



INFOTOPICS

AN AD HOC COLUMN FROM PHIL@CUC.CA



Now is the time

Since it was introduced, the CUC's offer of professional investment management has received some interest, but few congregations have taken advantage of it.

Here are some highlights of what the program offers:

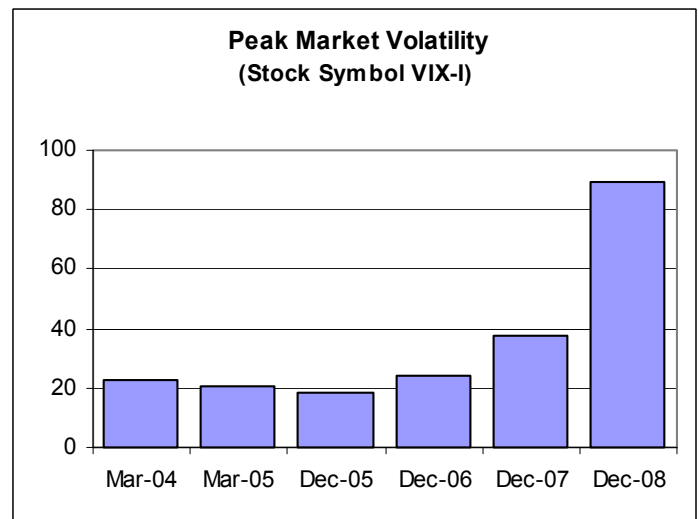
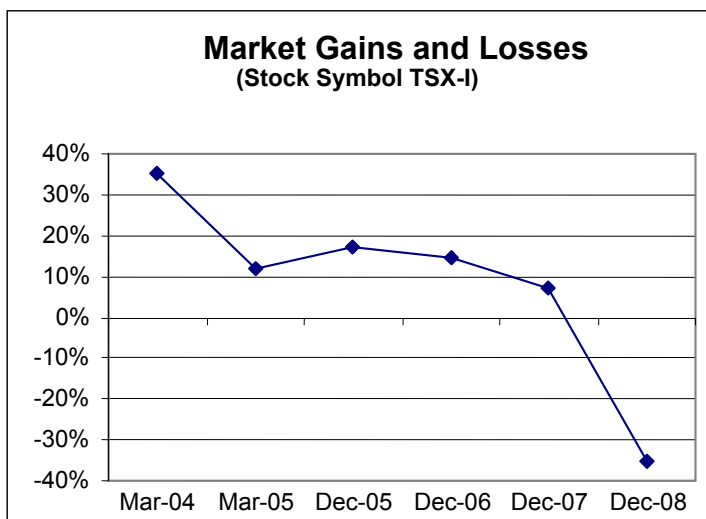
- Professional management by a broker who understands our ethical investing standards
- Over a five-year period, generated a Return on Investment (ROI) comparable to the S&P 500 index
- Minimum investment of \$10,000
- No administrative fees

For the complete policy and agreement, go to <http://www.cuc.ca/finance/CongregationalInvestmentFund.pdf>.

Although there isn't a consensus that things will get better this year, there is consensus that the most significant market losses are behind us¹. So for long-term investing, the time is now.

How have the markets been doing?

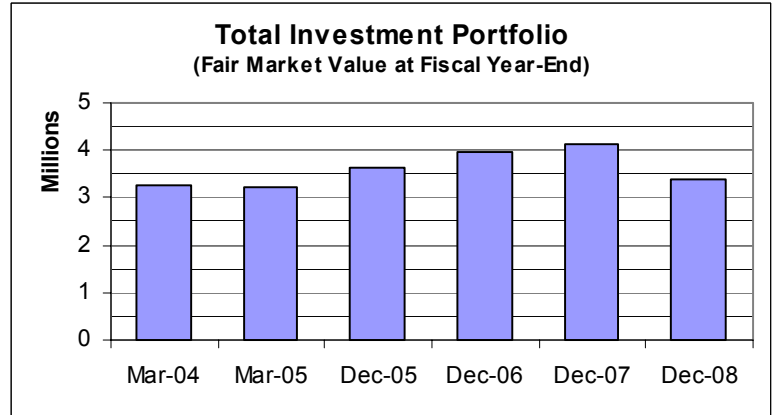
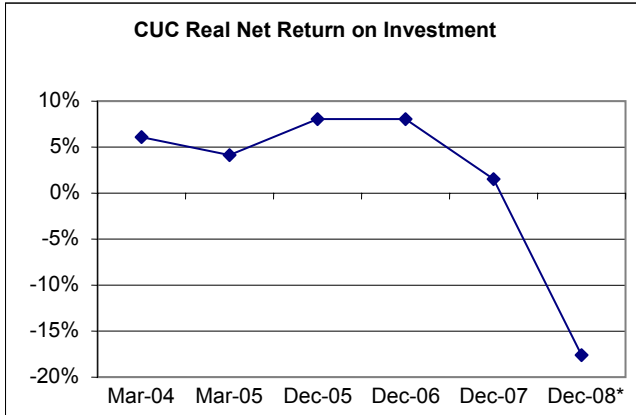
It's no secret that 2008 was a roller-coaster ride. To put it in perspective, here are a couple of key market indicators, measured over the same time periods as the CUC's financial year:



¹ <http://www.cbc.ca/money/story/2009/01/12/f-langan-2009outlook.html>

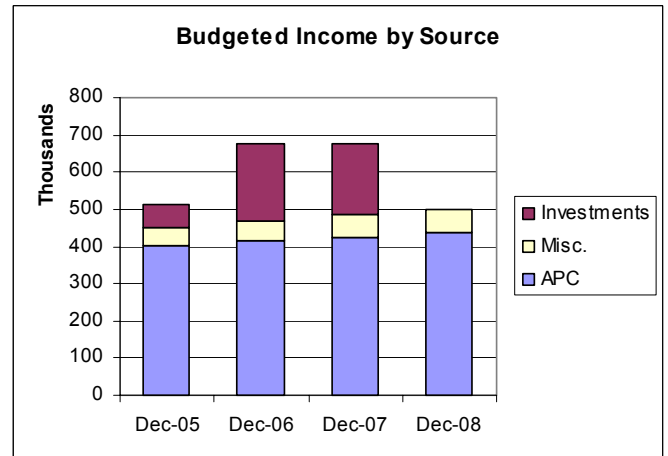
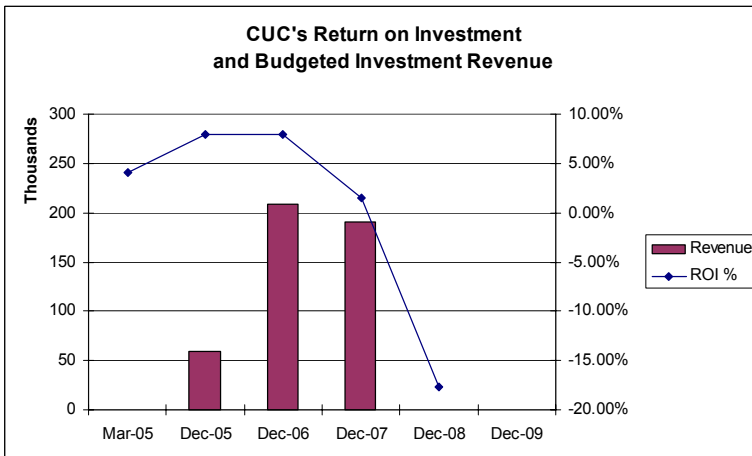


How have we been doing?



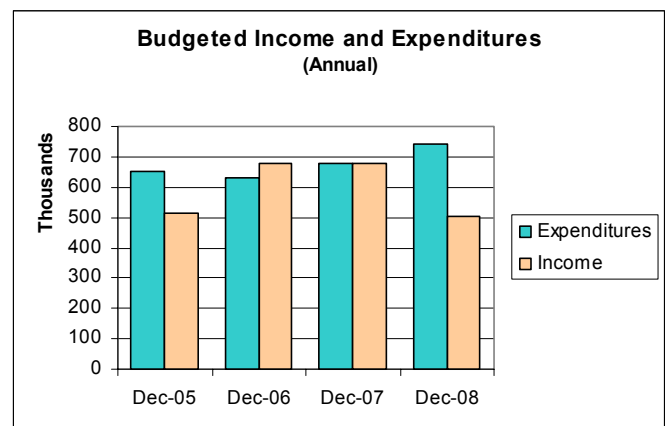
* 2008 return is preliminary, and subject to audit and approval by the Investment Committee.

Thanks to our emphasis on low-risk and ethical investments, our losses were limited and we can expect a good recovery in the future. Because the CUC's policy is to apply investment revenue to the following year's budget, the loss of our investment income for 2008 will have a significant impact on our budgeted expenditures for 2009:



The graph above shows the delay of one year from the period the ROI is calculated to the time that income is utilized.

The CUC's income in 2009 will be similar to 2008. As the graph to the right shows, a deficit of about \$225,000 was budgeted in 2008. To avoid a similar deficit in 2009, the CUC Board is examining the budget very closely for ways to reduce expenses and still provide essential services.



Previous issues of **INFOTOPICS** are available on-line at http://www.cuc.ca/whos_who/Admin/phil