

USD Global Multi-Asset Income Fund

An investment fund option for variable life insurance products of **The Manufacturers Life Insurance Co., (Phils), Inc.**

Investment Objective

The Fund aims to maximize total return by investing substantially all of its assets in one or more collective investment schemes which aims to achieve income generation by investing primarily in a diversified portfolio of equity, equity-related, fixed income and fixed income-related securities of companies and/or governments globally (including the emerging markets).

Fund Information

Inception Date May 2022	Fund Size USD 7.49 million	Fund Currency US dollar	Dealing/Valuation Daily
Price (NAV/unit) USD 1.028	Management Fee 2.25% per annum	Bloomberg Ticker PHEQUUM	

Performance Return (March 31, 2025)

USD Global Multi-Asset Income Fund (net of management fee)	1 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception
Absolute	-2.63%	-1.27%	3.86%	n.a.	n.a.	17.47%
Annualized	n.a.	n.a.	3.86%	n.a.	n.a.	5.80%

Past performance is not an indication of future results. Information about the portfolio's holdings, asset allocation, or country diversification is historical and is not an indication of future portfolio composition, which will vary.

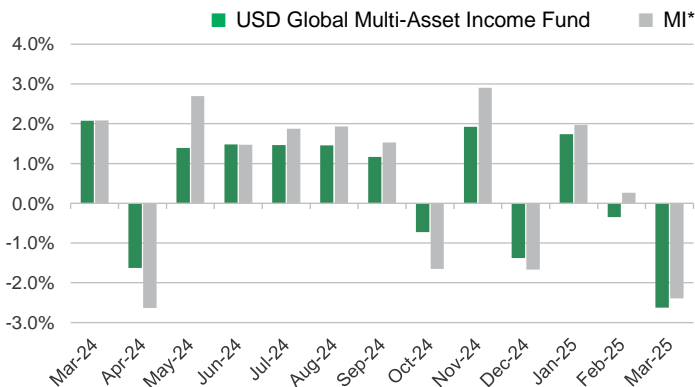
Monthly Net Asset Value per Unit



Top Five Holdings

APPLE INC.	0.99%
NVIDIA CORPORATION	0.96%
MICROSOFT CORPORATION	0.85%
FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORP DISCOUNT NOTES 0% 01/04/2025	0.77%
AMAZON.COM, INC.	0.64%

Monthly Performance



*50% MSCI World GR (USD) Index + 50% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Bond (USD Hedged) Index

This is not a deposit product. Earnings are not assured and principal amount invested is exposed to risk of loss. This product cannot be sold to you unless its benefits and risks have been thoroughly explained. If you do not fully understand this product, do not purchase or invest in it.

Portfolio Breakdown

Asset Allocation (at Market Value)



Manulife Global Fund - Global Multi-Asset Diversified Income Fund
100.00%

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Market Review

In March, equity markets continued to see a rotation away from the US, while emerging markets performed well, and defensive sectors showed resilience. Markets were heavily influenced by fluctuating headlines around tariffs, with investors keenly anticipating President Trump's announcement of the latest round of tariffs on April 2. A backdrop of economic uncertainty contributed to heightened market volatility. Fixed income markets ended the month with mixed results. US treasuries saw little change overall, as yields initially rose amid uncertainty surrounding tariff policies before declining later in the month as concerns about the economy grew. High-yield bonds were negatively impacted by the ongoing uncertainty over tariffs and economic outlook. Meanwhile, commodities remained a bright spot, led by a strong performance in gold, which continued to attract investors seeking safe-haven assets.

In the US, macro data were mixed with the services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) coming in above estimates at 54.3, while manufacturing PMI slipped to 49.8, but the overall composite was strong at 53.5. Initial jobless claims came in at 224,000 remaining at historically low levels. While business surveys improved in March, consumer confidence and sentiment declined. Regarding inflation data, inflation eased with the headline and core inflation falling to 2.8% year-on-year (YoY) and 3.1% YoY, respectively, while the core personal consumption expenditures (PCE) forecast was revised up to 2.8% YoY from 2.5% YoY. The US Federal Reserve (Fed) kept benchmark rates unchanged, and Chair Powell suggested a "wait and see" approach amid market uncertainty. US equities continued to decline over the month, dragged by uncertainty surrounding President Trump's policies on trade. Growth-oriented equities were hit hardest, especially mega-cap tech and consumer discretionary.

European equities continued to perform well in March, driven by the stimulus headlines of defense and an infrastructure package, despite softer economic data. The eurozone preliminary PMIs missed estimates on the services side, but the manufacturing side beat. Inflation was also on the softer side with the headline and core inflation easing to 2.2% YoY and 2.4% YoY, respectively. This led to a decline in European government bond yields over the week, as markets anticipated further rate cuts from the European Central Bank (ECB). European equities continue to hold up globally even with the cyclical nature of the financials sector. UK equities showed relative resilience over the month, buoyed by easing inflation and an improvement in the composite PMI, which rose to 52.0 in March from 50.5, surpassing market expectations. This was largely supported by growth in both the manufacturing and services sectors.

Within Asia, China and Hong Kong markets ended in positive territory, driven by the announcements of the "Special Action Plan to Boost Consumption" by the Chinese government, aiming to shore up the domestic economy. China is currently experiencing a sluggish consumer market, with February's consumer price index (CPI) showing its sharpest decline in over a year, and the producer price index (PPI) remaining in negative growth territory. On the macro data front, both the manufacturing and services PMI coming in better than expected at 50.5 and 51.9, respectively. Approaching the end of the month, Chinese equities gave back some of the gains given tariff uncertainty. Japanese equities were negative as a stronger Japanese yen continued to affect the export-reliant market.

Equity markets were mixed in March with MSCI ACWI down -3.90% and MSCI World down -4.40%. In US dollar terms, emerging markets performed well. Latin America performed notably, ending in positive territory +4.90%. Japan held up well with a return of +0.31%. Europe was slightly down by -0.19%. Asia Pacific ex Japan lost -0.42%. On the other hand, the US lagged with a negative return of -5.85%.

Within MSCI World, energy drove the gains, adding +4.68%, followed by utilities with +2.56%. Information technology (IT) and consumer discretionary were laggards, declining -8.88% and -8.07%, respectively. Communication services also saw a loss of -7.38% over the month.

Fixed income markets were mixed over the month with The FTSE World Government Bond Index returning +0.68%. Global investment-grade (IG) credits also rose +0.55% on strong corporate fundamentals. Riskier segments – global and US high yields – lagged with negative returns of -0.32% and -1.02%, respectively, due to spreads widening.

In foreign exchange, major currencies weakened against the US dollar, including the GBP (-0.26%) and EUR (-0.19%), while the JPY strengthened (+0.49%).

Outlook

Looking ahead, our medium- to long-term outlook suggests that ultimately lower interest rates would be accommodative for economic growth with inflation coming down and continuing resiliency in corporate earnings growth. However, we are at a juncture where rates may not need to be as aggressively cut as previously expected in 2025 amid the recent elevated inflation and broader macro uncertainty. We also remain on data watch in order to garner more clarity on the global macroeconomic path and how that translates into portfolios. We expect volatility to persist amid a complex macroeconomic landscape where geopolitical risks and the potential for a global economic slowdown could be potential headwinds this year, compounded by uncertainties surrounding President Trump's policies.

Entering 2025, it appears that most global central banks would like to move their monetary policy toward their respective neutral interest rates, but they are at different stages in their cycles. However, we expect the first half of the year to pose obstacles that may prevent a predictable, straightforward path to neutrality. We continue to expect that the US Fed eventually ends its easing cycle at 3.5% in 2026, but the timing of cuts is contingent on either a growth/labor market scare or clearer government policies. Even if the US Fed's bias is still to ease towards neutral rates, barring a compelling reason to move the US Fed will leave rates unchanged and gather data. Against a backdrop of government policy uncertainty around any ambiguity in the data would suggest the US Fed proceeds with caution, slowing the pace of their easing cycle. The negative impact of government policies on growth will be the larger focus despite the modest inflationary pressure from tariffs.

The European and Canadian central banks are nearing the end of their easing cycles, but tariff-related deterioration in the economy could prompt more cuts. The Bank of England is navigating still-firm inflationary pressure and weak growth, which could lead to gradual easing. Japan continues to gradually increase interest rates to normalize its monetary policy. Further easing by the US Fed could provide more room for the central banks of emerging markets to continue easing, but foreign trade exposure will determine the extent.

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Economic growth, while positive, will be below trend across most major economies in 2025, driven by pressured consumers and high borrowing costs. Financial conditions are expected to remain balanced, avoiding extremes that could either materially slow down the economy or reignite inflation. We expect the US economy to slow down modestly over at some point of the year due to a combination of restrictive policy and uncertainty, which could in turn affect the global trade and manufacturing cycles. However, more pronounced weakness or tariff-related uncertainty could further weigh on risk assets in export-dependent regions. Growth profiles in most of the world's other developed markets—Canada, Europe, and the UK—appear to be more subdued than in the US, with the lagged effects of tighter monetary policy, slowing global trade (especially with China) and more protectionist trade policies from the US weighing on these geographic regions and likely to keep doing so. Any regional-level assessment should include careful consideration of its exposure to the global trade impulse.

The new US presidential administration's plans to take a more protectionist approach to trade policy add another layer of uncertainty to the global trade picture. For example, President Trump's proposed tariffs on imports from key trading partners like China, Mexico, and Canada could severely hamper global trade activity. While broad-based tariffs pose a potential risk, we expect a more targeted and strategic approach to trade negotiations will ultimately emerge. In the near term, potentially increased prices might affect consumers and companies alike, with the burden likely divided between higher costs and narrower profit margins. A lack of certainty might also make economic forecasting more challenging, likely making it difficult for central banks to act decisively. Over the longer term, tariffs may shift production domestically and alter global supply chains. Uncertainty around what the policy will ultimately look like could dampen consumer and business confidence and potentially slow down economic activity. We don't see globalization reversing anytime soon. Rather than a collapse of the current trade ecosystem, we expect a generally slower global trade impulse in 2025, with implications for our longer-term growth and inflation forecasts. We believe supply-side shocks and constraints—from trade policies, climate-related events, the low-carbon transition, and geopolitical conflicts—could increasingly influence the global economy, putting upward pressure on both the level and volatility of inflation.

In Asia, we remain neutral on China with growth in policy-supported sectors and exports offset by weakness in real estate and domestic consumption. Another clear source of risk is the new US administration and looming trade tensions. Having said that, equity valuations in Asian markets tip toward the favorable side of the equation. We anticipate additional government stimulus measures aimed more at restoring and maintaining economic growth than at meaningfully reaccelerating it. As such, our base case remains that, at best, we see gradual stabilization and perhaps modest improvement in China's labor market and consumer confidence. Elsewhere in Japan, the Bank of Japan (BoJ) hiking cycle is an outlier against global easing cycle. Policy normalization has begun in Japan. Economic stabilization and expected 2% inflation suggest the BoJ will continue to normalize its policy rate over the next two years. The Japanese yen should strengthen due to favorable interest rate differentials, and the yield curve should flatten as the BoJ raises rates towards neutral.

At a time when we are seeing peak-level US equity valuations, tight credit spreads, continued uncertainty in the geopolitical environment, and wider dispersion in markets, there is value in taking a more cautious and defensive approach. We have moved our stance on equity relative to fixed income to neutral amidst market uncertainty. Within equity, our preference has shifted towards defensive stocks. We are adopting a more balanced stance between US equities and international markets as well. Within the US, we think investors should look to balance their large cap growth exposure with more value-oriented exposure in sectors like financials and healthcare, while higher dividend equities could also help navigate volatility. Outside the US, while tariffs remain a clear potential headwind, opportunities exist. For European equities, value-oriented favorable economic factors including more accommodative monetary policy from the ECB, supportive fiscal spending plans, and improving investor sentiment could provide a boost. In China, DeepSeek's artificial intelligence (AI) advancements have driven a strong rally since the beginning of the year. Stabilization in economic activity could broaden the rally beyond the technology sector to more domestically focused stocks. We remain mindful of risks associated with stretched valuations and uncertain policy developments. Subdued growth expectations offer relative upside for fixed income. However, inflation risks from trade disruption, which could lead to elevated yields, present a headwind.

Overall, we expect the market to experience some volatility into 2025, particularly as investors reprice interest rate and potentially inflation expectations, alongside uncertain President Trump policy. We maintain that there are downside risks to the economy, given tighter credit conditions. Tactical positioning will be more prevalent again as we continue into 2025, to nimbly add and de-risk portfolios, as well as add to yield opportunities as they arise.

The investment fund option for The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company's variable life insurance product is managed by Manulife Investment Management and Trust Corporation.

The Fund mentioned in this document is specific to variable life insurance contracts and is not considered a mutual fund. Yields depend on interest and foreign exchange rate levels, both of which may fluctuate. Other factors that affect yield include changes in the credit standing of the issuers and changes in the value of the stocks and dividends received. Further, investments of the Fund may provide that their values be determined based on prices or yields of other securities, instruments or foreign currencies, and such provisions may result in negative fluctuations in the value of these investments and, in turn, the Fund's yields. Thus, the performance of the separate account(s) is not guaranteed and the value of the policy could be less than the capital invested. THE VARIABLE LIFE POLICYHOLDER SHALL BEAR ALL INVESTMENT RISKS. Past performance of the Fund is not necessarily indicative of future performance. Yields are not guaranteed.

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