue to involve considerable risks.

Investment result and coverage ratio

- The investments in real estate fulfilled the expectations placed in them as a “stabiliser”.
- Considering the conditions and in comparison with other pension funds, Ascaro’s result of 2.00 % in 2015 is a good one (median rate of return of Swiss Pension Fund Association ASIP 0.70 %). At the end of 2015, the coverage ratio was 115.01% and compared to the previous year (115.42 %) was held almost constant.

Foundation Board, Commissions, Executive Board

- There have been many changes on the Foundation Board (see Bodies chapter for details).
- In addition to statutory business, the Foundation Board dealt with the expansion of the range of pension plans offered, the reduction of the risk contributions and the assessment of the valuation of the pension commitments.
- At the latest by the end of 2017, the pension commitments will be valued using generation tables (previously period tables). This will also involve an increase of the reserves for the financing of the longer life expectancy by approximately 30 million Swiss francs.
- The efforts to acquire new affiliations with Ascaro were stepped up during the year under review. At the beginning of 2016, Ascaro achieved two new affiliations of SMEs from the communications and advertising sector.

Political environment

- Mid-August 2015, the responsible committee of the Council of States decided to enter into detailed consultations on the BVG 2020 legislative bill. Notably, the commission called for the reduction of the BVG minimum conversion rate from the current 6.80 % to 6.00 %. The bill will be handed over to the National Council.
- During the year under review, parliament decided to improve the ZGB provisions relating to the balancing of pension entitlements in the event of divorce. In addition to various other changes, a balancing of pensions that are already being paid out is now possible during divorce proceedings. The implementation provisions relating to the legislative changes are currently being prepared and can be expected to come into force by the end of 2016 at the latest.

It is by now common knowledge that financial investments are no longer as straightforward as they used to be. Risk-free investments barely achieve returns any more. Many investors are at loss about how to proceed. Assuming that the returns remain at this level in the longer term, the pension funds have no choice but to adapt the technical parameters, such as the conversion rate and the technical interest rate. Currently the Ascaro Pension Foundation is well prepared to master the adverse circumstances. In a first step, the technical interest rate, the conversion rate and the reserve situation have already been adapted to the general fall in interest rates. Are these steps sufficient? The future will tell.



Balance sheets

Assets

(in CHF)	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
Investments	1 166 729 789.67	1 208 195 583.92
Cash	99 662 717.08	132 106 269.81
Receivables	3 795 510.41	2 235 222.92
Receivables from employers	1 365 860.95	1 397 251.65
Bonds (incl. mortgages)	225 858 678.15	230 197 516.69
Equities	249 490 130.61	256 685 256.55
Alternative investments	102 835 683.47	107 405 518.30
Real estate	483 721 209.00	478 168 548.00
Prepayments and accrued income	1 156 230.98	844 315.80
Total assets	1 167 886 020.65	1 209 039 899.72

Liabilities

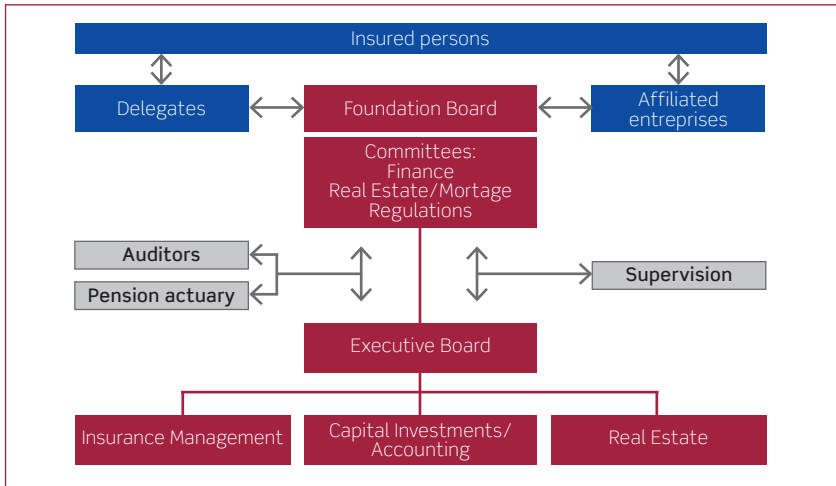
(in CHF)	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
Liabilities	5 288 664.39	6 001 336.43
- Termination benefits and pensions	2 892 870.85	800 042.40
- Other liabilities	2 395 793.54	5 201 294.03
Accrued liabilities and differed income	415 653.22	757 228.00
Contribution reserve employers	3 770 425.10	4 657 818.70
Non actuarial provisions	70 000.00	70 000.00
Pensions liabilities and actuarial reserves	1 007 130 343.15	1 037 566 382.15
- Savings capital from actively insured persons	216 436 272.15	221 442 316.15
- Savings capital from pension recipients	719 848 683.00	747 885 096.00
- Actuarial reserves	70 845 388.00	68 238 970.00
Reserve for fluctuation in asset value	151 210 934.79	159 987 134.44
Foundation capital, non-committed funds,		
Status as at 1st January	0.00	0.00
+/- Income surplus/expense surplus	0.00	0.00
Status as per 31 December	0.00	0.00
Total liabilities	1 167 886 020.65	1 209 039 899.72

Income statement

(in CHF)	2015	2014
Ordinary and other contributions and transfers-in	16 738 379.40	17 488 919.15
Employees contributions		
- Savings contributions	6 487 684.70	6 694 581.00
- Risk contributions	1 010 979.10	1 052 680.90
Employers contributions		
- Savings contributions	6 426 721.60	6 562 650.55
- Risk contributions	1 249 485.30	1 290 087.70
Withdrawal from provision for financing of contributions	-1 087 393.60	-88 105.20
Savings instalments (conversion rate)	1 676 223.20	2 058 215.60
Withdrawal from provision for financing of contributions	-1 676 223.20	-2 058 215.60
One-time payments and purchase amounts	2 450 902.30	1 730 459.05
Payments into the employer contribution reserves	200 000.00	246 565.15
Entry lump sum transfers	8 122 806.55	6 807 686.20
Entry lump sum transfers	7 777 852.70	6 615 901.70
Deposits by takeover of insured persons into:		
- reserve for fluctuation in asset value	7 134.80	0.00
- Savings capital from pension recipients	16 740.00	16 740.00
Reimbursement of withdrawals for home ownership/ divorce	321 079.05	175 044.50
Total inflow from contributions and entry lump sum transfers	24 861 185.95	24 296 605.35
Regulatory benefits	-67 193 235.75	-70 407 891.45
Retirement pensions	-50 591 732.05	-51 412 717.65
Survivor's pensions	-12 671 678.40	-12 787 825.45
Disability pensions	-1 981 255.60	-2 369 540.10
Other regulatory benefits	-911 699.65	-689 689.90
Lump-sum payments on retirement	-1 036 870.05	-3 148 118.35
Non regulatory benefits	-97 314.05	-90 971.50
Voluntary benefits of the fund	-97 314.05	-90 971.50
Termination benefits	-19 492 808.80	-20 563 308.40
Termination benefits for leavers	-17 779 542.45	-19 862 331.50
Handover of actuarial reserves	-130 776.40	-19 953.80
Withdrawals for home ownership / divorce	-1 582 489.95	-681 023.10
Total outflow for benefits and withdrawals	-86 783 358.60	-91 062 171.35

(in CHF)	2015	2014
Decrease/increase in insurance capital, actuarial reserves and contribution reserves	31 323 432.60	40 766 538.55
Dissolution/formation of insurance capital of active insured	10 187 171.00	17 681 837.25
Dissolution/formation of pensioners insurance capital	28 036 413.00	31 988 382.90
Decrease/increase in actuarial reserves	-2 606 418.00	-2 532 393.00
Interest on retirement savings capital	-5 181 127.00	-6 212 828.65
Dissolution/formation of employer contribution reserves	887 393.60	-158 459.95
Insurance costs	-39 954.85	-86 611.75
Contribution to the LOB Guarantee Fund	-39 954.85	-86 611.75
Net result from insurance activities	-30 638 694.90	-26 085 639.20
Net return	27 531 635.58	66 138 738.73
Net return on liquid assets and money market demands	4 830 477.35	-10 446 759.63
Net return on bonds (incl. mortgages)	-1 326 064.65	9 710 239.09
Net return on equities	2 127 374.35	30 489 045.15
Net return on alternative investments	-4 224 034.29	6 118 563.19
Net return on real estate	26 123 882.82	30 267 650.93
Interest expenses	-22 075.90	-116 469.42
Administration expenses for investments	-4 603 617.61	-4 566 527.85
Total net return on investments	22 905 942.07	61 455 741.46
General administration	-1 043 446.82	-998 432.91
General administration expenses	-866 265.80	-927 622.61
Marketing and advertising	-114 745.70	-1 954.20
Auditors and pension actuary	-47 840.32	-53 556.10
Supervisory authorities	-14 595.00	-15 300.00
Income surplus- (+)/Expenses surplus (-) before releasing from/adding to fluctuations reserves	-8 776 199.65	34 371 669.35
Decrease (+)/increase (-) in value fluctuation reserves	8 776 199.65	-34 371 669.35
Income surplus (-)/Expenses surplus (+)	0.00	0.00

Organisation



Governing body

Foundation Board Employer representatives	Function	Mandate as of	Elected until
Zimmermann Hans	Chairman	24.10.05/01.07.09	30.06.2016
Aschwanden Oliver	Member	24.11.2011	30.11.2015 (withdrawal)
Brudermann Claudia	Member	01.11.2010	30.06.2016
Frey Roland	Member	01.03.2015	30.06.2016
Howald Rouven	Member	01.12.2015	30.06.2016
Lack Daniel	Member	31.10.2011	30.06.2016
Renggli Kurt	Member	01.08.2008	28.02.2015 (withdrawal)
Wilson Bianka	Member	01.10.2013	30.06.2016

Foundation Board Employee representatives	Function	Mandate as of	Elected until
Rüeggsegger Markus	Vice-chairman	22.10.13/01.04.15	30.06.2016
Marti Hans	Vice-chairman	01.10.00/28.11.06	31.03.2015 (withdrawal)
Binz Walter	Member	01.07.2011	30.06.2016
Fürst Thomas	Member	01.07.2009	30.06.2016
Gross Roger	Member	01.08.2011	30.06.2016
von Winterfeld Ernst	Member	01.05.2015	30.06.2016
Widrig Andreas	Member	01.07.2008	30.06.2016

Executive Board	Function
Zaugg René	Managing director, Insurance management
Guntern Willy	Deputy managing director, Capital investments/ Accounting
Zingg Marlene	Member, Head of Real Estate

Assembly of delegates

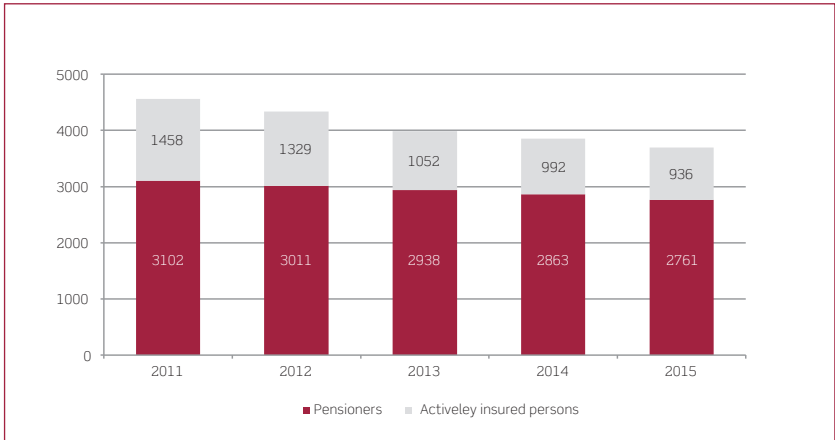
The Assembly of Delegates is responsible for fostering close ties between the Foundation Board and the insured members. The delegates are elected by and from among the insured members for a period of four years (current term of office 2012–2016). The Assembly of Delegates is responsible for the election of the employee representatives on the Foundation Board and may submit proposals to the Foundation Board and seek information from the Foundation Board about general questions pertaining to the Foundation.

Pension Actuary, Auditors and Supervision

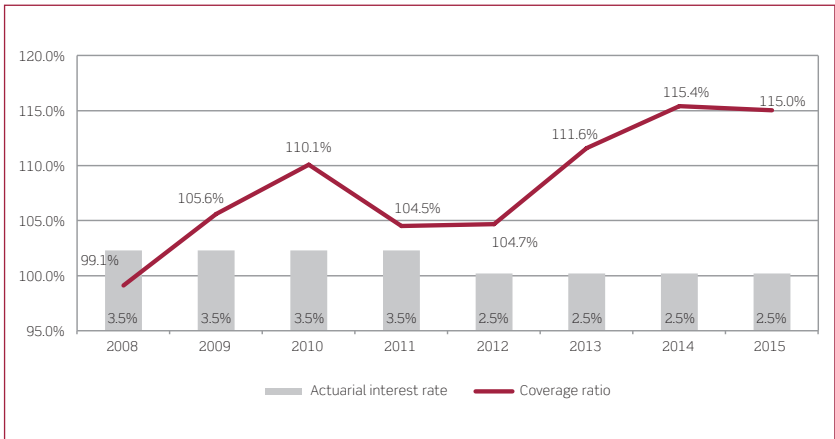
Function	Mandatar
Pension actuary	ABCONE AG, Bern, Martin Schnider
Auditors	PricewaterhouseCoopers AG, Bern, Johann Sommer
Supervision	Bernische BVG- und Stiftungsaufsicht (BBSA), Bern (Ordnungs-Nr. BE.0221)



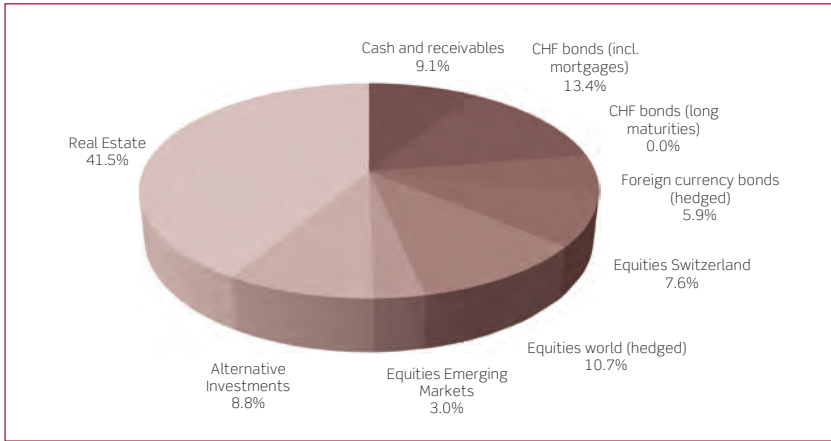
Actively insured persons pensioners



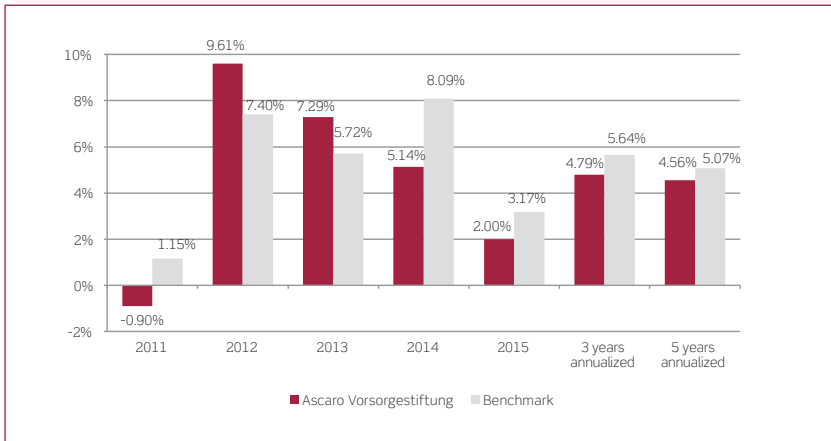
Development of the coverage ratio since 2008



Asset structure



Development of the performance



The comprehensive Annual Report available in the German language only can be downloaded at www.ascaro.ch

