

# Unit Investment Trust Funds

## METRO BALANCED FUND

### KEY INFORMATION AND INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Month Ended March 27, 2024

#### FUND FACTS

Classification:	Multi-Asset	Net Asset Value per Unit (NAVPU):	3.385399
Launch Date:	April 8, 2005	Total Fund NAV (in Php Bns):	1.09
Trust Fee (per annum):	2.0% based on NAV	Dealing Day	12:00NN for Branch Channels
Minimum Investment:	Php10,000	(any banking day):	2:30PM for Electronic Channels
Additional Investment:	Php1,000	Redemption Settlement:	2 Banking Days after date of redemption
Minimum Holding Period:	7 calendar days from date of participation	Early Redemption Charge:	50% of income on redeemed amount

#### COOLING-OFF PERIOD

Pursuant to BSP Circular No. 857, the TRUSTOR (individual participants) shall have the right to cancel their initial subscriptions or contributions, without penalty, upon written notice to the Trustee within two (2) banking days immediately following the signing of agreement or contract evidencing their participation in the Fund. Further, the net amount of payment or delivery due the TRUSTOR shall be based on the transaction day's NAVPU when notice of redemption, termination or cancellation was received.

#### FEES COLLECTED FOR THE MONTH<sup>1</sup>

Trustee Fees:	Custodianship Fees:	External Auditor Fees:	Other Fees:
0.150%	0.001%	0.000%	0.018%
Metrobank-Trust Banking Group	Standard Chartered Bank	SGV & Co.	Others

<sup>1</sup> As a percentage of average daily NAV for the month valued at (in Php Bns): 1.09

#### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGY

The Fund is a Peso-denominated balanced Unit Investment Trust Fund that aims to achieve for its participants growth and high income from a portfolio of diversified blue-chip and fundamentally sound equities listed at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) and peso-denominated fixed income securities. The Fund may invest between 40% and 60% of its market value in equities listed in Philippine Stock Exchange and a minimum of 40% of its market value in peso-denominated fixed income securities. The Fund's blended benchmark is composed of 60% Philippine Stock Exchange Index and 40% Markit iBoxx ALBI Philippines 1-5 Index.

#### CLIENT SUITABILITY

A client profiling process is performed prior to participating in the Fund to guide the prospective investor if the Fund is suited to his/her investment objectives and risk tolerance. Clients are encouraged to update the resulting profile every three (3) years or if there's any change in his/her personal/financial circumstances. Before deciding to invest, clients are advised to read the Declaration of Trust/Plan Rules of the Fund, which may be obtained from the Trustee, or seek an independent/professional opinion when necessary.

#### The METRO BALANCED FUND is suitable only for investors who:

- Have an Aggressive profile.
- Want capital growth over the long-term and are willing to be exposed to a higher level of risk that may involve possible loss of principal in the short-term in exchange for higher long-term gains.
- Recommended investment horizon is at least five (5) years
- Participation in the Fund shall be open to Filipino individuals, resident and non-resident aliens and corporate accounts.

#### KEY RISKS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

You should not invest in this Fund if you do not understand or are not comfortable with the accompanying risks.

Interest Rate Risk:	The possibility for an investor to experience losses due to changes in interest rates. The purchase and sale of a debt instrument may result in profit or loss because the value of a debt instrument changes inversely with prevailing interest rates.
Market/Price Risk:	The possibility for an investor to experience losses due to changes in the market prices of bonds and stocks/equities. It refers to the portfolio's exposure to marked-to-market valuation due to market price fluctuations of the bonds and stocks/equities.
Liquidity Risk:	The possibility for an investor to experience losses due to the inability to sell or convert assets into cash immediately or in instances where conversion to cash is possible but at a price that could result in a loss. This may be caused by low trading volume due to different reasons such as securities with small or few outstanding issues, absence of buyers and/or sellers (limited buy/sell activity) or underdeveloped capital market.
Credit Risk / Default Risk:	The possibility for an investor to experience losses due to a borrower's failure to pay principal and/or interest in a timely manner on instruments such as bonds, loans, or other forms of fixed income security which the borrower issued. This inability of the borrower or counterparty to make good on its financial obligations may have resulted from adverse changes in its financial condition thus, lowering credit quality of the security, and consequently lowering the price (market/price risk) which contributes to the difficulty in selling such security.
Reinvestment Risk:	The possibility of having lower returns or earnings when funds mature and are reinvested. Investors in the UITF who redeem and realize their gains run the risk of reinvesting their funds in an alternative investment outlet with lower yields. Similarly, the UIT fund manager is faced with the risk of not being able to find better yielding alternative investment outlets as some of the securities in the fund matures.
Other Risks:	Your participation in the UITFs may be further exposed to the risk of any actual or potential conflicts of interest in the handling of in-house or related party transactions by Metrobank. These transactions may include own-bank deposits; purchase of own-institution or affiliate obligations (stocks, mortgages); purchase of assets from or sales to own institution, directors, officers, subsidiaries, affiliates or other related interests/parties; or purchases or sales between fiduciary/managed accounts.

The Fund invests only in high-credit quality assets which are evaluated using a rigorous internal scoring model required under the Trustee's accreditation process and BSP regulations. Internal risk limits and position limits together with regulatory exposure limits are monitored, reviewed and strictly adhered to on a daily basis. The Fund may also use financial derivatives solely for hedging risk exposures.

THE UIT FUND IS NOT A DEPOSIT AND IS NOT INSURED BY THE PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (PDIC). RETURNS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND HISTORICAL NAVPU IS FOR ILLUSTRATION OF NAVPU MOVEMENTS/FLUCTUATIONS ONLY. WHEN REDEEMING, THE PROCEEDS MAY BE WORTH LESS THAN THE ORIGINAL INVESTMENT AND ANY LOSSES WILL BE SOLELY FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE CLIENT. THE TRUSTEE IS NOT LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS UNLESS UPON WILLFUL DEFAULT, BAD FAITH OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE.



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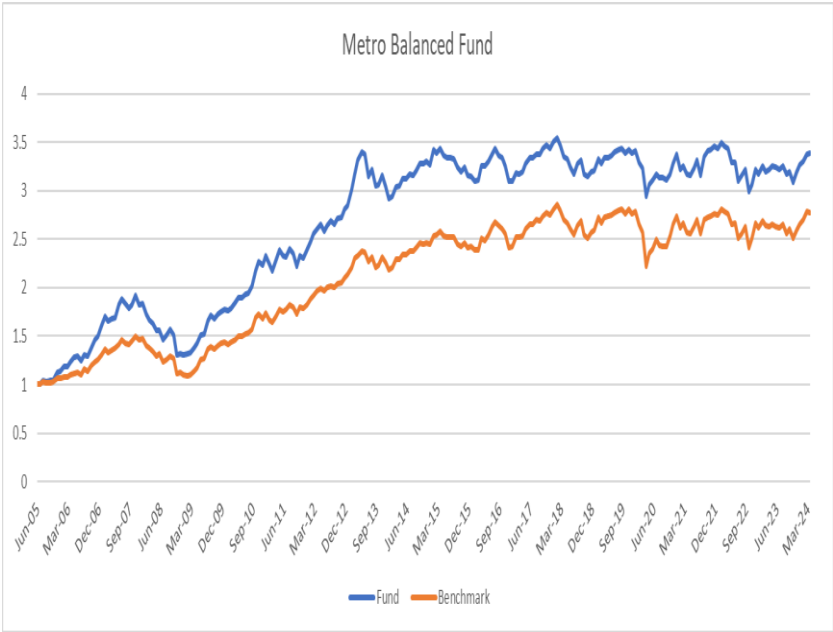


# Unit Investment Trust Funds

## FUND PERFORMANCE AND STATISTICS as of March 27, 2024

(Purely for reference purposes and is not a guarantee of future results)

### NAVPu GRAPH



### NAVPu OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS

Highest	3.403164
Lowest	3.091217

### STATISTICS

Weighted Average Duration (in years)	4.36
Volatility, Past 1 Year (in %) <sup>2</sup>	6.63%
Sharpe Ratio <sup>3</sup>	-0.04
Information Ratio <sup>4</sup>	-0.15

<sup>2</sup> Volatility measures the degree to which the Fund fluctuates vis-à-vis its average return over a period of time. The lower the number, the more stable the Fund's return is relative to its average return over time. Starting December 2017, computation is based on the annualized standard deviation of monthly returns.

<sup>3</sup> Sharpe Ratio is used to characterize how well the return of a Fund compensates the investor for the level of risk taken. The higher the number, the better.

<sup>4</sup> Information Ratio measures reward-to-risk efficiency of the portfolio relative to the benchmark. The higher the number, the higher the reward per unit of risk.

### CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception <sup>5</sup>
Fund	0.305%	3.579%	6.110%	5.252%	6.835%	1.332%	238.540%
Benchmark	-0.183%	4.526%	6.727%	5.747%	7.919%	1.788%	177.716%

<sup>5</sup> Benchmark return was based on the original benchmark of 50% 91-day Tbill and 50% Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) since inception, and was changed to 50% 91-day PDST-F and 50% PSEi from June 1, 2007 to August 31, 2010 then 60% PSEi and 40% HSBC Local Currency Bond Index (HSLI) 1-5 years (net of taxes) from September 1, 2010 to April 30, 2016 then 40% HSLI 1-5 years (net of taxes) was changed to 40% Bloomberg Philippine Sovereign Bond Index 1-5 year (BPHIL15) Adjusted, effective May 2016.

The BPHIL15-Adjusted Index was tentatively discontinued when the GS pricing basis shifted from PDST -R2 of PDEX to BVAL of Bloomberg effective October 29, 2018. The Fund used, an equivalent benchmark namely, the BPI Philippine Government Bond 1-5 Year Index (from October 30, 2018 to December 31, 2019) and Markit iBoxx ALBI Philippines 1-5 (from January 2020 until October 20, 2020). Effective October 21, 2020 the Fund's blended benchmark is composed of 60% Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) and 40% Markit iBoxx ALBI Philippines 1-5 Index.

### PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

Allocation	% of Fund
Equities	49.63%
Government Securities	42.14%
Time Deposits	4.91%
Corporate Bonds	3.20%
Cash	0.16%
Other Receivables - Net of Liabilities <sup>6</sup>	-0.05%

<sup>6</sup> Includes accrued income from investments, receivables from brokers/counterparties and unpaid expenses.

Sector Holdings	% of Fund
Holdings	36.36%
Financials	20.48%
Properties	15.50%
Services	13.91%
Industrials	12.38%
Mining And Oil	1.37%

### TOP 10 HOLDINGS

Name	Maturity	% of Fund
1. FXT	06.23.32	8.32%
2. FXT	10.13.29	6.77%
3. SM		6.68%
4. FXT	01.10.29	5.69%
5. MBTC PHP TD	04.01.24	4.91%
6. SMPH		4.65%
7. ACPAR		4.56%
8. BDO		4.30%
9. ICT		4.20%
10. BPI		3.57%

### RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related Party	Transaction	Market Value (in Php Mns)
MBTC	Time Deposit Placement	53.66
MBTC	Corporate Bonds	18.90
MBTC	Shares of Stock	25.03
GT Capital	Shares of Stock	18.38

Investments in the said outlets were approved by the Trust Committee. Likewise, all related party transactions are conducted on an arm's length and best execution basis and within established limits.



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# Unit Investment Trust Funds

## INVESTMENT POLICY

The Fund may be invested and reinvested in the following instruments:

- Equities listed in the PSE
- Fixed Income Instruments and Securities
- Deposits
- Other investments allowed under BSP regulations

## OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY

In March, the PSEI took a breather from its four-month rally, ending the month with a slight decline of -0.6% m/m, closing at 6,903.53. Investor sentiment was somewhat muted, as concerns about inflation resurfaced, along with speculations that interest rates might remain higher for longer than anticipated. Additionally, foreign investors reverted back to selling. Inflation worries were fueled by the latest local print for February, which showed a rise to 3.4% from 2.8% in January, driven by elevated rice prices due to global supply disruptions. Meanwhile, in the US, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell emphasized the central bank's focus on monitoring inflation risks, indicating a cautious approach to policy adjustments. Despite the cautious sentiment, trading activity saw a slight uptick, with average daily volume reaching about \$124 million, partly boosted by rebalancing flows from FTSE. However, foreign investors ended the month as net sellers, halting their four-month inflow streak. Overall, market participants grappled with finding strong catalysts to propel the index past the 7,000 mark amidst prevailing uncertainties.

In terms of notable market movements, foreign investors showed renewed buying in banking stocks as interest rates remained elevated. Both BDO and MBT hit 1-year highs, with MBT slightly favored due to its announcement of a higher dividend payout, reaching approximately 8% yield. Conversely, the properties sector experienced an outflow as sentiment turned sour amidst expectations of prolonged elevated interest rates. FTSE flows wielded considerable influence on market dynamics, which brought net foreign selling to end the month in the amount of \$45 million. Noteworthy shifts in investment included the removal of EMI (-\$49 million), AGI (-\$30 million), SECB (-\$21 million), and MWC (-\$14 million) from the index, which notably contributed to the selling pressure. Conversely, BPI (+\$11.5 million) received an upweight from the index, which helped offset some of the selling pressure.

In corporate news, BLOOM garnered attention following Enrique Razon Jr.'s settlement with Global Gaming Philippines (GGAM), acquiring 921 million BLOOM shares for USD 300 million. Initially causing a selloff in BLOOM's stock price, the announcement led to a -8.7% d/d decline, but the stock quickly rebounded, ending the month down only -1.6%. In terms of earnings, approximately 80% of index companies have disclosed their FY2023 financial results. These reports indicate an overall growth of +28% y/y, with a particularly robust performance of +58% y/y for the fourth quarter of 2023. Among the companies that have reported, 50% met the market's expectations, while 42% fell short, and a mere 8% surpassed expectations.

For the month, we saw yields move sideways with a downward bias, just lower by an average of 3bps MoM. Both the 20y and 25y BVAL were lower by about 5bps MoM. The 20y and 25y BVAL is now at 6.26% vs previous month's BVAL of 6.31%. The BTr already released its 2Q2024 borrowing program, where they plan to issue a total of PhP195Bn in T-Bills and PhP390Bn in T-Bonds, for a total of PhP585Bn for the quarter. For the T-Bonds, the BTr will be issuing securities with tenors 7y, 10y, 15y and 20y in April, May and June. There is just an additional 3y auction in May.

Overall, our priority remains identifying companies with market leadership and exposure to resilient consumption segments, strong cash flow generation, and earnings visibility. Given the fragile yet improving macroeconomic conditions, we favor investing in liquid, high-quality companies. We anticipate corporate earnings to grow by 6% in 2024, factoring in a 13x PE for FY2024, setting our FY2024 PSEI target at 7,400. For the FI portion, we also kept our strategy of maintaining overweight duration versus its benchmark, and keeping cash to a minimum.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company is regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). For any inquiries and complaints relating to Trust Products and Services you may (1) call our hotline: 8-8700-700 (Mondays-Fridays from 9:00am to 6:00pm); (2) send an email to [customercare@metrobank.com.ph](mailto:customercare@metrobank.com.ph); or (3) visit our website at <https://www.metrobank.com.ph/invest/uitf> to know more. You may also file complaints at BSP Financial Consumer Protection Department at (632) 8708-7087 or [consumeraffairs@bsp.gov.ph](mailto:consumeraffairs@bsp.gov.ph). To know your rights under BSP Circular No. 857 (Regulations on Financial Consumer Protection), please access a copy at the BSP website ([www.bsp.gov.ph](http://www.bsp.gov.ph)).



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