

# WORLD (EX-UK) EQUITY INDEX FUND

Data to 31 March 2010

**Fund Size** £6,343 million

**Number of Holdings** 1,969

## In a Nutshell

- Aims to capture world equity market returns (ex-UK)
- Offers opportunities to maximise the growth of your pension account over the mid to long-term
- Tracks the FTSE AW-World (ex-UK) Index
- Aimed at members with mid to long-term investment horizons

## Glossary

**Credit markets** 'Fixed income', 'bonds' and 'credit' are typically used interchangeably to refer to financial markets where debt securities are traded. Unlike equities, when investors acquire a debt security, it represents a loan to the organisation behind it (i.e. government, corporation, etc)

**Equities** Shares in companies

**Index** A measure of performance of a market

**Index funds** Funds designed to perform broadly in line with a given market index

**Investment classes** Different types of investments, for example, equities, bonds or cash

**Investment horizon** The period over which you are looking to maintain your investment (such as until your pension date)

**Long-term** At least 15 years and longer

**Mid-term** 5 to 15 years

**Returns** In this case, the capital growth and the income derived from investing in a fund or a stockmarket

**Risk** The possibility that an investment will lead to a gain or loss – the higher the risk, the higher the anticipated rewards or potential losses; the lower the risk, the lower the anticipated rewards or potential losses

**Volatile** Subject to fluctuations in value, caused by rising and falling stock markets, interest rates and for overseas investments, exchange rate between currencies

## Why Legal & General Investment Management?

Legal & General Investment Management is one of the largest investment managers in the UK, with more than £315 billion\* under management and over 3,113\* company pension scheme clients. We offer a wide range of investment products designed to meet the needs of pension schemes and their members, all managed by dedicated fund management teams and supported by award winning client service.

## Investing for Mid to Long-Term Growth

The World (ex-UK) Equity Index Fund aims to capture global equity market returns (excluding the UK). It tracks the FTSE AW-World (ex-UK) Index and invests in units in our regional funds that make up the FTSE WORLD Index.

The Fund is likely to be of specific interest to members with mid to long-term investment horizons.

### Why invest in equities?

The suitability of one investment class over another changes throughout your working life. If you are aiming for mid to long-term growth in the value of your pension account, a suitable strategy could be to invest in equities. Although equities can demonstrate extreme short-term volatility due to their sensitivity to movements in the economy and news about companies and industries, over the long-term they have historically given higher returns than other asset classes. Their long-term returns have outpaced inflation thereby increasing the buying power of your money. However, please remember that past performance is not a guide to the future.

### The index fund approach

Index funds aim to eliminate the risk of poor share selection and deliver returns that are close to market returns. They do this by investing in most of the companies within the relevant market measured by the index.

### Spreading risk by investing overseas

The inclusion of overseas assets provides diversification and helps protect your pension by spreading the risk among different markets. However, these markets are influenced by their local economies and involve exposure to currencies other than sterling. Exchange rate variations can cause the value of overseas investments to fluctuate.

\*Data as at 31 December 2009.

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# WORLD (EX-UK) EQUITY INDEX FUND

## PERFORMANCE

|                     | FUND<br>NET % | FUND<br>GROSS % | INDEX<br>% |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| Mar 2009 - Mar 2010 | 46.6          | 47.0            | 46.5       |
| Mar 2008 - Mar 2009 | -19.2         | -19.0           | -19.3      |
| Mar 2007 - Mar 2008 | -2.1          | -1.9            | -2.0       |
| Mar 2005 - Mar 2006 | 2.0           | 2.2             | 2.1        |
| Mar 2004 - Mar 2005 | 31.3          | 31.6            | 31.1       |

## Per annum to 31 March 2010

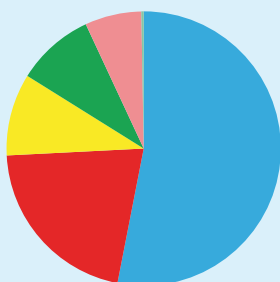
|         | FUND<br>NET % | FUND<br>GROSS % | INDEX<br>% |
|---------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| 3 years | 5.1           | 5.3             | 5.1        |
| 5 years | 9.2           | 9.5             | 9.2        |

Past performance is not a guide to the future.

Returns are calculated on the basis of closing middle-market prices. Fund Net returns are after the deduction of our standard investment management fees (please refer to your scheme's literature to determine the fee rate you are paying).

## FUND ASSET ALLOCATION

As at 31 March 2010



|                         |       |         |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|
| North America           | 53.1% | (54.2%) |
| Europe (ex-UK)          | 21.2% | (21.3%) |
| Japan                   | 9.7%  | (10.7%) |
| Asia Pacific (ex-Japan) | 9.0%  | (9.5%)  |
| Emerging Markets        | 6.6%  | (3.9%)  |
| Middle East/Africa      | 0.4%* | (0.4%*) |

Figure in brackets show asset allocation as at 31 March 2009.

\*Fund started 10 September 2008, previously held within Emerging Markets.

The source of all information is LGIM unless otherwise stated.

## Market Highlights Over 12 Months to 31 March 2010

Financial markets have staged a remarkable comeback from the extreme lows reached in March one year ago. At the centre of this turnaround has been a dramatic improvement in the investment environment. Through the past twelve months the developed world has emerged from the worst economic recession in more than seventy years. With the global economy in decline and the financial system left battered from the financial crisis, world leaders concentrated on formulating strategies to rebuild the banking sector and bring major economies back to growth. As a result, central banks and governments across the globe coordinated ways of stimulating their economies which resulted in official interest rates being reduced towards zero in major developed markets and the introduction of 'quantitative easing' (essentially creating new money) measures in America and the United Kingdom.

The weight of the extraordinary measures undertaken proved effective. Financial markets rallied through the second half of 2009 as signs of life began to return to developed economies. However, equity markets remained highly volatile as investors debated the timing and strength of the economic recovery. The economic data and news from the corporate sector have continued to be broadly reassuring during the first three months of 2010 and the global economic recovery appears 'on track', albeit at a subdued pace.

While investor sentiment has improved markedly through the course of the year and most stock markets have produced strong results, a number of concerns have begun to appear towards the end of the reporting period. High government debt levels in much of the developed world have been brought into focus as a result of fears surrounding the ability of a number of Southern European economies (particularly Greece, Spain and Portugal) to service their ever expanding deficits. While the global economy has emerged from recession and growth rates are strong in the emerging economies, unemployment remains high in many developed nations. As policy makers begin to unwind their supportive measures, stock markets may need to begin to factor in a more subdued global economic climate.

## Important Information

Past performance is not a guide to the future and the value of investments can go down as well as up. Exchange rate variations can cause the value of overseas investments to increase or decrease. Investors may not recoup the value of their original investment. For overseas markets the figures are sterling adjusted and net of any withholding tax. This document should not be taken as an invitation to deal in Legal & General investments or any of the stated stock markets.

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