

**** FAB INDEX – PRESS RELEASE ****

The technical bit...

Since 1 November 2018, the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) has published its latest report on key information about UK pension schemes, the so-called Purple Book. It also changed the methodology behind its assumptions it uses to calculate the PPF 7800 liabilities, from 'A8' to 'A9'.

After taking both of these changes on board, over the month to 30 November 2018, First Actuarial's Best estimate (FAB) Index improved, with the surplus in the UK's 6,000 defined benefit (DB) pension schemes increasing from £397bn to £446bn.

The position on the PPF 7800 Index improved over November 2018 from a deficit of £107.7bn to a surplus of £14.3bn, and the funding ratio increased from 94% to 101%.

These are the underlying numbers used to calculate the FAB Index:

FAB Index over the last 3 months	Assets	Liabilities	Surplus	Funding Ratio	'Breakeven' (real) investment return
30 November 2018	£1,580bn	£1,134bn	£446bn	139%	-1.1% pa
31 October 2018	£1,588bn	£1,191bn	£397bn	133%	-0.8% pa
30 September 2018	£1,615bn	£1,203bn	£412bn	134%	-0.9% pa

The overall investment return required for the UK's 6,000 DB pension schemes to be 100% funded on a best estimate basis – the so called 'breakeven' (real) investment return – has decreased to minus 1.1% pa. That means the schemes need an overall actual (nominal) return of 2.6% pa for their assets to meet liabilities.

The assumptions underlying the FAB Index are shown below:

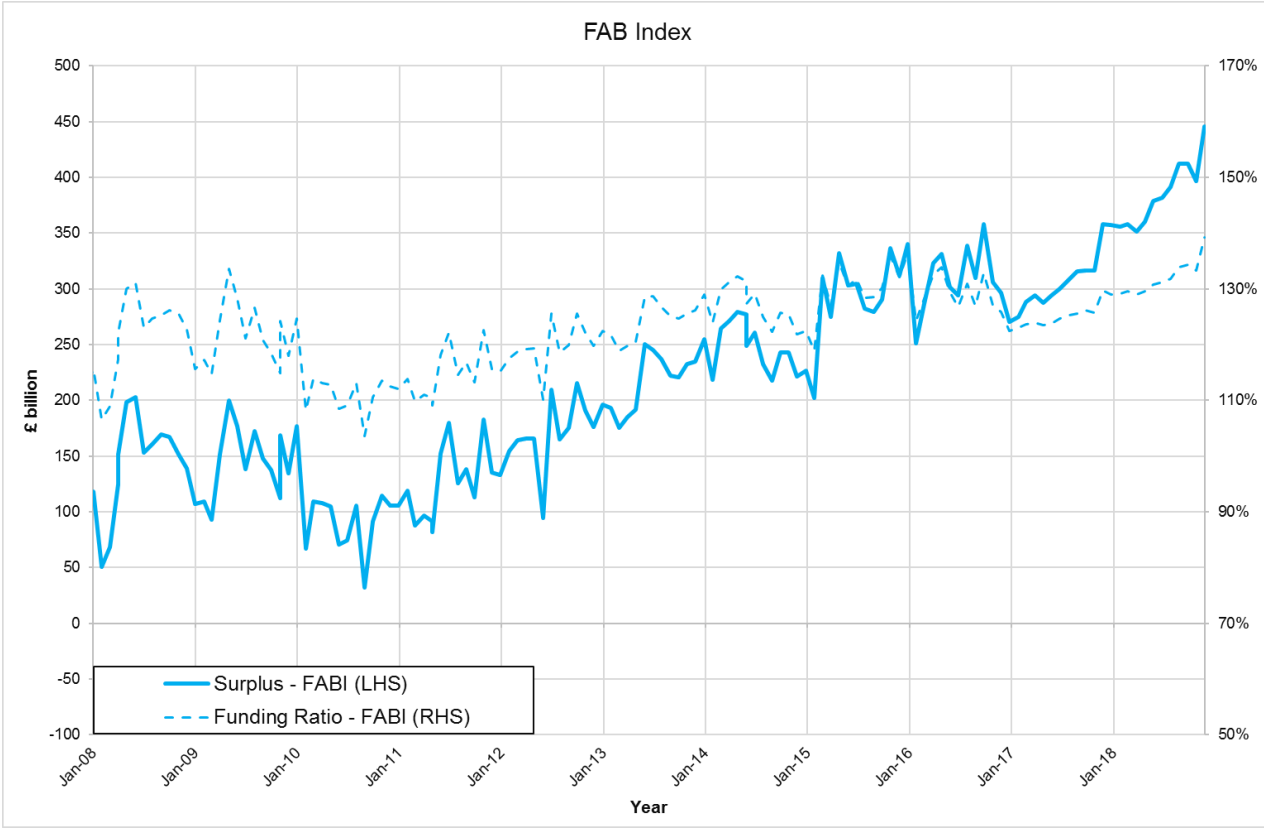
Assumptions	Expected future inflation (RPI)	Expected future inflation (CPI)	Weighted-average investment return
30 November 2018	3.7% pa	2.7% pa	4.4% pa
31 October 2018	3.6% pa	2.6% pa	4.3% pa
30 September 2018	3.6% pa	2.6% pa	4.2% pa

Ends

Notes to editors

The FAB Index is calculated using publicly available data underlying the PPF 7800 Index, which aggregates the funding position of 5,450 UK DB pension schemes on a section 179 basis, together with data taken from The Purple Book, jointly published by the PPF and the Pensions Regulator.

The FAB Index is updated on a monthly basis, providing a comparator measure of the financial position of UK DB pension schemes.



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About First Actuarial

First Actuarial is a consultancy providing pension scheme administration, actuarial, investment and consultancy services to a wide range of clients across the UK.

We advise a mixture of open and closed defined benefit schemes with our clients concentrated in the small to medium end of the pension scheme market. Our clients are spread across diverse sectors including manufacturing, financial services, not for profit organisations and those running services previously provided by the public sector.