

The Standard's Stable Asset Fund II

Frequently Asked Questions By Plan Participants



1. What is the Stable Asset Fund?

The Stable Asset Fund is a group annuity product issued directly to the plan and backed by the financial strength of Standard Insurance Company. The plan receives a direct guarantee of principal and accrued interest from Standard Insurance Company. Your account is record kept at book value (principal & interest). All participants receive book value regardless of market conditions.

2. What is the Stable Asset Fund objective?

The Stable Asset Fund is designed to provide you with a guaranteed return of principal and interest, along with competitive crediting rates and 100% liquidity.

3. How does the Stable Asset Fund work?

The Stable Asset Fund guarantees your account balance, which consist of principal plus accrued interest. Your balance increases each day by the current guaranteed-interest crediting rate. It also increases by the amount of any contributions you make, and decreases by the amount of any withdrawals you make.

Interest crediting rates for The Standard's Stable Value Fund II are stated on an annual effective basis, declared shortly (usually one week) before each quarter, and are locked-in and guaranteed not to change for the entire quarter. The current rate is 3.00%, effective from April 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024.

4. What are the main benefits of the Stable Asset Fund?

- **Safety** – All principal and accrued interest is fully guaranteed to you by Standard Insurance Company.
- **Guaranteed Crediting Rate** – The guaranteed crediting rate is declared in advance and is reset quarterly. The declared crediting rate will never be below 1%.
- **Quality** – The guaranteed rate is supported by a portfolio of quality fixed income securities plus commercial mortgages within Standard Insurance Company's general account.
- **Liquidity** – Daily liquidity is available for participant benefits and withdrawals at book value (principal and accrued interest) regardless of market conditions.

5. Is the fund FDIC-insured?

No. Principal and interest are guaranteed by Standard Insurance Company. Standard Insurance Company is a strong, stable financial institution and has consistently received favorable financial strength ratings from rating agencies through the years. As of March 2024, Standard Insurance Company has earned these financial strength ratings.

Agency	Rating	Ranking
A.M. Best	A (Excellent)	3rd of 13 rankings
Moody's	A1 (Good)	5th of 21 rankings
Standard & Poor's	A+ (Strong)	5th of 20 rankings

6. How is the crediting rate determined? Is there a specific crediting rate formula utilized?

Standard Insurance Company sets the crediting rate on the Stable Asset fund each quarter using a process similar to that used by banks and other insurance companies for similar products. Once the crediting rate is announced that rate is guaranteed not to change during that calendar quarter. Crediting rates for the subsequent quarters can be higher or lower. However, as a stable value product, the Stable Asset Fund is designed to minimize the changes in interest crediting rates.

7. Are there any participant-level transfer/withdrawal restrictions?

Participant withdrawals and transfers are freely permitted on a daily basis. The Stable Asset Fund provides participants with full book value liquidity for benefit payments (death, disability or retirement) and transfers to other investment options. No penalties, fees or surrender charges apply.

8. How does the Stable Asset Fund compare to a Money Market Fund?

	Stable Asset Fund	Money Market Fund
Asset Class	Stable Value	Money Market
Fund Objective	Safety of principal, liquidity, stable rate of return	Safety of principal, liquidity
Structure	Insurance Company General Account – Group Annuity Contract	Registered Mutual Fund
Crediting Rate Known in Advance?	Yes, rate is announced at the beginning of each calendar quarter.	No, rate of return fluctuates daily.
Crediting Rate Guaranteed?	Yes, guaranteed for the quarter.	No, rate of return fluctuates daily.
Full Guarantee of Principal and Interest?	Yes, a direct guarantee of principal and interest offered through Standard Insurance Company.	No, principal and interest are not guaranteed.
Underlying Investments	Quality, well-diversified portfolio of fixed income instruments, primarily intermediate-term public bonds plus commercial mortgages.	Short-term debt instruments such as commercial paper, overnight repurchases agreements, with an average duration no longer than 60 days.

Standard Stable Asset Fund is a group annuity product issued by Standard Insurance Company. Amounts contributed and the fulfillment of any guarantees specified in the group annuity contract are insurance claims supported by the full faith and credit of Standard Insurance Company. Standard Stable Asset Fund is neither a mutual fund nor a bank product and is not insured by the FDIC or any other federal governmental agency. Standard Insurance Company periodically resets the interest rate credited on contract balances, subject to a minimum rate specified in the group annuity contract. Past interest rates are not indicative of future rates. Standard Stable Asset Fund may not be available in all states. Information on Standard Stable Asset Fund may be obtained by contacting your Standard Insurance Company representative.

The Standard is the marketing name for StanCorp Financial Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries. StanCorp Equities, Inc., member FINRA, wholesales a group annuity contract issued by Standard Insurance Company and a mutual fund trust platform for retirement plans. Third-party administrative services are provided by Standard Retirement Services, Inc. Investment advisory services are provided by StanCorp Investment Advisers, Inc., a registered investment advisor. StanCorp Equities, Inc., Standard Insurance Company, Standard Retirement Services, Inc. and StanCorp Investment Advisers, Inc. are subsidiaries of StanCorp Financial Group, Inc. and all are Oregon corporations.