Peso Wealth Optimizer Fund 2026

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

Investment Objective

The Fund seeks to maximize long-term capital growth while managing the risk of capital erosion as the target date approaches through a dynamic rebalancing of exposure to diversified portfolios of peso-denominated fixed income securities and securities listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange and/or pooled funds that invest in these securities and other liquid fixed income instruments.

Fund Information

Inception Date
June 2016

Fund Size
PHP 435.43 million

Fund Currency
Philippine peso

Dealing/Valuation
Daily

Price (NAV/unit)
PHP 0.936

Management Fee
2.25% per annum (of which 0.18% will go to the Investment advisor, Manulife Investment Management (HK) Limited.)

Bloomberg Ticker
MPPHWTN

Performance Return (February 28, 2021)

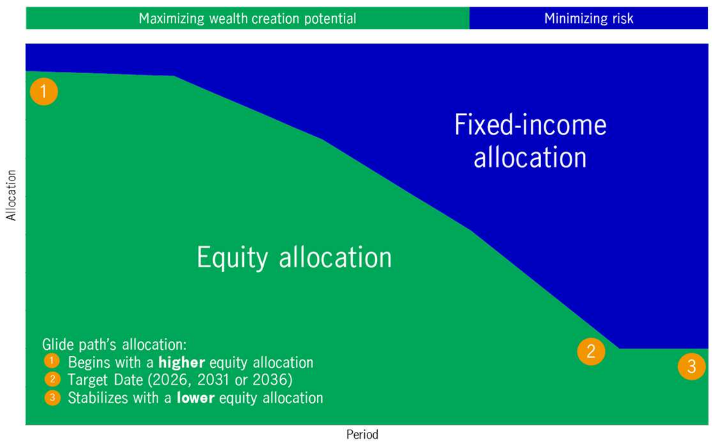
Peso Wealth Optimizer Fund 2026 (net of management fee)	1 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception
Absolute	0.97%	-3.90%	-0.64%	-12.44%	n.a.	-6.40%
Annualized	n.a.	n.a.	-0.64%	-4.33%	n.a.	-1.39%

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.

Why Peso Wealth Optimizer Funds?

Investing through a target date approach simplifies asset allocation for an average investor. The asset mix changes over time, becoming more conservative as the investor's financial milestone draws closer.

The change in asset allocation over time is called the **glide path** which Manulife designed specifically for these funds.



The glide path's objectives include:

- To maximize wealth accumulation prior to target date
- To minimize risk as the target date approaches
- To make wealth last long enough to support any financial needs beyond the chosen target date

Top Five Holdings

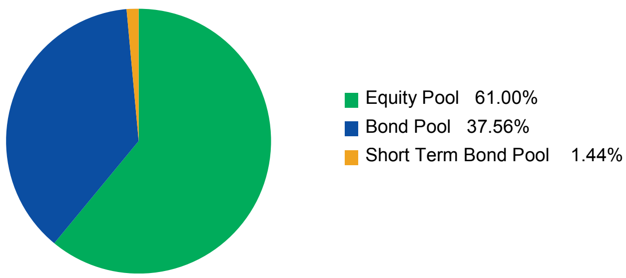
Bond Pool		Short-Term Bond Pool	
FXTN 08/12/25	13.56%	Manulife Stable Income Fund Class I	38.39%
FXTN 02/11/23	11.05%	FXTN 02/11/23	12.86%
RTB 12/04/22	7.72%	RTB 12/04/22	11.96%
FXTN 09/09/25	7.23%	FXTN 04/21/23	7.48%
FXTN 03/12/24	6.07%	FXTN 09/10/23	5.84%

Equity Pool	
SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION	14.46%
Manulife Equity Wealth Fund Class I	10.58%
SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC	10.03%
AYALA LAND INC	9.16%
AYALA CORPORATION	6.77%

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

Portfolio Breakdown

Asset Allocation (at Market Value)



As per the fund's Investment Policy Statement, initial subscriptions are invested in fixed 78.23% Equities, 21.3% Long term bonds, 0.47% Short term bonds. 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.

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Market Review

The PSEI was up 2.8% MoM to 6,794.86 in February after posting a 7.4% MoM decline in January 2021. Most of the gains were in the earlier part of the month and was pared down by continued delayed in vaccine deliveries and steadily rising Covid-19 cases.

We continued to see foreign outflows in February with net outflow of $193Mn. Foreign participation remained low at 26% in February, flattish compared to around 25% in January and below 40% of total market turnover last year.

In last week of February, the average daily new Covid Cases reached 2,000, around 20% higher compared to earlier part of February. Meanwhile, Metro Manila remained under General Community Quarantine in February. Initially, Metro Manila mayors were inclined to let teenagers between 15 to 17 years old to go outside their homes. However, with the recent surge in new cases, this was retracted in March. According to the government, they were considering moving Metro Manila into Modified General Community Quarantine by April if the country in light of the scheduled vaccine delivery in March. However, the move towards MGCQ is unlikely if the country is unable to curb the current surge and encounter issues on vaccine deployment.

The country's inflation rate accelerated to 4.7% last February from 4.2% in January (and 3.5% in December 2020). The uptick was mostly due to select food items such as meat which prices were elevated due to supply constraints brought by the African Swine Fever. Note that prices of vegetables and fruits were also up from last year. Meanwhile, fish prices trended higher due to the reduced supply with the end of the fishing season. Higher input prices could have a negative effect on margins especially for the consumer companies focused on food.

January inflation printed at 4.3%, much higher than consensus expectations of 3.5%, leading to the Philippines' highest inflation print in 2 years. While the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is quick to note that this is transitory and due to supply side disruptions relating to the recent typhoons and the African swine flu, they have revised the 2021 inflation forecast higher from 3.4% to 4.0%.

On the debt borrowing, the Bureau of Treasury announced a new 3-year Retail Treasury Bond (RTB), which introduced supply risk to the local bond market. The short tenor and flush market liquidity indicate a jumbo-sized issuance similar to the RTB issuances in 2020.

Outlook

Our thesis for a recovery this year remains unchanged, barring a sustained surge in COVID-19 cases. Although mobility remains restricted given that Metro Manila remains in a General Community Quarantine, the delivery and administration of vaccines could help not only curb the spread but also help further reopen more industries. Note that the PSEi is lagging its peers in the region, down 5.4% YTD while other markets such as Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia are all up in the same period.

We continue to prefer for cyclical sectors that would be beneficiaries of the economic recovery expected this year as the country continues to reopen. These include banks and property stocks, as well as consumer discretionary plays. Small cap names are also looking to be attractive once more should investors shift their preference to growth stocks as risks related to COVID dissipate.

In the current environment of uncertainty over inflation and additional bond supply, investors are cautious with a bias towards selling bonds. We expect the tentative sentiment to persist given the lack of downward drivers as the BSP is expected to keep policy rates steady in the first half of 2021. On the global front, further uptick in US Treasury yields on euphoria over the improvement in the US economy, will likely continue to add to the upward pressure on local bond yields. Against this backdrop, our funds are positioned defensively, holding a shorter duration position vis-a-vis the benchmark, to withstand the possible higher bond yields that could be in the horizon in the near term.
