



2023

Annual Report



WCRA

WORKERS' COMPENSATION
REINSURANCE ASSOCIATION

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To Our Members

The Association improved its financial strength in an environment that saw rapid increases in interest rates to combat high but falling inflation. Our capital base increased over \$400 million due to strong investment returns and declining loss reserve liabilities.

Our diversified investment portfolio produced a 14 percent return in 2023 as the investment markets rebounded quickly from the prior year. The average return on our portfolio has been 10 percent over the past five years and over 9 percent since inception. Our loss reserve liabilities continued to decline as workers' compensation medical costs have stayed fairly stable despite the high inflation affecting the broader economy. The various cost-containment measures built into the Minnesota workers' compensation system have worked effectively throughout this tumultuous inflationary period.

The WCRA remains committed to collaboration and continuing education

by offering several events and training opportunities this past year. We co-hosted the Minnesota Work Comp Forum with the MWCIA in October, with valuable contributions from the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Commerce. The event was a resounding success with over 250 attendees representing the workers' compensation industry. We also continued to host quarterly injury management webinars covering more specialized topics for serious injuries.

We continue to take steps to create a more resilient future for the Association and the members we serve. We've refined our capital modeling and strategy to improve long-term financial stability. Over the past decade, we have taken actions to further diversify our investment portfolio with private assets, increase returns, and improve duration matching with our long-tail liabilities. Finally, we are undergoing a technology transformation to replace our member portals and internal enterprise systems to enhance functionality and improve efficiency.



James Heer
WCRA President and CEO



Terry Miller
WCRA Board Chair

Regulatory

The Association is regulated by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Nicole Blissenbach was officially confirmed as the new commissioner in January 2023. Jessica Stimac, the chief general counsel for Labor and Industry, was just named Assistant Commissioner for Workers' Compensation in February 2024, replacing Kate Daly. The Association worked productively with Commissioner Blissenbach and her staff on updates to the Association's key governing documents - the Plan of Operation and the Reinsurance Agreement. The updated documents became effective January 1, 2024.

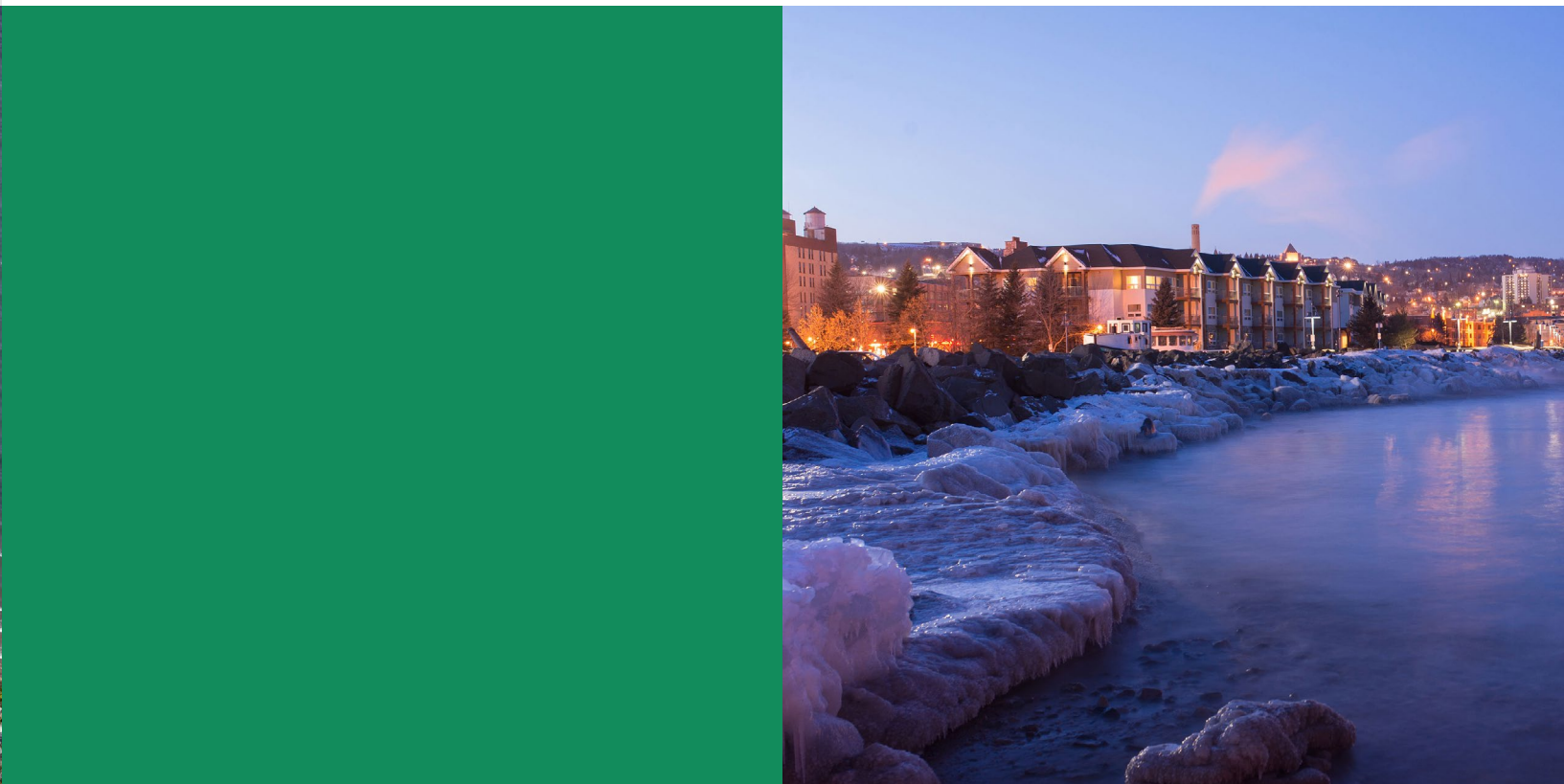
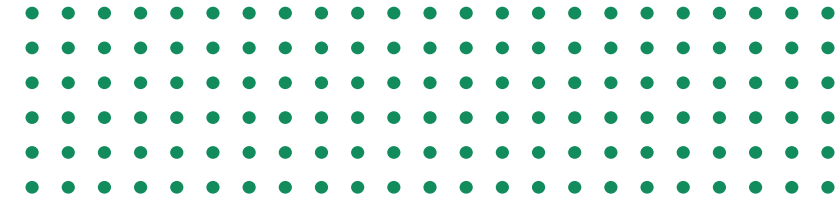
Board of Directors

Jean Machart was appointed to our board by Commissioner Blissenbach in 2023 as an employer representative. Ms. Machart is the Chief Operating Officer for Children's Cancer Research Fund and has extensive experience with digital transformations in the financial services industry. Welcome Jean!



Conclusion

Thank you for reviewing our annual report. The WCRA prides itself on being a mission-driven organization that provides exceptional service and contributes to a healthy Minnesota workers' compensation system by ensuring the availability and affordability of superior reinsurance protection for serious Minnesota workers' compensation injuries.

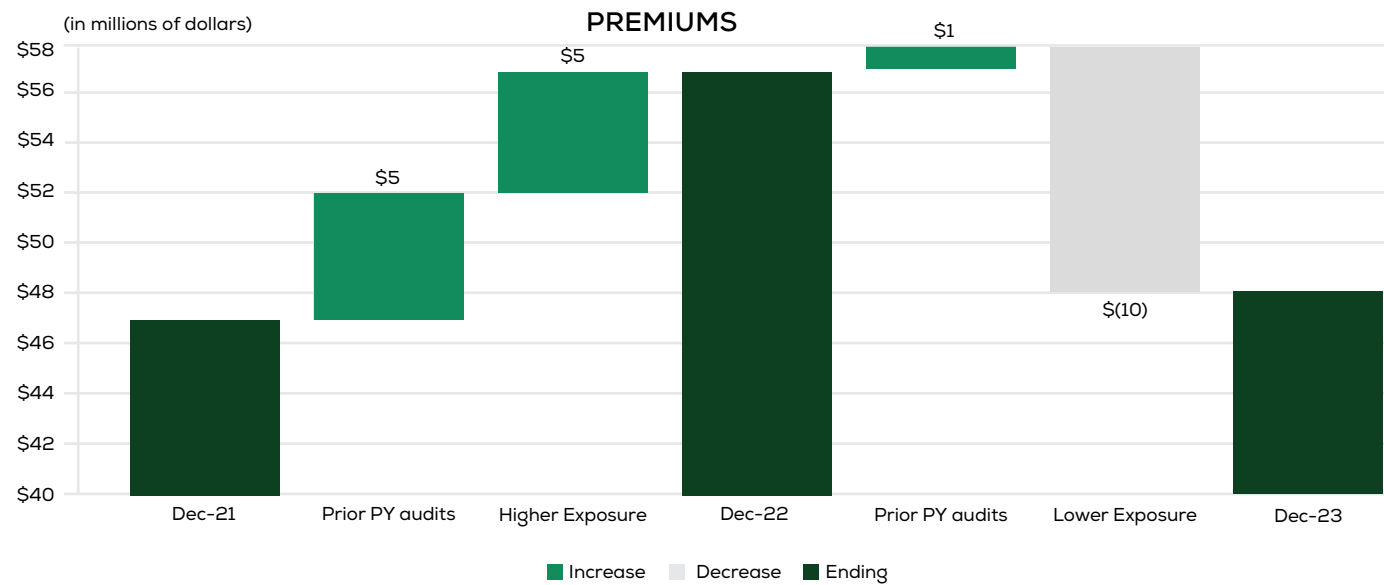


Financial Highlights

Premiums

Premiums decreased 16 percent from 2022 to 2023, primarily due to lower exposure in 2023. The non-recurring economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic increased 2022 premiums through Prior PY audits. Premiums are recognized within the Association's Comprehensive Income, Accumulated Capital, and Cash Flows.

(in millions of dollars)	2023	2022	Change
Premiums	\$ 48	\$ 57	\$ (9)



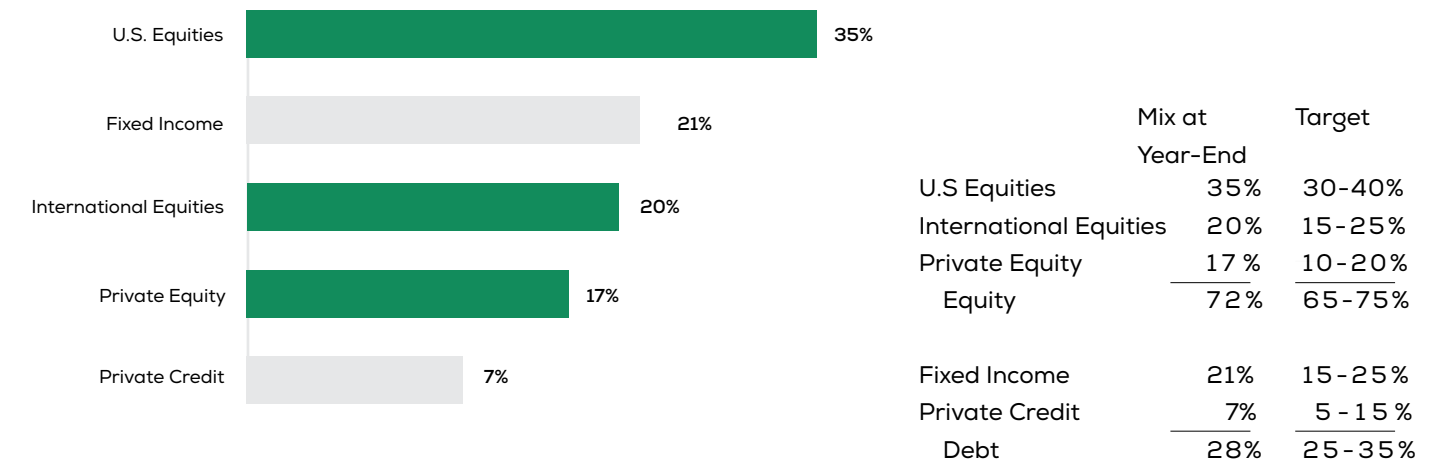
Investment Returns

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the investment portfolio increased 14 percent compared to a 12 percent decrease in 2022. The 2023 investment results were affected by broad market advances driven by slower inflation and an improvement in domestic supply chains. In contrast, the 2022 investment results were driven by broad decreases across the domestic and international equity and fixed-income portfolios. In 2023, domestic equities increased 26 percent, international equities increased 15 percent, and fixed income increased 6 percent. In 2022, domestic and international equities decreased 19 percent, and fixed income decreased 13 percent. Positive private investment returns muted the negative impact of the public market portfolio losses in 2022. Investment returns are recognized within the Association's Balance Sheet, Comprehensive Income and Accumulated Capital, and Cash Flows.

(in millions of dollars)	2023	2022	Change
Investment income, net of related expenses	\$ 46	\$ 40	\$ 6
Net realized investment gains	86	216	(130)
Change in unrealized gains (losses) on securities	269	(688)	957
Total Investment Results	\$ 401	\$ (432)	\$ 833

The Association manages its current asset allocation targets at the total equity and total debt ranges.

WCRA Investment Asset Allocation



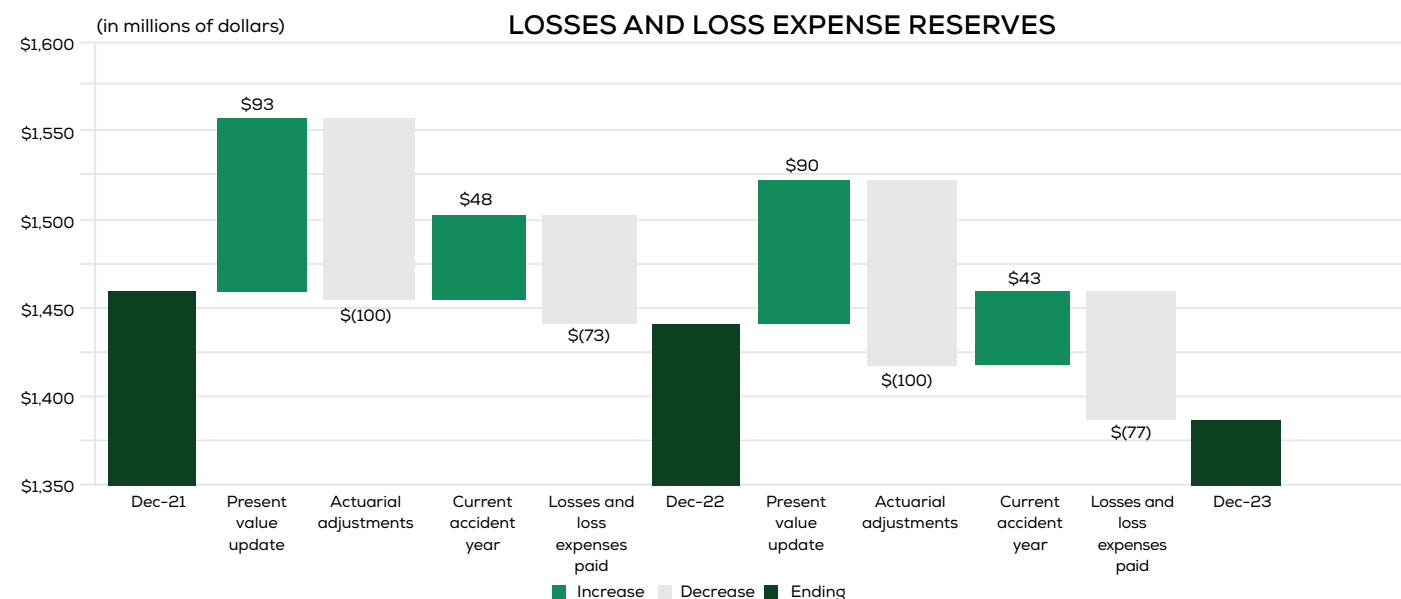
Losses and Loss Expenses

Total losses and loss expenses incurred decreased in 2023. The decrease was due to lower current accident year losses for 2023 versus 2022. These changes lowered overall expenses and led to an increase in the Association's Comprehensive Income and Accumulated Capital.

(in millions of dollars)	2023 ⁽¹⁾	2022 ⁽¹⁾	Change
Prior accident years:			
Present value update	\$ 90	\$ 93	\$ (3)
Actuarial adjustments	\$ (100)	\$ (100)	-
Total prior accident years	\$ (10)	\$ (7)	\$ (3)
Current accident year	\$ 45	\$ 49	\$ (4)
Total losses and loss expenses	\$ 35	\$ 42	\$ (7)

⁽¹⁾ The current accident year values for 2023 and 2022 are impacted by a rounding adjustment.

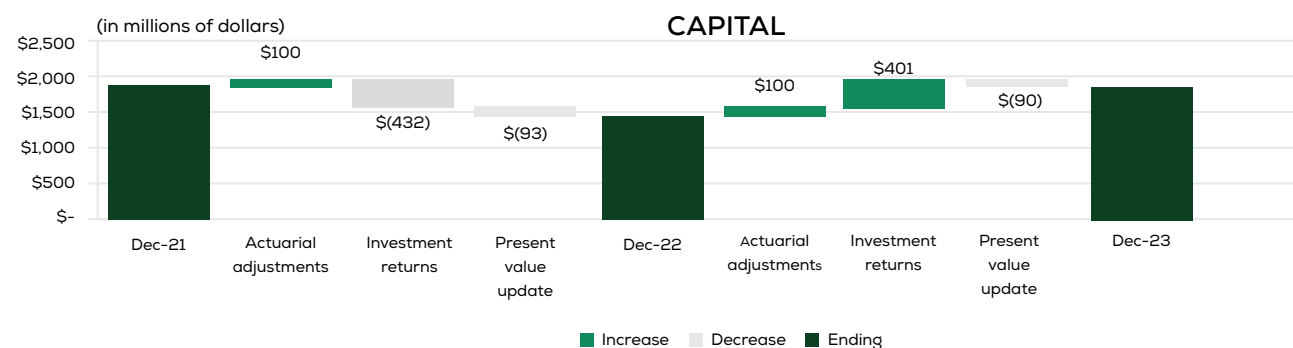
For both 2023 and 2022, the Association's investment earning's assumption and discount rate for loss reserves were 6.5 percent.



Capital

Accumulated capital is needed to maintain sufficient assets that provide for variations between expected and actual investment returns, between expected and actual claims experience, and other unexpected financial developments.

Investment returns drove positive accumulated capital growth in 2023 and a capital decline in 2022. Both years benefitted from actuarial adjustments due to favorable development on case incurred losses, which resulted in lower projected ultimate losses.



Cash Flow and Liquidity

The WCRA's cash flow provided by operating activities was \$191 million in 2023, down from \$616 million in 2022. The decrease was due to reduced sales of trading investments used to fund the surplus distribution payments in 2022. In 2023, the WCRA met all its financial obligations on time and continued to have substantial liquidity from its marketable investment portfolio. Management believes that the WCRA has the liquidity necessary to meet its financial obligations on a timely basis for the foreseeable future.

Select Summary of Key Performance Indicators

(in millions of dollars)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Earned Premiums	\$ 48	\$ 57	\$ 47	\$ 53	\$ 51
Total Income ⁽¹⁾	\$ 488	(\$381)	\$ 479	\$ 509	\$ 554
Net Income (loss) ⁽¹⁾	\$ 407	(\$427)	\$ 435	\$ 506	\$ 498
Total Investments	\$ 3,448	\$ 2,982	\$ 4,017	\$ 3,546	\$ 3,114
Losses and Loss Expenses Liability	\$ 1,387	\$ 1,430	\$ 1,462	\$ 1,489	\$ 1,584
Accumulated Capital	\$ 1,861	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,915	\$ 1,406
% Capital to Losses and Loss Expenses	134%	101%	128%	129%	89%
Losses and Loss Expenses Paid	\$ 78	\$ 73	\$ 67	\$ 94	\$ 77
# of Claims Paid	3,179	2,941	3,087	3,371	3,357
Annual Investment Return	14.1%	(12.5%)	16.4%	15.5%	20.3%
Assumed Rate of Return	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%

WCRA Leadership

Board Members

Insurer Representatives

Terrence Miller, Chair

Committees: Audit and Financial Compliance, Personnel
Employer: SFM

Richard Long

Committee: Member Advisory
Employer: Western National Insurance Group

Self-insurer Representatives

Daniel Greensweig

Committee: Investment
Employer: League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust

Employer Representatives

Jean Machart

Committee: IT Advisory Committee
Employer: Children's Cancer Research Fund

Employee Representatives

William McCarthy

Committees: Member Advisory, Personnel
Employer: Retired

Statutory Appointments

Paul Moore

Committee: Audit and Financial Compliance
Employer: Minnesota Management and Budget

Public Representative

Ken Peterson

Committees: Actuarial, Investment
Employer: Retired

Sheila Brown, Vice-Chair

Committees: Audit and Financial Compliance, IT Advisory
Employer: The Travelers Companies

Samuel Nolley

Committees: Actuarial, IT Advisory
Employer: Arch Insurance Company

James Oukrop

Committees: IT Advisory, Member Advisory, Personnel
Employer: HealthPartners

Allison Waggoner

Committee: Personnel
Employer: DCI Inc

Edward Reynoso

Committee: Personnel
Employer: Teamsters Joint Council 32

Jill Schurtz

Committee: Investment
Employer: Minnesota State Board of Investment

Senior Management

James Heer

President and CEO

Alison Khan

Vice President - Actuarial

Natalie Haefner

Vice President Claims and Medical Management

Daniel Lovhaug

Vice President IT and Security Officer

David McKee

Vice President and CFO

Cynthia Smith

Vice President of Operations and Corporate Secretary



**Workers' Compensation
Reinsurance Association**
Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association
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December 31, 2023 and 2022

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Report of Independent Auditors

To the Board of Directors of Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association (the "Association"), which comprise the balance sheets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of operations, comprehensive income and accumulated capital and cash flows for the years then ended, including the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Association and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Association's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with US GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material

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if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with US GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Association's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the supplemental information on incurred and paid loss development included in Note 8 Liabilities for Losses and Loss Expenses be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Financial Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Minneapolis, MN
March 7, 2024

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Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association
Balance Sheets
December 31, 2023 and 2022

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023	2022
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 287,344	\$ 155,049
Investments, at fair value	3,160,381	2,826,949
Uncollected reinsurance premiums	175	394
Due from securities brokers	24,148	6,618
Other assets	10,809	7,210
Property and equipment, net	2,093	3,630
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,484,950</u>	<u>\$ 2,999,850</u>
Liabilities and Accumulated Capital		
Losses and loss expenses	\$ 1,386,711	\$ 1,430,321
Due to securities brokers	235,402	116,628
Surplus distribution payable	26	30
Accounts payable and other liabilities	2,040	2,536
Total liabilities	<u>1,624,179</u>	<u>1,549,515</u>
Accumulated retained earnings from operations	1,694,152	1,284,266
Accumulated other comprehensive income	166,619	166,069
Accumulated capital	<u>1,860,771</u>	<u>1,450,335</u>
Total liabilities and accumulated capital	<u>\$ 3,484,950</u>	<u>\$ 2,999,850</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association
Statements of Operations, Comprehensive Income and Accumulated Capital
Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023	2022
Income		
Premiums earned	\$ 48,468	\$ 56,509
Investment income, net of related expenses	45,578	40,480
Net realized investment gains	85,731	216,139
Net unrealized investment gains (losses)	268,393	(694,611)
Other	8	8
Total income	<u>448,178</u>	<u>(381,475)</u>
Expenses		
Losses and loss expenses	35,352	41,991
Operating and administrative expenses	5,388	3,690
Total expenses	<u>40,740</u>	<u>45,681</u>
Net income (loss)	407,438	(427,156)
Other comprehensive income		
Change in net unrealized gains (losses) on alternative investments and change in pension benefit obligation	550	2,930
Comprehensive income (loss)	<u>407,988</u>	<u>(424,226)</u>
Accumulated capital, beginning of year	1,450,335	1,874,551
Surplus (distribution) adjustment	2,448	10
Accumulated capital, end of year	<u>\$ 1,860,771</u>	<u>\$ 1,450,335</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association
Statements of Cash Flows
Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023	2022
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income (loss)	\$ 407,438	\$ (427,156)
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	107	106
Impairment of enterprise system project-in-progress	2,878	-
Realized (gain) on investments	(85,731)	(216,139)
Unrealized (gain) or loss on investments	(268,393)	694,611
Sales and maturities / (purchases) of trading investments, net	77,671	569,125
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Due to / from securities brokers	101,909	27,629
Losses and loss expenses	(43,610)	(31,434)
Accounts payable and other liabilities	(496)	(1,795)
Uncollected reinsurance premiums and other assets	(932)	687
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>190,841</u>	<u>615,634</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Funding of alternative investments	(140,479)	(156,872)
Distributions received from alternative investments	83,385	93,682
Additions to property, plant, and equipment	(1,448)	(770)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(58,542)</u>	<u>(63,960)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from tenant improvement allowance	-	469
Surplus distribution payments	(4)	(599,960)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	<u>(4)</u>	<u>(599,491)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	132,295	(47,817)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	<u>155,049</u>	<u>202,866</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 287,344</u>	<u>\$ 155,049</u>
Non-cash financing activities not included above		
Recoverable surplus distributions	<u>\$ 2,448</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

1. General Information

Description of Association

In 1979, the Minnesota Legislature created the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association (the "Association" or the "WCRA"), a nonprofit, unincorporated association, to provide reinsurance protection for serious workers' compensation losses to all primary workers' compensation insurance providers and self-insured employers in the state of Minnesota. The Association provides indemnification to its members for workers' compensation losses paid in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Chapter 176 that exceed a member's retention limit.

Operating procedures are prescribed by Minnesota Statutes Section 79.34-79.40, as amended (the "Enabling Act"), and the Association's Plan of Operation (the "Plan"). Amendments to the Plan must be approved by the Association's Board of Directors (the "Board") and the Minnesota Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

Membership

All insurance carriers authorized to underwrite workers' compensation risks in Minnesota and all employers, including political sub-divisions, authorized to self-insure their workers' compensation liabilities in Minnesota must be members of the Association.

Related Party Transactions

As required by Minnesota statute, the Association is governed by a 13-member Board, including the Minnesota Commissioner of Management and Budget and the executive director of the State Board of Investment or their designees; five members appointed by the Minnesota Commissioner of Labor and Industry (two employer representatives, two employee representatives, and a public member); four insurer representatives elected by insurer members from candidates approved by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry; and two self-insurer representatives elected by self-insurer members from candidates approved by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. The Association may engage in transactions in the ordinary course of business between the Association and its Board, or with other companies whose directors or officers may also serve on the Board for the Association. The Association carries out these transactions as described in the Plan. In 2023, the Association collected \$15 million in premiums and provided \$19 million in claim reimbursements to related party organizations. In 2022, the Association collected \$18 million in premiums from related party organizations and provided \$19 million in claim reimbursements to related party organizations.

Retention Limits

For both 2023 and 2022, members selected one of four maximum per-loss occurrence retention limits, which were \$500,000, \$1,000,000, \$2,000,000, or \$5,000,000. The Board determines retention limits, subject to the Minnesota Commissioner of Labor and Industry approval. Minnesota workers' compensation losses incurred by members in excess of the retention limit selected are reinsured by the Association.

Premiums

The estimated, aggregate annual premiums billed by the Association to members in each calendar year are calculated to cover the following estimated costs:

- The present value of the estimated ultimate liability for members' incurred losses above the selected retention limit.
- Operating and administrative expenses of the Association and loss expenses incurred by the Association. (Loss expenses incurred by members on reinsured claims are not recoverable from the Association.)

Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

- Charges for the current year or a prior year, as determined by the Board, for any reinsurance coverage purchased by the Association.
- Adjustments due to excess or deficient premiums, if any, for prior years as determined by the Board.

Estimated premiums are billed to the individual members based on (1) the rate for the member's selected retention limit; (2) the member's most recent actual exposure base available at the beginning of the annual billing cycle, adjusted for a factor which represents the estimated difference between the member's most recent actual exposure base and the actuarially projected exposure base. Premium adjustments are calculated and billed or credited to members the following year.

For insurer members, the exposure base is the earned premium at the Association's standard earned premium reporting level reported in the Association's Annual Financial Call multiplied by 1.00 in 2023 and 1.20 in 2022.

For self-insurer members, the exposure base is calculated from Minnesota's covered payroll, multiplied by pure premium base rates as published by the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Insurers Association (MWCIA), multiplied by 1.00 in 2023 and 1.20 in 2022, multiplied by an experience rating modification factor.

In 2023, the pure premium modification factor changed from 1.20 to 1.00. The historical factor of 1.20 was determined in the early 1980s to normalize exposure when the MWCIA converted from producing rates to producing partially developed and partially trended loss costs (pure premium base rates). For 2023 and subsequent years, MWCIA will include loss expense in pure premium base rates, develop losses to ultimate, and trend losses to the upcoming policy period in published rates.

Going Concern

Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-15 requires disclosure of conditions that give rise to substantial doubt about a company's ability to continue as a going concern within one year from the date of the financial statement issuance. Management of the Association has determined that no conditions or events raise substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern within one year after these statements are issued.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Association invests in stocks and bonds of U.S. and foreign companies, U.S. government securities, corporate debt securities, mortgage-backed securities, and alternative investments. The investment viability and return of funds is dependent on, among other factors, the financial results of the underlying issuers. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investments, it is reasonably possible that changes in the fair value will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect future financial statements.

The process of estimating the liability for losses and loss expenses, by its very nature, involves substantial uncertainty. The level of uncertainty is influenced by factors such as the economic assumptions associated with

Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

workers' compensation reinsurance. Ultimate, actual payments for losses and loss expenses could be significantly different from the estimates.

The Association holds cash on deposit balances throughout the fiscal year that exceeds the FDIC insurable limits for banking institutions.

Comprehensive Income

The Association follows the reporting concept of "Comprehensive Income," which requires reporting comprehensive income and net income from operations. Comprehensive income is a more inclusive financial reporting methodology that includes disclosing certain financial information that historically has not been recognized in the calculation of net income. Comprehensive income for the Association includes net income and other comprehensive income, which includes unrealized gains and losses on alternative investments and the change in the funded status of the defined benefit pension plan and other postretirement benefits.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on deposit, shares in money market funds, and short-term debt securities with original maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase.

Derivatives

Throughout the course of the year, the Association utilizes an overlay manager for its cash balances to ensure that those balances are earning a comparable amount to invested assets, with the goal of providing investment returns that mirror the asset allocation as established by the investment policy. The overlay manager employs the use of exchange-traded futures in its overlay program.

In accordance with ASC 815, Derivatives and Hedging, all of the exchange-traded futures are subject to a contractual agreement that provides for the net settlement of all contracts through a single payment, in a single currency, in the event of default on or termination of any one contract. As such, the Association has elected to report the fair value of its derivative transactions on a net basis by counterparty. Exchange-traded futures settle daily; therefore, at most, the one-day change in all open positions on the final day of the fiscal period is immaterial.

Investments

Trading account assets represent equity and debt securities carried at fair value. Interest and dividend income from these investments is reported in "Investment income, net of related expenses." Realized gains and losses for these investments are reported in "Net realized investment gains (losses)." Unrealized gains and losses for these investments are reported in "Net unrealized investment gains (losses)."

Alternative investments are recorded at their most recently available net asset valuation ("NAV") and adjusted for capital contributions and distributions. The change in net assets related to alternative investments is presented as realized and unrealized gains or losses based on the NAV of each limited partnership as determined by the general partner. The Association reviews and evaluates information provided by the general partners and has determined such values are reasonable estimates for fair value.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") has established a hierarchy for fair value measurements that distinguishes between inputs based on market data from independent sources (observable inputs) and a reporting entity's internal assumptions based upon the best information available when external market data is limited or unavailable (unobservable inputs). Three levels of inputs are used to measure the fair value of investments:

Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity could access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Observable inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs supported by little or no market activity and significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

Due From / Due To Securities Brokers

The due from securities brokers account tracks receivable balances owed from securities brokers for bonds or stocks that have been sold or have matured but have not yet settled into the Association's investment account. The due to securities brokers account is used to track payables that are due to securities brokers for bonds or stocks that have been purchased but have not yet settled into the Association's investment account.

Lease

The Association has an operating lease for its corporate office. The Association determines if an arrangement is a lease at inception or modification. Right-of-use ("ROU") assets represent the Association's right to use an underlying asset for the lease term, and corresponding lease liabilities represent our obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease. ROU assets and lease liabilities are recognized at the commencement date based on the present value of lease payments over the lease term. The Association uses a commercial borrowing rate to determine the present value of future lease payments. The commercial borrowing rate is determined at the lease commencement date using a secured rate for a term similar to the lease period. Certain lease incentives, such as free rent periods, are recorded as a reduction of the ROU asset. Lease costs for operating ROU assets are recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Operating ROU assets are reflected in other assets. Operating lease liabilities are reflected in accounts payable and other liabilities.

Property and Equipment

All acquisitions of property and equipment with useful lives of three years or more and costs of \$3,000 or more, or multiple assets whose individual cost is less than \$3,000 but have aggregate costs of \$50,000 or more are capitalized at their acquisition cost. Depreciation on property and equipment is calculated using the straight-line method over the asset's estimated useful life, which ranges from three to fifteen years. Upon the sale or retirement of property and equipment, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is credited or charged to operations.

Determination of Required Capital Objective

After the close of each fiscal year or at other times deemed appropriate, the Board reports whether capital or a deficit exists based on the annual audited year-end financial statements. Capital is needed to maintain sufficient assets to provide for variations between expected and actual investment returns, variations between expected and actual claims experience, and other unexpected financial developments. In determining whether to declare a surplus distribution or an assessment, the Board evaluates the capital or deficit relative to the Capital Threshold or Deficit Threshold defined in the Premium Operating Rule.

Surplus distributions or assessments may be declared by the Board and distributed to or collected from members or policyholders pursuant to the Enabling Act's provisions and the Plan's applicable provisions. See note 11 for more information.

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Losses and Loss Expenses

In 2023 and 2022, the liability for losses and loss expenses represented the present value, discounted using a 6.5 percent annual rate (the Association's expected long-term return on investments) of the estimated liability for losses and loss expenses of the Association as determined by actuarial projections using historical pricing simulations and the payment and case reserve experience of the Association.

The discount rate selection is based on a long-term investment horizon, corresponding to the nature of the Association's losses and loss expenses liabilities.

Premium

Estimated premiums are billed on an annual basis for the current fiscal year. These premiums are for the current fiscal year's reinsurance coverage. Revenue is earned ratably over the policy term. Annual adjustments, where exposure is trued up from estimated to actual, and audits are performed after the end of the policy term. Both activities can lead to earned premium adjustments, which are recognized in the financials in the period they are determined.

Newly Adopted Accounting Standard

Cloud Computing Contracts and Internal Use Software

On August 29, 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-15, which amends ASC 350-40 to address a customer's accounting for implementation costs incurred in a cloud computing arrangement ("CCA") that is a service contract. ASU 2018-15 aligns a customer's accounting for implementation costs incurred in a CCA that is a service contract with the requirements for capitalizing implementation costs incurred to develop or obtain internal-use software (and hosting arrangements that include an internal-use software license). Under ASU 2018-15, an entity would apply ASC 350-40 to determine which implementation costs related to a hosting arrangement that is a service contract should be capitalized. For example, while an entity would expense costs incurred in the preliminary-project and post-implementation-operation stages, it would capitalize certain costs incurred during the application-development stage, and it might be able to capitalize certain costs during the post-implementation-operation stage that result in enhanced functionality to the hosted solution.

The Association anticipates having internal-use software and cloud hosting arrangements subject to the Accounting Standards Update. Costs affiliated with the enterprise system currently being developed have been, and are, accounted for in accordance with the update. Costs affiliated with cloud hosting arrangements have been accounted for in accordance with the update.

See note 7 for more information.

Future Accounting Pronouncements

The Association evaluates Accounting Standards Updates that may have a future impact on financial statements and disclosures. No current pronouncements, which have been finalized but are not yet effective, are expected to affect the Association in future years.

Subsequent Events

The Association has evaluated events that occurred from December 31, 2023, through March 7, 2024, when the financial statements were available to be issued. The Association has not identified any events that require adjustment or disclosure in these financial statements.

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3. Investments at Fair Value

The following is a summary of the Association's investments, at fair value:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023	2022
Trading account assets	\$ 2,366,107	\$ 2,122,870
Alternative investments	794,274	704,079
Total investments	<u>\$ 3,160,381</u>	<u>\$ 2,826,949</u>

The following table sets forth the composition of the Association's trading account assets, as of the dates indicated:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023		2022	
	Cost/ Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Cost/ Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Equity securities	\$ 837,098	\$ 1,721,188	\$ 832,080	\$ 1,480,312
Debt securities	683,969	644,919	713,868	642,558
Total trading account assets	<u>\$ 1,521,067</u>	<u>\$ 2,366,107</u>	<u>\$ 1,545,948</u>	<u>\$ 2,122,870</u>

The Association has no trading account exposure to regional conflicts in Eastern Europe or the Middle East.

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of trading account assets on December 31, 2023, by contractual maturity, are shown below:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$ 22,959	\$ 22,738
Due after one year through five years	124,501	120,869
Due after five years through ten years	126,382	120,596
Due after ten years	112,357	88,403
	386,199	352,606
Equity securities	837,098	1,721,188
Residential mortgage-backed securities	237,360	233,505
Commercial mortgage-backed securities	30,169	28,678
Asset-backed securities	30,241	30,130
Total trading account assets, at fair value	<u>\$ 1,521,067</u>	<u>\$ 2,366,107</u>

Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties. Residential mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage-backed securities, and asset-backed securities are not due at a single maturity date. As such, these securities and equity securities were not included in the maturity distribution.

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A summary of debt securities by rating was as follows:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	December 31, 2023		
	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value	Percent of Total Fair Value
AAA	\$ 479,661	\$ 451,100	70%
AA	13,594	13,104	2%
A	53,723	50,256	8%
BBB	124,779	118,886	18%
Below investment grade	12,212	11,573	2%
Total debt securities	<u>\$ 683,969</u>	<u>\$ 644,919</u>	<u>100%</u>

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	December 31, 2022		
	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value	Percent of Total Fair Value
AAA	\$ 473,815	\$ 432,118	67%
AA	12,669	11,557	2%
A	64,585	56,298	9%
BBB	136,929	119,046	18%
Below investment grade	25,870	23,539	4%
Total debt securities	<u>\$ 713,868</u>	<u>\$ 642,558</u>	<u>100%</u>

Gross realized gains of \$221.5 million and \$472.9 million, and gross realized losses of \$135.8 million and \$256.8 million, were realized on sales of investments during 2023 and 2022, respectively. Net investment income and net realized investment gains (losses) during the years ended December 31, 2023, and 2022 are summarized below.

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	Net Investment Income		Net Realized Gains (Losses)	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,895	\$ 1,957	\$ (1,112)	\$ (35)
Equity securities	22,136	22,178	63,688	238,445
Debt securities	19,049	17,700	(18,006)	(44,510)
Alternative investments	5,918	6,844	32,940	36,382
Derivatives	-	-	8,221	(14,143)
	53,998	48,679	<u>\$ 85,731</u>	<u>\$ 216,139</u>
Investment expenses	(8,420)	(8,199)		
	<u>\$ 45,578</u>	<u>\$ 40,480</u>		

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Other comprehensive income in 2023 and 2022 is comprised of the change in unrealized gains on alternative investments arising during the year and the net gain (loss) and other changes in plan assets and benefit obligations from the defined benefit pension plan and other postretirement benefits as follows:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023	2022
Change in net unrealized gains on alternative investments	\$ 174	\$ 1,686
Net gain (loss) and other changes in plan assets and benefit obligations - defined benefit pension plan and other postretirement benefits	376	1,244
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 550	\$ 2,930

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023	2022
Accumulated other comprehensive income consists of		
Net unrealized gains on alternative investments	\$ 166,334	\$ 166,160
Accumulated other comprehensive income - defined benefit pension plan and other postretirement benefits	285	(91)
Total accumulated other comprehensive income	\$ 166,619	\$ 166,069

4. Fair Value Measurements

ASC 820 defines fair value as the exit price that would be received for an asset in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset. See Note 2 for the three levels of inputs that may be used in measuring fair value. The Association has no assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis on December 31, 2023, or 2022.

Trading account assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 287,344	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 287,344
Equity securities	1,334,792	386,396	-	1,721,188
Corporate debt securities	-	161,056	-	161,056
U.S. government and agencies obligations	-	172,018	-	172,018
Residential mortgage backed securities	-	233,505	-	233,505
Commercial mortgage backed securities	-	28,678	-	28,678
Asset backed securities	-	30,130	-	30,130
Foreign government bonds and obligations	-	9,622	-	9,622
State and municipal obligations	-	9,910	-	9,910
Total trading account assets, at fair value	\$ 1,334,792	\$ 1,031,315	\$ -	\$ 2,366,107

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<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 155,049	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 155,049
Equity securities	1,141,391	338,921	-	1,480,312
Corporate debt securities	-	180,492	-	180,492
U.S. government and agencies obligations	-	197,522	-	197,522
Residential mortgage backed securities	-	188,581	-	188,581
Commercial mortgage backed securities	-	29,429	-	29,429
Asset backed securities	-	22,648	-	22,648
Foreign government bonds and obligations	-	10,838	-	10,838
State and municipal obligations	-	13,048	-	13,048
Total trading account assets, at fair value	\$ 1,141,391	\$ 981,479	\$ -	\$ 2,122,870

The association had no Level 3 assets to report as of December 31, 2023, or 2022.

5. Alternative Investments at Net Asset Value

The following table includes information on our investments in certain other invested assets, including private equity and private debt funds that calculate net asset value per share. For these investments, which are measured at fair value on a recurring basis, we use the NAV per share as an expedient to measure fair value. These investments are in closed-ended funds investing primarily in illiquid assets. Investors do not have the right to redeem their investment at any time before the liquidation of the fund. Private funds are generally expected to have 10-year lives at their inception, but these lives may be extended at the fund manager's discretion, typically in one- or two-year increments. On December 31, 2023, assuming the average original expected lives of 10 years for the funds, twenty-two percent of the total fair value using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) presented below would have expected remaining lives between seven and 10 years.

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023	2022
Capital Committed	\$ 1,270,078	\$ 1,206,376
Unfunded Commitments	\$ 472,647	\$ 533,438
Net Asset Value	\$ 794,274	\$ 704,079

As of December 31, 2023, the Association has made 46 partnership commitments totaling \$1.3 billion. As of December 31, 2023, the net asset value of these alternative investments totaled \$794 million, \$166 million of unrealized appreciation, and \$797 million in funded commitments. As of December 31, 2022, the Association has made 42 partnership commitments totaling \$1.2 billion. As of December 31, 2022, the net asset value of these alternative investments totaled \$704 million, \$166 million of unrealized appreciation, and \$673 million in funded commitments. Alternatives are recorded at their most recently available net asset valuation and adjusted for capital contributions and distributions.

Alternative assets are primarily related to the following asset classes:

Private Debt

This class targets the ownership of higher-yielding corporate, physical (excluding real estate), or financial assets held within a private "lock-up" fund partnership structure. Credit exposure can be either corporate (repayment comes from cash flows generated by an operating company) or asset (repayment comes from cash flows generated by a physical or esoteric asset). The private credit landscape includes business development

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companies ("BDCs"), mezzanine funds, distressed funds, special situations funds, direct lending funds, resource royalty payments, and various other strategies like structured credit vehicles or multi-credit strategy funds.

Private Equity

This class more broadly involves making investments through limited partnership structures and is illiquid in nature. Investments are typically made in unlisted companies (companies not traded on public exchanges), or in some cases, listed companies are purchased and taken private. Private equity encompasses a broad array of buyout and growth equity strategies and securities. Investments may be in any sector of the economy or geography in the United States and globally, though funds will typically specialize in specific industries and regions.

Private Market Secondaries

This class buys and sells pre-existing investor investments in private equity, resources, real estate, and other alternative investment funds and is illiquid in nature. The market provides liquidity to investors, allowing them to sell positions in alternative investment funds. Sellers of alternative investment funds sell the investments in the fund and their remaining unfunded commitments to the funds.

6. Lease Commitment

On December 31, 2023, and 2022, the right-of-use asset balance was \$363 thousand and \$389 thousand, respectively, recorded within Other assets on the Balance Sheet. On December 31, 2023, and 2022, the lease liability balance was \$780 thousand and \$843 thousand, respectively, recorded within Accounts payable and other liabilities on the Balance Sheet. This lease consists of a real estate operating lease that is amortized on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease, which expires in October 2032. For the years ending December 31, 2023, and 2022, operating lease costs were \$101 thousand each year. Lease costs are recorded in Operating and administrative expenses in the Statement of Operations.

Future minimum lease payments and the remaining term under the operating lease, as well as the discount rate, are as follows:

(in thousands of dollars)

For the years ending December 31:

2024	\$ 98
2025	100
2026	102
2027	105
2028	107
Thereafter	418
Total undiscounted lease payments	930
Less: Present value adjustment	150
Net lease liability reported as of December 31, 2023	\$ 780

Remaining lease term	105 mos.
Discount rate	4.0%

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7. Property and Equipment

The balances of the major classes of depreciable assets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are as follows:

(in thousands of dollars)

	2023	2022
Computer hardware and software	\$ 1,729	\$ 1,808
Enterprise system project in-progress	-	2,878
Member portals in-progress	1,334	-
Furniture and equipment	175	226
Leasehold Improvements	790	781
Managed Services	6	6
Total	4,034	5,699
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,941)	(2,069)
Net property and equipment	\$ 2,093	\$ 3,630

Enterprise system project in-progress

In 2019, the Association began a project to develop an enterprise system. Following challenges during the initial development phase, a decision was made in 2022 to pause the project. After extensive research throughout 2023, the Association determined that an alternative customized solution would be developed and that the artifacts developed and capitalized during the initial phases of the project were not expected to provide any service potential. According to the guidance in ASC 350-40-35-1, an impairment shall be recognized when one of the following events or changes in circumstances occurs related to computer software being developed or currently in use indicating that the carrying amount may not be recoverable:

- Internal-use computer software is not expected to provide substantive service potential.
- A significant change occurs in the extent or manner in which the software is used or is expected to be used.
- A significant change to the software program is made or will be made.
- Costs of developing or modifying internal-use computer software significantly exceed the amount originally expected to develop or modify the software.

An evaluation of the project determined that the criteria described above applied to the enterprise system project in-progress, resulting in a \$2.9 million impairment charge recorded in the 2023 Operating and Administrative Expenses in the Statements of Operations, Comprehensive Income, and Accumulated Capital. The impairment charge will be excluded from the Association's pricing and rate-setting efforts in subsequent years.

8. Liabilities for Losses and Loss Expenses

The liability for losses and loss expenses on December 31, 2023, and 2022, is summarized as follows:

(in thousands of dollars)

	2023	2022
Undiscounted	\$ 3,673,089	\$ 3,735,918
Discount	(2,286,378)	(2,305,597)
Total losses and loss expenses liabilities	\$ 1,386,711	\$ 1,430,321

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Reserves are reviewed periodically and updated based on current claims experience, trends, and economic outlook.

	2023	2022
Discount rate at year end	6.5%	6.5%

Activity in the liability for losses and loss expenses is summarized as follows:

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023	2022
Balance at January 1		
Undiscounted	\$ 3,735,918	\$ 4,107,354
Incurred related to		
Current year	228,151	151,667
Prior years	<u>(212,968)</u>	<u>(449,678)</u>
Total	15,183	(298,011)
Paid related to		
Current year	1,139	52
Prior years	<u>76,873</u>	<u>73,373</u>
Total	78,012	73,425
Balance at December 31		
Undiscounted	3,673,089	3,735,918
Discount	<u>(2,286,378)</u>	<u>(2,305,597)</u>
Total losses and loss expenses liabilities	<u>\$ 1,386,711</u>	<u>\$ 1,430,321</u>

The following table compares the present value of the Association's reserve changes during 2023 with those of 2022.

<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023	2022
Reserves as of prior year end	\$ 1,430,321	\$ 1,461,755
Prior accident year impact of actuarial adjustments	(100,000)	(100,000)
Payments on prior accident years	(76,873)	(73,373)
Present value update	90,473	92,629
Reserves for current accident year	<u>42,790</u>	<u>49,310</u>
Total calendar year reserve changes	<u>(43,610)</u>	<u>(31,434)</u>
Total reserves as of year end	<u>\$ 1,386,711</u>	<u>\$ 1,430,321</u>

In 2023 and 2022, the reduction in prior accident year loss reserves from actuarial adjustments was due to favorable development on case incurred losses, resulting in lower projected ultimate losses.

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The first table, below, reflects for each of the previous 10 accident years and on a combined basis for years prior to 2014, (1) cumulative total undiscounted incurred losses as of each of the previous 10 year-end evaluations, (2) total IBNR plus expected development on reported claims as of December 31, 2023, and (3) the cumulative number of reported claims as of December 31, 2023.

The second table (middle section), on the following page, presents cumulative paid losses for each of the previous 10 accident years and on a combined basis for years prior to 2014, as of each of the previous 10 year-end evaluations. Also included in this table is a calculation of the liability for losses which is then included in the reconciliation to the consolidated balance sheet presented above. The liability as of December 31, 2023, is calculated as the cumulative incurred losses less the cumulative paid losses from the second table, plus any claim expense liabilities and adjustments for the effect of the discount.

The third table (bottom section), on the following page, is supplementary information about the average historical claims' duration as of December 31, 2023. It shows the weighted average annual percentage payout of incurred losses by accident year as of each age. For example, the first column is calculated as the incremental paid losses in the first calendar year for each given accident year (e.g. calendar year 2014 for accident year 2014, calendar year 2015 for accident year 2015) divided by the cumulative incurred losses as of December 31, 2023, for that accident year. The resulting ratios are weighted together using cumulative incurred losses as of December 31, 2023.

Accident Year	Cumulative Incurred Loss ⁽¹⁾										As of December 31, 2023	
	For the Years Ended December 31										Total * IBNR	** Cumulative number of reported claims
Prior	8,289,976	7,343,259	6,920,857	6,382,004	5,412,641	5,056,152	4,681,071	4,457,927	4,289,216	4,155,097	706,651	7,044
2014	436,470	370,975	336,738	260,384	189,729	163,071	120,489	95,928	79,994	77,458	36,985	33
2015		421,292	374,296	272,451	201,802	193,157	154,916	124,925	105,366	104,417	29,120	54
2016			418,653	310,317	236,427	215,842	189,501	164,978	143,440	126,987	47,794	49
2017				367,590	300,313	263,928	219,535	186,304	141,480	127,172	57,862	52
2018					270,111	214,506	163,850	153,676	124,154	121,238	46,939	62
2019						195,981	209,424	172,703	139,753	143,008	10,312	68
2020							187,289	167,256	136,494	124,660	30,810	60
2021								224,702	147,430	105,803	74,015	53
2022									147,875	142,506	83,822	39
2023										224,184	171,969	26
Total										5,452,530	1,296,279	7,540

* Incurred But Not Reported ("IBNR")
** Reported claims exclude closed without payment
(1) Years 2014-2022 are unaudited

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Cumulative Paid Loss ⁽¹⁾											
For the Years Ended December 31											
(\$'s in thousands)											
Accident											
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Prior	1,197,340	1,271,535	1,350,488	1,423,061	1,496,103	1,564,671	1,646,622	1,703,453	1,764,167	1,827,152	
2014	40	228	730	1,946	2,737	3,814	4,673	5,496	6,054	6,773	
2015			35	1,070	1,360	1,716	3,434	4,658	6,023	7,128	
2016				1,322	1,378	3,070	4,721	5,489	5,995	7,453	
2017					2,448	5,090	7,014	8,446	9,072	10,344	
2018						977	1,842	2,694	3,364	3,966	
2019							1,304	3,509	5,203	7,331	
2020								1,377	2,234	7,788	
2021									1,059	2,765	
2022										22	
2023										1,107	
										<u>1,885,965</u>	
										Total	
											3,566,565
											106,523
											<u>(2,286,377)</u>
											<u>1,386,711</u>

Liabilities	
Undiscounted Claim Reserve	3,566,565
Undiscounted Claim Adjustment Expense Reserve	106,523
Discount	<u>(2,286,377)</u>
Discounted Claim and Claim Adjustment Expense Reserve	<u>1,386,711</u>

(1) Years 2014-2022 are unaudited

Average Annual Percentage Payout of Incurred Claims by Age ⁽¹⁾

Years	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	0.4%	1.2%	1.3%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	1.2%	0.9%	0.9%

(1) Unaudited

9. Employee Benefit Plans

Defined Benefit Pension Plan

The Association has a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan that covers employees who meet eligibility and entry-date requirements. The Association uses a December 31 measurement date. As of December 31, 2023, the plan's investment mix was 60 percent equities and 40 percent debt securities.

Benefits paid in 2023 and 2022 were \$271,230 and \$606,828, respectively. Based on retirement eligibility, the estimated benefit payments for 2024 through 2028 are \$255,311, \$252,569, \$376,177, \$250,514, and \$873,874, respectively, and the aggregate total for the following five years is \$6,085,660.

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	Pension Benefits	
	2023	2022
<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>		
Components of net periodic benefit cost		
Service cost	\$ 305	\$ 591
Interest cost	392	309
Expected return on plan assets	(427)	(527)
Amortization of transition obligation (asset)	-	-
Amortization of net loss (gain)	-	40
Net periodic benefit cost, included in operating and administrative expense	<u>\$ 270</u>	<u>\$ 413</u>
Other changes in plan assets and benefit obligations, included in other comprehensive income		
Net gain (loss) and other changes in plan assets and benefit obligations	<u>\$ 380</u>	<u>\$ 1,244</u>
Change in plan assets		
Fair value of plan assets, beginning of year	\$ 7,556	\$ 9,251
Actual return on plan assets	1,205	(1,565)
Employer contribution	530	477
Annuity benefits paid	(271)	(219)
Lump sum benefits paid	-	(388)
Fair value of plan assets, end of year	<u>\$ 9,020</u>	<u>\$ 7,556</u>
Change in benefit obligation		
Benefit obligation, beginning of year	\$ 7,870	\$ 10,873
Service cost	305	591
Interest cost	392	309
Actuarial loss (gain)	398	(3,296)
Annuity benefits paid	(271)	(219)
Lump sum benefits paid	-	(388)
Benefit obligation, end of year	<u>\$ 8,694</u>	<u>\$ 7,870</u>
Funded status, end of year (plan assets less benefit obligations)	<u>\$ 326</u>	<u>\$ (314)</u>

	Pension Benefits	
	2023	2022
<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>		
Amounts recognized in the balance sheet		
Noncurrent assets/(liabilities), included in other assets/(accounts payable and other liabilities)	<u>\$ 326</u>	<u>\$ (314)</u>
Accumulated benefit obligation	<u>\$ 7,353</u>	<u>\$ 6,455</u>

The accumulated benefit obligation is the present value of the pension liability based on the accumulated work of employees to date, while the projected benefit obligation covers the expected future work to be conducted by employees. When combined, these two values constitute the total benefit obligation of the Association, included in the calculation of the net pension asset, and are reported in other assets on the balance sheet.

The net gain (loss) balance decreased primarily due to plan asset return gains and was partially offset by a change in the discount rate as of December 31, 2023. The net gain (loss) balance increased primarily due to a

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change in the discount rate assumption and was partially offset by plan asset return losses as of December 31, 2022.

The fair value of the plan's assets was determined in accordance with ASC 820, using the three levels of inputs described in Note 2. The fair value of plan assets was determined using Level 1 inputs consisting of quoted prices for identical securities in active markets. All plan investments are exchange-traded funds. For 2023 and 2022, the plan sponsor did not hold any securities where the fair value has been determined using Level 3 inputs. In addition, the plan assets did not include any assets of the plan sponsor's nonpublic entity equity securities or of its affiliates.

The Association expects to contribute at least the minimum funding requirement to this plan in 2024.

	Pension Benefits	
<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023	2022
Discount rate	4.66%	5.01%
Expected long-term return on plan assets	5.50%	5.50%
Rate of compensation increase	4.00%	4.00%

Determination of economic assumptions

Discount rate: Matched expected future plan benefit payments to the FTSE Pension Yield Curve as of the measurement date and determined the one effective rate that produced the same present value of benefits as the FTSE Pension Yield Curve.

Long-term rate of return: Surveys of expected capital market returns for individual asset classes, reduced by expected expense adjustments are used to develop expected rates of return. These rates of return are applied to the plan's investment policy to determine a rate of expected return.

Compensation increase: The compensation increase assumption is based on several factors, which may include, but are not limited to, employee productivity, promotions, the employer's expectations of future increases, historical trends, expected inflation, and survey results.

Health Reimbursement Arrangement ("HRA")

In 2023, the Association added a retiree HRA plan. All full-time employees have the potential to be eligible to receive benefits under the plan if they have at least 10 years of service after 2018, are age 60 or older, and are no longer with the Association.

	Health Reimbursement Arrangements	
<i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>	2023	2022
Fair value of plan assets, end of year	\$ 124	\$ -
Benefit obligation, end of year	\$ 128	\$ -
Funded status, end of year (plan assets less benefit obligations)	\$ (4)	\$ -

Eligible employees can select individual investment options within their respective HRA. Changes in the fair market value of the HRA are recorded in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in the Balance Sheet.

Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association
Notes to Financial Statements
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Defined Contribution Plan

The Association sponsors a defined contribution plan, which covers employees who meet the plan's eligibility requirements and have completed the service requirements, under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. Participants can contribute a certain percentage of their compensation (subject to annual contribution limits) to the plan. In 2023 and 2022, the Association matched a maximum of 4.0 percent of participant-eligible compensation. The Association's matching contribution to the plan was \$0.1 million in both 2023 and 2022.

10. Income Tax Status

In 1996, the Association was granted an exemption from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(27)(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Association received a tax-exempt determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated February 7, 1997. Therefore, no provision for income taxes is included in the Association's financial statements.

11. Surplus Distribution

In December 2021, based on prior year-end financial results, the Board of Directors determined there was enough capital to warrant the approval of a \$600 million surplus distribution. This resulted from investment returns and reductions in loss reserve liabilities. \$565 million was distributed to insurers and self-insurers by August 2022. The remaining \$35 million for policyholders was delivered to the Association's transfer agent in November 2022. On December 31, 2022, \$33 million was distributed by our transfer agent, and the \$2 million remained in a trust account (in the name of the policyholders) at the transfer agent. The Association and transfer agent diligently worked together to identify valid mailing addresses for these policyholders. Additionally, throughout 2023, many efforts were made to reach policyholders with unclaimed checks, including:

- Conversations with state and local chambers of commerce
- Phone calls from Association staff to affected policyholders
- Conversations with insurers to request they send notices of uncashed checks
- Public news notifications and interviews reminding the public of the program
- Website providing a searchable database of business names with uncashed checks

In December 2023, the Association's Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution stating that all Uncompleted Funds to Policyholders as of December 31, 2023, shall be considered distributions that "cannot be completed within one year of the date of the first payment of any portion of the Surplus Distribution due to an inability to identify or locate a Policyholder" within the meaning of the Order and Minn. Stat. § 79.361, subd. 10. The resolution also declares that all Uncompleted Funds to Policyholders as of December 31, 2023, shall "remain with WCRA" as provided by the Order and Minn. Stat. § 79.361, subd. 10 and shall be transferred to WCRA's operating bank account.

To the extent that checks have already been distributed to Policyholders and have not yet expired, those checks shall remain negotiable and will be paid by WCRA through their expiration. There were 15,000 unclaimed checks totaling \$2.5 million, of which approximately \$0.1 million remains negotiable. The Association's transfer agent will return \$2.4 million in 2024, resulting in a receivable of \$2.4 million being recorded in other assets and an increase recorded to Accumulated Retained Earnings from Operations for the December 31, 2023, Balance Sheet. In addition, a \$2.4 million adjustment to Surplus Distribution was recorded in the December 31, 2023, Statements of Operations, Comprehensive Income and Accumulated Capital.



WORKERS' COMPENSATION
REINSURANCE ASSOCIATION



The WCRA provides reinsurance protection for Minnesota's workers' compensation insurers and self-insurers. Minnesota is a beautiful state and we annually select pictures from one area of the state to highlight. This year's city is Duluth.

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