

30 April 2017

Sterling Class A

Fund description

The fund invests mainly in high quality corporate bonds, with the aim of delivering a higher income and capital growth than that available from investment in UK government fixed income securities of similar maturities (the length of time until the final repayment date). The fund manager may also hold up to 20 % of the portfolio in other fixed income investments. Exposure to these assets is gained through physical holdings and the use of derivatives. The fund manager is assisted by an in-house team of independent credit analysts in the selection of individual bond issues.

Performance information

The table and charts below show the performance of two of the fund's **share classes** and the average performance of the fund's **comparative sector**. The fund has different share classes, with varying levels of charges and minimum investments as listed on page two. We show performance for two share classes because:

- The performance of the share class shown in dark blue¹ is what most individuals investing directly with M&G have received.
- The performance shown in light blue² is the most appropriate to compare with the sector's average performance, which is shown in green.

¹ The Sterling A Accumulation share has the highest ongoing charge of the share classes. Performance is shown after deduction of this charge. All investors in the fund therefore received this performance or better.

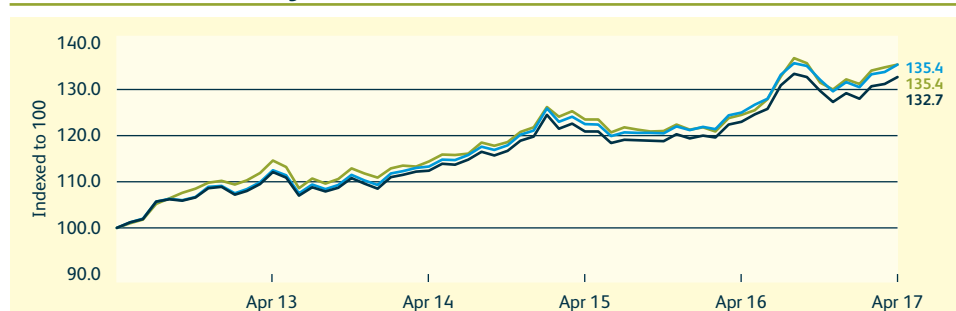
² The Sterling I Accumulation share is used by the **Investment Association (IA)** in the calculation of the comparative sector's average performance. This share class is available for direct investment with M&G subject to minimum investment criteria, or via third parties who may charge additional fees. The performance shown takes the deduction of the ongoing charge for this share class into account but it does not take account of charges applied by any other party through which you may have invested.

Please refer to the glossary found on pages three and four for an explanation of the words highlighted above in bold, along with definitions of the investment terminology included throughout this document.

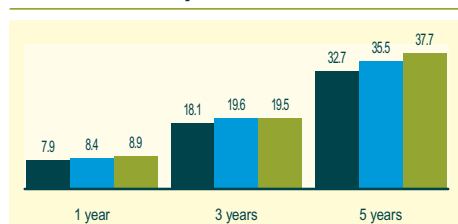
Single year performance (5 years ending April)

From To	01.05.16 30.04.17	01.05.15 30.04.16	01.05.14 30.04.15	01.05.13 30.04.14	01.05.12 30.04.13
■ Sterling A Acc	7.9%	1.7%	7.6%	0.3%	12.1%
■ Sterling I Acc	8.4%	2.1%	8.1%	0.7%	12.5%
■ Sector	8.9%	1.0%	8.5%	0.2%	15.1%

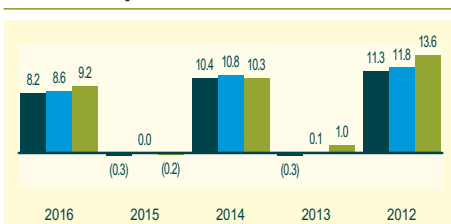
Performance over 5 years



Cumulative performance (%)



Annual performance (%)



Please note: The comparative sector in the Performance line chart is based on historical data and includes funds that have closed or left the sector over the period. The comparative sector in the Cumulative performance column chart, however, includes only the current funds in the sector.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

Currency exchange rate fluctuations will impact the value of your investment.

The fund allows for the extensive use of derivatives.

The value of investments and the income from them will fluctuate. This will cause the fund price to fall as well as rise. There is no guarantee the fund objective will be achieved and you may not get back the original amount you invested.

Key information

Fund manager	Richard Woolnough
Fund manager tenure from	27 February 2004
Deputy fund manager	Ben Lord
Launch date	15 April 1994
Launch of share class	11 March 2002
Fund size (millions)	£4,209.48
Fund type	OEIC, incorporated in the UK
Comparative sector	IA £ Corporate Bond sector
Number of issuers	296
Modified duration (years)	6.9
Distribution yield (Acc)	2.64 %
Distribution yield (Inc)	3.79 %
Underlying yield (Acc)	2.64 %
Underlying yield (Inc)	2.64 %
Average credit rating	A-
Share type	Acc & Inc
Product availability	ISA, OEIC, Junior ISA
Payment dates	Feb, May, Aug & Nov
Ex-dividend dates	Jan, Apr, Jul & Oct

The distribution yield reflects the amounts that may be expected to be distributed over the next 12 months as a percentage of the share price, as at the date shown. It is based on a snapshot of the portfolio on that day. It does not include any preliminary charge and investors may be subject to tax on distributions. It is the fund's policy to offset certain charges against income for accumulation share classes and to offset certain charges against capital for income share classes. These charges include the annual management charge, administration fee and share class hedging fee (where applicable). As a result, yield figures for income and accumulation share classes may differ significantly. The underlying yield reflects the annualised income net of expenses of the fund (calculated in accordance with relevant accounting standards) as a percentage of the mid-market price of the fund as at the date shown. It is based on a snapshot of the portfolio on that day. It does not include any preliminary charge and investors may be subject to tax on distributions. For the fund's income share classes, the distribution yield is higher than the underlying yield only because a portion of the fund's expenses are charged to capital. This has the effect of increasing distribution(s) for the year and constraining the fund's capital performance to an equivalent extent.

Charges

Entry charge	3.00 %
Ongoing charge	1.15 %

Fund ratings

Overall Morningstar rating	★★★★★
Morningstar Analyst rating	Silver
City Financial rating	Established
RSM rating	Yes
Squaremile rating	AA
Source of Morningstar ratings: Morningstar, as at 31 March 2017	
Source: City Financial, RSM, Squaremile, as at 30 April 2017.	
Ratings should not be taken as a recommendation.	

Asset breakdown (%)

	Physical	Net
Government bonds	4.4	4.4
Investment grade corporate bonds	70.5	70.5
High yield corporate bonds	4.2	4.2
Securitised	18.4	18.4
Cash	2.5	2.6

Credit rating breakdown (%)

	Physical	Net
AAA	8.8	8.8
AA	12.2	12.2
A	17.9	17.6
BBB	52.9	53.1
BB	5.3	5.3
B	0.4	0.4
CCC	0.0	0.0
CC	0.0	0.0
C	0.0	0.0
D	0.0	0.0
No rating	0.0	0.0
Cash	2.5	2.6

Where a security has not been rated by Standard & Poor's, Fitch or Moody's, we may use M&G's internal credit rating. Based on a comparison of all available ratings for each security, the most conservative rating (S&P, Fitch, Moody's or M&G's internal rating) is taken into consideration. The ratings so identified are then expressed or converted into M&G's ratings format to obtain uniform information for all securities in the portfolio.

Largest issuers (excluding government bonds and CDS indices, %)

	Fund
AT&T	2.8
Microsoft	2.8
Lloyds Banking Group	2.8
Verizon Communications	2.7
Bank of America	2.3
European Investment Bank	2.1
HSBC	2.0
Aviva	1.9
Legal & General Group	1.7
Orange	1.7

Currency breakdown (%)

	Fund
British pound	99.6
Euro	0.2
US dollar	0.2
Swiss franc	0.0

Maturity breakdown (%)

	Physical
0 - 1 years	2.0
1 - 3 years	7.9
3 - 5 years	12.0
5 - 7 years	13.1
7 - 10 years	23.4
10 - 15 years	17.4
15+ years	21.8
Cash	2.5

Fund codes and charges

Share class	ISIN	Bloomberg	Ongoing charge	Minimum initial investment	Minimum top up investment
Sterling A Acc	GB0031285785	MGCOBAA LN	1.15 %	£500	£100
Sterling A Inc	GB0031285678	MGSCORI LN	1.15 %	£500	£100
Sterling I Acc	GB00B1YBRL59	MGCBOIA LN	0.65 %	£500,000	£10,000
Sterling I Inc	GB00B1YBRM66	MGCBOII LN	0.65 %	£500,000	£10,000
Sterling R Acc	GB00B769ZK48	MGCBSRA LN	0.90 %	£500	£100
Sterling R Inc	GB00B7513S58	MGCBSRI LN	0.90 %	£500	£100
Sterling X Acc	GB0031285900	MGCOBXA LN	1.16 %	£500	£100
Sterling X Inc	GB0031285892	MGCOBXI LN	1.16 %	£500	£100

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 December 2016.

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

For definitions of the investment terminology used within this document please see the accompanying glossary.

Cash may be held on deposit and/or in the Northern Trust Cash Funds, a range of collective investment schemes.

Source of performance data: Morningstar, Inc., as at 30 April 2017, Sterling Class A shares, Sterling Class I shares, income reinvested, price to price basis. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. All other statistics from M&G internal sources, as at 30 April 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.

Comparative sector: A group of funds with similar investment objectives and/or types of investment, as classified by bodies such as the Investment Association (IA) or Morningstar™. Sector definitions are mostly based on the main assets a fund should invest in, and may also have a geographic focus. Sectors can be the basis for comparing the different characteristics of similar funds, such as their performance or charging structure.

Consumer Prices Index (CPI): An index used to measure inflation, which is the rate of change in prices for a basket of goods and services. The contents of the basket are meant to be representative of products and services we typically spend our money on.

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.

Ex-dividend, ex-distribution or XD date: The date on which declared distributions officially belong to underlying investors.

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 Association (IA): The UK trade body that represents fund managers. It works with investment managers, liaising with government on matters of taxation and regulation, and also aims to help investors understand the industry and the investment options available to them.

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.

Morningstar™: A provider of independent investment research, including performance statistics and independent fund ratings.

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.

Payment date: The date on which distributions will be paid by the fund to investors, usually the last business day of the month.

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.

Share class: Each M&G fund has different share classes, such as A, I and R. Each has a different level of charges and minimum investment. Details on charges and minimum investments can be found in the Key Investor Information Documents.

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.

Unit trust: A type of managed fund, whose value is directly linked to the value of the fund's underlying investments.

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.