

Belgian public open-ended investment funds Quarterly dashboard

Q1 2023

June 2023

1. Total Net Assets: Overview



While during the first three quarters of 2022, the total net assets of the Belgian public open-ended fund industry decreased, a small increase took place during the last quarter of 2022. At the end of 2022, net assets reached EUR 184.4 billion. Net assets increased by 4.9% during the first quarter of 2023, reaching a total of EUR 193.5 billion.

In the first quarter of 2023, the number of funds that are currently active further declined. At the end of March 2023, 613 funds were active, compared to 658 one year earlier, a decrease of 6.8%. The decline in the number of funds is a long-term trend.

2. Net Flows: Overview



FSMA



During the past year, net inflows (subscriptions minus redemptions) into the sector of Belgian public open-ended funds have reached EUR 2.6 billion.

While the second half of 2022 witnessed net outflows amounting to EUR 2 billion, this trend was reversed in the first quarter of 2023, with net inflows amounting to EUR 2.2 billion.

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3. Total Net Assets: Detail by Investment Policy

4. Net Flows: Detail by Investment Policy

Cumulative evolution of Net Flows in mixed and pension savings funds over the last year (1)	Net Flows during the last quarter
2.000M	
	596M
	133M
1.500M	Mixed Funds Pension Savings Funds

FSMA

Pension savings funds, which have the most widespread investor base across Belgian retail investors, have witnessed consistent net inflows during the last year, amounting to EUR 559 million in total. Net subscriptions in the first quarter of 2023 amounted to EUR 133 million, significantly below the amount of the preceding quarter (EUR 210 million).

For mixed funds, of which the vast majority are held by retail investors, the cumulative amount of quarterly net subscriptions gradually deteriorated during 2022. During the second and third quarter of 2022, the amount of net subscriptions was limited, while net redemptions were observed during the fourth quarter of 2022. Because there were more subscriptions than redemptions in the first quarter of 2023, mixed funds witnessed net inflows again, amounting to EUR 596 million. Over a twelve month period, this resulted in aggregate net inflows amounting to EUR 924 million.



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5. Total Net Assets: Detail by SFDR Category



6. Net Flows: Detail by SFDR Category

Cumulative evolution of Net Flows by SFDR Category over the last year (1)(2)	Net Flows during the last quarter
10.000M	430M 89M 1.647M
	●Article 8 ● Article 9 ● Not promoting environmental and social characteristics

FSMA



Both article 8 and article 9 funds, which have sustainable investment as their objective or promote environmental or social characteristics, have faced positive net flows during the last year (EUR 4 billion), of which the majority was in article 8 funds, promoting environmental or social characteristics (EUR 3.4 billion).

In comparison, funds that neither have sustainable investment as their objective nor promote environmental or social characteristics, have seen net outflows amounting to EUR 1.4 billion during the last twelve months. In contrast to previous quarters, these funds experienced significant net inflows during the first quarter of 2023 (EUR 1.6 billion).

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General

FSMA

Funds are identified at compartment level and therefore "fund" refers to a compartment of a collective investment scheme for those collective investment schemes with compartments and to the collective investment scheme itself when the collective investment scheme does not have compartments.

Statistics are presented for all funds for which the relevant data have been reported to the FSMA. The relevant data should be reported to the FSMA for all active funds. Active funds are funds for which the initial subscription period has been closed and which have not entered into a liquidation or merger process.

The relevant data reported to the FSMA are the total net assets of a fund, the amount of subscriptions and the amount of redemptions, all in base currency of the fund. Net flows into or out of a fund, also called net inflows or net outflows, are calculated as subscriptions minus redemptions.

The FSMA continues to work with investment funds, their management companies and the entities responsible for the fund administration to identify and correct filling errors. Further, the FSMA has employed certain assumptions in aggregating the data. Future adjustments to the methodology and amended fillings that change the underlying data could lead to changes in previously reported statistics.

All statistics are shown in million EUR (M). Data that have not been reported in EUR are converted to EUR based on the ECB reference rate. Statistics are shown on a quarterly frequency and net assets are calculated at the following dates: 25/03/22, 30/06/22, 30/09/22, 31/12/22 and 31/03/23.

All statistics are show on an aggregated basis, either for the entire sector of the Belgian publicly offered open-ended investment funds, or for specific categories of funds. There is no correction for net assets, subscriptions and redemptions of funds investing in other funds included in the sector.

The FSMA has classified funds into different categories based on their prospectus. The classification is based on their stated investment policy as of the last reporting day of the last quarter of the reporting period and their sustainability-related disclosures according to Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector (Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation or SFDR) as of the last reporting day of each quarter of the last year.

(1): In contrast to previous versions of this dashboard (until 2022 Q1), subscriptions and net flows do not include subscriptions linked to mergers of Belgian funds.
 (2): In contrast to previous versions of this dashboard (until 2022 Q1), the method to classify funds according to SFDR fund types has been updated to correctly reflect the impact of funds converting from one category to another. This has an impact on the distribution of net assets and net flows classified according to SFDR fund types for previous quarters.

Investment Policy Classification

Funds are classified into different categories based on the stated investment policy from their prospectus. Money market funds (MMFs) invest in short-term assets and have distinct or cumulative objectives offering returns in line with money market rates or preserving the value of the investment. They are authorised as MMF pursuant to article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1131 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on money market funds (MMF Regulation). Pension savings funds are funds that have to comply with the relevant investment restrictions from the Belgian fiscal legislation for pension savings funds. Bond funds are funds with the objective to invest principally in fixed income instruments and which are not authorised as MMFs. Equity funds are funds with the objective to invest principally in equity instruments. Mixed funds are funds with the objective to invest in a combination of equity instruments, fixed income instruments and/or cash instruments and which are not registered as a pension savings fund. Structured funds are funds which aim to provide investors, at certain predetermined dates, with algorithm-based payoffs that are linked to the performance, or to the realisation of price changes or other conditions, of financial assets, indices or reference portfolios or funds with similar features. Funds which cannot be classified into one of the previously mentioned categories are classified in a residual category. Funds of funds, which are funds with the objective to invest a substantial proportion of their asset in units of other funds, which are funds, which are funds with the objective to an exposure. Feeder funds, which are funds which invest at least 85% of their assets in units of their master fund, are classified according to the investment policy of their master fund.

)	Bond Funds Equity Funds	Money Market Funds	Pension Savings Funds
	Mixed Funds	Structured Funds	

SFDR Classification

Funds are classified into different categories based on their sustainability-related disclosures according to the SFDR. The SFDR imposes, among others, pre-contractual disclosure to end investors on sustainable investment objectives and on the promotion of environmental or social characteristics. In this dashboard funds are classified into one of three categories. The first category of funds, article 9 funds, have sustainable investment as their objective. These funds comply with article 9 of the SFDR. The second category of funds, article 8 funds, promote, among other characteristics, environmental or social characteristics, or a combination of those characteristics, provided that the companies in which the investments are made follow good governance practices. These funds comply with article 8 of the SFDR. The remaining funds do not comply with article 8 or 9 of the SFDR and do not have sustainable investment objectives, nor do they promote environmental or social characteristics.

Article 8	Article 9	Not promoting environmental and social characteristics
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