

# Peso Stable 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 growth by investing in government securities and/or high quality corporate debt securities, stocks listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange and/or in pooled fund/s that invest in these securities and other liquid fixed income instruments.

## Fund Information

|                                      |  |   |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Inception Date</b><br>April 2004  | <b>Fund Size</b><br>PHP 585.95 million   | <b>Fund Currency</b><br>Philippine peso | <b>Dealing/Valuation</b><br>Daily |
| <b>Price (NAV/unit)</b><br>PHP 2.941 | <b>Management Fee</b><br>1.75% per annum | <b>Bloomberg Ticker</b><br>MPPHSTB      |                                   |

## Performance Return (February 28, 2025)

| Peso Stable Fund<br>(net of management fee) | 1 Month | YTD    | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | Since Inception |
|---|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Absolute                                    | 0.93%   | -0.91% | 0.72%  | 2.01%   | 5.07%   | 194.10%         |
| Annualized                                  | n.a.    | n.a.   | 0.72%  | 0.67%   | 0.99%   | 5.29%           |

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

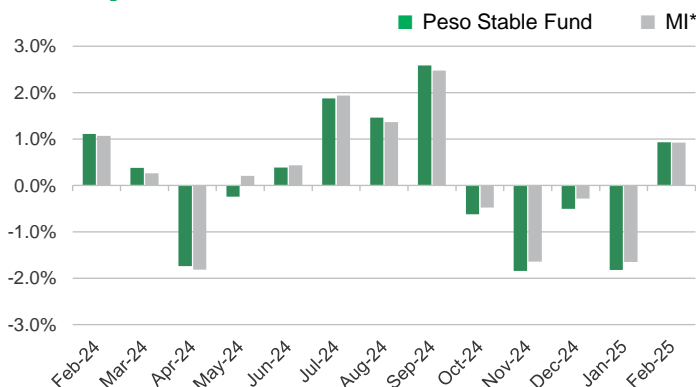


## Top Five Holdings

| Bond Pool                                     |       | Short-Term Bond Pool                |        |
|---|-------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| FXTN 07/19/31                                 | 6.74% | Manulife Stable Income Fund Class I | 41.23% |
| Manulife Income Builder Fund Class I          | 6.23% | Manulife Money Market Fund Class I  | 11.80% |
| FXTN 02/28/29                                 | 5.56% | FXTN 04/08/26                       | 6.87%  |
| FXTN 03/04/27                                 | 5.07% | FXTN 03/04/27                       | 6.34%  |
| FXTN 09/15/32                                 | 5.05% | FXTN 05/04/27                       | 5.11%  |
| Equity Pool                                   |       |                                     |        |
| SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION                    |       |                                     | 12.94% |
| INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER TERMINAL SERVICES INC |       |                                     | 10.50% |
| BDO UNIBANK INC                               |       |                                     | 10.03% |
| BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS                |       |                                     | 9.68%  |
| Manulife Equity Wealth Fund Class I           |       |                                     | 9.59%  |

*Notes:*  
 FXTN - Fixed Treasury Notes or Peso-denominated debts of the Philippine Government  
 RTB - Retail Treasury Bonds of the Philippine Government

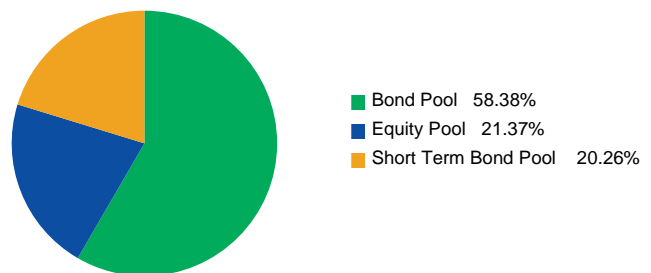
## Monthly Performance



\* Market Indicator = 20.0% PSEi + 57.0% BBG Philippine Sov Bond Agg Net Tax Formula + 3.0% Philippines 91 Day T-Bill Auction Avg Yield 20% WHT + 20.0% Markit Iboxx ALBI Philippines 1-3

## Portfolio Breakdown

### Asset Allocation (at Market Value)



As per the fund's Investment Policy Statement, initial subscriptions are invested in fixed 60% Bond Pool and 20% each Short-Term Bond and Equity Pools. The investments of these pools consist of the following:

- Peso Bond Pool: Peso-denominated bonds of the Republic of the Philippines and term deposits.
- Short Term Bond Pool: Peso-denominated bonds of the Republic of the Philippines with a term of up to three years and term deposits.
- Equity Pool: Various stocks listed on the PSE and term deposits

# Peso Stable Fund

## Market Review

In February, the Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) rose by 2.35%, reducing the year-to-date decline to -8.07%. The index hit a low of 5,862 due to outflows from regional index rebalancing. Despite this recovery, the market remains down 18% from its October 2024 peak. Full-year 2024 earnings reports show most companies met consensus expectations.

February's Consumer Price Index increased by 2.1% year-on-year, down from 2.9% in January. Easing food prices, particularly for rice and vegetables, offset the rise in meat prices, contributing to the CPI deceleration. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has reduced reserve requirements: universal and commercial banks to 5%, thrift banks to 0%, and digital banks to 2.5%.

The yield curve continued to steepen in February, reflecting some defensiveness in adding duration given uncertainties over U.S. President Trump's policies. Five- to 10-year yields ended lower in February as the absence of a Retail Treasury Bond (RTB) issuance in the first quarter of the year and the anticipation of a rate cut by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) in the first half of the year resulted in a preference for the belly part of the curve. The Bureau of Treasury (BTr) issued 5-year RTBs in the first quarter during the past three years.

Latest macro data continue to show benign inflation, with February inflation easing to 2.1% in February from 2.9% in January, largely due to declining rice prices. While the BSP surprised the market by withholding the widely anticipated rate cut in February, it signaled a 25bps cut in April and decided to cut the Reserve Requirement Ratio by 200bps to 5%, which releases around P300b liquidity into the financial system.

## Outlook

We remain cautiously optimistic about Philippine equities for the first quarter of 2025 due to a lack of strong positive catalysts. However, lower-than-expected February CPI suggests inflation risks are largely accounted for. Stable inflation figures might allow the BSP to cut policy rates within the first half of the year, potentially supporting weak markets seen in early 2025. With the PSEi trading at a P/E ratio of around 9.5x, we remain selectively cautious on stocks until more positive catalysts emerge, possibly in the second half of 2025.

Key developments to watch include a recovery in domestic demand and peso stability relative to the U.S. dollar. Additionally, we are watchful of crucial developments, such as mid-term elections and how new set of lawmakers will support the current administration's growth agenda. We expect continued emphasis on inclusive long-term growth and positioning the country as a prime investment destination in ASEAN, with priority sectors likely including mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing.

Globally, headlines on Trump's tariffs have sparked risk-off sentiments, pushing down U.S. yields and leading to wider credit spreads. While local bonds failed to track the rally, it may still be vulnerable to upward correction in U.S. yields. Nevertheless, we maintain a slight positive view over the medium-term as we expect inflation to remain benign and as we see some bonds trading at attractive yields following the recent sell-off.

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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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