

Comparison of Fund Types

Funds, including closed-end funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), money market funds, open-end funds, and unit investment trusts (UITs), have many similarities, but also many important differences. In general, publicly-offered funds are investment companies registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. Funds pool money from their investors and manage it according to an investment strategy or objective, which can vary greatly from fund to fund. Funds have the ability to offer diversification and professional management, but also involve risk, including the loss of principal.

A closed-end fund is an investment company, which typically makes one public offering of a fixed number of shares. Thereafter, shares are traded on a secondary market. As a result, the secondary market price may be higher or lower than the closed-end fund's net asset value (NAV). If these shares trade at a price above their NAV, they are said to be trading at a premium. Conversely, if they are trading at a price below their NAV, they are said to be trading at a discount. A closed-end mutual fund's expense ratio is an annual fee charged to a shareholder. It includes operating expenses and management fees, but does not take into account any brokerage costs. Closed-end funds may also have 12b-1 fees. Income distributions and capital gains of the closed-end fund are subject to income tax, if held in a taxable account.

An ETF is an investment company that typically has an investment objective of striving to achieve a similar return as a particular market index. The ETF will invest in either all or a representative sample of the securities included in the index it is seeking to imitate. Like closed-end funds, an ETF can be traded on a secondary market and thus have a market price that may be higher or lower than its net asset value. If these shares trade at a price above their NAV, they are said to be trading at a premium. Conversely, if they are trading at a price below their NAV, they are said to be trading at a discount. ETFs are not actively managed, so their value may be affected by a general decline in the U.S. market segments relating to their underlying indexes. Similarly, an imperfect match between an ETF's holdings and those of its underlying index may cause its performance to vary from that of its underlying index. The expense ratio of an ETF is an annual fee charged to a shareholder. It includes operating expenses and management fees, but does not take into account any brokerage costs. ETFs do not have 12b-1 fees or sales loads. Capital gains from funds held in a taxable account are subject to income tax. In many, but not all cases, ETFs are generally considered to be more tax-efficient when compared to similarly invested mutual funds.

Holding company depository receipts (HOLDRs) are similar to ETFs, but they focus on narrow industry groups. HOLDRs initially own 20 stocks, which are unmanaged, and can become more concentrated due to mergers, or the disparate performance of their holdings. HOLDRs can only be bought in 100- share increments. Investors may exchange shares of a HOLDR for its underlying stocks at any time.

A money-market fund is an investment company that invests in commercial paper, banker's acceptances, repurchase agreements, government securities, certificates of deposit and other highly liquid securities, and pays money market rates of interest. Money markets are not FDIC-insured, may lose money, and are not guaranteed by a bank or other financial institution.

An open-end fund is an investment company that issues shares on a continuous basis. Shares can be purchased from the open-end mutual fund itself, or through an intermediary, but cannot be traded on a

secondary market, such as the New York Stock Exchange. Investors pay the open-end mutual fund's current net asset value plus any initial sales loads. Net asset value is calculated daily, at the close of business. Open-end mutual fund shares can be redeemed, or sold back to the fund or intermediary, at their current net asset value minus any deferred sales loads or redemption fees. The expense ratio for an open-end mutual fund is an annual fee charged to a shareholder. It includes operating expenses and management fees, but does not take into account any brokerage costs. Open-end funds may also have 12b-1 fees. Income distributions and capital gains of the open-end fund are subject to income tax, if held in a taxable account.

A unit investment trust (UIT) is an investment company organized under a trust agreement between a sponsor and trustee. UITs typically purchase a fixed portfolio of securities and then sell units in the trust to investors. The major difference between a UIT and a mutual fund is that a mutual fund is actively managed, while a UIT is not. On a periodic basis, UITs usually distribute to the unit holder their pro rata share of the trust's net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any. If the trust is one that invests only in tax-free securities, then the income from the trust is also tax-free. UITs generally make one public offering of a fixed number of units. However, in some cases, the sponsor will maintain a secondary market that allows existing unit holders to sell their units and for new investors to buy units. A one-time initial sales charge is deducted from an investment made into the trust. UIT investors may also pay creation and development fees, organization costs, and/or trustee and operation expenses. UIT units may be redeemed by the sponsor at their net asset value minus a deferred sales charge, and sold to other investors. UITs have set termination dates, at which point the underlying securities are sold and the sales proceeds are paid to the investor. Typically, a UIT investment is rolled over into successive trusts as part of a long-term strategy. A rollover fee may be charged for the exercise of rollover purchases. There are tax consequences associated with rolling over an investment from one trust to the next.

Comparison of Other Security Types

Variable annuities are tax-deferred investments structured to convert a sum of money into a series of payments over time. Variable annuity policies have limitations and are not viewed as short-term liquid investments. An insurance company's fulfillment of a commitment to pay a minimum death benefit, a schedule of payments, a fixed investment account guaranteed by the insurance company, or another form of guarantee depends on the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company. Any such guarantee does not affect or apply to the investment return or principal value of the separate account and its subaccount. The financial ratings quoted for an insurance company do not apply to the separate account and its subaccount. The insurance company offering a variable life contract will charge several fees to investors, including annual contract charges that compensate the insurance company for the cost of maintaining and administering the variable life contract, mortality and expense risk (M&E Risk) charges based on a percentage of a subaccount's assets to cover costs associated with mortality and expense risk, and administration fees that are based on a percentage of a subaccount's assets to cover the costs involved in offering and administering the subaccount. A variable life investor will also be charged a front-end load by the insurance company on their initial contribution, ongoing fees related to the management of the fund, and surrender charges if the investor makes a withdrawal prior to a specified time. If the variable annuity subaccount is invested in a money-market fund, the money market fund is not FDIC-insured, may lose money, and is not guaranteed by a bank or other financial institution.

Variable life insurance is a cash-value life insurance that has a variable cash value and/or death benefit depending on the investment performance of the subaccount into which premium payments are invested. Unlike traditional life insurance, variable life insurance has inherent risks associated with it, including market volatility, and is not viewed as a short-term liquid investment. For more information on a variable life product, including each subaccount, please read the current prospectus. Please note, the financial ratings noted on the report are quoted for an insurance company and do not apply to the separate account and its subaccount.

Fixed annuities have a predetermined rate of return an investor earns and a fixed income payout that is guaranteed by the issuing investment company, and may be immediate or deferred. Payouts may last for a specific period or for the life of the investor. Investments in a deferred fixed annuity grow tax-deferred with income tax incurred upon withdrawal, and do not depend on the stock market. However, the insurance company's guaranteed rate of return and payments depends on the claims-paying ability of the insurance company. Fixed annuities typically do not have cost-of-living payment adjustments. Fixed annuities often have surrender charges if the event you need to withdraw your investment early. Fixed annuities are regulated by state insurance commissioners.

Fixed indexed annuities, also called equity index annuities, are a combination of the characteristics of both fixed and variable annuities. Fixed indexed annuities offer a predetermined rate of return like a fixed annuity, but they also allow for participation in the stock market, like a variable annuity. Fixed indexed annuities are typically riskier and offer the potential for greater return than fixed annuities, but less so than a variable annuity. Investments in a fixed indexed annuity grow tax-deferred with income tax incurred upon withdrawal. The insurance company's guaranteed rate of return and ability to make payments depends on the claims-paying ability of the insurance company. While fixed indexed annuities may limit an investor's gains in an up market, they are also designed to help limit losses in a down market. Fixed indexed annuities can be complicated and an investor in a fixed indexed annuity should carefully read the insurance company's offering material to understand how a specific annuity's return will be determined. Fixed indexed annuities often have surrender charges in the event you need to withdraw your investment early and are regulated by state insurance commissioners.

A stock is an ownership interest in a company. When an investor purchases a stock, they become a business owner, and the value of their ownership stake will rise and fall according to the underlying business. Stockholders are entitled to the profits, if any, generated by the company after everyone else – employees, vendors, lenders – get paid. Companies usually pay out their profits to investors in the form of dividends, or they reinvest the money back into the business. Stocks trade on exchanges throughout the day, through a brokerage firm who will charge a commission for the purchase or sale of shares. Income distributions and capital gains of the stock are subject to income tax upon their sale, if held in a taxable account.

A bond is a debt security. When an investor purchases a bond, the purchase amount is lent to a government, municipality, corporation or other entity known as an issuer. The issuer promises to pay a specified rate of interest during the life of the bond and repay the face value of the bond when it matures. U.S. Treasuries can be purchased directly from the Treasury or through a brokerage firm. Most other newly issued bonds are offered through an underwriter. Older bonds are traded throughout the day on the secondary market and can be purchased through a brokerage firm, who will charge

transaction fees and commission for the purchase or sale. Price evaluations are provided by Interactive Data Corporation (IDC).

Preferred stock usually offers a fixed dividend payment, which is paid out before variable dividends that may be paid to investors in a company's common stock. Therefore, preferred stock is typically less risky in terms of principal loss, but there is also less potential for return when compared to a company's common stock. If a company fails, their obligations to preferred stockholders must be met before those of the company's common stock holders, but after bondholders are reimbursed.

A separate account is a portfolio of securities (such as stocks, bonds, and cash) that follows a specified investment strategy and is managed by an investment professional. The securities in the portfolio are directly owned by the separate account's owner. Separate accounts are unregistered investment vehicles; therefore they do not have the same performance and holding reporting responsibilities that registered securities have. Separate account performance data is reported to Morningstar from the investment manager as a composite of similarly managed portfolios. As such, investors in the same separate account may have slightly different portfolio holdings because each investor has customized account needs, tax considerations and security preferences. The method for calculating composite returns can vary. The composite performance for each separate account manager may differ from actual returns in specific client accounts during the same period for a number of reasons. Different separate account managers may use different methods in constructing or computing performance figures. Thus, performance and risk figures for different separate account managers may not be fully comparable to each other. Likewise, performance and risk information of certain separate account managers may include only composites of larger accounts, which may or may not have more holdings, different diversification, different trading patterns and different performance than smaller accounts with the same strategy. Finally, composite performance of the separate account offered by the money manager may or may not reflect the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Gross returns are collected on a monthly and quarterly basis for separate accounts and commingled pools. This information is collected directly from the asset management firm running the product(s). Morningstar calculates total returns, using the raw data (gross monthly and quarterly returns), collected from these asset management firms. The performance data reported by the separate account managers will not represent actual performance net of management fees, brokerage commissions or other expenses. Management fees as well as other expenses a client may incur will reduce individual returns for that client. Because fees are deducted regularly, the compounding effect will increase the impact of the fee deduction on gross account performance by a greater percentage than that of the annual fee charged. For example, if an account is charged a 1% management fee per year and has gross performance of 12% during that same period, the compounding effect of the quarterly fee assessments will result in an actual return of approximately 10.9%. Clients should refer to the disclosure document of the separate account manager and their advisor for specific information regarding fees and expenses. The analysis in this report may be based, in part, on adjusted historical returns for periods prior to an insurance group separate account's (IGSA's) actual inception. When pre-inception data are presented in the report, the header at the top of the report will indicate this and the affected data elements will be displayed in italics. These calculated returns reflect the historical performance of the oldest share class of the underlying fund, adjusted to reflect the management fees of the current IGSA. While the inclusion of pre-inception data provides valuable insight into the probable long-term behavior of an IGSA based on the underlying fund's performance, investors should be aware that an adjusted historical return can only provide an

approximation of that behavior. These adjusted historical returns are not actual returns. Calculation methodologies utilized by Morningstar may differ from those applied by other entities, including the IGSA itself. Morningstar % Rank within Morningstar Category does not account for a separate account's sales charge (if applicable).

A collective investment trust (CIT) may also be called a commingled or collective fund. CITs are tax-exempt, pooled investment vehicles maintained by a bank or trust company exclusively for qualified plans, including 401(k)s, and certain types of government plans. CITs are unregistered investment vehicles subject to banking regulations of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), which means they are typically less expensive than other investment options due to lower marketing, overhead, and compliance-related costs. CITs are not available to the general public, but are managed only for specific retirement plans.

A 529 Portfolio is a specific portfolio of securities created from a 529 plan's available investments. In general, the data presented for a 529 Portfolio uses a weighted average of the underlying holdings in the portfolio. Most 529 plans are invested in open-end mutual funds; however, other investment types are possible such as stable value funds, certificates of deposit, and separate accounts.

Offshore funds are funds domiciled in a country outside the one the investor resides in. Many banks have offshore subsidiaries that are under the standards and regulations of the particular country, which can vary considerably. Companies may establish headquarters offshore because of lower tax rates. Offshore funds are not regulated by the SEC and may have tax implications.

Hedge funds are aggressively managed portfolios which make extensive use of unconventional investment tools such as derivatives as well as long and short positions. Managers of hedge-funds typically focus on specific areas of the market and/or trading strategies. Strategies may include the use of arbitrage, derivatives, leverage, and short selling, and may hold concentrated positions or private securities, which can make them riskier than other investment types. Hedge funds are typically pooled investment vehicles available to sophisticated investors that meet high investing minimums. Many hedge funds are unregistered and are not subject to the same regulations as registered investment vehicles, such as mutual funds. Funds of hedge funds are pooled investment vehicles that invest in multiple unregistered hedge funds, and may be registered with the SEC. Registered funds of hedge funds typically have lower investment minimums than hedge funds, but they are usually not registered on an exchange and can be illiquid. Fund of hedge fund fees are generally higher than those of other pooled investments (like mutual funds) and may have tax consequences.

Cash is a short-term, highly liquid investment. Cash typically doesn't earn as much as other investments, such as stocks or bonds, but is less risky.

Indexes are unmanaged and not available for direct investment. Indexes are created to measure a specified area of the stock market using a representative portfolio of securities. If a security is not available in Morningstar's database, your financial professional may choose to show a representative index. Please note that indexes vary widely, and it is important to choose an index that has similar characteristics to the security it is being used to represent. In no way should the performance of an index be considered indicative or a guarantee of the future performance of an actual security, be considered indicative of the actual performance achieved by a security, or viewed as a substitute for the actual security in your portfolio. Actual results of a security may differ substantially from the historical

performance shown for an index and may include an individual client incurring a loss. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Morningstar assigns each security in its database to a Morningstar Category using the underlying securities in the security's portfolio. If a security is not available in Morningstar's database, your financial professional may choose to show the security's category. Please note that a category will not be an exact match to your securities. In no way should the performance of a category be considered indicative or a guarantee of the future performance of an actual security, be considered indicative of the actual performance achieved by a security, or viewed as a substitute for the actual security in your portfolio. Actual results of a security may differ substantially from the historical performance shown for a category and may include an individual client incurring a loss. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.