

# M&G Episode Defensive Fund - USD Class A-H

Fund Factsheet as at 31 December 2017



## Fund description

The fund aims to deliver a positive total return (the combination of income and growth of capital) over rolling periods of three to five years, through an investment approach that seeks to manage risk. There is no guarantee that the fund will achieve a positive return over this, or any other, period. The fund has the flexibility to go long or short of any investable asset class globally. Asset exposure is gained through physical holdings and the use of derivatives. The approach combines in-depth research to determine the value of assets over the medium to long term, with analysis of investors' emotional reaction to events to identify investment opportunities.

## Risks associated with this fund

For any past performance shown, please note that past performance is not a guide to current or future performance and the performance data does not take into account any entry and exit charges incurred on the purchase and sale of shares but does take into account the ongoing charge.

The value of investments and the income from them will rise and fall. This will cause the fund price, as well as any income paid by the fund, to fall as well as rise. There is no guarantee the fund will achieve its objective, and you may not get back the amount you originally invested.

The fund may use derivatives with the aim of profiting from a rise or a fall in the value of an asset (for example, a company's bonds). However, if the asset's value varies in a different manner, the fund may incur a loss.

The fund may use derivatives to gain exposure to investments exceeding the value of the fund (leverage). This may cause greater changes in the fund's price and increase the risk of loss.

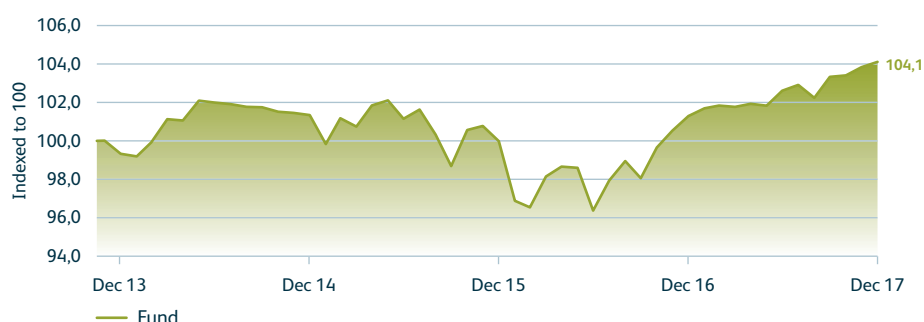
Changes in currency exchange rates will affect the value of your investment.

Further risk factors that apply to the fund can be found in the fund's Key Investor Information Document (KIID).

## Single year performance (5 years ending December)

From To	01.01.17 31.12.17	01.01.16 31.12.16	01.01.15 31.12.15	01.01.14 31.12.14	01.01.13 31.12.13
Fund	2,8%	1,3%	-1,3%	2,0%	N/A
Annual performance 2017: 2,8%					

## Performance since launch



Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

The past performance has been calculated using a different currency to your home currency. The returns shown here may increase or decrease due to currency fluctuations when compared to past performance returns calculated using your home currency.

Hedged share classes aim to mirror the performance of another share class. We cannot guarantee that the hedging objective will be achieved. The hedging strategy will limit holders of the hedged share class from benefiting if the hedged share class currency falls against the US Dollar. Please note that this fund comes with further risks that are explained in the Key Investor Information Document.

## Things you should know

The fund may invest more than 35% in securities issued by any one or more of the governments listed in the fund prospectus. Such exposure may be combined with the use of derivatives in pursuit of the fund objective. It is currently envisaged that the fund's exposure to such securities may exceed 35% in the governments of Germany, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, UK, USA although these may vary subject only to those listed in the prospectus.

The fund may be very concentrated at times which could result in greater fluctuations in the fund's short-term performance and sudden and large falls in value. As a result, you could lose the total value of your initial investment.

The fund allows for the extensive use of derivatives.

## Key information

<b>Fund manager</b>	Eric Lonergan
<b>Fund manager tenure from</b>	14 September 2012
<b>Deputy fund manager</b>	Jenny Rodgers
<b>Launch date</b>	14 September 2012
<b>Launch of share class</b>	15 November 2013
<b>Fund size (millions)</b>	\$33,34
<b>Fund type</b>	OEIC, incorporated in the UK
<b>Share type</b>	Accumulation

Please see the glossary for an explanation of terms used.

## Charges

<b>Entry charge</b>	4,00%
<b>Ongoing charge</b>	1,44%

## Asset breakdown (%)

	Long exposure	Short exposure	Net exposure
<b>Equity</b>	<b>16,3</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>16,3</b>
UK	0,3	0,0	0,3
Europe	4,0	0,0	4,0
US	6,7	0,0	6,7
Japan	0,9	0,0	0,9
Asia Pacific ex			
Japan	1,4	0,0	1,4
Global equity funds	1,0	0,0	1,0
Other	2,1	0,0	2,1
<b>Global bond funds</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>Government bonds</b>	<b>1,8</b>	<b>-94,6</b>	<b>-92,8</b>
UK	0,0	-7,6	-7,6
Europe	0,0	-3,6	-3,6
US	0,0	-66,1	-66,1
Japan	0,0	-4,1	-4,1
Asia Pacific ex			
Japan	0,0	-13,1	-13,1
Other	1,8	0,0	1,8
<b>Corporate bonds</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>-16,0</b>	<b>-14,6</b>
Investment grade	1,4	0,0	1,4
High yield	0,0	-16,0	-16,0
<b>Convertible bonds</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>Property funds</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>0,0</b>

The fund will comprise a high proportion of cash and near cash, as the fund will typically achieve exposures through derivative strategies. As a result, cash and near cash have been excluded from the asset breakdown table to provide a more accurate indication of the fund's actual investment exposure.

**Long exposure:** Comprises physical and derivative positions, held in the view that the underlying securities will rise in value. **Short exposure:** Comprises derivative positions, held in the view that the underlying securities will fall in value. **Net exposure:** The difference between the fund's long and short exposure. Please note, where securities do not perform as expected, a capital loss will be incurred by the fund.

## Credit rating breakdown (%)

	Net exposure
AAA	-3,6
AA	-82,4
A	-2,7
BBB	-2,9
BB	0,2
B	-16,0
CCC	0,0
CC	0,0
C	0,0
D	0,0
No rating	0,0

The portfolio holds -16,0% of non investment grade corporate bonds (rated BB and below).

## Currency breakdown (%)

	Net exposure
British pound	111,7
US dollar	2,1
Mexican peso	0,9
Turkish lira	0,5
Japanese yen	0,5
Taiwan dollar	-0,3
Philippine peso	-0,3
Korean won	-1,0
Hong Kong dollar	-14,5
Other	0,3

The fund's neutral currency positioning is 100% in sterling. Deviations from this figure, therefore, represent long/short exposure.

## Options (%)

	Fund
Options valuation	0,5

The options valuation number represents the value of all options held within the fund at the time of reporting. These options could be relating to any of the asset classes, and the number is expressed as a percentage of net asset value (NAV). The value of the options are subject to market movement, however, the value of the options does not necessarily move in line with, or in the same direction as, the market.

## Fund codes and charges

Share class	ISIN	Bloomberg	Annual management charge	Ongoing charge	Minimum initial investment	Minimum top up investment
USD A-H Acc	GB00BFCB5225	MGEDFAU LN	1,20%	1,44%	\$1000	\$75
USD C-H Acc	GB00BFCB5332	MGEDFCU LN	0,50%	0,74% *	\$500000	\$50000

The ongoing charge figures disclosed above include direct costs to the fund, such as the annual management charge (AMC), administration charge and custodian charge, but does not include portfolio transaction costs. They are based on expenses for the period ending 31 July 2017.

\* The ongoing charge figure shown here is an estimate. The Fund's annual report for each financial year will include details of the exact charges made.

Please note that not all of the share classes listed above might be available in your country.

Please see the Important Information for Investors document and the relevant Key Investor Information Document for more information on the risks associated with this fund and which share classes are available for which product and which investor type.

## Important information

The fund's physical holdings include a significant proportion of cash or cash equivalents, which are used as backing for the derivatives positions.

The M&G Episode Defensive Fund is a sub-fund of M&G Investment Funds (7).

The Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator for the Fund's USD Class A-H shares is 4. This is within a scale of 1-7. Please refer the relevant Key Investor Information Document for further details.

Source of performance data: Morningstar, Inc., as at 31 December 2017, USD Class A-H shares, net income reinvested, price to price basis. Performance stats are quoted gross of Italian tax on capital gains. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. All other statistics from M&G internal sources, as at 31 December 2017 unless indicated otherwise.

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This glossary provides an explanation of terms used in this factsheet and in our literature.

**Asset:** Anything having commercial or exchange value that is owned by a business, institution or individual.

**Asset class:** Category of assets, such as cash, company shares, fixed income securities and their sub-categories, as well as tangible assets such as real estate.

**Bond:** A loan in the form of a security, usually issued by a government or company, which normally pays a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial amount borrowed is repaid.

**Capital:** Refers to the financial assets, or resources, that a company has to fund its business operations.

**Capitalisation:** The total market value of all of a company's outstanding shares.

**Convertible bonds:** Fixed income securities that can be exchanged for predetermined amounts of company shares at certain times during their life.

**Corporate bonds:** Fixed income securities issued by a company. They are also known as bonds and can offer higher interest payments than bonds issued by governments as they are often considered more risky.

**Credit:** The borrowing capacity of an individual, company or government. More narrowly, the term is often used as a synonym for fixed income securities issued by companies.

**Credit Default Swaps (CDS):** Are a type of derivative, namely financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets. CDS are insurance-like contracts that allow investors to transfer the risk of a fixed income security defaulting to another investor.

**Credit rating:** An independent assessment of a borrower's ability to repay its debts. A high rating indicates that the credit rating agency considers the issuer to be at low risk of default; likewise, a low rating indicates high risk of default. Standard & Poor's, Fitch and Moody's are the three most prominent credit rating agencies. Default means that a company or government is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of security's life.

**Credit spread:** The difference between the yield of a corporate bond, a fixed income security issued by a company, and a government bond of the same life span. Yield refers to the income received from an investment and is expressed as a percentage of the investment's current market value, and a bond is a fixed income security.

**Default:** When a borrower does not maintain interest payments or repay the amount borrowed when due.

**Derivatives:** Financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets. Derivatives can be used to gain exposure to, or to help protect against, expected changes in the value of the underlying investments. Derivatives may be traded on a regulated exchange or traded over the counter.

**Developed economy / market:** Well-established economies with a high degree of industrialisation, standard of living and security.

**Dividend:** Dividends represent a share in the profits of the company and are paid out to a company's shareholders at set times of the year.

**Duration:** A measure of the sensitivity of a fixed income security, also called a bond, or bond fund to changes in interest rates. The longer a bond or bond fund's duration, the more sensitive it is to interest rate movements.

**Emerging economy or market:** Economies in the process of rapid growth and increasing industrialisation. Investments in emerging markets are generally considered to be riskier than those in developed markets.

**Episode:** A phase during which investors allow their emotions to affect their decision making, which can cause financial markets to move irrationally.

**Equities:** Shares of ownership in a company.

**Exposure:** The proportion of a fund invested in a particular share/fixed income security, sector/region, usually expressed as a percentage of the overall portfolio.

**Fixed income security:** A loan in the form of a security, usually issued by a government or company, which normally pays a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial amount borrowed is repaid.

**Floating rate notes (FRNs):** Securities whose interest (income) payments are periodically adjusted depending on the change in a reference interest rate.

**Gilts:** Fixed income securities issued by the UK government.

**Government bonds:** Fixed income securities issued by governments, that normally pay a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial investment is repaid.

**Hard currency (bonds):** Refers to bonds denominated in a highly traded, relatively stable international currency, rather than in the bond issuer's local currency. Bonds issued in a more stable hard currency, such as the US dollar, can be more attractive to investors where there are concerns that the local currency could lose value over time, eroding the value of bonds and their income.

**Hedging:** A method of reducing unnecessary or unintended risk.

**High yield bonds:** Fixed income securities issued by companies with a low credit rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at higher risk of default than better quality, ie higher-rated fixed income securities but have the potential for higher rewards. Default means that a company or government is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of security's life.

**Index:** An index represents a particular market or a portion of it, serving as a performance indicator for that market.

**Index-linked bonds:** Fixed income securities where both the value of the loan and the interest payments are adjusted in line with inflation over the life of the security. Also referred to as inflation-linked bonds.

**Inflation:** The rate of increase in the cost of living. Inflation is usually quoted as an annual percentage, comparing the average price this month with the same month a year earlier.

**Investment grade bonds:** Fixed income securities issued by a company with a medium or high credit rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at lower risk from default than those issued by companies with lower credit ratings. Default means that a company or government is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of a security's life.

**Issuer:** An entity that sells securities, such as fixed income securities and company shares.

**Leverage:** When referring to a company, leverage is the level of a company's debt in relation to its assets. A company with significantly more debt than capital is considered to be leveraged. It can also refer to a fund that borrows money or uses derivatives to magnify an investment position.

**Liquidity:** A company is considered highly liquid if it has plenty of cash at its disposal. A company's shares are considered highly liquid if they can be easily bought or sold since large amounts are regularly traded.

**Local currency (bonds):** Refers to bonds denominated in the currency of the issuer's country, rather than in a highly traded international currency, such as the US dollar. The value of local currency bonds tends to fluctuate more than bonds issued in a hard currency, as these currencies tend to be less stable.

**Long position:** Refers to ownership of a security held in the expectation that the security will rise in value.

**Macroeconomic:** Refers to the performance and behaviour of an economy at the regional or national level. Macroeconomic factors such as economic output, unemployment, inflation and investment are key indicators of economic performance. Sometimes abbreviated to 'macro'.

**Maturity:** The length of time until the initial investment amount of a fixed income security is due to be repaid to the holder of the security.

**Modified duration:** A measure of the sensitivity of a fixed income security, called a bond, or bond fund to changes in interest rates. The longer a bond or bond fund's duration, the more sensitive it is to interest rate movements.

**Monetary policy:** A central bank's regulation of money in circulation and interest rates.

**Near cash:** Deposits or investments with similar characteristics to cash.

**Net:** The proportion of a fund invested in, for example, different sectors. Derivatives are included. The latter are financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets.

**Net Asset Value (NAV):** A fund's net asset value is calculated by taking the current value of the fund's assets and subtracting its liabilities.

**Open-Ended Investment Company (OEIC):** A type of managed fund, whose value is directly linked to the value of the fund's underlying investments.

**Options:** Financial contracts that offer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset at a given price on or before a given date in the future.

**Overweight:** If a fund is 'overweight' a stock, it holds a larger proportion of that stock than the comparable index or sector.

**Physical:** The fund's exposure excluding derivatives, which are financial instruments whose value, and price, is dependent on one or more underlying securities.

**Retail Prices Index (RPI):** A UK inflation index that measures the rate of change of prices for a basket of goods and services in the UK, including mortgage payments and council tax.

**Securitise / Securitisation:** The creation and issuance of tradable securities, such as bonds, that are backed by the income generated by an illiquid asset or group of assets. By pooling a collection of illiquid assets, such as mortgages, securities backed by the mortgages' income payments can be packaged and sold to a wider range of investors.

**Short position:** A way for a fund manager to express his or her view that the market might fall in value.

**Short-dated corporate bonds:** Fixed income securities issued by companies and repaid over relatively short periods.

**Short-dated government bonds:** Fixed income securities issued by governments and repaid over relatively short periods.

**Swap:** A swap is a derivative contract where two parties agree to exchange separate streams of cashflows. A common type of swap is an interest rate swap to hedge against interest rate risk.

**Synthetic inflation-linked bonds:** Refers to securities created using a combination of assets to simulate the characteristics of inflation-linked bonds. By buying inflation-linked government bonds and selling protection against companies defaulting on their debts, using credit default swaps, the combined synthetic investment will behave similarly to a physical inflation-linked bond, had one had been issued. Synthetic inflation-linked bonds are usually created where a company does not have any inflation-linked bonds in issue.

**Total return:** The term for the gain or loss derived from an investment over a particular period. Total return includes income (in the form of interest or dividend payments) and capital gains.

**Valuation:** The worth of an asset or company based on its current price.

**Volatility:** The degree to which a given security, fund, or index rapidly changes. It is calculated as the degree of deviation from the norm for that type of investment over a given time period. The higher the volatility, the riskier the security tends to be.

**Yield:** This refers to either the interest received from a fixed income security or to the dividends received from a share. It is usually expressed as a percentage based on the investment's costs, its current market value or its face value. Dividends represent a share in the profits of a company and are paid out to the company's shareholders at set times of the year.