

# Peso Growth Fund

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

## Investment Objective

The Fund seeks to achieve long-term capital appreciation by investing in stocks listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange, government securities and/or pooled fund/s that invest in these securities and other liquid instruments.

## Fund Information

<b>Inception Date</b> April 2009	<b>Fund Size</b> PHP 15.26 billion	<b>Fund Currency</b> Philippine peso	<b>Dealing/Valuation</b> Daily
<b>Price (NAV/unit)</b> PHP 2.682	<b>Management Fee</b> 2.25% per annum	<b>Bloomberg Ticker</b> MPPHGRW	

## Performance Return (March 31, 2021)

Peso Growth Fund (net of management fee)	1 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception
Absolute	-4.42%	-9.67%	16.25%	-22.33%	-15.79%	169.28%
Annualized	n.a.	n.a.	16.25%	-8.08%	-3.38%	8.64%

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.

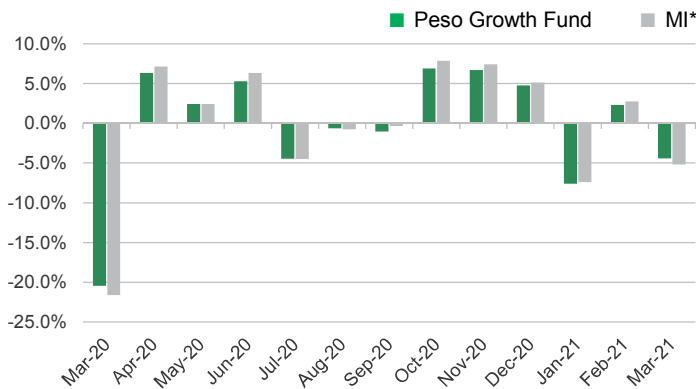
## Monthly Net Asset Value per Unit



## Top Five Holdings

SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION	15.24%
Manulife Equity Wealth Fund Class I	10.48%
SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC	9.13%
AYALA LAND INC	8.56%
AYALA CORPORATION	7.13%

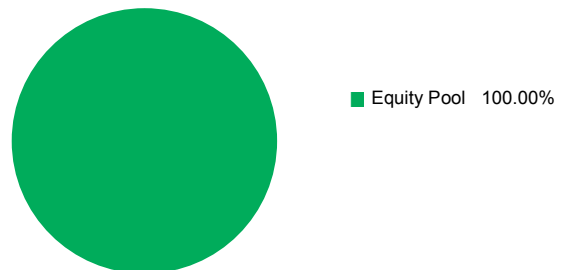
## Monthly Performance



\*Market Indicator = 100% Philippine Stock Exchange Index

## Portfolio Breakdown

### Asset Allocation (at Market Value)



As per the fund's Investment Policy Statement, initial subscriptions are invested in fixed 100% Equity Pool. The investments of the Equity Pool consist of stocks listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange and term deposits.

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## Market Review

The PSEI was down 5.18% MoM to 6,443.09 in March after posting a 2.8% improvement in February. The decline was mostly driven by the higher Covid cases in March and subsequent imposition of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila in the last week of the month.

In the last week of March 2021, the average daily Covid cases reached 9k and hospital utilization rate for Covid facilities has gone up. Recall that in the last week of February, the average daily cases was only at 2,000. As a result, the government imposed Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) on Metro Manila plus adjacent provincial areas. The reduction in mobility and stricter quarantine restrictions pushed commercial establishments to close except for essential shops such as supermarket and pharmacies. Non essential travel was restricted resulting to a significant number of flight cancellations during the period.

Meanwhile, the inflation rate last March declined to 4.5% from 4.7% the prior month. The higher than BSP target inflation (2-4%) was due to supply constraints on meat that kept prices elevated (+20% YoY). Note that prices of other food items such as vegetable, fruits and fish continued to be elevated in March. On the other hand crude oil ended at US\$63.50 to a barrel which was lower compared to the peak of US\$70/b during the month. However note that crude oil prices in March was almost two fold of the level in the same month last year. Note that higher input prices would have a negative impact on profitability especially for consumer companies.

The government has passed CREATE bill into law which aims to reduce income tax rates from 30% to 25% for large corporations. The law would also rationalize the incentives given to export oriented industries such as the Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs) segment. Overall, corporates should be able to save on tax expenses from the reduced rate and reinvest the capital that could spur economic recovery.

## Outlook

In our view, an economic recovery for this year is possible. However the rising Covid cases and stricter quarantine on Metro Manila are headwinds we are facing in the near term. Meanwhile, the arrival of vaccine doses in March is a welcome development to improve immunity and reopen more industries in the long run. We continue to prefer cyclical sectors such as consumer discretionary, real estate and financials that are likely to benefit on a recovery thematic.

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The investment fund option for The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company's variable life insurance product is managed by Manulife Asset 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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