

# 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 17.09 billion	<b>Fund Currency</b> Philippine peso	<b>Dealing/Valuation</b> Daily
<b>Price (NAV/unit)</b> PHP 2.866	<b>Management Fee</b> 2.25% per annum	<b>Bloomberg Ticker</b> MPPHGRW	

## Performance Return (August 31, 2021)

Peso Growth Fund (net of management fee)	1 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception
Absolute	9.14%	-3.47%	14.14%	-15.36%	-15.85%	187.75%
Annualized	n.a.	n.a.	14.14%	-5.41%	-3.39%	8.91%

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.

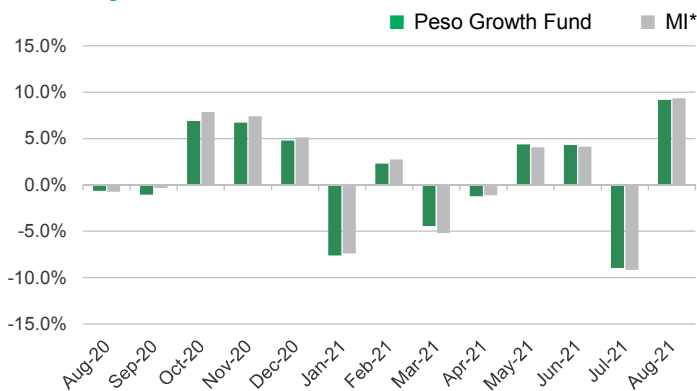
## Monthly Net Asset Value per Unit



## Top Five Holdings

SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION	13.68%
Manulife Equity Wealth Fund Class I	10.20%
SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC	9.02%
AYALA LAND INC	8.72%
AYALA CORPORATION	8.38%

## 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 ended August at 6,588.44, up 9.3% as the market staged a recovery offsetting prior month's 9.2% decline. Contributing to the market's swift recovery for the month was the move by the government to lower NCR's quarantine restrictions from ECQ to MECQ since the arrival of the Delta variant in August. Note that dining inside restaurants, personal care services and religious activities are still not allowed under MECQ and a strict curfew remains in place. The expectation is that the government will only revert to granular restrictions to limit the negative impact of the pandemic to economic activity moving forward.

The Philippine Stock Exchange announced changes to the composition of the PSE Index, effectively adding AC Energy and Converge ICT Solutions replacing DMCI Holdings and Emperador. The PSE relaxed the required listing rule for inclusion to the PSEi to 6-months (from listing) from 12-months previously which resulted in CNVRG being added to the index. Both AC Energy and Converge are growing their businesses significantly, adding renewable energy capacity and broadband subscribers, respectively. As a result, both continue to see their market capitalizations grow which likely is the main reason for the inclusion in the index. ACEN will likely continue to grow as it benefits from the global shift towards renewable. Meanwhile CNVRG will also grow on the back of improving household connectivity to fixed broadband services. We expect digital adoption to be in the forefront of commerce and consumer spending post pandemic similar to what we have seen in more developed ASEAN neighbors.

Philippine GDP in 2Q21 rose by 11.8% YoY beating consensus estimate of 10.9%. However, compared to pre-COVID results, the 2Q21 GDP results were still lower by 7.3% compared to 2Q19. The government revised GDP forecasts lower to 4-5% from 6-7% for this year, citing current restrictions enforced over NCR and nearby provinces to negatively impact business activity. They kept GDP forecasts for 2022 unchanged at 7-9%. It is likely that the strict quarantine restrictions placed on Metro Manila will be discontinued and will be replaced by a more targeted and localized approach, with an emphasis on proper testing and expanded vaccination drives in highly affected areas.

## Outlook

It is encouraging to see that the government is looking to implement new efforts to contain the worsening pandemic situation in the country as it finds more ways to slowdown the transmission of the virus. We continue to remain constructively optimistic over local equities and keep majority of our positioning on cyclical and reopening names within the Financials and Real Estate sectors on account of the increasing pace of vaccinations and further expectations that the economic recovery will finally gain meaningful traction soon. The Philippine FDA recently approved the use of Moderna vaccines for emergency use for children aged 12-17. Lastly the Department of Health reported that over 19.3Mn people have already received the first dose, while 13.8Mn people have already received full vaccination.

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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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