

# 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 21.05 billion	<b>Fund Currency</b> Philippine peso	<b>Dealing/Valuation</b> Daily
<b>Price (NAV/unit)</b> PHP 2.948	<b>Management Fee</b> 2.25% per annum	<b>Bloomberg Ticker</b> MPPHGRW	

## Performance Return (April 30, 2024)

Peso Growth Fund (net of management fee)	1 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception
Absolute	-2.99%	4.76%	1.87%	11.29%	-13.57%	195.98%
Annualized	n.a.	n.a.	1.87%	3.63%	-2.88%	7.48%

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.

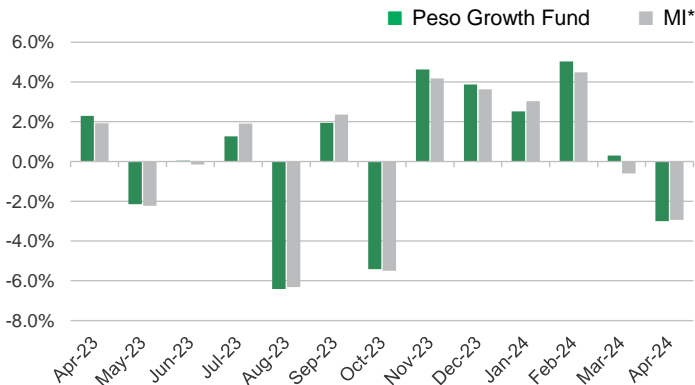
## Monthly Net Asset Value per Unit



## Top Five Holdings

SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION	14.67%
INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER TERMINAL SERVICES INC	9.56%
Manulife Equity Wealth Fund Class I	9.16%
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS	8.66%
BDO UNIBANK INC	8.32%

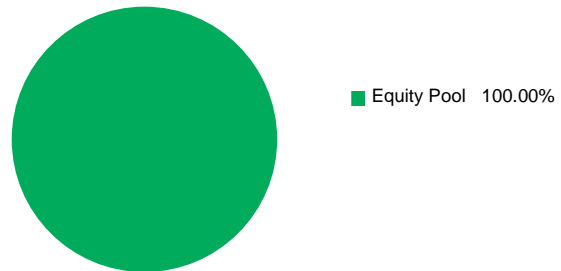
## Monthly Performance



\*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 Philippine Stock Equity index (PSEi) was down 2.9% to 6,700.49 in April. Year to date in April, the PSEi is up 5.13% on a total return basis. The PSEi weakness for the month of April came on the back of renewed foreign outflows led by investor negative sentiments towards the possibility of rate cuts being delayed, escalating Middle East tensions. In addition, the weakness of ASEAN regional currencies on account of strong economic data coming from the US further put downward pressure on the equity markets.

The latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) report for the month of April showed that inflation increased for the third straight month due to continued acceleration in food and transport prices. CPI for April rose by 3.8% year-on-year, although this was below median estimates of 4.1% year-on-year but is higher than March CPI of 3.7% and February CPI of 3.4%.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Remolona said that the window for the BSP to start reducing its key policy rate in the second half of 2024 is narrowing as the inflation figure is at risk of breaching its target range of 2-4%. Additionally, Governor Remolona added that he expects monetary easing will more likely begin in the first quarter of 2025 with the rate cuts enough to just bring the policy rate closer to what the BSP thinks is a neutral rate of interest for the economy. The next Monetary Board Meeting will be on May 16, 2024.

Corporate 1<sup>st</sup> quarter earnings were quite upbeat with the PSEi members showing income growth of 13% YoY. Notable strong performance came from the telecommunication and financial sectors. Telecoms saw improvement in the mobile revenue segment as subscribers use more data. Meanwhile, banks saw an acceleration in loan growth coupled with steady net interest margins. On the other hand, retailers reported weaker than expected earnings results due to lower demand and higher operating costs.

## Outlook

Our outlook for Philippine Equities remains cautious given the current macroeconomic headwinds. The risks of re-acceleration in inflation due to continuing increases in food, transport and oil prices could eventually put downward pressure on consumption growth. We remain watchful on any changing developments surrounding the growth and inflation pressure situation for the Philippines. The timing of interest rate cuts will be the next major catalyst for the stock market. Nevertheless, The PSEi is trading again at attractive valuations of just 10x forward price to earnings, which is at a discount from historical average of around 15x.

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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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