

Petroleum Fund of Timor-Leste

Quarterly Report

31 December 2021

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INTRODUCTION

This report is produced in accordance with Article 13 of the Petroleum Fund Law which requires the Central Bank to report on the performance and activities of the Petroleum Fund of Timor-Leste, referred to in this report as the Fund unless the context suggests otherwise.

All monetary references in this report are to United States dollars as the official currency of Timor-Leste.

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the information is based on management and custodial reports and has not been independently audited and is subject to change, in which case the changes will be incorporated into subsequent reports.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Petroleum Fund was formed by the enactment of the Petroleum Fund Law promulgated on 3 August 2005 as amended on 28 September 2011. The law gives the Central Bank of Timor-Leste the responsibility for the operational management of the Fund.

This report covers the period from 01 October to 31 December 2021.

Key statistics for the quarter include:

- The capital of the Fund at the end of the Current quarter was \$19,65 billion while the previous quarter was \$19,17 billion.
- Gross cash inflows to the fund from royalties and taxes were \$467,10 million.
- Outflow for the quarter were \$353,32 million, being transfers to the state budget of \$350 million while \$3,32 million was for management costs.
- The profit for the quarter was \$357,70 million, representing a gross of fees return of 1.85%. The return on financial market investments was 1.88% compared with the benchmark return of 1.91%.

The Fund performance for the quarter, including the performance of the relative asset classes, was as follows:

Table 1

%	QTR	FYTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 years	Since Inc
Total Fund	1.85	5.92	5.92	9.91	7.36	4.91
Benchmark	1.88	5.56	5.56	9.59	7.08	4.80
<i>Excess</i>	-0.03	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.29	0.11
Financial Market Investments	1.88	5.98	5.98	10.05	7.45	4.93
Benchmark	1.91	5.55	5.55	9.65	7.11	4.81
<i>Excess</i>	-0.03	0.43	0.43	0.40	0.34	0.12
Investment in Petroleum Operations	1.11	4.50	4.50	n.a	n.a	4.50
Benchmark	1.11	4.50	4.50	n.a	n.a	4.50
<i>Excess</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	n.a	n.a	0.00

Table 2

%	QTR	FYTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 years	Since Inc
Total Financial Market Investments	1.88	5.98	5.98	10.05	7.45	4.93
Benchmark	1.91	5.55	5.55	9.65	7.11	4.81
<i>Excess</i>	-0.03	0.43	0.43	0.40	0.34	0.12
Liquidity Portfolios	-0.29	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	-0.26
Benchmark	-0.33	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	-0.33
<i>Excess</i>	0.04	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0.07
Growth Portfolios	2.35	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	2.28
Benchmark	2.26	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	2.20
<i>Excess</i>	0.09	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0.08

1. INVESTMENT MANDATE

A revised Management Agreement between Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank was signed on 25 June 2009. The Annexes of the Management Agreement has subsequently amended to reflect the actual investments.

From 1 November 2020, the Private Debt Instrument is separated from the financial market investments portfolio. From 1 July 2021, the Financial Market Investment portfolio is segmented into the Liquidity Portfolio and the Growth Portfolio. The benchmarks of the Financial Market Investment as of December 2021 were as follows:

Table 3

Mandates	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Total Fund	100%	100%	100%
Investment in Petroleum Operations	3.77%	3.73%	3.79%
Financial Market Investment	96.23%	96.27%	96.21%
Total Financial Market Investment	100%	100%	14%
Liquidity Portfolio	14.82%	14.92%	14.34%
Growth Portfolio	85.18%	85.08%	0.00%
Total Liquidity Portfolio	100%	100%	100%
USD Cash	26.85%	28.69%	39.04%
US Government Short-term Treasury Notes	73.15%	71.31%	60.96%
Total Growth Portfolio	100%	100%	100%
US Government Treasury Notes 3-5 Years	45%	45%	45%
US Government Treasury Notes 5-10 Years	10%	10%	10%
Global Developed Market Sovereign Bond, Hedged	10%	10%	10%
Developed Market Equities	35%	35%	35%

2. MARKET TRENDS DURING THE QUARTER

Global Macroeconomic Trend

Global economic activities continued to grow during the last quarter of the year amid at a slower pace. The emergence of highly transmissible new COVID-19 variant Omicron in late November triggered financial market volatility. The labor shortages and the global supply chain bottleneck caused global inflation to raise to a level not seen in decades in many countries. Consequently, the central banks around the world have moved to suppress the inflation by raising rates or rolling back the monetary policy supports deployed during the pandemic crisis.

The macroeconomic data from the United States painted a mixed picture during the quarter. The employment data showed that the U.S economy created just above one-million jobs compared to the two-million expected by the markets during the three months period. On the other hand, the unemployment rate went down from 4.7% in the previous quarter to 3.9% in December. Despite the decline in unemployment rate, the labor participation was barely improved and still below the pre-pandemic level, meaning many workers are yet to return to labor market. The service and manufacturing activity surveys compiled by Institute of Supply Management showed both indices fell in December; the manufacturing activities index fell to 58.7 in December from 61.1 in November while the service activity index declined to 62 in December from 69.1 in November.

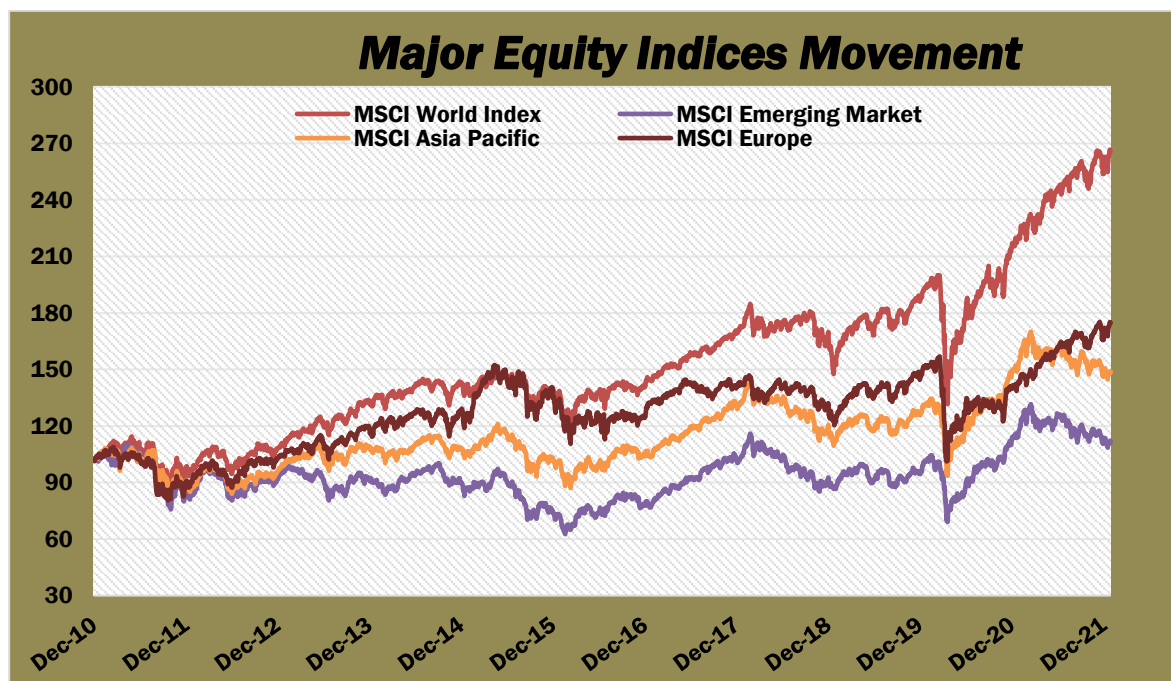
In November and December the Covid-19 infections numbers rose again in major countries across the European region. A few European countries had to reintroduce the travel restriction and border control in order to prevent the Covid infections. Consequently, consumer confidence in the region fell to -8.3 in December, the lowest number since April 2021. While in the U.K, the retail sales grew 2.7% in November compared to the same month last year. The UK's services PMI fell to 53.6 in December which is the lowest since February. Manufacturing momentum continues to steadily improve as the PMI gained slightly to 57.9 in December and has increased since September after falling each month since May.

In Japan, the recovery in industrial production peaked in June 2021 and returned to 5% growth in November after declining in September and October. The survey of manufacturing and service index show declines in December but are still near multiyear highs.

Global Equity Market Trends

Global equity market's performance varied during the period under review as the developed markets outperformed the emerging markets. The share prices increased in most developed countries for the quarter despite the renewed volatility caused by the increased number of COVID-19 during the winter as well as the emergence of the highly contagious Omicron variant in November. Market sentiment improved in December on news that Omicron may not be as severe. The positive equity market performance was supported by the strong corporate earnings. On the other hand, the emerging market closed the quarter with negative performance mostly dragged down by China's government effort to reform the big tech companies and property markets, and the USD appreciation during the quarter.

Graph 01 Major Equity Indices Movement (USD)



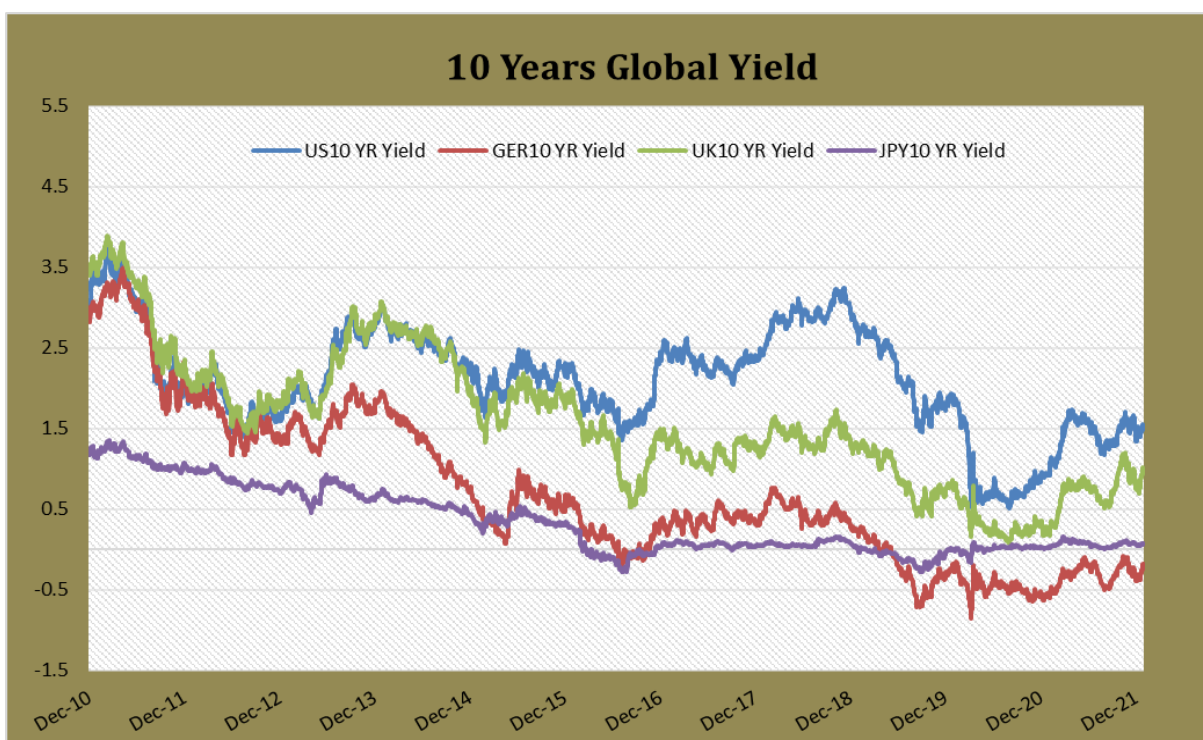
Global Treasury Bonds include U.S Treasuries

The U.S Treasury yield curve flattened for the period as the yield of the short-end increased more than the long end of the curve. The move reflects the prospect of the Fed moving to tighten monetary policy in order to control the surging inflation. Global inflation continued to move upward across major markets during the quarter. The U.S Federal Reserve officials finally admitted that the inflation in the country is believed to be stickier than previously thought. The Fed officials previously described the rising inflation as transitory, a trend that will be reversed once the temporary supply chain bottlenecks caused by the Covid-19 related restriction are eased. However, the U.S Federal Reserve Chair stated during testimony to the U.S Congress that the word transitory no longer reflects the current inflation trends. The monthly data showed that inflation continued to rise to a level not seen in decades. U.S inflation hit 6.8% in November and 7% in December. The U.S Fed has taken steps to reduce its monetary policy support. During its December meeting the Federal Open Market Committee announced that it will accelerate the reduction of its asset purchasing program from \$15 billion to \$30 billion a month, start from January 2022. As a result, the asset purchasing program will be ended in March, instead of June 2022, as projected earlier. In addition, the Fed's interest rate median forecast now indicate three-interest rate hikes in 2022, with the first is expected in March 2022. The yield on the U.S Treasury 2-year note increased 0.46% and ended the quarter at 0.73%, while the yield of U.S Treasury 10-Year bond went up from 1.48% to 1.50%. The Fed's narrative on less policy accommodation also supported the value of USD. Bloomberg DYX index, which measures the USD against major currencies of peer developed countries, increased 1.5% for the quarter.

Inflation in the United Kingdom came at 5.1% in December, the highest level in a decade. In order to rein in the inflation, the Bank of England increased the short-term interest rates from 0.10% to 0.25% during its policy meeting in December. The Bank's officials justified that the rate increased on the basis of tightening labour market, surging inflation and evidence of economic growth due to less restriction posed by the government. In addition, the emergence of Omicron seemed to have less downside risk on the inflation in medium-term. The yield of U.K's 10-year Gilt declined from 1.02% in September to 0.97% in December.

The European Central Bank did not follow the trend of rolling back monetary policy support as it is still sticking with the belief that current inflation is caused by the temporary supply chain disruption and surging energy prices. The Bank stopped the purchasing of assets under its emergency program but will dial up the size and the flexibility of the longer standing asset purchasing programs. The German Bund 10-year's yield increased 0.02% to end the quarter at -0.17%, France government 10-year bond yield went up 0.04%, while the Italian Government 10-year bond yield increase from 0.85% in September to 1.17% in December.

Graph 02. 10 Years Global Yield



3. MANAGEMENT DURING THE QUARTER

Objectives

The Central Bank, as operational manager of the Fund, has implemented the investment mandates through a combination of internal and external management.

The following table shows how the investment mandates have been implemented.

Table 4

Mandate	Management Style	Authorised Managers	Tracking Error	Outperformance Target	Commencement date
Liquidity Portfolio					
3 Month USD Treasury Bills/Cash	Passive	BCTL	n/a	Nil	August-18
BOA Merrill Lynch 1-3 Years US Treasury Bond Index					July-21
Growth Portfolio					
BOA Merrill Lynch 3-5 Years US Treasury Bond Index	Passive	BCTL	0.25%	Nil	January-12
BOA Merrill Lynch 5-10 Years US Treasury Bond Index			0.50%		May-20
Global Developed Market Sovereign Bond, Hedged	Enhanced Passive	BIS	0.50%	0.15%	April-20
MSCI World Index ex Australia Net Dividends Reinvested	Equity Factor	Schroders	3.0%	Nil	August-19
		SSgA			
MSCI World Index ex Australia Net Dividends Reinvested	Passive	SSgA	0.35%	Nil	January-12
		BlackRock			February-13
MSCI Australia	Passive	BCTL	0.50%	Nil	July-16
Alternative	Passive	BCTL	n/a	Nil	April-19

Operational Implementation

The actual allocation of the capital of the Fund to the various mandates as at the end of the quarter was as follows:

Table 5

Mandates	Actual weight in FMI		
	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Total Financial Market Investment	100%	100%	100%
Total Liquidity Portfolio	14.82%	14.92%	14.34%
BCTL 3 Month US Treasur Bill Index	3.98%	4.28%	5.60%
BCTL 1-3 year US Treasury Bonds Index	10.84%	10.64%	8.74%
Total Growth Portfolio	85.18%	85.08%	85.66%
Total Fixed Income	55.45%	54.21%	55.10%
BCTL 3-5 year US Treasury Bonds	38.43%	37.51%	38.02%
BCTL5-10 year US Treasury Bonds	8.48%	8.36%	8.51%
BIS Global Developed Market Sovereign Bond, Hedged	8.54%	8.34%	8.57%
Total Global Equities	29.73%	30.87%	30.57%
SSGA Equity Factor	3.73%	3.86%	3.82%
Schroders Equity Factor	3.73%	3.88%	3.86%
SSGA International Equity Passive	8.92%	9.27%	9.19%
BlackRock International Equity Passive	12.64%	13.14%	13.02%
BCTL Australia Equities Passive	0.71%	0.72%	0.68%

4. PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

This section contains a number of tables and charts describing the performance of the Petroleum Fund.

The following notes are intended to assist in interpreting this information:

- The percentage figures show the return of the Fund, or a part of it, which is compared with the performance of the corresponding benchmark. The benchmark represents the investment strategy established by the Minister and is used as a goal against which the performance of the actual investments is measured. The Minister's benchmarks for the Petroleum Fund are described earlier in this report.
- The excess is the difference (which may be negative) between the benchmark and the portfolio being measured. In general a portfolio and its benchmark will respond in a similar manner to movements in the financial markets. The excess occurs because the benchmark does not recognize transaction costs, and because the actual portfolio usually contains a different mix of financial instruments to the benchmark.

Global Portfolio

In the course of the quarter the Petroleum Fund balance was \$19,65 billion as follows:

Capital Account	\$'000
Opening book value (01 October 2021)	19,175,883
Receipts during the period	467,095
Transfer to General State Budget	-350,000
Investment Return	357,698
Closing book value (31 December 2021)	19,650,677

The Fund was invested as follows:

Assets	\$'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,379,487
Other Receivables	4,730
Financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss	18,280,950
Less:	
Payable for Securities Purchased	-12,662
Accounts Payable	-1,828
Total	19,650,677

The income for the quarter was as follows:

Table 8

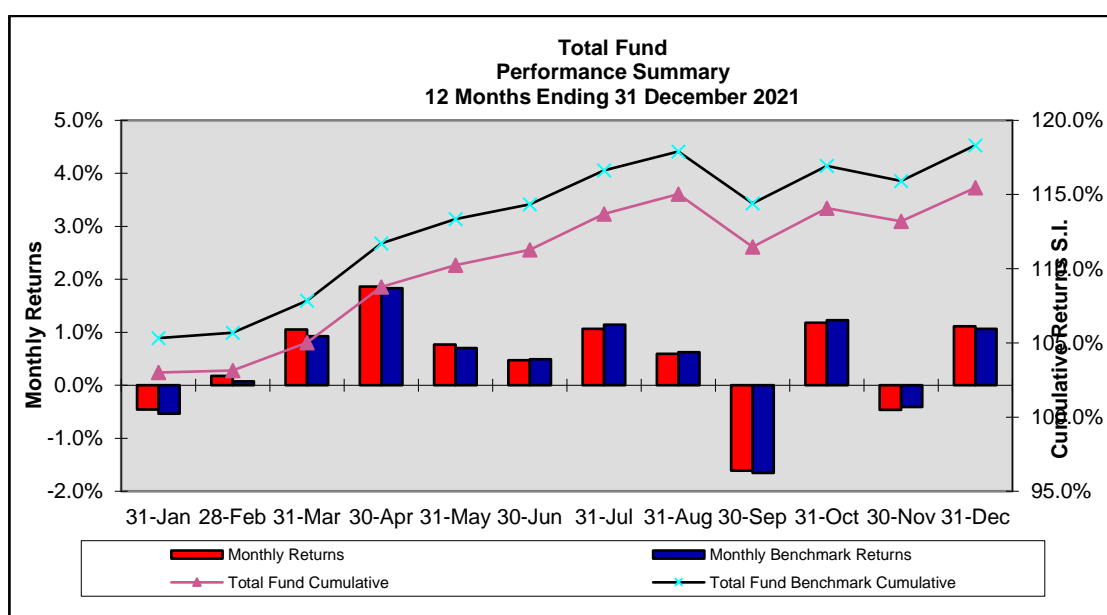
Income	\$'000
Interest income	37,368
Dividend income	19,474
Unit Trust distributions	879
Other Investment income	0
Net gains/(losses) on Financial Assets at fair value	303,455
Net foreign exchange gains/(losses)	565
Less:	
External manager, custody fees	-1,236
Central Bank management expenses	-1,946
IAB Expenses	-36
Other expenses	-99
Withholding taxes	-726
Total Investment Income	357,698

The following notes are intended to assist in interpreting this information:

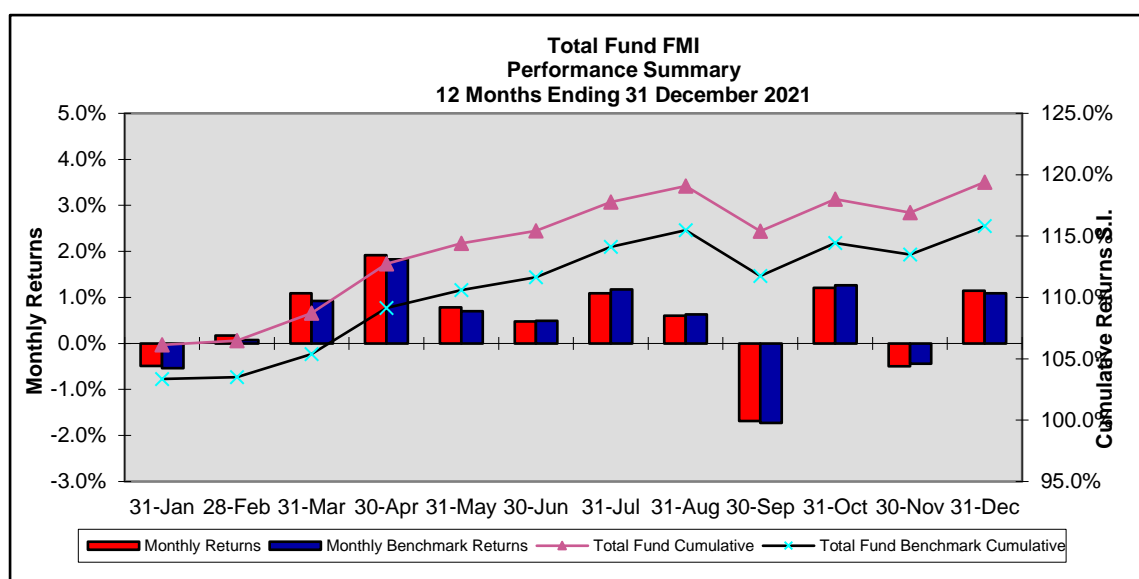
- Unit trust distribution is the income received from listed property investment entities.
- Other expenses relate to derivative trading costs which are deducted directly from the Fund.

The global Fund Performance of absolute and benchmark over the same period are shown in the following graph.

Graph 03 Total Fund Performance



Graph 04 Total Financial market Investments Performance



Liquidity Portfolio

The performance of the investments in the short-term liquidity portfolio for the quarter, including the performance of the managers responsible for those investments, was as follows:

Table 9

%	Qtr	FYTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inc
Liquidity Portfolio	-0.29	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	-0.26
Benchmark	-0.33	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	-0.33
Excess	0.04	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0.07
BCTL Cash Management	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.84	1.16	1.10
ICE BoA ML 3 Month US Treasury Bill Index	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.99	1.22	1.11
Excess	0.00	-0.03	-0.03	-0.16	-0.06	-0.01
BCTL ML 1-3 Year US Treasury Index	-0.46	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	-0.43
BoA Merrill Lynch 1-3 Years US Treasury Note Index	-0.53	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	-0.53
Excess	0.08	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0.10

Growth Portfolio

The performance of the investments in global developed market bonds and equities for the quarter, including,

The performance of the managers responsible for those investments, was as follows:

Table 10

	Qtr	FYTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inc
Growth Portfolio	2.35	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	2.28
Benchmark	2.26	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	2.20
<i>Excess</i>	0.09	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0.08
International Fixed Interest	-0.81	-2.25	-2.25	2.59	2.25	2.52
Benchmark	-0.66	-2.16	-2.16	2.77	2.33	2.54
<i>Excess</i>	-0.16	-0.10	-0.10	-0.18	-0.09	-0.02
BCTL 3-5 year US Treasury Bonds	-1.09	-2.09	-2.09	2.90	2.23	1.69
BoA Merrill Lynch 3-5 Years US Treasury Passive	-0.93	-1.96	-1.96	3.04	2.30	1.71
<i>Excess</i>	-0.16	-0.13	-0.13	-0.14	-0.06	-0.02
BCTL 5-10 year US Treasury Bonds	-0.45	-3.25	-3.25	n.a	n.a	-2.42
BoA Merrill Lynch 5-10 Years US Treasury Passive	-0.13	-2.97	-2.97	n.a	n.a	-2.10
<i>Excess</i>	-0.32	-0.28	-0.28	n.a	n.a	-0.32
BIS Global Treasury Developed Marked Hedged	-0.04	-2.91	-2.91	n.a	n.a	-0.90
Global Treasury Developed Market - Hedged	0.04	-2.75	-2.75	n.a	n.a	-0.87
<i>Excess</i>	-0.08	-0.17	-0.17	n.a	n.a	-0.03
International Equities	8.04	22.72	22.72	21.34	14.91	11.58
Benchmark	7.77	21.82	21.82	21.70	15.03	11.24
<i>Excess</i>	0.27	0.90	0.90	-0.36	-0.12	0.34
SSgA Equity Factor	8.80	24.36	24.36	n.a	n.a	17.64
MSCI ex. Australia Net Dividends Reinvested	7.88	22.09	22.09	n.a	n.a	19.92
<i>Excess</i>	0.92	2.27	2.27	n.a	n.a	-2.27
Schroders Equity Factor	8.88	28.09	28.09	n.a	n.a	20.25
MSCI ex. Australia Net Dividends Reinvested	7.88	22.09	22.09	n.a	n.a	19.92
<i>Excess</i>	1.00	6.00	6.00	n.a	n.a	0.33
SSGA International Equity Passive	7.94	22.03	22.03	21.70	15.22	12.61
MSCI ex. Australia Net Dividends Reinvested	7.88	22.09	22.09	21.88	15.17	12.38
<i>Excess</i>	0.06	-0.06	-0.06	-0.18	0.05	0.23
BlackRock International Equity Passive	7.96	22.11	22.11	21.87	15.34	12.27
MSCI ex. Australia Net Dividends Reinvested	7.88	22.09	22.09	21.88	15.17	12.03
<i>Excess</i>	0.07	0.02	0.02	-0.01	0.17	0.24
BCTL Australia Equity Passive	2.16	9.12	9.12	12.82	8.76	9.17
MXAU Australia Net Dividends Reinvested	2.10	9.41	9.41	13.50	9.07	9.46
<i>Excess</i>	0.06	-0.29	-0.29	-0.68	-0.31	-0.29

Private Debt Instrument for Petroleum Operations

The performance of the investment in Private debt instrument for Petroleum Operations for the quarter was as follows:

Table 11

	Qtr	FYTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inc
Private debt instrument for Petroleum Operations	1.11	4.50	4.50	n.a	n.a	4.50
Benchmark	1.11	4.50	4.50	n.a	n.a	4.50
<i>Excess</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	n.a	n.a	0.00

5. MANAGEMENT COSTS

A management fee of \$3,32 million for operational management costs was charged to the fund during the quarter. The fee covered the following services (in thousands \$):

Table 12

External Management and Custody expenses	1,236
Central Bank management expenses	1,946
IAB expenses	36
Other Expenses	99
Total Cost	3,317

6. TRANSFERS TO STATE BUDGET

According to Article 7.1 of the Petroleum Fund Law transfers from the Fund may only be made to the credit of a single State Budget account. An amount of \$350 million was transferred to the State Budget account during the quarter.

Table 13

In Thousand (\$)

Transfer October 2021	0
Transfer November 2021	-350,000
Transfer December 2021	0
Transfer for this Quarter	-350,000
Total transfers this fiscal year to December 2021	-1,147,873

7. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Banco Central de Timor-Leste asserts the following statements relating to compliance with the mandates given by the Minister

Qualifying Instruments

The Fund was invested in instruments within the investment universes specified in the various mandates at all times during the quarter.

Modified Duration

The modified duration of the Fund's fixed interest investment portfolios remained within the mandate during the quarter.

Tracking Error

The tracking error of each mandate in the Fund's investment portfolio was within the specified range during the quarter.

External Managers

External managers' investments were within their mandates during the quarter.

Internal Audit

The provisions of Article 22 of the Petroleum Fund law no. 9/2005 require the Central Bank's Internal Auditor to perform an audit of the Fund every six months. The Internal Auditor has performed an audit up to quarter ended 30 June 2021.

8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following financial information is presented for the purpose of assisting the Minister to review the quarterly performance of the Petroleum Fund as set out in this report. The figures have not been audited.

Table 14

BALANCE SHEET	December-21	December-20
In thousands of USD		
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,379,487	1,361,477
Receivables	4,730	17,281
Financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss	18,280,950	17,644,706
TOTAL ASSETS	19,665,167	19,023,463
LIABILITIES		
Payables for securities purchased	-12,662	-30,259
Accounts payable	-1,828	-2,590
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-14,490	-32,849
NET ASSETS	19,650,677	18,990,614
CAPITAL		
Opening Balance (January)	18,990,614	17,691,816
PF Law Art. 6.1 (a) Revenue receipts	400,528	145,510
PF Law Art. 6.1 (b) DA receipts	309,846	164,576
PF Law Art. 6.1 (e) Other receipts	9,223	16,064
PF Law Art 7.1 Transfers to State Budget	-1,147,873	-886,300
Income for the period	1,088,338	1,858,948
CAPITAL	19,650,677	18,990,614

Note: There has been reclassification of a private debt instrument from amortized cost method to fair value measurement.

Table 15

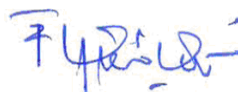
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS In thousands of USD	QUARTER		YEAR TO DATE	
	Dec-21	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-20
INVESTMENT INCOME				
Interest income	37,368	44,210	153,986	209,326
Dividend income	19,474	27,677	119,540	141,446
Trust income	879	1,481	4,061	5,749
Other investment income	0	4	16	523
Net gains/(losses) on Financial Assets at fair value	303,455	885,585	853,994	1,538,263
Net foreign exchange gains/(losses)	565	-504	-5,811	-11,192
Total Investment Income	361,741	958,452	1,125,786	1,884,114
EXPENSES				
External management, fees	1,236	3,642	7,276	8,815
Internal operational management fees	1,946	626	7,695	5,973
IAB Expenses	36	157	152	242
Other expenses	99	465	1,791	1,955
Total expenses	3,317	4,889	16,914	16,985
Profit before tax	358,424	953,563	1,108,872	1,867,129
Withholding taxes on investments	726	1,391	20,534	8,182
Profit/loss for the period	357,698	952,172	1,088,338	1,858,947
Other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Total comprehensive income for the period	357,698	952,172	1,088,338	1,858,947

Note: The accounting policies and method of computation used to prepare the above figures are the same as disclosed in the most recent annual financial statements of the Petroleum Fund.

Dili, 21 January 2022



Venancio Alves Maria
Deputy Governor



Abraão de Vasconcelos
Governor