



TOGETHER AND INFORMED

04 / 2025

Dear insured persons, affiliated companies and partners,

We hope this message finds you in good health as the Easter weekend approaches.

KEY FIGURES AS AT 31 MARCH 2025 (INDICATIVE DATA)



106.88%
NON-AUDITED RATE
OF COVERAGE



+ 0.74%
NON-AUDITED NET
PERFORMANCE

*Our Foundation has a total assets of CHF 6.932 billion..
29'757 persons are affiliated 3'555 pensioners are insured.*



SITUATION ON THE FINANCIAL MARKETS

as seen by our CIO, Jean-Bernard Georges

The month of March had already registered a decline in stock market indexes, principally in the United States, due to fears raised by the imminent introduction of tariffs promised by the US administration and the risk of a global recession, on which concern was also reflected in long-term interest rates, which were down sharply.

This was nothing compared to the announcements of 'hurricane' Trump on the now-notorious 'Liberation Day' of 2nd April, a date that will go down in the history books.

There is no point in going over the detail of the announcements and retractions, but rather it is worth taking a step back in an attempt to obtain a less confused picture.

COPRE

Although his style may be open to interpretation and numerous commentators have expressed strong criticism, Trump's economic policy can be analysed without necessarily being qualified as chaotic or irrational.

It is based on a fairly clear-cut observation: the economic model of the past 50 years, based on an exponentially increasing level of debt in the United States to finance the consumption of goods manufactured abroad, mainly in China, is not sustainable and is driving the leading world power towards decline and ruin.

This makes the USA doubly dependent on China, which is its principal creditor and supplier, and at the same time its major geopolitical and increasingly uninhibited rival, hence the choice of the term 'Liberation'.

For a return to what they call the golden age, a promise made during his three presidential campaigns, the Trump team is banking on abundant and inexpensive domestic energy, very low tax rates on citizens and companies, tariffs to protect domestic manufacturing industry, low interest rates coupled with a competitive currency, and perhaps some elements of territorial expansion to ensure access to certain key resources, plus control of its nearby geographical area. A policy that harks back to the 19th and beginning of the 20th century and which accounted for America's prosperity at that time.

The world situation is a little different today, no doubt more complex, and of course one can question the means used -sometimes rather simplistic - and above all the brutal and unilateral manner employed, which provokes great uncertainty for all global economic players. Financial markets detest uncertainty and have reacted to the various announcements with extraordinary bouts of volatility, both on shares and on bonds.

Switzerland represents a good example in this respect: initially considered as defensive, the Swiss shares market showed good resistance during March before plunging after the announcement of tariffs at 31%, well above those applied to the European Union. Pharmaceutical products, which account for a large share of Swiss exports, were initially excluded, which could have softened the blow, only to be taxed separately at 25%!

Under such conditions it is becoming virtually impossible to make the slightest estimate of the real impact of these measures on corporate results, consumption, inflation and so on.

At the time of writing, the tariffs have been reduced to 10% for an interim period of 90 days. This will enable the United States to negotiate from a position of strength with all its trading partners, with the notable exception of China, where reciprocal tariff hikes are escalating and which will be subject to a rate of 125%, unless this is increased even more?

The impression that emerges from this unprecedented episode appears to be the triggering of a time bomb loaded with multiple complex and uncontrollable mechanisms of which it is impossible to clearly visualise the final effect. A positive outcome in the medium to long term cannot be excluded, but in the short term it is the painful side effects that will be visible.

With the risk of a severe recession, or even worse of stagflation, having somewhat abated, financial markets are reacting with relief. However, one should beware of exaggerated optimism. The tariffs episode is far from over, and constitutes only one element of the shock therapy that the Trump administration intends to impose on the world while it is in a sufficiently dominant position to do so.

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There is increasing talk of a 'Mar-a-Lago plan' designed to lower the dollar exchange rate and to impose a restructuring of the American debt towards very distant maturity horizons. To use a cinematic analogy, 2025 will no doubt be seen more as a 'year of all the dangers' rather than as a 'long, calm river'



PERFORMANCE

As at 31 March 2025, our indicative performance was still positive at +0.74%, a good result when compared to the UBS pension funds index at +0.45% and +0.37% for funds of over 1 billion CHF.

A return that has plunged into the red during the first 10 days of April, with a magnitude quite similar to that seen in March 2020 as a result of the Covid pandemic. With figures varying very significantly from one day to another, we prefer to refrain from publishing indicative information which is liable to be contradicted the following day.



ANNUAL REPORT AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

At its meeting of 10 April 2025, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the annual accounts as at 31 December 2024.

During the past financial year our Foundation passed the milestone of CHF 6 billion. The amount of the balance sheet at the end of 2024 was in fact CHF 6.510 billion, an increase of 14% compared to end 2023.

The annual performance achieved last year amounts to +7.46%. As a reminder, our Foundation granted a remunerative interest rate of 5.5% in favour of insured persons eligible on 31 December 2024.

Our annual report will be available in the first week of May on our website www.copre.ch. It can be downloaded in French, German and English.

You will find it in its new look, since we have taken advantage of our 50th anniversary to revamp our visual identity.

As usual the annual report will be divided into two parts. The first part, entitled 'The Essential', will comprise the reports of the Board of Trustees, General Management, the Investment Committee and finally a report on the climate and sustainability prepared in line with the recommendations of the ASIP (Swiss Association of Pension Funds).

The second part will contain the balance sheet, operating account, annexes and finally the report of the statutory auditor.



ATTRIBUTION OF SUBSIDIES AS PER ARTICLE 56 LPP PARA. 1, LET. A

According to the Federal Law on Occupational Old Age, Survivors' and Disability Benefit Plans (article 56 LPP para. 1, let. a), the Guarantee Fund pays out subsidies, via the pension funds, to employers whose age structure is unfavourable. More precisely, these subsidies are attributed, via their current accounts, to affiliated companies whose proportion of older employees is higher than the average and which are therefore particularly affected by the staggering of savings contributions by virtue of the LPP, as at 30 April 2025. A specific communication to this effect will be sent to these companies at the beginning of May 2025.



STATEMENT FOR THE GUARANTEE FUND LPP 2024 FOR COMPANIES AFFILIATED TO SEVERAL PENSION FUNDS

Affiliated companies which have notified us that their staff were affiliated to several pension funds will receive at the beginning of May 2025 the forms FG.3 (Subsidy indications per employer) and FG.4 (Subsidies to employers affiliated to several pension funds). These forms will enable them to notify and make a statement to the LPP Guarantee Fund in order to determine the granting of possible subsidies.



INFORMATION SESSION FOR FUTURE PENSIONERS

Our Foundation offers all its insured persons aged 58 and over an information session to help them prepare for their future retirement. This training will be given in French, English and German.

It will take place via videoconference during the month of June 2025, with two sessions planned per language, in function of the language used in correspondence by the insured persons concerned.

The presentation will last between 1 and a half and two hours.



INFORMATION SESSION (FORMERLY GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

Note in your diaries! We have pleasure in informing you that our annual information session will take place this year on 25 September 2025, at the Royal Savoy in Lausanne. This will be the ideal occasion to present to you a report on the first nine months of the year. We will also be happy to discuss with you other interesting subjects. Invitations and the detailed programme will be sent to you very shortly. We are very much looking forward to seeing you there!

Dear insured persons, affiliated companies, and partners, we send you our cordial greetings. Thank you for your trust, and take good care of yourselves.

Lausanne, 17 April 2025

Claude Roch
Chairman

Pascal Kuchen
Chief Executive Officer