
15 March, 2011

Standard Life's 85% Protected* Fund beats deposits in its first year

For investors seeking something in between deposits and investment funds, the Standard Life Barclays Multi-Asset Protected 85 Fund might be the answer. It was launched in response to customer demand for a lower risk fund with some form of investment protection* just one year ago – and returned 7% in its first 12 months**.

“It's beaten deposit rates significantly over the same period, said Brendan Barr, head of marketing, Standard Life.

The fund is designed to protect against the unit price falling below a certain level. This protection level is set at 85% of the highest ever unit price recorded.

Standard Life now offers 38 Synergy funds which range from cash, bonds, Global Absolute Return Strategies Fund (GARS), property to higher risk equity funds.

“One of the major attractions of the new fund for customers is its liquidity and flexibility,” said Barr. “The fund is priced daily allowing investors to buy or sell units and switch freely between any of our comprehensive range of investment options.”

Fund description

The fund aims to:

1. Achieve long-term capital growth through investment in a range of asset classes.
2. Achieve a level of investment protection by investing in a fund that benefits from protection of 85% of the highest ever recorded unit price*.

More about the 85% price protection

The fund is designed to protect against the unit price falling below a certain level. As the unit price increases, the protected price also increases. *This protection level is set at 85% of the highest ever unit price.* For example, if at the fund launch, the unit price is 100, the protected price is 85.

	Unit Price	Protected Price
--	------------	-----------------

If the unit price rises to	125	106
If the unit price falls to	110	106
If the unit price rises again	150	128

Note: The unit prices shown are illustrations only.

Minimum investment amounts

The minimum lump sum on the Synergy Investment Bond, Approved Retirement Fund and Approved Minimum Retirement fund is €10,000. For pension investors, the minimum regular premium is €175 per month.

Notes for editors

*The price protection offered by the Multi-Asset Protected 85 Fund (the externally managed fund) is not guaranteed and is provided by Barclays Bank PLC. In certain circumstances the protection could be reduced or even removed.

** The fund was launched on 15 February, 2010, and one year performance is to 15 February 2011.

Based on one year average deposit rates supplied by AIB, Bank of Ireland, Ulster Bank, Nationwide UK Ireland and Ulster Bank as at 15 February, 2010.

Priced on a daily basis, so you can switch between investment options

A 1.95% annual management charge, which is included in the unit price. Other transaction costs will also apply in addition to this management charge.

A significantly negative market development can result in the fund consisting almost exclusively of cash. Should this arise, investors should speak to their financial adviser to discuss whether or not this is now the appropriate investment choice for them.

More about Barclays

The Standard Life Barclays Multi-Asset Protected 85 Fund invests 100% in an externally managed fund, the Multi-Asset Protected 85 Fund, managed by Barclays Capital Fund Solutions, the asset management business of Barclays Capital, the Investment Banking division of Barclays Bank PLC". Barclays has a balance sheet of over £1.37 trillion and is rated AA- by Standard & Poor's and Aa3 by Moody's. With over 300 years of history and expertise in banking, Barclays operates in over 50 countries and employs approximately 144,000 people. Barclays moves, lends, invests and protects money for over 49 million customers and clients worldwide. Source: Barclays Bank PLC at February 2010. Barclays Bank Plc does not sponsor, endorse sell or promote the Synergy products.

For media queries contact:

Aileen Power, head of corporate communications, Standard Life (01) 639 7166 or mobile 086 850 281

Brendan Barr, head of marketing, Standard Life: (01) 639 7754 or mobile 087 990 8660