

Principles & Practices of Financial Management

How we manage our Nedbank 10 product



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Purpose of this guide

This guide explains how Old Mutual manages the fund (Capital Guaranteed Growth Fund) in which its Nedbank 10 product is invested, including:

- How do the bonus rates work?
- What is smoothing and what are its benefits?
- What is the bonus smoothing account?
- What happens if investment returns are low or if there is a market crash?
- What investments does the fund own?

These principles and practices are important because of the fact that although the fund is directly invested in the market, the bonuses declared are not directly linked to the returns achieved. Policyholders must thus rely on the life company to ensure they receive fair returns.

It is also important to note that these principles and practices may need to be adapted over time to take account of changing circumstances, for example in the business, economic, or regulatory environments. Approval of any change needs to be given by the Old Mutual Board and its Committee for Customer Affairs, and will be communicated to affected clients.



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How do the bonus rates work?

Policies in the fund are allocated investment growth by the addition of bonuses to their fund value.

The fund declares bonuses on a monthly basis. The bonus is added in advance on the 1st of each month.

Setting bonus rates

The main objective of Old Mutual's bonus declaration policy is to ensure that over time the bonuses produce a similar return to the underlying investments in the fund (after any applicable tax, contractual charges and expenses that impact on the funds available for the declaration of bonuses).

The following are the major aspects taken into account when setting the bonus rates:

- The overall investment return on the fund's investments (after any applicable tax, charges and expenses) earned since the previous bonus declaration
- The difference between policies' fund values and the market value of the fund's investments must be within acceptable limits (see "*What is the bonus smoothing account?*")
- Prevailing economic conditions, including the level of inflation
- The ability of the fund to withstand adverse changes in investment conditions
- The bonus rates declared by Old Mutual's main competitors

No bonus will be declared that would result in the fund's ongoing viability being knowingly threatened.



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What is smoothing and what are its benefits?

The main objective of Old Mutual's bonus declaration policy is to ensure that over time the bonuses produce a similar return to the underlying investments in the fund (after any applicable tax, charges and expenses). A secondary objective is to achieve this in a way that reduces policyholders' exposure to market ups and downs.

This is known as "smoothing" of investment returns. During periods of relatively strong investment performance of the fund's investments, a portion of investment growth is not declared as a bonus. It is held back, so that in times of relatively poor investment performance, there are funds available to declare a higher bonus than would otherwise have been the case.

The effect of smoothing is illustrated in the graph below.

A typical Market Return Portfolio versus a Smoothed Return Portfolio (returns net of applicable tax, charges and expenses)



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It is important to note that any funds held back in order to smooth investment returns are kept entirely for the future benefit of policies invested in the fund. These funds are managed completely apart from Old Mutual's shareholders' assets.

The **benefits** of smoothing include:

- Reduced exposure to the extreme ups and downs of investing in the stock market in the shorter term (and the anxiety and rash behaviour associated with it!)
- Reduced risk of investing in / disinvesting from the market at the wrong time

In addition, the fund offers guarantees that ensure a certain minimum payout. These guarantees are an extremely valuable part of many policyholders' portfolios. They allow policyholders whose policies are invested in the fund to have exposure to the market's growth potential, knowing that their investment will never be worth less than the guaranteed amount, provided they adhere to their contractual obligations. The policy contract contains details of these guarantees.



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What is the bonus smoothing account?

The fund owns investments that have a market value. Policies in the fund have individual fund values that depend on previously declared bonuses. The bonus smoothing account (BSA) represents the difference in value between the market value of the fund's investments and the total value of individual fund values.

It is important to note that any funds in the BSA are kept entirely for the future benefit of policyholders whose policies are invested in the fund. These funds are managed completely apart from Old Mutual shareholders' assets.

A positive BSA means that some good past returns have been held back, and can be added to policies in future as bonuses. A negative BSA means that more has previously been added to policies as bonuses than has been earned. This will need to be recovered in future by declaring bonuses that are lower than the investment returns earned.

The BSA represents how much past investment returns earned have differed from their longer-term average.

- The BSA will be positive when past returns are greater than their longer-term average, and can be negative when returns are less than their longer-term average.
- Care is taken to ensure that the BSA does not become too negative, as this would adversely affect future bonuses.



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What happens if investment returns are low or if there is a market crash?

Management actions

If investment conditions are extremely adverse (for example, there is a significant fall in investment values), management actions may need to be taken to ensure the ongoing viability of the fund. The aim of these actions (which need to be approved by the Old Mutual Board) is to restore the level of the BSA in order that reasonable future bonuses can be declared.

While Old Mutual has internal guidelines, there are no absolute BSA levels at which particular management actions are automatically taken – this will depend on the specific circumstances at the time.

Management actions can include the following (taking the economic and investment environment into account at all times):

- Low or zero bonuses may be declared.

Guarantees provided by Old Mutual will at all times be honoured.



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What investments does the fund own?

The fund aims to provide policyholders with smoothed returns that beat inflation and in so doing create wealth, while ensuring that guaranteed withdrawal values are maintained at all times. To achieve this, the investments underlying the fund are made up of a balanced mix of equities (shares), interest-bearing investments and property. These investments are actively managed to produce the best possible return for policyholders, without adopting too much risk.



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Where you can find out more

This guide aims to provide a high-level explanation of how the fund in which the Nedbank 10 product is invested works. Because we have kept it as short as possible we have only outlined the most important information.

If you are an existing policyholder, your policy documentation and / or original quote should contain additional detail about your specific fund. Although every effort has been made to present information consistent with your contract, the terms and conditions in your contract will apply where these differ from this document.

A copy of Old Mutual's official Principles and Practices of Financial Management (PPFM) of Discretionary Participation Business, from which this guide is derived, is available on the Old Mutual website (www.oldmutual.co.za/personalppfm).

Note that if there are any differences between this guide and the official PPFM, the official PPFM applies.

You can also find out more from your Old Mutual Personal Financial Adviser or broker, or by calling Old Mutual's client communication centre on 0860 10 10 77.



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