

As at 31 August 2009

Ascent Life Active Funds *from* BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS

This fund invests in equities, both in the UK and overseas markets. The fund has approximately 50% invested in the shares of UK companies and the remaining 50% is invested in overseas companies, as shown in the diagram below. The fund aims to achieve returns¹ that are 1% or more per year above its benchmark.

Investment characteristics

The aim of many investors, with at least 5 years or more until retirement, is often to obtain rates of return on their investments that are in excess of inflation. Over the longer term, investing in company shares has provided rates of return well in excess of inflation and higher than the returns on other types of investments such as government fixed income securities or cash. However the risk associated with holding an equity fund is higher than holding government fixed income securities or cash.

The fund invests in the shares of both UK and overseas companies, providing a good measure of diversification for your equity portfolio. Diversification means spreading the portfolio across several markets to benefit from the differences in each market economy, and taking advantage of the fact that markets often do not go up or down at the same time or by the same degree. This in turn reduces risk on your portfolio.

Please note that the value of shares in companies can go down as well as up and on selling your units you may not get back the original value of your investment. The return achieved on your investment will fluctuate and is not guaranteed. Past performance is not a guide to future returns and exchange rate movements can affect the value of investments involving exposure to foreign currencies.

What are the charges for this fund?

We will take a fee for managing your investment in this fund. To find out what you will pay for investing please see your company pension scheme booklet.

Who is Barclays Global Investors?

Barclays Global Investors (BGI) is a global investment manager providing a range of investment services worldwide. BGI is owned by Barclays PLC and manages £1,023 billion on behalf of more than 2,800 clients worldwide (as at 30 June 2009).

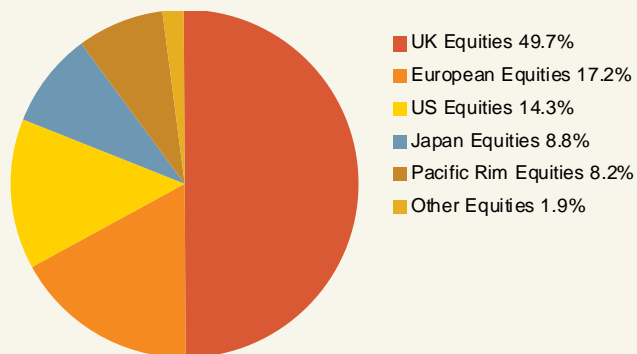
Glossary of investment terms

If you would like an explanation of any of the terms used in this factsheet please contact our helpdesk on the number overleaf or see the BGI glossary on our website.

Fund facts

Fund value £40.6 m **Launch date** December 2001

Asset distribution



Source: BGI. As at 31 August 2009

Largest holdings

This fund is made up of other funds run by Barclays Global Investors. The 'Fund Holdings' chart below details these underlying funds together with the number of holdings and the total size of each fund. This type of investing has the advantage of using large funds that can be run cost efficiently due to their size and your investment obtains exposure to a wide spread of assets.

Fund name	No. of Holdings	Fund value
Ascent Life UK Equity Fund	218	£198.0m
Ascent Life Overseas Equity Fund	555	£104.9m

Source: BGI. As at 31 August 2009

Market commentary

In the US, recent housing data has been uniformly positive. Signs of stabilisation in the housing market and the broader economy and the government's tax credits for first time buyers all helped spur sales. With leaner inventories, builders are increasing the pace of new developments and single family housing starts rose for the fifth month in a row. The Institute for Supply Management's factory index posted its biggest gain since 1983, rising above 50 for the first time in 19 months (a score above 50 indicates expansion). With more stability in financial markets and a return to growth looking likely this quarter, the Federal Reserve plans to end its Treasury purchase programme in October.

The global recovery has also improved prospects for euro zone exporters. German factory orders posted their biggest increase in two years – although remain around 25% lower than a year ago – and an index of euro zone manufacturing rose for the fifth month in a row. The euro zone barely contracted in the second quarter, shrinking by just 0.1%, with Germany and France, the region's largest economies, unexpectedly expanding. Nevertheless, rising unemployment is dragging on domestic demand and concerns remain that unless consumer spending starts to rise, a return to growth is unlikely to be persistent.

In the UK, indices of services and construction showed improvement and house prices benefited from a lack of supply pushing prices up. However, manufacturing output fell slightly this month illustrating the likely unevenness of the recovery. Borrowers paid down loans at the fastest pace on record, a positive move for households over the medium to long term but less beneficial for near term consumer spending. The Bank of England, having repeatedly stressed the need to avoid an extended period of deflation, expanded their quantitative easing programme by £50 billion. Minutes of the meeting revealed a split decision with three out of nine members voting for an expansion of £75 billion, confirming the Bank's likely bias to doing more rather than not enough.

Japan is struggling to emerge from recession and avoid a deflationary spiral. Deflation has a positive impact on bond prices as it boosts the purchasing power of fixed interest payments. Exporters are benefiting from the global recovery but the domestic economy is facing worsening job prospects – unemployment reached a record high of 5.7% – and falling wages, making it unlikely that households will lead the recovery once government stimulus spending runs out.

Need more information?

Telephone our helpdesk on: 08457 244 244 or email: dchelpdesk.europe@barclaysglobal.com or log on to our website: www.bgiukdc.com

Regulatory information

This document has been issued by Barclays Global Investors Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority, and is intended for UK DC members only.

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Fund performance

to 30 June 2009

The fund performance data on this factsheet is not a guide to future returns and may not be repeated.

Standardised yearly fund performance (% per annum)

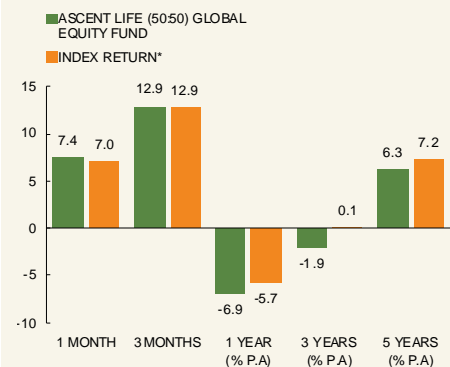
Period	30/06/04 30/06/05	30/06/05 30/06/06	30/06/06 30/06/07	30/06/07 30/06/08	30/06/08 30/06/09
Fund	17.6	19.8	14.7	-12.1	-18.3
Index	16.7	18.6	17.7	-10.8	-16.6

The table above shows individual years' performance for the fund and its benchmark, up to the end of the most recent month of March, June, September or December (known as quarter end).

As all fund managers are required to show this standardised performance data, it should help you to compare the past performance of different funds.

Additional BGI annualised fund performance

to 31 August 2009



*50% FTSE All-Share Index and 50% Overseas Equities
Units are valued at the close of business each working day and are bought and sold at a single unit price. No bid/offer spread is applied. Performance figures quoted are gross of fees. The returns above are calculated using a mid-pricing basis.